



## The Follower 2023

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

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“Faith is the bridge between Hoping and Knowing God is with us.”  
(Quote from my daily calendar.)

In Confirmation a couple weeks ago, I had the privilege of subbing as the small group leader for the 9th grade boys. Our assignment was to read from 3 passages, all from books of major prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. This led us to a deep conversation and the question, “What is Hope? Like, is it, “I hope this happens?” On Sunday during Storytime, we were talking about the walk to Emmaus and 3 of the kids were very curious why I kept saying the word “die”? “Why did Jesus have to die?” Then in 4th grade Sunday school, I got the question, “who came first, people or dinosaurs”? Or “I need some science behind that.” Or, the famous question, “Who made God?”

There are so many questions about God. It is why I love working with kids. They are honest and unafraid. They ask and wonder the same things we wonder as adults, but we don't ask.

Sometimes, because God is a mystery, there are no specific answers. Yes, those questions lead to some great conversations. But the bottom line, when we don't have the answers about God, about life; TRUST GOD. Proverbs 3:5-6 says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight.” TRUST GOD. Isaiah 40:28 says, “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.” Whatever our questions, and there are no bad questions, we can be sure that God is almighty. Whatever we are wondering, God wonders with us. God suffers, celebrates, laughs, cries...with us. And never leaves us alone. When we don't know where to find God, God is working through friends, family, neighbors, and strangers to guide, to strengthen, to encourage. Keep asking questions.

Have Faith, Keep Trusting God.

Jeni Nesburg Skeie



## Council Members

Council Meeting: May 10th, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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  |

## May Worship Assistants

Ushers: Brian Kingery, Alex Gay

Acolytes: Addelyn Malvin & Emersyn Malvin

Clicker: Bjorn Hausken Camera: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Helper: Sandra Gay

Altar Guild: Laura Julson, Karen van der Hagen, Sandy Padrnos, Kaylee Padrnos



**LAST Day of Sunday School is May 14 and we will have a magician coming for the Sunday school time. Don't miss Norm the Magician! All are Welcome!!**



**Game night for 7-9 grade will be May 24th, 7:30-8:30pm**

### Confirmation

\*No confirmation in May. We have completed this year.

\*There will be an orientation retreat for next year's incoming 7th graders in June. Watch for dates.

\*Affirmation of Faith retreat will be in early August for those going into 10th grade. During this retreat we will plan your confirmation service. Watch for details.

### Elementary Youth Programs

*Jesus Justice League* for 1-2nd grade will meet May 4 from 3-5pm.

*G.L.U.E.* for 3-4th grade will meet May 11, from 3-5pm. NOTE DATE CHANGE!!!

*Wow* for 5-6 grade will meet May 3 and 10, from 3-5pm. NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR THE 10th.

**Breakfast Club** continues every week - 9th graders started to attend after Easter. 9-12 graders meet every Thursday, 7:07am. No breakfast Club on May 18. Last day will be May 25.



Seniors will be choosing their quilts on Wednesday May 3, 6:30-7:30 with a meal a game and a random quilt draw. This has become a fun tradition as the last time this group comes together.

Senior Recognition will be May 21 during the 9am worship time with a short reception following. This is hosted by the junior families.

**DAY CAMP** will be at Cross of Calvary June 26-29. This is for children who have finished K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration will be online. I will post the link on the Facebook page. Cost is \$50.00. Family cap is \$150.00. You do not need to be a member of Cross of Calvary to attend. Invite your friends!

We will also be looking for volunteers to work the snacks/water, shepherd the groups, and feed evening meals to the staff. Please call or email Jeni or the church if you can help. 320-579-0406, jeniskeie@gmail.com, 320-523-1574.



**Let's talk about summer camp! There is still room!**

Talk to Jeni - 320-579-0406 or jeniskeie@gmail.com. there is something for everyone at GLLM this summer. Kids, families, grandparents...check it out at gllm.org. If you are in 7-9th grade, we will be attending Camp House, June 11-16 and Jeni will attend with you. Let Jeni know if you have any questions.

**8th-12th grade, June 4-8, 2023**

**Mini Tour: The Dells and Chicago - Total Cost: \$300**

(\$50 Deposit Due May 1st, remaining balance due by June 4th)

Join Peace Lutheran, New London and a couple other churches for a fun adventure to the Wisconsin Dells and Chicago for students in grades 8-12. We'll experience some of the world's largest water attractions in the Dells, and experience the sights, sounds, and flavors of Chicago all in a quick five-day mini tour for under \$300! We'll start the trip helping to lead worship at Peace Lutheran, and on the trip do a service project or two, including sharing our skit and songs at a local housing facility. Pick up information on the back table at church.



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)





## **FLOWER SALES PICKUP**

Thursday, MAY 11TH

4:00pm– 6:00pm

Friday, MAY 12th

8:00am-12:00pm

The word "prayer" is written in a large, colorful, stylized font. The letters are filled with various shades of orange, yellow, and green, and have a textured, almost mosaic-like appearance.

Joyce Damhof – Sara Benson’s mother  
Dale Robideau – Heidi Morse family  
Karletta Merwede – Cole family  
Bruce Freberg – Shirley Beckler’s brother  
Jamie Lothert – Family & Friends  
Dennis Barta – Family & Friends  
Maureen Hanson – Family & Friends  
Jeff Keltgen – Family & Friends  
Chrissy Boen – Family & Friends  
Cindi Thiesse – Family & Friends

Prayer concerns will now be listed for one month only. If you need to extend or add prayers for an individual or family, please call the church office. 320-523-1574

**New Women’s Study** - we will be starting a new study May 3 called “Making Sense of Scripture” by David Lose, a professor at Luther Seminary. This one will have a video segment. I would love to do an evening one if there is interest. Books are available in the office for \$15.

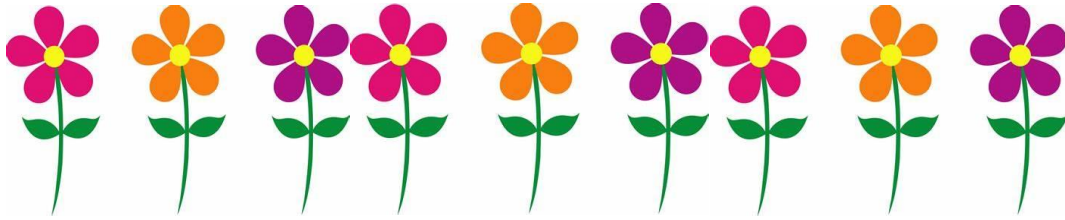
### **KITCHEN CARE**

We have a new person who will be taking charge of the kitchen care to set up service groups to monthly keep an eye on our church kitchen. Filling salt and peppers, Cream and sugar, cleaning the refrigerator and ovens etc. I believe the idea is to set it up like the altar guild where there will be 2-3 people, men and/or women, who do this for a month each year. If you are interested in being on the list, please call Julie Mitchell at 320-522-0164. Thank you!



### **Cross of Calvary Community Garden**

If anyone is interested in using a garden plot this year, please contact the church office. It is \$20.00 per plot. We are also looking for a volunteer to till the garden.



This May, we pray.....

1. Lord, may I be alive to the beauty of your creation and the beauty of the changing seasons.
2. We pray for those facing transitions in their lives. Protect them and guide them.
3. We pray for and thank you for all caregivers in our lives and in our communities.
4. We thank you for the mentors in our church. For those involved with confirmation instruction, Sunday school and our after-school youth programs.
5. Lord, we thank you for diversity in our community and our nation. Thank you for introducing us to the traditions of others.
6. For those working seasonal jobs. Please keep them safe as they do the work you have called them to do.
7. Be with us as we worship.
8. We pray for those who are experiencing illness, especially those on our weekly prayer list.
9. We thank you for the volunteers in our church. For all those who are called to participate in committees and complete duties that keep our church running smoothly.
10. Please be with those who are suffering from loneliness and depression. Help us to recognize their needs and show them your love through our actions.
11. Bless all children and young people and coaches who are involved in spring sports and activities.
12. As young families struggle to find summer care and activities for their children, please be with them and guide them. Help them to find the resources they need.
13. Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit and then turn me loose to do your work in the world.
14. We thank you for our mothers and the mother figures in our lives.
15. Help me to choose my words wisely. To speak slowly and listen attentively.
16. We pray for those who have been betrayed. Help them to trust again.
17. Lord, I thank you, for whenever I feel tired or heavy laden, I can find rest in You.
18. Lord, your world can be beautiful but it can also be savage. We pray for those suffering from natural disasters.
19. We pray for unity. In our world, our church, our community and our relationships.
20. We pray for those who reside in group homes, assisted living and long-term care. Help us to see their needs and show them we care.
21. We ask your blessing on our High School Seniors today.
22. Lord, as another school year comes to a close, we thank you for teachers and all school staff.
23. We pray for those dealing with addiction of any kind. May they find the help they need.
24. We pray for families who struggle financially with food insecurity during the summer months. Guide us to share our bounty with them.
25. Lord, we thank you that all things are possible for those who believe in you.
26. We pray for those who are experiencing grief at the loss of a loved one.
27. On this unofficial first weekend of summer, be with our members as they look forward to summer plans and activities.
28. Bless us on this Sabbath.
29. On this Memorial Day, we honor those men and women who have laid down their lives for their country. Loving Lord, bless them forever with your eternal peace.
30. We pray that those who are afraid can put their trust in You as they face life's obstacles.
31. We pray for our young people who are attending or working at Bible Camps this summer. May they develop new friendships and grow their faith through this experience.

# Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Sunday, April 23rd, 2023 at 10:45 AM



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Annual Meeting in Jan. \* Second term

Terms end at

### 2023

### 2024

### 2025

|                    |                 |       |                 |       |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Sandra Gay 2023    | Alex Gay        | 2024* | Elaine McDowell | 2025* |
| George Tesch 2023  | Kathy Reese     | 2024  | Nathan Cole     | 2025* |
| Stacey Larson 2023 | Robert Erickson | 2024  | Trent Athmann   | 2025  |
| Jill Hanson 2023*  | Scott Johnson   | 2024  | Keith Larson    | 2025  |

## STAFF

Pastor Matt Hausken  
Sue Altmann, Recorder/Building Supervisor  
President: Nathan Cole

Jeni Skeie, Parish Minister  
Vice President: Keith Larson

Treasurer: Sue Erickson/Cheryl Mallak

## MINUTES

### MEETING - Call to Order (President)

1. Devotions – Stacey Larson
2. Approve minutes of the *March meeting* – Motion to approve the minutes by Scott Johnson, seconded by Stacey Larson, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report –*January, February & March meeting* - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Trent Athmann, seconded by Stacey Larson, motion passed.
  - Quick book program is up and running. Pay Cheryl Mallak \$500.00 out of Dave Ramsey designated funds for the start of the program.
4. Pastor's Report
  - Worship Service & Confirmation: everything is going smoothly.
5. Parish Ministers Reports.
  - Survivor Lock In
  - Resignation and gave job description to council.
6. Office Report (Sue) – no report
7. Maintenance Update – no report
8. Committee Reports
  - Administration Pastor Matt, Keith Larson, Nathan Cole, Trent Athmann, Julie Mitchell
    - Julie Mitchell will be starting a kitchen group, somewhat like Altar Guild
    - Call a company to patch the roof.
  - Care Team –Jeni Skeie, Bobbi jo Abrahamson & Stacey Larson
    - Meal were delivered to Kelsie & Michael Kingstom
  - Children, Youth & Family –Jeni Skeie & Elaine McDowell
  - Equipping –Pastor Matt & Keith Larson
  - Missions –Alex Gay
  - Outreach –Pastor Matt
  - Parish Life – Elaine McDowell, Sandra Gay & Jeni Skeie
  - Technology –Nathan Cole & Pastor Matt Hausken
  - Worship & Music – Jeni Skeie & Kathy Reese
    - Music has been decided through August
  - AED Maintenance – on back order

## 9. Old Business

- Resignation of Jeni Skeie – letter submitted to council.

## 10. New Business

- Job description for Parish Minister – Jeni gave the council a job description.
- Procedure for opening the Parish Minister position – Council would like to post the position in May.
- Approve adding Cheryl Mallak to signature card at the bank, permission to write checks if necessary, and permission to access the on-line bank account. Motion was made by Stacey Larson and seconded by Julie Mitchell to add Cheryl Mallak to the signature card.
- Removal of Curt Sather and Eric Skeie from signature card at FM Bank – council would like Scott Johnson to be added to the signature card also. This was included in the above motion.
- Approve changing Sue Altmann's pay periods to match Pastor Matt's and Jeni's to the same which is the 13th and 27th of each month.
- Sue's salary would then be the combination of Office Administrator and Building Supervisor.
- Pastor Matt, Jeni and Sue will be gone May 15-17 to Festival of Homiletics for staff workshops
- Organ is scheduled for tuning on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Resignation of Sue Altmann, effective June 30, 2023. Letter submitted to council

### Guest at council: Betsy Hennen

- Prayer Garden project was started in 2007 to have a cement patio placed out from the kitchen door around the south side of the Fellowship Hall. There were two options given. #1- Cement patio outside kitchen door and around the side of the building, half way down the south side of the Fellowship Hall. #2 – Continue cement all the way to the end of the south side of the Fellowship Hall. A suggestion was made to have grass planted along the south side of the Fellowship Hall for now. After discussion with the council and cost, a motion was made by Kathy Reese and seconded by Bobbi Jo Abrahamson to only do option #1 at this time. (Funds available: \$4,126.00, money needed is \$5,200.00 for the whole project, not including extra upkeep funds) The designation funds are enough to cover Option#1 and some money left over for mulch and other general maintenance to the Prayer Garden.) Bid, giving by Tri Ad Construction is in the Council meeting book if anyone is interested in viewing the project.
- An announcement will be placed in the Bulletin and Follower to ask for more donations toward the project.
- Mission: Betsy Hennen voiced her concern that there isn't enough communication and trust between the council and the Mission committee. Betsy will stay in contact with Cheryl Mallak (Treasurer) about available funds moving forward. She wasn't sure if the funds were being used in different ways other than missions and if so Why?
- Betsy Hennen has decided to downsize her involvement with gardening project. If anyone would like to help with the east side of the building garden, please contact the church office.

## 11. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

### **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO**

Next month: May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

May Devotions – Elaine McDowell

May Communion – Sandra Gay

# May 2023

| Sunday   | Monday                               | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday                         |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|--------|----------------------------------|
|  | 1<br>6:00 Cub Scouts                 | 2<br>6:30 & 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study                          | 3<br>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study<br>3-5 PM WOW<br>6:30 PM Quilt selection with Seniors | 4<br>7:07 AM Breakfast Club<br>3-5 PM JLL       | 5      | 6                                |
| 7<br><b>9:00 AM Worship</b><br><b>Communion</b><br>10:00 Sunday school & Coffee Hour               | 8<br>12:30 PM Fellowship Hall in use | 9<br>6:30 & 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study                          | 10<br>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study<br>3-5 PM WOW<br><b>7:00 PM Church Council</b>       | 11<br>7:07 AM Breakfast Club<br>3-5 PM GLUE     | 12     | 13                               |
| 14<br><b>9:00 AM Worship</b><br>10:00 Sunday school & Coffee Hour<br>Last S.S. Day                 | 15<br><b>Office Closed</b>           | 16<br>6:30 & 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study<br><b>Office Closed</b> | 17<br>No Women's Bible Study<br><b>Office Closed</b>                                   | 18<br>No Breakfast Club<br><b>Office Closed</b> | 19     | 20<br>Bridal Shower 9:30 - 11:30 |
| 21<br><b>9:00 AM Worship</b><br><b>Communion</b><br>Senior Recognition Sunday<br>10:00 Coffee Hour | 22<br>Organ will be tuned            | 23<br>6:30 & 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study                         | 24<br>9:00 Women's Bible Study<br>7-8:30 PM Game Night                                 | 25<br>7:07 Breakfast Club - Last Day            | 26     | 27                               |
| 28<br><b>9:00 AM Worship</b><br>10:00 Coffee Hour  | 29<br>1:30 PM Ruth Bible Study       | 30<br>6:30 & 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study                         | 31<br>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study<br>9:30 AM Dorcas Bible Study                        |   |        |                                  |