August, 2017

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Message from Pastor Kim

The Bible is the number one seller of all time. We use it in church and in our homes. But what do we believe about the Bible?

Well, Lutherans believe that the Bible is inspired word of God. What that means is that the Bible is a book through which God speaks to us, tells us who we are and whose we are, and where faith is created. The Bible has authority because it communicates the gospel to us.

How do we know that the Bible is the inspired word of God? We know because what the Word does in us and in the hearts and minds of all who read it. But we know it too because of the incredible nature of the book that is the Bible. Several years ago, I came across the following argument for the Bible being the inspired word of God written by Ron Carlson. In response to a student being asked "what is so special, so unique about the Bible that Christians believe it is the inspired word of God?", Carlson wrote:

> "First, the Bible is not just one single book. The Bible is actually collection of 66 books, which is called the cannon of Scriptures. These 66 books contains a variety of genres: history, poetry, prophecy, wisdom literature, letters, and apocalypse just to name a few.
>
> Second, these 66 books were written by at least 40 differ ent authors. These authors came of variety of backgrounds and most of them never knew one another personally.
>
> Third, these 66 books were written over a period of more than 1500 years. Yet again this should be a reminder that many of these authors never knew or collaborated with one another in writing these books.
>
> Finally, these 66 books were written on 3 different conti nents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. Once again, this is a testa

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you . . .

Dear Friends,
Late in getting this to you-been busy and had a few "detours' recently. A new client arrived in April, so it has been an "everyday" thing to help her with emergency needs and to get her set up in an appointment. Thanks to folks like you we had most everything she needed. And our "regulars" are here every week-the young mom's are so grateful for some extra food for children now that they are home for the summer. You bring us the best stuff! Your selection and kindness and generosity-along with what we can give to our clients, there is also a "big helping" of HOPE given out. We continue supplemental service for a long time to be sure our clients progress to a place of stability and serenity. Thank you for your regular and consistent support.

Sincerely,
Pat and folks at the Genesis House

Thank you for helping us to provide a safe and fun Post Prom for SRC in 2017!

Dear Calvary Lutheran,
Thank you for your continued partnership and shared ministry together through your mission share participation. We are grateful for you, and are holding you in our prayers this month.
God's blessings and peace from the who NE Synod Staff
Timothy, Stephanie, Connie, Rebecca, Megan, Steve, Brian, Rich, Michelle, and Lisa

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(Continued from Pastor Kim's Message on page 1)

ment to the varied historical and cultural circum stances of God's people.

Think about the above realities: 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over more than 1500 years, and on 3 different continents. What is more, is the collection of books shares a common storyline—the story of God's steadfast love and mercy from the moment of creation, through the fall and hu man sinfulness, progressing to redemption of God's people through Jesus Christ. God's word is truly an amazing collection of writings. From Gen esis to Revelation, the Bible bears the mark divine inspiration."

What a unique book! I encourage you to read it regularly as there is much learn in it and can shape your life in powerful ways.

In Christ,

Pr. Kim

Thank You's Continued….

Dear Stromsburg Volunteer Fire Department Donor,

The department would like to extend a huge "THANK YOU" for your generous financial contribution during our past New Year's fundraiser. Your donation continue to allow our department to purchase and upgrade equipment that we would not be able to through our normal budget process. The department is in the process of evaluating new extrication equipment or more commonly known as the "Jaws of Life". Since this is such a large financial undertaking we will be using some of the money you donated to make this a joint purchase with the Rural Fire Board. If all goes well this purchase will be happening this fall.

Sincerely,
The Members of the Stromsburg Volunteer Fire Department

W.E.L.C.A. News

Hi everyone. First of all thanks to Bri for putting in an article for me the last couple of newsletters. I am slowly getting back to normal living. Also thanks to those who have reached out and shown their concern.

The Ice Cream Social was a success, a total of 407 attended including volunteers, guests, and residents of the Midwest Covenant Home. (they were served Monday afternoon.)

Thank you to everyone for the generous donations. We always are amazed at how much come from near and far.

Also thank you to all the workers and donations of the ice cream and goodies.

Love,

Marj

August

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Mary Anna	Elaine Westring	Elaine Westring
Miriam	Darlene Booker	Darlene Booker
Ruth	Deb C.	Deb C.

Bible Study: *Gather* - August

Service: Thank—Offering #2 (Ref. Pg. 15)

September

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Mary Anna	Irene Sundberg	Irene Sundberg
Miriam	Wanda Larson	Diana Johnson
Ruth	Janelle Udey	Janelle Udey

Bible Study: *Gather* - September

Service: Columbus Women's Shelter (Monetary offering & will try to obtain a tangible list of needs)

Mission and Ministry Update

Dear all at Calvary of Swedehome, Stromsburg,

Early next week we will begin work on your Swedehome Calvary House for Health #9, which is house #126 in the Houses for Health Program.

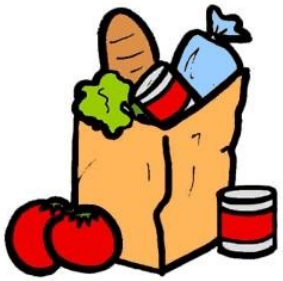
The recipient of your next house is Anna Dominick Kweka age 54. Mrs. Kweka lives in Narumu which is a sub-village in greater Machame. Mrs. Kweka is HIV positive and is receiving treatment at the Machame Lutheran Hospital Care and Treatment Center. She has 3 children Elizabeth age 20, Rosie age 16, and Catherine age 18. The attached pictures show Anna at her current house.

We have had a very serious rainy season here which greatly slowed down our construction work, but I am happy to report that we have finally finished your most recent house for Anna. She asked me to convey her thanks and blessings to you.

As always, our sincere thanks to all at Calvary for the big impact you have here in Tanzania.

Bob Kasworm
Machame Lutheran Hospital

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 August, 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, Boxed Dinners, Canned Fruits, and Vegetables, and Breakfast Cereal are always needed as well. Dessert mixes are a special treat. All items we donate are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they meet their critical needs.

Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance

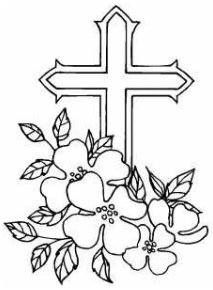
Polk County Health Department will be doing Tai Chi classes starting August 8th through October 26th, 2017 (12 weeks) Tuesday and Thursday's 10:00am St. Vincent Church Hall, Osceola. What are the benefits of Tai Chi? Tia Chi is shown to help reduce risk of falling or fall-related injuries, better balance and daily physical functioning. Social and mental well being, self-confidence in performing daily activities , personal independence and quality of life, and improvements of overall health. Pre-registration is encouraged. Please contact Jaci at the Polk County Health Department at 402-747-2211 if you have any questions or want to register for this class.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

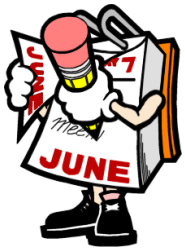
School Supply Drive….

We are collecting money again this year to help provide supplies to the Polk County students in need. Please place your donation in offering plate on the table in the entry way!

Deepest Sympathies...



Our thoughts and prayers are with Wayne Johnson, Marlene Hanquist, and family on the death of Keith Johnson.



Date Change…

Calvary Council will meet on Tuesday, August, 8th at 7:00pm. Please make this change on your calendar!

Thank you, thank you, thank you…

Thank you to everyone who supported our mission trip. Look for pictures and more details in next months newsletter.

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

Zion Members,

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with Benedict Daze. This was a great opportunity to visit with people in the community.

Thank you, thank you, thank you…

Dear Calvary Members,

WOW! Ice Cream Social evening of 2017 was warm, (ok HOT!) and humid. But, bless this community for coming out. Deb Swedenburg reported a count of over 300 served at the end of Sunday evening. With our own members helping us to serve and those attending the Midwest Covenant Home Ice Cream Social on Monday (this count was 45), the final total count was 407!!! This count is up from 2015 at 359 and 2016 of 364. AWESOME!!!

I personally am very thankful to all of you for your continued support. We could not do this without you!

I am also very thankful for the Ice Cream Social Committee and all that they do!! Please help me in thanking them, they are:

- Gladys Johnson & Tammy Jones do all the advertising
- Cheryl Jones and Deb Hanquist line up all the ice cream, bars and workers
- Mary Stevens gathers all the flowers & with Ben Carlson's help make up all the bouquets
- Mary also coordinates the Ice Cream Social on Monday at the Midwest Covenant Home
- Bonnie Carlson in my VERY faithful Co-Chair

Sincerely,

Kay Jones

Meet a Member

Meet Jean Waller…

Jean was born December 16th, 1945, to Earl and Sylvia (Fredrickson) Johnson. She had a big brother Bill. Just as so many other Polk County natives she was born at the old Stromsburg Hospital, which has been transformed into the Scandinavian Inn Bed and Breakfast. She grew up on a farm outside of town. She graduated from Stromsburg High School in 1964. She ventured to the "big city" for nurses' training at Bryan Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. After graduating from college she married Gary Waller in 1967. Gary and Jean were married and blessed with a son Christopher, in 1970, a daughter Wendy, in 1973. Ten years ago a very nice son-in-law, Kelley, was added to their family.

She served as Director of Nursing at Good Samaritan Center in Osceola for 10 years, then the RN Consultant and part time Charge Nurse for the next 10 years or so. In the meantime another RN and Jean decided to open a store in Stromsburg (because life is too short to do just one thing if you have additional interests). And although they have changed locations several times and changed names a few times as well, in 2018 they will have been in business 40 years.

She was raised and confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church in Stromsburg; then for some reason they were invited to Calvary of Swede Home in the late 1970's...and once was all it took. She can't explain it but it seemed like home right away.

Her most fun memories involve teaching Sunday School (she always like to teach High School kids), helping produce a couple of terrific musicals, singing in the Choir, being part of a quartet from time to time, working on fund-raising for our beautiful piano upstairs, being part of the basement remodel committee...Oh she could go on and on!

Being part of this diverse congregation keeps her enthusiastic about the future. She feels thankful to be a Calvary member and plan to stay active and involved for a long time to come.

Calvary 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

Remember in your prayers

Fred & Lori Ehlers
Janise Forsberg
Melissa Forsberg
Lenore Kessler
June Larson
Elvin Reetz
Imo Richardson
Harvey Schlegelmilch
Vance & Elaine Toline

- 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:

August 8th
Corey and Tina Watts

August 12th
Gary and Jean Waller

August 19th
Dan & Lisa Oquist

August 27th
Randy & Fran Lott

Birthdays

Calvary:

02—April Neujahr
07—Patty Teig
10– Dennis Hinkle
11—Amy Harris
12—Laverne Stevens
21—Jarrett Althouse
21—Brita Jones
22—Tim Althouse
24—Megan Oquist
25—Roger Hanquist
25—Kelby Neujahr
30—Body Ienn
31—Steve Udey

Zion:

07—Elvin Reetz
16—Jim Stearns
17—Rachelle Crowdell
22—Tierney Schoch
25—Corey Schlegelmilch
26—Susan Stearns
28—Axton Martin

Zion Worship Assistants

August:

Communion Assistant: Gina Schoch
Usher: Cal Bittinger
Greeter: Teresa Bittinger
Reader:
6—Gina Schoch, 13—LuAnn Bolton, 20—Gary Hild, 27—Teresa Bittinger
Acolyte:
6—Lyndsey Bolton, 13—Harley Martin, 20—Isaac Reetz, 27—Tierney Schoch

Calvary Worship Assistants

August

Assistant Ministers— Sandy Johnston
Scripture Reader—Anita Haack
Ushers— Dan & Lisa Oquist
Acolyte—Jacob Adelson
Altar Care— Gloria Oquist
Bell Ringer— Dan Oquist

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship	7	8 7p Calvary Council Meeting	9 7p Men's Bible Study 7p Ruth's WELCA Circle	10 2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle	11 9a Miriam's WELCA Circle	12
13 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship	21	22	23	24 9a Quilt Day	25	26
27 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship	28	29	30 6:15p Osceola Fall Festival Prayer Service			

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

Council Meeting Newsletter Update:
July 5th, 2017

- Plans underway to have joint worship service this fall with St. Vincent's Church, Osceola
- Planning special Reformation Service this fall on October 25th, for the ELCA churches Crossroads Conference. Salem Lutheran will host and be in charge of fellowship.
- Working with Osceola UMC to have joint youth group.
- NE Brass has requested we host another concert. We will work with them on the possible dates.
- Calvary will again support local ministry with purchase of school supplies for the county area schools. A free will offering basket will be available for donations.
- The fall highway clean up date has been set for Sunday, October 1st with a rain date of Sunday, October 8th. Thanks to Monty and Cheryl for coordinating this event.
- August Council Meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, August 8th.

Ice Cream Social Continued...

Our proceeds were over $2400. This is up a little also. In 2015 we netted $2233 and in 2016 grossed $1985. This year and last year we applied for and received $250 from Thrivent, which covers our expenses. So our gross proceeds is also our net proceeds!

Treasurer's Report	**June, 2017**
Beginning Balance	**$7821.99**
Offering:	
General Offering	**6953.05**
ELCA Disaster Relief	**5.00**
ELCA Mission Share	**185.00**
Zion for April Share	**3456.04**
	10999.09
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	**8.16**
Confirmation Crosses	**76.00**
Office Net Quarterly Service	**206.28**
Church Credit Card	**697.02**
NE Synod ELCA-Mission Share	**1450.00**
Backpack Program; Lenten Offering	**1537.00**
Zion Benedict June Share	**1654.54**
Utilities:	
Church:	**223.88**
Parsonage:	**121.93**
Salaries:	
Pastor	**2176.41**
Mileage	**333.23**
SECA	**216.41**
Professional Expense	**16.80**
Portico Benefits	**995.83**
Diana	**423.52**
LeeAnn	**230.87**
Bri	**691.60**
Synod Assembly Lodge	**0.00**
	$11059.48
Balance as of June 30th, 2017	**$7761.60**

*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**