

Calvary Courier

April 2020

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

As I was leaving my polling place after voting in the Illinois primary I had a brief encounter with a man in the parking lot. I was wearing my clerical collar, so he knew I was clergy of some sort. He said to me something like, “Do you suppose that God is telling us something?”

There really was not an opportunity to have a discussion, so I just responded, “I’m sure God is with us through whatever this is.”

I suspect that his comment might have come from the school of thought that the current coronavirus pandemic is some sort of warning or punishment from God – that God has sent another plague on humanity because of our sinfulness.

I firmly believe that such an understanding is completely contrary to the message of Easter.

In the Easter story from Matthew (Matthew 28: 1-10, that we will hopefully hear in congregational worship on Easter Sunday), Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb of Jesus on the first day of the week. As they approach the tomb an earthquake rattles the ground at their feet and the stone in front of the tomb is rolled away.

Now, I’ve never been through an earthquake, but I can only imagine that I would be terrified. The world, it must have seemed, was crashing at their feet. And yet from this devastating event a voice comes to them from a messenger of God. “Do not be afraid: I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.”

In the midst of an apparent world altering event the word of God to the two Marys is, “Don’t be afraid. God has not abandoned you. Jesus is alive and with you.”

We, too, seem to be living in the midst of a world crashing around our feet. As I write this letter the news about the coronavirus changes hour by hour, and sometimes minute by minute. We don’t know what will ultimately happen with the virus – how many will be infected, how many may die, what it will do to the world’s economy, or to our own individual financial security. It can seem overwhelming.

And in the midst of this “earthquake” known as Covid-19, there is a message that comes to us from God. Do not be afraid. God has not abandoned us. Jesus is with us and always will be. God so loves the world. It is not God’s desire to destroy the world, but to save it.

And so God is with us in the midst of this pandemic. God is with us in the health care workers who are helping the infected. God is with us in the researchers who are seeking a vaccine. God is with us in the people who are reaching out to the vulnerable. God is with us through the friends and neighbors who make phone calls to keep us connected with one another. God is with us.

As Christians we are the presence of God to each other. Jesus is alive through us.

The message of Easter is a simple one. There is nothing in this world – no tomb or virus – that can keep God from us. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! So, be not afraid.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

APRIL Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Kurt Dicks, Carolyn Coulter
- 4 – Judy Noftsker
- 6 – John James Gross
- 7 – Greg Johnson
- 9 – Joe Geerts, Gene Untiedt,
- 10 – Marilyn Gross
- 13 – Betsy Untiedt
- 18 – Erik Ohrn
- 19 – Jimmy Duncan
- 28 – Ann Bowser

Happy Anniversary to:

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



HOLY WEEK in APRIL PENDING....

The following schedule is subject to change per State and ELCA mandates: Currently, Calvary is CLOSED thru April 7. We suggest you call the church office, visit our web-site or Facebook page to check on Holy Week Schedule:

April 5 – PALM SUNDAY – CANCELLED

**April 9 – 6:30 pm -Maundy Thursday service
At St. James - unsure at this time**

**April 10 – 6:30 pm – Good Friday service
At Calvary – unsure at this time**

April 12 – Easter Services:
8:30 am – St. James, RI
10:30 am - Calvary

THANK YOU to Lenten Lunch Providers



We would like to give a BIG Thank you everyone who had signed up to provide Lenten lunches. We are sorry that this year only four members were able to serve. They were Marilyn Gross, Judy Ingerson, Connie Langston and Val Daniel. The food you served was delicious!



During the month of March we have received the following words of thanks....

Dear Friends, Thank you very much for all the greeting cards I received with gifts and the pleasure of your visits. It gave me so much happiness and a Happy Birthday. Merci....

---- Sincerely, Gisele Richardson

The board, staff and volunteers at Churches United of the Quad City Area gratefully acknowledge and accept your most generous gift to our Christ-centered mission and CareLINK ministry. This contribution of \$150 to the Moline/East Moline Cluster of Churches helps us to serve families who are in need of assistance with either rent or utilities.

----Blessings, Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes, Exec. Dir.
And Betsy Vanausdeln, Assoc. Dir.

The board, staff and volunteers at Churches United of the Quad City Area gratefully acknowledge and accept your most generous gift to our Christ-centered mission and ministries. This contribution of \$300 to our ministry helps us keep the doors open at Winnie's Place, the only emergency shelter for homeless women and children in the Illinois Quad Cities, food on the shelves of our 25 neighborhood food pantries and on plates at our 2 free hot meal sites.

----Blessings, Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes, Exec. Dir.
And Betsy Vanausdeln, Assoc. Dir.

ALL DAUGHTER BANQUET Friday, May 8 at 6:00 pm



The banquet will be catered by Jeff's Market. Reservations can be made with Connie Langston, Charlene Lundstrom or the church office. The program for the evening will be "Purses with Purpose" with Deb Bowen as our guest speaker. Women attending are invited to donate a gently-used purse filled with things that women in homeless shelters need. Deb is also the originator of the "Book by Me" project and will be telling us about that too.



May Newsletter

All articles for the May Newsletter should be emailed to the church office by April 16. The newsletter should go out the following Thursday, April 23.

THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN CANCELLED or POSTPONED

Calvary is officially CLOSED thru April 7 and could be extended. The following events have either been cancelled or postponed to a later date. We suggest you call the church office (309) 762-5423 to check on the status of your event. For those with a computer, please check our web-site for our status or our Facebook page.



Lenten Lunches and services:

Lenten Lunches and services are cancelled thru April 1. Depending on the spread of the virus and the state of Rock Island and Scott counties, we will have to be prepared the closures will extend into April, as well.



Relay for Life – Palm Sunday Brunch

Scheduled for April 5th – HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

Regarding Easter Lilies.....



We are no longer accepting orders for Easter Lilies.

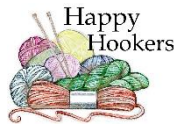
KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

PACKING EVENT scheduled for **MARCH 15** was postponed to a later date. Please watch future newsletters.



HAPPY HOOKERS

Happy Hookers has been cancelled for March



RELAY FOR LIFE – QUARTER AUCTION

The Quarter Auction scheduled for **SATURDAY, April 18th** has been postponed to a later date. This event was sponsored by the Calvary Crusaders Relay with members from Laureate Beta Please watch future newsletters.

WELCA NEWS



Deborah Circle – April 7th meeting is cancelled

NORTHERN IL WELCA RETREAT scheduled for Saturday, April 18 has been Cancelled



HAPPY HOOKERS

As of now...we will be meeting on April 29 at 9:30 am in Erlander Hall.

Please join us as we work on various projects. We also enjoy our break with good food and fellowship.

So...whether you are crafty, enjoy stitching or just enjoy the gift of visiting and doing something different, please join us – we can promise you, there is never a dull moment with this group of Happy Ladies!

We meet once a month on the Last Wednesday.

PS - WE really do enjoy our BREAK with coffee, food and laughter for the soul.

Knit-A-Bit Resumes on April 15

Hopefully, the church will be open by April 15th, so Knit-A-Bit can meet once again at 5:30 pm in the Upper Room. Please bring your completed items and your work in progress. It will be fun to see how much everyone has completed.



RELAY for LIFE Coffee Hour:

Relay for Life team will once again sponsor the 4th Sunday Coffee Hour before and after services once church services are resumed on a regular basis.

Roll Up Your Sleeves for



APRIL WORDAYS

We have 2 workdays scheduled:

Wednesday, April 15 from 9:00 – 11:00 am indoor workday. We will work in the kitchen, storage room,

Erlander Hall, Upper Room, Library and Sanctuary. Light cleaning, dusting, organizing and just cleaning out. Many people will make the tasks easy. Coffee and snacks provided.

Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 – 11:00 am Outdoor workday. Bring your yard equipment to work on the areas around the church. Leaf raking, trash pick-up, bush trimming, etc. This year we will concentrate on the west side of the building to redo plantings. Many hands make for lite work. Coffee and snacks provided.



WELCA NEWS.....

AS OF MARCH 23 – the following is still scheduled...

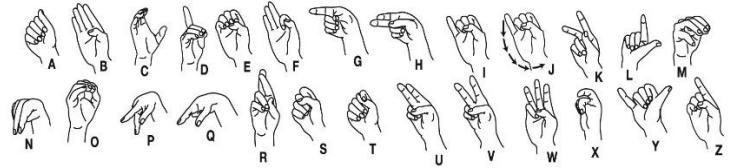
WELCA – West Conference Spring Assembly Saturday, April 25

The Spring Assembly is at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 319 W. Court St., Cambridge, IL. Registration starts at 9:00 am with a brunch and program following. Raeann Tucker of the Henry County Health Dept. will explain the many services they provide to senior citizens and disabled person in the community. An in-kind offering will go to local food pantries. Make your reservations with WELCA President Sue Knipe or the church office by Sunday, April 19.



Puzzle!

Hands play a key role in the biblical accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Use this sign-language alphabet to retell what happened.



Jesus' _____ were _____
 to the tree. Two criminals were also crucified,

one on the _____

and the other on the _____ of Jesus. Jesus

cried out with a loud voice, " _____ ,

into your _____ I commit my spirit."

(Luke 23:46) Jesus' friends _____

him from the cross to the tomb. Jesus showed

_____ his _____ to prove

he was Christ. Bring your _____ together

in _____ , and thank God for his

Son, Jesus!

Answer: hands, nailed, right, hand, left, Father, hands, carried, Thomas, hands, prayer