June/July, 2017

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Message from Pastor Kim

We have all heard the story of Luther nailing the 95 theses to the church door in Wittenburg. But what prompted him to do this? According to Dr. Anthony Bateza from St. Olaf college, Luther was motivated by his heart for the people he served. He saw the church taking advantage of the poor and of other members primarily through the sale of indulgences. Thus, while presenting a fine Biblical and theological rational against abusive practices by the medieval church, Luther was also strongly motivated by compassion.

At the Nebraska Synod Assembly, held June 1-3 in Kearney, I had the opportunity to hear keynote presentations by Dr. Bateza on "What made Luther, Luther" and "Why is Luther a Gift to Us?" Both lectures brought a fresh perspective on Martin Luther. They helped me better understand Luther and his legacy, something that is particularly timely as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year.

So, what made Luther, Luther? First, I would argue is grace. Grace for Luther is something that is completely unearned and unmerited. It is God's gift to us, even if we don't know that we need it and even if we might not really want it. And it is through grace that we have salvation and receive the forgiveness of sins. But grace also does something to us. It makes something of us.

Grace makes of us a people who are called, gathered, enlightened, and equipped to share God's love with the whole world. We share God's love through what we say and what we do. As a clergy friend of mine put it "God's love, forgiveness, and claim never find their ultimate destination in us." Therefore, we are sent out into the

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you . . .

Calvary Lutheran Church,

Wow! I again am writing a thank you to Calvary Church. We at the Osceola Food Bank are so thankful to you all. What a blessing you are to our store/food bank. What a blessing you are to us. Many, many, thanks!

Blue Valley Thrift Store and Food Bank
Lola Reetz

Dear friends,
I got behind on writing thank you's—busy!! You've made 2 "special deliveries" in recent months, and you continue to bring us the best "stuff" - food, gift items—always some very special and unique things that I enjoy finding—and giving them to our ladies who are struggling to re-build their lives. Really appreciate your attention to our wish list– you make considerate selections that seem to be most needed—thanks so much for the "kid food". Now that school is out, it will help our young mothers to feed their hungry growing children. This past month I've been working with a lady who left her rural home with just few clothes—many of your gifts have helped her set up housekeeping in an apartment. Always welcome and enjoy your visits.

Sincerely,
Pat and folks at Genesis House

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

world to be God's hands and feet.

Luther was strongly driven by the desire for justice in God's name. According to Dr. Bateza, if we are going to continue to bear the name of Luther, we must take Luther's commitment to justice seriously. This means that we must take a stand for the sake of justice even when doing so is unpopular. He also pointed out that if we are really going to commemorate Luther's reformation we must be bold enough to take a stand when honesty has been replaced by flattery. Why is this so important? Because flattery, while seemingly innocuous, can be a deception that damages relationships. It can be self-serving. But most importantly because flattery allows the status quo to continue. What is needed instead is honest words spoken with love.

As we enjoy this summer, I encourage you to think about what ways you can work to shower the world with God's compassion and love. How are you going to seek justice? Look too for opportunities to speak the truth with love. By doing these things, you will be preparing yourself for our reformation commemoration events later in the fall.

Calvary Worship Assistants

June

Assistant Ministers— Jean Waller
Scripture Reader—Venida Carlstrom
Ushers— Bill & Venida Carlstrom
Acolyte—Ceagan Watts & Megan Johnson
Altar Care— Mary Anna Circle
Bell Ringer— Bill Carlstrom

July

Assistant Ministers— Linda Fuhr
Scripture Reader—Jan Ernst
Ushers— Wayne Johnson/Todd Hanquist
Acolyte—Kolton Neujahr & Jacob Adelson
Altar Care— Vemida Carlstrom & Diana Johnson
Bell Ringer—

W.E.L.C.A. News

Dear friends at Calvary Lutheran/Swede Home WELCA,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of $193.00. These funds will be carefully used to continue our program and service to survivors of domestic violence. Your gifts to us through the year have helped us sustain the work of the Genesis House. With every victory over violence we celebrate, we thank God for generosity such as yours. It is difficult sometimes to find adequate funding and resources in this rural area. Please come and visit—love to give tours and explain our work.

Sincerely,

Pat Lostroh

June

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Mary Anna	Alice Jane	Alice Jane
Miriam	Jean Waller	Marlene Hanquist
Ruth	Deb S.	Deb S.

Bible Study: *Gather* - June

Service: ELCA World Hunger Campaign (Monetary Offering—Ref. Pg. 15)

July

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Mary Anna	Gladys Johnson	Gladys Johnson
Miriam	Venida Carlstrom	Gloria Oquist
Ruth	Carole Dickson	Carole Dickson

Bible Study: *Gather* - July

Service: Ice Cream Social

Mission and Ministry Update

After a long, exhausting day with a group of U.S. Marine Corps Reserve members, Cris Frigm, pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Taneytown, Maryland, and a U.S. Navy Reserve chaplain, handed out prayer books and led night prayer in the field. Following worship, members turned in for the night, leaving not one prayer book behind.

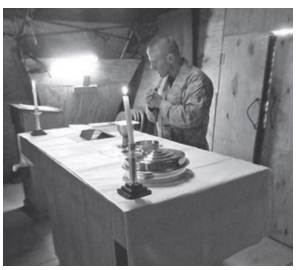
"Every time I train with the group, I try to lead a service out of the prayer book" said Frigm. "Sometimes they take the books with them, and sometimes they don't. This particular night, it seemed they really needed the time for worship. Not one book came back to me."

Now in his sixth year as a Navy Reserve chaplain, Frigm has developed a long relationship with a group of residents at Oakwood Lutheran Ministries in Wisconsin who, inspired by the Green Bay Packers, call themselves the Oakwood Packers. During the third Friday of each month, they pack boxes of prayer books and ship them to pastors like Frigm.

"My first deployment was to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, Africa. That was the first time I received the books,' he said. "They have been such a great resource especially with the Marine Reservists because they don't get a lot of support outside their drill weekend. It's helpful for them to take that book with them and have that extra support."

Ron Mach, a retired pastor and Oakwood resident of 14 years, said he has spent the past nine of those years volunteering with the packing group. "This opportunity for serving our sons and daughters in the military with food for the spirit as well as food for the body was the right mission for our Oakwood Packers," said Mach. "We have a joyful sense of partnership with the ministry of Chaplain Frigm who provides pastoral care in the name of Christ to the ELCA."

To date, the group has packed approximately 1,000 boxes to send to various ministries throughout the world and they hope to continue their ministry long into the future.



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 July your donations will go to Blue Valley and in Aug. your donations will go to Genesis House.

Most recipients of Genesis House are women and children in need. They are in need of Household items: Laundry detergent, **tall kitchen sized trash bags**, TP, **Clorox,** gallon sized zip lock bags, light bulbs, AA batteries, postage stamps. Personal Care: **Body wash**, Kleenex , children's toothpaste, **deodorant,** children and adult ibuprofen and Tylenol, sunscreen lotion.

Food and Grocery Items needed are canned meats, regular coffee, boxed food, taco shells and seasonings, **flour, sugar**, mayo, salad dressing, pancake mix and syrup, **cooking oil,** dry packages of gravy and sauce mixes, canned fruit and juices, canned mixed vegetables carrots, (they have plenty of beans, peas, and corn at this time), small boxes of Velveeta, cake and brownie mix, frosting, tea bags, Kool-Aid/ lemonade. **Healthy Foods/Snacks for Children**: microwave meals/entrees, instant oatmeal, granola/cereal bars, pudding/ fruit cups, **fruit juice in small boxes**, (at this time we have plenty of regular boxes of cereal), **dry and evaporated milk**.

Money to purchase fresh foods occasionally bread, milk, and fruit.

Funds support general operating expenses, utilities.

Seasonal items: window size or small fans, solar lights, large swimming towels for children.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday!

June Larson will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on June 18th from 2:00pm—4:00pm at her home 115 West 6th St (one block west of Covenant Church). Your presence will be treasured. No other gifts, please. There is a card shower mail cards to

June Larson
Po Box 157
Stromsburg NE 68666

Mark your Calendars….

Calvary's Annual Ice Cream Social will be held on July 16th from 6:30-9pm. Come enjoy some ice cream and fellowship!

Miles for Mission

Please sponsor miles to help support the youth mission trip to Denver this summer! The trip is July 29th—August 4th and is roughly 1,000 miles for a round trip. You can purchase 1 mile for $1 and we'll list your donation on the board in the entry-way! Thank you for your support!

Pastor Kim will be out of the office June 18-22. Pr. Josh Feala will be on call should you have a pastoral emergency. He can be reached at 402-658-2299.

Pastor will also be gone July 9-15. Pastor Brenda Pfiefly will be on call should you have a pastoral emergency. She can be reached at 402-764-2651.

Nebraska Brass Concert

Nebraska's most popular brass quintet, the Nebraska Brass presented a concert on June 11th and it was a great success. Seventy eight attendees were entertained with a concert entitled "Brass Menagerie, A Musical Safari". There are so many wonderful comments as the people left, all stating their thanks to Swedehome for hosting the concert. The musicians enjoy coming to Swedehome, and they said our cookies were the best ever. The Council thanks all for making this event possible: to those that baked the cookies and served refreshments, to Ty Twarling and Cross County Schools for loaning the music stands, and especially to those who attended and enjoyed the magical musical safari. We had many requests that we have Nebraska Brass come back very soon.

Since we had an unexpected power outage Sunday morning just as church service started, we want to give a big thank you to the Polk County Rural Public Power District for coming out Sunday morning and restoring power so we has lights and more importantly, air conditioning for the afternoon concert.

Zion Worship Change

There will be no joint worship service with the Methodist Church on July 30th. We will have worship at Zion at our normal time.

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

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

Meet a Member

Where do I start???? My name is Dawn (Stearns) Kush. We moved to Benedict in 1978 from California. Benedict is the only home I have known. Growing up a Stearns is a privilege. My parents Jim and Donna Stearns instilled hard work ethics, unconditional love, respect for others, and a zest for life into my brother and I.

I graduated in 1988 from Benedict High School and then went to Southeast Community College in Beatrice on a full –ride athletic scholarship for volleyball and basketball. Upon graduation in 1990 I moved back to the area and started working at Epworth Village where I met my husband Ken of 24 years. We have been blessed with two kids! Our daughter Cory (22) lives in Aurora and our son Jacob (19) resides with us in Benedict. I currently work at Kroy Industries in York as an Account Analyst and have been with them for over 10 years! I also work at Wal-Mart as a cashier; I call this my fun job!

I became a member of Zion Lutheran Church in the early 80's. I used to go to church with the Reetz family and loved the way Janine was able to recite everything by memory and I wanted that in my life. Being involved with a small church has it's advantages and I feel it is my second family. If you need something just ask and you will have more than one member helping you out! I have helped out in all capacities of the church to Council, Treasurer, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School.

My hobbies and interests, in my younger years I was involved in aspects of sports, I couldn't get enough, but as I get older I realize my body doesn't tolerate and therefore I have learned to slow down. I guess say family is very important. I love spending time with my kids and realize life is short, live life to the fullest and have fun.

Benedict Community VBS
Cave Quest

With 24 kids from the Benedict Community we learned 5 different bible stories. Over the 5 days we learned that Jesus gives us hope, courage, love, and power. We played lots of water games, had some yummy snacks, and made cool crafts! Thanks to everyone who helped with donations or teaching.

Osceola Community VBS
Fun Maker Factory

Remember in your prayers

Fred & Lori Ehlers
Janise Forsberg
Melissa Forsberg
Blake Hicks
Lenore Kessler
June Larson
Elvin Reetz
Imo Richardson
Harvey Schlegelmilch
Vance & Elaine Toline
Ellis Waller
Jan Wells-Bachman

- 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

Zion Worship Assistants

June:

Communion Assistant: Todd Schoch
Usher: Darrell Bolton
Greeter: JoAnne Bolton
Reader:
4—Ken Kush, 11—Dawna Bolton, 18—Todd Schoch, 25—JoAnne Bolton
Acolyte:
4—Lyndsey Bolton, 11—Tierney Schoch, 18—Harley Martin, 25—Isaac Reetz

July:

Communion Assistant: Jacob Kush
Usher: Fred Ehlers
Greeter: Gina Schoch
Reader:
2—Jacob Kush, 9—Gregg Bolton, 16—Justin Schoch, 23—Harvey Schlegelmilch, 30—
Acolyte:
2—Lyndsey Bolton, 9—Isaac Reetz, 16—Tierney Schoch, 23—Harley Martin, 30—

Anniversaries

Calvary:

Amy & Drew Harris
June 2nd
Yancy & Kim Krol
June 3rd
Dennis and Betty Hinkle
June 6th
Roxanne & Jeremy Czarnick
June 10th
Tim & Missy Althouse
June 16th
Chris & Heidi Smith
July 3rd
Bob & Bonnie Dittmer
July 6th
Josh & Kailie McCarville
July 12th
Lewellen & Carolyn Nielsen
July 23rd
Ty & Erica Twarling
July 25th
Rod & Kay Jones
July 27th

Zion:

Gregg & LuAnn Bolton
June 21st
Chris & Miranda Martin
July 3rd
Fred and Lori Ehlers
July 7th

Birthdays

Calvary:

June:
03—Gloria Oquist
05– Marj Johnson/Sandy Johnston
06—Lenore Kessler
10—Talia Jones
11—Dennis Carlson/Becky Willhoft
16—June Larson
19—Jonathan Hanquist/Aaron Oquist/Erik Oquist
21—Wendy Shafenberg/Trent Stevens
22—Vince Krol
23—Craig Brouillette
26—Linda Clauff
28—Deborah Ernst/Abigail Jones
29—Gary Waller
30—Mike Neujahr

July:
01—Betty Hinkle
03—Jacob Adelson
04—Jessica Noble
05—Patrick Bush
08—LeeAnn Willhoft/Phyllis Yungdahl
10—Teresa Johnson/Jill Westring
11—Missy Althouse
13—Ryan Johnson
14—Kobe Brouilette
16—Beth Wienck
17—Carol Nicholson
18—Kris Udey
21—Carolyn Nielsen
25—Kirk Dittmer/Tina Watts
26—Scott Fredrickson
30—Dennis Johnson

Zion:

June:
07—Jordyn Stearns
15—Lyndsey Bolton
19—Jeff Crowdell
22—Gregg Bolton
23—Gary Hild
25—Colby Bolton
27—Isaac Reetz
29—Ryder Crowdell

July
02—Kristopher Rediger
04—Zander Martin
07—Dawna Bolton
12—Jimmy Stearns
14—Krayton Schoch
31—Adam Rediger

June 2017

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

July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30a Zion Holy Communion Worship 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Wor-	3	4	5 7p Calvary Council Meeting	6	7	8
9 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship	10	11	12 7p Men's Bible Study 7p Ruth's WELCA Circle	13 2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle	14 9a Miriam's WELCA Circle	15
16 8:30a Zion Holy Communion Worship 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion Worship 6:30p Ice Cream Social	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship	24	25	26	27 9a Calvary Quilt Day	28	29
30 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship	31					

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

Council Meeting Newsletter updates -
May 3, 2017

- **Save the Date** - on Sunday June 11, 2017, Calvary Lutheran will host the Nebraska Brass Concert. Concert will be at 3:00 pm, with Coffee and Cookies served during intermission
- Fundraisers are being held for the Mission Trip to Denver. St. Paul hosted a successful Paint Party on April 30th. On Sunday May 7th, the Sunday School will host a Revelation brunch. The Youth have made several silent auction items, proceeds will go to the mission trip and camp costs
- Vacation bible school will be held jointly with St. Paul Lutheran and Osceola Methodist the week of June 5-9.
- Confirmation will be Sunday, June 4 - please keep our confirmands, Ceagen and Jadyn in your prayers as they reaffirm their baptism.
- The first clean up day at the church accomplished a lot with approximately 10 pair of hands pitching to rake, remove larger branches, plant grass etc. Another clean up will be scheduled later in May or June.
- With the heavy down pour of rain we had on April 30th, a lot of water ended up in the church building. Thanks to Cheryl Jones, Kent Adelson, Doug Jones and others who helped with water clean-up. The building committee has decided gutters are necessary on the new addition, and will be adding those in the future.

Treasurer's Report — April, 2017

Beginning Balance	**$10269.54**
Offering:	
General Offering	**6552.00**
Sunday School	**83.25**
Lent Offering	**448.00**
ELCA Disaster Relief	**5.00**
ELCA Mission Share	**2775.01**
Zion for Feb/Mar	**3792.89**
	13656.15
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee & TC % Fee	**7.79**
First Communion Class	**10.31**
Weebly Custom Domain	**19.95**
Easter Brunch	**40.57**
Worship Supplies	**41.70**
Communion Wine & Palm Leaves	**44.44**
CBI Malwarebytes	**59.99**
Office & Mailing Supplies	**78.60**
Council Retreat	**81.55**
Mission Trip Deposit for Sponsers	**100.00**
Office Net Copier Paper	**209.64**
Bedient Pipe Organ Co. Mar 4 Service	**180.00**
Bedient Pipe Organ Co Spring Service	**250.00**
NE Synod ELCA-Mission Share	**1450.00**
Zion Benedict January Share	**1775.87**
Utilities:	
Church:	**994.82**
Parsonage:	**398.37**
Salaries:	
Pastor	**2176.41**
Mileage	**356.66**
SECA	**216.41**
Portico Benefits	**995.83**
Diana	**423.52**
LeeAnn	**230.87**
Bri	**596.89**
FICA	**819.78**
	$11559.97
Balance as of April 30th, 2017	**$12365.72**
Transfer to Thrivent Choice SAV:	**250.00**

*This page is only seen by Calvary Members

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Meeting Newsletter updates -
June 7, 2017

- Fundraisers for the youth Mission Trip are underway. You may support the trip by donating miles. There is a signup poster, located in the entrance. Please make checks payable to Calvary Lutheran, and mark "Mission Trip Miles" in the memo of the check. The trip will be July 30 through August 4. Pastor and her father will be sponsors, along with Stephanie Sunday from St. Paul. Please keep the youth participants from both churches in your prayers
- Pastor is on the Synod Stewardship committee. She is working on a program for the new church year with a focus on Discipleship which will be based on the seasons of the church
- The Ice Cream Social will be Sunday, July 16. We will have the City of Stromsburg spray the lawn prior to the Social
- Service Master of York will be contacted regarding the cleaning of the church interior after August 1st

Treasurer's Report — May, 2017

Beginning Balance	**$12365.72**
Offering:	
General Offering	**5117.00**
Lent Offering	**281.00**
Transfer from Youth DDA Account	**1992.00**
ELCA Disaster Relief	**5.00**
ELCA Mission Share	**185.00**
	7580.00
Expenses:	
Bank Charges	**7.39**
Christ in Our Home	**102.50**
Sikes Pest Control	**125.00**
Revelation Brunch	**146.29**
Sunday's and Seasons Year B 2018	**179.38**
Offering Envelope Boxed Sets for 2018	**394.46**
Mission Trip—Sponsors	**498.00**
Mission Trip—Youth	**1992.00**
Mission Trip Deposit for Sponsors	**100.00**
NE Synod ELCA-Mission Share	**1450.00**
Zion Benedict May Share	**1680.17**
Utilities:	
Church:	**343.52**
Parsonage:	**118.48**
Salaries:	
Pastor	**2176.41**
Mileage	**230.48**
SECA	**216.41**
Portico Benefits	**995.83**
Professional Expenses	**46.66**
Diana	**423.52**
LeeAnn	**230.87**
Bri	**596.89**
Supply Pastor	**169.47**
	$12123.73
Balance as of May 31st, 2017	**$7821.99**
Transfer to Youth DDA Account:	**50.00**

*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**