



The Follower 2023

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

During Lent this season we will be talking about “ASK”. This brought me to Matthew 7:7-8. “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

No matter who you are, everyone who asks will receive God’s answer. If you seek, you will find Him. And those who knock will find the door opened. Jesus includes everyone and demonstrates the goodness and generosity of God.

Feeling unworthy? Is anyone worthy? God knows your heart. When you ask, and seek and knock, you are being persistent in your searching. God wants you to keep coming until you hear the answer of His love and your need.

Where can we hear God’s voice? In my “Little Dose of Laughter” daily reminders it says, “A lot of people claim they speak for Jesus, but I’d rather open the Bible and let Him speak for Himself.” This is where you can find the answer when you ask, seek and knock. In God’s word, the Bible. The Good Book, the Good News. God invites you so be persistent in your search for the answers. God loves it when you come back to the word and spend time with the Almighty. When you bring your questions before the Lord, you come face to face with the Father and grow in your relationship together.

Let Lent be a season of asking for you. Seek God and know God’s love that waits for you when you knock.

God’s Peace to you,
Jeni Skeie

Ask
and it shall be given.

Seek
and ye shall find.

Knock
and it shall be opened.

Council Members

Council Meeting: March 19th at 11:00 AM

President: Nathan Cole

Vice President: Keith Larson

Treasurer: Sue Erickson/Cheryl Mallak

Alex Gay	2024*	Elaine McDowell	2025*	Stacey Larson	2026*
Kathy Reese	2024	Nathan Cole	2025*	Sandra Gay	2026*
Robert Erickson	2024	Trent Athmann	2025	Bobbi Jo Abrahamson	2026
Scott Johnson	2024	Keith Larson	2025	Julie Mitchell	2026

March Worship Assistants

Ushers: Curt Sather, Eric Skeie & Daren Sagedahl

Acolytes: Eric Wussow & Preston Stuhl

Clicker: Gabriel Sues

Camera: Will Stratton

Communion Helper: Trent Athmann

Altar Guild: DeAnne Beckler, Marie Rauenhorst & Bobbi Kopel



Lenten Worship Services for 2023

Lenten Services

Wednesdays: starting
March 1st at 7:00 PM

Palm Sunday

April 2nd at 9:00 AM

Morning Matins

April 3rd – 7th (7:00 AM)

Maundy Thursday

April 6th at Noon & 7:00

Good Friday/Seder Meal

April 7th at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday

April 9th at 6:30 AM &
9:00 AM



Soup Suppers are March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. We are serving from 5:30-6:30. Please come by 6:30 so the group that is serving can clean up in time to attend worship. Thank you. If you are not on one of the serving groups, you can still offer to bring food or help with serve and clean-up. Please let the office know if you would like to contribute any food or help.

Upcoming

EVENTS

Confirmation Information

Confirmation will be 7-9 grade every week through Lent starting at 6:20 in the sanctuary until the end of worship about 7:30. They can come early to eat soup supper served from 5:30-6:30.

Elementary Youth Programs

Jesus Justice League for 1-2nd grade will meet March 2, April 13, and May 4.
G.L.U.E. for 3-4th grade will meet March 9, April 20 and May 18.
Wow for 5-6 grade will meet March 1 and 22, April 5 and 19 and May 3 and 17.

1st Communion Classes (5th Graders)

March 15 (making bread and decorating goblets), March 22 and March 29 from 3-5 at church. There will be a snack, lessons and games. First Communion options are Maundy Thursday Seder Meal on April 6 at 7pm, or Sunday April 16 during 9am worship. Please call the church office to let Sue know which your family will attend.

Breakfast Club

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



Senior High Youth Gathering is March 10-11, 2023 at Luther Crest in Alexandria, MN. This is for 9-12 graders.



Sr. High Survivor Lock – April 21-22 at Peace Lutheran in New London. Cost is \$25.00. Are you a Survivor fan? Or do you just love playing games and competing with your peers? This is for you! Our group has been invited to participate with another group and it should be a great time playing, eating, praying and competing! There will be buffs, exile island, hidden immunity necklaces, challenges and more! Sign up on the Youth Board.

Game night for 7-9 grade will be March 8, 7:30-8:30pm

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL April 9 - Easter Sunday.

Senior Recognition will be May 21 during the 9am worship time. This is hosted by the Junior families.

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

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

**Let's talk about summer camp! Talk to Jeni - 320-579-0406 or jeniskeie@gmail.com.
Camp registration opened in December.**

Coffee hour sign up is in need of volunteers! Please help fill in the schedule.

Parish Life Committee presents the "Not So Newlywed game"



on Sunday, March 5 beginning at 5:00pm. Cost is \$10 and includes appetizers, lasagna, Caesar salad, beverages and lite dessert.

DON'T forget the main event is the 4 couples from our congregation playing the newlywed game, with game show host Brian Boen.

Sign up by March 1.

There is sure to be loads of laughs!

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday at 9:00 AM



Daylight Saving Time

Begins on Sunday, March 12, remember to turn your clocks ahead!



Drew Gass – Family & Friends
Sandy Robideau – Family & friends
Jamie Lothert – Family & Friends
Donald Zarbock – Family
Brian Metteer – Family
Kristin Carpenter – Family
Marlene Wallert - Friends
Dennis Barta – Family & Friends
Mary Pratt – Family & Friends
Maureen Hanson – Family & Friends
Rhonda Haney – Family & Friends
David Lanning – Cole family
Mavis Maurice – Family & Friends
Carol Horrmann – Friends & Family
Jeff Keltgen – Family & Friends
Michelle Hanson – Friend of the Greg & Kathy Helin
Family of Paul Buhr
Karletta Merwede - Friends
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

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

In March 2023 we pray.....

1. Bless us as we enjoy the fellowship of the Lenten Soup Supper and as we worship.
2. For the people of the Ukraine and all those living under the threat of violence.
3. We pray for staff of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service that they may continue to have the resources to do your work around the world
4. We pray for all those who need your healing hand, and for their caregivers, especially those on our weekly prayer list.
5. For our congregation as we gather in worship both in person and remotely. May we share your love with each other and our communities.
6. Lord, help me to find happiness in forgetting myself and in trying to bring help and happiness to others.
7. We pray for those who grieve that they may find comfort in your loving arms.
8. Today I pray that you move me away from distractions, diversions and temptations.
9. For those struggling with depression and any other form of mental illness
10. For mentors in the faith. Especially those who are present in the lives of our confirmation students, WOW, GLUE, JJJ and Sunday School students.
11. That even through our differences are many, we are able to unite in our faith and work together to serve our neighbors.
12. We pray for those struggling with food insecurity and hunger. Help us to serve you by serving them through the local food shelf, LSS or any other means available.
13. Lord, we ask for your wisdom and courage.
14. We thank you for children who bring joy to our world.
15. We pray for our church staff that they feel our love, appreciation & support.
16. For those who have experienced betrayal in their lives, that they may trust again.
17. We pray that we may take time and hear your voice.
18. Lord help me to show kindness even when feeling frustration and impatience.
19. We pray for those struggling financially. We pray especially for those who are homeless or facing homelessness.
20. As spring begins, we thank you for the promise of new life.
21. We pray for those in Long Term Care, Assisted Living and Group homes.
22. Lord lead me to the cross and let me contemplate the amazing sacrifice of Jesus.
23. We pray that those who are afraid will put their trust in you.
24. That God may continue to show us He is guiding us in our lives and relationships.
25. We pray for those suffering from addiction of any kind.
26. We pray for parents in our community as they raise children in an uncertain world.
27. For those facing loneliness, help us to reach out to them.
28. We thank you for the beauty of our earth and pray for those preparing for the upcoming growing season.
29. Dear Lord, help me to always be conscious of what I stand for as a Child of God.
30. I thank you Lord for those who have had and continue to have a positive influence on my life.
31. As another month ends, we thank you for our many blessings and for the beauty of your Creation.

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 12th, 2023 at 7:45 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/Building Supervisor

Jeni Skeie, Parish Minister

President: Nathan Cole

Vice President: Keith Larson

Treasurer: Sue Erickson/Cheryl Mallak

Treasurer: Quickbooks will be purchased for desk top version. Motion was made by Trent Athmann and seconded by Stacey Larson, motion passed. A file will be made to check out laptop. (Money from technology)

MINUTES

MEETING - Call to Order (President)

1. Devotions – Bob Erickson
2. Approve minutes of the *January meeting* – Motion to approve the minutes by Scott Johnson, seconded by Sandy Gay, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report –*January meeting* - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by _____, seconded by _____, motion passed. (No report due to no Treasurer)
4. Pastor's Report
 - Worship Service & Confirmation: Lent preparation with the theme "Ask". Stickers will be handed out for all. Bible studies and visits are going wonderfully.
 - Book "Wholehearted Faith" is being used for Lent and bible studies. Theology on Tap and a Thursday bible study are taking place during Lent.
5. Parish Ministers Reports.
 - All programs are going wonderfully. Sr. High Youth Gathering is March 10 & 11, 2023. Hoping to attend a movie "Jesus Revolution" in Montevideo with members to the church. (Feb. 26th)
6. Office Report (Sue)
7. Maintenance Update
8. Committee Reports
 - Julie Mitchell and Bobbi Jo Abrahamson: need to choose what committee interests them to sign up for.
 - Administration Pastor Matt, Keith Larson, Nathan Cole, Trent Athmann
 - ✓ Committee will be looking into heat tape for the downspouts.
 - Care Team –Jeni Skeie & Stacey Larson
 - Children, Youth & Family –Jeni Skeie & Elaine McDowell
 - Equipping –Pastor Matt & Keith Larson
 - Missions –Alex Gay
 - Outreach –Pastor Matt

- Parish Life – Elaine McDowell, Sandra Gay, Jennifer Grund & Jeni Skeie
 - ✓ The committee will be hosting “A not so Newlywed Game” on March 5th.
- Technology –Nathan Cole & Pastor Matt Hausken
- Worship & Music – Jeni Skeie & Kathy Reese
- AED Maintenance – Sue (Ok) 2/13/2023

9. Old Business

- Cross of Calvary Treasurer position – needed
 - ✓ Cheryl Mallak and Sue Erickson will share the position.
- City of Olivia: Stacey will contact Jason Krumheuer
- Sign up for Soup Supper – sign up on the “Door”

10. New Business

- Discuss next meeting date and time.
- Railing by organ needs to be fixed – Matt Fischer took and has fixed (thank you!)
- West door is block by the sidewalk? – Matt Fischer will be shaving the west sidewalk and will fix in the spring. (Again thank you Matt!)
- Communion/Devotion sign up for 2023/2024 (January)
- All doors need to be clear at all times, emergency exits.
- The Administration committee will be looking into different insurance in January of next year.

11. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: March 19th at 11:00 AM
 March Devotions – Trent Athmann
 March Communion – Trent Athmann

A motion was made by Stacey Larson and seconded by Kathy Reese to change the council meeting dates and times. This will change back to regular Wednesday meetings in the spring.