



# The Follower 2021

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

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“A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices.”

It's a new year!! Many of us will be grateful to see 2020 end, and are excited to see what 2021 brings.

It's been quite the year.  
Pandemic, politics and protest.  
Suffering, anxiety and upheaval.

But also,  
gratitude, awakening and rest.  
Listening, re-prioritizing, and community.

Jesus came to this earth as God and Human.  
Jesus inhabits the holy and the profane.  
Jesus bridges the pain and the joy.

In 2020, we experienced the love of God to its fullest, trusting that  
Jesus/Emmanuel/God-With-Us accompanied us through the negative and the positive.  
Through God, all things are possible.  
God works good out of the bad.  
We know this.  
We've lived this.

Do we dare pray that God would show us God's glory in 2021, as brightly as God did in 2020?

“Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.”  
(O Holy Night)

Sister Sarah Hausken



The Annual meeting was set to take place on January 17th, 2021. Due to the Corona Virus the Church Council has voted to postpone the meeting to mid-March. If you have any information

that needs to go into the Annual Report, please have the information to the church office by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Thank you

### **Offering Envelopes are here!!!**

Please stop by the church and pick yours up! (If you receive one)

They will be placed in your mailbox, if you do not have a mailbox, they will be placed on the bench in the Narthex.



## **YOUTH**

### **Faith 5**

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

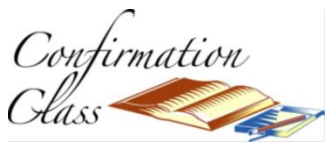
STEP 2: READ a Bible verse or story

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"

**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 the Matt Hausken YouTube channel, or our church website under youth/confirmation. 5 weeks are available online. 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!)



**January Confirmation Classes:** All information will be posted on line. We will email families when class will be in person again.



**Church Cookbook Project**  
**Dear Cross of Calvary Members,**

I figure it's time to make an updated cookbook. Feel free to send in recipes, old or new! 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

**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

**HYMN REQUESTS:** Songs are meaningful and lead us to worship. Help us to include your favorite hymns and worship songs. Please contact someone on the worship committee or call the office to request your favorite hymns.

**Song Leaders Needed:** If you would like to lead the hymns at in person worship, **or record hymns for online worship**, please call Jeni at **320-579-0406** or Sue in the office. **We would love to help you share your talents.**

**Cross of Calvary Yard Signs are still available!**

Show your Cross of Calvary pride with a beautiful green and white yard sign! Stop by church to pick yours up!





## January Prayer list

1. Thank You Lord, for this New Year. For new beginnings and the opportunity to serve you by serving others in the coming days and months.
2. As the long cold days of winter are upon us, help us to find ways to reach out to those who need our care and concern.
3. We pray for our front-line workers that vaccines will soon be available to them.
4. We pray for those in our LTC and group homes, that as they begin to get the vaccine, may they soon see a time where they can welcome family and friends to their facility.
5. We pray for those beginning the Financial Peace University today.
6. Today we celebrate the visit of the Three Kings. Let us pray that we are guided by the light of faith.
7. As newly elected officials are being sworn in at all levels of government this month, we pray for their strength and wisdom.
8. Today I pray that you will send reminders of your love to your children.
9. I pray for fresh motivation to follow your will and your ways.
10. As we come together to worship, keep us healthy and safe. We pray for those who are unable to join us at this time that they may feel their church community near them.
11. Lord in our divided world; help me to develop gentle speech that will break down defenses.
12. We pray for our Confirmation students as they study and grow in their faith.
13. We pray for the safety of those who must work outdoors during our Minnesota winters.
14. We pray for those dealing with illness at this time.
15. Today I pray that you move me away from distractions, diversions and temptations.
16. Today we think about our Church's Annual meeting as we gather in worship and postpone the business of the church until March.
17. Today we remember and celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr and pray for equality for all citizens.
18. As our days are short and the weather is cold, we pray for those suffering from mental illness.
19. Be with our Church Council as they meet to do the business of the church and plan for our future as a church community
20. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Please give me strength to do your will.
21. Thank you Lord for the beauty of your earth.
22. Today we pray for our church staff as they share their faith and guide us as a community.
23. Today I pray that my words and thoughts will be pleasing to you.
24. Lord help me to show kindness even when feeling frustration and impatience.
25. We pray for those who are feeling lonely at this time.
26. We thank you for the promise of spring as the days begin to grow longer.
27. We pray for individuals, families and businesses struggling financially and especially for the homeless or those facing homelessness.
28. Lord I give thanks for Your presence in my life and in the lives of the people I hold dear.
29. We pray that those who are afraid will put their trust in you.
30. Today I pray that you will guide and protect my family.
31. Today we pray for those seeking your guidance as they make life changing decisions.

Need 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.

## Prayers for Healing and Strength

Sonia Grasmon – Family & Friends  
Marlin Hanson – Family & Friends  
Gena Amsden – Family & Friends  
Sharon Alton – 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  
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** is using the book “Lazarus Awakening” by Joanna Weaver. There are still books available. Call the office or Jeni to purchase one - \$15.

## **Our next study will be Isaiah.**



Do you need someone to talk to? If you need someone to talk to about decisions, or you are feeling lonely, **Stephen Ministers are available** to visit over the phone or FaceTime. During this time when we are physically apart, we want to walk beside you. Please call the church office and Sue can pass on your request.





**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church – Council Meeting  
Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7:45 PM (Zoom)**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

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

**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 – Jeni Skeie
2. Approve minutes of the November meeting – Motion to approve the minutes by Jill Hanson, seconded by Elaine McDowell, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report – November - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report, by Sandy Gay, seconded by Nathan Cole, motion passed.
  - SWMN Synod will be paid \$7,000.00 to meet our budget obligation, motion made by Nathan Cole and seconded by Sandy Gay.
  - A motion was made by Gordy Blem to approve a \$1,500.00 parsonage furnishing allowance, seconded by Jill Hanson, motion passed.
  - Paid staff & council president were asked to leave Zoom while the council discussed salaries. Upon returning, church council gave each staff a bonus for the year, due to all the work with services.
  - 2021 proposed budget motion made by Gordy Blem and seconded by Sandy Gay to be presented at the annual meeting by the Congregation, motion passed.
4. Pastor's Report
  - Worship Service – continuing with online services. In person is scheduled for January 10, 2021.
  - Normal visits by Facetime.
  - Funerals this month: MaryAnn Bentley and one in Lake Lillian.
  - Wedding: Cassie Ervin & Tyler Einerson
  - Confirmation – continues to be online
  - Pastor Matt is taking a class to help with preparation for Christmas sermons called Christmas boot camp.
5. Parish Ministers Reports
  - Intergenerational Christmas program will be aired with Christmas Eve Service.
  - Advent packets went out to children in Sunday school; also Grades 7-9 received a packet for Christmas with an escape room activity.
  - Jeni has been delivering frozen meals to individuals in need. Thank you, Jeni.
  - Women's Bible Study is going well.
6. Office Report (Sue) - Envelopes are ready to be picked up the first week of January.
7. Maintenance Update (Craig) - Ordered more sanitizers to be placed around the church.
8. Committee Reports
  - a. Administration – Alex Gay, Gordy Blem & Nathan Cole: Nativity scene has been set up.
  - b. Children, Youth & Family: No meeting
  - c. Equipping – Laurence Stratton: Vivid Images workshop via Zoom: marketing and updating education on website, plus more to come. (Sister Sarah and Sue have been attending these workshops). Also, the second FPU class will start on January 5, 2021.
  - d. Missions – Alex Gay: Done for 2020
  - e. Worship & Music – Jill Hanson & Elaine McDowell: Jeni and committee members have been doing an awesome job!
  - f. Care Team – Jena Bruns: Meals are being delivered; meal train was set up for Dee Revier, also gathering prayer concerns for the January Follower.

- g. Parish Life – Sandra Gay: No meeting, hoping to have another “Movie Night” soon
- h. Outreach – Jon Hawkinson, Jeff Keltgen & Jill Hanson: No meeting
- i. Technology – Steve Altmann & Nathan Cole: Everything is working great
- j. AED Maintenance – Sue Altmann: Ok
- 9. Old Business
  - Information for the Annual Meeting on January 17th, 2021 – moved to March
  - Nicholas Serbus: Boy Scout plan
  - Book Discussion, Chapter 3 – discussion moved to January 20th meeting
  - Tree removal – Jena Bruns will contact Tyler Mitchell about removing dead branches from the trees
- 10. New Business
  - Annual Meeting – discussion was had as to when to have the Annual meeting. Due to not being able to meet in person, Gordy Blem made a motion to hold the meeting in March when the church members will be able to meet in person, Alex Gay seconded, motion passed.
  - Page Memorial donation – The family of Jim & Mary Page will be donating money to the church in memory of their parents. By staff recommendation, info to be gathered for expanding the Narthex area with the money. A motion was made by Steve Altmann and seconded by Alex Gay to use the donation to remodel & expand the Narthex pending family approval.
- 11. Board Discussion
- 12. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO**

Next month: Wednesday, January 20th at 7:30 PM  
 Devotions: January