



January

The Follower 2024



Dear Cross of Calvary Faith Family,

There is something unique about faith experiences at Bible Camp. Many Lutherans name Bible Camp as the place their faith became real to them. The Holy Spirit seems to be more visible. Perhaps camp is a "thin space" where heaven and earth come

close to meeting.

Of course we encourage children and youth to go to camp, but why should the kids have all the fun? I encourage everyone to consider spending some time at camp this year. Here are 3 options to consider:

- **Family Camp at Green Lake Bible Camp**, July 14-18
 - Our family enjoyed going to Family Camp for many years. You get to spend time on a beautiful lake, you don't have to cook or clean up, parents and kids experience Bible studies specific to them, the counselors help with the kids, and you can choose which communal activities you participate in. The best part is growing in faith alongside your kids.
- **Grandparent & Grandchild Camp at Green Lake Bible Camp**, July 21-24 and 28-31
 - Why not take your grandchild to camp? Enjoy precious moments with your grandchild while camp staff take care of all the details. Pass on the faith as you play, pray and grow together.
- **Ordinary Time at Camp House**, June 15-July 17
 - This camp is for individuals, groups of friends, families, couples, etc. Spend whatever timeframe you like at this gorgeous camp on a peaceful lake near Minnesota's North Shore. If you've wanted to go to Holden Village in Washington but haven't wanted to make the long trip, this may be for you. A rhythm of devotions, worship, art classes and music are available. You can also enjoy their beach, boats, wood fired sauna, a brick pizza oven and excellent coffee.

Costs are reasonable considering you're paying for housing, meals and activities. Max for Family Camp is \$1120. Where else can you get an all inclusive 5 days of vacation for that price? Cross of Calvary and Green Lake have scholarships available as well.

Now for a rundown of options for children and youth:

- **Confirmation Up North** (7-9th grade) at Camp House, June 9-13
- **Day Camp/Vacation Bible School** (Kindergarten - 6th grade) at Cross of Calvary, July 8-12
- **Cross of Calvary Week at Camp** (grades 1-12) at Shores of St. Andrew, kids can go any time, but I plan to be there this week. July 28 - August 1

Average cost is \$625 for a week. Cross of Calvary pays at least \$200 per camper. If you'd like to donate money for a child to attend Bible Camp, please let me know. Thank you to those who have already done so.

Blessings to you as you enjoy winter, and dream of summer!

Sister Sarah

January Worship Assistants

Ushers: Nate Cole and Chris Hanson

Acolytes: Tyden Walsten and Logan Osthus

Clicker: Sam Wahnoutka Camera: Will Stratton

Communion Helper: Scott Johnson

Altar Guild: Tami Stovern



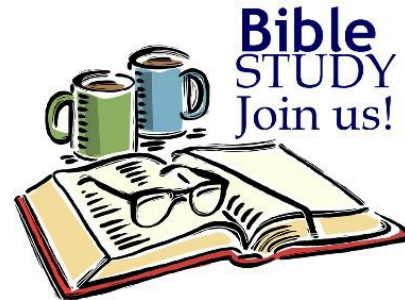


2024 Offering Envelopes are here!

Check your mail box for your offering envelopes. If you do not have one please let the office know if you would like them. If you receive them and do electronic offering now instead also reach out to the office.

Men's Bible Study TIME CHANGE

Not an early riser? The 7:00 AM Men's Bible study is changing its time to 8:00 AM. Come join us.



Mission Quilting Begins

Thursdays at 9:30 AM starting January 4th there will be quilting at church. **No experience necessary.** Come lend a hand, there is something for everyone.

Cross of Calvary Annual Meeting

Please join us for Cross of Calvary's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21st at 10:00 AM.

****In addition to our normal business, we will be considering a recommendation from the Council to call Sister Sarah Hausken as our Parish Minister. She is already hired by the congregation, but in order for her to maintain her status as a rostered Deacon (Minister of Word and Service) in the ELCA, she needs to be "called" by a congregation.**



Prayers of Healing and Strength

Jon Hackmann Family
Bernie Clouse - Family & Friends
Duane Flom - 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



Offering
A huge
Thank You
for giving so
generously!



Mission Moment

One of the missions your offering has gone to help this year is Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities. \$500 Donation was made by Cross of Calvary in 2023.

Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities (UGMTC) opened its doors more than 120 years ago to feed, shelter and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with Saint Paul dock workers, laborers and lumberjacks. Through the years, our programming evolved to meet the changing needs of men, women and children experiencing homelessness, hunger and addiction.

Our emergency shelter provides guests with food, shelter and vital care—including mental health services. Once immediate needs are met, our staff walk alongside residents for up to two years, providing Bible study, professional counseling, group therapy, education, mentorship, job-skills training, and financial skills instruction needed to thrive and live successfully in the community.

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 January 24th after Confirmation

Sunday School Offering

This holiday season the Sunday School kids offering was sent to ELCA Good Gifts to purchase 4 cows (\$2,000). These cows will provide nutrition to the family who receives it as well an income source by selling extra dairy products. With food, funds and fertilizer, the gift of a cow has got it all!



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study at Traditions	3 6:30 PM Confirmation 7 th Grade 3:15 PM WOW 7:45 PM Theology on Tap	4 9:30 AM Quilting 3:15 PM Jesus Justice League	5 10:00 AM Bible Study at Parkview	6
7 9:00 AM Worship Communion 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study	8	9 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study at Traditions	10 6:30 PM Confirmation 8 th and 9 th Grade 7:30 PM Council Meeting	11 9:30 AM Quilting	12	13
14 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study	15	16 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study at Traditions	17 6:30 PM Confirmation 7 th Grade 3:15 PM WOW 7:45 PM Theology on Tap	18 9:30 AM Quilting 3:15 PM GLUE	19 10:00 AM Bible Study at Parkview	20
21 9:00 AM Worship Communion 10:00 AM Annual Meeting 10:00 AM Sunday School 6:00 PM ELCA Youth Gathering Participant Meeting	22 1:30 PM Ruth Bible Study	23 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study at Traditions	24 9:30 AM Dorcas Bible Study 6:30 PM Confirmation 8 th and 9 th Grade 7:30 PM Jr. High Game Night	25 9:30 AM Quilting	26	27 Flemming Bridal Shower
28 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study	29	30 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:30 AM Bible Study at Traditions	31 NO Confirmation			

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 at 7:30 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Terms end at Annual Meeting in Jan. * Second term

2024

Alex Gay

2024*



Kathy Reese 2024
Robert Erickson 2024
Scott Johnson 2024

2025

Elaine McDowell 2025*(A)
Kirk Elfering 2025*
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 – Stacey
2. Approve minutes of **November meeting** – Motion to approve the minutes by Kathy Reese, seconded by Sandy Gay, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Scott Johnson, seconded by Sandy Gay, motion passed.
4. Pastor's Report
 - Worship Service & Confirmation:
 - Using site Sanctified Art for Advent season. They have provided devotions and other material for the Advent theme this year. Continue to do posting to social media daily for Advent devotionals.
 - Already preparing for Lent season as Ash Wednesday is February 14th.
 - Confirmation continues to go well
 - Had 1 funeral at C of C this past month and performed 1 off site funeral
 - Currently have 5 weddings coming up in 2024 – most off site
 - Anticipates several baptisms to come
5. Parish Ministers Reports
 - Sarah continues to meet with families and work on programs and what people would like to see from our church
 - See attached report from Parish Minister
6. Office Report
 - Nothing to report
7. Maintenance Update
 - New oven and washing machine put in at the parsonage from Quality appliance out of Willmar – monies to come from ham dinner and bazaar
 - Water fountain filter needs replacing
 - This was completed after the council meeting without any problems
 - Chad Amsden has been contacted and will do snow removal for the church. This will include the

parking lots, sidewalks and parsonage.

8. Committee Reports

- Administration Pastor Matt, Keith Larson, Trent Athmann
 - Have received some applications for the Administrative Assistant position so will be looking to schedule interviews after Keith returns from vacation
- Care Team – Stacey Larson
 - Continue to reach out to families for meal or other needs. Encouraged others on council to take meals to individuals. Does not need to be elderly can be anyone who may just need a little extra “lift”
- Youth Education
 - Covered in Parish Ministers report
- Family - Elaine McDowell
 - Nothing to report
- Equipping –Pastor Matt & Keith Larson
 - Sunday bible study that is following church services are currently on hold due to the holiday season
- Missions –Alex Gay
 - Letter of Thank You from the SWMN synod for our contribution of \$9450
 - \$500 given to the following: Dr. Without Borders, World Kitchen, Smile Train, Good Gifts, Santa’s Closet, Salvation Army, Union Gospel Mission, Back the Pack. \$1000 given to the following: Global Health Ministries
- Outreach –Pastor Matt
 - Bible studies continue at Traditions and Parkview
 - Nursing home services currently on hold due to COVID in facilities. Matt is able to do individual visits to nursing home residents using PPE as warranted.
- Parish Life – Elaine McDowell, Sandra Gay
 - Informally met to talk about some ideas. More to come
- Technology – Pastor Matt Hausken
 - See Parish Ministers report for some technology updates
 - Clickers lined up thru December
- Worship & Music – Kathy Reese
 - Music set thru December. Have some special music planned for Christmas Eve services
 - Plan to meet the first week of January to continue planning moving forward
- AED Maintenance – checked
 - Checked and is good

9. Old Business

- Update on investment of Endowment and Roof monies
 - Change to FM bank
 - Initial plan was to work with Cory Hebrink to set up 2 CDs for Endowment monies and Roof monies, however, Cory was in need of the original Articles of Incorporation of the church. These have been unable to be located. Cory recommended that since the church has an account as FM Bank to go thru them to set up the CDs as we would not need this original paperwork to complete them and it is best to get the CDs set up sooner then later due to fluctuation of rates as they will most likely continue to trend down.
 - Discussion held on FM Bank CDs and rates.
 - Motion by Alex Gay and second by Trent Athmann to use FM Bank for CDs and to set up two CDs using Endowment monies and a portion of the Roof monies. Plan to set up two 14 month CDs with FM Bank Current rate for these is 4.7%. Motion passed.
- Call Process for Sister Sarah Hausken
 - In order for Sister Sarah to remain a rostered Deaconess with the Synod the following steps need to be taken
 1. Approve updated Ministry Site Profile
 - a. This has been updated. Copy of this profile is on file in the council minutes book in the church office.

i. Motion by Trent Athmann and second by Bob

Erickson to approve the updated Ministry Site Profile. Motion passed.

2. Approve call committee of: Keith Larson, Scott Johnson, Ciji Baumgartner, Krystle Dillon, Michael Kingstrom, Skye Hebrink, Cheryl Mallak

a. The above people have been contacted and are willing to be on the call committee to proceed with Sarah's call.

i. Motion by Alex Gay and second by Sandy Gay to

approve the call committee. Motion passed

3. Call committee interviews Sarah

a. This will take place in the upcoming weeks

4. Call committee would recommend to the council to call Sarah to our church

5. Announce to congregation 2 weeks prior to the annual meeting that we will be voting on this call

6. Synod sends out a letter of call form to council leadership. After the vote is sent back to the Synod Office, the Bishop reviews and signs off on the call.

7. After these steps Sarah remains rostered with the Synod

• Reports for end of year

○ End of year reports from last years annual meeting handed out to individuals on council who are on these committees to write the reports for next year. Due to Skye in the office by the end of the year

• 2024 preliminary budget

○ Reviewed 2024 preliminary budget. Budget looks to be increased by around \$30,000. This is in part to increase in costs of utilities, heating and general building and parsonage maintenance.

Change in personal and salaries.

○ Discussed mission givings and how to better meet this need.

• Motion by Trent Athmann and second by Bob Erickson to pay our budgeted mission giving on a quarterly basis at 10% of what has been given up until that time instead of waiting until the end of the year to give these monies out. Motion passed.

• Office admin position

○ Received two applications and have sent out to two others

• Have received interest in position with some good applications. Keith to contact applicants and let them know interviews will be set up when he returns from vacation.

• Another person to assist with counting offering

○ Scott Johnson and Jill Hanson have indicated they would assist with being back up for counting of the weekly offering with the Admin assistant

• Cleaning duties

○ Bev Wacek has been hired and went over duties with her on 12/10 started this week

• Stacey Larson and Lynette Blem met with Bev on 12/10/23 and went over cleaning duties, supplies and reordering of needed items.

• Jeni has been removed from the youth account at the bank

• Broken window in Fellowship Hall has been repaired

10. New business

• Motion to put Cheryl Mallak on the Endowment fund at FM Bank in Olivia so she is able to set up CDs with them.

○ Motion by Bob Erickson and second by Sandy Gay to put Cheryl Mallak on the Endowment Fund at FM Bank in Olivia. Motion passed.

• Motion to allow Cheryl Mallak to withdraw monies from the Roof Replacement Fund to move them into a CD at FM Bank of Olivia.

○ Motion by Alex Gay second by Scott Johnson to allow Cheryl Mallak to withdraws monies from the Roof Replacement Fund to set up a CD at FM Bank in Olivia. Motion passed

• Motion to increase Cheryl's reimbursement for treasurer duties to \$150 per month for 2024

○ Motion by Kathy Reese and second by Scott Johnson to increase Cheryl Mallak's reimbursement for treasurer to 150 per month starting in January 2024 with an amendment that this can be adjusted at the end of 2024 if needed. Motion passed.

• ESSL Act (Earned Sick and Safe Leave Act) into the church employee policy

○ ESSL is a new law that will go into effect January 1, 2024. This will be added to the employee policy and Cheryl to work on how to track accrual for this new law. Copy of ESSL Act in council binder at church.

- Motion to approve Pastor Matt's furnishing allowance at \$1500 for the 2024 year
 - Motion by Alex Gay and second by Bob Erickson to approve Pastor Matt's furnishing allowance at \$1500 for the 2024 year. Motion passed.

11. Adjourn – Closing Prayer

- Meeting closed in prayer by Pastor Matt

Parish Ministers Report here.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: Next Council Meeting, January 10th at 7:30PM

December 17th communion – Cheryl Mallek

December 24th communion 9am – Scott Johnson; 4:30 – Jill Hanson; 9pm - open

January Devotions – Scott Johnson

January communion – Scott Johnson

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