



150 YEARS—1873–2023

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

As we continue celebrating our Risen Lord through this season of Easter, I'm reminded of the many other signs of newness around us. To name just a few: we're hearing more birds and critters every day, the whole countryside is growing more colorful every day, our students and teachers are counting down the days until the end of the school year, and gardeners, growers, and farmers are all hoping that we've had our last frost and that the warm weather is here to stay (and with them plentiful rains, God willing.) Another newness for Pastor Hillary and I is the turn towards summer programming around the church/es.

There's a joke among church workers that summer is when things slow down around the church. And after the sprint of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany-Lent-Easter-Pentecost, it is true that there are far fewer holidays and traditions on the liturgical calendar. Still, there's a few big items on our calendar already. Things like Synod Assembly, Confirmation Camp, Vacation Bible School, and Calvary's Annual Ice Cream Social and 150th Anniversary Worship Service. Beyond that though, Pastor Hillary and I have been brainstorming what summer programming at First English, Calvary, and Augustana could look like.

While we're still at the early stages of generating ideas, Pastor Hillary and I have been drawn to the ways that our church buildings and spaces can be used to build community and form faith beyond our Sunday assembly. Here are some of the ideas we've thought of so far:

Dinner Church—We participate in the liturgy while breaking bread during a service that combines fellowship, food, and faith into an engaging and unique worship.

Daily Prayer—During the height of Covid, many churches streamed prayer for people to join in a brief service while social distancing. I've recently felt a call to build structured prayer like into my own spiritual practice. So, I figured, why not open it to others? This could be something we try both in person and online through these “slow” summer months.

Movie Night—How fun would it be to gather with friends and family and watch something together. We could view one of the many recent religious-themed shows or movies that have come out recently, or simply enjoy a classic family film.

Again, these are just a few ideas—we want to hear what you're thinking! You know the many communities from which we gather better than Pastor Hillary and I. What community service could we do? What projects do our communities need help with? What has been running through your heard or stirring in your heart as you've read this article? These “slow summer months” around the church present us an opportunity to imagine and get creative, so let's get talking about all the ways we can continue growing as a community of faith.

+Peace

Pastor Evan

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 May donations go to:

Genesis House—David City

GENESIS HOUSE WISHLIST

Sherrri Nielsen, the Director, has listed several items that Genesis House needs. Please consider this list when you are shopping:

- Sandwich size zip bags
- Quart size zip bags
- Garbage bags (25 count is fine)
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Cookie mixes



Highway Pickup date was moved from April 23 to April 30—we will once again complete our “God’s Work, Our Hands” project of 2 miles of highway pickup. The addition of ATV’s helps the project be finished in record time so that we can enjoy the fellowship and

pizza on the Jones’ deck. Please plan to join us for this fellowship activity as we reach out to do service to our community.

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

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

* Memorial Day Coffee will be hosted by Miriam Circle.

*Altar care for May will be by Cheryl Jones. June will be by Kay Jones.

*Flowers and Cheer for May and June will be Miriam Circle. Ruth Circle is scheduled for July, August & September. Please remember to water any plants.

*Many enjoy the fellowship time following worship on Sunday mornings. Anyone is invited to sign up to serve coffee in May (before WELCA scheduling in the summer).

*Summer Coffees will be served from June 4 through July 2 by Miriam Circle. Ruth Circle will do July 9 through August 27. There will not be coffee on Ice Cream Social day (7/17).

*Looking Ahead: The Annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Sunday, July 16. Special activities are planned this year to celebrate the Q-150. Join us as we also take the ice cream social to the Assisted Living at Midwest Covenant Home on Monday, 7/17. That time will be here before we know it! Please put these dates on your calendars.

May Bible Studies

Hostess

Bible Study

Ruth- 5/10, 9 a.m. Linda @ 4th Street Coffee House

Miriam – 5/11, 9 a.m. (TBD)

Mary said, “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” ~ Luke 1: 46-47

Blessings to you on Mother’s Day, Graduations and Memorial Day Weekend,

Cheryl

Recipes

Thank you to ALL those who helped with spring clean up day, Rod and Don for fixing the mailbox lid so that it stays closed, Jim for spraying the parking lot and sidewalks, Council for the gravel for the parking lot and having the lawns power raked. We thank Kay for always taking the recycling collections to Columbus.



MISSIONS

...at home and around the world

Our mission statement includes “Share God’s Love” Swede Home is known for its loving care of others. In celebration of our 150th anniversary, the council has designated special mission offerings. Beginning at the Q150 special music service on April 30 there will be a special offering plate available each and every Sunday. One project will go to **Medical Debt Reduction locally**. . This initiative helps people pay off their medical debt.

For other designated offerings, the council is asking for your input. Do you have a project or foundation that you think Calvary should support with the other two events? Here are a few ideas:

- Houses for Turkey the areas hit by earthquake and helping Syrian refugees (each house cost \$5,300) project sponsored by Lutheran World Relief
- World Central Kitchen – providing meals in disaster areas throughout the world,
- Lutheran World Relief – helping with those hit by tornadoes in the United States.

Please let a council member know your thoughts. You may contribute anytime during the year – please mark your donation as “Q150 designated mission fund giving,” if you want to name the special project, please do so.

Several have asked for some of the recipes served at the Q150 reception, so we are including them.

Teatime Tassies – Pecan Tarts

CRUST: 1 cup oleo or butter, 8 oz cream cheese, 2 cups flour, pinch of salt. Combine until crumbly. Press into mini muffin tins.

TOPPING: 4 Tablespoons oleo or butter, ½ cup brown sugar. Cream together and add: 1 tsp vanilla, 2 eggs (Beaten) 2/3 cup dark Karo syrup, 2/3 cups chopped pecans.

Pour mixture into each mini crust. Bake 15-20 minutes at 350 degrees. May take longer, want to be sure filling is set. You may top each little pie with a half pecan.

Tortilla Rollups

Soften 8 oz. of cream cheese, add ½ cup sour cream and a package of dry Ranch salad dressing. Mix together and add 1 small jar pimentos (drained) and 1 small can chopped black olives (drained). You may also add a small can of green chilies (Drained). This recipe is very substitute friendly; you may substitute mayo for sour cream. You can add shredded cheese to the filling

Approximately 8 floured tortillas – I soften each one for about 10-15 seconds in microwave. Spread the filling from center out – not to close to edges filling will leak out of the rollup. Cut off the ends of each roll and refrigerate the rolls for several hours or overnight. Slice into ¾ in to 1-inch slices

Best Party Punch

One 6 oz can frozen concentrated lemonade (thawed), One 6 oz can frozen concentrated orange juice (thawed) 2 cups cranberry juice (we used cranberry/ cherry juice) 3 cups water, ¼ cup sugar (we did not add any sugar), 2 liters of Sprite or 7-Up chilled, fresh slices of oranges. We froze some juice in molds to use for the ice – so punch wouldn’t be diluted. This recipe can easily be adjusted as to the amounts of ingredients used.

Growing in Faith



The youth group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 6:30 pm at the church. They will be meeting from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on Sunday, May 7.

On Sunday May 21, the group has a bowling party planned. They will meet at the church at 3:00 pm and plan to be back at church around 6:00 pm. This event is open to all youth, and they are more than welcome to include friends. Please let either Pastor know if you are planning on attending

Thanks to the faithful crew who are able to help with packing and delivering the backpack bags

for Polk County Schools. Thanks to: Carolyn, Lew, Bonnie, Kay, Kathi, Rick, Ryan, Fran, Candy Dunn, Don, Linda and special thanks to Deb H. for organizing the work crew. Each of the 4 weeks



over 70 backpacks were packed and delivered to the county schools. THANK YOU



The new logo Thrivent Tee shirts are in! If you would like to pick one up at the church, they are in baskets under the pew in the narthex and under the confirmation pictures—they are

sorted according to size.

Keep in our prayers



We share the grief of those who mourn and remember the life of Philip Ernst, brother to Mary Stevens. . He entered eternal live on March 5th, 2023. Please keep Mary and her family in your continued prayers.

We offer the hope of resurrection and our prayers to the family of Larry Hinze, brother of Cheryl Jones. Larry passed away on April 16, 2023 with services at Immanuel Lutheran Church Rising City on April 20, 2023. Flowers in church on Sunday the 23rd were from Cheryl and family.



Q 150 celebration

On April 30th we will have a special worship service featuring Diana Johnson on our beautiful pipe organ and various readings reflecting on the beautiful Stain Glass Artwork at Swede Home. This is a continuing celebration of Calvary-Swede Home's 150th anniversary. Please plan to attend.



Are you receiving your monthly newsletter—but would also like to receive a printed copy so that you have it handy and all the members of your family can read it?

If so, please leave a message at church (402-764-5981) text Linda (402-366-2091) or email the church at calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com

We would be glad to add you to the printed mailing of the newsletter.

Member updates

It is not often that a couple can celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary, but on April 19th 2023, Duane and Carol Jones did exactly that!

Carol writes:

Duane and I were so happy to hear from so many of you on our 65th anniversary. We were surprised to hear from so many! Your comments and wishes were like mini visits and brought us so much joy, making our 65th anniversary very special. Thank you for your wishes and comments. We are so grateful to all of you who have impacted our lives.



Asher Jon (AJ) Johnson was baptized into our church family on April 19, 2023.

We welcome AJ to our faith family



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
 Diana Johnson, Organist
 Linda Fuhr, Secretary
 LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:

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

Pastor Evan Cell Phone 402-689-5495 (text or call)
 Email: evan@pastorchristensen.com

Pastor Hillary Cell Phone 402-980-1102 (text or call)
 Email: hillary@pastorchristensen.com

IF you are texting or emailing a pastor, please include both pastors in the text or email

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

Meet a Member – Kolton Neujahr



Our "Meet the Member" this month is Osceola Senior Graduate, Kolton Neujahr. Kolton lives on a farm just south of Osceola. His parents are Mike and April Neujahr and he has a younger brother, Kelby.

Kolton is part of the 2023 graduating class of Osceola High School and has been with this class since kindergarten. Kolton plans to attend college at the University of Nebraska – Kearney and major in education, specifically Physical Education and Social Studies. He would also like to minor in Sports Communications.

His favorite trip ever was to Cocoa Beach, Florida where he got to swim in the ocean and try new foods. He loves sports and his favorite teams are: the Dener Broncos, Chicago Bulls, Kansas City Royals and Dallas Stars – and he says he is a HUGE Husker fan.

Kolton plays football, basketball and baseball and is also a part of 4-H and FFA. Some of his best times are watching TV and movies with his family. Family is very important to him as are sports and his friends.

Kolton likes Swede Home and likes how all the members are friendly with each other. He liked helping with Sunday School and being a part of all the Christmas plays. We at Swede Home are glad to have Kolton as part of our faith family and will keep him in our prayers as he goes off to college

Kolton invites Swede Home members to attend his graduation celebration following the graduation ceremony at Osceola High School. The Reception will be at their home: 12920 O Road, Osceola NE



We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| Melissa Forsberg | Jan Wells-Bachman |
| Janice Forsberg | Yvonne Stauber |
| June Larson | Luna Stauber |
| Alice Jane Oquist | Carey Clauff |
| LeRoy Hoyer | Colby Nelson |
| • Genesis House
and Living Wa-
ters Rescue Mis-
sion, Blue Valley
Action | Cheryl Jones |
| • Houses for Health recipients. | Duane Jones |
| • Bishop Scott Johnson and the Nebraska Synod staff | Gloria Oquist |
| • Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members | |
| • Brody Ienn in service to our country | |
| • Our government leaders | |
| • Our companion synods in Tanzania and Argentina | |

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



Calvary Swede Home will host a Memorial Day Service on Memorial Day, May 29th at 9 a.m.

Services will be at the cemetery—or indoors in case of inclement weather. There will be refreshments served in the basement fellowship hall following the services

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

MAY

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

MAY

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



THANK YOU

Thank you to all the members who continue with their financial support for Swede Home Church. In these trying times, we realize even more the words "to give as you are able"

MAY

- Assistant Minister – Carolyn Nielsen
- Scripture Reader – Carolyn
- Ushers – Kay and Bonnie
- Altar – Cheryl
- Acolyte – Eli Fjell
- Bell Ringer –

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30 am Worship with communion 6:30 Youth group	8	9 7:00 Men's Bible Study at Wayne Johnson's	10 9am Ruth Circle at 4th Street Coffee shop Stromsburg	11 9 am Miriam Circle	12	13
14 10:30 am Worship service	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:30 am Wor- ship Service with Commu- ion 3:00 Youth Group Bowling	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 am Worship service	29 9 am Memorial Day Service at the cemetery with refreshments to follow	30	31			

Q150 Celebration

On April 16th—Calvary Swede Home celebrated the first event for their 150th anniversary celebration. At 3 pm the Nebraska Brass presented their concert “Music from around the World” which featured styles from Different Countries. We had a good crowd of approximately 69 people enjoy this musical event.

Following the concert, many concert attendees plus many came just for the reception for Dana Westring. We again had a good attendance of approximately 70 people. Dana talked of his Swede Home roots, even though he grew up attending church as a “town kid” in Stromsburg. His Westring ancestors, Henry Westring, is listed as one of many who contributed to the campaign to build our current church, in 1914. He shared how he was asked to paint something for Swede Home, and painted the mural that graces the wall in the fellowship hall. He painted it at his home in Virginia and had it shipped to Swede Home to be installed. Dana also updated the altar surround in the church, adding clouds and repainting the statue of Jesus. He also read excerpts from his book “Tirthas, the Thin Place where Earthly and Divine Meet” which featured his paintings and narrative of his Journey through India.

The Q150 committee and council hosted a wine reception with a wide variety of appetizers and sweets. It was a beautiful afternoon.



Calvary Swede Home has received two beautiful pieces of artwork, that are currently displayed in the narthex.

Both pieces had been commissioned by Galen Wiser and were painted by an art professor at Wayne State College. Galen has graciously donated the two pieces to Swede Home and we are grateful for the addition of these pieces to our church.

Galen shares with us that his great, great grandfather, Emmanuel Lindeblade was born in Sweden and presided over the meeting to call the very first pastor at Calvary Lutheran.

His great grandfather, Hilding Lindeblade, was born, married and died in Swede Home.

His grandmother, Violet Lindeblade, Garretson, was confirmed in the Swedish Language at Calvary Lutheran in 1917.

Grandma Garretson's husband, Orra Garretson (who is in the painting of the Swede Home Store) was the long term sextant at the Calvary Cemetery. Grandpa Garretson resided in Swede Home at the time of his death.

His mother was born in Osceola and moved away. Galen's family returned to Polk County to the farm one mile west of the big corner (where Rue Johnson lives) in 1953 and left in 1971.

Galen, his sisters Jolene, Kathleen, and Viona were baptized and confirmed at Calvary Lutheran. Much to our mother's chagrin none of us children were ever married at Calvary Lutheran.

We thank Galen for sharing his history of Swede Home with us and for gifting the two pieces of artwork to Swede Home. What a special addition to display during our 150th anniversary.



COUNCIL NOTES

Church Council met on April 2nd following worship service. Present: Randy, Kent, Todd, Kris, Missy, Jarrett, and Pastor Hillary Absent: Dan and Lynn

- Distribution for 10% estate funds – All funds have now been distributed.
- 3-point congregation council bible study. April 20 thru May 11 on Thursday nights at Swede Home via zoom meeting
- March 25 Spring Clean-up – Well attended, did inside work, will hire yard work before Easter.
- 2 scrolls from WW1 and WW11 with the roll call of members served. Matting and framing done and have been hung in hallway.
- JW confirmed for the noon meal on August 13
- Bulletin and newsletter have information of a designated mission fund for Q150.
- Swedish Festival Float Update – Still being reviewed.
- Thrivent cards will be requested for the following.
- Trunk and Treat, Personal Care Kits, Dana Westring reception, Christmas meals for the county MOW program
- Lawn Care: Tim Peters from Klein's Blue River is doing both church & cemetery.
- Property Committee updates -review bid from BD. New representative for claim. Price is more than what they thought. Still in review.
- Q150 report: Save the Date Postcards sent to all members by mail or email. Invitation letter sent to all churches, mission organizations, schools, former Pastors. Will public a photo book of Q 150 activities, available for purchase\
- Request for a picture directory to begin in the fall of 2023. Cost may be covered by Memorial Fund.

Recording of Services- will be looked into.

	March 2023
Beginning Balance	\$6,450.09
Offerings:	
General Offering	6,331.00
Lent - Backpack Program	975.00
NE Synod ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	400.00
Augustana for Feb Share	2,625.28
	<u>10,336.28</u>
Expenses:	
Office Supplies	8.99
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee & TC % Fee	9.69
Christ In Our Home	85.90
Cody's Computer - Contract Agreement	39.99
Weebly - Church Website	144.00
Eakes Office Solutions; copier paper	144.90
Noyd Repair LLC; SS Furnace maintenance	148.50
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,580.00
First English - March Share	1,895.99
Augustana - March Share	2,774.33
Utilities:	
Church	1,741.46
Parsonage	63.81
Genoa Parsonage	192.61
Salaries:	
Pastor	2,474.56
Portico Benefit Services	1,207.12
Commuting Reimbursement	158.33
SECA	217.68
Mileage Reimbursement	717.62
Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
Synod Assembly Registration	133.00
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	783.99
Synod Assembly Registration; Delegates	350.00
	<u>15,628.21</u>
Balance as of March 31, 2023:	<u>\$1,158.16</u>
Designated \$\$ Transferred to Applicable SAV Acct:	
Thrivent Choice	\$ 24.00

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.....