



Calvary Courier

March 2020

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

I think from a very early age we are taught that we need to pay our dues for the things we expect to receive. I remember as a Cub Scout, at the age of six or seven, dutifully bringing money to the weekly den meetings. I knew it was these dues that paid for craft materials and the various badges that I might receive. When I was in high school I joined the Key Club and paid my dues to support the club activities. In college I participated in the bowling club and paid my weekly dues that helped to cover the cost of the end-of-the-season trophies. (I still have my trophy as a proud member of the last place team in the league.) As an adult I belonged briefly to the local Kiwanis Club – and paid my weekly dues to cover lunch and the projects of the club. Yes, the lesson is regularly reiterated that if one wants to participate, one must pay their dues.

Sadly, I think people often see their offerings to the church in the same way. And I suppose, in subtle ways, the church may encourage that viewpoint. I remember as a child in Sunday School being expected to deliver my little offering envelope every week. It felt a lot like my Cub Scout dues. Congregations often hand out pledge or commitment or intent cards at the same time we start talking about next year's budget. It isn't a big leap to think that what the church is asking for is money to cover the expense of membership. In fact, I have heard active church members refer to their weekly offerings as "dues." And more often than I care to admit I have had people tell me that they want to keep up some kind of regular offering to the church "so that I can have my funeral there." Somewhere along the line we have communicated to people that if they want to receive the benefits of the church, they must pay their dues.

However, I think that is exactly opposite of what our offerings should be about. They are not, to use a phrase very much in the news lately, a *quid pro quo*. Instead, our offerings should reflect God's relationship with us – a relationship of love. First and

foremost, God loves us. God loves us not because we have done something special...not because we are especially good and wholesome...and certainly not because we have anything to offer God. God loves us because God has chosen to love us. And what God asks of us in return is our love for him.

Our offerings, then, are a response to God's gracious love for us. Our offerings are a response to all that God has provided for us. As Martin Luther writes in his explanation to the first article of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism,

...God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock and all property – along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life....For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Luther's point (and my point) is that our offerings are given in response to what God has done for us. God's love for us does not depend on what we offer to God. You are a member of God's family because God has chosen you, not because you pay your dues. Your offerings are tokens of your love for God.

I encourage you, then, to let your offerings not be some sort of dues to cover the cost of church membership, but rather let it be a gift to God in thanks for all that God has done for you.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

MARCH BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Gisele Richardson
- 2 – Peter Doering
- 9 – Betty Clark
- 11 – Rebecca Richardson
- 13 – Linda Chase
- 15 – Margo Miller
- 17 – Ted Jackson
- 18 – Steve Faith, Dorothy Hultgren, Cindy Pham
- 25 – Pam Gross
- 27 – Laura Knipe
- 30 – Rosalie Mellgren



Happy Anniversary to:

- 6 – Jack & Marilyn Gross (1954)
 - Bob & Charlene Lundstrom (1976)
- 19 – Dianna & Terry Kitchen (1983)
 - Mike & Alisha Jones (2005)



 **WELCA** - All Calvary women are invited.

✧ Please note - **Deborah Circle** – will not meet in March due to Lenten lunches.

✧ **HAPPY HOOKERS** - will meet on March 25 at 9:30 am in Erlander Hall and then afterward we will go upstairs for the Lenten Lunch. We will still have coffee time.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS



Calvary congregation – At the annual meeting held on January 26, 2020, Debbie Faith and Barb Geerts were elected to the church council to their first terms, and Charlene Lundstrom was elected to her second term. Continuing council members are Pam Gross, Jim Hallstrom, Greg Johnson, Renee Ketelsen, Terry Langston, and Paul Levesque. At the February 11th council meeting, Greg Johnson was elected to be council president, Renee Ketelsen to be vice-president, Paul Levesque to be council secretary, and Pam Gross to be church treasurer. Please keep the council members in your prayers.

Thanks. Greg Johnson

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

for **APRIL** is no later than **March 12** for distribution on March 26. Please have your articles to me on time.



During the past several months we have received the following words of thanks....

✧ I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for the cards and gifts I received this past Christmas. Also, a Big thank you for submitting articles on time; to those who volunteer each Sunday and for filling in on short notice. Each of you wears the cross of Christ by all the things you do for others. As I have told many people – “This is Calvary.”

---- Thank you so very much, Teri Griebel, Sec.

✧ Thank you so much for the lovely lap blankets! Our memory care residents are enjoying them this winter season. We love the beautiful colors and patterns you used!

---- Courtney (Activity Dir) & Heartland Staff

✧ Many thanks to the ladies and others in the church for the Christmas goodies delivered to me by the Faiths and Mary Ann. I have munched my way through the Holiday Season and enjoyed it all.

---- Kathryn Beardsley

✧ Thank you for calls, visits and cards over the past months. Also to the Happy Hookers for the great Christmas gifts. And to the carolers who allowed our pug, Milo, to “sing” along with them! You are all appreciated so much. Thank you to all of our friends at Calvary.

---- Bob & Beth Fuller

✧ The family of Dale Winter wishes to express our thanks for the many cards, flowers, phone calls, food, hugs and monetary gifts. Thanks to all who prepared, served and cleaned up after the wonderful lunch – it was greatly appreciated.

---- The Family of Dale Winter

✧ On behalf of Christian Care, I would like to thank you for your recent donation of 25 boxes of dry goods which we received on 1/3/2020. Because of your contribution, we will be able to better serve the least, the last, and the lost in the Quad Cities. Recently Christian Care was honored to be named Organization of the Year 2019 and Citizen of the Year 2019 for the city of Rock Island. While we are proud to be recognized for our contributions to the city and the citizens we service in our community, we fully realize that we wouldn't be successful without the valuable contributions from generous partners like you. Again, we thank you for your support and helping us succeed in our mission.

---- Steve Gottcent, Comm Outreach Coordinator, Christian Care



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Paul Levesque and family. Paul's brother-in-law Bill Tyler (husband to his sister Claire) has died. Bill lived (and she still lives) in Needham, Mass (a suburb of Boston). May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE for MARCH & APRIL



Feb. 26 – ASH WEDNESDAY
(No Lenten Lunch)

Noon Service at Calvary
6:30 pm at Calvary

Choir practice will be after service.

March 4 – 11:00 Lenten Lunch – Calvary
Noon Service at Calvary

5:30 pm Soup Supper – St. James,
6:30 pm Service at **St. James**

No Choir Practice – Sun. morning at 9:50 am

March 11 – 11:00 Lenten Lunch – Calvary
Noon Service at Calvary
6:30 pm at Calvary

Choir practice will be after service.

March 18– 11:00 am Lenten Lunch – Calvary
Noon Service

5:30 pm Soup Supper – St. James,
6:30 pm Service at **St. James**

No Choir Practice – Sun. morning at 9:50 am

March 25 – 11:00 Lenten Lunch – Calvary
Noon Service at Calvary
6:30 pm at Calvary

Choir practice will be after service.

April 1 – 11:00 am Lenten Lunch – Calvary
Noon Service

5:30 pm Soup Supper – St. James,
6:30 pm Service at **St. James**

No Choir Practice – Sun. morning at 9:50 am



HELP IS NEEDED FOR LENTEN LUNCHES.....

We currently have two dates filled:

March 4 – Marilyn Gross and Judy Ingerson
March 11 – Connie Langston and Val Daniel.

We still have three Wednesdays open - March 18, 25 and April 1. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board outside of the Upper Room. If you would like to volunteer, please pick a date and sign your name. If you need more information, please see Charlene Lundstrom.

Knit-A-Bit WILL NOT meet during LENT



Beginning with February 26 – Ash Wednesday through Easter, Knit-A-Bit **WILL NOT** be meeting. Knit-A-Bit will resume on April 15th. Any items you have completed during our break, please bring on April 15th. It will be fun to see how much everyone has completed.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER PACKING EVENT - MARCH 15TH



On March 15, we will once again be packing meals for Kids Against Hunger.

We will have a light lunch after worship and then start packing the meals. We are asking you to give up something for Lent that you would spend money on and give that money to Kids Against Hunger. St. James is invited to help. Our goal is 4,000 meals (\$1,000.00).

A form was included in the February newsletter and has been inserted in the weekly bulletins. You may also designate an amount on your weekly envelope.

If you have any questions ask Pam Gross or Ruth Laabs-Wilcox.



THANK YOU from the Service Committee

A BIG thank you to all who took part in our Advent food boxes. We collected 25 boxes with a total of about 500 pounds of food to be given to Christian Care Center in Rock Island. You can keep donating to our food cart each month because there is always a need for food at our local pantries.

ALL DAUGHTERS BANQUET

Save the date for **Friday, May 8** when Calvary will once again hold an All Daughters Banquet. The program is still being finalized, with more information to come next month. As in years past, there will be plenty of food, companionship and fun! Please invite guests to enjoy the evening.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is **Friday, March 6** at Gaines Chapel, 311 19th St., East Moline. Registration is at 9 am, with a 9:30 Brunch followed by meeting. Cost is \$5.00

EASTER LILIES – ORDERS

March 26 – Deadline for Ordering

This year, HyVee has asked for an earlier deadline for orders. Last year, the Silvis HyVee ran out of lilies to fulfill pre orders, as some churches ordered within a week of needing them. Therefore, the deadline is March 26.

Order your Easter Lilies for Calvary!



DEADLINE FOR ORDERING Is Thursday, March 26

Please complete this form.

Return it to the Church Office
or place in the offering plate.

You may also email the office at
secretary@calvarymoline.org.

The cost of each plant is \$10.00.

Make checks payable to:
Calvary Lutheran Church

Please complete the appropriate information:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given by:

April 12 - Easter Service is at 10:30 a.m.

Please take your plant home following the Easter Service

RELAY FOR LIFE – The Calvary Crusaders will have an organizational meeting during Coffee Hour on Sunday, Feb. 23 to plan their activities. Relay is already sponsoring the 4th Sunday Coffee Hours up through September 2020. Anyone interested in joining the relay team is invited to attend.



LAUREATE BETA PSI AND
CALVARY CRUSADERS RELAY FOR
LIFE TEAM PRESENT:

BIDDING FOR A CURE QUARTER AUCTION

Benefitting The American Cancer Society

BRING YOUR
QUARTER ROLLS!

Bidding Paddles:
\$2.50 ea. or 3/\$7
(Cash Only)

WE'LL HAVE FOR
PURCHASE:

Pulled Pork
Sandwiches
Smokes
Baked Goods
Soft Drinks



SATURDAY APRIL 18, 2020
CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2900 AVENUE OF THE CITIES - MOLINE
DOORS: 5 PM / AUCTION 6 PM

For more information please contact:

Veronica Brooks at
(309) 793-00038 or

Ronnie_clark@yahoo.com



Beta Sigma Phi



**Calvary
Crusaders**

