



APRIL, 2018

...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIM



At the beginning of March, I had the opportunity to attend a rural and small church ministry conference at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA. It was a great experience, especially as I was able to network with other rural ministry colleagues from across the Midwest. The theme of this year's conference was "Cooperating Congregations in Ministry". The keynote speaker, Rev. Marcia Kiefer, is the pastor of Shared Lutheran Ministries of Fayette County, a ministry cooperative of four parishes in rural Texas.

Our conference opened with discussion around the topic, what would make church great again. I am sure many of you would answer this question in similar ways as we did and as the congregation members in the presenter's cooperative ministry. We talked about things like needing more young families, a big Sunday School (with classes for every age), more money, being able to have our own full-time pastor (not having to share one with another congregation), a designated church night during the week, more volunteers, and no sports on Sundays. While all of that is great and would definitely lead to a different looking church than the ones we find today in most places, there is another important question to ask... is this who and what God is calling us to be.

A book that I have recently been reading talked about that for better or worse, the church is God's chosen way to bring the gospel into the world. As such the church is called to follow Jesus' words in Matthew 28: 19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." But we cannot do that by attempting to drive forward while looking in the rearview mirror-- in other words, we cannot do that by longing to return the church to the way it used to be which is often what we do when we try to answer that question "What would make church great again."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

THANK YOU . . .

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response. Having come through a year of wind and fire, earthquake and flood—and a year of astounding generosity to care for the neighbor in distress through Lutheran Disaster Response—we are blessed to thank you for continuing your support in 2018. As you know, our church continues to work in communities of need long after the media and others have moved on.

With gratitude for your partnership in this ministry,
Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger & Disaster

Calvary Lutheran Church,
Thank you for the donation to Osceola's Post prom. This will be put to good use for the students post prom activities.
Thank you,
OYAO Committee
Myra Pinney—OYAO Secretary

Calvary Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your generous gift to the Cross at the Heart Campaign. Our vision will not become a reality without our congregational partners across the state (like you!), so thank you for choosing to invest in the faith lives of young adults on campus. Your support & prayers are gifts to the Lutheran Center & the students we serve.
With deep gratitude,
Jenna Olson Popp

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(CONTINUED FROM PASTOR KIM'S MESSAGE ON PAGE 1)

Every 500 years or so, the church goes through a transformation in who it is and what it looks like. The Protestant Reformation is just one example of a transformation time in Church history.

Right now, we are in one of those transition times. And like many (most?) transitions, it can be painful for it calls us to leave behind the cherished memories and practices of the way we have or are doing things. In their place, we are called to dream, wonder, and courageously live into the future that God desires for us.

What is this future church that God is calling us to transition into? Well, we can't be 100% certain what it will look like, but we can know this, the God of Scripture who has faithfully led God's chosen people through out all of history, is leading us as well. Therefore, we can have faith, trust, and courage in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

One thing is clear about the future of the church and that is that individual churches cannot depend on doing ministry on their own. What is going to be required is more and more partnerships—sharing staff (not just a pastor), sharing programs to serve the community and church members, and using their combined resources to bless this broken world. It means living into the South African principle called “Unbuntu” which literally means “I exist because you exist”. In an increasingly divided society, this principle of unbuntu is a radical way of witnessing to the power of the gospel and what it means to have unity in Christ.

I don't know what all this means specifically for us, but I envision Zion and Calvary continuing in their support of one another's ministry. Please pray for one another and the things that you see in this newsletter that are going on in each other's congregation. And please join us for things that we do together, like two special worship services that will be coming up this summer or other such opportunities. We are in this together, so let us shine God's light of love in Polk and York counties.

Peace,

Pastor Kim

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

ALLELUIA! He is risen! Easter is a wonderful way to start the month of April. Thanks to everyone who brought plants to adorn the sanctuary for Easter worship.

*Service for month of April is the Polk County Backpack Program. Monetary offerings will be taken at circle meetings. Please mark the date of Tuesday, APRIL 3 @ 5:00 p.m. for packing of the bags for the whole month. This will be at Salem Lutheran Church in Stromsburg. Even if you can't be there at 5:00, please come to help after work if you can. Volunteers are also needed for delivering the bags to schools across the county each week of April. Thanks for your help!

*April Altar Care is Deb Hanquist. Communion every Sunday throughout April and all Easter Sundays (till middle of May). Mary Anna circle does altar care in May.

*Thanks to everyone helping with funeral lunch for Wanda Larson.

*Flowers this month by Miriam. Thank you for watering the flowers, too.

*Many enjoy the fellowship time following worship on Sunday mornings. We need more people to sign up to serve coffee in April and May (before WELCA scheduling in the summer).

*After a winter respite, Quilting will resume on April 26. Please join us.

April

Hostess/Dessert Bible Study

RUTH – 4/11 Carolyn Nielsen Carolyn

MARY ANNA- 4/12 Jan Ernst Jan

MIRIAM- 4/13 _____ Marj

Praying the Peace of Christ fills your heart this Easter season.

Cheryl

MISSION AND MINISTRY UPDATE



‘Root’ solutions

On his parents’ large plot of land in Tapah in northwestern Malaysia, Haslan Chong harvests a batch of ginger alongside his relatives and neighbors. The work is

hard and, at times, tedious. But according to Benson Yeoh, head of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia’s (LCM) Orang Asli Committee, this work also signals to Haslan that his “dream has finally come to pass.” Together, the farmers are part of the Orang Asli Community Project of the LCM.

The Orang Asli are an indigenous people of West Malaysia. In recent years, they have been the focus of “development” by the government. This fraught process has left the Orang Asli without access to land and traditional lifestyles.

In contrast to this inequitable model, the LCM is accompanying Organ Asli communities in several regions, working together to promote stability in their lives and enact changes that have a positive, sustainable impact.

Working with consultants and local farmers, Haslan and his Orang Asli neighbors were trained in sustainable agriculture, allowing them to learn while earning a sufficient income for themselves and their families.

Because of its long shelf life and popularity, the project’s participants chose to grow ginger. With support from a no-interest microloan from LCM—made possible by gifts to ELCA World Hunger—the project began in July 2016 with preparation of the land and installation of drip irrigation.

Today, the Orang Asli look forward to harvesting the 900 plants in their second batch of ginger, which can be sold in local markets for \$3.38 per kilogram. Benson Yeoh says the “mutual trust” between LCM and Orang Asli farmers like Haslan has helped both learn valuable lessons throughout their work together. This accompaniment has built a bridge for sustainability—of the land, of household income, and of relationships in their community for years to come.

SWEDE HOME FOOD PANTRY

The Evangelism and Outreach Team oversees a nonperishable food and personal care item collection. You are welcome to bring donations at any time.



Please place items you wish to donate in the basket located in the entry way of the church.

Items are usually delivered the last week of the month. In April, your donations will go to Blue Valley Community Action in Osceola.

Most recipients of Blue Valley Food Bank are families of 4 headed with working parents with little extra time. Canned meats are especially needed, Boxed Dinners, Canned Fruits, and Vegetables, and Breakfast Cereal are always needed as well. Dessert mixes are a special treat. All items we donate are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they meet their critical needs.

Church Camp Help Needed

Our congregations have an opportunity to help campers attending the Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries church camps. Campers will discuss how they can perform acts of service at camp, in their families, schools, and in their communities. To prepare the campers for living service out in the world, each of them will make a “Service-To-Go Ninja Kit”. These kits will help them perform random acts of kindness.

Congregations are being asked to donate 5 bag kits or \$50 to buy the supplies for bags to be used for the service projects.

Supplies needed for each bag are

2 matching pieces of fabric (each 14” x 16”) and 3 yards of 4 mm nylon cording.

If you’re interested in participating in this project for campers, please talk to Cheryl Jones (402-366-4797) no later than Sunday, April 15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CJHC Camp Preview Day for Families

Families with young children are invited to CJH Camp for a short day of learning more about camp, trying new things and praising the Lord!

This camp is on April 14th. Visit CJHCenter.org/Preview to learn more and register!



CJHC Explore! Elementary Day Retreat

Discover the great presence of God in the outdoors as we dive into learning more about God's creation with a great group of youth! New activities every time! This camp is April 21st. Visit CJHCenter.org/Explore to learn more and to register!

The Heart of Camp Gala

A benefit event for Carol Joy Holling Camp is Saturday, April 7th, 2018, with Fellowship and Silent Action starting at 5:00pm and Dinner & Live Action start at 7:00pm. This will take place at La Vista Conference Center (12520 Westport Parkway, La Vista). Learn more and register at CarolJoyHolling.org/Gala



Backpack Program Volunteers Needed

Calvary Lutheran is responsible for packing the food bags to go to the 4 public schools in the county for needy children in April. Please join us on Tuesday, April 3 at 5:00 p.m. to pack the bags for the whole month at Salem Lutheran Church in Stromsburg. Even if you can come a little later to help, that would be great. We also need volunteers to deliver the bags to schools each week in April. If you have any questions, please talk to Deb Hanquist. Thanks!

Thank You...

Thank you to all the members at Zion for helping make the Easter Egg Hunt possible! Thank you for the candy and the help on the day of. The kids in the community really seem to enjoy this so THANK YOU!

Thank You...

Good morning to you all!! Since I was so sick I did not get the mail. So on this 1st of March I find a check for Blue Valley Community Action. Such a wonderful surprise. Thank you so much we make your bookkeepers job a bit more difficult but be sure our organization is so happy with you. We are truly blessed.

Our most sincere thanks to you and your church. What a blessing you are to us. We will surely put these dollars to good use. If you see the price of groceries go up and up...we see more persons requesting emergency food. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Sincerely,
Lola Reetz
Blue Valley Community Action

Meeting Notice

The Swede Home Cemetery Association will meet Monday, April 16th at 8pm.

Highway Litter Pickup

We coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Transportation to pick up the litter on 2 miles of highway 39 twice a year. Please join in this "God's Work – Our Hands" service project on Sunday, April 22nd, starting at 4:00 p.m. We meet at Monty & Cheryl Jones' home then split up into two teams to make it go faster. Following the work, we have fun and fellowship with a light supper and lots of laughs. Please join us if you can! Rain date will be Sunday, April 29th if needed.

Sunday School Leader Needed

Calvary is looking for a Sunday School leader for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have any questions about what it entails, please talk to Tina Watts and if you are interested in serving in the Sunday School ministry, please let Pastor Kim know. A special thanks to Tina for her years of faithful service in our Sunday School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Study

Beginning on Tuesday, April 10th and running four weeks, we will be having a Bible Study focused on the book of Numbers. We will meet at 7pm at Calvary. Hope you can join us.

Celebrating Children at Westminster

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest...

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your young ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of Service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come see me."

Remember the way we welcome children in church affects directly the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

To the Members of our Church...

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Thrivent Magazine Feature

In the March 2018 issue of the Thrivent magazine, there is an article entitle "Sewing Good Will" that mentions Swede Home's own, Lenore Kessler. The article is on page 6 of your magazine. If you do not get the magazine, you can access it online at <http://www.thrivent.com/magazine>, where you will find the article on page 8 of the PDF file.



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MEET A MEMBER



Meet Loree Adelson

Loree Adelson, along with his sister Sandra and brothers Gary, Terry, and Daryl were raised on the family farm southwest of Swede Home by parents Lloyd and Irene.

Loree attended District 70 Country School, one year of grade school in Phoenix, AZ and Stromsburg, where he played basketball. He attended Business College and was offered employment at a factory in Hastings where he did accounting and payroll. Later he managed a Musicland Store, worked almost twenty five years for Montgomery Ward at stores in Hastings and Lincoln before the company went out of business, and currently employed at Menard's in Lincoln after seventeen years.

Loree enjoyed many sports: basketball, billiards, slow pitch and fast pitch softball in Hastings and played in an All-Star Game. He is a longtime member Lincoln Municipal Golf Association and the Hole-in-one-club.

Loree has always been a member of Swede Home. The Hult's and Adolphson's (Adelson) from Sweden were among the first settle in the Swede Home and Swede Plain areas. His great-great grandparents Mathilda and August Hult were among the Founders of Swede Home. J.P. and Kaja perished and son Peter was seriously burned in the Prairie Fire in this community October 20th, 1878. Loree's grandparents Alex and Otelia Adelson and parents Lloyd and Irene Adelson were also very active in the church. The Swede Home and Polk community have always been special to the family.



Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Wanda Larson. Wanda was welcomed to her eternal home on Saturday, March, 17th.



Deepest Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Shane Geis who passed away on Saturday, March 24th.



Calvary Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
950 129th Road
Stromsburg, NE 68666
Church Phone: (402)764-5981

Doug Jones, Council President
Diana Johnson, Organist
Brienne Schoch, Secretary
Tina Watts, Sunday School
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:
Linda Fuhr, Doug Jones, Bill Carlstrom, Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Nick Nicholson, Chris Smith
All Calvary members, Ministers

Rev. Kimberly Belken
Pastor
(402) 764-0481 (cell)
(402) 764-5961 (parsonage)
(402) 764-5981 (church office)
kimberlyrbelken@gmail.com

Zion Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
202 Sherman
Benedict NE 68316

Council President Cal Bittinger
Yvonne Stauber, Organist
Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

Council Members:
Cal Bittinger, LuAnn Bolton, Dawn Kush
All of Zion members, Ministers

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Lyndsey Bolton
Dorothy Ehlers
Melissa Forsberg
Denny Johnson
Lenore Kessler
June Larson
Elvin Reetz

Imo Richardson
Harvey Schlegelmilch
Vance & Elaine Toline
Jan Wells-Bachman

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action
- Houses for Health recipients.
- Table Grace Café & Denver Metro Ministries
- Bishop Brian Maas and the Nebraska Synod staff
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members
- Pastor Bob Bryan and the Nebraska Synod Prison Ministry
- Our ELCA Partner Synod—Pacifica Synod
- Our companion synods in Tanzania and Argentina
- Family & friends of Wanda Larson (mother of Verlene Dill)
- Family & friends of Shane Geis (son of Steve & Jeanie Geis)

To request prayers call

Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041

Zion: LuAnn Bolton 402-710-8708

ZION WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

APRIL

Communion Assistant: Bri Schoch

Usher: Jim Stearns

Greeter: Donna Stearns

Reader:

1—Gina Schoch, 8—Ken Kush, 15—Bri Schoch, 22—LuAnn Bolton, 29—Gina Schoch

Acolyte:

1—Tierney Schoch, 8—Lyndsey Bolton, 15—Tierney Schoch, 22—Harley Martin, 29—Isaac Reetz

ANNIVERSARIES

CALVARY:

Steve & Sandi Fredrickson
April 2nd

Duane & Carol Jones
April 19th

ZION:

Jimmy & Susan Stearns
April 2nd

Justin & Brianne Schoch
April 30th



BIRTHDAYS

CALVARY:

01—Trindon Twarling
06—Alice Jane Oquist
09—Ryleigh Ienn
09—Venida Carlstrom
16—Ben Carlson
20—Mike Haack
21—Tom Stevens
24—Tory Jones
30—Lisa Oquist

ZION:

08—Steve Blair
17—Jeanie Geis
18—Chris Martin
21—Amanda Blair

CALVARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

April

Assistant Ministers— Cheryl Jones

Scripture Reader— Nick Nicholson

Ushers— Roxanne & Carol Nicholson

Acolyte— Kolton Neuhjahr

Altar Care— Deb Hanquist

Bell Ringer— Kent Adelson

April 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>7:00a Zion Sunrise Service @ UMC 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship</p>			<p>9:30a Join the Conversation 6p Confirmation 7p Calvary Council Meeting</p>			
<p>8</p> <p>8:30a Zion Worship 9:15 Calvary Sunday School 9:30a Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Wor-</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7p Numbers Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 6p Confirmation 7p Men's Bible Study 7p Ruth's WELCA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9a Miriam's WELCA Circle</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary Sunday School 9:30a Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Wor-</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8p Swede Home Cemetery Association Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7p Numbers Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 6p Confirmation</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary Sunday School 9:30a Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7p Numbers Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation 6p Confirmation</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9a Quilt Day—Calvary</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:15a Zion Joint Service @ Zion 9:15a Calvary Sunday School 9:30a Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship Service</p>	<p>30</p>					

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

COUNCIL NOTES**March 2018, Retreat with
Zion and Calvary Councils**

The Joint Councils of Calvary and Zion met on Saturday, March 10 at the Rose Colored Glass in Stromsburg - beginning with a morning brunch

- Pastor shared discussion from the Rural Ministry Conference she attended earlier in the week. Topic for that conference was 2+ point congregations.
- Pastor's report included upcoming continuing education and vacation dates
- The joint councils voted the Lenten offerings to be given to the Polk County Back Pack program.
- Rick Jones will serve as chair for the Calvary Endowment committee and Sarah Johnson will serve as treasurer
- April Bible study will be hosted at Calvary, starting on Tuesday April 10 for four weeks
- Stromsburg Ministerial will host a community Easter Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday 3/28. Tickets are \$8.50 and available from Pastor Kim
- Worship and Music is planning services for Holy Week Services
- Calvary Confirmation will be Sunday May 20th.
- Calvary Sunday School will end for the year on May 6th. There will be a special service led by some of the youth and a brunch will be served as well. The mission trip youth and their families will serve the brunch as a fundraiser they will donate part of the proceeds to the window restoration project
- Kruse Stained Glass has sent the payment proposal for the completion of the remaining 9 windows. The payment proposal is for three payments of \$ 7,740.00 The end of January they removed the windows for restoration. They are asking for the first payment to be paid as soon as possible - Council voted to use money in the improvement savings account for this payment. They would like the 2nd payment to be paid as soon as possible following the completion of the project. They would like the third and final payment (\$ 7,740) to be paid no later than 2/18/19. This project was approved at the annual meeting. We encourage your prayerful consideration in a contribution to the window restoration fund. THANK YOU

Treasurer's Report**February, 2018**

Beginning Balance	\$471.83
<u>Offering:</u>	
General Offering	6052.00
The Lutheran Magazine	100.00
Sunday School Offering	77.50
Lenten Offerings	375.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	205.00
Transfer from General Savings	1000.00
Zion for January Share	3461.20
	<u>11275.70</u>

Expenses:

Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.24
Office Supplies	11.70
Harland Clarke Check Order	41.70
Extra Mile Award	50.00
USPO Postage Expense	150.00
Mike O'Brien piano tuning x2	210.00
NE Synod ELCA—Mission Share	1500.00
Zion Benedict February Share	1849.18

Utilities:

Church:	2091.30
Parsonage:	499.76

Salaries:

Pastor	2230.98
Mileage	292.42
SECA	221.82
Portico Benefits	1069.82
Continuing Education	0.00
Diana	445.41
LeeAnn	236.64
Bri	447.67
	<u>11357.64</u>

Balance as of January 31st, 2018**\$389.89****Designated \$\$ Transferred to SAV Accts:**

Improvement Fund	\$2353.11
Thrivent Choice	0.00

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Mission Statement: Know God, Love God,
Share God's Love**



Guiding Principles:

1. **Jesus is Lord and Savior**
2. **All are welcome in this place.**
3. **Serving in love with generosity and hospitality**
4. **Provide an atmosphere for spiritual growth and reflection.**
5. **Teaching and sharing God's Word with joy**
6. **Mutual respect in relationships**

Return Service Requested

Stromsburg, NE 68666
950 Road 129th

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEBRASKA SYNOD, ELCA**

.....IN SACRED PLACES.....