

# *Calvary Courier*

## *July 2020*

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

As we near the end of June I'm sure that many of you are wondering when we might be able to meet again. It is a question that occupies my thoughts, too. So let me share with the kinds of things that I've been considering.

First, my priority has been to follow the recommendations of the governor, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

My understanding is that currently the governor will not enforce restrictions for churches. That means we could open up without fear of any legal ramifications. At the same time he encouraged churches that do start in-person, inside worship to remain consistent with current guidelines. In the current phase that would mean limiting gatherings to 10 people, remaining six feet apart, and all participants wearing a mask.

I think that Illinois will enter the next phase of re-opening in July (and perhaps has entered Phase 4 by the time you read this). In this phase the recommendation is to have gatherings of no more than 50 people. In order to limit the risk of spreading the coronavirus at worship we would need to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Everyone would be required to wear a mask through the entire service.
- No gathering in the narthex or upper room but come in, worship and leave.
- No singing or congregational responses.
- Abbreviated liturgy (maybe 30 minutes total).
- Households would have to sit at least six feet apart.
- There would probably not be a bulletin.
- There would probably not be communion. (I'm working out a way to offer it at a time other than Sunday morning when we might be able to have fewer people in the building and for just a short period of time. My intention is to start this in July.)
- No passing of offering plates.
- Drinking fountains would be turned off.
- Maybe only allow one person in restrooms at a time.
- We would ask that no one who has a temperature or been exposed to the virus attend.
- Guidelines also recommend that people at high risk of serious complications from contracting the virus (including those over 60 years old) not participate.

In addition, I've been bothered over the last week or so with stories I've read about churches that held in-person worship, following the protocols in place, and still spread the virus to close to half the participants.

It is also troubling to me that it is possible for someone to be asymptomatic (and never have symptoms) and still be covid positive. That means that the virus could be spread by someone who has no idea they have it.

There was also a discussion among pastors with the Bishop recently (at a virtual meeting I did not attend) that involved having parishioners sign a liability waiver before attending services. I don't know what kind of support there was for requiring a waiver, but at the very least it would emphasize to people attending worship that there is a risk involved. (By the way, I would be against the waiver.)

I'm afraid that my description of what reopening will look like is somewhat discouraging, but I think it is important for people to have realistic expectations. Getting together for worship on Sundays in the near future will be not be "normal," and won't be for some time to come.

As all of this started in March I think I shared how much I struggled with the decision to close the church. I was literally sick to my stomach for the better part of a week. The decision about reopening is becoming just as gut-wrenching for me. I, too, long to get back together with everyone. But at the same time, we need to be responsible for the health and safety of those around us.

What is the acceptable level of risk? Are we OK with the possibility of inadvertently spreading the virus, of making one of our friends sick – or worse? By following the appropriate guidelines – keeping six feet apart, wearing a mask, not singing, not visiting in the building before or after worship, using hand sanitizer, etc. – we can reduce the risk, but we can't eliminate it.

Regardless of starting in-person worship or not, we would continue to provide an online version of worship every week.

Those are my thoughts for now.

It would be helpful to me and the council to know what your thoughts are. If we started worshipping in-person again under the conditions listed, would you come? Do you think it is wise for us to open up in July or would you be more comfortable waiting until August or September? Please let us know. You can call or email me, leave a message at church or contact a council member. Council members are Greg Johnson, Renee Ketelsen, Paul Levesque, Pam Gross, Barb Geerts, Deb Faith, Terry Langston, Charlene Lundstrom and Jim Hallstrom.

I hope and pray that everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Peace,

*Pastor Knowles*

\*\*\*\*\*



As the church office is still closed, all articles for the August newsletter should be emailed/mailed to the church office no later July 21. The newsletter will go out on Wednesday, July 22.

# JULY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – LeRoy Freeze
- 7 – Terry Langston, Cassie Pham
- 12 – Tim Miller
- 15 – Tim L. Miller
- 16 – Mary Ann Behrens
- 18 – Steve Miller
- 23 – Roger Thorsvold
- 24 – Dean Chase
- 26 – Arla Olson
- 27 – Jeremiah Griebel
- 31 – Dianna Kitchen

Happy Anniversary to:

- 4 – Gordon & Linda Nelson (1970)
- 14 – LeRoy & Fran Freeze (1956)

## CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

Dave Menke and Vinh Pham battling cancer. Cindy Pham, Kelly Strand, Jack Wheeler, Bernie and Audrey Laabs, Amy, Pete Lingris & family, Kay Chase, Bev & Ken Oller, Karen Moore, Gerda Schmeltzer, Dorothy Hultgren, Marynell Kirkwood, Randy Kirkwood, Elaine Newberg.

Oh, Lord, please grant healing to those named above and strength to their caregivers. This past month we all have been living in trying times. Please grant mercy and peace to all people, no matter their circumstances or where they live. We are all one body in Christ. Amen.

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



*Prayers*

Irish Blessing



## RELAY FOR LIFE

Due to the current restrictions, Relay has been put on a holding pattern. Currently there is some discussion to having a Luminary walk around a track sometime in September. Please watch the newsletter for further developments.

---- Marilyn Gross



During the month of June, we have received the following words of thanks....

The board, staff and volunteers at Churches United of the Quad City Area gratefully acknowledge your continued support of the Christ-centered mission of Churches United and our rental/utility CareLINK ministry. This contribution of \$150 to the Moline/East Moline Cluster of Churches and \$300.00 to general operations helps us to serve families who are in need of assistance with either rent or utilities, hunger or women who are fleeing from domestic violence.

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



## Calvary Congregation

The food pantry food drop-off in June was a success! We estimated that the food would have filled two shopping carts. Thanks to all who dropped off food items or helped on the collection days. The food was taken to the Christian Friendliness Food Pantry in Moline.

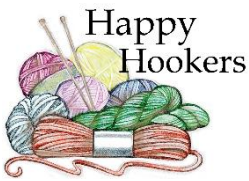
We plan to do this event again in July. With the church building still closed on Sundays (as of this writing) when we would normally bring in food donations, we will again have limited drop-off times at Calvary. Volunteers will again be at Calvary to help unload the food items from your vehicles.

Also, shoes for kids in Romania may be dropped off at these times; see the article in this newsletter about Shoes for Kids in Romania.

--- The drop-off times will be: Friday July 10th 4:00 – 6:00 pm and Saturday July 11th 9:00 – 11:00 am. Food could also be dropped off at other times if anyone happens to be at the church, or with an appointment.

--- If you are willing to help at one of the drop-off times, or if you want to have your food items (or shoes) picked up from your home, please contact Greg Johnson at 796-0858 or the church office at 762-5423 (and leave a message).

Thank you, and God Bless. Calvary Council



# Happy Hookers

## HAPPY HOOKERS

Seems like forever since we have been together, but we will treasure the time when we do gather. Sure we won't get much done for all the talking to catch up, but that's OK. Some of our gals have really been working thru this lockdown time. Many lap robes, baby items ect., ect. have been made. I also think around 300 face masks sewn. Thank you Thank you. I wanted to list your names but afraid I would forget someone or maybe some I don't know about. If working at home check to see if the Hooker room may have the materials you need.

I am hoping that someday in the near future we can meet. Miss you all very much.

Love and Hugs to you all. Stay well, Marilyn Mudd

## 2020 Shoe Drive – Romania



With the pandemic affecting everyone worldwide, the shoe collection at Calvary and other churches is extended to October 1<sup>st</sup>. (The shoes will be distributed in Romania in December this year, rather than in October.)

We will be collecting:

- 1) new shoes for kids aged 3 to 14 years old, and
- 2) money to go towards shipping costs.

Shoes may be dropped off at Calvary during the food pantry drop-off times. See the article in this newsletter about the Food Pantry Drop-off. On behalf of the kids in Romania, thank you.

-----, Greg Johnson

\*\*\*\*\*

For those who miss Baseball....



The Property committee is looking for volunteers to do projects around the church.

Since we haven't been able to work in large groups we are asking people to take a project and do it as their time allows. If you have questions about any of the projects listed or think of other projects please call Pam or Gary Gross.

1. Trimming/shaping/cutting the 2 tall evergreens that block the crosses on the north side of church.
  2. Prime and paint the 3 metal crosses on the north side of the church.
  3. Help with the landscape on the west and north side of church.
  4. Tack down the separated sub-floor in the center aisle of sanctuary. We need a pneumatic nail/tack gun for this to tack down through the carpet.
  5. Wash windows in upper room.
- Hope to get these all done this summer with your help.

## WE NEED HUMOR

- Don't let age get you down, its too hard to get back up again.
- What do you call cheese that isn't yours?  
Nacho Cheese
- If at first you don't succeed, skydiving isn't for you.
- Ever stop to think and then forget to start again??
- The older you get, the better you get unless you're a banana.
- No marriage is perfect even Adam and Eve raised Cain.
- Old age is when you are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of the police
- At my age Happy Hour is a nap
- If your eyes hurt after drinking coffee you must remember to take the spoon out of the cup.