



The Follower

December 2023

As we begin this December, we start our church calendars over once again. There is a sense of newness and wonder when we're starting something new. Along with this newness there can be a sense of fear. Fear is an emotion that frequently stems from the sense of the unknown. If something is unknown, we can't control it and that is incredibly scary.

But, the best part of the newness we encounter in Advent is that what we start in Christ we already know the outcome. We hear the angels' words to Mary, "Rejoice and be

glad!” We begin this year anew eagerly expecting Christ to enter our lives each day. The very presence of Christ gives to us the hope and confidence to go boldly forth to what we are called to do.

So, let us make a church new year resolution to begin each day, with the expectation that we will encounter Christ, who comes to us. May the expectation shape our encounters in a joyful way, with an eager expectation, to see what God is up to in our lives. Again, we can approach this newness, not in fear, but in hope, for we know the future God has already prepared for us! Amen! Come Lord Jesus!

Blessings for a grace filled December!

In Christ,

Pastor Matt

Praying for a Partner

Do you or someone you know enjoy:

- welcoming people?
- organizing information?
- sharing good news?
- being a part of a passionate team?
- a supportive and flexible work environment?



If yes, consider applying for the Office Manager position at Cross of Calvary!

Contact Skye
at crossofcalvary@gmail.com or
320-523-1574

December Worship Assistants

Ushers: Nate Bahl, Keith Larson, Steve Altmann

Acolytes: Will Stratton and Edgar Kopel

Clicker: Camera:

Communion Helper: Stacey Larson & Cheryl Mallak

Altar Guild: Natasha Johnson & Lisa Meints

UPCOMING EVENTS



HOLIDAY BAKING

If you are doing some holiday baking this week and would like to make a donation of your goods to the Snowflake Bazaar this weekend please drop off your treats by Saturday, December 9th by 1 PM at the church.



There will be lefse making at the Parsonage on **Saturday, December 9th at 6:00 PM** for the Bazaar.

Experts, Newbies, and Curious are welcome!

Experts please bring your equipment and 2 batches of dough. Everyone else come find out how its done!



Cross of Calvary
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
28TH ANNUAL**

Snowflake Bazaar

DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2023

TIME: 10AM-1PM

LOCATION: CROSS OF CALVARY



BAKE SALE

SOUP LUNCH \$7

SILENT AUCTION

Follow us



1103 W CHESTNUT AVENUE, OLIVIA, MN

QUESTIONS: CIJI.BAUMGARTNER@GMAIL.COM

Sunday School Christmas Program

December 17th at 11:00 AM

Please join us as the students share with us the
Christmas Story through the ABC's of Christmas



Prayers of Healing and Strength

Jon Hackmann Family
Chrissy Boen Family
Karen Revier - 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

Need Pastoral Care-Please have a family member or friend notify the church. You may also request hospital staff to call on your behalf. Call day or night at 523-1574. Never feel as though you are bothering Pastor or the staff. We are here to serve as a comfort and as a resource

Christmas Giving

As we enter the Christmas season at Cross of Calvary, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude for the generous gifts we receive this time of year.

Your support throughout the year makes our ministry possible, but during the holidays, we are especially aware of your generosity and how it benefits our community.

While you are planning your seasonal giving, we have a suggestion to offer: Consider making your gift using our electronic giving tools. Giving on our webpage is easy and reduces work for our staff and volunteers.

Go to www.crossofcalvary.net to learn about all the ways you can give and why eGiving is an important part of our mission. And while you're on the site, you can plan ahead for next year by setting up your regularly scheduled gifts to be recurring throughout the year.

Thank you once again for your continued gifts. Wishing your family a blessed Christmas!



Offering
A huge
Thank You
for giving so
generously!

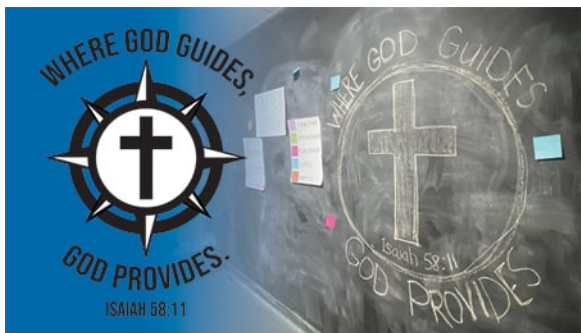


Mission Moment

One of the missions your offering has gone to help this year is Global Health Ministries. \$1,000 Donation was made by Cross of Calvary in 2023.

From Global Health Ministries: "Thank you for your part in in God's work to "make a way" where there seems to be no way (see Isaiah 43:16-19)! Daily in each of the 13 countries where we partner, people die from what you and I might consider preventable and treatable conditions. But your support for GHM is helping to change that. Together we are helping the hands that heal spread hope and healing where there often seems to be no way."

Youth activities



JR High Youth Gathering

Cross of Calvary sent 6 youth and 2 adults to the Jr High Youth Gathering in Willmar on November 18th.

We have 3 of our members that are serving on the LYO board this year, Rylee Boen, McKenna Jensen, and Cree Garcia. In addition to planning and running the gathering this year was able to share a message of her faith journey with the group.

Elementary After School Ministries

After school ministries include snack, Bible stories, prayer, music, games, service and community in Christ. 3:15-5:00 PM



Jesus Justice League (Grades 1-2): January 4th

GLUE (Grades 3-4): January 18th

WOW (Grades 5-6): January 3rd & January 17th



7-9th Grade Game Night

7:30-8:30 PM December 20th after Confirmation

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 AM Worship Communion	4	5 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study	6 6:30 PM Confirmation 8 th and 9 th Grade	7	8 10:00 AM Parkview Bible Study	9 6:00 PM Lefse Making at the Parsonage
Baptism: Elneron		7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	7:45 PM Theology on Tap			
10:00 AM Sunday School		10:30 Traditions Bible Study				
10:15 AM Adult Bible Study						
11:30 AM Baptism: Lothert/Stefansen						
10 9:00 AM Worship	11	12 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study	13 6:30 PM Confirmation 7 th Grade	14	15	16
Baptism: Hawkinson		7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	7:30 PM Council Meeting			
10:00 AM Sunday School		10:30 Traditions Bible Study				
10:00 AM Snowflake Bazaar						
17 9:00 AM Worship Communion	18 12:00 PM Ruth Bible Study Pot Luck	19 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study	20 9:30 AM Dorcas Bible Study	21	22 10:00 AM Parkview Bible Study	23
10:15 AM Adult Bible Study		7:00 AM Men's Bible Study	6:30 PM Confirmation 8 th and 9 th Grade			
11:00 AM Sunday School Christmas Program		10:30 Traditions Bible Study	7:30 PM Game Night			
24 9:00 AM Worship	25	26 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study	27 NO Confirmation	28	29	30
NO Sunday School		7:00 AM Men's Bible Study				
Worship Services at 4:30 and 9:00 PM		10:30 Traditions Bible Study				
31 9:00 AM Worship						
NO Sunday School						

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 15th, 2023 at 7:30 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terms end at Annual Meeting in Jan. * Second term



2024

Alex Gay 2024*(A)

Kathy Reese 2024

Robert Erickson 2024

Scott Johnson 2024

2025

Elaine McDowell 2025*

Kirk Elfering 2025*(A)

Trent Athmann 2025

Keith Larson 2025

2026

Stacey Larson 2026*

Sandra Gay 2026*

Open 2026

Open 2026

STAFF

Pastor Matt Hausken

Parish Minister - open

Administrative Assistant - Skye Hebrink (interim)

President: Keith Larson

Vice President: Bob Erickson

Treasurer: Cheryl Mallak

MINUTES

MEETING - Call to Order (President)

1. Devotions – Keith
2. Approve minutes of **October meeting** – Motion to approve the minutes by Bob Erickson, seconded by Kathy Reese motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Scott Johnson seconded by Bob Erickson motion passed.
 - Reviewed budget thru Nov. 8th. We are behind in offerings by \$73,000. We did have a good second Sunday giving in November brining in around \$17,000.
 - We did not have wages over the summer for office admin or Parish Minister so that has helped.
 - Discussed ways to promote giving. Sarah mentioned having the QR code available for the congregation.
 - Plan to put an update in the bulletin where the budget is at so the congregation is aware of giving and where we need to be to meet the budget
4. Presentation by Cory Hebrink on investing
 - Cory presented information on different investment options along with retirement benefit options. See attached
 - Discussed investment of Endowment, Roof and Employee Retention funds. Decision made to put both the Roof and Endowment funds into a 2 year CD for each of them and leave the Employee Retention fund as this time. Motion made by Trent Athmann and seconded by Kirk Elfering to put the Roof fund and the Endowment funds into their own 2 year CDs and leave the Employee Retention fund. Motion passed. Cheryl to talk with Cory Hebrink about doing this.
5. Pastor's Report
 - Worship Service & Confirmation:
 - Prayers for Boen family in the passing of Chrissy Boen
 - Advent season to being. Theme for Advent is "Hope for a weary world."

- There is Thanksgiving service on Wednesday November 22nd
 - Confirmation continues and is going well
 - Continue with services at Renville and Olivia Rehab
 - Bible studies at Traditions and Parkview
 - Continue with visits to church members
 - Pastor Matt to attend a peer to peer training at the end of November thru the Sheriff's Office. He feels this will also be beneficial in working with church members and others.
- 6. Parish Ministers Reports
 - Sarah discussed her ministry and how she wants that to look. See attached for her notes
- 7. Office Report
 - See notes under New Business
- 8. Maintenance Update
 - Oven element replaced on parsonage oven but still not working. Service ticket sent to Appliance and Home Center (previously Cullen's) to have it looked at. Washing machine to be looked at as well. Sarah to let Parsonage team know what she finds out.
 - Window ordered from Total Glass waiting for it to come in
- 9. Committee Reports
 - Administration Pastor Matt, Keith Larson, Trent Athmann
 - Acceptance of Parish minister position
 - Background check passed
 - Financial background check done on Matt, Sarah, Cheryl, and Skye
 1. Plan to do financial background check on Sue Erickson and Scott Johnson as well as Sue assists with counting offering and Scott has his name on the checkbook.
 - Parsonage furnace checked and part replaced that was under warranty. They also lowered the water temp so it's not so warm at the parsonage
 - Trees trimmed, shrubs cut and other landscaping completed at the parsonage and church
 - Care Team – Stacey Larson
 - Continue to reach out to families for any needs
 - Youth Education
 - Nothing to report
 - Family - Elaine McDowell
 - Nothing to report
 - Equipping –Pastor Matt & Keith Larson
 - Theology on tap continues
 - Bible study after church
 - Missions –Alex Gay
 - Nothing to report
 - Outreach –Pastor Matt
 - Continues with visits
 - Parish Life – Elaine McDowell, Sandra Gay
 - Discussed needing to meet
 - Technology – Pastor Matt Hausken
 - One camera continues to be dark. Sarah to contact the company that put in the video equipment to look at this as they have already fixed it once.
 - Worship & Music – Kathy Reese
 - Hymns picked thru November
 - AED Maintenance – checked
 - Checked and good
- 10. Old Business
 - Investing of Endowment Fund, Employee Retention Tax Credit and Roof Replacement monies
 1. See above under presentation by Cory Hebrink
- 11. New Business
 - Call Process for Sister Sarah Hausken
 - Forming a call committee, extend a call, vote at annual meeting
 1. Keith Larson and Scott Johnson to work on a letter to extend a call from the Synod for Sarah to serve as Parish Minister. Then a vote will take place at the annual meeting. We are able to hire Sarah but in order for her to remain as a rostered individual at the synod she needs a call extended

to her.

- Proposed Budget
 1. Reviewed and discussed proposed budget. Proposed budget will be taking a significant jump for next year due to salary of staff in particular Parish Minister however this is due to Sarah being rostered. Also utilities such as heat, water and electricity have gone up over the year. Not many options to cut anything out of the budget.
 2. Discussed looking at church insurance again
- Annual meeting
 1. This will be held on January 21st after the church service
- Reports for end of year
 1. Discussed that committee reports will need to be done by the end of the year for the annual meeting.
- Office admin position
 1. Skye's baby is due in Feb. Need to replace prior to this
 - Plan to put message out on church website, bulletin, church facebook to advertise for this part time position. After one week will put ad in shopper
- Another person to assist with counting offering
 1. Discussed that it would be beneficial to have a second person to be trained with helping to count offering. Currently it is Skye and Sue Erickson but it would be good to have another in the event either are gone. Notice to be put in the bulletin to see if there are any volunteers.
- Cleaning duties
 1. Bev Wacek
 - Stacey has been in touch with Lynette Blem regarding how cleaning is going. At present time it is going well but do not feel the individuals will want to do it on a long term basis. Stacey met with Bev Wacek at the church to discuss cleaning for the church. Bev did a walk thru and discussed cleaning needs. She felt she could do it in 2 hours per week. She charges \$25 per hour. She is also willing to come if called to "spot clean" prior to weddings, funerals etc. Discussion held regarding hiring out for weekly cleaning. Motion made by Sandy Gay and second by Scott Johnson to hire Bev Wacek to clean weekly for up to 3 hours at \$25 per hour. Motion passed.
- Motion to remove Jeni Skeie from youth account at FM bank
 1. Jeni Skeie is still on the youth bank account at FM bank. Motion made by Kathy Reese and seconded by Sandy Gay to remove Jeni Skeie from the youth bank account at FM bank. Motion passed.
- New credit cards came for Sue and Curt
 1. Council aware of this.
- Communion/Devotions:
 1. December – 3rd and 10th – Stacey Larson; 17th – Cheryl Mallak; need help yet with 3 services on the 24th. Will look to church members to assist
 2. January – Scott Johnson
 3. February – Sandy Gay

12. Adjourning Prayer

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: Next Council Meeting, December 13th, 7:30PM

December Devotions – Stacey Larson

December communion – Stacey, Cheryl and congregation



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