



150 YEARS—1873–2023

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



GO AND... TELL THE STORY

Happy Easter! Our go and theme this month is: “Go and tell the story.” Storytelling has been a part of humanity since the earliest forms of spoken language. We encounter storytelling from the oral traditions of Adam and Eve to the articles, novels, and writings we publish every day. Storytelling is a way by which we learn about the world around us. While we lived in West Virginia, I learned of a new way to do hysterical event, the participants told tall tales, and the “best” liar would win. We were able to go to one contest, and it was so intriguing to hear the stories about folklore of the Appalachian Mountains. Some were traditional stories and others were completely new ones that the liar made up themselves. These stories were very entertaining and completely untrue (no matter what the *liar* told you!)

We tell stories every day. Yes, sometimes stories that are tall tales, but often stories that speak truth about ourselves or the people in our lives. Some stories we hear are for entertainment. Other stories inform. Stories surround us everywhere we go. This month we are challenged to Go And tell the story. And what is the greatest story we can share with the world? The story of God, of course!

So the question for you is how do you go and tell the story of God?

We hear the story of God every Sunday in church and read it in the Bible. As Lutherans, we sometimes shy away from sharing God’s story, especially in public! Sometimes we assume that people already know the story, which many do, but this is not always the case.

So how do we go about sharing God’s story? We can share the stories of the Bible, and we can share the story of our faith. And we can share how God’s story has been a part of your life story. We have just celebrated Easter, and we continue in the Easter season and story for the next month and a half. We will hear the stories of Jesus after the resurrection and what he did to convince the non-believers that he truly rose from the grave. So go and let us do the same, go out, go share, go proclaim, and go tell the story. Share your faith! Amen!

- Peace, Pastor Hillary

Questions to Consider:

What is one of your favorite Bible stories?

- Is there a prop or tangible item you might use to help you tell the story?

How will you *GO and* tell the story?

Prayer: Master Storyteller, your stories seem almost unbelievable. Open us to recognize your patience, deep love, and grace. Help me be a storyteller. Amen.

Suggested Song: I Love to Tell the Story (ELW 661)

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*

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 14th, 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 and lots of laughs. Please join us if you can. Let’s enjoy some fellowship time doing this project. You are welcome to join us for supper around 5, even if you don’t do the litter pick up!

If needed, the rain date will be Sunday, April 21st



“Meals from the Heart”

We would like to have an organizational meeting of those interested in helping with Meals from the Heart. Agenda items include the need to decide which foods to prepare and when to meet for freezing food next; contact information for the county; and letter with logo for recipients.

Let’s meet in the church basement during coffee after church on Sunday, April 21. If you have questions, please talk to Cheryl Jones.

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*We are invited to bring lilies or other spring flowers for Easter worship on March 31

Saved to Serve Retreat on May 3-5 will be in Blair, assisting 19 year-olds exiting out of Foster Care System in Nebraska. Lutheran Family Services purchased (former) Dana College Campus and created the Angel Share program to help those exiting Foster Care. Come help prepare snacks & meals with the youth; help assemble personal care bags; and help with tying or sewing quilt squares for them. Registrations due April 19, cost is \$39. Look for registration forms in the church entry for more details. We will be collecting tangible items for them at church – please bring by May 1. Tangible offering items collected will be shampoo, conditioner & soap; laundry items; toilet paper; feminine hygiene products and full/queen quilts. *Thanks!*

*Spring Gathering will be April 13 in Grand Island at St. Paul’s Lutheran. Registrations due on April 3. Forms at church.

*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. We will meet at Salem Church in Stromsburg on Wednesday April 3 at 9 am. There are a large number of bags to pack, please consider coming to help.. 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.

*Highway Litter Pick-up is scheduled for Sunday, April 14 at 4 p.m. with a possible rain date 4/21.

April Circles

Ruth – 4/10 Deb H. at 4th St. Coffee House

Miriam – 4/11 Marj Johnson

Blessings,

Cheryl

Church happenings

Church happenings



• Pastor Hillary and Pastor Evan will keep the youth group updated regarding meeting dates. They use either text or email notification.



Let
Your
Light
Shine!

**Women of the Word
Spring Gathering**

All ladies are invited

Sunday, April 14, 2024 5:30 pm

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Osceola**

**Fun, Fellowship, Music and
Salad Supper**

**RSVP—by April 10 to
Louise (402) 747-6531**

Or

Diana (402) 363-3737



— Youth Road Trip —

OKC
Oklahoma City, OK

SIGN-UP BY APRIL 30

MAY 23 – 26 | **\$300** SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

ACTIVITIES AND ATTRACTIONS

- College Visit - Bethany College In Lindsborg, KS
- Daily Worship & Devotion time
- Volunteer at "Hope's Kitchen"/OKC Food bank
- Worship at a "Mega Church"
- Visit Lutheran churches in OKC
- Oklahoma City Memorial
- "Mix-Tape" at Factory Obscura
- National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
- Shopping and exploring the city!
- Top Golf

— Youth Road Trip —

OKC
Oklahoma City, OK

SIGN-UP BY APRIL 30

MAY 23 – 26 | **\$300** SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Thank You

Recipes

We recently received your church's gift of \$590 from the Swede Home Endowment Fund to Lutheran Family Services. Your donation is going to make a huge difference for people in need. Already these funds are being funneled into critical projects to further our goal to built and strengthen individual, family and community life. Your ongoing support and commitment ensure we have resources to continue these programs.

We couldn't do what we do without churches like you to share in our mission to demonstrate God's love and to serve our neighbors in need. Our 2024 themes is "Real Help, Real Hope" and your donation allows us to offer **real help and real hope**, as we support individuals and families through our core services of behavioral health, children's services, family services, and new Americans.

Thank you for believing in our mission and helping us make a positive impact in our communities.

Chris Tonniges, President and CEO

Lutheran Family Services

THANK YOU

To the members of
Calvary Lutheran Church

From the

NEBRASKA SYNOD

Of the ELCA in grateful appreciation for giving

\$18,975.00

For Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and churchwide ministries of the ELCA

Once again we have Ben Carlson to thank for tis month's recPerfect Bread Pudding. Ben wrote that this was always a special treat, as my Mom would use up the homemade bread that her Mom would bake, before it would get old Grandma would pour milk (or cream) over it

Since many of you may have left over Easter or sweet rolls, this may be a perfect way to use them.

Perfect Bread Pudding

2 ¼ cup milk
2 slightly beaten eggs
2 cups 1 inch day old bread cubes
½ cup brown sugar
½ teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup seedless raisins (optional)

Combine milk and eggs. Pour over bread cubes. Stir in remaining ingredients

Pour mixture in an 8-inch round baking dish.

Place baking dish in shallow pan on oven rack; pour hot water around baking dish to 1 inch deep.

Bake at 350 degrees about 45 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between center and outside comes out clean.



2024 CHRISM MASS

Chrism(krizəm), also known as *myrrh* or *myron*, is the fragrant oils used during baptisms and other anointings. Tradition holds that ministers gathered annually in worship and fellowship during a service at which the Bishop preaches, presides, and consecrates the chrism. During this service, the gathered ministers of all varieties renew their commitment to their care and leadership in the church. This includes Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Pastors), Ministers of Word and Service (Deacons), Parish Ministry Associates (PMAs), and ever the Synod's Bishop. Joining them in support and encouragement are often parishioners of the hosting congregations, who also prepare a meal for the ministerial leaders following the mass. Throughout the history of the Nebraska Synod, the Chrism Mass has been held in as many as nine or more locations spread across the territory in a single year. Yet in the years since the Covid-19 pandemic, in-person worship and fellowship for this tradition had been suspended.

This year Bishop Scott Alan Johnson and his team at the Synod Office were able to coordinate with local congregations around the synod to host a total of six Chrism Masses during the Season of Lent. Gatherings in Oshkosh (St. Mark's) and Lexington (Grace) happened the first week of March. During the next week, worship and fellowship happened in Gretna (Resurrection) and Pierce (Christ). Finally, during the week leading up to Holy Week, there was a gathering in Adams (American) and Stromsburg (Salem).

Pastors Hillary and Evan served as the host pastors for this final Chrism Mass at Salem Lutheran Church while they are without a called pastor. They were joined by Pastor James Anderson, who is an experienced pastor but new to the Nebraska Synod and has been serving as a supply minister Salem in recent months. About two dozen ministry leaders of all sorts gathered to renew their commitment to Christ's church, receive newly consecrated chrism, and share in wonderful fellowship.

Providing supportive ministry (both spiritually and practically) and encouragement such as this is just one of the ways Bishop Scott and the Synod Office lead and care for the Nebraska Synod, and Pastors Hillary and Evan, as well as so many, give thanks for their leadership.

2024 CHRISM MASS



All photos provided by Bishop Scott Alan Johnson.

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
Amy Harris and Janet Nielsen, Music
Linda Fuhr, Church Office Manager
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:

Andrew Adelson, Jennifer Fjell, 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 Office Manager at
calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com or text or call
402-366-2091, If you have not done so, follow **Swede Home** on
our Facebook page.

Save to Serve Retreat on May 3-5 will be in Blair, assisting 19 year-olds exiting out of Foster Care System in Nebraska. Lutheran Family Services purchased (former) Dana College Campus and created the Angel Share program to help those exiting Foster Care. Come help prepare snacks & meals with the youth; help assemble personal care bags; and help with tying or sewing quilt squares for them.. Contact Cheryl for more information

Meet the Member - Ethan Fjell



I grew up on a farm North of Stromsburg with my parents Jen and Ryan Fjell. I have an older sister, Elise, and an older brother Carter, along with a younger brother Eli.

I go to school at Shelby-Rising City in Shelby and I will

graduate this May. I plan to attend Northeast Community College in Norfolk and get an Electrical Construction degree.

My family and I have spent Thanksgiving in Colorado at Keystone for several years. This year, following the wrestling season, we went to Mexico. My favorite interests are participating in sports and my woodworking projects. I have participated in football, wrestling, and golf during high school. I also was involved with the set crew for the One-act play at school. It was quite a season, ending at the state competition. I was able help build the set used for the play.

For fun I like to spend time with my friends. My favorite way to relax is to watch TV and take naps

I am really passionate about the gun cabinet that I am making as my woods project at school. I also like to sit in the tractor working the fields.

Swede Home means a lot to me. I enjoy visiting with people I don't get to see every day and catch up with them. I really like all the nice people that are part of the church, because even though I don't know them really well they treat me like a good friend and always have a smile for me.

It is safe to say that Swede Home feels the same about you, Ethan. Your smile always makes us happy. We are so glad to have you and your family in our faith family.

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Mark Udey
 Monty Jones
 Kathi Jones
 Duane Jones
 Lois Fick
 Janice Forsberg Melissa Forsberg
 June Larson
 Beth Jones Wienck
 Jan Wells Bachman
 Luna Stauber
 Joe and Jackie Fjell Alan Willits



- 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
- Our companion synods in Tanzania and Argentina

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

There will be a special congregational meeting following worship service on Sunday, April 14.

Purpose of the meeting is to consider and vote on additional funding for the parsonage completion.

The details are printed on page 9 and 10 of the newsletter

ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

- 2 Steve and Sandy
 Fredricksen
- 19 Duane and Carol Jones



BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

- 06 Alice Jane Oquist
- 09 Ryleigh Ienn
- 16 Ben Carlson
- 20 Mike Haack
- 21 Tom Stevens
- 30 Lisa Oquist



APRIL

Assistant Minister - Sandy Johnson

Scripture Reader – Sandy Johnson

Ushers – Dan and Fawn Ienn

Altar – Deb Hanquist

Acolyte –

Bell Ringer –

We thank all those who agree to help with the worship service each month. **Please let Jean Waller or Carolyn Nielsen know if you can help**

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9am Pack Backs at Salem Church	4	5	6
7 10:30 worship service	8	9 7pm Men's Bible Study at Wayne Johnson	10 9am Ruth Circle at 4th Street	11 9am Miriam Circle at Marj Johnson	12	13
14 10:30 worship Service, Special Congregational Meeting, 4 pm High way pick up	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:30 am Worship Service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 am Worship Service	29	30				

COUNCIL NOTES

March 2024

Church Council met on March 4, 2024, following worship service

Present: Kent, Dan, Andrew, Jarrett, Jennifer, Missy, Pastor Evan
 Absent: Randy, Kris

Andrew is working with Copy Cat in GI on the Church Highway Signs.
 Diana's duties were reviewed and assigned.
 Property Committee updates:

Parsonage updates:

March 12th - starting with full crew.
 Inventory list being done and will present to the congregation first before disposal
 Kitchen door was replaced.
 Spongy tile on kitchen floor is being addressed
 Front doors need refinishing again and possible gutter guards. More to come.
 Sunday School furnace - looking into replacing whole system (heating and air).

Church Mutual Insurance is being reviewed.

Internet coverage for parsonage and church is being replaced with Starlink.

Memorial Grant for building improvements - outside elevator push button. Pastor Even will follow up.



Treasurer's Report

February 2024

Beginning Balance	\$18,896.17
Offerings:	
General Offering	8,701.00
Lent Offerings for Backpack Program	517.00
NE Synod ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
LSTC - Diana's Scholarship Challenge	1,000.00
ELCA Mission Share	<u>450.00</u>
	10,673.00
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee & TC % Fee	10.36
Text Messaging Flocknote	22.00
Adobe Reader Software f/Website	23.88
Harland Check Order	27.15
Cody's Computer Contract	39.99
Kitchen Supplies; coffee cups, creamers	52.66
Noyd Repair, LLC - Sunday School Furnace	198.00
LSTC - Diana's Scholarship Challenge	1,000.00
Church Mutual - Pkg & Lay Worker's Comp	4,300.62
Church Mutual - Worker's Comp f/Clergy	88.12
NE Synod ELCA - Mission Share	1,595.00
First English - February Share	1,986.83
Augustana - February Share	3,009.09
Utilities:	
Church	1,331.05
Parsonage	444.90
Genoa Parsonage	163.74
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,684.96
Portico Benefit Services	1,275.72
Commuting Reimbursement	158.34
SECA	236.24
Mileage Reimbursement	174.95
Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
Amy & Janet	350.92
Lay/Music Mileage	349.74
LeeAnn	250.73
Linda	<u>533.32</u>
	20,346.31
Balance as of February 29, 2024:	<u>\$9,222.86</u>
Designated \$\$ Transferred to Applicable SAV Acct:	
Improvement Fund	\$ 1,150.00

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.....