

Svea Evangelical Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY REMINDER

12651 15th Street SE, Svea MN 56216 320-995-6500

www.svealutheranchurch.org

2021

For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. Hebrews 2:16-20

Who are you? and who are you called to be?

This is a question that has been resonating for many of us in these days of continued pandemic and isolation. In the broadest sense, and perhaps the most important we are children of God, and through baptism followers of Christ. That identity expresses itself in such wonderful and varied ways in our community so as to create a church- a body of Christ himself.

We are called then to be that body which is Jesus for the world. It can be a bit tricky from time to time and we lose our way occasionally as our self-understanding is challenged by conflict, pandemic, career, revelation, family, education, and all manner of other challenges. Jesus calling to his people remains however, and we are encouraged to follow.

This month we celebrate Transfiguration, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our 40-day Lenten journey. We practice fasting, sacrificial giving, and intentional reflection on our sinful nature as we seek to be reconciled to God. This passage from Hebrews reminds us that Christ came for the descendants of Abraham which includes Jews, Muslims, and Christians. His sacrifice which he chose was for his gift for the sins of the people. It is by our action and his choice that Christ suffered on the cross. In his suffering he endured all temptation to be anyone else yet he remained the one who was chosen to be our life.

We are blessed by God with a son who endured all the same challenges and temptations that we face in our lives and yet chose to remain faithful to the point of death for a people who aren't always sure they want to be Christians.

Fortunately, even in our temptation Christ's love and identity hold us fast in the whirlwind of this world. Welcome to our journey beloved ones welcome to our time of reflection.

Pr. Erik

Svea Lutheran Church Council

January 28, 2021

Council Minutes



Present on Zoom: Brian Gorans, John Christianson, Camy Wenberg

Present at church: Linda Roelofs, Kristi Gatewood, Josh Larson, Louise Swenson,

Diane Johnson, Rev. Erik G. Rundquist

Absent: Jacob Flannigan

Call to Order: Pr. Erik G. Rundquist presider for organizational council meeting.

Pastor Erik G. Rundquist combined Devotions with explaining the structure of the ELCA globally, nationally, State of MN, Conference and Local.

A motion was made to approve the December 12, 2020 minutes. MSC

Pastor's Report: Pastor Erik G. Rundquist

1. There are three boys in the current Confirmation class.
2. Phone calls to members.
3. Requested Council to offer ideas for Pastor Erik's continuing education.
4. Pastor has offered discretionary funds but was declined. One discretionary gift was paid back. The fund currently is sufficient. Blessing Box is currently under used.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship, Finance, and Estate (see Attachment)

The SFE made a recommendation to allocate 20% of the 2020 surplus carried over to 2021 be given to Global Mission. ***Motion to allocate 20% to Global Mission (approximately \$1200) with the understanding that the Council will consider increasing the gift at their February Council Meeting. MSC***

Worship and Music

Megan Gilles and Kari Stadem are comfortable with accompanying music virtually or in person.

Lent will need to be planned moving into Easter.

Audio/Visual:

1. Brian Gorans reported that the camera needs to be replaced. Brian, Scott Johnson and Jake Vlamincik will meet with the company who installed current equipment. Someone will pay for the camera and any other equipment that is needed to upgrade and improve. The future of on-line worship is expected to continue being another method of outreach to members and others.
2. Council discussed how to secure more help in using the audio/visual for worship and other communication needs. Our youth may be a real resource as they are well versed in current technology. They can contribute and become more active in our church. This idea was enthusiastically endorsed.

Youth: *Motion to appoint Theresa Johnson as Treasurer of the Youth account. MSC*

No reports from: Parish Education, Property, Global Missions, Adult Education, LMM, Visual Arts, Library, Memorial, Personnel, Strategic Planning

Continuing Business:

- 1. Armed Intruder-** Tabled
- 2. 2020 Celebration possible rescheduled for 2021-** Tabled
- 3. Church use policy-** Tabled
- 4. Review congregation conversation:**

Late 2020, 3 conversational meetings were held. There are serious concerns within the congregation that need to be addressed. Council requested Pastor Erik to secure someone from the SWMN Synod to facilitate future conversation meetings. And, that these meetings will begin again in the very near future.

- 5. Friends in Faith -** Tabled

New Business:

1. Worship Plan

Council decided that Svea Church resume in house worship following CDC guidelines. On line worship will continue.

2. Election of Officers:

Council members nominated and voice voted:

President: Joshua Larson

Vice President: Camilla Wenberg

Secretary: Louise Swenson

Motion to appoint Douglas Hopp to serve an Svea Congregation Treasurer. MSC

Council then chose what committees they wished to serve.

3. Communion Assistants:

The use of individual cups will continue.

4. Thank You Cards

Thank you, cards, will be written and signed by council members.

5. Next Meeting:

New time set for **7:00 pm** on third Thursdays: February 18, 2021

Motion to adjourn meeting. MSC closed with prayer led by President Larson asking for our Lord's guidance as our church moves in a forward direction.

Pastor's report for January



Thank you to everyone who helped with Christmas services

Resumed confirmation classes in person. Thank you to Lois Nelson for teaching class during my leave.

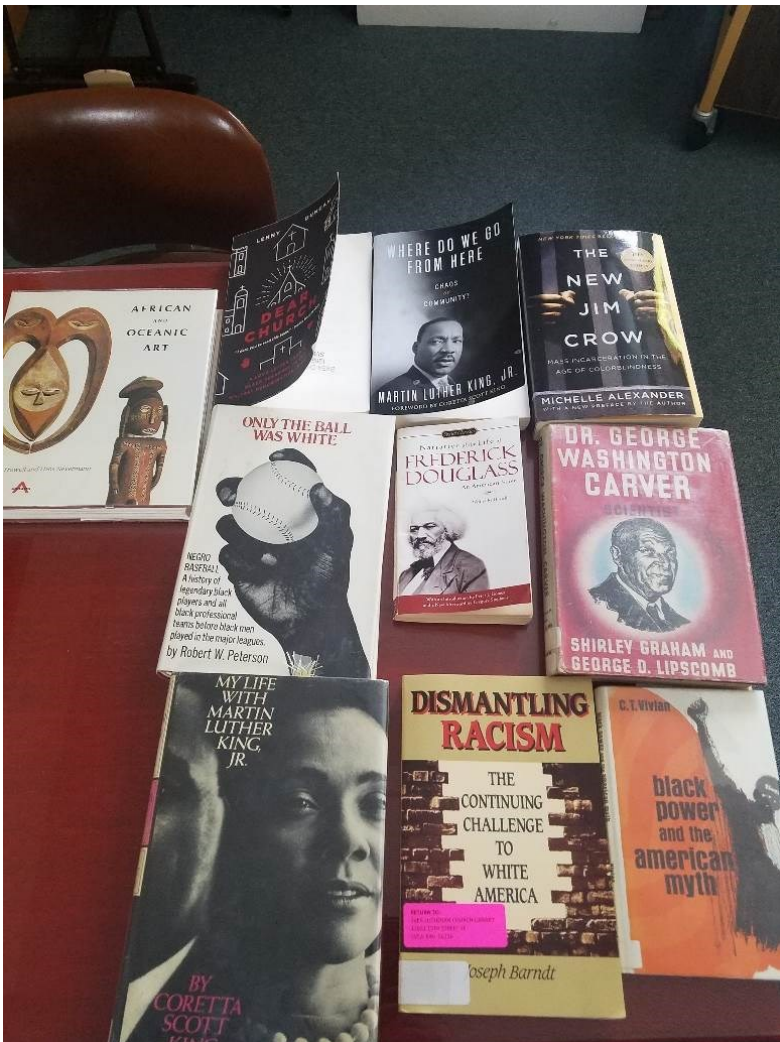
Resumed Marriage Family Therapy study attending classes on Tuesdays

Continuing to call members, hoping to resume in person visitation soon

Thank you to everyone who assisted with preparation and planning for Annual Meeting.

Ministerial Acts:

Funeral for Jon Burks December 21, 2020



February is Black History Month, and we encourage everyone to stop by the library and check out these titles as well as a wide variety of other quality works by African American authors.

Each of these works offer different perspectives over many decades of different experiences.

Happy Reading!

Lenten Personal Care Kit Collection Drive

Donate items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits to help people in need. This year with the worldwide pandemic the need for these kits is greater than ever.

This Lent our congregation is once again taking part in LWR's Baskets of Promise appeal. Our goal is to collect enough supplies to make 100 Personal Care Kits that help impoverished people around the world stay healthy in life's most challenging situations.

Each kit contains:

- 1 light weight bath towel (dark colors are best- **Maximum size 52" x 27"**)
- 2 bars of soap (any brand 4 to 5 oz. in original wrapping)
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 metal nail clipper (either with or without a nail file)
- 1 adult size toothbrush (in original packaging) .

Each week during Lent we will focus on collecting one of the kit items. Please bring your donation to worship and place it in the designated box.

Schedule for collection:

February 21st– soap

February 28th - bath towels

March 7th– toothbrushes

March 14th – combs

March 21st - nail clippers

March 28th (Palm Sunday) - soap

If you prefer, a donation of money towards the project is also very helpful. It costs approximately \$9.50 to purchase the items for each kit, plus \$2.65 per kit to ship and to add the toothpaste at the destination site.

A date for assembling the kits will be held in April.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Schueler at 320-894-4566 or shkaschu@gmail.com.

Your Gifts in Action

OUR GLOBAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19



NAVAJO EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MISSION IN THE UNITED STATES

In Rock Point, Ariz., Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission responded to COVID-19 by providing meals and clean drinking water for people in need.

Watch video: [ELCA.org/ChurchTogetherRockPoint](https://www.elca.org/ChurchTogetherRockPoint)



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

In Huntington Station, N.Y., Gloria Dei Lutheran Church doubled the work of its food pantry in response to COVID-19. Gloria Dei grew its ministry by working with food banks and other partners in its community — and with the help of an ELCA World Hunger Daily Bread Matching Grant.

Watch video: [ELCA.org/ChurchTogetherNewYork](https://www.elca.org/ChurchTogetherNewYork)



POP NO'J ASSOCIATION'S EDUCATIVE PROGRAM IN GUATEMALA

In Guatemala, the Pop No'j Association provides direct care to adolescents and their families through weekly monitoring calls and periodic visits. In the wake of the pandemic, Pop No'j has provided counseling and psychological care through calls and virtual tools such as Zoom, while also creating a WhatsApp group to support youth.

A child in the Pop No'j Association's educative program holds up the newly developed learning booklet, which includes recreational activities for children and their families to complete at home.



THE INFOHUT PROJECT IN NAMIBIA

The Infohut project of the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa trains youth in computer skills, life skills and HIV prevention. Infohut has also trained teachers in using online platforms and new technology amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Participants in the Infohut project last winter, before the onset of the pandemic.



ELCA WORLD HUNGER



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE



COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND



SAFE SPACES FOR CHILDREN IN SERBIA

Once the state of emergency for COVID-19 was lifted in Serbia, Church World Service's Safe Spaces for Street Children program focused on providing children with food, clean clothes and bathing at its drop-in shelter. The program has also run COVID-19 prevention workshops and individual counseling sessions.

A participant in the Safe Spaces for Street Children program.

RIGHTS FOR PALESTINIAN CHILDREN IN THE WEST BANK

Defense for Children International Palestine (DCIP) launched a petition to demand the release of all children from Israeli prisons amid the outbreak of COVID-19. More than 15,000 people have signed.

At age 14, Osama (now 18) was arrested by the Israeli military at 3 a.m. one night in his home in the occupied West Bank. His mother, Najwa, described the imprisonment of Osama and his brother as the most difficult time of the family's lives. Photo by DCIP.



LIVELIHOOD PROJECT IN INDONESIA

The Protestant Christian Church in Mentawai accompanies congregation members and local communities through sustainable economic development. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the leaders of the livelihood project have been meeting immediate needs and researching the impact of the pandemic on informal workers.

Harmelius, a volunteer, helps distribute clothes to local people in the Sirisurak sub-village of Mentawai Islands, Indonesia.

- Angola
- Argentina
- Bangladesh
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Czech Republic
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- India
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Japan
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mexico
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Nigeria
- Palestine
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- The Gambia
- Uganda
- United States
- Venezuela
- Zimbabwe

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and the COVID-19 Response Fund are making an impact around the world, as together we respond to the urgent needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for generously supporting these ministries!



SUMMER 2021

Guided by the Light

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." - John 8:12

IMPORTANT DATES:

Registration Opens • January 25, 2021
 Early Bird Discount Ends • March 1, 2021
 First Day of Summer Camp • June 20, 2021



MORE INFORMATION including promotional materials, pricing, forms, scholarship information & more available on our website, www.gllm.org!

Summer 2021 Schedule

	Shore's of St. Andrew Bible Camp				Green Lake Bible Camp			Camp House
	Grades 1-4	Grades 2-5	Grades 5-7	Various Ages	Grades 7-9	Grades 9-12	Chrysalis House	Various Ages
Week 1: June 20-25	Half Blast	Andy's Gang	Trailblazers	Fishing Camp	Stargazers	SIT	Pastor's Family Camp	Confirmation North
Week 2: June 27 - July 2	Half Blast	Andy's Gang	Trailblazers		Stargazers	SIT Practice at Shores	Retreat Booking	Confirmation North & HS Up North
Week 3: July 4-9	Fourth of July Week				Fourth of July Week			Retreat Bookings
Week 4: July 11-16	Congregational Booking						Camp Joy	Family Camp North & Servant Adventure
Week 5: July 18-23	Half Blast	Andy's Gang	Trailblazers		Stargazers	SIT	Family Camp	Congregational Retreats
Week 6: July 25-30	Half Blast	Andy's Gang	Trailblazers		Confirmation Camp	SIT Practice at Shores	Family Camp	Congregational Retreats
Week 7: August 1-6	Half Blast	Andy's Gang	Trailblazers		Congregational Booking			Congregational Retreats
Week 8: August 8-13	Congregational Booking				Retreat Booking			Congregational Retreats

* Please note that this schedule is tentative as we learn more and adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most current schedule can be found online!

HOW DO WE COMPARE? A LOOK AT HOMELINESS

Demographics in the Land of 10,000 Lakes...

“The number of people experiencing homelessness is on the rise in Minnesota, especially among older adults and other non-traditional demographic groups, according to a study by the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation released in March 2020”

(Sarah Horner, Pioneer Press, March 25th, 2020)



Our mission at Family Promise of Kandiyohi County prioritizes children and parents in our direct shelter program as every child deserves a home. Our **Diversion Program** can make a difference in the lives of all demographics, which is simply providing services to those that are not sheltered with us. Whether as simple as educating on resources available and providing referrals to assisting with the process of getting public assistance, navigating challenges in social security applications, or securing placement with alternately funded services. These are some examples to name a few, however, we have run into many other needs as well.

The study also found that 81% of adults experiencing homelessness have a physical health condition, 64% struggle with mental illness, and 24% substance use disorders in addition to 50% having co-occurring disorders." (Sarah Horner, Pioneer Press, March 25th, 2020). These numbers were gathered before the COVID-19 pandemic hit which further increases demand locally and across the state.

Please support Family Promise in using our sheltering space for families with children, but also to act as a local resource for all homeless individuals including seniors, those with medical conditions, and/or dealing with mental illness who may need guidance on what resources are available to them. Navigating available resources can often be overwhelming and confusing. Many individuals are bounced around between agencies and receive conflicting answers on where to get help.

Everyone's life situation, circumstance, and journey varies, therefore we are not able to assist everyone needing help. All diversion case management is based on availability of resources, time, and specific case details. However, we will make every effort to connect with those who can help further.

151st Svea Lutheran Congregational Annual Meeting



President Gene Gatewood presiding over the annual meeting.

SLC Annual meeting was held on January 24th after worship services. There were 39 voting members.

The following members were elected to various positions:

Church Council: *Josh Larson & Kristi Gatewood*

Church Council Youth: *Jacob Flannigan*

Cemetery Board: *Jordan Gatewood & Jake Vlaminck*

Auditing Committee: *Doug Johnson*

Synod Delegates: *Pete & Kari Stadem*

Head Usher: *Michael Lindblad*

Alternative Usher: *Dan Swenson*

Nominating Committee: *Lois Nelson & Dustin Moran.*



Address , phone or e-mail changes???

If you have had any changes during the past year, please let the office know so we can get the yearbook updated. Thanks!

Lost and Found

Found a set of keys in the east entrance of church. Also, there are five coats that have been left in the Narthex for over a couple of years. If not claimed, they will be given to charity.






Ole and Sven grabbed their poles and headed out to do some ice fishing. As they were augering a hole in the ice they heard a loud voice from above say, "There are no fish under the ice." Ole and Sven moved about 25 feet over and started to make another hole. The voice said a little stronger, "There are no fish under the ice." They both looked around and then looked up. Ole said in a humble voice, "Are you God?" The voice spoke back, "No ya idiots! I'm the ice rink attendant."

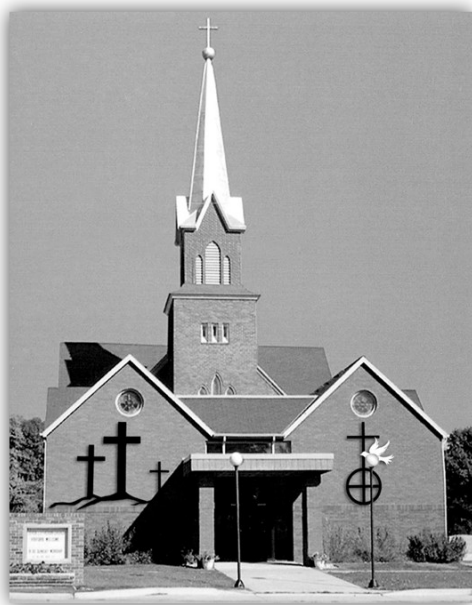
SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR



FEBRUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:00 pm Confirmation	4	5	6
7 10 am ELW Worship Service	8	9	10 7:00 pm Confirmation	11 8:00 pm SFE meeting	12	13
14 10 am Praise Worship Service 	15 	16	17  7:00 pm Confir- mation 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday ser- vice	18 7:00 pm Church Council	19	20
21 10 am Praise Worship Service	22	23  Reminder arti- cles due	24 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Lenten service	25	26	27
28 10 am Praise Worship Service						

**REMIINDER
FEBRUARY 2021
SVEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
12651 15TH ST SE
SVEA MN 56216**



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Madison Lindblad | 16. Glendon Pregler |
| 5. Levi Lindblad | Andrew Swenson |
| 7. Kent Jacobson | Joshua Mott |
| 8. Bruce Nelson | 17. Tina Bloch |
| Gary Christopher | Tyler Arhendt |
| Annelise Rundquist | 19. Stephen Stuhr |
| 10. Taryn Moran | 21. Joshua Boone |
| 11. Christopher Swierenga | 24. Lindsey Elliott |
| Braiden Landin | 25. Julie Newberg |
| 14. Pearl Berg | Markus Citterman |
| 15. Dawn Oslund | 27. Liz Barnes |
| Mackenze Eischens | 28. Katie Ross |
| Jack Christianson | |