

Calvary Courier

September 2019

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor - reprinted from November 2014 newsletter:

One of the most important decisions, I think, that parents must make is the naming of their child. I can tell you that Mary and I had many long conversations about what we would name our children. And there are very specific reasons for the choices that we made.

Though I've never been a part of the founding of a congregation, I would imagine that one of the more challenging decisions would, likewise, be giving the new organization a name. Perhaps some names would be obvious. I suspect that First Lutheran was so named because it was the first Lutheran congregation in the community. Trinity, though not as obvious as First, is a common church name because it indicates the God who is worshiped there – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But other names pose a more complicated choice. Why St. James' or St. John's? Why Immanuel or Salem? Why Calvary?

Why Calvary?

After a quick perusal of a couple of the written church histories of Calvary I saw just one reference to the naming of the congregation. The history written for the 90th anniversary says, "On Nov. 2, 1919, in a meeting at the hall, the fledgling group voted to begin its own congregation, and the name Calvary Lutheran Church was chosen." But that statement doesn't really address the question of why the name was chosen. So that means I can speculate and tell you why I would choose the name Calvary.

The name Calvary actually does not appear in any modern translations of the Bible. Calvary is gloss from a Latin translation of the Bible for the word "Golgotha," which is mentioned in all four gospels. Golgotha, of course, is the hill outside of Jerusalem that was used by the Romans to carry out crucifixions. Meaning "the place of the skull," Golgotha represented torture, death and humiliation.

It represented oppression and defeat.

At least it represented torture, death, humiliation, oppression and defeat up until the day it was used for the crucifixion of Jesus. On that day Golgotha (Calvary) was transformed from a place of death and destruction to a symbol for life and victory through Jesus' death and resurrection. Calvary, through the passion of Christ, became a place that turned despair into hope and finality into eternity.

So maybe that is what was in the mind of those gathered together 95 years ago when they named our congregation. That would have been appropriate because I think that aptly defines our mission as a congregation. Who are we as Calvary Lutheran Church? We are a place that is about the task of transforming lives in the name of Christ. We are a people who, in our proclamation and in our work, are about the mission of bringing hope and promise and life into the lives of people who have known despair and defeat and humiliation and death. We are a people who are called to bring the light and promise of Christ to a world full of darkness.

We are called to be Calvary – a place that defies the evil of the world and shines forth with promise of the gospel.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

100th Anniversary Information:

For SEPTEMBER 2019 – we will be collecting *100 cans of Canned Spaghetti Sauce*

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH



LUNCH BUNCH
Tuesday, September 17 at 11:00 am

Happy Birthday to:

- 2 – Fran Freeze
- 3 – John Henriksen
- 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
- 23 – Ronny Woitte
- 27 – Christine Mellgren
- 28 – Dave Menke



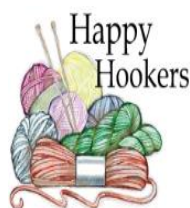
Come for a delicious lunch and fellowship. Why not invite your friends and neighbors – a way to show all are welcome at Calvary! Program to be announced.

KNIT A BIT – RSUMES on September 4th at **5:30 PM**, please note **NEW TIME**. We make scarves and hats for schools and homeless shelters. If you do not know how to knit or crochet, someone is there to show you how.



Happy Anniversary to:

- 14 – Steve & Debbie Faith (1974)
– Kirk & Renee Ketelsen (1991)
- 17 – Paul & Dawn Levesque (1988)
- 20 – Kurt & Lisa Dicks (1986)
- 25 – Carroll & Elaine Foster (1993)
– Dave & Annette Menke (1960)



Happy Hookers – will meet at 9:30 on September 25. All women are invited for a morning of creative activities, food and fellowship. This group always meets on the last Wednesday of the month.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

For **October** is no later than September 12 for distribution on September 26. Please have your articles to me on time. You may email or put your articles in my box.

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE



CHURCH Potluck PICNIC

Sunday, September 15th
at 10:30 am with worship

Our church Potluck picnic with service before will be held on Rock Island Arsenal. Meat dishes and beverages will be provided. You are asked to bring either a side dish or dessert and your own table service. There is electricity at the pavilion with 12 electrical outlets.

* As a reminder, those attending will enter via the Moline gate and be prepared to show a photo ID. This is a "special event" so that's all you need to do. Be sure to tell the gate guard that you are with Calvary Lutheran and are going to Memorial Field.

* To get to Memorial Field, simply go straight on Rodman Avenue, past the cemetery on your left and then the housing area on your right, until you get to Memorial Field on your left behind the display of military equipment. If you reach the traffic light, you've gone too far.

100th Anniversary – FAMILY MEMORY BOARD

We hope you have created a Memory Board sharing your own personal Calvary memories. If you have completed your display, please bring them to the Upper Room at church.

We will begin displaying them in September and for our Anniversary Celebration on November 3, 2019.



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

☀️ **Thank you** to everyone who brought the garage up to compliance with the City of Moline.

--- Greg Johnson, Council President

☀️ To my Calvary friends, thank you so much for coming to my 80th birthday party. You made my day very special.

--- Love & Hugs, Marilyn Mudd

☀️ To my Calvary Family, Thank you for all your cards, prayers and well wishes I received while I was laid up after falling. I am very blessed to call Calvary my church home.

--- Blessing, Betty Clark.

☀️ Thank you for helping make the Relay for Life event a success. Together, we honored all cancer survivors and remembered loved ones lost. Because of your support, we're able to take action against this terrible disease.

--- Warm regards, Gary Reedy,
Chief Exe. Dir. American Cancer Society

☀️ Members of Calvary, Thank you so much for your VERY GENEROUS gift to our ministry. It takes God loving people and congregation, like Calvary to make a difference in this world. And you do it over & over. I am proud to be a ministry partner of yours! May God continue to bless all of you!

--- Thanks & God's Peace! Tim Ollfson

☀️ Dear Members of Calvary, The board, staff and volunteers at Churches United of the Quad City Area gratefully acknowledge and accept your most generous \$525 gift to our Christ-centered mission and ministries.

--- Blessing, Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes, Exe Dir
Betsy Vanausdein, Assoc. Dir.

☀️ We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your recent donation in the amount of \$525.00 on 8/7/2019. Your donation will provide support for individuals receiving services at Christian Care who are experiencing homelessness.

--- Franklin D. Roe, Jr., Exe. Dir. Christian Care

☀️ Thank you for providing delicious lunches for the volunteers at our build.

---- Habitat for Humanity

☀️ Dear Friends, Because of your prayers and faithful support of \$178.34, our programs became a reality this summer. Many children were able to attend day camp, go to our youth centers or spend the week at Camp Summit. Many lives were changed forever, memories made, and friendships formed through our summer programs.

--- Mark Drake, Exc. Dir., YouthHope

☀️ Thank you for your gift of \$525.00 to Habitat for Humanity Quad Cities! We are blessed to have your support. Thank you so very much for this generous donation. Your gift is not just about the shingles and siding. We are now seeing the long term impact that a safe, affordable house can provide. The children of our first homeowners are graduating from high school, many from college and some from graduate school. Your financial support will help another family get one-step closer to realizing the strength, stability, and self-reliance that comes from affordable and safe housing.

--- Kristi Crafton, Exe. Dir.



2019 Shoe Drive - Romania

Our shoe drive was a success, with 68 pairs of shoes and \$255 toward shipping costs donated. These and other donations from 50 other churches will travel by truck to Chicago, then by rail to the east coast, then by cargo ship to Romania, then by truck to the Another Child Foundation warehouse in Tarneveni, Romania. The kids in Romania will get their new shoes in late October. Thanks to all who have donated or prayed. ---- Greg Johnson

HEAR YE – HEAR YE

SAVE THE DATE FOR OCTOBER 6TH

REV. PHIL ERLANDER & POTLUCK

As part of our 100th Celebration, Rev. Phil Erlander will preach on October 6th. Rev. Phil is the son of Rev. Emory Erlander who served as Pastor for 14 years, from 1940 through 1953.

A potluck dinner will follow worship in Erlander Hall to welcome him back to Calvary.





WELCA NEWS:

All ladies of the church are welcome to attend

❖ **Deborah Circle** – Meets Tuesday, Sept. 2 – at 9:00 am in the Upper Room. Since we did not choose a hostess for this month, please bring a breakfast snack to share if you wish. Discussion on the upcoming year’s activities will be held. Come and share your ideas and interest.

❖ **Northern Illinois Synod Women’s Convention** Saturday, September 21, 2019 will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline. All women are invited – registration fee is \$40.00 - registration forms are available in the church office.

An informal meet & greet session will be held on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity for attendees.

Calvary WELCA has been asked to provide five dozen cookies for convention refreshments – a sign-up sheet is posted in the upstairs hallway for you to volunteer – thank you.

The convention theme, “New Horizons” will be explored with Bishop Jeffery Clements and Church wide Representative Elizabeth Burgess in attendance.

The convention monetary offering that day will be divided among Women of the ELCA, Tanzania Women, India Arcot Women, AAMPARO – ELCA’S Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities, and Tanzania Nursing Project. The physical offering will be gift cards to LSSI Foster Care Program. (see hall bulletin board)

RELAY FOR LIFE



The “Quad-Cities Relay for Life” will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 4-9 pm at Bettendorf High School football field.

The theme is “Hawaiian Nights” and the Calvary Crusaders will be sponsoring a Hawaiian themed “photo booth” as well as selling tickets for the beautiful queen-sized quilt they have provided for a fundraiser. See Marilyn Gross for tickets (\$5.00) if you would like to enter the contest.

Your donation of \$10.00 will purchase an Illuminaria to line the track at relay honoring and remembering loved ones who have or have had cancer. Registration forms and bags for decorating are on the table in the Upper Room. Give your donation and form to any member of our relay team!

“LET YOUR STAR LIGHT THE WAY” – this Isabel Bloom “star” sculpture can still be ordered with orders going in monthly until supply is depleted. Cost is \$21,00 with sales benefiting our Calvary Crusaders team. See the sign-up sheet in the upstairs hallway to order or see Marilyn Gross.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

100th Anniversary Celebration
will be November 3rd, 2019.

We are trying to get an estimate on the number of attendees for the catered banquet. If you are planning on coming please let Teri, Charlene or Connie know or you may call the church office (309) 762-5423. There is no cost to this event, but a free-will offering will be accepted. We are hoping for a Great turnout. If you still have contact with past Calvary members please invite them to this event.

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.

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



CHURCH Potluck PICNIC

Sunday, September 15th
at 10:30 am with worship

See page 2 for more information

THROWBACK SUNDAY

Sunday, October 20th 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 - 2000-2009 – Decade 9

She was nearing 50, and, frankly, was in need of a facelift.

We are, of course, talking about the sanctuary of Calvary Lutheran Church. As the new millennium



dawned, our soaring worship space underwent a major overhaul. And, as in the past, many parishioners stepped in to do their part for the project.

For the renovation, the pews and the aisle-way and chancel carpets were removed and beautiful oak flooring was installed by volunteers. Gone were the brittle flooring tiles that crackled under your feet beneath the pews. In addition to the new flooring, the chancel area was reconfigured in an effort to make the space more adaptable, while also eliminating the



need for worshippers to scale the stairs to the altar rail for Communion. The “Alpha and Omega” altar that had hugged the wall beneath Calvary’s

towering, lighted cross since the sanctuary level was added to the “basement church” in 1953 was removed and replaced with a freestanding table design that was moved to the center of the space. That would enable the pastor to stand at the altar and still face the congregation. The lectern that stood at the congregation’s right was removed altogether, and the pulpit on the left was replaced with a handsome oak pulpit that is also freestanding. (This allowed the space to be opened up for musical performances and other programs.) In addition, the old baptismal font where so many of Calvary’s saints had been “sprinkled” was retired, and another, much larger

one was built to match the other chancel pieces. It, too, was made to be portable. The original altar furniture and some paraments were “decommissioned” on July 2, 2000, and the pieces donated to an area church in need of them.

As part of the renovation, new carpeting was laid in the center aisle, at the back of the sanctuary, and in the narthex. Finally, the red carpet which had been in the chancel area was reclaimed and installed in the balcony. (Calvary was recycling long before it became a “thing.”)

After having worshipped for several months back in the basement—where it all began for this church—members were delighted with the results of project. Pastor Quentin Fleming, who shepherded the congregation during the renovation, had this to say:



“When our sanctuary was first built, everyone marveled at it. Now, nearly fifty years later, it brings joy to my heart to know we have brought our ‘décor’ into the twenty-first century.” He added that other clergy had commented that it was the “prettiest sanctuary” of all the Quad-City ELCA churches.

Yes, she was pretty, albeit no longer “hot.” The \$194,000 renovation included a new, high-efficiency HVAC system that brought air conditioning to the sanctuary for the first time. No more need for the cardboard paddle fans (usually distributed as advertising by mortuaries) that commonly sprouted from the sanctuary’s hymnal racks in years past. Calvary-ites were finally “cool.”

Unfortunately, it wasn’t long after the members settled into their refurbished sanctuary that Pastor Q, as he was affectionately called, announced that he would be moving on after 12 years with the congregation. In his final report, he noted that his favorite memories were of working with the youth. Among the highlights: His participation in several memorable Christmas programs, including “A Starry Night” and “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”—

quite the elaborate production for a smallish church. And there were the many baptisms. "I'll always remember All Saints Sunday in 1991 when we welcomed eight children through baptism," he wrote.



But there are seasons to church life, Fleming noted, and "the season of my serving among you is coming to an end, and a new season will soon dawn for Calvary." He could not know that his departure would begin an 18-month struggle for the congregation to operate with an interim pastor whose



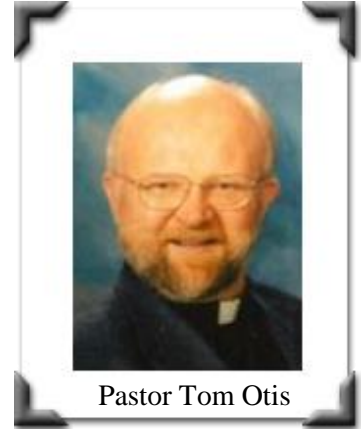
other commitments kept her from actually conducting Sunday morning worship here. Under difficult circumstances, Pastor Nancy Jaster did an admirable job of making pastoral visits, overseeing church operations and securing pulpit supply as our interim. If there was an "up side" to it all, it was that the members had an opportunity to hear a variety of preaching styles from a parade of guest pastors in the newly built pulpit.

Further complicating our Sunday worship was the resignation of longtime organist and choir director Lucille Perley during this interim period. Guest organists were secured for several months until Karl Bodenbender returned to Calvary to serve as our interim organist. There was one hitch though: He already had commitments and could not be at our 8:30 a.m. service—only the 10:45 worship. The solution was to have Karl pre-record the hymn music and liturgies for each Sunday on the recently

purchased Yamaha Clavinova electric keyboard. Volunteers would then select the appropriate accompaniment and "hit the PLAY button" to provide music for the early service. This would continue until Leigha Kreitner became our organist/choir director in 2001.

One constant that helped take us through this difficult period was parish nurse Mary Milas, who came on board in 2000 and soon established a Lay Visitation Team to help those with special health concerns stay connected to the congregation. She also launched the "Faithful Flexors" exercise group which continues today.

After a long and sometimes frustrating search, a call was extended to Pastor Tom Otis. He joined Calvary in September of 2002. Under his leadership, there was a push for more evangelism efforts, with the congregation purchasing lists of those who had moved recently



Pastor Tom Otis

and making as many visits to these homes as possible. We also revived the practice of having a weekly prayer group, as had been the case in the early days of this church. Pastor Tom encouraged regular worship. "It is worth remembering that the body of Christ is the people. We are less effective at being who Jesus calls us to be if you are not here," he wrote in his 2006 report.

There were some (mostly) welcome changes during this time, including the use of more "praise band" worship opportunities; the move to offering weekly Communion (where it had been just once a month in the early days, and, more recently, twice monthly); and the introduction of a pouring chalice, so all could drink of "one cup" as Jesus' disciples did. Members also were able to kneel once again for



Communion, as new portable kneelers were built to rest on the first step of the outer chancel area. No more stairs to deal with! The congregation had been standing for intinction since the chancel was renovated and the old altar railings removed some five years earlier, and many had missed the act of kneeling in reverence to receive the Lord's Supper. The new kneelers would incorporate the carvings of church symbols that had graced the original altar rails, connecting us to our past.

Finally, the new "cranberry" (let's just say red) service hymnal was introduced in 2006.

The decade saw Calvary's purchase of two rental properties across the alley on 30th Street, and members worked diligently to get them ready for renters. The goal was to eventually use the homes for some type of outreach, or perhaps expand our parking.

The church continued spreading Christian kindness through its Social Ministry Team and groups such as the Happy Hookers, whose stitchery projects brightened the lives of folks at the Christian Care Center, area nursing homes, and homeless shelters, to name a few. Calvary began sponsoring



Boy Scouts of America Troop 111 (whose members built the Memory Garden on the east side of the church); held fundraisers to help two daughters of the congregation studying at Wartburg Seminary (Terrie Dyer and Elizabeth Conway); raised money for parishioners suffering from catastrophic illness; and continued their support of nearby Jefferson Early Childhood Center for at-risk preschoolers. Also, the "Calvary Crusaders" team took to the track for Relay for Life, a program to raise funds for cancer research. Eight cancer survivors were part of the team in 2008, according to reports.

For Lutherans, the millennium began with the "Gather in Christ 2000" event bringing churches together at The Mark, as well as the "Gathering at the Crossroads" national Lutheran youth event in St. Louis. Other Luther League events included a

mission trip to Nashville in 2001; the Lutheran Youth Gathering, "Cruzando," in San Antonio; and a trip to New Orleans. The youth organized Easter breakfasts, plant sales, sales of "stock," and even a "Hallelujah Hoedown" featuring member Steve Miller on fiddle.

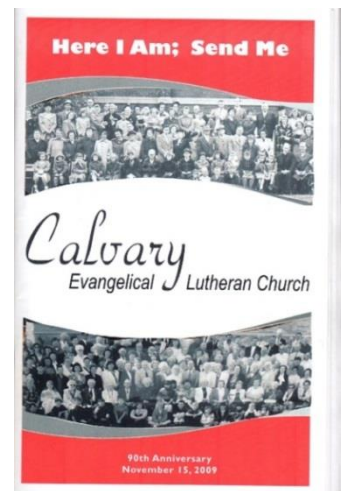


As always, there was the day-to-day maintenance of the facilities. Downstairs, Erlander Hall was updated, as were the bathrooms. In 2003, our church sign on the Avenue was again destroyed in a car accident; rebuilding it in the same spot would require a variance from the city. In 2007, the steeple was again damaged by a storm and had to be repaired.

Then in 2008 a major expansion project on 23rd Avenue (now Avenue of the Cities) would tear up the busy street for months, and while the broad sidewalks and new lighting were a great improvement, the change also meant that street parking was no longer available to the north.

During Pastor Tom's tenure at Calvary, there were some personnel changes of note: Organist/choir director Leigha Kreitner resigned and was replaced by Linda Johansen in 2007. We also said goodbye to parish nurse Mary Milas that year; Jenny Henderson took over those duties in 2008.

Calvary reached its 90th anniversary in 2009, and marked it with the sale of another successful cookbook by the ladies of the church. There was also a fine celebration. But Pastor Tom would not be the one presiding over the festivities, having resigned as pastor in May of 2009.



For the second time in a decade, Calvary was without a fulltime shepherd. Pastor Neville Kretzmann would serve as interim until Pastor Don Knowles came on board in January of 2010.

Before his departure, Otis encouraged the congregation to offer its full support of the church leadership, who, he noted, often face difficult decisions and are doing the best they can. "Lutheran Christians do not serve to earn favor from God or to impress other Christians. They serve because they know the love of God that was accomplished for them on the cross and they are responding in love," he wrote in his report. "The devil loves it when Christians waste each other's time and spend their energies in complaining rather than proclaiming."

May our focus always be on proclaiming!

VARIOUS PICTURES THROUGH OUT THE DECADE



The Memory Tree in the Narthex



VBS - Children



2000 Calvary Graduates



WELCA Ladies – Always cooking!



2001 – Youth Mission Trip to Nashville, TN