



# Cross of Calvary

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1103 W. Chestnut Ave. Olivia, MN  
320-523-1574

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



**December 26 - January 2**

**Worship Times**

Sunday: 9:00 AM

**Coffee Hour**

Sunday: 10:00 AM

**Sunday School**

Sunday: 10:00AM

**Building Hours**

Mon-Thurs

8:30 - 7:00

Fri-Sun 8:30-2:00

**Office Hours**

Mon, Tues, & Thurs

8:30 -3:00

Wednesday 8:30-4:00

Friday 8:30 - 2:00

**Friday 8:30-2:00**

**Pastor**

Matthew Hausken

[hauskenmatt8@gmail.com](mailto:hauskenmatt8@gmail.com)

**Parish Minister**

Jeni Skeie

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

**Admin. Assist.**

Sue Altmann

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

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

**Custodian**

Craig Boen

Sunday 12.26

Worship Service at 9:00 AM  
*No Sunday school*

Monday 12.27

Library in use in the evening  
Committee Annual Reports due

Tuesday 12.28

Men's Bible Study 6:30 & 7:00 AM  
Classroom in use from 3:15-5:30 pm

Wednesday 12.29

NO WOW  
NO Confirmation  
Dorcas Bible Study  
NIGHT GAMES at 6:30 PM

Thursday 12.30

NO Breakfast Club  
Women's Bible Study at 8:15 AM

Friday 12.31

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Saturday 1.01

Sunday 1.02

Worship Service at 9:00 AM  
NO Sunday School



The church council thanks you for all you continued support this year.

A quote from the 1956 Cross of Calvary Annual Report:

"What kind of church would our church be, if every member was just like me!?"

**Financial Update**

2021 Annual Budget: \$285,090

Receipts through November 30: \$236,196

**December Worship Assistants**

Ushers: Daren Sagedahl, Keith Larson & Nate Bahl

Acolytes: Cree Garcia & Wyatt McNelly

Sound Board/Clicker: Carson Howe & Preston Stuhl

Communion Server: Jeff Keltgen

Altar Guild: Kelsie Aeikens, Lisa Meints & Natashia Johnson

**January Worship Assistants**

Ushers: Nate Cole, Christ Hanson

Acolytes: Melissa Adamski & Bailee McLagan

Sound Board/Clicker: Daniel Welchance

Kaden & Derrick Bahl

Communion Helper: Gordy Blem

Alter Guild: Ronda Berg & Tami Stovern

**Bible Studies**

Men's Bible study: Tuesday mornings at 6:30 & 7:00 AM

Women's Bible study: Thursdays at 8:15 am – 9:30am

Dorcas Bible study: last Wednesday of month at 9:30 am/Fellowship Hall

Ruth Bible study: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of month at 1:30pm/church library.



**Coffee Fellowship Servers**

Thank you to those who have been keeping the coffee hour tradition going this year. There are open spots in the New Year. Please sign up with another family to bring treats and set up, make coffee and clean up. The fellowship that we feel as we gather as a family around tables to share our lives is important to our faith experience too. Thank you!

**January Confirmation Schedule**

December – 22nd & 29th (No class, Christmas Break)

January 5<sup>th</sup> – 7/8 Grade

January 12<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

January 19<sup>th</sup> – 7/8 Grad

January 26<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Jesus Justice League

Jesus Justice League (1-3 graders) will meet on January 13, 3:00-5:00. Karen Flom will meet you at the doors by the preschool playground to walk to church. Come for some fun, food, and learning!

## WOW

WOW (4-6 graders) will meet on Wednesdays from 3:00-5:00. Walk to church after school for snack, games and a story from the Bible!



We are joining together with other churches in our area to have 2 ski days this winter. There will be a bus if enough people sign up. All your friends are welcome, but payment must be in advance. (You don't have to attend both events). There is no school the following day in either case. You must be in 7th grade - 12th grade to attend. Younger youth may attend with an adult. There will be a permission/waiver to fill out. Tentative details for now - The dates are: Sundays, January 16 and February 20. We will leave at: 12:30pm, the cost is: \$50.00 for bus, lift ticket and rental. We will return at: 10:30pm

It's not too late to sign up for the National Youth Gathering! The Early Bird registration has passed, but regular registration is going on now! We have 4 youth and 2 adults already signed up. Check out the website and see what it's all about.

[https:// www.elca.org/YouthGathering/About/Kickoff-Celebration](https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/About/Kickoff-Celebration) The down payment now is \$390 and it is due January 15. After that, the price for late registration will go up. Want to know more? These are some members who have attended a gathering in the past - Dana Boen, Pastor Matt, Jeni Skeie, Sarah Hausken, Alex Gay, and many others...Ask them about it!



## **2022 Summer Camp**

The Early Bird Discount ends on February 15: Register before for \$50 off!

- Camp is free to those attending the national gathering!
- Check it out at the board in the back or online at GLLM.org

Contact Jeni for more information

Are you interested in doing any special music for Christmas? Talk to Jeni or Pastor matt. We would love for you to share your gifts and talents with us. Jeni can be reached at 320-579-0406.

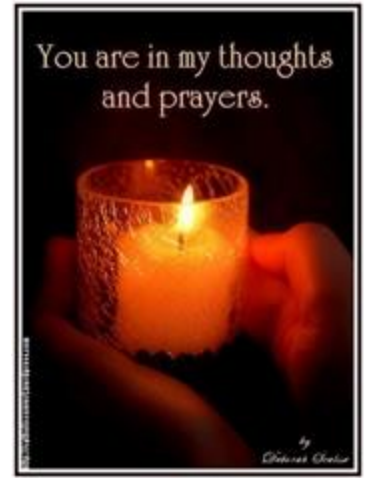


**Night Games 7-12th graders: Interested** in playing some night games over break - on Wednesday, December 29? Meet at church for pizza at 6:30pm with night games to follow.

## Prayers for ...

Rick Alton – Sharon & Richard Alton's son  
Brandon Ochs – Family & Friends  
Jerry Senkyr – Carol Senkyr  
Arlene Whemann – Carol Senkyr  
Candy Kath – Pam Olson's sister  
Pat Mahrer – Pam Olson's brother  
Claire Neubauer – daughter of Mark & Lara Neubauer  
Laurie Hogberg – Family & Friends  
Trevor Solem – Friends and Family

David Lindquist –  
Family & Friends  
Chet Boen – Family  
& Friends  
Tim & Emily Merten  
family – Angela Cole  
Lesley Sagedahl-  
Sagedahl Family



## GIVE BLOOD

American Red Cross  
Bird Island Blood Drive  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Monday, January 3, 2022

See Flyer at church to find information for an appointment

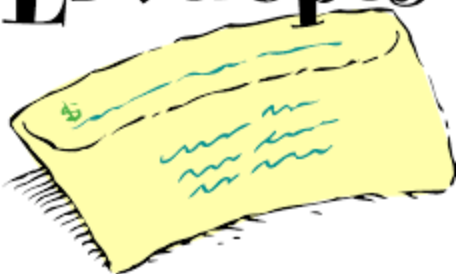
gratitude

## Moments of Gratitude

Please contact the Equipping Committee if you have a moment of gratitude you would like to share with the congregation.

(Brandon Malvin, Darin Ditterich, Eric Skeie and Pastor Matt)

# Offering Envelopes



**Cross of Calvary Offering Envelopes have been ordered. Unfortunately, they are on backorder. I will send out an email when they have arrived. Sorry for any inconvenience.**

**Also, please let the church office know if you *no* longer need envelopes, because you are using only donation. Thank you!**

# December 24-25, 2021

## Christmas Eve, Day



In Jesus we find hope and see God's glory.

### CHRISTMAS BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Christmas celebration.

Friday	Isaiah 9:2-7	The coming king
	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Saturday	Titus 3:4-7	Maintain good deeds
	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR CHRISTMAS

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."  
Luke 2:14 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for Christmas:

Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us and all the world to overcome hurts and disappointments through Jesus, born in Bethlehem. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

God, thank you for this special day; bless all we do and all we say. May we each enjoy your blessings, as Jesus' birth we celebrate. Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, bless you with hope, peace, joy, and love.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- ☐ What concerns do you have for the world today?
- ☐ How does God bring hope for the whole world?

## **DEVOTIONS**

**Read: Luke 2:1-20.**

Read these verses slowly. Treasure the message that Mary treasured. As the hymn (O Little Town of Bethlehem) says, "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." From a small town, from peasants tending sheep at night, and for a young couple gazing at their newborn son, comes a message that conquers powerful empires. When political, economic, and military realms wreak havoc on defenseless people, whether ancient or modern, God remembers promises made and enters into human history. The Christmas gospel confidently tells the story of God's determination, God's loyalty, and the power of God's reign even while suffering lingers in our daily lives. The angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." This is the story of God's glory and power that will not be stopped.

**Discuss:** Who is someone to whom you would like to tell the story about the birth of Jesus?

**Pray:** God of love and mercy, help us to remember the story of Jesus' birth and your entry into our lives that gives us eternal hope and peace. Amen.

## **SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Christmas Bible Readings and theme, what act of kindness can you do for someone in need?

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, light the four candles on the Advent Wreath plus the white candle in the center.

**Say:** We light the Prophet's, Bethlehem, Shepherd's, and Angel's candles on the Advent wreath symbolizing God's unending love. We now light the white candle, the Christ candle, that represents the birth of Jesus and hope for all the world.

**Pray:** Dear God, we thank you for entering our world. May we show your hope, peace, joy and love in our daily lives, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

**DECEMBER 26, 2021**  
**FIRST SUNDAY**  
**AFTER CHRISTMAS**



*Jesus grew in divine and human approval.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple
Monday	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Samuel at Shiloh
Tuesday	Colossians 3:12-17	The new life in Christ
Wednesday	Galatians 1:10-24	How Paul became an apostle
Thursday	Exodus 24:1-8	The people agree to obey God
Friday	1 Corinthians 4:1-5	Ministry of the apostles
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. Luke 2:52 (NRSV)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, we give you thanks for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to grow in wisdom and in the knowledge of your grace. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Praise the Lord! We thank you for all your goodness and mercy, including the gift of this food. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May you grow in grace to know the joy and peace of God's love for you in Christ Jesus, born in Bethlehem.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**

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

- ☑ Think or talk about a time you received a compliment for something you did well.
- ☑ Think or talk about a time when you felt the divine presence of God in your life.

## **DEVOTIONS**

**Read: Luke 2:41-52.**

Growth is a part of life. That growth can be physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. What was it like for Jesus to grow up both human and divine? Amazingly, in the four New Testament Gospels, only this childhood story from Jesus' life exists. It says quite a bit: Jesus lived in a community of care with parents and other adults; he grew up as a Jew, going with his family to Jerusalem for the Passover; he experienced tensions with his parents as he explored his faith with elders in the temple; Jesus was obedient to his parents; his mother observed Jesus' development with awe; and, Jesus grew and gained wisdom and the approval of God and humans alike. God's unfathomable entry into our world brings divine acceptance of us through a baby, then a child, and finally an adult who brings God's saving work for all.

**Discuss:** What questions do you have about what it was like for Jesus to be fully human yet fully divine?

**Pray:** Awesome God, for what we understand and what we cannot understand about all that you have done for us in love, we give you thanks through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

## **SERVICE**

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, in what ways can you reflect the love of Jesus to others?

## **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Christmas is a season of twelve days. St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in the year 1223. He is also known for his love of animals and birds and felt they should be remembered during Christmas because they were present at the birth of Jesus. Consider decorating a tree or bush outside with popcorn or pinecones rolled in peanut butter and bird seed. Enjoy watching God's creatures around you.

**Pray:** Dear Lord, we praise you for all creation. We praise you for mountains and hills, for fruit trees and cedars, for wild animals and cattle, for creeping things, and flying birds. Amen.

(Psalm 148)