# The Follower

## December 2017

Cross of Calvary
LUTHERAN CHURCH

[14] And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version. (1989). (Jn 1:14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

We were having a conversation in our Tuesday morning men's Bible study. The topic of how God has never been seen face to face was brought up. We were talking about the creation story and how God was in the Garden of Eden, but it appears Adam and Eve never saw him face to face. Later on in the day I was reading John and this verse popped out. It is absolutely amazing when you read scripture how it sets the tone for the day and God will give you deeper and sometimes brand new understanding as to his presence in the world.

We are told in Exodus 33 that no one may see God and live. Moses asks to see God and grants him this, but Moses can not see his face. So, when we are told that God's Word becomes flesh, it is an absolute miracle. We have now seen God face to face in Christ and we not only live but we live abundantly!

We know what God and his grace looks looks like. We know because we have seen Christ. We know that he is in the world and he is with us. This is the miracle of Christmas. The divide has been crossed and we have access to the God of grace and truth. He has given to us his Son. And his Son has made us children of this God. We are given the same calling that was given to Christ to make real the grace of God.

So, how do we do this you may ask? The whole Gospel of John is the answer. In the next few months at Cross of Calvary we will be going through this Gospel as it shines a bright light on what this gift given to us in Christ means and what it looks like in our world. So, I invite all of you to come on this journey of discovering who God has made you to be in the world in light of the gift of his Son!

God's grace and peace for a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Matt**

## DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

| | |
|---|---|
| COMMUNION | 8:30 – Gordy Blem |
| | 10:30 – Paul Buhr |
| USHERS | 8:30 – Keith Larson, Nate Bahl, David & Sue Lindquist |
| | 10:30 – Steve & Sue Altmann |
| ACOLYTES: | Kiera Fischer & Allie Paulsen |
| ALTAR GUILD: | Sue Malecek, Jenny Evenson & Lisa Meints |

## Advent/Christmas Worship Times

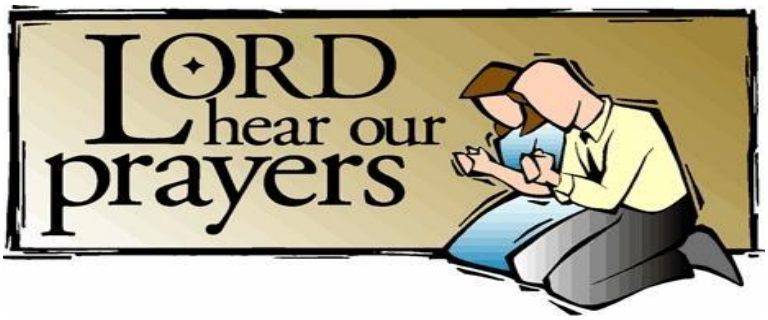
Midweek Advent Worship: 7:00 pm each Wednesday evening on December 6, 13 and 20. Join us in a brief half-hour time of sharing the quiet hope, waiting and preparing of the Advent season.

Christmas services: Sunday, December 24th: 9:00 am, 4:30 pm and 9:00 pm.
No Service on, Saturday December 23th and Saturday the 30th.
Sunday, December 31 will be a 9:00 am service only.

## Worship Times

**Saturdays 5:30 pm**
**Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30**
**Sunday School 9:30 am**
**(No Sunday School on December 24th or December 31st)**

## Prayers Concerns
## Prayers Matter!




Emergency/Pastoral Care – Please have a family member or friends notify the church. You may also request hospital staff to call on your behalf. Call day or night at 523-1574 or 320-579-0839, Pastor Matt cell. Never feel as though you are bothering Pastor or the staff. We are here to serve as a comfort and as a resource.

Janice Gass
Diana Adkins
Leslie Sagedahl
Warren Mitchell
Kent Kircher
Cleve Fults
Jenna Reynolds
Barb Gomarko
Jill Revolinski
Emily Reetz

# Congregation News

**Sunday School Program**
Sunday, December 17th at the10:30 service. Please be here at 9:45 to rehearse.

**WOW (Wonders on Wednesdays)**
4-6th graders are invited to join us for WOW! BOLD students can ride bus 3 to church on Wednesdays. We have a snack, enjoy some free time together, sing, act out Bible stories and experience interactive prayer. WOW ends at 5:00 pm. No WOW on Dec. 27

**Jesus Justice League After School Program**
Our monthly after school program for 1-3rd graders will take place the 2nd Tuesday of the month and go until 5:00 pm. BOLD students can take bus 3 to church for snack, games, Bible stories, songs and more!

**Breakfast Club**
Breakfast club is meeting with 10-12 graders every Thursday morning at 7:07 am at Cross of Calvary. First Thursday of every month will meet at Masters.

**Women's Bible Study:** Days are Sunday at 9:30 am, Tuesdays at 7:30 pm and Thursdays at 8:15 am.

**TIM Team:** Sunday nights from 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Jr. High Youth Gathering**
Thank you to Jill Hanson, Matt Hausken, Alex Gay, Keith Larson, Corey Gluesing, Heather Thompson, and Brian Boen for driving and/or chaperoning the junior high youth gathering on November 17. 28 youth attended and we also have 3 youth on the board. Great event once again!!! The band and the speaker were amazing. Please ask our youth about their experience. They would love to talk about it!

**Day Camp**
Cross of Calvary will be hiring Green Lake Ministries staff to put on a Day Camp at Cross of Calvary next summer, July 8-12. This will include youth who have finished kindergarten - 6th grade. Please put these dates on your calendar. It is a great way to experience Bible Camp from home! More info later

**Stephens Ministry**
We are exploring Stephens Ministry as an option for training for outreach in our congregation. It is a ministry that will equip people to care for members of our congregation and our community. A team of 4 people would attend the week long training in February to become trainers. These trainers would return to equip any number of people who are ready to be listeners, and care givers to our congregation. Stephen Ministers are the "after people". They come to people in need after the funeral, after the diagnosis, after the nest is empty, after the loss of a job, etc. These are times when people really struggle. It is a very important time for ministry. An investment like this is beyond any value. The approximate number of people just within our congregation experiencing some level of crisis right now is 94. That is more than Pastor Matt can meet on a weekly basis. If you are interested in looking into investing or becoming involved in this program in any way, please search online to watch some of their videos, and give it prayerful consideration.

**Recharge**
Cross of Calvary adults are invited to attend RECHARGE, a one-day multi-denominational children's and youth ministry conference that aims to inspire and equip church staff and volunteers in their efforts to share their faith with the next generation. Whether you've a 20 year veteran youth pastor, just started volunteering as a 2nd grade Sunday School teacher this year or somewhere in between, Recharge is for YOU! This gathering pulls in a wide range of adults who care about the next generation. Saturday, January 6, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, New Hope Church in New Hope. The $42 registration fee will be covered by a grant from the SW MN Synod's Embracing God's Mission + Equipping God People Funding Initiative. RSVP to Sarah by December 13, http://ministryrecharge.com

***Advent Candle Lighting***

Pastor would like to include families and/or groups of friends with the lighting of the Advent candles at each Sat. & Sunday service. What a joy to see children and families and neighbors taking an active role during worship as we prepare for Christmas! Please contact Pastor or Sue with choose of date & time.

## *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 18, 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).

◄ December 2017 ►

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2<br>**Worship 5:30**<br>Wedding<br>Lippert/Clement |
| 3<br>**Worship 8:30 & 10:30**<br>**-"Good Gifts" start**<br>**Snowflake Bazaar** | 4<br>**Library Reserved 6:00-8:00 pm** | 5<br>**Men's Bible Study 6:15 am and 7:00 am** | 6<br>**WOW 3:00**<br>**Confirmation Meal 5:30**<br>**Confirmation 6:30**<br>**-Advent service at 7:00 pm** | 7<br>**Breakfast Club 7:07 am** | 8 | 9<br>**Worship 5:30** |
| 10<br>**Worship 8:30 & 10:30 (Communion)** | 11<br>**Library Reserved 6:00-8:00 pm** | 12<br>**Men's Bible Study 6:15 am and 7:00 am**<br>**-Jesus is Justice League After School Program** | 13<br>**WOW 3:00**<br>**Confirmation Meal 5:30**<br>**Confirmation 6:30**<br>**-Advent service at 7:00 pm** | 14<br>**Breakfast Club 7:07 am** | 15 | 16<br>**Worship 5:30** |
| 17<br>**Worship 8:30 & 10:30 am (Communion)**<br>**Sunday School Program at 10:30 with Youth Band** | 18<br>**Library Reserved 6:00-8:00 pm**<br>**-Deadline for "Good Gifts"**<br>**-Ruth Bible Study at Parkview at noon (Potluck)** | 19<br>**Men's Bible Study 6:15 am and 7:00 am** | 20<br>**WOW 3:00**<br>**Confirmation Meal 5:30**<br>**Confirmation 6:30**<br>**-Advent service at 7:00 pm**<br>**-Council Mtg. after service** | 21<br>**Breakfast Club 7:07 am** | 22 | 23<br>**No Worship 5:30** |
| ----------<br>24<br>**Worship 9:00 am, 4:30 pm and 9:00 pm**<br>**Communion at 4:30 & 9:00 pm only**<br>----------<br>31 **Worship at 9:00 only** | 25<br>**Merry Christmas**<br>**Library Reserved 6:00-8:00 pm** | 26<br>**Men's Bible Study 6:15 am and 7:00 am** | 27<br>**No WOW 3:00**<br>**No Confirmation**<br>**-Dorcas Bible Study at Master's at 10:00** | 28<br>**Breakfast Club 7:07 am** | 29 | 30<br>**No Worship 5:30** |

## Please pray for our Missionaries

**Paraguay Missionaries**
**Kevin & Rebekah Howell family**

**Bolivia Missionaries**
**Paul and Jay Mikaelson**

# Community Events

**Calvary Lutheran Church of Willmar** extends an invitation to its Advent Festival open house on December 3. Hours are 1-6 pm Friday & Saturday and 12-4 pm on Sunday. Families and people of all ages are welcome. This year's theme is "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come. There will be music in the sanctuary and rooms decorated around the theme. End your visit with light refreshments in the fellowship hall. NO admission charge. Calvary seeks to share the joy, hope and inspiration of Christmas with all who attend.

**The Spirit of Santa's Closet: Dignity & Respect, Smiles, Happiness** = Christmas Joy. Santa's Closet of Renville County welcomes all kinds of donations. See Bulletin Board in the entry way for more information. Distributions will run from Dec. 1-19.

**St. Mary's CCW Theme Basket Silent Auction, Bake Sale & Evening Meal:** December 2nd & 3rd at St. Mary's Church Hall in Bird Island. Bake Sale & Silent Auction are Saturday @ 3-6pm and Sunday @ 9:30-12:15, Evening meal is Saturday following Mass (Free will offering)

Friends of the Arts presents: "**A Nice Family Gathering"** December 3 matinee at 2:00 pm
It will be held at RCW Small Gym. Tickets at the door; adults $15; students $10
Come & enjoy!! Bring a friend!!

## *Happy December Birthdays!*

| | |
|---|---|
| 12/01 | Donna Greenwell |
| 12/01 | Morgen Dietrich |
| 12/01 | Michael Triplett |
| 12/01 | Abby Sigurdson |
| 12/01 | Paige Johnson |
| 12/02 | Herb Wallert |
| 12/02 | Jeff Revier |
| 12/02 | Adam Steffel |
| 12/03 | Danielle Kingstrom |
| 12/03 | Emersyn Malvin |
| 12/04 | Gerald Revier |
| 12/04 | Clayton Erickson |
| 12/04 | Krista Schrupp |
| 12/04 | Michael Kemnitz |
| 12/05 | Susan Lindquist |
| 12/05 | David Torgelson |
| 12/05 | Libby Revier |
| 12/05 | Christina Meuhlberg |
| 12/05 | Lucas Wertish |
| 12/06 | Preston Matti |
| 12/07 | Sharon Ryan |
| 12/07 | Gary Grund |
| 12/07 | Joseph Newville |
| 12/08 | Brian Wallert |
| 12/08 | Angela Seidl |
| 12/09 | Brody Enestvedt |
| 12/10 | Joyce Limoges |
| 12/10 | Roger Feil |
| 12/11 | Randy Harrier |
| 12/11 | Hannah Bellig |
| 12/11 | Steven Bellig |
| 12/11 | Brady Ridler |
| 12/11 | London Prokosch |
| 12/11 | Dawson Erickson |
| 12/12 | Konnie Deklerk |
| 12/12 | Joseph Lingl, Sr. |
| 12/12 | Melissa Adamski |
| 12/13 | Ronald Hamborg |
| 12/13 | Jerry Brustuen |
| 12/13 | Roxanne Torkelson |
| 12/13 | Ryan Jensen |
| 12/13 | Nathan Barta |
| 12/14 | Bruce Knoke |
| 12/14 | Kathy Johnson |
| 12/14 | Sarah Hausken |
| 12/14 | Jaime Bergren/Hanish |
| 12/14 | Matt Adamski |
| 12/14 | Reese Malvin |
| 12/15 | Marcella Wacek |
| 12/15 | Tim Wertish |
| 12/15 | Amy van Barnes |
| 12/15 | Miranda Neubauer |
| 12/16 | Kristina Bohm |
| 12/17 | Rosalie Sheggeby |
| 12/17 | Loren Lilja |
| 12/18 | Tami Revier |
| 12/18 | Dan Gross |
| 12/18 | Nick Bruns |
| 12/18 | Mitchell Crow |
| 12/18 | Jack Iverson |
| 12/19 | Ron Fahse |
| 12/19 | Amilio Reynolds-Hernandez |
| 12/20 | Joshua Honzay |
| 12/20 | Jacob Skeie |
| 12/20 | Jonas Lang |
| 12/20 | Jade Olson |
| 12/21 | Joan Wick |
| 12/21 | Kandi Erickson |
| 12/22 | Courtney Kopel |
| 12/22 | Briar Lippert |
| 12/23 | Samuel Sigurdson |
| 12/24 | Barbara Lingl |
| 12/24 | Nate Cole |
| 12/24 | Emily Perry |
| 12/24 | Emily McDowell |
| 12/24 | Tanya Serbus |
| 12/24 | Elizabeth Hatch |
| 12/24 | Gabriel Suess |
| 12/25 | Tammy Kopel |
| 12/26 | Steve Wertish |
| 12/26 | Griffin Osthus |
| 12/27 | JoLynn Valentin |
| 12/27 | Caeden Gluesing |
| 12/29 | Vi Johnston |
| 12/29 | Linda Fahse |
| 12/29 | Dylan Gass |
| 12/31 | Mark Morse |

**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church - COUNCIL MEETING**
**Minutes for: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 @ 7:30pm**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (X) Dana Boen | 2020 | (X) Jon Hawkinson | 2018 | (X) Eric Skeie | 2019* |
| (X) Curt Sather | 2020 | (X) Bobbi Kopel | 2018 | ( ) Natasha Johnson | 2019* |
| (X) Jill Hanson | 2020 | (X) Paul Buhr | 2019 | (_) Michelle Jensen | resigned |
| X) DeeAnne Newville | 2020* | (X) Gordon Blem | 2019 | (X) Lisa Meints | 2018 |
| X) Steve Altmann | 2018 | | | Terms end at Annual Meeting (Jan.) | |
| | | | | *Second term | |

**STAFF**

(X) Pastor Matt Hausken (X) Jeni Skeie, Parish Minister ( ) Sarah Hausken, Parish Minister
(X) Sue Altmann, Council Recorder

**AGENDA**

Meeting called to order- ***President Eric Skeie***
Devotions – *Curt Sather*
Approve minutes of the ***October meeting*** – Motion to approve the minutes by Curt Sather, seconded by Gordy Blem, motion passed.
Financial Secretary and Treasurer Reports – ***October -*** Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Dana Boen, seconded by Jill Hanson, motion passed.
Pastor's report

- Confirmation is going well
- 9th Grade classmate passed away, so confirmation was to listen, help and support students (Nov. 15th)

Parish Minister Report

- Junior High Youth Gathering was Nov. 17 & 18 (Sarah and Jeni will be attending)
- Stephen's Ministry was discussed, report giving from Jeni Skeie.
  - Council asked Jeni to look into other churches in the area for opinions on this ministry
  -memorial books ($10.00) would need to be purchased for visits for those losing a loved one (Stephen's Ministry)
- -it was asked to table the discussion until December to look into where the funds will come from
- Jeni and Sarah both have written reports that are attached
- New microphones are needed for the Parish Ministers, etc. They have talked to Fat Freddie out of Willmar. Curt will look into where the money can come from to purchase the mics. Looking into the technology money available. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Youth Ministry- Papa Murphy sales done – delivery date was Nov. 19th. Thank you Sandra Whited for helping with this fundraiser
Equipping the Congregation - none
Outreach – The group is looking for new project to work on for the Holiday season. A motion was made by DeeAnne to approve any project the committee sees fit. Curt Sather seconded, motion passed.
Administration – see items below
AED Maintence – Steve Altmann

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Restructure Council Committees – Sarah
  - A motion to approve the new committee format was made by Steve Altmann and seconded by Dana Boen, motion passed. This will move forward in January 2018.
- Communion helpers-will be addressed as needs arise
- $316 raised for CCOC, November was Cross of Calvary's month to help

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Replace the existing thermostat with a WIFI thermostat (Discuss/motion) Discussed and denied. The thermostat system will remain the same.
- Replace west doors – bid from Total Glass (suggestion to Bazaar committee to use moneys from sale for doors)
  - Gordy Blem & Chet Boen contacted Total Glass and received a bid of around $4,800.00 to replace the west door. (The threshold is loose and has rotted away.) A motion was made by Steve Altmann and seconded by Gordy Blem to replace the doors as soon as possible, motion passed.
- Church Storage shed – bids submitted. This will be revisited in the spring.
- Boiler at the parsonage: The boiler needs to be replaced or fixed. (Age of Furnace is 26 years) The council discussed and decided the best plan of action was to replace. A motion was made by Gordy Blem to replace boiler in the parsonage, waiting on budget for funds and seconded by DeeAnne Newville, motion passed. The cost is roughly between $5,000-$6,000.
- Wogen's benches will be stored at Jill Hanson's house
- 2018 Equipping Congregation Day is February 10, 2018 from 8:30-3:30pm in Willmar, MN. Council is invited to attend.
- Sending information to Nominating committee, so they have time to gather names for Annual meeting.
- Nov. 18 & 19 – Gideon Sunday (Colin Berg speaking)
- Thanksgiving Eve service on Wed. 22 at 7:00 pm – No Worship on Nov. 25 and 9:00 am worship on the 26th
- Advent Starts on Nov. 29th

Next Council meeting: Wednesday, December 20 after church service
December Communion: 8:30 – Gordy Blem & 10:30 – Paul Buhr
December Devotion – Eric Skeie

**Adjourn / Close in prayer.**