

FEBRUARY 2021

...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Greetings to you, members of Calvary & First English Lutheran churches!

I am excited and honored join you in ministry as your new Transitional Minister! I have been an Ordained Pastor in the ELCA for 10 years, and received my Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St Paul MN. I have served congregations in Northeast Nebraska and I most recently served in Aurora NE.

I live in Southeast Lincoln with my husband, Miles, who not only partners with me in our home life, but in ministry too. He too is an Ordained Pastor in the ELCA and is currently serving at United Lutheran Church in Hampton, NE. We have three children that have kept us just as busy during this time of restricting our trips outside of the house as they have in years past. Hannah is 17 and a Junior at East High School, Caleb is 14 and in the 8th grade at Lux Middle School, and Aaron is 9 and in the 3rd grade at Maxey Elementary School. We are also blessed to live jointly with my parents, Howard (a retired ELCA Pastor) and Linda. My family hopes to worship with us at Calvary and First English from time to time, and I look forward to them meeting each of you. I enjoy road cycling (as in 2 wheels that you power on your own), crochet, and being active with my children. I am excited to learn about you and your families in the coming months!

During my seminary education I learned many things that I am grateful for; but the most influential thing I learned was the simplest lesson I received. While on a visit to a rural congregation that included visits to many of the parish member's homes, our instructor asked one of the farmers what he would most like a future pastor to know. His answer was simple: "God is already here. Know that you aren't bringing God with you." In this statement, the definition of ministry was made clear to me. I may be called to join in ministry with you, but I am not here to introduce God to you. God has been here in this place since you first formed as congregations, and for many years before that too. What I am called to do, is come alongside you in this journey of faith you have been living. Thank you for giving me the privilege of entering into your lives and ministry.

I'll be doing a lot of listening during my time with you, desiring to learn how your ministry began, how it has evolved throughout time, and what your vision for ministry in the future is. I hope to encourage you in faith and help you grow in your daily life of discipleship.

Please know that I am happy to speak with you for pastoral care or just plain conversation! If you'd like to get ahold of me, you can use the email or phone number below. I look forward to our time together and I am excited to see what God has in store for us!

In Christ,

Reverend Sarah Ruch

402-833-8218 (text or call)
pastorsarahruch@gmail.com



WELCA NEWS
THANKS YOU
CALENDAR

PAGE 2
PAGE 4 & 9
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Announcements

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

Cheryl will deliver after February 28



Please place items you wish to donate in the basket located in the front entry of the church. February items go to

Blue Valley Community Action



In the event of inclement weather, or change in church services, we will post closings on channel 10/11.

Council will call local members of cancellations. We will also send out an email to those who receive the bulletin and/or newsletter by email. If you have any questions you may call a council member

With Pastor Sarah living in Lincoln, we need to consider road conditions for her to travel safely. She leaves Lincoln by 6:30 am, so cancelling will depend on weather conditions in Lincoln.

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*Prayer support leader needed. Jan has faithfully served for years, and has asked if someone else can take over as lead contact for the Swede Home prayer chain. Please prayerfully consider this possibility and contact Cheryl if you're interested in helping out. Thank you so much, Jan!

*Circle Meetings are on hold for now. Please check with your leader or hostess as listed in the yearbook if you have questions. Enjoy reading the lessons in "Gather" or in your study bible until we meet again in person.

*Service for February is Thankoffering #1, which goes to support women at home and around the world. Please mail your offerings to Bonnie Carlson.

*Altar care for February will be Carolyn Nielsen & Bonnie Carlson. Communion will be on first & third Sundays & special holidays. March will be Deb Cramer & Kay Jones.

*Flowers in February will be by Mary Anna Circle. March & April will be Miriam Circle. Thank you for watering any plants.

*Lent begins in February with Ash Wednesday on 2/17.

*Quilt Day is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 25. Let's hope for good weather so we can enjoy our fellowship in this "God's work, our hands" project. Please bring a sack lunch and enjoy the day. If you have questions, please call Penny or Darlene.

Some of my favorite verses from Psalm 46 in times of stress....

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Be still, and know that I am God."

Psalm 46: 1 & 10

God's Blessings to You,

Cheryl

Youth News

RECIPES



February confirmation classes TBA, Pastor Sarah will be contacting confirmation parents.

Class time will be 9:15 am. On Sundays when there is no confirmation, there will be youth Sunday School.

Under the leadership of Cheryl Jones, the Confirmation class had a project in December where they packaged a small Nativity ornament and included a note “From the Confirmation Class of Calvary Lutheran Church—Swede Home.” The intent was to include it for the families of ESU 7 Giving Tree project. The members of Calvary overwhelmingly responded to the Giving Tree project and the Ev and Outreach Committee had a project for Holiday Meals. Since they were going to deliver 60 meals, that that was the exact number of ornaments the Confirmation class packaged, a decision was made to include an ornament in each of the meal bags.

As you can see by the thank yous in this newsletter—those ornaments were as special to the recipients as the meal bags!

Thank you Rylee, Peyton, Eli, Shyenne, Koleton and Jarrett. You touched the hearts of many people this holiday season.

Thank you to Cheryl and the confirmation class for remembering me with Christmas cookies. I enjoyed them very much. Gloria Oquist

BEEF or VENISON JERKY

Need: Curing Salt, Black Pepper, Liquid Smoke
Beef Round Roast or Venison Loin or Round Roast

For Beef Jerky: Use Top Round Roast
For Venison Jerky: Use Round or Loin Roast

Slice 1/4 inch thick. Using curing salt and Black Pepper, salt and pepper both sides.

Put Liquid Smoke on one side. Put in refrigerator for 24-36 hours. Then put in Dehydrator for 10 hours or so on 95 degrees to 100 degrees

From the Archives of Carlson & Sons Locker
Osceola NE

This was a very big seller. Also Dad would give this out to our customers in 1 oz strips.

Submitted by: Jim Carlson—THANK YOU



Thank you so much

Dear friends at Swedehome—

Happy New Year! I have much faith that 2021 will be a better year, as we work together to help that happen.

THANK YOU for the wonderful donation of food, supplies and gifts when Cheryl made the special delivery on December 3. Your selections are so much “the best” you seem to know especially the foods that children like and can prepare. During these difficult days of the pandemic, I fixed many boxes to give to our families with children. THANK YOU for your regular and consistent donations which help us keep going all year long.

We look to the coming year to continue our plans for prevention education and outreach. **Thirteen women and fifteen children** received Christmas from us this year. Because of your generosity we had plenty to bring them comfort and joy.

CHERYL—love your books, they made excellent gifts this year!!

Sincerely, Pat, Nicole and folks at Genesis House



1-1-2021

Many thanks to all who delivered me a wonderful holiday meal—plus much more. I have been enjoying it so very much. You were so generous.

Blessings to all

Alice from Shelby

THANKS THANKS THANKS

Thanks—Thanks-Thanks

Thanks for the Holiday Meal Bag that was delivered to my home. What a surprise. It was very much appreciated.

Also thanks to the Confirmation class for the tree ornament.

May God continue to “bless” you in 2021.

Martha Huggler

Serving others comes so naturally for you..

Just want to put into words what I've thought so often—
Thanks so much for your service!

Your generosity to Shelby Seniors is greatly appreciated. They were very appreciative of the holiday meal.

My God Bless all of you for your service

Avis Rathje, Director

Thank you for the bags of food given to our Seniors at Christmas.

We are grateful and overwhelmed by your kindness.

God's Peace

Shelby Senior Center

Calvary Lutheran Church

Your Christmas dinner was such a blessing to us. Between the blizzard and a health issue, we weren't prepared for a Christmas meal. When we opened the bag I was overwhelmed with how God had provided exactly what we need through your thoughtful gift. Thank you.

Thank you to the Confirmation class for the precious Nativity ornament. How Special. May God bless you for doing this. (Unsigned)

Article by Erin Dickey

The Midwest Covenant Home Foundation publishes a newsletter—Erin Dickey wrote the following article regarding our holiday meal project. We are thankful for her article and thought we would share:

‘LOVE ONE ANOTHER—WE DON’T NEED MORE INSTRUCTIONS, WE NEED MORE EXAMPLES’ Bob Goff

On a beautiful late day, small plumes of dust roll across Country Road 129. Arriving to a small section of paved road, the dust disappears under the canopy of tall red oak trees and an admirable softly lit steeple.

Calvary Lutheran Church of Swede Home, a 1873 pioneer church of Polk County, Nebraska is wrapped in bricks of two shades of red and is adorned with stained glass stories and warm yellow accent lighting. Inside its large double doors a small group of people work diligently to make a big impact for their neighbors this Christmas season.

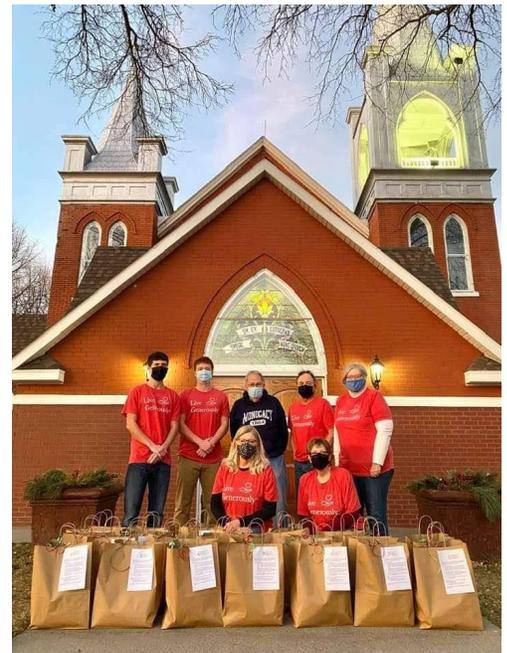
Motivated by the Mission Statement *Know God, Love God, Share God’s Word*, members of Calvary begin to pack family meals into large paper bags. Complete with a 4 pound ham, creamy mashed potatoes, green beans and pumpkin pie, these bags also featured a devotional and an ornament. With the intention of blessing families within the neighboring school systems, their generosity flowed even further into the small communities than they could imagine, as their Christmas meals were also delivered to over 40 Meals on Wheels participants.



“We at Calvary Swede Home feel blessed to be able to serve our community with this project.” Linda Fuhr, Calvary Secretary. “It was our pleasure to share God’s love in this way. We look forward to working with Polk County Senior Services on future projects.”

These meals were distributed throughout Polk County Christmas week. God’s timing is always perfect as due to inclement weather, Meals on Wheels were unable to be delivered; thankfully most participants had received this special Christmas meal and could enjoy warm food that day!

Do you want to be a blessing to your neighbors of your community? Contact Erin Dickey, Program Director of Polk County Senior Services (402) 764-2252 for ways YOU can be an example of love through service.



Meet a Member

Our February meet a member is



a Senior at Shelby-Rising City high school. He is Ceagen Watts, son of Tina Kilgore and Cory Watts and brother to Clayton. He started school in Osceola attending through

the fifth grade when he transferred to the Shelby-Rising City schools.

Ceagen was born at the York Hospital and lived in Osceola for 14 years before moving to Rising City. He was baptized and confirmed at Calvary Lutheran -Swede Home, which has been his church family his entire life. Pastor Kim Belken was his confirmation teacher.

After graduation, Ceagen plans on attending college. He has narrowed his choices to either Dakota Wesleyan and will major in business management.

Ceagen likes to play golf and enjoys fishing. He also has an interest in cars and is the owner of a 2011 GMC Sierra and a 1989 Camaro. Rumor has it that he likes to keep them clean and shiny!!

Ceagen likes to attend church in Swede Home. He likes the smaller congregation and knowing the people. We are Calvary definitely like having him a part of our church family.

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

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 or text or call 402-366-2091,

Dear Parishioners at First English and Swede Home

It was a joy to serve you in the absence of a pastor. Want to say a "Big Thank You" for the kindness shown in your encouraging words, smiles, well wishes and gifts!

"Taste and see that the Lord is Good!:" Carolyn and I have tasted the grace of your hearts and have experienced the goodness of God!

Our prayers are with both congregations, joint efforts to unify in some form to serve your parishioners and communities in the work of Christ. God's guidance and vision be yours in this work of Love and Mission.

In His Grace, Leroy and Carolyn Hoyer

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Melissa Forsberg
Janice Forsberg
Denny Johnson
June Larson
Elaine Toline

Jan Wells-Bachman
George Belken .
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 congrega-
tions 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 Argen-
tina

To request prayers call

Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. We will host Ash Wednesday with First English-Rising coming to Swede Home. Rising will host Maundy Thursday. Service will start at 7 pm

Swede Home will host all midweek services through Lent, at 7pm. Decision on fellowship time before services with a meal or treats are being discussed. We will announce one week prior to each service if we have fellowship, we will keep in mind the well-being of our members.

ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

21—Mike and Anita Haack



BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

01 Claire Smith
02 Mitch Cramer
05 Lynn Hofmann
09 Kamdyn Udey
09 Stephanie Mattson
13 Carter Fjell
25 Kolton Neujahr
25 Allen Peterson
29 Peyton Hofmann
29 Rylee Hofmann



Remember Your Offerings
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

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

FEBRUARY

Assistant Minister – Sandy Johnston
Scripture Reader – Linda Fuhr
Ushers – Dan and Lisa Oquist
Altar/Communion – Gladys Johnson
Acolyte – Rylee Hofmann
Bell Ringer – Dan Oquist

We thank all those who agree to help with the worship service each month.

FEBRUARY 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

9:15 Classes
10:30 worship
service with
communion

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

9:15 Classes
10:30
worship

Ash
Wednesday
7PM at
Swede

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

9:15 Classes
10:30 worship
service with
communion

Midweek
Lenten
service at
Swede Home
7pm

28
9:15 Classes
10:30 worship
service with
communion



Ash Wednesday service will be a shared service with First-English Rising City. Swede Home will be the host site, there will be no meal served before the service.

The January 24th worship service was cancelled due to the icy road conditions. The bulletin for that worship service included the agenda for the annual meeting. We have decided to use that worship service bulletin for our worship service on January 31st, as we will be having the annual meeting on the 31st, instead of reprinting a bulletin. The only change will be to use the scripture readings for Sunday the 31st. Those readings will be printed on an insert for those attending worship service.

For those of you who are unable to attend worship, we are including the scripture readings here for you.

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures forever.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

COUNCIL NOTES

Council met January 3. Present: Sandy, Lynn, Kent, Todd, Dan I. Absent: Dan O, Fran

Council approved meeting agenda and minutes from December 6, 2020.

Council confirmed the Annual meeting for January 24, 2021 during service. No meal will be served after church service. The Extra Mile recipient was chosen and will be recognized January 24.

First Communion class will be incorporated into confirmation class. This instruction will be provided for confirmands who need the class and as a review for those who have receive the class.

Council confirmed confirmation classes during Sunday School for January 10 & 17. Tina will be teaching the classes during January.

Council discussed filling vacated spots for the following committees: Memorial, Audit, Nominating, Endowment, and Council.

Property committee had nothing new. Ryan Fjell has agreed to remove snow.

Council has been in contact with Synod in regards to the potential of Pr. Sarah Ruch as interim and expectations. The council with guidance from the synod is working with First English in Rising City in regards to a contract for shared ministry.

The budget was reviewed and approved.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Dear Friends at Swede Home:

Thank you for the Endowment donation of \$350 for Genesis House. Your church has responded so generously to our fund raising this year, as in many years past. We appreciate all the ways you support our work to help survivors of domestic violence. This year your gifts will be significant to help us keep going.

Sincerely,

Pat Lostroh, Genesis House

Treasurer's Report

	December 2020
Beginning Balance	\$16,242.50
Offerings:	
General Offerings	13,989.00
Sunday School Offerings	95.00
Poinsettias	112.00
Genesis House	100.00
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	250.00
ELCA World Hunger	250.00
ELCA Mission Share	1,750.00
Rising City November Share	578.90
	17,129.90
Transfer to:	
General Savings Account	10,000.00
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	10.36
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	34.99
Faller's - Advent Wreath	37.38
US Post Office; postage expense	56.00
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	60.00
Genesis House	100.00
Frocks & Flowers; poinsettias	480.00
Holiday Meals	786.76
NE Synod ELCA Disaster Relief	250.00
NE Synod ELCA World Hunger	250.00
NE Synod ELCA Rural Ministry Network	500.00
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,540.00
Rising City December Share	463.12
Utilities:	
Church	747.57
Parsonage	101.60
Salaries:	
Pastor	585.00
Mileage	275.08
Diana	448.54
LeeAnn	236.64
Linda	543.01
	7,506.05

*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.....