



...IN SACRED PLACES...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Grace and Peace to you,

We are full of wonder; a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable. We have wonders for God. Whether in the beautiful

creation that we live in, in the people that we see around us each day, or any God moments that we experience in our daily lives. I look forward each year to when the leaves change, I wonder at the beauty of colors. Why did God cause trees to lose their leaves each year and create the beautiful palette across the world?

My son is learning about the world around him, from the toys we give him to the different foods he has tried. He makes this cute face showing wonder as he eats those strange orange potatoes that taste so good. He must have so much wonder about the ever-growing world around him.

God is like the child who discovers something new and smiles. God has wonder for his good creation. God admires us as we live through our beautiful, unfamiliar, and changing lives. God is with us in every new day and each day we may experience that feeling of surprise and admiration and have wonder for God in that moment. We are hopeful that God continues bring new wonders into our lives and brings smiles to our faces.

Blessings

Pastor Hillary

Let us pray,

Almighty God, creator of the universe, we are filled with wonder at all your works and overwhelmed by your infinite wisdom. We praise you for your majesty; yet even more we rejoice at the wondrous creation you have created for us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



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 October donations go to

Blue Valley Community Action

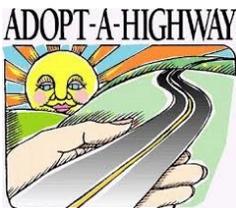


One of the projects considered for Swede Home's 150 anniversary, is a cookbook. Goal would be to not only include recipes but stories of where the recipe came from or stories of those who have gone before us!

IF you are interested in contributing recipes and/or stories for this collection and more importantly, IF you would purchase a copy please text 402-366-2091 or email church: calvaryswedehome-church@gmail.com OR let Cheryl or Linda know. We need to know if we should proceed.

Mark your calendar:

Sunday, October 2 – “God’s Work, Our Hands” highway pickup. Meet at Monty & Cheryl Jones’ (13088 J Rd – highway 39) at 4:00 p.m. Food and fellowship following. Please remember to bring gloves. Many hands make light work. (Possible rain date Oct. 9)



REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 30th

Wear Red!



W.E.L.C.A. NEWS

*Service for month of October is an offering for Genesis House (monetary or tangible).

*Altar care for October will be Jean Waller. November will be Miriam Circle.

*Flowers and Cheer in October, November and December will be by Miriam circle.

*Highway pick up will be Sunday, October 2nd at 4:00 p.m. at Monty & Cheryl Jones’ house (13088 J Rd., Osceola) on highway 39. Please join us if you’d like to help with pick-up or just for soup and fellowship following (around 5).

*Look for information elsewhere in the newsletter for date to pack the personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Date to assemble kits will be announced later, possibly following worship in the church basement. We’d love your help as we work to help others in need. This is an LWR project replacing the quilts.

*Offerings can be given at your circle meetings, mailed to Bonnie Carlson, or left in her box in the church office. Thank you.

*2023 Yearbook will need to be worked on soon, so please think about when you’d like to host, do bible study, or help with WELCA responsibilities at Swede Home. If you have ideas or suggestions for us to consider for next year, please talk to Cheryl or Bonnie. It will be nice to have options to discuss at our fall Executive Committee meeting.

OCTOBER

Hostess/Dessert Bible Study

Ruth – 10/12 Carolyn @ 4th Street Coffee

Miriam – 10/13 Gloria *(not listed)*

(Bible study in “Gather” magazine)

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” ~ Hebrews 11:1

God’s Blessings to you,

Cheryl

Recipes

On October 10th, 2022 at 10:00 am there will be a Celebration of Life for long time member, Jan Ernst.

Jan passed away on July 3rd.

Burial will be at the Swede Home Cemetery and there will be a luncheon served following the service.



Memorials will be given to Swede Home Church

We extend our sympathy to the family of Elaine Toline, member of Swede Home who passed away on September 11, 2022 at Midwest Covenant Home in Stromsburg.

Graveside services were Monday, September 19th, 2022 at the Swede Home Cemetery with Pastor Leonard Suhr officiating.

Please keep the family in your prayers.



Our Swede Home community was saddened to hear of the passing of Nathan "Nate" Peterson on September 16, 2022 as a result of a car accident. Nate is the son of Allen Peterson and nephew of Sandy Johnston. He was confirmed at Swede Home Church.

Services were at High Prairie Community Church in Polk Nebraska on September 21, 2022 with inurnment at the Swede Home Cemetery.

Please keep the family in your prayers.

Ben Carlson has been so kind to contribute recipes. Since it is fall, his 2 apple recipes are timely! Ben writes that these recipes are from Dorothy, Ingaborg and Alice Carlson – grandmother and Great Grandmother and Mother of Ben and Jim Carlson. These recipes were always delicious when apples were in season in the fall. He shares that they, along with their grandmother, Dorothy really had fun picking apples. She would scout out apples trees to pick from. Of course, she would ask permission to pick first – and sometimes we would share these cookies and crisps with the tree owners. They would always enjoy!

CRANBERRY APPLE CRISP

5 cups sliced tart apples (about 6 medium apples)
 1 ½ cups fresh or frozen cranberries
 1/3 cup sugar
 ½ cup all-purpose flour
 ½ cup brown sugar
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 ¼ cup butter or margarine.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease a 9-inch square baking pan. Pare and core apples. Layer apples and cranberries in pan, sprinkling with sugar as you layer. Mix flour, brown sugar and cinnamon. Work in butter or margarine until light and crumbly. Sprinkle topping evenly over apples and cranberries. Bake 45 minutes or until apples are tender. Makes 9 servings.

APPLE COOKIES

½ cup butter or margarine
 1 1/3 cup brown sugar
 1 egg
 ¼ cup milk
 2 cups all-purpose flour
 1 teaspoon soda
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ½ teaspoon each of cinnamon and nutmeg
 1 cup EACH chopped apple, raisin and nuts

Cream butter or margarine and sugar together; add egg and beat well. Add milk and sifted dry ingredients alternately. Add fruits and nuts. Drop from teaspoon onto a cookie sheet. Bake in oven at 375 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Yield 4 to 5 doz cookies

Growing in Faith

The youth group met on Sunday 18th—they set goals and one definite one was **they wanted to meet more than once a month!** AWESOME

Some other goals include a mission trip, youth night out! Youth led service, games and snacks.



If you are a middle or high schooler or recently out of school—consider coming and growing in your faith with others. Right now, the group meets on the 3rd Sunday at 6:30 pm. There will be a meeting on Sunday, October 2nd following the Highway Pick Up project to discuss goals of the youth. Hope you can join us!

MEN'S ministry

There is a core group of men of the church that meet one time a month at Wayne Johnson's house. This

group is open to all men of Swede Home. Currently they meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 PM

Please consider coming and joining in the fellowship. The date is subject to change to accommodate Pastor Evan's schedule. If there are any changes, Doug Jones will contact regular attendees, and we will get the word out through the weekly email sent to local members and bulletin announcements.

Upcoming events

BIBLE STUDY

A WOMAN'S PLACE

Thursdays: Oct. 13 - Nov. 17
5:30 pm at Calvary Swede Home
7 pm at Augustana



All are welcome to join Pastor Hillary and discuss women of the New Testament during a 6-week Bible study, happening Thursday nights.

Pastor Hillary wrote the Bible Study and will be sharing it with us on Thursdays at 5:30 pm, beginning on October 13 through November 17.

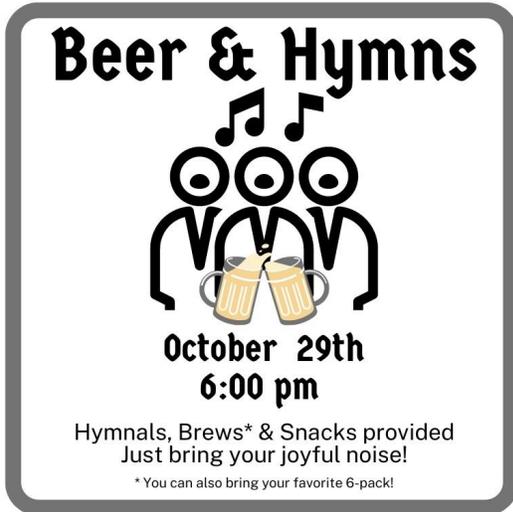
Don't let the title scare you—ALL are welcome, both the men and women of the congregation. First Rising City has been invited to join us. Pastor Hillary will be leading the same bible study each Thursday evening at Augustana Genoa at 7 PM



There was much prayerful consideration when it became necessary to disband the Swede Home Quilting Group.....but prayers are always answered, and Swede Home and First - Rising City have been invited to join the quilt group in Genoa! They

meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month, (this month will be October 20) from 9am to 4pm - a lunch break is taken and the group goes uptown to eat and have fellowship, with everyone purchasing their own lunch. We are hoping to have a car pool of ladies (1, 2 or 3 cars would be great!) Contact Kay as she is planning on attending— What a great way to get to know our partners in faith and share our gifts of quilting!

Upcoming events



Beer & Hymns

Join us at Calvary Lutheran Church of Swede Home for a fun night of fellowship, music, and merriment! Saturday, October 29th at 6pm. If you would like to help provide craft beer, novelty soda, or pub snacks, contact Linda, Pastor Hillary, or Pastor Evan! Invite your friends and family!

We are inviting First-Rising City and Augustana-Genoa to join us. We are calling it a "Swedish" Octoberfest!!



Jean Waller is leading a group of singers to make a JOYFUL NOISE unto the Lord!

There is a sign up sheet on the usher's shelf for those who would like to join this group. There are many wonderful voices in our congregation, - time to SING OUT!

We will start with a song for Reformation Sunday, if all goes well we will then do Christmas Eve and hopefully for events to celebrate the 150th Anniversary. Details for practice will be in future announcements

PERSONAL CARE KITS

In the past, we have sent Personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief, along with the quilts our members had made.

We no longer have an active quilt group—but we can still assemble the kits. During September, we will had a free will offering basket available for monetary donations. Each kit costs approximately \$7-\$8 (we bargain shopped), and includes items recommended by Lutheran World Relief. Our goal is to assemble 75 kits, and we will take them to Norfolk to be sent on with area church donations.

We will set a date to assembly the kits and they will be taken to Norfolk the first week in November to be sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution.

Donations can still be made October 2 and 9



We have many cookie sheets and cake pans that have found their way to the church basement, as they brought bars and cookies to be served for the social or funeral or other fellowship activities.

Unfortunately they are sad that they are not at their home, so they can be used again to provide treats!

If your cookie sheet or cake pan is missing from your kitchen, please check out the lonely pans on the table in the church basement. Take your pan home and make it happy to be part of your baking adventures!!

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 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

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 Facebook page.



Evan Christensen and Hillary Christensen invite all to their Ordination Service on Friday, October 7th at 6pm

The service will be at Hillary's home congregation at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Wahoo NE, 594 W 8th St.

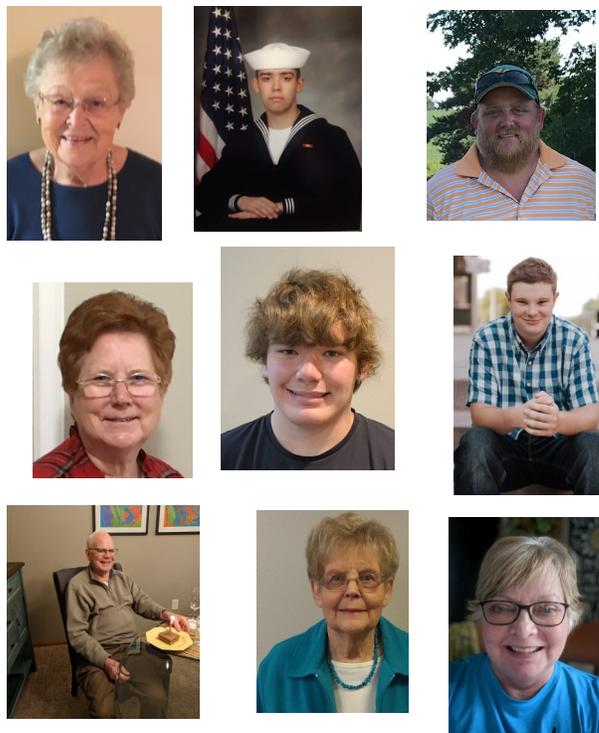
Please join them in this celebration—check on the possibilities of car pooling—

We are so blessed that they accepted our call to continue the ministry at Swede Home, First-Rising City, and Augustana Genoa. The Spirit has great plans for us!!

Meet a Member —see page 9 & 10

Pastor Evan was interviewed this month—and his article didn't fit the column! So we made room on page 9 and 10—it is so interesting to learn what makes him tick!

SO... thought I would add pictures of past "Meet the Members," "selecting from those saved on this computer. See if you can recognize them:



This year we will be joining the communities of Osceola, Stromsburg and Polk and participate in their community Trunk and Treats.

Polk: 6-8 pm on October 26 on Main Street.

Osceola—4-6 pm on October 30

Stromsburg—4-6 pm on October 31

Watch for further details or contact Pastor Evan or Pastor Hillary, if you would like to help. Treats are handed out from the trunk of a car

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Melissa Forsberg	Jan Wells-Bachman
Janice Forsberg	All who are shut in and
June Larson	need prayers and support
Elaine Toline	
LeRoy Hoyer	
Beth Wienik	

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action, & Denver Metro Ministries
- 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
- Evan and Hillary Christensen as they are ordained on October 7th, and go forth to serve
- 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)

PICTURE DIRECTORY

Fran and Linda are in the process of updating the church directory, and hope to include pictures. To start, we are asking you send to the church either by email or mail::

- Email address, landline phone, ALL family cell numbers you would like included
- A family picture, or individual pictures of each member of your household (not sure what we will have room for, individual is preferred) Pictures can be either texted to Linda or emailed to church, or brought to church to be scanned

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

- 6 Mike and Deb Cramer
- 15 Wendy & Kelley Shafenberg
- 27 Ryan and Jennifer Fjell



BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

- 03 Clayton Watts
- 05 Tamara Rowse
- 07 Andrew Adelson
- 09 Kent Adelson
- 09 Elaine Toline
- 10 Randy Lott
- 18 Ava Ernst
- 18 Clerissa Udey
- 20 Corinne Adelson
- 21 Nate Johnson
- 21 Peter Jones
- 22 Gabe Hanquist
- 23 Hillary Christensen
- 24 Corey Watts
- 27 Yancy Krol
- 28 Rick Jones
- 28 Jaxon McCarville
- 31 Anita Haack
- 31 Marvin Larson

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

OCTOBER

Assistant Minister – Linda Fuhr
 Scripture Reader – Jean Waller
 Ushers – Bonnie Carlson and Kay Jones
 Altar - Jean Waller
 Acolyte – Peyton/Rylee Hofmann
 Bell Ringer – Colby Nelson

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30AM worship with communion Blessing of pets 4PM Hiway pickup 5:30PM Youth Group	3	4	5	6	7 6PM Hillary and Evan's Ordination @ Bethlehem Lutheran Wahoo	8
9 10:30 am Worship service	10 10am celebration of life for Jan Ernst	11	12 9:00 Ruth circle at 4th St Coffee shop 7PM Men's bible study	13 9:00 am Miriam circle at Gloria's	14	15
16 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion 6:30 Youth Group	17	18	19	20 9am to 4 pm Quilt Day at Augustana- Genoa	21	22
23 10:30 am Worship service	24	25	26 6:30-8 Polk Trunk or Treat	27	28	29 6 pm Beer and Hymns, "Swedish Octoberfest"
30 10:30 am Reformation Sunday with Holy Communion 4-6pm Osceola Trunk or Treat	31 4-6pm Stromsburg Trunk or Treat					



Tell us about your family – where you grew up, parents, siblings etc.

I am the oldest of two sons of Troy and Lori Christensen. My mom is an elementary teacher for Omaha Public Schools, and she lives near Standing Bear Lake in north-west Omaha. My dad was an architect and owned a tattoo shop. If you have ever driven by the Douglas County Sheriff's building near 156th St. and Maple St. in Omaha you've seen his work. Sadly, my dad died on October 28, 2021 from a number of health troubles. My brother, Jesse, is four-and-one-half years younger than me. The last few years found him working on the program team of a different ELCA camps in Minnesota (Green Lake Lutheran Ministries) and Montana (Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp). He previously served on the summer ministry team at Carol Joy Holling Camp. I grew up near west Omaha. I was baptized at A Biding Savior Lutheran Church and confirmed at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn.

Where did you go to school, Plans for after high school

I graduated from Millard North High School in 2011 and then attended Midland University in Fremont. I studied k-12 special education as well as youth and family ministry while at MU. I graduated in December of 2015 after completing my student teaching experience at Elkhorn Public Schools and began teaching full time at the same building in January 2016. During my years of college, I began discerning my call to ministry. I served as “youth minister” in the broad sense at churches in Elkhorn, Fremont, and Lincoln. Additionally, I spent many summers at Carol Joy Holling Camp in Ashland. During these years I visited seminaries and deeply considered my call to rostered ministry. Finally, in the fall of 2017, Hillary and I each had a renewed sense of discernment and visited the seminary in Gettysburg, PA. Less than one year later we took our first class as candidates for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at United Lutheran Seminary.

Interesting facts about vacations, interests etc.

Pastor Hillary and I were blessed with many travel opportunities while attending seminary. We attended ordinations in Buffalo, NY (and made a quick trip to Toronto!) and Florence, SC. We also spent a week in Myrtle Beach, SC during internship. We celebrated a destination wedding at a cabin nestled in the Adirondack Mountains of Lake Placid, NY. Thanksgiving 2019 was spent, just the two of us, near Arcadia National Park in Maine. We went with friends from seminary to a concert in New York City, and made trips to Washington D.C. This is just a brief list of our journeys! The most incredible trip, however, was our study abroad course during our very first year of seminary. We had the opportunity to go to Israel, Palestine, and Jordan with classmates and professors. Our trip was over two weeks long, and we saw so many incredible historic, archeological, and biblical sites. While it's difficult to name a “favorite” site, I am especially appreciative to have visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher where nearly four million people visit each year. We saw, smelled, heard, and felt a piece of history, joined with the millions before us and after us, who believe in the resurrection.

Hillary and I are eager to spend time exploring Nebraska now that we are home—especially as Wilder grows and appreciates the wonder and diversity of this area.

What do you do for fun/relaxation?

My favorite way to have fun is playing a board game with friends. Really, it might be more accurate to say I like *collecting* games, since we don't play as often as we'd like. Hillary and I have been playing/collecting board games since we started dating. Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries—all the gift-giving holidays—nearly always have a game as one of the presents. Over the last ten years we've amassed nearly 300 games. We often joke about opening our own board game café as a special extension of our pastoral ministry!

Relaxation, on the other hand, tends to steer away from games. I am too competitive! Rather, a cup of coffee, especially at a cozy coffeeshop, is my ideal way to relax. If I am being very specific, my favorite is a freshly ground cup of Ethiopian Yirgacheffe. A second best is any coffee shared with others. I am especially excited to spend more time at Fourth Street in Stromsburg and Gathering Grounds in Osceola. Please reach out if you ever want to grab a cup and chat!

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about faith formation. As many of you have heard from my sermons recently, I am quite fond of Jesus' parables. While the parables in Luke chapters 15 and 16 we've heard recently are some of my favorites, I think the Parable of the Sower (Mt 13. 3–9; Mk 4.3–9; Lk 8.5–8) helps make sense of my call as a minister of Word and Sacrament. I am called to scatter seeds of faith through sermons, sacraments, study, and sharing. While caring for soil is part and parcel to being a good seed-scattering steward, I am often more focused on sowing seeds of faith abundantly and recklessly—trusting and believe the Holy Spirit be active in helping those seeds grow and mature so that we all might join in watering, feeding, weeding, and seeding faith in others so that all might grow closer to God.

What do you enjoy doing at church - what do you like about Calvary/Swede Home

Calvary Lutheran Church of Swede Home's annual Ice Cream Social is the real deal! Folks hyped it up for Hillary and I before we visited and we were still surprised at the hospitality, community, and fellowship witnessed during the event. And the homemade ice cream is so delicious! (Quite literally the icing, or "ice-cream," on top!) Additionally, I have greatly enjoyed the opportunities I have had to join you in life together already. Be it Sunday morning coffee time, visits, circles, or youth group. I am humbled to be growing in faith together with you and witnessing the incredible things God is doing through this worshiping community in the seasons to come.

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

COUNCIL NOTES

Present at the September 11, 2022 Church Council meeting were Kent, Dan, Lynn, Todd, Sandy, Pastor Evan.

Distribution for Lorry Smith Estate fund tithe so far are Back Pack Program, Camp Carol Joy Holling campership fund, Columbus Rescue Mission, Mission Heart, Inc, Central City, and Bishop Maas Leadership Fund. The distributions for August and September have not yet been chosen.

Parsonage repair: BD Construction and Church Mutual Insurance are to meet this month to determine bid and payment for water damage to the parsonage. Following that we will begin working on the possibility of the parsonage remodel.

Ordination for Hillary and Evan Christensen is set for Friday October 7 at 6 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Wahoo. All are invited.

The council decided to participation in community Halloween events in Osceola, Polk and Stromsburg.

A free will offering to pay for the supplies for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief is being collected. Council will cover additional costs up to \$750.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Serve the Lord—Praise the Lord

Treasurer's Report

	August 2022
Beginning Balance	\$4,076.61
Offerings:	
General Offering	9,139.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	350.00
First Lutheran R.C. July Share	<u>2,259.56</u>
	11,753.56
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Polk County News - Social Ad	20.53
Economy	22.43
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	34.99
Crossroad's Awards - 3 Crosses	84.00
CCLI License Renewal	150.00
Mowing July/August	225.00
Monetary Farewell Gift to Pastor Sarah	250.00
Nebraska Synod, ELCA - Mission Share	1,560.00
First Lutheran R.C. August Share	1,462.05
First Lutheran R.C. August Share	1,302.93
Augustana Genoa August Share	1,983.53
Utilities:	
Church	366.49
Parsonage	130.07
Salaries:	
Pastors Sarah Ruch, Hillary & Evan	2,318.88
Portico Benefits	1,072.87
Commuting Allowance	262.63
SECA	216.40
Moving Expense (Christensen's)	570.00
Cell Phone Allowance	35.25
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	613.51
Supply Pastor Leroy Hoyer	<u>253.50</u>
	13,662.49
Balance as of August 31, 2022:	<u>\$2,167.68</u>