



JULY 2023

150 YEARS—1873–2023

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Go and... The Nebraska Synod met at the end of May for our annual meeting. While all the happenings can be found in Pastor Hillary’s article later in this month’s newsletter, I want to highlight the theme we as a Nebraska Synod will focus on over the next year. In Matthew 28:16–20, a passage often called the Great Commission, Jesus tells the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, to baptize in the name of the Triune God, and to teach them everything Jesus has commanded. So too does Jesus say this to us: “Go!” Or, more specifically, “Go, and... do *something* for the kingdom of heaven.”

Each month we, as a synod of some 90,000 believers, will focus on a different aspect of “Go, and...” Our Bishop as well as the rest of the synod staff and so many ministry leaders across the state are providing resources for congregations and individuals to explore the many ways we go and... share, serve, ask, rest, and more.

In June, the focus was **prayer**. While June wraps up soon, it is never too late to reflect on this spiritual practice. I pass along some questions asked by our synod:

- What is your big prayer at this time?
- What is going on in the lives of your neighbor?
How can you pray for them?
- Where will you *GO and...* grow your prayer life this month?

In July, we focus on go and... **listen**. This spiritual practice seems to get harder and harder every day. We’re so often expected to have all the right words and answers, and to have opinions formed before we even know what’s going on. Yet scripture time and again encourages us, as disciples, to listen more than we talk: to listen to ourselves, to our neighbors, and to God. Take some time to consider these questions:

- What is something you learned from listening to your heart?
- What is something you learned from listening to a stranger?
- In a year of **GOING**, how will you listen to those around you?

When we listen, we find our so much that we can imagine. We learn history and stories of our neighbors. We gain different perspective. We grow as disciples. We might even discover something about ourselves



GO AND...

LISTEN

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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 July donations go to:

Genesis House—David City

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SWEDE HOME'S FIRST

Potluck Church



Please bring something to share as we worship while enjoying a meal.

JULY 6TH @ 6:00 PM

DINNER CHURCH —

Come to our Potluck Supper and Worship, Thursday, July 6th. We'll plan on folks gathering at church at 6, with meal and worship to begin around 6:15/30 or so. Sort of a "cocktail hour" idea as people gather. Watch for more information.

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*At the Swede Home Ice Cream Social, we're all looking forward to enjoying some yummy homemade ice cream in the shade of the trees on **Sunday, July 16 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Invite your friends and neighbors to join in the fun and fellowship! The Ice Cream Social is part of Swede Home's Q-150th Anniversary Celebration. New this year will be face painting and a bouncy house for the young at heart. If you'd enjoy helping or furnishing food and haven't been contacted yet, please let Deb Hanquist or Cheryl Jones know. Thanks to everyone who makes this a memorable event for all who attend!

* Ice cream will be served at Midwest Covenant Home Assisted Living on Monday, July 17 at 2:30 p.m. If you would like to help, please let Mary Stevens know, as more friendly faces to visit with residents and/or serve food are always welcome.

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

*Flowers and Cheer in July, August & September by Ruth Circle. Thank you Kathi Jones for all your beautiful flower arrangements!

*Pot Luck and Worship will be a fun, new thing at church on Thursday, July 6 at 6 p.m. Look for additional info elsewhere in the newsletter. Sounds like fun!

*Thank you to all those serving coffee after church this summer! We're really enjoying the fellowship.

July Circle Meetings

Hostess/Dessert Bible Study

Ruth – 7/12 Cheryl Jones @ 4th St. Coffee in Burg

Miriam – 7/13 Sandy Johnston Gloria Oquist

“And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” ~ Micah 6:8

Have a memorable summer!

Cheryl

Recipes



Our mission statement includes “Share God’s Love” Swede Home is known for its loving care of others. In celebration of our 150th anniversary, the council has designated special mission offerings. Beginning at the Q150 special music service on April 30 there will be a special offering plate available each and every Sunday.

The council will decide on the designated recipients of this mission offering.



The annual QUILT AUCTION at Camp Carol Joy Holling will be Saturday, July 29th starting at 9 AM

Quilts handcrafted by individuals, congregations, and groups from Nebraska and beyond will be auctioned to fund summer camp scholarships.

More than just an auction! Bring the family for a day of fun, camp tours, BBQ lunch and more! Free Parking and admission.

More information or to view quilts go to:

CJHCenter.org/quilt-auction

Once again, Ben comes through with a delicious recipe. It comes from Alice Carlson, Ben and Jim Carlson’s mother.

This recipe was always a special treat when it was apple season in the fall and we could pick from our own fruit trees. There is still a pear and now an apple tree on the family farm (where Jim and Bonnie live) The apple tree was planted a few years ago in the memory of our dad, Bud Carlson

Apple Pie Torte

1 cup sugar, 1/4 cup oleo—creamed these ingredients together,

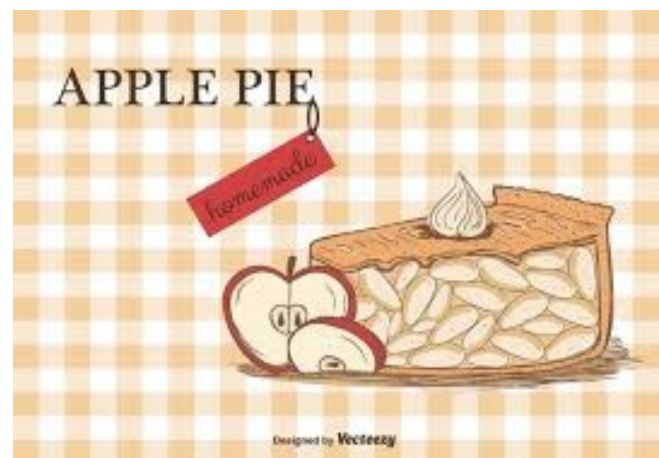
then add 1 egg., 1/2 tsp salt, 1 tsp soda, 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon, 1 cup flour..

Add 1/2 cup nuts, 2 1/2 cups diced apples.

Pour into a large greased pie pan and bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes.

SAUCE:

1/2 cup oleo, 1/2 cup cream, 1/2 cup brown sugar, 1 tsp vanilla. Cook until thick . You may double the sauce ingredients so that there will be plenty!!



What's Happening

What's Happening

Calvary Lutheran Church Swede Home Ice Cream Social



On the lawn at 950 129th Rd, Stromsburg
Sunday July 16th, 6:00p-8:00p

Come join us for some food, fun, and lots of fellowship!

We are celebrating our 150th year of Ministry with:



The familiar words “Thank you” don’t seem like enough to recognize all the prayers, cards, food, hugs and calls that we received when Cheryl was treated for cancer the past 6 months. We’re happy to announce that we’ve been told she’s now in remission. Praise the Lord!

Cheryl & Monty Jones

What's Happening

Our church is a busy place

The fellowship hall is also reserved for Sunday, July 9 at 12:30 pm for Kay Jones family reunion.

July 16 is the annual ice cream social, beginning at 6 pm. The whole weekend will be busy with preparations for freezing the ice cream, treats, and beautiful floral arrangements, and of course the set up of picnic tables! If you are able to volunteer time for any of the pre social events—please contact Kay Jones. Contact Deb Hanquist or Cheryl Jones for helping the day of the event and providing treats. Because of the 150 celebration, special activities are planned with activities for the youth (or young at heart) there will be a bouncy house and face painting set up on the West side of the church.

July 17—the social moves to Midwest Covenant Home at 2:30 with serving ice cream and treats—if you can help with that service, let Mary Stevens know.

We are building up to the 150th anniversary celebration on August 13 with the worship service led by Bishop Scott Johnson. We are planning special guests for the worship service and there will be a catered meal following the service. If you would like to help with activities that day please let Linda Fuhr know.

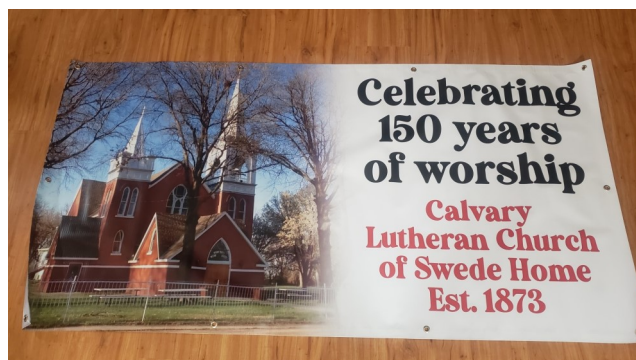
Our closing event will be on October 22 with a special music and art worship service led by Diana. This will include a reception honoring Diana Johnson who will be retiring as our music director after 45 years of dedicated service (she started part time in 1975, and went full time 2-3 years later) . She will continue to lead worship until the end of the year.

Swedish Festival 2023

Calvary—Swede Home proudly had an entry in the Swedish Festival at Stromsburg, June 17.

Thanks to Andrew and Kent Adelson for getting the banners and Dan Oquist for the truck! Those riding on the entry are Lynn and Payton Hofmann, Dan and Lisa Oquist, and Pastor Evan and Pastor Hillary.

The banners will be on display on the church lawn later this summer.



Synod Assembly

The Nebraska Synod met on June 2 and 3 in Kearney to learn about the synod’s ministry in our state and to convene business. Kay Jones and Bonnie Carlson attended with Pastors Evan and Hillary. The keynote speaker was Rev. Maristela Freiberg the Director of Evangelical Mission in the New Jersey Synod. The ELCA representative was Rev. Christopher Otten, the Director of Federal Chaplaincies for the ELCA. Both were wonderful speakers who shared stories of their ministry and how each are making a difference in their areas, showing us how we can do this for our congregation and communities. Our bishop, Rev. Scott Alan Johnson, presided over the weekend and did a wonderful job.

All resolutions were passed, and we each went to different workshops to learn more ideas about what we could do at Swede Home, from photography as a spiritual practice to multi-generational ministry and congregational community engagement. The theme for the assembly was to “Go and...” for each month of the year starting with June. Here are the “go and...” themes that we will focus on this year.



GO AND...

PRAY	LISTEN	SHARE YOUR STORY	SERVE WITH NEIGHBORS	ASK	BE HONEST	BE PRESENT	REST	HAVE THE CONVERSATION	BE INTENTIONAL	TELL THE STORY	BE CHURCH
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It was a wonderful two days. If you would like to learn more of the specifics of what went on, or to watch any of the speeches or sermons please go to <https://nebraskasynod.org/news-events/synod-assembly/>. Our delegates were Bonnie Carlson and Kay Jones along with Pastor Evan and me.

Blessings,
Pastor Hillary Christensen

Calvary Lutheran Church
 Nebraska Synod, ELCA
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 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
- Missy Althouse, Council Secretary
- Diana Johnson, Organist
- Linda Fuhr, Church Office Manager
- LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:

- Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Dan Oquist,
- Kent Adelson, Missy Althouse, Kris Udey, Randy Lott
- Jarrett Althouse, youth representative

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



Dear Pastors and Congregation:

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership appreciates your donation of \$225 to our Polk County Family and community Service Center. Your generosity

will make a difference in the lives of those we serve in your community.

Thank you for "Helping People and Changing Lives"

Heather Lytle, Administrative Director

Meet a Member — Bradley Sundberg



Brad grew up on a farm where he and his wife, Susan still reside. His parents were J. Harvey and M. Irene Sundberg. He has an older brother in Texas, a brother in Cairo, NE and a sister in Lemoyne NE. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren, soon to be 5!!

Brad graduated from Polk High School. The August after he graduated, he joined the army. He did a tour in Germany and finished out his service with a tour in Vietnam. After returning from the service, he started farming and married his wife, Susan.

Brad likes to hunt and fish. They like to go camping and spend a lot of time at Harlan County Reservoir in the summer. They like to travel around Nebraska and the United States.

Brad is quite passionate about his grandchildren and their activities and what the future holds for them.

Brad was confirmed at Calvary and attended church at Calvary with his parents and many of his mother's extended family.

Coming to Swede Home and becoming a member was just like coming home.

We are Calvary welcome both Brad and Susan to our faith family, and are so glad to have you both here.



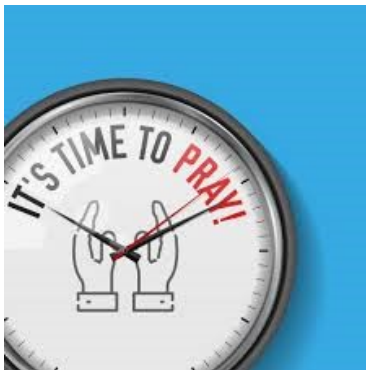
We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

**REMEMBER IN
YOUR PRAYERS**



- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Melissa Forsberg | Jan Wells-Bachman |
| Janice Forsberg | Jaydn Johnson |
| June Larson | Luna Stauber |
| Beth Wienik | Emmy |
| | Duane Jones |
| • Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action | Sally Sterup |
| • Houses for Health recipients. | Charles Hays |
| • Bishop Scott Johnson and the Nebraska Synod staff | Gloria Oquist |
| • 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-



If you are on Facebook, but have not friended the “Swede Home” page, consider doing so. We try to keep it current and this month, Pastor Evan has

been posting a daily prayer and reading provided for the new testament in 30 days. The postings are short, and you can easily catch up if you have not seen the daily posts. You will also find posts of worship services at First Rising and Augustana.

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

JULY

- 3 Chris & Heidi Smith
- 6 Bob & Bonnie Dittmer
- 12 Josh & Kailie McCarville
- 20 Tom & Lynn Hofmann
- 23 Lew and Carolyn Nielsen
- 27 Rod & Kay Jones

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



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”

JULY

- Assistant Minister – Sandy Johnson
- Scripture Reader – Sandy Johnson
- Ushers – Wayne Johnson and Todd Hanquist
- Altar – Diana Johnson
- Acolyte – TBA
- Bell Ringer – Todd Hanquist

July 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 10:30 worship with com- munion	3	4 	5	6 6:00 pm Dinner Church Potluck	7	8
9 10:30 worship	10	11 7 PM Men's Bible Study	12 9am Ruth Circle at 4th Street, Cheryl Hosts	13 9am Miriam Circle at Sandy's	14	15
16 10:30 worship with communion Ice Cream social 6-8 pm	17 2:30 pm MWCH Ice Cream Social	18	19	20	21	22
23 10:30 worship	24	25	26	27	28	29 9 AM Camp Carol Joy Hol- ling Quilt Auction
30 10:30 worship Pastors' vaca- tion July 30- Aug 9th	31					

COUNCIL NOTES

June 4th meeting, following worship

Present: Kent, Randy, Jarrett, Lynn, Missy, Dan, Pastor Hillary

Absent: Todd and Kris

Text messages have been sent to congregation groups with events- people can reply to the messages.

Designate distribution of Q150 special offering mission fund (on agenda until action taken)

Designate to Local; Stromsburg Ministim, Osceola Tri Church

Midweek Dinner church service 29th for First Lutheran - having potluck July 6th for Swedehome

Property Committee updates -review bid from BD

End of road with BD. \$100,000 difference between bid and insurance. Church Mutual- outsourcing things. Going to try to find new contractor. \$40-\$50K out of church pocket. Present information to congregation to figure out where to start.

Restroom sign will be put up

Synod Assembly follow up: In Kearney. Lots of speakers and workshops. Bonnie and Kay went with Pastors Hillary and Evan

Vacation Bible School – June 5-9, 8:30 to 11:30. Happening in Osceola.

Q 150 report: August 13 – Kim Belken along with Pastors Rebecca and Donna will be here with The Bishop. Meal after worship; 150 meals . Need Help with set up of tables on Saturday. Caterer will do most of serving and clean-up. Linda has 4 volunteers to help with dessert, decorations, final clean up – could use several more volunteers. Church youth to help?

October 22 - Diana's 2nd recital Cheryl will help Linda with planning – will have a reception following church service, will apply for Thrivent card to cover reception costs

Treasurer's Report

	May 2023
Beginning Balance	\$551.71
Offerings:	
General Offering	7,477.00
Q150 Mission Giving	587.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	500.00
First Lutheran R.C.; April Share	3,684.16
Augustana Genoa; April Share	<u>5,525.25</u>
	17,778.41
Transfer: from General SAV Account	5,000.00
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.29
Office Supplies	15.99
Batteries	23.19
Cody's Computer - Contract Agreement	39.99
Postage Expense; Treasurer's use	63.00
Q150 Campaign & Events	109.96
Eakes Office Solutions; copier paper	129.90
Sundays & Seasons Year B 2024	202.20
Council Discretion Expenditure	475.00
Cemetery Board	500.00
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,580.00
First Lutheran R.C. May Share	1,781.06
Augustana Genoa May Share	2,721.26
Utilities:	
Church	1,095.09
Parsonage	57.67
Genoa Parsonage	143.61
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,474.56
Portico Benefit Services	1,207.12
Commuting Reimbursement	158.33
SECA	217.68
Mileage Reimbursement	225.87
Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	<u>689.05</u>
	14,675.56
Balance as of May 31, 2023:	<u>\$8,654.56</u>