



MARCH, 2017

...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIM

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has shared four convictions about the ELCA. These convictions are: We are Church, We are Lutheran, We are church together, and we are church together for the sake of the world. These all sound pretty straight forward and logical right. They sound like who we are. But I think there is something to be gained by looking deeper at each one of these convictions. It is important to know and understand well the things that are used to describe us. The Nebraska

This is the church- this is the steeple- open the doors and see all the people. So, goes a well-known children's finger play. If you go by this, the church is a building- a place.

The truth, however, is the church is more than just a place. The church is also a people- people like us.

But what does it mean for us to be church?

This is what we will be exploring during our midweek Lenten services. To guide and shape our discussions, we will be looking at the four classic marks of the church from the Nicene Creed. This is the creed that we use on communion Sundays at Zion and during certain seasons of the church year at Calvary. In this creed we profess that we are "one", "holy", "catholic", and "apostolic."

Each week during Lent we will spend time learning about what it means to be each one of these things. We join many other congregations across the state of Nebraska who are using the same Lenten materials to explore and better understand their identity as the church.

Why does this matter?

It matters that many other congregations across the Nebraska Syn-



THANK YOU . . .

I want to thank the Swede Home congregation for the privilege of musical service each Sunday. Whether at practice or at worship, the music instills me with joy and elevation of spirit. I am so grateful I was able to find home in the area so that I could continue my music ministry on this glorious pipe organ for this loving, forgiving congregation.

I also owe my mother a debt of gratitude. She insisted on regular practice for many years and I did plenty of complaining about it. Those complainants rolled off her like water off a duck. I regret that I can never tell her of the joy the music (and even the practice!) brings me. As I told my circle, sometimes the Spirit has beat us over the head for our response call. It is a blessing to be here.

Diana Johnson

Thank you to all Calvary members and Pastor Kim for honoring me with "Going the Extra Mile" award and the gift of a beautiful cross. God's Blessings to everyone!

Jan Ernst

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(CONTINUED FROM PASTOR KIM'S MESSAGE ON PAGE 1)

od are using this same Lenten series. The lessons learned will strengthen each congregation and help unite us together in purpose and mission. There is such a need for the church to be the church in today's world. The hurting cries of refugees and immigrants, the vast number of people experiencing homelessness and hunger, and the negative ways that human beings continue to treat the plant all point to the need for the church. For the church has both the calling and the gifts to work for the betterment of all people. As members of the church, we are Christ present to the world.

Thank you for all the ways that you are church to people. You make a difference. I hope you can join us for these mid-week Lenten meals and services. The schedule is inside the newsletter!

In Christ,
Pr. Kim

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"I want this to be a good day, Mommy. Is this the right side of the bed for me to get up on?"
from *JoyfulNoiseLetter.com*
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W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

Last minute reminder about the Spring Gathering in Norfolk on March 4th. Registration deadline is February 28th, the fee is \$18.00. Deb and I have information and registration forms if you are interested.

Lenten Services and Easter week is fast approaching. Check with your leaders on serving dates for your individual circles. Along with Zion we will be serving evening meals as well as noon lunches. The noon lunches are at different churches in our area.

Hope you are all enjoying the pre-spring weather. 62 degrees at this writing!

Marj

March

| | <i>Hostess/Dessert</i> | <i>Bible Study</i> |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Anna | Gladys Johnson | Gladys Johnson |
| Miriam | Carol Jones | Marj Johnson |
| Ruth | Deb Hanquist | Deb Hanquist |

Bible Study: *Gather* - March

Service: Genesis Home (Monetary or tangible) (a list of tangible items will be provided)

April

| | <i>Hostess/Dessert</i> | <i>Bible Study</i> |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Anna | Jan Ernst | Jan Ernst |
| Miriam | Gloria Oquist | Jean Waller |
| Ruth | Janet Nielsen | Janet Nielsen |

Bible Study: *Gather* - April

Service: Backpack Program (monetary offering) (In addition to a monetary offering, will need people to pack bags at Salem Lutheran Church; dates & times to be announced)



MISSION AND MINISTRY UPDATE



When her parents passed away, 7-year old Mia was sent to live with a distant relative on the border between Thailand and Burma. Her “caretaker” forced Mia to work in an orchard rather than go to school, and her meager “salary” was stolen by her caretaker. When she

was 13, Mia was forced to stay in a different home where she was sexually abused.

Conservative estimates suggest nearly a quarter-million women and girls are victims of human trafficking in Southeast Asia every year, often abused and forced to work for little or no pay. But thanks to the work of New Life Center Foundation in Thailand, supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, this isn’t the end of the story for victims like Mia. When she first arrived in the New Life Center Foundation, Mia had significant development delays stemming from years of abuse and neglect. The foundation staff arranged for her to study in their on-site adult education program, but Mia struggled, as basic tasks, like holding a pencil, were unfamiliar to her.

After three years of hard work and hope, Mia began studying at the seventh-grade level. Therapeutic art classes and counseling also continued to help her process the abuse and exploitation she lived through as a young girl.

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, through New Life Center Foundation’s comprehensive programs. Mia has skills and confidence to share her story with others and renewed hope for the future.



WELCOME

A special welcome to our newest members at Calvary, Tom and Lynn Hoffman and their daughters Peyton and Rylee. They will be received into membership on Sunday, March 19th.

SWEDE HOME FOOD PANTRY

The Evangelism and Outreach Team oversees a nonperishable food and personal care item collection. You are welcome to bring donations at any time.



Please place items you wish to donate in the basket located in the entry way of the church.

Items are usually delivered the last week of the month. In March, your donations will go to Blue Valley Community Action in Osceola.

Most recipients of Blue Valley Food Bank are families of 4 headed with working parents with little extra time. Canned meats are especially needed, Box Dinners, Canned Fruits, and Vegetables, and Breakfast Cereal are always needed as well. Dessert mixes are a special treat. All of the items we donate are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they help meet critical needs.

Thank You (Continued)

Dear friends at Calvary Lutheran, Swede Home

I apologize that it has taken me so long to get this thank you sent to you!! We had a glorious Christmas at Genesis House... 10 women (7 moms) and 17 children received gifts from our “basement Wal-Mart”... the circle of giving that is created with all the beautiful gifts that are donated... and yours were so wonderful and you seem to bring just the right things... you always bring us some of our best items, and the “really good food” also, and we especially appreciate all the specific gifts for the children. You brought so many new and useful gifts... the new toys... hoodies and leggings, warm clothes, snowsuits, coats, boots and shoes, baby blankets and diapers!! Laundry soap, paper supplies, coffee, special snacks, candy, beautiful bath and beauty products, bedding, towels, games, and building toys, and books that are so attractive and appealing!!

Christmas is a joyful time because of generosity such as yours! And I have been moved to “happy tears” many times during this season by the overwhelming response from so many who make our Christmas possible!!

Sincerely,
Pat Lostroh, Executive Director, Genesis House

Biscuit and Gravy Feed

Benedict Community Sunday School will be holding their Annual Biscuit and Gravy feed on March 19th following worship around 9:30am till 12:00pm at the Benedict Community Center. Free will donation and proceeds will go to our mission project Samaritan's Purse. Thank you to PK's for donating the Biscuits and Gravy.

Note from Bishop Mass:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I greet you in the name of the One who so loved the whole world that He gave His only Son to redeem it. In the Spirit of that love, I am calling us all into deep prayer, learning and action over the days and weeks ahead as we strive to witness to our faith in a culture infused with uncertainty, infected with misinformation and reacting with fear.

Called by the full witness of scripture to welcome the neighbor and care for the homeless, Lutheran Christians have excelled at welcoming and resettling refugees, and helping them become engaged, positive, contributing citizens. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) nationally, and Lutheran Family Services (LFS) locally, have done exemplary work for generations, and stand ready to continue to do so.

Recent sudden policy changes in the U.S. have disrupted the smooth and secure process of resettling women, children and families fleeing violence, persecution and war. I am calling us as a church to pray for refugees, for those who work to vet, transport and resettle them, and for those who make and enforce policy regarding them. I also ask that we all avail ourselves of the many materials available through LFS and elsewhere to find deeper understanding of refugee resettlement; and finally to voice our concerns to our elected officials as policy is crafted and enforced.

For more information, consult the LFS website and Facebook page regularly to learn more about refugee resettlement, and about what we can do together to ensure our security while serving in faith (see link at <https://www.lfsneb.org/> upper right hand corner; <https://www.facebook.com/LFSNEB/> or <https://twitter.com/LFSNEB>). Thank you for your prayers and your faithfulness.

Yours in Christ,
Brian Maas, Bishop

A prayer for refugees:

Gracious Lord, you know what it is to be unwelcome, unwanted and alone. Give us eyes to see you in each of those, who know such rejection, and hearts to welcome them into our midst. Grant us confidence in uncertain times, courage in the face of our fears, and grace to work out your will toward all, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 Swedish Genealogy Workshops

Discover your Swedish Roots!

*Spring April 1st & 2nd / Fall October 7th & 8th
In Lindsborg, KS "Little Sweden USA"*

Register today at the:

Old Mill Museum, Lindsborg
785-227-3595; oldmillmuseum@gmail.com/
www.oldmillmuseum.org

Joint Lenten Evening Services

What does it mean that we are the church in today's world? We will look at the descriptions of the church in the Nicene Creed as we wrestle with that question.

Worship is at 7pm (unless otherwise specified) with a meal at 6pm.

3/1- Ash Wednesday @Zion at 7pm (no meal)

3/8- We Are Church @ Calvary

3/15- We are One @ Zion

3/22- We Are Holy @ Calvary

3/29- We are catholic @ Zion

4/5- We are Apostolic @ Calvary

4/13- Maundy Thursday @ Zion- worship at 6:30 (service includes meal)

4/14- Good Friday @ Calvary @ 7pm (no meal)

4/15- Easter Vigil @ Calvary @ 7:30pm (no meal)

You are Invited...

Osceola Ministerial Association invites you to Journey to the Cross. Services (and lunch) will be at 11:45am on Wednesdays.

3/1- Caesarea Philippi Pr. Dan Cloeter preaching

Calvary Swede Home hosting

3/8- Galilee Fr. Val Bartek preaching

Osceola UMC hosting

3/15- Samaria Pr. Dan Cloeter preaching

St. Vincent's hosting

3/22- Jericho Pr. Kimberly Belken preaching

St. Paul's hosting

3/29- Bethany Pr. Teri Lucas preaching

Calvary Swede Home hosting

First Communion Classes

For youth third grade and older, First Communion instruction will take place Saturday, March 4th and March 11th from 10:30am-noon. Attendance at both classes is expected. First communion Sunday is March 19th. If your child is interested in participating, please email or call Pastor kimberlyrbelken@gmail.com or 402-764-0481.

Mark your Calendars...

Girl Scout Troop 50011 will be hosting a Family Game Night on Saturday March 18th from 6-8pm at the Benedict Community Center. All are welcome!

MEET A MEMBER

Calvary Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
950 129th Road
Stromsburg, NE 68666
Church Phone: (402)764-5981

Doug Jones, Council President
Diana Johnson, Organist
Brianna Schoch, Secretary
Tina Watts, Sunday School
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:

Linda Fuhr, Doug Jones, Bill Carlstrom, Nick Nicholson,
Carolyn Nielsen, Chris Smith,
Deb Swedenburg
All Calvary members, Ministers



Chris Smith was born and raised in Central City, NE. Chris's dad works at Aurora Coop and his mom owns H&R Block Franchise in Central City. He is the youngest in his family with 2 older sisters and 2 older brothers.

Chris graduated from Central City Public School in 2005. He then attended Southeast Community College in Milford, NE. He graduated from SCC with his Bachelor Degree in Machine Tool Technology (Tool and Die). He worked in Lincoln at Molex Inc. during college and a year after he graduated college. He then started working at Cardinal Tool and Die in Grand Island, NE in 2008 and still loves his work everyday!

While working at Pizza Hut in high school, a cute girl started working as a waitress. Her name was Heidi Hanquist. Being somewhat bashful he couldn't get the courage to ask her on a date, his friend then bet him he couldn't ask her out. Needless to say he won the bet and took her on a date and now he is able to call her his wife. They got married July 3rd, 2010. A few years after they were married, they were blessed with a baby girl (Claire, now 4), and then a baby boy (Cooper Harold, now 2).

Chris really enjoys hunting and fishing, especially waterfowl hunting. With his interest in old cars he built a shop where he can start rebuilding old cars.

Chris is very passionate about being a Dad, he loves teaching his kids and watching them learn new things. Claire got a tricycle for her birthday and she pedals the wheels off of it, they are looking forward to a fun spring with that.

The thing he enjoys most about Calvary is the people, everyone is so friendly. The Church is beautiful and being on Council is an enlightened experience, the things everyone does to make the Church work is something I'll never forget.

Zion Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
202 Sherman
Benedict NE 68316

Gregg Bolton, Council President
Yvonne Stauber, Organist
Brianna Schoch/Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

Council Members:

Gregg Bolton, Todd Schoch, Dawn Kush
All of Zion members, Ministers

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Fred & Lori Ehlers | Elvin Reetz |
| Janise Forsberg | Imo Richardson |
| Melissa Forsberg | Harvey Schlegelmilch |
| Blake Hicks | Vance & Elaine Toline |
| Lenore Kessler | Jan Wells-Bachman |
| June Larson | |
| Myron Larson | |

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action
- Houses for Health recipients.
- Table Grace Café
- Bishop Brian Maas and the Nebraska Synod staff
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members
- Pastor Bob Bryan and the Nebraska Synod Prison Ministry
- Our ELCA Partner Synod—Pacifica Synod
- Our companion synods in Tanzania and Argentina

To request prayers call

Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041

Zion: LuAnn Bolton 402-710-8708

ANNIVERSARIES

CALVARY:

Fred & Jill Bush
March 3rd

Don & Linda Fuhr
March 8th

Ron & Carole Dickson
March 23rd

ZION:

Todd & Gina Schoch
March 28th



BIRTHDAYS

CALVARY:

1— Carey Clauff
4— Steve Fredrickson
4— Janet Nielsen
5— Fawn Ienn
7— Mike Cramer
7— Megan Johnson
7— Carol Paul Jones
8— Jeremiah Hinkle
10— Marlene Hanquist
14— Rod Jones
17— Dan Oquist
17— Chris Smith
21— Braden Kobus
24— Monty Jones
26— Gladys Johnson
26— Kay Jones
27— Jan Ernst
28— Bonnie Carlson
29— Mark Jones
30— Ed Willhoft
31— Sarah Johnson

ZION:

12— Miranda Martin
26— Amber Rediger
30— Janet Hild
30— Imo Richardson
31— Ken Kush

ZION WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March

Communion Assistant: Gina Schoch
Usher: Aaron Reetz
Greeter: Melanie Meister

Reader:

5— Gian Schoch, 12— Dawna Bolton, 19— Todd Schoch, 26— Gregg Bolton

Acolyte:

5— Tierney Schoch, 12— Harley Martin, 19— Isaac Reetz, 26— Lyndsey Bolton

CALVARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March

Assistant Ministers— Sandy Johnston
Scripture Reader— Nick Nicholson and Jean Waller
Ushers— Layne & Deb Hanquist
Acolyte— Ceagan Watts
Altar Care— Deb Cramer and Kay Jones
Bell Ringer— Chris Smith

March 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|---|---|--|
| | | | <p>9:30a Join the Conversation 11:45a Osceola Churches Ash Wed Service & Lunch 7p Ash Wednesday @ Zion</p> | | | 10:30a 1st Communion Class |
| <p>5</p> <p>8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship -Communion Pastor @ Rural</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Ministry Conference</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation 6p Meal 7p Lenten Worship @ Calvary</p> | <p>9</p> <p>2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle</p> | <p>10</p> <p>9a Miriam WELCA Circle</p> | <p>11</p> <p>10:30a 1st Communion Class</p> |
| <p>12</p> <p>8:30a Zion Worship 10:30 Calvary Worship</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation 6p Meal 7p Lenten Worship @ Zion</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> <p>9:30a Council Retreat @ St. Benedict Center</p> |
| <p>19</p> <p>8:30a Zion Worship 9:30a Benedict SS Biscuit & Gravy Feed 10:30a Calvary Worship/1st Communion/ New Member Sunday</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation 6p Meal 7p Lenten Worship @ Calvary</p> | <p>23</p> <p>9a Quilt Day Calvary</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p>26</p> <p>8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> <p>9:30a Join the Conversation 11:45a Osceola Churches Lenten Service Meal & Worship 6p Meal 7p Lenten Worship @Zion</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> | |

| |
|---|
| Know God, Love God, Share God's Love |
|---|

COUNCIL NOTES

Calvary Lutheran Church Council met on February 1, 2017

- President Linda called the meeting to order.
- Present were Linda, Pastor Kim, Deb, Chris, Nick, Doug, Bill, and Carolyn
- Pastor read a devotion pertaining to Matthew chapter 10 "travel light" trusting God for everything, he provides, followed by prayer.
- Linda welcomed the two new council members Nick and Bill
- The agenda was accepted by common consent.
- The minutes were accepted by common consent.
- Pastor's report was read and accepted by common consent.

OLD BUSINESS;

- The congregational annual meeting was held on January 29 2017 followed by a congregational meal, serving 50 people.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nominations were opened for council officers for 2017.
- Doug was elected president, Chris vice president, and Linda secretary.
- A motion was made and second to approve Kay Jones as the church treasurer.
- The council secretary will act as a liaison, reporting the treasurers report each month.
- The treasurer's report was read, as submitted by Kay Jones, and was accepted by common consent.
- We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Carolyn Nielsen

Treasurer's Report

January, 2017

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$23157.85 |
| <u>Offering:</u> | |
| General Offering | 7521.00 |
| Lutheran Magazine | 85.00 |
| Sunday School | 76.25 |
| ELCA Disaster Relief | 5.00 |
| ELCA Mission Share | 610.00 |
| Endowment Houses for Health | 2000.00 |
| Zion December Share | 1656.48 |
| | <u>\$11953.73</u> |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | |
| Bank Charges (administration) | 2.80 |
| Living Lutheran Subscription (Spirit Growth) | 48.15 |
| Galatians Study Material (Spirit Growth) | 29.16 |
| Ink Cartridge parsonage office printer (administration) | 35.97 |
| Stromsburg Chamber Dues (administration) | 50.00 |
| Office Net Copier/Paper (administration) | 87.47 |
| Annual Dumpster Fee Church/Parson. (Mte & Rep) | 108.00 |
| Youth Gathering (Spiritual Growth) | 110.00 |
| Postage Stamps (administration) | 147.80 |
| PK's Catering Annual Meeting (Fellowship) | 308.75 |
| NE Synod ELCA-Mission Share | 1450.00 |
| Zion Benedict January Share | 1723.33 |
| Kruse Stained Glass | 7764.00 |
| <u>Utilities:</u> | |
| Church: | 960.03 |
| Coop | 659.40 |
| Windstream | 52.45 |
| Polk Co RPPD | 212.04 |
| STE Wireless | 36.14 |
| Parsonage: | 346.20 |
| Coop | 246.18 |
| Windstream | 42.56 |
| Polk Co RPPD | 57.46 |
| <u>Salaries:</u> | |
| Pastor | 2176.47 |
| Mileage | 244.85 |
| SECA | 216.47 |
| Portico Benefits | 974.14 |
| Continuing Ed Expense | 84.00 |
| Diana | 423.52 |
| LeeAnn | 230.87 |
| Bri | 711.85 |
| FICA | 763.65 |
| | <u>\$18967.28</u> |

Balance as of January 31, 2017

\$16,144.30

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

950 129th Road
Stromsburg, NE 68666

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEBRASKA SYNOD, ELCA**

.....IN SACRED PLACES.....