



150 YEARS—1873–2023

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Nativity, New Year & New Creation!

Grace, Peace, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all!

Pastor Hillary and I (Pastor Evan) are so blessed to be called as pastors to Augustana, First English,

and Calvary Swede Home. We say this often, but we felt it even more strongly while celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord on Christmas Eve and in preparing the online service for Christmas Morning.

We tried to make the most of those days before the weather turned “inhumane and cryogenically cold,” as some dear friends from out of state described it. With the paraments changed to Christmas, we vested in white and gold and recorded various parts of the liturgy at each church. We tried our best to capture the unique Christmas magic of each church’s chancel. Pastor Hillary then labored over those frigid days on her computer pulling each clip together, recording music, and adding words, transitions, and more until the worship was ready to upload to the internet. We know that a recorded service is not the same as gathering as the embodied body of Christ, so we are grateful for the opportunity to experiment and try something new (or new for us, at least!) We hope it was a meaningful worship experience for you and your family.

Another new thing for Pastor Hillary and me was leading Christmas Eve together! We certainly had the experience of a multi-church/multi-service Christmas Eve, but never as pastors leading side-by-side! It was an exciting (but tiring!) time to worship with each congregation and the many parishioners and relatives, guests and visitors who joined our faith family in welcoming the Christ Child this Christmas! How wonderful it was to celebrate the season with our traditional carols, the birth narrative from Luke, Holy communion, and my favorite, singing Silent Night by candlelight.

As I think about it, this season has been full of both the old and the new. The old, in that the songs, stories, and traditions were familiar for many of us. But new in, well, everything else! New pastors, new faces. Maybe you began new traditions? That is certainly true for us celebrating Wilder’s first Christmas!

And we enter now into another new year. We know not the particulars of what the future holds, but we trust that the hopes and dreams wrapped up in Christmas remain with us in whatever tomorrow holds. After all, he is Emmanuel—God with us. So, we at once are unsure and certain about this next year. And this space of “yes and no” invites us to ponder, like Mary, what that means for us. As people of faith, God calls and equips us to go about working toward goodwill, peace, and life abundant in the world around us. For us folks of Augustana, First English, and Calvary Swede Home, that means towns like Genoa, Monroe, Silver Creek, Stromsburg, Polk, Osceola, Shelby, Rising City, Columbus, and more!

As the Christmas season continues into this new year, how is God calling you to do a new thing? Where are you witnessing the Nativity and Christ’s presence in your life? Lean into this space of “what-could-be” and trust that God is with you in every new adventure. This is most certainly true, and for this we most certainly give thanks!

+Peace, Pastor Evan

Please contact Pastor Hillary or me if you would like to watch the recorded service and are unable to view it. We can always burn a DVD or find a way for you to watch it!

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 January donations go to Genesis House— David City

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be Sunday, January 22 following the worship service.

In order for the report to be available for review by Sunday the 15th—the latest date to get reports to Linda is January 10th. If you have a report that and not waiting for end of the year financial figures, please get your report information to Linda or leave in the church office the first week of January. The sooner the better!

JW Catering will be catering the meal, Plan to attend
Thank you

Dear Calvary Lutheran Women of the ELCA of Swede Home

Thank you for generosity to the ministry of Campus Lutheran! Your contribution is making a difference in the faith journeys of young adults in the Kearney Community.

May many holy moments of God's goodness and grace be yours as we await the birth of our Savior—Emmanuel—God with us.

With Gratitude

Campus Lutheran

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*January 14 will be the Winter Retreat at St. Paul Lutheran church in Grand Island. Bishop Scott Johnson will lead bible study; a UNL professor will address issues for people of Ukraine, and hear from McCook author, Jen Rodewald. Registration forms are at church and are due January 4. Cost is \$20.

*Our Annual General Meeting was on 12/4. At that meeting, you voted to donate the following from our Treasury: \$1,000 to Genesis House; \$1,000 to Economy Grocery for meals for the needy; \$600 to ESU 7 needy families; \$300 each to Lakota Lutheran Center, Oaks Indian Mission and Local Family in Need; and \$250 to both UNL and UNK Lutheran Campus Centers. Thanks for your offerings all year long. Thank you to Ruth Circle for hosting.

*Your November offerings from WELCA circles and Church Members through Dec. 4 to help make Christmas special for ESU 7 needy families amounted to \$1,760 cash (includes end of year gift) and a \$250 Thrivent Card for food baskets. Thank you for your generosity and love!

*Your December offerings from our general meeting added another \$360 to make the total given to local needy families \$660. We are thankful for your big hearts and mission minded giving.

*Service for month of January is offering for local utility relief through Polk County REA.

*Altar care for January will be Kay Jones.

*Flowers in January, February & March will be by Ruth Circle. Thank you for watering any plants.

JANUARY CIRCLES

Hostess/Dessert Bible Study

Miriam – 1/12 Diana Johnson Diana

Ruth – ***Offering only*** – no circle meeting held

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” ~ Hebrews 11:1

Cheryl

Thank You

The Officers and Members of the Shelby Rural Fire District thank you very much for your donation to our department.

Thank you for the \$250 donation. It will be used for rescue equipment on our squad.
Chief J. Eller

Calvary Lutheran Church—Swede Home
Thank you for the gift of money to help our Girls on the Run program. We will use the funds to help sponsor girls for our 2023 program.

Thank You

Dorinda Brown-Coach

Genesis House so appreciates your wonderful donation. The support you have shown us is awe inspiring. This donation will allow us to continue our mission of providing support for domestic violence and further our work in providing prevention classes to children and teens.

God bless each of you, Sherri Nielson

Thank you for applying for the Synod Grant and gifting Genesis House with the award! A special thank you to Linda for all her work doing the application.

We will use this grant money for the benefit of children in our counties.

Thanks Again

Sherri Nielson

Recipes

This month's recipe comes from Bonnie Carlson, she has served it at fellowship coffee. If you are looking for a snack treat for New Year's Eve or Super Bowl Sunday, this is quick, easy and delicious.

WHITE CHOCOLATE MIX

3 cups each: Rice Chex, Corn Chex, Honeycomb cereal

1 cup mixed nuts

1 cup Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal or Cinnamon Life Cereal

2 cups pretzels (small, if possible)

Red and Green M&Ms or seasonal color M&Ms

1 15 oz white almond bark, melted

Put all dry ingredients in a large bowl. Pour melted white almond bark over dry ingredients and stir gently, mixing well

Spread on a large jelly roll pan, may line with parchment. Let cool 20-30-minutes, break apart gently and store in covered container.

There is enough cereal to make 2 batches.



Growing in Faith

Service project for December was to pre-assemble items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief 2023

There will be NO youth group meeting on January 1 there will be one January meeting on January 15



The Nebraska Synod had a “One Another” grant program available to congregations. Calvary-Swede Home applied for the \$500 grant listing Genesis House as the ministry. Their plans, if approved, would be to purchase a safety program curriculum to be used in area schools. The grant application was approved, and Cheryl presented the \$500 to Genesis House along with our regular Christmas Delivery.

This year the Evangelism and Outreach Committee coordinated 40 meal bags to be delivered to Seniors through the Polk County Services meals on wheels. Weather delayed delivery until December 27. Thanks to: Jarrett, Koleton, Kamdyn, Lew, Carolyn, Kay, Don and Linda for the “legwork, and the Council for making it possible.

Important dates to remember

The annual meeting of Calvary Lutheran Church—Swede Home will be on January 22nd, following the regular worship service.

There will be a congregational meal served following the meeting.

Purpose of the meeting:

- Received annual reports from committees
- Receive and vote on nominating committee recommendations
- Approve the proposed budget for 2023
- Receive updates on parsonage
- Any other business that is brought before the congregation



Installation Service

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

8am— 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.

Outreach to the community

Q 150

We received this request from the Stromsburg Chamber regarding the fundraiser for a storage building. We are chamber members, and so we are sharing this letter in our newsletter:

The Stromsburg gem, the Nativity, needs to find a home in a better facility than where it is currently stored. Our committee has been working to raise money for this facility. Along with the Nativity items, there will be room for much of the equipment used during the annual Swedish Festival; the town float for the King, Queen and attendants, chicken BBQ, Taste of Sweden, Smorgasbord, and the flagpoles used to display the flags that adorn the streets during Swedish Festival, Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day. Some funding for this project has been received, but we are still far short of the total needed for this facility.

It will soon be time to return the Nativity to storage. Once it is removed from sight, it seems we forget about it until it's displayed again next year. Now, while the Nativity is still the focus of the town square, please consider making a donation to the proposed facility that will provide better storage for this historical part of the town and the other necessary items mentioned above.

Your check can be made out to the Stromsburg Chamber of Commerce with the notation "Events Storage Facility" and given to Megan Klein at Polk County Rural Public Power District.

If you want to mail your check, here is the address:
 Stromsburg Chamber
 PO Box 1
 Stromsburg, NE 68666

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 have hosted the Nebraska Brass on several occasions and are honored that they are coming again to kick off our celebration. Watch for future announcements regarding events for the day. If you would like to help with this specific event, please contact Linda.

The Ice Cream Social on the 3rd Sunday in July will be the next celebration—along with the delicious ice cream and treats, a few special surprises are in store. The core Ice Cream committee will be in charge of this event, and members will be asked to help make ice cream, bars, serve, clean up etc.

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. There are plans to have a meal following the service. We are asking for volunteers to help with and plan this event.

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

There will be an historical picture board, quilts, artwork to display, publication for the events, something for everyone's talents! So please, contact Linda, Kent or either Pastor and let us know you are willing to share your talents!! Once we have had our annual meeting, we will be scheduling committee meetings. 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.



Calvary Lutheran Church
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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:

January 22—Annual meeting following worship with meal to follow

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

April 16—Nebraska Brass 3pm—first Q150 celebration—reception to follow with a featured guest

July 16—Ice cream social –with special Q150 celebrations

August 13—Q150 worship service with bishop and former pastors

December—Close of Q150 celebrations—TBA

Meet a Member – Kris Udey



Kris Udey grew up in Columbus with her parents, Lynn & Pam Nitz, and brother, Jeff who still lives in Columbus. Her mom, Pam, lives in Columbus, and the family mourns the loss of her dad who passed away in August, 2018 of pancreatic cancer.

Kris graduated from Columbus High School and from Central Community College with an Associates Degree in Business Administration. She is currently working in the Polk County Assessor's office in Osceola. She looks forward to taking an Assessor's test in February to enable her to become the Deputy County Assessor.

Kris married Steve Udey at Swede Home 15 years ago. They have 3 children. Their daughter, Katleigh, lives in Mead and has a son, Maverick and will be welcoming another son, to be named Hudson, in January. Sons, Koleton and Kamdyn, attend school in Osceola, and were both baptized at Swede Home, as was Maverick. Katleigh and Koleton were both confirmed at Swede Home.

For fun, Kris enjoys watching the boys as they participate in football, basketball and baseball. A year-long project is helping the boys get ready for showing cattle and hogs at the Polk County Fair.

Kris is currently serving on Swede Home Church Council, the Osceola FFA Alumni County and Polk County 4-H Council. We appreciate her time and skills as she serves on council at Swede Home!

Kris enjoys how everyone at church knows everyone else at Calvary and always asks about family. We're so happy to have Kris and her family as part of our Swede Home family

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



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

- 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

All who are shut in and need prayers and support

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



Please consider signing up for the various worship assistants each Sunday. There is a sign up sheet on the usher's counter. We are grateful for the youth serving as acolytes but want to remind you that anyone can acolyte. Take the time to see what months/needs are available and sign up. If you can't do a full month, note the Sundays you are available. If you would like to ring the bell, talk with the bell ringer on Sunday, and learn the ropes!!

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY

No January anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

04 Mike Larson
 04 Fran Lott
 09 Deb Hanquist
 09 Mary Stevens

 10 Mickey Berggren
 14 Tyler Jones

 15 Quin Rene Anderson-Cahill
 15 Carole Dickson

 16 Roxanne Czarnick
 17 Linda Fuhr
 17 Diana Johnson
 20 Dan Ienn
 23 Joel Cramer
 23 Ron Dickson
 23 Bryce Nielsen
 24 Deb Cramer
 27 Duane Jones
 27 Janelle Udey

 28 Wilder Christensen
 29 Ceagen Watts



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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

JANUARY

Assistant Minister – Wayne Johnson
 Scripture Reader – Wayne Johnson
 Ushers – Ryan and Jen Fjell
 January 8—Lew and Carolyn Nielsen
 Altar – Kay
 Acolyte – Eli Fjell
 Bell Ringer – TBA

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 am Worship Service No Youth group	2 6:30 pm Council meeting	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30 am Worship service with communion	9 Annual reports due	10 7 pm Men's Bible Study At Wayne's	11 No Ruth Circle meeting	12 9am Miriam Circle at Diana Johnson	13	14 WELCA winter retreat at Grand Island
15 10:30 am Worship Service with Communion 6:30 pm Youth Group	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 10:30 am Wor- ship Service with Annual meeting following, then congregational dinner	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 am worship service	30	31				

COUNCIL NOTES

Council met following worship service on Sunday, December 4, 2022

- Received funds from the Carolyn Ekstrand Estate, will consult with family as to the distribution of funds
- Pastor Evan, Pastor Hillary, Kent and Linda will head the Q150 committee with sub committees for each event
- Will research better internet options in the SS Basement and Church building
- JW Catering will cater the annual meeting on January 22
- The monthly 10% giving of the Smith estate funds will go to Matt Talbot Kitchen in Lincoln



Treasurer's Report

	November 2022
Beginning Balance	\$5,351.72
Offerings:	
General Offerings	8,596.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	1,850.00
Augustana for October Share	<u>3,054.56</u>
	13,505.56
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	10.36
Kitchen Supplies	83.44
Offices Supplies	32.37
Reformed Worship	35.00
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	39.99
Worship Supplies	46.97
Postage Expense	67.20
Kitchen Light Fixture	71.94
Eakes Office Solutions; copier contract	136.32
Bedient Pipe Organ; Service Contract	280.00
NE Synod 150th Anniversary "Thankoffering"	500.00
Living Lutheran subscription	680.20
Lorray Smith Estate - Mission Giving	
Hurricane Ian Response - sent to	1,000.00
Christus Victor ELCA Church in Naples, FL	
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,560.00
First English & Augustana November Shares	4,507.25
Utilities:	
Church	261.65
Parsonage	260.58
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,474.56
Portico Benefit Services	1,381.60
Commuting Allowance	158.34
SECA	217.68
Mileage (October & November)	189.50
Cell Phone Allowance	38.00
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	<u>416.86</u>
	15,167.55
Balance as of November 30, 2022:	<u>\$3,689.73</u>