

Calvary Courier

September 2020

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor:

On Facebook the other day I saw a meme that read, “This New Year’s Eve I’m going to stay up until midnight not to see the new year in, but to make sure the old year leaves.”

I suspect that most of us can relate to that sentiment. I know I have had enough of 2020. We have had to deal with a pandemic, stay-at-home orders, social distancing, distance learning, closed businesses, empty sanctuaries, civil unrest, wildfires, merging hurricanes, a derecho and more. And we still have four months to go! I’m ready to see 2020 leave and to get back to “normal.”

I’m ready eat inside a restaurant again. I’m ready to walk the aisles of Jewel without wearing a facemask. I’m ready to watch the news and not see stories of violence and protests. And perhaps most of all, I’m ready to lead worship in a sanctuary with people actually in the pews and then have a cup of coffee and a donut around a table of friendly faces. As I imagine you are, too, I’m ready.

Alas, I’m afraid that may not happen soon, though. As I write this, the number of positive covid-19 cases on both sides of the river continue to rise. And while there are promising reports of vaccines and treatments, it sounds like they are still months away. 2020 is not done with us yet.

I wish I could offer to you some kind of promise that worst of all this is over. I wish I could tell you that the end of the suffering is near. I wish.... But I can’t.

However, what I can tell you is that even though we may be social distancing, we are not alone. No matter what the world may throw at us – pandemics, wildfires, hurricanes, derechos and all the rest – God is with us. God is with us in doctors and nurses. God is with us in essential workers. God is with us utility crews restoring power. God is with us in first responders. God is with us in the providers of emergency shelters. God is with us in neighbors and friends looking out for each other. God is with us.

One of my favorite scripture passages is from Romans 8.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

My message to you is Paul’s message to the Romans. God loves us. And nothing that 2020 can throw our will ever stop that. Paul doesn’t say that there isn’t hardship or distress, that there isn’t height or depth or death or powers or anything bad. There is. But none of that will keep God away from us. We are not alone. God is with us.

In the Hope of Christ,

Pastor Knowles

PASTOR VACATION: Pastor will be gone September 21 thru 27th. There will be **NO Parking Lot Church** on September 27th. There will be no bible study on September 21 and 22.

SEPTEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- 2 – Fran Freeze
- 4 – Dave Griebel
- 5 – Debbie Faith
- 7 – Linda Nelson
- 8 – Ruth Laabs-Wilcox
- 11 – Mark Jackson
- 12 – Lennon Miller
- 17 – Gary Gross
- 19 – Mary Knowles
- 20 – Randy Bowser
- 27 – Christine Mellgren
- 28 – Dave Menke

Happy Anniversary to:

- 14 – Steve & Debbie Faith (1974)
– Kirk & Renee Ketelsen (1991)
- 17 – Paul & Dawn Levesque (1988)
- 20 – Kurt & Lisa Dicks (1986)
- 25 – Dave & Annette Menke (1960)

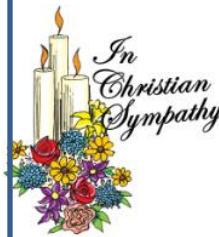
CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

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.

Dear Lord, we ask for your healing grace to be bestowed on the above names, their caregivers and families. We also request prayers of comfort to Chris Mellgren and family on the death of her mother Rosalie; and to Sandy, Rick & Pam Ohrn and their families on the death of Sandy's husband and Rick's father, Rudy. May we always lean on you when the road becomes difficult; and, may we count the blessing that you have given to each of us. May Your grace always smile down on us. Amen.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Chris Mellgren, family and friends. Rosalie Mellgren passed away on August 5. Private graveside services were held August 18th.

We would also like to offer our sympathies and prayers to Sandy, Rick & Pam Ohrn, family and friends. Rudy passed away on August 24. Services will be private.

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

Food Pantry / Romania Shoes Thank-You –

Thanks to all who dropped off food items and shoes in August. Please continue to bring food donations and shoes to Calvary on Sunday mornings. Your donations can be placed in the shopping cart before or after the 10:30 am parking lot worship service.

We will collect shoes for the kids in Romania through October 1st.

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

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



All articles for the October newsletter should be emailed/mailed to the church office no later September 28th. The newsletter will go out on Wednesday September 29th.

WANTED: If you have favorite jokes, sayings or even a prayer, please send, email (secretary@calvarymoline.org) or give them to someone who attends our parking lot church to me and I will include in the next newsletter.



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



This summer, our Camp staff put together four weeks of amazing Camp within the guidelines of the pandemic restrictions. It was a bold move that impacted over 250 kids and teens! YouthHope continues to bring Hope thanks to your support!

--- In Appreciation, Mark Drake, Exc. Dir.



In this difficult time of pandemic and seeking social justice, we are actively providing a safe place at LOMC of sanctuary, community and an experience like no other in creation. Thank you for joining with us in this special outdoor ministry. Thank you for your donation of \$213.33 to LOMC.

--- Blessings & Peace, Robert Gieraltowski, Exc/ Dir.



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 \$150 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, Re. Dr. Melvin Grimes, Exe. Dir.
Betsy Vanausdeln, Assoc. Dir.



**Calvary Crusaders
RELAY FOR LIFE CELEBRATION**

The annual Relay for Life will have a different look this year ---the relay will only be a Luminaria Drive-thru to be held at Bettendorf High School between 9:00 - 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12th. Also, a virtual display will appear on the relay website. Luminaria order deadline has been extended to Monday Aug. 31st. Contact Marilyn Gross if you would like to honor someone with a luminaria, - phone. 309-764-0983.



... preserve my life according to your word.

Psalm 119:37, NIV

NEW ADDRESS for SHARON HOUGH

Please make the change in the church directory. Sharon now lives at **555 31st Ave., East Moline, IL 61244**. Her phone and email remain the same.

WE NEED MORE HUMOR....

I hope you have been enjoying these little tidbits...

- Women always worry about the things that men forget. Men always worry about the things that women remember.
- Age is all in your head as anyone with bifocals, tooth implants, cataracts surgery and grey hair knows.
- Why doesn't somebody cross electric blankets with toasters so that people would POP out of bed?
- You know you're old when you're wearing alligator shoes and turtle neck and you're not even dressed yet.
- Q: If money grew on trees, where would you deposit it? A: at a Branch bank.
- Those who can laugh never grow old.
- Aging is kind of like a cute puppy. It's a little hairy but you might as well embrace it.
- I don't mind getting older – It's the maintenance that's getting me down.
- Said the skunk when the wind changed, "Now it all comes back to me."
- My hair is receding, my butt is expanding, my arches are falling, my hips widening and my mind is narrowing. Even though I'm just sitting here my body sure is busy.

A favorite prayer of Marilyn Mudd:

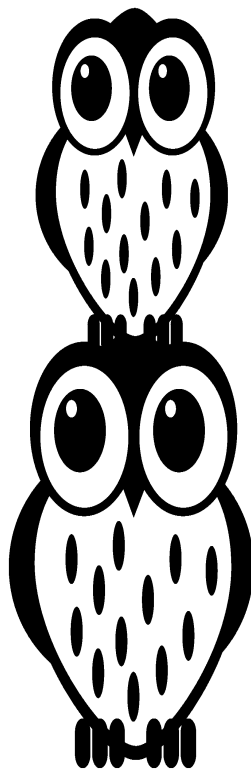
Dear God, Grant me the wisdom of age, the hope and delight of youth, and always the loving heart of a child.



WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.



school	—○—
paper	—○—
wisdom	—○—
read	—○—
play	—○—
learn	○—
grow	—○—
pencils	—○—
pray	—○—
art	—○—
student	—○—
kids	—○—
apple	—○—

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be _____ and successful.”

JOSHUA 1:8, NIV

Answer: apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

CODE

A 1 B	F 2 G	K 3 L	O 4 R	U 5 V
D E	H I	M N	S T	W Y

T

4	1	3	3	4	4	2	4	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

1	3	1	3	2	4	4	1	3
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2	4	4	2	4	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

“

1	1	4	4	2	3	3	1	3	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3	3	4	5	4	2	1	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

”

2	1	3	2	4	1
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Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)