



The Follower 2023

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

We are now in the full swing of summer! Minnesota does what Minnesota does and runs right from winter into summer. But, we rejoice in the goodness of these days. I have frequently said that no one can appreciate the sheer bliss of a beautiful summer day quite the way a Minnesotan can. It is the days we dream of when the wind chills are well below zero and there are several feet of snow on the ground. I have to confess looking out the window and wondering if the snow piles would be gone by July! Here we are at the end of May with wonderfully lush, green grass.

I am reminded of something our Astronomy professor Dr. Stenstrom said to us at the end of a particularly long and brutal winter. We were sitting in class in mid-March looking at fresh new piles of snow all over the Quad at Augsburg College. He told us not to worry. "Don't worry! The sun is going to win out. It always does. I promise you!" He was right. A few weeks later, we were stretched out on the green grass of the Quad soaking up the rays of the sun.

As Christians, we are given a much more rock solid promise. This one is provided not by the sun but by the SON! There are difficult seasons to our lives. We can go through some incredibly deep, dark winters of the soul. But, we know that these winters do not have the last word. God's Son is too powerful, he always wins! He leads us to the still waters and green grass that the Psalmist speaks of in Psalm 23. He always wins. It is a promise. When all is said and done this is what will endure forever! It is a promise that endures forever.

We are now entering the season of Pentecost. Our mission is to proclaim this promise and point to the Son of God, Jesus Christ who delivers on this promise for the whole world. May we cling to this holy and certain hope and may we bear witness to it faithfully.

God's blessings to you for a life giving summer and may you experience God's grace each day!

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

Council Members

Council Meeting: July 18th, 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

June Worship Assistants

Ushers:

Acolytes: Maddy Cole & Elliot Lang

Clicker: Gavin Johnson, Camera: Eric Wussow

Communion Helper: Bob Erickson

Altar Guild: Sue Erickson & Kelsie Aeikens



Confirmation

*There will be an orientation retreat for next year's incoming 7th graders on June 19th from 10-5 PM.

*Affirmation of Faith retreat will be August 3rd from 1-9 PM for those going into 10th grade. During this retreat we will plan your confirmation service.

Watch for details.

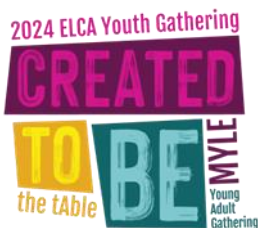
Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for September 24th.

DAY CAMP will be at Cross of Calvary June 26-29. This is for children who have finished K-6th 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.



<https://forms.gle/B6Va4EB4ooVA96uB7@gmail.com>



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

*Our thoughts
And prayers
Are with you.*



Family of Jeff Keltgen
Family of Tim Hennen
Charlie Baumgartner – Family & Friends
Jon Hackmann Family
Clayton Erickson – Family & Friends
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
Chrissy Boen – 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.

**2023 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly
June 9-10 in St. Peter**

After three years of online gatherings, lay and rostered members of churches all across southwestern Minnesota will be gathering in person for our Synod Assembly once again in June. Voting members from each congregation and all rostered ministers in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod gather annually to worship, learn, conduct business, and prayerfully deliberate about what God is calling us to do in the synod.

The Synod Assembly is the synod’s highest legislative authority within the SW MN Synod. Building on the theme, “Embody the Word,” from the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, members in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod will gather at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter on Friday, June 9th and Saturday June 10th.

Voting members from Cross of Calvary this year are Pastor Matt Hausken and David Torgelson. Please keep the gathering time and the work of the assembly and our synod in your prayers.

**Cross of Calvary Lutheran
Church Council Meeting**
Wednesday, May 10th, 2023 at 7:00 PM



COUNCIL MEMBERS

<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	Terms end at Annual Meeting in Jan.	<u>2025</u>	* Second term
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 – Elaine McDowell
2. Approve minutes of the *April meeting* – Motion to approve the minutes by Bob Erickson, seconded by Trent Athmann, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report –*January – April meeting* - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Elaine McDowell, seconded by Scott Johnson, motion passed.
4. Pastor’s Report
 - Worship Service & Confirmation: Wrapping all programs for the summer. Hoping to continue Bible studies throughout the summer on Sundays.
5. Parish Ministers Reports.
 - Done with all programs for kids. Seniors received quilts for the Quilters/ Senior Recognition Sunday will be May 21st.
 - Confirmation retreats dates have been set: Grade 7, June 19th and Grade 10, August 3rd. Youth money will be used for chaperones on retreats, camps etc.
6. Office Report (Sue)
7. Maintenance Update: all good!
8. Committee Reports
 - Administration Pastor Matt, Keith Larson, Nathan Cole, Trent Athmann
 - Sump pump in the parsonage has been repaired by Northern Heating and Plumbing
 - Nate Cole will be checking if a backup battery is needed for the sump pump.
 - Care Team –Jeni Skeie, Bobbi jo Abrahamson & Stacey Larson
 - Coffee hour is done for the summer
 - Children, Youth & Family –Jeni Skeie & Elaine McDowell
 - Equipping –Pastor Matt & Keith Larson
 - Missions –Alex Gay
 - This month’s funds were given to Santa’s Closet, Renville Co. Rebels (Special Olympics) and The Gideon’s.
 - Outreach –Pastor Matt

- Parish Life – Elaine McDowell, Sandra Gay & Jeni Skeie
- Technology –Nathan Cole & Pastor Matt Hausken
 - Jeni Skeie will train Nate Cole & Pastor Matt Hausken before she leaves her job.
- Worship & Music – Jeni Skeie & Kathy Reese
 - Organ has been tuned.
 - Music selected through August
- AED Maintenance – It’s here!!!!

9. Old Business

- Job description for Parish Minister-review and use information to post.
- Procedure for opening the Parish Minister position
 - ❖ It has been suggest having Sister Sarah Hausken on the committee.
- Pastor Matt, Jeni and Sue will be gone May 15-18 to Festival of Homiletics for staff workshops
- Organ is scheduled for tuning on May 22nd. - Done
 - Post Administrative Assistant Job
 - Post Building Supervisor
- ❖ Administrative Assistant job opening has been posted in the town Shopper.

* Elaine McDowell has donated \$500.00 toward the east side garden project to cover meters.

10. New Business

- Jeni Skeie and Sue Altmann have been working on landscaping the east side of the church.
- Senior Recognition is Sunday, May 21st. Thank you to Cross of Calvary quilters for making quilts for our graduating class.
- Last day of Sunday school is May 14th, with a magician performing for the youth and ALL members.
- End of 2023 and beginning of 2024 calendar is almost done. (This information will be passed on the future employees.)
- No council meeting in June.
- Letter from Cheryl Mallak. (treasurer) Discuss/Motion
 - A stipend has been set aside for paying \$100.00 per month for treasurer. Bob Erickson made a motion to pay \$100.00 a month and seconded by Elaine McDowell. Motion passed.

11. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: No council meeting in June – next meeting July 19th at 7:00 PM

July Devotions – Bob Erickson

June Communion –Bob Erickson

Personal Committee for hiring

Nate Cole

Gordy Blem

Steve Altmann