

The Follower

2021



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



**Annual Meeting will be March 14th,
after the 9:00 AM service. Annual Report will be sent the first
week of March via email or you can stop in the church office for a
copy.**

Blessings to all of you as we enter into our first and only full month of Lent in 2021 this year we are focusing on the book of Jeremiah during our Wednesday services. It is kind of a strange choice to use the book of Jeremiah, an Old Testament prophet who really is very, very gloomy for the most part, but when you look at the time that Jeremiah was writing and what his audience was going through you can start to see that this is a very very appropriate book for this time. Jeremiah was writing during a time of national upheaval in Israel. People were torn away from their normal lives. It was not business as usual. In fact many of them had to pack up and leave to a different country and those that were left were left without a temple to worship in so their religious lives were up ended it was a time where people were questioning their faith questioning their identities and basically questioning life.

Through it all, Jeremiah keeps questioning God and keeps wondering what God is doing why God is doing this to him and the people of Israel but in the end of Jeremiah and sprinkled in the middle and throughout the book are these glimpses of the hope that we have in God. We get the promises of God creating in us a new heart writing his law on our hearts. We get the promise that God knows the plans that he has for us. So this gives us the hope to move forward trusting in his guidance even as he is creating something new. The one thing we know is that God is with us and God will never ever let us down. We might question what God is doing but God will always accomplish his purpose and his purposes are good for all of us. That is the message of Jeremiah that speaks so profoundly for us today in a year that has been marked by upheaval we trust that God is still very much at work. And now as things begin to open up we trust that he will guide us in this new future together.

So we are making this season of Lent a time of reflection on God's past deeds and the future that God is making for us, but most importantly how that gives us the courage to live right here and now. So join us Wednesday evenings at 7 o'clock or join us on our live stream on the cross of Calvary website at 7 o'clock on Wednesday evenings.

God's grace and peace for a wonderful month of March!

In Christ,

Pastor Matt



2021 Lent Schedule – in person

Lenten Mid-week Services:

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday, April 1st, at noon & 7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 2nd, at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 4th at 6:30 AM & 9:00 AM



Are you ready for a Pizza Fundraiser?

Everybody likes to buy pizza! It's an easy and delicious food to serve as Spring approaches and we are getting busy outside!

Once again, Cross of Calvary is teaming up with Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza for a great fundraiser! This is a HUGE fundraiser for the youth!

Order forms and reminder slips are available in electronic format. If you are unable to print these at home or need extra copies, talk to Sue. Each customer should get a reminder slip after they pay. This is proof that they paid and also a reminder for them of the delivery day (April 18th, @ 10:30am - 12:00pm). This will be a drive through pick up on the South Side of the Church due to the pandemic. More details to come later.

Papa Murphy's is offering several of their most popular pizzas on the order blank. For each pizza you sell, you earn 20% for your youth account. Also available are One and Four Pound Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough, Classic Cheesy Bread and Cinnamon Wheel. These have been great add-on items and will also net your account 20% of the sale price! It helps considerably to limit our offerings—especially if it's an unusually large event. Due to the sheer number of pizzas we sometimes deal with, we cannot take orders for specialty made pizzas like "no onions" or "extra cheese".

ALL MONEY SHOULD BE COLLECTED UP FRONT. This really helps on delivery day. First of all, it alleviates confusion when dozens of people are showing up to pick up their pizzas at the same time. Plus it gives them an incentive to actually pick up their pizza. Unfortunately, if someone promises to pick up a pizza and pay for it at the event, they sometimes don't try as hard to remember to come and get it.

All checks should be made out to Cross of Calvary Youth.

Sales will start February 28th and finish on March 28th.

ALL ORDER FORMS AND MONEY MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH AT NOON! ANY ORDERS TURNED IN AFTER THAT WILL NOT BE VALID.

*** Due to the Pandemic, pizzas will be delivered outside when you drive up on the South Side of the Church. More details to be determined**

March Confirmation

March 3rd – 8th Grade

March 10th – 9th Grade

March 17th – 7th Grade

March 24th – 8th Grade

Confirmation Class

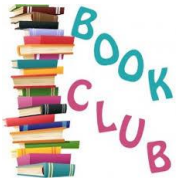
More Youth News!

Breakfast Club has resumed for 10-12 graders on Thursdays, 7:07 a.m. (In the fellowship hall)

Day Camp with Green Lake Lutheran Ministries will be June 28-July 1 for youth who have finished kindergarten - 6th grade. Put it on your calendar!

Green Lake and Shores Bible Camps have opened registration! Go to gllm.org to register. Be sure to get a scholarship worksheet from church. There is money available for many scholarships. We want everyone to go to camp who wants to.

Are there any 9-12 graders interested in a week in Montana? There is a camp called Christikon and it's beautiful. The hiking is like nothing else, and the food is great too! But also, there is a chance to connect with God. Email Jeni at jeniskeie@gmail.com or text at 320-579-0406 if you are interested.



BOOK CLUB is coming your way! You want to be in a Bible Study but have a crazy busy life. ("Lazarus Awakening" by Joanna Weaver) We will meet via Zoom, the last Wednesday of every month.. You can order your own book. Contact Jeni at 320-579-0406.

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

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.

If you would like to help with music leading in worship on Sundays, please call the church office.

Prayers for Healing and Strength

Family of Steve Helmer
Lyle & Charlene Norris – Family & Friends
Joanne Balgaard – Family & Friends
Bonnie Gillen – from Cindy Thiesse
Arianna Stoltzman – niece of Robin Amberg
McKenna McDowell – Elaine McDowell granddaughter
Mike Brown - Family
Sonia Grasmon – Family & Friends
Sharon Alton – Family & Friends
Bobbi Jo Abrahamson – Family
Steve Olson – Family
Denise Revier – Family
Sonja Fostvedt – family
Ardith Glockzin – Carol Senkyr sister
Chet Boen – Friends & Family
Donna Greenwell
Tim & Emily Merten family – Angela Cole
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

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 will be studying Isaiah, beginning Thursdays, at 8:15 am-9:30am. We are meeting on zoom for now. Pick up a book at church, and leave your email address for the zoom link. If anyone is interested in an evening time, please let me know.

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.

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.

Thrivent members: 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars need to be designated on or before March 31st, 2021.

Olivia Hospital & Clinic Hospice Annual Grief Support Group Opportunity – Virtually!

The Adult Grief Group is sponsored by Olivia Hospital & Clinic Hospice. The Sessions will be held on Mondays February 15th through April 5th, 2021 from 4-6 PM – Virtually. All are welcome and invited. Please call Amy Boettger, MSW, LICSW at 320-523-3451 to register or online at Oliviahospital.com.

During the month of March, we Pray.....

1. That the members of our church will find ways to share their faith in their everyday lives.
2. That those recovering from the recent crisis in Texas can feel your love as they work to repair damage in their homes and lives.
3. That even through our differences we are able to unite in Your name to work together to serve our neighbors and bring glory to Your Kingdom.
4. For families teaching the faith at home.
5. We pray that those who are seeking COVID vaccinations will be able to find and receive it as soon as possible.
6. We pray that we may take time to listen and hear your voice.
7. We pray for all of those who need your healing hand and for their caregivers, especially those on our weekly prayer list.
8. Help those who suffer loneliness and help us to reach out to them and show them your love.
9. We thank you for children who bring joy to the world.
10. Today I pray for fresh motivation to follow your will and your ways.
11. We pray for those suffering with addiction of any kind.
12. Lord I give thanks for Your presence in my life and in the lives of others.
13. Lord I ask for your wisdom and courage.
14. Please bless our congregation, church staff and leaders as we come together to worship and conduct the business of our church.
15. Dear Lord help me to find happiness in forgetting myself and in trying to bring help and happiness to others.
16. Lord help me to love what is right and hate what is wrong
17. Our Cross of Calvary Confirmation students as they continue their faith journey
18. For those struggling with their faith.
19. That God may continue to show us He is guiding us in our lives and relationships.
20. As Spring begins, we thank you for the promise of new life.
21. We pray that we make take the time to listen and hear your voice.
22. We pray for those in long term care, assisted living and group homes.
23. Today I pray that You move me away from distractions, diversions and temptations.
24. We thank You for the gift of Mentors in the Faith, especially those working with our Confirmation students.
25. We pray for those who grieve that they may find comfort in your loving arms.
26. We pray for those suffering from mental illness.
27. We pray that those who are afraid will put their trust in You.
28. On this Palm Sunday, as we come together for 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.
29. We pray for those struggling with food insecurity and hunger. Help us to serve you by serving them through the Food Shelf, LSS, or any other means you can guide us to help.
30. Father lead me to the cross, and let me contemplate the amazing sacrifice of Jesus.
31. As March ends and we look forward to longer and warmer days, help us to see the beauty around us.





COUNCIL MINUTES

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church – Council Meeting Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:45 PM (Zoom & in person)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terms end at Annual Meeting in Jan. * Second term

Jon Hawkinson	2021*	Sandra Gay	2021 AB	Elaine McDowell	2022 AB
Steve Altmann	2021*	Jeff Keltgen	2021	Jill Hanson	2023*
Alex Gay	2021	Gordon Blem	2022*	Jena Bruns	2023 AB
Laurence Stratton	2021 - AB	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 – Gordy Blem
2. Approve minutes of the *January meeting* – Motion to approve the minutes by Jill Hanson, seconded by Jon Hawkinson, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report – *January* - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Gordy Blem, seconded by Jill Hanson, motion passed.
 - Insurance has been paid. Gordy Blem & Steve Altmann met with Brotherhood Insurance.
4. Pastor's Report
 - Worship Services: Jeremiah is the book of the bible that will be used during Lent.
 - Pastor Matt is continuing to visit via Zoom/FaceTime; hopefully he will be able to meet in person.
 - Easter services: looking at multiple service times with people signing up.
 - COVID shots: Pastor Matt has received his shots. This will allow in person visits at some location.
 - 1st Communion classes will begin March 10th.
5. Parish Ministers Reports
 - Papa Murphy fundraisers will run February 28th – March 28th. Information is being sent out.
6. Office Report (Sue) – continuing to work on Annual report information.
 - a. Would like to share the report prior to the annual meeting using Constant Contact email.
7. Maintenance Update (Craig) - 3 additional sanitizers have been delivered & installed
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Administration – Alex Gay, Gordy Blem & Nathan Cole (No report)
 - b. Children, Youth & Family (No report)
 - c. Equipping – Laurence Stratton
 - ✓ Planning another FPU class

- ✓ The committee will be working on 2 moments of gratitude per month. They are planning to use information from the Annual meeting report.
 - d. Missions – Alex Gay
 - ✓ \$1000 to Back the Pack and \$100 to Salvation Army (tornado relief)
 - e. Worship & Music – Jill Hanson & Elaine McDowell
 - ✓ Have worship music planned through April
 - f. Care Team – Jena Bruns (No report)
 - g. Parish Life – Sandra Gay
 - ✓ Working on another movie night.
 - h. Outreach – Jon Hawkinson, Jeff Keltgen & Jill Hanson
 - ✓ Ashes and postcard with Lenten services and Easter services were mailed to all members.
 - i. Technology – Steve Altmann & Nathan Cole
 - ✓ Discussion for live stream Worship services.
 - ✓ The church is looking to upgrade mics, etc. for worship service and livestreaming services.
 - j. AED Maintenance – Steve (Ok)
9. Old Business
- Annual Meeting date
 - ✓ Staff is looking into having both in person and online available for the meeting.
 - Page Memorial donation – The family would like to make a donation for a community room. Ideas and plans will be discussed in the near future.
10. New Business
- Steve Altmann gave an update on the trail that will be near the church. Construction in 2022.
 - Insurance report given by Gordy Blem
 - Audit Report was presented to the council by Gordy Blem. After much discussion, new procedures will make accounting, reporting and auditing more efficient.
 - Parsonage Repairs: the entry tile has been repaired. An exterior fan will be placed in the bathroom during re-shingling this summer. Smaller jobs are being done as needed.
11. Board Discussion
12. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: Wednesday, March 10th at 7:45 PM

Devotions: March: Jena Bruns