



Cross of Calvary
Lutheran Church
1103 W. Chestnut Ave. Olivia, MN
320-523-1574

crossofcalvary@gmail.com

December 15, 2019

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.

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.



Join us for our Christmas Eve worship on
Tuesday, December 24th

4:30 PM or 9:00 PM



December 15 – December 22

Sunday 12-15	Worship	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
	Sunday School Christmas Program	10:30 AM
	Sr. High Youth Group Meet from 4-7 PM	
Monday 12-16	Library reserved	6:00–8:00 PM
Tuesday 12-17	Men’s Bible Study	6:15 AM/7:00 AM
	Good Gifts due	
Wednesday 12-18	WOW	3:15 – 5:00 PM
	Confirmation	5:30 – 7:30 PM
	Advent Service	7:00 PM
	Church Council Meeting after Advent Service	
	No Theology on Tap	8:00 PM
Thursday 12-19	Breakfast Club	7:07 AM
	Women’s Bible Study	8:15 AM
	Jesus Justice League	3:00 – 5:00 PM
Friday 12-20		
Saturday 12-21	Worship	5:30 PM
Sunday 12-22	Worship	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

2020 Offering Envelopes have been placed in your mailbox.

IF there aren’t offering envelopes in your box, you either requested not to receive a set or you give online. Questions, stop in the office and talk to Sue.

Confirmation Meals for December

December 18 – Mark Olson

December 25 – Christmas – No Confirmation



Cross of Calvary Youth



Children's Christmas Program

Join us today for our Sunday School Christmas Program
at 10:30 AM service.

Coffee Hour Servers for December

December 15 Kevin & Heidi Morse
Breanna McNelly
Brian & Dana Boen
Leah Peterson

December 22 & 29 – only 1 service at 9:00 AM

January 5 Marc & Sarah Iverson
Bobbi Jo & Tim Abrahamson
Shannon & Jen Visser



Papa Murphy's Pizza fundraiser is happening! If you are interested in ordering, please talk to a student in grades 5-9.

Cross of Calvary Events for December

December 15	Sunday school Program Christmas Program at 10:30 AM Senior High Youth Group Meet at 4:00 – 7:00 PM
December 17	Good Gifts deadline
December 18	Dorcas Bible Study 9:00 AM at Master's Coffee Shop Church Council Meeting after service Advent Service at 7:00 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 PM & 9:00 PM
December 25	No Service
December 28	No Service
December 29	Service at 9:00 AM only



GOOD GIFTS

(December 1-17)

Envelopes are in the
Narthex



8:30 – Bjorn Hausken & Zane Boen
10:30 – Kiera Fischer & Rylan Gass



8:30 – Keith Larson & Nate Bahl
10:30 – Steve & Dave Altmann
2020 Usher list has been posted: if you would like to

help usher, please fill in the highlighted spot on the sheet. Thanks



COMMUNION:

8:30 AM – Nathan Cole
10:30 AM – Laurence Stratton
CLICKER
8:30 AM – Lyn Tesch
10:30 AM –

ALTAR GUILD: Kelsie Aeikens, Lisa Meints & Natasha Johnson



Quilters: reminder you will be starting Thursday, Jan. 2nd!!!!



Here is a glance at our Financial Health thru November and Year to Date. We set a budget of \$273,780.00 for the 2019 year; so far we've brought in \$214,813.38. We are \$57,967.00 away from our budgeted amount. In order to fully achieve the mission of our church and reach the goals we set in January we need your support.

Thank you for all of the money that was given all year so far. It is because of you, our generous and dedicated donors, that we are able successfully continue the ministry of our church. Any and all giving is always appreciated and we are grateful for all that we receive. Remember, an easy way to give anywhere and anytime is to give an offering through our secure online giving portal on our webpage: crossofcalvary.net/serving-the-church ...or think about setting up automated monthly or quarterly gifts.

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.

Linda Cole – Nathan Cole’s mother
Shelby Gass – Family & friends
Lucas Fischer – Brayden & Cassie Fischer son
Kathy Brown – Family and Friends
Angie Metteer – Bruce & Sharon Metteer
Briar Lippert – son of Jay & Heidi Lippert
Kathy Johnson – Scott Johnson
Cleve Fults – Friend of Bruce Metteer
Tim & Emily Merten family – Angela Cole
Families of Military Personnel
Curt Schroer - friends
Marie Olson – Mark Olson’s mother



Thank you!!!!

...to the Snowflake Bazaar committee for all their hard work!!

Annual Meeting at Cross of Calvary: Will be January 19th at 9:30 AM

All committees: please have all you information into the office by Friday, January 10th at 2:00 PM.

Also: Congregation members, please take time to soulfully pray about being on a committee. (Council: needs 4, Auditing, needs: 1, Nominating, needs: 1, Endowment, needs: 1, Synod Reps: need 3 and Gustavus Reps: need 2)

Community News/Events

Olivia Healthcare Center is in need of a volunteer a few times a week in the later afternoon (like from 3:00 to 4:30) to come and visit with a lady who gets lonely sometimes and just wants to visit. Call 320-523-1187 and ask for Sheila Pietig.

You are cordially invited to the annual Norwegian language service at Calvary Lutheran in Willmar on Sunday, December 22nd at 7:00 PM. We are having a Lillejulaften service (Little Christmas Eve) with Norwegian scripture reading, prayers, songs and sermon. The service folder will in Norwegian with full English translation.

A place to belong

BOSTON, MASS.
ELCA.org/hunger

Come rain or shine, or even snow, the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen opens each Tuesday without fail, serving up nutritious fare – with an extra helping of love – from the basement of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

"Nothing stops us," said lead volunteer Sandra Aleman-Nijjar. "I think only health will stop us, but God has been good. So as long as I have health and my team, then we're here."

Sandra and her team of volunteers offer weekly breakfast, lunch and dinner to more than a hundred guests, many of whom face the challenges of poverty and addiction. Guests can pick up hygiene kits or a set of clean clothes and can access social services. What makes this program special, however, is its attention to matters of the heart.

"This space is where we all come together and treat each other with love, with that respect and dignity that we all like to receive," Sandra said. "We give that to everyone that walks through those doors."

Eddie has been coming through the doors of Our Saviour's since the soup kitchen started in September 2016. The



program, which receives funding from ELCA World Hunger, has been a game changer. From age 18, Eddie has lived on the street. "I had nowhere to go and [now] this is my home," he said.

At the soup kitchen, Eddie feels respected as a whole person. And though he's grateful for the food and resources he receives, he's most appreciative of the people, connecting with fellow guests during circle time and valuing the support Sandra has given him. Since Eddie started coming to the soup kitchen, she and others have noticed a change in him.

"He feels loved, that someone cares," she said of Eddie. "You can see it in [each of] them, that sense of belonging, that sense of acceptance. That someone cares about them, that someone is watching and looking out for their well-being."

With your support, the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen and programs like it around the country can continue to welcome their neighbors.

WHF19

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that fight hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States.

Will you help with your gift today?

YES! I would like to support ELCA World Hunger (WHG0038).

- ☐ I have enclosed my gift of \$100.
☐ I have enclosed my gift of \$250.
☐ Other \$ _____

Mail Make your check payable to "ELCA World Hunger." Place your gift in your congregation's offering plate or mail it to:

ELCA
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Online ELCA.org/hunger/donate

Phone 800-638-3522



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent



HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy To the World

Advent is the season of joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist
Monday	Isaiah 35:1-10	The return to Zion
Tuesday	James 5:7-10	Patience in suffering
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22	A final greeting
Thursday	Nehemiah 8:9-12	Ezra reads God's Law
Friday	Philippians 4:4-9	Paul encourages the people
Saturday	Psalms 146:5-10	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. **Isaiah 35:5-6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, you who bring healing, hope, and joy to the world, give us the faith to trust your never-ending care through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who made heaven and earth, we thank you for this food, a sign of your never-failing love. Amen. (Psalm 146:6)

A Blessing to Give:

May God strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is near. (James 5:8)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- ❑ How would life be different for you if you were blind or deaf?
- ❑ God's promise that the blind will see and the deaf will hear seems too good to be true. In what ways does this promise bring joy instead of disbelief?
- ❑ John the Baptist wondered if Jesus was the awaited messiah. What would you tell John?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 35:1-10.

The people of Israel were exiled far from home, imprisoned in Babylon, a foreign land. The people were wondering if there was a future for them. Did the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob abandon them? We can ask similar questions. Will our children have faith? Has our Lord abandoned us? To all such concerns and questions Isaiah responds with unbelievable images of God doing amazing things: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will walk; and those who can't talk will sing for joy. God makes the impossible possible. Advent reminds us of God's power and promise that is like no other. Advent is a time for joy and patient waiting (James 5:7-10) for God to do what only God can do, that is, save God's people. How does God's promise of care and salvation bring you joy?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, help us to trust your amazing healing power for our lives and our world. Amen.**

SERVICE

Psalms 146 is a song praising God's help. Happy are those who "give food to the hungry" (v. 7). Make cupcakes or cookies and write the words hope, peace, and joy on them. Put them in a bag or box and include a card that reads "Praise the Lord" (v. 1). Deliver them to an organization that feeds the hungry or to those who are homebound or living alone during this Advent season.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week we light three candles on the Advent wreath. They are the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy. Today's candle reflects the joyful return of God's people to Zion.

Say: This is the third week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy. [Light three candles]

Read: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert (Isaiah 35:5-6).

Respond: Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives joy.

Pray: **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, and joy. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. Amen**