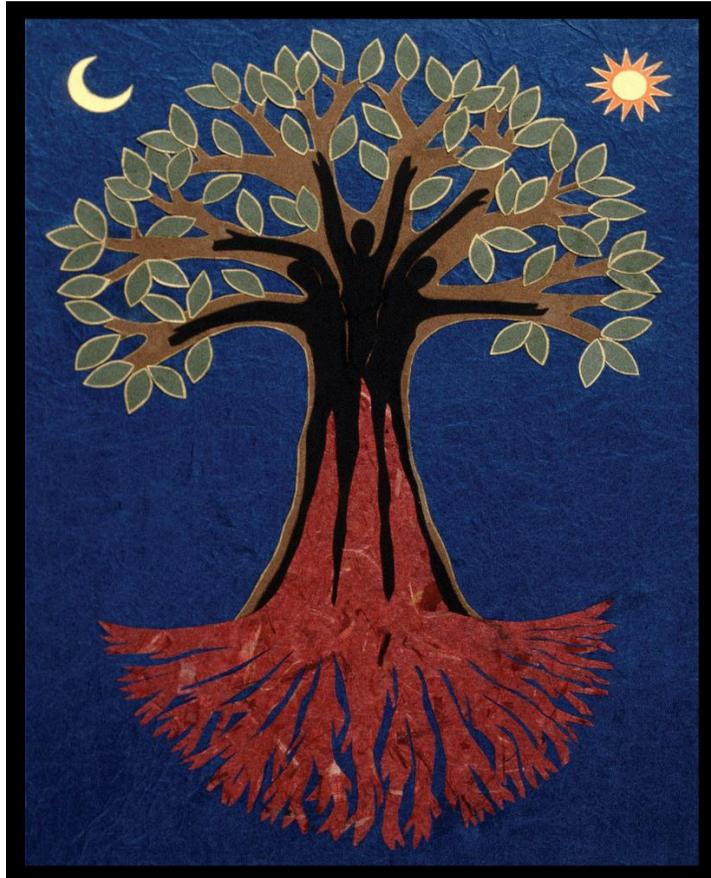

The Glory Banner

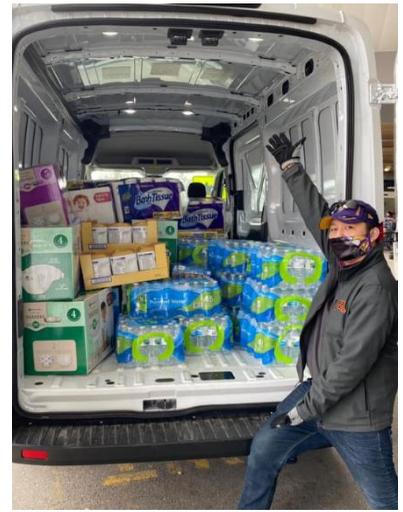
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA), a Wildfire Congregation

May 2021



**“I am the vine, you are the branches.
Abide in me as I abide in you.” John 15:5, 4**

Art Credit: Mother Root © Jan Richardson. Janrichardson.com.



MUTUAL AID

In the Gospel passage from John 15 quoted on the cover, Jesus describes himself as a vine, and us as branches. It is a vision of connectedness, interdependence, and mutuality. It is only in abiding in God's love that we are able to love one another, Jesus tells us.

It is this vision of mutual love—a love in which everyone has something to give and everyone has something to receive—that we have tried to live out (very imperfectly!) at Cross of Glory in recent weeks, as our Fellowship Hall transformed into a mutual aid site in the wake of the tragic killing of our Brooklyn Center neighbor Daunte Wright last month. In the immediate days that followed, Cross of Glory joined together with CAPI, the immigrant and refugee services organization across the street from our church building, to collect and distribute emergency supplies to the Brooklyn Center community.

Thanks to all those at Cross of Glory for donating, distributing, and sustaining this work in prayer. If you are interested in taking part in community conversations about how we can continue to share God's love in our neighborhood, please reach out.

In God's love,
Pastor Ali

PASTORAL CARE

Cross of Glory's doors are open for all who seek sanctuary. Pastor Ali is available for all in need of care or prayer. Please reach out at atranvik@crossofglory.us or 763-533-8602. To add a prayer request to our church's prayer list, please contact the church office at office@crossofglory.us or 763-533-8602.



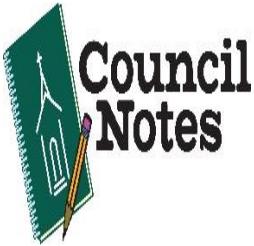
JOINING TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Every morning at 8 am, you're invited to join together with people of faith from across the Twin Cities for 20-30 minutes of prayer led by local spiritual leaders. This opportunity is hosted by the Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement, founded, and directed by ELCA Pastor Kelly Chatman. Recordings of the daily reflections can also be found on the "Healing our City" channel on YouTube. Visit www.healingourcity.org for more information.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

The growing season has begun! All are welcome to join Cross of Glory members, Progeny Academy students, and Brooklyn Center neighbors for gardening in our church's backyard garden plots this spring and summer. Please reach out to Pastor Ali if you're interested in learning more or taking part.



Recap of April 2021 Council Meeting

The COVID-19 Task Force will keep the congregation updated as we continue to offer both in-person and virtual worship service options.

Community Update: with the tragedy of the death of Daunte Wright in our neighborhood, the church has been working with CAPI to collect and distribute emergency supplies for our community in light of stores being closed and public transportation ceasing for a period of time.

Brooklyn Blvd Phase II construction should be starting soon, and the new temporary church sign should be in place shortly. Please stay tuned for separate letter soon to be mailed with further details about building access during this time.

Judy Lewis, Council President

MATERNITY LEAVE UPDATE

As Pastor Ali and Isak prepare the arrival of their child in June, Pastor Ali and a Council committee have been interviewing candidates to serve as the maternity leave coverage pastor during the twelve-week interim that Pastor Ali will be away. The coverage pastor will be a part-time position (20-25 hours/week) and will be responsible for pastoral care, worship leadership, and preaching once a month. On the other Sundays, you'll have the opportunity to hear from a variety of guest preachers from across the Metro area. Stay tuned in the coming days for a letter for more details about the role, and about our selected maternity coverage pastor. Thanks again for your ongoing prayers and support as Pastor Ali and Isak prepare to welcome their child into the Cross of Glory family.



It's amazing how things can change in just a few weeks! On March 28, Cross of Glory began offering an in-person worship service option and opened our facilities for greater usage because of a pattern of decreased COVID-19 infection rates in our area throughout the month of March. Just as we initiated that long-awaited transition, however, infection rates began to climb to levels not seen since late last year. This increase was so significant that, according to our original COVID-19 Response Plan, we would be operating once again in Level 1 (the most restricted level of the Response Plan).

But of course, vaccination rates in our area, and in our congregation, have also significantly increased - a reality that did not exist when the original COVID-19 Response Plan was created. New and encouraging information has become available regarding vaccination rates, along with recommendations on how vaccinated people may interact with others.

The concerning infection rates coupled with the encouraging vaccination statistics in recent weeks leads the Task Force to the following guidance regarding our worship life: **Cross of Glory continues to offer both in-person and virtual options. The Task Force is inviting all who can worship meaningfully from home to so do for the time being. That said, you are welcome to worship with us however you are most comfortable.**

We recognize that this current messaging may be confusing. Our intent is to take seriously the rate of local COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths, and to do our part in encouraging safe worship practices, while ultimately empowering you to make whatever decision you believe is best for you and your family. Please see page 7 for more details about various ways to worship with us.

We will continue to monitor infection and vaccination data and share regular updates with the congregation. The most recent statistics (4/29/21) indicate Hennepin County's case rate is approx. 45 people per 10,000. Brooklyn Center's is approx. 62; Brooklyn Park and Maple Grove are at about 50. Vaccinations are increasing significantly - Hennepin County has 451,000 people fully vaccinated. Over 10,000 of those are 16–17-year-olds. And the vaccination rate for people 65 and older is above 80%. As the situation continues to unfold, we will adapt our guidance accordingly.

We hope infection rates decline, even in the face of new, more infectious variants. We also hope vaccination rates continue to increase, making church, and the world, safer for everyone. If you need information on how to get vaccinated, we are happy to be a resource for you. Please contact the COVID-19 Task Force or the church office. We are glad to talk with you if you have any questions regarding our COVID-19 response.

Thanks for your ongoing graciousness as we navigate this complex terrain as a church together. We pray the Spirit will continue to guide us as we seek to make Cross of Glory safe and welcoming for all.

The COVID-19 Task Force

SPECIAL SERVICES

Cross of Glory would be honored to welcome your family for a funeral, wedding, or baptism. Under Level 3, seating in the sanctuary can currently accommodate 140 persons and gatherings up to 50 persons can take place in the Fellowship Hall. While the Level 3 Covid-19 protocols in place for regular Sunday services (masks, distancing, no singing, no food/drink, etc.) also apply to special services, we will do our best to accommodate your family's needs. If you have questions or would like to schedule a special service and discuss further arrangements, please contact Pastor Ali.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

There are many ways to worship with us here at Cross of Glory. While we continue to monitor the increase of both Covid-19 infection and vaccination rates in our area, we invite you to worship with us however you feel most comfortable. 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 safely-distanced worship in the sanctuary. More information about what our adapted in-person services look like right now can be found on our website.
- **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. Note that because services will now be recorded on Sunday mornings at 9:30, they will not be available until afterwards.
- **Bulletins** – Bulletins will be mailed and/or emailed to those who request continued mailings. Please contact the church office if you'd like to receive a weekly bulletin of the service, or if you'd like to stop receiving mailed bulletins now that in-person worship is offered.



LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

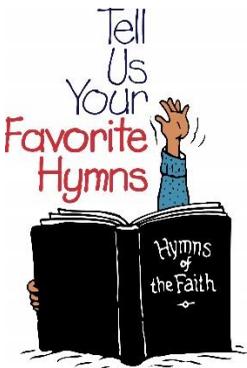
We are excited to celebrate some of the children and youth in our church community through the holy sacrament of baptism and through the rite of confirmation. Please keep these beloved children of God, and their families, in your prayers!

Upcoming Baptisms

- Brynn Elizabeth Edstrom Schneider, daughter of Sam and Meghan (Edstrom) Schneider, will be baptized at Cross of Glory at a private family service on Saturday, May 8.
- Teagan Pearl Dossett, daughter of Stephen and Sherri Dossett, will be baptized at Cross of Glory on during our Pentecost worship service on Sunday, May 23.
- McKenna and Madison Sward, daughters of Charlie and Heather Sward, will be baptized at Cross of Glory during worship on Sunday, June 6.

Upcoming Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

- Grant Dossett, son of Stephen and Sherri Dossett, will be confirmed at Cross of Glory during our Pentecost worship service on Sunday, May 23.



LESSONS + MUSIC – TELL US YOUR FAVORITE HYMN OR SONG!

Every few months on the “fifth Sunday,” Cross of Glory hosts Lessons + Music, a worship service of scripture readings, reflections, prayer, and music. On Sunday, May 30, we’ll be having a service of Lessons + Music, and we’d love to hear from you: What’s your favorite hymn or song? Share your suggestion with the church office (763-533-8602, office@crossofglory.us) by May 17 and we’ll do our best to include it!



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Have you started taking part in Cross of Glory's life together during the pandemic? Are you—or is someone you know—looking for a community of faith to call home? All those who are interested in becoming a member are invited to a new member class and fellowship gathering following worship on Sunday, May 23 (in place of this month's "Table Talks" Adult Ed Class). Please RSVP to Pastor Ali.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

JUNE GLORY BANNER DEADLINE

Want to include an article in next month's Glory Banner?
Email Sue (svukelich@crossofglory.us) by May 20th.



Thank you to all my friends at Cross of Glory for your prayers with my adjusting to my new place at Four Seasons Health Care Center in Forman, ND. I so appreciate all your thoughtfulness.
Mavis Wold

WOMEN of the ELCA



May Bible Study “The Journey of Generations” by Violet Little

In May 2021 devotional, “The Journey of Generations,” we will look at the shared blessings that intergenerational relationships might bring. There will be scripture passages to guide us, stories that might spark your own recollections, and questions for your reflections.

Summer 2021 Bible Study Just Love, Part 2

Three new summer sessions on this topic will come to us from Rev. Angela Khabeb. Angela is a pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. She has an amazing husband Benhi, and three children, Konaqmi, Khenna, and Khonni.

Cross of Glory Summer Bible Study

There will be **NO** Summer Group Bible Study. Individual Circles could meet for Bible study and fellowship.

Something to Think About by Jackie Fryhling

It’s often only an EXCUSE when we say something is impossible. Matthew 19:26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”



**Please join us in person or via Zoom
at 9:30am for worship!**

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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
(Easter services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am)**

**Worship with us on Zoom by phone or online Sunday mornings at 9:30 am
(Meeting ID: 8025025123, Password: 433131)**

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