

At Cross of Calvary - Week of Jan 26

TABLE PRAYER

God of grace, we give you thanks for your Son. For it is through him that we receive a new start each day! May we begin everyday living in his grace and may that grace be reflected in our lives. Bless the food we are about to receive. May it strengthen us as we reflect your goodness and caring in all we do. Amen.

PRAYERS OF HEALING & STRENGTH

Prayer for	Submitted by	Prayer for	Submitted by
Alex Jacobs	<i>B Nelson</i>	Diana Adkins	<i>B Hennen</i>
Jean Stadtherr	<i>A Boen</i>	Gene Revier	<i>E Revier</i>
Joanne Hawkinson	<i>H Hawkinson</i>	Mike Bruns	<i>C Mallak</i>
Robert Murphy	<i>S Alton</i>	Athena Serbus-Kruger	<i>S Grasmon</i>
JoAnn Keyser	<i>C Johnson</i>		

For the family of Charlie Berg, Colin Berg's father, that they may be comforted in the knowledge that our loving Father has welcomed him home.

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

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Warm homes!

VOLUNTEERS for February

Communion 8:30—B Boen 10:30—D Torgelson
Ushers 8:30 — T Gay, D Sagedahl, B Boen, S Malecek
10:30— A Thomopson, W Trongard
Altar Guild L Blem, L Frank
Acolytes E Iverson, T Sagedahl

Altar Flowers – sign-up on the board
Coffee Hour and Altar Flowers – sign-up on the board

Note to all Sunday volunteers: As a courtesy to all those who volunteer alongside you, please try to find a fill-in whenever you are unable to be at church to serve as an usher, reader, acolyte or to serve communion.

Pastor encourages...



REAL GOD. REAL FAITH. REAL LIFE.

2014 Equipping Congregations Day, SW MN Synod

ALL ARE WELCOME! Congregation Members, Council Officers, Christian Educators, Worship & Youth Leaders, Pastors...Everyone!!

Saturday, February 22, 2014 - 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar, MN

Speaker: **The Rev. Dr. David J. Lose**, The Marbury E. Anderson Assoc Prof of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary will be speaking on Real World Faith: Meeting God in the Everyday. We will also hear from **Bishop Jon Anderson** of your Southwestern Minnesota Synod.

WORKSHOPS

You will be able to choose 3 workshops to attend throughout the day!

- Going Green
- Rethinking Church
- Faith in the Home
- Faith Practices for Everyday Life
- Insurance Uncovered
- Revising a Congregation's Constitution
- Forgiving God, Forgiving Self, Forgiving Others: The Power of Real Life
- What I Learned About Young Adults at Green Lake Bible Camp
- Gardening to Feed Our Families and Communities
- Worship For All Ages, By All Ages
- Congregation Leaders and Planning
- Internet Ministry: Do We Have To? Church Websites and Social Media for the Very Frightened
- What's up with the ELCA? - Interpreting the ELCA
- Becoming an Effective Treasurer
- Unbinding the Gospel: Why Share Our Christian Faith?
- Youth Ministry from a Youth's Perspective
- Vibrant Faith Ministries Resources
- "Inter-Sensory Worship: See, Hear, Touch, Smell and Design Your Worship Space"
- Safety Tips on a Sensitive Subject: Child Sexual Abuse
- Discovering Hope for Rural Congregations
- ELW Uncovered
- Healthy Congregations
- Meeting Our Muslim Neighbors
- Cross-Generational/Intergenerational Ministry
- Alternative to Sunday Morning
- Q&A with Guest Speaker David Lose

A complete workshop list with descriptions and leaders is available on our website.

SCHEDULE

8:30am	Registration
9:00	Hymn Sing
9:15	Welcome & Devotions
9:45	Part 1 - Rev. Dr. David Lose
10:35	Break
10:45	Workshop 1
11:35	Lunch
12:10pm	Heavenly Harvest Gospel Band
12:20	Faith Story - Bishop Jon Anderson
12:40	Break
12:50	Workshop 2
1:40	Break
1:50	Workshop 3
2:20	Break
2:50	Part 2 - Rev. Dr. David Lose
3:20	Blessing & Sending

GO TO WWW.SWMNELCA.ORG EVENTS PAGE TO REGISTER.

Registration fee includes all materials, refreshments and lunch.

BEFORE February 10:

- Group Rate (no limit!):
- \$50/Congregations or Parishes with total average worship attendance of 100 or less
- \$100/Congregations or Parishes with total average worship attendance of 101 or more
- OR \$15/Person

AFTER February 10: \$25/person; NO Group Rates.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

--Calling to your Attention--

Sing??? More members are needed for the Senior Choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and last about an hour. Contact Laurie if you have questions.



The Spring Craft Retreat will be held March 6-8. Event information is in the display rack in the Narthex. Submit your registration form and fee to Ronda Berg or Laurie Schultze by February 14.

YIKES! - Please do NOT substitute 2013 envelopes for 2014. Many account numbers have changed. Your 2014 envelopes are in the mailboxes. If, due to the yearly updating of the roll, your envelopes were inadvertently excluded, please let Laurie know

THIS WEEK

Today	Worship	8:30 & 10:30am
	Sun School	9:30am
	Baptism – Braxton Helmer	10:30am
	FH reserved	10:20am-1:30pm
Mon	Ruth Circle	1:30pm
	Library reserved	6:00-8:00pm
Tues	Men’s Bible Study	6:15 & 7:00am
	Assemble the Follower	1:00pm
Wed	Staff at Luther Seminary	all day
	NO Wednesday Programming	
	Sr. Choir	6:30pm
Thurs	Staff at Luther Seminary	all day
	NO Breakfast Club	
	Quilters	9:00am
Fri	Staff at Luther Seminary	all day
Sat	Worship	5:30pm
Sun	Worship	8:30 & 10:30am
	SouperBowl of Caring – Battle of the Soups	
	Sun School	9:30

COMING UP – February

05 – Confirmation? YES!	19 – Spaghetti Dinner
16 – National Gathering Kick-off	19 – Committees and Council
Breakfast fundraiser	26 – Altar Guild

*Changes / additions to the calendar

COMMUNION – February 2 and 16

No one was able to answer your call? Every effort is made to see that the phones are answered at church – Staff covers for one another for vacations, sick leave and when gone for seminars; they stagger lunch times and make sure to let the others know about errands. However, there are reasons a small church staff may not be able to pick up a call – Occasionally all staff are out for the day. Staff may be on another line. When in meetings, they allow the system to pick up, and sometimes they are in a part of the church where the phone cannot be heard.



Best thing to do when the staff is unable to answer the church number:

- Wait for the extension of the staff member you want to contact.
- Call the cell number given. They will pick up the call if able.
- Leave a message on their cell phones. Staff can check cell messages while out of the office and are more likely to return your call faster.
- If you prefer, you are welcome to leave a message on the church answering system.

--General Reminders--

- New Members are welcomed anytime. Contact Pastor or Laurie.
- Contact the office when needing to borrow anything from church.
- The *FOLLOWER* and weekly bulletin are available at crossofcalvary.net.
- *The Faithful 15* is a weekly, 15-minute podcast available on our website and on iTunes.
- The order of service is available in large print at the display rack
- We are no longer accepting used printer or toner cartridges.

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

Great fellowship is waiting, how about signing up for coffee?!?!?

The following dates are open and available for groups or individuals to sign up and host.

OPENINGS

Feb 2, 16
Mar 2, 9, 23, 30
Apr 27
May 11



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

-Names will remain on the list for a maximum of one month

Confirmation meals

Jan 29

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26

Expect - 15 Conf students & 4 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

Feb 12, 9, 26

Prepare for 30 kids

Drop off by noon

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

NO NUTS



Weather and Worship. Cross of Calvary does not cancel worship in case of inclement weather since Pastor lives next door. However, PLEASE make wise choices about being on the road when the weather is bad. May the Lord watch over your travels.

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

- Choose a date and sign up on the Board.
- Call/email 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.

CHECK THE COMMUNITY BOARD

(take-home fliers often available)

Jan 29 – Hamball Dinner – St. Pauls in Hector

Feb 1 – Mid-Winter Get-Away at RenVilla



Spaghetti Dinner

Hosted by the Men's Group in support of youth scholarships for camps and mission

Wed., Feb. 19th

5pm-7pm

Adults = \$7.00

Confirmation Students = \$5.00

Children, ages 5 to 11 = \$4.00

Children 4 and under are free

Take-outs available

2014



(Snow Date: Feb 26)

February - Cof C will be the Christian Community Outreach Center Snack Sponsors

Thank you for volunteering to provide healthy snacks for God's children at the Christian Community Outreach Center! After their day at school the kids really appreciate a snack before they get started on homework.

Here are some ideas for healthy snacks:

- Apples and caramel dip
- Cheese and crackers
- Carrots and veggie dip
- Popcorn
- Granola bars
- Chex mix
- Yogurt
- Bananas
- Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches
- Celery, peanut butter and raisins

Mondays and Thursdays.
Plan for 65 kids each day.

2/3/2014
2/6/2014
2/10/2014
2/13/2014
2/17/2014
2/20/2014
2/24/2014
2/27/2014

Sign up
on the
Board

If you are able to come serve the snack from 3:00 – 3:30, wonderful!
Otherwise, please drop it off at the Christian Community Outreach Center. Master's coffee shop is open from 7 am to 4 pm.

We have paper boats to serve the snacks from. No beverage is needed.

Once again, thank you! Sarah Hausken, CCOC Ministry Coordinator

John 3:1-21

Key Verse: “Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’” John 3:3

Time: 30-33 CE

Background: Nicodemus likely came by night so he wouldn't be seen by others. Nighttime also symbolized unbelief, as the light symbolized belief. Nicodemus came with questions and doubts about Jesus, his authority, and his message.

Nicodemus's lack of understanding about being “born from above” or “born again” might mirror our own. What does it mean to be born again? Our Christian heritage of baptism can place a layer of understanding, as we understand baptism as giving new life through water and Spirit. But perhaps it is okay to let the ambiguous language hold some mystery.

Community: What does it mean that “everyone who believes in him may not perish”? What of non-believers? How might you go about opening a respectful conversation with a non-believer about eternal life?

At Home: In baptismal imagery, we die to the old self in order to be born anew. What needs to die within you so that God can create new life there? How can you let go of that which keeps you from claiming God's new life?

Read This Week:

Monday, Jan 27, *The Inescapable God*, Psalm 139:1-3

Tuesday, Jan 28, *The Inescapable God*, Psalm 139:4-6

Wednesday, Jan 29, *The Inescapable God*, Psalm 139:7-9

Thursday, Jan 30, *The Inescapable God*, Psalm 139:10-12

Friday, Jan 31, *The Inescapable God*, Psalm 139:13-18

Saturday, Feb 1, *The Inescapable God*, Psalm 139:19-24

Next Week: Sunday, Feb 2, *Woman at the Well*, John 4:1-42

JANUARY 26, 2014

taking GOD'S STORY home



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. – John 3:16 (CEV)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of grace, we join with Nicodemus in his puzzlement at being born again. But when we hear about your love and your only Son, our hearts leap within us and we gain a glimpse of what it means to be born anew or at least what it feels like. Thank you for claiming us as your own children, through our brother Jesus. Help us to bask in your love and to share it with others. Amen.

A BLESSING TO SHARE

Use these words to bless another person as you mark his or her forehead with the cross of Christ:

May you remember and believe that God so loved you that God gave his only Son for you. Amen.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Today we enter the fourth week of Epiphany, the church season that wrestles with the question, "Who is Jesus?" To formulate an answer to this question is to have some sort of epiphany, revelation, or "light bulb" moment. This week, as you reflect on Nicodemus's question about being born again, read other Bible passages about people being named and claimed by God. Throughout the season of Epiphany, a good question to ask of each reading is: *What does this reading show me or tell me about Jesus?* Ask this of all readings, including those from the Old Testament.

Sunday	John 3:1-21	Jesus and Nicodemus
Monday	Genesis 6:11-22	Noah responds to God's call
Tuesday	Genesis 12:1-9	God calls Abram
Wednesday	Genesis 32:22-32	Jacob wrestles with God
Thursday	Exodus 3:1-12	God calls Moses
Friday	Luke 1:26-38	God calls Mary
Saturday	Acts 9:1-19	God calls Saul
Sunday	John 4:1-42	Jesus and the woman at the well

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Nicodemus was puzzled about what Jesus meant by being “born from above” (John 3:3, CEV). This phrase can also be translated from the Greek in the biblical manuscript as “born again” or “born in a new way” or “born anew.” However it is translated, this phrase still invites controversy among some Christians. For many, the day of our baptism is the moment to which we point and say, “This was the day I was born again. This was the day God claimed me.”

Recall stories of baptisms in your family. If you can, take a look at any photos or mementoes you have from your baptism as you talk about that day with those who were not there.

DEVOTIONS

Try to find a time when everyone in your household can gather for devotions, perhaps in the morning or before bedtime. If you are alone, how might you include other people in your devotions?

Shape your devotions—and devotions are a form of worship—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 questions do you have about this reading? What do you want to remember from this reading?*
- **Blessing to Share.** Bless another person, using “A Blessing to Share.”

SERVICE

Some congregations give gifts to newly baptized individuals—a blanket, a plaque, a Bible, a candle, a shell. What does your church do? If giving a baptismal gift has not been the practice in your congregation, is there a way you could be involved in starting such a practice? If this is a practice in your church, how might you be involved in it?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Sometime this week, take a moment for a ritual act to help you remember your baptism. Dipping your fingers in a bowl of water while praying “Prayer for the Week” or lighting a baptismal candle during devotions may be meaningful.



Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.