



150 YEARS—1873–2023

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



When I think of February, I first typically think of how short it is and then to the holiday right in the middle, Valentine’s Day. A day in which we celebrate love. While Valentine’s Day might be a more “Hallmark Card Holiday,” the focus on love is one worth exploring, especially from a scriptural perspective.

In biblical Greek, there is more than one word for love. There are four: Eros, Storge, Philia, and Agape. Eros specifically means physical love, but it not used in the biblical text. Storge means to cherish affectionally, like the love between a parent and child. Storge is only used a few times in the biblical text. Its nearly always used in the negative though, like in Romans 1:31 when it describes someone as heartless, or lacking normal affection. Philia describes a friendship love. This is where the word Philadelphia, the “city of brotherly love,” comes from. Philia is used a few times in the texts, like in Hebrews 13:1, “let mutual love continue.” Finally, Agape, which is used over 100 times. Agape is an unconditional love, like the love from our creator.

When Jesus speaks of love it is usually agape; when love is spoken about God, it is agape. Romans 8:38-39 says: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” God’s agape for us is not something that we need to earn or work to keep. There is nothing in this world or the next that could keep God from loving us. So do not focus so much on if you make a mistake or feel as if you are not connected to God as much as you once were. God will love you regardless. Instead, be encouraged by this radical agape love God has for you and celebrate such unconditional love in unconditional ways in the world.

The Bible asks us to share agape love with our fellow humans, but it can be hard to give the kind of love that we receive from God. Still, we reach towards that kind of love, especially for those in our families and those friends who we have grown close to. In this month of February, try to see if you can spread agape love not only to your family and friends, but also to your community. Spread love into the world, and hope that it continues and reaches those who may not feel as much love as we do.

+Peace

Pastor Hillary



Dear Calvary Lutheran Church of Swede Home,

We thank all of you for the gifts that we received this Christmas. The beautiful cards full of family, the Christmas gift from the congregation, and so much more. We are so grateful for the thoughtfulness.

We appreciate how much love and support you give us as we are learning each day. Next year we hope to be organized enough to send individual thank yous. So again, thank you for the gifts and love that we received during the Christmas Season and it is such a blessing to be called as your pastors.

+ Peace

Pastors Hillary and Evan

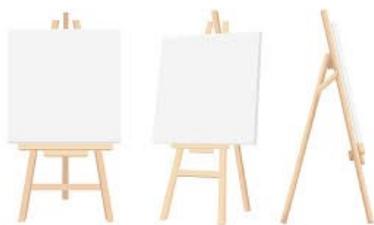
WELCA NEWS	PAGE 2
YOUTH UPDATES	PAGE 4
CALENDAR	PAGE 8

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 February donations go to Blue Valley Community Action—Osceola



The Q150 has need of two artist easels that we would need from April 10th thru the end of 2023. If you have any you could loan us, it

would be greatly appreciated. We have two paintings that we will have on loan for the Q150 celebration, and would need the easels for the display. Please contact Linda at 402-366-2091 or email the church at calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com

Osceola Noon Lenten Luncheons

Feb 22	St Vincent	Father Au
Mar 1	St Paul	Pastor Evan
Mar 8	Methodist	Pastor Hillary
Mar 15	Swede Home	Pastor Raleigh
Mar 22	St Vincent	TBA
Mar 29	St Paul	Pastor Soonil

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*Service for February is Thankoffering #1, which goes to support women at home and around the world.

*Altar care for February will be Carolyn Nielsen & Bonnie Carlson. March will be Deb Cramer & Kay Jones.

*Flowers and Cheer in February & March will be by Ruth Circle. April, May & June will be by Miriam Circle. Thank you for watering any plants.

*Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Febr. 22. We will be serving some of the evening mid-week meals. On March 15, we will host the noon Lenten Luncheon with Osceola Churches as our guests

*Lenten Worship schedules will be announced soon. I hope you'll be able to enjoy the food, fellowship and worship. We will be serving some of the evening mid-week meals and on March 15, we will host the noon Lenten Luncheon with Osceola Churches as our guests

*Please note the thank you's elsewhere in the newsletter from groups that received WELCA's offerings. Your generous year-long offerings dispersed at the December General Meeting have made a difference for many! You have certainly been wonderful in opening your hearts to share God's gifts with others in need. I cannot say "thank you" enough.

*Happy Valentine's Day! You are a blessing to many!

FEBRUARY

	<i>Hostess</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
Ruth – 2/8	Kay Jones @ 4 th St. Coffee/Stromsburg	
Miriam – 2/9	Marj Johnson	Marj

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." ~ 1 Corinthians 13: 4-5

God's Blessings,
Cheryl

Lenten Daily Devotions
SIGN UP TO RECEIVE DAILY DEVOTIONS

By email: email "Lent Daily" to devotions@pastorchristensen.com

By text: text "Lent Daily" to 402-980-1102

Printed: talk with a pastor directly

Thank You

Recipes

Dearest Church Members:

Thank you so very much for your continuous and generous donations for ESU 7. Thanks to you, we were able to provide gifts to our very own students (39 kiddos). We were also able to provide a Christmas Meal to 12 needed families.

Thank you again and God Bless

Angie and the ESU 7 families

The Shelby Senior Center wants to thank you for the 18 Christmas meals that you brought to our Center. We surely appreciate this kind deed and may God Bless you all, in the New Year.

The Shelby Seniors

Calvary Lutheran Church—Swede Home.

When we returned home this afternoon there was a sack of food at our front door. When looking inside—such a Welcome Surprise!!! What a lovely meal we will have New Year's Day.

All looks so delicious and we thank you so very much. We have never received such a useful gift. Thank you so much and God Bless each of you.

Nyla and Gloria Rowse

*Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you God for everything.
Amen*

Ben Carlson submitted a tasty mid-winter stew/soup. He says he found this “Stew Soup” in a Reader’s Digest magazine almost 15 years ago. He likes to make this hardy soup this time of year.

The wine and Worcestershire sauce makes for a very flavorful broth. If you like beef stew you will really enjoy this recipe. For a lighter tasting stew/soup, you may use nonalcoholic red wine and also reduce the amount of Worcestershire sauce. ENJOY!

We are thankful to Ben for so willingly share his delicious recipes.

Ben’s Beef Stew Soup

2 lbs. beef, cubed (preferably chuck roast)
1 large onion, peeled and cubed
1 pkg. carrots, peeled, rinsed, cubed
1 pkg. celery, washed, rinsed, cubed
6 med. Sized potatoes, peeled, rinsed, cubed
1 can green bean cuts, drained
1 med can diced tomatoes, don’t drain
2 boxes beef broth (preferably beef bone broth)
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
½ cup red wine
¼ cup Worcestershire sauce

In a large stockpot, combine meat and onion with the 2 Tbsp. oil, brown and cook until meat is tender. Add broth, carrots and celery. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a slow boil. When carrots and celery are tender, add green beans, tomatoes and potatoes.

When potatoes are tender, add red wine and the Worcestershire sauce, stir well, then simmer for 5 to 10 minutes stirring occasionally.

Growing in Faith



Youth group has been meeting two Sundays a month, on the first and third Sunday.. We have been slowly reading through the Gospel of Mark and learning about the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Pastor Evan and Pastor Hillary have been getting to know the youth and are enjoying playing different games with the them, including: UNO, Bible catchphrase/charades, and Dutch Blitz. The youth spent a Sunday in November putting together the personal care kits. We hope to do even more together in the spring. We will meet January 29th instead of February 5

A New Serenity Prayer

By Fr. James Martin, SJ

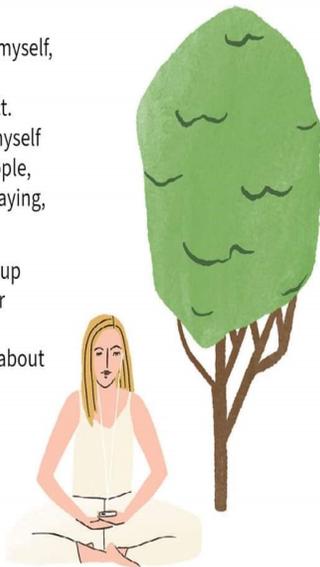


God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God. At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect. It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people, who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me, or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you. Amen.



Welcome to our faith family



On January 8, 2023 we welcomed Hadley Jo Ienn to our faith family by Holy Baptism. Hadley is the daughter of Brodryk and Taylor Ienn and was born on October 20, 2022. Her grandparents are: Daniel and Fawn Ienn and Dwaine and Michelle Ladwig. Bonnie and Jim Carlson are very proud great-grandparents!

Sponsors for Hadley were Ryleigh Veburg and Joshua Beck



Thank You

Q 150

Hello

Thank you so much for the Christmas meal you provided. It was very nice of you to think of the people living in apartments at Park Villa this time of year.

Thanks Again!
Ted Larson

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church

Thank you so very much for your kindness with a gift of the food basket.

It was greatly appreciated

Marie Fusco

Dear Friends:

As we celebrate and remember the true meaning of Christmas, we find ourselves reveling in the joy of having so many people, near and far, thinking of us throughout the year, showing us the greatness of God's love through gifts and support. Thank you so very much for your gift of \$300.00 to the children of Oaks Indian Mission.

As we get older, time sure seems to fly by. We are finishing up another blessed year. I thank you for all your support.

Blessings,

Dan Cooper, Executive Director



Plans for Swede Home's Q150 are in the works. Pastor Hillary, Pastor Evan, Kent and Linda are heading up the overall committee—if anyone would like to join this group, you are MORE than WELCOME!

Our first event will be a concert by the Nebraska Brass on Sunday afternoon, April 16 at 3 pm. We will also host a reception following the concert with Dana Westring as our featured artist.

The Ice Cream Social on the 3rd Sunday in July will be the next celebration—

The Anniversary worship celebration will be Sunday, August 13—Bishop Scott Johnson will lead the service and former pastors, interim pastors, PA's will be invited to attend.

Plans are still in the works for an end of the year event. Stay tuned!!

God's work, our Hands—150 years of actively "Knowing God, Loving God and Sharing God's Love" all has been done by the grace of God. Thanks be to God.

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

On behalf of the entire Christus Victor Lutheran Church family and those who are rebuilding their lives after the storm, I write to share deep thanks for your generosity. Your gift of \$1000 to our Hurrian Ian Response offering has helped those who have been devastated by this year's hurricane season. To date \$102,451.00 has been contributed. With our church's \$100,000 match and an additional \$5,000 member match, we are able to match all gifts and have shared almost \$202,500 equally with our mission partners: ELCA Disaster Response, Florida Bahamas Synod Disaster Relief and St. Matthews House, Naples) to assist with their clean up, restoration, and healing efforts.

Many Thanks for your generous gift
The Rev. Dr. Walt Lichtenberger

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
Sandy Johnston, Council Secretary
Diana Johnson, Organist
Linda Fuhr, Secretary
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:

Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Dan Oquist,
Kent Adelson, Sandra Johnston, Kris Udey, Randy Lott

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

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 5—Pastor Evan and Pastor Hillary installation at
10:30 Worship Service, luncheon to follow

February 12—Soup-er Bowl Food Drive Challenge

February 19 2pm—Bingo at First-Rising City

February 22—ASH WEDNESDAY joint service with First-
Rising City at Rising City 2pm

February 23—9am Quilting at Augustana

April 16—Nebraska Brass 3pm—first Q150 celebration—
reception to follow with Dana Westring

July 16—Ice cream social –with special Q150 celebrations

August 13—Q150 worship service with bishop and former pas-
tors

December—Close of Q150 celebrations—TBA

Meet a Member — Jarrett Althouse



Jarrett Althouse is from Osceola and lives with his parents, Tim & Missy Althouse. He is an only child and loves to get together with his older cousins when possible.

Jarrett is a 7th grader at Osceola Middle School and loves playing football. He also likes to go fishing and hanging out with friends.

Jarrett was confirmed at Swede Home last year, and he inspires us as he likes helping others and making a difference in the church and the world.

Our congregation often used to have a youth member on council, and this year Jarrett will renew that tradition as he was elected to Church Council at the January Annual Meeting.

Jarrett enjoys being a member at a smaller church so he can get a better connection with members and he looks forward to serving on council this year as a youth member.

We are thankful to have Jarrett as part of our Swede Home church family!



BINGO AFTERNOON

All are invited to First English Lutheran in Rising City for a fun Bingo afternoon!

Sunday, February 19th at 1 pm

Please bring a small "white elephant" style gift to add to the a winning prizes!

Soup-er Bowl Challenge

The churches in our cluster are having a competition for Super Bowl Sunday. Each congregation is seeing how much soup (canned, boxed, etc.) they can collect for their local food bank on Super Bowl Sunday or Soup-er Bowl Sunday. Bring your donation to church by the 12th of February

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Jan Wells-Bachman |
| Melissa Forsberg | Yvonne Stauber |
| Janice Forsberg | Luna Stauber |
| June Larson | Dave Cook |
| Alice Jane Oquist | Carey Clauff |
| LeRoy Hoyer | Colby Nelson |
| Beth Wienik | Steve Oquist |
- 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)

Installation Service

Sunday, February 5 Pastor Hillary and Pastor Evan will be installed at all 3 church services.

8:30 am— First—Rising City

10:30 am—Calvary Swede Home with a lunch reception to follow

5:00 pm—Augustana—Genoa

Pr Heidi Wallace, assistant to the Bishop will be officiating the communion service.

ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

21 Mike &
Anita



BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY



01 Claire Smith

02 Mitch Cramer

05 Lynn Hofmann

09 Kamdyn Udey

13 Carter Fjell

25 Kolton Neujahr

25 Allen Peterson

29 Peyton Hofmann

29 Rylee Hofmann

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 Blessing

FEBRUARY

Assistant Minister – Cheryl Jones

Scripture Reader – Linda Fuhr

Ushers – Dan and Lisa Oquist

Altar – Carolyn Nielsen and Bonnie Carlson

Acolyte – Jarrett Althouse

Bell Ringer – Dan Oquist

FEBRUARY 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

10:30 am Worship
with communion
Installation of
Pastor Hillary and
Pastor Evan

9am Ruth
Circle at 4th
Street
Coffee

9am Miriam
Circle
Marj
Johnson
Hostess

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

10:30 am
Worship
Service
Council following
worship

7pm
Men's Bible
study at Wayne's

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

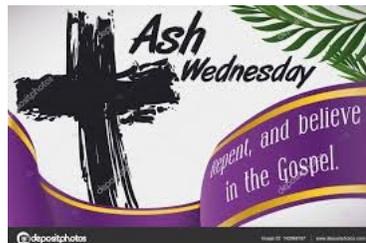
10:30 am Worship
with communion
2:00 pm –BINGO
at First Rising City
6:30pm Youth

7 pm Ash
Wednesday
service at Rising
City

9am—
Quilting at
Augustana
Genoa

26 27 28

10:30am
Worship Service



EXTRA MILE AWARD

At the January 22, Annual meeting—the Extra Mile Award was presented to Mike and Anita Haack.

Mike and Anita were recognized for the many years they have been active with the Swede Home Youth group. They were always willing to sponsor the youth activities, and members have good memories of the times enjoyed.

Both Mike and Anita help with ushering and Anita is always willing to be a scripture reader. Mike has served many years on the church Memorial Committee and has served on several other committees through the years.

Swede Home is always appreciative of the beautiful Christmas tree that decorates our sanctuary each year during the Advent and Christmas season- Mike and Anita have annually donated the tree in memory of their son Jason Haack.

Every member shares their time and talents in different ways, and we are thankful for Mike and Anita having gone the extra mile so faithfully over the years.



New committee members and delegates installed on

January 22, 2023



At the annual meeting on January 22, 2023 the congregation elected the council and committee members and delegates to Synod Assembly.

For council, Dan Oquist was elected to his 2nd 3 year term. Missy Althouse was elected to her first term and Jarrett Althouse was elected as a Junior Council member. We are certainly thankful for their dedication to Swede Home in answering the call to serve.

Ryan Jones was elected to a 5 year term on the Endowment Committee. Bonnie and Jim Carlson were elected as our Synod Assembly delegates.

The nominating committee for next year will be: Andrew Adelson, Doug Jones, Mike Neujahr, Craig Johnson and Jen Fjell.

We certainly appreciate those who heard the call and agreed to serve.

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church -

We so appreciated the generous Christmas meal. It was so easy to prepare and very tasty. We had an unexpected opportunity to share it with extended family which blessed them also. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

God Bless You!

Thank you all who donated and allowed me to give my kids a beautiful Christmas. It means more to me than I can say. May God bless you and look favorably on all you do.

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church Swede Home and WELCA

I wanted to share with you some of the thank you notes we received after Christmas. It was an amazing experience for me personally. With all your donations, we made a difference in the lives of our seven families. We provided not only toys, but laundry soap, dis soap, diapers, toothbrushes and toothpaste, clothes, blankets , makeup, meat food and gift cards and chamber bucks so mothers could get other things they needed. Thank you so very much for supporting our mission at Genesis House. We could never function in the ways we do without your help. The joy brought by the money and gifts donated at Christmas will last longer than just one dy. THANK YOU.

Sherri Nielsen, Director

Excerpts from the thank you notes:

I would like to thank you for your generosity to my family during this Christmas season. We so appreciate the thoughtfulness that was put into the gifts for the kids and the practical items we needed for the household. I am aware of all the time, planning and effort it takes to organize giving to family needs, especially when you don't know them. It does not go unnoticed. Blessings to you all and thank you again.

Thank you for your kindness. Thank you so much for helping.

Signed by one of the children

Thank you to everyone who donated for items for Christmas! You all definitely made both of my boys so excited seeing all the gifts. It was a very special Christmas for all of us

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you for making my kids Christmas a good one. We have had a rough year and seeing their smiles will be so nice. I hope you all have a healthy happy holiday



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COUNCIL NOTES

Council Notes

Thursday, January 5, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Randy Lott, Dan Oquist, Todd Hanquist, Sandy Johnston and Pastor Evan Christensen

Meeting opened with Prayer

Distribution of the 10% tithes of the Lorrain Smith Estate gift of \$1000 each to Columbus Food Truck which offers free meals and the Columbus Center for Survivors

Approved the purchase of 12 of the new ACS (All Creatures Sing) hymnals for the church.

The title of church Secretary is changed to Office Administrator to better match her duties

We are asking the memorial committee and auditing committee members to continue serving for 2023.

The 2023 budget was reviewed for approval by the congregation at the January 22 Annual Meeting. Many thanks to Kay Jones for her work to prepare the budget.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer



Treasurer's Report

	December 2022
Beginning Balance	\$3,689.73
Offerings:	
General Offerings	10,314.57
Synod Grant for Genesis House	500.00
ELCA World Hunger	500.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	255.00
Lutheran Magazine	50.00
ELCA Mission Share	4,260.00
First <u>English</u> (Nov); Augustana (Nov&Dec) Shares	7,159.16
-	23,038.73
-	-----
Expenses:	
Bank Check Amount transaction adjustment	-0.08
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Bookmarks to insert in Holiday Meal bags	13.58
Harland Clarke Check Order	25.60
Letter size envelopes	26.95
Advent Wreath	33.95
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	39.99
Taking Faith Home	59.95
Christ In Our Home	85.90
Replace Church Phone with Cordless Phone	89.99
Eakes Office Solutions	97.98
Emergency Funds for water pump	131.28
Hayes Construction; narthex door <u>jam</u> repair	145.00
Stromsburg Ministerial Care Fund	250.00
Postage Expense	273.60
Genesis House from Synod Grant	500.00
Economy for Holiday Meals	571.28
Lorrain Smith Estate - Mission Giving:	
Matt Talbot Kitchen in Lincoln	1,000.00
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,560.00
ELCA World Hunger	500.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	310.00
First English & Augustana December Shares	4,464.65
Utilities:	
Church	471.51
Parsonage	64.51
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,474.56
Portico Benefit Services	1,200.96
Commuting Allowance	158.33
SECA	217.68
Mileage	53.94
Cell Phone Allowance	38.00
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	613.51
	16,200.05
Balance as of December 31, 2022:	\$10,528.41
Designated Offerings Transferred to:	
Improvement Fund for Parsonage	1,000.00

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.....