



APRIL 2023

# 150 YEARS—1873–2023

## CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



### Ephesian 3:16-19 (NRSV)

<sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your

hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup> I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

This is the first Holy Week and Easter that Pastor Evan and I get to celebrate with you. We are very excited to lead you in worship! With the writer of Ephesians, we pray that we might have the power to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of the love of Christ. Holy week is a week where we especially hear about the depth of the love that Christ has for us. Each act of worship builds on the previous and fills us with the fullness of God's love. We will hear the story of Christ's betrayal, suffering, death, and resurrection. Together as a congregation we will pray for the world and pray that the world knows the breadth, length, height, and depth of God's love.



Let us pray: Holy Spirit,

Fill us with the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge.

Help us to comprehend his breadth and length and height and depth.

Be with us as we grieve your death and celebrate your life this Holy Week.

In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen.

+Peace

Pastor Hillary Christensen



April 2—10:30 am Palm Sunday

April 6—7 pm Maundy Thursday at First-Rising City

April 7—7 pm Good Friday at Calvary– Swede Home

April 8—6 pm Easter Vigil \*note time is 6 pm

April 9—10:30 am Easter Sunday

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!!

WELCA NEWS

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# Announcements

The Evangelism and Outreach Team oversees a non-perishable food and personal care item collection.



*Please place items you wish to donate in the basket April donations go to:*

**Blue Valley Community Action**

### GENESIS HOUSE WISHLIST

Sherrri Nielsen, the Director, has listed several items that Genesis House needs. Please consider this list when you are shopping:

- Sandwich size zip bags
- Quart size zip bags
- Garbage bags (25 count is fine)
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Cookie mixes



**April 23**—4 pm Spring Highway pickup event—at Monty Jones place, 1 mile north of Hwy 92/39 junction.

Rain Date—April 30.

Please join us, more hands make the job go quickly. We will once again have some

ATV vehicles to help—and we will have food and fellowship on the Jones Patio following the clean-up. We can always use some new and younger hands to help! We appreciate the youth that come and help!

## W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

\*We are invited to bring lilies or other spring flowers for Easter worship on April 9.

\*Thank you to all that served the Lenten Meals at Swede Home. Miriam Circle, Ruth Circle, Youth, Church Council & Men's Bible Study group all provided wonderful meals and fellowship.

\*Service for April will be the Backpack Program. Deb Hanquist will inform us about dates for packing and delivery. A monetary offering will also be collected.

\*Altar care for April is Deb Hanquist. May altar care will be Cheryl Jones.

\*Flowers and Cheer for April, May and June will be Miriam Circle. Thank you for watering any plants.

\*April's Food Pantry goods will go to Blue Valley.

\*Highway Litter Pick-up is scheduled for Sunday, April 23 at 4 p.m. with a possible rain date 4/30.

### April Circles

	<i>Hostess</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
Ruth – 4/13	Janelle Udey at Gathering Grounds	
Miriam – 4/14	Gloria Oquist	<i>(none listed)</i>

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

Cheryl



## Thank You

Dear Swede Home WELCA

Thank you for helping replenish our pantry! We gave quite a bit away over Christmas so your donation ensures our clients can put food on their tables if needed.

In Appreciation

Sherri Nielsen, Genesis House

On behalf of all the volunteers of the Food for Thought Weekend Backpack Program and A Place at the Table Inc, I would like to extend a very sincere and heartfelt "Thank you" for your recent donation to care for those in need.

Because of the generosity of you and others here in our area we continue to bring the much needed hunger relief to students at area schools.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!

Jason Rosenkranz, Treasurer

A Place at the Table, Inc



A heartfelt THANK YOU to Ruth Circle and all those who came on Saturday the 25th to clean the

church. Yard work was not done as it was decided to hire someone to power rake and bag the leaves. BUT the church got a good sparkling cleaning! Closets, cupboards, shelves etc. received a good sorting and cleaning. Walls, window wells, floors were scrubbed till they were shiny! Light fixtures almost everywhere were relieved of bugs and old light bulbs replaced with new! With doors and windows open, everything smelled clean, then we got 8" of snow overnight!! THANKS to all who helped get ready for Easter, spring and the Q150 celebration! God Bless you all.

## Recipes

On Wednesday, March 15, Swede Home hosted the noon Lenten Luncheon. Everything was delicious and many asked for the recipe for the Tomato Tortellini Soup, brought by Diana Johnson. Diana shares the recipe that she got from her daughter Tonya.

Thank you!!

### Slow Cooker Tomato Tortellini Soup

1 lb. Italian sausage (I used Mike Branting's homemade at Burg grocery)

1 (32 oz.) chicken broth

1 (28 oz.) can petite diced tomatoes

2 (10.75 oz.) cans tomato soup

2 (8 oz.) containers chive & onion cream cheese spread, softened

1 (18 oz.) pkg. refrigerated cheese tortellini, uncooked

In a skillet, cook sausage until browned and transfer to slow cooker.

Add chicken broth, tomatoes & tomato soup to slow cooker. Cover and cook on LOW 6-8 hrs.

Stir in cream cheese and tortellini. Cover and cook on HIGH for 15-30 min. until tortellini is cooked.





### *Growing in Faith*



The youth group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 6:30 pm. There will be no meeting on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of April, the youth is asked to participate in the **High Way Pickup project at 4 pm on April 23, at Monty and Cheryl Jones.**

The group has tentative plans to go bowling on Sunday, April 30th—all youth are welcome to join in the fun. Please let Pr Evan or Pr Hillary know if you plan to attend.



We will pack the backpack bags for the month of April. We plan to do this on Monday April 3, at 4pm. Please meet at Salem Lutheran Church—all supplies will be provided. You may contact Deb Hanquist for further information, 402-366-7281. If you cannot help pack, but could deliver to the schools, please let Deb know.

### *Keep in our prayers*

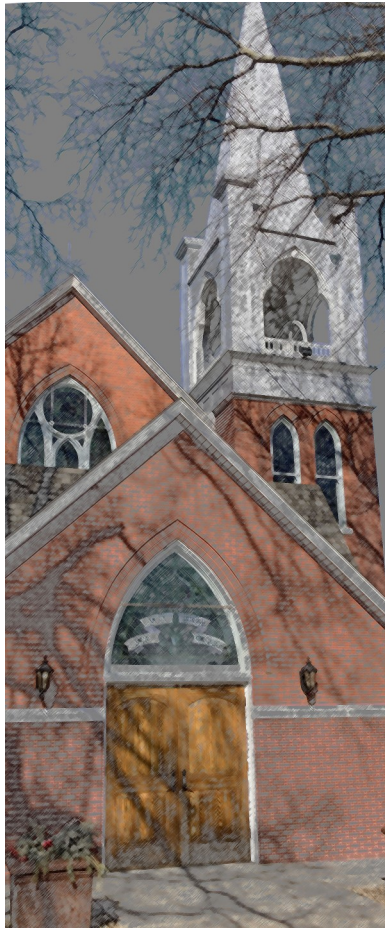


We share the grief of those who mourn and remember the life of Corrine Adelson. Corrine entered into eternal life on February 26, 2023. Her services were held at Calvary-Swede Home on March 4th, 2023. We thank the family for their generous memorial donation to the Q150 fund.



On March 23, 2023 Ron Dickson entered into eternal life. Funeral services were held at Calvary-Swede Home on March 28th, with Pr Evan and Pr Hillary officiating. Please keep Carole and her family in your prayers.





## *Save the Date*

### *Calvary Lutheran Church of Swede Home*

### *150th Anniversary*

*All events held at Calvary Lutheran Church of Swede Home*

*April 16 Nebraska Brass Concert 3pm*  
*Reception with Dana Westring 5pm*

*April 30 Morning Worship 10:30am*  
*with Music and Art*

*July 16 Annual Ice Cream Social 6pm*

*August 13 150th Anniversary Worship 10:30am*  
*Celebration and Meal 12pm*

*October 22 Morning Worship 10:30am*  
*with Music and Art*  
*Reception with Diana Johnson 12pm*



We will host the Nebraska Brass on Sunday afternoon, April 16 at 3 pm. Tickets are required for this event and will be sold at the door. \$15 regular admission, \$11 Seniors, Students and children free. You may call or text Linda at 402-366-2091 to reserve your tickets and pick them up at the door the day of the concert.



On April 16th, following the Nebraska Brass Concert—we will host a reception for Dana Westing. Dana is well known to Swede Home as he is a Stromsburg native and has family ties to Swede Home.

He painted and donated the Swedish Mural located in the basement fellowship hall as well as restoring the altar area in the sanctuary.

Please join us for refreshments at this reception beginning approximately 5 pm on Sunday the 16th



Calvary Lutheran Church  
Nebraska Synod, ELCA  
950 129th Road  
Stromsburg, NE 68666  
Church Phone: (402)764-5981  
www.calvaryswedehomechurch.com  
Email calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com  
Facebook "Swede Home"

**Every Member of the Congregation—Ministers**

Randy Lott, Council Chairman  
Kent Adelson, Council Vice Chairman  
Missy Althouse, Council Secretary  
Diana Johnson, Organist  
Linda Fuhr, Secretary  
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

**Council Members:**

Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Dan Oquist,  
Kent Adelson, Missy Althouse, Kris Udey, Randy Lott  
Jarrett Althouse, youth representative

**Pastor Evan** Cell Phone 402-689-5495 (text or call)  
Email: evan@pastorchristensen.com

**Pastor Hillary** Cell Phone 402-980-1102 (text or call)  
Email: hillary@pastorchristensen.com

**IF you are texting or emailing a pastor, please include both pastors in the text or email**

Please contact Linda Fuhr, Church Secretary at

calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com or text or call  
402-366-2091, If you have not done so, follow **Swede Home** on our Facebook page.

(Carol Jones, continued)

The remainder of my nursing career was at Annie Jeffrey in Osceola. I covered surgery call for many years, worked with Quality Assurance and spent the last six years as administrator of the facility.

Duane and I have both always enjoyed traveling. His work with the US Grains Council afforded him many trips overseas, broadening our interest. We had exchange students from Ecuador, Brazil and Finland, a guest from Slovakia, and entertained Ag teams in our home. We have learned that people the world over are more alike than different and we continue to learn and explore from our arm chairs here in Lincoln.

I love Calvary, Swede Home. I have always been amazed and thankful that its focus through the years has been what we can do for others both in the world and at home. May that spirit continue for another 150 years.

*Meet a Member – Carol Jones*



I'm an original Connecticut Yankee, growing up in Fairfield, Connecticut, about 60 miles from NYC. My parents were both children of Swedish immigrants and active in the Lutheran

Church. My brother, Bob, 9 years older than me, was my hero and life-long friend.

We lived just a block away from school. Our neighbors were a variety of ethnicity and I being a nosy little girl, knew all of them. I remember playing among the downed trees after a hurricane, trips to the beach and watching my brother skin the prey he caught.

A lifelong desire to be a nurse, perhaps fed by my fascination with the innards of my brother's critters, led to my decision to go into nursing after high school. At the same time I wanted to see a different part of the country. So I received my RN from the Lutheran School of Nursing in Moline, IL. Part of our training included 4 months at the Pediatric Unit in Cook County Hospital, Chicago. It was there I learned about life. And it was in Chicago where I met my life partner.

One Sunday, my classmate Phyllis and I attended a unique Lutheran church which held services in a downtown office building. Much to Phyllis's surprise, her 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin, Duane Jones was an usher. We decided to return for Sunday night supper and discussion group. Duane drove us back to the nurses' dorm. And the rest is history.

After graduation I moved to Chicago and worked until Duane was discharged from the Army. We were married in April of 1958 and headed west to life on the farm. I was woefully ignorant of farm life – I thought all the corn I saw was sweet corn and that all bulls were black. But I learned, farrowed hogs when Duane was traveling, killed chickens for dinner, but was never in the right place when we were chasing hogs. Most of all I appreciated the closeness of families, the history of Swede Home, the friendliness of neighbors and above all, the church.

Beth (Wienck), Linnea and Mark made our family complete. Beth, who is a Certified Medical Coder, lives in Marysville, KS with her husband, Gary. Mark and his wife, Tammy, whom most of you know, farm in the area. Linnea, a Hospice Social Worker, lives in Lincoln. We have six wonderful grandchildren, sadly losing the seventh, Mark and Tammy's son, Tory David, last July. And 8 wonderful greats, all BOYS!

**We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration**

**REMEMBER IN  
YOUR PRAYERS**



- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Melissa Forsberg   | Jan Wells-Bachman |
| Janice Forsberg  | Yvonne Stauber    |
| June Larson  | Luna Stauber      |
| Alice Jane Oquist  | Carey Clauff      |
| LeRoy Hoyer  | Colby Nelson      |
| • Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action | Cheryl Jones      |
| • Houses for Health recipients.                                      | Duane Jones       |
| • Bishop Scott Johnson and the Nebraska Synod staff                  |                   |
| • Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members      |                   |
| • Brody Ienn in service to our country                               |                   |
| • Our government leaders   |                   |
| • Our companion synods in Tanzania and Argentina                     |                   |
- To request prayers please email the church or call Linda (402-366-2091) or Cheryl (402-366-**

**Women, Celebrate**

All women are invited by the Women of the Word to celebrate being created and special in God's eyes.

St. Paul Lutheran Church invites all Women to an evening of supper, entertainment and fellowship. Sunday, April 30 at 6 pm

RSVP: Louise  
402-747-6531

Diana L  
402-363-3737

Sheila G  
402-527-5705



**ANNIVERSARIES**

**BIRTHDAYS**

**APRIL**

**APRIL**

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Steve and Sandi Frederickson | 06 Alice Jane Oquist |
| 19 Duane and Carol Jones       | 09 Ryleigh Ienn      |
|                                | 16 Ben Carlson       |
|                                | 20 Mike Haack        |
|                                | 21 Tom Stevens       |
|                                | 30 Lisa Oquist       |




**THANK YOU**

*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 Blessing*

**MARCH**

- Assistant Minister – Sandy Johnson  
 Scripture Reader – Sandy Johnson  
 Ushers – Bonnie Carlson and Kay Jones  
 Altar – Deb Hanquist  
 Acolyte – Jarrett Althouse  
 Bell Ringer – Dan Oquist April 2

# April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
		 <h2 style="margin: 0;">HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE</h2>					
2 10:30 am Palm Sunday service with communion Council meeting following service	3	4	5	6 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service at Rising City	7 7 pm Good Friday Service at Swede Home	8 6 pm Easter Vigil at Swede Home with 2 baptisms	
9 10:30 am Easter service with communion	10	11 Men's Bible Study at Wayne Johnson	12 9 am Ruth Circle @ Gathering Grounds.	13 9 am Miriam Circle at Gloria Oquist	14	15	
16 10:30 am Church Service 3pm NE Brass concert 5pm Dana Westring Reception	17	18	19	20 3 point Council Bible Study	21	22	
23 10:30 am Church Service 4 pm Highway pickup	24	25	26	27 3 point Council Bible Study	28	29	
30 10:30 worship with special music & read- ings 6pm St Paul supper							



# COUNCIL NOTES

Church Council met on March 5<sup>th</sup>, following worship service.

Present: Randy, Dan, Todd, Lynn, Missy, Jarrett, and Pastor Hillary Absent: Kris

St Augustana's fundraisers for youth camp  
March Madness- Participation at Calvary will go to our youth account.

Peanut butter egg orders.

Pastor Brenda Pfeifly will provide emergency pastoral care and Pastor Carolann will cover services while Pastor Evan and Pastor Hillary are on vacation from 4/10-4/13.

3 point congregation councils will do book study. "Reclaiming Rural: Building Thriving Rural Congregation" by doing zoom meetings at church on Thursday evenings April 20-May 11.

Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> Spring Clean Up 1pm  
Property Committee updates – Received bid from BD and submitted to Church Mutual

Q 150 Celebration on August 13<sup>th</sup> when Bishop will be here JW Catering will be serving

Designate a special mission project for Q150 Have a designated offering throughout the year. Will propose options to Congregation on what to do.

Float for Swedish Festival – Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>  
Idea of recreating our church's entry way with arch, original church doors, and pews. With youth/some congregation members in period style clothing with possible theme "Worshipping for 150 years". More to come.

Projects for 2023 Trunk and Treats and Personal Care Kits

Lawn care - still in review

Organist - Janet Nielsen and Amy Harris will share duties

## Treasurer's Report

**February  
2023**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$6,959.42</b>
<b>Offerings:</b>	
General Offering	11,634.00
Lutheran Magazine	150.00
Lent Offerings for Backpack Program	105.00
NE Synod ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Disaster Relief Turkey Earthquakes	1,250.00
ELCA Mission Share	405.00
First English for Jan & Feb Shares	<u>3,643.64</u>
	17,192.64
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee & TC % Fee	10.36
Baptism Certificates	21.90
Adobe Reader Software f/Website	23.88
Cody's Computer Contract	39.99
Installation Luncheon & Q150	183.72
Church Mutual - Bi-Annual Policy Fee	4,013.00
NE Synod ELCA - Mission Share	1,580.00
ELCA Disaster Relief Turkey Earthquakes	1,250.00
First English - February Share	1,818.21
Augustana - February Share	2,625.28
<b>Utilities:</b>	
Church	351.00
Parsonage	146.19
Genoa Parsonage	202.44
<b>Salaries:</b>	
Pastor	2,474.56
Portico Benefit Services	1,207.12
Commuting Reimbursement	158.33
SECA	217.68
Mileage Reimbursement	161.97
Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	<u>460.60</u>
	17,701.97
<b>Balance as of February 28, 2023:</b>	<b><u>\$6,450.09</u></b>
<b>Designated \$\$ Transferred to Applicable SAV Acct:</b>	
	\$
Improvement Fund	1,400.000