



The Follower 2024



Dear Cross of Calvary Community,

Over the past few Sundays, our scripture readings have featured a central tenet of the Lutheran understanding of God and salvation.

"You did not choose me, I chose you." John 15:16

"We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19

"There is no fear in love . . .; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love." 1 John 4:18



in love." 1 John 4:18

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

I've tried to express the crux of this key aspect of Lutheran theology during Storytime, and I want to lift it up here too. The point is nuanced.



The concept I'm trying to communicate is this:

- God loved us first.
- We cannot by our own strength, goodness or decision -- earn salvation. Only God/Jesus/Holy Spirit can give that gift.
- Jesus commands us to love one another.
- If we don't recognize the first two points first, the love we share with others is not genuine.
- If we love our neighbor so that God will love us, the "love" for our neighbor is truly love for ourselves, not the other.
- The fact that God loves us first and that our salvation is assured means the love we share with our neighbor is genuine and perfect.

The motivation behind love makes or breaks the result.

This concept is why I am a Lutheran.

May the Holy Spirit work to carry this understanding to our hearts and minds. Amen!

In Christ,
Sister Sarah

May Worship Assistants

Ushers: Brian Kingery, Alex Gay, Darren Sagedahl, Ben Baumgartner

Acolytes: Mya Kingery, Maddy Cole

Worship A/V: Eric Wussow, Preston Stuhl

Communion Helper: Kelsie Aeikens

Altar Guild: Karen VanderHagen, Sandy Padrnos, Laura Julson



Announcements

Sister Sarah Installed

On April 28 we welcomed SW MN Synod Bishop Dee Pederson to worship as she installed Sister Sarah Hausken as our Parish Minister. Sister Sarah began serving in this role in November and she was officially “called” by the congregation in January.

Fun Fact: Sister Sarah’s mom, Pastor Linda Pedersen was the first person to serve as Parish Minister at Cross of Calvary 48 years ago.

Sister Sarah expresses her deep gratitude for Cross of Calvary and the mission we share as followers of Jesus.



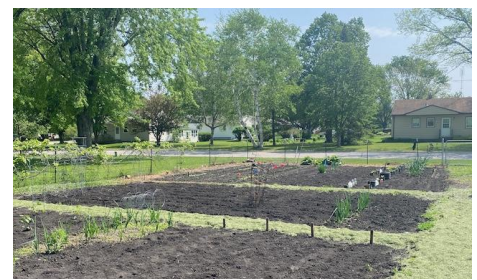
Ham Dinner

Thank you for supporting the Ham Dinner through donations, volunteering and purchasing meals!

The dinner served 300 meals, had 30 volunteers and made \$3,000. Some of that money will be used for landscaping on the east side of the church building.

Community Garden

Are you interested in having a plot in the Community Garden this summer? It's a great place to grow plants and perhaps grow in relationships with other gardeners. The cost to rent a pre-tilled plot is \$20. Gardeners have access to water and all the communal plants surrounding the garden such as raspberries, grapes and asparagus. Contact [Laurie](#) 320-523-1574 in the office to reserve a plot.





Lost and Found

If you are missing a sweatshirt, scarf, water bottle or other assorted items, please check the Lost & Found box and claim your belongings. Thank you!

Sunday School

May 5 was our last day of Sunday School for the year. Classes will resume in October.

Our Sunday School teachers are dedicated to teaching kids the stories, values and practices central to our faith. We are incredible grateful for their service! We offer a special thanks to Skye Hebrink for serving as Sunday School Superintendent. She leads with grace, steadiness and creativity.

If you're interested in joining Skye in a **Superintendent** duo or teaching Sunday School next fall, please contact Skye or Sister Sarah.



Pans, Pans and more Pans

If you have been so kind as to have made a refreshment for our community, you may have left your pan here in the church. We would like for you to have it back! Please check the cart up until May 19th and if you see your pan, grab it!. Otherwise you will have to go to Acts and try to find it there.

Boots

Are these your boots?

If so, please claim them in the church office.





UPCOMING

EVENTS



Senior Recognition May 12

Please join us for worship on Sunday, May 12 at the 9 am worship service to celebrate graduation with our Seniors. Reception will follow.



Prayers of Healing and Strength

Chet Boen
Duane Flom
Lily Kern
Karen Revier

Prayer concerns will now be listed for one month only. If you'd like 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 [320-579-0839](tel:320-579-0839). Never feel as though you are bothering Pastor or the staff. We are here to serve as a comfort and as a resource.



Mission Moment

One of the missions your offering has gone to help this year is the [Smile Train](https://www.smiletrain.org).

Smile Train is a nonprofit organization and charity providing corrective surgery for children with cleft lips and palates. Founded in 1999, Smile Train provides free corrective cleft surgery in 87 countries, training local doctors and providing hospital funding for the procedures.

Thank you.

A graphic featuring a background of blue and white spheres. A white rounded rectangle is centered over the spheres, containing the text "CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**CHILDREN AND
YOUTH MINISTRY**



Day Camp

Games, music, Bible stories, snacks and fun! Join us for Day Camp (Vacation Bible School) as counselors from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries lead this week of summer fun.

Open to students who have finished Kindergarten through 6th grades. Friends welcome!

July 8-11, 1-5 pm

Teen and adult help needed! Please contact Sister Sarah if you'd like to help. 320-579-0838

[Register Here](#)

Elementary After School Ministries

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

Jesus Justice League (Grades 1-2) Done for the Year
GLUE (Grades 3-4): May 16
WOW (Grades 5-6): May 15



Jr. High Game Night

May 29 - 7:30-8:30 pm

Grades 7-9



Breakfast Club

Devotion, conversation, and breakfast at 7:07 am on Thursday mornings

Grades 10-12



Senior High Youth Group

May 8, 7:30 pm

Bonfire and Gaga

MAY Calendar of Events

Thurs., May 9 7:07 am Breakfast Club

Fri. May 10 10:00 am Bible Study @ Parkview
2-6 pm Flower Sale pick-up

Sunday, May 12: Mother's Day
9:00 am Worship
9:00 am Baptism - Ainsley
Baptism - Lucy
Senior Recognition (Reception to follow)

Tues. May 14: 6:15 am Men's Bible Study
10:30 am Bible Study @Traditions
7:30 pm Bible Book Study @ Jeni's home

Wed. May 15: 9:00 am Women's Bible Study
3:15 pm WOW
7:00 pm Church Council
8:00 pm Theology on Tap

Thurs. May 16: 7:07 am Breakfast Club
3:15 pm GLUE

Sunday, May 19: 9:00 am Worship with Communion

Monday, May 20: 12:00 pm Ruth Bible Study
(at Angie's home)

Tues. May 21: 6:15 am Men's Bible Study
10:30 am Bible Study @ Traditions
7:30 pm Bible Book Study @ Jeni's home

Wed. May 22: 9:00 am Women's Bible Study
9:30 am, Dorcas Bible Study

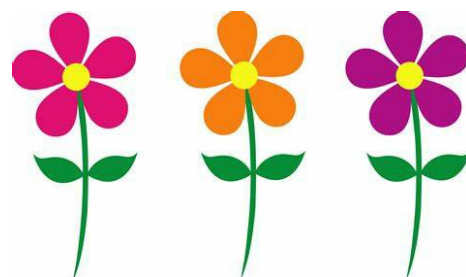
Thurs., May 23 7:07 am Breakfast Club

Friday, May 24: 10:00 am Bible Study @ Parkview

Sunday, May 26: 9:00 am Worship

Tues. May 28: 6:15 am Men's Bible Study
10:30 am Bible Study @ Traditions
7:30 pm Bible Book Study @ Jeni's home

Wed. May 29: 9:00 am Women's Bible Study
7:30 pm Junior High Game Night
8:00 pm Theology on Tap



Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church Council



April 2024 Meeting Minutes

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church – Council Meeting April 17th at 7:30 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

<u>2025</u>		<u>2026</u>	Terms end at Annual Meeting in Jan.	<u>2027</u>	* Second term
Elaine McDowell	2025*	Stacey Larson	2026*	Jill Hanson	2027
Kirk Elfering	2025*	Sandra Gay	2026*	Kathy Reese	2027*
Trent Athmann	2025	Adam Dillon	2026	Robert Erickson	2027*
Keith Larson	2025*	Kelsie Aeikens	2026	Scott Johnson	2027*

STAFF

Pastor Matt Hausken Parish Minister – Sarah Hausken
 Administrative Assistant – Laurie Denning

President: Keith Larson Vice President: Jill Hanson Treasurer: Cheryl Mallak

MINUTES

MEETING - Call to Order (President)

1. Devotions – Adam Dillon
2. Approve minutes of *March meeting* – Motion to approve the minutes by Scott Johnson, seconded by Kelsie Aeikens, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Jill Hanson, seconded by Elaine McDowell, motion passed.

- o Budget is on track thru March
- 4. Pastor's Report
 - Worship Service & Confirmation:
 - o Great attendance for Easter services. Thank you to all who helped.
 - o Sermon series for summer is called "unraveled."
 - o 7th grade confirmation ended tonight (4/17) and 8th and 9th grade will be done 4/24.
- 5. Parish Ministers Reports
 - o 76 bags with items for kids/teens experiencing homelessness for Family Promise in Willmar were put together for a Sunday school service project.
 - o Quilters made 60 quilts and 14 of those went to seniors. Some upper elementary kids are interested in learning how to quilt. Sarah to visit with the quilters about this.
 - o Sr. High youth group has met three times. They will be doing a bonfire and playing outdoor games next.
 - o Jr. High youth want to meet thru the summer
 - o Looking at doing a children's sermon series on the story behind the stained glass windows in the sanctuary.
- 6. Office Report
 - o Phones are not working correctly. Calls come in ok but can't call out all the time. Laurie to contact phone company regarding this.
- 7. Maintenance Update
 - o No leaking of the roof following the recent rain
- 8 Committee Reports
 - Administration - Pastor Matt, Keith Larson, Trent Athman, Bob Erickson, Scott Johnson
 - Care Team – Stacey Larson
 - Youth/Family Education – Kirk Elfering, Elaine McDowell
 - Equipping –Pastor Matt, Keith Larson

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- Missions – Jill Hanson
 - o Paid 10% of first quarter giving to the Synod which was \$9000 as per decision made at December 13th, 2023 Council meeting
 - Outreach –Pastor Matt, Kelsie Aeikens
 - o Continue with bible studies at Parkview and Traditions along with nursing home services
 - Parish Life – Elaine McDowell, Sandra Gay
 - Technology – Pastor Matt Hausken, Adam Dillon
 - o Planning to meet on 5/1. Will be getting a new camera to replace one that was temporary.
 - Worship & Music – Kathy Reese, Jill Hanson
 - o Plan to meet on 5/2
 - o Decision made to remove the old piano in the Fellowship Hall
 - AED/Fire Extinguisher Maintenance
 - o Checked and good
 - 9 Old Business
 - o Insurance Board came on Good Friday for their inspection. The main electrical panel is old and may need to replace it. Have not heard back on the inspection.
 - 10 New business
 - City of Olivia trail project
 - o Discussed easement offer for phase 2 trail project by City of Olivia as it crosses the southwest corner of the church property. Congregational vote needed per constitution as it pertains to church property. Congregational discussion and vote to take place on May 5th during the church service. Information regarding this will be made available to the congregation prior to May 5th.
 - Sarah's installation coffee hour
 - o Coffee hour to be done in honor of Sarah's installation after church on April 28th. Council to supply treats and work.

- 11 Motion to adjourn meeting by Stacey Larson second by Kathy Reese, motion passes
- 12 Closing Prayer – Pastor Matt

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: Next Council Meeting, May 15th at 7:00PM – **note time change**
May Devotions – Kelsie Aeikens
May Communion – Kelsie Aeikens

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church | 1103 West Chestnut, Olivia, MN 56277

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