
The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA), a Wildfire Congregation

August 2018



Please join us!

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

11:00am Hymn Sing

12:00 Noon ~ Lunch and Fellowship

All are invited to this special opportunity!

*Carol Knutson will serve lunch after we have
sung some of our favorite hymns!*



Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.
They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots
by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to
bear fruit.
Jeremiah 17: 7-8

Sending Out Roots

We are in a season of some drought. Not in the fields of southern Minnesota of course. In fact, as Mary Beth and I and 500 other bikers road last week we saw verdant fields of corn and soybeans and even signs of too much rain in many places. But in these last years at Cross of Glory, amidst many blessings, we have also experienced some drought: more funerals than baptisms or new member celebrations, no garage sale this summer, the closing of the charter school, discussions about changes to our Sunday morning schedule, you know the signs. Even this moment in the life of the country contributes. There is anxiety in the air, worry about what this all means, can we survive, will Cross of Glory have to close.

Long ago the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the anxious people of God in his time. In these familiar words he invited his community to trust in the Lord and used the metaphor of a tree planted by water to describe such a life. His tree is active, sending out roots to maintain nourishment during times of heat and drought, enabling it to bear fruit rather than stand anxious. It's a good word for the people of God in every age and perhaps especially appropriate for us in this moment.

How will we let go of some of our anxiety and send out deep roots? There are at least three tools that can help us send out deep roots. You might even call them spiritual practices: memory, mystery and mission. First, we remember all the ways God has been faithful in our own lives and at Cross of Glory. God's love and mercy have followed us through challenges in the past both personal and corporate. Our lives have been renewed time and again as we tell the story of God's love in Jesus, as we hear the Word and receive the sacraments, as we live out our lives of faith in community, blessed by each other. The details and patterns of our life of faith will surely change, but God's faithfulness endures forever.

We are also called to lean into the mystery of faith and the mystery of God's creation. The height and depth and breadth of God's love for us is finally unknowable. More and more even theological and creedal formulations on which we have leaned seem no longer sufficient. The wonders of the incarnation and resurrection are beyond us to explain or understand. At best we learn to trust that they are for us, that we can

truly lean on this extraordinary love and that in these acts our lives are made new. Beyond these grand mysteries of faith, there is also great mystery in the world God has made. We do not know what tomorrow brings. We don't know the number of the days of our lives or what the church of the future may look like. We only know that God's faithfulness endures forever.

Finally, we must lean into our mission as the beloved people of God. Our mission is not to ensure the survival of Cross of Glory. While I believe it has many years left as an instrument of God's mission in the world, I have no more ability to know the future than you. But that's ok. No congregation can or should endure forever. Our mission is to participate in God's mission in the world. This is what it means for us to bear fruit and we seek to do it both individually and through this congregation. For whatever time this particular expression of God's mission has left, whether 5 or 50 years, our question is how can we best bear fruit for the time we are in? How can we share God's love in the story of Jesus, how can we equip the saints for ministry in the world, how can we be a force for justice and peace, how can we care for the earth God created and loves?

Let us help each other let go of anxiety about the future and focus on sending out deep roots that we might participate more deeply in God's mission in the world and bear much fruit.

Peace,
Pastor Doug



“God’s Work. Our Hands.”

Gather with friends from the Wildfire congregations for our annual ELCA service day! This year, Holy Nativity (3900 Winnetka Ave N, New Hope) will host a KidPack Packing Event on **Saturday, September 8th**! The Sheridan

Story will bring their mobile pack equipment and food, so we can fill the KidPack meal bags to be distributed at Forest, Lakeview, and Meadow Lake Elementary Schools. We'll begin at **9:00am** with a potluck breakfast (please bring either an egg bake, muffins, or fruit to share). Packing will wind down by approximately 12:00pm. Even little ones can drop food items into bags along the assembly line with adult supervision! All are welcome to this Nationwide ELCA weekend of service with God, for the sake of the community!

NEVER STOP LEARNING

Summer Sunday Morning Study Opportunity What do we believe and what is unique about our particular Lutheran witness to the gospel?

We'll take a current look at some of our core beliefs as Christians and pay special attention to the particularities of our Lutheran emphases. We'll consider our traditional understandings but also touch on how some Christians today are considering new ways of understanding and speaking about God and God's mission. Consider joining us---we started on July 15 but there is still time to join us on **August 5 and 19 ~ 10:45-11:45.**



Justice for All Team

This ministry team meets on the Second Sunday of each month at 10:45 and will work together on a variety of important issues that impact our world, depending on the interests of the group. So far these have included payday lending, immigration reform and environmental justice. Please join us! Mike McClanahan is the convener of the group and may be reached at mikemc5751@outlook.com if you have any questions.



Sunday Morning Ministers

Ushers:

Dick Mero Gordy Gunderson
Doug Graske Don Halverson
Don Custer Cheryl Anderson

Communion Servers:

8/05 Arlene Kosek
 Jodi Quiner
 Georgie Proctor
 Dan & Julie Aulwes
 Judy Lewis
8/12 No Communion ~
 Pastor Mork on vacation
8/19 Lois Tollefsrud
 Linda Knudsen
 Sharon Quick
8/26 Verle Smith
 Georgie Proctor
 Judy Lewis

Lay Lectors:

8/05 Jodi Quiner
8/12 Marian Priest
8/19 Lois Tollefsrud
8/26 Merle Solie

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

Articles for the September 2018 *Glory Banner* should to be turned in to Sue Vukelich by August 14th.



Bible Study Readings for August

8/05 Ruth 3:1-18
8/12 Ruth 4:1-22
8/19 Matthew 6:19-34
8/26 Mark 10:17-31



SENIORS ON THE GO

50 + and Friends

Here it is August already and the end of summer. We end with a great trip down the St. Croix River. We will leave from Stillwater and go under the new bridge, so we can see how it's built. As we go along, we will make our own sandwiches of buns, cold cuts and cheeses to go with salad, fruit and a drink. We will leave at 10:30am on Wednesday, August 8.

On Wednesday, September 12, we will go out to the Old Log Theater. After lunch which is a choice of beef short ribs, dill roasted tilapia, angel hair pasta with marinara, or a seared pork chop, we will go into the theater to see "Bee Hive." Featuring

timeless classics such as "My Boyfriend's Back" and "Me and Bobby McGee." It recalls the days of miniskirts, transistor radios and flower power. We will leave at 11:15am.

We have enough for a Cross of Glory pickup for both the Ely and Duluth Lights trips. We will get together at 10:00am on Wednesday, September 5 to fill out the forms and send in our payments for the October Ely trip. We will wait until later for the Duluth Lights trip.

If you would like to be involved in planning next years trips, join us at 10:00am on Wednesday, August 15. We would like your input!

Marian Priest

Cross of Glory Women of the ELCA



On Tuesday, August 21, at 10:30am the Circles will meet together in the Fellowship Hall for a combined Bible Study. All women are cordially invited to attend! Our theme for August is Expressions of Prayer. We will focus on Romans 8:26-28. The Glory Circle hosts and leads the Bible Study.

Our theme verse is Romans 8:26:

Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Fall Gathering October 5-6, 2018 Christ Lutheran Church 641 89th Avenue NE, Blaine

On Friday, October 5th we will conduct our business meeting. They suggested we send a representative from our women's group. We will discuss this at the August Board Meeting.

On Saturday October 6, we will spend time together in worship, workshops, Bible study, lunch, and with displays and vendors. It will be a wonderful day of fun, fellowship and learning.

Our theme is “Growing in Faith” based on Mark 4:30-32, the parable of the mustard seed.

There was not a starting time given – we will put it in the September *Happenings* and the September and October *Glory Banner*. All women are invited to attend.



Fall 2018

“Repentance”

Repentance is one of the most powerful acts of a person or a church, making possible not only forgiveness but also reconciliation. This three-part Bible study by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni will explore how we as Lutheran Christians understand the role of repentance in our faith, especially as we understand God’s grace to be unearned and freely given. (From Spring issue of *Tapestry*)

Something to think about . . .

The human spirit soars with hope when lifted by an encouraging word.
Jackie



Thank You Notes

Dear Church Family,

Thank you again and again for your cards and visits and prayers! I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Gil Hartlage

Our grateful thanks to everyone at Cross of Glory for your concern and friendship through these past months as Wally was failing and now after his death. Thanks especially to Pastor Doug Mork for his friendship, visits and final words.

Carol, Dean and Debbie Sjoquist

I want to thank everyone at Cross of Glory for the outpouring of love and concern over my recent surgery and recovery. All of the cards, phone calls and visits helped me through it all! Thank you to Pastor Doug, Judy Lewis, and Ann Dedman for their visits. Thank you, Judy, for the lovely flowers you brought when you came to visit. And thank you Sharon for filling in for me as I recovered. I am so happy to be back at work!

Sue

Vukelich

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
5929 Brooklyn Boulevard
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429-2583
Change Service Requested

Worship at Cross of Glory on Sundays

9:30 a.m. ~ Worship

10:30 a.m. ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:45 a.m. ~ Small Group Studies

To watch worship services: www.vimeo.com/coqtv

Cross of Glory Office Hours:

**Monday through Thursday, 8:00am ~ 12:00pm (note reduced hours
through at least late July)**

Contact us at: Phone: (763) 533-8602

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www.crossofglory.us

Cross of Glory Staff:

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