



150 YEARS—1873–2023

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Go And... As our summers come to a close and the autumn winds bring with them cooler mornings, changing colors, and all the smells of fall, we return again to the Nebraska Synod’s year-long initiative of “Go, And!” This program opened in June and July with meditation and introspection. We focused on prayer and listening respectively. In August, after much prayer and listening, we were invited to begin sharing our stories.

In sharing your own story, I hope you also heard the stories of others. In those sacred, vulnerable moments of witness and truth, we hopefully continued the practice of listening and prayer. As you might be noticing, an idea behind “Go, And...” is that it is recursive—these spiritual practices build upon one another. Likewise, our intentional observations and practice of “*Going, And...*” builds us as disciples of Christ.

So, after praying, listening, and sharing, we are now encouraged to respond in service—specially service with our neighbor. The focus is not simple charity, but intentional accompaniment and community. Its two-fold: we consider (1) who our neighbor is and (2) what response, or act of service, can we do *together*? So **go and** be in community; know your neighbors; serve with them; and grow in the tender compassion of the Lord, Our God.

+Peace, Pastor Evan

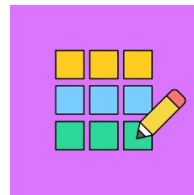
Some other questions to consider: Who is your neighbor? How do you know? What did you discover in walking with your neighbor? As you GO with your neighbors, how do you describe your vocation?

Prayer: God of Accompaniment, you meet us where we are at. Help us meet our neighbors wherever they might be and walk with them. Amen.



GO AND...

SERVE WITH NEIGHBOR



Have you ever prayed with a Prayer

Square? Prayer Squares can be any shape or size and found in a variety of forms. It can be as simple as the sticky note on your desk, a handcrafted crocheted square, or even a square you may find in the area around you. The squares serve as a simple reminder to pause and pray throughout the day. Each corner of the square represents a topic to pray for. You may have four topics you want to pray for already, or you can find a pattern that works for you. If you need a place to start, Deacon Ross Murray of The Naming Project has shared some prompts. Simply hold a corner while you pray each prompt. Go ahead - find something square today and pray! Prayer Square Prompts:

THANK YOU - for something that has happened recently

I'M SORRY - for something you need to repent for

HELP - for something you or a loved one need God's help with

WOW - for something that is amazing around you or in your life

Announcements

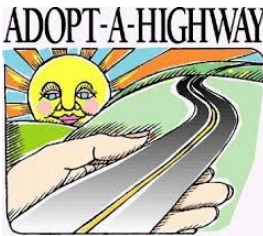
The Evangelism and Outreach Team oversees a non-perishable food and personal care item collection.



Please place items you wish to donate in the basket September donations go to:

Genesis House—David City

HIGHWAY PICK-UP



Our fall event for “Our Work – God’s Hands” will be the highway pickup on Sunday, September 24 beginning at 4:00 p.m. Rain date scheduled for October 15. We will meet at Monty & Cheryl Jones’ home (13088 J Rd. on

highway 39) at 4, then split into teams and walk the first two miles ditches of highway 39. Following the pick up, you’re invited to stay for food and fellowship. (It’s helpful to bring along gloves to wear.)

Our prayers are extended to Susan Sundberg and her family. Susan’s mother, Della Klingman, who passed away on Thursday, August 17 in York.



Funeral services were Monday, August 21 at 10:00am at the First Lutheran Church in York. Pastor Annette Minderman

Dear Swede Home members, Thank you for all the pantry items and also for the monetary gifts to Genesis House. These gifts allow us to continue our mission to serve survivors of domestic violence and to provide prevention education to children and young adults. We so appreciate your continued support of Genesis House!

Sincerely, Sheri Nielsen

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*SAVE THE DATES: Nebraska Synod Women’s Organization (NSWO) will be hosting the 2023 Convention at Camp Carol Joy Holling October 6-7-8. (Registration Deadline is Sept. 20.) This year’s theme is “Be still and know that I am God.”

I won’t be able to attend as a voting member to represent our WELCA units, as I will be in Minnesota with Jami’s family. I would love it if someone wanted to represent Swede Home at this event. Please contact me if you think you might be able to attend. Cost of Registration is \$350 for the full weekend, and I think in the past the local WELCA group paid for the registration for 1 representative.

*Winter Retreat will be January 13 at St. Paul’s Lutheran in Grand Island, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Theme will be “The Fire of Your Heart”.

*THANKS to circles for furnishing coffee after worship this summer! We are thankful for individuals that 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 by Miriam Circle. October will be Jean Waller.

*FLOWERS & CHEER in September will be by Ruth Circle. Miriam Circle will be doing flowers and cheer for October, November and December.

* HIGHWAY PICKUP is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 24 with rain date 10/15. We will meet at Monty & Cheryl Jones home (13088 J Rd on highway 39) at 4:00 p.m. and we’ll have food and fellowship afterwards.

SEPTEMBER

Hostess/Dessert	Bible Study
Ruth – 9/13	Deb Cramer at 4th St. Coffee House
Miriam – 9/14	(No host or leader listed in book)

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

~ Ecclesiastes 3:1

Cheryl

Anniversary Greetings

Sunday, August 13, 2023—

What a day of worship and celebration as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of Calvary Lutheran—Swede Home Church—we were blessed to have Bishop Scott Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop Heidi Wallace, Pastor Kim Belken and Leroy Hoyer along with Pastor Hillary and Pastor Evan Christensen led our worship. Diana Johnston and Caleb Ruch provided special music.



Messages from those unable to attend:

Greetings to all of you at Swede Home. I'm so sorry I can't be with you to celebrate this special day in the life of the congregation. God has indeed blessed you as you do work in this place. It was such a privilege to walk with you while I was there, from births and baptisms to deaths and funerals, and all of life in between. Our lives together were filled with confirmations, weddings, pot-lucks, fairs, music concerts, athletic games and ice cream socials – a lifetime of events and relationships. And through it all, bringing our lives to God through weekly Word and Sacrament.

You made me part of your lives for this tiny time in the life of the church. You have been blessed as you care for your brothers and sisters in Christ across the nation and around the world in times of disaster. May God continue to lead you as you serve God, each other, and the whole community. I thank God for each of you as you enter into the future of praise and service.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Donna

Anniversary Greetings

Rich, Erin, Grace and I were so blessed to spend time with many people from Calvary on July 16 at your worship service in addition to the annual ice cream social. We regret that we could attend this celebration today, and we are praying and celebrating with you from afar.

I tell people, "Calvary is a special place," but that's not entirely accurate, because of course, the church is the people. Swede Home, the place, holds many dear memories for us of our first years of ministry in Nebraska, but we reassure the relationships we were able to build with the people even more.

God's Holy Spirit has done amazing things through the people of Calvary over your 150-year history, and I am confident the Holy Spirit will continue to do great things; to empower you to continue your mission to know God, love God, and share God's love.

Thank you for teaching and equipping me to be a better pastor. Thank you for the work you do every day to pursue God's mission in the world. It Matters! As you celebrate the past and look forward to the future, be encouraged that Christ's love will sustain you eternally.

God Bless!
Pastor Rebecca Sheridan



Anniversary greetings

Photos from August 13

Greetings to you on this exciting day!

150 years! This is quite the accomplishment, one that many churches dream of, but few see. This is a testament to your continued faith and that of the many generations that came before; as well as a witness to the ministry you have been doing and will continue to do for many years to come.

I so very much wish that I could be with you today, as my time with you at Swede Home and in Rising City was a highlight of my time in ordained ministry. I want each of you to know the impact that you have had on my life and my ministry. When I began my time with you in January of 2021, I was exhausted. In so many ways, you healed me and renewed my call to ministry, and for this, I will ever be grateful. You ministered to me without even knowing it, and I hope that this knowledge can vitalize you in your future endeavors. It is true that we are called to serve outside of the walls of the church, but as you do this, you are also impacting the lives of those who sit with you in the pews. Your care, comfort, and spirit of service does not go unnoticed.

I pray that today's celebration will be the fuel you need to continue striving forward as the body of Christ, called to serve one another as well as your neighbors near and far. May God bless the ministry at Swede Home for 150 more years to come!

God's Blessings to you and yours,
Pastor Sarah Ruch

Dear Members of Calvary Swede Home

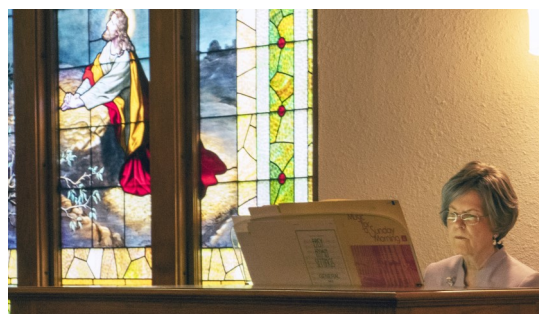
Thank you for the kind invitation to attend your celebrations. We have retired to Florida and will not be able to attend.

God has richly blessed us with the fellowship of a loving congregation. Last summer we toured Norway and Sweden on the train and visited churches where our ancestors worshiped for 400 years.

May your anniversary be filled with loving moments that fill your hearts with lovely memories.

In Christ

Sr Anne Hall



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 Nebraska Synod, ELCA
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 Stromsburg, NE 68666
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 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.

Photos



We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN
YOUR PRAYERS



Melissa Forsberg
Janice Forsberg
June Larson
Paula Oquist
Beth Wienik

Jan Wells-Bachman
Duane Jones
Sally Sterup
Charles Hays
Karen Gestrine

- 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

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



ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Paul & Deborah Ernst
- 12 Becky & Brandon Nielsen
- 18 Jessica & Dustin Noble
- 22 Steve and Kris Udey
- 25 Jim and Bonnie Carlson
- 26 Mickey & Krystal Berggren

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Josh McCarville
- 03 Piyper Berggren
- 06 Clay Nielsen
- 07 Amanda Johnson
- 09 Mason Adelson
- 12 Kelsey Dittmer
- 13 Scott Walgren
- 15 Kerri Klein
- 17 Koleton Udey
- 19 Shelly Glatter
- 20 Jim Carlson
- 21 Jackie Walgren
- 22 Penny Udey
- 22 Clark Yungdahl
- 23 Loree Adelson
- 26 Asher Jon (AJ) Johnson
- 27 Don Paulson
- 30 Kailie McCarville
- 30 Heidi Smith



SEPTEMBER

- Assistant Minister – Jean Waller
- Scripture Reader – Linda Fuhr
- Ushers –
- Altar – Miriam Circle
- Acolyte –
- Bell Ringer –

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

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30 am Worship	11	12 7pm Men's Bible Study	13 9am Ruth Circle	14 9am Miriam Circle	15	16
17 10:30am Worship with Communion	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30 am Worship 4 PM High- way pickup	25	26	27	28	29	30

Worship service August 14, 2023 Thanks t Fran Lott for capturing the memories.





COUNCIL NOTES

Council did not have a regular scheduled August meeting due to vacation time for Pastor Hillary and Pastor Evan.

Their September meeting will be held on August 27 due to the first Sunday in September is on Labor Day weekend.

You may have noticed some featured articles are missing this newsletter. In order to publish pictures from the anniversary and letters from previous clergy, we decided to not have a recipe contribution or a Meet the Member article. Those articles will return next month.



On the anniversary day, we had watermelon to serve in the afternoon, outside. This did not happen, so the council took the watermelon to Midwest Covenant Home as a treat to their residents.



Treasurer's Report

	July 2023
Beginning Balance	\$5,534.71
Offerings:	
General Offering	15,317.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
Facility Use Offering	250.00
ELCA Mission Share	400.00
Q150 Mission Giving	545.00
First English Rising City; June Share	3,588.93
Augustana Genoa; June Share	<u>5,509.30</u>
	25,615.23
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Text Messaging System-monthly fee	22.00
Office Supplies	15.99
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	39.99
Donation to Augustana to defray VBS Expense	100.00
Eakes; copier Base Contract & usage	144.09
USPO; postage	321.60
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,580.00
First English Rising City; July Share	1,913.35
Augustana Genoa; July Share	2,737.12
Utilities:	
Church	307.09
Parsonage	60.43
Genoa Parsonage	133.89
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,474.56
Portico Benefit Services	1,207.12
Commuting Reimbursement	158.33
SECA	217.68
Mileage Reimbursement	252.67
Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
Supply PMA Leroy Hoyer	257.09
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	429.43
Withholding Tax; 2nd Quarter-Lay Persons	<u>640.65</u>
	13,778.51
Balance as of July 31, 2023:	<u>\$17,371.43</u>