
The Glory Banner

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

December 2018



*December 9 ~ Worship at 9:30am
Carol Sing during Fellowship*

*December 16 ~ Advent Lessons and
Carols Musical Worship at 9:30am
Festival of Foods following Worship
Christmas Cookies for COG Shut-ins plated and
delivered after Festival of Foods*

*December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
Worship at 4:00pm*



Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

Zephaniah 3:14-16

What Are We Waiting For?

In spite of a different set of scriptures in our Narrative Lectionary, I think of John the Baptist as Advent begins. Embodying the words of the prophets of old, John took up his desert post and got busy preparing the way of the Lord. He called people to repent, he took on the corrupt leaders of his day, and he spoke of the one who would come after him, the promised Messiah.

His people were desperate for hope, desperate for change. They were waiting for the coming of the promised one and with him freedom from Roman oppression, restriction and abuse. They were waiting for a chance to live and worship freely, to provide for their children, to build their community, to care for their elders. They thought they were waiting for a great show of force to make this happen, for a new king like David to show up and lead them. Even in their resistance to Rome they had accommodated to Roman thinking. They were waiting to fight military power with more military power. But Jesus came as a very different Messiah than the one they were waiting for.

What are we waiting for? These last months have been hard: a divisive election cycle, climate change, mass shootings, tragic fires, the rise of nationalism and xenophobia around the world and a general sense that we are deeply divided even as Americans. And sometimes the problems feel bigger than we are.

What are we waiting for? Into such a time as this, John the Baptist reminded his people that their God was still with them. He called them to change, to get busy, but with the hope that can only come from God. Centuries earlier Zephaniah spoke of hope to a broken and fearful Israel. Along with the rest of the prophets he connected this hope with a call to faithful living, a call to action on behalf of God's people.

What are we waiting for this Advent? We who have been formed into Christ's very body are now called to speak and act hope in our world. We are John the Baptist, preparing the way of the Lord yet again. We are Zephaniah, reminding each other of God's faithfulness and that God is at work in the world, often through us. As people of faith, we must remind each other that today's challenges are not bigger than God, that peace is possible, that healing is God's way, that God will multiply our prayers and our work, that God's will be done on earth as in heaven.

Peace,
Pastor Doug



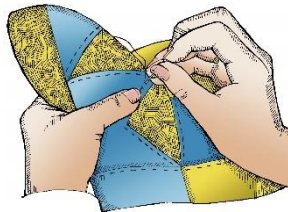
Bible Study Readings for December

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 12/2 | Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19 |
| 12/9 | Esther 4:1-17 |
| 12/16 | Isaiah 42:1-9 |
| 12/23 | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| 12/30 | Matthew 1:1-17 |



2019 Women's Wildfire Event: Women Give in Faith

Did you know that 47% of US workers are women? And that women manage the majority of household wealth? This means that women are in a unique place to make impactful decisions about how and why and where they give. Join us at the interactive Women Give in Faith workshop, where we will share giving stories, learn about giving and financial planning tools, strengthen our capacity to make a difference, and take action by giving away \$1000+ to an organization benefiting women. **The workshop will be at Holy Nativity on February 9, 2019 from 9:00am – 1:00pm!** Lunch will be provided. Stay tuned for more information!



Quilt Sunday

The CEAP Quilters were happy to display the quilts and children's clothing that we have made from September 2018 on November 18th. Members show up every Monday and work from 9:00am to 12:00pm.

All the quilts and clothing were sent to CEAP on Monday, November 19th, and will be used at their Christmas Store.

The Brooklyn Center Lions Club and Lioness Club sponsor a family in need of a helping hand at Christmas every year. They use some of our quilts for these families.

Thank you COG members for allowing us to use your church for our Quilt making projects. Our members are from many churches in our area. These women enjoy working to make the quilts and children's clothing for people in need of assistance.



December
**Sunday Morning
 Ministers**

Ushers:

Dave Hengel	Dick Mero
Masayuki Ionue	Don Custer
Cheryl Anderson	Ryan Bailey
Chad Bailey	

Communion Servers:

12/2 Judy Olson
 Sharon Quick
 Judy Lewis
 Dawn Bailey
 Ryan & Chad Bailey

12/9 Bruce & Sue Vukelich
 Linda Knudsen

12/16 Lois Tollefsrud
 Arlene Kosek
 Judy Lewis

12/23 Verle Smith
 Sharon Quick
 Linda Knudsen

12/30 Gayle Merritt
 Deb Groettum
 Marian Priest

Lay Lectors:

12/2 Marian Priest
12/9 Lois Tollefsrud
12/16 Merle Solie
12/23 Kris Simon
12/30 Carol Stejskal

Newsletter
DEADLINE

Articles for the January 2019
Glory Banner should to be turned in
 to Sue Vukelich by **December 11th**.

2019 Pledge Reminder
*If you have not turned in your
 pledge for 2019, please
 remember to fill out a pledge
 card, call the church office
 (533-8602) or email Sue at
svukelich@crossofglory.us
 Thank You!*



SENIORS ON THE GO

50 + and Friends

'Tis the season to look back on all our past blessings and celebrate the birth of the one who gives us these wonderful things.

Our program on Tuesday, December 18th is to hear the carols of the season sung by "Simple Gifts." We'll hear the traditional Christmas music accompanied by bagpipe, Celtic whistle, piano, violin and percussion. Before the concert, our lunch will be rotisserie chicken, vegetable, garlic smashed potatoes, cold salad, dinner rolls, assorted desserts.

On Wednesday, January 9, we are going to the new Bell Museum and Planetarium. We will have a guided tour of the

wildlife dioramas, outdoor learning experiences and more. Then in to the planetarium for a view of the night sky. We'll have lunch at Stout's Pub first with a choice of fried chicken tenders basket, grilled bratwurst basket or fish and chips.

In February we are going to the Science Museum where the exhibit is called "Game Changers." You can try your skill at all of the video games from over the years. Then, after lunch on your own, we will see the Imax film *Living Through the Age of Airplanes*.

Watch for sign up sheets, dates and times and join us when you can!

Marian Priest

Cross of Glory Women of the ELCA

All women of Cross of Glory are warmly invited to visit or join a circle. Each circle has a Bible study, special interests and a coffee social time. December Circle meetings are a little changed. Mission Circle will meet in a member's home on Tuesday, December 11th. The Glory Circle and Community Needs Circle **will not meet** in December.

This year's Advent devotional "Fear Not," by the Rev. Katie Hines-Shah, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale, IL, will focus on how this oft-repeated phrase to the Bible provides comfort to those who hear it. Hines-Shah helps us begin to see that the Christmas story is also the story of life in faith.

January 2019

We will begin another four-session study "The Gospel of John. Meetings with Jesus" written by the Rev. Julie A. Kanarr, a frequent *Gather* contributor. This series invites us to meet Jesus through his interactions with various characters within the Gospel ~ beckoning us to explore and grow in faith.



Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 8, 2018

Punch ~ 11:30am with Lunch at 12:00pm

Our catered Christmas Tea will be on Saturday, December 8. We will serve punch at 11:30am followed by lunch at 12:00pm. After lunch, we will be entertained by Amy and Adam ~ a husband and wife who will sing, play the keyboard and other instruments.

There is a sign-up poster near the Welcome Center. Please sign your

name and indicate any guests you invited. This is very important, so Carol will know how much food to prepare.

As we have done at previous teas, there will be an opportunity to participate in the Thank Offerings and Prayer Partners. A free will offering will be taken at the Tea.

Thank Offerings

(Written by Shirley Timm in 2014)

For more than 100 years Lutheran Women have carried out the tradition of collecting Thank Offerings to give thanks for blessings in the ordinary and extra ordinary moments of life. We collect thank offerings at the December Smorgasbord.

Many women put money aside during the year when they feel they have received a blessing from God. Some write a check to W/ELCA at the Smorgasbord. All the money collected is sent to the Minneapolis Area W/ELCA office. They send half to the W/ELCA National office. The money is used to support witness, evangelism, education and missionary work.

We now have a Christmas TEA but the Thank Offerings are still a part of our Christmas gathering.



At our Christmas Tea you will meet your Prayer Partner. If you haven't had a Prayer Partner before, this will be the opportunity to have one. On each table there will be a basket with slips of paper to fill out with your name, address, birthday date and any other significant dates. Some prayer partners send cards during the year. This is not necessary ~ prayer is the important thing.

Something to think about . . .

Don't put off until tomorrow the loving words you can say today.

Jackie



The Giving Tree is now up for CEAP and their **Toys for Joy** program. There are ornaments with gift suggestions on the tree for ages infant to 16 years old. You may place a new unwrapped toy in the box marked CEAP and know the toy will go to a child in our area.

CEAP is doing something different this year. If you would like to bring your unwrapped toy to the CEAP office on either December 12, 13 or 14, they will have treats and give you a tour of their facility.

Christmas Cookies

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 16th!** Festival of Foods will be celebrated that day. That is the day we will plate the cookies. We are asking that all cookie donations be brought to church on that day. We will need help in assembling the trays immediately following the Festival of Foods. We have plated more than 50 trays each year. Many cookies are needed! Further information will be noted in the weekly bulletins, as well as a request for help. If you have questions, please call Marcy Hartlage, 763-537-9005.



Thank you for all the cards and well wishes after my recent shoulder surgery. Thanks to Pastor Doug for his hospital visit. Cross of Glory is truly a family!

Ethel Smith

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/cogtv

Cross of Glory Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8:00am ~ 4:00pm

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

E-mail: office@crossofglory.us

www.crossofglory.us

Cross of Glory Staff:

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Doug Mork ~

dmork@crossofglory.us

Organist:

Rev. Dr. Allan Mahnke ~

furiusbib@comcast.net

Choir Director:

Keith Williams ~

williams@csp.edu

Outreach:

Rev. Christian Vincent ~

cvincent@crossofglory.us

Pianist:

Mark Trease ~

mltrease@comcast.net

Bookkeeper:

Mike Edstrom ~

medstrom@crossofglory.us

Administrative Assistant:

Sue Vukelich ~

svukelich@crossofglory.us