



# Cross of Calvary

## LUTHERAN CHURCH



# The Follower 2024



Dear Friends in Faith,

### **November Brings a Season of Gratitude**

The month of November invites us to pause and reflect on the abundance of blessings bestowed upon us. This month, our thoughts are guided by three meaningful observances: All Saints Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day. Each offers a unique perspective on gratitude towards God and the myriad of gifts in our lives.

### **All Saints Day: Remembering the Faithful**

On November 1st, Christians around the world celebrate All Saints Day, a time to honor

On November 1st, Christians around the world celebrate All Saints Day, a time to honor the saints known and unknown who have walked before us in faith. This sacred day is an opportunity to express our gratitude for the lives of those who have demonstrated unwavering devotion to God. We give thanks not only for their exemplary faith but also for the spiritual legacy they leave, inspiring us to live our lives more fully in service to God and humanity.

### **Veterans Day: Honoring Our Heroes**

On November 11th, we commemorate Veterans Day, a national holiday dedicated to honoring the men and women who have valiantly served in the military. This day reminds us to give thanks for the courageous individuals who have fought to protect our freedoms and ensure peace. As we stand united in gratitude, we pray for continued protection and guidance for those serving today and remember those who have given their all in the pursuit of a better world.

### **Thanksgiving Day: Celebrating Abundance**

Perhaps the most widely celebrated of these observances, Thanksgiving Day on November 28th is a cherished tradition where families gather to share a meal and express gratitude. Rooted in the harvest festivals, Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the abundance of gifts we have received throughout the year—our families, friendships, health, and prosperity. It's a moment to pause in prayer, offering thanks to God for His steadfast presence and endless blessings, even in challenging times.

In this season of gratitude, let us bring to mind those around us who might be experiencing hardships. As a church community, let us extend our hearts and hands to offer support, reinforcing the spirit of generosity and compassion in our daily actions. May we carry the essence of thanksgiving beyond this month, nurturing an attitude of gratitude in every aspect of our lives.

May God bless you abundantly this November and guide us all in recognizing and cherishing His gifts.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matt

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### **November Worship Assistants**

Ushers: Trent Athmann, Justin Martinson, Darren Sagedahl

Acolytes: Jadin Martinson, Jakob Martinson

Worship A/V: Cara McLagan, Aaron McLagan

Communion Helper: Keith Larson

Altar Guild: Jill Hanson, Dawn Gluesing

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## Church Directory

We celebrate the way that our faith community has come together to create a new pictorial directory. If you were not able to have your picture taken, you will be able to submit a photo. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Thank you so much to all of our volunteers who made phone calls, hosted photo sessions, and are organizing our new Directory.

## Fall Ministries

It's been a wonderful season for serving others! On Halloween the Parish Life Committee hosted a Trunk or Treat event for the community that brought 160 trick or treaters! [Photo Gallery](#)

October 27 was our annual "God's Work. Our Hands. Day of Service" in the community. We washed windows, cleaned up yards, served at the food shelf, made blankets for Santa's Closet and picked fruit. We celebrate this specific day of service and all the ways people serve others in their daily lives. [Photo Gallery](#)



## Enjoy Giving Away Money?

Thrivent members can receive \$500 per year to use for service, education or fundraising projects!

Talk with [Pastor Matt](#) or [Sister Sarah](#) for more information.

## Caregiver's Support Group

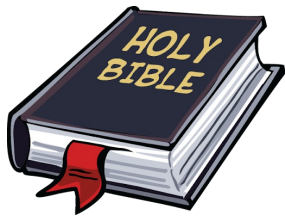
Our Caregiver's Support Group continues to meet at the church on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Goodies and Beverages will be served. If you have questions or need care for your loved one while you're away, please contact [Karen Flom](#) 320-522-1980 or [Carole Buhr](#) 320-894-1983



## THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to our hardy volunteers who landscaped, cut down, and trimmed the trees on church grounds.





## Current Bible Study Opportunities

- Sundays, 10 am at Church with Pastor Matt
- 4th Monday, 1:30 pm at Church - Ruth Bible Study
- 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, 9 am at Church - Women's Bible Study
- Last Wednesday, 9:30 am at Church -Dorcas Bible Study
- Weds, 7:45 pm at Max's - Theology on Tap w/ Pastor Matt
- Fridays, 10 am at Parkview with Pastor Matt

# Snowflake Bazaar

**December 8, 2024**  
**10am-12pm**

**Soup Lunch - with bread**  
**(dine-in or to-go)**  
**\$7**

**Chili**  
**Wild Rice**  
**Zuppa Toscana**

**Bake Sale**

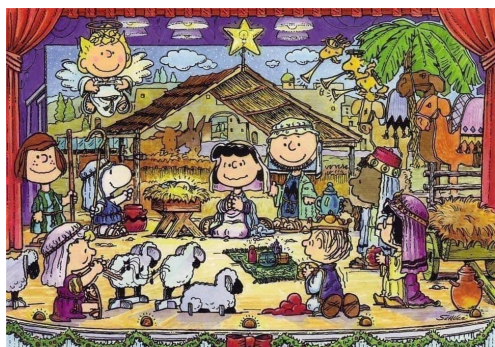


## Mission Moment

Your offerings support the ministry of Santa's Closet of Renville County. Santa's Closet donates new, unwrapped toys and gifts to families in need this Christmas. If you would like to donate to Santa's Closet, we have a donation box set up in church.



## Sunday School Christmas Program



Our children will tell the story of Jesus' birth on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 11 am. Please join us!

If kids would like to share special music before the service, please contact your Sunday School teachers.

## Elementary After School Programs

Come to Cross of Calvary once a month for snack, Bible stories, prayer, games, service, activities and singing.

**Jesus Justice League** (grades 1-2)- Thurs. Dec. 5, 3-5 pm

**GLUE** (grades 3-4) - Wednesday, Dec.4, 3-5 pm

**WOW** (grades 5-6) - Wednesday, Nov. 20, 3-5 pm

**Choir and Craft** (grades 4-7) Fri. Nov.15, 3-5 pm - Meet twice a month to sing, pray and practice classic crafts such as crocheting, quilting, baking and other handcrafts. If you'd like to teach a craft, contact Sister Sarah 320-579-0838



## Thrivent Community Action Team Grants Requested

Thrivent members can request two \$250 grants per year to be used for service, education, or fundraising. We're looking for a couple people to use one of their grants for Choir and Craft activities. If you're willing to do this



Choir and Craft supplies. If you're willing to do this, please contact Sister Sarah 320-579-0838

## Breakfast Club

Meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7:07 am for a delicious breakfast, meaningful conversation, and to try different spiritual practices. Open to grades 10-12.

If you would like to make a breakfast, please contact Sister Sarah 320-579-0838



## Save the Dates

Junior High Youth Gathering: November 22-23, 2024

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

Day Camp July 7-10, 2025

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



## Prayers for Healing and Strength

Chet Boen  
Carol Hormann  
Bob Sagedahl  
Keith Beckler  
Shawn Senkyr

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. Never feel as though you are bothering Pastor or the staff. We are here to serve as a comfort and as a resource.

< > This Month November 2024 ▾

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am 📅 Worship</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study</p> <p>11:15 am - 2:00 pm God's Work. Our Hands. Day of Service</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</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>30</p> <p>8:00 am - 5:00 pm 📅 WOW</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:30 am 📅 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 📅 WOW</p> <p>7:30 pm - 8:30 pm 📅 Jr. High Game Night</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Craft Retreat 📅 Trunk or Treat</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Craft Retreat 📅 📅 Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Craft Retreat 📅</p>
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am 📅 Worship with Communion</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting</p>	<p>5</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>6</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:30 am 📅 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 📅 GLUE</p>	<p>7</p> <p>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 📅 Jesus Justice League</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am 📅 Worship</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am 📅 Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Church Directory ... 📅 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>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm 📅 Caregiver's Support Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Church Directory ... 📅 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 pm - 6:30 pm 📅 Missions Committee</p> <p>5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Missions Committee</p> <p>7:45 pm - 9:00 pm 📅 Theology on Tap</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Church Directory ... 📅 Breakfast Club</p> <p>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 📅 Choir and Craft</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Church Directory ... 📅 📅 Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Church Directory ... 📅 Pietig Baby Shower</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am 📅</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:30 pm - 2:30 pm 📅</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:30 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:30 am 📅</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Jr. High Youth Gathering</p>	<p>23</p>



<p>Worship with Communion</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Sunday School</p>	<p>Ruth Bible Study</p>	<p>7:00 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am - 11:30 am</p> <p>Bible Study at Traditions</p>	<p>Women's Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm</p> <p>WOW</p> <p>7:30 pm - 9:00 pm</p> <p>Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>		
<p>24</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>6:30 am - 7:30 am</p> <p>Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am - 11:30 am</p> <p>Bible Study at Traditions</p> <p>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Caregiver's Support Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:30 am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study</p> <p>9:30 am - 10:30 am</p> <p>Dorcas Bible Study</p> <p>7:45 pm - 9:00 pm</p> <p>Theology on Tap</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>30</p>



This Month

December 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am</p> <p>Worship with Communion</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:30 am</p> <p>Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am - 11:30 am</p> <p>Bible Study at Traditions</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:30 am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm</p> <p>GLUE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm</p> <p>Jesus Justice League</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:00 am</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Sunday School</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 am - 7:30 am</p> <p>Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Men's Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 am - 11:30 am</p> <p>Bible Study at Traditions</p> <p>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Caregiver's Support Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 am - 10:30 am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 pm - 6:30 pm</p> <p>Missions Committee</p> <p>7:30 pm - 8:30 pm</p> <p>Jr. High Game Night</p> <p>7:45 pm - 9:00 pm</p> <p>Theology on Tap</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:07 am - 8:00 am</p> <p>Breakfast Club</p> <p>3:00 pm - 5:00 pm</p> <p>Choir and Craft</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 am - 11:00 am</p> <p>Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</p>	<p>14</p>



		7:00 pm - 8:00 pm <b>Worship and Music Committee</b>				
<b>15</b> 9:00 am - 10:00 am 📖 <b>Worship with Communion</b> 10:00 am - 11:00 am 📖 <b>Sunday School</b> 11:00 am - 12:00 pm <b>Sunday School Christmas Program</b>	<b>16</b> 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm 📖 <b>Ruth Bible Study</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 am - 7:30 am <b>Men's Bible Study</b> 7:00 am - 8:00 am 📖 <b>Men's Bible Study</b> 10:30 am - 11:30 am 📖 <b>Bible Study at Traditions</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 am - 10:30 am 📖 <b>Women's Bible Study</b> 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 📖 <b>WOW</b> 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm <b>Church Council Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 📖 <b>Choir and Craft</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 am - 11:00 am 📖 <b>Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</b>	<b>21</b>
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<b>29</b> 9:00 am - 10:00 am 📖 <b>Worship</b> 10:00 am - 11:00 am 📖 <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30 am - 7:30 am <b>Men's Bible Study</b> 7:00 am - 8:00 am 📖 <b>Men's Bible Study</b> 10:30 am - 11:30 am 📖 <b>Bible Study at Traditions</b>	<b>1</b> 9:00 am - 10:30 am 📖 <b>Women's Bible Study</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 am - 11:00 am 📖 <b>Bible Study at Parkview Village Bethesda</b>	<b>4</b>

## Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church – Council Meeting October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 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:

President: Keith Larson

Vice President: Jill Hanson

Recorder: Stacey Larson

## AGENDA

### MEETING - Call to Order (President)

1. Devotions – Pastor Matt
2. Approve minutes of *September meeting* – Motion to approve the minutes by Adam Dillon, seconded by Bob Erickson, motion passed.
3. Treasurer Report - Motion to approve the treasurer/secretary report by Stacey Larson, seconded by Trent Athmann, motion passed.
  - Weekly offerings need to be approximately \$8700.00 each week until the end of the year to make budget.
  - Plan to start looking at 2025 budget at November meeting
4. Pastor's Report
  - Worship Service & Confirmation
    - Confirmation has started and is going well
    - Attended Fall Theological
    - 11/7 will be doing boundaries training
    - Advant theme is "Words From The Beginning"
5. Parish Ministers Reports
  - There are many things going on at C of C. Parents are happy about programming starting in October. This has given them time to get back into a school schedule etc.
  - See attached for full Parish Ministers Report
6. Maintenance Update
  - Fixed attic stairs in sacristy but they do need some more attention. Use with caution
  - Plunkets left a message that the door in the kitchen needs a new threshold to be rodent proof
  - Latch in partician in one of the Sunday school rooms is broken. Bob Erickson to fix
8. Committee Reports
  - Administration - Pastor Matt, Keith Larson, Trent Athman, Bob Erickson, Scott Johnson
  - Care Team – Stacey Larson
    - Thanks to Laurie Denning for delivering some meals and cards
  - Youth/Family Education – Kirk Elfering, Elaine McDowell
  - Equipping –Pastor Matt, Keith Larson
    - Bible studies continue at Assisted Livings and other congregate settings
    - Bible study during coffee hour has been going well
    - Theology on Tap continues

- 
- Missions – Jill Hanson
    - God's Work Our Hands will be this Sunday 10/27. Light lunch prior to going out in the community to work
    - 11/13 will be the next missions meeting
  - Outreach –Pastor Matt, Kelsie Aeikens
    - Continue to work on regrouping
  - Parish Life – Elaine McDowell, Sandra Gay
    - Apps and drinks before the musical went well
    - Trunk or Treat coming up on 10/31 from 5-7pm in the church parking lot
  - Technology – Pastor Matt Hausken, Adam Dillon
  - Worship & Music – Kathy Reese, Jill Hanson
    - Met on 10/22/24 and music planned thru December. Next meeting on 12/10/24
  - AED/Fire Extinguisher Maintenance
    - Checked and good

### 9. Old business

- Church directory
  - Sign up has started either online or at church

- Sign up has started either online or at church
  - Ash tree on west side
    - Keith to contact Chad Amsden. Looking to remove on 11/9 with 11/16 being the backup day
  - South door sidewalk
    - Still need to contact individual to look at this
  - Business sponsorships
    - Tabled at this time as Pastor Matt has not had time to check with area churches that do this
  - Lilly Grant
    - We were informed by Pastor Kayla that we were not awarded the Lilly Grant. Pastor Kayla was thankful for our consideration and assistance with this grant
- 9 New business
- Canceling "Text to Give" - \$10 per month to keep and has not been used
  - Insurance
    - Trent reviewed some changes for the upcoming policy renewal
- 10 Motion to adjourn meeting by Jill Hanson second by Kathy Reese, motion passed
- 11 Closing Prayer – Pastor Matt

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING INFO**

Next meeting: November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
 November Devotions – Keith Larson  
 November Communion – Keith Larson

**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church  
 Budget vs. Actual  
 Jan - Oct 2024**

	Jan - Oct 2024	Annual Budget	Needed to Make Budget
<b>Income</b>			
A - General Offerings	225,148.59	314,303.00	89,154.41
E - Event Rental Income	50.00	500.00	450.00
F - Interest Income	168.29	300.00	131.71
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>225,366.88</b>	<b>315,103.00</b>	<b>89,736.12</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Building Occupance Costs</b>			
Cleaning Person	1,372.91	3,600.00	2,227.09
Insurance Expense	8,097.75	25,000.00	16,902.25
Lawn Mower Reimbursement	0.00	200.00	200.00
Maintenance & Supplies	894.37	3,000.00	2,105.63
Repairs	1,805.46	2,000.00	194.54
<b>Utilities</b>			
Electricity/Water/Sewer	6,218.44	7,900.00	1,681.56
Garbage	270.85	325.00	54.15
Heat	3,284.91	6,400.00	3,115.09
Telephone & Internet	1,761.21	2,100.00	338.79
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>11,535.41</b>	<b>16,725.00</b>	<b>9,450.71</b>
<b>Total Building Occupance Costs</b>	<b>23,705.90</b>	<b>50,525.00</b>	<b>26,819.10</b>
<b>Congregational Outreach</b>			
Green Lake Luth Ministries	1,050.00	2,100.00	1,050.00
Lutheran Social Services	1,050.00	2,100.00	1,050.00
Missions	1,500.00	6,600.00	5,100.00
SW MN Synod	14,200.00	12,600.00	-1,600.00
<b>Total Congregational Outreach</b>	<b>17,800.00</b>	<b>23,400.00</b>	<b>5,600.00</b>
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>			
Admin Asst	13,080.50	20,800.00	7,719.50
Band Transfers	375.00	500.00	125.00
Organist Wages	3,225.00	4,400.00	1,175.00

Parish Worker	45,881.62	55,058.16	9,176.54
Parish Worker Cont Ed & Mileage	754.93	1,100.00	345.07
Parish Worker Pension	4,588.20	5,505.84	917.64
Pastor A)Salary	56,500.00	67,800.00	11,300.00
Pastor B)Cont Ed	1,544.80	2,800.00	1,255.20
Pastor C)Pension	7,345.00	8,814.00	1,469.00
Pastor D)Housing	5,879.30	6,600.00	720.70
Pastor E)Parsonage Repair	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Pastor F)Travel & Mileage	781.06	1,300.00	518.94
Pastor G)Health/Dis/Life	28,575.80	38,190.00	9,614.20
SocSec/Medicare Taxes	4,123.60	6,800.00	2,676.40
Staff Expenses	293.45	200.00	-93.45
Treasurer/Payroll Fees	986.87	2,200.00	1,213.13
Work Comp	530.97	1,400.00	869.03
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>174,466.10</b>	<b>224,968.00</b>	<b>50,501.90</b>

00 is needed to make 2024 Budget

**Cross of Calvary Lutheran Church  
Budget vs. Actual  
Jan - Oct 2024**

	Jan - Oct 2024	Annual Budget	Needed to Make Budget
<b>Program Costs &amp; Memberships</b>			
Conference Membership	524.00	300.00	-224.00
Confirm/Grad/Baptism/1st Comm	1,314.75	1,000.00	-314.75
Day Camp/VBS	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Devotionals	235.43	250.00	14.57
Stephen Ministry Expenses	42.00	100.00	58.00
Sunday School Expenses	2,038.56	1,800.00	-238.56
Synod Assembly	1,015.00	0.00	-1,015.00
Youth Group Expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
<b>Total Program Costs &amp; Memberships</b>	<b>8,869.74</b>	<b>7,150.00</b>	<b>-1,719.74</b>
<b>Supplies &amp; Fees</b>			
Copier Lease & Maint	622.20	660.00	37.80
Copyright & Video License	697.86	700.00	2.14
Miscellaneous	0.00	50.00	50.00
Office Supplies	1,481.33	900.00	-581.33
Postage and Delivery	889.12	700.00	-189.12
Professional Fees	163.50	250.00	86.50
Technology/Comp Programs	1,450.45	2,000.00	549.55
Vanco E-Deposit Fees	1,135.93	1,200.00	64.07
Worship Supplies	2,450.75	2,600.00	149.25
<b>Total Supplies &amp; Fees</b>	<b>8,891.14</b>	<b>9,060.00</b>	<b>168.86</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>233,732.88</b>	<b>315,103.00</b>	<b>81,370.12</b>



Parish Minister Report  
October 23, 24

Have I told you lately that our decision to begin regular children and youth ministry programs in October is so great?! While we don't have weekly programming in the summer, we have a series of intensive faith formation experiences: Jr. High Camp, Day Camp, Elementary Camp, Sr. High Trip, etc. If we were to begin regular programming in September, there would be no time to plan for the school year. Yet that is how most congregations operate. We run hard all summer, then run into fall already behind.

So I was grateful to have September to regroup, take time to pray and discern a plan for the school year that meets our goals of sharing the love of Christ with all ages in diverse ways, and lay the foundations of those plans. In addition, I regularly hear from parents that they love our October start. They're able to get their families into the school year routine in stages and they don't feel so overwhelmed. This has also been helpful with finding Sunday School teachers. We easily found ample teachers for every grade.

Highlights of the past month:

**Sunday School**

- beginning of Sunday School!
  - Skye Hebrink and Carrie Jo Gass have provided excellent leadership as Sunday School Superintendents
  - Sunday School teachers received Abuse Prevention training (free of cost, thanks to Insurance Board's relationship with Praesidium)
  - The kids decided to make buying a family farm through ELCA World Hunger the first goal for their offerings

**Children and Youth Programs**

- First Jesus Justice League for 1-2 graders
- First GLUE for 3-4 graders
- First Choir and Craft for 4-7th graders
  - Made fleece blankets for Santa's Closet using Thrivent Community Action Team grant of \$250
  - They would like to learn to crochet in December, so I'm looking for adults to teach this
- WOW begins October 30
- Jr. High Game Night for 7-9th graders was a riot as usual
- First Breakfast Club for 10-12 graders - we'll be meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month and trying different spiritual practices

**Jr. High Youth Gathering**

### Jr. High Youth Gathering

- We have 26 6-9th graders registered for the SW MN Synod Jr. High Youth Gathering!
  - Laurence Stratton and Polly Amsden are registered as adult leaders
  - We need 2 more male adult leaders and 1 more female adult leaders
    - Bob?
- Unfortunately, I am unable to go to the gathering with the group. The annual Deaconess Community Assembly is that weekend this year. But I'm preparing everything and will make sure the leaders are equipped.
- Cost for the event is \$130 per person. We are asking youth to pay \$80, and the youth account is subsidizing \$50 each

### Misc.

- the SW MN Synod Fall Theological Conference was on the Roots of the Lutheran Reformation and how it's relevant today. The speaker, Dr. Tim Wengert was wonderful and Pastor Matt made us sit in the front row so he could nerd out.
  - The other presenter spoke about stewardship. Things that stuck out to me:
    - Someone may be "guilted" into giving once or twice, but that's it
    - Sharing a budget deficit rarely increases giving
    - Sharing our vision and how Cross of Calvary is working towards that vision inspires giving
    - People sharing how the ministry of Cross of Calvary has affected them personally inspires giving (ex. Moments of Gratitude)
- Karen Flom and Carole Buhr have begun hosting a Caregivers Support group the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 2-3 pm. It has been well attended and appreciated.
- 
- Laurie made a new system to volunteer to read the lessons in worship. I think it's a winner because 4 out of 5 readings have been taken already!
- We have a small group working on the new Church Directory: Jill Wohnoutka, Carol Senkyr, Judy Kopacek, Laurie Denning, Cheryl Mallak and myself.
  - United Church Directories will be taking directory photos Nov. 12-16.
  - Congregation members should reserve a portrait time. We'll be calling congregation members that don't reserve their time. This may be a good opportunity to check in with some folks who have moved, started attending worship elsewhere, etc.
  - Each member photographed will received a free 8x10 print and a church directory.
- Mick McNelly added wheels to the candle prayer station Chet Boen made. I use this regularly so this addition is very helpful!
- Justin Martinson fixed shelves in my office and a hymnal holder on a pew in the sanctuary
- Mark Thiesse is often seen around the community garden, church and parsonage grounds tending to growing things
- New phone system is installed and working, thanks to Adam Dillon!
- Pastor Matt, Bjorn and I went up to the North Shore for a few days last week. We appreciate that time to rejuvenate.

### Looking Ahead

- God's Work. Our Hands. Day, Oct. 27, 11:15 - 2 pm - Jill will share about this
- I'll be attending the annual assembly of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA Nov. 21-25 in Chicago. The Deaconess Community pays for transportation, and I plan to use some continuing education dollars to pay for room, board and assembly costs. Last year it was about \$250. The theme is Emboldened by our Past to Step into the Future. We'll be electing a new Directing Deaconess which is kind of like electing a new bishop.

Once again, I think you for the privilege of serving the people of God through Cross of Calvary!  
And thank you for your partnership in ministry!

In Christ  
Sister Sarah Hausken

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