



150 YEARS—1873–2023

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



The season of Lent has developed over the many centuries since the crucifixion.* The early church settled on the familiar fast of forty days leading up to Easter after the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. However, these forty days have been observed and held multiple foci for many generations of

Christians.

In the centuries after Nicaea, Lent was the primary time of preparation for people who wanted to become Christian to be baptized at Easter. In baptism, the believer dies and rises with Christ. Thus, Easter was an obvious day for baptismal celebration. However, by the time of the Medieval Church, when Christianity was the dominant religion and many were baptized as infants, the Lenten focus shifted away from baptismal preparation. Reverence towards Christ’s passion on behalf of humanity’s sinfulness turned the Lenten observation toward penance. In honor of Christ’s suffering, believers suffered too by fasting from the comforts of food, drink, and more. Today, many Christians have lessened the intensity of Medieval fasting, though many still give something up, eat fish on Fridays, and have other traditions during the season. Instead, today’s church has re-focused on the baptismal imagery and renewal of Lent. Even with this diversity across the generations of Christians, a common theme of almsgiving, praying, and, yes, fasting has always been part of the Lenten journey.

In other words: Lent has always been a time of intention. Be it preparation for baptism or remembering the significance of the crucifixion, Lenten observation has intentionally reinforced faith, spirituality, and church community. In whatever way that you, your family, and your church has decided to observe Lent and prepare for the Great Three Days (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday), you are encouraged to be intentional. This means showing up, being present, and diving deep as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Be intentional in your almsgiving. Be intentional in your prayer. Be intentional in your fasting.

+Peace, Pastor Evan

Questions to consider:

- What is a Lenten or Easter tradition in your family?
- How can you be intentional in your preparation for Holy Week and Easter?

How can you get unstuck and *GO* forward with intention as a follower of Jesus?

Reference:

- The brief history of Lent in this article is summarized from *Keeping Time*. See Gail Ramshaw and Mons Teig, *Using Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, vol. 3, *Keeping Time: The Church’s Years* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2009), 83–85.



GO AND...

BE INTENTIONAL



We were pleased to receive an additional \$ 1,000.00 for the Diana Johnson Scholarship match.

We will be sending the additional money to the Lutheran Seminary in Chicago.

God is good all the time. All the time, God is good.

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. March donations go to:
Genesis House, David City*



At the January 28, 2024 annual meeting, the Extra Mile Award was presented to Fran Lott.

Fran has faithfully worked behind the scenes to keep Swede Home on track. During the Q150 celebrations, Fran was our official in-house photographer, being on the spot to take a photo gallery of the events of the celebra-

tions. She is editing a soon to be photo album documenting the events. Fran is a member of the Evangelical and Outreach committee, helping wherever needed, from delivering Food Pantry items to packing Personal Care Kits, she is always a willing hand.

This year her husband Randy has been the Council chair, and with all the responsibilities of that position, Fran has been his "Right Hand" helper making sure that Randy is on track! Every member truly shares their time and talents in different ways, and we are grateful to Fran for having gone the extra mile so faithfully.



You are welcome to bring Easter Lilies or other blooming plants to church for the Easter Morning Service.

You may bring them to church during Holy Week and leave them in the basement. They will be displayed in the chancel at the Easter Service, March 31.

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

With our warmer days, it certainly *feels* like spring – but we all know March can still bring winter weather!

*Nebraska Synod's Spring Gathering is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 in Grand Island. Cost is only \$20 each, which includes lunch. Featured workshops include Joel from Lutheran Family Services speaking on behavioral health; Marvin and Pam Anderson will tell about their trip to Tanzania; and the Bible Study will be led by Rev. Chris Alexander. Registration forms at church are inside the front entry and are due by April 3 to the NSWO Treasurer, Julie Reiser of Butte. (*Registration fee is transferable for 1 year, but not refundable*).

*Lenten information will be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Please join us on this Lenten journey, whether you attend at mid-day (11:45 a.m. with Osceola churches) or evening (6:00 p.m. supper & 7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer worship at Swede Home). Watch for info on Holy Week Services at Rising City and Swede Home. With Easter on March 31, it will be here before we know it.

*Altar care for March will be Deb Cramer & Kay Jones. April will be Deb Hanquist.

*Flowers and Cheer in March will be Ruth Circle. April, May and June will be Miriam Circle. Thank you for watering any plants. You may bring Easter Lilies or flowering plants for Easter Service. Bring to the basement during Holy Week.

*Service for March is an offering for Blue Valley Community Action (for Energy and Food Assistance)

March Circles

Hostess Ruth – 3/13 @ Gathering Grounds Osceola, Penny Udey Hosting

Miriam 3-14 @ Jean Waller

"It is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."

~ Ephesians 2:8-9

God's Blessings to You, Cheryl

Church happenings

Church happenings



- Youth will serve Lenten Meal March 6
- Pastor Hillary and Pastor Evan will keep the youth group updated regarding meeting dates. They use either text or email notification.



On Sunday, February 25th we welcomed Hudson Lynn Sellke into our faith family by baptism.

Hudson was born on January 2, 2023 and is

the son of Jeff Sellke and Katleigh Spale. Grandparents are Steven and Kris Udey and great-grandparents are Dave and Janelle Udey. Sponsors were: Kamdyn Udey and Caitlyn Beed and Marc and Samantha Hrdlicka

Welcome to Calvary—Swede Home.

We welcome the following new council and committee members who were elected at the annual meeting in January. Thank you for answering the call to serve the congregation.

Council members: Andrew Adelson and Jennifer Fjell

Endowment committee: Gia Adelson

Synod Assembly Delegates: Lynn and Tom Hofmann

Nominating Committee: Doug Jones, Michael Neujahr, Craig Johnson, Layne Hanquist and Jacob Adelson

Noon Luncheon Schedule for Lent:

	HOST	LEADER
March 6	Methodist OSC	PR Evan
March 13	St Paul OSC	PR Soonil
March 20	St Paul OSC	PR Hillary

March serving schedule for Mid-Week evening

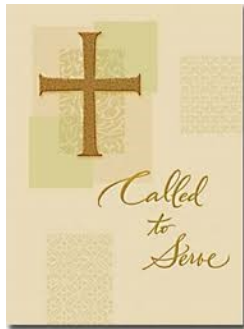
- Lenten Meal:
- March 6 Youth Group
 - March 13 Council
 - March 30 Ruth



Come join an intergenerational game day on Sunday, March 10th. We will begin following the worship service. Lunch will be provided, you are invited to bring snacks for the afternoon of games, if you would like.

We have invited Frist—Rising City, Augustana-Genoa, and Salem-Stromsburg to join us. It will be a fun get together. There will be board games, card games, Mexican Train etc. if you have a favorite game and would like to bring it, please do.





Some of you may remember a Sunday in November, 2021 when Erick H Hill was our pulpit supply. He is a son-in-law of LeRoy Hoyer.

Erick was ordained in January, 2024. He is serving at Messiah Lutheran in Ralston, NE



Bishop Scott Johnson and PR Erick Hill

Pastor Heidi Wallace, Assistant to the Bishop and former interim pastor at Calvary, was among those in attendance



Recipes

Sugar Cookies are always a treat, especially at Easter. Our thanks to Ben Carlson for providing this recipe from his Grandmother's Great Aunt Jean. She was born in Hylleholt, Denmark in 1900. She lived to be 93. Ben met her in 1986 when she baked these cookies for Ben's mom and him. Her mother would bake these for her when she was a child. They are sweet, crispy, and delicious!!

Sugar Cookies

2 cups Sugar
 1 cup Margarine
 1 cup lard (Crisco shortening)
 2 eggs
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 teaspoon almond extract
 4 cups flour
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
 ½ teaspoon of salt

Cream sugar, margarine, and lard together.
 Add eggs, vanilla, and almond extract. Mix well
 Add flour, baking soda, cream of tartar and salt. Mix well
 Roll into balls the size of a walnut.
 Flatten with a glass dipped in sugar
 Bake at 350 degrees for about 12 minutes



THANK YOU

Thank you

I want to send a thank you from us here at Shelby-Rising City Public Schools for the generous donation to help our struggling families to help pay lunch debts. Although they will not know who has done it for them, they will definitely be thankful for a gift sent from above. If there is anything else that I can do to help please let me know! Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Tucker Tejkl

Dear Calvary Lutheran Members:

We can't thank you enough for your continued generosity and support of our Center and Learning Academy students. We were able to bless 42 students with a gift and were able to provide 4 families with a holiday meal. The tear and smiles along with their gratitude is what giving is all about!

May you all have a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year!

Sincerely, all of us at ESU 7

Dear Members of Calvary Lutheran Church:

Please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your recent contribution to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

As valued members of our giving community, you are actively helping to chart the course of our Church into an inspiring future.

Thank you so much for the gift in honor of Diana Johnson and her 45 plus years of service to your church and for supporting our students.

Jennifer Stone
Advancement Service Manager

Genesis House would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your continued financial support. Organizations like your church are the reason we are able to continuously support survivors of domestic violence and provide prevention education.

Thank you Sherri Nielsen, Director

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church Members

Thank you for your gracious donation! Your gift will go toward our current project of replacing our kitchen floor.

The residents and Staff of the Good Samaritan thank you for your support

God Bless You!!

The officers and members of the Polk Volunteer Fire Department thank you very much for your donation to our department.

Thank you for your large donations to the Polk Fire Department and Rescue Unit. We will use the money for upgrading equipment and Supplies needed.

Denny Carlstrom

Thank You!

It's more than a meal—it's a smile, a kind word, a daily interaction with others!

Thank you for your loving your neighbors and donating to Polk County Senior Services!

Erin Dickey, Program Manager

POLK COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES

Calvary Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
950 129th Road
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
Amy Harris and Janet Nielsen, Music
Linda Fuhr, Church Office Manager
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:

Andrew Adelson, Jennifer Fjell,, 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.



Janelle Udey is the daughter of Gilbert and Mabel Hinkle and grew up on the family farm near Silver Creek. Her siblings are Darlene, Dennis and Rob. Her sister, Darlene, now lives there.

Janelle was baptized in 1953 at St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church in Central City, confirmed at Swede Home by Pr. Stanley Floth in 1968, and graduated from Silver Creek High School in 1971. She was married to David Udey at Swede Home by Pr. Swasko. November 25, 1972. She and Dave have two children, Steve, married to Kris, and Kerri Elizabeth, married to Jesse Klein. Their children were baptized, confirmed and married at Swede Home.

Meet the Member —Janelle Udey

Grandchildren include Katleigh Spale (Jeff Sellke) of Mead; Koleton and Kamdyn Udey and Greyson Klein, of Osceola. Great grandsons are Maverick and Hudson Sellke.

When Janelle attended kindergarten, it was located at the local library while they were building the grade school. She belonged to the neighborhood 4-H club for 11 years as a child, and participated in sewing, baking and showing calves at the Polk County Fair. It was always a fun time staying at the fairgrounds taking care of their calves and showing them.

In 1982, Janelle attended and graduated from the nursing program at Columbus Community College. She has worked at Osceola Good Samaritan Center first as a laundry assistant, then as a nurse's aide, then took care staff member classes and passed medications and did treatments for 10 years. Then she went back to college to get her LPN Degree. Over the years, she has cleaned offices, worked at Nursing Facilities in Columbus and David City, as well as Good Sam. She retired from there in 2021 after working there for 48 years.

Janelle and Dave enjoy traveling and to celebrate their 25th anniversary, they went on an Alaskan Cruise in 1997. They've also enjoyed Worlds of Fun, Ocean's of Fun, and camping in South Dakota with the kids when they were in high school.

She loves to read books and belongs to the Osceola Library Book Club. She also enjoys meeting monthly for coffee with the retired employees from Good Samaritan at Gathering Grounds in Osceola.

Janelle enjoys daily walks with her dog, as well as gardening, canning and freezing vegetables. She reads her bible and devotions daily, too. She attends the exercise class at Osceola Civic Center twice a week.

You can find Janelle and Dave enjoying time on their front or back porches, and spending time caring for houseplants and outside flowers in the summer. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2022.

Family is Janelle's passion. They enjoy attending grandkid's baseball, football and basketball games, as well as camping, fishing and riding bikes, four-wheelers, etc. with them.

Janelle loves going to church at Swede Home, especially the Candle Light Services. She also is active in monthly WELCA meetings, and has served on church council. We are so blessed to have Janelle at Swede Home!

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN
YOUR PRAYERS



- Kathi Jones
- Duane Jones
- Lois Fick
- Janice Forsberg
- Melissa Forsberg
- June Larson
- Beth Jones Wienck
- Jan Wells Bachman
- Luna Stauber

- 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

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

We are always needing worship ministry assistants on Sunday mornings. This includes: Worship Assistants, Scripture readers, ushers, acolytes and bell ringers. If you can sign up for a month, or for any Sundays, please let Jean Waller or Carolyn Nielsen know.

Our coffee time after church is a cherished time of fellowship with our faith family. If you would be willing to serve, or provide simple treats, let Kay Jones know.

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH

MARCH

03 Fred & Jill Bush

- 01 Carey Clauff
- 03 Maverick Selke
- 04 Steve Fredrickson
- 04 Janet Nielsen

08 Don & Linda Fuhr

- 05 Fawn Ienn
- 05 Brad Sundberg
- 07 Mike Cramer
- 07 Megan Johnson
- 07 Carol P Jones
- 08 Jeremiah Hinkle

- 14 Rod Jones
- 17 Colby Nelson
- 17 Dan Oquist
- 17 Chris Smith

- 21 Braden Kobus
- 24 Monty Jones
- 26 Gladys Johnson

- 26 Kay Jones
- 26 Jameson Parker Oquist

- 28 Bonnie Carlson
- 29 Mark Jones
- 30 Ed Willhoft

- 31 Sarah Johnson



MARCH

- Assistant Minister - Don Fuhr
- Scripture Reader – Linda Fuhr
- Ushers – Fjell Family
- Altar – Deb Cramer and Kay Jones
- Acolyte –
- Bell Ringer –

We thank all those who agree to help with the worship service each month. **Please let Jean Waller know if you can help**
The Sign-up sheets for 2024 are on the ushers counter.
Please consider when you can serve

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 Holy Communion Worship, Church council	4	5	6 11:45 worship at Methodist Church Osceola	7	8	9
10 10:30 Worship Game day lunch and games following worship	11	12 7pm Men's Bible Study @ Wayne Johnson	13 9am Ruth Circle 11:45 noon lunch at St Paul 6pm Lenten meal 7pm Holden worship	14 9am Miriam Circle at Jean W	15	16
17 10:30 Worship with Communion	18	19	20 11:45 Noon Lenten lunch at St Paul 6pm Lenten meal 7pm Holden service	21	22	23
24 10:30 Palm / Passion Sunday Service	25	26	27	28 7 pm Maundy Thursday at First-Rising	29 7pm Good Friday at Calvary	30 7pm Easter Vigil at Calvary
31 10:30 Easter Service, Coffee before at 9:30						

The Osceola Fire Department would like to thank you for your charitable contribution. Throughout the years, we have made major upgrades to our firefighting and rescue capabilities thanks to your donations.

The department is made up of dedicate members that not only answer fire calls, but are there for car accidents, storm watches, standbys on community events and just about anything else that requires manpower in the community. Last year, the department spent about 3,100 hours serving our community and the surround areas.

Again thank you for your generosity

Marcus Augustin, Treasurer

Thank you so much for your donation! Without the support of your congregation we could not do what we do. Thank you for your support of Polk County.

Kelsey

Polk County Coordinator, Blue Valley

Thank you for your generous donations to the Stromsburg Ambulance.

Donations like yours will help us purchase training equipment to better serve our community.



Thank you so much! Just a note to thank you for your thoughtfulness and to let you know it really means a lot.

Stromsburg Senior Center



There will be coffee and rolls in the fellowship hall on Easter Sunday Morning. They will be served starting at 9:45 until 10:15. Please join us. There will be NO coffee following Easter Service

SPECIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR LENT & HOLY WEEK

Wednesday - Feb 14

7:00pm - Ash Wednesday (at First English)

Wednesdays - Feb 21 thru Mar 20

6:00pm - Lenten midweek meal (at Calvary)

7:00pm - Holden Evening Prayer (at Calvary)

Palm/Passion Sunday - Mar 24

8:45am - Service at First English

10:30am - Service at Calvary Swede Home

Maundy Thursday - Mar 28

7:00pm - Maundy Thursday service (at First English)

Good Friday - Mar 29

7:00pm - Good Friday service (at Calvary)

Easter Vigil, Saturday - Mar 30

7:00pm - Easter Vigil service (at Calvary)

Easter Sunday - Mar 31

7:00am - Sunrise Breakfast at First English

8:45am - Service at First English

10:30am - Service at Calvary Swede Home

FIRST ENGLISH
& CALVARY
SWEDE HOME

Let's
Laugh &
Play
Together

YOU'RE INVITED TO:
CALVARY LUTHERAN'S

GAME AFTERNOON

SUNDAY
MARCH 10

WORSHIP AT 10:30
LUNCH AT 11:30
GAMES WILL FOLLOW



COUNCIL NOTES

Church Council met on February 4th, 2024,
following worship service

Present: Dan, Randy, Kent, Andrew, Jarrett, Kris, Jennifer, Missy, Pastor Hillary
Absent: None

- Reorganization of Council – Welcome Andrew Adelson and Jennifer Fjell
- Elected officers
- Chair – Kent, Vice-chair – Jennifer, Secretary – Missy
- Highway Signs follow up – 3 designs submitted so far; if you have a design, please submit.
- Review of Diana’s duties were discussed and will ask others for coverage; more to come.
- Parsonage update will start this week.
- Lenten Offerings will continue to the local backpack program.
- Pastors’ vacation - Sunday April 7th and April 25th-28th (Pastor Evan).
- Youth Group 4-day mission trip to Oklahoma City - May 23rd-May 26th.
- Gutter Guards for church and parsonage are being researched
- Intergenerational Game Day with potluck snacks, etc. will be March 10th @ 1pm and will invite First Rising, Augustana Genoa and Salem Stromsburg - more to come.

Treasurer Report continued:

Designated \$\$ transferred to Appropriate SAV accounts:

For: Improvement Fund from endowment \$4,770.00

Thrivent Choice Account from endowment \$500.00

150	Beginning Balance	\$24,624.02
	Offerings:	
	General Offering	8,855.00
	ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
	ELCA Mission Share	500.00
	First English - Jan 2024 Salary Share	1,799.59
	Augustana - Jan 2024 Salary Share	<u>2,838.41</u>
	Total Offerings:	\$13,998.00
	Expenses:	
	Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
	Text Messaging Flocknote	22.00
	Office Supplies; envelopes	29.72
	Cody's Computer Contract	39.99
	Eakes Office Solutions; copier paper	82.90
	Eakes Office Solutions; copier contract	182.25
	Carl's Skrap Annual Dumpster Fee	184.00
	USPO Postage Expense	204.00
	JW's Catering	948.50
	NE Synod ELCA Candidacy Scholarship Fund	1,250.00
	NE Synod ELCA Debt Reduction	1,250.00
	NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,595.00
	First English - January Share	1,799.59
	Augustana - January Share	2,838.41
	Utilities:	
	Church	1,956.95
	Parsonage	584.60
	Genoa Parsonage	115.94
	Salaries:	
	Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,474.56
	Portico Benefit Services	1,213.22
	Commuting Reimbursement	158.34
	SECA	217.68
	Mileage Reimbursement	166.00
	Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
	First Call Formation	68.40
	Amy & Janet	193.94
	Lay/Music Mileage	202.34
	LeeAnn	250.73
	Linda	1,012.87
	FICA Federal & NE Income Tax	<u>636.23</u>
	Total Expenses:	\$19,725.85
	Balance as of January 31, 2024:	<u>\$18,896.17</u>