



I have a Dream
Martin Luther King Day

The Follower 2022

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

Happy New Year! As we enter the New Year, we hope and pray that it is one that is filled with the promise and hope that comes from the coming of the Christ child!

The first Christian holiday of the New Year is Epiphany. The name itself literally means to be revealed. We remember how the wisemen had the Christ child revealed to them by following a star. As we begin this New Year, may we make it a resolution to follow this star to be led in all things to Christ who makes all things new. What is this star that we have? It is the Word of God itself, the Bible. So often we start resolutions that end up falling short, and once again it becomes a hollow way to start the New Year. But, with Christ we are destined for success because he will not allow us to fail. To be sure we will fall short, but he will breathe his breath of forgiveness and we will be made new in his grace. This is the grace that begins to shape us as beloved children of God. We are marked not by what we have to haven't done, but by what he has done for us. As we begin this New Year, may we focus on this grace that makes all things new. It's grace that gives us the power to begin again. It is grace that makes us a bold to strive for even greater things in God's name. May we know that even if we fail, this grace that God gives us to us will breathe new life into us. As the star led the wisemen to Christ, may the Holy Spirit bring us each day to Christ as we journey forward with him in his grace!

God's blessings for a wonderful beginning to 2022!

In Christ,

Pastor Matt



Cross of Calvary Church Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 16th, 2022 at 10:00 AM, alternate date is Sunday, January 23rd, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Please have all committee reports and budget reports to the church office by January 7th.
Thank you!

Council & Committee Meeting Dates

Church Council: Wednesday, January 12th, 2022 at 7:00 PM

All committees are looking for members; if anyone is interested please contact the church office at crossofcalvary@gmail.com or 320-523-1574

January Worship Assistants

Ushers: Nate Cole, Chris Hanson
Acolytes: Melissa Adamski & Bailee McLagan
Sound Board/Clicker: Daniel Welchance
Communion Helper: Gordy Blem
Altar Guild: Ronda Berg & Tami Stovern

The Snowflake Bazaar Committee would like to thank those who donated to our 26th event! If you made lefse, decorated cookies, donated items for the sale and raffle, or purchased goodies and tickets... we appreciate you. This committee has been working together since 2013 and throughout the years, tried a few different changes here and there to see what works best; and we thank you all for rolling with the changes! The bazaar has helped pay for several things since then: parsonage refrigerator and landscaping, \$2000 to garage fund, \$7000 to signage by the highway, new Christmas tree for the sanctuary, kids activity bags and supplies, TV/DVD player for Sunday School and helped the youth attend the National Youth Gathering. We have had a great time working together, and are now looking for a new group to continue this important event, which financially contributes to the many projects and needs that come up. We will be more than happy to help the 'newbies' on their first year! Please contact Dana at 320-894-7885 if you feel called in this capacity and have any questions.



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! **320-523-1574**

Coffee Fellowship Servers

Thank you to those who have been keeping the coffee hour tradition. There are open spots in the new year. Please sign up with another family to bring treats, make coffee, set up and clean up. Thank you!



Area churches will be doing 2 ski days this winter. There will be a bus if enough people sign up. 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. Sign up on the youth board and pick up the waiver. The dates are: Sundays, January 16 and February 20 We will leave at: 12:30pm and return at 10:30pm.

The cost is: \$50.00 for bus, lift ticket and rental



Last call for the National Youth Gathering! 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. The down payment now is \$390 and it is due January 15. After that, the price for late registration will go up.

National Gathering leaders - There is one month left to apply!

If you know of anyone who will be aged 19-30 at the time of the National Gathering next summer and would like to serve, please encourage them to apply as a Servant Companion!

Applications are currently open and will close on Jan. 22. A Servant Companion at past Gatherings, Kyle Lefler shares, "We saw the Gospel being acted upon in tangible, accessible ways and learned about the calling we have as Christians to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly."

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



January Confirmation Schedule

- January 5th – 7&8 Grade
- January 12th – 9th Grade
- January 19th – 7&8 Grade
- January 26th – 9th Grade

Breakfast Club meets every Thursday. Breakfast is served at 7:07am and devotions to follow. Head to school by 7:40 or whenever you need to go.

Jesus Justice League (1-3 graders) will meet on January 13th, 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 (4-6 graders) will meet on January 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 3:00-5:00. Walk to church after school for snack, games and a story from the Bible!

Lutheran World Relief Sunday School Project

The Sunday school will be putting together Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief on February 13. These kits are sent all over the world to aid people after natural disasters, wars and armed conflicts. We'd love your help in collecting items for these kits. Our goal is 90 kits - one for every child in Sunday school. We will start collecting donations in January. We are looking for new items only, with no religious, patriotic or military symbols.

The items needed are:

- Lightweight bath sized dark colored towels (20"x40"- easy to hand wash)
- Bath sized bars of soap

- Adult size toothbrushes
- Sturdy combs
- Metal nail clippers

Moments of Gratitude

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

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

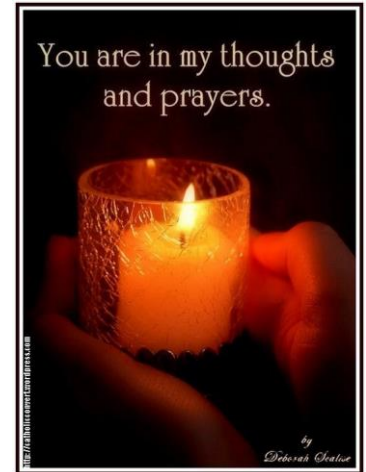


Camp Sunday - January 23rd

The band will play, our JJJ and WOW kids will sing and we will hear from some youth whose faith has been affected by attending camp. If you have kids who have wanted to attend but aren't sure, don't miss this!

Prayers for Healing and Strength

Norma Smith – Polly Ahrens mother
Pearl Christoffer – Kathy Aumer's mother
Bandon Ochs – Family & Friends
Jerry Senkyr – Carol Senkyr
Arlene Whemann – Carol Senkyr
Candy Kath – Pam Olson's sister
Pat Mahrer – Pan 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
ALL persons being affected by the Covid-19 pandemic
Military personal and their families



January Prayer Calendar

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 those who have been caring for COVID patients for almost two years. They are exhausted. Please give them strength and hope.
4. We pray for those in our LTC and group homes, that during the long, cold, dark days they will feel your love and the love of their families and our community.
5. Draw me nearer to you, Lord Jesus.
6. Today we celebrate the visit of the Three Kings. Let us pray that we are guided by the light of faith.
7. Forgive me, God, for often being selfish with my own time and for not giving some of it to help others.
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. Thank you Lord, for loving me so completely.
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. We pray especially for those on our church prayer list.
15. Today I pray that you move me away from distractions, diversions and temptations.
16. As we gather to do the business of our church, let us do Thy Will in all things.
17. Today we remember and celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr and pray for equality and justice 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 church 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.

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:30 PM



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terms end at Annual

Meeting in Jan. * Second term

2022

Eric Skeie 2022
Elaine McDowell 2022AB
Gordon Blem 2022*
Nathan Cole 2022
Sam Welchance Youth

2023

Sandra Gay 2023
Jeff Keltgen 2023AB
Jena Bruns 2023AB
Jill Hanson 2023*

2024

Alex Gay 2024*
Laurence Stratton 2024*AB
Robert Erickson 2024
Scott Johnson 2024AB

STAFF

Pastor Matt Hausken
Sue Altmann, Recorder

Jeni Skeie, Parish Minister
Craig Boen, Janitor

AGENDA

MEETING - Call to Order (President)

1. Devotions – Jill Hanson
2. Approve minutes of the *November meeting* – Motion to approve the minutes by Jill Hanson, seconded by Alex Gay, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report – *November meeting* - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Jill Hanson, seconded by Sandra Gay, motion passed.
 - The council asked that the SW MN Synod and Lutheran Social Service receive a portion of what is budgeted them. SW MN Synod - \$3500.00 and LSS - \$1500.00
4. Pastor's Report
 - Worship Service & Confirmation: Confirmation is going very well. Planning ahead with a Bible study to explain the parts of worship service.
 - Pastor Matt and Jeni have been helping with the unfortunate suicide of a high school student.
5. Parish Ministers Reports: notes submitted
6. Office Report (Sue): nothing at this time
7. Maintenance Update (Craig): looking to purchase a larger snow blower for sidewalk, etc. He would also like the old sound system that is currently being stored in the janitor's room to be removed.
8. Committee Reports
 - Administration – Alex Gay, Gordy Blem, Nathan Cole, Scott Johnson & Bob Erickson
 - ✓ The skylight in the hallway is broken; repair costs will be around \$3200.00, money is coming from insurance. This project will take place in the spring. Also, the stumps on the east side of the building will be removed in the spring.
 - Care Team – Jena Bruns & Jeni Skeie
 - ✓ Care meals have been used for many persons in need. The frozen meals are wonderful.
 - Children, Youth & Family – Jeni Skeie
 - ✓ Did not meet.
 - Equipping – Pastor Matt, Laurence Stratton & Eric Skeie
 - ✓ Continuing with Moments of Gratitude. Katie Bahl will be teaching a short session on Religion in the World and Pastor Matt will be hosting a workshop in January about parts of the worship service.
 - Missions – Alex Gay & Jeff Keltgen
 - ✓ The committee continues to give.
 - Outreach – Pastor Matt, Jeff Keltgen & Jill Hanson
 - ✓ Did not meet.

- Parish Life – Sandra Gay & Jeni Skeie
✓ Did not meet.
- Technology –Nathan Cole & Pastor Matt Hausken
✓ Jeni Skeie and Pastor Matt will be meeting with the sound system company with general questions.
- Worship & Music – Jeni Skeie, Jill Hanson & Elaine McDowell
✓ Music has been chosen thru March.
- AED Maintenance – Sue (Ok) 12/13/2021

9. Old Business

- Water dispenser/fountain: Culligan has been contacted; they are looking into the best option for the church
- Dishwasher – a decision was made that a dishwasher isn't need, so the church will not be replacing at this time.
- Coffee maker: the Bazaar committee will be working with Larry Rauenhorst on the best solution to keep it running. It is working now, but a suggestion to add a RO system has been made.
- Snow Removal? – We are still looking for a regular volunteer. Thank you, Nate Cole and Chad Amsden, for helping out.

10. New Business

- Parish Minister position – the council offered the position to Jeni Skeie full time and she accepted. A motion was made by Alex Gay and seconded by Jill Hanson to hire Jeni Skeie.
- Resignation of Laurence Stratton from council.
- Set Annual Meeting Date: January 16th at 10:00 AM – accepted by council as the official date, with January 24th as a backup date.
- Committee Reports due by end of month (December)
- Review standing committees
- Church council meeting date to accept 2022 Annual Budget
- Pastor Matt Hausken furnishing allotment for parsonage for the 2022 year.
(Recommend allotment \$1500.00) Motion was made by Bob Erickson and seconded by Sandy Gay to approve the furnishing allotments. Motion passed.
- Read “Growing Young” Chapter 7

11. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: January 12th at 7:00 PM

Devotions: Gordy Blem

Communion helper: Gordy Blem

Note: Council members that will be done at the 2022 Annual Meeting

1. Gordy Blem – cannot run again
2. Nate Cole
3. Eric Skeie
4. Elaine McDowell
5. Laurence Stratton (resigned, effective immediately)

JANUARY 2022

Cross of Calvary Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2 9:00 AM Worship <hr/> 10:00 Coffee Hour <hr/> No Sunday School	3 6:30 PM Library in use <hr/> 6:30 PM Cub Scout Mtg.	4 6:30 & 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	5 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study <hr/> 3-5 PM WOW <hr/> 6:00 PM Confirmation 7&8 Grade <hr/> Women's Book Club at 7:30 PM	6 7:07 AM Breakfast Club <hr/> Quilters start	7	8
9 9:00 AM Worship <hr/> 10:00 AM Coffee <hr/> 10:00 Sunday School	10 6:30 PM Library in use <hr/> 6-7 PM Mtg. for Cub Scouts	11 6:30 & 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	12 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study <hr/> 3-5 PM WOW <hr/> 6:00 PM Confirmation 9th Grade <hr/> 7:00 PM Church Council <hr/> 8:00 PM Theology on Tap	13 7:07 AM Breakfast Club <hr/> 3-5 PM Jesus Justice League	14	15
16 9:00 AM Worship Communion <hr/> 10:00 AM Coffee Ski Day – leave at 12:30 PM ANNUAL MEETING	17 6:30 PM Library in use	18 6:30 & 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	19 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study <hr/> 3-5 PM WOW <hr/> 6:00 PM Confirmation 7/8 Grade	20 7:07 AM Breakfast Club	21	22
23/30 9:00 AM Worship <hr/> 10:00 AM Coffee <hr/> 10:00 AM Sunday School Camp Sunday is January 23rd	24 6:30 PM Library in use <hr/> 1:30 PM Ruth Bible Study	25 6:30 & 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	26 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study <hr/> 3-5 PM WOW <hr/> 6:00 PM Confirmation 9 th Grade <hr/> 9:30 AM Dorcas Bible Study <hr/> 7:15 PM Theology on Tap	27 7:07 AM Breakfast Club	28	29