

# *Calvary Courier*

## *August 2019*

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

Allow me to share with you a remarkable experience.

As most of you are aware, my mother-in-law, Esther, passed away on June 11. It would be a stretch to suggest that at the age of 89 she was in relatively good health. But, for someone who smoked most of her life, had chronically high cholesterol, was diagnosed with COPD and suffered from dementia, she was fairly active and alert up to the last couple months. So, when the end did come, it came pretty quickly. In the last couple weeks of her life it was apparent that she was not going to get better, that she was in some pain, and that there was little (if any) quality of life. So, in that regard her death was a blessing.

I am able to say that, in large part, because of a faith in a God who promised to love Esther and bring her into his eternal kingdom.

At the same time, the last couple weeks of her life were stressful – especially for Mary as she sat with her in the nursing home in Dubuque. For me, there were several trips to Dubuque to see Esther and support Mary, plus trying to coordinate the “business” that coincides with the death of a family member.

Now none of that may sound remarkable to you. In fact it is probably not remarkable at all because most of have gone through nearly identical experiences with loved ones of your own. And I know that not just because I am your pastor and have been with many of you as you sat at the bedsides of a dying parent. I know that because over those last couple weeks – and probably for the months before that as well – you stood by me and my family as ones who knew exactly what we were experiencing.

And that is the remarkable part of this experience for me. Your presence and support, your sympathy and empathy as ones who knew the turmoil of those days, made that time so much easier to bear.

At the heart of my personal beliefs is the understanding that God is present in my life tangibly through the people around me. Your presence in our lives was for me the presence of God offering an ear to listen to us, arms to hug us, and words of assurance to comfort us. In the language of Christian theology, you were and are the body of Christ for me and my family. In more common language, you are our family in this place. Through you we felt the comforting presence of God.

And what is so remarkable is how blessed we are to have such a family here in this place. I am truly grateful for each of you – for your prayers, your cards, your memorial gifts, your words, your laughter and your hugs. I can’t imagine what this experience might have been like without you. On behalf of Mary and our family, I say thank you for being the family of God here in this place.

Your brother in Christ,

**Pastor Knowles**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Information:**

**For AUGUST 2019** – we will be collecting **100** boxes of Cereal

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH**

Happy Birthday to:

- 2 – Bryce Chase
- 8 – Addi Miller
- 10 – Valorie Daniel
- 11 – Marilyn Mudd
- 12 – Haley Mudd
- 15 – Sheila Doering
- 20 – Lee Ann Carlson
- 22 – Gerda Schmeltzer
- 24 – Debra McClanahan
- 25 – Tyler De’Shawn Bowser-Smith
- 29 – Jan Jackson
- 30 – Tyler Lee Miller
- 31 – Linda Miner



Happy Anniversary to:

- 9 – Connie & Terry Langston (1997)
- 14 – LaVerne & Sue Knipe (1976)
- 16 – Allen & Judy Noftsker (1998)
- 20 – Greg & Karla Kirkwood- Johnson (1977)
- 27 – Rev. Don & Mary Knowles (1983)
- 29 – Rick & Pam Ohrn (1981)



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

☀ LOMC is humbled by this awesome gift. Thank you for being a partner in ministry to share the Gospel.

---Blessing, Rob Gieraltowski, Exe. Dir.

**WELCA NEWS:**

All ladies of the church are welcome to attend (No Meeting during July or August)



- ❖ **Happy Hookers** – will meet at 9:30 on August 28. Plenty of creative projects to work on plus enjoying fellowship and a coffee hour. (Bring a treat to share at “coffee time.”)
- ❖ **Northern Illinois Synod Women’s Convention** Saturday, September 14, 2019 to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline. Calvary WELCA will be asked to help – no specifics yet.



**LUNCH BUNCH**  
August 20 at 11:00 am Upper Room

**Come and bring your friends** – always a sociable time and good food too! Please let us know if you need transportation by calling the church office – we’ll come and get you.



**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> – 4 to 6 pm

We will be holding the Ice Cream Social outside under a tent. There will be plenty of Whitey’s Ice Cream, cakes and pies, along with games and entertainment, with a free-will offering, which will go towards our Love Gift. Hosted by the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee.

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL – Sat. August. 17<sup>th</sup>**

We would like to offer **Cake, Pie, Brownies or Cookies** to go along with our Ice Cream. If you would be able to donate, please fill out the donation slip below or the Yellow slip on the table in the Narthex.

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL DOATION SIGN UP**  
For Saturday, August 17th

Donations of the following are needed:

\_\_\_ cake \_\_\_ pies \_\_\_ brownies \_\_\_ cookies

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to donate, please mail or call the church office at (309)762-5423.



**ICE CREAM SOCIAL – 1990s**

Plenty of Ice Cream and goodies to go around!

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



for **September 8** is no later than for distribution on August 22. Please have your articles to me on time. You may email or put your articles in my box.



### ST. JAMES – CORN ROAST!

**Sunday, August 18 – 4:00 pm**

St. James has invited Calvary family and friends to their CORN ROAST on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at St. James.

All are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and CORN! If you are interested please bring a side dish or salad to share, please contact St. James Office at 309-786-0503.



### RELAY FOR LIFE

**Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>** – Coffee Hour – Before and after worship. Stop in the Upper Room to have some refreshments and special treats – your donations are appreciated.

### “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.



**Happy Hookers** – will meet at 9:30 on August 28. All women are invited for a morning of creative activities, food and fellowship. This group always meets on the last Wednesday of the month.

## SAVE THE DATE

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
will be November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

Worship will be held at 10:30 am with Bishop Clements as our guest preacher. After worship, our catered banquet will be held downstairs in Erlander Hall. If you still have contact with past Calvary members please invite them to this event.

**Prior to the big celebration,**  
several more events have been planned:



### CHURCH PICNIC

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
at 10:30 am

Our church picnic with service before will be held on Rock Island Arsenal. You will need your ID at the Moline Gate and it will be the first picnic area on the left (where it was held before). More information will be upcoming newsletters and bulletins.

### THROWBACK SUNDAY

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

Everyone is encouraged to dress in any decade period costume from 1919 to present day on that Sunday. The committee picked a fall date as the earlier decades were usually long dresses/skirts and long sleeve blouses and October would be much cooler.





## Calvary History 1990-1999

It was a flood of Christmas cheer, heading to North Dakota from *right here*.

The year was 1997, and members of a congregation in Grand Forks, N.D.—which also happened to be named Calvary Lutheran Church—



were still recovering from a flash flood that had devastated about 90 percent of the town that spring. The generally placid little Red River had suddenly swollen to immense proportions, swallowing homes, businesses, schools and churches—including the 3,000-member Calvary, which was *not* in the flood plain. The water came nearly to the ceiling of the basement youth room, destroying electronics and five furnaces. Many local residents had lost everything. So when Christmas approached, it was a struggle to get into the holiday spirit. That is, until that “wagon of good will” wheeled into town.

No stranger to river flooding, the members of Calvary, Moline, decided to brighten the holidays of their sister congregation in Grand Forks by donating lights, ornaments and other seasonal decorations to give to flood victims there. “We sent (church member) Gordon Nelson on a 1,600-mile round trip to Grand Forks with his station wagon loaded inside and on the roof,” Pastor Quentin Fleming noted in his report that year. “That load included about 100 angel ornaments made by our Sunday School with the help of the Moonlighters.” A Calvary Care Package on four wheels.



Jacki Spiros

The recipients were delighted by the gifts of decorations, especially church member Jackie Spiros, whose own home had been affected by the flooding. According to Gordon’s published account of his visit, Spiros “took her cat and ran” the night the flood occurred. She thought

she would be gone overnight; it would be six weeks before she could return. By the time Gordon galloped into Grand Forks, townspeople were simply weary of it all.

“I was thinking, ‘Bah, humbug on Christmas this year,’” Gordon quoted Spiros as saying. “Who cares if we have a tree this year? But this is fun,” she added, as she helped to unpack box after box of baubles. Parishioners were invited to pick what they wanted, with any “leftovers” going to a community distribution center. Reflecting on his visit, our own Santa in a station wagon wrote: “So, did Calvary, Moline, make an impression on Calvary, Grand Forks? Definitely, yes. And Grand Forks made a big one on me.”

Over the years, it’s been evident that “caring” is what *this* Calvary does best. Mostly, it’s in small acts, with little fanfare attached. Others involve community-wide efforts, such as working with the Quad Cities Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The local program was established after area residents went to southern Florida to assist in rebuilding after the devastation of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. The QC Chapter was formed in 1993, and two years later the first Lutheran-sponsored Habitat house was built, thanks in part to the efforts of Calvary member Hal Markuson. Many from our congregation have helped with donations, labor and work crew lunches in the years since.

The 1990s was also the decade that we joined with nearby First Baptist Church to hold semi-annual blood



drives, and launched Calvary’s first Parish Nurse Program, with Jo Swanberg, wife of former Calvary pastor Kenneth Swanberg, assuming that role. The Moonlighters group (whose median age was described in one report as “mid-life crisis”) began hosting Soup Suppers as part of a Thanksgiving observance, with the proceeds going to local food pantries. And the Luther League youth started banging on soup pots at the end of the worship service on the day of January’s “Big Game” to elicit donations for “Souper Bowl” Sunday, with the moneys benefitting Lutheran World Hunger. We started hitting the pavement for the CROP Walk

(raising funds to fight hunger) in 1994, and in 1998, we began a cooperative ministry with Jefferson School, an “at-risk” preschool of the Moline-Coal Valley School District located just blocks away from the church. Several congregational members volunteered for years at the school, serving as classroom helpers or reading to the children.

Not to be forgotten, of course, are the “Hookers” ... Well, the “Happy Hookers,” to be exact. This service group, formed in 1992 and whose members are now mostly on the sunny side of 70,



still meets monthly to create knitted, quilted and crocheted items that are given to our shut-ins and offered to those in need in the Quad Cities. It’s an unusual name for a church group, to be sure, “but our name puts a smile in our hearts and we are proud of the work we do,” wrote Marilyn

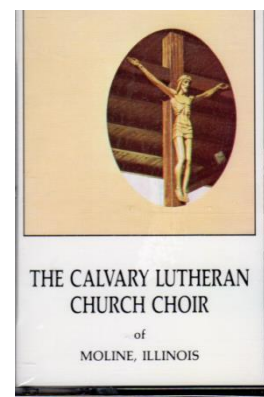
Mudd, who was in on the ground floor and still serves as coordinator. *That name* even attracted the attention of local television station WQAD, which featured the Calvary Hookers on one of its “special projects” segments in 1998.

During their inaugural year, the group “turned a large garbage can full of yarn” into 55 lap robes for shut-ins, and also made baby caps and mittens for Christian Friendliness. They then went on to participate in the “Tog a Teddy” program for hospitalized children; made “comfort caps” for cancer patients; created quilts for the homeless; and “adopted” a floor at St. Anthony’s Care Center in Rock Island, decorating 25 doors for seasons and holidays and bringing some Christian cheer to the residents. That’s just a part of it. In between the “needling,” there is always time for “yarns” (fellowship), a little java and lots of joy. “What a busy, coffee-drinking, snacking, social, creative group of achievers we are,” Marilyn said of the group.

The start of the decade also saw the establishment of a new organization for the men of the church, Lutheran Men in Mission, to fill a void left when the “Brotherhood” of Calvary disbanded many years earlier. The group focused on inspirational programs and Bible studies.

Calvary’s outreach and faith-building efforts during the 1990s included the establishment of the Mission Endowment Fund in 1990 (with interest income *only* to be distributed); a cooperative Confirmation ministry with four other Lutheran churches on the Illinois side of the river; and a new “Home Baked Outreach” in which home-baked bread was brought to the homes of recent visitors. Two major events for Quad City area Lutheran churches were the hosting of a crusade featuring evangelist Luis Palau (1990), and an inspirational combined worship service, “Gather at the River,” in 1995. Both were held at what was then The Mark event center in Moline, and the latter featured a mass choir in which singers from Calvary took part.

Music has always been a mainstay at the church “on the Avenue.” In 1991, under the direction of choir director Marilyn Incerto, the Adult Choir cut its first (and so far, *only*) “album”—a cassette tape, actually, of 12 favorite anthems which was entitled “The Love of the Lord.” Some 200 tapes were made for sale to members and friends to raise money for new choir robes and stoles, which were purchased the following year. That’s also the year Lucille Perley became organist/choir director. During her tenure, a Junior Choir was formed, as was the “Resurrection Singers,” a group of Sunday School children who sang occasionally during worship. A hymnal supplement, “With One Voice,” was purchased in 1998, enhancing Calvary’s worship experience.





While there were no major building projects during this decade, maintenance and improvements continued on the facilities. The church roof was replaced in 1990 after it was damaged in a hail storm. Pew cushions were purchased (thankfully!) and the pews refinished in 1992. Fans were installed and screens were added to the stained glass windows in the un-air-conditioned sanctuary to “keep the bugs out” while worshipers tried to keep cool during the summer months. More than 150 floor tiles were



replaced in the nave. A ramped sidewalk entrance was added at the “elevator door,” and the parking lot was resurfaced. Dividers were installed to create two more Sunday School classrooms in the educational wing. Etched glass windows were added at the back of the sanctuary as a memorial gift. And a lighted sign was installed above the 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue sign already in place, a gift from the Middlers organization (formerly “Pairs & Spares”).

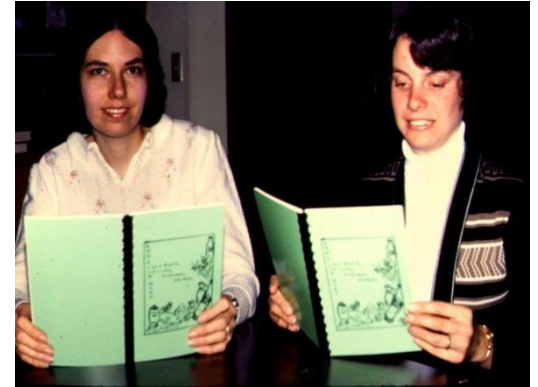
According to a Property Committee report, 1997 was a particularly bad year for Calvary. “Our church was besieged with bad luck: a storm did



extensive damage to our roof, soffits and fascia; wind blew our 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue sign over; and a car destroyed a hand railing at our front

steps,” the report stated. (Note: The motorist was not one of our parishioners late for church.) One of the highlights of the decade was Calvary’s celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1994. We invited the whole neighborhood to a Block Party, complete with ice cream and desserts, games, and entertainment by The Windjammers Band. It was so successful, the social would soon become an annual

tradition. Also as part of the milestone observance, the congregation set a goal to raise \$7,500 for a “Love Gift” for outreach (\$100 for each year of Calvary’s existence), and fell just shy of that with \$7,000 collected. Another anniversary project was launched by the ladies’ groups of the church: They asked members and friends to submit their favorite recipes for Calvary’s very own cookbook, “Recipes from the Flock,” the sales of which raised more than \$3,000. (Eating is something else we do quite well.)



For the mid-week Lenten services that year, Pastor Fleming had members share some of their memories of Calvary, with their stories later included in an anniversary booklet. “When we asked for folks to submit articles for a history book, almost no one responded,” Fleming had noted in his report. “But when we asked people to tell us a story of someone or something which had meant much to them at Calvary, several were willing.” The pastor stressed the value of sharing memories of Calvary’s impact, both small and large. As Fleming put it: “It is very important to know the stories of our past, for they help to shape who we are today.”

And who we will become . . . .



**WINDJAMMERS BAND**