



MAY 2021

...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Greetings in the name of our RISEN Savior Jesus Christ! I have a confession to make. I strongly dislike kid Birthday parties. I can't say I 'hate' them because that's a bad word in our household, but just know, it's a very strong dislike.

Like anyone else, I love a good celebration; I just don't love putting up lavish decorations, preparing extravagant goodie bags, and planning out enough games to keep elementary school children busy while they're sugared up and would rather bounce on my couch cushions than listen to me, all the while screaming at earsplitting decibel levels. (Yes, I've had a few bad experiences that have colored my view on this!) I can totally handle a trip to the Bowling Alley or supper at a favorite restaurant. I just don't have the skills required to plan elaborate kid's parties or the patience to see them through. If you have these skills, please let me know so I can call on you during the next round of birthdays!

While we're currently celebrating the Easter season in the church, we'll soon be celebrating Pentecost; and the party thrown by the Holy Spirit on that day was top-notch. I think we can all be glad I wasn't in charge of that party; I'm not sure it would have attained 'Festival' status in the church if I had been. That party included flames that sat on top of the disciple's heads without burning them, blowing winds with the strength of a tornado that didn't damage a single thing, and spontaneous language learning—and while the party started with a handful of disciples, it quickly grew to thousands. And the goodie bags were the best. There was an endless supply, so everyone got one, and there were so many that they're still being given away and will be for generations to come. It was all pretty amazing, considering no one knew they were headed to a Birthday Party that day. It was one of those 'surprise' parties that you knew was coming, but you weren't sure when or where.

This was the birth of what we like to call 'the church'. The party didn't happen when rich soil was turned over so that a foundation might be built. The party wasn't when the walls were complete and the doors were installed. It wasn't even when the first worship services finally took place within a building. The church isn't about brick foundations or ivory painted walls or glass-plated doors that allow people to enter.

The church is the people themselves, called to the party, so to speak, and sent out with the Holy Spirit resting within them. Those who were gathered asked each other, "What does this mean?" (Acts 2:12—maybe they were Lutheran?) Peter was given these words to share with his fellow disciples, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

The church was born in the disciples that day and in the hordes of people who came to see what was happening. And the church was born in you and me that day too. The promise is for YOU. And whether you like Birthday parties or not, this is a party that doesn't just last one day, or two days, it's a party that lasts forever, and if we look close enough, I believe we can still see tongues of fire atop our heads and feel dramatic winds and hear languages that are foreign to us. The fire may be more of a feeling now, an urge to move forward even when we'd rather retreat, and the winds may not be tornadic but they are blowing, nudging us toward the places God needs us to go, and we may not be able to spontaneously speak in languages unknown to us, but we are sent into the unknown, out of our comfortable mindsets to new ones, where we can serve others, listen to others, and share with others this invitation to the party that never ends.

I'm sure glad that God has this party under control and that my role is to simply show up, receive the Holy Spirit once again, and then head out into the world knowing that God is with me. You're invited too! And don't worry, there are no obstacle races or 'Spin the Tale on the Unicorn' at this party. I'm excited to see you there! *Blessings to you today & always!* Pastor Sarah Ruch

WELCA NEWS	PAGE 2
GRADUATION INVITES	PAGE 4
CALENDAR	PAGE 8

Announcements

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

Linda will deliver after May 30th



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

Genesis House at David City



Swede Home will be holding a Memorial Day service on Monday, May 31st, with a coffee following the service. Please join us as we honor those who have served our country.



Work Day
at Church

Spring Clean up day at the church, parsonage and cemetery will be Saturday May 8—come when you can, stay as long or as short as you can. Bring rakes, etc if you have them

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

Our April showers have brought May flowers! Even in times of uncertainty, God gives us signs of His glory and wonderful creation to bring us peace. I always love seeing God's promise in a RAINBOW following spring rains!

*Service for May is offering for all circles to help defray VBS expenses and planning for Vacation Bible School treats by Ruth Circle.

*Flowers for May through August will be Ruth Circle. Please remember to water any plants. *(Please check with Linda about plants)*

* Memorial Day services are scheduled for Monday May 31, 9 am coffee would be hosted by Miriam Circle following the service

*Altar care for May will be Cheryl Jones. WHITE altar paraments will be in place all of May (except RED on 5/23), switching to GREEN for June.

*Quilt Day will be May 27. Please join us!

*Ice Cream Social committees are meeting to begin plans for this summer's annual event. We hope you're all as excited about resuming this event as we are!

May

	<i>Hostess</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
Ruth – 5/12	Bonnie Carlson	Kay Jones
Miriam – 5/14	Gloria Oquist	<i>(none listed)</i>

“Remember there’s no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.” ~ Scott Adams

Cheryl



Stromsburg is hosting it's National Day of Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 6 at 6:30 am at the Viking Center. Call Carolyn Frazier at 402-764-6061 for tickets

Youth News

RECIPES



The last Sunday School for the season will be held on **Sunday, May 2nd**. Our thanks to Cheryl and Tina for their time and talents to teach Sunday School for our youth.

Since our youth are spread out across the county, we recommend that youth attend Vacation Bible School in your own community. Osceola is hosting VBS at the Osceola Methodist Church. They have sent registration forms to local schools. They are welcoming any youth in Osceola and surround communities. **The dates and times are June 7-11, from 8:30 am to 11:30. Please contact Jane Roberts for more information. Her number is 402-366-1162**

Confirmation will meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of May. **The last session for the year will be on May 23 and will include celebration with all family members.**

Confirmation camp will be June 27th thru July 2 at Camp Carol Joy Holling

Carol Joy Holling is excited to welcome kids back to camp after a quiet summer last year! There's a place for everyone, with weeks of camp available for 1st-12th graders and shorter camps for younger kids like Grandparent's Camp or Taste Of Camp. Check out CJH's information at:

www.campcaroljoyholling.org or talk to Pastor Sarah! Calvary has funds available to help make camp happen for your family and would love to help our youth have this experience!

Once again we thank Ben Carlson for contributing some recipes for this column. This month we will share a cookie recipe he found in his Mom's many recipes. It is a sweet and salty treat. They quickly bake to a crispy golden brown and we always enjoyed them as a special treat:

Potato Chip Cookies

1 Cup butter-flavored shortening
 3/4 Cup sugar and 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
 2 eggs
 2 cups all purpose flour and 1 tsp baking soda
 2 cups crushed potato chips
 1 cup butterscotch chips.

In a large bowl, cream shortening and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs. Combine flour and baking soda; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in potato chips and butterscotch chips.



Drop by tablespoonsful 2 inches apart onto an ungreased baking sheet. Flatten cookie before baking. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes until golden brown. Makes about 40 cookies.

At the regular **Sunday worship service on May 2nd**, we will be honoring our 4 members who will be graduating from local High Schools. Please join us at worship to honor: Carter Fjell, Jadyn Johnson, Colby Nelson and Ceagen Watts.

Graduating from UNL this year is Megan Johnson, daughter of Craig and Sarah Johnson. She will receive her BA in Child, Youth and Family Studies and Sociology. Megan plans on getting her Educational Specialist (ED.S) degree in School Psychology at UNK and become a School Psychologist.

Congratulations to all

Graduation invitations



This year, all four schools in the county will be holding their graduation ceremonies on the same day. We have four graduates graduating from 3 of the schools. They all invite the Swede

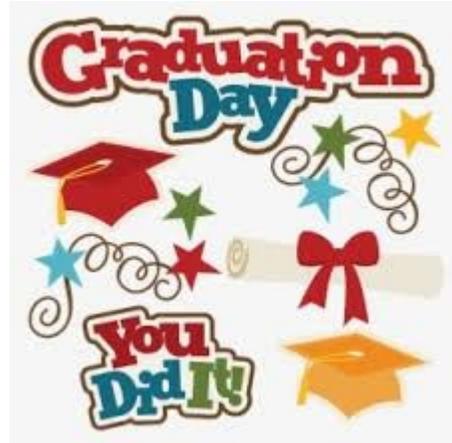
Home congregation to join them in their celebrations:

Carter Fjell, son of Ryan and Jennifer Fjell will graduate from Shelby-Rising City in Shelby on May 15 at 2 pm. Following the ceremony Carter and his family invites Swede Home members to his graduation celebration at the Ryan Hill County Club



Jadyn Johnson, daughter of Craig and Sarah Johnson commencement ceremony will be on May 15 at 2pm at the Osceola High School new gym. A reception will be held at the Johnson home (410 Smith St. Osceola) following the ceremony and they invite the congregation to join them .

Graduation invitations



Colby Nelson, son of Amanda Nelson and David and Megan Nelson will be graduating from Cross County on May 15, commencement service will begin at 2 pm

Colby and family and Grandfather Carey Clauff invite the congregation to attend his reception at Swede Home Church basement from 4 pm to 8 pm on the 15th



Ceagen Watts, son of Christina Kilgore and Corey Watts will graduate on May 15th at 2 pm from Shelby-Rising City Schools in Shelby. Ceagen invites the congregation to the commencement ceremony and also to his celebration which will be held at Hinkle's Shop, West of the Fire Station on Highway 92 in Rising City. Watch for the signs. Ceagen will be having his party with his good friend Colin.

Back Pack Event in April

On Monday, April 5th a great group of volunteers met at Salem Lutheran Church to pack the back pack bags for the community schools. We are grateful to the following: Our great group of confirmation kids: Eli Fjell, Jarrett Althouse, Shyenne Krol, Rylee Hofmann and Peyton Hoffman along with Cheryl Jones, Carolyn Nielsen, Diana Johnson, Fran Lott, Don Fuhr, Missy Althouse, Lynn Hofmann, Linda Fuhr, and Deb Hanquist. In just an hour we managed to package almost 300 bags which were delivered to the schools during the month of April. We also thank those who delivered the backpacks: Lew and Carolyn Nielson, Kathi Jones, Cheryl Jones, Jennifer and Eli Fjell and Deb Hanquist.



Willing hands made quick work of the project, and it was awesome to see the interaction between the confirmation class and the adults.



Highway Pickup in April



On a semi warm sunny Sunday afternoon, 14 people joined in the God's Work, Our Hands highway pickup project. Meeting at the home of Monty and Cheryl Jones at 4 pm the group divided into 2 groups and walked the road ditches from the Highway 92/39 junction going 2 miles north.

Following the pickup of 12 bags of trash plus wood and items too big for trash bags, the group reconvened at the Jones and enjoyed a meal of pizza and sweet dessert treats, and most importantly fellowship and the knowledge of a job well done. Attending were: Shyenne, Koleton, Peyton, Rylee, Bonnie, Kay, Diana, Don, Kent, Andrew, Lynn, Tom, Monty and Cheryl.



Meet a Member—



Our May Meet the Member is Carter Fjell. Carter is the son of Ryan and Jennifer Fjell and lives on a farm north of Stromsburg.

Carter has 2 brothers, Ethan and Eli, and a sister Elise.

Carter will be graduating from Shelby-Rising City on May 15th. After graduation he plans to go to Central Community College and after 2 years, come back home and farm with his dad.

He likes to travel but his favorite pastime is working on the farm and he is passionate about being outdoors and riding the river. His favorite food is pizza and he really enjoys country music.

One thing he especially likes about Swede Home is the music and he likes to sing with the congregation.

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

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

We will have Pastor Sarah Ruch as our transition minister. This is her contact information:
Text or call 402-833-8318
Email: pastorsarahruch@gmail.com

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 text or call 402-366-2091,



Behind all your stories is your Mother's story

For hers is where yours begins.

Sunday, May 9th is Mother's Day—Words are never enough to say thank you to all mothers.



We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Melissa Forsberg
Janice Forsberg
Denny Johnson
June Larson
Elaine Toline

Jan Wells-Bachman
George Belken .
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 congrega-
tions and members
- Brody Ienn in service to our country
- Council as they continue the process of church
profile and calling a minister
- Our leaders as they face COVID19 decisions
- Our companion synods in Tanzania and Argen-
tina

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

Update

We have heard from Pastor Kim regarding her
father's progress in healing from COVID-19.

“Dad is doing pretty good. Both he and her
mother visited Kim for Easter. He has lost a lot
of weight and has some trouble getting around.
He is quite weak still, most noticeable is his
breathing. He does physical therapy several times
a week, but they are unsure how much more pro-
gress he will make. He would like to continue to
stay on our prayer request as he says he needs all
the prayers he can get right now!”

We continue to uplift him in prayer.

ANNIVERSARIES

May

- 01 Rick & Kathi Jones
- 05 Brady & Katrina Hanquist
- 07 Ed & LeeAnn Willhoft
- 19 Mark & Penny Udey
- 30 Craig & Sarah Johnson



BIRTHDAYS

May

- 01 Bob Dittmer
- 01 Jennie Mandigo
- 03 Tom Hofmann
- 05 Dave Udey
- 08 Lewellen Nielsen
- 12 Karen Gestrine
- 12 Cheryl Jones
- 15 Ty Twarling
- 16 Tammy Jones
- 16 Steve Oquist
- 26 Greg Dittmer
- 27 Krystal Berggren
- 28 Kit Waller



THANK YOU

*Thank you to all the members who con-
tinue 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*

APRIL

Assistant Minister – Kay Jones
Scripture Reader – Sandy Johnston
Ushers – Lew and Carolyn Nielsen
Altar/Communion – Cheryl Jones
Acolyte – Peyton Hofmann
Bell Ringer – Jim Carlson

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

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Council has talked with the local Health Department, and has decided to lift the requirement of wearing masks during church. It is now optional, and we ask that you do what is comfortable for you. We will continue to have the offering basket at the back of the church and we will continue with distribution of communion as we have done the past months. Beginning in June coffee will be served outdoors as we have done in the past summer months.</p>						1
2 SS and adult forum 9:15 Worship with communion 10:30 Honor HS Seniors	3	4	5	6	7	8 Spring clean up day at church 9am
9 Worship 10:30 am Confirmation 11:45	10	11	12 Ruth Circle Bonnie Hosts	13	14 Miriam Circle Gloria hosts	15 Local HS graduations Colby's reception at church 4-8 pm
16 Worship 10:30 am with communion	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship 10:30 am Confirmation 11:45	24	25	26	27 Quilt Day	28	29
30 Worship 10:30 am	31 Memorial Day Service 9 am coffee following the service					

Thank you Thank You Thank You

Dear Calvary Endowment Committee:

Our post-prom committee at Cross County Community Schools wishes to personally thank you for your Endowment gift of \$110.00 for our post prom activities.

Thank you so very much!!!

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your gift given to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response in January 2021.

Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy: Baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy. ELW 328

This is a season of reflection and sacrifice, but it is also a season of hope. As we walked the 40 day journey of Lent, we know that we were walking toward Easter and the promise of renewal. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA are winning that promise and hope to your neighbors around the world.

Your spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fulness of Christ's Joy.

In Christ,

The Rev. Robin Brown, Mission Funding Director,
Congregations

Dear Bonnie and the WELCA:

Thank you for the recent and generous check for \$220.00. These funds are vital to our continued operations in helping survivors of domestic violence. We have great plans for 2021 as we work to keep going to rebuild and expand services following this difficult year of the pandemic.

Thank you for your consistent and faithful support.

Sincerely,

Pat, Nicole and the folks at Genesis House

Dear Friends at Swede Home;

Your recent donation of food, gift items, useful items, personal care and cleaning supplies showed such careful attention to bringing what we most need - and you always find some very special and unique gifts too. Thank you for being such faithful givers who help keep us going, and make miracles happen!!

It's been a difficult year, and your support is vital to our future, as we continue to provide services and help to survivors of domestic violence in Polk and Butler counties.

Thank you Randy for the special delivery!!

Sincerely,

Pat and Nicole



Cuteharry and Desicommments.com

Genesis House Spring and Summer Wish List 2021

Regular donations of food and grocery items help us to supply our clients with the most needed items on a daily and weekly basis. Our food pantry is continuously stocked and re-stocked with careful attention to expiration dates to make sure no food is wasted. We strive to provide healthy and tasty food to our families. We thank you for your attention to details about items of need and those we have plenty of as you choose your gifts. We so much appreciate your generosity.

**Designates items most frequently distributed or the items need most at this time:

** dish soap (Small bottles are fine), laundry soap, toilet paper, Kleenex, large garbage bags, gallon size zip lock bags, anti-bacterial hand soap or sanitizers, Clorox wipes

**Plastic wrap, paper towels, dryer sheets, AA batteries, Windex, comet or Ajax

**Body wash, shampoo and conditioner, small bottles of ibuprofen/Tylenol (currently we are well stocked with toothpaste and brushes)

We are well supplied with baby products and diapers at this time.

Seasonal items: Sunscreen and bug spray, solar lights, tomato cages, pint canning jars with lids and flats. WE are hoping for another productive harvest!

** FOOD and GROCERY ITEMS MOST Needed

** Canned meat (tuna, chicken, ham) tuna and hamburger helper. **Boxes of side dishes like potatoes, rice a roni, noodles, etc. **creamed soups **Cans or bottles of fruit juice (apple, orange, grape) **sugar free Kool-aid, crystal light, Gatorade **Beef and chicken broth, **Cake and brownie mixes, frosting, ** Small boxes of Velveeta cheese and Bisquick
**Pudding and fruit snack cups for kids, microware entrees that kids can prepare. During the summer we give out "Kid Food" similar to back pack **Bottled water

**Taco fixings—shells, seasoning, salsa, dry pkgs of sauce mixes, dry milk or evaporated milk, **Salad dressings, mayo, ketchup, BBQ sauce, tea bags to make sun tea, **Small bottles of vinegar, regular coffee, small bottles of cooking oil, small bags of flour and sugar

At this time we are well supplied with cans of green beans, corn and peas!! Could use a few of some other kinds of veggies: Carrots, beets and maybe a few cans/jars of spaghetti sauce and small pkgs of dry spaghetti, few cans of pie filling, we are well supplied with cans of fruit.

Due to the generosity of donations at Christmas, we have an adequate supply of cereal dry pastas, macaroni and cheese.

Your donations of food and grocery items has kept us going all these years, it is so fun to look through the boxes and bags when you deliver them, and there are always some food and items I did not think of. These gifts make a beautiful display and others see your example. Other than food, it is important to remember that some of the most needed items are those which cannot be purchased with "Food Stamps" like paper products, laundry soap, cleaning products person care items, baby care items. Top three items every week are toilet paper, dish soap and laundry soap!!

At this time we are not accepting miscellaneous household items or clothing; however if you have something special, give us a call. We feel blessed to have a great supply of all these items to provide as needed. Gifts of money are, of course, always welcome as we build for the future of Genesis House.

Thanks you for making miracles happen, and please join us in celebrating each and every victory over violence.

Pat Lostroh, Executive Director

Nicole Gasper, Open Arms Manager

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

COUNCIL NOTES

Church council meet April 18, 2021 following worship. Present were Kent Adelson, Dan Oquist, Dan Ienn, Lynn Hofmann, Sandy Johnston, and Pastor Sarah. Fran Lott was Absent.

Raccoon babies were removed from the parsonage attic. The mother was not caught. The babies were given to Kylee and Sheyenne Krol to care for. The vent where the racoons get in was fixed for now.

A spring cleaning day will be set for May 8 at 9 AM for the cemetery, church and parsonage. Bring yard clean up supplies if you can

Pastor Sarah is going to talk to the confirmation class about recording the worship services and putting them on Facebook. We are following up on who needs CD players and/or CD's.

We will recognize our four high school graduates at the May 2 worship service.

We will call Four Corners Health Department for guidance on wearing masks at worship optional beginning in May and also other social activities. We will continue the social distancing during worship and the current offering and communion practices.

There will be a coffee on June 6th to celebrate Gloria Oquist's 90th birthday. Outdoor coffee following worship will begin in June and continue throughout the summer

Pastor Sarah will be on a mission trip to Savannah, GA from July 3-July 10. We will have a supply pastor on July 4. She will talk to our youth and their parents about joining the group.

Kent will contact Juliet Focken at the Nebraska Synod to check on our call progress

Council has talked with the local Health Department, and has decided to lift the requirement of wearing masks during church. It is now optional, and we ask that you do what is comfortable for you. We will continue to have the offering basket at the back of the church and we will continue with distribution of communion as we have done the past months. Beginning in June coffee will be served outdoors as we have done in the past summer months.

Treasurer Report

March 2021

Beginning Balance	\$16,068.56
OFFERINGS:	
General	7,798.00
Sunday School	38.00
Lent Recorder/backpack	1,090.00
ELCA LIRS	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	400.00
First Lutheran February	<u>1,851.59</u>
	11,182.59
EXPENSES:	
Vanco echeck	9.29
Cody's Computer Contract	34.99
Confirmation supplies	49.84
Postage Expense	60.00
Candles & Votives	71.70
Cody's Computer Software	133.74
Weebly – Church Website	144.00
NE Synod ELCA mission Share	1,560.00
First English March	<u>1,573.31</u>
UTILITIES	
Church	1,964.89
Parsonage	553.63
SALARIES	
Pastor	1,283.83
Portico Benefits	796.15
Commuting Allowance	366.91
SECA	127.68
Mileage	69.05
Cell Phone allowance	32.50
Synod Assembly Registration	32.50
PMA Leroy Hoyer	213.23
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	586.81
Synod Assembly Delegate	<u>100.00</u>
	10,481.79

*This page is only seen by Calvary Members