***The Follower: April 2020***

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Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS! Again I say rejoice!

We are living in a crazy time with this Coronavirus, and grief and shock are common emotions. In our ministry at Cross of Calvary, it is all about community, and it’s lonely being apart. It is challenging to figure out how to stay connected to people. However, knowing we are doing our part to stay at a distance, it has been really fun to work on the worship and music to make it feel like “home”. We are blessed to have Pastor Matt who speaks God’s truth to each of us in a personal way. This is a time for us to slow down. It is a time to focus on our faith and how we can grow. It is a time to look for God in everyday things. I am participating in an online study by Max Lucado called “Anxious for Nothing”. The first week’s title was Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS. The study was on Phil 4:4-8. “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!” Paul reminds us to rejoice in the Lord. Rejoicing is a calling, not a feeling. This was an “aha” moment for me. We are called to give praise and thanksgiving for all that God has provided and still provides daily. Paul’s life had many hardships, but he kept his faith. We can reframe how we see life. Instead of seeing ourselves in the storm, see ourselves in the shelter of God’s wing and rejoice! Our community, although distant physically, can be close as we live out our faith and show the world God’s love. I invite you to join me in doing this study being offered free at faithgateway.com. The book, study, and videos are all free on the site. There is a schedule for each week, so we can be going through it together. As we “Rejoice in the Lord”, let our lives show our hope in God.

****Please stay home and be safe. The church staff is working tirelessly to help bring the word of God to all. If you have any concerns or question, all calls are being forwarded to Sue and she will try to answer them. You may also contact the other staff members for direct question. As of right now all services will be on line. (Which is going wonderfully)

**Thank you for your understanding and patience.**

March 24, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

in all ways acknowledge God and He will direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

As you know, the spread of the Covid-19 virus has dramatically changed our lives in the last few weeks. We are asked to keep unnatural social distance from each other, accept lockdowns of private businesses and public buildings where we gather to conduct business and socialize, and otherwise stay home. While this is unprecedented in many of our lifetimes, it is inspiring that we as a community, State, and Nation are doing this, for the most part, voluntarily, to slow and mitigate the spread of the virus and to help those on the front line manage this pandemic. We are doing this to save suffering in our communities and, ultimately, people’s lives.

As a church, we are also doing our part. Pastor Matt, Jeni and Sister Sarah and the Council have canceled all in-person church activities through April 5. This is especially tough for a church. The Church is a community of people. One of the most important things we do is to gather and worship together. While we cannot do that in person now, we have faith that God will see us through these times. Pastor Matt and staff will be sharing worship and devotions on our website and Facebook page every day.

However, the practical issue the Church faces is that with no in-person worship, we are severely hampered in taking an offering. Offerings and donations make up almost all of the income for the church. The Church has regular operational expenses and salaries for Pastor Matt and the staff. If there are no offerings taken in, the Church can pay the bills for only the next two months. This letter then, is a call to our members to please remember to give so that we can continue to serve others in the name of Jesus.

There are several ways to give:

● You can give on-line at regular intervals. It’s very easy and will take less than 5 minutes to do. https://crossofcalvary.net/serving-the-church/tithing/

● You can have your bank automatically debit your account for offering. Call your bank to arrange this.

● You can mail your offering to the Church directly in your offering envelope or in any envelope. Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church, 1103 W. Chestnut Ave. Olivia, MN 56277

● You can bring your offering to the Church itself and place it in the dropbox by the office door.

● After April 2, you can drop your offering in a secure box on the handicapped parking sign near the east entrance to the church.

● You can request that your offering be picked up from your home. Please call Sue at the church office to arrange this. 320-523-1574

If you have questions about any of these options, please contact Cross of Calvary staff or Council President, Steve Altmann vision5014@gmail.com 320-523-5104.

Thank you for your offerings and gifts of service to others.

The Equipping Committee: Amanda, Clayton, Darin, Eric, Laurence and Sister Sarah

**Holy Week Schedule**

Palm Sunday, April 5 (both services) – online

Matins Services, April 6-10 at 7:00 AM - online

Maundy Thursday, April 9 Noon & 7:00 PM - online

Good Friday, April 10 at 7:00 PM - online

Easter Sunday Services, April 12 at 6:30 AM & 9:00 AM -TBD

**Cross of Calvary Youth News**

Bible Study for anyone! - “Anxious for Nothing” by Max Lucado is a study I started on March 25. I invite you to join me in doing this study being offered free on faithgateway.com. The book, study, and videos are all free on the site. There is a schedule for each week, so we can be going through it together. We can set up a zoom meeting to discuss or just call each other. Let me know if you want to be in a group.

Senior High Games and Bible Study - I will send out a Bible Study talk sheet each week in our text groups with a zoom meeting time. You are welcome to join, or do it on your own. I encourage you to participate in this opportunity to grow while we are apart, not because only you need it, but I do too! Please feel free to call me, snap me, text me, or email me at anytime to talk, or play a game. Battleship on FaceTime is my new favorite. 320-579-0406, jeniskeie@gmail.com

Breakfast club will continue on Thursday mornings for 10-12 graders. I will send out a text for the time. Get up and make your own breakfast and we will meet for 20-30 min doing highs and lows, and a devotion and prayer.

Junior high - Movie nights! Each week I will list a movie for you to watch and some questions to answer. Please call, facetime, text, or email me if you want to talk or hang out. 320-579-0406, jeniskeie@gmail.com. Please text me with your name and I will save your number.

Online Sunday school will be posted on Facebook after the weekly worship service. Tune in for a song, story and activity that you can do at home.

**Cross of Calvary Flower Sales Note**

In our Pre-Covid 19 world flower sales would have kicked off last Sunday.  In our new world we are needing to do things a little differently.  At this time we DO still hope to have a ‘flower sale’ but it will have a much different look.   There will NOT be pre-selling/ taking orders and money as in the past nor will there be the normal pickup at church.  We ARE still hopeful that you can raise funds for your youth account.  We are currently working with the nursery on our options.  Please stay tuned on further details.  Thank you for your patience.

**APRILVOLUNTEERS**

COMMUNION: 8:30 – Nate Cole

10:30 – Jon Hawkinson

USHERS 8:30 – Erik Skeie, Cheryl Mallak, Ron & Linda Fahse

10:30 – Ushers needed!

ACOLYTES 8:30 – Needed!

10:30 – Leo Adamski & McKenna Siems

CLICKER 8:30 AM – Kaden Bahl

10:30 AM – Bjorn Hausken

ALTAR GUILD: Stacey Larson, Sarah Iverson & Tara Amberg

**Cross of Calvary Church News**

**Stephen Ministers** are splitting up the directory to contact each member as best we can. Please, if you do not get a call by April 1, let me know. (Jeni 320-579-0406) We may need to update phone numbers. We are praying for each of you and hoping you are all staying healthy and fed. If you have any needs or prayer concerns that we can meet, or you just need to talk, please call any of the staff, the church office, or other members from Cross of Calvary. Let this difficult time be a time where we are transformed as a community, using our gifts to help and care for one another. (Romans 12:1-8)

**Bible Studies**

**Dorcas Bible Study** 4th Wednesday of the month at church – time: 9:30 am

**Ruth Bible Study**4th Monday of the month at Parkview – time: 1:30 pm

**Men’s Bible Study**: Tuesday at either 6:15 am or 7:00 am. Please meet in the Church Library.

**Theology on Tap** will meet Wednesdays at 8:00 pm Max’s, an adult Bible Study and discussion group with Pastor Matt.

**Women’s Bible study** is Thursday morning at 8:15 am

**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 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

**Prayers of Healing and Strength**

Tim & Emily Merten family – Angela Cole

Military personal and their families

Linda Cole – Nathan Cole’s mother

Kathy Brown – Family and Friends

Gwen Nesburg – Jeni Skeie’s Mother

Kathy Johnson – Scott Johnson

Phil Bahl – Nate Bahl’s dad

Steve Roundtree family – friends

Bev Beckman – Blem family

Kathie Ballin – friend of Sue Altmann

Stephanie Bailey 0 Pat Aalderks granddaughter

Camden Serbus – Taylor & Tanya son

Lesley Sagedahl - Sagedahl family

Briar Lippert - family

Greg & Evelyn Rosenow

Family of Ken Ziesmer



04/01 Eleanor Ziesmer 04/17 Edith Vogt

04/01 Mark Schlomann 04/18 Ron Beckler

04/02 Keith Larson 04/18 Annie Mittelstadt

04/02 Jacob Hennen 04/19 Ben Johnson

04/03 Sandy Kubesh 04/19 Cash Larson

04/03 Brody Siems 04/20 Nolan Link

04/03 Reed Kopel 04/21 Keely Jo Prokosch

04/04 Colin Berg 04/22 Austin Einerson

04/04 Hayli Garcia 04/22 William Hanson

04/04 Tanner Amsden

04/04 Winnie Blem 04/22 Haylie Binnebose

04/04 Charlotte Nelson 04/22 Drew Tuthill

04/05 Bobbi Jo Abrahamson 04/23 Deloris Abraham

04/05 Carrie Jo Gass 04/23 Joshua Wertish

04/06 Terry Jacobson 04/24 Carol Senkyr

04/07 Clare Cooper 04/24 Barb Wertish

04/08 Josselyn Mertz 04/24 Noah Boen

04/08 Cole Sander 04/24 Deacon Osthus

04/08 Jaelyn Brustuen 04/25 Joe Youngkrantz

04/09 Ben Balderston 04/25 Tim Lingl

04/09 Lanie Altmann 04/25 Taylor Lingl

04/09 Connor Hebrink 04/25 Moira Revier

04/10 Sarah Iverson 04/25 Wyatt Gilberts

04/10 Brady Stovern 04/26 Howard Erickson

04/10 Lane Helmer 04/27 Elisha Garcia

04/11 Richard Alton 04/27 Camille Weber

04/11 Braydon Fuoss 04/27 Eva Larson

04/12 Claire Neubauer 04/27 Cole Visser

04/14 Katie Erickson

04/14 Makenzie Gartner 04/28 Naomi Wertish

04/14 Emersyn Herdina 04/28 Mallarie Steffel

04/15 Mitchell Johnson 04/29 Karen van der Hagen

04/15 Kyler Kemnitz 04/29 Scott Johnson

04/16 Lyle Norris 04/29 James Handt Jr.

04/16 Kathy Slagter 04/29 Kathy Blackwell

04/16 Christine Flemming 04/29 Keeghan Aeikens

04/16 Nellie Borer 04/29 Alan Helmer

04/16 Beckett Kemnitz 04/29 Erick Wussow



**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church – Council Meeting**

Minutes: Wednesday, March 18th, 2020 at 7:30 PM (online)

COUNCIL MEMBERS Terms end at Annual Meeting in Jan. \* Second term

Jon Hawkinson 2021\* Reggie Lothert 2022AB Jill Hanson 2023\*

Laurence Stratton 2021 Nathan Cole 2022 Jena Bruns 2023

Steve Altmann 2021\* Elaine McDowell 2022AB Courtney Kopel 2023

Alex Gay 2021 Gordon Blem 2022\* McKenzie Gartner 2023AB

Sam Welchance Youth

STAFF

Pastor Matt Hausken Jeni Skeie, Parish Minister Sister Sarah Hausken, Parish Minister

Sue Altmann, Recorder Craig Boen, Janitor AB

**AGENDA**

MEETING - Call to Order (President)

• Devotions – Jon Hawkinson

• Approve minutes of the February meeting – Motion to approve the minute’s by Jill Hanson, seconded by Laurence Stratton, motion passed.

• Treasurer Report – February - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Gordy Blem, seconded by Nate Cole, motion passed.

- We are taking the time to pause/limit outreach for now. We need to get through the next couple of months with finances. The church will be promoting online giving and mailing in offering. We have added a message bar on our website for anyone to watch Wednesday & Sunday services.

• Pastor’s Report – Church service (in house) cancelled thru April 5th, will be revisited at that time. Taking all precautions with Baptism, funerals, etc. (following the Bishop recommendations). The church has been reaching out to the church community and local community to help in any way possible.

• Parish Ministers Reports – Sister Sarah has been working with the children to make prayer items for them to take home and use. Youth lead the church service on March 7 & 8, they did an awesome job. Thank you to Zane Boen for doing the sermon with his faith talk. Women’s bible study is done, will start again after Easter.

• Committee Reports

• Administration – Alex Gay, Gordy Blem & Nathan Cole

• Children, Youth & Family - Reggie Lothert & Courtney Kopel

• Equipping – Laurence Stratton &Jena Bruns

• Missions – Alex Gay

• Worship & Music – Jill Hanson& Elaine McDowell

• Care Team -

• Parish Life – Makenzie Gartner

• Outreach – Jon Hawkinson & Jill Hanson – Vivid Image has installed a message bar on the church website. This will make it easy for families to view the church services moving forward.

• Technology – Steve Altmann & Nathan Cole

• AED Maintenance – Steve Altmann

• Old Business

• Needs, Wants, Goals for 2020

• Lifetouch – wait until next spring

• Color inkjet printer – purchase and installed

• Update Church Windows congregation software ($299) – waiting to have enough money in technology budget (purchase in the next couple of months)

• New Business

1. Replacing and fixing kitchen sinks and faucets (done with donations, no fee to church)

2. MnDot approved Phase 2 of the trail grant, Construction to begin in 2022.

3. Working on church credit cards, taking Curt Sather’s name off as primary person.

(Per request from Curt)

• Board Discussion – completed with committees reports

• Adjourn – Closing Prayer

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: Wednesday, April 15th at 7:30 pm

Communion: April 8:30 – Nate Cole & 10:30 – Jon Hawkinson

Devotions: April – Nate Cole