October 2021

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!

On November 7th, four of our youth will be Confirmed. Eli Fjell, Peyton Hofmann, Rylee Hofmann, and Shyenne Krol will stand before our congregation and affirm the promises made for them in their Baptism.

At the beginning of Confirmation studies, I tell students that this is their time to dig into their faith and figure out what it's all about. This is the time where they think a little deeper about everything they've learned thus far and begin applying it to their own lives in a new way.

Here's the analogy I like to use: Imagine you're going on a big trip, and to get to your destination you have to take an airplane. As a baby, your parents and other loved ones carry your luggage into the airport because you just simply aren't big enough to carry it yourself! No one expects a tiny baby to carry their 50 pound suitcase on their own! This is what happens in baptism. As an infant, you are brought to the font by your parents and others who love you and because you can't carry your faith on your own, they promise to carry it for you.

But as a teenager, you're a bit more grown. And when you show up at the airport this time, you can now carry your own luggage. This time you're the one who can pick up that luggage and board the plane on your own. This is what happens in Confirmation. You come to the font once again, but this time you are promising to carry your faith throughout your life. You are saying "yes" to all the things your parents and other loved ones promised in your Baptism; you are picking up your faith and calling it your own.

Of course this doesn't mean that no one is there to help anymore. Sometimes things get a bit too heavy, and we need our fellow siblings in Christ to carry our faith along with us for a time. Sometimes we have questions and we seek out our siblings in Christ to wonder with. We are the Body of Christ forever.

These are important things for us to remember no matter how old we are or how old our faith is. Growth isn't something that ever comes to an end in a life of faith.

These four youth will stand in front of the congregation and proclaim their faith, saying "YES!" to all the promises made for them in their Baptism. But this is also something that each one of us does every single morning when we rise once again, a forgiven and loved Child of God. We once again grab hold of God's promises to us and once again strive to live in the promises we have made.

I encourage you to take up a new practice this month as a remembrance of your own Baptism. Wake every day and mark your head with the seal of the cross that you have already received. Then, affirm your Baptismal Promises anew. Read through them and give thanks to God for the new life you receive in Baptism every single day.

In Christ,

Pastor Sarah

On page 4 we printed a daily reminder of our baptism and affirmation of you Baptismal Promise.

From Baptism, to Confirmation, to each and every day of your life for the rest of your life...Say "Yes, and I ask God to help me! "

WELCA News Page 2
Upcoming events Page 4
Calendar Page 8

Announcements

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

Items will be delivered after October 31st

Please place items you wish to donate in the basket October items go to

Blue Valley Community Action

HIGHWAY PICK-UP

Once again we had a successful highway pickup day. The temperature was perfect, a little windy and a few bugs, but a good day all in all. And of course the food and fellowship following the work, was the best. There was even time to pick some watermelons!! Thanks to Peyton, Rylee, Lynn and Tom Hofmann, Diana Johnson, Bonnie Carlson, Kay Jones, Doug Jones and Rod Jones, who used some ATV power , and especially to Monty and Cheryl Jones for hosting. God's blessings to you all.

W.E.L.C.A. News

*Service for month of October is an offering for Adopt -a-Quilt or donate a blanket to be used for keeping the needy warm.

*Altar care for October will be Jean Waller. November will be Miriam Circle.

*Flowers in October will be by Mary Anna circle. November & December will be by Miriam circle.

*Cheer cards or visits will be by Miriam Circle in October, November and December.

*Quilting fun and fellowship will be October 28. Please join us for the last group-quilting day of the year. We will plan to begin again in 2022.

*Offerings can be given at your circle meetings, mailed to Bonnie Carlson, or left in her box in the church office. Thank you.

*Yearbook for 2022 will need to be worked on soon, so please think about when you'd like to host, do bible study, or help with WELCA responsibilities at Swede Home. If you have ideas or suggestions for us to consider for next year, please talk to Cheryl or Bonnie. It will be nice to have options to discuss at our fall Executive Committee meeting.

OCTOBER

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Miriam – 10/8	Gloria	*(not listed)*
	(Bible study in "Gather" magazine)	
Ruth – 10/13	Carolyn	Carolyn
	(Bible study "Maturing in Christ #1")	

"Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." ~ Psalm 100:3

God's Blessings to you,

Cheryl

RECIPES

What are you doing with the other half of YOUR Banana?

Thanks to Erin Dickey with Midwest Covenant Home for sharing this story….

…….just a reminder to take care of that banana….

"We usually share a banana together,…I eat one half and he eats the other – now that he's not here, I save it for dessert at night"

Half-eaten and slightly brown, its soft, yellow peel was neatly tucked inside a small juice glass on her counter. As I spent time with my friend, it made me question how many other 'banana halves' sat patiently on the counters of my other friends. How many people have taken their hard situations and turned them into dessert?

What are you doing with the other half of YOUR banana?

Is it festering by itself on the counter, turning brown, getting mushy, attracting gnats – or have you gently wrapped it in prayer, tucked in God's hand and anxiously await it to enjoy it for dessert later?

This month's recipe comes from Deb Hanquist—it sounds delicious!!

White Chicken Enchiladas

2 cups boneless skinless chicken breasts
2 ½ cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese or Pepper Jack Cheese
5 oz cream cheese
2 teaspoons garlic powder
3 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons flour
1 tablespoon taco seasoning
2 cups chicken broth
1 cup sour cream
4 oz canned diced green chilies
10 soft flour tortillas

Cook chicken by preferred method: boil, bake or use rotisserie chicken

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, grease a 9x13 pan

Add cooked chicken to a boll and shred with fork. Add ¾ cup shredded cheese, garlic powder and cream cheese and mix well

Melt butter, stir in flour and taco seasoning and cook 1 minute. Add 2 cups chicken broth and whisk until smooth. Add ½ cup of the shredded cheese and heat over medium heat until thick and bubbly.

Stir in sour cream and chilies. DO NOT Bring to a boil. Remove pot from the heat

In each tortilla shell add chicken and cheese mixture, roll up and place in baking dish

Pour the sauce over enchiladas and top with remaining cheese

Bake 22 minutes and then under high broil for 3 minutes to melt cheese

Growing in Faith

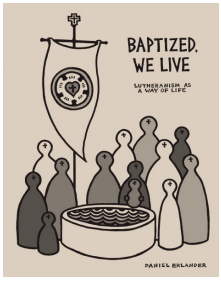
Confirmation Class

Confirmation will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm This will be open to any of our middle/high school students who want to attend to learn more about our faith

Please keep this class in your prayers as they continue their instruction in faith

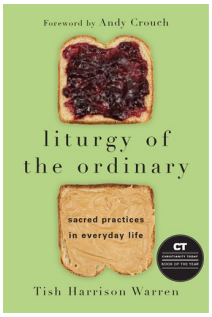
RITE OF CONFIRMATION –November 7th—10:30 am worship service, Eli Fjell, Shyenne Krol, Rylee Hofmann and Peyton Hofmann will affirm their baptism promise.

Sunday School has a new look this year. We meet once a month on Sunday afternoon, this month it will be October 17th at 6 PM. All Middle and High School students are invited to meet for fun activities and faith talk.

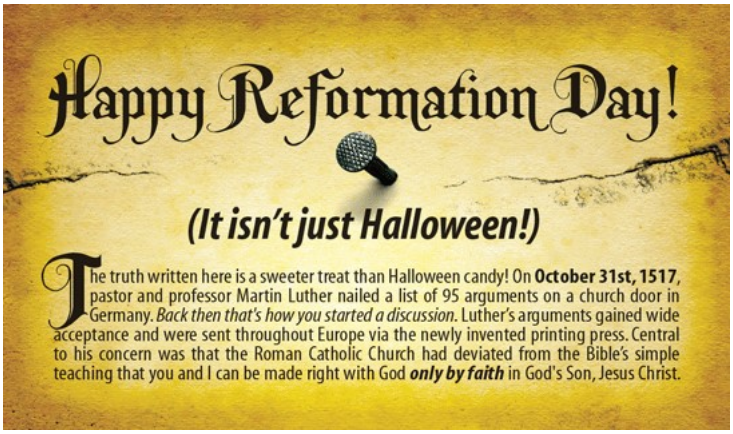


It is never too late to participate in opportunities for Bible Study. On Wednesday, September 8 we started a Bible study at church at 10:00 am, using the short book, "Baptized We Live" Join u s each Weds morning as you are able. .

If that doesn't fit your schedule, offer a Facebook group study beginning Sunday, September 12. Please sign up or let Pastor or Linda know if you are interested. Our contact information is elsewhere in the newsletter.



UPCOMING EVENT



A DAILY REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Mark the sign of the cross on your forehead. Then read and respond:

In remembrance of my Baptism, do I intend to continue in the covenant God made with me in Holy Baptism?

Will I **LIVE** among God's faithful people?

Say: ***YES! And I ask God to help and me!***

Will I **HEAR** the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper?

Say: ***YES! And I ask God to help and me!***

Will I **PROCLAIM** the good news of God in Christ through my words and deeds?

Say: ***YES! And I ask God to help and me!***

Will I **SERVE** all people following the example of Jesus?

Say: ***YES! And I ask God to help and me!***

Will I **STRIVE** for justice and peace in all the earth?

Say: ***YES! And I ask God to help and me! AMEN!***

Thank you

Dear Calvary Lutheran Members,

The saying is "Better Late than Never." Well, this is certainly late—like 8 months late.

Last December some of your church members prepared and delivered an amount of food to be prepared for a meal or two to my husband, Allen, and myself. We thoroughly enjoyed the meal and the act of love behind it. THANK YOU!!!

We raise your church and church members in prayer, and we hope you felt the hand of God on your shoulder as you planned, cooked and delivered this gift of Christ's Love.

In God's Love

Roselyn and Allen Miller, Osceola NE

THANK YOU… To ALL that answer the call to help with worship service by ushering, scripture reading, ringing the bell, altar care and flowers, worship assistant, and to Wayne for having the lights and the heat or the air turned on as needed. Special thanks Diana leading the service in music and Pastor Sarah answering her call to Calvary Lutheran—Thanks to the Cemetery Board, Endowment and Memorial committees for all you do.

Thanks to those who: brighten the church with seasonal flower arrangements, care for the maintenance of the properties, do the cleaning, do the mowing, do the treasurer and financial reports, and take care of the secretarial duties. Thanks to the leaders and members of the WELCA for all they do each month with their mission projects and to the quilt ladies that share their talents .Thanks to the council for their dedication and leadership—thanks to all members that share their faith in worship and sharing of their time and talents.

Stewardship

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it…" (Psalm 24:1, NRSV)

Stewardship starts with an understanding that all that we have, and all that we are, is God's! When we think like this, we open ourselves up to the generosity and abundance of our loving God. And when we remember this, we begin to see what it really means to believe that we have all been created in the Image of God, are loved by God, and are co-workers with God in the world today. As such, we are entrusted with all that makes us who we are, by God, including:

- Our lives, health, bodies, souls, hearts, minds, hearts, and relationships;
- Our time, ideas, dreams, questions, and stories;
- Our talents, gifts, strengths, passions, and vocations;
- Our treasures, money, finances, and assets of all kinds;
- And all creation that we are a part of.

Stewardship is part of what it means to live a life of faith and growth as a disciple. We grow in our faith by telling stories of faith, and sharing all that God has done and continues to do, for us. We are so moved by all that God has done and continues to do, that we can't help but be overjoyed and want to share in that good work. It is our joy and gratitude that shapes our response to God's gifts and promises for us, that is our stewardship.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

We 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— Deb Hanquist

Deb Hanquist is this month's Meet the Member. Deb was raised on a farm near Fairbury, NE.

She had two sisters, and lost her youngest sister at the age of 21. Not having any brothers she had to help her dad a lot with the farming.

She graduated from Fairbury High School and went to Fairbury Junior College for one year. That is where she met Layne. They were married in December of 1977. They had three boys, and Deb was kept busy raising the family, working part time as a dental assistant and helping on the farm.

She continues helping Layne and her favorite job is running the combine during harvest.

Their family includes: Nathan, Kristyn and their four children, plus one more in January.

Gabe, Raquel and their three children.

Brady, Katie and their three children.

Deb is grateful to have all her family close by so that they can all get together for family birthdays. holidays and grandchildren time.

Some of Deb's favorite things to do are reading, working in her yard, getting together with friends and family and trips with Layne. She is passionate about making sure her grandchildren know God's word and she enjoys studying the Bible.

What she loves about her church family at Swede Home is how friendly and helpful they are.

They are always willing to help in any way no matter what the need.

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 please email the church or call Linda (402-366-2091) or Cheryl (402-366-4797)

Because of the increases in the Covid-19 cases in the area due to the Delta variant we are increasing the precautions for masks and social distance. While the vaccine protects from serious illness and death it is possible to get infected with the Delta variant, have no symptoms and still pass it on to those not able to be vaccinated. We highly suggest that masks are worn whether or not you are vaccinated and we will mark off every other pew for social distancing. Currently the wearing of masks is suggested but not mandatory. We want to keep those who worship with us safe.

Anniversaries

October

06 Mike & Deb Cramer

15 Wendy and Kelley Shafenberg

27 Ryan and Jennifer Fjell

Birthdays

October

03 Clayton Watts
05 Tamara Rowse
07 Andrew Adelson
09 Kent Adelson
09 Elaine Toline
10 Randy Lott
18 Ava Ernst
18 Clerissa Udey
20 Corinne Adelson
21 Nate Johnson
21 Peter Jones
22 Gabe Hanquist
24 Corey Watts
27 Yancy Krol
28 Rick Jones
28 Jaxon McCarville
31 Anita Haack
31 Marvin Larson

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

September

Assistant Minister – Linda Fuhr
Scripture Reader – Lynn Hofmann
Ushers – Kay Jones and Bonnie Carlson
Altar/Communion – Jeanne Waller
Acolyte – Shyenne Krol
Bell Ringer – Colby and Layne

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship with Holy Communion	4	5	6 10 am Bible Study at church 6:30 pm Confirmation	7	8 9 am Miriam Circle at Gloria Oquist	9
10 10:30 am Worship Service	11	12	13 10 am Bible Study 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Ruth Circle at Carolyn Nielsen	14	15	16
17 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	18	19	20 10 am bible study 6:30 pm Confirmation	21	22	23
24 10:30 am Worship Service	25	26	27 10 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation	28 9 AM Quilt Day	29	30
31 10:30 am Reformation Worship Service						

Third and last installment of the history of Pastor Jonas Nordling and his first congregation—Swede Home.

Nordling was a natural humorist and in his younger days could occasionally have fun with folks who had an over high opinion of themselves. He was at depth a serious man, and after some years, as trials and experiences accumulated, his outer manner and speech became even more serious – never melancholy, only more dignified.

Nordling was trustworthy associate and dearly loved the church he served. He almost always had some confidential mission. To begin with he was a member of the Kansas Conference's mission board and the conference treasurer. When the Nebraska conference was organized, he was the most conservative and outspoken when someone wished to hurry too fast. In the question of the Nebraska Conference's school (Wahoo) he was from the beginning one of its best friends and continued to be one of its most ardent supporters. Nearly all the time, he was a member of the board and was for many years its chairman. For four years he served as the conference vice president and on the children's home board he had from the beginning been almost the sole morale builder and spiritual support.

At the conference meetings, Pastor Nordling always took an active part, but did not spend much time in many or long speeches. But when he spoke up, his word weighed heavily in the balance for many. Everyone listened attentively when he spoke, for one heard him so seldom one never tired of him.

In the fall of 1908, during the Luther College 25-year anniversary celebration, Pastor Nordling took leave of his fellow pastors in the conference. An appropriate time was set aside for that farewell. Endearing and heartfelt word were spoken by both sides and old memories were revived. We did not suspect then that the comparatively young and unbroken brother pastor would after two years, leave his congregation on earth. Pastor Nordling and his family shortly after that meeting, traveled to Portland, Oregon where he took over a field where many former parishioners lived and loyal friend had settled. There he was welcomed with much love and affection.

But his working days were almost over. After an illness of several months, he fell asleep on the 23rd day of November, 1910, with faith in his Lord and Saviour whom he had loved and served. Amid sorrow and loss of the loving widow and the ten living children, brothers and sisters and other near relatives he is also mourned by a host of brother pastors and many individuals grateful for his words of counsel. He was 57 years and 1 month.

"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever" Daniel 12:3

I hope you have enjoyed reading about Jonas Nordling, and the beginnings of Swede Home Church – I found it interesting the manner of speech reflected in this writing. It certainly details the beginnings of our congregation. Because of Pastor Nordling and other charter members of this church, and their descendants – Swede Home members continue to teach and live their faith.

A time for prayer for Pastor and our Church
A petition for each day of the month

1. Pray for your pastor and family EVERYDAY. Asking God to bring provision, direction, and energy to lead this church in the way God intends.
2. Pray for Pastor to have effective time management to balance the time between family and church
3. Pray for Pastor Sarah and Pastor Miles that they will encourage and support each other and to their call. Allow them to be equally joined together, unified, and strengthened to be an example for the church. Pray for their marriage to be a healthy one.
4. Pray for pastor's family that they will be shielded from any criticism or the demands of ministry. Allow them to see a real church through the eyes of Christ.
5. Pray for Pastor to have more prayer time to seek God's direction and to have quality time for sermon preparation.
6. Pray for the other leaders of the church that they may be vessels of gold or silver for the "Master's Use" Pray that they will serve Pastor and our church well and complete everything that they are entrusted to do
7. Pray for yourself that you will be a blessing to others, removing any negative barriers that will cause others to fall or be discouraged.
8. Pray for unity in the body of Christ that everything will be done for the glory of God.
9. Pray for the finances and provision of the church. Pray for blessing on those who give to the church
10. Pray for new outreach and renewed dedication of church members to have the heart of God and seek ways to bring a salvation message to others
11. Pray for protection that nothing will cause hindrances, or division among the body of Christ. We rebuke the enemy and their devices.
12. Pray for the worship team that they will be lead of God, using their talents and abilities for the Lord
13. Pray for the youth and children of the church that they will be encouraged in their faith. Protect them at all times and learn to understand and live your Word daily.
14. Pray for wisdom and discernment for yourself that you will not be misled or deceived by others.
15. Pray for every church member to be clothed in righteousness
16. Pray for yourself and others to look for opportunities to witness
17. Pray that this church will be a most loving church.
18. Pray that all members maintain a heart felt worship
19. Pray that God will lead our pastor and church leaders to be prepared to preach and lead
20. Pray that God will rise up all prayer warriors
21. Pray that all members be an acceptable temple of God
22. Pray that the church will be a hospital, refuge, and a soul winning station
23. Pray for physical and spiritual healing of everyone who calls church their home
24. Pray that God will strengthen every relationship in this church
25. Pray for safety of any and all groups or events of the church
26. Pray for all entrusted with children/students in their care that they be patient and protect them
27. Pray for all to work for the unity and glory of God
28. Pray that God will help me to give more of my time and talents for His work
29. Pray that God will teach me not to be a spectator but more of a participator. Let my spirt be willing, teachable and available to be used by God
30. Pray for the physical building and equipment of the church that it will serve well and last for a long time
31. Pray for God's overall blessings upon this church and allow others in the community see the glory of God and realize this a real church with real people who really care about them

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

Church council met September 29, 2021 following worship. Present was Kent, Fran, Lynn, Sandy, Pastor Sarah. Dan O, Dan I and Todd were absent

As of August 31, $560 was collected for the Freed for Life annual fundraising meal

The Immanuel Vision Foundation fall grant was for congregation missions. Their spring grant is for 501(c)3 charitable organizations such as Genesis House. The Immanuel Vision Foundation grant for congregations for the fall of 2022 for congregations is an opportunity for Calvary to increase our mission. The council moved to ask the Evangelism and Outreach committee to facilitate a discussion of ways to involve the entire congregation in a mission to our wider community so we can be prepared to submit a grant application next fall.

Property issues: the downspouts are extended to direct the rainwater farther away from the building. The carpet that has gotten wet is being removed and the wood that is affected is being painted with special paint to address the mold issues in the lower level of the Sunday school building. Replacing and cleaning bulbs and lights continues in the front entry and other areas of the building.

Confirmation expectations: Confirmation class meets every Wednesday, attendance and sermon notes for at least 25 Sundays, and 25 mission moments of a volunteer activity with no expected reward.

Completion of decorating areas of church: large print for the interior wall for the outside east entrance to the fellowship hall, painting one wall of the west entrance to the elevator an accent color, adding some décor to the other wall to make it more inviting to those using the elevator, adding 2 benches to the rock area by the elevator entrance door was approved.

Council meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting is October 3, 2021, following church service.

Church Council

Treasurer's Report

	August 2021
Beginning Balance	**$12,851.39**
Offerings:	
General Offering	7,762.00
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
Prison Ministry 'Freed for LIFE Dinner'	560.00
ELCA Mission Share	300.00
First Lutheran R.C. July Share	1,581.74
	10,208.74
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	34.99
Stromsburg Chamber Dues	50.00
Christ In Our Home	77.20
Postage Expense	118.00
Bibles for Midwest Covenant Home	143.94
Nebraska Synod, ELCA - Mission Share	1,560.00
First Lutheran R.C. August Share	2,083.93
Utilities:	
Church	339.74
Parsonage	144.64
Salaries:	
Pastor Sarah Ruch	2,163.20
Portico Benefits	1,029.58
Commuting Allowance	366.91
SECA	215.14
Mileage	62.83
Cell Phone Allowance	32.50
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	316.94
	9,466.97
Balance as of August 31, 2021:	**$13,593.16**

*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**