

OCTOBER, 2017

...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIM

October is one of my favorite times of the year. I love the beautiful fall colors, the cooler weather, and getting to celebrate Reformation Sunday at the end of October. I love the red alter paraments and singing Mighty Fortress, celebrating communion and worshipping together.

The church's observance of Reformation Sunday is about more than remembering what Martin Luther did 500 years ago. Luther had become convinced that some of the practices of the medieval church were corrupt and not in line with what was taught in the Bible. Motivated by his pastoring heart and keen theological mind, Luther prepared 95 theses which he nailed to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. In these theses, Luther addressed corruption of the church and called it to realign itself and the Holy Gospel. As bold, courageous, and worth remembering as Luther's actions were, the truly important thing was the Holy Spirit was up to. For the Holy Spirit was at work in and through Luther and others to bring change to the church.

You may have noticed I mentioned the red alter paraments in my introduction to this article. Red is not the color that gets used very often in the church year. It is only used at Reformation and Pentecost Sundays. (It is also used at the ordination of pastors). These times that the red color is seen in our sanctuary when we celebrate and remember the role of the Holy Spirit and life of the church.

So, we celebrate Reformation Sunday in the church, we do so mindful of ways the Holy Spirit has guarded and protected the church throughout the ages. For it is only by God's grace the church has survived and thrived since its earliest days. The same grace will be what sustains the church in the face of all of the trials and joys, challenges and triumphs that will inevitably come.



THANK YOU . . .

Thank you for your donation of bean bag chairs for High Plains Community Schools. The kids are really enjoying them. (See bulletin board for pictures and individual thank you's)

Thank you for getting me all the supplies I requested for my classroom. We really appreciate your generosity.

Thank you,
Erica Twarling (Kindergarten Teacher Cross County)

Again I am thanking you all for remembering us with the food pantry items you brought in. Many thanks. We are seeing more and more food pantries going out; because of our economy and high prices. You are to be commended for helping us. May God bless you all!

Blue Valley Food Pantry
Lola Reetz

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gift to Lutheran Disaster Response of \$350.00. Through your gift, you're spreading joy and changing lives throughout our shared community, and we are honored to be stewards of your generosity.

Thank you again for your gifts,
Sincerely,
Chris Andersen
President and Executive Director
Thrivent In Faith Community Foundation

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| WELCA NEWS | PAGE 2 |
| MISSION & MINISTRY UPDATE | PAGE 3 |
| MEET A MEMBER | PAGE 6 |
| CALENDAR | PAGE 8 |

(CONTINUED FROM PASTOR KIM'S MESSAGE ON PAGE 1)

The Holy Spirit is just as active today as it ever has been. It is seen in our churches as we live together in community. The Holy Spirit gifts us with gifts that can be used to bless our families and our congregations and our communities. The Holy Spirit brings the people and places together to make amazing things happen in the ways that you care for one another and that you care for others. Just recently your congregation gave generously to help the victims of the recent hurricanes and wildfires. This act of generosity was guided and inspired by the Holy Spirit and I thank you for the generosity you showed to others. The funds that you shared will help countless people rebuild their lives. This is an amazing thing. It may not seem like much, but to every persons life that is touched by your generosity it means so much. Thank you for being the community of the faithful for being the church.

There are many amazing ways the Holy Spirit will continue to work through the church and through you. They might be big ways, but they might be small faithful acts. But either way, they, the God they point to and always active Holy Spirit are something worth celebrating.

In Christ,
Pastor Kim



W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

Happy Fall. It is a beautiful time of year. In our community harvest will begin soon begin. Looks like a bountiful year.

I have been lagging on our circle doing special things, but everyone is busy. If anyone has suggestions or projects please let me know.

Prayers go to June Larson and wishing a speedy recovery.

Until next time enjoy the season.

Love to all,

Marj

October

| | <i>Hostess/Dessert</i> | <i>Bible Study</i> |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Anna | Lenore Kessler | Lenore Kessler |
| Miriam | Diana Johnson | Venida Carlstrom |
| Ruth | Cheryl Jones | Cheryl Jones |

Bible Study: *Gather* - October

Service: Donate a Blanket/Adopt-A-Quilt (**ref. pg 15**)
For Project Comfort!!!!

November

| | <i>Hostess/Dessert</i> | <i>Bible Study</i> |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mary Anna | Alice Jane Oquist | Alice Jane Oquist |
| Miriam | Carol Jones | Carol Jones |
| Ruth | Penny Udey | Penny Udey |

Bible Study: *Gather* - November

Service: ESU #7 Giving Tree (**Ref: pg. 15**)

MISSION AND MINISTRY UPDATE



ELCA Mission and Ministry Update

When Brian was born prematurely, his doctors told his mother that he would never walk, talk, or function normally. Ashamed of his diagnosis,

his family kept him at home. That was until Building a Caring Community (BCC) staff visited Brian's family and invited Brian to enroll in the therapeutic day program.

He flourished at the day program, and at age 3, he began to walk. At 5, he was enrolled in a primary school that serves children with special needs.

Brian is one of more than 200 children with intellectual and physical disabilities served by the BCC program, a partnership between the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and Mosaic International, a faith-based organization in Nebraska serving more than 3,000 people with intellectual disabilities.

Today, there are 10 BCC day centers, support in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, helping families move beyond isolation and stigma and into full participation in their communities. In addition to caring for children at the center, children like Brian, with complicated medical needs receive regular physicals and visits to doctors and hospitals when necessary. The BCC also trains parents to care for special needs, sets up projects that increase family incomes, and provides job opportunities for young people with disabilities beyond school age.

For Betsy Buschkemper, a BCC volunteer and a pediatric nurse, working with the BCC has moved her from "feeling pity" for children like Brian to celebrating "the potential and the happiness and joy they feel and know in life that they wouldn't have had a chance for otherwise," she said. "Brian has a shot at a normal life now and is a happy little boy."

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 October, your donations will go to Blue Valley Community Action in Osceola.

Most recipients of Blue Valley Food Bank are families of 4 headed with working parents with little extra time. Canned meats are especially needed, Boxed Dinners, Canned Fruits, and Vegetables, and Breakfast Cereal are always needed as well. Dessert mixes are a special treat. All items we donate are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they meet their critical needs.

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

We are grateful for generous gifts of time, talent and treasure that members of ELCA congregations share with their community and with the wider church. Without this faithful partnership, our ministry together would not be possible. Please know that we hold you in our prayers and pray that your congregation continues to feel the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as you share God's loving grace with you neighbors.

God's peace,

Victoria Flood, Director of Mission Share

Nick Kiger, Associate Director of Mission Share

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Explore (October 21st, 2017)

Explore is a one-day retreat designed for elementary aged kids (grades 1-6) to discover the magic of exploring God's creation out at Carol Joy Holling Camp. Join us as we embrace our connections with nature and one another! Learn more and register at CJCHCenter.org/Explore

Highway Clean-up

Highway Clean-up date—
Sunday, October 8th, at 4pm.
Meet at Monty & Cheryl Jones.
There will be food and fellowship time following highway pickup. God's Work-Our Hands.



Mark Your Calendars...

CIRCLE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH on your calendar! The Nebraska Brass Band is returning to Calvary to present their Holiday Concert, at 3pm. Coffee and cookies will be provided at intermission. This will be a great way to conclude the Thanksgiving weekend and start the holiday season. Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of beautiful music.

Pastor Appreciation/Birthday Celebration

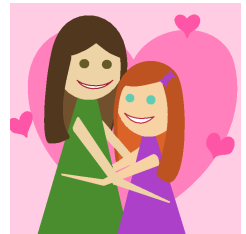
October is Pastor Appreciation Month AND Pastor Kim's Birthday! To celebrate Calvary Council is hosting a special coffee following Sunday, October 22nd service. Please plan to join us in showing our appreciation to Pastor Kim.



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Mother & Tween Daughter Retreat

This retreat is tailored toward 10-13 year old daughters and their moms. It is held November 18th-19th at Carol Joy Holling. Join us as we spend quality time together and learn about what it means to express yourself in a healthy, faith—filled way. To learn more and register at CJHCenter.org/MotherDaughter



God Chooses You—Middle School Retreat

Carol Joy Holling is hosting a Middle School Retreat November 3-5th. You. Are. Enough. This retreat hits on real world issues middle school—aged youth (grades 6-8) face and provides a place for them to openly discuss self-image in a world that often fosters poor self-esteem. Join us as we explore how God sees us and why this matters. Learn more and register at CJHCenter.org/God-Chooses-You

Early Bird Savings

Register by January 31st, 2018 to attend Carol Joy Holling Church camp; you can save \$50 on next summer's full week sessions. Family discounts also available, sending more than one child to camp? Receive an additional \$25 discount for **each** child of the same family attending a full-week or mini session. CarolJoyHolling.org





Zion Trunk or Treat

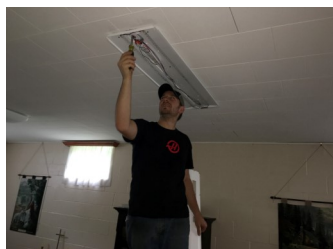
Zion will host their 2nd Trunk or Treat on Octo-

ber 31st at 5:00pm—7:00pm on the street in front of the church.

What is Trunk or Treat? It is a fun way of celebrating Halloween for church and community youth. Decorate your car trunk as much or as little as you would like (for some very elaborate ideas check out this website: <http://www.thedatingdivas.com/kids-korner/trunk-or-treat-ideas/>) and park it outside of Zion on Halloween evening in time for Trick-or-Treating. Come and enjoy fellowship, getting to see kids in their Halloween costumes, and hand out lots of candy. If you have any questions, please talk to Gina.

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

THANK YOU! Thanks to all who provided willing hands, pickups, trailers, and equipment needed to do the church property clean up on Saturday, September 9th. It was wonderful to clean up the bush piles, removed old sidewalk, trim trees and all other “Handyman” jobs that needed done. When lots of people come together, lots of work can be accomplished—the church property looks great! Thanks to all who helped!



Bible Study

Being Together the Body of Christ—A four week Bible Study on First Corinthians will meet Thursdays at 7pm beginning on Thursday October 12 at Calvary.

Reformation Worship

Join the synod celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and worship with other area ELCA churches at 2pm on Sunday, October 29th at First Lutheran Church (1211 E 14th St, York). Watch your bulletin for more information as it becomes available.

Quilts

The ladies submitted 5 quilts this year to the annual summer quilt auction at Camp Carol Joy Holling this past July. Our quilts sold for \$440.00. Thank you to everyone who helped make the quilts and to Pastor Kim who delivered the quilt to the camp and gave us inspiration throughout the year by visiting us as we quilted.



Health Fair

Annie Jeffrey Health Center will be hosting a health fair Tuesday, October 3rd from 6:45am to 12:00pm at the Polk County Fairgrounds in Osceola. Fair-goers will be able to take advantage of free and discounted health services.

MEET A MEMBER

Meet Monty Jones from Calvary



Monty grew up on a farm just a couple miles from Swede Home, and has been a life—long member of Swede Home. His parents were Paul & Dorothy Jones. After Paul died, Dorothy later remarried Earl Jones. Monty has 3 brothers, Carol (CP), and Paul who farm nearby; and Murray, a pastor at the Evangelical Free Church in Holdrege, NE. Monty's wife is Cheryl, and they were married in 1989 at Swede Home. Monty adopted Cheryl's children, Clint and Jami. Jami is married to Brad Haugaard and they have a son, Braxton, 20 months old. They live in Ham Lake, MN. Clint passed away from pneumonia in 1993.

Monty attended Osceola Schools and graduated in 1972. He then attended Milford Technical College and graduated with a degree in Auto Mechanic Technology. He's also taken additional classes at CCC/Columbus in Machine Tool. He has enjoyed working at Osceola Coop Station, Stroebe's in Clarks, a welding shop in Grand Island, and then began farming with his brothers for about 25 years. Now Monty works full time doing performance engine work.

NHRA drag racing is a favorite activity of Monty's. He built his first racecar in 1975, and has been involved in racing ever since. He and Cheryl travel around the Midwest in the summer, and have taken longer racing trips to each coast occasionally over the years, one of their favorite races being Pomona, CA. Besides racing trips, they enjoy traveling for vacations, some of their favorite being Alaska, Michigan, Seattle, Washington D.C. and Indianapolis.

When talking about what he is passionate about, Monty stated his faith, family, and work. And dogs have always been a special part of his life.

Monty has served on church council, as a scripture reader, bell ringer, usher, makes popcorn for Sunday School, and volunteers at workday activities. He really likes his church family and the men's bible study.

Calvary Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
950 129th Road
Stromsburg, NE 68666
Church Phone: (402)764-5981

Doug Jones, Council President
Diana Johnson, Organist
Brienne Schoch, Secretary
Tina Watts, Sunday School
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:
Linda Fuhr, Doug Jones, Bill Carlstrom, Nick Nicholson,
Carolyn Nielsen, Chris Smith,
Deb Swedenburg
All Calvary members, Ministers

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

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

Gregg Bolton, Council President
Yvonne Stauber, Organist
Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

Council Members:
Gregg Bolton, Todd Schoch, Dawn Kush
All of Zion members, Ministers

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Lyndsey Bolton
Dorothy Ehlers
Fred & Lori Ehlers
Melissa Forsberg
Denny Johnson
Lenore Kessler
June Larson

Elvin Reetz
Imo Richardson
Harvey Schlegelmilch
Vance & Elaine Toline

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action
- Houses for Health recipients.
- Table Grace Café
- 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

To request prayers call

Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041

Zion: LuAnn Bolton 402-710-8708

ANNIVERSARIES

CALVARY:

October 6th
Mike & Deb Cramer

October 15th
Wendy & Kelley Shafenberg

October 22nd
Craig & Deb Swedenberg

October 23rd
Carey & Linda Clauff

ZION:

October 2nd
Ken & Dawn Kush

October 21st
Gary & Janet Hild



BIRTHDAYS

CALVARY:

03—Clayton Watts
05—Tamara Rowse
07—Andrew Adelson
09—Kent Adelson
Elaine Toline
10—Randy Lott
14—Wanda Larson
18—Ava Ernst
Clerissa Udey
20—Corinne Adelson
21—Nate Johnson
Peter Jones
22—Gabe Hanquist
23—Pastor Kimberly Belken
24—Corey Watts
27—Yancy Krol
28—Rick Jones
30—Hannah Lott
31—Anita Haack
Marvin Larson

ZION:

09—Cal Bittinger
12—Donna Stearns
20—JoAnne Bolton

ZION WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

October

Communion Assistant: Dawn Kush

Usher: Gary Hild

Greeter: Janet Hild

Reader:

1—Gary Hild, 8—Gina Schoch, 15—Dawn Kush, 22—Dawna Bolton, 29—LuAnn Bolton

Acolyte:

1—Isaac Reetz, 8—Tierney Schoch, 15—Harley Martin, 22—Lyndsey Bolton, 29—Isaac Reetz

CALVARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

October

Assistant Ministers— Kent Adelson

Scripture Reader—Brody Ienn

Ushers— Ienn Family

Acolyte—Megan Johnson

Altar Care— Jean Waller

Bell Ringer— Kent Adelson

October 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--|---|--|--|-----------|
| 1 8:30a Zion Worship 9:30a Calvary & Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Wor- ship 4p Common Prayer | 2 | 3 | 4 9:30a Join the Con- versation Bible Study 6p Confirmation 7p Calvary Council | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 8:30a Zion Worship 9:30a Calvary & Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Wor- ship 4p Highway Clean- up | 9 | 10 | 11 9:30a Join the Con- versation Bible Study 6p Confirmation 7p Men's Bible Study 7p Ruth's WELCA Circle | 12 2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle 7p 1st Corinthians Bible Study | 13 9a Miriam's WELCA Circle | 14 |
| 15 8:30a Zion Worship 9:30a Calvary & Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Wor- ship | 16 | 17 | 18 9:30a Join the Con- versation Bible Study 6p Confirmation | 19 7p 1st Corinthians Bible Study | 20 | 21 |
| 22 8:30a Zion Worship 9:30a Calvary & Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Wor- ship | 23 | 24 | 25 9:30a Join the Con- versation Bible Study 6p Confirmation | 26 9a Quilt Day 7p 1st Corinthians Bible Study | 27 | 28 |
| 29 8:15a Zion & UMC Join Service @ Zion 9:30a Calvary & Zion Sunday School 10:30a Calvary Wor- ship 2p NE Synod Reformation Com- memoration Service | 30 | 31 5p Zion Trunk or Treat | | | | |

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|--------------------------------------|
| Know God, Love God, Share God's Love |
|--------------------------------------|

COUNCIL NOTES

Council Meeting Newsletter Updates: September 6th, 2017

- **Council approved the following.** Calvary Lutheran Church is committed to supporting our young people and helping them grow in faith. To this end, Calvary assists families in paying for camps, mission trips, and the like. Families are asked to cover the cost of the deposit with the church covering the remainder of the cost. If for some reason the youth is unable to attend the event, the family will be asked to reimburse the church for the amount paid by the church. Because of this policy, it is asked that the youth participate in fundraising activities as they arise.
- Pastor Kim, along with Pastor Teri, Pastor Dan, and Father Val, participated in the Osceola Prayer and Praise service held in conjunction with the Osceola Fall Festival.
- Pastor and several others will attend the Catholic/Lutheran Common Prayer Service on September 11th in Omaha.
- Confirmation will begin at Calvary with orientation on September 13th and classes will begin the following week.
- There is a new Youth Group organizing! It is C.H.A.O.S. (Christians Hanging Around on Sunday's). The group will meet the first Sunday of the month. The Organizational meeting in September will be the 2nd Sunday. The Stromsburg Methodist, Lutheran and Covenant Churches along with Calvary are planning this group and it is open to any youth grades 6-12.
- Reminder Highway clean-up is scheduled for Sunday October 8th at 4pm with fellowship to follow. Consider making this a family event—a good way to give back to the community and share fellowship with other members. **God's Work-Our Hands**
- Calvary is honored to host a holiday concert by the Nebraska Brass! The concert will be Sunday, November 26th at 3pm—**mark your calendars.** Watch the November Newsletter for more information.
- A big thank you to Pastor Kim, Cheryl Jones, and Jacob Adelson for purchasing and delivering school supplies to 4 area schools. This year we contacted the schools for specific needs and used Thrivent funds and the free will donations to do the shopping. Thanks to all who contributed.
- An out door clean up day will be held Sept 9th. Plans to remove the bush piles, remove sidewalk along the west side of the church, trim & remove trees on the east side, install new lights in the basement of Sunday School room & hallway along with other "Handyman" jobs that needed to be done. We are so appreciative to the group of people that answer a call to keep the church property in excellent condition.
- Calvary members again have the opportunity to answer the call for those in need by donating to a free will offering Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, and Western States fires. Council approved matching funds up to \$2000.00. The Disaster Fund Campaign will run through September.

Treasurer's Report

August, 2017

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$7287.52 |
| <u>Offering:</u> | |
| General Offering | 9131.00 |
| God's Work Our Hands; School Supplies | 15.00 |
| ELCA Disaster Relief | 5.00 |
| ELCA Mission Share | 285.00 |
| | <u>9,436.00</u> |

Expenses:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Bank Charges | 8.16 |
| Mission Trip Option Night Admission | 20.00 |
| NE Income Tax; 2nd Quarter | 26.34 |
| Cakesbury; Bible Study Material | 39.68 |
| Postage Stamps; Treasurer Use | 49.00 |
| Economy Home Town Market | 57.85 |
| Office Net Copier Paper | 95.95 |
| CCLI Copyright Renewal Size A | 124.00 |
| God's Work Our Hands; school supplies | 129.25 |
| Sunday School Basement Light Fixtures | 520.00 |
| ELCA Seminary Debt Reduction | 750.00 |
| NE Synod ELCA—Mission Share | 1450.00 |
| Zion Benedict July Share | 1669.53 |

Utilities:

| | |
|------------|--------|
| Church: | 274.25 |
| Parsonage: | 178.70 |

Salaries:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Pastor | 2176.41 |
| Mileage | 134.41 |
| SECA | 216.41 |
| Supply Pastor Bob Bryan | 227.15 |
| Portico Benefits | 995.83 |
| Diana | 423.52 |
| LeeAnn | 230.87 |
| Bri | 621.15 |
| Supply Oragnist | 100.00 |
| | <u>10,518.46</u> |

Balance as of August 31st, 2017

\$6205.06

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

950 Road 129th
Stromsburg, NE 68666

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEBRASKA SYNOD, ELCA

.....IN SACRED PLACES.....