



The Follower 2024



Dear Cross of Calvary Community,

Martin Luther, held the Word of God in the highest regard. He believed that the Bible was the ultimate authority for Christians, a beacon of divine truth that could guide believers in every aspect of their lives. Luther's insistence on sola scriptura, or "scripture alone," underscored his conviction that the Bible should be accessible to all, a source of personal faith and communal strength.

Luther famously translated the Bible into German, making it available to the common people. This monumental task was driven by his belief that everyone should engage with the Word of God directly, without trained specialists. He argued that scripture was clear and sufficient, capable of speaking to the heart of every believer. For Luther, the Bible was not just a text to be read; it was a living,

breathing testament of God's will and love.

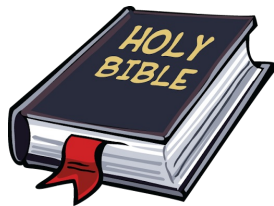
In the spirit of Martin Luther's teachings, our many Bible studies here at Cross of Calvary aim to deepen our understanding and relationship with God's Word. These studies are more than academic exercises; they are spiritual journeys that shape our faith and strengthen our community.

Through regular Bible study sessions, we delve into the scriptures, uncovering layers of meaning and relevance for our daily lives. These gatherings are opportunities for reflection, discussion, and mutual support, allowing us to grow in faith together. Whether we are exploring the parables of Jesus, the prophetic visions of the Old Testament, or the letters of Paul, each study session is a chance to encounter the divine and be transformed by it.

Our Bible studies are structured to cater to different levels of familiarity and experience with the scriptures. Beginners are welcomed with open arms, encouraged to ask questions and share their insights. More seasoned participants find a platform to deepen their theological understanding and offer mentorship to others.

If you would like to take part in a Bible study, just let me know. We would love to find the right fit for you for your spiritual journey.

In Christ, Pastor Matt



Current Bible Study Opportunities

Year Round

- Sundays, 10 am at Church with Pastor Matt
- Tuesdays, 6:30 am at Church - Men's Bible Study
- Tuesdays, 7:00 am at Church - Men's Bible Study
- Tuesdays, 10:30 am at Traditions with Pastor Matt
- Wednesdays, 7:45 pm at Max's - Theology on Tap w/ Pastor Matt
- Fridays, 10 am at Parkview with Pastor Matt

Starting Again in the Fall

- 4th Monday, 1:30 pm at Church - Ruth Bible Study
- Tuesdays, 7:30 pm at Jeni Skeie's Home - Women's Bible Study
- Wednesdays, 9 am at Church - Women's Bible Study
- Last Wednesday, 9:30 am at Church -Dorcas Bible Study

August Worship Assistants

Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Please contact Head Usher, Daren Sagedahl 320-579-0159

Acolytes: Gavin Johnson and Connor Blad

Worship A/V: Aaron and Cara McLagan

Communion Helper: Elaine McDowell

Altar Guild: Amanda Malvin, Angela Cole

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What is on your Heart?

Yesterday one of our members walked into Sister Sarah's office and said, "we need a Caregivers Support Group, and I'm willing to help lead it."

This person saw a need and was moved to take action.

What need have you been noticing lately?
Are you being called to help address it?

Talk with Pastor Matt, Sister Sarah or a council member if you think God may be calling you to respond.



Make the Most of your Giving

We are so thankful for your generous offerings! If you've chosen to give electronically, you may want to consider making the withdrawal from your checking account, rather than with a credit or debit card. This will prevent you from paying the extra service charge.

[Online Giving Page](#)

New Church Directory

The last time we printed a directory was 2015! It's time for a new one!

We are looking for four people to help people get scheduled for their photo session. The photos will be taken from September 17 through September 21. To get more details or to volunteer, contact Laurie in the office at crossofcalvary@gmail.com or (320) 523-1574. Thank You!





Like to Garden?

Cross of Calvary has a beautiful prayer garden and labyrinth. It's a serene spot where people can pray, rest and grow in their relationship with God.

The space is expertly planted and we're looking for a few more hands to help tend it. Would you and a friend or two like to come once a month to give the garden some care?

[Contact Laurie](#) in the office to learn more.



Children Youth and Family Ministry programs will begin in October- watch for more information



Day Camp was a Blast!

34 children, 11 volunteers and 4 staff members from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries enjoyed a fabulous week of playing, praying, singing, crafting and learning how we are Created to be Free, Authentic, (positively) Disruptive Disciples!

Thank you to everyone who made this week possible!

[Photo Album of Day Camp 2024](#)

Save the Dates!
We plan to hold Day Camp July 7-10, 2025

Bible Camp

God's love is particularly apparent at Bible Camp. This year Elementary and Jr. High students felt the movement of the Holy Spirit at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp and Camp House.

Thank you for supporting this transformational opportunity.

Save the Dates!

Jr. High at Camp House: June 8-12, 2025

Elementary at Shores of St. Andrew: July 27-31



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

ELCA Youth Gathering

What an experience our youth had in New Orleans! 16,000 youth from across the country, incredible speakers and musicians, engaging with the history and current realities of New Orleans, service, and a whole lot of fun.

Our youth will share some of their experiences in worship on August 4

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<p>28</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am 📅 Worship</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 am - 8:00 am 📅 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am - 11:30 am 📅 Bible Study at Traditions</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:30 am 📅 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 pm - 8:30 pm 📅 Jr. High Game Night</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 am - 9:10 am ELCA Youth Gathering Group Shares during worship</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am 📅 Worship with Communion</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 am - 8:00 am 📅 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:00 pm - 7:00 pm David Lindquist Visitation</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:00 am - 12:00 pm David Lindquist Funeral</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am 📅 Worship</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 am - 8:00 am 📅 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am - 11:30 am 📅 Bible Study at Traditions</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:45 pm - 9:00 pm Theology on Tap</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1:00 pm - 7:00 pm 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am 📅 Worship with Communion</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 am - 8:00 am 📅 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am - 11:30 am 📅 Bible Study at Traditions</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am 📅 Worship</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:30 am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 am - 8:00 am 📅 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am - 11:30 am 📅 Bible Study at Traditions</p> <p>7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Jr. High Game Night</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>31</p>



Prayers for Healing and Strength

Chet Boen
 Lily Kern
 Karen Revier
 Chuck Folkerts
 Charlie Baumgartner
 Bob Sagedahl
 Wendell Buerkle
 Family of Duane Flom
 Family of Denise Revier
 Family of David Lindquist

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.

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church Council

July Meeting Minutes and Reports



Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church – Council Meeting July 10th at 7:00 PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

2025

Elaine McDowell 2025*
 Kirk Elfering 2025*
 Trent Athmann 2025
 Keith Larson 2025*

2026

Stacey Larson
 Sandra Gay
 Adam Dillon
 Kelsie Aeikens

Terms end at Annual Meeting in Jan. * Second term

2027

Jill Hanson 2027
 Kathy Reese 2027*
 Robert Erickson 2027*
 Scott Johnson 2027*

STAFF

Pastor Matt Hausken
 Administrative Assistant – Laurie Denning

Parish Minister – Sarah Hausken
 Treasurer: Cheryl Mallak

COUNCIL POSITIONS:

AGENDA**MEETING - Call to Order (President)**

1. Devotions – Scott Johnson
2. Approve minutes of *May meeting* – Motion to approve the minutes by Bob Erickson, seconded by Jill Hanson, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Scott Johnson, seconded by Elaine McDowell, motion passed.
 - o See report attached
4. Pastor's Report
 - Worship Service & Confirmation:
 - o Youth and adult leaders leaving Sunday, July 14th for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.
 - o For information: Thrivent members are eligible for 2 -\$250 donation monies which can be used for church events if wanted.
 - o Continue with other worship needs: funeral, weddings and baptisms
 - o Confirmation this fall will be the small catechism and Lutheran history.
 - o Advent Theme will be a quilting theme
5. Parish Ministers Reports
 - o See attached report
6. Maintenance Update
 - o Received a mailing from a company about having our stained glass windows inspected. Keith to reach out for further information
- 8 Committee Reports
 - Administration - Pastor Matt, Keith Larson, Trent Athman, Bob Erickson, Scott Johnson
 - o Keith, Sarah and Pastor Matt met with Laurie on June 19th for a mid year review of how things are going for Laurie.
 - o Portico – sent out video with survey related to upcoming changes to health insurance benefits in the year 2025
 - Care Team – Stacey Larson
 - Youth/Family Education – Kirk Elfering, Elaine McDowell
 - Equipping –Pastor Matt, Keith Larson
 - o Continue with nursing home services and bible studies
 - Missions – Jill Hanson

- o Meeting in September
- Outreach –Pastor Matt, Kelsie Aeikens
- Parish Life – Elaine McDowell, Sandra Gay
- Technology – Pastor Matt Hausken, Adam Dillon
 - o Completed clean up of tech area
 - o Still waiting on new camera
- Worship & Music – Kathy Reese, Jill Hanson
 - o Organ was tuned
 - o Met in May and summer is planned out
 - o Discussed adult choir and will look at interest expressed in this
- AED/Fire Extinguisher Maintenance
 - o Checked and in working order
- 9 Old Business
 - Lawn Care
 - o On May 21st 2024 an email was sent out to hire Chad Amsden to mow the West lot and South of the Church along the pine trees. He can mow and trim for \$50 a week. (16 weeks x \$50.00= \$800.00. To spray all the property, he would charge \$1000.00 This would be 2-3 treatments on the West lot, and 3-4 applications around the Church and Parsonage. Motion made by Bob Erickson to hire Chad to complete the above work and seconded by Kathy Reese. Motion passed.
 - Church Directory
 - o Looking at completing this in Sept. Will send out notice in Constant Contact looking for volunteers to assist with getting people signed up
 - Youth account debit card

- One card received

10 New business

- Century Link phone
 - Phones have not been working correctly since last fall. Unable to get messages that are left and people unable to call in. Century Link has been very difficult to reach and work with. Discussed changing to Zoom. Adam Dillon is familiar with this system as it is used at the Beet Plant. You can keep your current number but it is set up thru Zoom and it is used thru the internet. Our internet is sufficient to run this program. It is a yearly fee of a little over \$200 and we can run 4 phones off of this. Discussed this option, Motion made by Kathy Reese and seconded by Elaine McDowell to discontinue service with Century Link and use Zoom as provider. Adam to work with Sarah and Laurie on setting this up.
- Member mailboxes
 - Discussed member mailboxes. Many people do not use their mailboxes and with changes in membership it is difficult to keep these current. Pastor Matt stated most churches he visits no longer have mailboxes as information is disseminated electronically. Motion made by Stacey Larson and seconded by Bob Erickson to remove the mailboxes. Will check with BOLD school to see if interested in using them due to new cell phone policy.
- Nuvera
 - Discussed Nuvera and if church should look into this option. Sarah did talk with Melanic Keltgen at Light Beam and she was able to see the churches usage and currently the church has adequate needs met by Light Beam. They also provide good customer service. At present time decision made to continue with Light Beam.

11 Motion to adjourn meeting by Jill Hanson second by Bob Erickson, motion passed. Meeting adjourned

12 Closing Prayer – Pastor Matt

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO

Next month: August 21st at 7pm

August Devotions – Elaine McDowell

August Communion – Elaine McDowell

Parish Minister Report

Sister Sarah Hausken

July 10, 2024

Thanks be to God for an incredible summer so far!

Highlights:

- 5 Jr. High Youth went to Camp House for Confirmation Up North. It was a wonderful experience where youth got to separate from social media, make new friends, revel in God's creation, practice leadership skills and serve others. I would definitely take youth to this again. Everyone who is eligible wants to go back next year.
- Day Camp with Green Lake Lutheran Ministries has been going strong for 3 days. Tomorrow will be the final day. The camp staff bring new energy and perspectives, joy and genuine care for our kids.
 - We have 34 kids, 11 volunteers and 5 Green Lake Staff. I'm very pleased with these numbers. After COVID our participation took a hit - like everything else - but we're moving in the right direction.
 - Thanks to Bob and Sue Erickson and Karen Van Der Hagen for hosting the camp staff.

- Mary Pratt headed up snacks with great creativity, attention to nutrition, and tastiness
- Jr. High Game night is a good social event. We've done outdoor games this summer
- Pastor Matt has been getting the group ready for the ELCA Youth Gathering. I'm so excited for the youth and adults to experience the power of the Spirit through the gathering.
- For the first time we have a youth attending the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event before the ELCA Youth Gathering - Cree Garcia
- Aidan Grund and Cree Garcia were elected to the Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) board at the Sr. High Youth Gathering!
- Synod Assembly was a great opportunity to see old friends and make new and to learn about the faithful things our denomination is doing around the corner and around the world. Thanks to Bob and Sue Erickson and Karen Van der Hagen for serving as our voting members.
- I'm starting to map out the coming year. Here are some thoughts
 - Jesus Justice League, GLUE, and WOW will happen once a month. I will incorporate service as much as possible.
 - I'd love to bring Children's Choir back. Thinking about how best to do that
 - Jr. High Game Night the last Wednesday of the month
 - Breakfast Club weekly
 - All youth programming would start Oct 1, including Sunday School
 - God's Work Our Hands day - Sept 8 is the ELCA Date, but I think that may be too early
 - Ministry Fair? Highlight Teams, Committees, Synod Events, Companion Synod (South Africa), ELCA World Hunger, local service opportunities (Food Shelf, school, Back the Pack, Lutheran Social Services, etc)

-
- Advent Festival Dec. 1
 - Quilting Days - work with quilters to host occasional evening or weekend events where people can learn to work on mission quilts and share community
 - Sunday School Service Project in Feb or March
 - Jr. and Sr. High Youth Gatherings
 - Continue to encourage kids and youth to go to Bible Camp
 - Day Camp - same dates - week after July 4
 - Get on a rotation of youth trips - ELCA Youth Gathering, Mission Trip, Outdoor Adventure Trip
 - Where is the Spirit leading you?]

Following Jesus with you!
Sister Sarah

Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church
Budget vs. Actual
 January through June 2024

	Jan - June 2024	Annual Budget	Needed to Make Budget
Income			
A - General Offerings	144,109.04	314,303.00	170,193.96
E - Event Rental Income	50.00	500.00	450.00
F - Interest Income	108.44	300.00	191.56
Total Income	144,267.48	315,103.00	170,835.52
Expense			
Building Occupance Costs			
Cleaning Person	893.75	3,600.00	2,706.25
Insurance Expense	5,398.50	25,000.00	19,601.50
Lawn Mower Reimbursement	0.00	200.00	200.00
Maintenance & Supplies	-1,490.63	3,000.00	4,490.63
Repairs	1,805.46	2,000.00	194.54
Utilities			
Electricity/Water/Sewer	3,206.12	7,900.00	4,693.88
Garbage	162.51	325.00	162.49
Heat	2,981.23	6,400.00	3,418.77
Telephone & Internet	924.43	2,100.00	1,175.57
Total Utilities	7,274.29	16,725.00	9,450.71
Total Building Occupance Costs	13,881.37	50,525.00	36,643.63
Congregational Outreach			
Green Lake Luth Ministries	0.00	2,100.00	2,100.00
Lutheran Social Services	0.00	2,100.00	2,100.00
Missions	750.00	6,600.00	5,850.00
SW MN Synod	9,000.00	12,600.00	3,600.00
Total Congregational Outreach	9,750.00	23,400.00	13,650.00
Payroll Expenses			
Admin Asst	7,365.50	20,800.00	13,434.50
Band Transfers	225.00	500.00	275.00
Organist Wages	2,100.00	4,400.00	2,300.00
Parish Worker	27,528.98	55,058.16	27,529.18
Parish Worker Cont Ed & Mileage	544.55	1,100.00	555.45
Parish Worker Pension	2,752.92	5,505.84	2,752.92
Pastor A)Salary	33,900.00	67,800.00	33,900.00
Pastor B)Cont Ed	282.30	2,800.00	2,517.70
Pastor C)Pension	4,407.00	8,814.00	4,407.00
Pastor D)Housing	3,945.19	6,600.00	2,654.81
Pastor E)Parsonage Repair	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Pastor F)Travel & Mileage	676.70	1,300.00	623.30
Pastor G)Health/Dis/Life	17,145.48	38,190.00	21,044.52
SocSec/Medicare Taxes	2,777.40	6,800.00	4,022.60
Staff Expenses	0.00	200.00	200.00
Treasurer/Payroll Fees	1,416.05	2,200.00	783.95
Work Comp	492.90	1,400.00	907.10
Total Payroll Expenses	105,559.97	224,968.00	119,408.03

	Jan - June 2024	Annual Budget	Needed to Make Budget
Program Costs & Memberships			
Conference Membership	524.00	300.00	-224.00
Confirm/Grad/Baptism/1st Comm	899.46	1,000.00	100.54
Day Camp/VBS	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Devotionals	122.60	250.00	127.40
Stephen Ministry Expenses	0.00	100.00	100.00
Sunday School Expenses	914.62	1,800.00	885.38
Synod Assembly	1,015.00	0.00	-1,015.00
Youth Group Expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Total Program Costs & Memberships	5,975.68	7,150.00	1,174.32
Supplies & Fees			
Copier Lease & Maint	411.08	660.00	248.92
Copyright & Video License	0.00	700.00	700.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	50.00	50.00
Office Supplies	1,036.14	900.00	-136.14
Postage and Delivery	531.80	700.00	168.20
Professional Fees	163.50	250.00	86.50
Technology/Comp Programs	1,503.27	2,000.00	496.73
Vanco E-Deposit Fees	674.15	1,200.00	525.85
Worship Supplies	1,812.84	2,600.00	787.16
Total Supplies & Fees	6,132.78	9,060.00	2,927.22
Total Expense	141,299.80	315,103.00	173,803.20

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

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