



JULY 2022

...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Greetings in the name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!

There's an old joke I've heard countless times in the Lutheran church, I'm sure you've heard it too. It goes like this...

How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: CHANGE??!!!!

That's how most of us (Lutheran or not) respond to the dreaded word, 'CHANGE'; with a lot of question marks and a lot of exclamation points and an intense feeling of dread. No matter how necessary it may be, change can be a frightening thing.

Our world has seen a lot of change in the past few years. We've been through the height of a pandemic, our political leaders have caused our world to be more unpredictable than in other eras, and social change is continuous, with voices rising louder and louder about human rights for all people amongst other societal issues.

And just like anything else, this can lead us to resist change even more than we already would have. We are tired of change; of not knowing what's around the next corner. Settling down into routine and whatever passes for 'normalcy' never sounded so good.

But...

Change never really ends, does it? If it did, we'd probably miss it. While change can be scary, it's necessary too. Learning and growing wouldn't happen without it.

The same is true for the church. In the church we are constantly balancing a healthy respect for our history, for where we've been and how we got to where we are now; while also looking to the future, to what and where God is calling us to. There is simply no way for us to do this without 'change'.

But we have an option other than fear. As followers of Christ, we put our trust in God, not in this world. And because of this, we know that even though things may change along the way, God is leading us, and so, we move forward with faith.

2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 says, "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew now sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

We are who we are BECAUSE of change!

Knowing this, we can walk boldly into our future, knowing that the changes that come our way will not overtake us. We trust in God, and so we know that each and every day we are made new (changed!) so that we may more fully walk in God's ways.

Dare we say, "Thanks be to God for *change?*"! Maybe we should! We may not know what tomorrow or the next day will bring, but we do know who we will walk into tomorrow and the next day with.

In Christ, *Pastor Sarah*

WELCA NEWS

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CALENDAR

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Announcements

The Evangelism and Outreach Team oversees a nonperishable food and personal care item collection.

Please place items you wish to donate in the basket

July donations go to

Genesis House—David City

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church

Thank you so very much for your donation of food items to Genesis House. We are currently helping four families and the food will definitely help stretch their budgets.

Thanks again

Sheri Nielsen, Director



Ice Cream Social—July 17, 2022

6 pm to 8 pm

**Serving Homemade Ice Cream,
toppings, & assortment of bars/
cookies**

W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*At the Swede Home Ice Cream Social, we're all looking forward to enjoying some yummy homemade ice cream in the shade of the trees on **Sunday, July 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** (Please note time change this year.) Invite your friends to join in the fun and fellowship! If you'd enjoy helping or furnishing food and haven't been contacted yet, please let Deb Hanquist or Cheryl Jones know. Thanks to everyone who makes this a memorable event for all who attend!

* Ice cream will be served at Midwest Covenant Home Assisted Living on Monday, July 18 at 2:30 p.m.

*July Altar Care will be by Diana Johnson, and August will be Kathi Jones and Mary Stevens.

*Flowers in July, August & September by Ruth Circle. Thank you Kathi Jones for all your beautiful flower arrangements!

*Special Thanks to Linda Fuhr for watering the plants at church to keep them looking nice!

* Thank you to all those serving coffee after church this summer! We're really enjoying the fellowship.

July Circle Meetings

Hostess/Dessert Bible Study

Ruth – 7/13 Kathi Jones at Gathering Grounds, Osceola

Miriam – 7/14 (none listed) Gloria Oquist

“And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

~ Micah 6:8

Have a memorable summer!

Cheryl

Upcoming events

Recipes

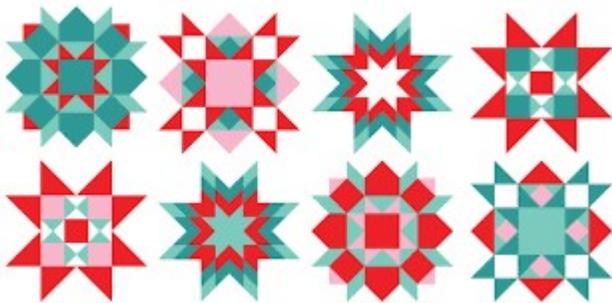
We are invited to attend Carol Joy Holling Camp's Quilt Show. The quilt auction will be on Saturday, July 30, 2022

Quilts handcrafted by individuals, congregations, and groups from Nebraska and beyond will be auctioned to fund summer camp scholarships.

More than just an auction! Bring the family for a day of fun: Camp tours, BBQ Lunch and more! Free parking and admission.

There is a poster at church—for more information you can go to CJHCenter.org/quilt-auction

Carol Joy Holling Camp
27416 Ranch Road
Ashland NE 68003



NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday July 31, following the regular worship service there will be a special congregational meeting. Purpose of this meeting will be:

1. **Approve a contract to enter into a three point congregation with First English Lutheran Church-Rising City and Augustana Lutheran Church-Genoa and that the three congregations proceed in the call process**
 2. **Insurance coverage will not cover all of the water damage at the parsonage, approval for council to cover expenditures over \$5,000 if necessary**
- Approval for council to proceed with remodeling of the parsonage not to exceed amount approved by the congregation**

Our recipe this month is provided by Fawn Ienn—she said it is a family favorite, and a hit whenever she takes it to an event!

LEMON BARS - Fawn Ienn

2-14 oz cans Sweetened Condensed Milk

1 C. Lemon Juice

Mix these 2 together and set aside

3 C. Flour

2 C. Oatmeal

2 C. Brown Sugar

2 tsp. Baking Powder

1 1/3 C. Butter

Mix these 5 ingredients together until moist but crumbly. Put a little over 1/2 into the bottom of a greased jelly roll pan.

Top with Lemon Mixture.

Sprinkle remaining crumble mixture over the top. Bake @ 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Let cool before serving.



Growing in Faith

Confirmation Class

No confirmation class in the summer months.

June 26 through July 1 three of our youth, Jarrett Althouse, Rylee Hofmann and Peyton Hofmann attended Camp at Carol Joy Holling along with Pastor Sarah.



We are in need of acolytes going forward this worship season. We are needing acolytes for July and August. Jarrett will do September and December and the Hofmann twins October and November.

THANK YOU> This is a worship opportunity for the confirmands, as we have only two confirmands it would be helpful for others to sign up. Although the youth usually do this, anyone of any age can be an acolyte! You may sit with your family.

Consider signing up and helping with the worship service!



Welcome Bishop Elect

Rev. Scott Johnson was the supply pulpit minister at Swede Home on May 20th—At Synod Assembly, he was elected as the Next Bishop of the Nebraska Synod

After 5 ballots, the Nebraska Synod Assembly elected Rev. Scott Johnson as Bishop-Elect of the Nebraska Synod. Rev. Johnson currently serves as the Director of Campus Ministry at Midland University in Fremont, NE. When asked to share a bit about himself, he described himself as a farm boy at heart, a Lutheran, a loving (if flawed) husband, father, son, and brother, a people-loving introvert, and a church-loving questioner.

He posted on social media:

I don't have the words to adequately describe the last 48 hours. To be in conversation with such a respectful, committed group of colleagues would have been blessing enough. Now something completely different is at hand.

Bishop Michael Rinehart used the metaphor of the garden in his keynotes this week. As we were driving home tonight, we saw this huge thunderstorm coming in over Schuyler. Couldn't help but keep going with the metaphor. One of my ordination verses was a few verses from Isaiah 55:

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

As I see it, one election is not the success Isaiah prophecies: it's a planting, and it's also the sign that God has been about the work of planting and watering seeds through all of us all along. We are all indebted to the sowers in our lives, and to the rain God sends so that God's work might be done among us. Pastor Greg Berger, Pastor Sarah Petersen Cordray, Pastor Scott Frederickson, Pastor Inba Inbarasu, Pastor Jan Peterson, Pastor Randy Gehring, Pastor Casey Lieneman, Pastor David Cox: you are all a treasure to this church and it is an honor to serve among such faithful ministers.

Article continues on page 6

THANK YOU

Post Prom!

Everyone had a great time, Thank You for your donation .

Your generosity helped make the post prom successful

High Plains Community Post Prom

TO:

Calvary Lutheran Endowment Committee

Calvary Lutheran WELCA

Calvary Lutheran Church of Swede Home

On behalf of ALL the volunteers of the Food for Thought Weekend Backpack Program and A Place at the Table Inc., I would like to extend a very sincere and heartfelt "THANK YOU" for your recent donations to care for those in need.

Thanks Calvary—you are such a blessing!
We couldn't do this without you! You are the BEST!

Jason Rosenkranz, Treasurer

We would like to say a big "THANK YOU" for your generous donation to our fire department during this year's fundraising campaign.

Our department truly appreciates your support as we provide fire protection and rescue services to the citizens of the City of Stromsburg and the rural fire protection district.

Thank you again for your past donation to our department.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Stromsburg Volunteer Fire Department

THANK YOU



On June 1st, Jan Wells-Bachman and her daughter Michele along with their puppy, Bliss, drove from their home in Colorado to Osceola.

With the help of good friend Ben Carlson, they organized their storage units and were also able to have a great visit with their cherished friend, Jan Ernst.

The two "Jan's" would like Pastor Sarah Ruch and all the members of Calvary to know it warms their hearts knowing that they are in all your continuing prayers.

Blessings to you all.

Dear Calvary WELCA

THANK YOU so much for your generous donation of \$ 69.00 to our Vacation Bible School program.

Our church combines the VBSA with the Covenant Church and the Methodist Church, both of Stromsburg. This donation will certainly help with the expenses that we had to provide materials, decorations, and snacks for the children. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church—
Grace Gerrard, Treasurer

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
Sandy Johnston, Council Secretary
Diana Johnson, Organist
Linda Fuhr, Secretary
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:

Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Dan Oquist,
Kent Adelson, Sandra Johnston, Kris Udey, Randy Lott

Pastor Sarah Ruch is our transition minister. This is her contact information:

Text or call 402-833-8318

Email: pastorsarahruch@gmail.com

Pastor Brenda Pfiely is on emergency call for Calvary, her contact number is 402-416-5434

Please contact Linda Fuhr, Church Secretary at calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com or text or call 402-366-2091,

If you have not done so, follow Swede Home on our Face-

More from Bishop Elect Scott Johnson:

Bishop Brian Maas and all the remarkable Synod staff and volunteers: thank you so much for your dedicated and holy work these past ten years (please be sure to let me know where you keep the fertilizer and where the weeds tend to sprout quickest).

To the members of the Nebraska Synod: I will tend this garden to the best of my ability. It's going to be messy, sweaty, interesting fun. Some stuff is going to come up that we won't recognize. There's probably going to be a weed or two that just explodes & takes over when we least expect it. But God the giver of rain and all things that grow will be with us in this, just like always, and we know that God always brings in a bumper crop.

Meet a Member— Kailie McCarville



Kailie McCarville grew up in Stromsburg with her parents, Greg and Connie Dittmer and siblings, Kelsey Crowell and Chlancey Dittmer. She grew up attending Swede Home Church.

Kailie attended Cross County Community Schools and Northeast Community College. She has worked at Midwest Bank in York for almost ten years.

She met her husband, Josh, in college in Norfolk. They were married at Swede Home 8 years ago on July 12th (Happy Anniversary!), and now live in Stromsburg.

Josh and Kailie have two children, Emersyn (4) and Jaxson (2). She loves to be outdoors, hunting, camping, and shooting bows; enjoying s'mores and water balloon fights with the kiddos.

Kailie is passionate about family and soaking in all the memories she can with them.

She loves the small town, family feeling you get when you walk into Swede Home Church. Everyone truly cares about you and your family! They've had most family weddings, baptisms and funerals at Calvary. Calvary has been their family church and will always hold those special memories for Kailie. We're happy to have you as part of our Swede Home family, Kailie!

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Melissa Forsberg
Janice Forsberg
June Larson
Elaine Toline
Jan Ernst
LeRoy Hoyer

Jan Wells-Bachman
Austin Hinkle
All who are shut in and
need prayers and support

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action, & Denver Metro Ministries
- Houses for Health recipients.
- Bishop Brian Maas and the Nebraska Synod staff Bishop-Elect Scott Johnson
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members
- Brody Ienn in service to our country
- Council as they continue the process of church profile and calling a minister
- Our leaders as they face COVID19 decisions
- 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)

Midwest Covenant Home Matching funds challenge

CONGRATULATIONS To the MEMBERS OF SWEDE HOME

You have met the council challenge to raise \$1000 for the Midwest Covenant Home Drive—in fact you exceeded it by \$100, so the council will match the first \$1000 and a total of \$2100 will be sent to MWCH—THANK YOU

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

03 Chris & Heidi Smith
06 Bob & Bonnie Dittmer
12 Josh & Kailie McCarville
20 Tom & Lynn Hofmann
23 Lewellen & Carolyn Nielsen
27 Rod & Kay Jones



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THANK YOU

Thank you to all the members who continue with their financial support for Swede Home Church. In these trying times, we realize even more the words "to give as you are able" God's Blessing

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

01 Betty Hinkle
03 Jacob Adelson
04 Jessica Noble
05 Patrick Bush
08 LeeAnn Willhoft
10 Teresa Johnson
10 Jill Westring
11 Missy Althouse
13 Ryan Johnson
17 Carol Nicholson
18 Kris Udey
21 Carolyn Nielsen
25 Kirk Dittmer
25 Tina Kilgore
26 Scott Fredrickson

JULY

Assistant Minister – Sanddy Johnston
Scripture Reader – Fran and Randy Lott
Ushers – Todd Hanquist and Wayne Johnson
Altar/Communion – Diana Johnson
Acolyte –
Bell Ringer – Todd Hanquist

JULY 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10:30
worship
service with
communion



10 11 12 13 14 15 16

10:30 worship

9 am Ruth Circle at
Gathering
Grounds
7pm Mens Bible
Study

9am Miriam
Circle

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

10:30 worship with
communion
6-8pm ICE
CREAM SOCIAL

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

10:30 Worship,

31

10:30 Worship
Congregation
meeting follow-
ing service

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

COUNCIL NOTES

Church council did not meet in June, their next meeting will be July 10 following church service

In working in the office this week, this hymn came on my playlist. Reflecting on the past members of Swede Home, I could not help but think how appropriate these words are:

FIND US FAITHFUL

Lyrics by Jon Mohr

We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road,
And those who've gone before us line the way.
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary,
Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining
grace.

O may all who come behind us
Find us faithful,

May the fire of our devotion light their way.
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe,
And the lives we live inspire them to obey.
O may all who come behind us
Find us faithful.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
Let us run the race not only for the prize,
But as those who've gone before us
Let us leave to those behind us,
The heritage of faithfulness passed on thru godly lives.
After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone,
And our children sift thru all we've left behind,
May the clues that they discover, and the memories they
uncover,
Become the light that
leads them,
To the road we each
must find.



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Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance, May 2022	\$ 9,780.96
OFFERINGS:	
General Offering	13,776.00
Church Mutual: Parsonage damage claim	28,692.14
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	550.00
First Lutheran for April Share	<u>2,123.04</u>
	45,146.18
EXPENSES:	
Vance eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Office Supplies	24.56
Kitchen Supplies	28.50
Cody's Computer Contract	34.99
Postage Expense	62.40
Shredder for maintaining confidentiality	81.64
Elevator entrance décor	150.00
Eakes Office Solutions, copy paper	188.79
Bedient Pipe Organ contract	275.00
May mowing and trimming	300.00
Boxed offering envelopes	369.62
Lorray Smith Estate-Mission Giving	
Columbus Rescue Mission Facility fund	1,000.00
Paul Davis Restoration, Parsonage	28,692.14
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,560.00
First Lutheran R.C. May share	2,362.92
UTILITIES:	
Church	293.56
Parsonage	105.41
SALARIES:	
Pastor Sarah Ruch	2,163.20
Portico Benefit Services	1,072.87
Commuting Allowance	366.91
SECA	215.14
Mileage	49.36
Cell Phone Allowance	32.50
Supply P Scott Johnson, PMA Leroy Hoyer	423.31
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	<u>423.70</u>
	41,004.05
BALANCE AS OF MAY 31,2022	<u>13,923.09</u>

*This page is only seen by Calvary Members