



...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIM

Every church I have ever been in does communion a little differently. There are churches who use communion wafers, ones that use store bought bread and ones in which only homemade bread will do. Then there is the question of wine- do we use red or white, regular wine or non-alcoholic wine, do we offer grape juice at all or as the only option? Once the bread and wine are decided upon, how are they to be distributed? By intinction (dipping), by getting a piece of bread from the pastor and a small cup of wine/juice, or using a common cup or pouring chalice for the wine?



With those basic decisions made, there then is the issue of who we should commune—is it only baptized members of our congregation or are visitors welcome too? At what age should first communion be? Also, we must consider whether people will kneel or stand at the communion rail or if communion will be served pilgrim style. And lest we forget, we also need to determine how often we have communion.

In the earliest days of the church, Christians shared communion every week at their worship service. It was a vital part of who they were. They knew that the meal that they shared strengthened them for the very real challenge of living out their faith in the world. They felt they were being most faithful to Christ's command to "do this" in remembrance of him.

By the time of the Reformation, communion practices had changed and people did not take communion as regularly. Even when they did commune, the people typically only received the bread though the priest received both bread and wine. Luther wrote extensively on this and called the church to return to frequent communion. According to the Apology to the Augsburg Confession, a docu-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

THANK YOU . . .

Thank you, Calvary and Zion, for all your generosity of time, talent, treasure, and prayer! I always enjoy reading Pastor Kim's column and about all the wonderful ways you care about your community and the world in Christ's name! Thank you for your prayers for Bishop Maas and our staff—we greatly appreciate them!

Peace,
Pastor Megan Morrow
Assistant to the Bishop

Dear Lisa and Calvary Lutheran Church, Polk County Senior Services is humbled and blessed by your very generous donation to our program. We are on a mission to keep Senior Citizens in their homes throughout their entire lives. Being able to give them nutritious and quality, balanced meals along with health clinics and exercise classes and vital socialization opportunities, are major component to meet the mission. Your donation helps us do these things.

God Bless you and many, many thanks,
Jan Noyd—Director

The Officers and Members of the Polk Volunteer Fire Dept thank you very much for your donation to our department. We will use this money to help replace our large emergency air lifting bag at accidents when needed.
Dennis Carlstrom—Fire Chief

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ment central to our Lutheran identity that came out of the Reformation period, "The church celebrates communion frequently because the church needs the sacrament, the means by which the church's fellowship is established and its mission as the baptized people of God is nourished and sustained."

Today the majority of Christians have returned to the early church practice of weekly communion. This is the preferred practice in the ELCA as is attested to in the statement on the Use and Means of Grace (the sacraments of communion and baptism being means of grace). It recognizes that we need over and over and over again to receive the Lord's Supper with its gifts of salvation, forgiveness, and renewed faith. It stresses that at the table we are gathered, taught, and nourished by Christ himself.

During the seasons of Lent and Easter at Swede Home we will be trying weekly communion. We will be doing this down the road too at Zion. In addition to the historical and faith formation reasons for this, we also do so as an act of hospitality to those who are not able to be in worship every week because of work or other commitments and as such may not receive the sacrament for a longer period of time. However, if you personally don't feel comfortable communing weekly, please know that you are welcome to stay seated and use the time for prayer or contemplation.

It is my hope that communing more frequently will help us to grow individually in our faith and as a community of faith. If you have any questions about this change, please don't hesitate to ask. If you like it (or hate it) please feel free to let me know as well. I look forward to being in conversation with you on this!

Peace,

Pastor Kim

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

As winter continues its cold grip on us, we all look forward to the warmer days of Spring! Please consider attending the WELCA Spring Gathering on March 24 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island. The main speaker will be Dana Jelinek from Habitat for Humanity. Look for the pink registration forms at church or from your circle leader. Any questions, please talk to Cheryl. Let's plan to car pool and enjoy a Girls Day Out together!

**Due to Wednesday Lenten services, Ruth Circle will be meeting on Thursdays during Lent.*

**Service for month of March is monetary or tangible offering for Genesis House.*

**After a winter respite, Quilting will resume on March 22nd. Please join us.*

**March Altar Care is Deb Cramer & Kay Jones. Communion every Sunday through Lent and Easter Sundays (till middle of May).*

**Flowers this month by Miriam.*

**WELCA is requesting help from members of the congregation for altar care. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for many members to carry the altar cloths up and down the stairs. So far two members have volunteered to help on Sundays after worship. If you might be able to help, too, please contact Cheryl. Thank you!*

March

	<i>Hostess/Dessert</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
RUTH - 3/8	Janet Nielsen	Janet
MARY ANNA-3/8	Gladys Johnson	Gladys
MIRIAM - 3/9	Jean Waller	Jean

"For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:14

Cheryl

MISSION AND MINISTRY UPDATE

Young leaders making a difference

“A lot of the opportunities that used to exist for developing job skills and leadership skills—working in mom-and-pop shops or having paper routes—are missing now,” says the Rev. Patrick Cabello Hansel of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Recognizing the need for these skills, St. Paul’s started the Young Leaders program. In the program, youth ages 11 to 15 participate in career tracks that include activities such as painting murals, growing food in community gardens or leading community initiatives. The Young Leaders program is supported in part by a grant from ELCA World Hunger.

“We don’t just take kids who are stars,” Pastor Hansel explains. “We’ve seen kids who are really troubled and watched them become more responsible, more focused and grow as leaders in school and in the community.”

The program has had a huge impact. When Carmen* first came to the Young Leaders, she was quiet and shy. The confidence she gained, though, encouraged her to use her talents to become a leader among her peers. In time, Carmen developed her creative writing skills and became co-editor of *The Phoenix of Phillips*, the program’s literary magazine. Her talents and leadership skills lead to a scholarship offer from one of the premier private high schools in the area.

St. Paul’s Young Leaders program is helping change the community by accompanying youth who will—and are—making difference. “A lot of people have a negative view of youth as troublemakers,” says Pastor Hansel. “But here, the youth get to see a community of Christians that cares about them, and the community can see their leadership and responsibility at work.”

**Name changed for privacy*

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 Genesis House.

Most recipients of Genesis House are women and children in need. They are in need of Household items: Laundry detergent, tall kitchen sized trash bags, TP, Clorox, gallon sized zip lock bags, light bulbs, AA batteries, postage stamps. Personal Care: Body wash, Kleenex, children’s toothpaste, deodorant, children and adult ibuprofen and Tylenol, sunscreen lotion. Food and Grocery Items needed are canned meats, regular coffee, boxed food, taco shells and seasonings, flour, sugar, mayo, salad dressing, pancake mix and syrup, cooking oil, dry packages of gravy and sauce mixes, canned fruit and juices, canned mixed vegetables carrots, (they have plenty of beans, peas, and corn at this time), small boxes of Velveeta, cake and brownie mix, frosting, tea bags, Kool-Aid/lemonade. Healthy Foods/ Snacks for Children: microwave meals/entrees, instant oatmeal, granola/cereal bars, pudding/fruit cups, fruit juice in small boxes, (at this time we have plenty of regular boxes of cereal), dry and evaporated milk.

Money to purchase fresh foods occasionally bread, milk, and fruit.

Funds support general operating expenses, utilities.

Seasonal items: window size or small fans, solar lights, large swimming towels for children.

All of the items we donate are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they help meet critical needs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCA Spring Gathering

“Daughters of the Spirit” is the theme for the WELCA Spring Gathering scheduled for March 24th at Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Watch for the pink registration forms at church or from circle leaders. Special speaker will be Dana Jelinek from Habitat for Humanity. Registration deadline is March 17th. If you have any questions talk to Cheryl.

Family Technology Training

If you feel like you can't keep up with your child or teen's technology use we would like to invite you to a Family Technology Training at Stromsburg Evangelical Free Church on March 17th from 10am-12pm. The training will be led by Pastor Jim Kappers who will guide you through the dangers of your child's or teen's consistently connected world as well as help you in creating technology plan for your family.

Council Retreat

Both Calvary and Zion church council representatives will meet for a retreat on Saturday, March 10th at 9:30am at the Rose Colored Glass.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Chris and Heidi Smith at the birth of their daughter Caroline Renae.

It's a Girl!



Thank You

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church,

We thank you for your contribution which helps us continue our important work. Support from you means a lot and will greatly assist us in our missional needs. Rest assured, these funds will be put to good use as we continue our efforts in the community. We appreciate your support of “Table Grace Café”, a community restaurant aimed as dishing out grace by the plate to all its patron regardless of economic status.

Respectfully,

Matthew M Weber & Simone G Weber

Roller Skating Party

Benedict Community Sunday School will be having a Roller Skating Party on Sunday, March 25th from 3:00pm—5:00pm at the Roller Skating rink in York. Admission is \$7 per person this includes skate rental. Please come and enjoy an afternoon of roller skating!



Out of the Office

Pastor Kim will be out of the office March 3rd-6th for a rural ministry conference. Pr. Megan Clausen from York will be on call if there is an emergency. Please contact council president to get in touch with Pr. Megan.

Sunday School Leader Needed

Calvary is looking for a Sunday School leader for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have any questions about what this entails, please talk to Tina Watts and if you are interested in serving in the Sunday School ministry, please let Pastor Kim know. A special thanks to Tina for her years of faithful service in our Sunday School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CJHC Middle School Lock-In

Come join in the fun of all night camp activities, fellowship, and learning more about God at this year's Middle School Lock—In at Carol Joy Holling Camp on March 9-10th. Visit cjhcenter.org/lock-in to register and learn more.

CJHC Camp Preview Day for Families

Families with young children are invited to CJH Camp for a short day of learning more about camp, trying new things and praising the Lord! This camp is on April 14th. Visit CJHCenter.org/Preview to learn more and register!



CJHC Explore! Elementary Day Retreat

Discover the great presence of God in the outdoors as we dive into learning more about God's creation with a great group of youth! New activities every time! This camp is April 21st. Visit CJHCenter.org/Explore to learn more and to register!

Benedict Community Sunday School Biscuit and Gravy Feed

Benedict Community Sunday School will be hosting their annual Biscuit and Gravy Feed on Sunday, March 18th from 10—12:30pm at the Benedict Community Center. Free will donation.

Join the Conversation Bible Study

Please note that there will not be a Join the Conversation Bible Study on Wednesday, March 7th. We will continue on March 14th.

Joint Evening Lenten Services

Is there anyone beyond the grace of God? Does anyone deserve eternal punishment for the mistakes they've made? Join us this Lent as we wrestle with these questions through a drama series "The People vs. Judas Iscariot: The Punishment Phase". Worship is at 7pm with meal at 6pm unless otherwise noted. You won't want to miss a night!

3/7: When Others Tried to Save Themselves @ Zion

3/14: In Bondage to Sin: We Cannot Free Ourselves @ Calvary

3/21: Who Will Save Us? @ Zion

3/29: Maundy Thursday Worship @ Calvary (no meal)

3/30: Good Friday Worship @ Zion (no meal)

3/31: Easter Vigil @ Calvary 7:30pm (no meal)

The Osceola Ministerial Association would like to invite you to our Wednesday Lenten Luncheon Series. This year's theme is Giving Up. Lunch and worship begins at 11:45am.

3/7: Giving Up Enemies, Pr. Dan Cloeter preaching, Osceola UMC Hosting

3/14: Giving Up our Lives, Pr. Kim Belken preaching, St. Vincent's Hosting

3/21: Giving Up Popularity, Pr. Teri Lucas preaching, St. Paul's Hosting

Easter Egg Hunt



Zion will be hosting their 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Craft. This will be held on Saturday, March 31st at 10:00 am at the Benedict Park. This event is for children ages 3 years—

2nd graders. Come join the fun of finding Easter Eggs, a Craft, and Cookies!

Evangelism and Outreach Meeting

There will be an Evangelism and Outreach meeting on Tuesday, March 13th at 7:00pm.

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, Todd Hanquist, Lynn
Hofmann, Nick Nicholson,
Chris Smith
All Calvary members, Ministers

Rev. Kimberly Belken
Pastor
(402) 764-0481 (cell)
(402) 764-5961 (parsonage)
(402) 764-5981 (church office)
kimberlyrbelken@gmail.com

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

Council President Cal Bittinger
Yvonne Stauber, Organist
Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

Council Members:
Cal Bittinger, LuAnn Bolton, Dawn Kush
All of Zion members, Ministers

Dear Zion Members,

I would like to thank you for the prayers, meals, visits, phone calls, and cards during my chemo treatments. Then when I had surgery, thanks again for being there with more prayers, food, visits, phone calls. Special thanks to Pastor Kim for her visits.

Janet Hild

MEET A MEMBER



Meet Karen Gestirne

Karen Gestirne of Osceola has a life long roots in Swede Home. In the cemetery she has parents, grand parents, great grand parents, and great great grandparents buried.

Karen was born on Mother's Day at Stromsburg Hospital which is now a bed and breakfast. She was welcomed by her parents Martin and Elsie Gestirne and brothers Roger and Rodney. Roger and family now live in Chehalis, Washington and Rodney and family live in Kingman, Arizona.

She attended elementary school at District 62 northwest of Swede Home, High Prairie School, Osceola Elementary and graduated from Osceola High School in 1964. She was employed by the U.S. Postal Service working in Columbus and Osceola and in 1977 was appointed as Postmaster in Osceola. The position was held until her retirement in 2001.

Calvary Lutheran has been her church her entire life. She was baptized by Rev. Franzen and confirmed her faith when Rev. Hadley was the pastor.

After retirement Karen has enjoyed traveling often, spending time in Osceola Senior Center and can be found taking friends who can't drive to appointments.

As a descendent of the C. G. Johnson family and the Gestirne family she has an abundance of relatives in the area and throughout the entire country.

Thank You...

Dear Friends at Calvary Lutheran, Swedehome,

Friends from the congregation and your endowment committee have been generous and significant as we prepare for the coming year. And the regular donations for food, grocery and household supplies keep us going all year. Please post this on your bulletin board and/or church newsletter. I love visitors, and enjoy explaining the work we do at Genesis House. Come visit us again soon. Thank You!

Pat Lostish and folks at Genesis House

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Lyndsey Bolton
Dorothy Ehlers
Melissa Forsberg
Denny Johnson
Lenore Kessler
June Larson
Elvin Reetz

Imo Richardson
Harvey Schlegelmilch
Vance & Elaine Toline
Jan Wells-Bachman

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action
- Houses for Health recipients.
- Table Grace Café & Denver Metro Ministries
- 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
- Family and friends of Rogene Dickson (mother of Ron Dickson, sister of Wanda Larson, and Grandmother of Craig Johnson)
- Family and friends of Betty Haack (mother of Mike Haack)

To request prayers call

Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041

Zion: LuAnn Bolton 402-710-8708

ZION WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

MARCH

Communion Assistant: Gina Schoch

Usher: Aaron Reetz

Greeter: Melanie Meister

Reader:

4—Gina Schoch, 11—Dawana Bolton, 18—Todd Schoch,

25—Gregg Bolton

Acolyte:

4—Harley Martin, 11—Tierney Schoch, 18—Isaac Reetz,

25—Lyndsey Bolton

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—Colby Nelson
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

CALVARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March

Assistant Ministers—

Scripture Reader—

Ushers—

Acolyte—

Altar Care—

Bell Ringer—

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary Sunday School 9:30a Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Holy communion Worship	5	6	7 11:45a Osceola Lenten Service @ Osceola UMC 6p Lenten Meal @ Zion 7p Lenten Service @ Zion	8 2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle 7p Ruth's WELCA Circle	9 9a Miriam's WELCA Circle	10 9:30a Calvary/ Zion Council Retreat @ Rose Colored Glass
11 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary Sunday School 9:30a Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Worship	12	13 7p Evangelism and Outreach Meeting	14 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 11:45a Oseola Lenten Service @ St. Vincent's 6p Lenten Meal @ Calvary	15	16 5:30p Wedding Rehearsal	17 4p Wedding
18 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary Sunday School 9:30a Zion Sunday School 10:00a Biscuit & Gravy Feed @ Benedict Community Center 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship	19	20	21 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 11:45a Osceola Lenten Service @ St. Paul's 6p Lenten Meal @ Zion 7p Lenten Service @ Zion	22 9a Quilt Day	23	24
25 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary Sunday School 9:30a Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Worship 3-5 Benedict Comm. Sunday School Roller Skating Party	26	27	28 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 6p Confirmation	29 7p Maundy Thursday Service @ Calvary (no meal)	30 7p Good Friday Service @ Zion (no Meal)	31 10:00a Easter Egg Hunt @ Benedict Park 7:30p Easter Vigil Service @ Calvary

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

COUNCIL NOTES**February 2018 Council Notes**

Council met on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. Pastor led the council on "Dream Big Things" - reading from Genesis 28, the story of Jacob's Ladder

- There will be a Bible Study on the Book of Numbers this spring. This will be held at Calvary for both Zion and Calvary members
- It's not too late to Join the Conversation Bible Study on Wednesday morning. This is an informal get together to review the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday
- Pastor attended the First Call Theological Conference at St. Benedict Retreat Center
- Lenten services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14. There are many opportunities to worship throughout the Lenten season, please join the congregation in the many opportunities to prepare for Holy Week
- Calvary will be hosting meals prior to the Lenten services on February 28 and March 14. Supper will be served at 6 pm with a drama service to follow. Zion will host meals on February 21, March 7 and March 21 - this is a good opportunity to share food and fellowship with your church families
- Calvary will participate in the noon Lenten series with the Osceola Churches - we host the first meal on February 14. This is another good opportunity to share fellowship, food and worship with your friends and neighbors. All are welcome
- New members Lynn Hofmann and Todd Hanquist were welcomed to the council
- Officers were elected: Doug Jones, Chairman, Chris Smith, Vice-Chairman and Linda Fuhr, Secretary
- Council approved the offering of communion every Sunday during Lent. This will be a trial period, with plans to continue church season by season
- A council retreat is planned with Calvary and Zion members on Saturday, March 10
- The storage of the altar cloths was discussed. It was recognized it would be easier to have the cloths stored on the main floor of the church instead of the balcony.

Stained Glass Windows

We are having the last of our stained glass windows worked on by Kruse glass this year. Please consider a special gift to the building fund to help cover the cost of this work so that all may continue to enjoy the beauty of our sanctuary.

Treasurer's Report**January, 2018**

Beginning Balance	\$4468.26
<u>Offering:</u>	
General Offering	6098.00
The Lutheran Magazine	130.00
Sunday School Offering	74.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	<u>200.00</u>
	6507.00

Expenses:

Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	7.79
Sunday School Resource	19.99
Living Lutheran (credit)	-24.60
Lent/Preaching Resources	32.23
Church Mutual Premium adjustment	33.00
Ink Cartridge & Color Paper	41.29
Stromsburg Chamber Dues	50.00
Get Well Gift for Bri	50.00
Annual Dumpster Fee Church/Parsonage	101.34
PK's Catering Annual Meeting Dinner	234.00
NE Synod ELCA—Mission Share	1500.00
Zion Benedict January Share	1760.65

Utilities:

Church:	1092.59
Parsonage:	281.64

Salaries:

Pastor	2230.98
Mileage	222.49
SECA	221.82
Portico Benefits	1023.83
Continuing Education	127.46
Diana	436.02
LeeAnn	236.64
Bri	127.90
FICA	<u>696.37</u>
	10503.43

Balance as of January 31st, 2018	<u>\$471.83</u>
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Designated \$\$ Transferred to SAV Accts:

Youth Development SAV	350.00
(mission trip deposit from Methodist Church)	

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.....