

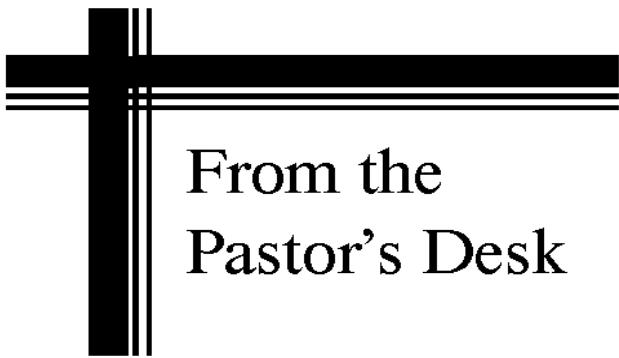
The Follower

September 2020

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church

1103 W. Chestnut Ave.

Olivia, MN 56277



From the
Pastor's Desk

As we begin our unofficial new year here at Cross of Calvary and around our community, things are far from what we would call normal. It is frustrating so many times for us because we are creatures of habit and tradition. When those traditions are upset it is natural to want to push back against them. This is not a bad thing at all it is normal. In college I learned about the Kubler-Ross Grief cycle. She identifies five stages. Now these stages are not necessarily linear and many times in the cycle of grief you can bounce back and forth in between them. Again this is not a

bad thing at all. We all have our own unique way of reacting. But the stages from Kubler-Ross go like this— Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and then ultimately Acceptance.

When we have all experienced a year like all of us have, it is a trauma and grief is a natural outgrowth of any trauma. So, a lot of times we may reserve the talk of grief for when somebody physically dies, but there are many things that can trigger grief. That's why this cycle developed by Kubler-Ross can be so helpful. Grief is scary. The change that a trauma can bring about is scary.

But, friends in Christ, as Christians we are given a hope like none other in Jesus Christ. We are given the comfort of knowing that our Savior walks alongside of us and will not let this grief overwhelm us. We have a heavenly Father that creates out of the chaos of grief. Those are the promises we have received. Rest assured as we deal with all this upheaval that we have a savior who will not let go of us. We have a Father who is creating something new and wonderful that is for us.

Is this scary? Absolutely! Our we grieving? Yes we are! BUT, we have the promise that we are not only and our God will bring us through. So, let us support and strengthen one another and constantly remind each other of the promises we have been given. We are in this together and God will bring us through this together into a future more wonderful than we could have ever expected.

Blessings to all of you for a wonderful month of September!

In Christ,

Sunday In-Person Outdoor Worship

Sunday evenings at 5: 30 PM

Bring your own lawn chair or blanket, and plan to sit and maintain a distance of 6 feet between households. As we gather, everyone will be wearing masks. Disposable masks will be available for those who don't have one, but would like one. Please read the full description of guidelines for our congregation as we gather in person outside. You can find these on pages 3 of this newsletter.

We will gather on the east lawn. If weather prohibits us from being outside, we will not be moving inside just yet, but will post on line by Facebook or crossofcalvary.net.

**Sunday Worship Service
will now be broadcast on
FM 88.7 at 5:30 PM**

Join Us
IN Worship

Sunday Online Worship Continues

As we begin to gather for in-person worship, we will also continue to have online worship on Facebook and on the website. Again, please do stay home if you have symptoms for COVID-19, or if you just feel more comfortable worshipping online for now. That is perfectly okay

Stephen Ministers are available to visit in person or over the phone if you are in need of someone to talk to about decisions, or you are feeling lonely. During this time when we are physically apart, we want to walk along beside you and want you to know we are here for you. Please call the church office and Sue can pass on your request.

CareTeam is available to offer meals to anyone or any families in need. We have a list of people who love to cook. If you have a need, or just need help once in a while, please contact Sue at the church office and she can direct your call to our CareTeam.

Cross of Calvary Outdoor Service Guidelines

Cross of Calvary evening outdoor worship service. We will follow guidelines to keep your health and safety in mind. Please note the following information below that we will be asking.

1. Parking vehicles: please either park on the street or enter on the west side of the church parking lot. Park on the south side of the building and walk up with chairs. If you are going to stay in your vehicle, please park on the very east side of the parking lot. **You can tune in to 88.7 FM to hear the service better.**
2. No entry into the church will be allowed. No bathrooms will be available.
3. **Communion will be served September 13, 20 and 27.**

Please SELF SCREEN prior to coming to the service. If you have any of the following symptoms which are new or worse than your usual, or you are just no feeling well, please stay home.

- Fever (100.4 F or higher), or feeling feverish?
- Chills?
- Cough?
- Shortness of breath?
- Sore throat?
- Muscle aches?
- Headache?
- Loss of smell or taste?

- If you are over 65 or have underlying health conditions we would encourage you not to attend – we care about your health and safety first! **Remember any age is more than welcome. We just want you to be comfortable and safe..**

- Bring your own chairs or blankets and we will ask that you sit with your family members and practice physical distancing, golf carts are a great suggestion!

- We require a mask. If you do not have a mask and need assistance in obtaining one please contact the church office or they will be available at the service.

- We will not have singing due to the high rate of virus spread from singing. We will have music.

- We would like people to sign up prior to the service, so we can plan accordingly (this is not a requirement but highly recommended). We will be taking attendance at the service in the event that someone would become ill following as it would help with case tracing.

Email or call to the church office with questions:

320-523-1574 or email crossofcalvary@gmail.com

1. Offering will be taken but no plate will be passed. Please place your offering in the secure drop box located on the handicapped sign pole on the East side of the church. Remember to maintain physical distance from others when giving your offering.

2. No paper bulletins will be provided. The order of service will be emailed to you if you are on the list, and you may follow along off your phone or tablet.



Prayers of Healing and Strength

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

Dean Revier – Family and Friends

Ralph Taylor – Becky Nelson’s father

Angie Boen – Family and friends

Sherry Wold – Courtney Kopel grandmother

Sonja Fostvedt – family

Paulette Svoboda – family

Ardith Glockzin – Carol Senkyr sister

Donna Greenwell

ALL persons working tirelessly to help with the Covid-19 pandemic

Phil Bahl – Nate Bahl father

Tim & Emily Merten family – Angela Cole

Kathy Brown – Family and Friends

Kathy Johnson – Scott Johnson

Lesley Sagedahl- Sagedahl Family

Briar Lippert – Friends & Family

Linda Cole – Nathan Cole’s mother

Military personal and their families

Sonia Grasmon

Darwin – Sonia Grasmon’s brother

Teri Vogt – Stacey Larson



Cross of Calvary

LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church – Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM (ZOOM)**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terms end at Annual Meeting in Jan. * Second term

Jon Hawkinson	2021*	Jeff Keltgen	2021	Jill Hanson	2023*
Laurence Stratton	2021	Nathan Cole	2022	Jena Bruns	2023
Steve Altmann	2021*	Elaine McDowell	2022	Courtney Kopel	2023
Alex Gay	2021	Gordon Blem	2022*		
Sandra Gay	2021	Sam Welchance		Youth	

MINUTES

MEETING - Call to Order (President)

1. Devotions – *Jena Bruns*
2. Approve minutes of the **July** meeting – Motion to approve the minute’s by Alex Gay, seconded by Jena Bruns, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report – **July**- Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Gordy Blem, seconded by Jill Hanson, motion passed.
4. Pastor’s Report
 - Reopening church information
 - July and August, Pastor Matt is able to get back to visits both by online and resident living.
 - Future weddings are all off site (3 are planned)
 - Continuing to work on Confirmation & Sunday School. Confirmation students will meet at 3 different times with 3 different groups, per month. Other curriculum is also being planned.
 - 10th graders will have the choice to be confirmed on 3 different Sunday by grade. (This will allow smaller groups.) They will be confirmed at the outdoor services, if rains indoor.
 - This year subject for confirmation will be Luke & Galatians/family work/video/short worksheets. This will be done with family members. Students will also be in communication with group leaders
5. Parish Ministers Reports
 - **Jeni** is working with music for the services. Thank you very much!
 - She has met with the students for breakfast club. It was wonderful to see the graduated seniors and to wish them well at next chapter in life.
 - Bible study is going very well, will end at the end of August. A new book will start in September.
 - Storage device for service, worship and music was purchased to save all information.
 - **Sarah** has been working very hard on what Sunday school will look like this year. She is making a Faith tool kit for all families to use for Sunday school at home. Rally Sunday will be September 13th. Look for more information to follow.
 - The book “Growing Young” will purchased (through a grant) for all council to read. The book will give the council ideas for the future in church.

- It was a wonderful discussion about moving forward with a new look for Sunday School during COVID.
6. Office Report (Sue)
 - Looking for people to install the new Basketball backboard – thank your Jeff Keltgen for volunteering.
 - Leak in library – Gordy Blem has been in contact with the roofing company to take care of the leak.
 7. Maintenance Update (Craig) - Sanitation stations are being set up in the Narthex.
 8. Committee Reports
 - a. Administration – Alex Gay, Gordy Blem & Nathan Cole
 - Gordy Blem is working on having the tree stumps removed from the southeast side of the church property.
 - b. Children, Youth & Family - Courtney Kopel
 - Sunday school prep for the year.
 - c. Equipping – Laurence Stratton
 - Moments of Gratitude will start again this fall.
 - d. Missions – Alex Gay
 - Didn't meet this month
 - e. Worship & Music – Jill Hanson & Elaine McDowell
 - Jeni has been working on music for services.
 - f. Care Team – Jena Bruns
 - No meeting
 - g. Parish Life – Sandra Gay
 - No meeting
 - h. Outreach – Jon Hawkinson, Jeff Keltgen & Jill Hanson
 - The committee is working on yard signs “Welcome to church” in production
 - i. Technology – Steve Altmann & Nathan Cole
 - A FM radio transmitter has been purchased. This will help people listen to worship.
 - j. AED Maintenance – Sue
 9. Old Business
 - Parking lot – fog seal will be August 26th
 10. New Business
 - Boy Scouts would like to use the church on Monday evenings. Will we allow them to use again with COVID? Yes, they will be able to use the Fellowship Hall only. Guidelines will be emailed to the Scout leader.
 - Tree branches – still waiting to hear back from Wittman landscaping – work in progress.
 - A HUGE thank you to Peggy Vesterby. She has resigned from music & worship.
 - Out of Order sign has been placed on the Water Fountain – the church ask that no one use at this time.
 11. Board Discussion
 12. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30 pm

Devotions: September – Steve Altmann

Coming Soon, Cross of Calvary Yard Signs!

Show your Cross of Calvary pride with a beautiful green and white yard sign!

Request yours by contacting the church office.
320-523-1574



Faith @ Home Mentors

A central part of Faith @ Home will be mentors for kids and parents. Would you be willing to care for our kids and parents by making a phone call and sending something in the mail once a month?

If so, please contact Sister Sarah 320-579-0838 or sarah.hausken@gmail.com. Thank you!

Dear Cross of Calvary Faith Family,

We are excited to announce our plan for Sunday School this fall! Please visit www.crossofcalvary.net/youth/faith@home in the coming weeks.

Welcome to Faith @ Home

... an adventure in following Jesus

www.crossofcalvary.net/youth

We all know that 2020 is an odd year. As we move closer to September, we realize that we cannot safely do Sunday School as we normally would. We have found ourselves with an opportunity to try something new. This fall we are excited to try some experiments in following Jesus from home.

"God sent me to announce a year of his grace – a celebration of God." Isaiah 61:1

Research from Milestone Ministries tells us that "Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships – often in our own homes." Faith is caught more than it is taught. We are thrilled to prepare households to hear God, follow Jesus and share God's story.



Here's how we plan to do it:

1. Give families physical tools for hearing God at home or in family pods
2. Provide mentors for children and parents
3. Provide family opportunities for outdoor in-person service and fellowship

We listened when you said you did not want another thing to do in front of a screen, so these experiments will involve real, live people and physical objects, infused with the Holy Spirit.

On Rally Day, Sunday, September 13, Jeni and Sister Sarah will host 3 opportunities for households to receive a Faith Toolbox and learn how to hear God at home. If you can't make it that day, we can arrange for you to get one. Please bring your family (whoever makes up your version of family) and plan to stay for about 30 minutes.

11:00 am	Henton Park
1:00 pm	Nester Park
3:00 pm	Cross of Calvary East Lawn (outdoor worship is at 5:30 pm)



What's in the Faith Tool Box?

Faith 5 Devotions - Age Appropriate Devotional Book - Mealtime Prayer Cube - Faith 5 Cross
Bible Promises – Backpack Tag

We are so excited to see how the Holy Spirit moves in your lives!

Why Faith @ Home?

Realities

Uncertainty

Life feels really uncertain right now: school, sports, church, family, friends. With so many unknowns it has become difficult to rely on just about anything

Our Schools are In-Person

Learning is being done in person at school, so why can't we be in person for Sunday School?

Screen Fatigue

People are experiencing screen fatigue. With so much of life being moved into the virtual realm, the last thing people want is more screen time.

How do I Teach Faith?

Parents can feel intimidated by the idea of talking about God at home.

Need for Community

Faith is made whole in community. We need each other, especially now.

Our Heritage

Sharing faith was originally done at home using Martin Luther's Small Catechism. It's only in recent years that we've moved to teaching faith at church.

Will we ever go back to normal Sunday School?

Responses

A Stable Plan

With so much uncertainty with everything else, we are choosing a stable plan that won't depend on virus cases or weather. This way, there will be no wondering what things will look like on a week to week basis.

Loving Our Neighbor

Our classrooms are small and many teachers and students are at risk. We are committed to putting people first and creating less opportunity for the virus to spread and disrupt families.

Limited Screen Time

Instead of offering Sunday School over a screen, we will put physical resources into the hands of families so they can easily nurture faith at home.

Faith Tools

We take the guesswork out of family devotions by providing you with the tools and knowledge for your whole family to confidently hear God, follow Jesus and share God's story.

Commitment to Community

We are committed to being creative and finding the best and safest way for students to connect with each other and faith mentors by providing monthly in-person events and connecting both kids and parents with mentors.

Where is God Leading Us?

Many of us have positive memories of Sunday School. This year we have an opportunity to try something different, trusting that God may be leading us to an even richer faith.

This is an experiment. We will observe, learn, evaluate and make recommendations for the future .

Please join us to "ponder anew what the Almighty can do"