

# At Cross of Calvary - Week of December 22, 2013

*Flowers are on the Altar are placed by Duane and Mary Senger.*

## **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**

Gracious God, you have given to us the Word of Life, your Son Jesus Christ. During this season when we remember his coming into the world, may we never take our eyes off of him and may our ears always be tuned to his promises. Bless the food that we are about to eat. May it strengthen us for service in your name. May we be strengthened to proclaim your Word in whatever we say or do. 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>	Leslie Sagedahl	<i>Daren Sagedalh</i>
Vonnie Sagedahl	<i>Daren Sagedahl</i>	LeAnn Miller	<i>S Grasmon</i>
Alex Jacobs	<i>A Osthus</i>	Mike Bruns	<i>C Mallak</i>

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

## **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING**

For the coming of the Christ Child!

*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 – Jan 5, 19

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**

<b>22 Sun</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>8:30 &amp; 10:30am</b>
	<b>No Sunday School</b>	
<b>23 Mon</b>	Library reserved	6:00-8:00pm
<b>24 Tues</b>	Men's Bible Study	6:15 & 7:00am
	<b>Christmas Eve Services</b>	<b>4:30 &amp; 10:00pm</b>
<b>25 Wed</b>	Office is Closed – Merry Christmas	
<b>26 Thurs</b>	NO Breakfast Club	
<b>27 Fri</b>	Rehearsal	5:00pm
<b>28 Sat</b>	Wedding - Kubesh/Kopel	4:00pm
<b>29 Sun</b>	<b>Worship</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
	<b>No Sunday School</b>	

### **COMING UP – January**

01 – Office closed	08 – WOW resumes
02 – Mission Quilters begin	08 – Kids' Choirs begin
05 – Sunday School resumes	09 – Confirmation resumes

#### **\*Changes and additions to the calendar**

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

#### **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.

**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**

- Jan 5
- Feb 2, 16
- Mar 2, 9, 23, 30
- Apr 6—Ham Dinner
- Apr 13—Palm Sunday Breakfast
- Apr 20—Easter (no coffee)
- Apr 27
- May 11
- May 18—Senior Recognition



**A HUGE THANK YOU** to the following folks for the time and energy put into the wonderful Sunday School Program!

- Sunday school kids; fantastic job of knowing your lines and places!
- All the teachers and helpers; your enthusiasm is much appreciated!
- The Band; what a treat to have your talent shared with us!
- Mary Senger, who supplied all the goodie bags!
- Clare Lund, clicker extraordinaire!
- Sandy Whited and Olivia Hanson for creating the costumes!
- Pastor Matt, Chelsey Plumley, Jill Hanson & Laurie Schultze, for always “running in the background” as organizers, troubleshooters, and boosters!



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



**Weekly offering envelopes will be available in church mailboxes at the end of December.** If, due to the yearly updating of the role, your envelopes were inadvertently excluded, please let Laurie know. She can issue your envelopes at any time.

For those who submit checks without an offering envelope, use automatic deposit or do online banking, please include your account number on your checks. Laurie will place your account number in your mailbox.

**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.



**We are no longer accepting used printer or toner cartridges.**

### *The Refrigerators*

In an effort to see that foods in the refrigerators have a purpose, rather than going bad, following an event let's try...

1. If leftovers look like something that may be used for Confirmation supper, please check the BOARD to see who may be serving and offer it to them, or call Chelsey or Laurie.
2. Share the leftovers among those who are serving at the event and discard the rest.



### **MISSION QUILTERS**

begin meeting on Thursday, January 2, at 9am. Come and go as your schedule allows. You are welcome to bring a lunch. Snacks to share are fun!

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



## Poinsettias for Christmas

Chris & Jill Hanson - In memory of Judy Hanson & Mary Page  
Larry & Marie Rauenhorst - In memory of our parents  
David Torgelson - In memory of John Torgelson  
Marc & Sarah Iverson - In memory of Michelle Knick  
George Tesch - In memory of Beverly Tesch  
Chet & Angie Boen - In memory of Marnold Ostby  
Wayne & Mavis Maurice - In memory of Shawn Maurice  
Mark & Sonja Grasmon Family - In honor of Alvina Beckman - In  
memory of Marnold Ostby  
Rich & Emy Elbert - In honor of our family  
Eric & Jeni Skeie - In honor of our parents  
Pastor Matt & Sarah Hausken - In thanks for our parents  
Paul & Carol Buhr - In honor of parents  
Belmar & Sonja Fostvedt - In praise and thanksgiving to God  
Carol Senkyr - In memory of Glen & Jessica Senkyr; In memory of  
Art & Evelyn Gusey

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### CHECK THE COMMUNITY BOARD

(take-home fliers often available)



- Dec 23 – Norwegian Language Service at Calvary Lutheran in Willmar

**SUPER WOWZA!!!** Thank you Cross of Calvary.

Your gift of ~~\$1,945.00~~ **\$2,335.00** to Gideons International is greatly appreciated! Blessings to each and every one of you this Christmas and throughout the New Year.



The Gideons International

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**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.

## Confirmation meals are WIDE OPEN...

Jan 08 E Elbert / M Sagedahl  
Jan 15  
Jan 22 D Newville / C Adamski  
Jan 29  
Feb 5, 12, 19, 26

**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

Look for the new list in January!

**Prepare** for 30 kids  
**Drop off** by noon  
**Ideas** - bars, cookies, fruit, crackers, cheese, fruit, snack mix, veggies/dip  
**NO NUTS**



Orders for your Super Bowl weekend pizzas

# JANUARY 5-19

Check in with a participating youth in grades 2-12.



## John 1:1-18

**Key Verse:** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

**Time:** about 30 CE

**Background:** The gospel of John differs from Matthew, Mark, and Luke in many ways. The three share similar stories. They have similar approaches to interpreting Jesus’ presence on the earth. John focuses more on God’s word and teachings than on the events of Jesus’ life. It looks more at who Jesus was, than on what Jesus did, specifically on Jesus’ relationship with God.



This first passage provides a lens through which we can view the rest of the book. It sets up images of light vs. darkness, belief, truth, and testimony. Jesus is the one who points toward God, emphasizing that God is the origin of all things and above all things.

**Community:** What imagery informs how your community of faith views Jesus? What images are limiting? What images are life-giving? What new images might your community of faith adopt to enhance your view of Jesus? How could these new images inform your community’s behavior?

**At Home:** Think about your life’s story. Which is easier to tell: who you are, or what you’ve done? How do both inform how you choose to live from here on out? What will you keep? What could you change?

### **Read This Week:**

Monday, Dec 23, *Birth of Jesus Foretold*, Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, Dec 24, *Birth of Jesus*, Luke 2:1-20

Wednesday, Dec 25, *Shepherds*, Matthew 2:1-12

Thursday, Dec 26, *Jesus Is Presented in the Temple*, Luke 2:21-32

Friday, Dec 27, *Jesus Is Presented in the Temple*, Luke 2:33-40

Saturday, Dec 28, *The Boy Jesus in the Temple*, Luke 2:41-52

**Next Week:** Sunday, Dec 29, *A Voice in the Wilderness*, John 1:19-34

DECEMBER 22, 2013

# taking GOD'S STORY home



## **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK**

The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out.  
– John 1:5 (CEV)

## **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

God of light, in the beginning, you spoke a word and there was light. We give thanks and praise that your Word has become flesh in Jesus. Remind us that because of his birth, and also his death and resurrection, there is no darkness that can overcome your Word and your light. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **A BLESSING TO SHARE**

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

May you be as Christ's light shining in the darkness, so that others might know God's love. Amen. (John 1)

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

The story of baby Jesus unfolds in the Bible readings from Luke's Gospel this week. Be creative with these stories. Perhaps each person in your household can play the part of one of the characters or the narrator in a dramatic version of the story. Perhaps one person can move the figures in a nativity set as another reads the story.

The weekly Bible readings are turning from the writings of the prophets to stories of Jesus. If you do not have one, now might be the time get a child-friendly Bible like the *Spark! Picture Bible* (Augsburg Fortress) or *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (Zondervan; available from the Vibrant Faith Ministries online store, [www.vibrantfaith.org](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)).

Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became a human being
Monday	Luke 2:1-4	The trip to Bethlehem
Tuesday	Luke 2:5-7	The birth of Jesus
Wednesday	Luke 2:8-14	Angels appear to the shepherds
Thursday	Luke 2:15-20	The shepherds seek baby Jesus
Friday	Luke 2:21-38	Simeon and Anna meet Jesus
Saturday	Luke 2:39-40	Jesus grows strong and wise
Sunday	John 1:19-34	Look! The Lamb of God!



## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Of course, one of the most common practices of keeping Christmas in North America is gift giving. Giving gifts is supposed to be a reminder of the love God has given us through Jesus. And gifts can be more than the “stuff” we give and receive. Think about other kinds of gifts as you complete the conversation starters below:

- *One gift I'd like to give to my congregation, community, or the world is ...*
- *One way I could give this gift is ...*

## DEVOTIONS

Even though your schedule may be hectic this week, carve out time for devotion and prayer.

- **Gathering Prayer.** Light all four 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 the conversation starters in “Caring Conversations.”
- **Daily Bible Reading.** How might you bring these readings to life through drama, art, or music?
- **Blessing to Share.** Bless another person, using “A Blessing to Share.”

## SERVICE

This week, most churches will hold more worship services than usual. Ask about ways your household can serve by helping your church prepare for worship or clean up afterward. Plan what you can do to add meaningful service to your holiday worship.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Darken the room. Light all four candles on your Advent wreath. You can pretty much read by this light now, can't you? Sit quietly for a moment and think about the amazing ways you have experienced God's love at work.

Which traditions for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are your favorites? What stories are behind them? What new traditions might you add this year?



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