April 2020

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sister Anne writes…….

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. I Cor. 16: 13,14

Paul's words to the Corinthians certainly speaks to us today. In the depths of this pandemic, I think we have a new respect for people who serve as doctors, nurses and other health care workers. All the emergency personnel clear down to the clerks at the grocery stores deserve our thanks. All of us must be strong not only for ourselves but to stand up for others who can't help themselves.

Some people might feel very helpless by staying home and away from people. In this case, that is the most important job we can do. I have thought of a hundred things I should be doing for you and it all comes back to the thought that I must stay home. It is the most loving thing I can do for you right now.

My husband, who spends a great deal of time thinking outside the box, has developed worship services that can be done at St. John's and broadcast to you through Facebook. I will be taking part in these services. We will lead you in worship with only a few people helping. We are Church together. The service will be a little different than the one you usually have but the Holy Spirit is blowing a new spirit around us. There are many activities we cannot do right now but nothing can keep us from worshipping our God who will lead us out of this crisis.

When this is over, we will have an Easter service like you have never seen. So, stand firm and keep your faith strong. God is in control.

...Thank you

To whom it may concern"

Mission Heart Inc, of Central City wants to gratefully acknowledge receiving 15 large quilts!

They are wonderful and will be so much appreciated when received and used by patients at Chifundo Rural Health clinic in Zambia, Africa (near the campus of Ambassador International University.

In Christ,

Scott Velk

Dear Calvary Swede Home Endowment fund:

The Officers and Members of the Polk Volunteer Fire Department thank you very much for your donation to our department. This very generous donation will be used to help pay for a new defibrillator.

Dennis Carlstrom, Treasurer

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Announcements

Quilt Schedule will follow the same as church services. If services cancelled, there will be no quilting.

Thursday April 23

Confirmation

Confirmation has been postponed from May 3 to a date to be determined this fall. We continue to pray for our class to be confirmed, Kylee, Kolton and Ethan.

CARD OF THANKS

The Osceola Fire Department would like to thank you for your charitable contribution. Throughout the years, we have made major upgrades to our firefighting and rescue capabilities thanks to your donations. The Department is made up of dedicated members that not only answer fire calls, but are there for car accidents, storm watches, standbys on community events and just about anything else that requires man power in the community. Last year, the department spent about 3,100 hours serving our community and the surrounding areas.

Again, thanks to Calvary Lutheran Church and the Endowment committee for your generosity.

Marcus Augustin, Treasurer

Osceola Fire Department

W.E.L.C.A. News

As I write this, we are in the throws of the Covid-19 virus quarantine, so services and meetings are on hold. Please don't panic, but consider prayerfully how you can continue your own worship and service. We can find comfort in the Bible, from verses like Gen.26:24 *"Do not be afraid, for I am with you"* and Psalm 46:10 "*Be still and know that I am God"*, to name just a couple. Praying you stay healthy.

*Please consider mailing your WELCA offerings to Bonnie Carlson, our treasurer, and your church offerings to church at 950 - 129th Rd,

Stromsburg NE 68666.

Service for April will be the Backpack Program. Deb Hanquist will inform us as to the needs for this program, depending on school scheduling.

Altar care for April is Deb Hanquist. May altar care 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.

Quilt Day will be April 23. CANCELLED

We are still collecting items at church for the Food Pantry. April's goods will go to Blue Valley.

April *(if meeting)*

	Hostess	*Bible Study*
Ruth – 4/1**	Please send offering to Bonnie	
Mary Anna- 4/9	Jan Ernst	Jan
Miriam – 4/10	__(none listed in booklet)__	

Praying the Peace of Christ fills your heart this Easter Season *(whether we meet at church or not),*

Cheryl

Reaching out to our community—God's Work Our Hands

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 donations will go to Blue Valley in Osceola.

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

On April 19th, we have the opportunity as church members to carry on the project of "God's Work, Our Hands" this project started many years ago as a way that Swede Home members can give back to the community. We were approved by the state to "clean up" 2 miles of Highway 39, from the Hwy 39-Hwy 92 Junction to two miles north. We do this project twice a year, in the spring and in the fall.

We will meet at Monty and Cheryl Jones at 4:00 pm, work in teams and sections to pick up trash, and meet back at the Jones' home for food and fellowship. Depending on weather, the food will only happen if we can be outdoors and have a wiener roast. Six feet apart!

Please consider helping with this project, several of the youth that have helped in the past are off to college, so we can use extra hands. If you can't walk the ditches, there is always help needed in the kitchen to prepare the food.

We would really like the confirmands and their family to consider being a part of this project. The memories gained from the inter-generational fellowship far outweighs the actual "trash" pickup! God's blessings to those who help and those who answer the call this year!

Let's enjoy some time doing this project – six feet apart!

Rain date will be Sunday, April 26th if needed

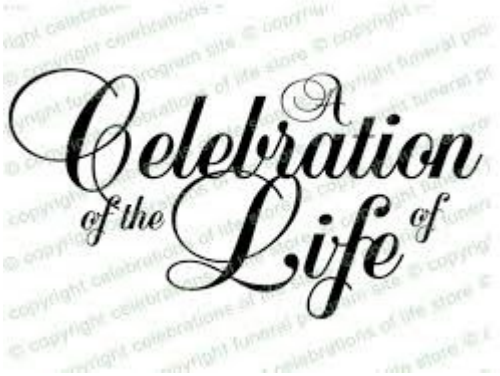
Card of Thanks

To Calvary Lutheran Church and to the Endowment Committee:

Many thanks to the church members for their continued generosity and support of the food pantry. It is duly noted and appreciated!

Also the Blue Valley Community Action thanks the Endowment committee for the generous $500.00 donation. Such a beautiful blessing.

Elizabeth King, Blue Valley



The members of Swede Home extend sympathy to the family of Vance Toline who passed away March 15, 2020. Graveside services were held at Swede Home Cemetery on March 20, 2020. We celebrate his life in our prayers.

Special thanks to Kent Adelson and Dan Oquist who made sure the bell tolled for Vance and recorded it for the family. Your attention to that detail was greatly appreciated by the family

Holy Week

All schedules are pending according to the COVID 19 guidelines. We will continue to keep you informed by email, telephone tree, weekly bulletin mailings. NO SERVICES THE MONTH OF APRIL

Lessons for the Month of April

April 5 Palm/Passion Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 27:11-54

April 9 Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
I Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 10 Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13- 53:12
Hebrews 10:16-25
John18:1-19:42

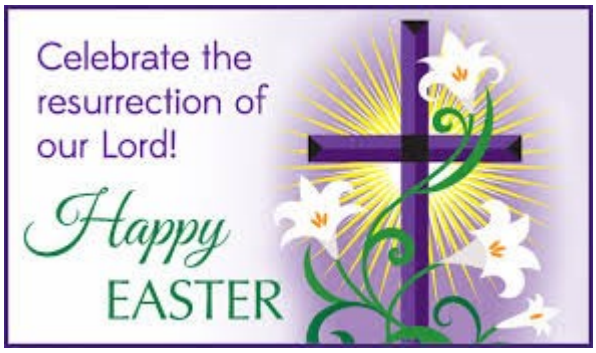
Lenten Services and Holy Week at Swede Home and First-Rising City

There will be no face to face services during the month of April due to the COVID 19 guidelines. We will continue to keep you informed by email, telephone tree, weekly bulletin mailings.

Maundy Thursday April 9—on Facebook

Good Friday April 10—7 pm on Facebook

Saturday Vigil April 11—No online service



April 12 Easter
Jeremiah 31:1-6
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 28:1-10

April 19, 2nd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
I Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 26 3rd Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
I Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brody Ienn left for Navy Boot camp February 18. He is currently in Great Lakes Illinois. Graduation is set for April 24. We just heard that they closed all graduations for now to the public due to virus. Hoping and praying this changes in the next month. After graduation he will be leaving the next morning for Charleston South Carolina were he starts A school in nuclear propulsion.

His address through April 24 is:

SR Ienn Brodryk J.
Ship 02 Div 922
Recruit Training Command
USS Reuben James 3600 Ohio Street
Great Lakes IL 60088-7105

We try to send out weekly emails, or whenever there is something happening that we need to get to the members before the newsletter is published.

If you are not receiving emails from the Swede Home address, it is probably because we do not have a current email address for you. So, if you would like to be included in the weekly updates, please let Linda know your email address.

Also, we do a frequent update on Facebook. So if you are on Facebook and have not liked the Swede Home Facebook page, please do so and watch for updates and other information.

We are sending out the weekly service bulletin with Sister Anne's sermon. This is being sent by email and regular mail. It will also be posted on the church website www.calvaryswedehomechurch.org

During this time of social distancing, take the time to pray for one member of the church, each day. Call a member, let them know you are thinking of them, ask if there is anything that they need. Reaching out and hearing a voice will bring smiles to all

We are always looking for a way to make the newsletter interesting to our members. So, the council and editor would like to see if there is an interest in a new article. The idea was born at a recent funeral and then an after church coffee when this statement was overheard several times "This is delicious, may I have the recipe?" How often do we say, "I love her cinnamon rolls or her Split pea Soup" I had one young gentleman bring his mom into the kitchen when I made the simple Pretzel, Hershey Kiss and M&M treats for after church coffee. He said to his Mom, "These are great you have to get the recipe and make them!". Believe me, that is the extent of my culinary skills, but I know many of you have tons to share. Not just the women, this is open to the men and kids too!

It got me thinking how many great recipes there are in this congregation,:

1) Recipes handed down from past generations, that will get "lost" if we don't write them down, if you have a family story with the recipe, please include that also.

2) Recipes that are new and will become favorites that many would like to add to their personal cookbook

We don't mean for the newsletter to become a recipe book, We would like the recipes and stories shared so they don't get lost. If we get a lot of response, we might put together a simple booklet, similar to the Church Directory in size so that all will be in one place.

I think the stories will be great for the future generations, recipes will be optional!

Please contact Linda or email the church calvaryswedehome@gmail.com

Calvary Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
950 129th Road
Stromsburg, NE 68666
Church Phone: (402)764-5981
www.calvaryswedehomechurch.com
Email calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com

Sister Anne Hall, Interim Minister
Every Member of the Congregation—Ministers
Kent Adelson, Co-Council President
Dan Oquist, Co-Council President
Diana Johnson, Organist
Linda Fuhr, Secretary
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:
Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Dan Oquist, Kent Adelson,
Sandra Johnston, Dan Ienn, Fran Lott
All Calvary members, Ministers

Sister Anne Hall, contact number 308-249-3810

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

Please contact Linda Fuhr, Church Secretary at calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com or her cellphone 402-366-2091, text is preferred or leave a voice message

Meet a Member— Carol Nicholson

Carol (Martin, Zelasney) Nicholson was born in Stromsburg and grew up and graduated from Silver Creek NE. Her parents were Harold and Elsie (Carlson) Martin. Her Grandmother Hilda (Gustafson) Carlson left Sweden at age 16 and came to America. Carol has the trunk that her grandmother used to come to America.

She had 4 sisters JoAnn, Janet, Nancy and Mary. Her parents lost their first-born son, who died of Spinal Meningitis at age 5 months. Carol had Spinal Meningitis when she was 4 years old and spent 18 days in an Omaha Hospital. To this day she can remember events that happened during that hospital stay.

She met and married her first husband, Emil, in December 1962 and they had 5 children: Michael, Kenneth, John, Mary Jo and Emily. She has 9 grandkids and 6 great grands. All her great grands live in Arizona. Emil and Carol were married for 46 years when he passed away from cancer in 2008.

She met Nick in 2009. Her cousin was a great matchmaker, and introduced them. They hit it off immediately and got married at Swede Home on December 12, 2009. They did a lot of traveling with their camper friends. Nick loved his camper and friendships made. God gave them almost 10 years together before He decided to take Nick from his suffering and pain and took him to his home in heaven on June 19, 2019.

Carol lovers her Husker football team and when on TV she never misses a game. She has 2 small dogs and one of them leaves the room when the Huskers are on as Carol can't be quiet! She has never been to a home game, but watching on TV is front row 50-yard line to her.

Carol loves the Swede Home Community. Everyone is so caring. She feels very comfortable here and feels close to her Lord. She enjoys helping out whenever needed. She was born a Methodist for 19 years, and a converted Catholic for 46 years and now she is a Lutheran. She believes God has brought her full circle and she is where he wants her to be.

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

Remember in your prayers

Melissa Forsberg
Janice Forsberg
Denny Johnson
Linda Johnson
June Larson

Elaine Toline

Jan Wells-Bachman

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.
- Table Grace Café
- Bishop Brian Maas and the Nebraska Synod staff
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members
- Our ELCA Partner Synod—Pacifica Synod
- Confirmands, Kelby Neujahr, Ethan Fjell, Kylee Kohl on their Confirmation in the fall
- Brody Ienn in service to our country
- Our leaders as the face COVID19 decisions

To request prayers call
Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041

We pray for all the front line workers: Doctors, Nurses, all medical staff, EMTs, Police and Firefighters, the list is long . SO we pray for everyone who is working to keep things going in these trying times

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries

Calvary:

April

02 Steve and Sandy Fredrickson

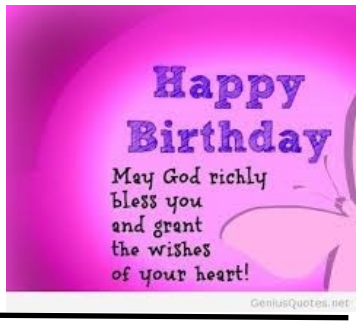
19 Duane and Carol Jones

Birthdays

Calvary:

Apr

01 Trindon Twarling
06 Alice Jane Oquist
09 Ryleigh Ienn
16 Ben Carlson
20 Mike Haack
21 Tom Stevens
24 Tory Jones
30 Lisa Oquist



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 blessings

APRIL

Assistant Minister – Cheryl Jones
Scripture Reader – Monty Jones
Ushers –
Altar/Communion – Deb Hanquist
Acolyte – Rylee Hofmann
Bell Ringer – Monty Jones

There will be no April Face to Face services. We thank all those who agree to help with the worship service each month. We look forward to that time when we can worship together.

April 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Easter Vigil
12 Easter Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 High way pickup at 4 pm—at Monty Jones Social distancing will be observed	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

March 27, 2020

To the Saints of the Nebraska Synod
"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..." **--Psalm 46**
Dear Friends in Christ:

In a time such as this, in which threats with names like virus and recession are piled on top of countless other less-specific uncertainties, I call you to remember the promise of the Word in texts like that above. Beneath everything that feels unsure, we stand on the Good News of God's grace in Jesus Christ, and the assurance of his constant presence.

I'm writing to remind you of that truth, and because some have asked for clear guidance for a variety of matters. Please understand that what I share here isn't put forward as "commandments from the bishop," but as counsel from the synod's pastor. Every congregation, leader, and member will need to make thoughtful decisions appropriate to their situation. In the acknowledgement that I may be wrong, I offer the following counsel:

Not gathering for worship: while the information is not always clear or consistent and the temptation is strong to gather in person—we miss each other!—we have an obligation of love to our neighbor not to endanger her or him by violating guidelines put in place for the sake of the community's health. My desire to be with others does not trump the reality that I may be the source of another's infection. I urge congregations to follow community directives on avoiding or limiting gatherings until those directives are lifted.

Holy Communion practices: the Lutheran understanding of the Sacrament of the Table is that it is a bread-and-cup experience of Christ's presence in a flesh-and-blood gathering of his people. While deeply important to believers, it is not essential to salvation, and there are times when we may, voluntarily or otherwise, fast from receiving it. My counsel, affirming the guiding principles of the ELCA, would be simply not to celebrate the sacrament in any form until we are able to gather in person again. This is a truly exceptional time, and I recognize that congregations, in consultation with their pastors, may choose another practice for the duration of the current situation. Our pastoral leaders are well-trained theologians sensitive to ministry in their context. Trust them. And know that when "normal" returns, exceptional practices will no longer be necessary.

Offerings and finances: your congregation is even more reliant on your support when you can't gather in person. Now is the perfect time for your congregation to set up online options for receiving offerings—and of course one can always send a check in the mail. I urge congregations to prioritize staff salaries and benefits should decisions about expenses need to be made. Our office is working to stay abreast of help available for congregations through the Mission Investment Fund, the ELCA Credit Union, and other sources, as well as understanding what federal stimulus-related resources, if any, congregations might access. In this uncertain time, *those of us with the means to do so need to step up our generosity*, recognizing that there are those whose means have changed drastically. We are all in this together, and we share our burdens and our blessings.

Holy Week and Easter: the holiest time of our year is approaching, and we almost certainly will not yet be able to gather in person. Most of our congregations are finding ways to share worship online, by phone, or by mailing in-home worship resources to members. I'm certain this will be true for all of Holy Week and Easter. While we can't change the date of Easter, every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection, so if your congregation chooses to make the first Sunday you're able to gather again in person your celebration of Easter, with all the music, decoration, and festive elements of Easter Sunday, do so with joy.

Care for others: I am humbled and awed by the creativity and energy I see as members and congregations of this church invest themselves in innovative ways of staying connected with those most isolated and alone, providing food and more for those most negatively impacted, partnering with neighboring congregations to provide inspiration, encouragement, and worship, and so much more. Such faithfulness. *Thank you, church—for being church!*

Care for self: the radical shift in daily life is draining on all of us, and this new reality is going to stretch on for some time. Please, pace yourself. Limit your exposure to news, to social media, to anything that compounds uncertainty or distress. Breathe deeply. Take the time to pray. Be patient with yourself (and with those who live with you). Remember that you are God's beloved creation. Care for yourself as such.

We are all in this together—with one another and with the God we know most fully through the life, sufferings, death, and *resurrection* of Jesus Christ. Be encouraged. Have hope. Know you are prayed for, cared about, and much appreciated
Bishop Maas

This article was written by Alaina Avera Harrison. It was shared on a public social media site and I am sharing it with those of you who may or may not have social media. It certainly gives the council and others who make the decision of what to do regarding future closings.

. I can't think of anything better for Easter Sunday to not only celebrate a risen Christ, but for a community of faith that has been scattered for weeks to be reunited.

Church leaders are in a difficult spot. If/when we make the decision to keep our doors closed through Easter for the safety of our beloved congregations and communities, we become the bad guys - the ones who act "out of fear instead of faith."

To the church folks out there: here's the thing. Easter happens regardless of when we celebrate. Whether we celebrate on April 12 or on May 24, Jesus is risen. Limiting God to a single date on the calendar (that is solely determined by when the moon is full) puts God into a box. The miracle of the resurrection is that God busts the seams of that box. Death is defeated and love has won. That cannot be confined to a specific date on the calendar.

When we gather together again after weeks apart, it will be when we know (from experts) that we can safely care for one another. It will be a joyful and celebratory time! ***We will celebrate community; we will embrace; and we will rejoice about a risen Christ.***

Easter is more than a date. It is an attitude and posture of resurrection. May we remember the real reason behind the celebration.

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

- Council met March 1 after church for the regular meeting. Present: Kent, Sandy, Kay, Lynn, Fran, Sister Anne Hall, Dan O, Dan I, Todd.
- Sister Anne Hall began the meeting with a prayer.
- Discussion was held about property updates in regard to sound panels in the basement, adding gravel to the parking lot, fixing the sidewalk by the kitchen, bell tower refurbishes, parsonage outlet repair.
- Council members agreed that Lenten service offering will go to the backpack program.
- Confirmation requirements were revisited to provide opportunities for confirmands to achieve requirements. Such opportunities include highway pick up April 29, Outreach program of Pack a Meal in Hastings, Lenten service attendance/participation to receive sermon notes.
- Council planned the Council Lenten meal for 25 people on March 4.
- Discussion was held in regard to sound system operations, and thermostat instruction.
- Ideas for filling space in the newsletter were suggested. Council will provide those ideas to Linda.
- Meeting was scheduled with First English in Rising City to continue discussion the call process.
- Provided treasurer's report was approved.
- Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Treasurer Report

Beginning Balance	**$13,117.36**
Offerings:	
General Offering	5,649.00
Sunday School	99.00
NE Lutheran Magazine Subscription	0.00
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	3,730.00
Zion for January Share	1,475.44
	10,958.44
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee & TC % Fee	8.79
Cody's Computer Contract	34.99
Christ in Our Home	77.20
Home Health Cancer Survivor Luncheon	100.00
OfficeNet (paper, cable, Annual Rpt copies)	154.89
USPO Postage Stamps	220.00
Caldwell Piano Service (tuning x 2)	280.00
Office Net - new Copier Machine	1,795.00
UNL Student Center "All Things New"	2,000.00
Church Mutual - Bi-Annual Policy Fee	3,152.50
NE Synod ELCA - Mission Share	1,540.00
First Lutheran R.C. (February Share)	1,216.13
Utilities:	
Church	1,356.57
Parsonage	424.53
Salaries:	
Pastor	1,388.78
Mileage	433.93
Portico Benefit Services	435.83
Continuing Education	0.00
Diana	448.54
LeeAnn	236.64
Linda	510.69
	15,815.01
Balance as of February 29, 2020:	**$8,260.79**

*This page is only seen by Calvary Members

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

CALVARY Lutheran church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA

950 Road 129th
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**