



The Follower

December 2020

**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church
1103 W. Chestnut Ave.
Olivia, MN 56277**

Blessings to all of you as we begin this season of Advent! We begin the season of Advent remembering who and what we wait and what we hope for— we have been given the promise of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who comes to us each and every day. May it be a goal of ours to recognize him each and every single day in our lives, and the power and the grace that he brings with his presence. This takes time, this takes patience, this takes discipline in our lives.

This has been a strange year for all of us. We have been given ample time that we never even planned on and maybe didn't necessarily think we wanted or needed. But we know God works good in all things. This season of waiting and watching and hoping is one that it looks like it will be lived in a time where we have time on our hands. Let us use this opportunity as one to grow our connection to a Savior who stands with us and for us in the midst of all things. As we look outside at the day's grow shorter and shorter. And, we are left in the hope and the promise that the light of the day will begin increasing at the end of December. We know this will happen every single year. But we also know and remember at this time of year and in this season of our lives that the hope and the promise of Christ does not disappoint, just as surely as we receive this spring and the summer, we receive the gift of new life from Jesus Christ each and every day. May we continually remember this by practicing his presence with us and for us in our lives. May we dedicate ourselves to practicing his presence. How do we do this? Very simply we do it through devotional. Devotional time is simply a time of practicing the presence of Christ in our lives. By slowing down and remembering that he stands with us and for us in the midst of all things, giving light and hope to our lives. This is necessary not only at this time of year or during this particular year but all year long. We do this by taking the time to slow down and listen to his voice in scripture and prayer. It need not be lengthy it can just be short little moments. But we've been given that opportunity this year to have quite a few of those moments. May we take advantage of the disciplines we forge now shape our lives of faith for a long, long time.

May this season of Advent and Christmas be filled with the hope and the promise we have all received in the Christ child. May we eagerly anticipate his presence each and every single day. May we take the time to practice his presence through scripture through devotional and through reflecting on his presence in our lives now and forever. Amen!

Blessings for a grace filled Advent and Christmas season!

In Christ,

Pastor Matt



Advent/Christmas Services Worship Times

Midweek Advent Worship: 7:00 pm
each Wednesday evening: posted by
7:00 PM. Join us in a brief time of
sharing the quiet hope, waiting and
preparing of the Advent season.

Christmas services:

Will be posted on line, Facebook and church website

YOUTH

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

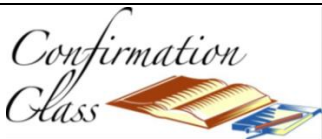
STEP 3: TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows or notice what stands out to you in the Bible reading

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"

Breakfast Club for 10-12 graders meets every Thursday by Zoom

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: Wednesday at 6:30 PM

December 2 -16 Online

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

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 320-579-0838

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.

Cross of Calvary Yard Signs are in!

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

Request yours by contacting the church office.

320-523-1574 or stopping by church to pick yours up!



Cross of Calvary Intergenerational Christmas program will be aired on December 20th, 2020.

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. Enclosed is a December Prayer Calendar for each of us to post or place in an area in our home where 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.

December Prayer list

1. Be with us Lord as we prepare for the birth of the baby Jesus
2. Be with those who suffer loneliness as this Holiday season approaches. Guide us to reach out to those who need our friendship and compassion.
3. We pray for the physical and emotional health of all those working in front line occupations, especially healthcare workers.
4. We pray for all of those who need your healing hand and for their caregivers, especially those on our weekly Prayer list.
5. We pray that you will unite us as a community during this Holiday Season and in the New Year
6. We pray for all those who have lost loved ones this past year.
7. We pray for those struggling with their faith in this time of uncertainty.
8. We pray for those who are participating in the 2020 "Christmas Program".
9. We thank You for children who bring joy to the world.
10. We pray for those struggling with addiction.
11. We pray for those in long term care, assisted living and group homes.
12. We thank you for shelter. Please inspire us to assist those without shelter.
13. We pray for those struggling with their faith
14. We pray for our nation's Electors as they choose our next president.
15. We pray for those preparing and distributing Santa's Closet items to Renville County families.
16. We pray for our Church Council as they meet to guide our church.
17. We pray that our college students will be safe as they travel home for their break
18. We pray for our church staff as they prepare us to worship our Savior's birth in these uncertain and unprecedented times.
19. We pray for our church nominating committee that they may find candidates to fill council and committee openings.
20. We pray for those who worked to bring us a 2020 "Christmas Program".
21. We pray for those families looking to celebrate your birth without familiar traditions.
22. We pray that we will find ways to share Your love with all people during this season and always.
23. We pray that we may know the transformational impact of your love.
24. Bless us as we worship together in our homes today.
25. Thank you for the gift of Your Son Jesus
26. We pray for those families who are celebrating the gift of life with babies born this year.
27. We pray that we will remember the gift you gave us and show your love to those around us in the coming year.
28. We pray that we may take time to listen and hear your voice
29. We thank you God for the blessings we've received in 2020.
30. We pray for your children John & Carlotta Eischens as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We thank you for their faithful service to our community these many years.
31. We look forward to a new year and pray your blessings on us, our families, and our country.

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 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 resources.

Bobbi Jo Abrahamson – Family
Steve Olson - Family
Family of Robert Nelson – father of Ron Nelson
Larry Jacobs - Joanne Balgaard’s brother
Denise Revier – Family
Sandy Alton – daughter in law of Sharon & Richard Alton
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
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



Women’s study has begun. 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

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.

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!



Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church – Council Meeting
 Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:45 PM (ZOOM)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terms end at Annual Meeting in Jan. * Second term

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

STAFF

Pastor Matt Hausken	Jeni Skeie, Parish Minister
Sister Sarah Hausken, Parish Minister	
Sue Altmann, Recorder	Craig Boen, Janitor

MINUTES

MEETING - Call to Order (President)

1. Devotions – Gordy Blem
2. Approve minutes of the October meeting – Motion to approve the minute’s by Alex Gay, seconded by Jon Hawkinson, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report – October - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Gordy Blem, seconded by Sandra Gay, motion passed.
- Gordy Blem made a motion to leave the roof insurance money in the bank until spring and proceed with replacing the roofs at a later date. Seconded by Jeff Keltgen, motion passed
4. Pastor’s Report
 - Worship Service – Thanksgiving and Christmas will be on line. Online services will take place through January 3rd. Candles and holders will be available to member for Christmas Eve service. They can pick up candles at church.
 - Visits have continued with either online or phone calls.
 - Confirmation – transition to all online.
5. Parish Ministers Reports
 - Sister Sarah: Sunday school will be giving Advent packages to students Pre k – grade 6. The packages will be delivered to homes. Confirmation students will also be getting an Advent package; these will be delivered by the Confirmation leaders.
 - Christmas program will be a video with intergenerational members of Cross of Calvary.
 - Jeni: Cross of Calvary’s “Food Angel” has been doing an awesome job. She was given money from designated funds, Community Meals.
 - Breakfast club and Women’s bible study will now be online
 - The Worship Committee has asked any one that would like to submit their top 10 favorite Christmas Carols to be used this Christmas season. Call or email your songs to Jeni Skeie.
6. Office Report (Sue) – no report
7. Maintenance Update (Craig) – no report
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Administration – Alex Gay, Gordy Blem & Nathan Cole
 - Thank you to Nate Cole for cleaning the gutters and Dave Altmann for patching the leak by the skylight.
 - b. Children, Youth & Family -

- c. Equipping – Laurence Stratton
 - Moment of Gratitude will be once a month moving forward. FPU will be starting January 5th, 2021.
- d. Missions – Alex Gay
 - Last meeting for the year: \$100.00 Cross of Calvary Quilters, \$300.00 Masters and \$600.00 for Frontline Family Funds.
- e. Worship & Music – Jill Hanson & Elaine McDowell
- f. Care Team – Jena Bruns
- g. Parish Life – Sandra Gay
 - Movie night was a success, with 24 people in attendance. They are hoping to host another movie night in January.
- h. Outreach – Jon Hawkinson, Jeff Keltgen & Jill Hanson
- i. Technology – Steve Altmann & Nathan Cole
- j. AED Maintenance – Sue Altmann
- 9. Old Business
- 10. New Business
 - Worship Service through the end of the year. Online services will be thru January 3rd.
 - Starting to gather information for the Annual Meeting, January 17th, 2021.
- o Book Discussion, Chapter 2
- 11. Board Discussion
- 12. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: Wednesday, December 16th at 7:30 PM

Devotions: October - Laurence