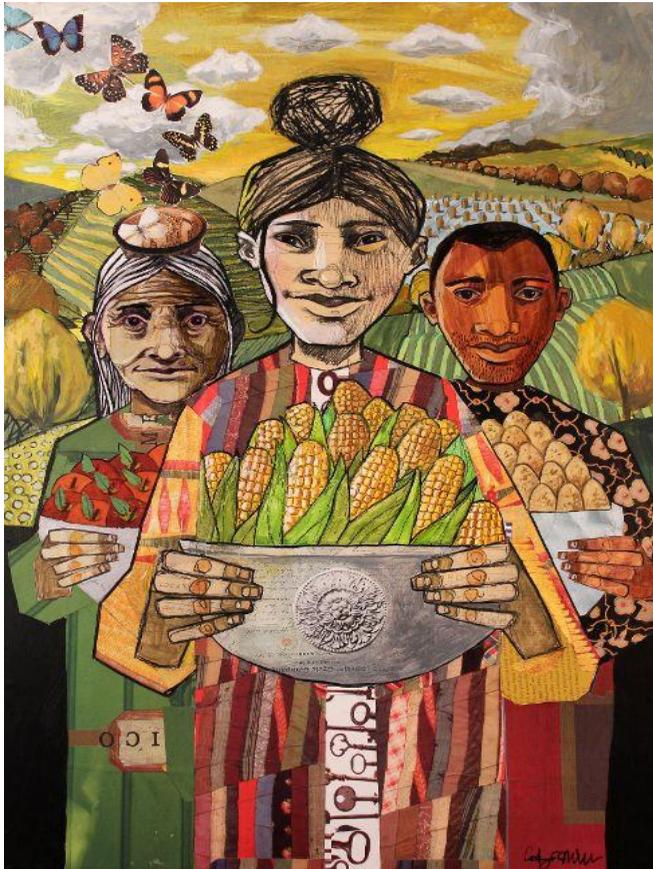

The Glory Banner

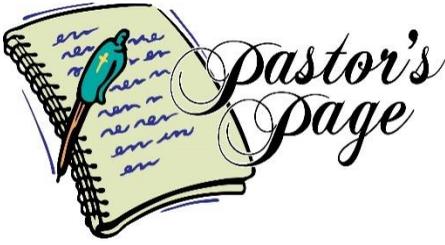
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA), a Wildfire Congregation

November 2021



“God provides every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough, we may share abundantly” - 2 Corinthians 9:8

“Gleaning” by Cody F. Miller © codyfmiller.com



Each year when Thanksgiving nears, I find myself turning to the Psalms, the collection of songs and poetry that emerged from the worship life of the Jewish people and have been inherited by Christians as the foundation of our worship and prayer life. It is

difficult to find words as rich as the psalters when we want to express to God our gratitude--or for that matter, our lament, anger, remorse, grief, hope, and joy. German Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer called the book of Psalms "the hymnbook of the Bible," suggesting that the psalms are intended to be prayed and sung, not merely analyzed and studied. Their richness is felt in the communal singing of the congregation, and in the regular recitation in daily prayer.

The Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices team (read more about it on page 8) is engaging with the Psalms this fall as a communal prayer practice, and we invite you to join us! Daily or weekly, choose a psalm to pray aloud. As Rolf Jacobson, Old Testament at Luther Seminary, suggests, we need not pray an entire psalm. Rather, find a short phrase that speaks to you and let that be your prayer.

As we enter into this season of Thanksgiving, I offer Psalm 67, one of the psalms of praise, as our prayer:

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere God.

If you're interested in learning more about this practice, check out this "Introduction to Praying the Psalms" from Luther Seminary Professor of Old Testament Rolf Jacobson: <https://tinyurl.com/48p4k8m5>.



ABOUT THE COVER ART

"During the rejoicing of harvest time, an Israelite law upheld the custom that the poor, orphans, and strangers were allowed to glean or gather grains, grapes, and olives (Lev 19:9-10, Det 24:19). Today, there are thousands of people ("gleaners") who gather millions of pounds of produce that farmers can't sell (often for cosmetic reasons alone). This is then delivered to various agencies that serve the hungry.

Gleaners are reminded of God's provisions every time they pick an apple or potato. Hours of gathering give them ample time to remember how God keeps providing.

It seems to me that so much of what it means to be a follower of Jesus has to do with our hands. First, we have to figuratively open our hands to confess our brokenness, and keep them open to allow God to transform us. Second, in response to God's spendthrift grace, we are to work with our hands. Let us love not only in words, but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18). May we spend our lives well in the light of such words." -Cody F. Miller, artist www.codyfmiller.com



To learn more about gleaning efforts in our area and to get involved, visit <https://thefoodgroupmn.org/gleaning-to-fight-hunger/>.



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 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.



Recap of October 2021 Council Meeting

Progeny School - Classes are in session and they have about 65 students currently. And will be renting an additional classroom upstairs.

COVID update - Continuing conversations regarding communion and meal/food policies.

B.C. Mutual Aid Distribution - "Fall Fest" distributions will be Oct. 30.

2022 Church Council will have two openings, that being Vice President and Treasurer. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Ali or Judy Lewis.

Boiler Issues - Repairs need to be done to the boiler, council approved and parts have been ordered.

Personnel - as you know Sue Vukelich is retiring the end of November after 26 years of serving us well and taking good care of the church and all of us. We will have a retirement gathering for her after service on Sunday, November 28.

Eagle Scout Project - Grant Dossett will be building a Prayer wall in the Narthex and has asked for scrap lumber or monetary donations toward his project. Thanks Grant, it sounds wonderful!

Judy Lewis, Council President

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY MEMORIAL

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." - Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

This All-Saints Sunday, you're invited to Cross of Glory for a time to mourn, remember, and celebrate the lives of the beloved members of our church community that we've lost during the pandemic. The past two years have been particularly grief-filled, as many funerals were postponed, moved off-site, or were not able to take place at all. As a community of faith that continues to grieve the loss of our fellow community members, we will be gathering to accompany one another in our grief after worship

on Sunday, November 7th (All Saints Sunday). Families who lost a loved one in 2020 or 2021, and who was a member of Cross of Glory, are invited to attend and bring a photo that we will display in our fellowship hall. The whole Cross of Glory community is invited to linger after worship, prayerfully walk through the hall, and share our condolences and love with these families. All are also welcome to bring a stone in honor of someone or something you've lost during the pandemic, and we will incorporate it into a community "Ebenezer" (read more about Ebenezers in the stewardship article on page 6). We pray that one day, we will experience the time of dancing that is promised to us in Ecclesiastes, but for now, let us surround each other in love as together we mourn the saints who have gone before us.

If you are a family who will be honoring a loved one, please send a photo to Sue in our church office at office@crossofglory.us



STEWARDSHIP 2022: GOD WITH US

Throughout the Old Testament there are six instances in which an "ebenezer" is mentioned, a Hebrew word literally translating to "stone of help." As Samuel declares when he builds an ebonezer in the wilderness, "The Lord has helped us thus far!" (7:12). In these various biblical accounts, ebenezers served as a reminder of God's protection and provision, a physical marker of God's presence with God's people. This stewardship season, we will explore some of the ebonezer stories in Scripture as we celebrate the ways that God's presence **has been** with us, and **is** with us, and as we prayerfully pledge our financial commitment in the bold trust that God **will be** with us also!

2022 Pledge Cards

A pledge card is a prayerful and intentional giving estimate. As we celebrate and place our trust in God's presence among us, we invite you to faithfully consider your 2022 financial pledge. You'll receive pledge cards by mail and by email in early November (if you don't receive one, please reach out to Sue in the church office at office@crossofglory.us). We invite you to either mail your card back to the church office (5929 Brooklyn Blvd) or to bring it with you to worship on Nov 21, Stewardship Sunday.

Stewardship Season Schedule

Sunday, Nov 7 - God Has Been With Us

Sunday, Nov 14 - God Is With Us

Sunday, Nov 21 - God Will Be With Us

We Want to Hear from You...

As we celebrate God with us, we'd love to hear from you! What stories, memories, or examples do you have of seeing God's presence here at Cross of Glory? Each Sunday of Stewardship season, we'll be anonymously lifting up your responses in worship. For those worshipping in-person, you'll receive a yellow question card the week before that you'll be invited to fill out and place in the offering plates before you leave. For those worshipping virtually, we invite you to email your responses to Pastor Ali at atranvik@crossofglory.us by the dates listed below. Thanks for helping us celebrate the ways that God is with us!

- How have you seen that **God has been with us** during your time at Cross of Glory? We'll share responses in worship Nov 7, so please submit your response by Nov 2.
- Where do you see that **God is with us** now at Cross of Glory? We'll share responses in worship Nov 14, so please submit your response by Nov 9.
- How do you hope that **God will be with us** at Cross of Glory this next year? We'll share responses in worship Nov 21, so please submit your response by Nov 16.



SEEKING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

As we give thanks for Sue's 26 years of work in our church office, the Cross of Glory Personnel Team is working on a transition plan. As we prepare to hire for the new long-term office manager position, we

are first seeking an interim administrative assistant, a 10-15 hour/week role with competitive pay that begins at the end of November (starting date flexible) and will last approx. 1-3 months. Do you know anyone who may be interested in applying? A cover letter and resume can be sent to Pastor Ali (atranvik@crossofglory.us) and Judy Lewis (grambolewis@gmail.com), and more information about our need can be found on the homepage of the church website (www.crossofglory.us). We are grateful for your prayers as we prepare for this transition!

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING: SUMMER 2022



Early-bird registration is now open for the 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering, which will be in Minneapolis next summer! Join the tens of thousands of Lutherans from across the country and world who will be headed to Minneapolis July 24-28. The gathering is open to high-school aged youth. The gathering team is also looking for local volunteers (over age 19). For more information, go here: <https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>.



Faith Practices &
Neighboring Practices

Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA

FAITH PRACTICES AND NEIGHBORING PRACTICES

Earlier this year, Cross of Glory was selected to participate in the Minneapolis Area Synod's Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices learning community. This two-year process is a chance for us to engage with what it means to be people of faith and good neighbors, and how both practices intertwine to become one. On September 25, members of our congregation took part in our first retreat as a learning community, and on October 26, we gathered with our Wildfire cohort, a group of five area churches that will join together for monthly meetings.

As we continue in this journey, we'll be sharing our learning with you. This includes teaching both 1-to-1s (intentional listening conversations) to some of our leadership groups, and prayer practices, which we'll share about in newsletters. Both

of these practices will help us discern where God is at work both in our congregation and our wider community.

We ask that as we continue along in our learning, you'll hold us in prayer as we work to deepen our relationship with God, with one another, and with our neighbors. We look forward to sharing more with you as the journey continues!

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

GIVING THANKS FOR SUE

After 26 years serving as the secretary and office administrative assistant at Cross of Glory, Sue Vukelich has announced that she will be retiring at the end of November. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 28th following worship as we share our gratitude with Sue and bless her as she begins this new chapter of retirement. Sue has been critical in helping make the many ministries of this wonderful faith community happen for over 26 years. From hospitality to communications, from coordinating garage sales to leading exercise classes, Sue's work at Cross of Glory has been a gift, and her absence in the office will be a loss felt by our whole church community. Please join us on the 28th as we thank and celebrate Sue, and praise God for Sue's work among us.



COVID Task Force – Communion Update

The Covid Task Force's goal is to care for and meet the needs of our church community during this unprecedented time of pandemic. We've recently updated guidelines around communion practices. Starting Sunday, November 7th, those interested and able will be invited to come forward to receive a communion kit and blessing and take communion at the rail. Details will be given in worship on first Sundays and can be found on our church website.

Our handbell choir has also happily resumed. Other guidelines are being revisited and updated where possible. If you have questions or feedback, contact us, or join one of our meetings for discussion.

Thanks for your ongoing faithfulness and support as we share life together.

In Christ, Linda Knudson (co-chair), Mark Trease (co-chair), Dawn Bailey, Lori Balzer, Pastor Ali Tranvik, Gayle Merritt

WOMEN of the ELCA



FALL 2021 BIBLE STUDY:

November ~ Session 3

Wind of God: Refiner and Re-router

The Holy Spirit is the wind of God, moving us into deeper faithfulness and more authentic love. We'll see the ways in which God's Spirit moves us to bear good fruit in the world and refines us into our truest selves. We will also follow the Spirit's movements through the early church to see how the Spirit re-routes God's people, guiding us into transformed lives and renewed communities of faith.

Circles will meet November 16th

Mission Circle: 1:00pm

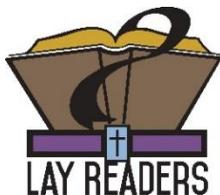
**The home of Helen Brothen, 10018 Northwood Court, Brooklyn Park
763-493-4665**

Community Needs & Glory Circle:

At church in the Bethel Room at Noon, bring your own sandwich



Sunday Morning Ministers



November 7: Kim Jacobson
November 14: Kris Simon
November 21: Julie Aulwes
November 28: Dawn Bailey



November 7: Delores Olson and Luella Hinnenkamp
November 14: Judy Lewis and Tom Simon
November 21: Arlene Kosek and Carol Sjoquist
November 28: Harriet Halverson and Marie King



If you have an article or information you would like included in the November newsletter, please email it to Sue at svukelich@crossofglory.us by November 22nd.

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

Visit us online at 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

Pianist/Worship Team Director:

Mark Trease

mltrease@comcast.net

Choir Director:

Keith Williams

williams@csp.edu

Bookkeeper:

Mike Edstrom

medstrom@crossofglory.us

Administrative Assistant:

Sue Vukelich

svukelich@crossofglory.us