January 2022

...In sacred places...

CELEBRATING MINISTRY OF CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Epiphany Greetings to you and yours!

As we move into the new year, the church also moves into a new season. On January 6th, we observe the Epiphany of our Lord, followed by the 'time after Epiphany'.

Epiphany means "manifestation" and on this day we celebrate the revealing of Christ to all nations. This is the day that the magi were led to the Christ-child by the leading of the star, and so, light plays a large role in this season.

I always find it interesting that for us here in North America, this season marked by the light of Christ brought into the world occurs in the darkest month of our entire year. The juxtaposition of the darkness we literally feel and see around us and the celebration of the light that Christ shines into our lives couldn't be more real for us.

Living as Christians in the 21st century poses a unique challenge for us though. In this season of Epiphany (and really in every season of the church year) we strive to not only mark what happened in the history of Christ's life, but also the ways in which Christ continues to come to us today. As we mark the revealing of Christ as the light of the world, we not only remember the magi (from the farthest corners of the world) who travelled far and wide to meet Christ, but we also look to our world today and the ways in which Christ continues to come to all people throughout the world and the ways in which God's light continues to shine into the darkness of today's world.

Our 'Prayer of the Day' for January 6th reminds us of this reality we are faced with:

> Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We give thanks not only that Christ *was* revealed to all nations, but we pray that Christ *continues to be* revealed to all nations through each and every one us. "Shine the light of your justice" we pray in this season.

Perhaps in this season of light shining in the darkness, you could notice all the sources of light around you, and each time you notice one, say a short prayer that God's light may continue to shine in your own life, and that you would shine this light to others as well. Make this practice a part of your individual life and invite your children and families into this practice as well. Notice the lights in your home when you flip the switch on the wall, the moon as it shines in our windows, the streetlights, the business lights, the stars in the sky, and all the rest.

We have much to be thankful for as we welcome Christ into our world, and we have much work to do as we continue to shine the light of Christ into a dark world. May you recognize Christ's light in your life this Epiphany season, and may you be an agent of this light in all you do.

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

WELCA News Page 2
Youth Updates 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 January 30

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

Genesis House—David City

THANK YOU FROM ESU 7

Dearest Members of Calvary,

We can't thank you enough for your continued generosity in helping our students, and our ESU 7 families! Because of you, we were able to buy 4 gifts each for 48 kiddos and give each family $100 for a holiday meal. There is nothing better than the gift of giving and you all helped make that possible!

On behalf of ESU 7 and our families, we wish you and yours a very Blessed Holiday Season!

Thank you and God Bless,

ESU 7 & Families

W.E.L.C.A. News

*Your November and December offerings from WELCA circles and Church Members to help make a special Christmas for needy families served by ESU#7 amounted to $1,191 cash, a $50 gas card, and a $250 Thrivent Card. All I can say is THANK YOU for your generosity and love!

*Our Annual General Meeting was on 12/12. At that meeting, you voted to donate the following from our Treasury: $1,500 to Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services for refugees from Afghanistan; $500 to Genesis House; $250 each to ESU 7 needy families, A Place at the Table (backpack program), Columbus Rescue Mission, & Living Water Mission; $200 each to UNK Lutheran Campus Center, Lakota Lutheran Center & Oaks Indian Mission; and $150 to UNL Lutheran Campus Center. Thanks for your offerings all year long. Thank you to Miriam Circle for hosting.

*January 22 will be the Winter Retreat in Grand Island. Registration forms at church & are due January 15 - cost is $20.

*Service for month of January is offering for Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services.

*Altar care for January will be Kay Jones.

*Flowers in January, February & March will be by Ruth Circle. Thank you for watering any plants.

*The Quilters will no longer be meeting monthly. If quilts are made, it will be decided where to donate them at a later date. Thanks to everyone who has helped with quilting over the years!

JANUARY CIRCLES

	Hostess/Dessert	*Bible Study*
Miriam – 1/14	*(TBA)*	*(TBA)*

Ruth – ***Offering only*** – *no circle meeting held*

God has said, "Never will I leave you;

never will I forsake you." ~ Hebrews 13:5

Cheryl

RECIPES

The official tally is in on the 2021 quilts:

There were a total of 30 quilts made plus 2 children's quilts.

4 large quilts and 4 kid kits went to Camp Carol Joy in July for their auction. Lutheran World Relief received 13 quilts and 2 regular blankets.

The Quarterly Devotional " Christ in our Home" is available on the entry table. Please take one for yourself, and distribute to others you know who may not pick one up

---

Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, in conjunction with Lutheran Family Services, is currently working on settling close to 100 Afghani families in Nebraska. This is a monumental task as each family unit needs to have a furnished place to call their home. We can help with this! We have been called to welcome the stranger and work for the well-being of all, and through this we can put our faith into action. Calvary and First English, Rising City, will be working together to collect items through mid-January. Please donate as you are able! Monetary donations are welcome, please note on your envelope or the memo of the check that it goes to Refugee resettlement

Items continue to be collected and placed on the table in the basement fellowship room.

This Christmas season brought back memories of Christmas past. This month's recipe is from Linda Fuhr, she grew up in a German community and although she doesn't remember her Grandma Olson making this particular Christmas bread, her mother carried on the tradition. Dried pears are a commodity that are hard to find, but can be ordered on line! Linda remembers putting this out for Santa along with some hot milk, before going to Christmas Eve services. Her grandfather's health did not allow him to go to services, and when the family came home – the Pear Cake and warm milk were always gone, and Grandpa never saw what happened to it!

Pear Cake – Great Grandma Olson's recipe

Prepare a sweet roll dough.

For the pear mixture: Take a package of dried pears. Add ½ to ¾ cup water and simmer until they are soft. Add sugar to sweeten (about ½ to ¾ cup or to taste) Mash them well, or put them through a blender, or, a pastry blender works well to mash them up. Then, add 1 to 1 ½ cup of jelly – originally the recipe used apple jelly, but my sister liked using wild plum jelly much better. Also, raisins and/or nuts may be added if you like. This mixture should be of spreading consistency.

Roll out a piece of dough to about a 10" x 14" rectangle (size is not of the greatest importance, but you don't want it so big that you can't move it) It should be about as thick as you roll our for cinnamon rolls (somewhere around ½" inch or so)

Lightly brush on melted oleo, spread on pear mixture, but not too close to the edges. Roll up jelly roll fashion. Pinch all edges in so that the filling does not leak out while baking. Please on a cookie sheet. Brush with melted oleo and sprinkle cinnamon and sugar on top.

Bake in a 350 degree oven for 25-30 minutes until nice and brown and done in the middle. Remove and cool. Slice to eat. A Christmas time favorite.

Growing in Faith

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class is held every Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the church fellowship hall.

Youth Group meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm This group is open to all middle and high school age kids. You are welcome to bring a friend to share the fellowship

---

The congregational annual meeting will be held with the worship service on Sunday January 23. The agenda will include the election to: Council, Nominating Committee, Endowment Committee, Delegates to Synod Convention. Also on the agenda will be the approval of reports, and the 2022 budget, along with other items as deemed necessary by the council.

We will again have a congregational meal following the annual meeting. It will be catered by JW Catering from York. Because of COVID restrictions we were unable to offer this meal in January of 2021. Please plan on joining us for food and fellowship as we begin a new year of service to our Lord.

Please have all reports to Linda by January 10th.

Genesis House and BVCA

We would like to give a shout out to High Plains Community Schools and a creative idea by Lynn Hofmann, one of the teachers at High Plains.

With the approval of the administration, the staff was challenged to bring an item of food or personal care items. Each day they brought an item, they were allowed to wear jeans to school. They could bank as many days as they wanted.

Lynn asked what organizations would be in need and we suggested Genesis House, Blue Valley Community Action and the Afghan refugee family. Swede Home offered to distribute the items, and on Sunday the 19th Tom, Lynn, Rylee and Peyton brought boxes and boxes and bags and bags of both food and non-perishable items for the 3 programs in need.

Cheryl and Linda divided the items according to appropriate need and Genesis House got an abundance of items delivered along with the Christmas Meals. BVCA will also receive a sizable donation after the first of the year, and many personal care and cleaning items were added to the Afghan Refugee table.

We thank High Plains for their donations and we understand this may be an annual event!

Thank you

Dear Friends at Calvary

THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts for the love that has been shown to our family on the death of our Dad, Dennis Johnson. We are so grateful for the calls,, food and sympathy shown to Marj—thank you for keeping her close to the heart of Swede Home during these last years of Dad's illness.

Pastor Sarah, your loving words at Dad's service brought us all comfort as we reflected on Dad's life spent at Calvary. THANK YOU for spending time with Marj and offering her your prayers and God's Grace.

And to Gloria and her fabulous "Lunch Ladies!!" We knew that we were in good hands and did not need to worry about a single detail! THANK you for all you did to make us comfortable and well fed.

Marj, Jill and I are grateful to the Calvary community for the history of love and service so consistently shown to Dad and our family. Thank you, and Merry Christmas to our friends and family at Swede Home.

Sincerely,

Marj Johnson, Krys Arrick and family, Jill Coultner and family

---

Sisters in Christ,

Thank you and your WELCA organization for your recent gift in support of the Lutheran Center. God blesses us through supporters like you!

We enjoyed a lovely worship service with students before they headed home for break.

Peace to you all this Christmas.

Amanda White, Ministry Director

Thank You

Hello friends at Swedehome...yes, it will be great to have those 5 ready made Christmas meals...plan to give them to the Moms with hungry children...will be so nice for them...thank you. And the extra food would be fine, too, because we are giving out extra this year… food/grocery items will be fine, and I will take care of them. I plan to do some volunteer day at Genesis House after I retire, and I will make sure our pantry cupboards are well stocked, and leave instructions for the ones who will be working with it. Thank You.

I forgot to tell Cheryl thank you for the high chair when she came last week...it has already been given to the young mom with the baby, and put into use...it has been wonderful to work with you, and to know all of you through these years...truly you have made miracles happen for so many women and children who have come to us for help. Our circle of giving works so well when we all work together.

Merry Christmas, Pat and Nicole Genesis House

We here at Midwest Covenant Home/Assisted Living want to thank Calvary Lutheran Church for the donations of the Bibles to use at our Bible Studies. God bless you for your generosity.

Elanor Hatfield, Ruth Hanson,

Pastor Leonard Suhr, and others

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— Michael Neujahr

Mike Neujahr grew up on a farm north of Osceola with his parents, Randy & Pam, sister, Holly, and brother, Matt. He graduated from OHS in 1996, then graduated from UNL in 2001 with a bachelors degree in animal science. While at UNL, he worked in University Maintenance, and received his journeyman's license, so decided to go into the electrical business. Beginning in 1995, Mike started working for Watts electric, and gained a lot of experience working there in summers and began full time in 2001 for a while.

In 2002, he married April Perry of Shelby. In 2004, they moved back to Osceola. Their son, Kolton was born February 25, 2004 and Kelby was born August 25, 2006 (18 months apart).

Mike now works in sales for Electric Engineering & Equipment Company, with offices in Columbus and Lincoln, where he spends time at both locations.

Mike is very involved with his kids and is so proud of them! He and Kolton are avid hunters, and both boys are out for basketball, track and baseball. Mike spent many years as youth baseball coach, but now is really enjoying watching his boys play baseball.

When they're not at the boys sporting events, the family really loves to go camping in their 5th- wheel trailer. They even sometimes stay in their camper when going to games in the summer. They have a cow/calf herd on the farm and also raise & show 4-H hogs at Polk County Fair.

Mike is very involved in the community as a Volunteer Fireman, Rural Fireboard member, and is serving on the Osceola school board.

Mike really likes the smaller, welcoming congregation at Swede Home. And we like having Mike, April, Kolton and Kelby at Swede Home!

We Reach to all our faith family in prayer and celebration

Remember in Your Prayers

us!

Melissa Forsberg
Janice Forsberg
June Larson
Elaine Toline

Jan Wells-Bachman
Mabel Hinkle and Austin Hinkle

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)

Ushers and bell ringers are needed for the remainder of January—along with **several worship service spots for the remainder of the year.** Sign up is located on the usher counter at the back of the church or contact Dianna Johnson or Jean Waller

Fellowship Coffee hour sign up is available at the kitchen window, or contact Kay Jones

Anniversaries
...In Sacred Places...

January

No anniversaries in January

Birthdays

January

04 Mike Larson
04 Fran Lott
05 Bill Carlstrom
09 Deb Hanquist
09 Mary Stevens
10 Mickey Berggren
11 Brileigh Twarling
14 Tyler Jones
15 Quin Rene Anderson-Cahill
15 Carole Dickson
16 Roxanne Czarnick
17 Linda Fuhr
17 Diana Johnson
20 Dan Ienn
23 Joel Cramer
23 Ron Dickson
23 Bryce Nielsen
24 Deb Cramer
27 Duane Jones
27 Irene Sundberg
27 Janelle Udey
29 Ceagen Watts

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 Blessing

January

Assistant Minister – Wayne Johnson
Scripture Reader – Carol Nicholson
Ushers – Don and Linda January 2
Remainder of the month TBA
Altar/Communion – Kay Jones
Acolyte – Rylee/Peyton
Bell Ringer – Colby Nelson January 2
Remainder of the month TBA

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30 am worship service with communion	3	4	5 6:30 Confirmation	6	7	8
9 10:30 am Worship service	10	11	12 6:30 Confirmation	13	14 Miriam Circle 9 am hostess TBA	15
16 10:30 am Worship Service with Communion 6:00 pm Youth Group	17	18	19 6:30 confirmation	20	21	22
23 10:30 am Worship Service with annual meeting, congregational meal at noon	24	25	26 6:30 confirmation	27	28	29
30 10:30 am Worship service	31					

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and donations from members, the Evangelical and Outreach committee was once again able to provide Christmas meals to many in the county. This program started in 2021 as a way to help families who may be stressed with the COVID-19 restrictions. It was very well received then, and with the budget item approved for 2022, we were once again able to continue this outreach to the communities in Polk County.

We contacted families with school aged children and by also working with Erin Dickey and the Polk County Senior Services we also reached out to recipients of the Meals on Wheels program. This program provides meals during the week, but they do not deliver on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our goal was to provide a meal that could easily be prepared. With items purchased locally at Economy Food Mart – we were able to fill each bag with a 4 lb. ready cooked ham, prepared packaged mashed potatoes, 2 cans of vegetables and a pumpkin pie. The Ev and Outreach committee also included a Christmas manger ornament in each meal bag.

It takes many willing hands to deliver these all in a timely manner. We were able to deliver the Senior meals to the 4 Senior Centers in the county on Thursday morning, December 23, and they delivered to the Seniors along with the regular MOW for Thursday. Bags for the families with children were delivered by Sarah, Megan and Jadyn Johnson and Don and Linda Fuhr. We also delivered 5 meal bags to Pat at Genesis House for her families. Cheryl Jones delivered meals to local families also.

It takes lots of hands to accomplish this project and we thank: Sandy Johnston, Kent, Andrew and Jacob Adelson, Dan Oquist, Kay Jones, Missy and Jarrett Althouse, Kris, Koleton and Kamdyn Udey, Don Fuhr, and Sarah, Megan and Jadyn Johnson, and Pastor Sarah along with the committee members, who donated their time and cash donations to make this project successful: Cheryl Jones, Randy Lott, Wayne Johnson and Linda Fuhr.

Erin Dickey delivered the meals to Stromsburg Seniors and she wrote:

I just want to let you know I am so thankful for the opportunity to deliver the meals from Calvary Lutheran this year. I just got done delivering my last meal to a couple out in the country and I was met with hugs and teas of joy and it just helps remind me of what Christmas is, and what loving others is about.

Thank you so much for being good steward of your resources, time and of your giving hearts.

I am blessed by you, Merry Christmas

Erin Dickey

Overall, we packed 63 meal bags—this included 28 senior bags, 18 families, many of whom received more that one meal bag because of the number of people in the family. We can only estimate the number of people served, but we feel about 100 people benefited from Swede Homes' generosity.

The youthful legs made packing the meals and getting them to the delivery vehicles an easy job!

Shown with some of the meal bags are Jarrett Althouse and Koleton Udey, confirmands, along with younger brother Kamdyn Udey.

We thank the boys for their willing help

Rich is halfway through his third-year externship at Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center on the way to his PhD in clinical psychology. Rebecca continues to enjoy serving as pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Syosset. Erin loves first grade at Village Elementary and Grace gets to see Mom in preschool at Faith Nursery School. We enjoyed seeing friends in Madison, WI and Geneseo, IL on the way to and from Omaha this summer, as well as camping in Duchess County, NY.

Know God, Love God, Share God's Love

Council Notes

Calvary Council met December 5, 2021 following worship. Present were: Kent, Dan Oquist, Fran, Sandy, and Todd. Dan Ienn, Fran, and Pastor Sarah were absent.

Property committee: Kent and Dan O will tend to the parsonage fire alarm batteries

The faucet heads in the kitchen will be replaced if they cannot be cleaned.

Calvary has received notice we are a beneficiary of an estate through UBS Financial – Omaha.

Evangelical and Outreach team's proposal for an ongoing community emergency meal program was approved.

The congregational annual meeting is set for January 23, 2022, during worship. A congregational meal following the meeting will be catered by JW Catering in York.

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

Next meeting January 2, 2022, following church service.

www.shutterstock.com · 510813268

Treasurer's Report

	November 2021
Beginning Balance	**$6,960.47**
Offerings:	
General Offerings	11,240.96
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	5.00
ELCA Mission Share	1,250.00
First Lutheran for October Share	2,423.36
	14,919.32
Expenses:	
Vanco eCheck Monthly Fee	9.69
Cody's Computer Maintenance Plan	34.99
Confirmation Material	49.27
Harland Clarke Check Order	49.50
Taking Faith Home Year C	49.95
Postage Expense	62.40
Reformed Worship	70.00
Office Net; Contract Base & usage	135.98
All Creation Sings	254.22
Living Lutheran subscription	689.15
Backpack Program; Lent Offering	2,060.00
NE Synod ELCA Mission Share	1,560.00
First Rising City November Share	2,091.95
Utilities:	
Church	992.81
Parsonage	121.53
Salaries:	
Pastor Sarah Ruch	2,163.20
Portico Benefit Services	1,029.58
Commuting Allowance	366.91
SECA	215.14
Mileage	77.73
Cell Phone Allowance	32.50
Diana	476.24
LeeAnn	241.50
Linda	396.18
	13,230.42
Balance as of November 30, 2021:	**$8,649.37**

*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**