November, 2018

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRIES OF CALVARY AND ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Message from Pastor Kim

My heart is heavy as I sit down to write this newsletter article. In just the last week, lives have been threatened or lost because of acts of hatred in our country. This is unfortunately nothing new, though the pace of these acts of hatred seems to be accelerating. And I can't credit knowing about these to the 24-hour media coverage that we have now. We have lived in a media saturated culture for many years and so to blame the increase of violence and hatred on that seems, to me anyway, to be an excuse. I just can't make a strong case for placing the blame there.

What is even more troubling about the violence and acts of hatred in this country is that churches are not immune to it. We have known this since the shootings at Charleston, SC and Sulfur Springs, TX, but we saw more of that with an attempt to shoot people at a black church and the actual shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in just one week.

These things need to stop. Period.

What needs to stop as well is the hateful rhetoric that is behind these kinds of actions. And that is where you and I can play a part. When we hear people saying hateful or hurtful things around us about whole groups of people, we need to be bold and loving. That means finding the courage to either redirect the conversation or to ask the person to refrain from those hurtful kinds of words. If those things seem way too hard for you to do, then at the very least, you can refuse to participate and contribute to conversations in which whole groups of people are painted in negative ways. Broad strokes of judgment and dislike are not how a Christian should speak of others.

(Continued on page 2)

Thank you . . .

Dear Pastor Kim & friends at Swede Home,

Thank you for the school supplies and the special offering. We provided required items for 17 children—a relief for our moms—and we also gave them clothes and shoes—had fun with children doing "fashion shows" to find the right sizes. We will be giving out school supplies again after Christmas. We have hired a young lady who will direct our new "Open Arms' program to reach out to more women and children in Polk and Butler Counties. This is a new adventure and we are very excited about this project.

Sincerely,
Pat
Genesis House

Dear Members of Calvary,

Rod and I finally made it to the winery in Central City with the gift certificate you gave me in January for the Extra Mile Award. What a wonderfully, relaxed evening it was! I wanted to thank you for it and I especially want to thank you for putting your trust and confidence in me to be your church treasurer. I appreciate each and everyone of you!

Gratefully yours,

Kay Jones

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

See as Christians, our faith teaches us that each and every person was made in the image of God. We don't know exactly what God looks like, but we still can understand something about the image of God that is in each of us. God's image is seen in humanity in the ways we love and care for others, the ways we delight in the goodness of creation and all that God has made, the ways we are creative not just in the arts but also in things like problem solving, strategic planning, and tackling the hardships that we face. God's image is kindness, love, compassion, justice, and creativity. And so by recognizing that each of us bears God's image we recognize these kinds of things in others. More than just recognizing them, we look for them, seeking them out so that we can see the good in others.

I admit this is difficult. I struggle with doing this all the time, let alone doing it well. But my faith, our faith, calls us to this challenge. In his explanation to the 8th commandment, Luther exhorts us to always assign the best motives and intentions to people's actions. Interpret what they say and do then in the best possible light. I often fail spectacularly at this, but that is where grace comes in. Not excusing my failures so that I can continue to do them again and again, but loving me and forgiving me so that I can continue to seek better ways of reflecting God and being like Christ for others.

It is a road that requires commitment and courage, but it is one that we do not walk alone. So rather than giving into the political, social, and culture things that divide us, let us try together to be mutually accountable to the gospel. Linked together by a love greater than any hate, maybe, just maybe we can make a difference here in our corner of the earth. When we do so, we stop hate from winning in our hearts. Without hate having hold of our hearts, we are then freed to work together, bringing all those image of God gifts that are within us to the table to begin to tackle the real problems that our world faces today.

Thank you for using your gifts in the service of the gospel.

In Christ,

Pastor Kim

W.E.L.C.A. News

Tis the month we focus on Thanksgiving, so I challenge you to think of something every day this month you are thankful for. Even when we have a "bad day", there's always something to thank God for.

*Altar care for November will be Carol Jones. December will be Cheryl Jones.

*Flowers in November & December will be by Miriam circle. Thank you for watering any plants also. . Poinsettias can be brought to church for Christmas Eve and the Sundays of Christmas season.

*November Circle Meetings: Please sign up for 2019 lessons, hosts, altar care & committees and report to Kay Jones no later than November 18. Thank you!

*Download from Gathermagazine.org. -"Fear Not: an Advent/Christmas Devotional" will be available to download from Gather. Advent begins this year on December 2.

*December WELCA meetings – Please save the following dates on your calendars: Executive Committee meeting Dec. 2 at 9:00 a.m. and General Meeting (hosted by Miriam and Mary Anna Circles) will be Dec. 9 at 9:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Mary Anna- 11/8	Alice Jane	Alice Jane
Miriam – 11/9	_____	_____
Ruth – 11/14	Penny	Penny

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100: 4 -5

Cheryl

Mission and Ministry Update

Growing food security in Nepal

Millions of people around the world live on small farms, where they work to feed themselves and their families. While farming families work hard, their livelihoods are often vulnerable to things outside of their control—like weather, pests, climate change, conflict, and lack of resources.

One of these farmer in Kala, who lives in Jayprithvi, Nepal. On their 1,500 square meters of land, Kala and her seven other family members must grow enough to feed themselves. But their production was only lasting six months, leaving them looking for other jobs to survive the rest of the year.

Everything changed when Kala became part of a women's farming group after she began to participate in an agricultural training program of United Mission to Nepal, supported in part by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

"Being a member of the group, I have been involved in every meeting, interaction session and training," Kala says. "It gave me energy and motivated me to start vegetable cultivation."

Along with other members, Kala received improved seeds, training and materials for a greenhouse. Now, she's making her family's land go further. Growing cucumbers, tomatoes, spinach, broadleaf mustard, onion, garlic, squash and potatoes, Kala feeds her family and has more to spare to sell at the market. With this comes not only food security but also greater income so she can send her children to school and build a safety net for things like medical expenses.

"The income form vegetables has been easy and helpful for my household," Kala says. "I don't need to opt for other work and request the money lender to provide education and medicine for my children."

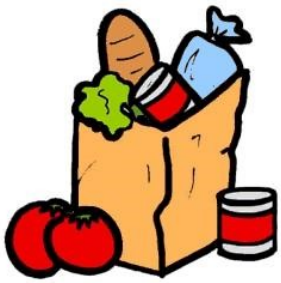
In addition, the program established a vegetable center for farmers to sell their produce. "It is very helpful to sell vegetables in the collection center instead of roaming around at Chainpur with the vegetables on about 1,200 square meters of land and earned more than NPR 100,000."

The additional income is about $1,000 USD, a significant boost in a country where the gross domestic product per capita is about $730 USD, according to the World Bank. Now Kala's family can enlarge their farming operation and save for the future.

"I am planning to scale up the area of production (by renting additional land)," Kala says. "I am very much pleased with the regular support and would like to thank all the helping hands...for showing mw the way of income generation and building up my confidence level by organizing and delivering training in the group."

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, famer like Kala can access resources that make it possible for their families to have a brighter, healthier 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 November, 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 to support general operating expenses, utilities.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Joy Holling Early Bird Special

Register by January 31st, 2019 to save $50 on next summer's full—week sessions (Sorry no discounts for Taste of Camp or Mini sessions). Sending more than one child to camp? Receive an additional $25 discount for each child of the same family attending a full– week or mini session. Discounts are applied to final balance not deposits. To register talk to Pastor Kim or go to caroljoyholling.org

Benedict Community Thanksgiving Service

Benedict Community Sunday School will be hosting a Community service on Sunday, November 18th with Soup Supper at 5:30pm and service at 7:00pm. This will be held at the Benedict Community Center. Canned goods and free will offering will be collected for Blue Valley Food Pantry. All are invited!

Benedict Sunday School Christmas Program

Christmas program practice for Benedict Community Sunday School will begin Sunday, November 18th. Practices will be held during Sunday School on Sunday mornings. The Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 16th during worship at 8:15am at the Methodist Church. Reminder that confirmation students are required to participate in the Christmas Program.

Memorial & Special Gifts Committee

Calvary of Swede Home Memorial and Special Gifts committee will have a meeting Sunday, November 18th following worship.

Special Meeting

There will be a special congregational meeting during worship at Zion on Sunday, November 11th. Pastor Megan Morrow from the synod will be joining us. Please plan on attending.

Middle School Gathering

Middle school youth in grades 6-8 and their adult leaders from across Nebraska Synod are invited to take part in the 2019 Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering. The theme this year is "Rooted," and participants will explore Colossians 2:6-7. Hip hop artist AGAPE* and spoken word poet Joe Davis will be guest artists for the weekend. This event is open to any youth grades 6-8. It is required for confirmation students unless prior arrangements have been made with Pastor. Please let Pastor know if your young person will be attending.

Intergenerational Sunday School

Join us at Swede Home the 1st Sunday of every month for an intergenerational Sunday School. The first one met in October when we watched part of a movie together and had some great discussions.

Open House

Genesis Personal Development Center has invited you to their open house on Sunday, November 4th from 12:00-2:00pm at Hruska Memorial Public Library (399 N 5th St, David City). Introduction to Open Arms; a new adventure, new direction. Join us to learn more; meet our new program director, Nicole Light lunch and refreshments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Axton Martin was baptized and received his First Communion on October 21st. Congratulations Axton! Pictured are: Pastor Kim, (Axton's family) Chris, Miranda, Harley, Axton, and Zander.

On October 21st received their First Communion. Welcome to God's Table! Pictured are: Ella Twarling, Jarrett Althouse, Ethan Fjell, & Eli Fjell.

Quilters News

In 2018 our quilters have done some amazing work. They have donated quilts to a number of places to reach people locally and globally. Here is where some of their quilts have gone:

- 8 large quilts went to Lutheran World Relief to be distributed where most needed
- 1 large quilt was donated to Osceola Blue Valley Community Action
- 5 large quilts, 6 children's quilts, and 1 youth quilt went to Genesis House in David City
- 4 children's quilts went to Youth For Christ in Columbus
- 12 large quilts and 6 big quilts to Mission Heart in Central City
- several other quilts were set aside to go to camp Carol Joy Holing in Ashland for their annual quilt auction in 2019

Thank you to all the ladies who help makes these beautiful gifts of love for those in need.

Sunday, October 7th Swede Home had their first intergenerational Sunday School. Join us the first of every month for this fun learning experience with our youth!

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, Todd Hanquist, Lynn Hofman, Doug Jones, Kay Jones, Nick Nicholson,
Chris Smith,
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

Cal Bittinger, Council President
Diana Johnson & Craig Swedenberg, Musicians
Chris Jarosz, Sunday School

Council Members:
Cal Bittinger, LuAnn Bolton, Dawn Kush, Justin Schoch
All of Zion members, Ministers

Meet a Member

Meet JoAnn Bolton…

JoAnn has been a life long member of Zion. She was baptized, confirmed, and married at Zion. At 10 years old at Sunday School the Lutheran Church of America handed out penpal assignments and JoAnn got a girl from Ohio, she said they still write back and forth for the last 76 years!

JoAnn was born on a farm on the Polk County line. She attended Benedict Public Schools. After graduation JoAnn got a scholarship to attend University of Nebraska, but she was a home body girl, she decided not move that far from her mom and dad so she continued her education at York College where she attended 2 years.

In 1952 JoAnn married the love of her life Willard. After her and Willard got married JoAnn taught Kindergarten and Middle School at Osceola Public Schools for 3 years. JoAnn and Willard were blessed with a son (Gregg) and daughter (Pam). Gregg currently lives by Benedict and Pam lives in Arizona. After Gregg was born JoAnn stayed home to be a house wife and help out on the farm. JoAnn now has 4 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

JoAnn was the organist at Zion for several years. She actually didn't know how to play the organ when first asked she just knew how to play the piano. She started out as the assistant organist and then became the full time organist. Before becoming the organist for Zion JoAnn enjoyed playing the piano at Sunday School and Bible School. Dorothy Ehlers and JoAnn made banners to hang at the church. JoAnn always enjoyed that fellowship time with Dorothy. Being a life long member, she has seen a lot of changes through the church. The thing that does keep continuing and she loves about Zion is the closeness of all the member's, the willingness to work together. She looks forward to coffee hour following worship and visiting with all the members.

One of JoAnn's hobbies before she hurt her wrist was to cross stitching, she made very nice pictures for her granddaughters for their weddings. JoAnn goes to Arizona about once a year to see her daughter and family. She enjoys sitting down with a good book.

JoAnn has really liked being joined with Calvary, she knew a few people from Swede Home, but she now she has met many wonderful people. There are a lot of special people who attend Calvary.

Remember in your prayers

Linda Clauff
Dorothy Ehlers
Melissa Forsberg
Denny Johnson
Linda Johnson
Lenore Kessler
June Larson
Nick Nicholson
Elvin Reetz
Imo Richardson
Harvey Schlegelmilch
Vance & Elaine Toline
Jan Wells-Bachman

- Genesis House and Living Waters Rescue Mission, Blue Valley Action, & Denver Metro Ministries
- 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
- Those who continue to suffer after hurricanes Florence & Michael

To request prayers call
Calvary: Jan Ernst 402-747-8041
Zion: LuAnn Bolton 402-710-8708

Anniversaries

Calvary:

November 2nd
Monty & Cheryl Jones

November 7th
Kerri & Jesse Klein
Greg & Tracy Dittmer

November 10th
Bryce & Janet Nielsen

November 15th
Mark & Tammy Jones

November 19th
Kent & Gia Adelson

November 23rd
Tom & Mary Stevens

November 25th
Dave & Janelle Udey

Birthdays

Calvary:

02—Jill Bush
Kathi Jones
08—Erica Twarling
09—Kristen Bush
14—Amanda Kobus
Doug Jones
16—Dustin Noble
21—Todd Hanquist
Deb Seymour
22—Andie Oquist
Nathan Peterson
25—Wayne Johnson
29—Katleigh Spale

Zion:

19—Gina Schoch
25—Darrell Bolton

Zion Worship Assistants

November

Communion Assistant: Todd Schoch
Usher: Gregg Bolton
Greeter: LuAnn Bolton
Reader:
4—LuAnn Bolton, 18—Todd Schoch, 25—JoAnne Bolton
Acolyte:
4—Lyndsey Bolton, 18—Harley Martin, 25—Tierney Schoch

Calvary Worship Assistants

November

Assistant Ministers— Cheryl Jones
Scripture Reader—Monty Jones
Ushers—
Acolyte—Colby Nelson
Altar Care— Carol Jones
Bell Ringer—

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:30a Zion Holy Communion 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Zion SS 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion	5	6	7 7p Calvary Council Meeting	8 2p Mary Anna WELCA	9 9a Miriam WELCA	10
11 8:30a Zion Worship & Congregational Meeting 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Zion SS 10:30a Calvary Worship	12	13	14 6p Confirmation 7p Men's Bible Study 7p Ruth WELCA Circle	15	16	17
18 8:30a Zion Holy Communion 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Zion SS 10:30a Calvary Holy Communion 5:30p Benedict SS Soup Supper/ Thanksgiving Worship	19	20 7p Stromsburg Community Thanksgiving Service	21	22 	23	24
25 8:30a Zion Worship 9:15a Calvary SS 9:30a Zion SS 10:30a Calvary Worship	26	27	28 6p Confirmation	29	30 6p Healthy Shared Ministry Conference in Kearney	

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

Council Notes, October 3, 2018

- Pastor opened the meeting with the book *Called by God to Serve – Reflections for Church Leaders* by Robert F. Holley & Paul E. Walters. Members took turns reading and short discussion followed.
- The Mural was installed by Dana September 16. There was a nice turn out at the open house. Pastor is sending a thank you note to Dana.
- Confirmation picture display case update is that records show missing 3 classes. Kay is working with Office Net find a way to display pictures.
- For the new sound system, Doug has been in touch with Double G Audio from Columbus. Memorial Committee is helping cover costs for sound system and installation. Equipment for the sound system has been ordered.
- The Highway clean up reminder has been in the bulletin. October 14 is slated as clean up with October 21 set as rain date.
- Doug has talked with Kent about fixing front door since it keeps sticking. When harvest is over, the two will sand it, stain it and rehang it so it won't stick. Doug has also been in contact with REA about the light on the east side and getting the light working again.
- From the building committee, contacts have been made to fix the leak and redo the bricks.
- Pastor reported that confirmation classes are in session and have been going well.
- Pastor also explained the upcoming Healthy Shared Ministry retreat in Kearney at the end of November. One to two council members are interested in attending.

Treasurer's Report	**September, 2018**
Beginning Balance	**$2031.66**
Offering:	
General Offering	**7130.00**
ELCA Disaster Relief	**5.00**
Sunday School Offering	**81.80**
ELCA Mission Share	**200.00**
Zion for July & August Share	**3514.19**
	10,930.99
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	**8.79**
Ericson Cash Hardware; Ballast f/SS light	**19.68**
Lent Resource	**52.40**
Sunday School Supplies	**123.57**
Sikes Pest Control	**125.00**
Postage Expense	**150.00**
Office Net Quarterly Agreement	**171.89**
Church Mutual Bi Annual Premiums	**3005.50**
NE Synod ELCA—Mission Share	**1500.00**
Zion Benedict September Share	**1799.76**
Utilities:	
Church:	**294.39**
Parsonage:	**183.69**
Salaries:	
Pastor	**2230.96**
Mileage	**286.62**
SECA	**221.84**
Portico Benefits	**1046.82**
Theological & First Call Conference	**171.00**
Professional Expense	**58.00**
Diana	**445.41**
LeeAnn	**236.64**
Bri	**230.23**
	12,412.69
Balance as of September 30th, 2018	**$549.96**

Transfers:

From Memorial for Sound System **14,499.98**

(50% Down Payment of $7249.94 was made in September)

*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**