
The Glory Banner

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

July/August 2021





³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. *Philippians 1:3-5*

As I write these words, I have been with you all for about two weeks and Paul's greeting to the Philippians church echoes how I'm feeling thus far - praying with joy for all of you in our sharing of the gospel. I'm grateful for your warm welcome and acceptance of me into your fellowship, as well as the trust you have placed in me in sharing your joys and sorrows. We have prayed, worshiped, rejoiced, sung, and lamented together. Truly, you are a blessing to me even as we are blessing one another.

I appreciate the worship leadership of Mark and Keith and the amazing singers who share their gifts each week. The Sunday ministry of greeting, ushering and technology comes together faithfully every week. Cross of Glory's prayer ministry is amazing - and including scripture with each prayer request is a true blessing and guide for prayer. And for all the administrators and congregational leaders - thank you for your patience and commitment to communication, accuracy, and outreach.

As we continue to emerge from the Covid restrictions and embrace more freedom in our congregational and communal life together, I pray we will continue to love, support, and encourage one another. We don't know yet what the fall will bring in terms of Covid guidelines, but we know whatever we undertake, it will be done with the safety, inclusion, and welfare of all.

I know that these next 10 weeks will fly by but I am treasuring the time we will spend together, giving thanks for this short journey we are privileged to travel. I look forward to seeing how God will be present and moving in our collective lives together.

Thanking God for all of you,

Pastor Kisten



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. Masks are no longer required *for those who are fully vaccinated*. If you have not been fully vaccinated, we ask that you wear a mask in the church building for your safety and the safety of others. Of course, anyone may wear a mask if they desire.
- **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** – Starting in July, weekly bulletins will no longer be automatically mailed and emailed out ahead of time. 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 continue receiving a bulletin by mail or email, please call the church office at 763-533-8602.

CROSS OF GLORY TO TAKE PART IN FAITH & NEIGHBORING PRACTICES LEARNING COMMUNITY

Cross of Glory is excited to share that we were recently selected to take part in a new initiative through the Minneapolis Area Synod that invites select congregations to explore the intersection of faith and neighboring. Beginning in the fall of 2021, Cross of Glory will be joining a two-year learning community alongside four other local ELCA congregations—including some of our Wildfire partner churches — to explore “Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices.” The project is

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supported by the Lilly Foundation's Thriving Congregations Initiative, and hopes to foster practices that "deepen the spiritual life of the congregation through more significant engagement with the surrounding community, places where God's presence precedes our engagement." Five members of Cross of Glory will serve as congregational leaders in this project, attending monthly gatherings and quarterly retreats with our learning cohort, and inviting the larger congregation to share in these practices together. If you're interested in learning more or taking part, please reach out to Pastor Ali at atranvik@crossofglory.us.



July 11: Tania Haber, Senior Pastor at Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park, MN

July 18: Babette Chatman, University Pastor at Augsburg University

July 25: Michael Chan, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary

August 1: Kisten Thompson, summer interim pastor at Cross of Glory

August 8: Bristol Reading, Candidate for Ordination in the ELCA

August 15: Cheryl Mathison, Teaching Pastor at St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN

August 22: Jan Melhoff, retired ELCA pastor

August 29: Keith Williams, choir director at Cross of Glory

Sept 5: Kisten Thompson, summer interim pastor at Cross of Glory



Recap of June 2021 Council Meeting

Progeny School - they are on summer break and will resume classes in the fall.

Mutual Aid event scheduled for Saturday, June 19 was cancelled due to Brooklyn Blvd being closed off for the weekend. To be rescheduled.

Internet Issues - Mike Edstrom will do an initial contact with Xfinity and report back.

Outdoor Service - due to road construction and other considerations, an outdoor service has been postponed.

Pastor Ali and Isak's baby, Katherine, was born on June 11 weighing 6 lbs. 3 oz. An Open House Baby Shower will be held on Sunday, July 18 from 2:30 - 4:00 pm. Invitations were sent last week for all families and guests.

Rally Sunday - Sunday, September 12. In the planning stage for a Farewell and Thank you for Pastor Kisten and Welcome back for Pastor Ali.

Judy Lewis, Council President



We are happy to begin more positive changes at Cross of Glory surrounding our COVID-19 protocols. These changes are based on CDC information on the effectiveness of the vaccine, and a relaxing of restrictions for those who are fully vaccinated. With the shared health of our entire community in mind, the following are in effect beginning July 1st and will be reevaluated at the end of the summer:

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- **Masks:** Masks are no longer required *for those who are fully vaccinated*. If you have not been fully vaccinated, we ask that you wear a mask in the church building for your safety and the safety of others. Of course, anyone may wear a mask if they desire.
- **Hand Sanitizing:** Please sanitize your hands whenever you enter the building.
- **Physical Distance:** We will continue physical distancing in the sanctuary, but this is at your discretion. We ask for no hugging or hand shaking.
- **Communion:** Communion will be celebrated in-place in the pews the first Sunday of the month.
- **Offering:** Offering plates will continue to be available in the narthex outside the sanctuary, and you may also send or drop off your gifts to the church or contribute online or electronically.
- **Choir/Worship Team:** The choir and worship team will be able to gather and sing together with minimal physical distancing, provided those singing are fully vaccinated.

These eased restrictions are only possible due to local vaccination rates. We encourage the Cross of Glory community to be vaccinated if possible. If you need information or assistance, please contact the church office, Task Force members, or visit <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/index.jsp>

Thank you for your ongoing grace, creativity, patience, and care as we seek to faithfully share life together.

WOMEN of the ELCA



July Bible Study Just Love, Part 2 Session 2: “Just Truth”

Session 2 “Just Truth” will travel with Paul on the road to Damascus and experience his life-changing transformation. We will also take a closer look at how our Savior chose to share difficult truths with God’s people, and we will witness his boldness in speaking truth to power.

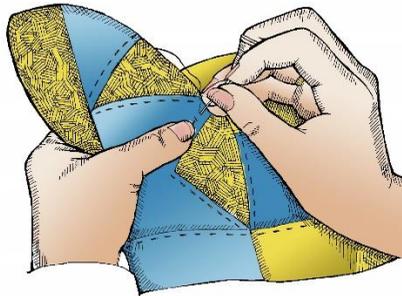
August Bible Study Just Love, Part 2 Session 3: “Just Hope”

Session 3 “Just Hope” looks at our role as the body of Christ. How are we called to be co-creators with God in transforming our communities into a more just society? Filled with resurrection hope, we’ll look to the prophet Ezekiel and his miraculous encounter in the valley of dry bones, and we’ll share how God’s amazing activity continues to unfold in our own lives.

Our Bible study is written by Angela Khaheh, a pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, located close to Lake Street.

Are you Mavis Wold’s prayer partner? She has received such beautiful cards from you and would like to know who you are! She is now living North Dakota and will not be here for when we normally reveal ourselves.

Something to Think About by Jackie Fryhling
Words can't break bones, but they can break hearts.



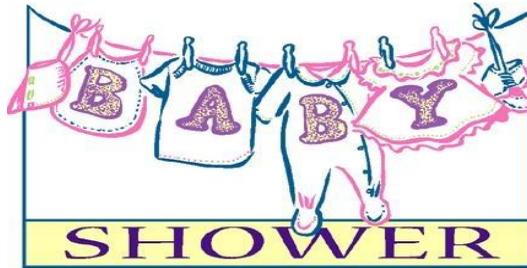
CEAP Quilters

The CEAP Quilters met at church on three Mondays in April and four Mondays in May. Members were happy to be back at work making quilts. During our time off, many members worked at their homes. They cut and sewed children's clothing, made quilts, knit hats and mittens.

Our last Monday we sent our finished products to CEAP. There were 46 quilts, 57 items of children's clothing, 54 knit hats and 5 pairs of mittens.

We are looking forward to returning to church in September, and having quilts on the pews in November!

Ruth Lundquist



SAVE THE DATE!

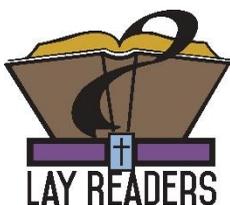
We are having an Open House Baby Shower for Pastor Ali, Isak and Katherine on Sunday, July 18, 2021, between 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

You're invited to share one of the following with the family:

- Diapers: Any brand sizes 1-4
- A meal: You're welcome to give either a gift card to a restaurant or drop off a home-cooked meal. If you're interested in signing up for a Meal Train date to deliver a home-cooked meal to the new parents in the upcoming weeks, please reach out to Judy Lewis at 612-483-6450
- A book: Help build Katherine's library by sharing your favorite baby, children's, or young adult book
- A gift of your choice

This Baby Shower is for all COG members and guests. Please RSVP to Judy Lewis at Grambolewis@gmail.com or my cell, 612-483-6450 by Monday, July 12, 2021.

Sunday Morning Ministers



July 4	Lois Tollefsrud
July 11	Dawn Bailey
July 18	Marian Priest
July 25	Carol Stejskal



July 4	Tom Simon
July 11	Ron and Lois Tollefsrud
July 18	Linda Knudsen and Arlene Kosek
July 25	Marcy and Gil Hartlage



July 4:	Dan Aulwes	Cheryl Anderson
	Don Halverson	Dick Mero
July 11:	Gordy Johnsrud	Dick Mero
	Don Halverson	Cheryl Anderson
July 18:	Steve Ferley	Don Halverson
	Cheryl Anderson	Dick Mero
July 25:	Gordy Johnsrud	Don Halverson
	Cheryl Anderson	Dick Mero



AUGUST

Ushers

August 1:	Dan Aulwes Don Halverson	Cheryl Anderson Dick Mero
August 8:	Gordy Johnsrud Dick Mero	Cheryl Anderson Don Halverson
August 15:	Steve Ferley Don Halverson	Cheryl Anderson Dick Mero
August 22:	Gordy Johnsrud Don Halverson	Dick Mero Cheryl Anderson
August 29:	Dan Aulwes Dick Mero	Don Halverson Cheryl Anderson



If you have an article or information you would like included in the September newsletter, please email it to Sue at svukelich@crossofglory.us by August 23rd.

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:

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Summer Interim Pastor:

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Pianist/Worship Team Director:

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Administrative Assistant:

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