May 2026

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

CELEBRATING OUR MINISTRY

CALVARY SWEDE HOME

[31] God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. Genesis 1:31a
(Revue)

When I think of May, I typically think of flowers. One of the beauties of the earth, full of every color we can think of and brighten many doorsteps around the world. God's creation is full of so much beauty. From the trees growing tall to the weeds that pop up so small, the world is full of God's beautiful creation.

Wilder has lately been bringing me dandelions, saying, "I brought you a flower mama!" The first time I thought, thanks for the weed, kiddo. The second time I said thanks and pondered about what he sees in the flower. The last time I smiled and remembered how much I loved dandelions as a kid as well. Sutton even followed suit and handed one, saying yellow (the only color he knows right now). There is beauty even in the weeds.

Where will you see God's beauty in the world this month? Will it be in the new leaves sprouting or in the grass growing? Will you have flower beds that start to bloom or weeds coming up all over the place? How ever the beauty comes to you, let us all see it through the eyes of a child, beautiful and a part of God's creation.

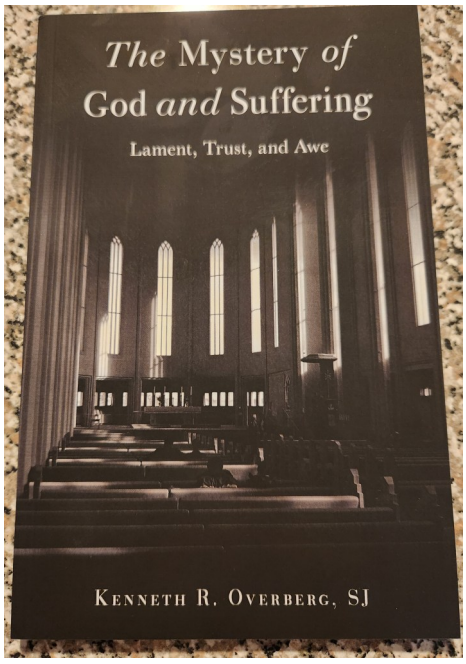
And remember that you are a part of that beautiful creation too! And it is so good! Amen.

+Peace Pastor Hillary

Pastor Evan will lead a 3 week book study "The Mystery of God and Suffering" by Kenneth R. Overberg, SJ

Sessions will by on May 21st, 28th and June 4th at 7 pm at church fellowship hall.

See Pastor for a copy of the book. There is no charge for the book.



Announcements

The future will bring more food insecurities to those in Polk County. Please prayerfully consider our Swede Home Mission to help others and make donations to our Food Pantry. We serve Genesis House, Blue Valley and the Little Food Pantries. When you get groceries, consider buying an extra item or more to donate.

Please bring 1 member/1 item/1 Sunday per month to help build our food pantry. Thank you for making this program successful

Each spring we are thankful to receive winter surplus clothing from the AJMC Thrift Shop in Osceola. In the fall we take these donations to Dana Village in Blair for their residents and their Refugee program. If you have good condition winter coats, gloves, scarves that you would like to donate, please leave at church. Your may leave on a table in the basement, and they will taken with other donations. THANK YOU

W.E.L.C.A. News

*Service for May is offering to help defray VBS expenses and planning for Vacation Bible School treats.

*Altar care for May will be by Cheryl Jones. June will be by Kay Jones.

*Many enjoy the fellowship time following worship on Sunday mornings. Anyone is invited to sign up to serve coffee any Sunday of the month.

*Looking Ahead: The Annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Sunday, July 19. Special activities are planned again this year. Join us as we also take the ice cream social to the Assisted Living at Midwest Covenant Home on Monday, 7/20. That time will be here before we know it! Please put these dates on your calendars.

*Women's Retreat: We are blessed to have Pastor Evan & Pastor Hillary planning a Women's Retreat on our regular meeting date, August 12, at the St. Benedict Retreat Center near Schuyler. More information to come at a later date. All women of Calvary are welcome to attend!

May Events

5/13, Circle, 9 a.m. - Heidi @ 4th Street Coffee House

5/20, 7:30 p.m. – Pastor Hillary's Bible Study

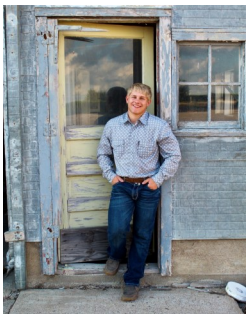
5/25 – Memorial Day Coffee at church

"Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another, to show love." ~ Hebrews 10:24

Blessings to you on Mother's Day, Graduations and Memorial Day Weekend,

Cheryl

Meet the Member Eli Fjell



I grew up in Stromsburg, Nebraska with my dad, Ryan and my mom, Jennifer. I have two brothers, Carter and Ethan and one sister, Elise. Elise and Carter are going to be married soon, so I will also have a brother-in-law, Ethan and a sister-in-law, Dakota.

I attended Shelby-Rising City High School. I plan to attend Fort Hayes State University to wrestle and I plan to major in AG Communications. My favorite part of school was PE and Mrs. Nienhueser because we always had a lot of fun.

Our family went on a family vacation every year. When we were little, we used to go to Kansas City and go to Worlds of Fun. Now that we are older, we take a yearly trip to Mexico and sometimes South Dakota before school starts. I was involved in many activities through high school like Student Council, Circle of Friends, FFA, FBLA, and FCA. I also played football, wrestled, and did track. In the summer I loved playing baseball with most recently playing SOS Legion Ball. I am sad I can't play this year due to my ACL repair. I don't have much down time, but when I do, I enjoy hanging out with friends.

I am passionate about wrestling and farming and look forward to where it will take me in college. I really enjoy working with cattle and I hope to come back after college and have my own cattle farm. (Editor Note: Eli won State Championship in wrestling his Junior and Senior years, and was named the 2026 NSWCA Class D wrestler of the year!)

I enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of Calvary and Swede Home and all the people I have met. Everyone has become like family to us. I enjoy helping out as I can with things like acolyte and church events.

Eli and his family invite you to his graduation celebration, beginning at 5 pm. It will be held at the Ryan Hill Country Club, Osceola NE

Past Events

Highway Litter Pickup

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED

Once again we had a great crew come and help with the Highway Pickup project. The good Lord shined down us with beautiful weather and NO wind!

Pictured are some of those who enjoyed the meal of pulled pork and sides that Cheryl and Monty provided.

Those helping were: Deb and Mike Cramer, Deb Hanquist, Doug Jones, Kent and Andrew Adelson, Missy and Jarrett Althouse, Kay and Rodney Jones, Kim Boden, Don and Linda Fuhr, Monty and Chery Jones.

. April Back Pack Project

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED

Thanks to all who helped with the packing and delivering of the backpacks to the schools on April 7th.

Many hands make the job easy and packing goes quickly. Thanks to Ben Carlson, Bonnie Carlson, Kay Jones, Cheryl Jones, Fran and Randy Lott, Carolyn and Lew Nielson, Don and Linda Fuhr, Deb and Layne Hanquist

EVENTS

. Memorial Day Services will be at the Swede Home Cemetery on Monday, May 25th, at 10:00 am. Coffee and rolls will be served in the church fellowship hall following the service

Pentecost Sunday is May 24. Tradition is to wear **red** to worship

Synod Assembly will be May 29-31 in Kearney. Pr Evan and Pr Hillary along with delegates Mike and Deb Cramer will be attending.

THANK YOU

Blessed are those who are Generous . Proverbs 22:9

We are so grateful for your generous donations to Genesis House Personal Development Center. Your gifts of food and warm clothing for children, as well as the money card help us support survivors of domestic violence. It also supports our efforts to educate our youth on health relationships.

Sincerely, Genesis House Board of Directors

Dear Pastor and congregation

Blue Valley Community Action Partnership appreciates your donation of $400 to our Polk County Family & Community Services Center. Your generosity truly makes a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for "Helping People and Changing Lives!"

Sincerely,

Mercedes Gonzale Dominguez, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENT

Seeking him in All Generations, I Chronicles 16:24

The Viking Center in Stromsburg will be the site of the National World Day of Prayer Breakfast on Thursday May 7 at 6:30 am

Lonnie Berger, from Hope Gospel Rescue Mission in York will be the guest speaker. There will be a free will donation at the door.

Thank You

Dear Calvay WELCA
Your prayers, encouragement, and faithful support have allowed us to touch the lives of countless youth and families—helping them discover God's purpose for their lives and walk forward with courage and humility

Your gift today will help provide:

- **Nutritious meals** that remind them they are cared for every single day
- **School supplies** so a child feels prepared and proud walking into class
- **Steady guidance and love** that can heal wounds and build faith for al lifetime
- Thank you for being a vital part of our Oaks Indian Mission Family.

With Gratitude and hope—

Dan Cooper, Executive Director

Dear Calvary Lutheran Women of the ELCA

Thank you for your recent gift of $230 supporting the ministries of the Women of the ELCA. Indeed, thank you for your generosity. Together, we can do so much good in the world.

With Gratitude

Jennifr Hockenbery, Interim Executive Director

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
Amy Harris and Janet Nielsen, Music
Linda Fuhr, Church Office Administrator
LeeAnn Willhoft, Custodian

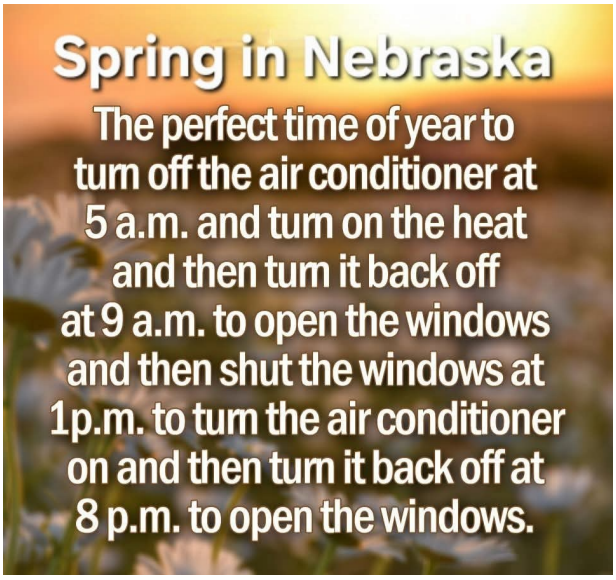
Council Members:
Andrew Adelson, Jennifer Fjell, Diana Johnson
Jacob Adelson, Kris Udey, Randy Lott,
Sandy Johnston

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.



With Sympathy

We extend our condolences to Randy and Fran Lott and family in the passing of Randy's father, Bob Lott.

Funeral Services were Monday, April 27th at the First Lutheran Church in York with PR Hillary conducting the service

We keep the family of Alice Jane Oquist in our prayers. Alice Jane passed away on Sunday morning April 26th.

A service of Remembrance and Resurrection will be held on Friday, May 8th at 10 am at Calvary Church—Swede Home

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

Remember in your prayers

Beth Jones Wienck
Jan Wells Bachman
Carey Clauff

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action
- Bishop Scott Johnson and the Nebraska Synod staff
- Bishop Yehiel Curry and all ELCA congregations and members

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

THE MONTH OF MAY , PLEASE SIGN UP FOR 1 OR MORE SUNDAYS FOR BELL RINGER AND ACOLYTE

Assistant Minister/reader— Bonnie

Usher - Kay

Acolyte -and Bell Ringer—

Altar Care— Cheryl

Coffee—

Anniversaries

May

01 –Rick and Kathi Jones

05-Brady and Katrina Hanquist

07-Ed and LeeAnne Willhoft

30-Craig and Sarah Johnson

Birthdays

May

01 Bob Dittmer

01 Jennie Mandigo

03 Tom Hofmann

05 Dave Udey

08 Lewellen Nielsen

12 Cheryl Jones

16 Tammy Jones

26 Greg Dittmer

27 Krystal Berggren

28 Kit Waller

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**

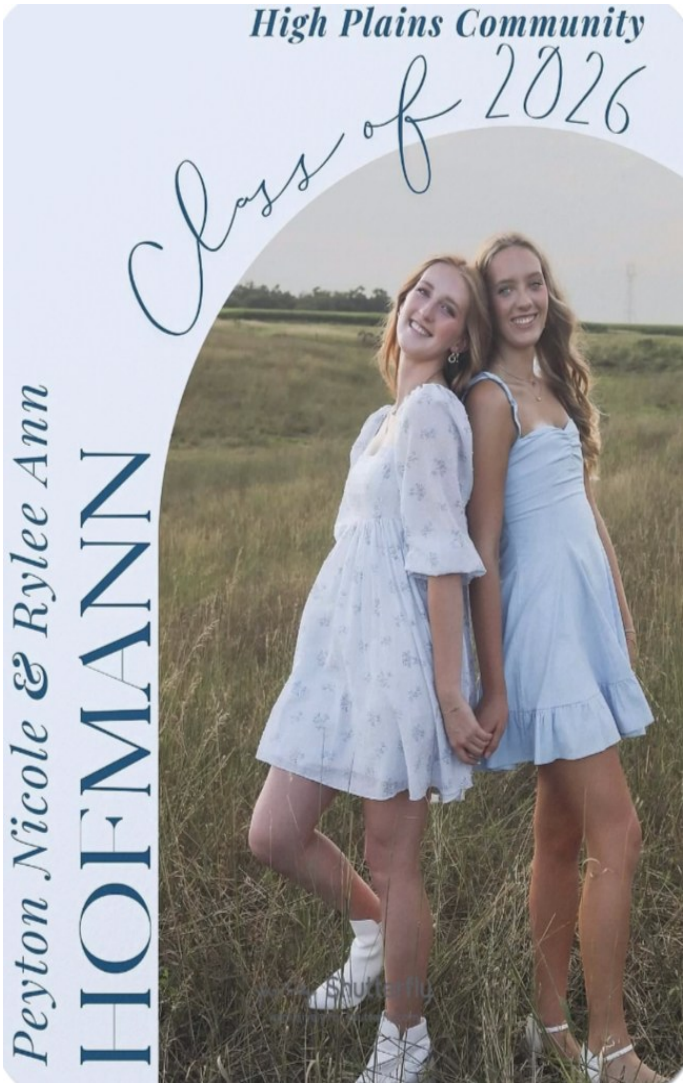
The Sign-up sheets for 2026 are on the kitchen counter. Please consider when you can serve

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship with Communion Council following	4	5	6	7 6:30 am Nat'l Day of Prayer Breakfast, Viking Center, Stromsburg	8	9 Graduation 1 pm High Plains 2 pm Osceola
10 10:30 Worship with communion Mother's Day	11	12	13 9am Circle at Gathering Grounds 7pm Men's Bible Study	14	15	16 2pm Graduation Cross County and Osceola
17 10:30 Worship with communion	18	19	20 7:30 pm Women's Bible Study at church	21 7 pm Book Study at church	22	23
24 10:30 worship with communion Pentecost Sunday, wear RED	25 Memorial Day Service 10am at Cemetery, coffee and rolls follow	26	27	28 7 pm Book Study at church	29 Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney, the 29th	30
31 10:30 worship with Communion						

Peyton and Rylee Hofmann invite their church family to their commencement at High Plaines Community High School at 1 pm on Saturday, May 9, 2026

Please join them in their celebration at their home, immediately following the service. The address is 170 S Laclede St, Polk . The reception will be from 2pm to 10pm



Meet the Member—Shyenne Krol

I grew up in Osceola Nebraska, and I have never moved once. I have three siblings, all sisters, and the oldest two are twins. They were in and out frequently when my sister and I were kids, as they were always back and forth between their Dad's house in Gothenburg and my house here. My closest sister to me in age is Kylee. Her and I were always getting into all sorts of trouble and helping our dad out around the farm when he needs it. There was always a new adventure to go on every day with Dad, and we would always be home in time to have supper as a big family.

I went to high school at Cross County and I plan to attend UNK for radiography to become a radiology tech and take x-rays. I hope to major in Science in Health sciences in order to get me on the right track. A fun fact about my grade school days is that I have had mostly the same friend group all through high school. None of us left, and only one of us joined. I do in fact remember the name of my kindergarten teacher, her name is Mrs. Rathjen and she still works here today. My favorite subject was English because it came easiest to me, but my favorite teacher would be my math teacher Mr. Steskal. He was patient, understanding, and actually helped me figure things out when I didn't understand them the first time. Something I learned in grade school is to not procrastinate because if you do, you will start to fall behind and it can be very hard to get yourself caught back up.

A lot of the vacations my family and I have been on has been because of softball tournaments. A few years back, we went to Branson, Missouri and we had a blast. It's totally a tourist trap, for sure, but it's still fun regardless. The best non-softball based vacation we went on would have to be when we went to the Black Hills in South Dakota. We went and saw Mount Rushmore, Bear Country USA, and many other tourist-y things as well. In my years of high school, I have done four years of softball in both the fall and summer and three years of track and field.

For fun, I go and see my friends or people along those lines. If I'm not working, I'm either out seeing my boyfriend or I'm cruising around York with my friends. For relaxation, I take naps a lot. I'm kind of a night owl, so I stay up late and when I get the chance, I nap during the day to catch up on lost hours. My family and I love to cook on the fire during the warm months when we get the chance.

I am passionate about softball and doing artsy things as well. I like painting, drawing, writing, and doing whatever kind of crafts I can get my hands on. I make paper flowers and pipe cleaner flowers for my mom when her birthday rolls around. I want my life to change for the better – I want stress to decrease greatly and to just go with the flow whenever something unexpected happens.

Calvary is full of friendly people and smiling faces. I like how we do a breakfast afterwards because it gives people the chance to converse and catch up without it being forced or awkward. No matter who you sit next to, they will welcome you warmly and will be willing to start up any sort of conversation, no matter the topic. It's a very open minded, welcoming community and I would recommend it to anyone who is struggling to find a place where they belong.

Shyenne will graduate from Cross County High School on May 16, 2026 at 2 pm

Council Notes

April 12, 2026 Calvary

Present: Andrew, Jenn, Randy, Sandy Diana, PR Evan

Absent: Kris, Jacob, PR Hillary

Property: exterminator has been contacted. Septic gravel and tank has been delivered, to be installed week of April 12. Received 2 living room chairs from Gestrine estate. Front renovation of planters and pavers will proceed following the Easter season. Condition of front doors discussed.

Worship and Music; Individual instruments to be used thru Easter season, Summer liturgy will be the same as last year.

Faith Formation: PR Evan will lead a 3 week book study in May.

WELCA; Spring Gathering was well attended and there was an excellent program

Ministry & Outreach: Large donation went to Genesis House. We will continue with the 1 member/1 item/ 1 Sunday a month approach.

Memorial: The new pascal candle and stand was purchased from memorial funds. Funds will cover cost of front entry renovation.

Pastor continues to be in communication with the state regarding the regulations for the highway signs.

Gestrine estate designated Swede home with a CD. 10% will be tithed to missions and remainder to Improvement fund.

Outdoor Spring Clean up Day April 26 following worship, hotdogs and chips provided.

PR Evan and Hillary will have continuing education in Colorado May10-14, PR Evan enrolled in Faith Forward at Grandview University May 18 & 19.

We will share cost of 1 hole of golf for the NE Lutheran Campus ministry tourney.

Calvary Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report

	March 2025
Beginning Balance	**$8,159.47**
Offerings:	
General Offering	12,422.00
Lenten Offering	1,233.00
NE Synod ELCA Disaster Relief	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	500.00
First English Rising City; Feb & Mar Shares Paid	6,452.39
First Evangelical York; Feb Share Paid	124.12
	20,736.51
Transfer:	
From Memorial SAV for Pascal Candle	971.35
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee & TC % Fee	9.33
Text Messaging Flocknote	25.00
Cody's Computer - Contract Agreement	39.99
Palm Branches for Palm Sunday	50.00
Deluxe Check Order	64.36
Occasions - Easter Lilies	72.00
Economy - ELCA Hunger Grant Purchase	138.50
Weebly - Church Website	144.00
USPO Postage Expense	312.00
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,611.00
First English Rising City; Mar Share Outstanding	3,015.30
First Evangelical York; Mar Share Outstanding	175.60
Utilities:	
Church	1,263.39
Parsonage	52.84
Salaries:	
Pastors Hillary & Evan Christensen	3,283.59
Portico Benefit Services	1,528.49
Commuting Reimbursement	162.50
SECA	311.45
Mileage Reimbursement	289.28
Cell Phone Reimbursement	65.00
Synod Assembly Registration - pastors	195.98
Amy, Janet, & Diana	581.80
Lay/Music Mileage	56.55
LeeAnn (this is for March & April)	517.16
Linda	380.94
Synod Assembly Registration - lay persons	450.00
	14,796.05
Balance as of March 31, 2025:	**$15,071.28**
Designated $$ Transferred to Applicable SAV Acct:	
Thrivent Choice	$ 82.00
Improvement	$ 50.00

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**

Return Service Requested

950 Road 129th
Stromsburg, NE 68666

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEBRASKA SYNOD, ELCA

.....IN SACRED PLACES....