

# January

## The Follower 2023

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

How often do we have the opportunity to come together with other people and create a peaceful place to be? I had the privilege of being involved with the community choir on December 8. We were 45+ people who came together at the end of the day to sing together. Kathryn Reese was our director, and she shared her thoughts with us one night about how, no matter what we agree or disagree on, when we come together to sing, we can agree on the notes, the rhythms, and all the pieces that go together to make the music one song. We met some new people and made some new friends. We were many people coming from many places and backgrounds, agreeing on one goal as a group.

In my search for most common New Years goals or resolutions, here is what I found:

- *Exercise more.*
- *Lose weight.*
- *Get organized.*
- *Learn a new skill or hobby.*
- *Live life to the fullest.*
- *Save more money / spend less money.*
- *Quit smoking.*
- *Spend more time with family and friends*

I didn't find any related to agreeing with people more. I didn't find any that said; listen to other people's opinion more. I didn't find any about finding common ground with people whose opinion is different than mine. And in fact most resolutions have only to improve yourself, and not caring for others. "A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions". Proverbs 18:2  
So what if these were our goals or resolutions:

- Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**
- He who has ears to hear, let him hear. **Matthew 11:15**
- Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **Philippians 2:3**
- Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, **James 1:19**
- Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **Matthew 22:37**

If these could be our New Years Resolutions, we could come together to make this world God's Kingdom on Earth. May you be blessed to have opportunities to bring people together, to practice loving and caring for others in 2023.

Peace to you,

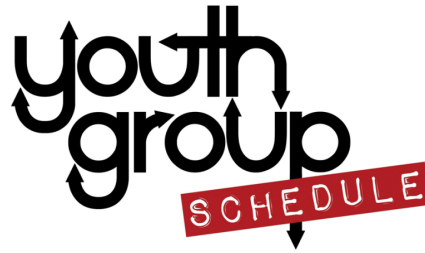
Jeni Nesburg Skeie





### **Annual Meeting**

January 15th after 9:00 AM worship service  
All Annual reports are due to the office by  
January 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Back up date is January 29<sup>th</sup> after the service.



## **No Sunday School**

**January 1st**

### **Confirmation Information**

7th Grade class meets January 4th & 25<sup>th</sup> (this is a change from January 18)  
8th-9th grade classes meet January 11th & 25th  
No Confirmation January 18th

### **Elementary Youth Programs**

**WOW:** 5-6 grades meet Wednesdays: January 4 and 18, February 1 and 15, March 1 and 22, April 5 and 19 and May 3 and 17.  
**Jesus Justice League:** -1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd grade meet: January 5, February 2, March 2, April 13, and May 4  
**GLUE:** 3-4th grade also meet on Thursday: January 12, February 16, March 9, April 20 and May 18.

### **1st Communion Classes (5th Graders)**

March 15, 22 and 29, 2023 (3-5 PM)  
Worship Services: April 6th or 16th at 9:00 AM

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club for 10-12 graders continues every week if there is school. (7:07 AM)

Game night for 7-9 grade January 25, 7:30-8:30pm

All Area youth grades 7-12 Ski nights will be January 15 and February 19. BOLD and RCW will have no School the following day. We will leave from Cross of Calvary at 12 noon and return at 9:30ish. Cost is \$60. This includes the bus ride. Youth under age 21 may NOT drive themselves. Money must be paid and permission form turned in when signing up. Family account money can be used.



**Camp Sunday** will be January 22. If you attended camp last year, we would love to have you help lead or share about your time at camp and how it helped you learn about the love of God. Talk to Jeni - 320-579-0406 or jeniskeie@gmail.com. Camp registration opens in December.

Mark your calendar - **2024 National Youth Gathering** will be in New Orleans, July 16-20. Registration will open September 15, 2023 and down payment is \$150. Total cost will be around \$1500 depending on how we travel. If you graduate in 2024-2027 you are welcome to attend. Click here for more information.

[https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering?\\_ga=2.44891746.777536322.1666640275-499798659.1666640275](https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering?_ga=2.44891746.777536322.1666640275-499798659.1666640275)

There will also be a **Young Adult National Youth Gathering** in New Orleans, July 16-20, 2024 for ages 18-35. Cost will be similar. If you are interested in more info, please talk to Jeni or search

[https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering?\\_ga=2.44891746.777536322.1666640275-499798659.1666640275](https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering?_ga=2.44891746.777536322.1666640275-499798659.1666640275)

**7-9 graders are invited to attend Camp House in northern MN thru GLLM. Check it out online!**

## **Council & Committee Meeting Dates** **Church Council: January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 PM**

Devotions & Communion: Jill Hanson

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

### **January Worship Assistants**

Ushers: Daren Sagedahl, Nate Cole & Chris Hanson

Acolytes: Derrick Bahl & Tyden Walsten

Clicker:

Camera: Gavin Johnson

Communion Helper: Alex Gay

Altar Guild: Ronda Berg & Tami Stovern

### **Women's Bible Study**

We will be starting a new book: 1 King 1-11, Proverbs & Ecclesiastes

January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM

Cost of book is \$15.00 (in church office)

### **Church committees**

Coffee hour sign up is in need of volunteers!

Asking council members to pair up and take a Sunday if possible.

**COFFEE  
FELLOWSHIP**

Join us!



### **As 2023 begins, we pray for.....**

1. We thank you for the joys of the past year and for being with us through the sorrows. Help us to show your love to those we encounter in the New Year. Let us use our hands to do your work.
2. As the long cold days of winter are upon us, we pray that we will see ways to reach out to those who need our help.
3. For those who work in the outdoors during the winter months.....for the emergency personnel and anyone who must regularly brave the elements.
4. Today I pray that you move me from distractions, diversions and temptations.
5. Thank you Lord, for the beauty of your earth, for the uniqueness of the seasons.
6. Today we celebrate the visit of the Three Kings. Let us pray that we are guided by your light.
7. Lord, I give thanks for your presence in my life and the lives of those the people I hold dear.

8. We pray for individuals, families and businesses struggling financially and especially for the homeless and those facing homelessness
  9. Thank you Lord for loving so completely.
  10. During the long dark days of winter, we pray for those struggling with their mental health.
  11. We pray for those in LTC and in hospitals and group homes.
  12. We pray for the Caregivers in our community. We thank them for the love they show daily.
  13. Draw me nearer to you Lord Jesus.
  14. As our young adults return to their colleges. We pray for their safety as they travel.
  15. We pray for our congregation as we meet to do the business of the church today.
  16. Today we remember and celebrate the life of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. We pray for equality, justice and unity.
  17. We pray for those suffering from addiction
  18. We pray for our elementary students participating in JJJ, GLUE & WOW. Help them grow in their relationships with each other and grow in their faith.
  19. Forgive me Lord for being selfish with my time. Help me to give more of my time and resources.
  20. We pray for our church staff. May we show our appreciation for all they do for us.
  21. We pray that those who are afraid will put their trust in you.
  22. We pray for our congregation as we gather to worship in person and in our homes.
  23. We pray for those facing food insecurity. May we see their need and respond with love & generosity.
  24. We pray for the young families in our congregation. Help them build strong faithful families.
  25. We pray for the young athletes in our community. May they honor you in all they do.
  26. We pray for our confirmation students as they study and grow in their faith.
  27. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Give me strength to do your will.
  28. We pray for all the volunteers in our church...SS teachers, quilters, alter guild, ushers and others.
  29. As the days slowly get longer, we thank you for the promise of spring and renewed growth.
  30. We pray for those facing life changing decisions. Be with them and guide them.
  31. As January ends, help us to go forward with renewed commitment to be a blessing to those around us.
- 



David Lanning – Cole family  
 Mavis Maurice – Family & Friends  
 Carol Horrmann – Friends & Family  
 Jeff Keltgen – Family & Friends  
 Michelle Hanson – Friend of the Greg & Kathy Helin  
 Joan Rosenow – Family & Friends  
 Bob Wittman – Family & Friends  
 Ava Koep – Friends & Family  
 Chrissy Boen – Family & Friends  
 Liz Elfering – Family & Friends

Clifford Metteer - Family  
 Jon Hackman Family  
 Lyn Tesch – Family & Friends  
 Pat Aalderks – Family & Friends  
 Ric Aalderks – Friends & Family  
 Brandon Ochs – Family & Friends  
 Candy Kath – Pam Olson's sister  
 Laurie Hogberg – Family & Friends  
 Jesse Tongen – Family & Friends

# Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 6:30 PM



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### 2023

Sandra Gay 2023  
George Tesch 2023  
Stacey Larson 2023  
Jill Hanson 2023\*

### 2024

Alex Gay 2024\*  
Kathy Reese 2024  
Robert Erickson 2024  
Scott Johnson 2024

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

### 2025

Elaine McDowell 2025\*  
Nathan Cole 2025\*  
Trent Athmann 2025  
Keith Larson 2025

## STAFF

Pastor Matt Hausken  
Sue Altmann, Recorder

Jeni Skeie, Parish Minister  
Craig Boen, Janitor

President: Nathan Cole

Vice President: Keith Larson

Treasurer: Curt Sather

## MINUTES

### MEETING - Call to Order (President)

1. Devotions – Stacey Larson (Psalm 34)
2. Approve minutes of the *November meeting* – Motion to approve the minutes by Scott Johnson, seconded by Alex Gay, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report – *November meeting* - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Bob Erickson, seconded by Scott Johnson, motion passed.
  - A motion was made by Jill Hanson and seconded by Alex Gay to pay Lutheran Social Services: \$1100.00 and SW MN Synod: \$8250.00. This is in the 2022 budget to from Cross of Calvary mission funds. Motion passed.
  - 2023 Budget discussed and will be voted on at the January meeting. (Before annual meeting)
4. Pastor's Report
  - Worship Service & Confirmation: Christmas preparation is done. Visit to shut in, nursing home, etc. has been going well. Confirmation will not meet tonight due to no school. Pastor Matt is moving forward with planning for the Lenten season.
5. Parish Ministers Reports. Report on file (if anyone would like a copy, please contact the church office)
6. Office Report (Sue)
  - 2023 offering envelopes are ordered and will be here soon. Pick up will be the ASAP.
7. Maintenance Update (Craig)
  - West Central Roofing was called to look at leaks in the church office and library. They found 6-7 holes and repaired them.
8. Committee Reports
  - Administration Pastor Matt, Keith Larson, Nathan Cole, Trent Athmann
    - Chad Amsden will remove snow for the parking lot, Pastor's drive way and sidewalks. He will be paid \$100 per hour.
    - Refrigerator in the parsonage has been replaced. (Thank you to Stacey & Keith Larson.)
  - Care Team –Jeni Skeie & Stacey Larson
    - Looking at adding a cooking club
  - Children, Youth & Family –Jeni Skeie & Elaine McDowell
    - Looking at curriculum for Sunday school.

- Equipping –Pastor Matt & Keith Larson
  - Grief Lectionary will be done soon
- Missions –Alex Gay
  - All money has been spent in the mission budget
- Outreach –Pastor Matt & Jill Hanson
  - Did not meet
- Parish Life – Elaine McDowell, Sandra Gay & Jeni Skeie
  - Caroling, planning a February dinner and games
- Technology –Nathan Cole & Pastor Matt Hausken
  - Adam Dillon has joined the committee (Thank you Adam)
- Worship & Music – Jeni Skeie, Jill Hanson & Kathy Reese
  - Planning has been done through Ash Wednesday
- AED Maintenance – Sue (Ok) 12/13/2022

#### 9. Old Business

- Annual Meeting information needed by beginning of January. (Meeting is January 15<sup>th</sup> after 9:00 worship service) Meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall

#### 10. New Business

- Pastor Matt Hausken furnishing allotment for parsonage for the 2023 year. Recommend allotment of \$1500. Motion was made by Stacey Larson and seconded by Jill Hanson.
- Parsonage Maintenance – Northern Heating & Plumbing Program
  - Maintenance plan now in place for the parsonage and will be revisited every few months.
- Budget line item for Faith chest
  - Cost is about \$60 for each chest not including labor.
  - The council will be talking to the men’s club to see if financial help is needed.
- SW MN Synod approval for the Cross of Calvary church constitution. Pastor Matt will be calling the Synod to confirm after our last update.
- **Cross of Calvary is in need of a treasurer.**
- Dana Boen with the help of other members will be in charge of seasonal decorations for the Fellowship Hall.
- Discussion on whether or not to allow alcohol at church special events. Tabled to the January meeting.
- Church Projects committee has been formed. Allowed a \$300 allotment limit before needing council approval for higher amounts.

#### **Closed meeting (after regular council meeting)**

Please plan on staying after the meeting for a few minutes.

#### 11. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

#### **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO**

Next month: January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 PM  
 January Devotions – Jill Hanson  
 January Communion – Alex Gay

#### **Council ballot**

1. Stacey Larson
2. Bobbi Jo Abrahamson
3. Sandra Gay

#### **Nominating Committee**

1. Sarah Hausken

#### **January 15th: Annual Meeting**

**Note: Council members that will be done at the 2023 Annual Meeting**

1. Jill Hanson – cannot run again
2. Sandra Gay
3. Stacey Larson
4. George Tesch

