

At Cross of Calvary - Week of December 8, 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 trust, lift us from the valley of stress, fear and hopelessness. May we breathe in the One who restores us. And, in peace 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 snowfall.

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.

COMMUNION – Every Sunday during Advent

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

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

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

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.

THIS WEEK

08 Sun	Worship	8:30 & 10:30am
	Sunday School	9:30
	Gals' Holiday Dinner	6:00pm
09 Mon	Library reserved	6:00-8:00pm
	Due date – special music for Sunday School Program*	
10 Tues	Men's Bible Study	6:15 & 7:00am
11 Wed	WOW	3:15pm
	Confirmation Meal/Class	5:45/6:30pm
	Senior Choir	6:30pm
	Advent Service	7:30pm
12 Thurs	Breakfast Club	7:07am
13 Fri	Due date – special music for Christmas Eve	
14 Sat	Worship	5:30pm
	Baptism – Braxton Helmer*	
15 Sun	Worship	8:30 & 10:30am
	Sunday School Service/Program	10:30am
	Golden Living Service	1:00pm

COMING UP – December

16 Follower (Jan) Deadline	25 Office closed –Christmas!
16 Ruth Circle*	28 Wedding – Kubesh/Kopel
18 Council Meeting	28 NO Sat Worship
19 Dorcas - 10am at Masters*	29 Worship at 9:00am only
19 Assemble the Follower – THURS*	29 No Sunday School
24 Christmas Eve – 4:30/10:00	

***Changes and additions to the calendar**

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



Coffee Hour.
 Dec 08 Youth
 Dec 15 SS Program
 Dec 22
 Dec 29 NO Coffee
 Jan 05
 Jan 12 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.

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 FOLLOWER and weekly bulletin are available at crossofcalvary.net.

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



Council Meeting to follow the Advent service on Wed, Dec 18, approximately 7:45pm. No committee meetings during Advent.

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.

CHANGE!!!! January Follower: Due to the Christmas Holiday, the deadline for the January Follower is Monday, Dec. 16, at noon.

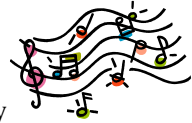
Volunteers are needed on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 1pm for folding and labeling. This generally takes an hour.



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 _____

Sunday School Program (Preschool – grade 12)	Christmas Eve (HS and adults)
Dec 15 10:30	Dec 24 please circle 4:30 or 10:00
The following must be COMPLETED by Dec 6	The following must be COMPLETED by – Dec 13
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)

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

Dec 11 L Revier / T Larson-Johnson
Dec 18
Jan 8 E Elbert / M Sagedahl
Jan 15
Jan 22 D Newville / C Adamski

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

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.

Gal's Holiday Dinner is at 6pm tonight!

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.

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!

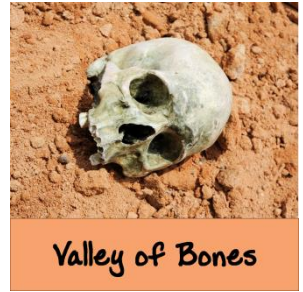
- Gift donations can be dropped in the box near the west entrance of the Narthex.
- Monetary donations can be sent to Santa's Closet, PO Box 115, Olivia, MN 56277.
- For further information or to volunteer, call Sandy Kubesh 522-0106 or Nancy Hague 905-7925.



We are no longer accepting used printer or toner cartridges.

December 8, 2013
Ezekiel 37:1-14

Key Verses: “Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: ‘I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.’” Ezekiel 37:12-13



Time: late 500's BCE

Background: The book of Ezekiel was written at a time when God's people were in exile. The first chapters are proclamations of judgment for Israel's unfaithfulness to God. Later chapters, like the ones read today, include promises of restoration.

Ezekiel's vision is a dramatic way for God to promise restoration. He tells Ezekiel to prophesy to a valley of dead bones, first renewing them with sinews and flesh, and finally bringing them to life with breath. This was an example of how God intended to bring Israel back to life, despite the despair they experienced at their exile.

Community: In what ways is your community dead or dying? What does it need to bring it back to life?

At Home: Think of a time when you needed to trust God, and God came through for you. Tell the story to one person this week. Thank God for God's faithfulness.

Read This Week:

Monday, Dec 9, *The Vision of the Chariot*, Ezekiel 1:1-14

Tuesday, Dec 10, *The Vision of the Chariot*, Ezekiel 1:15-28

Wednesday, Dec 11, *The Vision of the Scroll*, Ezekiel 2:1-3:11

Thursday, Dec 12, *The Vision of the New Temple*, Ezekiel 40:1-19

Friday, Dec 13, *The Vision of the New Temple*, Ezekiel 40:20-37

Saturday, Dec 14, *The Vision of the New Temple*, Ezekiel 40:38-47

Next Week: Sunday, Dec 15, *Return from Exile*, Isaiah 55:1-11

DECEMBER 8, 2013

taking GOD'S STORY home



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

God says through the prophet Ezekiel:

"My Spirit will give you breath, and you will live again. I will bring you home, and you will know that I have kept my promise. I, the LORD, have spoken." – Ezekiel 37:14 (CEV)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God Who Brings Life from Death, nothing seems more impossible to us than life coming from death. But that is what you promise through Ezekiel's vision of dry bones. During this season of Advent, we wait for the announcement of your coming in the birth of the Christ child, bone to bone and clothed in flesh. Come to us now, as well. Amen.

A BLESSING TO SHARE

As you mark each other with a cross, speak these words of blessing:

God is the one who put you together inside your mother's body, and I praise God because of the wonderful way God created you. Amen. (Psalm 139, CEV)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

During Advent, 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 of what the Savior is like. Try to pick out this picture as you read.

Sunday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Ezekiel and the dry bones
Monday	Psalms 72:1-7, 12-19	A good king
Tuesday	Zechariah 9:9-10	A victorious king
Wednesday	Micah 5:2-5	Ruler from unexpected small town
Thursday	Malachi 3:1-3	Strong soap
Friday	Jeremiah 33:14-16	From David's family
Saturday	Genesis 3:9-15	A serpent's enemy
Sunday	Isaiah 55:1-11	God's powerful words

CARING CONVERSATIONS

In the Bible readings, we hear the prophets' words of hope and comfort. Ezekiel's vision of God's people as dead, dry bones is no exception. Ezekiel's message is: *God can make even dead, dry bones spring to new life!* In many parts of the Northern Hemisphere, it will be challenging to see the signs of new life God weaves into creation until springtime. However, God gives new life each time we offer comfort and hope to those who are suffering in some way. Complete the following sentence:

- *One place I have seen a sign of God's gift of new life is ...*

DEVOTIONS

Find a time when everyone in your household can gather, perhaps in the morning or before bedtime. If you are alone, how might you involve other people in your devotions? Shape your time around the following basic pattern:

- **Gathering Prayer.** Light two candles 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 starter 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."

SERVICE

This time of year, nearly every community has gift collection projects to serve people in need—mitten trees, toy drives, food baskets, and so on. How can you or your household participate in one these projects? Discuss how what you're doing might be like giving a gift of new life.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Darken the room. Light two candles 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.

Which holiday decorations in your home are your favorites? What stories are behind them? Do you have any traditions around decorating for the holidays? What new traditions might you start this year?



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