

DECEMBER 2021

## ...IN SACRED PLACES...

### CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



*Grace and peace to you from our soon to come Savior,*

There's a sign I pass by often that reminds me "Buckle Up." Truth be told, I usually ignore it; not because I don't agree with it or don't think it's a great reminder, but because seeing it time and time again leads me to easily overlook it and its importance.

I think this phenomena happens to us a lot in the church too. Whether it's the season of the church year or the Scripture readings we share during worship or the liturgies we use; we often become immune to them because we know them so well. I mean, this is my 38<sup>th</sup> time through the season of Advent, so how is it supposed to hold the same sort of joy and excitement that it did the first 37 times?

This is where our Lutheran understanding of God becomes so important to us. We approach God as living in all things. God's words in the Bible aren't just words written down centuries ago—they are living, breathing words that speak to us today where we are in life. God lives and breathes through every one of us too—through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As we understand God, God is never static or unreachable—God is alive and at work in the experiences we live each and every day. Which means then, that whether this is your first Advent or your 99<sup>th</sup>, God is speaking to you in this season. Even though we can recite the

Christmas story with our Savior being born in a manger in human flesh through divine incarnation—this time of preparation is still created for us to experience fully as our minds, bodies, and spirits are re-shaped once again to receive our Savior with the awe and joy his birth deserves.

"Buckle Up" is actually a pretty good theme for Advent too. As we settle into these weeks of December our schedules will fill up and we'll have concerts to go to, gifts to buy, and celebrations to attend. In all the chaos of this joyful season, remember to "Buckle Up," not only so that we survive the many responsibilities we're given during this time, but also so that we continue to look around us for the ways in which God is shaping us and preparing us to receive Jesus Christ.

Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah



WELCA NEWS  
YOUTH UPDATES  
CALENDAR

PAGE 2  
PAGE 4  
PAGE 8

# Announcements

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

Items will be delivered after December 27



Please place items you wish to donate in the basket December go to

**BVCA—Osceola**

## GIVING TREE

Last year, many of you donated to help needy families served by ESU 7. Thank you! They were very thankful and moved by your generosity.

We are again taking up an offering for these families, and they have about 60-70 kids to buy for. We are the main givers for their Christmas. So please open our hearts and help as you are able. Donations should be given to Bonnie Carlson or Cheryl Jones by Dec. 5.

*(Checks payable to Calvary WELCA)*

There are ornaments on a giving tree at church with dollar amounts on them for the ESU 7, as well as items for children served by ESU 7. Please bring any donations to church and place in the specified box by December 5. *(Cash donations are welcome for Genesis*



*House, too. We'll try to get a Wishlist from them, too.)*

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

Through Advent, God invites us to tune in to our faith rather than feel stressed out - a challenge given the crazy pace and pressures the holiday season can bring. An article in *Living Lutheran* encourages us to “carve out time to read devotions; learn to ‘say no’ when you’re feeling over-committed; explore mindful movement (exercise, yoga, Tai Chi, etc.); limit social media; and focus on ‘presence’, not presents.”

**\*WELCA Annual Christmas meeting for all women of the church will be Dec. 12 at 9:00 a.m.** in the church basement. Host will be Miriam Circle.

**\*Service** for month of December is Christmas offering for ESU #7.

**\*Altar care** for December will be Cheryl Jones and Kay Jones.

**\*Flowers** in December will be by Miriam circle. Thank you for watering any plants also.

**\*Poinsettias may be brought to church for Christmas Eve services.**

**\*THANK YOU** to all that gave offerings for needy families with children served by ESU #7 at November circles and at church. Your offerings are helping make Christmas memorable for about 70 children.

**\*Thank you** for helping fill out the annual yearbook for WELCA meetings, committees, etc. We appreciate Kay’s work at creating the yearbook for us!



*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” ~ Isaiah 9:6*

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas,

Cheryl

## RECIPES



The quilt ladies were again busy this year. On November 4th, Don and Linda Fuhr delivered two boxes of quilts and a box of blankets to Norfolk, St John's Church. The boxes were loaded on a semi trailer along with quilt boxes across Nebraska. They were delivered to Lutheran World Relief in Minneapolis MN. Along with these quilts, the ladies donated several quilts to area organizations.

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The Quarterly Devotional "Christ in our Home" is available on the entry table. Please take one for yourself, and distribute to others you know who may not pick one up

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Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, in conjunction with Lutheran Family Services, is currently working on settling close to 100 Afghani families in Nebraska. This is a monumental task as each family unit needs to have a furnished place to call their home. We can help with this! We have been called to welcome the stranger and work for the well-being of all, and through this we can put our faith into action. Below is a list of items LIRS furnishes each household with. Calvary and First English, Rising City, will be working together to collect items through mid-January. Please donate as you are able! Monetary donations are welcome, please note on your envelope or the memo of the check that it goes to Refugee resettlement

A list of the supplies needed is included in this newsletter.

### Divinity

I remember our Mom making this sweet treat during Christmas Time. We always looked forward to helping her make it since it was such an easy and quick treat to make. When made correctly it will have a firm crust with a creamy filling.

2 Cups Sugar  
 ½ Cup corn syrup  
 ½ cup water  
 1 tsp vanilla  
 ½ cup ground nuts  
 2 egg whites

Boil the sugar, corn syrup and water to a firm ball. Beat 2 egg whites until stiff. Pour ½ of the above syrup slowly over the eggs.

Boil other half of syrup till brittle. Pour slowly into above mixture stirring or beating constantly until firm. Mix in vanilla and nuts. Scoop by rounded teaspoons onto wax paper. Let cool. ENJOY

From Ben Carlson



## Growing in Faith

## Affirmation of Baptism

### Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class is held every Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the church fellowship hall.

Youth Group meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm. This group is open to all middle and high school age kids. You are welcome to bring a friend to share the fellowship.



### Thank You

Dear Calvary Congregation:

*Thank you for supporting us through our faith journey. We appreciate all the love, support and encouragement you have provided us through our journey of faith.*

Love

Rylee and Peyton

On Sunday, November 7th, All Saint's Day—four of our confirmands affirmed their baptism.

Pictured with Pastor Sarah are: Shyenne Krol, Peyton Hofmann, Rylee Hofmann and Eli Fjell



For several years the congregation gift to the confirmands has been a cross with their name, date and a plaque with the baptismal stain glass window in Swede Home



## Thank you

Dear Calvary Lutheran Family,

Thank you for welcoming me into your beautiful church home on Reformation Sunday. Your hospitality and fellowship after church were appreciated.

I also valued learning about your rich church history.

God Bless

Erick Hill

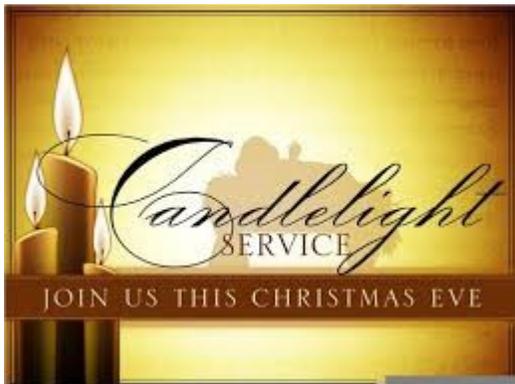
(Grandson of LeRoy Hoyer, Erick was our guest minister on Reformation Sunday. He is a seminary student)



This year we are again going to have poinsettias at the church for the Christmas Eve Service and Sundays following. We are asking that you

bring your own poinsettia to the church the week of Christmas, and put it in the basement—they will be displayed for the Christmas Eve Service.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be December 24 at 9:00 pm**



On Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2021 two Swede Home members were honored for their military service by receiving a Quilt of Valor at the Osceola Veteran’s Day service, held at the Osceola High School. Lewellen Nielsen and Don Fuhr each received a quilt. The quilts were pieced by 90 year old, Gordon Clark of Shelby, Nebraska.



Lewellen Nielsen



Don Fuhr

*Meet a Member— Carey Clauff*

Carey Clauff was born and grew up in Clarks, Nebraska. The son of Marvin and Ella Clauff, he had one brother who has passed away. He is the father of a daughter who lives in Gretna and has a granddaughter who lives in Bennington, north of Omaha. He had a son who lived in Texas and passed away the same week that his wife, Linda, passed away.

After high school he joined the army and spent time in France, Germany and Belgium where he earned the rank of Sergeant. In 1968 he was discharged from the military and returned to Nebraska. He started driving a truck, first on short distances and eventually long distance across the United States. He retired from his job 12 years ago.

Carey was married to Linda and they lived on a farm southeast of Swede Home. Linda's grandson, Colby Nelson, spent time with them when he was a little boy and eventually came to live with them. Linda died in 2019, and Colby continues to live with him.

Linda liked working in her garden and flower beds. Carey and Colby continue her love of keeping the yard and gardens looking good. They know Linda would be proud of them.

Other than working and doing yardwork, Carey doesn't have many hobbies. However, he does like to take a nap now and then! He also likes to help Colby care for Swede Home Cemetery.

When asked about his church family in Swede Home, he responded, "The people are so nice. They are great!" The church family feels the same way about Carey (and Colby)

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

**We 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 Pfiely 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,**

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN  
PAGE 7  
YOUR PRAYERS



Melissa Forsberg  
Janice Forsberg  
June Larson  
Elaine Toline

Jan Wells-Bachman  
Mabel Hinkle and Austin  
Hinkle

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 congregations 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 Argentina

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

*Christmas Eve Services*

*Candlelight Services will be at 9:00 PM on Christmas Eve. Please note the time change.*

*If you have a poinsettia that you would like to bring to the church for Christmas Eve—please do so. They may be brought anytime after the 19th and left in the basement.*

ANNIVERSARIES  
...IN SACRED PLACES...

DECEMBER

02 Dan and Fawn Ienn  
30 Layne and Deb  
Hanquist



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" God's Blessings*

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

01 Don Fuhr  
01 Elise Fjell  
09 Bonnie Dittmer  
09 Ella Twarling  
11 Elaine Westring  
13 Linda Jones  
16 Gia Adelson  
16 Jean Waller  
18 Paul Ernst  
18 Brady Hanquist  
19 Craig Johnson  
20 Layne Hanquist  
20 Ryan Jones  
23 Jady Johnson  
28 Owen Nielsen  
26 Mervin Larson  
27 Ryker Berggren  
28 Elijah Fjell  
28 Joann Stevens  
29 Carol Jones  
31 Sandi Fredrickson  
31 Cooper Smith



DECEMBER

Assistant Minister – Adelson Family  
Scripture Reader – Adelson Family  
Ushers – Dec 5 & 12: Don and Linda  
Dec 19, 24, 26 TBA  
Altar/Communion – Cheryl & Kay  
Acolyte – Koleton Udey  
Bell Ringer – TBA

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 pm Confirmation	2	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship Service with Communion  Council meeting after church	6	7	8 6:30 pm Confirmation  7: pm Men's Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9 am WELCA Christmas meet- ing  10:30 am Worship Service	13	14	15 6:30 pm Confirmation	16	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship with Communion  6pm youth group	20	21	22 6:30 pm Confirmation	23	24 9:00 pm Candlelight Service	25  <i>The Joy</i> of CHRISTMAS <small>CELEBRATE THE SEASON</small>
26	27	28	29 No Confirmation	30	31	

LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICES

## **REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT NEEDS**

### **BATHROOM:**

Toilet Paper  
Shampoo  
Soap  
Toothbrush  
Toothpaste  
Deodorant  
Feminine Supplies  
Bathroom/Kitchen Cleaner  
Men's & Women's Razors

### **LIVING & DINING ROOM:**

Couch  
Living Room Chair  
Coffee Table  
Side Table  
Lamp  
Dining Table with Chairs

### **NEW-IN ORIGINAL PACKING ONLY**

Bath Towels  
Shower Curtain  
Pillow  
Sheet/Bedding Set  
Clothing (no used  
clothing please)

### **KITCHEN:**

Silverware Set  
Dish Set  
Pots/Pans Set  
Mixing/Serving Bowl Sets  
Kitchen Utensil Set  
Can Opener  
Dish Soap

### **BEDROOMS:**

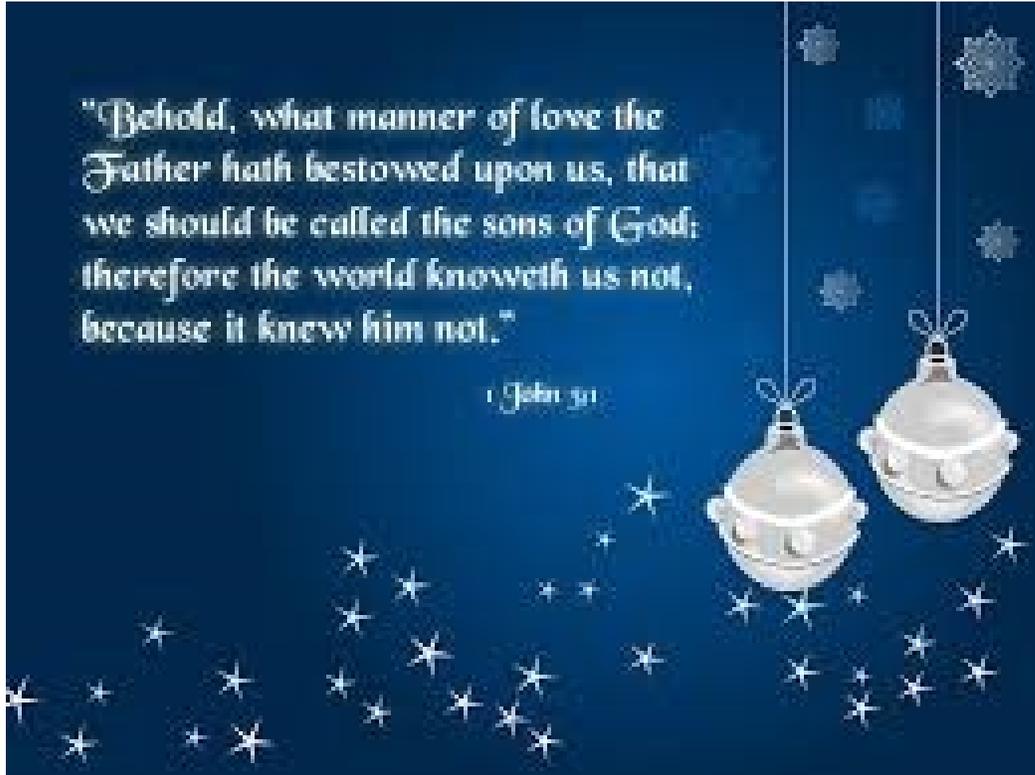
Dresser/Clothing Storage  
Alarm Clock

### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:**

Laundry Detergent  
Sponge  
Cleaning Rag/Paper  
Towels  
Waste Basket  
Trash Bags  
Mop/Broom  
Diapers/Wipes  
Other Baby Supplies  
First Aid Kit  
Paper & Pen Set  
Phone with 1 month service  
Slow Cooker

"Behold, what manner of love the  
Father hath bestowed upon us, that  
we should be called the sons of God;  
therefore the world knoweth us not,  
because it knew him not."

1 John 3:1



**JESUS**  
is the reason for the season!  
Merry Christmas!

dazzlejunction.com

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

Calvary Council met November 14, 2021 following worship. Present were Present: Kent, Dan Oquist, Dan Ienn, Fran, Lynn, Sandy, Todd, and Pastor Sarah.

We will schedule a Sunday morning visit from Kristin Herrera, Development Director of Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries to tell us about the programs they offer.

We will again participate with the Osceola Ministry group in the Noon Lenten Luncheons this spring. Ash Wednesday is March 2.

Pat from Genesis House is retiring at the end of the year. We will honor her work with a card and \$50 donation to Genesis House.

LIRS is bringing Afghan refugees to Nebraska through Lutheran Family Services. The families will need everything to set up their households. Our goal is to provide all of the household items needed for one family. We have a list of their needs that includes everything from toothbrushes and toilet paper to pots and pans and chairs.

Nebraska Synod is planning a \$150,000 appeal for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary to fund Mission Field Nebraska, Congregational Leadership and inspire ministry leaders.

The 2021 Lenten offering was to go for some new audio equipment for shut ins and the Backpack program. Since audio equipment was paid for by a member all of the Lenten offering will go to the Backpack program.

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

Next meeting December 5, 2021, following church service.

### Treasurer's Report

	<b>October 2021</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$8,717.98</b>
<b>Offerings:</b>	
General Offerings	7,598.00
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
Mission Share	300.00
First Lutheran R.C. September Share	2,095.83
	9,998.83
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	34.99
Confirmation/Youth	45.99
USPO Postage Expense	62.40
Crossroads Confirmation Crosses	128.00
Mowing & Trimming	248.00
Bedient Pipe Organ; Fall Maintenance	275.00
Sundays & Seasons licensing	429.00
NE Synod Mission Share	1,560.00
First Lutheran R.C. October Share	2,423.36
<b>Utilities:</b>	
Church	316.93
Parsonage	140.13
<b>Salaries:</b>	
Pastor Sarah Ruch	2,163.20
Portico Benefit Services	1,029.58
Commuting Allowance	366.91
SECA	215.14
Mileage	226.27
Cell Phone Allowance	32.50
Theological Conference	253.71
Supply Pastor Erick Hill	213.23
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	303.74
Federal & NE Withholding - 3rd Quarter	560.83
	11,756.34
<b>Balance as of October 31, 2021:</b>	<b>\$6,960.47</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.....