March 2021

...In Sacred Places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Message from Pastor Sarah

Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

As of today, I have served alongside you for 6 full weeks, and in that time there have been 7 opportunities for worship. Isn't it remarkable then, that even though we've worshiped each week, I've only been with you (in person) 4 times! This has made our first month of ministry together challenging when it comes to getting to know each of you and learning more about our congregation. Despite the snow, cold weather, and pandemic, I trust that we will have more opportunities to be together in the coming months and soon I will be able to know each of you more fully.

As I think of the prospect of building relationships with you all and learning who you are as individuals, I also think of the season we're in and the way in which we remind *ourselves* of who we truly are in this time.

Luther would tell us that being focused inwardly is a fitting description for sin itself, given that we are called by God to look outside of ourselves in service to others. But I would reassure Luther that when we talk about focusing inward during Lent, we don't deny our call to others. Rather, we take this time to acknowledge our own sin and what the cost of that sin was while also contemplating how God has called us through God's gift of grace. So then, we don't deny our call to others AND we don't deny who we are either.

Time seems to move so quickly! Before we know it, it will be Easter and there'll be graduations to celebrate and end of the year concerts to attend and all the other things that fill up our schedules. So don't wait! Take this time seriously to consider who you truly are, and what sin stands in the way of a deeper relationship with God.

Message from Pastor Sarah.....continued

Remember though, that while we confront our own identities, pondering *who* we truly are, don't forget to also ponder *whose* you are. Your identity is first and foremost defined by the love of God who has called you God's own and given you grace through forgiveness. Reflection is essential, but know that you are a Child of God, freed from your sin through God's genuine love for you.

Giving thanks for each of you,

Pastor Sarah Ruch

Midweek Lenten Services at Swede Home at 7 PM

March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24

April 1—Joint Maundy Thursday service at First English—Rising City 7 PM

April 2—Joint Good Friday service at Swede Home 7 PM

April 3—Joint Easter Vigil service at Swede Home 7 PM

April 4—Easter Service at each congregation, regular service time

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Announcements

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

Randy will deliver after March 28

Please place items you wish to donate in the basket located in the front entry of the church. March items go to

Genesis House—David City

In the event of inclement weather, or change in church services, we will post closings on channel 10/11. Council will call local members of cancellations. We will also send out an email to those who receive the bulletin and/or newsletter by email. If you have any questions you may call a council member

With Pastor Sarah living in Lincoln, we need to consider road conditions for her to travel safely. She leaves Lincoln by 6:30 am, so cancelling will depend on weather conditions in Lincoln.

On Sunday, March 14th we will again need to set our clocks ahead 1 hour, for Daylight savings time! Be sure to mark your calendars!

W.E.L.C.A. News

*Prayer Support Chair is still needed. This doesn't require calling all on the list, but rather being the contact person to start the prayer chain. Discussion has also included the possibility of using email for those who choose to be contacted that way, but email is not required to be the chair. Let's figure this out together as we pray for those in need of prayer support. Please contact Cheryl.

*Lenten information will be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Things will look a bit different this year due to Covid restrictions. Watch for information that may change weekly. Hope you can enjoy some of the Wednesday and Holy Week services, either at Swede Home or Rising City.

*Altar care for March will be Deb Cramer & Kay Jones. April will be Deb Hanquist.

*Flowers in March & April will be Miriam Circle. Thank you for watering any plants.

*Quilt Day will be March 26. We're hoping that weather will be nice and we can get together again! Any questions, please contact Penny or Darlene. Please bring your lunch & join us.

*Service for March is an offering for Genesis House (monetary or tangible).

*March Circle Meetings will not be held as usual. Please talk to your leader about when you think you may be comfortable meeting in person again.

*Ruth Circle will be having a short business meeting after Lenten Service on Wed., 3/10.

8March Service Offerings go to Genesis House and regular treasury. Please mail your offerings to Bonnie Carlson at 12929 Twin Pines Rd., Osceola, NE 68651.

"An anxious heart weighs a person down, but a kind word cheers them up." Proverbs 12:25

Please know you are loved,

Cheryl

Youth News

March confirmation classes will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month starting at 11:45 am, Pastor Sarah will be contacting confirmation parents with any changes to that schedule.

Thank you to Cheryl and the confirmation class for remembering me with Christmas cookies. I enjoyed them very much. Gloria Oquist

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We received a telephone call from a gentleman in Shelby, who had received one of the holiday meal bags which included a nativity ornament from the Confirmation class. He wanted to be sure to tell the class how very much he appreciated the ornament. He hung it on the chain of his ceiling fan so that he could look at it daily all year long.

THANK YOU

RECIPES

Elaine Westring provided the recipe for this month. This recipe has been a family favorite since Dana made his first trip to Italy. He made it for a family dinner the last time he was home.

Carbonara

8 ounces fettuccine pasta

salt, to taste

1 cup freshly grated Parmesan

1 egg, 2 egg yolks plus water (about 1/4 cup or more)

6 thick sliced bacon strips, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

1-pound ham, cubed

1 cup whipping cream

fresh ground pepper

fresh parsley

Step 1

whisk eggs, egg white, (whisk till white is really mixed in) 2/3 cup grated Parmesan together in bowl. Add enough cold water so mixture is a bit loose. Set aside

Bring 2 quarts of lightly salted water to boil.

Step 2

Meanwhile, place bacon pieces in heavy pot (Dutch oven is great) over medium heat and cook. Don't let the pieces get too crunchy. Using slotted spoon transfer bacon to paper towel to drain. Pour bacon grease from pan. Place ham cubes in pan and turn heat on lowest setting, add bacon back into pan and add 1 cup whipping cream. Let slowly heat-don't let it boil.

Step 3

As soon as pot of water is at a boil. Cook pasta until al dente.

Turn off stove. Using tongs pick pasta out of water and place in a bowl. After saving a cup of the pasta cooking water, empty the pot and then put pasta back in the warm pot.

Step 4

Here we go! Turn heat on lowest setting. Pour egg mixture over pasta. And, using those tongs again, turn the pasta over and over till pasta strands are coated.

Step 5

Turn off heat. Gently combine with meat and cream mixture, decide if dish needs moisture, if so, add some reserved liquid pasta water and then.....top with reserved Parmesan, lots of black pepper and lots and lots of fresh parsley!

Thank you so much

Dear Endowment Committee of Swede Home Church

The officers and members of the Polk County Fire Department thank you very much for your large donation to our department. We will use the money to help purchase a power cot for our rescue unit.

Thanks again, Dennis Carlson

On behalf of the volunteers of the Food for Thought Weekend Backpack Program and A Place at the Table, Inc., I would like to extend a very sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" for your recent donation to care of those in need.
Because of the generosity of you and others here in our area, we are now bringing much-needed hunger relief to students at area schools, where in some places almost 50% of students are eligible for free/ reduced school meals. We also have opportunities to volunteer to help fill backpacks and transport them to the schools each week.

Thanks so much! You are the best!

Jason, Rosenkranz, Treasurer—A Place at the Table

Thank you Calvary Lutheran Church

The Osceola Fire Department would like to thank you for your charitable contribution. Throughout the years, we have made major upgrades to our firefighting and rescue capabilities thanks to your donations. Last year the department spent about 3,100 hours serving our community and the surrounding areas.

Again, Thank you for your generosity.

Marcus L Augustin, Treasurer

Osceola Volunteer Fire Department

THANKS THANKS THANKS

Dear beloved Calvary Members,

I want to thank you for your prayers for me and especially for my father as we both had COVID. I have fully recovered and was fortunate enough to have a mild case. My dad had quite a time: COVID, 3 case of pneumonia an a lung that collapsed 4 times.

He is currently in skilled care at the VA hospital in Des Monies for rehab and therapy. They are hoping he will be able to come home sometime in February. He is definitely ready for that as he has been in the hospital since November 3. *(Editor note, he has since been discharged and is at home waiting for his vaccine)*

I am so grateful for your support and prayers. You remain in my prayers as you continue with the call process and in your interim ministry partnership with Pastor Sarah Ruch. She is fabulous!

With love in Christ, Pastor Kim Belken

Dear members of the Calvary Church,

A belated Thank you note for the meal you provided for us during the holiday season.

We thoroughly enjoyed and were blessed for receiving it.

May Christ continue His full blessings on you.

In God's Love

Allen and Roselyn Miller, Osceola NE

Extra Mile Award

Pastor Sarah stated that one of her core beliefs was that we are all ministers. In a phone conversation with Pastor Sarah, she asked me about the history of the "Going the Extra Mile" award, and how did we choose the recipients.

Being a minister is a good analogy of what the award means and how we chose the recipients. We recognize commitment to faith, service, time and talents, not just limited to Calvary but to our community and beyond.

We have recognized our quilters, whose hands, talent and commitment have touched and provided warmth to people in other countries.

We have also recognized the faith, service, time, talents and commitment of those who have led Bible studies, taught Sunday School and provided worship music.

This year the council will award 2 recipients.

In a year with a worldwide pandemic, a year that was far from normal, our council's biggest challenge was to make worship as normal as possible. The challenge of maintaining worship while reaching all of our congregation, not only for the period of time when we were not physically worshiping here at Calvary, but for the continuing Sundays when some of us were at Calvary, while others who may have health concerns, stayed at home.

These two individuals helped us make that happen.

Linda Fuhr's dedication to Calvary this past year was remarkable. When our council made decisions that would affect her workload, Linda never missed a beat. She embraced the extra responsibility. Linda helped

Extra Mile Award continued

Calvary tremendously, distributing our weekly services by email, regular mail, and on Facebook. Linda's assistance to both Calvary and First Lutheran in keeping our joint ministerial agreement moving forward, along with communication with Synod, during the pandemic, was a blessing to both councils. Linda's service to our congregation is a testament of her faith and is greatly appreciated.

Lisa Oquist, like Linda, has shown great dedication and service to Calvary. Lisa has faithfully recorded Calvary's family and Sunday School giving, along with maintaining our membership roster, for years. Lisa also creates the yearly counting schedule and is herself a member of the counting team. Lisa's weekly commitment of recording our giving is, like Linda's, a testament of her faith and is also greatly appreciated.

Lisa's and Linda's steadfast service to Calvary this past year makes them an east choice for recipients of the "Going the Extra Mile" award.

Unfortunately, neither Linda or Lisa are able to be here today so please congratulate them when you see them. We will recognize them during a future Sunday service. *Kent Adelson and council*

I want to extend my sincere thanks for the Extra Mile Award that was presented to me! Receiving this award is a great honor. God's blessings to all of you!!

Sincerely, Lisa Oquist

There have been so many that have "Walked the Extra Mile" for Swede Home. Thank you for honoring me in this award this year. We have said it often that we are thankful to be part of the Swede Home family.

God's blessings to you all

Linda Fuhr

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

Every Member of the Congregation—
Ministers
Kent Adelson, Co-Council President
Dan Oquist, Co-Council President
Diana Johnson, Organist
Linda Fuhr, Secretary
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

Council Members:
Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofmann, Dan Oquist, Kent Adelson,
Sandra Johnston, Dan Ienn, Fran Lott
All Calvary members, Ministers

We will have Pastor Sarah Ruch as our transition minister. This is her contact information:

Text or call 402-833-8318
Email: pastorsarahruch@gmail.com

Pastor Brenda Pfiefly is on emergency call for Calvary, her contact number is 402-416-5434

Please contact Linda Fuhr, Church Secretary at calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com or text or call 402-366-2091,

Meet a Member—

Jadyn Johnson has grown up in Osceola with her parents, Craig & Sarah Johnson and sister, Megan. She's a very busy Osceola High School senior, participating in volleyball, basketball, track, one act, cheer/dance, National Honor Society, Student Council and SWAG (Students With Awesome Goals). In her free time, Jadyn enjoys hanging out with friends, taking their dog for a walk, staying active, and cooking/baking.

After graduation, Jadyn plans to attend UNK to pursue a bachelors degree in business. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she plans to go on for a master's. She'd like to work at a job that helps people with their finances, whether that involves accounting, marketing or finance.

n the summers, she loves going to her grandparent's house at Bucktail Lake. Jadyn enjoys water skiing, tubing, volleyball and hanging out with her friends. She doesn't go snow skiing a lot, but when she has, she really enjoyed it.

Jadyn is passionate about living the best life she can. Living each day to the fullest and striving to be a good person is important to her. Jadyn said God has a plan for everyone, so she lives each day knowing that He is in control.

Calvary has a family atmosphere that Jadyn likes. Everyone is friendly and welcoming. Her fondest memory of Calvary that she enjoys participating in each year, is the Christmas Eve Service.

THANK YOU

Calvary Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for the donation. We greatly appreciate your support.

Thanks Again

Stromsburg Ambulance

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

Remember in your prayers

Melissa Forsberg
Janice Forsberg
Denny Johnson
June Larson
Elaine Toline

Jan Wells-Bachman
George Belken .

All who are shut in and need prayers and support

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action, & Denver Metro Ministries
- Houses for Health recipients.
- Bishop Brian Maas and the Nebraska Synod staff
- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and all ELCA congregations and members
- Brody Ienn in service to our country
- Council as they continue the process of church profile and calling a minister
- Our leaders as they face COVID19 decisions
- Our companion synods in Tanzania and Argentina

To request prayers see article on page 9 of the newsletter

Thank You

Dear ones:
I know I am way past due in sending this, BUT we haven't forgotten the wonderful food package you sent to us. Everything was so good and very much appreciated, and the peace and comfort was so much appreciated to know that you care. We will look forward to visiting you some time.

God bless you all,
Sincerely,
Hal and Mary Parrish

Anniversaries

March

03 Fred & Jill Bush

08 Don & Linda Fuhr

23 Ron & Carole Dickson

Birthdays

01 Carey Clauff
04 Steve Fredrickson
04 Janet Nielsen
05 Fawn Ienn
07 Mike Cramer
07 Megan Johnson
07 Carol P Jones
08 Jeremiah Hinkle
14 Rod Jones
17 Colby Nelson
17 Dan Oquist
17 Chris Smith
21 Braden Kobus
24 Monty Jones
26 Gladys Johnson
26 Kay Jones
27 Jan Ernst
28 Bonnie Carlson
29 Mark Jones
30 Ed Willhoft
31 Sarah Johnson

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the members who continue with their financial support for Swede Home Church. In these trying times, we realize even more the words "to give as you are able"
God's Blessings

February

Assistant Minister – Jean Waller
Scripture Reader – Wayne Johnson
Ushers – Mike and Anita Haack
Altar/Communion – Deb Cramer & Kay Jones
Acolyte – Peyton Hofmann
Bell Ringer – Scott Walgren
We thank all those who agree to help with the worship service each month.

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7 pm mid –week Lenten service	4	5	6
7 10:30 Worship with Communion 11:45 Confirmation	8	9	10 7 pm mid –week Lenten service	11	12	13
14 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	15	16	17 7 pm mid –week Lenten service	18	19	20
21 9:15 SS and Adult Forum - 10:30 Worship with Communion	22	23	24 7 pm mid –week Lenten service	25 Quilt Day	26	27
28 10:30 Worship 11:45 Confirmation	29	30	31	April 1 Maundy Thursday at Rising 7 pm	April 2 Good Friday at Swede Home 7 pm	April 3 Easter Vigil at Swede Home 7pm

We have the following changes of addresses:

Jan Ernest is now residing at Ridgeview Heights Assisted Living, Osceola—Apt 4.

Her mailing address is: 12964 J Rd, Osceola NE 68651
The post office will not deliver mail for her to Ridgeview Heights

Brody's new mailing address is:

EMN3, IENN BRODRYK
2102-06
101 NNPTC CIRCLE
GOOSE CREEK SC 29445

Amy Harris sent the following information on Hank:

Hank Hanquist moved into assisted living at Midwest Covenant Home last weekend. He'd LOVE visitors--just call ahead to tell the Assisted Living staff that you're coming.

402-764-2710

His new address:

Roger (Hank) Hanquist

PO Box 367, Plaza 123

Stromsburg NE 68666

The Assisted Living is open for 30-60 minute visits but you need to call first!

For many years, Jan has been a faithful servant in heading up the prayer request change. With her move to Ridge View, she has requested that someone take on this responsibility. We thank Jan for her years of dedicated service and know we all will include her in our prayers.

Cheryl and Linda are working on how the prayer chain will continue in the future. One suggestion has been that for those who have email, our mode of contact will be to use email vs telephone calls. So our first thought is to reach out to those who receive the weekly church bulletin by email and see if they would want to be included on a prayer request list. Any requests that would be sent by would be limited in details and not include specifics of the request, unless the person specifically requests information be shared.

We are working on details, and will continue to call those who do not have an email address or want to use email.

In the meantime, please do not call Jan. For now email the church email :

calvaryswedehomechurch@gmail.com

or call Linda on her cell **402-366-2091.**

You may also call Pastor Sarah at **402-833-8318** and we will contact the prayer chain.

Watch for an email update on this and the April Newsletter for more information.

While 2020 was not the year any of us expected, we have tried to count our blessings and make the best of the year. We enjoyed visits from Andy & Andrea and Brian & Deb early in 2020.

Rich has been able to continue his PhD program in psychology at Adelphi online. He completed his second-year research project on "Death and Dying in the Age of COVID-29."

Rebecca is continuing to thrive as Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in offering online and in-person ministry opportunities.

Erin loves kindergarten and lost her first tooth right before Christmas!

Grace is in a three-year-old nursery school class, can write her name, and has just mastered writing the letter "s."

While we haven't traveled as much as we would have liked, we did enjoy some trips to visit Sandy in New Jersey and lots of local exploration of Long Island, especially its beautiful beaches and state parks this summer.

Love

The Sheridans

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

- Council met following worship on February 21 after being delayed two weeks due to very cold weather. Present: Pastor Sarah, Kent, Dan O, Lynn, Fran, Sandy. Absent: Dan I and Todd.
- New Council officers were chosen, Dan Oquist and Kent Adelson will share president duties, Sandy Johnston is secretary. The Memorial Committee for the coming year is made up of Patty Tieg, Mike Haack, Don Fuhr and Sandy Johnston. The Audit committee of Gia Adelson, Lisa Oquist and Renee Hanquist audited the church financial records before the January annual meeting.
- Confirmation class have met and will continue to meet following worship on the second and fourth Sundays from 11:45 to 1:45. Affirmation of Baptism for the second year students will be held in the fall of 2021. Sunday school will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15 on the Sundays that confirmation class does not meet. Calvary will not have Vacation Bible School again this summer but will urge our children to attend the VBS programs in the Osceola, Polk and Stromsburg communities this summer. Calvary will support the programs where our children attend in any way we can.
- We will continue the COVID19 precautions which includes wearing masks, social distancing and no after worship coffee and no Lenten meals. We will follow 4 Corners Health Department guidelines. We urge anyone who contracts COVID to make a council member aware to stop the spread through the congregation. Everyone's privacy will be protected.
- Our Sundays and Seasons worship material will be shared with Rising City. They are already included in our license to use the material because we have a joint ministry agreement.

Treasurer's Report

		January 2021
Beginning Balance		**$15,866.35**
Offerings:		
	General Offering	8,146.00
	The Lutheran Magazine	80.00
	Sunday School	77.00
	Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
	ELCA Mission Share	400.00
	First R.C. - Dec2020 Salary Share	463.12
	Total Offerings:	**$9,171.12**
Expenses:		
	Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
	Cody's Computer Contract	34.99
	Postage Expense	56.00
	Office Net - office supplies	65.75
	Confirmation Online Leader's Guide	105.49
	Office Net - copier usage Contract	158.55
	ELCA Mission Share	1,640.00
	First Rising City (January Share)	913.25
Utilities:		
	Church	1,430.37
	Parsonage	97.46
Salaries:		
	Pastor Sarah Ruch	641.92
	Commuting Allowance	183.46
	SECA	63.84
	Cell Phone Allowance	16.25
	Supply Pastor Leroy Hoyer	430.04
	Sister Anne Hall - 4th Quarter WH Taxes	360.53
	Diana	476.24
	LeeAnn	241.50
	Linda	728.68
	FICA	676.65
	Total Expenses:	**$8,330.66**
Balance as of January 31, 2021:		**$16,706.81**

*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**