



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church

Olivia, MN

December 9 – December 16

Today	Worship	8:30 & 10:30 am
	Sunday School	9:30 – 10:20
	Care Team Meeting	9:45 am
	Fellowship Hall reserved	2-5 pm
	Good Gifts	deadline December 17th
Monday	Library reserved	6:00-8:00 pm
	Boys Scouts	6:30 – 8:00pm
Tuesday	Men's Bible Study	6:15/7:00 am
	JJL	3:15 pm
Wednesday	Confirmation/Meal	6:00 pm
	WOW	3:15-5:00 pm
	Advent Service	7:00 pm
Thursday	Breakfast Club	7:07 am
	Women's Bible Study	8:15 am
	Worship	5:30 pm
Saturday	Worship	8:30 & 10:30 am
	Sunday School	9:30 – 10:20 am
	Sunday School Program	10:30 service

Cross of Calvary Youth

Breakfast Club is for Youth in grades 10-12. We will meet every Thursday morning at 7:07 am.

Youth Band will practice on Wednesday evening at 8:30 pm. Let Jeni know if you are interested in participating.

Wonders on Wednesday (WOW) is our weekly after school program for 4-6th graders. Students can ride bus 3 to church on Wednesdays for snack, free time, games, Bible dramas, singing, and interactive prayer time. Kids can be picked up at 5 pm.

Jesus Justice League is our monthly after school program for 1-3 graders. Students can ride bus 3 to church the 2nd Tuesday of the month for snack and an opportunity to "play" Bible stories through games, drama, science, art and singing. Kids can be picked up at 5 pm.

Coffee hour is a time for God's people at Cross of Calvary to minister to each other through caring conversation. All members with youth in grades 1-12 are scheduled one time during the year. Please bring 3 doz. Treats. Directions are posted on the kitchen cupboard. Thank you for serving in this way.

December Coffee Hour	9	Youth Families	Tim & Bobbi Kopel Matt & Dani Larson Craig & Jamie Lothert
	16	Youth Families	Greg & Dawn Mertens Kevin & Sandra Whited Ben & Sara Wussow
	23		No Coffee Hour
	30		No Coffee Hour

If a group would like to serve for Coffee Hour on Dec. 23 or 30, please let Jeni or Sue know.





Prayer Request

Please take your bulletin home and pray for those listed.

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 320- 523-1574. Never feel as though you are bothering Pastor or the staff. We are here to serve as a comfort and as a resource.

*Fay Kuznia - Friends

*Luella Norberg – Lynnette Blem’s mother

*Donna Greenwell – Family

*Judy Kopacek – Ron Kopacek

*Jane (Dillon) Bruns – Kathy Brown sister

*Marlys Schumacher – Bruce Metteer mother

*Tracey Becker – Nathan & Angela Cole

*Mikaelson Family – Gordy & Lynnette Blem

*Susie Lothert – Friends and Family

*Pat Schmitz – Michelle Jensen’s mother

*Neva Geweke – Angie Boen sister

*Gordy Straw – Angie Boen nephew

*Family of Cody Sunvold

*Family of Helen Knudson

Cross of Calvary Events/News

Note for your calendar:

Annual Meeting is January 27th at 9:30 am

Bible Women: “All Their Words and Why They Matter by Lindsay Hardin Freeman will start Dec. 13, 8:15-9:30 am in the church library. Books are \$20.00. (Order thru Sue in the office) If you have already ordered, books have arrived!!

Bazaar Committee: The Bazaar Committee wishes to give out a huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped this year's event be so successful! Whether you donated crafts and baked goods, help make lefse or decorate cookies, or work at the bazaar itself... we truly appreciate all you do. Look for us to bring back the greens arrangements for next year! In fact, if anyone is interested, the large wooden box of greens greeting you by the east church doors is still for sale, price reduced to \$70. There are also a couple of apple pies left, just contact Sue at the office if you are interested in either of these. Once again, thanks so much! Merry Christmas!! Dana Boen, Jen Kingery, Sandy Gay, Kathy Altmann, Cathy Helin and Jody Steffel

Just a little note to say: Thank You so much for thinking of me during this difficult journey. There is no doubt that the healing process is going to take a long time. The spinal infection has caused the loss of use of my left arm; however my right arm is doing much better. Everyday there is a little improvement. Thanks so much for sending your blessings to me. I hope in time I will regain my strength. I am amazed at the people who care and it means the world to me. I will continue to work hard at my recovery. Thank you for your prayers! Judy Kopacek

Ruth Bible Study meets at Parkview on December 17th at noon.
(Potluck)

Dorcas Bible Study meets on December 19th at 9:30 at Master's.

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNION: 8:30 – Gordy Blem, 10:30 – Jon Hawkinson

USHERS 8:30 – Keith Larson, Nate Bahl,
Dave & Sue Lindquist

10:30 – Steve & Sue Altmann

Christmas Eve – 4:30 pm Dave & Sue Lindquist

Christmas Eve – 9:00 pm?

ACOLYTES 8:30 – Cole & Kenzie Visser

10:30 – Leo Adamski & McKenna Siems

ALTAR GUILD Natasha Johnson & Lisa Meints

Note: if you are the usher for the 8:30 service, you are responsible for the 9:00 service.



This Christmas: the Altar Guild is promoting the ELCA Good Gifts program.

What are you asking of me?

You are encouraged to join in support of long-term, sustainable solutions that nourish the hungry, heal the sick and respond to needs around the world. Make your donation in

HONOR to or in MEMORY of loved ones and ensure that your good gifts last for more than a couple of days or weeks. They will keep on giving for years to come.

What about poinsettias?

This opportunity for giving is in place of purchasing poinsettias for the Altar. Have no worry, the Altar Guild will be placing a number of poinsettias around the Altar for Christmas.

My donation?

Any donation is welcomed. The amount you give will remain confidential, yet will show up on your yearly giving statement. Please make checks to Cross of Calvary.

Deadlines?

Monday, December 17, is the last day to submit a donation, because the names of those for whom you honor will be listed in the Christmas bulletin.

How do I make a donation?

- Envelopes are in the church entry.
- Fill in the information on the front.
- Place your check or cash inside.
- Seal.
- Put envelopes in the mailbox outside the office door (not in the offering plate, please)



Give
something
unexpected
this
Christmas.



Cross of Calvary

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Cross of Calvary is the ELCA church in Olivia. 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.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is open to all who are baptized and trust that Christ is present in the meal, regardless of your tradition or affiliation. Wine (red)/grape juice (white).

Participation

Bold type means all of us read or pray together. Out loud. * Please stand as you are able.

Children in Church

They belong here! They are hearing God's Word, music and prayers. We don't mind fidgeting and chatter! If you like, there are activity bags available in the entry.

Announcements They are as printed or any new information please give to Pastor Matt prior to worship, please hand a note to Pastor with any announcements, including prayer requests

Restrooms they are located in the hallway to the left of the stairs.

Community Events/News

Santa's Closet: We are ready to accept referrals, donation and volunteers. All gift items are welcome: toys, logos, science kits, games, art supplies, toy cars, trucks, activity kits, building toys, dolls, clothing, teen items, household goods, warm gloves and mittens, items for men and women, warm blankets and quilts.. A basket will available at church. Please see flyer for more information.

Girl Scout Silver Award Ceremony

Sunday, Dec. 9th, 3 pm - Cross of Calvary Fellowship Hall
Honoring Lily Thompson, Kiera Fischer and Jaedan Batdorf
Project: Tied blankets for Santa's Closet and the VA in St. Cloud.

**December 9, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**



HYMN OF THE WEEK

Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the way of the Lord.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Malachi 3:1-4	The promised messenger
Tuesday	Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah praises the Lord
Wednesday	Isaiah 35:3-7	God changes everything
Thursday	Philippians 1:3-11	Peace to God's people
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice in the desert
Saturday	Psalms 126	Harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[John the Baptist] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' " **Luke 3:3-4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, prepare your way in us. Set us straight where we are crooked and make us smooth where we are rough. Amen. (Luke 3:4-5)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, bless this meal and our home this Advent as we prepare for your coming. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord direct your ways so that the crooked path be made straight and the rough ways be made smooth. (Luke 3:5)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- To repent means “to turn around.” Tell or think about a time you were going in the wrong direction.
- John the Baptist’s call to repentance is a call to turn in a direction that relies not on our own human powers (including personal, political, or even religious powers) but to a direction that relies on God. How is this good news?
- God does not come to us and leave us unchanged. How does God’s love shown in Jesus change you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 1:68-79.

Usually we expect an Old Testament psalm as one of the readings. In the Second Sunday of Advent, we have a New Testament psalm, the psalm (or song) of Zechariah. He is prophesying, meaning he is giving us a Spirit-filled message (v. 67), revealing the fulfillment of God’s promise of salvation that is now going to happen. The psalm is a beautiful testimony to “the tender mercy of our God” (v. 78) that will bring joy to the world. The promise of a messenger to prepare the way of the Lord (Malachi 3:1-4) is being fulfilled with the birth of Zechariah’s and Elizabeth’s son, John the Baptist. Reread Luke 1:68-79 and pause to feel the joy and exultation of Zechariah’s song that has lifted people’s hearts ever since.

Pray: **Merciful God, you have prepared us for a joy we cannot fully imagine. Bless us now and always with the light of Christ to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.** (Luke 1:79)

SERVICE

Make Christmas cards or ornaments for a Christmas tree using various craft materials (cardboard, colored paper, glue, glitter, etc.). Give them to those who are receiving care or are home alone. Take time to visit with them, pray with them, and bless them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The second candle on the Advent wreath is the candle of preparation and peace. Discuss or think about what it means to you to prepare the way of the Lord Jesus. Read Isaiah 40:3-5 and then after lighting the first candle of expectation and hope and the second candle of preparation and peace on your Advent wreath, say the following:

Leader: **John the Baptist fulfills the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ”** (Luke 3:4)

All: **Thank you Lord Jesus, for preparing us for your coming. Amen.**