

Have A
Blessed
New Year!

Cross of Calvary
Lutheran Church

1103 W. Chestnut Ave. Olivia, MN
320-523-1574

crossofcalvary@gmail.com

January 5, 2020

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.

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.

Congregation members, please take time to soulfully pray about being on a committee/Church Council. We are in need of 4 new council members, 1 new nominating committee member, 1 new Endowment fund committee member, 3 as Synod representatives and 2 as Gustavus representatives. Please contact the office or a Nominating Committee member, if you have questions or would like to be put on the ballot.

(Eric Skeie, Tami Stovern or Jessie Lothert)



January 5 – January 12

Sunday 1-5	Worship	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
	Sunday School	
	Papa Murphy deadline to order NOON	
Monday 1-6	Library reserved	6:00–8:00 PM
Tuesday 1-7	Men’s Bible Study	6:15 AM/7:00 AM
Wednesday 1-8	WOW	3:15 – 5:00 PM
	Confirmation	5:30 – 7:30 PM
	No Theology on Tap	8:00 PM
	Church Council Meeting	7:30 PM
Thursday 1-9	Breakfast Club	7:07 AM
	Outreach Mtg.	6:30 PM
Friday 1-10		
Saturday 1-11	Worship Service	5:30 PM
Sunday 1-12	Worship/Sunday School	8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

2020 Offering Envelopes have been placed in your mailbox. Please pick up!!!

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 January

January 8 – Polly Amsden & Gena Amsden

January 15 – Katy Holland & Jamie Stryker

January 22 – Shelby Gass

January 29 – Servers needed!!



Cross of Calvary Youth

Coffee Hour Servers for January

January 5 Marc & Sarah Iverson
 Bobbi Jo & Tim Abrahamson
 Shannon & Jen Visser
January 12 Daren & Melissa Sagedahl
 Reggie & Jessica Lothert
 Craig & Becky Mages



Papa Murphy's Pizza: Deadline is at noon today!
(Pick up is January 31st from 5:00 – 6:30 PM)

Cross of Calvary Ski day for 7-12 graders and families will be Sunday, January 19. We will leave church at 12:30 and return at 10:30pm. (No school next day). Cost is \$21 lift ticket, \$19 rental, \$4 helmet. 7-12 grade are welcome to bring friends - Younger youth may attend with a parent. Families welcome. All must sign up (liability form) and pay by Thursday January 16th. To get the group rate, we must turn in one payment for our group. Liability forms and sign up will be on the board by the drinking fountain or if you request, I can send them by email. Again, you must pay by Thursday, January 16 to attend. Drivers are needed. Please talk to Jeni if you can help.

Papa Murphy's pizza fundraiser (just in time for the SUPER BOWL) is going on at Cross of Calvary for our youth to help with costs for camp and youth gatherings. The pizza will be delivered Friday, January 31 from 5:00pm - 6:30pm - Orders and money must be turned in to church by noon on Sunday, January 5. Any orders after that time will not be valid. If you are wanting to order pizza, and don't know who is selling - please talk to Jeni or Sue in the office. Info available on the drinking fountain board. Help is needed on delivery day, January 31 at 4:00-6:30. Please let Jeni know if you can help.

OVERTIME for 7-12 grades, is an ecumenical community event sponsored by our local churches - with food and fun for kids AFTER a BOLD boy's basketball game.

Who: 7th-12th graders

What: Pizza, Open Gym, Board Games, Crafts, Music, and Friends

When: Friday, January 24th after the Boys Basketball game until 11:00pm

Where: St. Mary's School

How Much: The cost is \$2 per person for a full night of food and fun.

DODGEBALL LEAGUE for 9-12 grades: Our area churches are sponsoring a Dodgeball league for grades 9-12 on four Sundays: Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 8, and Apr. 5. On January 12th there will be food provided. The events start at 5 and go until about 8 pm (or when all of the teams are done playing.) To join, create a team of up to 10 people, but at least six, that have at least 2 boys and 2 girls on each team. Come up with an approved team name and have one team contact person. A permission form must be filled out by all players and signed by a parent. There also must be a roster handed in with all team member names. You do not have to be on a team with your church. And youth can be from surrounding school districts. The contact person should be from one of the participating churches. If you are not on a team yet, Jeni has started one on her office door - just sign up! After that all you need to do is come participate and have fun!

Don't want to play? No problem, come and cheer on your friends. Info and forms on the drinking fountain board.

Youth Band will play on January 11 and 12. We will practice Wednesday, January 8 from 7:30-8:30pm.

Boundless: God beyond measure is the theme for the National Youth gathering in 2021, June 29-July 3 in Minneapolis. It is based on Ephesians 3:19 CEV.

"I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. The your lives will be filled with all that God is." If you are now in grades 8-11, you will be eligible to attend this event. Please sign up on the drinking fountain board/youth board if you are interested so I can keep you in the loop. Do NOT worry about the cost...but in the past, the total cost was around \$1300 which included travel to a far away destination. This gathering is in Minneapolis - so that eliminates a big chunk of our cost. That being said, I would expect it to cost about \$900 - but you can raise most of your cost!!! And our congregation has supported our groups in a big way. Start now with the Papa Murphy's pizza fundraiser. Put the dates on your calendar and start raising money. You don't want to miss this! Check this link to get a preview.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghdWHO5Aikw&t=8s>

More Fundraisers ahead:

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper - February 26 (Person needed to organize)

Palm Sunday Breakfast and Auction - April 5 (Person needed to organize)

Spring Fling flower sales - Mid- April with delivery before Mother's Day

January Volunteers



8:30 – Hunter Ridler & Laila Ridler
10:30 – Jayden Claseman
Dominique Claseman



8:30 – Jeff Keltgen, Bill Kopel, Greg
Mertens, David Lindquist & Randy
Steffel
10:30 – Ushers needed!!

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 – Gordy Blem
10:30 AM – Curt Sather

CLICKER

8:30 AM – Kaden Bahl
10:30 AM – Need help!

ALTAR GUILD: Ronda Berg & Tami Stovern

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
Kathy Brown – Family and Friends
Kathy Johnson – Scott Johnson

Tim & Emily
Merten family –
Angela Cole



Quilters

The quilters of Cross of Calvary Church are looking for people to donate fabric, etc. to the making of the quilts. They are also accepting money donation to purchase the batting for the middle of the quilts. Thank you!

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.

January 5, 2020

Second Sunday of Christmas

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Hark the Herald Angels Sing



The Christmas message is full of grace and truth.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-14	The joyful return of the exiles
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:1-11	Tending the flock of God
Thursday	Genesis 50:14-21	Joseph's promise to his brothers
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Visions from the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 147:12-20	Sing and praise the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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. John 1:14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of grace and truth, give us faith to believe and to live with joy, for you have entered our world and our lives as the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you give us our daily bread, give us the joy of knowing the Bread of Life who brings light to all people. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you with grace and joy.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- ☑ The twelve days of Christmas have not ended. Why do you think some people take their decorations down early?
- ☑ What is so amazing about the Christmas story?
- ☑ Why is the message of Christmas so important to hear again and again?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 1:1-18.

After the celebrations, it is hard to remember that we are still in the season of Christmas, a time to focus on the power, meaning, and joy of Christ's birth. This is when "the Word became flesh and lived among us" (v. 14). It is good to know that we are children of God. Ephesians lifts this up by noting that we are adopted. The Greek text makes it clear that we are adopted like a son. At that time, it was the son who inherited all that the father had. We, as those adopted by God, are heirs to all that God has (Ephesians 1:14). What an amazing message, filled with "grace and truth." John uses the word grace (undeserved kindness) four times in this text, but never again. The rest of the Gospel gives us examples of this grace through light, bread, wine, vines, water, and more. The Christmas message is worthy of an entire season to envision and digest again and again. God comes in human form to touch us with "grace upon grace" (v. 16) that we may know that we are children and heirs of all that God can give us. How can you continue to celebrate and live the message of Christmas in daily life?

Pray: **O God of Christmas joy, remind us of your grace and truth that makes us heirs of eternal gladness through the Word that became flesh and now still lives among us. Amen.**

SERVICE

The twelve days of Christmas begin on December 25th and end on January 5th, the day before Epiphany. We often increase giving and donations to support those in need the weeks before Christmas but seldom the days after. Sing or listen to *The Twelve Days of Christmas* song. It is about giving. For each verse of the song the giving increases. In what ways can you increase your giving of time, talents, and treasures this coming year?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. Take time this week to think about what this means. Sit in a room after dark and turn the lights out. How does it feel to be in the dark? Then light a candle and think about the difference between light and darkness. What does the light provide that darkness does not? Say a prayer of thanks to Jesus for being the light that darkness cannot overcome.