MAY, 2017

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Message from Pastor Kim

How is your prayer life going?

Sometimes it is easier to pray than other times. It is okay and even natural to struggle at certain times with prayer. When we are discouraged and disappointed it can feel like God is far away and maybe doesn't even hear our prayers. When thinks are going really well, it can be tempting to forget the source of our blessings. In fact, for many it is far too easy to forget. But in all times and all places, we as Christians are exhorted to pray. In fact, the Bible instructs us to pray without ceasing.

Prayer is a vitally important part of the Christian life. According to author Martha Grace Reese, "prayer is the way we stay in love with God." Thus, prayer keeps us connected to the source of our very being and awakens in us love for the one who has loved us (and all creation) since the very beginning. And even though God knows our wants and our needs before a prayer even forms on our lips, God loves to hear his children praying.

Coming up on Thursday, May 4th is the National Day of Prayer. The National Day of Prayer is a day for Christians across the country to gather for prayer for our nation, for our local communities, our military, our churches and schools, and all those in leadership positions. For those of you who are early risers, there will be a prayer breakfast at the Stromsburg Viking Center at 6:30am. Tickets are required and can be purchased for $5 from me. The speaker for this event will be Pastor Glenn Harless. For those of you who are not early risers, we have been asked to have people commit to pray that evening. There will be a sign up sheet for that as you leave worship on April 30th. Brochures are available with suggestions and Scriptures for prayer during those times.

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you . . .

Thanks to the many readers who helped with the services on Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. You all exhibited the message of grace by willingly using your ability to tell the story of salvation. Blessings to all of you.

Thank you everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt. This event was very successful thanks to all of you! God's blessings.

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

If by the time you are reading this, the National Day of Prayer has come and gone, do not fear. You can come to God with the same concerns anywhere and at any time. I will keep the prayer guides for National Day of Prayer on hand all month, so if you would like one after the event, you can still pick one up and pray. Also, if you ever need additional resources for or on prayer, please don't hesitate to let me know. I would be honored to help you grow in this way in your life of faith.

Prayer is a gift of God for God's people. The Holy Spirit joins us as we pray, whisking away our prayer petitions by taking them straight to God the Father. And the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we struggle with prayer or can't find the words to express our deepest prayers, hopes, pains, or thanksgiving. Thanks be to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the treasure of prayer.

Jesus Saves

W.E.L.C.A. News

May

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Mary Anna	Linda Jones	Linda Jones
Miriam	Mabel Hinkle	Jean Waller
Ruth	Kay Jones	Bonnie Carlson

Bible Study: *Gather* - May

Service: Bible School Treats & an offering to Help Defray Bible School Expenses.

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)

***Pastor Kim will be gone from May 15th through the 22nd for Continuing Education. If you are needing Pastoral Service while she is gone please contact Pastor Brenda at Salem Lutheran Church (402)416-5434.**

Mission and Ministry Update

Dear all at Calvary Swedehome, Stromsburg,

Early next week we will begin work on your Swedehome Calvary House for Health #9, which is house #126 in the Houses for Health Program.

The recipient of your next house is Anna Dominick Kweka age 54. Mrs. Kweke lives in Narumu which is a sub-village in greater Machame. Mrs. Kweke is HIV Positive and receiving treatment at the Machame Lutheran Hospital Care and Treatment Center. She has with her 3 children Elizabeth age 20, Rosie age 16, and Catherine age18. The attached picture show Anna and her current house.

I will be in touch with more information and photos once this house is completed.

Thank you again for your confidence and support in this program aiding the very poor in Tanzania.

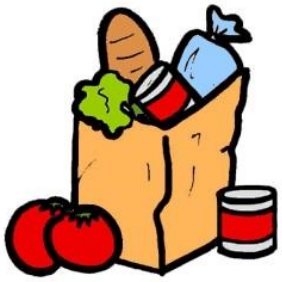
Bob Kasworm
Machame Lutheran Hospital
CHI Health—Tanzania

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 May, 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

Memorial Day Service

Join us for the annual Memorial Day Service on May 29th, 2017 at 9:00am in the Swede Home Cemetery, sponsored by the Swede Home Cemetery Association. Coffee will be served in the church basement

Thrivent Help

Did you know Thrivent supports congregational projects and events? Thrivent Action teams can get $250.00 per project/event. Each Thrivent member can apply for two action teams per year. For outreach projects online application needs to be in 3 weeks in advance. At Calvary these funds have been used for highway clean-up, Ice Cream Social, Cemetery clean up, mission trip fundraisers, etc. If you would like to help by using Thrivent funds available please contact your Thrivent representative or Pastor Kim.

Thrivent

Thrivent is working with Habitat for Humanity in Columbus. They are looking for volunteers on any Saturday—willing hands or food either lunch. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kim.

Revelation Brunch

An end of the year Sunday School Celebration and Youth Fundraiser for Calvary is on May 7th, 2017 at 9:30am. Brought to you by C.H.E.R.I.S.H (Children Hearing Everlasting Religion In Swede Home). For the last 2 years the Sunday School Students have been taking a walk through the Bible. They now know God's great promise to all of us all and want to celebrate! Please join us for a Free Will Offering Brunch and Fundraiser for our Youth Program. This Program helps pay for Church Camps, Youth Outings, and Mission Trips.

As many of you know Calvary is sending 4 young men to Colorado for a Mission Trip this summer! So please join us to celebrate God's promise to us all and to help the youth raise money for their summer camps and mission trips.

Confirmation

Confirmation will be held Sunday, June 4th at 10:30am during Worship. Ceagen Jay Watts and Jadyn Jeannine Johnson will be confirmed, please keep them in your prayers and come celebrate with them as they celebrate this event in their life of faith.

VBS –Zion

Cave Quest VBS will be held June 4th-8th. June 4th will be a family event 5:30-7:30pm and June 5th-8th will be PreK to 5th Grade from 8:30am –12pm. If you are interested in helping, please contact Bri Schoch and Christine Jarsoz.

VBS—Calvary

VBS will be June 5-9 and this year is held at the Methodist Church in Osceola. Volunteers are needed to help before VBS with decorating and during VBS crafts (one day or all days). If you are interested and able to help, please talk to Pastor Kim. It will be a great time!

Lutheran Family Services

Many thanks for your gift of $500.00, received 2/21/2017. Your generosity in support of LFS programs and services is an investment in lifesaving human care that directly impacts the lives of those served by LFS. Thank You!

Every year, LFS touches one in 50 Nebraskans in the core competencies of Children Services, Behavioral Health and Community Services including human care for our nations' newest neighbors. Your support provides hope, healing, and recovery to those welcomed and served here at LFS—refugees and immigrants escaping violence and seeking a place of safety, children exposed to unspeakable trauma, and those on the path to mental wellness.

Sincerely,

Mike E Jones
Development Officer

Easter Egg Hunt

Zion hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on April 15th at the Benedict Park. There were 40 kids involved and it lasted a whole 4 minutes. Afterward they did Easter Crafts and ate cookies! It was very fun event!

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

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

Carl and Pearl Nansel's little girl, Elaine was the only girl in a class with five boys in the second grade in her country school near Monroe. Being 7-year-old boys they teased her until she hauled off with her black lunch box and left little Donnie bleeding from his temple.

When Elaine was a junior in high school her family moved to Genoa across the street from the very cute Jim Westring and she became good friends with his sister. She went to the Junior Prom with her second grade tormentor but began dating Jim and married him after high school.

Jim and Elaine moved to Stromsburg and Elaine taught grade school in Gresham. She took a 3 hour certification course before starting to teach with only that and a high school diploma. She wasn't much older than her students and smaller than some. She later graduated from York Jr College when her children were young and resumed teaching which she loved.

Elaine and Jim had three children; Jerry and his wife, Joann live in Stromsburg, Dana and his spouse, Trevor live in northern Virginia and Jill lives in Stromsburg. After Jim passed away, Elaine began living with Jill. Elaine has twin granddaughters, Ashley and Taylor.

Elaine thought Nelson's Clothing Store that was on the east side of the Square in Stromsburg would be a great place to work—in a clothing store! And they had beautiful shoes. She and Jim bought the Town and Country on the north side of the square where the 4th Street Coffee House is now. They sold clothes, fabric and some household goods. Elaine and Bobbi McBride bought the Ben Franklin in Geneva. Later they bought the dime store in Stromsburg which is now Yungdahl's Apothecary. For a time she also had Flahertys Café in Osceola, a favorite of farmers for their noon meal and the best place for fish and many side dishes on Friday nights.

Elaine was mayor of Stromsburg for two terms. She has been an active member at Calvary for many years and was Council President for a term.

A few years ago Don Lloyd, her old second grade nemesis and prom date contacted her and they have become good friends. He lives in Rochester, Minnesota. They enjoy each other's company and do a lot of traveling together. For Elaine life continues to be an adventure.

Remember in your prayers

Dorothy Ehlers
Fred & Lori Ehlers
Janise Forsberg
Melissa Forsberg
Blake Hicks
Lenore Kessler
June Larson
Myron 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

Anniversaries

Calvary:

Rick & Kathi Jones
May 1st

Bill & Venida Carlstrom
May 2nd

Brady & Katrina Hanquist
May 5th

Ed & LeAnn Willhoft
May 7th

Mark & Penny Udey
May 19th

Craig & Sarah Johnson
May 30th

Mike & Deb Seymour
May 31st

Zion:

Adam and Amber Rediger
May 20th

Birthdays

Calvary:

1—Bob Dittmer
1—Jennie Mandigo
5—Dave Udey
6—Morgan Walgren
8—Lewellen Nielsen
8—Vance Toline
12—Karen Gestine
12—Cheryl Jones
15—Ty Twarling
16—Tammy Jones
16—Steve Oquist
26—Greg Dittmer
27—Krystal Berggren
28—Kit Waller

Zion:

9—Michelle Blair

Zion Worship Assistants

May

Communion Assistant: Dawn Kush
Usher: Lonnie Schlegelmilch
Greeter: Michelle Blair

Reader:
7—Melanie Meister, 14—Jacob Kush, 21—Dawn Kush, 28—Teresa Bittinger

Acolyte:
7—Lyndsey Bolton, 14—Isaac Reetz, 21—Tierney Schoch, 28—Harley Martin

Calvary Worship Assistants

May

Assistant Ministers— Deb Swedenburg
Scripture Reader—Wayne Johnson
Ushers— Mike & Deb Cramer
Acolyte—Colby Nelson
Altar Care— Mary Anna Circle
Bell Ringer— Scott Walgren

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6p Confirmation 7p Calvary Council	4	5	6
7 8:30a Zion Holy Communion 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion	8	9	10 6p Confirmation 7p Men's Bible Study 7p Ruth's WELCA Circle	11 2p Mary Anna's WELCA Circle	12 9a Miriam WELCA Circle	13
14 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship	15 Pastor Kim @ Continuing Ed _____	16	17	18 9a Quilt Day	19	20
21 8:30a Zion Holy Communion 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 8:30a Zion Worship 10:30a Calvary Worship	29 9a Memorial Day Service at Calvary Cemetery	30	31			

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

Council Meeting Newsletter updates -
April 6, 2017

- **Save the Date** - on Sunday June 11, 2017, Calvary Lutheran will host the Nebraska Brass Concert. We have hosted them twice in the past, and they contacted us to do a spring performance. More information will follow. We know you won't want to miss the event and cookies! If you have attended before, you know they said Swedehome cookies were the best!
- Calvary Swedehome youth are going on a mission trip to Denver. A joint trip with students from Osceola St. Paul and Osceola Methodist will join Swedehome youth, Clayton and Ceagen Watts, Jacob Adelson and Brody Ienn. The trip will be July 30-August 4. Please keep the youth in your prayers, and consider helping them financially with the future fundraisers being planned.
- Vacation bible school will be held jointly with St. Paul Lutheran and Osceola Methodist the week of June 5-9. The Methodist will be hosting the event. Pastor is coordinating Swedehome volunteers - please let her know if you can help with crafts, teaching, treats etc.
- Confirmation will be Sunday, June 4 - please keep our confirmands, Ceagen and Jadyn in your prayers as they reaffirm their baptism.
- The annual Highway Clean-up on April 9th, will have come and gone by the time this newsletter goes to print. If you missed to the chance to help with the community outreach and the food and fellowship that followed, you will have another change this fall. The Highway clean up is a project that Swedehome sponsors twice a year. We cover 2 miles north from the highway 92-39 junction. When lots of willing and able bodies come, it doesn't take long to walk the ditches and the food and fellowship is priceless.
- The decorating duo of Jeannie Waller and Carole Dickson are working on a project to ensure the heritage of Swedehome. They plan to decorate the elevator entry with quilts, pictures and history of our roots. Watch for more information from these ladies and plan on sharing some of your memories or pictures with them.

Treasurer's Report — March, 2017

Beginning Balance	**$13685.82**
Offering:	
General Offering	**7255.00**
Sunday School	**81.26**
Lutheran Magazine	**45.00**
Lent—Backpack Program	**808.00**
ELCA Disaster Relief	**5.00**
ELCA Mission Share	**385.00**
	8579.28
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee & TC % Fee	**7.79**
Sunday School Supplies	**19.24**
First Communion Cake	**29.99**
Polk County News 1 YR Subscription	**35.00**
Jeff Jones work to Church Computer	**50.00**
Postage	**196.00**
Office Net; Quarterly Service	**287.08**
Synod Assembly Registration Lay Persons	**350.00**
Cemetery Association	**500.00**
NE Synod ELCA-Mission Share	**1450.00**
Zion Benedict January Share	**1977.89**
Utilities:	
Church:	**1122.44**
Parsonage:	**118.73**
Salaries:	
Pastor	**2176.41**
Mileage	**386.52**
SECA	**216.41**
Portico Benefits	**995.83**
Synod Assemble Registration	**122.50**
Continuing Ed Expense	**462.53**
Diana	**423.52**
LeeAnn	**230.87**
Bri	**667.34**
Supply Pastor Karen Tjarks	**169.47**
	$11995.56
Balance as of March 31st, 2017	**$10269.54**

Designated $$ Transferred to Applicable SAV Account:

Improvement Fund:	**$600.00**
Thrivent Choice	**$0.00**

*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**