



APRIL 2021

## ...IN SACRED PLACES...

### CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

#### *Message from Pastor*

*Sarah*

Nearly 40 days ago we entered the season of Lent. Our focus during this season, as it always is, is on ourselves; the old sins we carry and the ones we commit every day. We have been diligently working to turn our eyes away from the world and away from ourselves so that true repentance might be given.



True repentance isn't the kind of "I'm sorry" that we passively mutter when we accidentally bump into someone at the store or that we give our colleagues when we arrive late for a meeting. True repentance is the kind of "I'm sorry" that can only be said when we truly feel the weight of what we've done within us. This is the act of confession, when we realize just how unworthy we are of God's grace, and yet, ask for God's forgiveness.

Ash Wednesday is when we begin this process of reflection and recognition. As the ashes are smeared on our foreheads and we hear the words, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return.", we speak the reality of our human condition. We are mortal. We have sinned. And we will one day die.

But taken alone, these words that carry reality to us and the further reflection we engage in during Lent would crush us.

Thankfully, we do not hear these words without first knowing of God's love for us. As we remind ourselves of our own truths, we know that there is hope coming. We know that in our baptism the ashes that marked our foreheads were wiped away and we were marked with the cross of Christ forever. This watermark is the seal of promise that God has given to us all; that even though we are unworthy of God's grace, it is given still.

As we enter Holy Week and then the joyous season of Easter, let this hope and the image of God's watermark on you be your grounding center of life. Out of death, we receive new life! Because of God's love, the weight of sin is removed, and we freed to live in God's love, forever.

Back on Ash Wednesday I mixed up the ashes at home, praying over them as I stirred. Then I travelled to Calvary, thinking of the crosses I would place on each of you. As I neared the church though, I looked to the west and saw the most breathtaking sunset I have ever seen. The colors were brilliantly reflecting off of the snow that blanketed the fields, and the rays shot out from it—so that it resembled a vibrant cross. Here I was picturing crosses of ash and the stain it would make on my fingers for days to come, but I was presented with the gift of this beautiful sunset alongside of it. The ashen cross laid next to the cross of new life.

This image has remained with me throughout Lent, and my prayer for you in this coming season of life is that you too will recognize God's signs of love bearing hope all around you.

*May the peace and hope of Jesus Christ be with you all,*

*Pastor  
Sarah  
Ruch*



WELCA NEWS

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CALENDAR

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# Announcements

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

Sandy will deliver after April 25



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

***Blue Valley Community Action***

### 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 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at**

**4:00 p.m.**

We meet at Monty & Cheryl Jones’ home (at 13088 J Rd on highway 39) then split up into two teams to make it go faster. Following the work, we have fun and fellowship with a light supper (PIZZA!) and lots of laughs. Please join us if you can. Let’s enjoy some time doing this project – six feet apart!

We invite the Confirmation families to join us in this project. Time spend can be used for your Mission Minutes. It is a good way for some fellowship with members of the church, and it is an outreach program for the community.

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

As more of us are receiving the Covid vaccine, and cases of the virus are going down in numbers, we are beginning to see changes in the states’ directive health measures. Please follow guidelines as appropriate for the activity, as we worship and study together.

**\*We are invited to bring lilies or other spring flowers** for Easter worship on April 4.

\*Service for April will be the Backpack Program. Deb Hanquist will inform us as to the needs for this program, depending on school scheduling.

\*Altar care for April is Deb Hanquist. May altar care will be Mary Anna Circle.

\*Flowers in April will be Miriam Circle. Thank you for watering any plants. May through August will be done by Ruth Circle.

\*If you choose to give circle offerings, please give or mail to Bonnie Carlson, our WELCA treasurer, or take to your circle meeting. Thank you.

\*Quilt Day will be April 22. Please join us and plan to bring your own lunch.

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

### April Circles

*Hostess*

*Bible Study*

Mary Anna (So far, unable to meet at MCH)

Miriam – 4/9 (ask Diana - none listed in booklet)

Ruth – 4/14 Cheryl (@church) Cheryl



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

*Cheryl*

## Youth News

## RECIPES



April confirmation classes will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month starting at 11:45 am, Pastor Sarah will be contacting confirmation parents with any changes to that schedule.

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday. April Sunday School and adult forum will be on April 18 9:15 am. The 3rd Sunday of April Tina and Cheryl lead the Sunday School Classes.



Touches of spring are all around us—

The new table decorations on the social hall tables really brightened the area and looked so full of Hope as spring arrives. Gloria and Kay put these decorations

together last season, and we are glad to see them again this year. The spring twigs promise a season of renewal. Thanks to Gloria and Kay for taking care of this project. It is noticed and appreciated.

The front planters went from winter evergreen to touches of spring color of lavender and yellow, and spring greenery.

Thanks to the Elaine, Linda and Don for taking care of this project and changing the seasonal planters. What a welcome sight at the entry of the church.

I received this recipe from a friend from Iowa and it is one I make every year with fresh rhubarb from my yard.

### RHUBARB DELIGHT

1C flour

5T powdered sugar

1 stick butter, softened

Blend together and press in bottom of 8x8 pan. Bake 15 minutes at 350°.

2 eggs, beaten

1C sugar

1/4C flour

2C finely chopped rhubarb



Mix together and pour over crust.

Sprinkle with nutmeg, if desired

Bake 35 minutes longer

Happy spring everyone!

*Mary Stevens*

We are always looking for recipes for future editions of the newsletter. If you have a family favorite, or a recipe that has been handed down from past generations, please share it with us. If there is a story to be told regarding the recipe, please share that also.

You may email your recipe the church email address at [swedehomechurch@gmail.com](mailto:swedehomechurch@gmail.com)—or send it to the church at 950 129th RD Osceola, 68651.

Thank you so much

*Thank you so much*

*THANKS THANKS THANKS*

Dear Friends:

From everyone at **Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries** we are so thankful for your endowment gift. Your contribution helps create life-changing experiences through Christian camping for thousands of children each year.

Our theme verse for this summer from Joshua 1:9 says:

***“I hereby command you, Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”***

God’s steadfast love calls us to live fearlessly, trusting in his compassion and joyfully sharing God’s promises with others. We can’t wait to study the Bible and live fearlessly together this summer., **thanks to donors like YOU!!** With gratitude,  
Dennis Remington, Development Associate

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Dear Friends,  
Thank you for the recent gifts of good food, grocery and gift items. Your selections of that “kid food” provides some of the best items to give to our struggling families. Thank you for your attention and consideration to our **“Wish Lists.”** Your consistent and generous support helps so much to keep us going and see us through these hard times.  
Sincerely,  
Pat and folks at Genesis House



Dear Friends:

Thank you for the generous donation of \$500.00 from your endowment funds. Our fund raising goal to raise \$ 25,000.00 has ended, and we were able to raise 70% of that, which is very good in these hard times. Support from your church has been a significant part of our efforts.

We are so blessed to have your longstanding and consistent support in so many ways.

Pat Lostroh, Genesis House

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Brothers and Sister o Calvary,

Thank you **SO** much for your gracious donation to Polk County Senior Services! Your serving hearts have blessed not only myself as I learn this position but also all the Seniors in our beautiful county.

Thank you again,  
Erin Dickey, Director

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Thank you very much for your donation to our Stromsburg Senior Center. It is very much appreciated.

Diane Eckert, Manager



### *Congratulations Pastor Miles Ruch*



March 21, 2021 was a special day for Pastor Sarah and her family. Her husband Pastor Miles, was installed as the pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Seward, Nebraska.

Pastor Megan Marrow, assistant to the Bishop officiated



at the installation. Congratulations Pastor Miles, and may your service to Faith Lutheran be long and rewarding.

God is good all the time,  
All the time God is Good

### *Prayer Chain Requests*

For many years, Jan has been a faithful servant in heading up the prayer request change. With her move to Ridge View, she has requested that someone take on this responsibility. We thank Jan for her years of dedicated service and know we all will include her in our prayers.

Cheryl and Linda have made some changes in how the prayer chain will continue in the future.

Going forward, when we receive a prayer request, we will send it by email to those of you that receive the weekly email bulletin. If you do not receive the weekly bulletin by email, but do receive the newsletter—you may request to be added to the prayer chain email (also if you would like, you could receive the weekly bulletin. The bulletin includes the full worship service, less the sermon, but has the scripture readings, hymns and announcements. It is something we provide since the start of COVID for those unable to attend worship service) To be added to either or both email lists, please email the church at [calvaryswedehome-church@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryswedehome-church@gmail.com) or call the church 402-764-9581 or call or text Linda at 402-366-2091.

If you don't access your email often, we also have a group text, if you would prefer to receive prayer requests that way. Again, contact the church or Linda to be added to a group text.

We will continue to call the members that do not have text or email capabilities. If you want to be added to a call list, please let us know.

Any requests that would be sent would be limited in details and not include specifics of the request, unless the person specifically requests information be made public.

To ask for a prayer request:  
Call or text Cheryl at **402-366-4797**  
or Linda **402-366-2091**.  
or Pastor Sarah at **402- 833-8318**

*Meet a Member*

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 Pastor Sarah Ruch as our transition minister. This is her contact information:

Text or call 402-833-8318

Email: [pastorsarahruch@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsarahruch@gmail.com)

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](mailto:calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com) or text or call 402-366-2091,



Colby Nelson lives on a farm between Polk & Stromsburg with his grandpa, Carey Clauff. He came to live with Carey & grandma Linda when he was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Linda was a big role model for him, and he misses her greatly (since her passing). His mom is Amanda Nelson, and his siblings are a brother, Brady and a sister, Emery. His dad & step-mom are David and Megan Nelson. They all live in Lincoln.

Colby loves working on the farm with grandpa, Carey. He's enjoyed traveling with his mom & siblings to Florida to see Disney World and to California to Legoland.

Colby is a Senior at Cross County High School at Stromsburg. He loves being part of the Cross County FFA Chapter and the high school band there, where he plays the clarinet.

He works at Stromsburg's Westside Bar & Grill. Colby calls himself an "outdoor guy", and he really enjoys working on the farm. He is considering studying welding or John Deere tech school at one of the community colleges in Nebraska after graduating high school. He'd really like to continue living in the area.

Colby loves seeing people at Swede Home church and hanging out with good friends here. He has been a bright light to friends at Midwest Covenant Home where he's visited church members (before Covid limited visiting). Colby is proud to have been baptized and confirmed at Swede Home.



You are invited to bring Easter lilies or other flowering plant to the church during Easter Week.

Please leave plants in the kitchen and we will arrange them in the church for Easter Sunday Service. You may take them home following worship service. Thank You.

## 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 congrega-  
tions and members
- 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 Argen-  
tina

To request prayers please email the church or call  
Linda (402-366-2091) or Cheryl (402-366-4797)

### Thank you

Dear ones:

I know I am way past due in sending this, BUT we haven't forgotten the wonderful food package you sent to us. Everything was so good and very much appreciated, and the peace and comfort was so much appreciated to know that you care. We will look forward to visiting you some time.

God bless you all,  
Sincerely,  
Hal and Mary Parrish

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### APRIL

02 Steve and Sandi  
Fredrickson  
19 Duane and Carol Jones



#### REMINDER—

If you are the last one  
out the door, Be sure  
all lights are OFF!

Especially basement  
and front entry!

### BIRTHDAYS

#### April

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

A belated Happy Birthday  
to Pastor Sarah, She cele-  
brated her Birthday on  
March 20



#### THANK YOU

*Thank you to all the members who con-  
tinue 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*



#### APRIL

Assistant Minister – Lynn Hofmann  
Scripture Reader – Lynn  
Ushers – Tom and Lynn  
Altar/Communion – Deb Hanquist  
Acolyte – Rylee  
Bell Ringer – Monty Jones

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

# April 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



**1**

Maundy  
Thursday  
7pm Service at  
Rising City

**2**

Good Friday  
7pm service at  
Swede Home

**3**

Easter Vigil, no  
service this  
year

**4**

Easter Sunday  
10:30 Worship  
With Communion

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

Mary Anna  
Circle, still in  
Covid  
restrictions

**9**

Miriam  
Circle—  
check with  
Diana

**10**

**11**

10:30  
Worship  
11:45  
Confirmation

**12**

**13**

**14**

Ruth Circle  
at Church  
Cheryl hosts

**15**

**16**

**17**

**18**

9:15 SS and  
Adult Forum  
10:30 Worship  
With Communion

**19**

**20**

**21**

**22**

Quilt Day

**23**

**24**

**25**

10:30  
Worship  
11:45  
Confirmation

**26**

**27**

**28**

**29**

**30**

<b>Know God, Love God, Share God's Love</b>
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## COUNCIL NOTES



- Council met following worship on March 7. Present: Kent, Dan O, Lynn, Fran, Sandy. Dan I and Todd. Absent: Pastor Sarah due to confirmation class.

- Council discussed providing audio or videos of worship services for shut-ins by recording services on CD's. Members will talk to our shut-ins to determine what they need and want.
- The Lenten offerings will be used to purchase needed recording receivers that are needed for our shut-ins and the remaining offerings will go to the Back Pack program.
- The Ice Cream Social will return this summer.
- The worship committee decided not to hold the Easter Vigil this year, however a devotional will be sent to our members.
- Pastor Sarah will be attending her husband's installation as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Seward on March 21. LeRoy Hoyer will lead worship here while she is away.
- The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer



**We have received a donation of a large print Bible, in excellent condition.**

**If you, or anyone you know is in need of a large print Bible,**

**please contact Linda.**

**You may certainly have it.**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$16,706.81</b>
<b>Offerings:</b>	
General Offering	10,112.00
Sunday School	5.00
Lenten	575.00
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	300.00
Zion for January Share	<u>913.25</u>
	11,910.25
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Adobe Reader Software	23.88
Christ in Our Home	77.20
Extra Mile Awards	100.00
Dumpster fee	114.00
Church Mutual - Bi-Annual Policy Fee	3,011.50
NE Synod ELCA - Mission Share	1,560.00
Rising City (February Share)	1,851.59
<b>Utilities:</b>	
Church	1,107.11
Parsonage	99.57
<b>Salaries:</b>	
Pastor	1,283.83
Portico Benefit Services (Jan & Feb 2021)	1,592.30
Commuting Allowance	366.91
SECA	127.68
Mileage	35.42
Cell Phone Allowance	32.50
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	<u>402.79</u>
	12,548.50
<b>Balance as of February 28, 2021:</b>	<b><u>\$16,068.56</u></b>

\*This page is only seen by Calvary Members

## **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.....