CELEBRATING OUR MINISTRY

CALVARY SWEDE HOME & FIRST RISING CITY

Over the weekend of May 30 – June 1, Pastors Evan and Hillary attended the 2025 Nebraska Synod Assembly. Joining them as voting representatives from First English were Carla Crook and Wally Kilgore. Luanne Kilgore also attended as a visitor. Attending as voting reps from Calvary Swede Home were Andrew and Emily Adelson. Pastors Evan and Hillary are grateful to all for attending Synod Assembly and representing the ministry and community we share in Rising City and Swede Home.

The theme of the 2025 Assembly was "Imagine! Imagine… Imagine?" This framework invited us to both be in wonder (noun: surprise and admiration) at what God is already doing in the church and world, and how God is working through the serving arms of the Synod, like Campus Ministry, Lutheran Giving, Mosaic, and others. But this theme also invited us to wonder (verb: to be curious) what God might be up to next, and how God might be inviting us to lean into faithfully trusting and joining in that divine work.

The 2025 Assembly exemplified "Imagine! Imagine… Imagine?" through hosting faith leaders from our companion synods. Rev. Dr. Fredrick Shoo, bishop of the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and Pastora Mariela Alejandra Pereya, Presidenta of the United Lutheran Church in Argentina and Uruguay attended as representative and leaders of these global partners in ministry, sharing the blessings and woes, celebrations and laments of their contexts. Jon Ailabouni, a Palestinian-American musician based out of La Crosse, WI, offered his musical talent through leading his unique Jazz worship, "The Spirit Is Moving: A Jazz Liturgy of Renewal." On Sunday, Bishop Shoo, Pastora Presedenta Mariela, and Bishop Scott Johnson held a panel conversation, and then, during Worship, each read the scripture in the language they know best: Swahili, Spanish, and English, while Jon Ailabouni taught the assembly how to sing in Arabic a beautiful prayer for peace. A video of Sunday's panel and worship is still available online (https://vimeo.com/1089422783). The diverse perspectives and wealth of wisdom from Bishop Shoo, Pastora Presidenta Mariela, Jon Ailabouni, and others provided rich experience of "imagining" how expansive this faith we share truly is.

So, what do you imagine for us and our contexts? What has made you say excitedly, "Wow, Imagine That!" Was it using musical instruments during the Easter Season? Or the generosity and eagerness of the children at First collecting a noisy offering last summer? Perhaps it was something else that brought you to a space of awe and wonder before God.

What is stirring in your mind, making you ask, "Imagine if we…?" What is it? A new service ministry? A fellowship opportunity? A new community partner? God is most certainly up to something! Let us pray we faithfully witness and respond. How great it is to have a

WELCA NEWS PAGE 2
WHAT'S HAPPENING PAGE 4
CALENDAR PAGE 8

Announcements

The Evangelism and Outreach Team oversees a nonperishable food and personal care item collection.

July donations go to:

Genesis House –David City

Donations are always welcome for the Little Food Pantries located in the county

Youth Road Trip (July 16-19)

Our youth are traveling to Florissant, Colorado for a spiritual retreat. There they will learn more about their relationship with the Trinity, grow in relationship with each other, and serve the community nearby. We are excited to have 6 youth along with the trip sponsors going on the trip!

We ask that you keep all of us in your prayers while we are traveling, but we would also love to have prayer partners for each of the youth, if this is something that you are interested in please reach out to Pastor Hillary. Thank you!

In honor of LaVerne Steven's 101th birthday on August 12, her family plans to host an after church coffee on Sunday, August 3. Please join in the celebration!

W.E.L.C.A. News

*At the Swede Home Ice Cream Social, we're all looking forward to enjoying some yummy homemade ice cream in the shade of the trees on **Sunday, July 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Invite your friends and neighbors to join in the fun and fellowship! This year we will again have face painting and a bouncy house for the young at heart. If you'd enjoy helping or furnishing food and haven't been contacted yet, please let Deb Hanquist or Cheryl Jones know. Thanks to everyone who makes this a memorable event for all who attend!

* Ice cream will be served at Midwest Covenant Home Assisted Living on **Monday, July 21 at 2:30 p.m**. If you would like to help, please let Mary Stevens know, as more friendly faces to visit with residents and/or serve food are always welcome.

*July Altar Care will be by Diana Johnson.

*Flowers and Cheer in July, August & September by Ruth Circle.

*Thank you to all those serving coffee after church this summer! We're really enjoying the fellowship.

July Circle Meetings

Ruth – 7/9 Fran @ 4th St. Coffee in Stromsburg 9am

Miriam – 7/10 @ 4th Steet in Stromsburg 10:00 am

"And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." ~ Micah 6:8

Have a memorable summer!

Cheryl

Church happenings

Pastor Hillary and Pastor Evan will keep the youth group updated regarding meeting dates. They use either text or email notification.

On Sunday, May 4th Murphy Kaylene was baptized at First English-Rising City. She is the daughter of Kayla and Micah Steinike and the GREAT granddaughter of Luanne and Wally Kilgore.

We welcome Murphy to our faith family

Rising City News

June Council Meeting June 8, 2025

Present: Wally and Luanne Kilgore, Lee and Cindy Lorentzen, Pastor Evan, Ken Potter, Rogene McMeekin. Absent Carla Crook.

Pastor Evan opened the meeting asking for prayer requests then opened the meeting with prayer.

Ken motioned to approve the minutes of the May meeting. Rogene seconded. Motioned carried.

Cindy motioned to accept the treasurer's report and Lee seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Two carpet proposals were presented and Ken motion to purchase and have the carpet installed by Ernie's. Lee seconded, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Lee motioned to donate $125 to Faith Lutheran to help cover VBS expenses. Cindy seconded and motion carried.

Old music books will be disposed of by recycling.

Cookies will be donated from the area churches for the 4th of July BBQ.

Pastor Evan will be on vacation and Pastor Hillary will cover the service on June 22nd.

Pastors and family will be attending a family reunion on July 26th. We will celebrate Christmas in July with lessons and carols that Sunday the 27th.

Lee motioned to accept the bid to tint the front doors. Cindy seconded. Motion carried.

Lee motioned to adjourn and Ken seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Evan closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting July 13, 2025.

Cindy Lorentzen Council Secretary

Cross-Generational Ministry meeting on Wednesday, July 9 at 11am at 4th Street Coffee Shop—Come and see what it is about!

Calvary Lutheran Church
Swede Home

Ice Cream Social

On the lawn at 950 129th Rd, Stromsburg

Sunday July 20th, 6:00p-8:00p

Come join us for some food, fun, and lots of fellowshi

Free will donations accepted.

Invite your family and friends to the annual Swede Home Ice Cream Social.

Please contact Deb Hanquist or Cheryl Jones if you can work at the social or donate bars and cookies.

SEE YOU THERE—FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

THANK YOU

Dear Swede Home Friends

Jim and I want to thank you for your generous gift to us during our recent house fire.
We are truly blessed to have such a godly church family in our corner. We can't thank you enough!

In Christ's love

The Stern family

Calvary Lutheran Swede Home

Thank you so much for your generous prom donation! It means a lot to us.

Thank you

Cross County Students

Dear Calvary Friends - I fond this note hiding in my many lists of "letters" and "letters to write." I am about 6 months late but the thank you words are sincere—Once again Thank you

Roselyn Miller

Dear Calvary Lutheran Church members:

Thank you for the Christmas box of groceries you gave us in the possibility of a long stormy season. We thank the good Lord it didn't Happen yet!!!

Allen and Roselyn Miller

Worship Practices as Life Practices – Kyrie

Kyrie eleison *Lord have mercy*

Christe eleison *Christ have mercy*

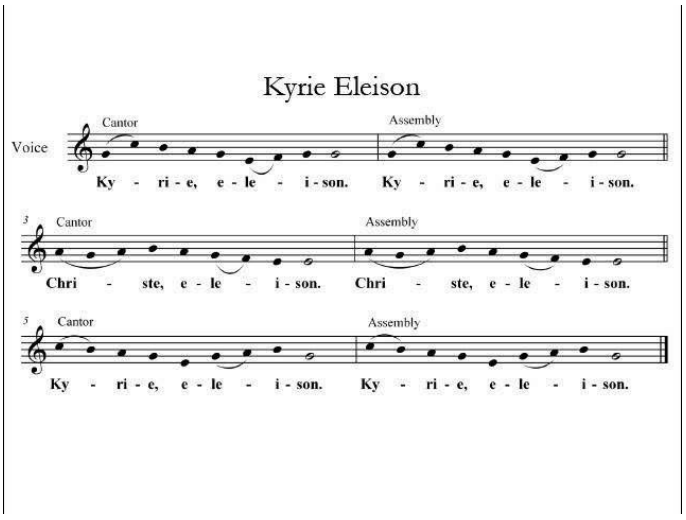
Kyrie eleison *Lord have mercy*

These are the words we sing in the Kyrie. They are not always sung right after one another, but the essence of the prayer is throughout the different liturgies. *Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.* These words have been used for centuries to connect us to our fellow Christians, all of the saints.

So often as we sing the words to the kyrie, we lose sight of the deeper meaning of the words. Throughout the Bible we hear people call out to God for mercy from the psalms, to the blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:47), and in Isaiah (30:18). As we sing *Lord have Mercy*, we are calling for love, grace, deliverance, and all of the things we hope for in this world.

I typically advise someone who is struggling with prayer to start with the Lord's Prayer. That when you do not what words to say, let the Lord's Prayer fall on your heart. When words fall short and you want a different prayer to say, use these ancient words of mercy. Knowing that again God will know what is on your heart and mind.

As you sing these words on Sunday, believe in the mercy God has for us and know that you are praying alongside all of us. Amen!



Calvary Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
950 129th Road
Stromsburg, NE 68666
Church Phone: (402)282-1830
www.calvaryswedehomechurch.com
Email calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com
Facebook "Swede Home"

Every Member of the Congregation—Ministers
Andrew Adelson, Council Chair
Jenn Fjell, Council Vice Chairman
Missy Althouse, Council Secretary
Amy Harris and Janet Nielsen, Music
Linda Fuhr, Church Office Administrator
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:
Andrew Adelson, Jennifer Fjell, Dan Oquist,
Missy Althouse, Kris Udey, Randy Lott,
Jarrett Althouse, youth representative

Pastor Evan Cell Phone 402-689-5495 (text or call)
Email: evan@pastorchristensen.com

Pastor Hillary Cell Phone 402-980-1102 (text or call)
Email: hillary@pastorchristensen.com

IF you are texting or emailing a pastor, please include both pastors in the text or email

Please contact Linda Fuhr, Church Office Administrator at calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com or text or call 402-366-2091, If you have not done so, follow **Swede Home** on our Facebook page.

First English Lutheran Church
Nebraska Synod, ELCA
840 Butler St Rising City, NE 68658
Church Phone: (402)542-2217
Email : firstenglutheranchurchrc@gmail.com
Facebook "First Lutheran Church Rising City Nebraska
Every Member of the Congregation—Ministers
Council Chair: Wally Kilgore
Vice Chair: Ken Potter
Secretary: Cindy Lorentzen
Council Members:
Lee Lorentzen, Carla Cook, Rogene McMeekin
Luanne Kilgore, Church Office Manager

YOUTH RETREAT FUND RAISERS ,

Youth Road Trip Envelope Fundraiser

The youth are going on a Road Trip to grow spiritually, grow in community, and serve the community afar. They need you support for travel, accommodations, and food.

To contribute, grab an envelope from the narthex, add the numbered amount of money, and put it in the box!

Thank you for your support!!

Youth Bake Sale

Support our Youth group at bake sale in Polk at the Polk Ball Field.

July 6th
5-8 PM

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

Remember in your prayers

Kathi Jones
Janice Forsberg
Melissa Forsberg
June Larson
Beth Jones Wienck
Jan Wells Bachman
Rich Schneider
Bryce Anderson
Cheryl Hubka
Jim and Donna Sterns
Austin, Lynn and Tom's son

Carey Clauff
Colby Nelson
Clerrisa Udey
Ben Carlson

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action
- Houses for Health recipients.
- Bishop Scott Johnson and the Nebraska Synod staff
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members
- Brody Ienn in service to our country

To request prayers please email the church or call Linda (402-366-2091) or Cheryl (402-366-4797)

July Swede Home

Assistant Minister— Carolyn Nielsen

Reader— Carolyn Nielson

Ushers – Todd and Wayne

Altar Care— Diana

Acolyte

Bell Ringer –

Anniversaries

July

3 Chris and Heidi Smith

6 Bob and Bonnie Dittmer

12 Josh and Kailie McCarville

20 Tom and Lynn Hofmann

23 Lew and Carolyn Nielsen

24 Andrew and Emily Adelson

27 Rod and Kay Jones

Birthdays

July

01 C- Betty Hinkle

03 C- Jacob Adelson

04 C- Jessica Noble

05 C- Patrick Bush

07 F- Sutton Christensen

08 C- LeeAnn Willhoft

10 C- Teresa Johnson

10 C- Jill Westring

11 C- Missy Althouse

13 C- Ryan Johnson

17 C- Carol Nicholson

18 C- Kris Udey

21 C- Carolyn Nielsen

25 C- Kirk Dittmer

25 F- Tina Kilgore

26 C- Scott Fredrickson

We thank all those who agree to help with the worship service each month. **Please let Jean Waller or Carolyn Nielsen know if you can help**

The Sign-up sheets for 2025 are on the ushers counter. Please consider when you can serve

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 6—Swede Home Youth Group will host a bake sale in Polk from 5 pm to 8 pm at the Polk Ball Park		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:45 worship at 1st 10-:30 worship at Calvary 11:30 council	7	8 7 pm Men's Bible Study	9 At 4th Street: 9am Ruth Circle 11am Cross-Gen	10 At 4th Street 10am Miriam Circle	11	12
13 8:45 worship at 1st 10-:30 worship at Calvary noon Soll Reunion	14	15	16 7:30 Women's Bible Study at Church	17	18	19
20 8:45 worship at 1st 10-:30 worship at Calvary 6pm-8pm Ice Cream Social	21 2:30 pm Ice Cream Social at MWCH	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:45 worship at 1st 10-:30 worship at Calvary Christmas in July	28	29	30	31	**July 20 at 6pm to 8pm**	

Council Notes

June 2025 Calvary

Church Council met on June 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Present: Missy, Jarrett, Jen, Randy, Andrew, Dan, Pastor Evan
Absent: Kris

- No replacement for council vacancy at this time.
- Cross+Generational Ministry planning is in the works.
- If you see notice items that need attention on the church grounds (tree limbs, downspouts, etc), or building, please let a council member or Pastors know.
- Items to be looked into:
  Pew cushions, sound panels, ceiling fans/ lighting, internet booster for church, headphone microphone for Pastors.
- Pray ground/activities for kids at front of church. Jen Fjell will lead this and if interested in helping, please let her know.
- Youth retreat to Colorado is July 15th-19th.

Calvary Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

	May 2025
Beginning Balance	**$16,894.27**
Offerings:	
General Offering	6,591.00
Jim & Donna Stern Benefit (fire destroyed home)	140.00
NE Lutheran Campus Ministry; from First English	125.00
ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	500.00
First Lutheran R.C.; April Share	3,008.28
	10,369.28
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.73
Text Messaging Flocknote	25.00
Cody's Computer - Contract Agreement	39.99
Office Supplies	80.44
Sundays & Seasons Year A 2026	231.16
Hans LLC; condensate pump for parsonage	240.12
NE Lutheran Campus Ministry - Golf	250.00
Eakes Office Solutions; copier paper	306.70
USPO Postage Stamps (prior to increase)	372.80
Boxed Offering Envelopes for 2026	390.05
Jim & Donna Stern Benefit (fire destroyed home)	900.00
Lent Offering to Backpack Program	970.00
Lent Offering to Dana Village Blair	970.00
Edgewater Insurance; quarterly premium	3,797.00
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,595.00
First Lutheran R.C. May Share	3,008.52
Utilities:	
Church	215.63
Parsonage	77.77
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	3,131.64
Portico Benefit Services	1,853.29
Commuting Reimbursement	162.50
SECA	297.05
Mileage Reimbursement	574.32
Cell Phone Reimbursement	65.00
Amy & Janet	193.93
Lay/Music Mileage	211.40
LeeAnn	250.73
Linda	484.84
NE Withholding Tax	3.41
	20,708.02
Balance as of May 31, 2025:	**$6,555.54**
Thrivent Grant transferred to Thrivent SAV:	557.00

.....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**