



150 YEARS—1873–2023

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Go and... have the conversation. Conversation is an exchange involving active listening as well as taking turns sharing ideas and stories. We have conversations every-day with our family, our friends, and our co-workers. It really can be easy to engage in small talk or inquire

into someone's well-being, especially when everything is going well. Most of the time having a conversation with another person is not hard to do. Yet, there are many people in the world who do find conversation hard, especially when there is disagreement.

There are many difficult conversations that happen in the Bible. One, for example, is from the book of Genesis. Joseph grew up being mistreated by his brothers, and they eventually sell him into slavery. However, God's plan finds him in a place of authority in the Pharaoh's Court. Many years later, Joseph's brothers come before him asking for help as they were suffering from the famine, but they do not recognize him. At first, Joseph does not tell his brothers who he is. Instead, he gives them food and money, and tells them to bring the youngest with them next time. They return and again he doesn't tell them right away but gives them more food and tricks them into leaving the youngest behind. Eventually, Joseph has the hard conversation and tells them who he is---it only took a few years. It all turns out okay, and Joseph takes care of his family throughout the drought.

It can be difficult to have the hard conversation, especially when you are not sure how it will go. It can be easier for us to fall into monologuing, lecturing, or tuning out--especially when we think we know all the answers. Active listening and engaging with someone through a hard conversation can make all the difference.

Faith-filled disciples are called to be honest and engage with each other in Christ-like love. So go and have the hard conversations, be filled with love and empathy, and learn from each other.



GO AND... HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Questions to consider:

- What is your prayer as you consider engaging in a hard conversation?
- When was a time you had a hard conversation? What did it feel like? What did you learn from it?
- What is **The** conversation that you need to *GO* have and with whom?

Prayer: Engaging God, who is not afraid of any conversation, give me the words, wisdom, and heart to join in difficult conversations. Amen.

+Peace
Pastor Hillary



Happy
Birthday
Wilder!

He celebrated his 2nd birthday with Calvary Swede Home Members at their annual meeting & meal!

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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 . February donations go to:
Blue Valley Community Action***

January certainly reminded us of what a Nebraska winter can be! The safety of our members is always a priority for deciding if services will be cancelled or not. We post on “Swede Home” Facebook page, send out texts and emails through “FlockNote,” post on Channel 10/11 closing site, and if it is very short notice we will use the calling tree. PLEASE, if you didn’t know hear of the January 14 cancellation, let Linda or a council member know, so that we can be sure you are on a list to be notified. If you have any doubt regarding cancellations, please contact Linda or a council member to be sure before you start out.



Do you help with Worship Ministry at Swede Home? Have you often thought about volunteering but wasn’t sure what the duties are? In 2014 there was a booklet listing the duties of Worship Assistant Reader, Usher, Acolyte and Altar & Communion care.

It was time to revise that booklet and a new one has been printed. Copies will be displayed in the bell tower, at the Usher Counter, in the Sacristy, and on the inside of the communion cupboard. Copies will be given to all Ruth and Miriam Circle members, and will be available on the narthex table. If you would like a copy emailed to mailed to you , please let Linda know.

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

WELCA NEWS

*Happy Valentine’s Day! You are a blessing to many!

*Service for February is Thankoffering #1, which goes to support women at home and around the world.

*Altar care for February will be Carolyn Nielsen & Bonnie Carlson. March will be Deb Cramer & Kay Jones.

*Flowers and Cheer in February & March will be by Ruth Circle. April, May & June will be by Miriam Circle. Thank you for watering any plants.

*Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February. 14.

*Lenten Worship schedules are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. I hope you’ll be able to enjoy the food, fellowship and worship as we prepare our hearts and minds for the remembrance of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord at Easter.

* Thank you Kay Jones for creating and delivering the purple WELCA yearbook for 2024! We rely on it all year long, and it means so much that you do such an excellent job on it every year.

FEBRUARY

Hostess

Miriam – 2/8 @ 4th St. Coffeehouse

Ruth – 2/14 Cheryl @ 4th St. Coffeehouse

*“Dear Friends, let us love one another,
for love comes from God.” ~ 1 John 4:7*

God’s Blessings,

Cheryl

Church happenings

Lenten schedules



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. In February we will meet the 2nd Sunday following church. Youth will serve Lenten Meal March 6



2024 offering envelopes are available at the church. Please pick up you box and distribute to others, if you have not all ready done so.

The schedule for worship assistants is on the usher counter



Please consider signing up for a month or a few Sunday's at a time. We have spots open for ushers and bell ringer and acolyte for the year. Some spots have been filled for worship assistant and reader. You may do dual duty if you want to sign up for more than one. Please contact Jean Waller if you have any questions.

We will host a mid-weed Lenten service which will be the Holden Pray Service at 7:00 pm—We will serve a meal at 6 PM. The following is the serving schedule:

Ash Wednesday—NO Meal (noon or evening)—Joint Worship at First Rising City at 7pm

Feb 21: - Men's Bible Study

Feb 28 Miriam Circle will host the Noon meal
First Rising will serve the 6pm meal

March 6 Youth Group

March 13 Council

March 30 Ruth

SPECIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR LENT & HOLY WEEK

Wednesday - Feb 14

7:00pm - Ash Wednesday (at First English)

Wednesdays - Feb 21 thru Mar 20

6:00pm - Lenten midweek meal (at Calvary)

7:00pm - Holden Evening Prayer (at Calvary)

Palm/Passion Sunday - Mar 24

8:45am - Service at First English

10:30am - Service at Calvary Swede Home

Maundy Thursday - Mar 28

7:00pm - Maundy Thursday service (at First English)

Good Friday - Mar 29

7:00pm - Good Friday service (at Calvary)

Easter Vigil, Saturday - Mar 30

7:00pm - Easter Vigil service (at Calvary)

Easter Sunday - Mar 31

7:00am - Sunrise Breakfast at First English

8:45am - Service at First English

10:30am - Service at Calvary Swede Home

FIRST ENGLISH
& CALVARY
SWEDE HOME

Swede Home will be joining the Osceola churches with the Lenten Noon Luncheons. We will gather together at 11:30 am, Join in a meal at 11:45 am, have a short worship service at noon, and depart by 12:25 pm

The theme this year is FAMILY.

There will be NO noon service on Ash Wednesday.

	HOST	LEADER
February 21	St. Vincent	PR Raleigh
February 28	Swede Home	Father Au
March 6	Methodist	PR Evan
March 13	St Paul	PR Soonil
March 30	St Paul	PR Hillary

Thank You

Dear Calvary Lutheran Endowment Committee:

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the donation you made to the Osceola Ambulance from your ministry. We, as volunteers, certainly appreciate you thinking of us. We are grateful that your church thought of us when making your plans for donations.

We will use this to go towards the purchase of our new battery-operated stair chair. The purchase price was \$16,000 and was one of our major expenditures for updated equipment this year. We have already used it, and, it certainly helps all of us and our backs by not having to lift a patient with all of our own power.

Again Thank you from all of us,

The Osceola Ambulance Staff, Carlie Davidson, Manager, Nancy Tonniges, Anthony Mestl, Ryan Sanley, Garrett Davidson, Torie Jelinek, Kim Youngdahl, and Deb Brouillette

Calvary Endowment Committee,

THANK YOU for your generous donation to the Midwest Covenant Home.

“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord: Joshua 24:15

Calvary Lutheran Endowment Committee:

We at Columbus Living Water Rescue Mission are very thankful for your generous donation.

With your help we can provide discipleship, food, clothing and a warm bed throughout 2024.

James Johnson,

Thank You

I would like to say Thank You to all the men and women of the Calvary Lutheran Church for the Christmas Meal I received on December 20th. The meal came at a very good time. Thank you all very much.

T. Larson

Calvary Lutheran WELCA

Thank you so very much for your donation! These dollars will benefit our clients in many ways!

Thank you for your generosity.

Thomas Catterson

Center of Survivors, Columbus

Calvary Lutheran of Swede Home WELCA

Greetings from Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry, and thank you for helping us to serve Christ by serving others through your support and prayers. We received your generous gift for those we serve together. What a blessing this gift is for all we serve together.

Thank you for your prayers and support for all we serve together in Christ!

Jon Fredricks, Execution Director

Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc.



Meet Amy Harris



I am the daughter of Roger and Marlene Hanquist, and I grew up on the family farm (where Brady and Katie's family lives now) with Layne, Gregg, and Todd as the best big brothers ever. My nickname was Hank too! (still is, to most of my high

school friends)

Born August 11, 1968, I was adopted through Lutheran Family Services in Omaha when I was about 2 weeks old. I was baptized at Swede Home in September 1968. Growing up, I always wanted to be just like Mom: marry a farmer, raise my kids, pick strawberries in the garden . . . and then I got old enough to realize, Ohhhhhh. You have to *meet* a farmer, *date* a farmer, *fall in love* with a farmer . . . ohhhhhh. OK, then. Drew (Harris)--not a farmer--and I were married at Swede Home in 1994. Our children, Cole (Amber), Hank, and Maggie have always loved Swede Home, too, and hopefully someday soon we can introduce grandson Jackson into the fold! Swede Home is such a part of me that I have already bought my burial plot in the Swede Home Cemetery!

I went to K–12 in Polk (took organ lessons from Diana every third Saturday morning during my freshman and sophomore years of high school; I don't know when I would have practiced, which would explain her exasperation with me . . .). I went to Hastings College – got degrees in English/lang. arts ed and music; taught high school English for 8 years (and directed plays, advised the newspaper, coached volleyball and basketball) till the kids were born (then the real work started). I coached high school volleyball for 20 years, I have accompanied High School choirs for 23 years, and I have played for churches in Wichita (10 years) and Hebron (11 years).

Parttime Pianist at Swede Home

We've been to all 50 states as a family – some of them we just drove through a corner, but we made sure to stop and do *something* to make it count. My favorite was Alaska, which was our last one to visit. I love to garden, swim, water-ski, and do community theatre once in a while (ha). There is nothing better than being covered in a cat blanket (like, a literal blanket of live cats--and one little dog).

I believe strongly what I was taught in Sunday School by the Swede Home faithful: Jesus loves me and you *no matter what*. We are *all* God's children. *No matter what*. A new favorite singer of mine penned, "Don't hate me because I sin differently than you do." I think that's pretty profound. So I guess I'm passionate about treating people well and not seeing some as "better" or "worse" than others. But also, I'm passionate about animals and wanting them all to have loving homes.

Calvary is always willing to try something new; I so appreciate that about them. There can be 10 people at church, and I'll still hear them singing an unfamiliar song – it's new and it's tricky, but they're trying – and they're going to get it! I also love going into the Sunday School wing – the creaks on the stairs sound the same as they did when I was a kid. I am transported in time every time I walk them!

Swede Home is grateful to see more of Amy as she now is a regular part-time pianist for our worship services.



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, Church Office Manager
 LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:

Andrew Adelson, Jennifer Fjell,, 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.

Thank You

Friends at Calvary Lutheran WELCA

Thank you for your generous donation to our annual campaign. Your generous gift will directly help to empower Lakota children living on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Your support will make a world of difference in 2024 and will allow us to continue supporting our students by nurturing their connection to their language, culture, and heritage.

With much appreciation

Isbel Stadnick, Lakota Waldorf School Administrator

Spiritual Practice: Faith5 (TM)

FAITH5™ is a powerful framework that deeply connects people to God and one another, connects church to home, and connects faith to daily life. FAITH5 carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, and promote mental, and spiritual health.

The five steps are:

STEP 1: SHARE your highs and lows (no judgment!)

STEP 2: READ a Bible verse or story -- This might be the Sunday text, a favorite verse, or even the random page your Bible falls open to!

STEP 3: TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows -- Unpack the verse a bit. What does it mean in your own words? How it might relate to your highs and lows. If you don't know, that is OK - go ahead and say so! Don't be afraid to tell the truth.

STEP 4: PRAY for one another's highs and lows - Offer your hearts and minds in prayer. Feel free to take turns, offer a favorite prayer, or even lift up the Lord's prayer!

STEP 5: BLESS one another - Trace the sign of the cross on one another's forehead or palm as a reminder that you belong to God and to one another.

Adapted from <https://faithink.com/the-faith5-steps>

!

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Court Clelland
Joe Fjell
Monty Jones
Kathi Jones
Duane Jones
Lois Fick
Janice Forsberg
Melissa Forsberg
June Larson
Beth Jones Wienik
Jane Wells Bachman



Luna Stauber
Brian Marker
Austin
Roger Hanquist
Al Willits

- 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)

Welcome New Council Members: Andrew Adelson and Jennifer Fjell
Endowment Member: Gia Adelson
Synod Delegates: Tom and Lynn Hofmann
Synod Alternates: Kent and Gia Adelson
Nominating committee for 2025: Doug Jones, Michael Neujahr, Craig Johnson, Jacob Adelson, Layne Hanquist

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY

21 Mike & Anita Haack

01 Claire Smith
02 Mitch Cramer
05 Lynn Hofmann
09 Kamdyn Udey
13 Carter Fjell
25 Kolton Neujahr
25 Allen Peterson
29 Peyton Hofmann
29 Rylee Hofmann



FEBRUARY

Assistant Minister - Jean Waller
Scripture Reader - Kent Adelson
Ushers - Dan and Lisa Oquist
Altar - Carolyn Nielsen and Bonnie Carlson
Acolyte -
Bell Ringer - Dan Oquist

We thank all those who agree to help with the worship service each month. Please let Jean Waller know if you can help
The Sign-up sheets for 2024 are on the ushers counter.
Please consider when you can serve

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
				1	2	3
4 10:30 am Worship with communion Council following	5	6	7	8 9am Miriam Circle	9	10
11 10:30 am Worship service Youth group following	12	13 7 pm Men's Bible Study at Wayne's	14 9am Ruth Circle 7pm Ash Wednesday service at Rising City	15	16 	17
18 10:30 am Worship with communion	19	20	21 11:45 am noon Lenten meal 6pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Holden Prayer Service	22	23	24
25 10:30 am Worship	26	27	28 11:45am host noon Lenten Luncheon 6pm Lenten Meal 7 PM Holden Prayer Service	29		

COUNCIL NOTES

Newsletter Information

Church Council met on January 7 following worship service

Present: Kent, Randy, Jarrett, Lynn, Missy, Kris, Todd, Dan, Pastor Hillary

Absent: None

Salem has begun conversation with Calvary and the Nebraska Synod about joining the shared ministry of Calvary, First English, and Augustana.

Highway Signs

No submissions yet. If you have ideas, please submit.

Nominating committee working on openings for different committees

Diana’s challenge for the scholarship was met and a check in the amount of \$ 5,065 sent to Seminary
 JW’s catering will be doing meal for Annual Meeting
 Fran and Linda continue to work on photo book
 Budget for 2024 approved and ready for annual meeting
 Property Committee updates

Parsonage - Start in 3-4 weeks so end of month
 Kitchen door - sign is up; will have contractor look at replacement or repair of door

Spongy tile on kitchen floor – property committee will follow up

Review Diana’s duties and will assign to other committee or individuals

Snow season is among us

Parking lot - Dan and Kent will do
 Ushers responsible for sidewalks. Todd has done for service people. Dan & Kent can do if big snow.

Thanks to Lynn Hofmann and Todd Hanquist for completing two 3-year terms on church council.

And to Jim Carlson for completing his 5 year term on Endowment Committee.

Your service is appreciated.



Treasurer's Report

	December 2023
Beginning Balance	\$13,517.66
Offerings:	
General Offerings	17,049.17
Facility Use	150.00
Diana's Challenge & Offering to LSTC	2,565.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	2,845.00
First English Rising City; Nov & Dec Shares	4,048.49
Augustana Genoa; Nov & Dec Shares	<u>6,132.06</u>
	32,794.72
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Text Messaging System - Monthly Fee	22.00
Advent Wreath	36.40
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	39.99
Christ In Our Home	85.90
Church Mutual Add'l Workers Comp	214.50
Holiday Meals	572.31
Summer Mowing & Fall Leaf Pick-up	1,025.00
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,580.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	310.00
LSTC Candidacy Scholarship Fund	5,020.00
First English Rising City; December Share	2,015.93
Augustana Genoa; December Share	3,164.51
Utilities:	
Church	1,111.43
Parsonage	405.47
Genoa Parsonage	116.49
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,474.56
Portico Benefit Services	1,207.12
Commuting Reimbursement	158.33
SECA	217.68
Mileage Reimbursement	176.85
Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
Continuing Education	399.00
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	519.46
Supply Pianist Amy Harris	<u>50.00</u>
	21,688.36
Balance as of December 31, 2023:	<u>\$24,624.02</u>
Designated Offerings Transferred to:	
Improvement Fund for Parsonage	1,250.00
General SAV Memorial to C. Adelson Q150	10.00
Thrivent Grant to Thrivent Choice SAV Acct	128.00