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# The Glory Banner

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

*December 2021*

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**“For a child has been born for us”** -Isaiah 9:6

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“Three Magi” by Cody F. Miller © codyfmiller.com



*“Advent is not a season. Advent is a way of responding to a God who comes to us...not always according to our calculation, not always in the way we would desire, but in ways that are appropriate to God’s justice and grace.” -Fred Craddock*

We have officially begun Advent, the beginning of the new church year. Advent is the season that points to Christmas, when we celebrate God’s coming to us in Jesus Christ. But it’s also the time when we open ourselves to the ways that God is present among us already. This Advent, as we await God’s incarnate coming, we will be exploring the ways that Emmanuel (God-With-Us) dwells among us here and now, in ways that are both surprising--and surprisingly ordinary.

Where might we glimpse God in the world around us? Scripture gives us some clues. The Bible is full of different names, metaphors, and images of God. Some we likely already know: king, shepherd, father, bread. Others, though, are perhaps less familiar: hen, shade, warrior, thunder, gardener, midwife. God comes to us in ways that are both familiar *and* in ways that might seem strange or surprising—in ways, as Craddock notes, that don’t always function according to our preferences or expectations.

We began this exploration last Advent, looking at the images of God the potter, quilter, and shepherd. This year, we will continue to explore different scriptural images of God by looking at four new images: clothing, migrant, composer, and mother.

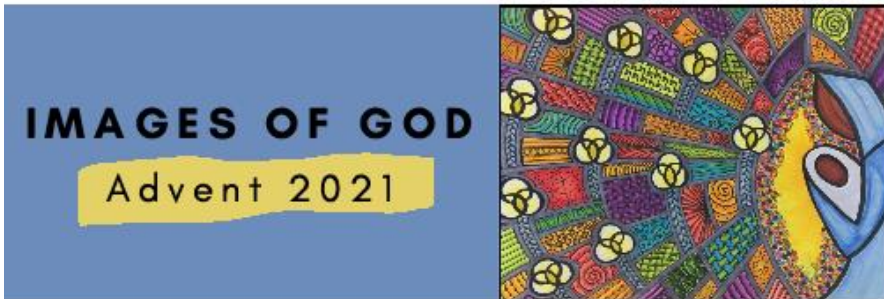
Exploring these biblical images of God invites us to do three things:

- 1) They invite us to see **God** in new ways. We start noticing God in unexpected places or people. We start encountering God not just in church on Sundays, but in the ordinary “stuff” of daily life.
- 2) They invite us to see **ourselves** in new ways, as people made in God’s image (Gen 1:26).
- 3) They invite us to see **our neighbors** in new ways. Rev. Dr. Lauren Winner claims that the attributes that we say belong to God are those we tend to value in the world around us. So if we picture God as king, for example, we’re likely to give greater esteem to political leaders or

wealthy rulers. But following this same logic, if we see God as an inmate on death row (Luke 23:13-25), for example, perhaps this might change the way we see our incarcerated neighbors. This is all to say that our spiritual imaginations make a difference. Exploring these different images of God shapes how we do “life together” on the ground.

I invite you to join us for these worship services each Sunday at 9:30 am, as together we worship the many ways that God Emmanuel is with us!

Pastor Ali



*Exploring the surprising—and surprisingly ordinary—  
scriptural images of **God with us...***

Nov 28: God as clothing

Dec 5: God as migrant

Dec 12: God as composer

Dec 19: God as mother

## **ABOUT THE COVER ART**

The gold, frankincense, and myrrh brought by the magi to a baby named Jesus cost them plenty. In view of God’s kindness and mercy to us, those gifts serve as a precursor to how we might respond.

Gifts as a form of adoration are often a sign of something much deeper that God really wants: the gift of ourselves and our love. This is where our heart comes alive.

C.S. Lewis says it well. "Give yourself to me and I will make you a new self in my image. Give me yourself and in exchange I will give you myself. My will shall become your will. My heart shall become your heart."

-Cody F. Miller, artist

[www.codymiller.com](http://www.codymiller.com)



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

This stewardship season, we explored the ways that God's presence **has been** with us, and **is** with us, and as we prayerfully pledged our financial commitment in the bold trust that God **will be** with us also. If you haven't yet had the chance to submit your pledge card for 2022 (to "raise your ebenezer!"), we invite you to mail it to the church office (5929 Brooklyn Blvd), drop it off at church, or email your pledge information to [office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us). *Thank you* for the many ways you so faithfully and generously give to Cross of Glory!

### Make a Gift Today

CLICK HERE TO  
**GIVE**

Cross of Glory has an online giving page that makes giving easy! At the bottom of our home page on our website ([www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us)), you'll find a blue icon like the one below. There, you can safely make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts. Thank you for considering making an end-of-year gift.

### Questions?

If you have any questions about annual pledges, memorials, or planned gifts, or designating ThriventChoice dollars to Cross of Glory, please contact Pastor Ali at [atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us).



## CROSS OF GLORY BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join us for Bible Study every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am as we explore the text for the upcoming Sunday. We are excited to offer both an in-person and Zoom option (connect via Zoom using the same information as Sunday worship).

## PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Ali is available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer. She's reachable by phone and email throughout the week. Her designated office hours for pastoral care and conversation--virtual or in-person--are Tuesdays from 10:30-1:30 and Wednesdays from 2-5, and home/care facility visitation hours are Thursdays from 3-5. Also note: due to childcare scheduling, Pastor Ali is now taking Mondays off (instead of Fridays). Reach out to schedule a time to connect.



## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

There are many ways to worship with us here at Cross of Glory. Below are the various ways to take part in our worship life at this time:

- **In-person** – Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for worship in the sanctuary. We ask that you wear a mask in the church building for your safety and the safety of others.
- **Zoom** - Tune into services in live-time via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. For further information about how to connect to Zoom by computer or phone, visit our website.

- **Recorded services** - We'll continue to post weekly videos of recorded services. Visit [www.vimeo.com/cogtv](http://www.vimeo.com/cogtv) for all recorded services.
- **Bulletins** –Bulletins will be available at church on Sundays (for in-person worshippers) and all bulletin information will be available online (for virtual worshippers). If you'd like to receive a bulletin by mail or email, please call the church office at 763-533-8602.



COVID update - we will be able to have gatherings with some food as long as it is served and we use disposable plates and utensils. No coffee fellowship after church services quite yet.

B.C. Mutual Aid Distribution - Had distribution on Oct. 30 and it was well received and we gave away all product that was in the Fellowship Hall.

Eagle Scout Project - Grant Dossett has built the Prayer Wall and is has been installed in the Narthex. Instructions will follow on how it will be used. It's beautiful!

Seventh Day Adventist Church - they used to rent space from us and would like to again have services at our location. We welcome them and are working out the details.

The water heater that services the kitchen needs to be replaced and we voted to have this done soon.

Judy Lewis, Council President



## ELCA Good Gifts

**This little piggy went.....**

to a family in one of 88 countries that the ELCA Good Gifts program serves across the globe.

In times of great stress around the world, we have an opportunity to make a huge difference in the lives of people who are suffering from a lack of basic needs like clean drinking water, or the lack of any local water source at all. Lack of food, lack of shelter, lack of educational opportunities and things like proper hygiene. So many needs are being addressed around the world by the ELCA Good Gifts program. Many of our members at Cross of Glory are already aware of this program or have contributed in the past.

It was recently brought up at church council that it might be a fun and worthy project to join together as a church with the goal of collecting donations that we can then assign to any one of the many gifts we could bestow as a congregation to those who are in dire need right now. For many, this is a life-or-death proposition.

Would you/we be willing to contribute to this cause up until the end of the year or Christmas time?

There isn't a lot of time between now and Christmas but maybe we can gather enough to **donate a Cow, a Pig, a Garden, or anyone of a list of items like Fruit Trees, Honeybees and Water Filters.**

If you have not and want to learn more about what they do, please follow this link: [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts). If you have any other questions, feel free to call Bruce Vukelich at 612-599-7425.

**>There is a donation basket by the Information Desk. Feel free to contribute there or to send your donation to the church with the tag line, Good Gifts.**

## VISIONING + VOCATION TEAM

Who are we called to be? What is God's vision for Cross of Glory? What is the story of this community of faith, and where is God leading us next? These are just a few of the questions that the Vision + Vocation Team will be wrestling with this next year as we prepare to discern God's call for Cross of Glory in this next chapter of our life together. While the Vision + Vocation team will be working hard to listen attentively to our congregation and community throughout this year-long process, please reach out to Pastor Ali if you're interested in being more involved.

## THANKS FOR TAKING PART IN FALL FEST



On Saturday, Oct 30, neighbors gathered at Cross of Glory for Fall Fest, a day of mutual aid. This included distributing food and supplies left-over from our mutual aid work last spring, free food from KCM Eggrolls food truck, and a community resource fair that included kids books from Free Little Library, a flu shot clinic hosted by Hennepin Health and UCare, information for the immigrant and refugee community from CAPI, and hot chocolate and hot cider from Cross of Glory (thanks to Carol Knudson!). If you're interested in learning more or taking part in future gatherings, please reach out to Steve Ferley ([ferleysteve@gmail.com](mailto:ferleysteve@gmail.com)).



### Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

#### FAITH PRACTICES AND NEIGHBORING PRACTICES

The Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices (FPNP) cohort is officially underway! Earlier this year, Cross of Glory was selected to participate in this two-year process through the Minneapolis Area Synod. Throughout this journey, five



members of Cross of Glory will be exploring what it means to be people of faith and good neighbors, and how both practices intersect to become one. We gather with our Wildfire cohort, a group of five area churches, for monthly meetings and quarterly retreats.

One of our key spiritual practices throughout this journey is prayer. In addition to committing to a daily prayer practice as individuals, our cohort is exploring different prayer methods as a group. This fall, we've been exploring praying the psalms. If you're interested in learning more about how to pray the psalms -- and how this practice is shared with our Muslim and Jewish brothers and sisters -- check out this interview with Nick Tangen from the Minneapolis Area Synod: <https://tinyurl.com/4m6fthr8>. We enjoyed praying the psalms as a whole congregation this year for our Thanksgiving service on Zoom, and look forward to finding more ways to make the words of the psalms come to life in our faith community.

Another one of our key spiritual practices is 1-to-1s, which are intentional listening and relationship-building conversations. Last month, a couple members of the FPNP cohort shared more about how to have a 1-to-1 conversation with our Vision and Vocation Team, and we hope these conversations will be useful as we work to listen deeply to the congregation and community to see what God is up to.

We'll keep sharing updates with you as we continue in this journey. Thanks for your prayers as we work to deepen our relationship with God, with one another, and with our neighbors!

-Abby Kelley, Nathan Paulson, Isak Tranvik, Mike McClanahan, and Pastor Ali Tranvik

## ELCA YOUTH GATHERING: SUMMER 2022



Prepare yourselves...next summer, over 30,000 Lutheran youth from across the country and world are headed to Minneapolis! If you are interested in taking part in this gathering--scheduled for July 24-28--as a youth participant, an Adult Leader or

gathering volunteer, please let Pastor Ali know. Cross of Glory looks forward to joining together with our fellow Wildfire churches to experience God's boundless love. For more information go here: <https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>. If you're interested in signing up, contact Pastor Ali.



## SEEKING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

As we give thanks for Sue's 26 years as our church's administrative assistant, our church office is preparing for a couple of upcoming transitions. Most immediately, we will be joined by an Interim Administrative Assistant for a 1–3-month period. We look forward to sharing more about our new Interim Administrative Assistant with you in the coming days. The Cross of Glory Personnel Team will soon be sharing more information about our new long-term position in the office. Stay tuned to the homepage of the church website ([www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us)) for more info about the position and how to apply. We are grateful for your prayers as we prepare for this transition!



## COVID Task Force Update

Minnesota has a high COVID-19 transmission rate – among the highest in the country. Wearing a mask and social distancing continue to be important in preventing the spread of COVID. Vaccinations are effective in preventing transmission of COVID and significantly reducing its effects.

We look forward to breaking bread together here at Cross of Glory, and to do so safely. Below are new guidelines around sharing food and drink in the building, and our policy around musical ensembles. Thanks for tending to these with care as we work to make community gatherings as safe as possible. The Covid Task Force will continue to reevaluate as we go--please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or feedback as we adjust to these updates. Thank you, bon appétit and happy music-making!

### **Food & Drink**

- a. Masks will be worn at all times except when eating or drinking
- b. Limit of 4-6 people per table
- c. Tables to be spaced at least 6 feet apart and sanitized before and after use (intent is to keep diners of one table 6 feet from diners at another table).
- d. No buffet self-service. Caterer/servers are to prepare individual plates or make food easily accessible/distributed without having to use shared serving-ware or utensils.
- e. No beverage self-service. Coffee and drinks are to be served into cups by a server and then distributed.
- f. Servers will wear masks and gloves while serving food and drinks
- g. Use disposable plates and eating utensils (paper or plastic).
- h. Use of place mats or tablecloths is encouraged, to be disposed of or washed after meals
- i. Limit meals to 120 people (may mean expanding beyond the Fellowship Hall). If more people are expected, please contact the Covid-19 Task Force.
- j. All meal attendees are encouraged to be fully vaccinated. Please attend meals at your own comfort level.
- k. If you are not feeling well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 or its symptoms, please do not attend.

This food & drink policy covers funerals, weddings, WELCA luncheons, Christmas cookie plates, and other catered events. Events to be considered in the future are the annual Festival of Foods and Sunday after-church Fellowship Hour.

### **Musical Ensembles**

- a. Singers and players will be vaccinated.

- b. Singers and players to wear masks (inserts can be placed inside masks to increase space for singing or special singing masks may be worn).
- c. The choir will perform in the sanctuary, rather than in the choir loft, to allow for distancing and air flow.
- d. Choir and ensembles rehearse in the sanctuary, rather than the choir loft or choir room. Handbells use their area in the choir loft. Rehearsals limited to 60 minutes. For other indoor rehearsal spaces (Fellowship Hall or other large area), limit time to 30 minutes and increase ventilation by turning on fans and running HVAC systems.
- e. Maintain at least 3 feet between singers in all directions.
- f. Players of woodwind/brass instruments should be 12 feet apart in all directions, or 3 feet if using special bags to inhibit aerosol spread.
- g. Sanitize hands at the beginning and end of rehearsal
- h. If you are not feeling well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 or its symptoms, please do not attend.



### **COVID Booster Shot Eligibility**

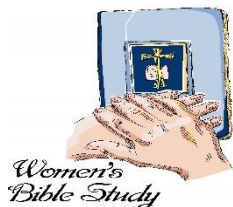
The CDC has expanded COVID-19 booster shot eligibility. Anyone age 18 and older may receive a booster at least six months after receiving the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series, or at least two months after receiving the J&J vaccine.

If you need any further information, or assistance with scheduling or getting to your vaccination booster appointment, please reach out to the COVID Task Force and we'd be happy to assist you.

## QUILTS HEADED TO CEAP



On Sunday, November 21, some of the quilts lovingly crafted by the CEAP Quilters were on display in our sanctuary. These quilts, along with the many others made this year as part of the quilting ministry, have been donated to CEAP (our local community emergency assistance program), where they are now keeping neighbors in our community warm for the winter. Thanks to the quilters for their beautiful work and their faithful ministry in our community!



## WOMEN of the ELCA

**DECEMBER 2021:**

**The Women of Advent,  
by the Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman  
The women of Advent:**

### **Drawing strength from our spiritual grandmothers**

Advent can be a wonderful mix of emotions: joy, delight, and anticipation. Sometimes, however, as we prepare to celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth, we may find ourselves consumed with too many details, and even worse, sorrows of years past. So, in this time of joyous anticipation and somber reflection,

what to do about those mixed emotions? Look to the women of the Bible, especially the strong, bold, outspoken women directly connected Jesus' birth: Hannah, Mary, Elizabeth, and Anna. Collectively they dealt with the death of a son, the death of a spouse, harassment, infertility, fear, anxiety, and grief. Think of them as your spiritual grandmothers, your guides in traversing difficult ground. If we ignore their stories, we miss out on a literal host of resources--and just perhaps, a richer Advent.

## **Circles will not be meeting in December**

### **WINTER 2022:**

#### **The kingdom of God**

#### **a four-part series by the Rev. Mark Allan Powell**

New Testament scholar Mark Powell looks at a widely used biblical image and invites us into a discussion of what it might mean for Lutheran women today. The phrase "kingdom of God" and similar expressions turn up repeatedly in sayings of Jesus, so understanding what that expression means helps us to make sense of numerous parables and popular Bible passages (including the Lord's Prayer). There may be some surprises: the phrase refers to an activity, not a location--and it has nothing to do with God being a "king," at least so far as the image suggests a (usually male) tyrant who gives orders and dominates the lives of his subjects.

Circles will meet in January.



Dear Cross of Glory,

I want to thank everyone for the beautiful party, all the warm wishes and cards and gifts. I am humbled, grateful, and overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and generosity from all of you! I will miss being here on a day to day basis, but hope I will still see everyone on Sundays. I have been truly blessed to be able to work at Cross



of Glory for all these years and have loved every minute of it and getting to know and call all of you my friends!

*Sue Vukelich*



*Sunday Morning Ministers*



**December 5: Dan Aulwes**  
**December 12: Carol Stejskal**  
**December 19: Gayle Merritt**  
**December 26: Steve Ferley**



**December 5: Barb Thomson and Judy Olson**  
**December 12: Josephine Cook and Linda Knudsen**  
**December 19: Linda Knudsen and Judy Lewis**  
**December 26: Delores Olson and Brenda Edstrom**

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

## **Take Part in Cross of Glory's Life Together**

**Worship with us in-person Sunday mornings at 9:30 am**

**Worship with us on Zoom by phone or online Sunday mornings at 9:30 am**

**Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/crossofglorymn](https://facebook.com/crossofglorymn)**

**Visit us online at [crossofglory.us](https://crossofglory.us)**

**Cross of Glory Office Hours:**

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

**Phone: (763) 533-8602**

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

**Lead Pastor:**

**Rev. Ali Tranvik**

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

**Pianist/Worship Team Director:**

**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)**