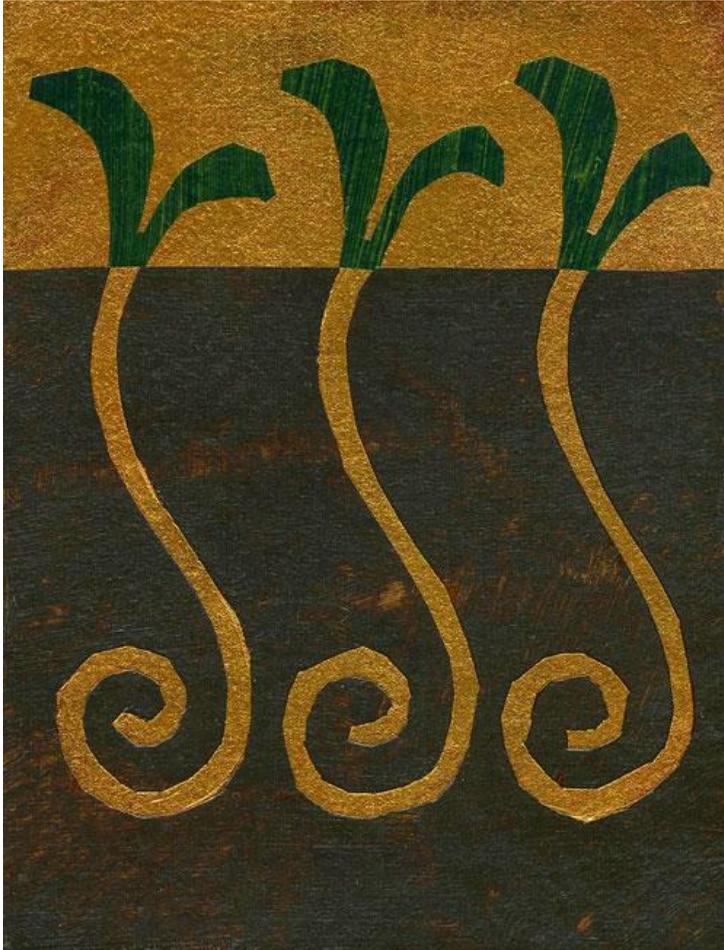

The Glory Banner

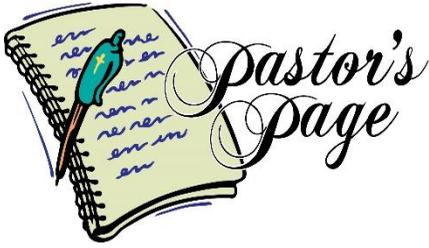
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA), a Wildfire Congregation

April 2021



“He has been raised” -Mark 16:6

Art Credit: *Getting Grounded* © Jan Richardson. Janrichardson.com



LOVED BACK TO LIFE

It's that wonderful time in MN when we begin to see signs of spring. Barring another snowstorm (which I realize is entirely possible in April...May? June?), it's that time of year when we're beginning to see the "green blades rising from the buried grain," as the Easter hymn goes, a time when we get to watch what has long been hiding, waiting, barren, and buried being brought back to life again.

It's also the time of year when, as people of faith, we tell the story of Jesus rising on Easter. The resurrection, though, isn't only something that happened to Jesus thousands of years ago. It's something that because of Jesus happens to all of us, all the time. Despite all that works to keep life buried in us—fear, greed, selfishness, indifference, violence, pandemics, disease, death, grief, depression, addiction, hunger—God keeps raising us up to new life. Or as Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber says, "God keeps reaching down into the dirt of humanity and resurrecting us from the graves we dig for ourselves, and from the ones the world digs for us. **God keeps loving us back to life—over and over.**"

One of the ways that resurrection is evident in this season is in the long-awaited opportunity to gather together again in person, thanks to the recent decrease in Covid-19 cases and increase in vaccinations. I want to thank the COG Covid Task Force who has stepped up to take on the impossibly challenging and script-less task of leading us through a rapidly-changing pandemic. Thanks to Mark, Linda, Lori, Brenda, Dawn, and Gayle for their countless hours of hard work, their courage, and their care over the course of recent weeks and months.

I also want to say what an immense joy it is to finally gather with you in our beloved church building! Having started this call among you in July, I can't tell you how wonderful it's been to meet many of you in person, to see the sanctuary filled with people, and to share in fellowship (given I'm pregnant and not yet vaccinated, I'm unfortunately in a high-risk category, so I'm grateful for your virtual hugs at this time!).

Just as the early buds and blades of spring are delicate and tender, so too is our church life in the weeks ahead. It will require caution and care. There may be some growing pains or disappointments. Things may not grow as fast as we want them to. It may be full of grief for what's been lost, or full of anxiety about how we'll proceed as the pandemic continues. But I suspect it will also surprise us with beauty

and joy. I suspect we'll get glimpses of the new thing that God is doing among us, even while we don't yet see what will grow or how we'll grow.

Where do you see "green blades rising" in this Easter season? What does resurrection look like for you? How is God loving you back to life? As we open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to God's gift of new life rising up all around us, hear this good news: "Love lives again," and as the hymn says, it calls *us* back to life again too. Thanks be to God! -Pastor Ali

NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES

As we ponder the gift of the "love that lives again," let's sing or pray together:



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

As the ground thaws and weather warms, we are looking forward to growing plants and produce in our church's backyard community garden plots this year. All are welcome to join Cross of Glory members, Progeny Academy students, and Brooklyn Center neighbors for gardening this spring and summer. Please reach out to Pastor Ali at atranvik@crossofglory.us if you're interested in learning more or taking part.



Recap of March Council Meeting

Progeny School still in hybrid status. Thanks to tutors and pen pals, mainly Cross of Glory members.

Thank you COVID Task Force, we are in level 3 and will have in person Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services. Praise the Lord!

Received the \$10,000 grant from the Bethlehem Lutheran Foundation for our portion of money needed for shared Wildfire coordinator position.

Brooklyn Boulevard information coming soon in separate letter. Working on wording and layout for temporary sign out front as old sign will be coming down in the next few weeks for the purpose of construction.

Judy Lewis, Council President

PASTOR ALI'S MATERNITY LEAVE

It's been a gift for Isak and I to share in the joyful anticipation of our child, due to arrive in late June, with you all. Thanks for your care and prayers. In the coming weeks, a team of Council members and myself will be interviewing candidates and selecting one to serve as a part-time coverage pastor while I am on maternity leave. I'm also arranging a rotation of guest preachers for that time. I will continue to work closely with our church's leaders to ensure that the transition is smooth and that the congregation is well cared for this summer. We'll be sharing more details in the coming weeks as these plans are finalized. Until then, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Thanks again for your support as Isak and I prepare to welcome this child into the wonderful Cross of Glory family! -Pastor Ali



On March 17, the COG Covid-19 Task Force sent out a letter to the congregation announcing that **we are transitioning into Level 3 of our Covid Response Plan starting Sunday, March 28.**

Level 3 allows for in-person worship on Sundays at 9:30 am and larger meetings and gatherings throughout the week in the Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary. We are asking the whole congregation to adhere to some new protocols and practices for the sake of the shared health of all of our community, with particular care and attention to our neighbors who have underlying health conditions and concerns that put them at higher risk. These include wearing a mask covering your nose and mouth, physical distancing, designated seating for worship, no congregational singing, no food or drink, etc. Please refer to the letter for further information.

If you did not receive the letter, please reach out to office@crossofglory.us or view it on our website, crossofglory.us

Given the nature of this uncharted territory, we acknowledge that we do not have all the answers. Like all faith communities right now, we are working through this as faithfully as we can, recognizing that these complicated circumstances mean that this will inevitably be an imperfect process. We'll all be learning and adapting as we go and as circumstances evolve around us. Thank you for your grace, your humor, and your neighborly care. If you have questions, ideas, or concerns, we invite you to please reach out to the Task Force at any time! We'd love to hear from you as we continue to be the church in this ongoing pandemic.

We give God thanks for the joyful opportunity to gather in-person again, even with the new guidelines in place, and we pray the Spirit will continue to guide us as we work to faithfully navigate this new chapter of our life *together*.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Cross of Glory would be honored to welcome your family for a funeral, wedding, or baptism. Under Level 3, seating on the sanctuary floor and in the balcony can currently accommodate 133 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 (atranvik@crossofglory.us).

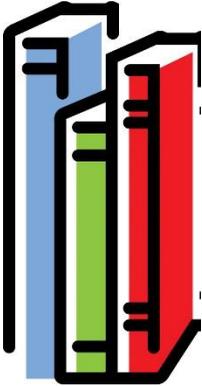


JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

There are many ways to worship with us here at Cross of Glory! We are now operating in Level 3 of our Covid Response Plan, which allows for an in-person worship option. Given some of us are unable to attend in-person or may not be comfortable doing so at this time, we're offering a variety of opportunities to take part in our worship life:

- **In-person** – Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for safely-distanced worship in the sanctuary. If you're planning to worship in person, please read the letter the Covid Task Force sent out to the congregation before Holy Week (also posted on crossofglory.us) for details about the new protocols and practices in place for Level 3 worship.
- **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 crossofglory.us.
- **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 at 763-533-8602 or office@crossofglory.us if you'd like to receive a weekly bulletin of the service.
- **Please Note** – This year, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are offered virtually via Zoom at 7:00pm. Easter services are offered in-person and online at 8:30am and 10:30am.

Though worship will look different for the time being, we give thanks that God will continue to enliven us in our worship, however we choose to take part!



READING GROUP

A couple of Cross of Glory folks are organizing a reading/discussion group on German writer, poet, mystic, and liberation theologian Dorothee Soelle (for a quick overview of her life and work, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/vav8v9sp>). This is not anything formal, just a chance to be unsettled by Soelle and her work on the meaning and significance of the life of faith. The group will figure out further details on readings or schedule of meetings soon, but contact Isak Tranvik (itrانvik@gmail.com) if you're interested.



further details as the date nears.

To take part in Table Talks, use the same Zoom information we use for worship on Sundays:

Visit www.zoom.us or call 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 8025025123, Password: 433131



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? Reach out to Pastor Ali (atranvik@crossofglory.us) for more info about our upcoming new member class this May!

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

This year's Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly theme is "Jubilee Reclaimed: Opening the Way." Participants will explore biblical insights into the welfare of the community, looking particularly at the notion of "Jubilee," the call in Hebrew Scripture to return possessions to their original owner after 50 years as a means to ensure that wealth disparity didn't arise within the community, as well as the early church's practice of a common purse described in Acts. What do these biblical traditions mean for the church today? How do we enter into discussions of confession and forgiveness? How can the church be the leading edge of caring for the vulnerable in our world? This year's keynote speakers include Dr. Drew Hart, professor of biblical theology and religion at Messiah University, and Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota.

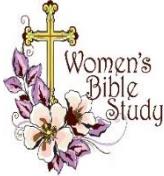
The virtual assembly is scheduled for April 23-24. Pastor Ali and Gayle Merritt will serve as this year's voting delegates on behalf of Cross of Glory.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

May Glory Banner Deadline

Want to include an article in next month's Glory Banner? Email Sue (svukelich@crossofglory.us) by April 19th.

WOMEN of the ELCA



April Bible Study Journey with Angels Feasting Angels Focus Verse: Psalm 148:1-2

In the last session of “Journeys with Angels” Bible study we travel with angles who firmly lead people from walls of captivity and shadows of death into the light of freedom and joy. We will have “feasting, Funny, alleluia angels, that come to tell us that the doors to laughter and life are open!

This would be in the Happenings since our Bible study is on angels. I thought you all would enjoy the message. *Jackie Fryhling*

Beneath the wings of angels, we sometimes find release.
From the trials that prevent us from finding lasting peace.
God often sends His messengers to guide us on our way.
They shelter us beneath their wings, and some have saved the day.
God knows that we're not perfect and we don't understand.
So He sometimes send us angels to lend a helping hand.
Angels guide us and protect us from the dangers in this world.
For beneath the wings of angels, His blessings are unfurled!

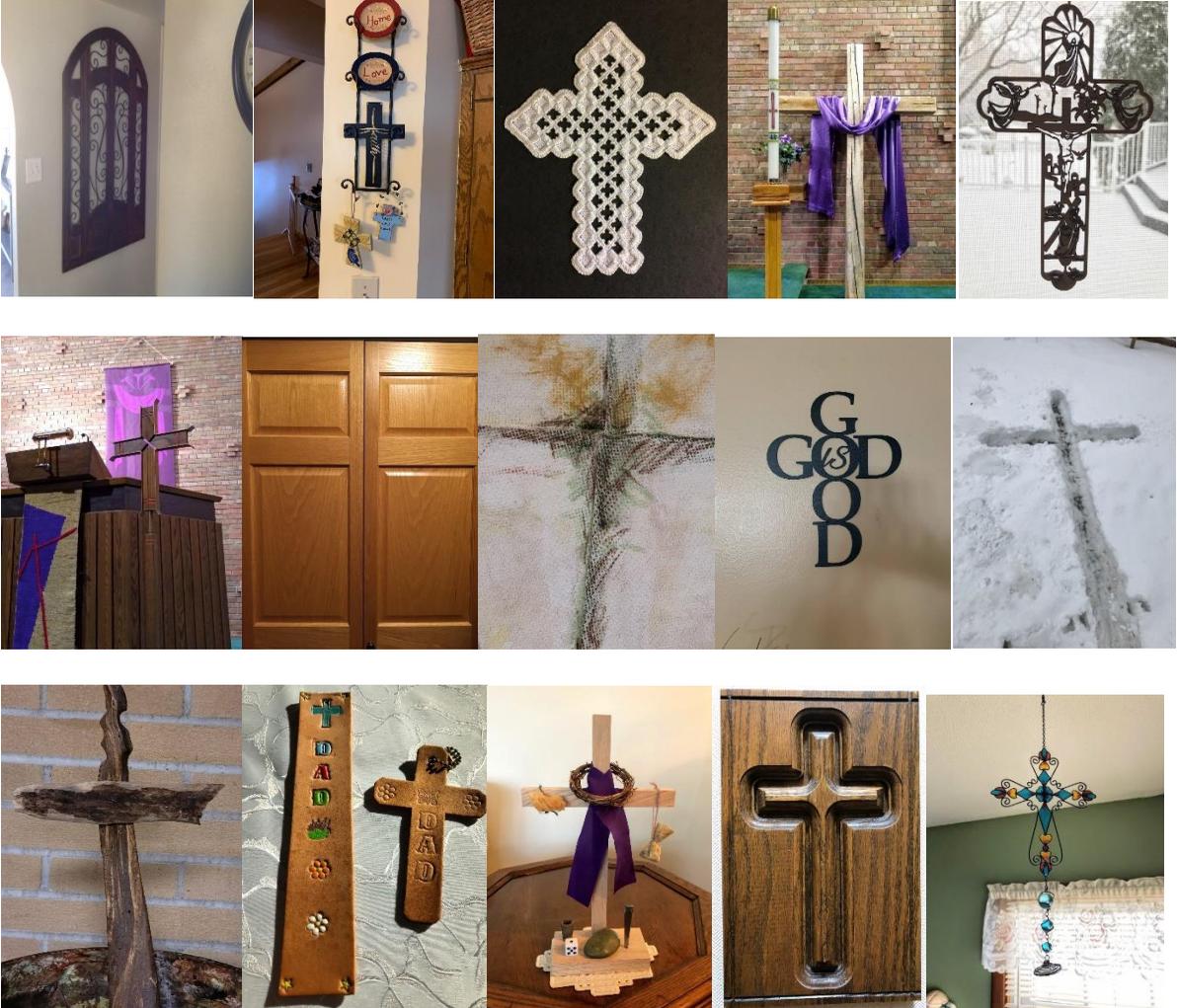
By Clay Harrison



Thank you to our Cross of Glory friends for all the calls, cards, and prayers that you have given myself and family in the passing of Bob. A special thank you to Pastor Ali for everything she did during this difficult time. God bless you all. *Jan Roth and Family*

CROSSES OF CROSS OF GLORY

Thanks to the Cross of Glory community for sharing pictures of the crosses that showed up in the sanctuaries of the world throughout this Lenten season. These photos have served as a powerful reminder us of the ways God's presence shows up in our lives, sometimes in places we don't expect. If you have ideas about how we might commemorate this communal art piece that we've created together, please let the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee know. Thank you!



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:

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