

# Calvary Courier

## May 2021

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

### From the Pastor,

On a tv show I was watching recently one of the characters, a mother of a newborn, asks a friend if she thinks she should have her baby baptized. In his response he tells her that baptism is a kind of “spiritual insurance.” She then asks a pseudo-priest (it isn’t worth the space to explain why he was not a real priest) the same question. He responds in similar fashion, implying that it is baptism will get her baby into heaven someday.

As I watched and listened to this interaction, I cringed at the theology being expressed. “How could they...,” I thought to myself. But then I realized that the theology presented there was probably a common understanding of baptism – that baptism is the ticket to heaven. That may be a common understanding, but it is not a Lutheran understanding.

So, what is a Lutheran understanding of baptism?

The obvious place to begin is with Luther’s Small Catechism. In his explanation about the sacrament Luther asserts that baptism is God’s word connected to the water. The “word” is God’s promise to love the person being baptized, a promise of the forgiveness of sin, new life and salvation.

But doesn’t that seem to imply that baptism promises God’s salvation for a person?

Yes. In baptism we believe that God promises to love, forgive, and save the baptized. But it does not say that God *only* loves, forgives, and saves people who are baptized. God’s love is not limited to those who have water poured over their heads in a church rite, as if the church somehow can control whom God loves.

Rather, baptism is a gift from God for the assurance of the baptized. The water is a tangible sign of those promises. As Luther would describe it, the water becomes a physical reminder of God’s love for the

baptized. Whenever someone may doubt God’s love them, Luther would say, remember the waters of baptism and God’s promises.

The analogy that I use that seems to make the most sense is my wedding ring. My wife does not love me because I wear a wedding ring. Rather, the wedding ring is there as a reminder to me of my wife’s love for me. In the same way, God doesn’t love me because I am baptized, but rather the waters of baptism are a physical reminder to me of God’s promised love.

Our “spiritual insurance” is the love of God through Jesus Christ. Baptism is the gift from God to help us remember God’s promise of that love for us.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Knowles*



### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

At 10:00 am

**Pastor Knowles is leading a Bible study** on Wednesday mornings, at 10:00 am in the Upper Room. We are studying Paul’s letter to the Philippians. Those attending the study must wear a face mask and maintain social distancing while in the Upper room. If you want coffee and/or something to munch on, please bring your own.

**NOTE: No Bible Study on April 28 as Hookers will be meeting.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor will offer communion on the following dates:

- April 26 – 2:00 - 2:30 pm at Calvary,
  - 6:30 pm at St. James

# M A Y



## Happy Birthday to:

- 2 – Kirk Ketelsen
- 4 – Arlene Cooke
- 6 – Teri Griebel
- 9 – David Peterson
- 18 – Candice Tennison
- 23 – Dereck Chase
- 27 – Patricia Cornelius
- 28 – LaVerne Knipe

## Happy Anniversary to:

- 4 – Robert & Beth Fuller (2005)
- Robert & Linda Miner (1963)
- 11 – Gene & Betsy Untiedt (1952)
- 24 – Gary & Pam Gross (1980)
- 25 – Jerry & Pat Cornelius (1968)
- Bruce & Val Daniel (1974)
- 28 – Randy & Ann Bowser (1973)

## CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

Laverne Knipe, Dave Menke battling cancer. Jeremiah Griebel, Cindy Pham, Kevin Freeze, Allen & Joyce Faust, Kenalene Forbeck, Kelly Strand, Bernie and Audrey Laabs, Pete Lingris & family, Bev & Ken Oller, Karen Moore, Gerda Schmeltzer, Dorothy Hultgren, Randy Kirkwood.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The **June** Newsletter will be out on **Wednesday, May 19**. All articles for the newsletter should be emailed/mailed to the church office no later **Tuesday, May 18**.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

## Cafe on Vine Serving at Cafe on Vine May 1



**Need Help** in making the cabbage salad (ask Pam or Debbie Faith for recipe, this needs to sit overnight) and providing cookies.

**Need Help** in preparing food for Café on Vine, putting sandwiches together, and packing the lunch bags on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Should take about 1 1/2 hours.

If you can help serve on Saturday we take food over at 10:30.

Contact Pam 309-738-2385



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



Thank you to Pastor Knowles and members of Calvary for your prayers, phone calls, cards, and notes. They were very much appreciated. I have started walking and it feels great to be up and about.

---- Roger Thorsvold



Thank you all for your kind words of encouragement, cards and prayers following the passing of my brother, Don Schmidt. It was certainly a shock and he will be missed by his entire family. Having a very loving and supportive church family (his and ours) meant the world to us.

---- Thank you - Bruce and Valorie Daniel and our entire family



As hard as these times are to experience, we know by grace through faith God's love is working throughout creation. We are so thankful to have your support of outdoor ministry in a time when help is never more needed. LOMC continues to be an outdoor sanctuary, community, creation and faith. We are blessed by your partnership. Thank you for your donation to LOMC for \$216 to our annual fund.

---- Robert Gieraltowski, Executive Director



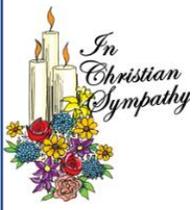
The board, staff and volunteers at Churches United of the Quad City Area gratefully acknowledge and accept your most generous gift to our Christ-centered mission and CareLINK ministry. This contribution of \$152.08 to the Moline/East Moline Cluster of Churches helps us to serve families who are in need of assistance with either rent or utilities.

---- Blessings, Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes, Exe. Dir.  
Besty Vanausdein, Assoc. Dir.

## GRADUATE RECOGNITION



If you have a member of family graduating this year, please email me or send me the information and I will highlight in the June newsletter.



**We offer our sympathies and prayers** to Sue & Jim Hallstrom and family. Sue's father, Roger Carlson, passed away on April 19. May each of you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



**2021 School Supplies -  
For Aid to Kids in Romania**

Thanks to everyone who donated in the past for the kids in Romania. This year, instead of collecting shoes, we will be collecting school supplies. Our drive will begin May 1<sup>st</sup> and run through early July.

The plan is to have a corkboard in the Narthex with cards printed with the exact school supplies needed. We would each take a card as a shopping list to a store, and bring the items back to Calvary. The exact items that are needed are unknown as of now. More information and updates will be provided in upcoming newsletters and Sunday bulletins.

I have seen the expressions on their faces as they receive items sent from Calvary and other churches. They truly appreciate these gifts.

Thanks again. Greg Johnson

**WORK DAY SCHEDULED  
Saturday April 24 - 9:00 am.**

**Saturday April 24 -9:00 am.**

Workday at Calvary. There are outdoor jobs cleaning around bushes and trimming to do. Indoor jobs will be cleaning some windows, organizing in the kitchen and some closet areas, and dusting. If you can, bring your own tools. All are welcome and needed!



**Happy Hookers**



**HAPPY HOOKERS  
APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> at 9:30 am**

Happy Hookers will begin meeting on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in Erlander Hall. Come and enjoy our social time with coffee and goodies. We will begin working on projects.

**Note: There will be NO Bible Study that day!**

**COUNTER SCHEDULE FOR MAY**

Beginning for May, I have scheduled the following counters:

- May 2 – Barb Geerts and Paul Levesque
- May 9 – Debbie Faith and Teri Griebel
- May 16 – Steve Faith and Gary Gross
- May 23 – Greg Johnson and Connie Langston
- May 30 – Charlene Lundstrom and Vicki McAlister

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



**Deborah Circle** –will meet Tuesday May 4 at 11:30 in Erlander Hall. Bring your own lunch and wear a mask. Please bring your donations for the food pantry followed by fellowship and devotions.

If you still have the schedule from last year, all I have done is change the dates. If not and you would like one, please let me know and I will email you a copy.

**WELCA FOR CHRISTIAN  
FRIENDLINESS FOOD PANTRY**

WELCA has received a wish list from Christian Friendliness Food Pantry.

- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Peanut Butter  | Pancake Mic (Water)   |
| Syrup          | Flour                 |
| Sugar          | Oil                   |
| Brownie Mix    | Cake Mix              |
| Cans of Rivoli | Prego Spaghetti Sauce |
| Cans of Tuna   |                       |



**CHURCHES UNTIED -  
MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY  
"Making Room at the Table"**

**May 7, 2021**

Christ United Methodist Church  
3801 7<sup>th</sup> Street, East Moline

9:am – Registration; 9:30 am – Brunch  
Followed by program

Cost: \$5.00

Reservations: Pat Reuter, 309-721-4510 no later than May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Turn in your Least Coin.

## HUMOR

- I asked the doctor for a second opinion, so he billed me twice.
- With my Luck the light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming Train.
- Insurance is a lot like wearing a hospital gown. You're never covered as much as you think you are.
- Now there is a margarine for people over 50, the middle age spread.
- Did you know that too many square meals will make you round?
- Everything comes to he who waits....grey hair, false teeth and a pot belly.
- Television remote controls encourage couch potatoes to exercise their options while broadening their base.
- It must have taken a lot of courage to discover that frog legs are edible.
- A good friend is one who thinks you're a good egg, even though you might be slightly cracked.
- Noah's wife once told him, "I'd feel a lot more comfortable if those two termites were in a glass container."
- When you're down and out, something always turns up – if only your toes.
- If you're going thru HELL – keep going!
- What would you call a snake who's had too many espressos? A Hyper Viper!
- How do you cut a wave in half? Use a sea saw.
- What kind of shorts do clouds wear? Thunderwear.
- What happens when it rains cats and dogs? Don't step in a poodle!
- The noise of an all-night poker game in the next hotel room kept a tired tourist from sleeping. At 3 am he started pounding on the wall, hoping to silence the revelers. "Hey," one of the gamblers shouted. "This is a heck of a time to be hanging pictures!"
- I had dinner with a world chess champion and there was a checkered tablecloth. It took him two hours to pass the salt.
- Grandpa was sleeping in his chair. His three year old grandson, goes up to him and yells, "Grandpa! Grandpa!" Nothing – runs around to the other side of his chair, yelling, "Grandpa! Grandpa!". Nothing. Grandson pokes Grandpa yelling, "Grandpa!" Grandpa says, "What do you want!" Grandson says, "I wanted to know if you were sleeping."
- A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked: "Why do you think I wear this collar?" One kid answered: "Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days?"

I would like to thank everyone who has sent me *Humor* for the last several months. If you have something you would like to share, please send it to me.