



150 YEARS—1873–2023

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Go and... Be Honest



“If I’m being honest...” We may have heard those words before. Maybe from a caring friend; maybe from a critical supervisor; maybe from someone else. No matter who’s saying, “If I’m being honest,” the truth that follows tends to be one that might hurt. In an attempt to soften the blow, the truth giver reminds you that honesty is a virtue. Honesty is something we strive for, and, even when it is hard, we should tell the truth. Of course, if we’re being honest, that’s sometimes easier said than done.

Maybe that is because people *prefer* convenient, comfortable lies so much more than honest truths. Psychologists who study human behavior and how our brains work find this to be true time and time again. We seek comfort, stability, and status quo. The honest truth tends to bring up discomfort, it might shift our foundation a little, it rocks the boat that, at least in our honest opinion, has been sailing smooth. Yet, without honesty, we fall into complacency. We stop reflecting on who we are and how we live. Without truth tellers, we stop growing because we stop being challenged. We fail to thrive in a world that most certainly changes around us.

In 1 John 3:18, the author writes, “Little children, let’s not love with words or speech but with action and truth” (CEB). To “Go and Be Honest” means not only *speaking* the honest truth but *living* it. Because just as often as we speak honesty, we also must live honestly. That means receiving comments in the best possible light and taking the time and making the effort to hear a person’s honest remarks. It means living truthfully even when there is no consequence.

At the same time, as researcher Brené Brown reflects, sometimes, we are not all that honest while trying to be honest. She writes, “Honesty is the best policy, but honesty that’s motivated by shame, anger, fear, or hurt is not ‘honesty.’ It’s shame, anger, fear, or hurt disguised as honesty.” If we’re being honest with ourselves, these words sting because there *is* some

truth there. Being honest is not only some external thing expressed toward others. There is a self-reflective aspect of honesty in which we tell, and listen, to the honest truths in ourselves.

When we “Go and Be Honest,” we live faithfully into who God has created and called us to be. And not only to be, but who we are to become. God is not finished with you yet. And that’s the truth. May we all hear Jesus’ words in John 8, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teaching. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (vv. 31b–32). It is through Christ alone that we can go and do anything, let alone be honest. So let us honor our Lord Jesus Christ through honest living, in truth telling, and in living out the Good News in a world in need. Amen.

+Peace,
Pastor Evan

Questions to Consider:

- What is a time you didn’t tell the whole truth... or were not honest?
- What piece of history should you/could you explore with a lens of honesty?
- In what way are you being dishonest in your life?

GO and express gratitude by saying thank you to someone who deserves it.

Prayer: Reconciling God, we ask for forgiveness for the times we have not reconciled our differences and acknowledged the hurts and wounds we have caused. Amen.



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 .November donations go to:
Genesis House David City*

PERSONAL CARE KITS



We were able to assemble and pack 68 care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to Deb Hanquist, Bonnie Carlson, Don Fuhr, Kay Jones, Sue Sundberg, Fran Lott and Linda Fuhr we were able to accomplish this in an hour! God's Work and Our Hands.!

Lew and Carolyn Nielson will deliver the kits to St. John's Lutheran Church in Norfolk where they will be loaded on a semi and delivered to Minneapolis, Minnesota from there, Lutheran World Relief will distribute to countries that are in need.

Each kit contains one bath towel, toothbrush, comb, nail clipper and 3 bars of soap

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

Thank you for all you do for not only your own families, but our Church Family and God's Children at large! This month we focus on Thanksgiving, so I challenge you to think of something every day this month you are thankful for. Even when we have a "bad day", there's always something to thank God for.

***Executive meeting for WELCA to be held on Wednesday, November 15, 9 a.m. at church.** We will be discussing where offerings might go as well as plans for general meeting and 2024 yearbook.

***November Circle Meetings:** Please sign up for 2024 lessons, hosts, altar care & committees and please report to Kay Jones no later than November 19. Thank you!

***Service for month of November is ESU 7 Giving Tree.** They are asking for money gifts so they can purchase items specifically needed by the children served by the ESU. Please give your offerings to your Circle Leader, Bonnie Carlson or Cheryl Jones by December 3. *Please make checks payable to "Calvary WELCA".* **This is for the whole congregation, not just WELCA.**

***Altar care for November will be Miriam Circle.** December will be Cheryl & Kay Jones.

***Flowers in November & December will be by Miriam circle.** Thank you for watering any plants also. Please remember that poinsettias will be welcome for Christmas.

NOVEMBER

Hostess/Dessert Bible Study

Ruth – 11/8 Kathi J. @ 4th Street Coffee, Stromsburg

Miriam - 11/9 *(none listed in yearbook)*

"In a world where you can be anything,

BE KIND." ~ Anonymous

God's Blessings,

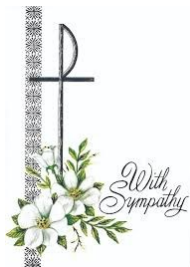
Cheryl

Church happenings

Recipe



Please plan to attend, and bring a friend. If you have not attended in the past, it is not too late to start. It's a fun evening of fellowship with the youth in the church, games, bible study, get to know the Pastors and each other. We meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 6:30 pm



Our prayers are with Carolyn and Lew Nielsen and family with the tragic loss of their nephew, Justin Sternberg, in an automobile accident.

Sunday October 22, Diana presented her 2nd recital on music and art. To date, there has been over \$2,100 to match Diana's Scholarship challenge. We will keep that offering open until December 31.

Last month, Diana's address was listed as Box 45 Osceola NE— it should be **Diana Johnson Box 45 STROMSBURG NE 68666** if you would like to mail a card to her

Pictures are from her reception following the worship service



BEST EVER POTATO SOUP

(From 2000 "Quick Cooking Annual Recipes")

- 6 Bacon Strips, diced
- 3 cups cubed peeled potatoes
- 1 (14 1/2 oz.) can chicken broth
- 1 small carrot, chopped or shredded
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 TBSP. dried parsley flakes
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 3 TBSP all purpose flour
- 3 cups milk
- 8 oz. Light Velveeta cheese, cubed

In a large saucepan or stockpot, cook bacon until crisp, then drain. Add potatoes, broth, carrot, onion, parsley, salt & pepper to bacon. Cover & simmer until potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes. Combine flour & milk until smooth. Add to soup. Bring soup to a boil; boil and stir for 2 minutes (set timer). Add cheese; stir until cheese is melted and soup is heated through.

Yield – about 2 quarts (8 servings)

This was enjoyed by workers after highway litter pick up, and they recommended including this recipe in the newsletter, it was so popular. Enjoy! Cheryl Jones

(Through trial and error, I've learned this doesn't do well when I tried to double the recipe. It can be increased a little successfully, like 3 1/2 - 4 cups potatoes with 4 cups milk and 4 TBSP flour, but if you need more, try cooking it in extra batches, or it will curdle).

Upcoming events

Trunk and Treat

GIVING TREE

Last year, many of you donated to help needy families served by ESU 7. Thank you! They were very thankful and moved by your generosity.

We are again taking up an offering for these families, as they have about 60-70 kids to buy for. We are the main givers for their Christmas. So please open your hearts and help as you are able. Donations should be given to Bonnie Carlson or Cheryl Jones by Dec. 3. (Checks payable to "Calvary WELCA").



Rather than ornaments with dollar amounts on the giving tree at church, this year it is a reminder that cash offerings are welcomed by the ESU #7 for the needy children they serve. Please bring any donations to church and place in the offering plate

by the Giving Tree on Sundays, or to circle meetings by December 3. (Cash donations are welcome for Genesis House, too.)



We will observe All Saints Day Sunday, November 5th as we toll the bell for members who have gone before us this year. You will have an opportunity to light a candle to honor those you remember in your heart.

The weather was typical Nebraska weather for this year's Trunk and Treat Events—meaning COLD, DAMP, WINDY—but it didn't stop our Swede Home Group to be out and about on various nights.



On Wednesday, October 25th, Gia and Lisa braved the weather in Polk

On Sunday, October 29, Osceola moved their Trunk and Treat to the fair grounds. Kris Udey, Koleton and



Kamdyn, and grandson Maverick had a great time watching the creative costumes and selecting their favorite treats.

Sandy Johnson hosted the Swede Home Trunk and Treat in Stromsburg on Tuesday October 31. We will have pictures next month

Beer and Hymns

Beer and Hymns

BEER AND HYMNS —

Our 2nd Annual Beer and Hymns is history, but never fear, we plan to do it again next year! We had 40 attending, all ages young and old enjoyed the relaxed fellowship with good food (and refreshments) and singing our favorite hymns—if you have a favorite hymn that was not included, let the Pastors or Linda know. We even had NE volleyball on! We thank everyone who brought food and drinks to share, and we thank our guests for attending!



Calvary Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
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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, Church Office Manager
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 the Member: Ben Carlson



Ben Carlson was born in Omaha at St. Joe's Hospital on 4/16/64, the day before the Ford Mustang was introduced. His parents were Bud & Alice Carlson, and he was the youngest of 3 boys. Brothers Craig and Jim welcomed him home to

Murray, NE, where they lived at the time, until Ben was 9 years old.

In 1973 they moved to an acreage by Swede Home, where his brother Jim & wife Bonnie now live. Ben has fond memories of building tree houses on the farm, and sleigh riding down the hills nearby on Martin and Ruby Lundstrom's farm.

Ben attended school in Stromsburg, where he graduated in 1982. He worked at his family's meat locker in Osceola till 1984, where he wrapped meat, helped with clean up and doing book keeping.

During the 1980's, Ben worked at the Good Samaritan Society in Osceola with his mom, in the house-keeping, maintenance and laundry departments. He later went to Central Community College in Columbus to study respiratory therapy, but did not finish that degree, as he was needed to be a caregiver to his parents.

Ben enjoys many creative hobbies, which include painting and sketching, gardening (shared that love with his mom), building willow furniture and baskets, and a baker, enjoying recipes from his mom, grandma and great grandmother. He also enjoys photography and genealogy.

One of Ben's goals in life is to live to the age of 105. He has never married or had children, but enjoys being "Uncle Ben" to Jim and Bonnie's grandchildren.

He feels really blessed to have Swede Home as his church family. He enjoys helping arrange flower arrangements and bake cookies for the ice cream social and cookies for coffee after church. He's also been helpful in providing food and working for "Meals from the Heart". We are blessed to have Ben at Swede Home!

FALL BOOK STUDY

***Making Sense
of the Cross***

Come join the conversation
on the ways we understand the cross
Attend a session that works for you!

TUESDAYS
12:15 pm at Augustana
Oct 3 - Nov 14
(Skipping Oct 24)

THURSDAYS
7:00 pm at Calvary
Oct 5 - Nov 16
(Skipping Nov 2)

Please RSVP to Pastor Evan (402.689.5495) if you plan
on attending. Books available for borrow or purchase.



We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



- Court Clelland
- Monty Jones
- Kathi Jones
- Karen Gestrine
- Duane Jones
- Lois Fick
- Janice Forsberg
- Melissa Forsberg
- June Larson
- Beth Jones Wienik
- Jane 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)



Dear Calvary Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for your incredibly generous donation to our elementary school! So many students benefited from your thoughtfulness and generosity, and we are so very grateful. Thank you again from all of us at

High Plains Community Elementary

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

- 02 Monty & Cheryl Jones
- 07 Kerri & Jesse Klein
- 07 Greg & Tracy Dittmer
- 10 Bryce & Janet Nielsen
- 15 Mark & Tammy Jones
- 19 Kent & Gia Adelson
- 23 Tom & Mary Stevens
- 25 Dave & Janelle Udey

- 02 Jill Bush
- 02 Kathi Jones
- 09 Kristen Bush
- 14 Amanda Kobus
- 14 Doug Jones
- 14 Susan Sundberg
- 16 Dustin Noble
- 21 Todd Hanquist
- 22 Andie Oquist
- 25 Wayne Johnson
- 29 Katleigh Spale
- 29 Heidi Paulson



NOVEMBER

- Assistant Minister - Cheryl Jones
- Scripture Reader – Bonnie Carlson
- Ushers –
- Altar – Miriam Circle
- Acolyte –
- Bell Ringer –

We thank all those who agree to help with the worship service each month. We need Ushers, Acolyte, and Bell ringer for November—let Diana Know if you can serve for the month, or even a few Sundays

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>2023 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME INFO</p> <p>Fall Back November 5, 2023 at 2:00am</p> <p>Set your clocks back one hour. Check and replace smoke detector batteries.</p> <p>shutterstock.com · 2359175285</p>			1	2	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship service All Saints Day observation with communion 6:30 Youth Group	6	7 12:15 pm Book Study at Genoa	8 9 am Ruth Circle at 4th street coffee shop	9 9 am Miriam Circle 7 pm Book Study @ Swede Home	10	11
12 10:30 am Worship service	13	14 12:15 pm Book Study at Genoa 7 pm Men's Bible	15 9 AM WELCA executive committee at church	16 7 pm Book Study at Swede Home	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship Service with Communion 6:30 youth group	20	21	22	23	24	25
 <p>HAPPY Thanksgiving</p>						
26 10:30 am Worship Service	27	28	29	30		

COUNCIL NOTES

Church Council met on October 1 following worship service. Present: Kent, Randy, Jarrett, Lynn, Missy, Kris, Dan, Todd, Pastor Hillary
Absent: None

Highway Signs

Will have church contest for design. Have 3 signs. More to come.

Immanuel Grant

Pastor Hillary wrote report for Annie Jeffrey Youth gathering
Reviewing if Wednesday nights would be better.

Maui fire offering \$1,241.00.

Highway pickup

Went well, had 14 people
3-point council meeting date set Monday October 9 at 7 pm at Swede Home

Diana gratitude gift \$2,500.00 scholarship for Lutheran School of Theology Chicago (LSTC). She would like the church to match her gift of \$2,500.00 for a total of \$5,000.00 for the scholarship.

Property Committee updated council on various small repairs needed at the church

October 22 at 3 pm, Osceola ministerial presenting program on Human Trafficking

Trunk and treats

Kris Udey will do Osceola; Sandy Johnston will do Stromsburg; Lisa Oquist and Gia Adelson will do Polk

Pastor Evan to lead book study in October and November on Tuesday noon at Augustana, Thursday 7pm at Swede Home

Lorray Smith Mutual Funds with Thrivent

With the passing motion by the congregation for the church renovation, need to contact Thrivent on options for withdrawing funds as needed for the renovation. Randy will follow up with K. Jones.

Beer and Hymns

Pot Luck. Men's group - meats, Women's Ruth group - sides, Council - appetizers, Youth group - desserts; Women's Miriam circle - desserts

Church internet is being looked into. More to come.

Treasurer's Report

	Sept 2023
Beginning Balance	\$16,487.16
Offerings:	
General Offerings	7,948.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Disaster Relief for Maui Fires	270.00
ELCA Mission Share	400.00
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Test Messaging System-monthly fee	22.00
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	39.99
USPO Postage Expense	72.00
Christ In Our Home	85.90
New Vacuum Cleaner	183.53
ELCA Disaster Relief - to Maui Fires	1,241.00
NE Synod, ELCA Mission Share	1,580.00
Church Mutual Bi-Annual Premiums	4,461.00
First English Rising City; September Share	1,762.90
Augustana Genoa; September Share	2,768.17
Utilities:	
Church	378.72
Parsonage	61.26
Genoa Parsonage	114.86
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,474.56
Portico Benefit Services	1,207.12
Commuting Reimbursement	158.34
SECA	217.67
Mileage Reimbursement	252.12
Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	401.72
Total Expenses:	18,248.29
Balance as of September 30, 2023:	<u>\$6,861.87</u>