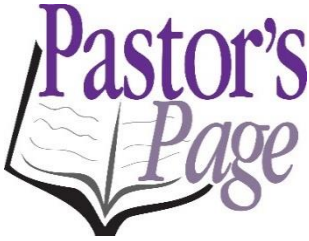

The Glory Banner

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

June 2019



On the fiftieth day of Easter we celebrate the Spirit, through whom and in whom the people of God are created and re-created. Pentecost is sometimes called the church's birthday, but might more appropriately be called its baptism day, since the gift of the Spirit is the fullness of baptism.



Dear Friends in Christ,

On Sunday, June 9, 2019, Christian churches celebrate Pentecost. For Christians, Pentecost occurs fifty days after Easter. On that day, the church celebrates the happening recorded in the book of Acts chapter 2.

Notice when you come to worship on Pentecost Sunday, the changes in colors in the sanctuary. Red is the color of Pentecost, and it signifies the tongues of flames seen over the heads of those early believers praying together. The scripture tells us that the sound of the blowing of a violent wind filled the house where Jesus' followers were praying.

We read in Acts 2 that the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to go into the streets telling of Jesus to all those that they met. Following Peter's sermon, many were baptized, and the church began to grow. Because of this, we call Pentecost "the birthday of the church."

While having home observances for Christmas and Easter are very common, Pentecost often goes unobserved in our homes. However, without Pentecost, we wouldn't have the church! Here are some suggestions for you to consider that might help us remember this important day in our church year:

-Read together **Acts 2:1-40**. Ask each family member to tell of one thing she or he will try to remember from the scripture reading.

-Pretend you are Peter and are delivering that first sermon. What would you say to people today to help them understand the message of Jesus?

-Make a Pentecost cake to celebrate the birth of the church. Tint the frosting red and place candles in a cluster to symbolize the flames.

-Attend worship on Pentecost and wear something red.

-Use the following prayer as part of your devotions:

Gracious God, we are reminded again when the first believers were given the courage to share the Good News with others. We believe you give us that same courage through the power of the Holy Spirit. You know, O God, that sometimes we are fearful and we feel alone. But just like that Pentecost long ago, we, too, are surrounded by your love and presence. Help us live in such a way that others see in us a reflection of your love. Through the power of your Holy Spirit and the witness of your son, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Lee



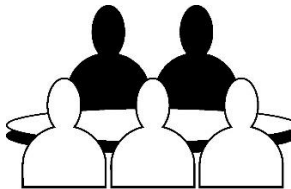
A Look at Revelations

Revelation is a rich book in the Bible. However, it is often misinterpreted by some religious groups in ways that fill people today with fear and confusion. Beginning Tuesday, June 11, 9:30am – 10:30am, Pastor Lee will teach a 4-session class on this last book of the Bible. Above all Revelation is a book of hope which shows us that God is profoundly concerned with the plight of the world. In the end, the promise that Jesus will return is reason for hope, anticipation and expectation. All are invited to share this time of learning and growing together in God's Word!



Centering Prayer Experience

On Thursday, June 27, 1:00pm, you will have an opportunity to spend an hour experiencing Centering Prayer. What is this? Originating in the 12th century Christianity, Centering Prayer is a method of prayer that guides you into the presence of God through silence together as a group. Come and experience this rich spiritual practice to nurture your soul.



Transition Team Report – May 15

The Transition Team that was commissioned in worship on May 12, has met twice with Pastor Lee's leadership. Each meeting has started and ended with Prayer and biblical reflections.

In the first meeting we laid out our courses of action, and discussed our own current experiences with Cross of Glory. Many of us compared this to our past experience, but are reminded that we are here for the future of COG. The directly applicable task was to establish the tasks of the team. We are to:

1. Look at our current self as a church
2. Gather current data about ourselves and our community

3. Prepare a Congregational Profile for use by the future Call Committee. We are also to help the congregation with feelings of loss, or of unease related to change, and to help the congregation understand its current mission as we move into the future.

In the second meeting we focused on God's purpose for our congregation and also followed up on self-study steps. We realized that these are not separate, but related issues. We decided to:

1. utilize a robust, professional self-assessment tool even though it will cost a small amount (We discussed how important it was to have help in asking the right questions for us going forward.)
2. We also discussed the possibility of revisiting our 17-year-old Mission Statement if our self-study reveals a need to make adjustments based on what we see as Cross of Glory's role in Brooklyn Center.
3. We talked in depth about the nature of mission; being reminded that God already has a mission for COG. Our task is to determine what that mission looks like for us in the year 2019. We were reminded that things like 'congregational growth' ARE NOT our mission, or even our goal. Rather we discussed the idea that if we define and do our mission well, that other perceived needs can fall into place on God's time.

We meet every other week on Tuesday nights and are pleased with Pastor Lee's leadership and organization in helping us with our tasks during this transition time.

By Keith J. Williams



June 2019

Sunday Morning Ministers

Ushers:

Dick Mero Cheryl Anderson
Dave Hengel Ryan Bailey
Masayuki Ionue Chad Bailey

Communion Servers:

6/02 Arlene Kosek
Carol Stejskal
Georgie Proctor
Linda Knudsen
Sharon Quick
Gayle Merritt

6/09 Dawn Bailey
Ryan & Chad Bailey

6/16 Lois Tollefsrud
Dan & Julie Aulwes

6/23 Jodi Quiner
Kris Simon
Judy Lewis

6/30 Judy Olson
Sharon Quick
Linda Knudsen

Lay Lectors:

6/02 Gayle Merritt
6/09 Dan Aulwes
6/16 Bruce Vukelich
6/23 Kris Williams
6/30 Kris Simon

Newsletter
DEADLINE

Articles for the July 2019
Glory Banner should to be turned
in to Sue Vukelich by June 11th.



SENIORS ON THE GO

50 + and Friends

What is so rare as a day in June? When we have warm weather, good friends and close families.

Our June outing is in the evening. We leave at 5:00pm on Tuesday, June 18th for Running Aces Racetrack. We will watch the trotter's race. There are things to eat for \$1.00 if you want. You don't even have to bet to have a good time. We'll be home by 9:30pm so it should be light yet as we are near the longest day of the year.

Tuesday, July 23rd is the day for the Minneapolis Pop's Orchestra's concert on Nicollet Island. It's usually a mixture of classical, show tunes, and national music. Always good! There will be coffee and goodies before the concert and pizza at Broadway Pizza afterwards.

The year's programs are out on the bulletin board ~ pick one up and plan to join us.

Marian Priest



The Cancer Support Group will not have "scheduled" meetings during the summer months. Our next meeting will be September 9, 2019.

Please call us as needed as you travel through your chemo and radiation treatments. We are here to listen and help you.

Please call Marcia Janasz, 763-391-6321 or Carol Sjoquist, 763-561-5546.



Cross of Glory Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will be meeting for Bible study in June, July and August. This is a group study, with all Circles coming together to meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30am. We will be studying the book of Esther. We will use the *Gather* magazine as our guide. We will take turns reading a section and there will be questions to discuss after each section. If you do not have a *Gather* magazine, please join us and someone will share with you. If you do not feel comfortable reading, just ask the next person to continue. Of course we will have coffee and treats! Our June meeting is on the 18th.

Spring Luncheon

Our Spring Luncheon on April 27th was attended by about 38 ladies. We had a delicious lunch and time for fellowship. We were entertained by Bill Cagley. He played his guitar and sang many familiar songs of country, western and other songs of the 50's and 60's. We had an hour of very enjoyable entertainment.



Something to do this Summer:

Pastor Lee has a Bible study every Tuesday at 9:30am. It is a very educational and a fun time as he shares ideas and thoughts about scripture. Of course, we have coffee and treats!

On Tuesday and Thursday each week at 8:45am we have Faithfully Fit. The ladies do low impact aerobic exercises. The class is led by Sue Vukelich. It's a lot of fun while building your body strength. If there is an exercise you do not feel comfortable doing, just sit and wait for the next one (like I do! -Jackie). You do not have to come to both exercise classes or even every week. If you come once a week you will be surprised at how fast you can build up your energy.

An activity you can do every day if you are a knitter ~ the church always can use prayer shawls. The Pastor brings these to people who are in the hospital or care centers. It is a very easy pattern. Ask Sue or Jackie for instructions. I knit while I wait for Metro mobility and while riding to my destination. I also bring it down to the laundry room while waiting for my clothes to wash and dry. I have had quite a few conversations with people wanting to know what I am knitting. They all have positive words about our church project. *Jackie Fryhling*

Something to think about . . .

Faith in Christ is not just a single step ~ it's a lifelong walk with Him.

Jackie



I would like to thank all my friends for attending my 90th birthday celebration. Thanks also for the many cards, well wishes and prayers. They were very appreciated. God bless you all.

Penny Lindblom

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

Worship at Cross of Glory on Sundays

9:30 a.m. ~ Worship

10:30 a.m. ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:45 a.m. ~ Small Group Studies

To watch worship services: www.vimeo.com/coqtv

[Facebook.com/crossofglorymn](https://www.facebook.com/crossofglorymn)

Cross of Glory Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8:00am ~ 4:00pm

Contact us at: Phone: (763) 533-8602

E-mail: office@crossofglory.us

www.crossofglory.us

Cross of Glory Staff:

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Lee Hallstrom ~

lhallstrom@crossofglory.us

Organist:

Allan Mahnke ~

furiusbib@comcast.net

Choir Director:

Keith Williams ~

williams@csp.edu

Outreach:

Rev. Christian Vincent ~

cvincent@crossofglory.us

Pianist:

Mark Trease ~

mltrease@comcast.net

Bookkeeper:

Mike Edstrom ~

medstrom@crossofglory.us

Administrative Assistant:

Sue Vukelich ~

svukelich@crossofglory.us