

Embodying God's Hospitality

As part of being called to life together, we at Cross of Glory are "called to" embody God's hospitality by generously sharing space, time, gifts, and resources, and by meeting neighbors on their terms, open to what we can both give and receive," as our Everyday Liturgy claims.

As we seek to embody God's hospitality by welcoming neighbors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, we want to make sure our facilities reflect this welcome. Currently, our front doors are not handicapped accessible. To address this concern, we'd like to install automatic door openers on the front entry vestibule doors. This will allow people to simply push a button for entry during church worship hours.

Another accessibility concern is the lift that runs between our main level narthex area to the Bethel Room below the sanctuary. It is in need of several repairs and updates.

The total cost of these projects is approximately \$15,000. Given the many ongoing building maintenance needs the church budget needs to address, these two projects are not included in the 2024 budget. We are inviting you to make a donation toward them. We are so grateful for your pledged and regular giving, and invite you to consider making a gift above and beyond that commitment, as you are able. We are called to continue to care for each person who to come through our doors. We are grateful for your help in making these important updates so that we might "embody God's hospitality," and our building reflects this as well.

We are thrilled to share that we are nearing our goal of raising \$15,000 for the Embodying God's Hospitality Campaign. Just a few more thousand dollars will help ensure that our facilities reflect our call to "Embody God's Hospitality," as our Everyday Liturgy calls of us. As stated before, these funds will go toward the installation of automatic door openers on the front doors, and repairs and updates to the Bethel lift, both of which ensure that all can move around the building with increased accessibility and ease. Thanks to all those who have already given toward these important efforts. If you haven't yet made a gift, we invite you to do so by May 26th, using one of the special envelopes near the Welcome Desk, or by visiting the website and clicking on "Give." Thank you for your generosity!

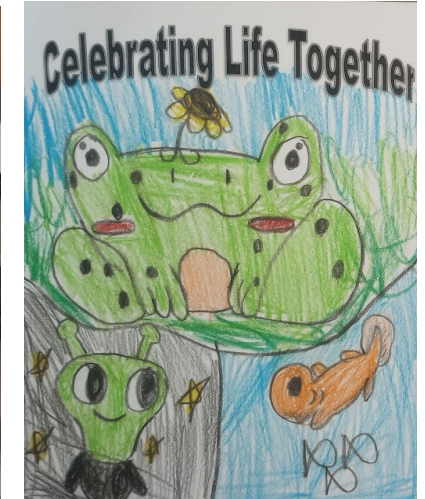
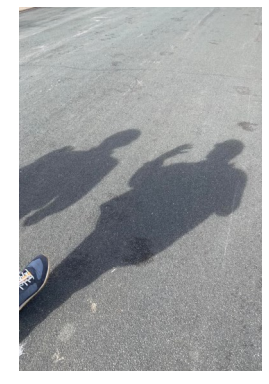
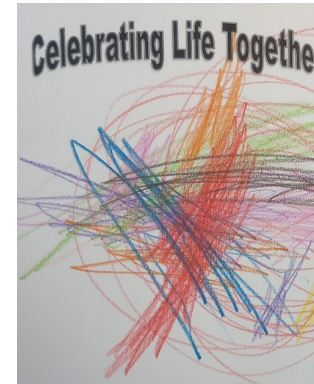


The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

a Wildfire Congregation

May 2024



Celebrating Life Together

Thanks for all the glimpses of life together that you've shared already this Easter season! In the final few weeks of Easter, we invite you to continue sharing pictures and artwork of where you notice life [together] show up in the world around you, and send them to the office to be included as part of our Prayers of the People each Sunday.

*We also hope to include life together images as part of a short-term art exhibit in our art gallery later this summer!
Read more on page 2.



PASTORAL CARE

PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Ali is available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer. You can reach her by phone and email throughout the week. Please reach out to schedule a time to connect!

HOME COMMUNION

If you are unable to commune onsite at Cross of Glory, we would love to come visit you and bring you communion. Please reach out to schedule a time.

INTRODUCING MATERNITY LEAVE COVERAGE PASTOR

Pastor Ali and Isak are grateful for the ongoing prayers as they prepare to welcome their second child, expected to arrive in early August. Pastor Ali, Council, and the Personnel Team have been working to welcome a coverage pastor while Pastor Ali is on leave (roughly scheduled for August-October). This part-time role will help oversee the areas of worship, pastoral leadership, and pastoral care. We are thrilled to share that Rev. Peter Samuelson will be joining the Cross of Glory community during this time. Pastor Peter Samuelson is a (mostly) retired ELCA pastor who served multiple parishes in rural Iowa, Atlanta, and Minneapolis in both regularly called and interim positions. Serving Cross of Glory will be the second time he has filled in as an interim during a pastor's maternity leave, a trend he is quite delighted to see continue. Pastor Samuelson also earned a PhD in Educational Psychology from GA State University and has taught part-time at various institutions of higher learning, most recently at Bethel University in the Reconciliation Studies Department. Pastor Samuelson's last position before retirement was as the Sr. Director of Evaluation and Impact at Lutheran Social Service of MN. He continues to participate in research and writing in the field of Positive Youth Development, with a book due out this fall. He is married to Debra, a retired pastor, and father of Miriam, an ELCA pastor in Minneapolis, and Isaac, a therapist in Chicago. His heart's delight is his two grandchildren, Esther and Elijah, who live in Minneapolis. He enjoys carpentry and golf when he is not busy with his calling as "Bampa." He looks forward to sharing life together with the Cross of Glory community later this summer!



ART GALLERY

We've been grateful to display the artwork of Gary Feyen, member of Faith Lilac Way in Robbinsdale, through the "Painted Prayer" exhibit this season.

Beginning Pentecost Sunday, May 19th the gallery will feature a new art exhibit. Kathryn Swan, former student of Keith Williams, will exhibit a series of her most recent paintings. These abstract interpretations of trees and landscapes explore our connectedness with God's creation and our own spiritual journeys in life together.

Later this summer, we hope to create an exhibit featuring the many artists of Cross of Glory, who have shared images of "life together" throughout the Easter season. If you submitted any photos or artwork that you wish to *not include* as part of an exhibit, please let Rachel in the office know.



CAPI FOOD SHELF IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

Since the beginning of this year, the CAPI food shelf has distributed over 72,000 pounds of food to Brooklyn Center neighbors--both to those enrolled in CAPI's food program, and who were just stopping by for an emergency pick-up. CAPI's food shelf is unique in that it offers culturally-specific foods that are often difficult to access through other food shelves. In order to sustain this important work, more hands are needed. If you're able to be onsite Tuesdays between 1-4 pm, or Wed and Thursday between 9-12 or 1-4 to bag groceries, help neighbors shop and unload at their cars, or help unload food shipments and restock shelves, contact Alexi Kleinschmidt at 651-472-6610 or email: volunteer@capiusa.org.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Thanks to all those who took part in worship last month when we hosted Lutheran Campus Ministry, a day when members of the campus ministry at the University of MN Twin Cities headed out to churches across the metro area to worship together and share more about this ministry. A special thanks to sophomore Isaac Dittrich who was our guest preacher, and Rev. Tim Schroder who offered a Temple Talk and an educational forum after worship. If you didn't have the chance to make a gift to support Lutheran Campus Ministry that day and would still like to do so, scan the QR code here or visit <https://lcmtc.org/>.



2024 Neighborhood Meeting

Save the Date!

The City offers Brooklyn Center residents opportunities to meet and hear directly from City staff at a park near you.

Northport Park (5600 France Ave N)

Thursday, May 2

6-7:30 p.m.

Inclement weather backup location, Northport Elementary, 5421 Brooklyn Blvd.



Visit our website to subscribe for City of Brooklyn Center updates through govDelivery. www.BrooklynCenterMN.gov • 763-569-3300 • 6301 Shingle Creek Parkway

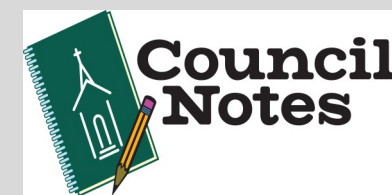
BC NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

At CoG's most recent Neighborhood Listening Session, Armando Oster, Director of Community Engagement for Brooklyn Center, extended the invite for the CoG community to take part in the city's upcoming Neighborhood Meetings. These meetings are an opportunity to further foster community and collaboration. City staff--including the mayor, council members, and representatives from various city depts--will be present. The meeting in CoG's neighborhood is scheduled for May 2 at 6 pm at Northport Park. Check out the graphic for more info!

SPECIAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

May 12 - We are grateful to be led in worship by the Dixieland Band, of which CoG's Choir Director Keith Williams is a part, a couple of times each year. Join us on May 12 for jazz-style worship. COME EARLY! The Land O' Dixie Rented Mules Band will start playing at 9AM. That's a half hour prelude of music to set up the joyous day!

May 19 - We are excited to welcome back Rachel Kurtz who will be leading music on Pentecost Sunday. A nationally-known Lutheran singer/songwriter, Rachel shares her music in faith communities throughout the country--including the ELCA Youth Gathering with 40,000+ youth!--as well as local concert venues, and even local radio station "The Current" (89.3). Join us as she leads us in both traditional and contemporary music, and as we celebrate the movement of the Holy Spirit amidst God's church!



COUNCIL CORNER

The Cross of Glory Lutheran Church council met on Sunday, April 21st. Here are some highlights:

- A "Power Mapping" (neighboring) exercise to map out who and where our neighbors are. Looked at the Brooklyn Blvd corridor as well as the larger metro area.
 - Considerations of space sharing and property: the 5929 Facilities Task Force being assembled to begin meeting in May for the purpose of exploring God's call to "Life Together" more concretely. To learn more about taking part in the Task Force, reach-out to Pastor Ali ASAP.
 - Building & Grounds; parking lot patching completed in April. Bathroom(s) upgrade to repair & paint damaged stalls. Dan Aulwes will head this up. If you can help, please see Dan.
 - Stewardship; the handicapped accessible appeal continues; the "Embodying God's Hospitality Campaign"
 - Building security; discussed reviewing safety and security policies and procedures
- Submitted by Gordy Johnsrud, Council Secretary

WORSHIP at CoG!

Onsite – Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for worship in the sanctuary.

Online – Tune in to 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 www.crossofglory.us.

Recorded services - We record weekly worship so that you can worship from anywhere, anytime. Visit our home page, or Service Library page, at www.crossofglory.us for service recordings!

Bulletins – Bulletins are mailed to those who have requested mailings. Please contact the church office at 763-533-8602 or office@crossofglory.us if you'd like to be added to/removed from this weekly mailing list. Electronic bulletins are posted to our website weekly as well.

We give thanks that the Spirit continues to guide, inspire, and enliven us in our worship, however you to take part!

Cross of Glory Staff:

Pastor:
 Rev. Ali Tranvik
atranvik@crossofglory.us

Bookkeeper:
 Mike Edstrom
medstrom@crossofglory.us

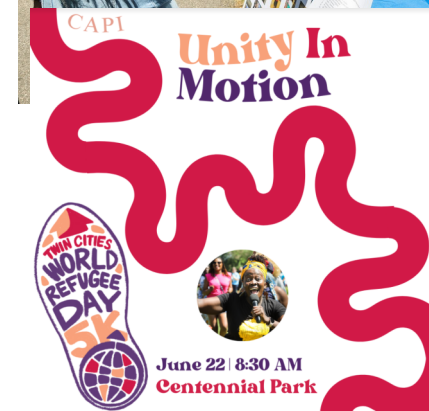
Tech Director/ Worship Leader:
 Mark Trease
mltrease@comcast.net

Choir Director:
 Keith Williams
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Office Manager/CLC:
 Rachel Marquardt
office@crossofglory.us

Custodian/Facilities staff:
 Matt Steven & Dan Jacobson

Tech Ministry:
 The Bailey Family



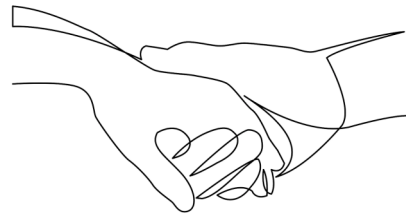
WORLD REFUGEE DAY: JUNE 22

Mark your calendars: hosted by CAPI and the City of Brooklyn Center, Twin Cities World Refugee Day is Sat, June 22 from 12-5 at Centennial Park. World Refugee Day aims to recognize the refugees living in MN and celebrate the gifts they bring, raise awareness around refugee issues, and build a cultural bridge between longtime MN residents and our newest community members. Event-goers enjoy free live entertainment, food and vendors from around the world, children's activities, a community resource fair, and

interactive educational displays. This year, attendees are also invited to lace up their walking/jogging/running shoes for the first annual Unity in Motion 5K! Proceeds go to support refugee services in the community. The family-friendly 5K will start and end at Centennial Park. Register for the 5K at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MN/Minneapolis/TCWRD5k> and learn more about World Refugee Day at www.capiusa.org/world-refugee-day/.



DISCERNING GOD'S CALL



We are **CALLED**

We are called to **LIFE**

We are called to life **TOGETHER**

Thanks to all who attended the congregational conversation last month, when we reflected on what we've learned over the course of the past six months through the Neighborhood Listening Sessions and Site Visits, and turned toward next steps in discerning God's call. For those who weren't able to attend, a letter and email that included a summary and materials shared that day was sent out to the congregation--let the office know if you need another copy! You can also check out summaries from all Neighborhood Listening Sessions and Site Visits at <http://crossofglory.us/newsandevents/lifetogether.html>. This month, the 5929 Facilities Task Force will begin to convene as we explore what sharing God's call to life together might look like more concretely here at 5929 Brooklyn Blvd. Reach out to Pastor Ali if you're interested in learning more or taking part!



We are nearly at the end of another choir and hand bells season. I have been directing the COG choir for over 20 years. They go by fast.

I reflect on the connection between gratitude and harmony. I look at my life in music (and art), and am struck by how I get to interweave my life with my loves of music and art. Those who know me well know that I love making art as well as making church music, and jazz, and of golf, and of dogs, and travel. (Love of family goes without saying...)

I often see my life as a progression of harmonious chords. Each day I collaborate with different people in the arts, and those days flow, one from the other, like the chords of a wonderful piece of music. The chord progression isn't fully predictable, and certainly there are dissonant chords, but for me the music always resolves into joyous conclusions. I am grateful for that harmony of my life, for the ongoing blessing of collaboration with COG musicians, and the appreciation of those members of the congregation who often take the time to express their appreciation.

GROUNDS AND GARDENS

Gardening at COG - From the garden beds out back to the courtyard, there are a variety of ways to take part in doing the holy work of tending God's creation at COG. If you're interested in lending a hand with any gardening projects, let Isak Tranvik know.

New Raised Garden Bed - Cross of Glory is grateful to have been included in a City of Brooklyn Center grant through Hennepin County, through which we were gifted a new raised garden bed. We look forward to it being installed as part of our community gardens on the corner of Admiral and Ewing.



Spring Clean-Up Day - Come and help care for the grounds on Sat, May 11 Between 9am-12pm.

Snacks, gloves, and good company provided!



First Sundays - Kids are invited to join CoG Kids Leaders for a special time of storytelling during the sermon on the first Sunday in May and in June (we will take a brief summer break from structured programming during the months of July and August). Join us as we continue to tell the story of God's love-- and how YOU are a part of it!



First Wednesdays - Thanks to all those who joined us on First Wednesdays throughout this year, a monthly gathering for families and the CoG community to gather for food and kids activities. After our final gathering for the year in May, we'll be on summer break for the next three months, and will share more info about plans for the fall later this summer.

Camp Wapo - Thanks to all those who have generously contributed toward CoG youth attending Camp Wapo this summer! Fundraising efforts were wildly successful, and we're thrilled to be sending 13 children to camp in late July.



Wildfire VBS - CoG kids and families, mark your calendars for the evenings July 15-18 when we'll be joining together with other Wildfire churches for VBS at Faith Lilac Way in Robbinsdale. More info forthcoming.



I want to thank you again for supporting the 13 youth attending Camp Wapogasset in July this summer! We have 10 weeklong campers & 3 one-day campers which is SO EXCITING! Because of your generosity, the cost for each of them to attend camp has been greatly reduced! Camp can be such a transformative time in a person's life - I know it was for me, my kids and all the kids I've had the pleasure of attending camp with over the years! I'm also excited to be able to spend the week (and day) with our kiddos!

There is one more opportunity to support our kids. The quilters that meet at Cross of Glory on Monday morning have so generously donated two beautiful quilts for us to raffle off! Beginning May 5th, we will be selling raffle tickets, giving you the opportunity to win one of these quilts. Tickets will be \$5.00 each, but a book of 5 tickets can be purchased for \$20.00. There will also be a set of 7 embroidered hand towels also included in the raffle. You do not need to be present to win!!

The last day to purchase a ticket for these three items will be Saturday, May 18th during the community-wide vendor fair being held at Cross of Glory. The campers will have a table of other homemade items for purchase during this event - assorted greeting cards, coasters for both home & car, Kleenex holders just to name a few. Each vendor has also donated an item to be sold, with funds given to towards those items also going to our campers. The hours of the community-wide vendor fair are 9am to 4pm. Please mark your calendars now to attend this community event!!

Again, heartfelt thanks for all the ways you support, and have supported, our youngest worshipers! You are amazing! You are examples of what it means to walk the walk, not just talk the talk! Experiencing life together here at 5929 is such a blessing!

Soli Deo Gloria! (To God all glory be given)
Kris Simon



W/ELCA bible study is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15 at 1pm.

May 2024 Devotional on Mental Health and Wellness by Elise Seyfried

As long as humans have existed, there has been mental illness. By some estimates, as many as 20% of all adults live with a mental health issue. In biblical times, mental illness was often misunderstood and thought to be caused by demonic possession. In modern times, we have learned much more about brain chemistry. Although the stigma around mental illnesses has decreased, we still have a long way to go, and our faith communities can help. Looking particularly at biblical people and passages that relate to living with mental illness, the May 2024 devotional reminds us of Jesus' compassionate care for those who struggle.

Summer 2024 "After certainty: A biblical guide" by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

A global pandemic, political upheaval, a changing climate... these days, the future is more uncertain than it has ever been. Or is it? For the people of the Bible, life was often shaped by deep uncertainty. Encounters with God sparked awe, confusion or courage, but rarely certainty. Instead, God's people have always been called to follow God into the unknown, trusting in God's certain grace and love. This three-session summer Bible study explores God's invitation to the people of the Bible and to us, to take the holy journey beyond certainty to curiosity, community and compassion, where we find abundant life in Christ.

May/June 2024 issue

After certainty: Curiosity

Jesus' ministry, during the uncertainty of the first century Roman occupation, often challenged the "certainties" of the status quo when it came to faith, power and relationships—both the relationships between people and God, and between people in community. Just as curiosity drew people to Jesus and his message, holy curiosity can still lead us to the places where God transforms "what is" to "what could be."

Our Spring/Summer service project poster will be set up 6/9. We'll be collecting pet supplies for MARS (Midwest Animal Rescue and Services) from 6/16 - 7/14. A wish list will be printed in the Glory Banner and available at the Welcome Center. Make any checks payable to MARS.

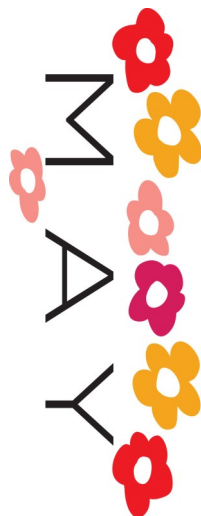


55+ FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS

The 55+ game day this month is scheduled for Thursday, May 16 from 1-3pm.

Summer events will be decided on May 16,

All are invited.



The Cross Community Players, a local theater group, is renting space for the next six weeks for rehearsals of their upcoming performance "Hello Dolly" (Bethel Room Sunday through Thursday evenings, and 9-3 in the Fellowship Hall on three Saturdays between now and mid-June). As part of its mission to "weave artistic expression and charitable support," the Cross Community Players collect non-perishable food items during its shows to support local food shelves. Food for this show will be donated to CAPI. Performances are scheduled for June 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 at 7:30 p.m., June 16 at 4:00 p.m., and June 23 at 2:00 p.m. at the Maple Grove Town Green Amphitheater (COG's Bethel Room in the event of inclement weather). And the COG community is invited to a free showing of the performance the night of the dress rehearsal: June 13 at 7:30 pm. Learn more about the show at <https://www.crossplayers.org/>.



A NOTE FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD

Like the early Christians gathered at Pentecost, we pray for the Spirit to fill us with "glad and generous hearts" as we gather for our 2024

Synod Assembly. Today's world doesn't always call us to live with 'glad and generous hearts.' We often resort to bitterness, jealousy, and hoarding. But as people of faith, we're called to live with gladness, not because we are in denial of the challenges of the world, but because we're loved by a gracious and generous God; a God who also calls us to love the neighbor, following in the generous way of Jesus. We are called to be community even when the basic fabric that supports relationship is being frayed. We are called to live as the early church – which also faced many challenges to community – by living with glad and generous hearts.

At this year's assembly, in addition to worship, fostering community, and discernment, we're electing synod leaders – including the election of a new bishop. We will also have an opportunity to thank Bishop Svennungsen and the synod staff. Please hold in prayer all who are gathering for the Synod Assembly on May 2-4 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Ramsey as we seek together to live with gladness and generosity by the grace of God and for the sake of the world.



THANKS FOR YOUR THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

"Thank you to all those who directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to Cross of Glory! The church received \$2337 this past year, which will help empower us to share God's gift of life together. We are grateful for your help in directing these dollars for our ministries here at Cross of Glory! If you have questions about Thrivent Choice Dollars and how to direct them to Cross of Glory, don't hesitate to call the office for more information!"

FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING & RESOURCES ON GREEN BURIAL

If you didn't have the chance to take part in the funeral pre-planning session in March--an opportunity to reflect on and put some initial plans in place for our own funerals--you have the opportunity to do so via the form found on our church bulletins boards, and/or meet with Pastor Ali to do so together. These plans will assist the church, family members, and the funeral home in honoring your hopes and wishes around your funeral. There are also resources available about green and natural burial, which Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders shared more about in his recent Table Talks conversation. Please reach out to Pastor Ali for more information.



Our Everyday Liturgy calls us to both grieve and to celebrate as we share life together. To that end, we lift up sorrows and joys in our community this month:

—Celebrations—

We celebrate all those who have milestone birthdays this month

**Arlene Carlson
Milo Carlson
Maynard Henjum**

...and all others who have birthdays this month!



To the Cross of Glory community, a sincere Thank You to you all!

Your prayers, cards, phone calls and texts during my recent illness and hospitalization lifted my spirits and were much appreciated. Thanks to Pastor Ali for bringing Holy Communion to me in the hospital and for checking on me as I recovered.

Sincerely, Maggie Johnsrud