

# At Cross of Calvary - Week of December 1, 2013

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## 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 hope, keep us ever watchful for your presence among us. Strengthen us to walk in your grace and light each day. Bless the food we are about to eat as we pray, "Come Lord Jesus! Be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed!" Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF HEALING & STRENGTH**

Prayer for	Submitted by	Prayer for	Submitted by
Terje Hausken	<i>S Hausken</i>	Diana Adkins	<i>B Hennen</i>
Jim Harazin	<i>A Osthus</i>	Robert Murphy	<i>S Alton</i>
Joy Dillon	<i>K Brown</i>	Gene Revier	<i>E Revier</i>
Tonia Otto	<i>P Aalders</i>	Alvina Beckman	<i>M Hausken</i>
Joanne Hawkinson	<i>H Hawkinson</i>		

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

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING**

For the beautiful wreath made by George Tesch.  
For the new faucets in the kitchen from Dan and Deanna Beckler.  
For the new light switches in the bathrooms from Bernie and Fay Johnson.  
For the life of faith and service of Betty Johnson.

### *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.

COMMUNION – Every Sunday during Advent

**Advent Services** – 7:30pm on Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, 18

The order of service is available in large print at the display rack.

**THIS WEEK**

<b>01 Sun</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>8:30 &amp; 10:30am</b>
	<b>NO Sunday School</b>	
<b>02 Mon</b>	Library reserved	2:00-4:00pm
	Scouts – Rms 2&6	6:30 pm
	Library reserved	6:00-8:00pm
<b>03 Tues</b>	Men’s Bible Study	6:15 & 7:00am
	Scouts – Rms 2&8	6:00 & 6:30pm
<b>04 Wed</b>	WOW	3:15pm
	Confirmation Meal/Class	5:45/6:30pm
	<b>Advent Service</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
<b>05 Thurs</b>	Breakfast Club	
<b>06 Fri</b>	Set up for the Bazaar	
	Lefsa making at the Parsonage	6:00pm
	Special Music for Sunday School Program is due	
<b>07 Sat</b>	Snowflake Bazaar	11:00-1:00
	Worship	5:30pm
<b>08 Sun</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>8:30 &amp; 10:30am</b>
	<b>NO Sunday School</b>	
	Gals’ Holiday Dinner	6:00pm

**COMING UP – December**

09 Widows Dinner at noon	23 Assemble the Follower - MONDAY
13 Special Music for Christmas	24 Christmas Eve – 4:30/10:00
Eve is due	25 Office closed –Christmas!
15 Golden Living Service	28 Wedding – Kubesh/Kopel
15 Sunday Sch Christmas Service	28 NO Sat Worship
16 Follower (Jan) Deadline	29 Worship at 9:00am only
16 Ruth Circle	29 No Sunday School
18 Council Meeting	
19 Dorcas Circle	



**Coffee Hour.**

- Dec 01 NO Coffee
- Dec 08 Youth
- Dec 15 SS Program
- Dec 22
- Dec 29 NO Coffee

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.

## **VOLUNTEERS for December**

**Communion** 8:30—G Blem 10:30—C Johnson  
**Ushers** 8:30 — D Lindquist, S Lindquist, R Feil, G Helin  
10:30— R/E Elbert, K Elfering  
**Altar Guild** S Malecek, H Thompson, J Evenson  
**Acolytes** M Lilja, K Bratsch  
**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** Christmas Attic, Luncheon, Progressive Auction and Cookies by the Dozen. Items for the attic may be brought to the church library anytime. Label them "For the Bazaar."



1.

**The *FOLLOWER* and weekly bulletin are available at *crossofcalvary.net*.**



**Poinsettias for the Advent.** The Altar Guild will be selling Poinsettias to decorate the Altar during Advent and Christmas beginning Nov 23-Dec 4. Look for an Altar Guild member on Saturday evenings and on Sundays prior to services.

**The Annual Widow's Dinner** will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please RSVP to Marlys before Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.

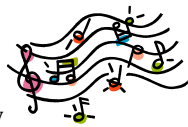
*Pastor Matt's Podcast!! The Faithful 15 is a weekly, 15-minute podcast that will recharge and regenerate you to go out and live your life in faith and discipleship.*

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



Trying a NEW APPROACH for Special Music at Christmas

Offering to share special music with the congregation, at any time, is a blessing. At Christmas it is also a treat!



If you are considering providing special music at the Sunday School Service on Dec. 15, or at the Christmas Eve service(s) on Dec. 24, please help the organist, pianist, tech people, office and Pastor with preparations. Simply fill out the form found below, or in the Follower, then submit it to the office by the due date noted. Thanks!!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Sunday School Program</b> (Preschool – grade 12)	<b>Christmas Eve</b> (HS and adults)
<b>Dec 15 10:30</b>	<b>Dec 24</b> please circle 4:30 or 10:00
<b>The following must be COMPLETED by – Dec 6</b>	<b>The following must be COMPLETED by – Dec 13</b>
What will you be singing/playing?	What will you be singing/playing?
Others performing with you.	Others performing with you.
Who is accompanying you?	Who is accompanying you?
Do you need microphones? YES or NO    How many? ____	Do you need microphones? YES or NO    How many? ____
Do you need music or video run though the tech system? YES or NO	Do you need music or video run though the tech system? YES or NO
Date and time to rehearse (and do mic checks if needed)	Date and time to rehearse (and do mic checks if needed)

Remember - Contact the office when needing to borrow anything from church.

**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**



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

**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.

**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.

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### **CHECK THE COMMUNITY BOARD**

(take-home often fliers available)



- Dec 12 - Citizens State Bank Of Olivia Christmas Coffee
- Dec 23 – Norwegian Language Service at Calvary Lutheran in Willmar

**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.



**December 1, 2013**

**Daniel 3:1, 8-30**

**Key Verse:** “Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him.’” Daniel 2:28

**Time:** mid 500’s BCE

**Background:** The book of Daniel was written at a time when God’s people were in exile. They had been conquered and were being ruled by a succession of kings. These kings held terrible power and regularly behaved with evil intent.

Many of God’s people remained faithful, even in the face of danger. Three such followers were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They continued to worship God, even when the penalty was death.

King Nebuchadnezzar tried to have them burned in a furnace for failing to worship his gods. The three remained faithful, and God saved them from death. Their faithfulness, and God’s dramatic rescue, turned the mind of the king. He decreed that all people should respect their God, and he promoted the three to positions of power.

**Community:** What lies or false idols has culture perpetuated that influence the way your community behaves? How might God’s truth be told so as to influence your community differently?

**At Home:** To what cultural pressures have you bowed? Do one thing this week to resist the pressures of the world, and turn your attention toward God.

**Read This Week:**

Monday, Dec 2, *Four Young Israelites at the Babylonian Court*, Daniel 1:1-21

Tuesday, Dec 3, *Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream*, Daniel 2:1-16

Wednesday, Dec 4, *God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream*, Daniel 2:17-23

Thursday, Dec 5, *Daniel Interprets the Dream*, Daniel 2:24-35

Friday, Dec 6, *Daniel Interprets the Dream*, Daniel 2:36-45

Saturday, Dec 7, *Daniel and His Friends Promoted*, Daniel 2:46-49

**Next Week:** Sunday, Dec 8, *Valley of Bones*, Ezekiel 37:1-14



DECEMBER 1, 2013

# taking GOD'S STORY home



## **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK**

No other god has such great power to save. – Daniel 3:29 (CEV)

## **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

God of hope for the hopeless, in this season of light and joy, I know there are people who don't feel joyful, who might feel like they are in a fiery furnace. Sometimes I do, too. Be present with them and with me, and fill our days with hope as we await the coming of your Son. Amen.

## **A BLESSING TO SHARE**

*Use these words to bless another person:*

When you walk through fire, you won't be burned or scorched by the flames, for the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, has saved you. Amen. (Isaiah 43, CEV)

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

Advent is a season in which we hear vivid pictures of hope in the appointed Bible readings. These words remind us of what we are waiting for—not just Christmas with all its shiny trappings, but our Savior who is Christ the Lord. Each reading this week contains a picture from the Old Testament of what the Savior is like. Try to pick out this picture as you read.

Sunday	Daniel 3:1, 8-30	God saves Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
Monday	Numbers 21:4-9	The bronze serpent
Tuesday	Psalms 23	The good shepherd
Wednesday	Numbers 24:15-17b	A rising star
Thursday	Song of Songs 2:1	A rose
Friday	Jonah 1:17—2:10	Jonah and the big fish
Saturday	Daniel 6:1-27	Daniel in the lions' den
Sunday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Ezekiel and the dry bones



## CARING CONVERSATIONS

The stories of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:1, 8-30) and Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6:1-27) are stories about God holding on to God's people in times of danger, fear, and hopelessness. How would you complete the following sentences?

- *A time when I felt like I was in a fiery furnace with no hope was ...*
- *Something that brought relief was ...*

## DEVOTIONS

Shape your devotions around the following basic pattern for the season of Advent:

- **Gathering Prayer.** Light one candle on your Advent wreath 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 discussion starters in "Caring Conversations."
- **Daily Bible Reading.** As you read the passage listed, look for a picture of what Jesus is like.
- **Blessing to Share.** Bless another person, using "A Blessing to Share."

Try to find a time when everyone in the household can be together, perhaps in the morning or before bedtime. How might you share this time with others if you are alone?

## SERVICE

Instead of spending a lot of money on Christmas gifts, a growing practice among some Christians is to give a monetary donation in the name of loved ones to a local charity or global aid organization like Heifer International. Talk over this idea with your household. If you decide to do this, discuss what you might do at the time you normally would open gifts.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Darken the room. Light one candle on your Advent wreath. Notice how the light radiates into your space. Take a few silent moments to reflect on how God's love radiates around you. As you light an additional candle each week, notice how the light grows as Christmas draws near.

This is also a season of music. Each night, listen to some music—or sing or play some—that gives you hope, joy, and peace.

## Welcome to Worship at Cross of Calvary - How do things work here?

Cross of Calvary is the ELCA church in town. We are an intergenerational (fancy word for young and old) community that follows Jesus out the building to where we live. We are all learners (disciples) here. This is a safe place to practice worship. And, believe us, it takes practice. Your questions, critical thinking, doubts and imperfect lives are welcome here. No matter your status in society (young, old, never-been-to-church, conservative, liberal, married, divorced, single, cranky, questioning, allergic-to-church...) you'll fit right in. Welcome!

### Participation –

- **Bold type means all of us read or pray together. Out loud.**
- Regular type means the pastor or leader reads. Out loud.
- *Italic type is meant to highlight helpful instructions.*

**Announcements –** Prior to worship, please hand a note to Pastor with any announcements, including prayer requests.

**Prayer requests for the Bulletin –** Please fill out a request card and drop it in the offering plate to ensure your request gets to the office.

**Bathrooms –** They are located in the hallway to the left of the stairs.

**Exit Strategy –** Nervous to stand in line and talk to the pastor? Just introverted enough that you'd like to slip away? Ok. Slip out the side door. No one will be offended, really. We hope you met someone today, but not at the risk of fleeing in fright from too much attention.

### Who to see, ask, share –

- Matt Hausken, Pastor
- Chelsey Plumley, Minister of Faith Formation
- Laurie Schultze, Office Administrator



We are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
ELCA