



3rd SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church

Olivia, MN

December 16 – December 23

Today	Worship	8:30 & 10:30 am
	Sunday School Program	10:30
	Good Gifts	deadline December 17th
Monday	Library reserved	6:00-8:00 pm
	Boys Scouts	6:30 – 8:00pm
	Ruth Bible Study at noon (potluck)	
Tuesday	Men's Bible Study	6:15/7:00 am
Wednesday	Dorcas Bible Study at 9:30 am at Master's	
	Confirmation/Meal	6:00 pm
	WOW	3:15-5:00 pm
	Advent Service	7:00 pm
	Council Meeting after service	
Thursday	Breakfast Club	7:07 am
	Women's Bible Study	8:15 am
Saturday	Worship	5:30 pm
Sunday	Worship	9:00 am

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	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.



THERE IS *Nothing* TOO GREAT OR TOO SMALL
FOR PRAYER

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.

*Family of Fay Kuznia

*Luella Norberg – Lynnette Blem’s mother

*Judy Kopacek – Ron Kopacek

*Mikaelson Family – Gordy & Lynnette Blem

*Susie Lothert – Friends and Family

*Neva Geweke – Angie Boen sister

*Gordy Straw – Angie Boen nephew

*Alexa Fischer – Alicia Osthus Family

*Linda Cole – Nate Cole’s mother

Cross of Calvary Events/News

Note for your calendar:

Annual Meeting is January 27th at 9:30 am

Committee Report will be due January 14 by noon!!!

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!!

Happy “103rd” Birthday
Rosalie Sheggeby
December 17th



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.

November Numbers

Needed per budget YTD - \$250,275

Actual Receipts YTD - \$192,575



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.

December 16, 2018
THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World

John the Baptist tells the good news.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming
Monday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Tuesday	Philippians 4:4-7	The Lord is near
Wednesday	Isaiah 9:1-7	A child is born
Thursday	Hebrews 13:7-17	Service that pleases God
Friday	Isaiah 11:1-9	The peaceful kingdom
Saturday	Isaiah 12:2-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

So with many other exhortations, [John the Baptist] proclaimed the good news to the people. **Luke 3:18 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, may the good news of your coming fill our hearts with love for you and compassion for others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, bless our homes with joy this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts of food, make us ready for the one who is to come. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- What is some good news you have heard recently?
- John the Baptist tells people to show fairness to others. How is this good news?
- How would you describe the good news of Jesus' birth to others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 3:7-18.

John the Baptist is no broken reed withering in the wilderness. He gets people's attention with words of condemnation, warning, and confrontation. And it works, or, at least the crowd is riveted for awhile. The people wonder what to do to get their lives in order. Simple: don't abuse your power and wealth; share; be generous. However, these aren't the "how-to" steps to achieving a successful life. They are the fruit of a life that trusts the good news of Jesus coming into our lives. The good news of Jesus changes everything with the power of grace, mercy, and peace. John the Baptist presents it as the life that bears "fruits worthy of repentance" (v. 8). How is the message of John the Baptist good news for you?

Pray: **Righteous God, we thank you that the systems of abuse receive condemnation and we ask that your reign of peace bear fruits of repentance in us, through Christ our Lord, amen.**

SERVICE

In Luke 3:10-14, John the Baptist tells people how to use their power and influence to care for others. Make the gift of service to others one of your Christmas gifts this year. Gift choices of service could include surprising family and friends by doing secret acts of care, visiting someone who is sick, planning an outing for someone who is alone, or helping with chores in your own home.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The third candle on the Advent wreath is the candle of proclamation and joy. Discuss or think about the joy that Jesus brings to the world. Read Isaiah 9:6-7 and after lighting the first candle of expectation and hope, the second candle of preparation and peace, and the third candle of proclamation and joy on your Advent wreath, say the following:

Leader: **In Zephaniah's song of joy he cries out, "Rejoice and exult with all your heart!" As we light the third candle, let us give thanks for the joy that Jesus brings.**

All: **Thank you, Lord Jesus, for giving us joy. Fill our lives with joy this Advent. Amen.**