



...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR KIM



In our last two newsletters, we have been reflecting on part of the service of confession and forgiveness by examining a prayer that is part of that service. We continue that this month using again Walter Brueggeman's book *Prayers for Privileged People*. The petition that we look this month is our plea for God's Holy Spirit to come into our lives and do what we cannot—namely to turn our hearts and minds to God.

Almighty God.... cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit...

*We present ourselves for that strange interface
between our thoughts and your spirit.*

*We covet our thoughts that do not stay focused
about getting out of church on time and
errands to run after church and
meals to purchase and folks to see;*

*Our thoughts reflect our excessive busyness
that leaves us little time for our life with you.*

*And beneath busyness our thoughts are preoccupied
with hopes that linger in disappointment,
with hurts that refuse to be healed,
with guilt that does not easily yield to pardon,
with estrangements that cut deep and remain open,
with can-do confidence about power and energy
and achievement.*

We think a thoughts in a minute.....

And then you....

THANK YOU . . .

Dear Friends at Swede Home,
Oh what FUN it was to display your recent gifts—you seem to know just what is needed. The cereal and all that good “kid food” is so very helpful for our struggling families. I've been fixing “treat boxes” for hungry kids this summer, similar to what is given in the backpack program. And, as always, there were some items we do not receive very often—thank you for showing such care for Genesis House families who have had a hard time making ends meet! And Cheryl—the fresh sweet corn was so beautiful and there's nothing better than corn on the cob with butter dripping—a real joy of summer! The cabbage was given to our large families each with 3 or more children. Please come visit anytime.

Sincerely,
Pat

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church,
Thank you for your gifts to the ELCA World Hunger. With your generosity the ELCA World Hunger, you stand full of the Spirit and of wisdom in the church's 2,000 year tradition of caring for neighbors in need. Thank you for your strong commitment to this signature ministry of the church. Receive in return our prayers for your ministry and our hands stretched out to you in blessings. Together we can go further; together we will be transformed in the Spirit and in relationship with each other, our partners and communities around the world.
Until all are feed,
Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeals

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

*you who give light and wind and life,
you who watch over us with sustaining power
and disciplining presence;
you will us well and whole
and by stealth turn our lives in freshness.*

*We present ourselves,
seeking... grudgingly... that you will
equip us to relinquish thoughts that
we have thought too long and too often,
seeking that you will restore to us the joy of
your presence,
seeking that you will make things new
in our stale, weary lives.*

*What we seek, only you can give;
What we ask, we cannot find ourselves;
What we want is a gift
and the open graciousness to receive it
on your terms.
Come Holy Spirit!*

Because God is gracious and merciful, God hears our prayers and comes to us. God's work in our lives through the Holy Spirit continues each and every day one step at a time. We do not know what the outcome of God's work in us will entail or look like, but we can know that it will make us more and more like Christ—shining with love, grace, mercy, and hope. We ask these things confidently in the name of our Lord and Savior. We will continue with more of this prayer next month!

In Christ,
Pastor Kim

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*Thanks to circles for furnishing coffee after worship this summer! We'll be looking for individuals to serve throughout the school year beginning in September.

*Service for month of September is an offering for Columbus Women's Shelter

*Altar care for September will be Gloria Oquist. October will be Jean Waller.

*Flowers in September & October will be by Mary Anna circle. Thank you for watering any plants also.

*Quilting fun and fellowship will be on September 27. Please join us.

*Nebraska Syndical Women's Organization Autumn Renewal is planned for Sept. 22 in Hastings, from 8:30 a.m. to about 3:00 p.m. Keynote speaker, devotional leader and singer will be Jill Miller from Sioux City. Registration is just \$18 and is due to the NSWOW Treasurer by September 14. I'll give registration forms to circle leaders and they'll also be on the table by the church front doors. Looks like fun!

* Highway pick up is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 14, with rain date 10/21. We will meet at Monty & Cheryl's (13088 J Road, Osceola, NE) at 3:00 p.m. and we'll have soup and fellowship afterwards.

SEPTEMBER

Hostess/Dessert Bible Study

Ruth – 9/12	Deb Cramer	Deb C.
Mary Anna- 9/13	Elaine Westring	Elaine
Miriam – 9/14	Darlene Booker	Darlene

*“For everything there is a season, and a time
for every matter under heaven.”*

~ Ecclesiastes 3:1

Cheryl

MISSION AND MINISTRY

UPDATE



Each season, Zulema Lopez sows and reaps crops in the village of Lan Luis, near Somoto in northern Nicaragua. But after years of prolonged drought, wells have run dry and many harvests have failed.

“Everything has dried up—the fields, the wells, the rivers. It’s all dry now,” Lopez said. “Lots of women have to walk farther to collect water. It’s a daily problem to get enough water to wash and cook and

drink.”

However, a new well, equipped with a solar power pump and a drip irrigation system funded by South Canyon Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD., now brings water to the fields and into homes for drinking, washing and cooking. Planned and developed by the community, the project is aided by staff of the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope—with support from ELCA World Hunger—who conduct sustainable farming training.

With predictions that rainfall will continue to be scarce, people in this dry corridor region are encouraged by the solutions the new equipment and techniques offer. “We’ve got hope with this project,” Lopez said. “It’s not every man for himself here—we’re doing it together. We’re doing corn and beans, and vegetables, too. And we’ll all get a share.” Your support of ELCA World Hunger helps make this possible. Thank you!

Thank you...

Dear Congregation of Swede Home Church,

Just a note to say thank you for your recent donation of 52lbs of food to the Blue Valley Community Action in Osceola. Your generosity & support is greatly appreciated! Again thank you & blessings on your day!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth King
Blue Valley Director

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 May, your donations will go to Genesis House.

Most recipients of Genesis House are women and children in need. They are in need of Household items: Laundry detergent, tall kitchen sized trash bags, TP, Clorox, gallon sized zip lock bags, light bulbs, AA batteries, postage stamps. Personal Care: Body wash, Kleenex, children’s toothpaste, deodorant, children and adult ibuprofen and Tylenol, sunscreen lotion. Food and Grocery Items needed are canned meats, regular coffee, boxed food, taco shells and seasonings, flour, sugar, mayo, salad dressing, pancake mix and syrup, cooking oil, dry packages of gravy and sauce mixes, canned fruit and juices, canned mixed vegetables carrots, (they have plenty of beans, peas, and corn at this time), small boxes of Velveeta, cake and brownie mix, frosting, tea bags, Kool-Aid/lemonade. Healthy Foods/Snacks for Children: microwave meals/entrees, instant oatmeal, granola/cereal bars, pudding/fruit cups, fruit juice in small boxes, (at this time we have plenty of regular boxes of cereal), dry and evaporated milk.

Money to purchase fresh foods occasionally bread, milk, and fruit.

Funds to support general operating expenses, utilities.

All of the items we donate are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they help meet critical needs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation Orientation

Confirmation orientation will be on Wednesday, September 12th at 6:00pm. Because we have youth from both Zion and Calvary this year we will be meeting at Salem Lutheran in Stromsburg. Orientation is for all confirmation students and parents. Classes will begin on September 19th at 6:00pm at Salem.



Benedict Community Sunday School...

Sunday School kick off will be held Sunday, September 9th at the park. All are welcome to come enjoy coffee, donuts, and fellowship while we bless our Sunday School teachers and students. Regular Sunday School will begin September 16th at the United Methodist Church at 9:30am. All kids Pre-K—12th grade are welcome! If you are interested in teaching regularly or as a substitute, please contact Christine Jarosz 402-366-4860

2018 Walk to End Alzheimer's

Pastor Stanley Floth's wife (Sharon Floth) has invited you to attend the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Lincoln on Sunday, September 16th at Holmes Lake, registration is at 11am, ceremony at 12:30pm, and walk starting at 1:00pm. If you are unable to make the walk but would like to donate please go to alz.org and make a donation, these donations will be given to the Nebraska Alzheimer's Association.

Calvary Sunday School

CHERISH Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 16th at its normal time. Come, see, and experience the exciting things we have in store for our youth this year!



Your Invited

You are invited to join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am as we study the texts for the upcoming Sunday. It is a great time for discussion, fellowship, and engaging with the Bible. Join the Conversation begins Wednesday, September 12th at Calvary.

Thank You

It is my joy and privilege to say thank you on behalf of all your partners in ministry that are the Nebraska Synod. Thank you for all the ministry that you do, including your support to mission share. Through mission share you do ministry that spans the globe, changing lives. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Through your mission share, you demonstrate that we are church together not just in your own congregation, or in Nebraska, but all around the globe. Again, please hear my deep gratitude for your participation in mission share, and for all the ministry that you do and that you are a part of. Thank You!

God's blessings and peace,
Deacon Timothy Siburg

Mark Your Calendar

Highway pick up date is October 14th with rain day being October 21st. We will meet at Monty and Cheryl's 13088 J Rd, Osceola, NE and have soup and fellowship afterwards.



Kids say the Cutest Things

Sunday after church a mother asked her very young daughter what the Sunday School lesson had been about. The girl answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the mother was perplexed.

Later in the day, the pastor stopped by and the mother asked him what the lesson had been about. He said, "Be not afraid, the comforter is coming."

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

Doug Jones, Council President
 Diana Johnson, Organist
 Brianne Schoch, Secretary
 LeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:
 Linda Fuhr, Doug Jones, Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Kay
 Jones, Nick Nicholson,
 Chris Smith
 All Calvary members, Ministers

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

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

Council President Cal Bittinger
 Diana Johnson & Craig Swdenberg, Musicians
 Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

Council Members:
 Cal Bittinger, LuAnn Bolton, Dawn Kush, Justin Schoch
 All of Zion members, Ministers

MEET A MEMBER



Meet Jim Stearns...

I started dating my wife Donna in the 10th grade. We got married December 18th, 1964, we will be celebrating our 54th wedding anniversary this year. In our marriage we have been blessed with our son Jim and daughter Dawn, 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

At 17 years old I went into the Navy and completed 3 tours in Vietnam. While in the service I completed my GED. After the service I went two years to a Junior College.

I worked 10 years at Shell Oil Co. in California and then moved back to Benedict in 1978. I started working for Benedict Public Schools, which I did for 10 years, I met some of the most special kids that helped me over those years (working-friends). In 1988 I went to work for Nebraska Corrections for Women at York for a little over 22 1/2 years. I retired in 2010 and now work for Benedict Village on a part time basis.

Some of my hobbies are camping and being with family. But the one thing that I just really enjoy doing is working.

One of the many things I like about Zion is the closeness of all the members. We are one big family. Over the years of being a member of Zion I have served on church council a couple of times and attended Synod meetings.

Little Humor...

Four pastors got together a while back, and they discussed their preferred translations of the Bible.

"I like the King James version," one of them said, "It's traditional."

"I prefer the New Revised Standard," said a second. "It's easy to read."

"The best is really the Contemporary English Version. This one is easiest to understand," said the third.

The last pastor spoke up. "Those are all fine translations. I like my mother's though. She has translated the Bible into my life."

We don't know what version of the Bible the last pastor originally read; the reason it was so powerful for him was that it was brought to life.



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REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Dorothy Ehlers
Melissa Forsberg
Lenore Kessler
Denny Johnson
Linda Johnson
June Larson
Alice Jane Oquist

Elvin Reetz
Imo Richardson
Harvey Schlegelmilch
Vance & Elaine Toline
Jan Well-Bachman

- Denver Metro Ministries
- 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:

September 8th
Paul & Deborah Ernst

September 12th
Becky & Brandon Nielsen

September 18th
Jessica & Dustin Noble

September 22nd
Steve & Kris Udey

September 25th
Jim & Bonnie Carlson
Dennis & Marj Johnson

September 26th
Krystal & Mickey Berggren



BIRTHDAYS

CALVARY:

01—Josh McCarville
03—Piyper Berggren
04—Linda Johnson
07—Mabel Hinkle
07—Amanda Johnson
12—Kelsey Dittmer
13—Scott Walgren
15—Kerri Klein
17—Kolton Udey
18—Nick Nicholson
20—Jim Carlson
21—Jacki Walgren
22—Penny Udey
22—Clark Yungdahl
23—Loree Adelson
29—Ron Johnson
30—Kailie McCarville
30—Heidi Smith

ZION:

04—Jacob Kush
08—Dawn Kush
13—Melanie Meister
22—Justin Schoch
27—Cory Kush
27—Fred Ehlers

ZION WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SEPTEMBER:

Communion Assistant: Bri Schoch

Usher: Ken Kush

Greeter: Dawn Kush

Reader:

9—Ken Kush, 16—Dawna Bolton, 23—Melanie Meister, 30—Gina Schoch

Acolyte:

9—Lyndsey Bolton, 16—Harley Martin, 23—Tierney Schoch, 30—Lyndsey Bolton

CALVARY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

September

Assistant Ministers— Sandy Johnston

Scripture Reader—Jan Ernst

Ushers— Mike & Deb Cramer

Acolyte—Clayton Watts

Altar Care— Gloria Oquist

Bell Ringer— Layne Hanquist

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30a Joint Calvary & Zion Worship Service @ Buckley Park	3	4	5 7p Calvary Council Meeting	6	7	8
9 8:30a Zion Worship 9:30a Benedict SS Kick off @ Park 10:30a Calvary Worship	10	11	12 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 6p Confirmation Orientation @ Salem 7p Men's Bible Study 7p Ruth's WELCA	13 2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle	14 9a Miriam's WELCA Circle	15
16 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Zion SS 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship	17	18	19 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 6p Confirmation @ Salem	20	21	22
23 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Zion SS 10:30a Calvary Worship	24	25	26 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 6p Confirmation @ Salem	27 9a Quilt Day	28	29
30 8:15a Zion/UMC Service @ Zion 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Zion SS 10:30a Calvary Worship						

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

COUNCIL NOTES

Council Notes, August 1, 2018

Pastor opened the meeting with devotions based living your version of the Bible

The past two joint congregation Sundays were well attended. On Sunday, September 2, Labor Day weekend, we will again hold a joint service with Zion at the Buckley Park gazebo at 9:30 am

Pastor reported on the mission trip. Brody, Clayton and Jacob will share their experiences on Sunday, August 5. Pastor will be working with Pastor John and Denver Metro Ministries for the 2019 mission trip

Confirmation classes will begin in September. Since there are students from both Zion and Swedehome, Salem has offered the use of a classroom. The class size will be between 6-8 Orientation will be Weds. Sept 12

Sunday school plans are progressing – First Sunday will be September 16

First communion classes will be offered in October Highway pick up date is scheduled for Sunday October 14 with an October 21 rain date. Please make your calendars and plan on a late afternoon of fellowship and God's work, Our hands

Double G Audio from Columbus presented their proposal to replace the sound system in the church and in the basement. At the September meeting Council will vote on the two proposals they have received

Treasurer's Report

July 2018

Beginning Balance	\$118.20
<u>Offering:</u>	
General Offering	5794.50
Designated Windows	7740.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	200.00
Zion May Share	1762.61
	<u>15502.11</u>

Transfer from SAV to meet monthly budget	1800.00
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Expenses:

Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	8.79
Office Supplies	34.86
Emergency Fund	300.00
Kruse Stained Glass, Final Payment	7740.00
NE Synod ELCA-Mission Share	1500.00
Zion Benedict June Share	1744.86

Utilities:

Church:	260.08
Parsonage:	164.53

Salaries:

Pastor	2230.96
Mileage	205.86
SECA	221.84
Professional & Continuing Ed Expense	38.90
Portico Benefits	1046.82
Diana	445.41
LeeAnn	236.64
Bri	358.14
FICA & Federal Tax; 2nd Quarter	614.97
Supply Pastor Janet Anderson	195.78
	<u>\$17348.44</u>

Balance as of July 31st, 2018	<u><u>\$71.87</u></u>
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Designated \$\$ Transferred to Applicable SAV Acct:

Improvement SAV	\$6260.00
Memorial SAV	\$5320.00

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.....