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# The Glory Banner

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

*December 2019*

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*Sunday, December 1 ~ Worship at 9:30am  
Coffee Fellowship*

*Sunday, December 8 ~ Worship at 9:30am  
Reception Honoring COG's Tape Ministry*

*Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> ~  
COG's Special Music Worship at 9:30am  
Festival of Foods and Christmas Cookie Plates assembled*

*Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Worship at 9:30am  
Coffee Fellowship*

*Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Eve  
4:00pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion*

*Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Worship at 9:30am  
Farewell Reception for Pastor Christian and Florence*

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## **“Advent Greetings!”**

At a time when much of the world is frantically gift shopping, putting up Christmas lawn decorations and anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus, Christians around the world are observing the liturgical season of Advent. From the Latin word for “coming,” Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ both in the past in his birth as the baby Jesus, but also in the future with Christ’s promised second coming. Furthermore, Advent is an important time for us to focus on Christ’s presence with us now- coming to us in the Word, in the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion and in the company of the world’s needy.

Advent marks the beginning of the church calendar. It traditionally starts on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew’s Day (November 30<sup>th</sup>) and continues for four Sundays until Christmas. The season can range anywhere from 23 to 28 days, depending on which day Christmas Eve falls.

Christians around the world have adopted various traditions of lighting candles during Advent to observe this as the time of the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. One widespread tradition is the use of an Advent wreath both in the church and in the home to mark each Sunday in the Advent season. The wreath is often made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life.

Each of the Advent candles has a special meaning. The first candle is the “Candle of Hope.” Here we recall the hope we have in Christ. The second candle is the “Candle of Peace,” reminding us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The third candle is the “Candle of Joy.” As we look at this candle, we celebrate the joy we have in Christ Jesus. The fourth candle is the “Candle of Love.” Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love that God has for all people. Many Advent wreaths also have a fifth candle,

the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness.

There is so much beauty and rich tradition during this season of Advent to prepare us for the coming of the One- who came that first Christmas, is coming again and is present with us now and always. May God bless you in your Advent journey!

*Pastor Lee*



## **Honoring of Cross of Glory Tape Ministry**

On Sunday, December 8 at 10:45am, there will be a reception in the Fellowship Hall to thank Harold Rorem and Earl Simons for their work in the Cross of Glory tape ministry. Earl and Ruthanne Simons started this ministry back in 1991 in memory of Ruthanne's mother. They purchased the tape recorder equipment, furnished tapes and bought recorders for those who didn't have one. (Earl continues to buy the tapes.) In about 2005, Harold took over this ministry. He faithfully records the worship service each Sunday (even on blizzard Sundays!) and also helps deliver them to the homebound members of the congregation.

This is a wonderful ministry of the congregation! Please share in this time of appreciate as we give thanks to Earl and Ruthanne Simons and Harold Rorem for their faithfulness in serving God through this ministry. Also, many thanks to all who have helped with this ministry over the years!



## **“Christmas: The Real Story”**

During the Month of December, Pastor Lee will offer a three-session study on “Christmas: The Real Story.” This course will meet on Tuesdays at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. In this study you will discover new wonder, richness and inspiration in the story of the infant Jesus. Travel back 2000 years to relive the real reason for celebration!

**Tuesday, December 3, 9:30am**

**Session 1: “Setting the Stage ~The King is Born”**

**Tuesday, December 10, 9:30am**

**Session 2: “God’s New Kingdom Grows”**

**Tuesday, December 17, 9:30am**

**Session 3: “God’s New Kingdom Lasts Forever”**



## **Farewell Reception for Pastor Christian and Florence Sunday, December 29, 10:45am**

Pastor Christian has resigned his position at Cross of Glory. For over seven years, Christian has been a member of the staff focusing on Outreach Ministry. The congregation has been blessed by his presence and his ministry. Please share in this time of appreciation and farewell for both Christian and Florence.



December 2019

## Sunday Morning Ministers

### Ushers:

Dick Mero	Don Halverson
Dave Hengel	Masayuki Inoue
Dan Aulwes	Ryan Bailey
Cheryl Anderson	Chad Bailey

### Communion Servers:

12/1	Judy Olson
	Sharon Quick
	Jodi Quiner
	Dawn Bailey
	Ryan Bailey
	Chad Bailey
12/8	Linda Knudsen
	Bruce & Sue Vukelich
12/15	Lois Tollefsrud
	Arlene Kosek
	Brenda Edstrom

12/22 Verle Smith  
Sharon Quick  
Linda Knudsen

12/29 Gayle Merritt  
Deb Groettum  
Judy Lewis

### Lay Lectors:

12/1	Carol Stejskal
12/8	Gale Geske
12/15	Jodi Quiner
12/22	Paul Geske
12/19	Gayle Merritt

### Greeters

12/1	Carol Sjoquist
	Linda Knudsen
12/8	Barb Thomson
	Jan Skatter
12/15	Ron & Lois Tollefsrud
12/22	Linda Knudsen
	Judy Lewis
12/29	Cheryl Anderson
	DeLores Olson

# CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee met for the first time on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> with Pastor John Hilden of the ELCA to receive instruction and guidance on how to proceed. We look forward to sharing what we learn with the congregation and ask for both your prayers and assistance as we begin this work.



## SENIORS ON THE GO

### **50 + and Friends**

It's December and on the 20<sup>th</sup> we end the year at the Ives Theater in the Mason's Museum.

After a lunch of rotisserie chicken and cheesy potatoes, we will head up to the theater to watch "A Medora Christmas" with performers from the pageant in Medora, North Dakota. We leave church at 10:45am.

January 22 brings us back to the Ives Theater for "Rainy Days and Mondays" a tribute to the Carpenters. The lunch is beef and potatoes. We leave at 10:45am.

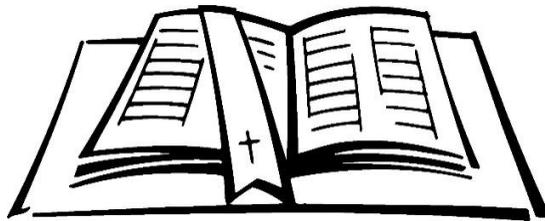
On February 12<sup>th</sup> it's the Old Log Theater for "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder." One actor plays all the members of the D'Tsquith family. Lunch choices are the usual ~ pork chop, beef rib, tilapia and pasta with tomato sauce. We will leave at 10:45am.

Watch the bulletin board for new sign-up sheets and plan to join us!

*Marian Priest*

## **Cross of Glory Women of the ELCA**

All women of Cross of Glory are warmly invited to visit or join a circle. We have three circles: Community Needs, Glory and Mission. We all meet the third Tuesday of the month. Community Needs Circle meets at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall; the Glory Circle meets at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall; and the Mission Circle meets at 12:30pm in a member's home. All circles have a Bible study, fellowship, coffee and treats. There will be the Bible study leaders and hostesses in the next *Happenings*.



### **Winter 2020 Bible Study**

Martin Luther used the word “vocation” or “calling” to refer to all aspects of human life. We are called to respond to God not just in our personal relationship with God but in our relationships with family and friends, in our work, and in our communities. This four-part Bible study will explore stories from both the Old and New Testament. We will reflect on how our biblical forebearers heard and responded to God’s call, how God is calling us, and how God may be calling others through us.



## Christmas Tea/Lunch

The Christmas Tea (luncheon/coffee) will be **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. We will have punch at 11:30am, lunch at 12:00pm and entertainment at 1:00pm. You do not have to bring anything as our luncheon will be catered by Carol Knutson. There will be no charge, but a basket will be available to help with the expenses.

At our Christmas Tea we will choose new Prayer Partners and reveal ourselves to our 2019 Prayer Partner. If you have not had a prayer partner, think about it. Some prayer partners send cards during the year on birthdays and other special occasions. You don't have to do this – the important thing is to remember your partner in prayer.

Also, at our Christmas Tea we will have an opportunity to give our Thankofferings. According the *BOLD* (Women of the ELCA e-mail newsletter) Lutheran women have given thanks to God in dollars to mission through Thankofferings for over 100 years.

### ***Something to Think About . . .***

For every minute you are angry, you lose 60 seconds of happiness.

*Jackie*



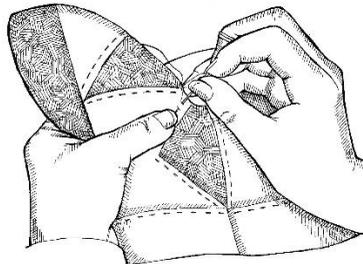
We will continue the tradition of making cookie trays for our COG members and friends who are homebound, in care centers, or have experienced a life changing event. In past years, we have been blessed with donations of cookies from all our parishioners. The cookies have been cheerfully and thankfully received. It has brightened the lives of those who receive them. We have plated more than 50 trays each year. Many cookies are needed! Even if you do not bake, store bought cookies are also welcome! **If you have questions, please call Marcy Hartlage, 763-537-9005.**



## **Toys for Joy Christmas Tree for CEAP**

The Community Needs Circle have again put up the Giving Tree for the **CEAP Toys for Joy Program**. As in previous years, there are ornaments on the tree with giving suggestions for children ages infant to 16 years. We will need everyone's help with new unwrapped gifts for children in our area. Money donations are always welcome. Make your check out to **CEAP-Toys for Joy** and use the special monthly envelope. It is early this year because CEAP's cutoff date is December 12<sup>th</sup>. These

gifts will be for parents to pick out for their children. If you know of a family that could benefit from this service, have them go to CEAP and apply. The registration event is December 2-4 and the toy distribution event will be December 17-19.



## **Quilt Sunday November 24, 2019**

The CEAP Quilters were happy to display the quilts and children's clothing that we have made from September 2019.

All of the quilts and clothing that you see today will be sent to CEAP on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and will be used at their Christmas Tore.

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 project. Our members are from many churches in our area. these women enjoy working to produce these items, that provide quilts and children's clothing for people in need of assistance.

*Ruth Lunquist, Facilitator CEAP Quilters*



*Tuesday,  
December 24, 2019, 4:00pm  
Candlelight Service with Holy  
Communion and  
Special Music*



To My Friends at Cross of Glory,

Thank you for the calls and cards I have received and for keeping me in your prayers. Special thanks to Pastor Lee for visiting and bringing communion to my home. I miss you!

*Ginny Lebus*

Dear Cross of Glory Friends,

Bruce and I, and my mom, Betty, thank you for all the prayers, cards, and calls we have received with passing of my dad, Darrel Nelson. The outpouring of love shown at this time for my family was amazing. Bruce and I are truly thankful for all our wonderful Cross of Glory family.

*Bruce and 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**

**Facebook.com/crossofglorymn**

### **Cross of Glory Office Hours:**

**Monday through Thursday, 9:00am ~ 3:00pm**

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

**E-mail: [office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us)**

**[www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us)**

### **Cross of Glory Staff:**

#### **Lead Pastor:**

**Rev. Lee Hallstrom ~**

**[lhallstrom@crossofglory.us](mailto:lhallstrom@crossofglory.us)**

#### **Organist:**

**Allan Mahnke ~**

**[furiusbib@comcast.net](mailto:furiusbib@comcast.net)**

#### **Choir Director:**

**Keith Williams ~**

**[williams@csp.edu](mailto:williams@csp.edu)**

#### **Outreach:**

**Rev. Christian Vincent ~**

**[cvincent@crossofglory.us](mailto:cvincent@crossofglory.us)**

#### **Pianist:**

**Mark Trease ~**

**[mltrease@comcast.net](mailto:mltrease@comcast.net)**

#### **Bookkeeper:**

**Mike Edstrom ~**

**[medstrom@crossofglory.us](mailto:medstrom@crossofglory.us)**

#### **Administrative Assistant:**

**Sue Vukelich ~**

**[svukelich@crossofglory.us](mailto:svukelich@crossofglory.us)**