151 years—1873-2024

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our theme for the month of January is *cultivating peace*. Really, winter in Nebraska is a time for feeling peaceful, often because the weather might make it easy to just want to stay inside with a warm blanket and a good book. You might even have some winter traditions that keep you in your home with family; comfy, cozy, and peaceful. What do you do to find peace within your home? I love to read a good book to myself and to my children, find many toys for the boys to share, and work together to planning meals. When we cannot go outside to burn off energy this is especially needed because there is much work to do to create peace inside. We all work together to cultivate peace in our home.

Winter is a time in which we may feel called to cultivate peace within our home, but in every season we are called to cultivate peace within our community. Especially in the month of January when we have Epiphany, which calls forth examples of Jesus providing a new way, shining light on injustice, and calling for reconciliation and justice. Also, in the calendar of January we have Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which calls us to serve and embody Dr. King's vision for a better way forward, such as he described in his famous "I have a dream" speech.

How might God be calling you to cultivate peace in this new year? Especially as we are drawing closer to Inauguration Day, and our country continues to drive deeper wedges in our divides. What does peace look like between those who disagree?

I believe it is knowing that we are all children of God, deeply loved and cherished. When we look at others with the lens, we can seek peace together. I hope that this month you *cultivate peace* in your home and in our community together.

+Peace Pastor Hillary

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.

Please January donations go to:

Genesis House—David City

Dear Genesis House Supporters

This past year, your donations help to fund the following:

- 27 contacts with survivors of domestic violence
- Provided food, cleaning supplies, paper products and new clothing for families in Polk and Butler Counties
- Provided rent assistance for three women
- Emergency housing for three women for seven nights
- New tires for a vulnerable family
- Prevention education classes for about 150 high school students and 50 elementary students
- Funding for our Ignite Program for 30 young women in Butler county
- Provided space and helped wrap gifs for the Angel tree Program in Butler county
- Mentorship for two young women, twice a month for the past 2 years

Thanks for everything you and your congregation have done to help Genesis House.

Personal care items and cleaning items are always needed, along with food donations. Cash donations to help purchase milk and eggs are especially appreciated

W.E.L.C.A. News

*January 18 will be the Winter Retreat at St. Paul Lutheran church in Grand Island. The theme is based on Psalm 4:8 – "My God, I want to do what you want. Your teachings are in my heart." What's the Fire in your heart?

Registration forms are at church and are due January 3. Cost is $20.

*Our Annual General Meeting was on 12/8. We enjoyed a special presentation by Rachel Evans of Lutheran Family Services. We learned so much about LFS and the new services provided at Dana Village in Blair for young people aging out of Foster Care. At that meeting, you voted to donate the following from our Treasury: $1,000 to Genesis House; $1,000 to split between the 4 Polk County Schools for school lunch program funds for the needy; $800 to Dana Village programs; $300 each to ESU 7 needy families, to Lakota Lutheran Center, Oaks Indian Mission; and $250 to both UNL and UNK Lutheran Campus Centers. It was also voted to reassign the day's special offerings to LSF for Dana Village. Thanks for your offerings all year long. Thank you to Ruth Circle for hosting.

*Election results at the General Meeting included Bonnie Carlson as Treasurer and Cheryl Jones as Secretary / Leader for 2025.

*Service for month of January is offering for local utility relief through Polk County REA.

*Altar care for January will be Kay Jones.

*Flowers & cheer in January, February & March will be by Ruth Circle.

* Dates to remember: Jan. 18 Winter Retreat in Grand Island; March 22 – Central Conference Gathering at Salem Lutheran in Stromsburg.

JANUARY CIRCLES

Miriam – 1/9 Begins 10 a.m. at Coffeehouse

Ruth – no circle meeting held

Offering only: please give to Bonnie

God's Blessings to you in this New Year!

Cheryl

Church happenings

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

We extend our sympathy to the family of Roger (Hank) Hanquist. Hank passed away on December 8th at MWCH. Funeral Services were at Calvary-Swede Home on December 16th.

We also extend our sympathy to the Ryan Fjell family in the loss of Ryan's father, Joey Fjell. Services were Thursday, December 26th at St. Paul Church in Osceola.

The annual meeting of the Calvary Lutheran Church—Swede Home will be Sunday, January 26th, during the regular worship service, beginning at 10:30 am

Following the meeting their will be a congregational dinner in the basement fellowship hall.

PLEASE have all reports to Linda at the church office by January 15th. Reports will be available at the church on January 19th

Christmas Eve

For those attending Christmas Eve 2024 at Swede Home , memories of Christmas past welcomed them, along with the HOPE of Christmas future. The first thing everyone saw was the sidewalks lined with luminaries.

Our thanks to Lew and Carolyn, Kent, Dan and the help of lots of others to pick up the luminaries after the service.

Another memory from Christmases past was including the singing of the Hosianna. We don't have a picture, but want to thank Amy for organizing the group. Thanks to the singers: Kent, Dan, Rick, Wayne, Pr Evan, Maggie Hanquist, Hank Hanquist Cheryl and Pr Hillary. What a gift they gave back to Swede Home. Many of the faithful who have gone before us were smiling down on Swede Home this Christmas Eve. May this tradition continue in years to come.

THANK YOU

This thank you is from Kim Hofmann, Friend of Sandy Johnston. Kim had serious health issues, and we included her in our Swede Home prayers.

I want to thank everyone for all the love in all its forms, texts, cards and calls and visits since I suffered my hemorrhagic stroke in August. It means a lot to me and really helps me overcome this very difficult time in recovery. As my wonderful, loving partner Rhett likes to say I'm making progress and I'm closer to the end than beginning and I'm really glad of it. Thank you again. I'm not on social media much. but I love seeing what's going on in all your lives when I do! Merry Christmas! Looking forward to a merry 2025! Love to all!

Dear Generous Donor—WELCA Swede Home

Your contributions to Campus Lutheran Ministry have impacted us greatly. None of our success would be possible without generous donors like you. Thank you again for your commitment and kindness!!!
Sincerely

Kearney Campus Lutheran Students

Calvary Lutheran—WELCA

Thank you for your recent gift of $800 to our TLP program on the Dana Campus! We were honored to speak with your church a couple Sunday ago, and share more about this program. Thanks for the food and clothing donations also.

We pray that as we grow, this program can continue sharing god" love with these youth! Your gift helps us to continue this mission, so THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.

God Bless, Lutheran Family Services

FOOD PANTRY

This year the High Plains Schools had a food drive challenge between facility and students. They brought 1,100 cans/items to Swede Home to be distributed to our Food Pantry recipients, Blue Valley and Genesis House.

The donation was divided between Blue Valley and Genesis House. Several bags were given to Rachel from Lutheran Family Services to be used at the Dana Center in Blair.

We also have started a new county donation center. Currently there is a FREE food pantry in the Stromsburg Senior Center. This panty is available to anyone who is experiencing food insecurities. We hope to establish Food Pantries in the other Polk County Communities and with the help of Stromsburg and Osceola ministerial, stock the panty for both Seniors and any family that needs some assistance. This picture is the pantry in Stromsburg.

From Joan Berggren

Advent/Christmas-2024

Calvary Lutheran Friends,

I've been thinking about what to share with my loved ones, so here it goes!

As of last spring, I moved to a senior independent living facility, Yankee Hill Village, located in south Lincoln. This wonderful community is part of the ELCA Immanuel Community. I have a cozy one-bedroom apartment that includes a kitchen, living room, bedroom with a handicap-accessible shower, washer and dryer, and a lovely patio. What more could I ask for? I'd love to show it to you sometime—everyone is invited to visit!

I officially moved in on April 27th, just one day before Sylas was confirmed at United Lutheran Church on April 28th. It was a busy but joyous weekend, and for once, everything seemed to fall into place perfectly.

Tom and Sylas lived with me for ten years, and I truly miss having them here. It's a big change, but I'm grateful for the time we shared together.

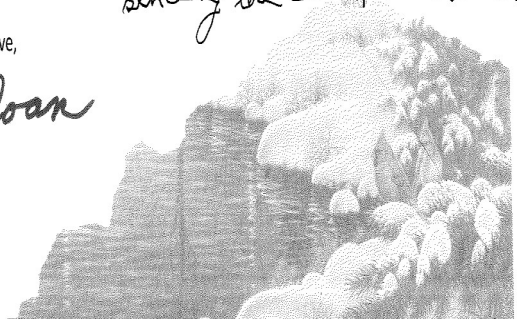
Health-wise, I had a bit of a rough patch in August and September, spending two weeks in a rehabilitation facility due to diverticulitis and arthritis issues. I've also decided to give up driving, which has been another significant adjustment.

I'm looking forward to the winter holidays and hoping for peace and balance in our world. Let's pray that global warming eases for the good of everyone across the universe.

Thank you for always sending the church newsletter.

Peace and love,

Joan



In memory of:	Donated by:
Vonne Stauber, Mother	Fran Lott
Gerald Stauber, Father	Fran Lott
Don Paulsen, husband	Heidi Paulsen
Marlene and Hank Hanquist	Family members
Ralph and Emma Jones, Parents	Rick Jones
Loved Ones	Wayne Johnson
SC Oquist, Husband	Gloria Oquist
Loved ones	Dan and Lisa Oquist
Danny Teig, Husband	Patty Teig
Mardell Johnson, Father	Craig and Sarah Johnson
Wally Johnson, Husband	Diana Johnson
Jim Westring, husband/father	Westring family
Marlyn & Joan Wurdman	Fjell family
Milton & Trudy Johnson	Fjell family
Joe & Orpha Fjell	Fjell family
Gerald & Dolores Marker	Fjell Family
Joey Fjell	Fjell Family
Loved Ones	Roxanne Czarnick

Bulletins for December were printed early and not all poinsettia donations were included in the bulletin. We apologies for that. We thank you for your donations of poinsettias. The church looked beautiful with the flowers.

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

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

Council Members:
Andrew Adelson, Jennifer Fjell,, Dan Oquist,
Kent Adelson, 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 Manager at

calvryswedehomechurch@gmail.com or text or call 402-366-2091, If you have not done so, follow **Swede Home** on our Facebook page.

We had a coat/outerwear/clothing drive the first part of December. A big THANK YOU to all who contributed. Pastors took a large donation to Barnabas Center in Lincoln, where it is available for free for those in need. Another donation was given to Rachel, from Lutheran Family Services for the Dana Center in Blair.

We continued our distribution of Christmas Meals to Senior Citizens in Polk County 35 bags were assembled on Monday, December 23 to the 4 Senior Centers in Polk County. Thanks to Deb and Mike, Don and Linda for helping get the food from Economy, and to Lew, Carolyn, Kay an Fran for packing the bags and getting them to Midwest Covenant Home for distribution to the Senior Centers.

God's Work, Our Hands continue to share God's Love

From PR Rebecca and Family

Greetings to our friends at Swede Home

2024 was a great year for our family!

Rich officially graduated with a PhD from Adelphi University and is completing his post-doctoral fellowship at the Bipolar Center at Zucker Hillside Hospital. We enjoyed family vacations to Quebec City and Montreal over spring break and spending time with the entire Lun family in San Francisco and Yosemite this summer.

Erin (9) enjoys fourth grade and plays percussion, violin and piano. Grace (7) loves second grade and also plays piano. Both girls are in Girl Scouts, dance and our children's choir at church.

We all enjoy caring for our fish, which include guppies and tetras.

Rebecca was awarded a Clergy Renewal Grant with the Lilly Endowment for a twelve week sabbatical for the summer of 2025.

IN addition to traveling in Norway, England, Scotland and Ireland, she is looking forward to more family time this summer.
We wish you Christmas blessings and all the best in 2025.

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

Remember in your prayers

Kathi Jones
Duane Jones
Janice Forsberg
Melissa Forsberg
June Larson
Beth Jones Wienck
Jan Wells Bachman
Rich Schneider

Cheryl Hubka

- 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
- Our government leaders
- We pray for those dealing with addiction

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

January

Assistant Minister/Reader —

Ushers –

Altar Care— Kay

Acolyte

Bell Ringer –

Anniversaries

JANUARY

1 Brodyk & Taylor Ienn

22 Brad and Sue Sundberg

Birthdays

JANAURY

04 Mike Larson
04 Fran Lott
09 Deb Hanquist
09 Mary Stevens
10 Mickey Berggren
14 Tyler Jones
15 Quin Rene Anderson-Cahill
15 Carole Dickson
16 Roxanne Czarnick
17 Linda Fuhr
17 Diana Johnson
20 Dan Ienn
23 Joel Cramer
23 Bryce Nielsen
24 Deb Cramer
27 Duane Jones
27 Janelle Udey
28 Wilder Christensen
29 Ceagen Watts

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

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Registration due Winter Retreat	4
5 10:30am Worship with communion Council meeting	6	7	8 NO Ruth Circle	9 10 am Miriam Circle at 4th ST Coffee shop	10	11
12 10:30 am Worship	13	14 7 pm Men's Bible Study	15 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	16	17	18 WELCA winter retreat Grand Island
19 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship, annual meeting, congregational meal	27	28	29	30	31	

Council Notes

December 2024

Church Council met on December 8th following worship service

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

- 3 Church Ministry Agreement with Calvary Lutheran Church, First English Lutheran Church, and Augustana Lutheran Church is not being renewed.
- Resignation of Pastor Evan and Pastor Hillary.
- New Church Ministry Agreement with Calvary Lutheran Church and First English Lutheran Church will continue as it does today.
- New calls for both Pastor Evan and Pastor Hillary as primary candidates at the Annual Meetings for both churches.
- Parsonage update is moving along and hopefully, will be done this month

Parsonage Update:

Kitchen and bathroom cabinets are in! Stop in and look—they are beautiful.

Trim and painting are ALMOST done! Flooring is ordered and in stock.

Waiting for electrician and plumber to finish projects.—our goal is middle of January! - Prayers appreciated for that goal to be accomplished!

THANK YOU to all those who have designated the parsonage project in their memorials and special offerings!

Treasurer's Report

	November 2024
Beginning Balance	**$6,834.13**
Offerings:	
General Offerings	15,764.78
ELCA Disaster Relief f/recent Hurricanes	481.00
ELCA Mission Share	1,050.00
First English Rising City October Share	2,006.37
Augustana Genoa October Share	3,166.73
	22,468.88
Wire transfer from L. Smith Thrivent Funds	39,970.72
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.53
Text Messaging System-monthly fee	22.00
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	39.99
Pastor Appreciation	50.00
Harland Check Order	55.30
Kitchen Supplies	57.78
Postage Expense	226.80
LWR Personal Care Kits; & some shipping	239.93
ELCA Disaster Relief - recent Hurricanes	486.00
Cemetery Board - summer mowing	1,200.00
Stutzman Builders parsonage	39,970.72
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,595.00
First English Rising City; November Share	1,931.34
Utilities:	
Church	312.32
Parsonage	49.94
Genoa Parsonage	116.52
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	2,684.96
Portico Benefit Services	1,266.75
Commuting Reimbursement	158.33
SECA	236.23
Mileage Reimbursement	65.50
Cell Phone Reimbursement	38.00
Fall Leadership Lodging	47.48
Amy, Janet, & Diana	258.57
Lay/Music Mileage	116.58
LeeAnn	250.73
Linda	450.20
	51,936.50
Balance as of November 30, 2024:	**$17,337.23**
Transfer to Improvement for Parsonage	10,681.00
Transfer to Thrivent Choice Account	179.00

.....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**