December, 2019

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Message from Sister Anne—

Happy New Year! December 1st begins a new year in our liturgical calendar. Year "A" will focus on the Gospel of Matthew. It was not written by Matthew the Tax Collector as many people once thought. It was probably written around the 2nd Century by a male, a Jew, and someone who was well educated in the Hebrew scriptures and an accomplished writer in Greek. The book was written for a struggling congregation who want to know who Jesus really is.

We will begin this Advent season also learning what is this Gift that God is sending to us to redeem us from our sins. Take this time to listen to the scriptures and listen for what God is telling us. What do we need to change in our lives that will allow Jesus to bring peace to us? How can we show others that Jesus lives in our hearts?

Many stores advertise about how to find the perfect gift. Families spend lots of money hoping to bring happiness into their homes only to find unfulfillment and sadness. We already have the perfect gift which is Jesus. Find ways to bring joy to the lives of others in ways that cannot be bought.

I look forward to spending this year with you. Please pray for me as I do for you that you may find growth in your faith and joy in knowing and serving Jesus Christ.

Sister Anne Hall

Thank you . . .

As 2019 comes to a close, we would like to thank those who have helped Swede Home be the church that it is...so THANK YOU to—Kent, Todd, Kay, Lynn, Sandy, Fran, Dan the current church council members,.To Penny, Mark, Colby and Carey for mowing, Tina, Cheryl, Jen, Lynn and Wayne for their leadership in Sunday School and Adult Forum we thank you. To the support staff of Diana, Linda and LeeAnn along with the treasurers Kay and Lisa—we appreciate your dedication. To the Financial counters of Kent, Craig, Don, Lisa, Bonnie and Deb—we thank you for your service every Sunday. To Wayne for checking on lights and the details it takes to have the church ready for worship, thank you. To Sandy for preparing the bulletin, THANKS. To each and every WELCA member and others who keep the Swede Home kitchen serving the best food around, our thanks. The front planters are cared for by Elaine and Linda, and we appreciate their devotion to the changing of the seasons. To all who help with the service as assistant ministers, scripture readers, acolytes, ushers, Altar Care and Bell ringers—there are too many names to mention individually, but thanks be to those who make our worship service run smoothly. To Sister Anne for accepting the call to serve our congregation, our thanks. To all of you who willing serve on the various committees of the church, thank you. As with any list, it is easy to overlook a name, and if we have done that, please accept our apologies. But as you can see it takes each and every member to make Swede Home a church—and we are thankful to you all for your willingness to serve. Thank you for answering the call to serve.

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Announcements

Church news

A REMINDER: if you are last to leave the church, please be sure that all lights in the basement, entry way, etc have been turned off. Thermostats in the church and the basement are on timers, so if you adjusted them, they will revert to the auto setting.

MEETING UPDATES:

We are approaching the end of the year, - and with that the annual meeting that is held in January. This year the annual meeting date is Sunday, January 26 following the church service.

All reports for the annual meeting report need to be to Linda no later than Sunday January 5th. All committees i.e. nominating, endowment, memorial, outreach and evangelism, WELCA etc. need to have meet in December to prepare the end of the year reports, distributions etc. Committee chairs please contact Kay or Linda if you need help in setting up your meetings.

Once again, we would like to have Poinsettia plants for the front of the church on Christmas Eve. Please bring a plant if you want to. Please do not bring it more than a week before the service, you may put it basement area and Linda will keep it watered until Christmas Eve. Following the service, you may take your plant home.

W.E.L.C.A. News

Through Advent, God invites us to tune in to our faith rather then feel stressed out - a challenge given the crazy pace and pressures the holiday season can bring. An article in *Living Lutheran* encourages us to "carve out time to read devotions; learn to '*say no*' when you're feeling overcommitted; explore mindful movement (exercise, yoga, Tai Chi, etc.); limit social media; and focus on '*presence*', not presents."

***WELCA Annual Christmas meeting for all women of the church will be Dec. 8 at 9:30 a.m.** in the church basement. Host will be Ruth Circle.

*Service for month of December is Christmas for offerings for ESU #7.

*Altar care for December will be Cheryl Jones and Kay Jones.

*Flowers in December will be by Miriam circle. Thank you for watering any plants also. Poinsettias may be brought to church for Christmas Eve services.

*THANK YOU to all that gave offering for needy families with children served by ESU #7 at November circles. Your offerings are helping make Christmas memorable for about 70 children.

*Thank you for helping fill out the annual yearbook for WELCA meetings, committees, etc. We appreciate Kay's work at creating the yearbook for us!

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." ~ Isaiah 9:6

Wishing you a Blessed Christmas,

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 December 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.

Thanks to the members of Swede Home for responding to the need of the Wessels family. We were able to send them a check in the amount of $540.00.

GIVING TREE

Last year, many of you donated to help needy families served by ESU 7. Thank you! They were very thankful and moved by your generosity.

We are again taking up an offering for these families, and they have about 60-70 kids to buy for. We are the main givers for their Christmas. So please open our hearts and help as you are able. Donations should be given to Carolyn Nielsen or Cheryl Jones by Dec. 1. *(Checks payable to Calvary WELCA)*

There are ornaments on a giving tree at church with dollar amounts on them for the ESU 7, and items from the Genesis House "Christmas Wish List". Please bring any donations to church and place in the specified box by December 8. *(Cash donations are welcome for Genesis House, too)*

Announcements

Reminder: The Sunday School students will have practice for the Children's Christmas Program which will be held during the worship service on Sunday, December 15.

Practice will be held on Dec 1 and 8 during the Sunday school time. Lynn Hofmann is in charge of the program. The confirmand students are required to participate, and the high school students will also be asked to help.

There will be no Sunday School December 22 & 29. Adult forum will have class those Sundays.

Calvary Confirmation Reminders:

There will be confirmation class on Wednesday December 4th, along with December 11th and 18th. There will be no Sunday School classes on December 25th and January 1st.

Please join us as we congratulate **Harley Martin and Lyndsey Bolton.** They will be confirmed at Zion on Sunday, December 29th.

Please include Harley and Lyndsey in your prayers as they confirm their faith in our Lord and Savior.

PRAYER FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: Lord, You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation as they listen to Your voice. Open their hearts to Your Spirit and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them. As we prepare these children for Confirmation, make each of us an instrument of Your love. Teach us to appreciate what is holy in others, and to be patient with what we do not understand. Deepen our faith in the Gospel and help us to pass it on by our example. We pray that You will continue to guide us and sustain us. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It comes with heavy hearts that Zion Lutheran Church in Benedict NE has decided to close our doors on Sunday, January 5th, 2020.

This decision came about due to declining membership and offerings; therefore we are not able to meet the foreseeable expenses to continue to do ministry.

We have decided to have a later church service starting at 10:30 a.m. on January 5th and follow this final service with a luncheon at the Benedict Community Center starting at 12:30 p.m.

We are hoping that you can join us in this final celebration of Zion Lutheran Church. We will be celebrating the life of the congregation and the relationships built in the community of Benedict and the surround communities.

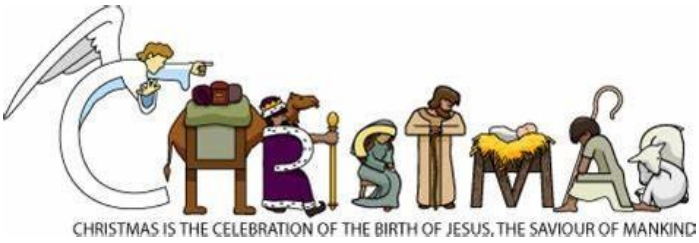
We are asking for those planning to attend the brunch to R.S.V.P by December 20th, 2019 so we can let the caterer know!

At this time we would like to let members know that their membership records will be hosted by Calvary, Swede Home for a period of six months. At the end of the six months the records will be archived by the Nebraska Synod in Omaha! If you wish to transfer your membership you can call Calvary at 402-764-5981, and they will assist you in the transferring process.

Sincerely,

Zion Lutheran Church Family

R.S.V.P to 402-710-1451 (Dawn Stearns Kush)



Calvary Swede Home- *Children's Chrismas program will be during the regular church service at 10:30 am on Sunday, December 15. Coffee and cookies to follow.*

Swede Home *Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 10:30 pm Tuesday, Christmas Eve, December 24.*

Zion *Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 8 during the 8:15 a.m. service*

Zion's *Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:30 pm on December 24*

Meet A Member

This month' s **meet the member** is Layne Hanquist. Layne's parents are Roger and the late Marlene Hanquist. He was born at the hospital in Stromsburg on December 20, 1954.

He has two brothers, Greg and Todd and one sister, Amy Harris.

Layne was baptized and confirmed at Calvary-Swede Home.

He went to school in Polk and graduated from Polk High School. He then went to college in Fairbury for 2 years and following that, enrolled at UNL for 3 years and earned a degree in Ag engineering. He became a life long Husker fan and really enjoys following and attending Husker games, especially football and men's basketball.

In 1977 he married Deb Cerveny and following graduation from UNL joined the family farm with his dad, Hank.

He is a proud father of 3 sons: Nate (Krystin) Gabe (Raquel) and Brady (Katie) - and an even prouder grandpa to 9 grandchildren. To those grandchildren he is lovingly known as "Papa."

Some of the best times for Layne are when the grandchildren come visit the farm and he can give them rides in the combine or on the tractor. They have good times making memories.

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, Council President
Diana Johnson, Organist
Linda Fuhr, Secretary
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:
Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Kay Jones, 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

Pastor Megan Clausen will be on call for Zion, her contact number is 641-831-9499

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

Zion Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
202 Sherman
Benedict NE 68316

LuAnn Bolton Council President
Diana Johnson & Craig Swedenberg, Musicians
Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

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

Remember in your prayers

Melissa Forsberg
Denny Johnson
Linda Johnson
June Larson
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
- St. Peter's Church—Pender
- 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

To request prayers call
Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041
Zion: LuAnn Bolton 402-710-8708

Anniversaries

Calvary:

December::
2 Dan and Fawn Ienn
7 Vance and Elaine Toline
16 Ron and Linda Johnson
30 Layne and Deb Hanquist

ZION

18 Jim and Donna Sterns

28 Calvin and Teresa Bittinger

ZION Birthdays
Dec
01 Jordan Schoch
05 Harley Martin
07 Lonnie Schelgelmilch
08 Teresa Bittinger
09 LuAnn Bolton
15 Steve Geis

Birthdays

Calvary:

Dec
01 Don Fuhr
01 Elise Fjell
09 Bonnie Dittmer
09 Ella Twarling
11 Elaine Westring
13 Linda Jones
16 Gia Adelson
16 Jean Waller
18 Steve Anderson
18 Paul Ernst
18 Brady Hanquist
19 Craig Johnson
20 Layne Hanquist
20 Ryan Jones
23 Jadyn Johnson
26 Mervin Larson
27 Ryker Berggren
28 Elijah Fjell
28 Joann Stevens
29 Carol Jones
31 Sandi Fredrickson
31 Cooper Smith

Zion Worship SERVERS

December

Communion Assistant: Todd
Usher: Craig
Greeter: Dawana

READERS:

Dec 1 Ken
Dec 8 Dawana
Dec 15 Todd
Dec 22 Teresa
Dec 29 @ Methodist Church

ACOLYTES:

Dec 1 Lyndsey
Dec 8 Harley
Dec 15 Krayton
Dec 22 Tierney
Dec 29 @ UMC

Calvary Worship Assistants

December

Assistant Minister – Adelson Family
Scripture Reader – Adelson Family
Ushers – Dan and Lisa
Altar/Communion – Cheryl and Kay
Acolyte – Jayden Johnson
Bell Ringer – Dan Oquist

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **8:30a Zion Holy Communion Worship** **9:30 Zion SS** **9: 15a Calvary SS & Adult Forum** **10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship**	2	3	4 6:30 pm Confirmation	5	6	7
8 **8:30a Zion Worship** **9:30a Zion SS** **9:15a Calvary** **9:30a WELCA annual meeting** **10:30a Calvary Worship**	11	10	11 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 Men's Bible Study	12	13	14
15 **8:30a Zion Holy Communion Worship** **9:30 Zion SS** **9: 15a Calvary SS & Adult Forum** **10:30am SS Christmas program with Worship and Holy Communion**	16	17	18 6:30 pm Confirmation	19	20	21
22 **8:30a Zion Worship** **9:30a Zion SS** **9:15a Adult Forum** **10:30a Calvary Worship**	23	24 **5:30 pm Zion Christmas Eve service** **10:30 pm Calvary Christmas Eve Service**	25 	26	27	28
29 **8:30a Zion Worship** **9:30a Zion SS** **9:15a Adult Forum** **10:30a Calvary Worship**	30	31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**				

"Old ways won't open new doors."

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

Council Notes, November 10, 2019

- Council met November 10 after church for the regular meeting. Present: Kent, Sandy, Todd, Fran, Lynn, Dan, Sister Anne. Absent: Kay
- Discussion was held about building, grounds, and parsonage clean-up. Sunday, November 17 after church has been scheduled.
- Council is looking into getting sound panels for Fellowship Hall. Measurements are being taken and getting bids for options of standard size panels and custom-made panels.
- Church front doors have been repaired and refurbished.
- Sister Anne gave an update of her schedule to conduct visits and be available at Calvary office. Sister Anne plans to stay Saturdays at the Parsonage when inclement weather is forecasted.
- Council approved bid and purchase of a copier for church office. Previous printer was outdated and quit working.
- Council set January annual meeting tentatively for January 26. Council will check with Rising City to ensure Calvary's meeting doesn't overlap with Rising City's annual meeting; therefore, allowing Sister Anne to be in attendance at both meetings. Committees are being asked to meet to put together reports and submit by January 5.

Meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Beginning Balance	**$2,733.96**
Offerings:	
General Offerings	6,970.00
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
Sunday School Offerings	60.00
Mission Share	225.00
First Rising City Supply Pastor Share	50.00
Zion September Share	715.34
	8,025.34
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.24
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	34.99
Congregational picture	40.00
Christ in Our Home	70.00
Cosgrave Company candles	96.05
Sundays & Seasons licensing	395.00
NE Synod Mission Share	1,520.00
First Rising City October Share	240.29
Utilities:	
Church	574.15
Parsonage	274.28
Salaries:	
Pastor	375.00
Mileage	71.25
SECA	0.00
Portico Benefit Services	0.00
Supply Pastors	677.80
FICA 3rd Quarter Tax	617.32
Diana	446.54
LeeAnn	236.64
Linda	631.31
	6,309.86
Balance as of October 31, 2019:	**$4,449.44**

*This page is only seen by Calvary Members