

CALVARY

APRIL, 2019

MESSENGER

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor:

A television show from a few years ago, *In Plain Sight*, revolved around the U.S. Marshal's office in Albuquerque who were responsible for the protection of people in the witness protection program. On several occasions the marshals told potential witnesses that entering into the program means they start new lives, completely from scratch, which is, they indicate, both an opportunity and a frightening challenge.

The opportunity of a new life is to begin again, free from all the baggage and mistakes of the past. What you have done or not done no longer matters. You begin with a clean slate, full of possibilities to be and do who you are and what you should.

The frightening challenge of a new life is to let go of everything in your past. It means giving up those things that helped you feel safe and secure (but got you into trouble anyway).

The celebration of Easter is, in an odd sort of way, much like entering into witness protection – both an exciting opportunity and a frightening challenge.

Near the end of his vision from the Book of the Revelation, John writes,

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." ⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

In baptism we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection. And through Christ's resurrection we are made new, given new life.

The challenge of new life is, of course, the task of letting go of our old lives. Through the resurrection, Luther says, our old, sinful selves, die. That means we are called on to let go of those things that seemed to give us safety and security – but led us into lives of sin. It is a call to trust, not in ourselves, but in God.

At the same time, through the resurrection we are given the opportunity to start over, free from all the baggage and mistakes of our past. Through the cross our sins are wiped away and we start with a clean slate as children of God and inheritors of God's eternal kingdom. We have the opportunity be who God wants us to be and do what God wants us to do.

And so in this Easter season I invite you into "witness protection." Claim God's gift of new life for you through the resurrection of Christ. Take the risk of letting go of the past and moving into a future of promise and possibility as a child of God.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles



Evening Bible Study at ST. JAMES, Rock Island

Evening Bible Study continues on Tuesday evenings, except the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 pm. We will be studying the book of Luke.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Kurt Dicks
- 4 – Judy Noftsker
- 6 – John James Gross
- 7 – Greg Johnson
- 9 – Joe Geerts, Gene Untiedt, Dale Winter
- 10 – Marilyn Gross
- 13 – Katlyn Jones, Betsy Untiedt
- 18 – Erik Ohrm
- 19 – Jimmy Duncan
- 28 – Ann Bowser
- 29 – Scott Mayo



Happy Anniversary to:

- 13 – Mike & Stephanie Mudd (1991)
- 14 – David & Debra McClanahan (1990)



CONGREGATIONAL PICTURE to Celebrate Calvary's 100th Anniversary

Palm Sunday, April 14th

On Palm Sunday, April 14th after worship, we will be having a Congregational Picture taken. This picture will be hung in Erlander Hall next to the ones already on display.

We are trying to get as many members as we possibly can to come out for this event. This event also corresponds to the pictorial directory.

ALL DAUGHTER BANQUET

Your feed-back is desired on whether we should plan to have one. Please give your opinion to one of the members of WELCA Board (Sue Knipe, Marilyn Gross, Connie Langston, Sharon Hough or Jan Jackson.)

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

for **MAY** is no later than **April 11** for distribution on April 25. Please have your articles to me on time. You may email or put your articles in my box.



LUNCH BUNCH

As a reminder - there will be **no lunch bunch gatherings** in April, due to Lenten Lunches being served on April 3 and 10th.

A NEW church directory in Honoring Our 100th Anniversary - April 11, 12 or 13

In celebration of our "Century of Caring" here at Calvary, the 100th Anniversary Committee has chosen to provide congregational members with a special keepsake in the form of a new church directory.

Original plans for our anniversary year had called for simply updating the last directory that was published in 2017, but when we learned that creating a new directory would enable us to add any number of pages at no extra cost, the committee decided to go forward with the publication of a commemorative "Anniversary Booklet." This will include not only our members' portraits, but also the fascinating story of Calvary's past, as well as a collection of related historical photos.

SIGN-UP HAS BEGUN MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The sign-up for your "photo shoot" has begun. If you have not signed up, please do so. We would hate to leave anyone out, so be sure to sign up, and get your smile on! If you would like to sign-up online, please go to Calvary's website, Click on Directory and follow the online instructions.

Dates: April 11 & 12 from 2 pm to 9:00 pm
April 13 – from 10 am to 5 pm

We do have alternative options available to you.

- If you would like to use the last picture, the cost is \$10.00.
- If you would like to have your picture taken, but are living out of town (or will be gone on the weekend), **please call the church office**. We can contact Lifetouch to see if pictures will be taken in your area. If so, then your picture could be taken at the alternative site.
- Also as before, if you bring an item to the food pantry, have ever served in the military or as a first responder, we have a discount for you, as well.

Those who sit for a photo will receive a free 8x10 family portrait. Additional portrait purchases will, of course, be available from Lifetouch, the company creating the booklet.

A **free directory** will be given to each family whose portrait is included in the book, regardless of whether or not you have a portrait taken or use the previous photo.



During the month of March we received the following word of thanks....

☀️ My Dear Calvary Family, Thank You so much for the cards, prayers and well wishes for a speedy recovery of my knee surgery.

----Thanks again, Love, Debbie Faith

☀️ Dear members of Calvary Lutheran, We at Winnie's Place would like to thank you for coming by to donate the cell phones and Swiffer pads.

May God continue to bless all of you.

---- Winnie's Place

☀️ Thank you for your faithful giving, so that we may share His love through the work at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC). Your generous gift makes a real difference in accomplishing our goals and managing our operations for the church in this beautiful outdoor setting.

---- In His love, Audrey Adams, Retreat Bus. Mang.

WELCA - All Calvary women are invited.



☀️ **Deborah Circle** – April 2 at 9:00 am in the Upper Room. Hostess will be Pam Gross

☀️ **HAPPY HOOKERS** - will meet on April 24 at 9:30 am in Erlander Hall. Activities include quilting, crocheting, knitting and handicrafts. (bring a treat to share at “coffee time.”)

WELCA West Conference Assembly – Saturday, April 6 – at Calvary Lutheran Church. Registration is at 9:00 am – Brunch – 9:30 am with Program at 10:00 am – “New Life for Women – the Farm” with Pastor Jackie Green as our speaker. She will also bring women from the residential program to share their stories. **The in-kind offering will be for items that they need. A list is posted on the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway.** St. James is helping with refreshments and First Lutheran, Moline is helping with ushering. Make your reservations with Sue Knipe or the Church Office by Tuesday, April 2nd.

The Northern IL WELCA Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 27 at LOMC, Oregon, IL. More information will be available soon.

100th Anniversary Information:

For April 2019 – we will be collecting **100 jars (plastic)** of Salad Dressing

LENTEN SCHEDULE for APRIL



April 3 – 11:00 Lenten Lunch – Calvary with a Noon Service

5:30 pm – **Soup Supper** – **St. James, RI**

6:30 pm – **St. James**

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

April 10– 11:00 am Lenten Lunch – Calvary with a Noon Service

6:30 pm – **Calvary**

Choir practice will be after service.

April 14 – **PALM SUNDAY** – **Brunch at 9:00 am**
Congregational Photo – after worship

April 18 – 6:30 pm -**Maundy Thursday service**
At Calvary

April 19 – 6:30 pm – **Good Friday service**
At St. James, RI

April 21 – **Easter Services:**
8:30 am – St. James, RI
10:30 am - Calvary

Relay for Life

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH
Sunday, April 14th

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. –
Everyone is invited!!!!



By popular request, the Calvary Crusaders will be serving a delicious brunch for you in the Upper Room. Menu will include fruit, juice, a variety of pastries, and a brunch casserole. A Thrivent Action team grant will cover expenses so all of your donations will benefit Relay for Life.

RELAY FOR LIFE

“LET YOUR STAR LIGHT THE WAY”



Sales of this Isabel Bloom sculpture will continue with orders going in monthly until supply is depleted. Their cost is \$21.00 with \$5.00 benefiting our Calvary Crusaders team. See the sign-up sheet in the upstairs hallway to order.



RELAY FOR LIFE – Quilt Raffle –

The members of Laureate Beta Psi are providing a quilt to be raffled which will be displayed occasionally in the Narthex during the next few months. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 and will be available from Marilyn Gross.

Order your Easter Lilies from Calvary!



DEADLINE FOR ORDERING Is Tuesday, April 2nd

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:

Easter Service is at 10:00 a.m.

Please take your plant home following the Easter Service



BENEFIT for Quad-City Animal Welfare Shelter

A “Quarter Auction” will be held at Calvary in Erlander Hall on Friday evening, April 26 beginning at 7:00 p.m. to benefit the QD Animal Welfare Shelter, Milan, IL. The evening is being sponsored by Laureate Beta Psi sorority. A Thrivent Action Team grant will cover expenses so all monies raised will go to the shelter. The congregation and their friends are invited to attend. An informational flyer will be posted on the bulletin board in the upstairs hallway.

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I came across the following article and thought this was timeless. It has been reprinted from the Calvary Messenger dated January, 1942.

COME TO CHURCH SUNDAY

During the past year, I have had the privilege of inviting many folks in our community to Calvary to worship and to study the Bible. I have heard many answers. Among them there have been some that have sounded encouraging.

“We must get started.”

“We are neglecting what we know we should be doing.”

“It isn’t enough that we send the children to Sunday School. We should be going too.”

“I want to, but I just can’t get started.”

Some of you who read these lines recognize your own statements. How about starting the new year with action. Go to the Lord. Confess the sin of your negligence to Him. Ask Him to help you to make Sunday church going a habit in your life. Get a good night’s sleep Saturday night. Get up Sunday morning, regardless of the weather. Come, praying God to bless your soul. Do this at least six Sundays in succession. By that time you will be enjoying worship in the Lord’s house. That is, if you are willing to yield yourself to the Master. If you will do that He will put in your heart a desire and joy. You will be saying with the psalmist.

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

So Welcome Friend. There will be a sermon to help you. If it doesn’t, come and tell me about it.

--Emory Erlander

“Church going families are happier families.”--Link

Calvary's Fourth Decade 1950-59

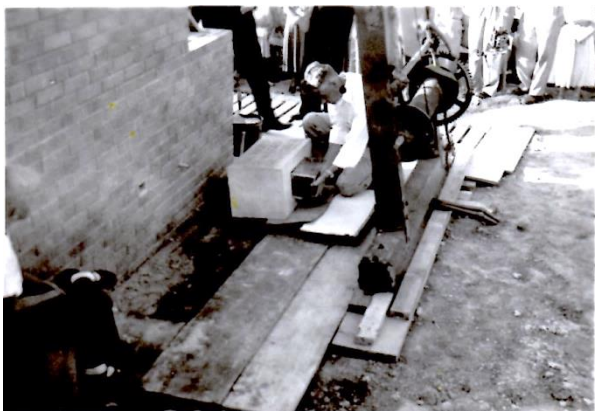
"Build the house ... and I will be glorified." Haggai 1:8

The decade of the 1950s saw the congregation of Calvary Lutheran Church at long last leaving the "basement" and edging just a bit closer to heaven.

After a quarter of a century of worshipping in a space that was built as a base for the "real church," the parishioners moved forward with the construction of the superstructure. The dream was finally coming true!

Fund-raising for the new building had been going on for years, and in March of 1951, it was determined that with \$50,000 in the bank, it was time to go out for bids. Unfortunately, the lowest bid was well over estimates—some \$175,000, including furnishings and other items. The Building Committee was instructed to review three possible options: 1) sell the current structure and start over somewhere else; 2) build a sanctuary on land adjacent to the church with hopes of eventually building a second story of Sunday School rooms on the basement structure; and 3) put the sanctuary atop the basement with "an absolute minimum of changes in the present walls." The Committee quickly rejected selling the building, as it wouldn't bring in enough money, and finding a buyer would be difficult. It was estimated that the third option (the no-frills sanctuary) could pare the price to \$115,000. The architect, Hugo C. Haeuser, agreed to do some drawings for the second option—the stand-alone structure—but passed away before he could complete them.

Suddenly without an architect, the Committee quickly secured the services of O.H. Thorson, who was able to complete new plans by May of 1952. A contract was awarded to Ericson Construction Company of Moline for an "upstairs"



Laying of the corner stone

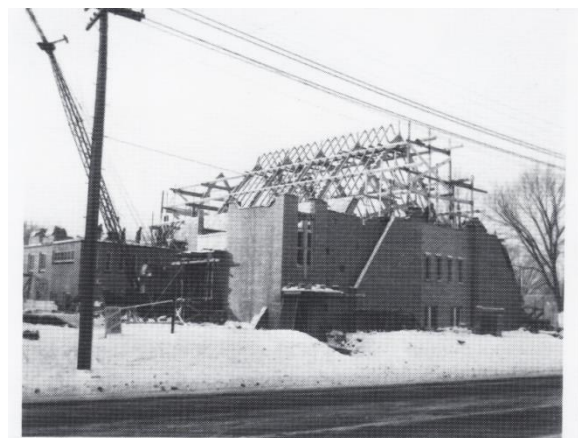
structure with a price tag of \$127,350. Groundbreaking occurred on June 29 of that year. It was reported that 200 people attended the Sept. 14 cornerstone-laying ceremony, officiated by Dr. Albert Loreen of the Illinois Conference. On the stone, laid in the northeast corner, was a verse from I Peter 1:25: "The Word of the Lord abides forever."

During the construction phase, Calvary members donated hundreds of hours of labor to help keep costs down. Volunteers painted walls, varnished woodwork, assembled pews, and



painstakingly cleaned mortar from bricks that were salvaged from the basement building and reused in the new construction. The donated labor saved an estimated \$10,000 in building costs. As a result, some of the amenities the members feared they would have to forego—namely a church spire, new organ and new pews—would fit into the budget after all.

The construction process took 16 months, during which time classes for the Sunday School (around 300 strong) were shifted from space to space. Some groups even met in closets! During this upheaval, worship attendance went down, which the Rev. Emory Erlander found disheartening. "Are we so absorbed in building a church that we are neglecting that for which we are building a church?" he asked in his annual report.



Still,
one
could
hardly
fault
the
congre-
gation
for
being
caught

up in things. Members of the Building Committee summed it up in the 1952-53 annual report: "In the Book of Nehemiah we read, 'And all the congregation said, amen, and praised the lord.' Our congregation is not of the 'shouting' kind, but we know that in many hearts there have been strong and sincere thoughts and feelings of 'Amen!' and 'Praise the Lord,' as we have seen the completion of our church building finally taking shape."

On Nov. 8, 1953, the superstructure was dedicated, with the daylong celebration beginning with services in the basement in the morning worship (the farewell) and then moving to the new 400-seat sanctuary. Dr. C.O. Bengtson, president of



the Illinois Conference, was the featured speaker at the afternoon dedication service. On that grand day, maybe there was just a wee bit of "shouting" for joy.

Parishioner Lois Elizabeth Ridenour recorded some of her memories of the event in an article in the Jan. 20, 1954 edition of "The Lutheran Companion": "There is a feeling of awe as we enter the sanctuary. We did not know it would be so beautiful. The fresh clean colors remind us of the beauty of God's



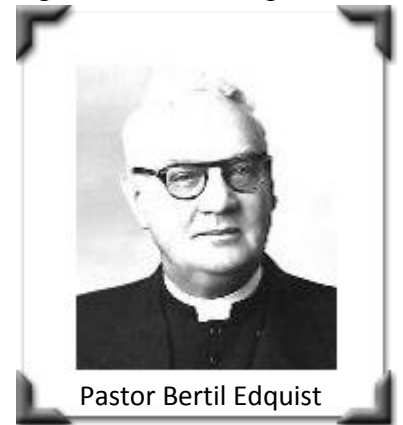
creation. The walls are lime green. The arches, purlins, rafters and furniture are finished in

driftwood blonde. It is lovely beyond words. Our eyes follow the extremely high arches that reach toward heaven like fingertips touched in prayer. Behind the altar, the lighted cross holds out its arms and we are reminded that Jesus spread out His arms on Calvary's cross to draw mankind onto himself...."

Rev. Erlander observed that it was "almost like a dream" that Calvary would at last be worshipping in the new sanctuary, built at a final cost of \$157,000, including furnishings. "Our new church is beautiful, worshipful, uplifting, and challenging," he said in his 1953-54 annual report. "May the Lord consecrate us as members in the use of this equipment. Let us seek by the grace of God to become 'new people for a new church.'"

Around that time, the Calvary Ladies Aid Society also set about obtaining new equipment to upgrade the kitchen (basement renovations were sorely needed), and its members were able to obtain two large coffee makers "by saving stars from coffee cans." A refrigerator was donated, as well as a coffee server. Apparently coffee and Calvary have been inexorably linked in this congregation that traces its roots back to the area's Swedish immigrants.

Not long after the congregation moved into its new space, the Rev. Erlander decided to accept a call to La Crescenta, Calif., ending his 14-year tenure as Calvary's pastor. He was succeeded by Rev. Bertil Edquist, who took over the reins in September of 1955. In Edquist's first report to the congregation, he encouraged members to "press on," now that the building project was completed. "It has taken much ... effort to carry out this task; there could easily be a tendency on the part of many to rest on their oars and be content with looking back in self-gratification," he warned.



Pastor Bertil Edquist

Rev. Edquist noted that a new church of another denomination was going up very nearby (First Baptist, we assume), and could impact Calvary's mission. "We know that it will be an influence for good, but we should also believe deeply that we have the clearest grasp of the Gospel message ...," he wrote. (Just a few years later,

Calvary would help neighboring First Baptist Church host a major convention for their denomination, with more than 300 Baptists converging on Calvary and enjoying a dinner served by the Young Married Couples.)

Despite the “competition,” Calvary continued to grow, and so did Edquist’s expectations for congregational giving. He prefaced his 1958 report with the statement that Calvary’s “non-pledgers” would be mad at what he was about to say to them concerning their lack of stewardship. People seem to have money for all kinds of things, he wrote, “but church? That comes last and is least, and, in fact, doesn’t seem to matter at all to these people... Are your excuses valid? Are they altogether becoming a Christian?” he asked.

But Rev. Edquist had a lighter side, too. His sense of humor would often show through in his “Pastor’s Portfolio” section of the “Calvary Messenger” newsletter. Some examples: “The church is full of willing people. Half are willing to work and the rest are willing to let them.” And, in commenting on a pancake supper fund-raiser, “I don’t know if they made anything on it the way Gunnar Hellberg and Ben Johnson ate, but there was an abundance of good will ...”

He added that his ministerial musings were being typed “on a very beautiful and built-for-efficiency Smith-Corona portable typewriter. It is one of their finest models.” It was purchased by the Ladies Aid Society to replace a typewriter that had been stolen during his recent illness. Rev. Edquist promised to bring the marvel of a machine to the group’s next meeting so everyone could get a look at it. Around that time, there was also the purchase of a new “whirligig lawn mower,” which reportedly made church sexton Martin Hertz very happy.

The “new” red hymnal (“The Service Book and Hymnal”) was launched in 1958, and its

introduction spawned just a little bit of fear among a congregation somewhat resistant to change. Twelve years in the making, the hymnal was praised even

by non-Lutherans, who said it was “the best ever published,” according to Edquist. The church purchased 250 copies at \$4.60 per copy, including the imprinting, and encouraged members to cover the cost of a hymnal as a gift or memorial.

Lutherans are known for their musical tradition, and just a few years before the launch, a Choir Music School had been formed by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Copley (director and organist, respectively), drawing some 50 students.

Also in 1958, the church began sponsoring its first Boy Scout Troop (Troop 64), perhaps as a way of retaining its church youth, something Pastor Edquist viewed as a major challenge. “We have heavy losses after Confirmation; some say that as many as three out of four drift away from us during their teen-age years.” He believed that making connections through Luther League was another way to combat this.

The League was quite active mid-century. Youth activities mentioned in this decade included “Kidnap Parties,” where Leaguers who didn’t show up for a meeting were picked up at their homes and taken to the church; youth participation in the Sunday evening services; creating the Luther League’s own newsletter, “The Visitor”; attending Easter sunrise services held at Wharton Field House



in Moline; holding a “Hobo Hike”; going to local Lutheran youth rallies; and listening to a talk on dating. Other interesting events around Calvary: The Brotherhood hosted a Father and Son Bean Supper; the Young Adult Bible Class held a “Pigeon Party” (a gentleman brought his prize-winning birds); and the Ladies Aid held a picnic/fund-raiser, where “each member was weighed, and gave a penny per pound, clearing a nice sum.” In addition, Calvary fielded some baseball teams, one of which took second place in the National League in the early part of the decade.



Calvary continued its emphasis on missions in 1950s. The Junior Missionary Society made gifts of stocking dolls, head scarfs and paper pads for African children; the Ladies Aid set up a visitation program at the State Hospital; and several groups supported former Calvary members Ella Heerde and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Faust, missionaries to South America and Africa, respectively. (One Christmas, the Women's Missionary Society reportedly sent Ms. Heerde some silk hose as a gift.)

There apparently was some dissension in the ranks in the second half of the decade. Rev. Edquist was rather dismayed about that, as well as the number of inactive members. But he chose to focus on the "positives" happening, including the tiling of the first floor by the Sunday School, the creation of a parking lot laid with crushed stone, the addition of kneelers and a "splendid carpet for the center aisle" of the sanctuary, and the establishment of a nursery by the new Young Married Couples group. On one Easter, Calvary had its largest attendance ever, with 550 worshipers.

The decade that began with the uncertainty of the Korean conflict (where member Jack Anderberg reportedly "met accidental death") ended with a new sense of hope for the congregation, despite Edquist's announcement that he would soon be leaving. Calvary was "complete," a new parsonage had been purchased (the dedication was held May 17, 1959), the church marked its 40th anniversary, and things were looking up financially. In the 1959 report, the treasurer noted that the church was staying current on its bills and benevolences, a welcome turn-around. He stated: "I remember so well in 1957 when the treasurer reported on Sept. 1 that we had 97 cents on hand, and someone said, 'Well, we're improving. That's the most we've had for quite some time.'"

In Memoriam: Gold Star member for Korea:



PFC. ANDERBERG



PFC Jack Duane Anderberg
age 21 killed by accident
10-9-1951.

THIS and THAT from 1956...must have been good...

August 1956 – Darrel White drives a nice new 1956 Plymouth. He hinted that its color was a bit more respectable than that of the Pastor's car, but the Pastor didn't agree!...and there was no battle!

June 24, 1956 – On display this morning in our narthex, is the trophy won by the Calvary Softball team for placing second in the 1955 softball tournament. The team is doing very well so far this season.

And from the Dispatch..."In a National League game, Calvary Lutheran blistered First Baptist, 16-5, with homers by Clyde & Robinder, triples by L. Hodge and Ruud, Batteries were Copley and Robinder." Well!!! The date?...June 7, 1956.

The list of eligibbles for our softball team reads as follows: Walter Carlson, Elmer Copley, Dewey Dyer, Jeffrey Petersen, Bill Hodge, Gary Hawkinson, James Salmonson, LeRoy Chase, Omer Jackson, (he's the one who put the fixtures in the office and figured out the parking lineup south of the annex), Sid Robinder, Melvin Robinder, (who just started his job with the RI lines as fireman on a diesel locomotive), Warren Strandlund, (manager) Eric Carlson, Loyal Hodge, (director), John Clyde, Dale Winter, Jerry Kruger, Bill Hurst, Larry Ruud, Don Strandlund, and Ted Jackson, (who is now in Reserve Officer's Training Camp in Aberdeen, MD). They play each week at Riverside Park, 5:45 PM. We rather think that our interest in our youth should be proved by a fine rooting section from Calvary....Each Week!!!!

Sept. 1956 - Our Choir School is being sponsored and financed exclusively by our Senior Choir and a fifty cent registration fee paid by the registrants. The forty-seven children, divided into three age groups, attend three classes. They learn music history and theory. In their choral class they receive not only choir training but also class voice lessons with individual attention for each child. The children, too, have a class in handicraft and recreation.

November 1956 - The Calvary Choir School is proud to announce the following members as having attained the honor of being the nucleus of its very special Merit Choir: Sandra June, Lynne Pearson, Gregory Lofgren, Jeffrey Carlson, Susan Bobb, Karen DeBates, Barbara Guild, Ruth Ann Smith, Carol Beyer, Carol Brissman, Adena Peterson, Phyllis Sellers, Diana Guild, Cheryl Westerdahl and Karen Pearson. (by 1958 – became Jr. Choir)