



# 150 YEARS—1873–2023

## CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Stories are often shared as we gather with friends and family. Children especially love to tell stories with more details than adults. Their stories come to life as they use their whole body in the retelling.

We continue this month with the synod's focus of go and... This month our focus is the "Go and **share your story.**" These are the questions the synod encourages us to consider:

When was the last time you listened to a child tell a story?  
What did you hear?

What is a biblical story that connects with your own story?

What is your story? Where are you GOING to share your story?

A biblical story that connects with my own is the story of Moses. Specifically, I think of Miriam being helpful to her little brother. The following is a retelling of Exodus 2 is from *Grandma's Gospel* by Scharlotte Rich:

*A very long time ago in Egypt, an evil king called Pharaoh made God's people, the Hebrews, work very hard as slaves. Pharaoh thought there were too many Hebrews, so he made a terrible law that all Hebrew boy babies were to be thrown into the river and killed. One brave mother hid her little son at home for three months. But the day came when she couldn't hide him any longer. Then she had an idea. She made a small basket and covered it with tar so it would float. Then she carefully hid her baby in the basket in the thick, tall grass by the Nile River. But she couldn't stand around and watch him, because Pharaoh's soldiers would find the baby and kill him! What could she do?*

*The baby had a sister whose name was Miriam. Miriam wanted to help. "I love my little brother dearly," said Miriam. "I will pretend to work and play down by the river. I will watch over my little brother and not let anything or anybody hurt him."*

*"I don't know," said her mother. "You are so young, and it is dangerous. What will I do if you get caught? You will have to be very smart and very careful!"*

*"I will pray, and God will help me." said Miriam. "I am not afraid." So the sister watched over her little brother as his small*

*basket floated in the river. Suddenly, her heart jumped and she couldn't breathe! Pharaoh's daughter was walking down by the river with her servants! She was coming to take a bath. She saw the basket and told her servants to bring it to her. When she opened the basket, the frightened baby cried. The princess felt sorry for him and said, "Oh. This must be one of the Hebrew babies. He is wonderful! I shall keep him!" Miriam was afraid, but she thought quickly! She bravely ran up to Pharaoh's daughter and smiled. "May I please help?" she asked, "I could find a woman to take care of the baby for you!"*

*"Yes, that would be good!" said the princess. So, Miriam ran and brought back her own mother, the baby's real mother! Now the mother was able to safely care for her baby at home until he grew older. But then she had to take him to the palace to live with the princess. That must have been very hard for her and Miriam. Pharaoh's daughter named the boy Moses, which means, "he came out of the water." Young Moses lived in the palace and was treated as her royal son. He grew up to become a great leader of God's people.*

I have been on many mission trips where what we did helped others and even changed lives. I remember one year when we were in Mississippi, and we helped clean up the community building that had been destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Little kids from the neighborhood came to see what we were doing, and we very excited that the center might be open again. They shared stories of what it was like before the hurricane and were excited to create more in the future.

In the story, Miriam helped her family by caring for her little brother. Trusting in God's protection, she made sure Moses would be able to live. Share this story with a little one in your life and see what stories they share in return. You may learn something new about that child and about the well-known story of Moses.

+Peace

Pastor Hillary

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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 August donations go to:*

*Blue Valley Community Action*

**GO AND...**  
**SHARE YOUR STORY**

Pastor Hillary's article, continued:

**Prayer:** Creator God, our story starts and ends with you. Give us the wisdom to see where and how we might share our stories and the courage to share them. Amen.

Bible Study Option:

The Bible is a story book: the stories of God's people—our story. In the lectionary, two well-known stories are shared this month. The story of Jesus feeding the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21) and the story of Jesus walking on water (Matthew 14:22-33). Read one of these stories, either alone, with a group, or with your family. Put yourself in this Bible story. Who are you in the story? Why are you there? How are you responding? What would you be thinking? As you share your story, how will you share your experience with others?

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

\*Thank you to everyone who helped with and attended the ice cream social on July 16! We couldn't have done it without: 54 workers; 34 gallons ice cream; 26 dozen cookies; 8 pans brownies; 6 angel food cakes; and MANY vases of beautiful flowers! Whew! Special thanks to Kay & Bonnie for their leadership! We also enjoyed serving at Midwest Covenant Home Assisted Living and Plaza Apartments on July 17. Thank you to Mary Stevens for arranging that and to all who were helpers that afternoon.

\*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.

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

\*August coffees after church are by Ruth Circle. There will be opportunities to sign up for fall and winter coffees soon, beginning in September.

\*August 13 will be our special celebration for Swede Home's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I hope you'll be able to enjoy the festivities with everyone as we have a special worship service with the Bishop and former pastors, followed by a catered meal.

\*SAVE THE DATE: Nebraska Synod Women's Organization Convention will be Oct. 6-7-8 at Carol Joy Holling Conference & Retreat Center by Ashland. Registration forms will be here soon!

### AUGUST CIRCLE MEETINGS

*Hostess/Dessert Bible Study*

Ruth – 8/9 Deb Cramer @ 4<sup>th</sup> St. Coffee in Burg

Miriam – 8/10 (none listed) Sandy J.

*Grace & Peace to you,*

Cheryl



### What's Happening

### What's Happening



On August 12th a very special lady, Laverne Stevens, will be celebrating 99 trips around the sun!

If you would like to send her birthday wishes, her address is:

Laverne Stevens  
901 Court St. #3  
Stromsburg, NE 68666

# What's Happening

The 150 anniversary worship service on August 13 is just 2 weeks away. Please plan on joining us for the service at 10:30 a.m., led by Nebraska Bishop Scott Johnson, along with several pastors who have led our congregation along the way.

There will be a congregational catered meal following the service, and you are invited to attend.

If you have not already done so, please call the church at 402-764-5981 and leave a message with the number in your family attending. You may email the church at [calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com)

You are most welcome to attend even if you don't RSVP, but by doing so, we will have a better idea of the number to give our caterer.

We are asking you to respond if you are out of towners or regular members. Thank you. Hope to see you there.

## Vacation TIME!

Pastor Hillary, Pastor Evan and Wilder will be on vacation, returning on August 9th.

If there is a need for pastoral care, please contact Linda, at 402-366-2091, or you may contact Pastor Brenda at Salem Lutheran, Stromsburg directly.

Pastor Brenda's contact number is 402-764-2651

On Saturday, July 29th, we welcomed Avery Irene Oquist to our family of faith. Avery was born April 25, 2023 to Sierra and Andrew Oquist. Grandparents are Steve Oquist and Paula Rollins. She is the great granddaughter of Alice Jane Oquist.



Her sponsors are Megan Oquist and Andie Leigh Oquist.

Welcome to God's Kingdom, Avery



In keeping with the old fashioned summer church get togethers, the council will be serving watermelon on the lawn following the catered meal. We encourage you, following the meal to stay and visit and enjoy the fellowship.

## POTLUCK CHURCH

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On the evening of July 6, Swede Home held a Potluck church service. The service included communion, as we each served the elements to our neighbor and a simple service of worship and prayer.

Included in the evening was a Potluck meal. The kitchen was filled with the smells of wonderful potluck food - and just as the feeding of the 5,000 there was more than enough food to serve everyone, and then some!

Approximately 35 people attended, and it was agreed that this event should happen again. What a way to worship our Lord and share in fellowship with our friends and neighbors. We are thankful to Pr Hillary and Pr Evan for introducing us to this new way to worship



Calvary Lutheran Church  
 Nebraska Synod, ELCA  
 950 129th Road  
 Stromsburg, NE 68666  
 Church Phone: (402)764-5981  
[www.calvaryswedehomechurch.com](http://www.calvaryswedehomechurch.com)  
 Email [calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com](mailto: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, Church Office Manager  
 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](mailto:evan@pastorchristensen.com)

**Pastor Hillary** Cell Phone 402-980-1102 (text or call)  
 Email: [hillary@pastorchristensen.com](mailto: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 Office Manager at  
[calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com) or text or call  
 402-366-2091, If you have not done so, follow **Swede Home** on  
 our Facebook page.



*Meet a Member – Kathi Jones*



I was born in Superior, Nebraska. I lived on the family farm 4 miles east of Superior, and went to country school (the same one my dad attended) until 8<sup>th</sup> grade. On the farm I helped dad set siphon tubes for irri-

gation.

When I was a senior, my dad quit farming and took a job in Columbus, NE, so I graduated from Columbus High. After high school, I attended Platte College for one year and then got a job at Dale Electronics. While living in Columbus, I met my husband, Rick. In the meantime, my dad's job took him back to Superior, so Rick and I were married in the Catholic Church in Superior on May 1, 1976.

We then settled in Osceola and have lived here ever since. I joined Swede Home shortly after marriage. We have two children. Ryan lives out on the family farm and is very involved with the cattle operation. He is also the janitor at the Elementary School in Osceola and is a substitute teacher. Brita lives in Fort Collins, CO and is the Director of Training for the Bank of Colorado.

I am retired after working 35 years in the medical field with various jobs the last of which were medical coding and billing.

Rick and I stay very busy with the farming aspect of our lives. We have a cow/calf operation of which I am an evening shift hired hand. I also have picked up big round bales with my tractor. I also mow the farmstead.

My hobbies include bowling, golfing and my yard. I love my flowerbeds and fresh flowers from them. Rick and I manage to go to Tucson, AZ for two months in the winter, which we enjoy. Our kitty, Lulabelle, travels with us. She is pretty special to me.

I really love Swede Home. It is like a second family to me. I have made so many good friends from the church. The church service and all we do out there means a lot to me.

Thank you Kathi, Swede Home is glad that you and your family are a part of the Swede Home Family.

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN  
YOUR PRAYERS



- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Melissa Forsberg | Jan Wells-Bachman |
| Janice Forsberg  | Luna Stauber      |
| June Larson      | Emmy              |
| Paula Oquist     | Duane Jones       |
| Beth Wienik      | Sally Sterup      |
|                  | Charles Hays      |
|                  | Karen Gestrine    |
- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action
  - Houses for Health recipients.
  - 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

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



ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

AUGUST

- 12 Gary & Jean Waller
- 19 Dan & Lisa Oquist
- 27 Randy & Fran Lott

- 02 April Neujahr
- 03 Riley Oquist
- 07 Patty Teig
- 07 Ryan Fjell
- 09 Jennifer Fjell
- 09 Kiley Nielsen
- 10 Dennis Hinkle
- 11 Amy Harris
- 12 LaVerne Stevens
- 21 Jarrett Althouse
- 21 Brita Jones
- 22 Tim Althouse
- 24 Megan Oquist
- 25 Roger Hanquist
- 25 Kelby Neujahr
- 30 Brody Ienn
- 31 Steve Udey



**THANK YOU**

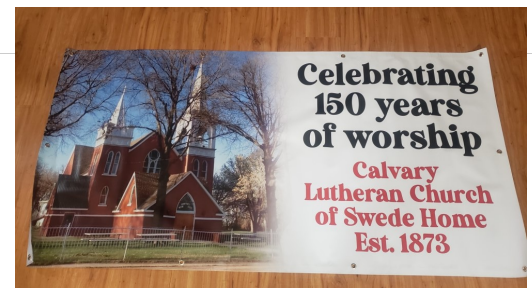
*Thank you to all the members who continue with their financial support for Swede Home Church. In these trying times, we realize even more the words "to give as you are able"*

**AUGUST**

- Assistant Minister – Rick Jones
- Scripture Reader – Anita Haack
- Ushers – Rick and Kathi Jones
- Altar – Kathi Jones
- Acolyte – TBA
- Bell Ringer – Mark Jones

# AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Hillary and Pastor Evan return from vacation on August 9		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 am Worship Service with communion	7	8 7 pm Men's Bible Study at Wayne Johnson	9 9am Ruth Circle at 4th Street Coffee shop	10 9 am Miriam Circle	11	12
13 10:30 am Communion Service with Bishop Johnson—150th Anni- versary Celebration meal to follow	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:30 am Worship service with communion	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:30 am Worship Service	28	29	30	31		





# Ice Cream Social 2023



Thanks be to God for blessing us with another beautiful evening for the Ice Cream Social! And thanks be to you the Congregation for your support and help! It could NOT be done without you!!! By bowl count I'm going to say we served right at 350 on Sunday evening and we served 39 on Monday at the Midwest Covenant Home. Our proceeds totaled \$2,780.70, this includes \$120.00 given by members to defray expenses and \$60.00 for 2 buckets and a partial of ice cream

that was sold. The 2023 Ice Cream Social was another huge success thanks to all of you and to the faithful Social Committee; Cheryl & Deb H. for lining up all the ice cream, cookies & bars, and shift workers; Linda for doing the advertising, mailings, etc.; Mary for the beautiful flower arrangements; & Bonnie for her help in coordinating the Social. Gratefully yours, Kay



Special out of town guests were: Pastors Rebecca and Rich and their daughters Erin and Grace. We are so glad they could be here for the celebration.



## COUNCIL NOTES

July 9 meeting, following worship

Present: Kent, Randy, Jarrett, Lynn, Missy, Kris, Dan, Todd, Pastor Evan  
Absent: None

Church Council agreed to keep Q150 special offering local for the youth. Welcome back to school donations (school supplies, shoes, coats, etc.).

3 Point Chairs (Randy, Jeremy, Wally) meet twice a year and will meet this summer.

Property Committee updates : No longer working with BD. Trevor Stutzman from Friend is interested. Reviewing our plans & will respond in 2 weeks. Congregation will be updated with the total amount for repairs/updates once available. **2)** Restroom sign will be put up. **3)** Leaky hydrant west side of church has been shut off & will be fixed after the social.

Leroy Hoyer will fill pulpit during Pastors' vacation July 30th-August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Will not have Nebraska Brass in 2024.

Q150 report: First Rising City will provide a Bouquet for August 13. FYI – there is a community fundraiser on August 13 at Osceola for Dave Berritt at Osceola Fire Department, also the FFA will be having their consignment auction.

October happenings: **1)** Diana's reception is October 22 - will serve a special coffee after her worship program. **2)** Beer and Hymns will be Friday Oct 27 at 6pm with meat & cheese tray and potluck. Bring cans of food.

Church highway signs : All 3 signs need replaced (need 6 all together since doubled sided. ) More information to follow.

### Treasurer's Report

	<b>June 2023</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$8,654.56</b>
<b>Offerings:</b>	
General Offering	8,288.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
Facility Use Offering	440.00
Purchase of Metal Folding Chairs	60.00
Q150 Mission Giving	187.00
ELCA Mission Share	500.00
	<u>9,480.00</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	10.36
Snapfish-Missing Confirmation Pictures	15.45
Safe Deposit Box Annual Rent Fee	16.00
Text Messaging System-monthly fee	22.00
Cody's Computer - Contract Agreement	39.99
Polk County New - Annual Subscription	40.00
Office Supplies & Postage	51.72
Christ In Our Home	85.90
Polk County New - Q150 April Display Ads	236.00
Synod Assemble; Laypersons lodging	136.06
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,580.00
First Lutheran R. C. June Share	1,814.01
Augustana Genoa June Share	2,772.18
<b>Utilities:</b>	
Church Parson- age	287.48
Genoa Parsonage	51.94
	133.68
<b>Salaries:</b>	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,474.56
Portico Benefit Services	1,207.12
Commuting Reimbursement	158.33
SECA	217.68
Mileage Reimbursement	147.56
Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
Synod Assembly Lodging	51.71
Professional Expense - Pastor Evan Diana	10.41
LeeAnn	476.24
Linda	241.50
	<u>283.97</u>
	12,599.85
<b>Balance as of June 30, 2023:</b>	<b><u>\$5,534.71</u></b>

## **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.....