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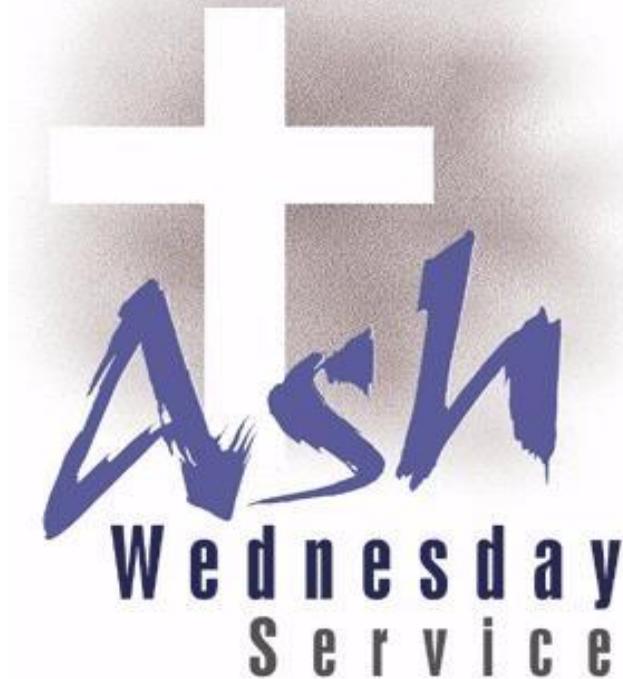
# *The Glory Banner*

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

*February 2020*

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*February 26, 2020*  
*Worship at 12:00pm and 7:00pm*

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***“The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?”  
Psalm 27:1***

In my opinion, fear is one of the most difficult aspects of our human experience. There are some things that are simply frightening, and it is only human for us to respond to them in fear. It's one thing, however, for us to feel fear; it's another thing for us live in fear. Too often, we turn fear into something that occupies our whole lives. It seems to me that part of the problem with fear is what it does to us when we give it that much power in our lives. We tend to cling to whatever it is we fear losing- we hold on for dear life. As we try then to control what we can't control and cling to what we cannot hold, our fear can actually bring out the worst in us.

I love the words of Psalm 27. Here the psalmist addresses the problem of fear and how to find ways of feeling it without letting it dominate our lives. The Psalm contains a curious back-and-forth between expressions of confident faith and the fear we all feel at times. It would appear that the Psalmist is struggling in some kind of situation that naturally causes fear. He feels as if his enemies are trying to “devour his flesh” (Ps. 27:2). In fact, the situation is so intense that the Psalmist even cries out in fear that God might turn away from him, cast him aside, and forsake him. Whatever the specific problem is, it is clear that the Psalmist is afraid.

Yet, right in the middle of his expression of fear, the Psalmist declares his confident faith that God's presence is like a light that keeps him safe. It is God's presence that calms his fears. As he says at the beginning, “the Lord is my light and my salvation,” and “the Lord is the stronghold of my life.” Since the Psalmist trusts that God constantly surrounds him with the light of God's presence, the Psalmist concludes, “whom shall I fear?”

It is interesting that the Psalmist seems to go back and forth between intense feelings of fear and confident declarations of his trust in God. Yet, isn't that true for us as well? There are times when our fears get the best of us and then there are times when our faith wins out. I guess the real question is, how do we stay confident in the safety of God's presence when we are facing that kind of struggle? I think the Psalmist may have found an answer: at one point he calls out to God to hear him and be gracious to him (Ps. 27:7). Like the still, small voice Elijah hears, the Psalmist "hears" his own heart telling him to seek God's face (Ps. 27:8). And he eagerly responds: "Your face, Lord, do I seek."

Fear is a natural part of being human. Unfortunately, however, we have a way of letting our fear get the best of us. But fear doesn't have to control us. As we learn to find the light of God's presence always surrounding us and protecting us, always bringing good out of anything that may come our way, we can feel our fear, but live from our faith. Then we can find a kind of safety that nothing can shake - at least not for long. Then we can say with the Psalmist, "What do we have to fear?"

May all joy be yours in believing!

*Pastor Lee*

# LENTEN *Schedule*

**Mid-Week Lenten Worship Begins on Wednesday, March 4**

**11:30 worship in the sanctuary**

**12:00 noon lunch**



### **Lay Lectors:**

- 2/02 Jodi Quiner  
2/09 Lois Tollefsrud  
2/16 Julie Aulwes  
2/23 Gale Geske

## **Sunday Morning Ministers**

### **Ushers:**

- Dick Mero                      Don Halverson  
Cheryl Anderson

### **Communion Servers:**

- 2/02 Kris Simon  
Jodi Quiner  
Judy Lewis  
Dawn Bailey  
Ryan and Chad Bailey

- 2/09 Deb Groettum  
Lois Tollefsrud  
Dan Aulwes

- 2/16 Julie Aulwes  
Gayle Merritt  
Brenda Edstrom

- 2/23 Carol Stejskal  
Paul and Gale Geske

### **Greeters**

- 2/02 Gil and Marcy Hartlage  
2/09 Luella Hinnenkamp  
Judy Lewis  
2/16 Harriet Halverson  
Marian Priest  
2/23 Audrey Retrum  
Marie King



## **Worship at The Sanctuary**

One of Cross of Glory's closest neighbors is The Sanctuary ~ an assisted living and memory care facility on Brooklyn Boulevard. Pastor Lee offers a monthly worship service with Holy Communion for the residents. People of all faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend. The next service will be Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.



**SENIORS ON THE GO**

## **50 + and Friends**

Our Valentine play at the Old Log is "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder." On finding he is eighth in line for an earldom, low-born Monty Kavarro decides

to up his chances by killing off his predecessors. We will go on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, and leave church at 10:45am.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> brings one of our favorite places ~ St. Cloud's Paramount Theater and the Texas Roadhouse. We will see and hear "100 Years of Frank Sinatra" after a lunch of sirloin steak, baked potato and salad. We leave church at 10:30am.

Watch for new sign-up sheets and be sure to check your choices of meals ~ saves me having to call you!

*Marian Priest*



The Call Committee is pleased to report that they will have conducted their first two interviews on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

We are excited to continue this process with five additional Synod approved and vetted candidates in the coming two weeks.

Please keep this process and all of the candidates interviewing to be our new lead pastor in your prayers.

## **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, February 18<sup>th</sup>. 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

We are in the second month of our four-month study. Session 2 is “The Call of Jesus.” This session focuses on Jesus’ calling of the disciples, on Jesus’ call to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus, and on Jesus’ call to all Christians to take up the cross and follow. As Christians, how do we see ourselves in these stories today? How do we respond to the call of Jesus?



Our Service Project will be held during the month of February. There will be a speaker on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> during Coffee Fellowship. We are asking everyone to participate. There will be boxes by the Welcome Center to place the requested items in. And there will be a list available for items needed.

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

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



***This Thank you was received from Jane Shade and Team CEAP:***

Thank you for your generosity this holiday season. Because of Cross of Glory, hundreds of children and families enjoyed a holiday filled with cheer. Your congregation collected 48 pounds of holiday toys and \$430 in financial donations, which provided 53 children and teens with holiday toys.

This year's Toys of Joy event was a huge success. CEAP welcomed 400 families into the toy-shopping experience, and those families were able to pick out a hat and scarf, two small toys, one large toy, and a wooden toy for each child in their household, as well as a beautiful handmade quilt for their family made by the CEAP Quilters. By the end of this three-day event, your generosity spread holiday cheer to nearly 2000 children.

We hope you know how much your involvement in your community is appreciated, CEAP is so grateful for your continued support, and we hope to partner with you again for the CEAP Community Challenge this March.

***This Thank you was received by Marcia Janasz and the Women's Cancer Support Group:***

On behalf of the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota, please accept my deepest gratitude for your recent gift to the Masonic Cancer Center through Cross of Glory Lutheran Church. Making an impact on cancer research requires a collaborative effort, involving physicians, patients, researchers, and donors. Your partnership is greatly appreciated!

Douglas Yee, M.D.,  
Director, Masonic Cancer Center  
University of Minnesota

Dear Cross of Glory Friends,

Thank you for the plate of delicious Christmas cookies that Judy Olson dropped off. I really enjoyed our nice visit. Many blessings to you in the new year!

*Lorraine Clinton*

A special thank you for the cookie plate and also a thank you to all the workers and those that delivered the cookies. God's blessing to all of you.

*Dorothy Shoemaker*

To all the wonderful friends I have at church:

Thank you for the plate of cookies that Audrey Pederson brought to me. I am down to making just one batch of cookies each year. My daughter, Kathy and I really appreciated all the different kinds – many of which I have no idea or recipe to make. Thank you.

*Jeanetta Barhorst*

Thanks for the cookie plate. I sure do appreciate you thinking of me and sending warm holiday wishes. It has been life changing without Bernice. I miss her every day and take comfort in knowing how happy she is in her heavenly home.

I've settled in here at Summit Place and enjoy the company of new friends and caring staff. Liz, Dave and the grandkids take good care of me too!

I look forward to hearing from old friends and family in the new year. I'm not much for talking on the phone, but would appreciate a call or even a visit if you're ever in the Eden Prairie area. Wishing you good health and happiness in 2020.

*Richard Peterson*

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)**

#### **Pianist:**

**Mark Trease**

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

#### **Choir Director:**

**Keith Williams**

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

#### **Bookkeeper:**

**Mike Edstrom**

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

#### **Administrative Assistant:**

**Sue Vukelich**

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