April, 2019

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Message from Pastor Kim

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are created by God to be in relationship both with one another and with God. We nourish and grow in relationship in many ways, but namely through spending time together. When you come to church, you spend time with God through worship and fellowship with those who encourage you, reflect Christ to you, and challenge you to grow in faith, love, and service. When you spend time in devotion and prayer, you intentionally pour into the relationship that you have with God so that you can know him better. If you need resources for your devotion and prayer, please let me know as there are many things out there. Christ in our Home devotional booklets are also available at church which is designed to help us reflect on the Scriptures and apply them to our lives. I am also available any time for conversation, prayer, and anything else you might need.

As a pastor, I am immersed in the life of the church through service, worship, and prayer. But sometimes I too need resources and people to help me grow deeper in my faith and my relationship with God. As such, I quarterly meet with a spiritual director at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler. I have included elsewhere in the newsletter a recent reflection from Father Thomas Leitner. Please read it and consider how you might continue to set aside time for prayer and consider his suggestion of using a special place for prayer. Know too that the church is always available to be that special place set aside for prayer. The doors are always open for you.

If there is anything special I can be in prayer about for you, please let me know. I believe wholeheartedly that God not only hears our prayers but answers them as well. Maybe not in the way or in the time period we would like, but nonetheless God answers us. God does this because God loves us deeply. No matter what you have done (or haven't done) God loves you for who you are, no questions asked. It is a love that is unconditional and unmerited. But if we let it, it is a love that will transform us into

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you . . .

Dear WELCA,

Greetings ladies! Thank you for your support of campus ministry at UNL. We are preparing for a wonderful Lenten season and look forward to trying out dinner church with our students.

Again thank you and peace to you all.

Amanda White, Ministry Director

Thank you to all who sent special birthday cards; also to all who attended my party on Sunday March 24th. You all made my 90th birthday very fun and wonderful.

Love, Jan Ernst

The Stromsburg Senior Center had a big surprise when they opened your letter. With our heartfelt thanks we are so blessed in our community for your generous contribution to our senior center. Thank you! Thank you!

God's Blessings!
Stromsburg Senior Center

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(Continued from Pastor Kim's Message on page 1)
people who experience the richness, liberty, and fullness of life. We will find delight in God's created world, in people, and more.

God loves to listen us pray and loves to spend time with us whether that time is spent in worship, prayer, service, or fellowship. God is near. Sit down and spend some time getting to know God better or simply partaking and delighting in God's presence with you.

In Christ,

Invite From Mission Heart

Mission Heart in Central City invites you to Dream Small: Change the World on Saturday, April 13th from 2-4pm at the Mission Heart building, 412 G St in Central City. This is event is an open house to bring awareness to Mission Heart, and to discover the small, humble "hands on" opportunities for all ages to be part of this wonderful place. There will be refreshments and "hands on" activities for young and old alike. Calvary's quilters have supported this organization with donations of quilts so come and check out what they are all about.

Did you know Pastor Kim is now posting her sermons online? If you miss a Sunday or want to hear something again, you can find her sermons on the Calvary website at calvaryswedehome-church.com. It is under the Links and Resources tab. Pastor hopes to find a convenient way of posting video recordings soon. Let her know if you have any ideas!

W.E.L.C.A. News

Service for April will be Genesis House – monetary or tangible offering. (*We needed to trade the March & April service projects in the purple book.)*

- Altar care for April is Deb Hanquist.
  May will be Mary Anna Circle.
- Flowers in April will be Miriam Circle. Thank you for watering any plants. May through August will be Ruth Circle.
- We are invited to bring lilies or other spring flowers for our Easter Services on April 20 and 21.
- Quilt Day will be April 25. Please join us!
- Many enjoy the fellowship time following worship on Sunday mornings. We need more people to sign up to serve coffee in April and May (before WELCA scheduling in the summer).

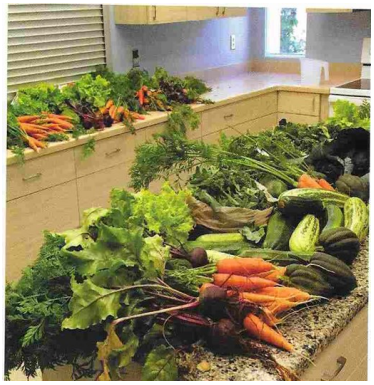
APRIL

	Hostess	*Bible Study*
Ruth – 4/11	Penny Udey	Penny
Mary Anna- 4/11	Jan Ernst	Jan
Miriam – 4/12	_____	_____

"BIBLE – Basic Instruction Before Life Ends"
~ from Jim Schwalenberg – Thrivent Agent

Praying the Peace of Christ fills your heart this Lenten and Easter Season,
Cheryl

Mission and Ministry Update



Alaskan Community Nourished by Congregation's Garden

"The Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, 'This is what you need to do in your congregation,'" said Don Bladow of Anchorage, Alaska. "I was in a composting workshop." Don listened.

Lutheran Church of Hope in Anchorage had been trying to figure out what to do with extra land behind the church for more than 30 years. At that synod assembly, Don, a member of the congregation, knew he would plant what became the Hope Memorial Garden. With an initial $3,500 from the church council, Don got to work clearing the land.

All the wood from the spruce harvested while he was clearing the land went to firewood for members of the congregation. Don turned the birch he harvested into bowls, which he sold to congregations and at synod assembly to support the garden.

In 2017, Hope Memorial Garden yielded about 2,700 pounds of food—including peppers, potatoes and broccoli. The produce is donated to social service agencies and soup kitchens.

Along with money from the birch bowls and support from the congregation, Hope Memorial Garden received a Domestic Hunger Grant from ELCA World Hunger. This garden is just one of the hundreds of programs that are funded by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger in the United States and more than 60 other countries.

Don is dedicated to and believes in the garden, manages it and recruits organizers to manage the material and people required. He recently took part in a training hosted by ELCA World Hunger in Washington D.C., on advocacy, where he shared what he is up to with his senator.

"A bountiful harvest, in one way or another, the Lord will provide," Don said. "Guided by the Holy Spirit, we will plow forth until row upon row of our work is accomplished and community is better nourished."

Highway Litter Pickup

We coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Transportation to pick up the litter on 2 miles of highway 39 twice a year.

Please join in this "God's Work – Our Hands" service project on Sunday, April 28th, starting at 4:00 p.m. We meet at Monty & Cheryl Jones' home (at 13088 J Rd on highway 39) then split up into two teams to make it go faster. Following the work, we have fun and fellowship with a light supper and lots of laughs. Please join us if you can!

Raindate will be Sunday, May 5th if needed.

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 in Osceola.

Most recipients of Blue Valley are families in need. They need food and grocery items and food that is fast and easy to fix.

All of the items we donate are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they help meet critical needs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Holy Season

Lent is a time when everything we do is worship—readings, music, colors—can remind us simultaneously of the reality of death, the reality of resurrection life, and Jesus' experience of life, death, and resurrection life with us.

Wednesday Lenten Services

- April 3 at Swede Home,; Lunch at 11:45 Father Val Bartek preaching
- April 3 at Zion; Supper at 6:00, Discussion at 7:00
- April 10 at Lunch at 11:45; Osceola Methodist, Pr. Dan Cloeter preaching
- April 10 at Swede Home; Supper at 6:00; Discussion at 7:00
- Palm/Passion Sunday 8:30a at Zion and 10:30a at Calvary

The Tree Days

- Maundy Thursday, April 18 at 7pm at Zion
- Good Friday, April 19 at 7pm at Swede Home.
- Easter Vigil, April 20 at 7:30pm at Swede Home
- Sonrise Easter service April 21 at 7am Benedict Ball Field
- Easter/Resurrection of Our Lord, April 21 at 10:30am at Calvary

Easter Egg Hunt

The Benedict Community Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 20th at 10am at the Benedict City Park. A craft project and snacks will follow at the community center. Bri is organizing this event and is asking the congregation to provide candy to put in the Easter eggs. Donations of candy can be given to Bri or left in the church office.

Disaster Response Strategy Taking Shape

The Nebraska Synod continues to coordinate with Lutheran Family Services Nebraska and Lutheran Disaster Response (ELCA) to respond to immediate needs and to set up plans and resources for the multi-year recovery that will follow March's devastating floods and snows. A wide variety of agencies and independent efforts have responded rapidly to meet immediate critical needs, but every day brings new recognition of the long-term needs and the immense amount of time, energy, and resources that will be needed to address them.

As the true scope of this disaster continues to be revealed, we encourage you to engage three things: Prayers, Pockets, and Plans.

Continue to *pray* for those impacted and for their well-being; for good weather and safe conditions for response work; and for a complete and timely recovery.

Reach into your *pockets* to share contributions for recovery work, through the Nebraska Synod Disaster Response Fund or elsewhere.

And *plan* to revisit this resource page regularly: Nebraska Synod Disaster Response Resource Page especially as the days ahead turn into weeks and the next news cycle pushes this disaster and the needs of those impacted off the front page. Help us ensure there are as many people pulling together at the completion of this recovery as there are at the start.

We will continue to update the Resource Page twice weekly and to share information and opportunities as they arise. *Thank you* for your care and prayer for all those impacted, and for your commitment to the recovery work we share.

Sonrise Easter Service

The Sonrise Easter service for Zion will be at the Benedict Ball Field at 7am on Easter Sunday (April 21). It will be led by the Sunday School. Following the service there will be fellowship and coffee at Zion.

THANK YOU

Dear friends at Swede Home,

Thank you for your recent donation of food and groceries--you are always so considerate to choose items from the wish list and also the very best items our clients need. We had a bountiful holiday with generous donations which will help to keep us supplied during the coming year. Our families receive food as needed every week as well as the personal care products and things the children need and the like.
Thank you for all the beautiful baby quilts. They are so cute and special. They will be a wonderful gift for a new baby.
Always enjoy visits with Cheryl, and all of you who bring gifts.
Love to give tours and tell you all about the work of Genesis House. Please come visit any time.
Spring will come! I know this, even as I dig out from the weekend blizzard.
Sincerely,
Pat and folks at Genesis House

Swede Home Church,

Thank you so much for your generous monetary donation. It will help us to serve the seniors of our community in the future.
God bless you and thanks again.
Your friends at the Polk Senior Center

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the teachers and staff at Cross County Schools I would like to thank you for the delicious donuts, fruit, and juice you brought to us. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated by everyone! We so appreciate all the support you have shown us over the years.
Sincerely,
The staff of Cross County Schools

Dear Calvary Lutheran of Swede Home Endowment Committee,

Thank you for your recent and generous donation of $500. Your support and kind expression of faith in the work we do at Genesis House means so very much to us. These funds will be carefully used to provide services and help our clients. We've recently started our new "Open Arms" program to reach out to more women and children.
Sincerely,
Pat Lostroh and the folks at Genesis House

Dear Partners in Ministry and Zion and Calvary Lutheran Churches,

Thank you! On behalf of your 100,000 sisters and brothers in Christ who with you are the Nebraska Synod; Bishop Brian Maas, and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; and all your sisters and brothers around the world, please let me say thank you! Thank you for your participation in mission share in 2018, supporting and doing ministry beyond your immediate congregation across the Nebraska Synod, the larger Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and really around the globe.

Your participation in mission share makes possible essential, vibrant and innovative mission and ministry.
Through your participation, you: nurture faith, raise up leaders, serve your neighbors, spread the gospel, listen for and follow the Spirit's movement.

There is so much more that you do through your mission share participation. Thank you for participating and for continuing to grow as the generous stewards and faithful disciples that you are. All over the world tonight, people will go to bed thanking God for you because of what you do through this church. I join them in giving thanks to God for your generosity, and in praying God's blessing on you in this year and always.

With abiding gratitude,
Deacon Timothy Siburg, Director for Stewardship

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you for your gift of $200.00. The Lord is so good to us. He provides our every need and we praise and thank Him for His provision. **"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)**

Praise the Lord!
Chaplain Nathan Joslin
Columbus & Living Water Rescue Mission

A note from Father Leitner

Calvary Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
950 129th Road
Stromsburg, NE 68666
Church Phone: (402)764-5981

Kent Adelson, Council President
Diana Johnson, Organist
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:
Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Kay Jones, Kent Adelson, Sandra Johnston, Dan Ienn, Fran Lott
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

Cal Bittinger, Council President
Diana Johnson & Craig Swedenberg, Musicians
Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

Council Members:
Cal Bittinger, LuAnn Bolton, Dawn Kush, Justin Schoch
All of Zion members, Ministers

The Danish philosopher of religion Soren Kierkegaard wrote, "As my prayer became more and more devout and interior, there was less and less I had to say. Finally I became completely still. I became-- this is perhaps an even greater contrast to talking-- I became a listener."

We can train ourselves in everyday life to take this stance of listening in prayer, for instance, by relating the thoughts and emotions that rise within us in the course of our day to God time and again. The next step is to receive from God, in a stance of openness and listening, what God wants to tell us. We also need times on a daily basis, that are completely set aside for God, especially in the morning and evening. It is good to have special places for our personal prayer, a room or prayer corner in our home, for instance. A regular Holy Hour in church can be an excellent time for becoming still and listening to God.

Rabbi Kuk used to tell his disciples, "God is everywhere; and God is the same everywhere." When work became too much for him though, he withdrew into the desert for prayer. His disciples were astonished by this. One day they asked him, "Rabbi, you said that God is everywhere, and God is the same everywhere. Why do you go to the desert to pray if God is everywhere?"

"You are right," Rabbi Kuk responded. "God is everywhere; and God is the same everywhere. However, I am not the same, not the same everywhere. That is why I go to the desert to pray." Rabbi Kuk had experienced that in stillness, in being alone, he could sense God's presence in a special way.

- Father Thomas Leitner

Remember in your prayers

Dorothy Ehlers
Melissa Forsberg
Denny Johnson
Linda Johnson
Lenore Kessler
Shyanne Krol
June Larson
Nick Nicholson
Alice Jane Oquist
Elvin Reetz
Imo Richardson
Harvey Schlegelmilch
Vance & Elaine Toline
Jan Wells-Bachman

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action, & Denver Metro Ministries
- 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 and Sandi Fredrickson
April 2nd

Duane and Carol Jones
April 19th

Zion:

Jimmy and Susan Stearns
April 7

Justin and Bri Schoch
April 30

Birthdays

Calvary:

01—Trindon Twarling
06—Alice Jane Oquist
09—Ryleigh Ienn
04—Janet Nielsen
09—Venida Carlstrom
16—Ben Carlson
20—MikeHaack
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:
Usher:
Greeter:
Reader:
7—, 14—, 21—, 28—
Acolyte:
7—, 14—, 21—, 28—

Calvary Worship Assistants

April

Assistant Minister— Jean Waller
Scripture Reader— Kent Adelson
Ushers— Tom and Lynn Hofmann
Acolyte—Rylee Hofmann
Altar Care— Deb Hanquist
Bell Ringer— Kent Adelson

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7p Inspired Book Study	3 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 11:45a Lent Lunch-Swede Home 6p Supper—Zion 7p Lenten Service	4 7p Calvary Council Meeting	5	6
7 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Benedict SS 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship	8	9	10 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study 11:45a Lent Lunch–Osceola Methodist 6p Supper—Calvary 7p Lenten Service	11 2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle 7p Ruth's WELCA Circle	12 9a Miriam's WELCA Circle	13
14 Palm/Passion Sunday 8:30a Zion Holy Communion Worship 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Benedict SS 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship	15 8:00p Swede Home Cemetery Annual Meeting	16	17 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study	18 7:00p Maundy Thursday at Zion	19 7:00p Good Friday at Calvary	20 7:00p Easter Vigil at Calvary
21 Easter Sunday 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Benedict SS 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship	22	23	24 9:30a Join the Conversation Bible Study	25 9a Quilt Day	26	27
28 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Benedict SS 10:30a Calvary Worship 4:00p Highway Litter Pickup	29	30	31			

Together we are spreading God's word and doing God's work!

Benedict Lutheran Financial Report
2019
Dispersments

Expense	Expenses		Income
Building & Maintenance	$ -	Jan	$2,745.00
Cleaning	$ 375.00	Feb	$1,640.00
Conferences	$ -	Mar	$2,276.00
Continuing Education	$ -	Apr	
Insurance	$ 630.25	May	
Mission Share	$ 627.00	Jun	
Office Expense	$ 146.07	Jul	
Organist	$ 350.00	Aug	
Organist—Fill In	$	Sep	
Professional Expense	$ -	Oct	
Pulpit Supply	$ -	Nov	
Mileage	$ -	Dec	
Salary	$5,542.69		
Utilities	$ 904.31		
Worship & Growth	$ 129.21		
Fellowship	$ 101.11		
Total	**$8,805.69**		

Total Offerings thru 1/31/19	**$ 5,608.50**
Balance Forward as of 12/31/18	**$20,155.82**
Total	**$25,764.32**
Expenses Paid thru 3/31/2019	**$ 8,805.64**
Balance per checkbook thru 3/31/2019	**$ 16,958.68**

.....IN SACRED PLACES.....

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEBRASKA SYNOD, ELCA

202 Sherman St
Benedict NE 68316

Return Service Requested