

Calvary Courier

July 2021

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

I was sitting at stop sign the other day behind a pick-up truck. Just before the truck pulled through the intersection the driver tossed a cigarette butt out the window. My blood pressure did a short rise as I got angry at the willful littering I had witnessed. As I recalled the public service commercial that ran during my youth of the Native American man with a tear running down his cheek as he surveyed a littered highway, my initial reaction was, "I thought we were beyond this carefree littering." After reflecting a few more moments I became more offended that someone like that driver could just assume that the world was his ashtray. (I say "his," because the driver looked male. It could very well have been a "her," though.)

Upon a little more reflecting, my thought changed from "How could someone think the world was his ashtray," to simply, "How could someone think the world was his." I really do believe that must be the mindset of someone who can just toss a cigarette butt out the window. They don't want to mess up their space (inside the vehicle) but it doesn't matter if they mess up everyone else's space. The world exists to fill their needs and wants, and other people don't matter.

Now I realize that I'm making assumptions and gross generalizations about someone just because they tossed a cigarette butt out their vehicle window. At the same time, I am sure that there is a certain amount of selfishness and lack of empathy in a person who would perpetrate such an act. They can't care about who is affected by their garbage, as long as it isn't them.

As Christians, however, we believe that the world is not ours, nor does it exist simply to fulfill our own personal needs and wants. Rather the world, and all that is in it, is God's, who is gracious enough to let us borrow it. And that includes all the people around us. Like everything else, they are God's creations, God's children. And God expects us to care for and about them, too.

To only care about oneself (selfishness) and to refuse to see the world from anyone else's perspective (lack of empathy) I believe is at the core of what Christians talk about as original sin. And I think that sin (selfishness and lack of empathy) is absolutely pervasive in our society today. Our culture is rampant with selfish greed ("I want what I want") and has little interest in trying to understand life from someone else's perspective.

Yet that is exactly opposite of the true Christian life. God calls on us to be caretakers, not consumers, of his creation. And Jesus calls us to care for our neighbors: to help heal their pain, alleviate their suffering, and find justice for them. The Christian life is one that doesn't divide (between rich and poor, whites and people of color, liberal and conservative, Republican and Democrat). Rather the Christian life is one that calls us to take up our cross, to sacrifice *our* wants, for the sake of *others'* needs.

Our call, as children of God and members of Calvary and St. James, is take care of the gifts that God has entrusted to us. Our call is to take care of God's creation. Our call is to take care of each other. Our call is to love one another, even if they don't look like us, or think like us, or vote like us.

In Christ, *Pastor Knowles*



PASTOR KNOWLES will be on Vacation from June 28th through July 5th.

JULY

Happy Birthday to:




- 1 – LeRoy Freeze
- 7 – Terry Langston
- 12 – Tim Miller
- 15 – Tim L. Miller
- 16 – Mary Ann Behrens
- 18 – Steve Miller
- 23 – Roger Thorsvold

- 24 – Dean Chase
- 27 – Jeremiah Griebel
- 31 – Dianna Kitchen

Happy Anniversary to:

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



**GRADUATE
RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

JUNE 27TH.

The following graduate will be recognized:

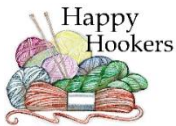
- ★ Brianna Griebel received her High School diploma from United Township.
- ★ Andrew was recognized on June 13th.

CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

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

HAPPY HOOKERS - July 28 at 9:30 am

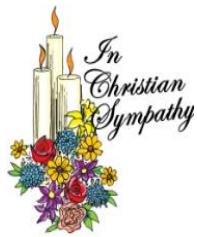


Happy Hookers will meet on Wednesday, July 28 at 9:30 am in Erlander Hall. Come and enjoy our social time with coffee and goodies. We are busily working on our projects.

Note: There will be NO Bible Study that day!

WELCA - All Calvary women are invited.

- **Deborah Circle** – will not meet again until September. WELCA donated \$100 to the food pantry.




We offer our sympathies and prayers to Ruth Laabs. Her father, Bernie Laabs from Glasgow, KY passed away Sunday morning on June 6. **We also offer our sympathies** to Ann Lundstrom on the passing of her sister, Susan.


May each of you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.




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

 My sincere appreciation for the cards and notes I have received since the death of my brother. Thank you everyone.


---- Ann Donahue

 The flowers you provided at Jim's funeral were lovely. I appreciate your continued support and prayers.

----Linda Johansen

 Dear Calvary family. Thank you so much for the cards and kind words of sympathy after the death of my father, Bernie Laabs. The memorials are being sent to the Methodist Children's Home in Ky. Please continue to keep my mother, Audrey in your prayers as she wants to attempt to live alone.

---- In Christ, Ruth Laabs.

 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.

BLOOD DRIVE at Calvary – July 22



Thursday, July 22 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. **Calvary** is hosting a Blood Drive in Erlander Hall. To donate, please call Ted Jackson at 309-762-0170.

Relay for Life Fund-Raising Activities

CRAFT & VENDOR SALE -Sponsored by
Bettendorf Presbyterian Church,
1200 Middle Rd., Bettendorf.
On **JUNE 26TH** from
9 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Free Admission.
Over 30 vendors and concessions.



Starting in July, I will be looking for Lectors and Communion Assistants. If you would like to volunteer, please either call the church office at 309-762-5423 and leave a message or email me at secretary@calvaymoline.org.

For July 4th – Lector & Asst: MaryAnn Behrens
July 11 - OPEN
July 18 - OPEN
July 25 – OPEN

Included with this newsletter is a list of Calvary members I have used in the past. Please look this list over and let me know if you would still like to serve or be removed. This will help me fill out a Serving Calendar when Calvary becomes fully open in the fall.

CALVARY CRUSADERS:

- **ISABEL BLOOM** - A exclusive sculpture, "**Flower of Hope**" will be offered for sale by Relay for Life beginning in June. Information and a sign-up sheet will be posted. The cost is \$22.00 and will be applied to fund-raising for Calvary team members.
- **LUMINARIA** - Will be available for sale shortly. Look for information on the hallway bulletin board. The Relay for Life event is being planned for the evening of Sept.18 - location to be announced.
- **CIRCA 21** - Save the date - **August 8,2021** – Benefit for Relay for Life. The show is "Saturday Night Fever". The cost for the show has not been announced.

2021 School Supplies – For Aid to Kids in Romania



Return to Calvary by JULY 25TH

For the kids in Romania, We are collecting school supplies through July 25. There are still cards available on the display in the Narthex showing the exact school supplies needed, including for donations toward the shipping costs. Please take one or more cards and use them as a shopping list at a store, and bring the items back to Calvary by July 25th. If you have questions, please call Greg Johnson 309-796-0858. Thanks.

(Please read the following email Calvary received from Another Foundation on page 4.)

COUNTER SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

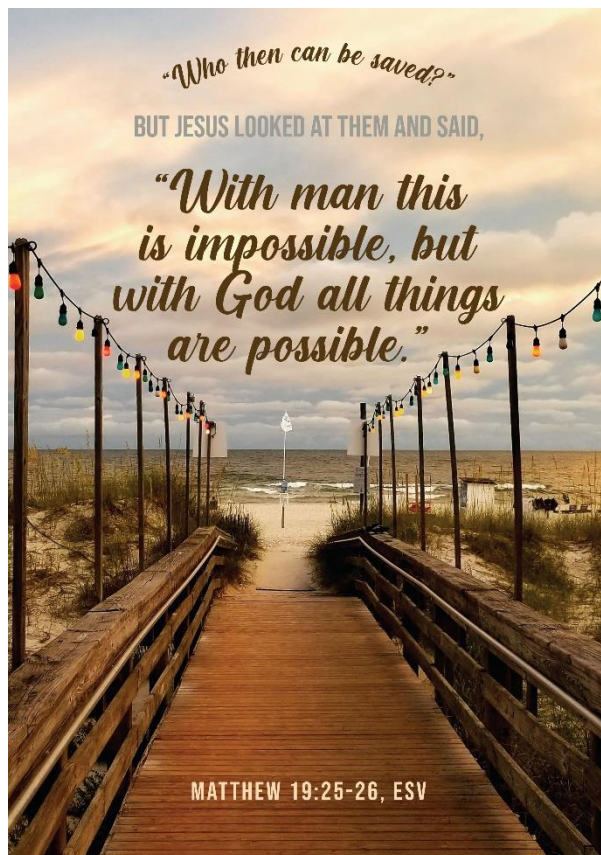
- July 4 – Gary Gross and Steve Faith
- July 11 – Pam Gross and Linda Chase
- July 18 – Charlene Lundstrom and Vicki McAlister
- July 25 – Teri Griebel and Barb Geerts



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The **July** Newsletter will be out on **Wednesday July 21**. All articles for the newsletter Should be emailed to the church office no later than **Tuesday, July 15**.

A number of you have requested to have the newsletter placed in their box at church. By September, I should be mailing only to the shut-ins.



Dear Calvary Lutheran Church,

I am writing you today because you need to hear about a child you recently rescued.

Your generosity, to children, through Another Child makes a big difference, and this story shows you how.

Here is a great story of TRANSFORMATION of a young boy named Stefan Pinto!



Stefan was enrolled into the Point of Hope Development Center (POH) in September of 2017. His parents were at the ends of their rope trying to figure out how to keep Stefan on a good track.

Stefan did poorly in school. Failing most of his classes. He used foul language all the time. The friends he hung out with were very bad influences.

By the end of the first year at the POH his parents could already see a DRAMATIC difference in his behavior and school work. Stefan had new friends and always had a wonderful smile on his face.

Today his mother claims he is a NEW child. We both believe that the Faith building experiences taught at the Point of Hope are indeed making a difference in his life.

Stefan now loves going to school, the carpentry classes taught at the Point of Hope, his classmates and most joyfully his Lord.

The staff is encouraged through your support and the way God is transforming lives one at a time.

You- and other supporters like you- are rescuing children from hopelessness and showing them the transforming love of God through your love, payers and support.

You love these kids like I do. Showing them the possibilities of a brighter future is our calling. I know helping a child half-way around the world might not seem like a big deal. But it's meaningful to God and the building of His kingdom.

Thank you again for caring about the children God has entrusted to our care. And of course, if you'd like the help rescue 'another child' from hopelessness you can [click here](#).

Your generosity is an inspiration. The team and I are so thankful to have you as a supporter.

For the Children,
Tim Oloffson- Executive Director

p.s. Thank you again!

HUMOR

- A schoolteacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around his upper body. It fit under his shirt and was not noticeable.

On the first day of the semester, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in school. Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, the teacher opened the window as wide as possible and busied himself at his desk.

When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he took a stapler and stapled the tie to his chest. Discipline was not a problem from that day on.

- Bigfoot is sometimes confused with Sasquatch, Yeti never complains.
- A boy got on the elevator in the Empire State Building in New York City. He and his father started to the top. The boy watched the signs flashing as they ascended: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70. Anxious, he took his father's hand and said, "Daddy, does God know we're coming?"
- When I call a family meeting, I turn off the house's Wi-Fi and wait for them all to come running.
- Did you hear about the ship that ran aground carrying a cargo of red and black paint? The whole crew was marooned.
- A young woman brought her boyfriend home to meet her parents. They were horrified by his hair, foul language and hostility. After he left, the mother said, "Dear, he doesn't seem like a very...nice person. The daughter replied, "Mom, if he wasn't a nice person, would he be doing 500 hours of community service?"
- Why do pirates hate May, June, July and August? They have no Arrrrs in theme?
- What do you call a person who doesn't believe it is June yet? A May sayer.
- What did May say to June when they were fighting? Don't July to me.
- My wife and I just had a daughter. We named her Junejulyaugust. We call her Summerfest for short.