
The Glory Banner

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

January 2020



Highlights

Sundays in January ~

Worship - 9:30am, Coffee Fellowship - 10:30am

Sunday, January 26 ~

Annual Meeting following Worship

Mondays in January ~

CEAP Quilters ~ 9:00am

January 13 ~ Cancer Support Group ~ 11:30am

Tuesdays in January ~

Bible Study - 9:30am

Tuesday, January 21st ~ Circles Meet

Wednesday, January 22 ~ Centering Prayer

Wednesday, January 22 ~ 50 + and Friends



“CERTAINTY for a NEW YEAR”

Happy New Year! Along with the joy and excitement of a new year, the truth is that none of us has any idea what this dawning new year will bring. Maybe last year was a good one for you and you have lots of reasons to be grateful for the good memories you carry with you into the new year. That's great! However, maybe last year was a tough one for you, one that you would like to forget. Nothing seemed to work out as you hoped. We can hope for the best and we can certainly try to be optimistic, but who knows?

Regardless of what type of year we leave behind, there is a powerful point of stability in the uncertainties of the coming months. It is the promise that we belong to God and that God will be with us every step of the way in the new year.

There was a man such as Paul who spoke with the conviction of certainties. He was sure “that nothing could separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” He also declared to the Philippians, “I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

The great Lutheran preacher Rueben Youngdahl told the story of a pioneer reaching the banks of the mighty Mississippi River early in the winter when ice covered the surface. Because he didn't know how thick the ice was, he hesitated a long time before starting to cross over. But night was approaching, and he had to reach the other side before dark. Finally, with fear and anxiety, he crept on his hands and knees to distribute his weight more evenly. When he had crawled about halfway across the great river, he heard singing behind him. There in the gathering darkness was a man driving a four-horse load of coal across the ice, singing as he went. The man knew that the ice was thick enough to support tons of weight.

As God's people, we need not creep cautiously through life. We are God's beloved daughters and sons - children of the King of kings! We can walk tall with the full assurance that God who is for us and not against us is also the same God who says I will never leave nor forsake you.

But how do we develop confidence and certainty? I read a little verse once that goes like this: "Feelings come and feelings go, and feelings are very deceiving. But my trust is in the Word of God, nothing else is worthy believing." That is good advice! When we start leaning on the promises of God, our feet start walking on solid ground.

I have been told that steel workers on the tall skyscrapers along the coast have to be very careful not to lean against the wind. It is common for strong winds to be blowing landward, and it is easy for workers to lean against it rather than resisting it. But the wind is fickle. It can halt quickly. And if the person is caught leaning on it, they will topple to their doom. In life we too have to be careful not to lean against unstable things. And it boils down to the fact that "in God we trust" is about the only sure thing!

As you step into the new year, know that God's promises are surer than your feelings. Take God at God's Word. That's faith. And then whatever happens we belong to God – God is right here with us. And nothing will ever change that!

Pastor Lee



Centering Prayer
Wednesday, January 22
1:00pm
In the Sanctuary



Sunday Morning Ministers

Ushers:

Dick Mero Don Halverson
Cheryl Anderson John Rowley
Gordy Johnsrud

Communion Servers:

1/05 Judy Lewis
 Judy Olson
 Gayle Merritt
 Carol Stejskal
 Deb Groettum
 Georgie Proctor

1/12 Judy Olson
 Kris Simon
 Arlene Kosek

1/19 Merle Solie
 Arlene Kosek
 Brenda Edstrom

1/26 Verle Smith
 Bruce & Sue Vukelich

Lay Lectors:

1/5 Gayle Merritt
1/12 Marian Priest
1/19 Steve Ferley
1/26 Bruce Vukelich

Greeters

1/5 Harvey Johnson
 Earl Simons

1/12 Judy Olson
 Norma Gilbertson

1/19 Joe, Lori & Michael Blazer

1/26 Josephine Cook
 Barb Thomson



**Please give your 2019 Annual
Report to Sue Vukelich as
soon as possible. Thank
you!**



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, January 8th.



SENIORS ON THE GO 50 + and Friends

Happy New Year! We've got a lot of new, repeat, fun things planned.

We start on January 22nd at the Ives Theater for "Rainy Days and Mondays," the music of the Carpenters. For lunch we will

have roast beef, cheesy potatoes, carrots, salad, roll and their wonderful desserts!! We leave from church at 10:45am.

Wednesday, February 12th, we go to the Old Log Theater to see "A Gentleman's guide to Love and Murder." A man learns he's down the line to inherit an earldom. He tries to become first by killing off those in front of him. Choices for lunch are beef ribs, pork chop, tilapia or pasta in tomato sauce.

Our March trip to the Paramount Theater is already full. There is a waiting list.

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

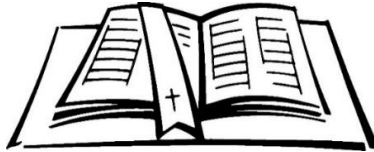
Marian Priest



2020 Offering Envelopes are available for pickup. If you do not have envelopes and would like them, please contact the church office at 763-533-8602.

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. In January we will begin a new four-month study. 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.

Something to Think About . . .

If you have the power to make someone happy, do it. The world needs more of that.

Jackie



Christmas Tea/Lunch

We had a very nice tea! A big thank you to Carol Knutson for preparing a very nice meal. We had 30 + ladies attend. We learned who had been praying for us and we picked new prayer partners for 2020. The entertainment was great ~ we sang Christmas songs for over an hour.

Every year at our Tea we participate in Thank Offerings. Some women put money aside when they had a blessing or answer to prayer. This money is sent to Women of the ELCA in Minneapolis. They keep half; the other half goes to our National office. This supports witness, evangelism, education and missionary work.

Toys for Joy Christmas Tree for CEAP

A big thank you to everyone who participated in our Toys for Joy. We received 78 toys as well as money. Your gifts will go to CEAP. Parents can register and come and choose toys for their children. The parents are very grateful!

Board Meeting

At our November Board meeting it was decided to have the Backpack Project as our service project. We will partner with Advent Lutheran in Maple Grove. Advent has had this project for several years. They provide food for school children so they will have food for the weekends. It's hard to think that these children have very little to eat on weekends. An exact date has not been set. We will have a firm date in the January *Happenings*.



CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee met for the third time on Wednesday, December 18th. We received three submissions from the congregation so far and will send them to the ELCA Synod office for their consideration. Thank you for those.

The group is currently looking at budget and time commitment for our future pastor before we move to the interview stage. Please keep our work in your prayers.



Thank
You

Many thanks to Cancer Support Group, Memorials, dedicated gifts and Cross of Glory members for money donations for Cancer Research.

We are grateful and thankful we were able to mail a \$500.00 check for cancer research to the University of Minnesota. Donations may be given to Cancer Research as a dedicated gift here at Cross of Glory.

God's blessings this holiday season and in 2020.

Marcia Janasz, COG Cancer Support Group

Many thanks to everyone for your help with the 90 + Birthday Celebration ~ what a wonderful day!
Marcia Janasz

Thank you for the Christmas cookies that Judy Lewis delivered to me. I shared them with friends at our dinner table. We really enjoyed them!
Claudia Reitan



Visitation Cookie Event 2019

Abundantly packed cookie plates, with Christmas treats again for our parishioners who are recognized as special because of circumstances that have impacted their lives were assembled and delivered.

To accomplish this event, caring Cross of Glory friends, as shoppers, bakers, packers, and deliverers gathered to prepare plates on December 15th. A multitude of people ascended to help. It was a “wow” moment!

Cross of Glory has an active Ministry in Visitation. Thank you for giving this mission a purpose. My heart is happy, my Faith is always lifted up with this opportunity to participate. Thank you!

Marcy Hartlage

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

www.crossofglory.us

Cross of Glory Staff:

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Lee Hallstrom ~

lhallstrom@crossofglory.us

Organist:

Allan Mahnke ~

furiusbib@comcast.net

Choir Director:

Keith Williams ~

williams@csp.edu

Pianist:

Mark Trease ~

mltrease@comcast.net

Bookkeeper:

Mike Edstrom ~

medstrom@crossofglory.us

Administrative Assistant:

Sue Vukelich ~

svukelich@crossofglory.us