

# At Cross of Calvary - Week of November 17, 2013

## Worship Resources

- *Bulletin* – There is one copy for each household. These have a color cover and contain announcements, needs for the week and the prayer list.
- *Order of Service* – Please return these to the ushers so there are enough for each service.

## **TABLE PRAYER**

God of light, may you turn our darkness into light. And with that light, may we reflect your extravagant love to others. Bless the food for which we are about to eat, so that we may serve you fully. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF HEALING & STRENGTH**

<b>Prayer for</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>	<b>Prayer for</b>	<b>Submitted by</b>
Betty Fushant	<i>Uva Hahn</i>	Chase Lykken	<i>S Kubesh</i>
Terje Hausken	<i>S Hausken</i>	Diana Adkins	<i>B Hennen</i>
Leslie Sagedahl	<i>D Sagedahl</i>	Shawn Erickson	<i>D Boen</i>
Maddy Travers	<i>K Barta</i>	Leanne Miller	<i>K Grasmon</i>
Phyllis Berninger	<i>K Barta</i>	Bob Sagedahl	<i>D Sagedahl</i>
Jim Harazin	<i>T Jacobs</i>	Kandi Erickson	<i>C Mallak</i>
Alice Schultze	<i>D Schultze</i>	Jackie Wisherd	<i>L Schultze</i>
Phyllis Freberg	<i>S Beckler</i>	Gene Revier	<i>E Revier</i>
Tonia Otto	<i>P Aalders</i>		

Kevin and Rebekah Howell – Paraguay Missionaries  
James Whitcomb, Logan Pautzke – Afghanistan

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING**

For the life of faith and service of Jan Bud.

Adding loved ones to the Prayer & Praise Lists:

- Please gain permission.
- Fill out a request card and drop in the offering, or go to [crossofcalvary.net](http://crossofcalvary.net)
- Names will remain on the list for a maximum of one month.

**Special Congregational Meeting** TODAY, 9:30am in the Sanctuary  
Purpose: Approve payment of the street assessment --- \$17,634.43  
Reminder: A quorum of 60 voting members is necessary  
AGENDA: Page 7

## COMMUNION – today and every Sunday during Advent

### THIS WEEK

<b>17 Sun</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>8:30 &amp; 10:30am</b>
	<b>Special Congregational Mtg.</b>	<b>9:30am</b>
	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>9:30-10:20am</b>
	Baptism – Elfering	10:30am
	Golden Living Service	1:00pm
	Altar Guild	5:30pm
	Girl Scouts – Rm 8	6:00-8:00pm
<b>18 Mon</b>	FOLLOWER deadline	
	Scouts – Rm 6	3:15pm
	Library reserved	6:00-8:00pm
<b>19 Tues</b>	Men’s Bible Study	6:15 & 7:00am
<b>20 Wed</b>	WOW	3:15-4:30
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bible Class	3:15pm
	Confirmation Meal/Class	5:45pm/6:30pm
	Committees	7:00pm
	Council	8:00pm
<b>21 Thurs</b>	Breakfast Club	7:07am
	Dorcas Circle	9:30am
	Brownies	5:30pm
<b>22 Fri</b>	Heart to Heart	4:00-8:00pm
	Junior High Youth Gathering	overnight
<b>23 Sat</b>	Worship	5:30pm
<b>24 Sun</b>	<b>Gideon Sunday!</b>	
	<b>Worship</b>	<b>8:30 &amp; 10:30am</b>
	<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>9:30-10:20am</b>

### COMING UP – November

25 Ruth Circle	28 Thanksgiving - Office Closed
26 Assemble the Follower	29 Office Closed
27 NO Wed Programming	30 Wedding – off site
27 Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7pm	

Large print bulletins are available in the display rack.



#### **Coffee Hour.**

Nov 17 Narthex  
Nov 24 Open  
Dec 01 NO Coffee  
Dec 08 Youth

How does coffee hour work? Youth cover half the Sundays during the school year. The rest are open and available for groups or individuals to sign up and host.

Contact the office when needing to borrow anything from church.

**New Members** are welcomed anytime. Please contact Pastor or Laurie.

### **VOLUNTEERS for November**

**Communion** 8:30—K Larson 10:30—D Altmann

**Ushers** 8:30 — D Hagen, G Hagen, J Kopacek, C Lund  
10:30— G Johnson, R Johnson

**Altar Guild** K Bahl, S Erickson

**Acolytes** G Adamski, J Hanson

**Altar Flowers** – sign-up on the board

#### **Gifts of fresh cut flowers for the Altar are always welcome.**

- Choose a date and sign up on the Board.
- Call or email Laurie in the office to indicate what you'd like in the bulletin – in celebration of, in honor of, in memory of.  
Note: without a designation, no reference will be printed.
- Have flowers delivered by 4pm on Saturday.

#### **The Snowflake Bazaar is December 7<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 1.**

When doing your Christmas baking and projects, please keep the Bazaar in mind. We will also be doing the Christmas attic and progressive auction. These items may be brought to the church library any time AFTER Nov. 17. Label them "For the Bazaar."



**"A Changing of the Guard?"** The ladies who have chaired the Bazaar for the past 19 years have decided this will be their last year. They would be happy to assist anyone who is willing to take over. This is a very worthwhile event which brings fellowship to our church and also a considerable amount of money. Many projects have been completed throughout the church with this money, as well as tithing to community and school projects.

## A Blessing to Confirmation Families and Volunteers.

Confirmation at Cross of Calvary is scheduled at 6:30pm, and we offer a light meal for the kids and the adult volunteers. You may ask why...

- Class is earlier, so the youth and volunteers can be on their way home to their families by 7:30. Youth have time for homework and to touch base at home. Volunteers and staff with small children are home to tuck them in.
- The meal offers a relaxed an open time for relationship building among the youth, the staff and the volunteers. This time of sharing and listening is valued by all.
- Biblically, table fellowship is vital to the strength of the community!
- When volunteers (not just Confirmation parents) sign up to serve a meal, the stress level on the staff is reduced, so they are not scrambling to prepare a meal in the afternoon. Serving is a gift to the church as well, as we are not buying supplies or ordering pizza.

Because God calls on volunteers to serve, our Confirmation program is a relaxed, enjoyable time for all. Is God calling you? Consider asking a friend to help serve with you. Give Laurie a call, she's available to turn on the crock pot or start the oven for you. And, to those who have already filled the kids up, thank you!

### CONFIRMATION SUPPER

Nov 20

Dec 4 L Revier /T Larson-Johnson

Dec 11

Dec 18

Jan 8 E Elbert / M Sagedahl

**Expect** - 15 Conf students & 6 adults

**Time** – Serve from 5:45 to 6:20

**Ideas** – walking tacos, pizza, soups, BBQ, hot dogs, spaghetti, hotdishes

**Beverages** – sodas, milk (lemonade mix available at church)

**Dessert** - cookies, bars

**Bring** - disposable paper products, or do dishes

**Optional** – baby carrots, chips, salad

### WOW TREATS

Nov 13

Nov 20

Dec 4

Dec 11

**Prepare** for 30 kids

**Drop off** by noon

**Ideas** - bars, cookies, fruit, crackers, cheese, fruit, snack mix, veggies/dip

**NO NUTS**



**Emergency/Pastoral Care** - Please have a family member or friend notify the church. If hospitalized, you may also request the staff to call on your behalf. Call 523-1574 day or night. Listen for the staff member needed to access their emergency number. Never feel as though you are bothering Pastor or the staff. We are here to serve as a comfort and as a resource.

*Pastor Matt's Podcast!! The Faithful 15 is a weekly, 15-minute podcast that will recharge and regenerate you to go out and live your life in faith and discipleship.*

To listen visit [www.crossofcalvary.net](http://www.crossofcalvary.net)



**The FOLLOWER and weekly bulletin are available at [crossofcalvary.net](http://crossofcalvary.net).**

- Click on the “Blog”.
- Get them both sent to your email address automatically.
  - Go to [crossofcalvary.net](http://crossofcalvary.net)
  - Scroll to the bottom of the Home page
  - subscribe by entering your email

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### **CHECK THE COMMUNITY BOARD**

(take-home fliers available)



- Nov 17 – Pancake breakfast at St Mary’s in Bird Island
- Nov 21 – Lutefisk and Meatball supper at Gloria Dei in Redwood
- Nov 23 – Breakfast with the Band/Choir at Ren. Co. Comm. Center from 8-11am. Donations accepted.
- Nov 23 – Holiday Brunch and Bazaar at Faith United Methodist
- Dec 12 - Citizens State Bank Of Olivia Christmas Coffee

**Citizens State Bank Christmas Coffee** – The signup sheet for servers is on the BOARD. Three shifts are needed this year. If you have questions, please contact Marlys.

**Christmas Play** - "One Quiet Night" Nov 22-24, Fri/Sat 7:30, Sun 2:30, RCW High School (old gym). Tickets sold only at the door.

**Santa’s Closet of Renville County** welcomes all kinds of donations!

- Gift donations can be dropped in the box near the west entrance of the Narthex.
- Monetary donations can be sent to Santa’s Closet, PO Box 115, Olivia, MN 56277.
- For further information or to volunteer, call Sandy Kubesh 522-0106 or Nancy Hague 905-7925.



## Community Thanksgiving Dinner

You're invited to participate in the Christian Community Outreach Center's Thanksgiving Dinner. About 225 people in our community enjoy this free meal on Thanksgiving Day from 11 am to 1 pm. Are you able to do any of the following?



- volunteer any time between 9 am and 3 pm on Thanksgiving to prepare, serve or deliver food
- donate corn, potatoes, turkey, boxes of stuffing, butter, milk, cooked down squash, pie or whipped cream
- invite others in the community to eat or have a meal delivered to them

If the answer is yes, please contact Carlotta Eischens by November 8 to let her know you can volunteer or donate food. [320-523-5061](tel:320-523-5061) or [320-905-8690](tel:320-905-8690). Thank you for serving God while serving others!

## What Happens When You're Not There: The Effects of Missing Church

(Source unknown)



I am a die-hard Georgia Bulldogs fan. I rarely miss a game, and if I do, be sure, it is being recorded to watch at a later time, even if I know the outcome. I love Georgia football. And if I had tickets, which I do not, I would do everything I could to go to the game. I would amend my calendar, reschedule my appointments, and prioritize my activities to ensure my attendance. But if

something happened, and I couldn't make it, it would not affect the dynamic of the crowd, or the outcome of the event. It wouldn't change, one little bit, the atmosphere. Simply put, my attendance would not be missed. The team would stick to their game-plan, the crowd would maintain their electric charge, and the prices would be exactly as they are. The same is NOT true for my attendance at church.

**When a church member misses worship service, the church drastically suffers.** The Bible is emphatic about church attendance. The writer of Hebrews challenges us with convicting words, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). Have you ever thought about the effect your absence has in the House of God? When you are not there:

- The body of the congregation is incomplete
- Your voice is not heard in the worship and singing of the saints

- You cannot actively serve others who may need your gifts
- You cannot contribute in the offering
- You do not receive the Word of God in a preaching format
- You miss out on corporate prayer
- You forfeit fellowship with other believers
- You send a message to the youth that missing church is acceptable
- You make it easier to miss the next week, and then the next
- You become susceptible to apathy and indifference
- You make it harder for others to bear the weight and burdens of ministry
- You miss opportunities to share your struggles with the saints of God
- You cause unnecessary worry for your pastor, teacher, staff, and leaders
- You miss out on altar invitations, life-changing decisions, and spiritual experiences

**I assure you, your church needs you. And it needs you to be there this Sunday.** Faithfulness to the House of God is still a required characteristic for believers. From time to time we all need sabbaticals, vacations, and sick days. But when missing church becomes a regular or extended practice, we not only stymie our spiritual growth, we weaken the abilities of the entire congregation. I would like to encourage you to be in your place, ready for worship, and thank God He has purchased a place for you to attend. Now that, my friend, is even better than Georgia football!!

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## Special Congregational Meeting Agenda Sunday, November 17, 2013 9:30am



- I. Call to order
- II. Opening Procedures
  - A. Adoption of Agenda
  - B. Appointment of Recorder
  - C. Declaration of a quorum [60 voting members]
  - D. Prayer
- III. Approve payment of the street assessment for Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church in the amount of \$17,634.43.
 

*[As per our Congregational Constitution, C12.05.d, the Council may incur obligations more than \$2000.00 only after approval by a Congregational Meeting.]*
- IV. Additional Business [as added in item II]
- V. Adjournment

## Isaiah 9:1-7

**Key Verse:** “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.”

Isaiah 9:2

**Time:** mid 700’s BCE

**Background:** God’s split kingdom (the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah), was in constant conflict over social and theological issues. Each held its own capital and often worked to gain alliances with neighboring kingdoms to gain power.

First Isaiah (chapters 1-39) was written at a time when the Northern Kingdom, Israel, was being defeated by Assyria, bringing the kingdom to an end. The message of hope for a future would be received by a broken and suffering community.

**Community:** What social and theological issues are debated in your community of faith? Where do the debates prevent action? Where do they lead to positive social change? How might prayer and study of scripture inform those debates?

**At Home:** Where or from what do you suffer? How does your faith affect your attitude and your healing? Who could you involve in your faith journey that might help alleviate your suffering? Contact that person or people this week and ask for help.

### Read This Week:

Monday, Nov 18, *The Peaceful Kingdom*, Isaiah 11:1-9

Tuesday, Nov 19, *A Warning of Destruction of Jerusalem*, Isaiah 22:1-14

Wednesday, Nov 20, *Praise for Deliverance from Oppression*, Isaiah 25:1-12

Thursday, Nov 21, *Israel’s Redemption*, Isaiah 27:1-11

Friday, Nov 22, *A Rebellious People*, Isaiah 30:8-17

Saturday, Nov 23, *The Peace of God’s Reign*, Isaiah 32:16-20

**Next Week:** Sunday, Nov 24, *Jeremiah*, Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14





NOVEMBER 17, 2013

# taking GOD'S STORY home

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

*God says through the prophet Isaiah:*

"Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light. And it shines upon everyone who lives in the land of darkest shadows." – Isaiah 9:2 (CEV)

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of light, when we are troubled, when we are afraid, when we are sad, when it is dark—remind us you are the light that no darkness can overcome. Amen.

## A BLESSING TO SHARE

*Use these words to bless another person:*

Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven. Amen. (Matthew 5:16, CEV)

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

As we approach Advent, our Bible readings move toward the end of the Old Testament. All the readings this week are God's words spoken through the prophets to God's people at a time when they had little hope.

Usually, there is a description after each text in the list. This week, take a hand at writing some of your own. On the lines below, write a phrase that describes God's good news for that reading. For example, Isaiah 9:1-7 foretells the birth of a child who will become a great and peaceful ruler. Isaiah 12:1-6 tells of God's anger turning away from the people.

Sunday	Isaiah 9:1-7	A child who will rule in peace
Monday	Isaiah 12:1-6	God's anger will turn away
Tuesday	Isaiah 14:1-10	_____
Wednesday	Isaiah 25:6-9	_____
Thursday	Isaiah 32:1-8	_____
Friday	Isaiah 35:4-10	_____
Saturday	Isaiah 43:1-3	_____
Sunday	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14	God's word to those in exile

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

The readings from the prophet Isaiah this week are words of good news to God's people, spoken when their hope had grown dim. Recall times you received some good news. *Who delivered this good news? What were your feelings when you heard it?*

## DEVOTIONS

Light a candle during your times of devotion and prayer at home as a symbol of God's light in Christ. Try shaping devotions around the following basic pattern:

- **Gathering Prayer.** Light a candle to help you focus on the presence of Christ in your midst. Pray the "Prayer for the Week."
- **Caring Conversations.** Take a moment to discuss the ideas and questions in "Caring Conversations."
- **Daily Bible Reading.** Read aloud the Bible passage suggested for the day. *What do you want to remember from this reading?*
- **Blessing to Share.** Bless another person, using "A Blessing to Share."

## SERVICE

As you recall Isaiah 9:1-7, think some more about the image of light shining in darkness. Then do a little research about the differences between the varieties of high efficiency light bulbs and regular incandescent light bulbs. Discuss how switching the type of light bulbs you use might be a service to creation.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Advent is coming. This is a funny phrase, since the word *advent* means "coming." The season of Advent is the time of counting down and preparing for our Lord's coming. Christians wait for the celebration of Jesus' birth and also for Christ to come today and tomorrow in ways that soothe human suffering and bring hope, joy, and peace.

This week's reading from Isaiah 9 is sometimes read in worship during Advent—how might Isaiah's words about light and darkness be connected with Advent? Many Christians light candles on an Advent wreath to mark the four Sundays of Advent. (This year, Advent begins December 1.) If you are not familiar with this ritual, do a little online research on Advent wreaths and plan to use this tradition for counting down to Christmas in your home.



Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities.