

# ...IN SACRED PLACES...

## CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Greetings in the name of our Lord & Savior  
Jesus Christ!*

A few weeks ago I spent a week in Savannah, Georgia along with 12 middle and high school students, my husband Miles, and the Youth Director at First Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Sharon. It was an amazing week of coming together as the Body of Christ, fellowship with sisters and brothers in Christ from different states and circumstances, and service alongside the community of Savannah.

The churches who joined us there were from Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi and the directors of the program were from California and Kansas. Besides the leader from Kansas, the rest of the group had never met anyone from Nebraska and questions abounded... "Is there Wi-Fi in Nebraska?", "what do you actually do besides farm in Nebraska?", and our favorites, "Where's Nebraska?" and "People actually live there?"

There were plenty of things there that were different for us too. The accent, the culture, and the ocean, to name a few. But what I found the most intriguing things were the trees. I've seen Spanish Moss in pictures, but I'd never seen it in person. And while Spanish Moss is full of chiggers and can sometimes be harmful to the tree, I found it to be stunningly beautiful. There were other trees too of course, trees that have withstood the test of time and stand tall with thick trunks and protruding roots.

There was one of these trees right on the property where we were housed throughout the week that drew my attention every time I walked through the doors. I've attached a picture of it below for you to see. Do you see those roots? They've grown so thick that not even concrete and asphalt can stop them from growing.

The author of Ephesians writes, "I pray that out of his glorious riches God may strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (*Ephesians 3:17-19, New International Version*) These are the verses I thought of every time I looked at that tree.

Each and every day we are made new in Christ, this is one of the amazing promises God has given us, experienced through our Sacraments, Baptism and Communion. Each and every day we die to our old selves and rise again in Jesus Christ through the forgiveness we have been freely given. And from this, we grow, each and every day. We are rooted, more and more, in the love of Christ that has freed us from all that weighs us down, the concrete and asphalt of our lives. And out of this love that brings us freedom, we serve one another. We share the love of Christ so that all may know of God's grace and mercy, so that all may live an abundant life where they too are rooted and grounded in love and with the strength of God, able to push through all that threatens our very lives.

May we all be like this tree. Growing unendingly in the love of God, rooting ourselves further and further in faith, not allowing anything to stand in our way.



*In God's love  
and grace,  
Pastor Sarah*



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# Announcements

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

Items will be delivered after August 29

*Please place items you wish to donate in the basket August items go to*

***Blue Valley Community Action***



Ice cream social 2021 is in the books, but the memories will last forever. We estimate close to 400 people attended this year—the social and fellowship filled our hearts with the Love of God. To add to the evening, we had music by Kevin and Heidi Cheng—**thank you, Church Council** for providing this entertainment.

In addition to the Social on Sunday evening, the Social went on the road Monday the 19th! 30 residents at MWCH Assisted Living and 10 residents at the Villa enjoyed the special treats and visiting with those who volunteered that day. Karen Gestrine took ice cream to the Osceola Assisted Living where 8 residents enjoyed the home made ice cream.

Thanks to each and every one who helped in any way and those who came and enjoyed! The beautiful flowers added to the festivities—we were able to get additional flowers from the garden of Lou Kresha. She is at the Farmer's Market in Osceola each Weds in August if you would like some of her flowers for your home.

Pictures are on page 10

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

Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended the ice cream social on July 18! We couldn't have done it without: 56 workers; 32 gallons ice cream; 26 dozen cookies; 8 pans brownies; 5 angel food cakes; and many beautiful vases of flowers! Whew! We also enjoyed serving at Midwest Covenant Home Assisted Living and Plaza Apartments on July 19. Thanks to Karen Gestrine for taking ice cream to Osceola's Assisted Living, too.

\*Service for month of August is Thankoffering number 2. This goes to support women at home and around the world. If you'd like to give an offering but are unable to attend circle, please mail your check to Bonnie Carlson, 12929 Twin Pines, Rd., Osceola, NE 68651. Thank you.

\*Altar care for August is Kathi Jones and Mary Stevens. September will be Gloria Oquist.

\*Flowers in August by Ruth. Thank you, Linda, for watering the plants. September & October flowers will be by Mary Anna circle.

\*August coffees after church are by Ruth Circle. Please remember LaVerne's birthday coffee on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

\*Quilting fun and fellowship will be on August 26th. Please join us. If you like to sew, you are welcome to make some quilt blocks at home, 21" square, or assemble any size blocks to make tops 60" x 80". Needed are backing fabrics sized 64" x 84" or bigger - sheets work well. Any fabric donations are always welcome. Thank you!

### AUGUST

*Hostess/Dessert    Bible Study*

Ruth – 8/11            Cheryl            *cleaning instead*

Mary Anna- 8/13            *Undecided*

Miriam – 8/13            Corinne            *none listed*

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." ~ 1 Peter 4:10*

*Grace & Peace to you            Cheryl*

## Confirmation Camp

## RECIPES



### W O R S H I P

By all accounts, Confirmation Camp 2021 was a HUGE success. Eli Fjell, Rylee Hofmann, Peyton Hofmann and Koleton Udey had a great time – and all said they would like to go back. The picture above is the worship site called Angel’s Gulch. Every day began and ended with worship.

Peyton- I love going to Carol Joy Holling. I always make new friends and create tons of memories. I would go again in a heartbeat and I strongly recommend going! There are so many fun activities. Some of them were going on a mud hike and absolutely covering ourselves in mud, or the high ropes that had us holding onto each others arms in fear we would lose balance. (we were harnessed in so we wouldn't fall) But I had a really great time!

Rylee- I loved camp! I made some new friends and it was really fun. One thing that tested my comfort level was high ropes, because we had to rely on each other for support and balance but I would do it again. I really liked 9 square and human foosball. I would recommend going to Carol Joy Holling

Koleton— I had lots of fun and meet lots of new friends that he is still in contact with and talks to every day. I loved playing in the mud and the games that they played.

Eli—I really enjoyed camp and all the fun things we did. I met a new friend from Columbus, and found out that he and my dad were friends!

There are more pictures on page 9 of the newsletter. When you see one of the confirmands, ask about camp, they will enjoy sharing the experience they had.

This month’s recipe comes from LaVerne Stevens. She says it is a family favorite and it is a recipe given to her by one of her aunts.

### Carrot Casserole

12 carrots, cooked and sliced

1 onion, minced and brown in 1/4 cup butter

Add 1/4 cup flour,

1/2 teaspoon salt,

2 cups milk

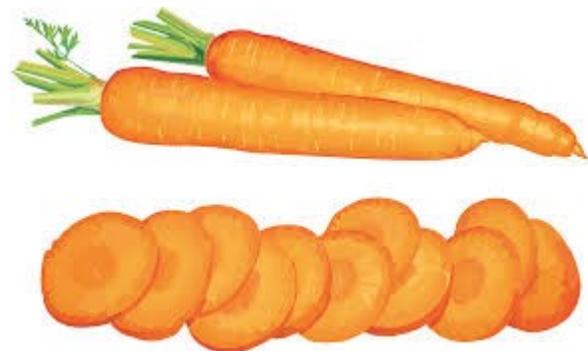
1/4 tsp dry mustard, 1/4 tsp celery salt, dash pepper

Cook. Then add 1/2 lb. cubed cheese

Layer the cooked sliced carrots and the cheese mixture in a 9”x13” baking dish.

Top with 3 ups soft bread cubes which have been stirred in 1/4 cup butter.

Bake 1 hour in 350 degree oven.



## YOUTH NEWS

## UPCOMING EVENT

# Confirmation Class

With the start of school comes the start of confirmation classes. Pastor Sarah is working with the parents to coordinate start times and dates.

Please keep this class in your prayers as they continue their instruction in faith



The starting date for Sunday School has not been finalized. The Staff and Pastor are working on coordinating Sunday School and Confirmation times.

We will send notification to all involved by email. In the meantime, enjoy the remaining days of summer before school starts.



The family of LaVerne Stevens invites everyone to join them for a birthday coffee after church on Sunday, August 8. They will be celebrating Laverne's 97th birthday .

Please join them for the coffee and celebrating Laverne special day which is August 12th.



Members of the Swede Home congregation have received an invitation to the wedding reception for the celebration of marriage to Ryleigh Ienn and her future husband, Ryland. Ryleigh is the daughter of Dan and Fawn Ienn and granddaughter of Bonnie and Jim Carlson.

The reception will be on the 2nd of October, 2021 beginning at 5:30 pm at the Event Center in Hordville. Please RSVP by September 15th by text to Ryleigh at 402-594-1203.

We keep them in our prayers as they unite in marriage.

## Off to college and careers



In addition to elementary, middle school and high school students (and the teachers) starting classes this month, we have several Swede Home members off to college. Some are going for their first year, some are continuing their education, some working on their masters. We are so proud of each and every one of them. Please keep them in your prayers

Ceagen Watts—will be attending Hastings College and in addition to his studies, he will be on the golf team

Colby Nelson—plans to continue with his summer employment. School plans are currently undecided

Carter Fjell—attending Central Community College, generals this semester

Elise Fjell—attending 2nd year at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, plans to bridge into Wayne State in early childhood development

Jadyn Johnson—attending University of Nebraska at Kearney pursuing a degree in business

Meghan Johnson—continuing her education by enrolling at University of Nebraska at Kearney for her Educational Specialist (Ed.S) degree in School Psychology to become a School Psychologist

Jacob Adelson—Southeast Community College in Milford.

Addresses will be included in the September newsletter in case anyone wants to drop them a note.



## From the Past

We received an interesting email from Henry Nordling Eakland, a great-grandson of one of the early pastors at Swede Home, Pastor Jonas E. Nordling. We have contact information, if anyone is interested in corresponding with him. He included a very informative article on Pastor Jonas Nordling. It is lengthy, but I would like to include it for you all to read. It is quite a reflection on the ways of the world and area during the founding of our church. I will be including it in this, and upcoming newsletters.

From “Korsbaneret 1912: by F. N. Swanberg

**Jonas Nordling** However close a resemblance one finds between people in many details, no two are exactly alike; and some are unlike all others. Such people we call original even if we do not wish to call the rest merely copies. Jonas Nordling was, to all his associates, very original. A serious evangelism pervaded his personality. His attitude toward personal possessions was that they should not be more important than Christian preaching. Integrity and truth, diligence and capability won his people’s admiration and love. He was one of the few pastors in the conference who stayed with his first congregational almost his entire career.

James Nordling was born in Vase congregation, Karlstad’s parish, Sweden on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 1853. His father was Erik Larson, a respected and god-fearing farmer, good natured and convivial. His mother, Stina Nilsson, was a serious, god-fearing grave woman, the mother of 13 children of which Jonas was number 11. To become acquainted with this woman was a real privilege because she presented a holy aloofness. For the calling she had great respect, but that did not hinder her from asking the pastor, as she would anyone else, if he “believed in Jesus?” She never criticized the sermon, even if others thought it slight; it was God’s word. Sometimes it happened that when a preacher who hadn’t a pleasing voice making it hard to understand him held forth twice as long as usual, she would say: **“I sat and prayed to God that He would give him permission to quit.”** She had a strong sense of humor to which Jonas Nordling fell heir. He grew up in Varmland during the immigration of wave after wave of “Pietism.” Early he sat in school to a devoted Christian schoolteacher, deaconess Augusta Brunsell. He showed interest, ability and good progress. (continued next month)

*Meet a Member*

Linda Fuhr grew up on a farm near Leigh, Nebraska, daughter of Arnold and Sylvia Olson. They were part of a 3-generation household, living with her paternal grandparents. She had 3 siblings (Arnold, Jr.; Betty and Jane – all deceased now).

Linda attended LCMS parochial school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, where they had confirmation there everyday for 2 years. (*I'm thinking our kids wouldn't like to trade their experience for that.*) Then she graduated from Leigh High School where she met Don Fuhr, her high school sweetheart, whom she later married.

They were engaged when he enlisted in the Army and he was stationed at Wildflecken, Germany. They were married when he returned, 52 years ago. Linda and Don lived in Seward while he attended Milford to study diesel mechanics. They moved to Osceola when Don got a job at the new John Deere dealership there.

Linda and Don have 2 daughters living in the Des Moines area. Their families are: Allison & Bill with kids Trey (20), Sydney (16) and Will (14); Alexa and Marc with kids Avery (21), Andrew (20) and Logan (10).

Linda has had many interesting jobs over the years, including working at the Polk County Courthouse; Osceola grade school; Polk County Health Department, Tabitha; and retired from the Cornerstone Bank Loan Department in York in 2016.

They've always loved to travel, and one of her favorite trips was to Glacier National Park in Montana with friends. They really enjoy going to Iowa for the grandkids' sporting events! Linda is also an avid fan of Husker Women's volleyball, basketball and softball. When a little quiet time presents itself, Linda enjoys reading books on her kindle.

Swede Home is lucky to have Linda as our reliable church secretary, and she really does like doing the newsletter! Thank you, Linda, for pouring your heart into everything you do!

**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,**



# AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Worship with Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30 am Worship— coffee for Laverne Stevens after church	9	10	11 Men's Bible Study  Ruth Circle	12	13 Miriam Circle	14
15 10:30 am Worship with Communion	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 10:30 am Worship service	23	24	25	26 Quilt Day	27	28
29 10:30 am Worship Service	30	31				



"Co-Op" is an activity that every group works on throughout the week. They are activities designed for teamwork and building trust with others. In this picture the group has to figure out how to get every single one of them up on that tiny little platform.



Mud Hikes are pretty self-explanatory...they hike through mud for fun!



There's 3 pictures of the High Ropes Course. The kids have to work together with their team to cross the elements, then they zipline down at the end. The first is of Eli, then a picture of the group and the last is Rylee

'Smor'ges'board" is an evening activity where they sing ridiculous songs and roast marshmallows over the fire.



## *Ice Cream Social 2021*

*The lawn was filled with people enjoying the evening*



The lines were long, but no one complained—the tables were full all evening, as extra chairs and tables were set up. God is good all the time, all the time God is Good. Thanks be to God for the blessings of the day

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

Church council met July 7, 2021. Present were Kent, Dan O., Dan I., Fran and Lynn

- \* The invitation to Midwest Covenant Home to speak in our congregation about their services has been delayed until fall
- \* We will offer to rent the parsonage during this interim time between pastors. The lease will be for six months with the renters reimbursing for the utilities.
- \* Peyton and Rylee Hofmann, Eli Fjell and Koleton Udey attended confirmation camp at Carol Joy Holding. They enjoyed it and would attend again
- \* Calvary and First Lutheran have renewed the contract with Pastor Sarah for the next six months with an increase in hours and salary
- \* The Stevens' family will host an after church coffee on the lawn on Sunday August 8 in honor of LaVerne Stevens' 97<sup>th</sup> birthday
- \* The treasurer's report was accepted
- \* Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer – next meeting will be August 1, 2021 after church service



### Treasurer's Report

	June
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$24,528.70</b>
<b>Offerings:</b>	
General Offering	7,241.00
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	300.00
First Lutheran R. C. for May Share	<u>1,420.91</u>
	8,966.91
<b>Transfer:</b> To General SAV Account	10,000.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Christ In Our Home	7.20
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.29
Communion Wafers	17.40
Harland Clarke Check Order	24.20
US Post Office; postage	30.00
Cody's Computer - Contract Agreement	34.99
Polk County New subscription	35.00
Boxed Offering Envelopes - Year: 2022	327.39
June Mowing & Tree Trimming	357.50
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,560.00
First Lutheran R. C. June Share	1,403.82
<b>Utilities:</b>	
Church	276.01
Parsonage	101.33
<b>Salaries:</b>	
Pastor Sarah Ruck	1,283.83
Portico Benefit Services	796.15
Commuting Allowance	366.91
SECA	127.68
Mileage	0.00
Cell Phone Allowance	32.50
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	<u>376.37</u>
	7,885.31
<b>Balance as of June 30, 2021:</b>	<b><u>\$15,610.30</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.....