



JULY 2020

...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Message from Sister Anne

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. Jeremiah 29: 11-14



We are now entering the fifth month of living in this pandemic. I suspect that many of us would like to have a hint of what the Lord plans for our future. In July, it will be a year since I first met the people of Calvary Lutheran Church. Pastor Kim needed emergency surgery and Pastor Megan Morrow called me to come and preach on rather short notice. That Sunday was my birthday and David bought a cake for his congregation to celebrate with us. I soon realized that she was in a bind and decided to accept her offer. I could still celebrate with David afterwards. Little did I know that God had plans for my future at Calvary.

Jeremiah's letter was written to the Exiles in Babylon. God tells them when the exile is completed then God will fulfill the promise made to them. We are in somewhat of an exile from what was familiar to us. Everything is different from the way we worship to how we shop. Like the Exiles, we will also see the end of this pandemic in God's time.

Message from Sister Anne (Continued)

In the meantime, it is critical that we observe social distancing and follow the guidelines by the health professionals. They were designed to keep us safe from the virus. We are blessed the numbers are low in our area but the way the virus is spreading, it will get to our area eventually. It is important that we keep our worship space safe so everyone who desires can worship with us. This is what it means to love our neighbor as Jesus taught us.



Dear Friends at Swede Home,

Thank you for the recent gift, all that GOOD food—especially appreciate the special efforts to bring food that children like! You make excellent choices, and I have been fixing boxes of extra food during these hard days of the pandemic, when children were at home. Enjoyed the visit with Don and Linda, at a “Save Distance” of course! Thank you for being the generous friends who help miracles happen at Genesis House.

Sincerely,

Pat and the folks at Genesis House

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Announcements

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



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

Genesis House—David City



The July quilt date will be confirmed by Penny Udey, for now it is on the calendar for July 23.

Some restrictions may apply . Please confirm with Penny before you attend.

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*Service for month of July is an offering that usually went towards the ice cream social. Please consider giving an offering in the amount you might have spent on the ice cream social, and it may help make up a bit of shortfall so we can still give our customary help to missions at the end of the year. You can mail your offerings to Bonnie Carlson, 12929 Twin Pines Rd., Osceola, NE 68651, (if unable to attend circle meetings). Thanks so much!

*July Altar Care will be by Diana Johnson, and August will be Kathi Jones and Mary Stevens.

*Flowers in July & August by Ruth Circle.

*Special Thanks to Linda Fuhr for watering the plants at church to keep them looking nice!

*Quilting fun and fellowship will be on July 23, if it's decided to meet.

*Circle meetings may or may not be held, depending on your group's choice. Please check with your leader or hostess for sure.

July

	<i>Hostess/Dessert</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
Ruth – 7/8	Deb Hanquist	Deb H.
Mary Anna-7/9	Jan Ernst	Jan
Miriam – 7/10	<u>(no one listed)</u>	Diana

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” ~ Romans 14:17

May you find joy this summer, especially in the beautiful sunrises and sunsets, all gifts from God.

Cheryl

Reaching out to our community

The Church Council will have their July meeting on Wednesday, July 1 - At that time, they will review the effective guidelines for church services. As it is now, we will continue with having in - church services as we have had in the month of June. We will be mindful of the social distancing, masks, not passing the offering plate, sharing the peace etc. It has been good to worship together again, even with the limited guidelines. We will continue to furnish the weekly at home worship bulletin for those who are unable to attend.



HERE'S THE SCOOP!



July will seem different this year of 2020.

Normally the ladies would be calling and asking for donations of homemade ice cream, brownies or bars, help in setting up and tearing down and working the three shifts. Covid-19 has changed all that—for the first time in memory, there will be no Swede Home Ice Cream Social—risks to the committee, the workers and the members and community who come were considered too great a risk to take. We are saddened by that, but we pray that we will be back, bigger and stronger in 2021.

Since this project helped fund the many mission projects the WELCA women fund at the end of the year, please consider giving an offering in the amount you might have spent on the ice cream social, and it may help make up a bit of shortfall so we can still give our customary help to missions at the end of the year. You can mail your offerings to Bonnie Carlson, 12929 Twin Pines Rd., Osceola, NE 68651, Thanks so much!

RECIPES

Thank you, Cheryl Jones for your contribution to the newsletter recipe column. It's a great one for summer—and your yummy garden produce will make it delicious! Since it is midsummer, and COVID 19 has changed our lives, I took the liberty of adding some graphics to this recipe, just to make you smile!

Herdis' Salad

(Given to Cheryl Jones from Marlene Hanquist,

Originally from Herdis Miller, wife of Pastor Miller)

Prepare the vegetables, mix together & let set a few hours or overnight:

1 or 2 heads broccoli,  cut into bite size pieces

1 head cauliflower,  cut into bite size pieces



1 red onion chopped

1 cup diced celery



1 cup raisins



1 cup seedless grapes (cut in half – if large)



Later add & stir-in:

¼ lb. cooked bacon, crumbled



1 cup slivered almonds



© Can Stock Photo

Mix dressing & stir into salad:

1 cup Miracle Whip *(I use Light Miracle Whip)*

1/3 cup sugar

1 Tablespoon vinegar

147th church anniversary in August

Excerpts from a newspaper article written by Linda Harrison, entitled "Czech preacher fits nicely in Swede Community" The article was about Rev. Milan Swasko

On Highway 81 north of Stromsburg, a small white sign heralds the existence of a church 3 ½ miles west on a gravel road. Countless motorists have probably passed the sign without a glance. But anyone who takes the time to detour finds not the small, white frame building usually associated with a rural church, but a towering brick edifice with a silver steeple reaching far about the treetops.

The Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church of Swede Home has a history to rival any church in the area and a thriving congregation despite its rural location. The Rev. Milan Swasko came to Swede Home from Chicago. His call was extended as a dual parish with the church in Rising City, but the original call was dissolved in January 1980, with Swede Home retaining Swasko full time.

Swasko came to the area with a history of church service in his family. His father came to the United States from Czechoslovakia and was ordained a Lutheran minister, and he has two older brothers who are retired Lutheran ministers. How could an ethnic Czech make it in a community of Swedes? Swasko seems to fit in nicely and said they take him for a Swede because of his blonde features. It shows the changes there have been in the small ethnic churches.

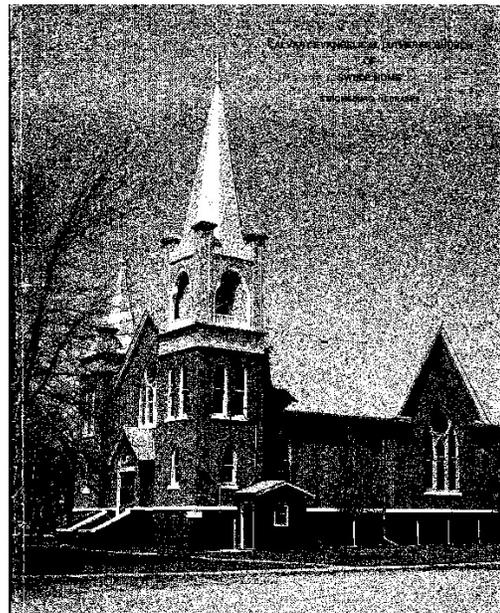
This particular Swedish church was the first Lutheran settlement in Polk County and was the mother church for Fridhem Lutheran Church at Hordville, Salem Lutheran Church in Stromsburg and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Osceola.

Czech preacher fits nicely in Swede Community, Continued....

The present brick church was constructed in 1914 and was preceded by two other white frame buildings. The parsonage was built in 1911 and remodeled in 1956. The second story was removed to make a smaller more modern home according to the history book. Another remodeling effort found the original tin ceiling in the sanctuary replaced with red cedar in 1978. There was a big debate about losing the character of the church, but the way the red cedar was installed, the ceiling looks like a cut jewel.

When Calvary's people show faith in the future, they are relying on the base of faith they have found in the past. "Calvary is in people's blood," said Swasko

"Calvary is in people's blood", these words are as true today as they were when this article was written!!!



God's Work, Our Hands

Facemasks for Lutheran World Relief

Thank you to all that have made fabric facemasks for yourselves, your families, and others in Swede Home and in the surrounding areas! You have truly made a difference!

If you're interested in making any more facemasks, Lutheran World Relief is asking for fabric facemasks to be made and shipped to them to be distributed with International shipments of personal care kits scheduled for summer and fall. Lutheran World Relief asks that we be mindful these masks will be sent to other countries, so that should be considered when selecting any printed material, holidays, camouflage, patriotic, Nebraska Huskers, etc. .may not be appropriate in other countries. There will be more information on the personal care kits available at church, or see Cheryl.

You can use any pattern, or if you want to try something new, you may visit their website for their pattern with ties. (*website is lwr.org*) If you're in need of elastic or fabric, Cheryl has a good amount of it on hand and will be glad to get it to you, free of charge.



Please deliver your fabric face masks (or personal care kits) to church or give to Cheryl before September 1, and she will mail them to the Minne-

sota site for Lutheran World Relief.

Vulnerable communities are defenseless against COVID-19

Reach neighbors in need without leaving home. The masks you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. Our generous community reached our first goal of 75,000 masks in record time. Let's make 75,000 *More!*

Not all heroes wear capes. Some make face masks.

Many people in developing countries don't have the option of social distancing or frequent handwashing to slow the spread of COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now says cloth face masks, along with hand washing and social distancing may help reduce transmission.

We need your help to sew cloth face masks to help us reach men, women and children in vulnerable communities.

After all, Lutheran World Relief was founded 75 years ago to help neighbors around the globe who were suffering during World War II. What will be our generation's legacy during this time of crisis?



Meet a Member— Beth Jones Wienck

I feel so honored to be the “Featured Member” in this month’s newsletter. Calvary and Swede Home hold a very special place in my heart. I was born, baptized and confirmed here. Carol and Duane Jones are my parents. My ancestors were some of the founding fathers of Calvary and donated part of the land where the church is now located; a fact I am very proud of.

Even though my husband Gary and I live in Marysville, KS, I am glad I can continue my membership. Marysville is located 75 miles south of Lincoln, just over the Kansas border. Calvary will always be “my church”. I am a Certified Medical Coder and work from home for Community Physicians’ Clinic here in Marysville. Gary works at Valley Vet Supply which is an international mail order business which sells veterinary and pet supplies. My daughter Jennie and her husband, Ric and their 8 year old son, Seth, live in Elmhurst, IL (near Chicago), and my son Nathan and his wife, Amber and their 4 boys – Lexus, 20; Syrus, 15; Cash, 12; and Mark, 10 live in Lincoln, NE.

Three years ago, I was diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis, a rear autoimmune disease. Many of you might remember, I have had health issues for several years and have finally found the reason, having a diagnosis was a great relief, but I continue to suffer with symptoms. Myasthenia gravis (MG) is characterized by weakness and rapid fatigue with any of the muscles under voluntary control. It is caused by a breakdown in the normal communication between nerves and muscles. There is no cure for MG, but treatment can help relieve its signs and symptoms, which include weakness of arm, neck and leg muscles, double vision, drooping eyelids, and difficulties with speech, chewing, swallowing and breathing. I have had several different treatments which include medication, plasma exchange, IVIG and Rituxan infusions. The current Rituxan therapy seems to helping the most. The downside is my immune system is severely compromised because of it. Basically, I have been self-quarantined since before Covid-19 and even more so now.

I am blessed that I can work from home, that helps keep me busy. I love to read (when my vision is up for it!) and am active in several online book clubs; I also craft a bit and of course, baking has always been a favorite hobby of mine. I do fatigue easily so have to remind myself what my “new normal” is on days when I am feeling better. I miss in person visits with my parents, children and my grandsons, as well as other family and friends. But Zoom and Face Time are both wonderful inventions.

I know I have been included in church wide prayers and that means so much to me. I enjoy the Swede Home services and other posts on Facebook too. It is almost like being there. Hopefully, I can make a trip home in the future and visit with everyone again!

**Calvary Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
950 129th Road
Stromsburg, NE 68666
Church Phone: (402)764-5981
www.calvaryswedehomechurch.com
Email calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com**

**Sister Anne Hall, Interim Minister
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**

Sister Anne Hall, contact number 308-249-3810

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 her cell-phone 402-366-2091, text is preferred or leave a voice message

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Melissa Forsberg	Elaine Toline
Janice Forsberg	
Denny Johnson	Jan Wells-Bachman
Linda Johnson	
June Larson	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
- Our ELCA Partner Synod—Pacifica Synod
- Confirmands, Kelby Neujahr, Ethan Fjell, Kylee Kohl on their Confirmation in the fall
- Brody Ienn in service to our country

To request prayers call
 Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041



ANNIVERSARIES

CALVARY:

Jul 3 Chris & Heidi Smith

Jul 6 Bob & Bonnie Dittmer

Jul 12 Josh & Kailie McCarville

Jul 20 Tom & Lynn Hofmann

Jul 23 Lew and Carolyn Nielsen

Jul 25 Ty and Erica Twarling

Jul 27 Rod and Kay Jones

BIRTHDAYS

Jul CALVARY:

- 01 Betty Hinkle
- 03 Jacob Adelson
- 04 Jessica Noble
- 05 Patrick Bush
- 08 LeeAnn Willhoft
- 08 Phyllis Yungdahl
- 10 Teresa Johnson
- 10 Jill Westring
- 11 Missy Althouse
- 13 Ryan Johnson
- 14 Kobe Brouillette
- 17 Carol Nicholson
- 18 Kris Udey
- 21 Carolyn Nielsen
- 25 Kirk Dittmer
- 25 Tina Watts
- 26 Scott Fredrickson
- 30 Dennis Johnson

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

JULY

- Assistant Minister – Sandy Johnston
- Scripture Reader – Sandy Johnston
- Ushers – Wayne Johnson & Todd Hanquist
- Altar/Communion – Diana Johnson
- Acolyte – TBA
- Bell Ringer – TBA

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

July 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 INDEPENDENCE DAY	1 7 pm Church Council	2	3	4 		
5 10:30 am Worship Service	6	7	8 Ruth Circle	9 Mary Anna Circle	10 Miriam Circle	11
12 10:30 am Worship Service	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship Service	20	21	22	23 Quilt Day	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31	

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Treasurer's Report

COUNCIL NOTES

Council Notes, May 27, 2020

- Council met May 27. Present: Kent, Sandy, Dan O, Dan I, Lynn, Fran, Todd, Sister Anne
- Council discussed an update from the property committee regarding getting the parsonage mailbox reinstalled and delaying regravelling the parking lot.
- Radio transmission for church service was postponed as Council decided to hold in-person service beginning June 7.
- Council established service guidelines of every other pew seating, no ushers handing out bulletins but individuals picking up their own bulletin, no passing of the peace, no singing of hymns, no ushers conducting offering but individuals placing their offering in the offertory plate at the entrance of the sanctuary, wearing a mask is encouraged, and sanitizer and extra masks are available.
- Council will begin looking at the latest church profile as the call process continues to move forward.
- Council approved that quilt ladies will begin meeting in June but proceed with caution and wipe down surfaces when finished.
- The Ice Cream Social committee and Council approved to cancel this event for 2020 due to so many uncertainties with the directed health measures and dangers associated with Covid-19.
- Council discussed confirming the confirmands in the fall.
- Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.



May

2020

Beginning Balance	\$8,021.57
Offerings:	
General Offering	6,220.00
Sunday School	0.00
ELCA LIRS	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	250.00
Zion for April Share	<u>1,506.95</u>
	7,981.95
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	8.79
Cody's Computer - Contract Agreement	34.99
USPO Postage	42.00
Office Net Contract Base & usage	170.26
Sundays & Seasons Year B 2021	180.34
Bedient Pipe Organ Service Agreement	250.00
Offering Envelopes Boxed Sets for 2021	325.95
Pastor Brenda; Confirmation Instruction	700.00
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,540.00
First Lutheran R.C. May Share	1,038.14
Utilities:	
Church	698.28
Parsonage	168.44
Salaries:	
Sister Anne	1,388.78
Mileage	64.40
NE Employment Taxes - Pastoral	103.36
Portico Benefit Services	435.83
NE Employment Taxes - Lay	26.71
Diana	448.54
LeeAnn	236.64
Linda	<u>374.94</u>
	8,236.39
Balance as of May 31, 2020:	<u>\$7,767.13</u>
Designated \$\$ Transferred to Appropriate Account:	
For: Thrivent Choice Offerings	703.00

*This page is only seen by Calvary Members