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# The Glory Banner

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

*November 2020*

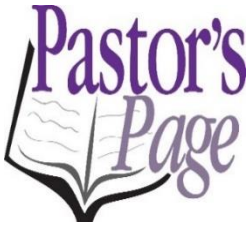
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**Give to God the things that are God's**

Matthew 22:21

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## ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW

A couple of weeks ago, we decorated the sanctuary in red, sang “A Mighty Fortress is our God,” and recalled the time when a monk named Martin nailed 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg church. The day was Reformation Sunday, a time when we celebrate the ways that God not only reformed and renewed the church 503 years ago, but also the ways that God continues to reform and renew us today. We celebrate the ways that we—because God is alive and at work—are always being made new.

In Isaiah, God says “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert” (43:19). Through our 2021 financial gifts, we have the opportunity to take part in the “new thing” that God will do (and indeed, is already doing!) among us. As you prayerfully consider your upcoming pledge, I invite you to ask:

- How do you see God at work in the Cross of Glory community?
- In what ways is God calling us into deeper relationships with one another, and into new relationships in our wider neighborhood?
- How is God calling you to use your gifts—of time, talent, and treasure—in new ways in 2021?

We understand that making decisions about giving may be especially difficult this year in light of the pandemic. We are here to help. In the coming weeks, we’ll be sending some resources along with your pledge card to help you prayerfully discern your 2021 commitment. I am also available for conversation – please don’t hesitate to reach out!

As we approach Stewardship Sunday (Nov 15), join us as we take part in this “new thing” that God is doing here at Cross of Glory, boldly trusting in a God of abundance in whom we, our church, and our world is **always being made new**. Thanks be to God!

In Christ, *Pastor Ali*

## PASTORAL CARE

These are difficult days – Cross of Glory is here to walk with you. To share a pastoral care concern or to add a prayer request to our church’s prayer list, please contact us (Pastor Ali: [atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us), Church Office: 763-533-8602). If you have thoughts or ideas about ways that we can support you during this time, please don’t hesitate to let us know.



## Council Notes Recap of October, 2020 Council Meeting

- Progeny School planning to start Hybrid learning on November 2, 2020.
- Roof is completed and we will now have lower insurance rates.
- Front and back parking lot lights are now working!
- We have received paperwork regarding the Brooklyn Boulevard Phase II upgrades which will start in Spring 2021. More details to follow in the coming months.
- Council will have an afternoon retreat in November to focus on the vision of the church and plans for 2021.



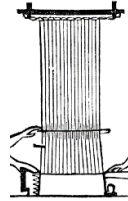
### TABLE TALKS

Mark your calendars – On Sunday, November 22 following worship, you are invited to take part in “Table Talks,” our new monthly Adult Sunday School series. As we head into this season of thanksgiving, we’ll be exploring the topic of Faith + Gratitude. Stay tuned for more information to come!



### YOUTH BONFIRE

All Cross of Glory middle school and high school youth (and friends!) are invited to gather for a time of fellowship on Saturday, November 21 at 4 pm at the Balzer’s home for a bonfire, s’mores, and games. We’ll be outside, so dress accordingly and bring your own lawn chair. To RSVP or if you have any questions, reach out to Pastor Ali at [atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us).



## ADVENT 2020: IMAGES OF GOD

### *Exploring the surprisingly ordinary ways God dwells among us*

*“Advent is not a season. Advent is a way of responding to a God who comes to us....not always according to our calculation, not always in the way we would desire, but in ways that are appropriate to God’s justice and grace.”*

*-Fred Craddock*

As Christians, we believe that God comes to us not only on Christmas—when we celebrate God’s arrival in Jesus Christ—but also that God is present among us already. This Advent, as we await God’s incarnate coming, we will be exploring the ways that Emmanuel (God-With-Us) dwells among us here and now.

Where can we glimpse God in the world around us? Scripture gives us some clues. The Bible is full of different names, metaphors, and images of God. Some we likely already know: king, shepherd, father. Others, though, are perhaps lesser-known: mother hen, gardener, clothing, fire. God comes to us in ways that are both familiar *and* in ways that might seem strange or surprising—in ways, as Craddock notes, that don’t always function according to our preferences or expectations.

Exploring these biblical images of God invites us to do three things:

- 1) They invite us to see **God** in new ways. We start noticing God in unexpected places or people. We start encountering God not just in church on Sundays, but in the ordinary “stuff” of daily life.
- 2) They invite us to see **ourselves** in new ways, as people made in God’s image (Gen 1:26).
- 3) They invite us to see **our neighbors** in new ways. Rev. Dr. Lauren Winner claims that the attributes that we say belong to God are those we tend to value in the world around us. So if we picture God as king, for example, we’re likely to give greater esteem to political leaders or wealthy

rulers. But following this same logic, if we imagine God as a woman giving birth (Isaiah 42:14), perhaps we'll look at the women and mothers around us through new eyes. Or if we look at God as an inmate on death row (Luke 23:13-25), how might this change the way we see our incarcerated neighbors? This is all to say that our spiritual imaginations make a difference. Exploring these different images of God shapes how we do "life together" on the ground.

This year, the lectionary texts assigned for the Sundays of Advent each contain a particular image of God. Each week, therefore, we will be exploring a different biblical image through word, reflection, music, and art. On Nov 29, we'll look at God the potter who molds us (Isaiah 64:8). On Sunday, Dec 6, we'll explore God the shepherd who guides us (Isaiah 40:11). On Dec 13, we read about God the quilter who clothes us in righteousness (Isaiah 64:11). All of these images point to and prepare us for our final week of Advent on Dec 20, when we look at God incarnate, who of course is much more than an image.

So join us this Advent as we explore these images of God. Join us as we open ourselves to encountering God-With-Us, Emmanuel.



### **LESSONS + MUSIC – SHARE YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS & SONGS!**

Every few months, Cross of Glory hosts "Lessons + Music," a worship service of scripture readings, reflections, prayer, and music. On Sunday, November 22, we'll be having a Thanksgiving-themed service of Lessons + Music, and we'd love to hear from you: What's your favorite hymn or song? Let Sue know by calling the church office (763-533-8602) or emailing her ([svukelich@crossofglory.us](mailto:svukelich@crossofglory.us)) by November 11 and we'll do our best to include it!



## **GIVING THANKS WITH (AND FOR!) ONE ANOTHER**

Below are a few ways to connect with the Cross of Glory community as we enter into this season of thanksgiving – join us!

- **Thanksgiving Devotional**

This year, we're putting together a Thanksgiving community devotional that you can use at home on the holiday that includes prayers of thanksgiving, table graces, and gratitude statements that remind us of the many gifts God has given us. But we need *your* help! By Wed, November 18, please call or email the church office to share:

- A favorite table grace or blessing
- The completed sentence: I am thankful for \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Be creative and specific! What are you grateful for in addition to the wonderful gifts of family or friends? Ex: the chorus of birds outside my window that remind me of God's presence, the workers who grow and harvest the food on my table, the gift of Zoom that helps knit us together even when we're apart)

- **Prayer + Communion in the Sanctuary with Pastor Ali on Thanksgiving Eve**

On Wed, November 25, you're invited to come to the sanctuary, where Pastor Ali will be available to meet you individually to pray with you and offer Holy Communion. Please call the church office to schedule a 10-minute slot for you or your family between 11 am - 7 pm.





## NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

Want a front row seat for the National Lutheran Choir's 2020-2021 season? Consider a virtual subscription! No longer constrained by geography, the choir is now a community of people who join together across the country to share sacred choral music and believe it speaks to us more than ever in these days of distancing. Subscribe to receive twice-monthly emails with musical content, reflections, interviews, devotions, and behind-the-scenes glimpses of the artistic process. The cost is \$10 per month or \$90 for the full season of monthly engagement (Sept-May). Subscribe at <https://nlca.com/>.

## —STAYING— CONNECTED

The Cross of Glory community will continue to find ways to share life together during these difficult days of physical distance. If you're having trouble getting connected to worship videos or recordings by computer, tablet, or phone, please let Erik Haugland know (909-800-9094). We're here to help.

**Zoom Worship + Virtual Coffee Hour:** Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Zoom Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 9:30 AM

**Zoom info:** [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us), Meeting ID: 8025025123, Password: 433131

**Online worship recordings:** [vimeo.com/cogtv](https://vimeo.com/cogtv)

**Worship Bulletins:** [www.crossofglory.us/sermonlibrary.html](http://www.crossofglory.us/sermonlibrary.html)

## LEADING WITH LOVE BEYOND PRISON WALLS

Join the Minneapolis Area Synod's SOAR (Strategic Organizing Against Racism) team from 6:30-7:30 pm on Thursday, November 19 to learn more about injustices that our incarcerated neighbors face, and what you can do to take action. More details and registration information can be found at <https://mpls-synod.org/event/answering-the-call-leading-with-love-beyond-prison-walls/>

## THANKS FOR TAKING PART IN COG'S VISTITATION DAY!



On September 27th, this great group of COG members visited many people of our church who are homebound or in care facilities. It was a wonderful day of community & connection! Thanks to everyone for your love of COG and its people. And thanks to Dawn Bailey and her team for organizing the visits!



### COG COVID Task Force Update

You should have received a letter from the Task Force the week of October 19<sup>th</sup>, either in the mail or via email outlining our current situation, the plan we have put together, and what it means for us presently as a church community. If you have not received it, please contact the church office.

Even though we are not yet meeting together as a congregation for weekly worship, **groups of 10 people or fewer are able to meet at the church, provided:**

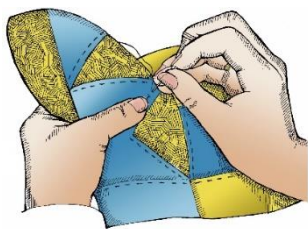
- Meetings are scheduled ahead of time through the church office



- Meetings should be held either in the fellowship hall or sanctuary
- Areas used should be wiped down/sanitized before and after use
- Face masks are required, covering mouth and nose, while in the building
- Bathrooms have an occupancy limit of 2 people at a time, with social distancing
- Other posted building procedures should be followed such as signing in and out, sanitizing hands when entering, maintaining 6 foot social distance, using marked doors for entry and exit, staying home if ill, contacting the church office if you have become ill with COVID symptoms or a COVID-19 diagnosis following any at-church meetings

If you have any questions or feedback for the Task Force, please let us know. We are grateful for your prayers, understanding and flexibility as we all try to stay safe during these times.

Serving with and for you,  
The COG COVID Task Force



## CEAP Quilters

Hello from the CEAP Quilters. We are a group with 47 members, and we are looking forward to getting back to work at church.

At this time, many members are working in their homes. They are cutting children's clothing and sewing them. They have finished many quilts.

In a normal church year, you would see our quilts on the church pews on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. CEAP would pick up everything on the Monday after the quilts are displayed. We will send all the quilts we have to CEAP in November.

We know that we can't return to church yet, but will be happy campers when we can!

*Ruth Lunquist, facilitator, CEAP Quilters*

# WOMEN of the ELCA



## NOVEMBER BIBLE STUDY, Session 3

### Holy Time by the Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

What does it mean to reimagine the future in light of the promises of God's reign? How do we live now in hope and active expectation, and how does this open us (individuals, churches, communities) to in hope and active expectations, and how does this open us (individuals, churches, communities) to transformation?

## DECEMBER 2020 BIBLE STUDY

### Singing, writing, moving, connecting: Advent rituals for uncertain times.

For you who have a computer or Tablet (Ipad, Kindle or other) you can access a video of the current Bible Study by going to Google and put in ... [gathermagazine.org](http://gathermagazine.org) then on the upper right side click on Resources. Video of the Bible Study is available by the author Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni and also by Prince of Peace Lutheran of Des Moines, Iowa

***Mission Circle*** will meet at **1:00 PM on Tuesday, November 17th**, in the Fellowship Room. We will follow the November 'GATHER' Bible Study.



### CEAP's Toys for Joy will be Gratitude and Joy this year.

We are unable to collect toys this year because of the Covid-19 virus. CEAP instead wishes for cash or Amazon gift cards to be used for toys and food. On November 19th they will have a Give to the Max Day. You can give to CEAP Gratitude and Joy by using the special offering envelope and mark CEAP. *Community Needs Circle*



We will continue the tradition of making cookie trays for our COG members and friends who are homebound, in care centers, or have experienced a life changing event. It is scheduled from church on Sunday, December 13, 2020. Our mission this year comes with challenges. Further details will be coming. In the meantime, prepare your kitchens for some cookie baking! Call Marcy Hartlage, with questions at 763-537-9005.



I would like to thank my church family for their prayers and well wishes for my recent hand surgery. They are much appreciated, and recovery is going well. God bless you all. *Karen Earnest*

Thanks to the people who visited me on September 27<sup>th</sup>. I enjoyed your signs, they were neat. I appreciated the flowers. It was great to get news about Cross of Glory and see some people from church again. I hope they will come again! Thanks to Pastor Ali for the phone call, it was great talking to her. It is nice to be remembered. *Ardis Fairchild*



## LAY READERS:

11/1	Julie Aulwes
11/8	Marian Priest
11/15	Gayle Merritt
11/22	Steve Ferley
11/29	Jodi Quiner

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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 on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am  
(Meeting ID: 8025025123, Password: 433131)  
Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/crossofglorymn](https://facebook.com/crossofglorymn)  
Visit us at [www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us)

**Cross of Glory Office Hours:**  
Monday through Wednesday, 9:00am ~ 3:00pm  
Contact us at: Phone: (763) 533-8602

**Cross of Glory Staff:**

**Lead Pastor:**

Rev. Ali Tranvik  
[atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us)

**Pianist:**

Mark Trease  
[mltrease@comcast.net](mailto:mltrease@comcast.net)

**Choir Director:**

Keith Williams  
[williams@csp.edu](mailto:williams@csp.edu)

**Bookkeeper:**

Mike Edstrom  
[medstrom@crossofglory.us](mailto:medstrom@crossofglory.us)

**Administrative Assistant:**

Sue Vukelich  
[svukelich@crossofglory.us](mailto:svukelich@crossofglory.us)