



*Cross of Calvary*

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church

1103 W. Chestnut Ave. Olivia, MN

320-523-1574

[crossofcalvary@gmail.com](mailto:crossofcalvary@gmail.com)

[crossofcalvary.net](http://crossofcalvary.net)



### **December 20 – December 27**

**Sunday 12.20**

**Worship - Online**

**Intergenerational Christmas Program on line**

**Monday 12.21**

**Tuesday 12.22**

**Wednesday 12.23**

**Confirmation – On line**

**Advent Mid-week service at 7:00 PM - online**

**Thursday 12.24**



**Friday 12.25**

**Saturday 12.26**

**Sunday 12.27**

**Worship – Online**



Blessing to one and all,

Christmas Eve candlelight service candles are available here at church. Please stop by during office hours and pick up your candles for the service.

Merry Christmas,  
Church Staff and Altar Guild  
(Please return them to the church)

**Our Worship needs Song Leaders:** If you would like to lead the hymns at in person worship, please call Jeni or Sue in the office. We would love to hear you and have you lead as we mediate on the words.

**You haven't heard your favorite hymn in a long time?** Please contact someone on the worship committee or call the office to request your favorite hymns. Songs are meaningful and lead us to worship. Help us to include your favorite hymns and worship songs.

**Confirmation lessons** (GREAT for ALL AGES) are taught online by Pastor Matt - they are excellent. We are studying the Gospel of Luke. Check them out on Matt Hausken YouTube channel, or our church website under youth/confirmation. Don't wait too long. We are starting week 3! Each video is 20-25 minutes long. Have your Bible and Highlighter handy. Only 7-9 graders need to send in the assignments. (Wink wink!)

## December Confirmation Schedule

December 23 – No Confirmation

December 30 – No Confirmation



## Church Cookbook Project



Dear Cross of Calvary Members,  
In years past, Cross of Calvary has put together a cookbook of recipes from its members. Since 2020 has been a crazy year and we've been spending more time at home, I figure it's time to make an updated cookbook. In this new cookbook we would include old recipes from the past cookbooks and we would also like to include recipes from our new members. Feel free to send in recipes, old or new! All recipes will be included. If you'd like to submit recipes, email your submissions to Olivia Hanson - [ojhanson0220@gmail.com](mailto:ojhanson0220@gmail.com) if you'd

like to help put the cookbook together or have suggestions, text or call 320-400-9005. Thank you! -  
Olivia Hanson

**Women's study** will be on zoom. We will be using the book "Lazarus Awakening" by Joanna Weaver (author of Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World). We will be finding our place in the heart of God. There are 12 books available at church. Please pick up in the office or call to reserve one and we can deliver. Cost of the books is \$15.



## **Cross of Calvary Faith @ Home/Sunday School**

### **Faith @ Home Weekly Bible Story**

Bible Story for December 22-28

Luke 2:26-38

Jesus Calling Bible Storybook-He's Here!, page 144-147

Spark Story Bible – Jesus is Born, page 212

### **Faith @ Home Toolbox**

We have had a wonderful time sharing Faith @ Home Toolboxes. For those of you who missed it, we'll be sharing them after Sunday 9:00 AM worship throughout the year. If we don't see you before the end of year, we'll contact you to schedule a time to give you your Faith @ Home Toolbox and teach you how to use it. Weekly Faith 5 Bible stories will be posted at on our website.

[sarah.hausken@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.hausken@gmail.com) or [Jeniskeie@gmail.com](mailto:Jeniskeie@gmail.com)

### **Faith 5**

This simple faith practice deeply connects people to God and one another, and connects faith to daily life.

FAITH 5 carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, and promote mental, and spiritual health.

The five steps are:

STEP 1: SHARE your highs and lows

STEP 2: READ a Bible verse or story

STEP 3: TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows or notice what stands out to you in the Bible reading

STEP 4: PRAY for one another's highs and lows

STEP 5: BLESS one another. One examples of a blessing is "I love you and God loves you too"

**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. 320-523-1574



### **Worship Times**

All services will be on-line only through January 3rd, 2021

## Cross of Calvary Yard Signs are here!

Show your Cross of Calvary pride with a beautiful green and white yard sign! Request yours by contacting the church office or take a sign that has been placed in the church yard.

320-523-1574



**Care Team** A goal of the Care Team at Cross of Calvary has been to develop a Prayer Ministry for our congregation. After reading from Establishing a Prayer Ministry by Bjorn Pedersen, we are including the entire congregation in this ministry rather than limiting it to a telephone chain, or email chain or text chain. A December Prayer Calendar for each of us to post or place in an area in our home, has been placed in the Follower. We can be reminded to pray for others every day and see how the power of prayer works in our lives. We welcome your feedback and hope that you will feel free to email Jeni with your ideas for future calendars.

## Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Class

Our next class will begin right when you'll need it on January 5, 2021.

Want to register? Have questions? Contact Sister Sarah Hausken [sarah.hausken@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.hausken@gmail.com)  
320-579-0838



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.

## Prayer Request

Family of Joe Brobjorg  
Gena Amsden – Family & Friends  
Bobbi Jo Abrahamson – Family  
Steve Olson – Family  
Denise Revier – Family  
Ralph Taylor – Becky Nelson's father  
Sherry Wold – Courtney Kopel grandmother  
Sonja Fostvedt – family  
Ardith Glockzin – Carol Senkyr sister  
Chet & Angie Boen – Friends & Family  
Donna Greenwell

Sonia Grasmon – Family & Friends  
Sharon Alton – Family & Friends  
Tim & Emily Merten family – Angela Cole  
Kathy Johnson – Scott Johnson  
Lesley Sagedahl- Sagedahl Family  
Briar Lippert – Friends & Family  
Darwin – Sonia Grasmon's brother  
Teri Vogt – Stacey Larson  
ALL persons working tirelessly to help with the  
Covid-19 pandemic  
Military personal and their families

# December 20, 2020

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



**God favors the peasant girl Mary.**

### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	The Lord's message to David
Tuesday	Romans 16:25-27	Paul's closing prayer
Wednesday	Luke 1:46b-55	Mary's song of praise
Thursday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Friday	John 3:11-16	For God so loved the world
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26	God's promise to David
Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1:30-31 (NRSV)

### **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord God, just as you favored your servant Mary, grant all of us faith and trust in your power to bring salvation to all through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

With this food we receive your steadfast love, O Lord; with our mouths we proclaim your faithfulness to all generations through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:1)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the love of God bless you with the good news of Jesus' birth.

## **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- ☐ When have you received special attention from friends or family?
- ☐ Think of someone you have valued as a friend. In what ways do you value them?
- ☐ The angel Gabriel describes Mary as favored. What does it mean to you that God has given the world our Savior and Lord Jesus through Mary, a young peasant girl?

## **DEVOTIONS**

Read: Luke 1:26-38.

In verses 28 and 30 the angel Gabriel says that Mary is favored, that is, Mary experiences the undeserved kindness of God. In Luke 2:40 and 52 the child Jesus is also described as favored. Divine attention comes to a young virgin to deliver Jesus, the Son of the Most High. The beginning of the Gospel of Luke tells of Elizabeth, a barren woman who gives birth, Mary, a peasant girl who gives birth to the future king in the lineage of David, and of shepherds in the field who will be the first evangelists of the good news of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:18). The message is clear: with God all things are possible, and as with Mary, our faithful response is, "let it be with me according to your word" (v. 38). Mary is the model of the life of faith that acknowledges that God has done great things for her. As we prepare to enter the season of Jesus' birth, we are met with God's favor and blessings for us as well. How has God come to you with divine favor?

Pray: God of undeserved kindness, give us faith to trust that with you all things are possible through Christ Jesus our Lord, Son of the Most High God. Amen.

## **SERVICE**

During this Advent season think of those who are not favored in our society. For example, the homeless are poor, hungry, and in need. In what ways can you show God's love to them through an act of kindness?

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

From your nativity set, hold each piece in silence for a moment. Then place the pieces back in the scene. Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and then the wise men. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope, the second one of peace, the third one of joy, and the fourth one of love. Say this Bible verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16) Pray: Lord God, thank you for showing us love even when we are afraid like Mary, the mother of Jesus. Give us hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.

## **WEEKLY MILESTONES**

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.