APRIL, 2017

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Message from Pastor Kim

You may notice in April there are a lot of worship services on the calendar. This is especially true in the days leading up to Easter, the time of the church year called Holy Week. The three days prior to Easter, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are sometimes called the Great Three Days. These services are important to us in our life of faith. One author described them this way: "Think of the Great Three Days as a song that we get to sing only once a year. This song tells us again who God is and who we are." Sure we remember who God is and who we are every time we gather, but the Great Three Days are a time for us to be very intentional about remembering these things. And the worship we share on these three days is designed to intensely focus us on Christ, the cross, and the empty tomb.

On **Maundy Thursday** evening we gather remembering Jesus' final evening with his disciples and the meal that they shared together. That night, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment--love. Christ told his disciples that they are to love (and by extension serve) one another. As followers of Christ, modern day disciples, we are called to the same task. Our worship this evening will be at **Zion at 6:30pm**. We will gather for a meal (as part of the service) and worship including Holy Communion. Our service will end in silence remembering Christ arrested in the garden.

We reconvene for worship on **Good Friday at 7pm at Calvary**. Just as we ended in silence the night before, so too we gather and end in silence tonight. Our service that evening is called a Tenebrae Service and we will hear the last words of Jesus spoken from the cross. We watch and wait, listen and remember together gathered in the shadow of the cross. This day is not a day to mourn, but in-

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you . . .

Thank you Zion Lutheran Church for all your help with Sandi Bolton's funeral. We are very appreciative for all you have done for us.
Sincerely,
The Bolton Family

Thank you to all that attended the Sunday School Biscuit and Gravy feed! We had a great turn out and it was great to see everyone enjoying conversations. Thank you everyone who helped out with it as well. We wouldn't be able to do it without your donations!
Thank you,
Benedict Community Sunday School

Dear Friends at Swede Home,
Thank you for the recent donation of food and grocery items. Our clients benefit so much when they can choose items to supplement their needs. It helps them to stretch their money while still having good healthy meals. Our food pantry is one to be proud of!
Our basement project has been completed and now I am organizing all our donated things to have them available to help women re-build their lives after leaving an abuser. We celebrate each victory over violence. Your donations and regular giving have helped make miracles happen.
Thank you,
Pat and the folks at Genesis House

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(Continued from Pastor Kim's Message on page 1)
stead to celebrate Christ's life giving death on the cross for it was through his death that we have been given new life.

Then comes **Easter Vigil**, the first time we will sing and say alleluia since Transfiguration Sunday. On this night, we gather for worship at **7:30pm at Calvary**. We celebrate the light of Christ that has broken the darkness and defeated the powers of death. We hear some of the great stories of our faith in our readings from the Old Testament and the gospel. It is a night of celebration and worship of the one who has passed from death into new life.

I hope that you will be able to join us for one or all of these services. (And don't forget about Easter Sunday too!!) It is a great way to remember and be strengthened in our Christian life and identity.

Peace,

Pr. Kim

Thank you Continued…

We at the Blue Valley Food Bank are so thankful for you all. I do believe that people come to us knowing that we can help them with various services, chief of which is food. Our heartfelt thanks to you and God's blessings to you all.

Sincerely,
Lola Reetz, Blue Valley Community Action Food Bank

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Sandi Bolton. Sandi entered into eternal life on March 9, 2017.

W.E.L.C.A. News

Happy Spring all. Busy time ahead for everyone!

Deb S. attended the Spring Gathering at Norfolk. She reported that she was the only WELCA member from Swede Home attending. They had a very interesting program, but attendance was low.

There is no other news to report this month.

Happy Easter!!
Love,
Marj

April

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Mary Anna	Jan Ernst	Jan Ernst
Miriam	Gloria Oquist	Jean Waller
Ruth	Janet Nielsen	Janet Nielsen

Bible Study: *Gather* - April

Service: Backpack Program (monetary offering) (In addition to a monetary offering, will need people to pack bags at Salem Lutheran Church; dates & times to be announced)

May

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Mary Anna	Linda Jones	Linda Jones
Miriam	Mabel Hinkle	Jean Waller
Ruth	Kay Jones	Bonnie Carlson

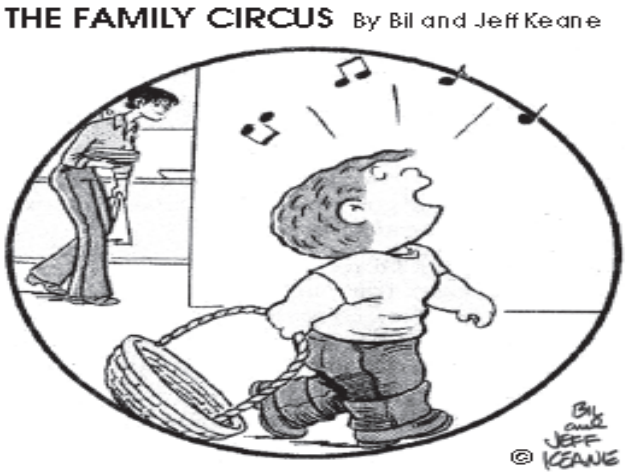
Bible Study: *Gather* - May

Service: ELCA World Hunger Campaign (Monetary Offering—Ref. Pg. 15)

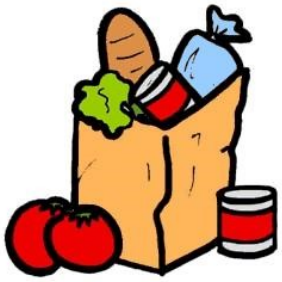
Mission and Ministry Update

Every Parent has faced the "party invitation" dilemma—the classmate who had invited your child to his or her birthday party, and you have no idea what to give this child as a gift. And when it is your own child sending the invitations, you know he or she doesn't need anymore toys or other potential presents. Cecil Carpenter solved this problem for his parents, and for all the parents and kids invited to his 8th birthday party. Instead of presents for himself, he requested his friends to bring something for him to put in the food barrel at his church, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oakland, CA. "I'm not sure why I asked for food the first year but I wanted to help other people and wanted to be kind," Cecil explained. He and his friends have contributed more and more food, and cash each year. This year they collected $63 and 109 food items, including boxes and bags of pasta, canned fruit and vegetables, tomato sauce, peanut butter and other items for the food barrel. Cecil still has his birthday party, but now his "gifts" go to someone who needs something to eat, especially during the summer when students don't have access to free or low cost breakfasts and lunches.

This idea has caught on at St. Paul. Other parents have told Cecil's mother, Carolyn, that they are having an "alternative birthday gift" for their child. One family collected books to donate, another took an offering for the local animal shelter, and a third family asked for donations to the St. Paul food barrel. By the way, this was Cecil's idea in the first place (not his mom's). Cecil's whole family—his church family and his birth family—has been inspired by his example and generosity, and more than just a little proud of him.



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 April, your donations will go to Blue Valley Community Action in Osceola.

Most recipients of Blue Valley Food Bank are families of 4 headed with working parents with little extra time. Canned meats are especially needed, Box Dinners, Canned Fruits, and Vegetables, and Breakfast Cereal are always needed as well. Dessert mixes are a special treat. All of the items we donate are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they help meet critical needs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Egg Hunt

Zion will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 15th at 10:00am at the Benedict Park. This event is for kids ages 3 years old—2nd Grade. Join us after the hunt for crafts and cookies at the Benedict Community Center.

Open house to celebrate the 95th birthday of Imo Richardson in the Activity Room at Willow Brook Assisted Living in York on Sunday April 2, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM. Desert & drinks will be served. Your presence will be the perfect gift. If you are unable to attend but want to send a birthday greeting, mail may be sent to Room 204, 2714 North Lincoln Ave., York, NE 68467 or to gr61703@windstream.net

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Lenten Services

Lenten Evening Services with Zion Lutheran in Benedict
What does it mean that we are the church in today's world? We will look at the descriptions of the church in the Nicene Creed as we wrestle with that question.
Worship is at 7pm (unless otherwise specified) with a meal at 6pm.

4/5- We are Apostolic @ Calvary

4/13- Maundy Thursday @ Zion- worship at 6:30 (service includes meal)

4/14- Good Friday @ Calvary @ 7pm (no meal)

4/15- Easter Vigil @ Calvary @7:30pm (no meal)

Osceola Ministerial Association invites you to Journey to the Cross. Services (and lunch) will be at 11:45am on Wednesdays.

4/5- Jerusalem	Fr. Val Bartek preaching, Osceola UMC hosting

Holy Humor Sunday

It is time to get ready because our second annual Holy Humor Sunday is coming! Holy Humor Sunday will be Sunday, April 23rd and your jokes are needed. Please submit any jokes for consideration to be used during the service to Pastor by April 20th. And don't forget to wear your best costume to church that day!!

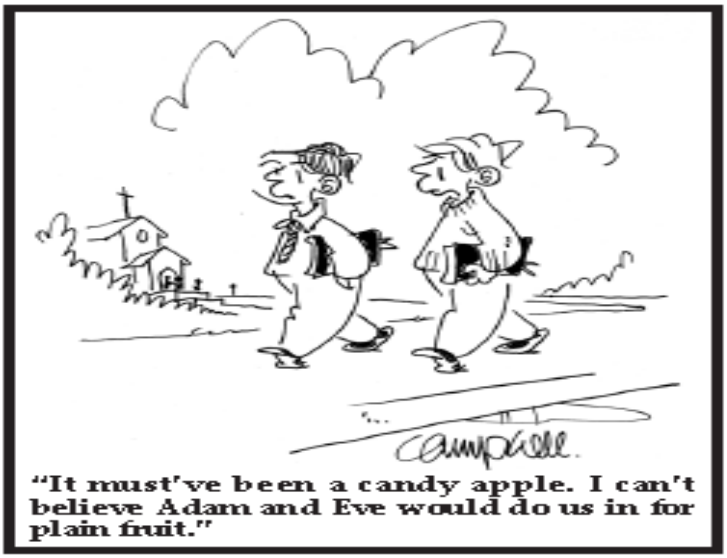
Holy Humor Continued....

Choir led by Cheerleader

Kirkridge Presbyterian Church in Grand Blanc, MI, celebrated its first Holy Humor Sunday in 2015. Members were invited "to come in costume, bring their sense of humor, and be prepared to laugh," reported Rev. Glenn G. Grant, the pastor, who sported a blue wig and a red nose.

The choir was led by a cheerleader. The choir director wore a shirt which read, "Holy! Holy! Holy!" with the music notes to go along. The notes were actual holes in the shirt. Some members wore their clothing backwards.

"I was not sure how the congregation would react, but the response was overwhelmingly positive," Rev. Grant said. "Our worship committee immediately started asking how we could build on it in 2016. Thanks for the inspiration *JN* continues to provide."



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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
Tina Watts, Sunday School
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:
Linda Fuhr, Doug Jones, Bill Carlstrom, Nick Nicholson,
Carolyn Nielsen, Chris Smith,
Deb Swedenburg
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

Gregg Bolton, Council President
Yvonne Stauber, Organist
Brianne Schoch/Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

Council Members:
Gregg Bolton, Todd Schoch, Dawn Kush
All of Zion members, Ministers

Meet a Member

Dorothy Ehlers is the longest living member of Zion Lutheran Church, she joined Zion in 1944!

Dorothy was born in Benedict, NE by her parents Lynn and Elsie Ehlers. She was one of 7 she has 4 brothers and 2 sisters. She went to school in Benedict and graduated from Benedict High School in 1942. After graduation she moved to Mead with a friend to work for the government and make ammunition for the war.

She moved back to Benedict in 1944. She then got married in 1944 to Bob Ehlers (who she dated off and on throughout High School). They had a small wedding held at her home. They were blessed with 6 children over several years Jackie, Fred, Rosanne, Jeff, Gina, and Bret. They lived in Benedict for a short time before moving to the country where they raised their family. Dorothy was a homemaker, she stayed very busy taking care of her children and being a wife. When her kids were younger they enjoyed camping and her kids were involved in sports which took up a lot of their time. Some of her and Bob's interests were dancing and playing cards with friends.

She is blessed with 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She is very passionate about her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loves when they all get together and she gets to see them!

Dorothy joined Zion after getting married, all of her kids were baptized and confirmed at Zion. She loves that the church is so pretty. She has seen a lot of changes in Zion over the years. She has been part of the Quilting Group for several years and still really enjoys it.

Remember in your prayers

Fred & Lori Ehlers
Janise Forsberg
Melissa Forsberg
Blake Hicks
Lenore Kessler
June Larson
Myron Larson
Elvin Reetz
Imo Richardson
Harvey Schlegelmilch
Vance & Elaine Toline
Jan Wells-Bachman

- 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:

Steve & Sandi Fredrickson
April 2nd

Duane and Carol Jones
April 19th

Myron & Wanda Larson
April 23rd

Zion:

Jimmy & Susan Stearns
April 7th

Justin & Brianne Schoch
April 30th

Birthdays

Calvary:

1—Nicholas Cramer
6—Alice Jane Oquist
7—Craig Swedenburg
9—Ryleigh Ienn
9—Venida Carlstom
16—Ben Carlson
20—Mike Haack
21—Tom Stevens
24—Tory Jones
30—Lisa Oquist

Zion:

8—Steve Blair
17—Jeanie Geis
18—Chris Martin
21—Amanda Blair

Zion Worship Assistants

April

Communion Assistant: Brianne Schoch
Usher: Jim Stearns
Greeter: Donna Stearns

Reader:
2—Justin Schoch, 9—Ken Kush, 16—Gina Schoch, 23—LuAnn Bolton, 30—JoAnn Bolton

Acolyte:
2—Harley Martin, 9—Lyndsey Bolton, 16—Tierney Schoch, 23—Harley Martin, 30—Isaac Reetz

Calvary Worship Assistants

April

Assistant Ministers— Cheryl Jones
Scripture Reader—Brody Ienn
Ushers— Ienn Family
Acolyte—
Altar Care— Deb Cramer, Deb Hanquist, and Kay Jones
Bell Ringer— Jim Carlson

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30a Zion Worship/ Communion 10:30a Calvary Worship/Communion	3	4	5 6p Lenten Meal @ Calvary 7p Lenten Service @ Calvary	6 7p Calvary Council Meeting	7	8
9 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship	10	11	12	13 2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle 6:30p Maundy Thursday Service @ Zion (Service includes Meal)	14 9a Miriam WELCA Circle 7p Good Friday Service @ Calvary (no meal)	15 10:00a Benedict Easter Egg Hunt Hosted by Zion 7:30p Easter Vigil @ Calvary
16 7a Zion Easter Sunrise 8:30a Zion Worship/ Communion 10:30a Calvary Worship/Communion	17	18	19 6p Confirmation	20	21	22
23 Holy Humor Sunday 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship	24	25	26 6p Confirmation	27 9a Quilt Day Calvary	28	29
30 8:15a Zion/ Methodist Joint Worship @ Zion 10:30a Calvary Worship						

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

Calvary Lutheran Council met on March 18, 2017, at the St. Benedict Center, near Schuyler, following the council retreat.

Present were Pastor Kim, Chris, Carolyn, Deb, Nick, Bill, and Doug.

Absent was Linda.

The agenda was read and approved by common consent.

The minutes of the February 1, 2017 council meeting were read and approved by common consent.

Pastor's report was presented and also approved by common consent.

OLD BUSINESS:

A reminder, Calvary Church will be hosting the Nebraska Brass Band on June 11, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS:

Doug will be in charge of getting people together early this spring to clean the church grounds.

The church council will be serving the Lenten supper on April 5.

We will meet as a council on April 6, as we have Lenten Services on our regular meeting date of April 5.

The treasurer's report was read and approved by common consent.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Carolyn Nielsen

Acting Secretary

Treasurer's Report — February, 2017

Beginning Balance		**$16144.30**
Offering:		
General Offering		**6356.00**
Sunday School		**83.06**
ELCA Disaster Relief		**5.00**
ELCA Mission Share		**205.00**
Zion January Share		**1732.33**
		8381.39
Expenses:		
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee & TC % Fee		**8.16**
Council Retreat Deposit		**35.00**
Office Supplies		**42.41**
Study Bible (Large Print)		**63.99**
Administrative Expenses		**70.61**
Christ in Our Home		**102.50**
NE Synod ELCA-Mission Share		**1450.00**
Zion Benedict January Share		**1815.00**
Utilities:		
Church:		**1739.97**
Coop	**1392.09**	
Windstream	**53.07**	
Polk Co RPPD	**277.50**	
STE Wireless	**17.31**	
Parsonage:		**396.67**
Coop	**276.97**	
Windstream	**62.16**	
Polk Co RPPD	**57.54**	
Salaries:		
Pastor		**2176.41**
Mileage		**200.47**
SECA		**216.41**
Portico Benefits		**1017.51**
Continuing Ed Expense		**192.50**
Diana		**423.52**
LeeAnn		**230.87**
Bri		**657.87**
		$10839.87
Balance as of January 31, 2017		**$13,685.82**

Designated $$ Transferred to Applicable SAV Account:

Improvement Fund:	**$50.00**
Thrivent Choice	**$68.00**

*This page is only seen by Calvary Members

.....in sacred Places.....

CALVARY Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA

950 129th Road
Stromsburg, NE 68666

Return Service Requested

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**