



# ...IN SACRED PLACES...

## CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIM

*I need a silent night, a holy night  
To bear an angel voice through the chaos and the noise  
I need a midnight clear, a little piece right here  
To end this crazy day with a silent night*  
Words and music by Amy Grant



If you haven't already noticed, Christmas is on its way. In fact, since Christmas decorations have been in the stores for at least the past month, it's hard to believe that we still have almost a month until the big day. Christmas is a beautiful time of year. The smells of cinnamon and pine needles, the hymns and songs sung only in December make our hearts swell, the twinkling lights that warm up the cold, dark night skies comfort us, and the ancient story of Jesus' birth engages and inspires me. There is so much to love about Christmas—the nativities, the angels and snowmen, the carols and they hymns, the trees and ornaments and gifts and family gatherings. And yet, as wonderful as it is, the Christmas season can also spiral into a chaotic and stressful time. There are many moments when we find ourselves saying- like the Amy Grant song- I need a silent night...

This is where our faith comes to our aid for we are blessed with a season called Advent. It is the season before Christmas, four Sundays where we light candles on the advent wreath. But Advent is about more than lighting candles to stem off the darkness. It is a season of waiting, but not idleness. It is waiting with preparation, expectation, and anticipation. We remember those who waited for the birth of the Christ child. We wait with them, not for the birth of Christ, but for the return of Christ and the peace and joy that it will bring. In the meantime, we anticipate and ponder how Christ

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### THANK YOU . . .

Calvary Lutheran Church Quilt Group,  
Thank you for thinking of our kids at Youth For Christ. The new, newborn babies will for sure be warm & wrapped in love this fall & winter thanks to your careful work on the home-made quilts. Thank you so much!  
Blessings,  
Everyone at Youth for Christ

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Dear Friends at Swede Home,  
Thank you for your recent donation of food and supplies. You bring the "best stuff" that is needed often. Support such as yours is vital to the continued operations to provide services to survivors of domestic violence. We feel very blessed to receive your regular donations of food, funds, and supplies.  
Sincerely,  
Pat Lostroh and folks at Genesis House

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We spent a wonderful afternoon playing for about 90 very nice and enthusiastic people in Swede Home. It was a beautiful day for a drive through Nebraska enjoying all of the recent harvested fields and a spectacular sunset on the way home. A perfect way to start our series of Christmas concerts. Also, regarding the top 10 cookies, brownies, and other assorted goodies at intermission that we have seen in our 30 years of doing concerts across Nebraska.

Sincerely,  
Nebraska Brass Band

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can be born anew in our hearts and our lives again this year. Advent gives us those "silent nights" that we long for in the commercial chaos that often precedes Christmas.

I invite you to celebrate Advent this year. Join us for worship as we explore what it means to be Advent people, watching, waiting, anticipating, the coming of Christ. We will be having a special Advent service of Lament and Hope, two of the themes of the seasons, on Wednesday, December 13, at 7pm at Calvary. And we will be looking at the themes of Advent in Sunday worship as well. May Advent give you the opportunity to hear the angels' voices declaring the good new of the ages. May you experience God's peace and love as well.

In Christ,

Pastor Kim



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

Dear WECLA Members,

The executive members of WELCA met on November 11th, several items were discussed. Mainly Christmas giving, nominations for Secretary and Treasurer positions, murals for social hall walls, and a memorial for Irene Sundberg at our General Meeting on December 3rd.

This is my last letter to you as I am resigning my secretary position. It has been great serving you the last 7 years.

Love,

Marj, Secretary

**December**

**December 3rd at 9:00am**

(Hostess: Ruth's Circle)

Individual Circles will not meet in December

Service: Christmas for a Local Family!

**Thank you...**

Thank you for your gift, we were able to serve 2,180 individuals for our Thanksgiving outreach.

In Christ,

Pastor John Gallelogs, Denver Metro Ministries

**Merry  
Christmas**

## MISSION AND MINISTRY UPDATE

### ELCA Mission and Ministry Update

A disaster of global proportion continues to take place, but is going relatively unnoticed. Drought is impacting millions of people globally, with southern and eastern Africa the most heavily affected. Many people are facing a multi-year drought, which has resulted in low crop production, rising food prices and household food insecurity.

Countries, communities, places where the Lutheran churches have been at work for generations are suffering. Lutheran Disaster Response, working with companion churches and trusted partners, has hands and feet on the ground providing care, support, and hope.

In regions where little rain has fallen over the years, change must take place for people to survive. Lutheran Disaster Response is helping support projects such as irrigation systems, education around crop and vegetable production, water management, and using tools and resources to help people get the most out of their land. People like Shamble.

In his first year, Shamble is already seeing positive effects. He says, "I was trained and given an improved variety of drought resistant teff [a crop similar to wheat]. My life and my family's life has really improved, I have built a new house and been able to buy some sheep and cows."



## **SWEDE HOME FOOD PANTRY**

The Evangelism and Outreach Team oversees a nonperishable food and personal care item collection. You are welcome to bring donations at any time.



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

Items are usually delivered the last week of the month. In December, your donations will go to Blue Valley Community Action in Osceola.

Most recipients of Blue Valley Food Bank are families of 4 headed with working parents with little extra time. Canned meats are especially needed, Boxed Dinners, Canned Fruits, and Vegetables, and Breakfast Cereal are always needed as well. Dessert mixes are a special treat. All items we donate are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they meet their critical needs.

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### **Special Worship Service**

You are invited to a special worship service on Wednesday, December, 13th at 7pm at Calvary. This service will help us enter into the season of Advent more fully and increase our awareness of our need for God and for God's loving presence in this world. Our worship will be prayer for God to hear us, heal us, and send us out onto the world. Please talk to Diana or Pastor Kim if you have any questions.

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### **January Newsletter**

Bri will be getting the January Newsletter out early in December, please have all announcements you would like in the newsletter to her by December 13th. Thank you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Carol Joy Holling Early Bird Special

Register by January 31st, 2018 to save \$50 on next summer's full—week sessions (Sorry no discounts for Taste of Camp or Mini sessions). Sending more than one child to camp? Receive an additional \$25 discount for each child of the same family attending a full— week or mini session. Discounts are applied to final balance not deposits. To register talk to Pastor Kim or go to [caroljoy-holling.org](http://caroljoy-holling.org)



### High School Retreat

**December 29-30th**

Discover the magnitude of God's love for you and the plans and purpose God has for you! This retreat is for high school-aged youth to learn more about how we can go about finding our purpose and how our vocation can be used for God's plan. Learn more or register at [CJHCenter.org/HS-Retreat](http://CJHCenter.org/HS-Retreat)

### Family Advent Retreat

**December 8-10**

Bring your family together to purposefully present as we prepare for the Christmas season. Through devotion, Worship, and fun family activities, your family will actively engage in learning about the meaning of the season. Learn more or register at [CJHCenter.org/FamilyAdvent](http://CJHCenter.org/FamilyAdvent)



### Reminder...

Calvary members this is just a reminder that if you would like to reserve the church for an event please check with Bri or Pastor so they can check the calendar. You can email either of them [calvaryswedehome-church@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryswedehome-church@gmail.com) or [kimberlybelken@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlybelken@gmail.com), or call Pastor at (402)764-0481 or (402)764-5981. Thanks!

### Nominating Committee Meeting

There will be a Nominating Committee Meeting on Tuesday, December, 5th at 7pm.

### Evangelism & Outreach Committee

There will be a Evangelism & Outreach Committee Meeting on Thursday, December, 7th at 7pm.

### Endowment Meeting

There will be an Endowment Meeting on Sunday, December, 10th at 11:30am.

### Calvary Christmas Program

Calvary's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December, 17th during worship. Come hear the children tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

### Zion Christmas Program

The Benedict Community Sunday School will be presenting The Power of the KING, Sunday, December 17th at 8:15am at Zion. Come hear about the birth of Jesus and enjoy donuts and coffee afterwards.



### Zion Food Drive

Zion is hosting at Food Drive for the month of December to help Living Water Mission in York. There is a tote in the back of the church for donations, (non-perishable) foods. We will deliver the food on December 17th after church.

## MEET A MEMBER

### Meet Craig and Sarah Johnson



Sarah grew up in on a farm south of Osceola with her parents, Larry and Michele Meister and her sister, Stacy. She attended Osceola High School and majored in education at the University of Ne-

braska in Lincoln. Craig grew up on a farm west of Stromsburg the middle of three boys. His parents are Mardell and Jeannine Johnson. He graduated from Stromsburg High School and UNL with a degree in Agri-Business. Despite being almost neighbors and attending from the same university they didn't know each other until after Craig had graduated and Sarah was in her final years.

Craig's family attends the Evangelical Free Church and Sarah's family attends St. Vincent Catholic Church. When they decided to get married Craig and Sarah joined Calvary because it was in the "middle."

Craig and Sarah have two daughters, Megan and Jady. Megan is a Senior and Jady is a Freshman. Craig farms with his father and brother and Sarah is a teacher in the Osceola schools. Sarah's grandfather was Mike Snodgrass who had Bushes Drug Store for many years. Craig and Sarah live in her grandfather's house in Osceola.

Sarah enjoys playing golf and as a family they attend as many Nebraska Volleyball games as they can. They enjoy spending time at the family cabin at Clarks' Lakes.

Sarah, Megan and Jady help with Sunday school and Craig served on the church council. Calvary has been a good place for them.

Calvary Lutheran Church  
Nebraska Synod, ELCA  
950 129th Road  
Stromsburg, NE 68666  
Church Phone: (402)764-5981

Doug Jones, Council President  
Diana Johnson, Organist  
Brianna Schoch, Secretary  
Tina Watts, Sunday School  
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

**Council Members:**

Linda Fuhr, Doug Jones, Bill Carlstrom, Nick Nicholson,  
Carolyn Nielsen, Chris Smith,  
Deb Swedenburg  
All Calvary members, Ministers

**Rev. Kimberly Belken**  
Pastor

(402) 764-0481 (cell)  
(402) 764-5961 (parsonage)  
(402) 764-5981 (church office)  
kimberlyrbelken@gmail.com

Zion Lutheran Church  
Nebraska Synod, ELCA  
202 Sherman  
Benedict NE 68316

Gregg Bolton, Council President  
Yvonne Stauber, Organist  
Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

**Council Members:**

Gregg Bolton, Todd Schoch, Dawn Kush  
All of Zion members, Ministers

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Lyndsey Bolton  
Dorothy Ehlers  
Melissa Forsberg  
Denny Johnson  
Lenore Kessler  
June Larson  
Elvin Reetz

Imo Richardson  
Harvey Schlegelmilch  
Vance & Elaine Toline  
Jan Wells-Bachman

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action
- Houses for Health recipients.
- Table Grace Café & Denver Metro Ministries
- Bishop Brian Maas and the Nebraska Synod staff
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members
- Pastor Bob Bryan and the Nebraska Synod Prison Ministry
- Our ELCA Partner Synod—Pacifica Synod
- Our companion synods in Tanzania and Argentina

To request prayers call

Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041

Zion: LuAnn Bolton 402-710-8708

## ZION WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### DECEMBER

Communion Assistant: Jacob Kush

Usher: Craig Bolton

Greeter: Dawana Bolton

Reader:

3—Ken Kush, 10—Dawana Bolton, 17—Jacob Kush, 24—Teresa Bittinger, 31—Joint Service @ Methodist Church

Acolyte:

3—Lyndsey Bolton, 10—Isaac Reetz, 17—Harley Martin, 24—Tierney Schoch, 31—Joint Service @ Methodist Church

## ANNIVERSARIES

### CALVARY:

Dan & Fawn Ienn  
December 2nd

Vance & Elaine Toline  
December 7th

Nick & Carol Nicholson  
December 12th

Ron & Linda Johnson  
December 16th

Layne & Deb Hanquist  
December 30th

### ZION:

Jim & Donna Stearns  
December 18th

Calvin & Teresa Bittinger  
December 28th



## BIRTHDAYS

### CALVARY:

01—Don Fuhr  
09—Bonnie Dittmer, Ella Twarling  
11—Elaine Westring  
13—Linda Jones  
16—Gia Adelson, Deb Swedenberg, Jean Waller  
18—Steve Anderson, Paul Ernst, Brady Hanquist  
19—Craig Johnson  
20—Layne Hanquist, Ryan Jones  
23—Jadyn Johnson  
26—Mervin Larson  
27—Ryker Berggren  
28—Joann Stevens  
29—Carol Jones  
31—Sandi Fredrickson, Cooper Smith

### ZION:

01—Jordan Schoch  
05—Harley Martin  
07—Lonnie Schegelmilch  
08—Teresa Bittinger  
09—LuAnn Bolton  
15—Steve Geis

## CALVARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

### December

Assistant Ministers— Sandy Johnston, Cheryl Jones, & Tina Watts  
Scripture Reader—Nick Nicholson  
Ushers— Ron & Carole Dickson  
Acolyte—Clayton Watts  
Altar Care— Cheryl & Kay Jones  
Bell Ringer— Mark Jones

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>8:30a Zion Holy Communion Worship</p> <p>9a WELCA General Meeting</p> <p>10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>7p Nominating Committee Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study</p> <p>6p Confirmation</p> <p>7p Council Meeting</p>	7	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>8:30a Zion Worship</p> <p>10:30a Calvary Worship</p> <p>11:30a Endowment Committee Meeting</p>	11	12	<p>13</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study</p> <p>7p Advent Service</p>	14	15	16
<p>17</p> <p>8:15a Zion Worship/Christmas Program</p> <p>10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship/Christmas Program</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study</p> <p>6p Confirmation</p>	21	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>8:30a Zion Worship</p> <p>10:30a Calvary Worship</p> <p>5:30p Zion Christmas Worship</p> <p>10p Calvary Christmas Worship</p>	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31</p> <p>8:15a Zion Joint Service @ UMC</p> <p>10:30a Calvary Worship</p>						

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

Council Meeting Newsletter updates -  
November 2017

- Thursday evening Bible Study on 1st Corinthians has had a good turn out and conversation
- Worship and Music committee planning a Sunday Evening prayer service during Advent
- Calvary has joined with Stromsburg churches to provide monthly C.H.A.O.S. (Christian Hanging Around on Sundays) for the youth. November activity was leaf raking in Stromsburg with supper following. December will include a holiday party with a white elephant gift exchange
- The Youth Mission trip plans are underway with plans for a cross cultural trip to Wind River, WY. This will allow the youth to volunteer within Native American communities of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes. Our church youth need to commit to this project in November, so that reservations can be made with Youthworks.
- Doug announced that Fowler landscaping would be planting trees during the first week of November. Four Red Oaks will be planted on the east side of the church and a flowering crab tree would be planted near the Sunday School building
- Building report included the addition of dusk to dawn lights on the Sunday School Building, and repair on the West steeple and the bell wheel.
- Council approved a free will offering the first two weeks in November for Genesis House and the ESU Christmas tree project
- Council approved the request for a non-member wedding to be held at Calvary on March 17. Pastor Kim and Pastor Bob Johnson will be officiating

### Treasurer's Report

October, 2017

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$3028.19</b>
<b><u>Offering:</u></b>	
General Offering	8459.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	255.00
Sunday School Offering	132.09
Houses for Health	100.00
ELCA Mission Share	185.00
Transfer of General Funds from SAV	3000.00
Zion for August Share	<u>3395.85</u>
	15526.94

### Expenses:

Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	7.79
Gather Magazine Subscription	19.95
Dusk/Dawn Light for Back Entrance	42.79
Church Laptop Maintenance	75.00
Office Supplies, etc	76.23
Ripple Cups, etc	94.99
Sunday School Supplies	131.99
Postage Expense	196.00
Bedient Pipe Organ Fall Service	250.00
Sundays & Seasons Licenses	395.00
NE Synod ELCA—Mission Share	1450.00
Church Mutual Annual Premium	5710.00
Zion Benedict October Share	1678.38

### Utilities:

Church:	283.70
Parsonage:	175.51

### Salaries:

Pastor	2176.41
Mileage	352.07
SECA	216.41
Portico Benefits	995.83
FICA 3rd Quarter Tax	756.66
Diana	423.52
LeeAnn	230.87
Bri	<u>572.64</u>
	16311.74

Balance as of September 30th, 2017	<u><u>\$2243.39</u></u>
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Designed \$\$ Transfer to Appropriate Savings Accounts:

For: Youth Account	175.00
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## **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.....