

Calvary Courier

August 2021

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

The 4th chapter of Genesis relates the story of Cain and Abel. In the story, you may remember, Cain is jealous of Abel and kills him. God immediately notices that something is amiss, approaches Cain, and asks where Abel is. Cain replies, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” (Genesis 4:9)

God doesn’t give a direct response to Cain because that isn’t the point. God already knows where Abel is.

However, based on what I read in the prophets and in the gospels and in the epistles, I think the answer to Cain’s question is obvious. Unequivocally I believe that the Lord’s answer to Cain would be a resounding “YES!” Yes, Cain, you are your brother’s keeper. You are responsible for your brother. And the word of God through the prophets, the teachings of Jesus and the insights of Paul all affirm that emphatic “YES!”

And that “YES!” does not only apply to Cain, but to all of us as well. The word of the Lord to God’s people through the prophets accuses them of failing to care for the poor, the orphans, and the widows. Jesus identifies his own ministry as one who has been sent to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, (Luke 4) and tells those who are following him that they are responsible for feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, caring for the sick, visiting the imprisoned (Matthew 25). Paul, throughout his letters, encourages the members of the church to recognize that they are all interconnected as the body of Christ and that what effects one member effects them all. Indeed, as Christians, we are responsible not just for ourselves, but for everyone else around us.

I think our contemporary culture is emphasizing the exact opposite of what God teaches us through the prophets and Paul and Jesus. In considering the question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” I’m afraid many of the people in our world today would say, “No.” The prevailing attitude, I think, is one of pure self-interest.

I suspect that we are coming into a period of time when we may be challenged to live out the word of God that calls on us to be our brother’s keeper. Many health experts are predicting that our battle with Covid-19 is not over. Variants of the virus will continue to spread and threaten the gains that have been made. If they are right, then attitudes and actions of self-interest could make the situation worse for many people.

And so, as Christians, we need to be aware that the correct answer to the question, “Am I my brother’s or sister’s keeper?” is “YES!” In the way of Christ, we are absolutely responsible for those around us. As children of God and members of the body of Christ we are called on to care for each other, even if means giving up some of our personal freedom and/or comforts.

As we hopefully bring this struggle against Covid-19 to a close, our Christian responsibility is to do everything we can, and not just those things that don’t inconvenience us, to protect those around us. That’s what it means to love as God first loved us.

In Christ, *Pastor Knowles*

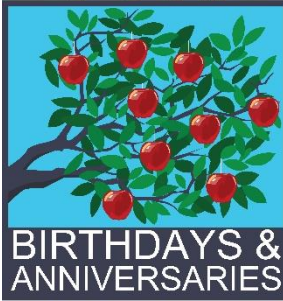
BIBLE STUDY

On Monday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m., Pastor Knowles will begin a study of the Book of Revelation.

People can participate in the study either in person (in the Upper Room at Calvary) or online (via Zoom). There will be a link to the Zoom meeting on Calvary’s Google calendar, which can be accessed through Calvary’s website (www.calvarymoline.org). If you have any difficulty connecting to the Zoom link, please call Pastor Knowles. The study will continue on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. until we have completed the book.

AUGUST

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:

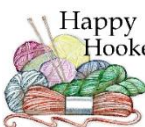
- 9 – Connie & Terry Langston (1997)
- 14 – LaVerne & Sue Knipe (1976)
- 16 – Allen & Judy Noftsker (1998)
- 20 – Greg & Karla Kirkwood- Johnson (1977)
- 27 – Rev. Don & Mary Knowles (1983)
- 29 – Rick & Pam Ohrn (1981)

CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

Ann Lundstrom, 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 – August 25 at 9:30 am



Happy Hookers Slowly but surely, we are getting back to work. We are just so glad to be together again and enjoy our cup of coffee and talk. Well you have heard of Christmas in July so we have to get busy and organized. Just kidding, we are doing well thank heavens to all our busy gals working at home through the lock down. Thank you all. Also thank you to those who have remembered us with donation of fabric and yarn you have found while cleaning out. Remember, we also take blankets, socks, gloves for the homeless or vets. Thank you all for your help and come join us – Wednesday, July 28 at 9:30 am. See ya.

---Love & Hugs from Marilyn



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



Thank you for donating to LOMC's ministry of helping guests of all ages connect with God and each other. Your gift of \$216.67 makes all the difference in helping LOMC thrive.

--- On Behalf of Audrey Adams LOMC



Congratulations to Renee and Kirk Ketelsen on the birth of their First grandson, Emmett Lee Ochoa born on July 6, 2021. Proud parents are Jenna and Alonso Ochoa.

2021 School Supplies

For Aid to Kids in Romania

Return to Calvary by JULY 25TH

The school supplies drive ends on **July 25th** and all items need to be brought back to Calvary by Sunday, July 25th. If you have questions, please call Greg Johnson at 309-236-3394. Many thanks to all who have bought school supplies for the kids in Romania! Thanks also to those who have contributed to the shipping costs. These items will soon begin their 2-month journey to Romania. Multumesc (Thank you).

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW LEVESQUE

Andrew has a job! He will be a video production coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Paul and Dawn have been busy in helping Andrew locate an apartment and helping him move.



PASTOR ON VACATION – AUG. 9 – 15

Pastor Knowles will be on vacation from August 9-15. Catherine Nelson, of Annawan, will lead worship on August 15. Catherine recently completed her internship at First Lutheran, DeKalb, and is currently seeking her first call. She participated in the Swing Choir Tour program at LOMC with both of Pastor Knowles' daughter, and Pastor will be officiating at Catie's wedding in October.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The **September** Newsletter will be out on **Wednesday, August 25th**. All articles for the newsletter Should be emailed to the church office no later than **Thursday, August 19th**.

PLEASE NOTE: This will be the LAST newsletter to be mailed to those who have boxes at church.

If you wish to receive yours in the mail – you will Need to notify the church office either by email at secretary@calvarymoline.org or call the church office at (309) 762-5423.

CHOIR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 8

There will be a meeting of anyone interested in being a part of the choir on Wednesday, September 8 at 6:30 pm. This will be an organizational meeting. New members are welcomed and past members are encouraged to continue. This is a dedicated fun group who are committed to serving the Lord through music. Remember those who sing pray twice. I hope to see you there.

---- Linda Johansen, choir director



August is filling up. I still need Lectors and Communion Assistants for the following Sundays – August 8 – 15 and 22. If you would like to volunteer please let Teri know by notifying the church office either by email at secretary@calvarymoline.org or call the church office at (309) 762-5423.

For August 1 – L & CA – Joe Geerts
August 8 – OPEN
August 15 – OPEN
August 22 – OPEN
August 29 – L & CA – Renee Ketelsen

A Big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help out on Sunday mornings.

COUNTER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

August 1 – Debbie Faith & Teri Griebel
August 8 – Gary Gross & Steve Faith
August 15 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
August 22 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
August 29 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP STARTS JULY 25

Starting **July 25** in the Upper Room, Coffee and Donuts will be served before and after church. Hope to see everyone there.

SAVE THE DATE – September 18

Memorial Service for Kay Chase –

A memorial service for Kay Chase will be held on Saturday, September 18 at 11 am at Calvary with a luncheon following the service. Kay passed away on September 1, 2020 due to complications from Covid19.

Relay for Life Fund-Raising Activities

CALVARY CRUSADERS:

- **SUNDAY–AUGUST 1 – Calvary Crusaders Team** will meet in the Upper Room during Coffee Hour after church to discuss future activities and participation in the Quad Cities Relay for Life event scheduled for Saturday evening, Sept. 18.
- **ISABEL BLOOM SCULPTURE** Designed exclusively for Relay for Life, the “Flower of Hope” candle holder can be ordered by signing your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Upper Room. The cost is \$22.00 and can be paid to any relay team member for credit in their fundraising activity.
- **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.
- **LUMINARIA DAY** – **Saturday, August 14** at various Quad City locations sponsored by Relay teams. On Sunday, August 15, Calvary Crusaders will have a table in the Narthex for you to purchase a luminaria in honor or memory of a loved one who has been touched by cancer.
- **The Calvary Crusaders Team** has contacted Culver's and Orange Leaf about fund raising nights. Dates will be announced in the bulletin and in the Calvary Courier.

HUMOR

- Did you hear about the big chicken party? It was a fowl!
- It's just as easy to get drunk on water as it is on land.
- A boy enters a barber shop, and the barber whispers to his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you."
The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, "Which do you want, son?" The boy takes the quarters and leave.
"What did I tell you?" the barber says. "That kid never learns!"
Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same boy coming out of an ice cream shop.
"Hey, kid! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?"
The boy licks his cone and replies, "Because the day I take the dollar the game is over!"
- I thought the dryer was shrinking my clothes. Turns out it was the refrigerator.
- Two crows are flying along when an F/A-18E/F Super Hornet suddenly screams past, barely missing them. "Wow!" one crow exclaims. "He was moving!" "You would be too" the other crow quips, "if you had two backsides and both were on fire!"
- How many letters are in the alphabet? There are 11 letters in the words "the alphabet".
- What's a judge preferred breakfast? Oatmeal.
- Why is tennis such a loud game? Because each player raises a racket.
- What do you call a Grandma on speed dial? InstaGram.
- Why was the weightlifter upset? She worked with dumbbells.

GROWING OLDER:

- You walk with your head held high trying to get used to your bifocals.
- You sit in a rocking chair and can't make it go.
- You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
- Your little black book contains only names in M.D.
- Your children begin to look middle aged.
- The little grey-haired lady you helped across the street is your wife.
- And...If you can't read this you know who to call.

Therefore,
since we are surrounded by
so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside
every weight, and...
run with endurance the race
that is set before us,
looking to Jesus
the founder and
perfector of our faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2