

DECEMBER 2020

...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Message from Kent—Council

Greetings to all,

The Advent season is upon us. We celebrate the ultimate gift that God has given each of us, the gift of Jesus, who died on the cross so that our sins could be redeemed and we could live with him in eternity.

We celebrate the traditions that come with Christmas. They draw us closer to each other. They also help us fix our eyes on Jesus.

We also face the difficult decision on how Calvary shall navigate the Christmas season during the pandemic. We need and want to worship.

PMA Leroy Hoyer, weather permitting, will lead us during Sunday worship in December. There will be no Sunday school Christmas program due to the pandemic. Our confirmands will share in our service by lighting the Advent candles while reading scripture.

Because of the increasing number of COVID cases in our community we are taking extra steps to be safe. The church council has decided to cancel the Christmas Eve Candlelight worship this year. We will celebrate Christmas on December 20, the fourth Sunday of Advent.

This is a time to worship together.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy Christmas season.

Peace and blessings,

Kent Adelson

The church will be ordering poinsettias for Christmas Eve. You may order a poinsettia by replying to this email, or calling Linda at 402-366-2091. You may also contact Diana Johnson at j69diana74@yahoo.com or her cell phone 402-253-6144. You may either call or leave a text message, just be sure to leave the following information:

We need to know **your name and the names of those you want to honor/remember** with the gift of a poinsettia(s). The list will be in the Christmas bulletin and will be listed in the January bulletin.

Poinsettias are \$16.00 each and the deadline for ordering is **Sunday November 29th**



Due to continued restrictions during the Pandemic, the Council has made the difficult decision to not hold Christmas Eve services this year.

The poinsettias will be on display at the church on Sunday the 20, thru January 3. You may take your poinsettia home anytime after Sunday the 20th if you would like to have it in your home for the holidays.

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Announcements

The Evangelism and Outreach Team oversees a nonperishable food and personal care item collection.

Please place items you wish to donate in the basket located in the front entry of the church. December items go to



Blue Valley Community Action

Please see the article on page 4 regarding the Genesis House Needs for fall/winter items, and Christmas wish list



In the event of inclement weather, or change in church services, we will post closings on channel 10/11. Council will call local members of cancellations. We will also send out an email to those who receive the bulletin and/or newsletter by email. If you have any questions you may call a council member

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

Through Advent, God invites us to tune in to our faith rather than feel stressed out - a challenge given the crazy pace and pressures the holiday season can bring (especially in 2020). An article in *Living Lutheran* encouraged us to “carve out time to read devotions; learn to ‘say no’ when you’re feeling over-committed; explore mindful movement (exercise, yoga, Tai Chi, etc.); limit social media; and focus on ‘presence’, not presents.”

***WELCA Annual Christmas meeting is cancelled this year due to Covid.**

*Service for month of December is Christmas for offerings for ESU #7. Please note the Giving Tree in the church’s entry. (*Due Dec. 6*)

*Poinsettias can be ordered for only \$16 and delivered for Christmas. You can give your check to Linda or Diana before Nov. 29. If you’d like to honor a loved one, please include those names, and they will be listed in the Christmas bulletin & January newsletter.

*Altar care for December will be Cheryl Jones and Kay Jones.

*Flowers in December will be by Miriam circle. Thank you for watering any plants also.

*THANK YOU to all that have already given your offering for needy families with children served by ESU #7. Your offerings are helping make Christmas memorable for about 70 children.

*Please contact your circle leaders to help fill out the annual yearbook for WELCA meetings, committees, etc. If we don’t hear from you, we’ll plan to repeat what was in this year’s book. We appreciate Kay’s work at creating the yearbook for us each year!

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” ~ Isaiah 9:6

Wishing you a Blessed Advent & Christmas,
Cheryl

Youth News

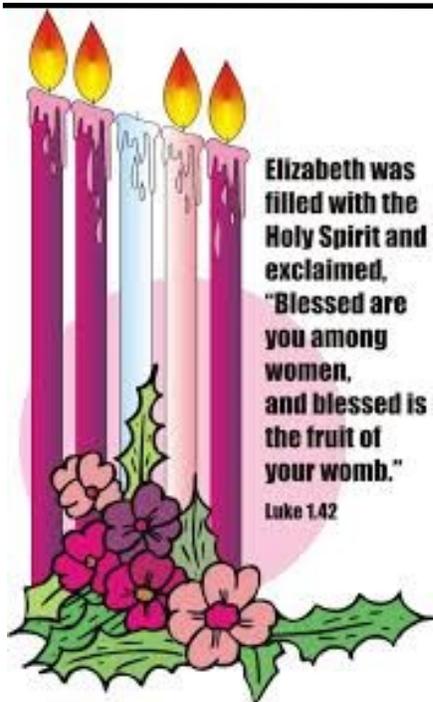
RECIPES

Confirmation instruction is going well with Cheryl and Tina coordinating the lessons. Confirmation students are: Eli Fjell, Peyton Hofmann, Rylee Hoffman, Shyenne Krol, Jarrett Althouse and Kolten Udey.

Confirmation will meet on December 6 and 13 at 9:15 am, before regular worship service.

There will be no Sunday School Christmas program this year. We plan to involve the six students in the regular worship services of December.

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday November 29. Also there will be no Sunday School on Sunday December 27.



Dorothy's Molasses Cookies

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup Crisco – melt & cool a little

1 cup sugar

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup molasses (“Brer Rabbit” Mild molasses)

1 egg

Mix dry ingredients together & add to liquid mixture:

2 cups flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon cloves

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ginger

1 teaspoon cinnamon

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt

Chill overnight (or about 8 hours).

Roll or cookie scoop into balls & dip in sugar

Bake at 350 degrees (small scoop about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ” across) take 9 to 10 minutes (don’t overbake)

Let set on cookie sheet a couple minutes before removing to cooling rack.

Makes about 25 – 30 cookies (depending on size).

I usually make a double batch.

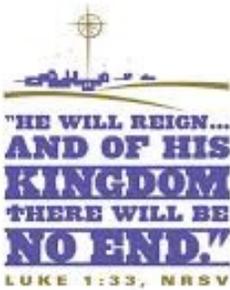
The longer they chill in the refrigerator, the thicker they will be when baked. I prefer chilling only overnight for the best texture.

Enjoy!

From Cheryl Jones, Dorothy Lindblade Jones’ daughter in law

This recipe is from Monty’s mom, Dorothy, and is a family favorite. It’s not Christmas without Dorothy’s Molasses cookies! Always the first to “sell out”!





GIVING TREE



Last year, many of you donated to help needy families served by ESU 7. Thank you! They were very thankful and moved by your generosity.

We are again taking up an offering for these families, and they have about 60-70 kids to buy for. We are the main givers for their Christmas. So please open our hearts and help as you are able. Donations should be given to Bonnie Carlson or Cheryl Jones by Dec. 6. (Checks payable to Calvary WELCA)

There are ornaments on a giving tree at church with dollar amounts on them for the ESU 7, as well as items for children served by ESU 7, that they can Please bring any donations to church and place in the specified box by December 6. (Cash donations are welcome for Genesis House, too)



We received a request from Tina Kilgore and the ESU 7 which services students in the area, including Polk County.

We are seeking donation items again this year for our students at Learning Academy and Center to have a holiday store.

The students really loved being able to pick out items for their families to give as gifts. Do not wrap any items. With our holiday store, we focus on the joy of giving to others.

As you are decorating and sorting at home, please keep our holiday store in mind for donations.

Example of items we need:

holiday decorations, jewelry, perfume/cologne, Lotion, Hats, Gloves, gently used clothes and shoes, home décor.

Items that dads and brothers would like: Example: tools, flashlights, hats, Husker/Sports items, etc.

Anything you feel would make a nice gift for a family member

Also, If you have a connection with a local business that could donate items or gift cards as well, that would be great. Please let us know and we will contact them.

Please leave your donations in the front entry of the church. We will have a designated box set up. Donations may be left until Sunday, December 13.

THANK YOU so much for helping us make this special for our students.



Genesis House: Fall and Winter Wish List

GENESIS HOUSE FALL AND WINTER WISH LIST

Household items:

dish soap, laundry soap, toilet paper, Kleenex
 Clorox, dryer sheets, plastic wrap, tall kitchen garbage bags, gallon sized zip lock bags
 Light bulbs, paper towels, AA batteries, cleaning products, Comet or Ajax, Windex

Personal Care:

Body wash, shampoo and conditioner, ibuprofen, Tylenol (right now have plenty tooth paste and brushes)
 Baby wash, diaper rash medications (currently have plenty of diapers and wipes)

Food:

- All kinds of food, but please nothing expired, Coffee – No decaf, tea bags, hot chocolate, canned meat i.e. tuna, chicken; cream soups, small boxes of cheese (like Velveeta); Chunky type soups, dry soup mixes, cans of chili, boxed foods like Hamburger or Tuna Helper, potatoes, stuffing, rice-a-roni and sides with noodles or rice; small boxes of bisquick, baking mixes or pancake mix and syrup, chicken and beef broth as we make lots of soup in the winter.
- At this time, we have plenty of canned peas, corn and green beans but we could use other vegetables like carrots, beets, mixed veggies, baked beans, tomato sauce. Flour, sugar, cake and brownie mixes, frostings, baking spices and supplies. Mayonnaise, ketchup, dry or canned milk, bottled salad dressings, cooking oil, dry sauce and gravy mixes. Spaghetti sauce (we have quite a lot of dry pasta and spaghetti and macaroni at this time)
- Especially for children: Taco shells, seasonings and sauces (kids like this) Pudding and fruit snack cups, cereal bars, granola type bars, sugar free drinks (like Crystal Light), fruit juices, cheese and cracker snacks, chips and any microwave entrees children could easily prepare.

Genesis House: Christmas Wish List

Our Christmas this year will be different due to the impact of COVID, and the safety procedures we are following. We have modified our operations to allow us to continue to serve our clients, giving out food and supplies from our front door, conduction mentoring sessions on the phone, and having outside meetings as weather permits.

Our Circle of Giving shop will re-locate to our front door this year, and also become “mobile” with Santa and the helper elves delivering gifts to our family.

We have many wonderful gifts available to our clients, including toys, winter wear and boots, new clothing for children and adults, warm homemade quilts, and lots of household supplies. The generosity last year was amazing, and we received an abundance of items that have been stored since last year. Due to a “slow down” of activity within our home in the past 8 months, and our modified work schedules, we have not had time to deal with donations, other than the regular groceries and food you have so faithfully brought to us, and we deeply appreciate the generosity you have shown. We ask that you put other donated items “on hold”, or call me to ask if we need something. What did not slow down, and actually increased was the need for emergency help and more food. Many of our clients experienced job losses, illnesses and “setbacks” which caused the inability to pay rent, utilities, and other “normal life” expenses, as well as having children home more of the time, with more food needed to prepare daily meals.

So, we are asking that all who want to give this year, to keep the donation of “things” at a minimum, and consider a gift or money or gift cards instead. We know if there is a specific item needed, you will respond as you always have.

We have wonderful plans for 2021, and the time beyond COVID when we can expand our Open Arms programs to provide prevention, education and outreach in Polk and Butler Counties. We will launch a fund-raising campaign in November, and you will be hearing about that soon, we ask you to “stick with us” as we go through this difficult time, but share with us also, the vision we have for the future of Genesis House. Funds raised now will help us to build and strengthen our services and operations in the coming year. We want to give Comfort and Joy to our families this year who are struggling even harder since the pandemic hit. Your support has enabled us to “keep Christmas all year long” to ease the struggles and hardships for our clients. And, along with the gift items, food, etc. our clients will receive a “big helping of HOPE” – perhaps the most valuable and meaningful gift of all!! Thank you for helping the miracles continue to happen at Genesis House.

Meet a Member—

Todd Harold Hanquist was born at Annie Jeffrey Hospital in Osceola to Roger and Marlene (Johnson) Hanquist. He was greeted at home by brothers Layne and Gregg. His sister Amy arrived a few years later to complete the family.

He was baptized and confirmed at the Swede Home Church. Living on a farm with his family west of Swede Home, his public education was at Polk High School, graduating in 1980. After graduation he spent one year of college at Kearney.

Todd soon had the urge to farm. He farmed southwest of Swede Home. It was at that time that he married Renae Larson of Hordville and they moved to a farm north of Hordville.

Todd and Renae are the proud parents of Heidi (Chris Smith), Mandy (Nate Kobus) and Jonathon (Chancy). They have five grandchildren (Claire, Cooper, Caroline, Braden and Emma)

Todd and Renae live in Swede Home in what was the Swede Home Store owned by his grandparents, Harold and Margaret Johnson. He works for CBA (Central Valley Agriculture.)

Todd recalls helping in the store when he was a young boy and especially going with Grandpa Harold to ring the church bell at 6:00 PM on Saturday. It was done to remind people there was Sunday School and worship the next day. In 2020 Todd is still ringing the bell as part of the rotation.

Grandchild are a priority with him and he always enjoys them. However, the 2020 COVID 19 has put a little damper on that. He enjoys HUSKER sports and is always cheering them on. At one time he had his pilots license but has not keep up with the flying.

Todd is thankful to be part of our church. Presently he is on the church council and the Swede Home Cemetery Board. He serves as an usher and bell ringer during the year. THANKS, TODD!

Calvary Lutheran Church

Nebraska Synod, ELCA

950 129th Road

Stromsburg, NE 68666

Church Phone: (402)764-5981

www.calvaryswedehomechurch.com

Email calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com

Every Member of the Congregation—

Ministers

Kent Adelson, Co-Council President

Dan Oquist, Co-Council President

Diana Johnson, Organist

Linda Fuhr, Secretary

LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:

Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Dan Oquist,

Kent Adelson,

Sandra Johnston, Dan Ienn, Fran Lott

All Calvary members, Ministers

We will have LeRoy Hoyer as our pulpit supply minister. This is his contact information:

11827 S 210 Circle Gretna, NE 68028

CELL: 402-366-3940 HOME: 402-680-4858

Pastor Brenda Pfiefly is on emergency call for Calvary, her contact number is 402-416-5434

Please contact Linda Fuhr, Church Secretary at calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com or her cell-phone 402-366-2091, text is preferred or leave a voice message

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Melissa Forsberg
Janice Forsberg
Denny Johnson
June Larson
Elaine Toline

Jan Wells-Bachman
George Belken

All who are shut in and need prayers and support

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action, & Denver Metro Ministries
- Houses for Health recipients.
- Bishop Brian Maas and the Nebraska Synod staff
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members
- Confirmands, Kelby Neujahr, Ethan Fjell, Kylee Kohl on their Confirmation OCTOBER 25
- Brody Ienn in service to our country
- Council as they continue the process of church profile and calling a minister
- Our leaders as they face COVID19 decisions
- Our companion synods in Tanzania and Argentina
- Students and educators as they continue classes

To request prayers call
Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041



ANNIVERSARIES

CALVARY:

December:

2 Dan and Fawn Ienn

30 Layne and Deb Hanquist

BIRTHDAYS

CALVARY:

01 Don Fuhr
01 Elise Fjell
09 Bonnie Dittmer
09 Ella Twarling
11 Elaine Westring
13 Linda Jones
16 Gia Adelson
16 Jean Waller
18 Paul Ernst
18 Brady Hanquist
19 Craig Johnson
20 Layne Hanquist
20 Ryan Jones
23 Jady Johnson
26 Mervin Larson
27 Ryker Berggren
28 Elijah Fjell
28 Joann Stevens
29 Carol Jones
31 Sandi Fredrickson
31 Cooper Smith



THANK YOU!!



Remember Your Offerings

Thank you to all the members who continue with their financial support for Swede Home Church. In these trying times, we realize even more the words "to give as you are able" God's blessings

DECEMBER

Assistant Minister – Kent

Scripture Reader – Gia

Ushers – Dan and Lisa

Altar/Communion – Cheryl & Kay

Acolyte – Kolten Udey

Bell Ringer – Dan

We thank all those who agree to help with the worship service each month.

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:15 confirmation; adult forum 10:30 Worship service	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:15 confirmation; adult forum 10:30 Worship service	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:15 Sunday School adult forum 10:30 Worship service	21	22	23	24 	25 	26
27 10:30 Worship service	28	29	30	31 		

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

COUNCIL NOTES

Council Notes, November 1, 2020

- * Council met November 1. Present: Sandy, Dan O, Lynn, Fran, Kent, Todd Dan I.
- * There were no updates to report from the Property committee.
- * Thank you to Cheryl and Monty Jones for completing the highway pickup as finding a date for congregation members to help was not possible.
- * LeRoy Hoyer will be pulpit supply for November. During the month of November, Communion will not be served.
- * A meeting to discuss and approve the ministerial sharing agreement with First English in Rising City was held November 1 after service. It was approved to use the agreement and continue with First English.
- * Kent reported that Calvary and First English will be switched to the Elkhorn Cluster and receive a representative as we continue the call process. Kent continue that Pr. Megan will continue to help Calvary and First English find an interim pastor.
- * Confirmation classes will be taught by Tina and Cheryl for the months of November and December. Andrew Adelson is available to help teach classes. Confirmands will attend class two Sundays a month during Sunday School hour.
- * Council members met with confirmand parents November 1 to outline confirmation requirements and expectations.
- * The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.



Treasurer's Report

	October 2020
Beginning Balance	\$10,424.61
Offerings:	
General Offerings	10,210.08
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
Sunday School Offerings	93.00
Mission Share	250.00
First Lutheran R.C. September Share	<u>1,153.17</u>
	11,711.25
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Cosgrave Company Baptism candles	27.44
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	34.99
USPO Postage Expense	56.00
Crossroads Confirmation Crosses	96.00
OfficeNet copier paper, office supplies	99.94
Sundays & Seasons licensing	395.00
Living Lutheran Subscription	689.15
NE Synod Mission Share	1,540.00
First Lutheran R.C. October Share	1,655.85
Utilities:	
Church	429.35
Parsonage	317.65
Salaries:	
Pastor	1,388.78
Mileage	243.23
Portico Benefit Services	424.45
Professional Expense	38.31
Federal & NE Withholding - 3rd Quarter	1,081.59
Diana	448.54
LeeAnn	236.64
Linda	471.91
Federal & NE Withholding - 3rd Quarter	<u>731.73</u>
	10,416.24
Balance as of October 31, 2020:	<u>\$11,719.62</u>

*This page is only seen by Calvary Members