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# The Glory Banner

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Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

a Wildfire Congregation

December 2023

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## Advent 2023 Holden (Morning) Prayer

Dec 3 - Advent I: Love that Fills the Night with Wonder

Dec 10 - Advent II: Love that Warms the Weary Soul: A Service of Lessons & Music

Dec 17 - Advent III: Love that Bursts All Chains Asunder

Dec 24 (9:30 am) - Advent IV: Set us Free and Make us Whole

\*Christmas Eve Worship will take place on Sunday, Dec 24 at 4 pm - All neighbors welcome!



### WORSHIP at CoG!

**Onsite** – Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for worship in the sanctuary.

**Online** – Tune in to 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 [www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us).

**Recorded services** - We record weekly worship so that you can worship from anywhere, anytime. Visit our home page, or Service Library page, at [www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us) for service recordings!

**Bulletins** – Bulletins are mailed to those who have requested mailings. Please contact the church office at 763-533-8602 or [office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us) if you'd like to be added to/removed from this weekly mailing list. Electronic bulletins are posted to our website weekly as well.

We give thanks that the Spirit continues to guide, inspire, and enliven us in our worship, however you choose to take part!

#### Cross of Glory Staff:

**Pastor:**  
Rev. Ali Tranvik  
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**Tech Director/ Worship Leader:**  
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**Custodian/Facilities Manager:**  
Matt Steven

**Tech Ministry:**  
The Bailey Family

Joyous light of heavenly glory, loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race.  
Now as [morning breaks] around us, we shall raise our songs to you,  
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

**In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,  
Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.**

You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect our light.  
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

“Joyous Light” Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy — Marty Haugen





## LOVE IS BORN

One of the most moving moments in our worship life each year is the end of our Christmas service, when the winter sky outside has become dark, and when we dim whatever lights have illuminated the rest of our service thus far. From the Christ candle, we begin to pass around the flame to candles of all those gathered in the sanctuary. As we sing "Silent Night," the glow of our candles becomes brighter.

What we do together in this holy moment is not merely partake in a beautiful tradition (although it is certainly that too). Through our candles, our singing, our gathering together as neighbors and strangers, we are also witnessing to the reality that Love is born into an often-loveless world.

As we prepare for Love's arrival in our lives and in the world again this Christmas, we will be singing about it, praying about it, and hearing scriptures and sermons about it throughout the Advent season. Drawing from the lines of Holden [Morning] Prayer, we will explore "love that fills the night with wonder (the first Sunday of Advent), love that warms the weary soul (the second Sunday), love that bursts all chains asunder (the third Sunday), and a love that sets us free and makes us whole (the fourth)." Please join us each week at 9:30 am for these services.

As we light candles each week this Advent season, and the increasing light of the flames (juxtaposed by the beauty and wonder of the increasing darkness of our winter season) remind us of the moment when, in a few weeks from now, we will fill the sanctuary with our candle light, may we prepare our hearts and minds for the Love that will--indeed is already--come. -Pastor Ali



# CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

2023 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Alongside the "Holden [Morning] Prayer" liturgy we'll sing this Advent, which explores the God who dwells with us both in light and darkness, morning and evening, you're invited to take part in "Creator of the Stars of Night," a daily devotional written by Luther Seminary faculty that explores these same themes. Pick up a copy on the Welcome Desk or request an electronic version from the office.

## PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Ali is available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer. You can reach her by phone and email throughout the week. Please reach out to schedule a time to connect!

## HOME COMMUNION

If you are unable to commune onsite at Cross of Glory, we would love to come visit you and bring you communion. Please reach out to schedule a time.



Our Everyday Liturgy calls us to both grieve and to celebrate as we share life together. To that end, we lift up sorrows and joys in our community this month:

### —Celebrations—

Happy birthday to all celebrating a birthday this month, we celebrate you!

### —Blessings—

Earlier this fall, the Latino 7th Day Adventists of Brooklyn Center that had been meeting at 5929 for the past year and a half moved locations in an effort to better fit their space. We are grateful for their time among us, and send our blessings as they continue on in their new space!

### —Funerals—

We continue to grieve the death of **Georgie Proctor**, whose funeral took place at Cross of Glory on Nov 10th.



**FIRST SUNDAYS** - Kids of all ages are invited to join us every Sunday of course, but especially on first Sundays of the month, when our CoG Kids

Leaders will be leading "Godly Play," a questions-based and imaginative storytelling time during a portion of the worship service. Special donuts will be provided for kids after the service!



**FIRST WEDNESDAYS** - All are welcome to join us for a meal at 5:30 pm. At 6 pm, older children are invited to Study Buddies (homework help) and younger children for

Storytime, and games in the gym begin at 6:30. Confirmation starts at 7 pm for children ages 6th-8th grade. Reach out to Kris Simon or Chellie Sebald with questions.

## Wildfire Resources

**RESPITE CARE** - Respite Care is a collaborative Wildfire ministry that meets at House of Hope in New Hope on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., intended to provide a bit of rest for caregivers. Contact Debbie Haney (612) 408-2049 for more info.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** - On the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. at House of Hope, Wildfire also hosts a caregiver support group. There is no need to register for this, just come. Contact Debbie Haney (612) 408-2049 with questions.

**HOUSEHOLD HELPERS** - Need a hand with non-professionalized household tasks? First Lutheran of Crystal, one of our Wildfire partners, has a group of folks ready to assist anyone needing a hand with household chores, and one to help with personal needs. Call Jackie at 763-535-2797 to schedule a time for them to come lend a hand at your home!

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING THIS MONTH



Please note that due to Christmas, there will be:

- No Table Talks gathering on the fourth Sunday of December.
- The CoG Bible Study will also not be meeting on Dec 26 or Jan 2 (we'll resume Jan 9).
- WELCA does not have a board meeting or in church Bible Study this month.
- 55+ Fellowship will resume with afternoon game time in January.



## STEWARDSHIP

A huge thanks for your financial pledges thus far as we head into the new year. Your generosity will help empower us to live out God's call in creative and courageous ways in the year ahead and we continue to discern God's call to life together! We are in the midst of finalizing our budget for the new year, so if you haven't yet had the chance to submit your pledge card, we invite you to mail it to the church office (5929 Brooklyn Blvd), drop it off at church, or complete an online pledge card through our website as soon as possible. Thank you for the many ways you give of your time, talents, and treasure for the sake of living out God's gift of life together!

### Make a Gift Today

Cross of Glory has an online giving page that makes giving easy! Scan the QR code here or visit [www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us) and go to the "Give" tab at the top. There, you can safely make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts. Thank you for considering making an end-of-year gift.

#### • Ways to Give

If you have any questions about annual pledges, memorials or planned gifts, or designating ThriventChoice dollars to Cross of Glory, please contact Pastor Ali at [atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us) or Mike Edstrom at [medstrom@crossofglory.us](mailto:medstrom@crossofglory.us).

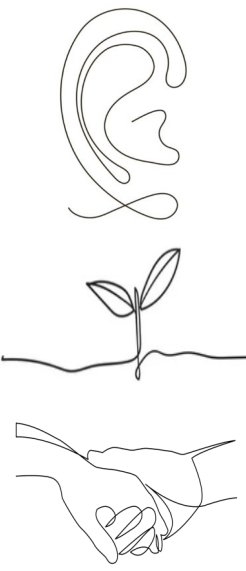


#### • Giving Statements

If you would like more information about the current status of your giving in 2023, please reach out to Rachel ([office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us)) for a statement. Year end statements will be completed by January 14th to pick up after worship. Those not picked up, will be mailed that week.

#### • Offering envelopes

Are in the process of being made. Anyone who requested using offering envelopes, they will be ready for pick up no later than January 1st. If you didn't submit a pledge and would like offering envelopes, please reach out to [office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us) and some will be made for you.



# Christmas Worship at Cross of Glory

Mark your calendars for 4pm Christmas worship at Cross of Glory, a service when we celebrate the birth of Christ through Word + Sacrament. (\*Please note: because the fourth Sunday of Advent happens to fall on December 24th this year, we will gather at 9:30 am that morning for our fourth and final **Advent** service, and then at 4 pm for our Christmas service). Neighbors, friends, family, and first-timers are warmly welcome!

### Dec 24 (4:00 pm) - Christmas Eve Service

All are welcome to celebrate the birth of Jesus for Christmas Eve Worship at Cross of Glory!

### Dec 31 (9:30 am) - 1st Sunday of Christmas: A Service of Lessons, Poetry, Music

Join us for a 5th Sunday service full of beloved Christmas songs, scriptures, and poems as we continue to tell the Christmas story.



### CHRISTMAS COOKIE PLATES

We are grateful for the tradition of giving cookie plates in December. Thanks to all those who make this ministry possible. Recipients of these plates traditionally go to those with recent illness, grief, homebound, caregiving, or a life transition in the past year. If you'd like to request a plate, we'd be glad to add you to the list. Please contact the church office by December 6th and the delivery team will plan to bring a plate of goodies to you! If you'd like to be part of the delivery team, please let Kris Simon know by December 9th.

### "INCARNATION": A NEW ART EXHIBIT

*"Advent is a celebration of the incarnation, of a God who became human flesh in Jesus Christ. The advent of Jesus, the accounts of his birth and life and death — all are glimpses of God, announcements of what God's presence looks like in the world and in our lives." -Isaac Villegas*

The Worship, Music, Arts Team is excited to announce a new exhibit in our art gallery (between the sanctuary and offices) during the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. The exhibit is titled "Incarnation," and includes a series of pieces that depict the incarnate Christ by artists representing a variety of races and nationalities. The images invite us to reimagine Christ through various cultural lenses, and in turn, reimagine God-With-Us in our world today. We're grateful to our Wildfire partner congregation, Valley of Peace, for graciously lending us this art as we ponder the incarnation this season.



### In Home December 2023 Bible Study:

December 2023 Advent devotional: "Topsy-turvy" by the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson

In her song, Mary, the mother of Jesus, praises God for turning the world upside down—or perhaps, turning the world right-side-up! Gather's annual Advent devotional focuses on the Magnificat song of Mary (see Luke 1:46b-55), as well as parallel topsy-turvy stories of Mary's ancestors, including Shiphrah and Puah (Exodus 1), Hannah (1 Samuel 1-2), the daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27), Hagar at the well (Genesis 16 and/or 21) and Ruth and Hagar.

In Home January and February 2024 Bible Study Winter/Spring 2024: "Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith" by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith

### January 2024 Weather: Powerful force for change

We can't control the weather, but we can learn from it. Storms, rain, drought and wind shape the lives of human and non-human beings, both in scripture and today. As we face catastrophic storms and the weird weather of climate change, biblical stories of extraordinary weather convict and humble us. They show us how to live faithfully, moving us to act even when we feel powerless.

The WELCA board meeting is scheduled for Spring 2024

Gather Bible Study will meet at home during the winter months.





**EVER RE-FORMING**

On Reformation Sunday, the Vision + Vocation team shared some updates about some next steps in discerning what God's call to life together



We are **CALLED**



We are called to **LIFE**



We are called to life **TOGETHER**

looks like, particularly in regards to our space at 5929 Brooklyn Blvd. It was a full and festive morning, but because not everyone was able to attend in person, the Vision + Vocation Team sent out a letter to the congregation a few weeks ago that detailed the updates we shared that morning. If you didn't yet receive that letter via mail and/or email, please reach out to Rachel in the office for a copy. As we begin this season of listening and learning about how we can live out our call to life together, we invite you to take part in the following next steps:

•**Neighborhood Listening Sessions** - On the third Wednesdays of the month (except this month, in which we'll gather on the *second* Wednesday--Dec 13--due to Christmas!), we're gathering with neighbors from the Brooklyn Center community for a Neighborhood Listening Session. The hope is to listen and learn about both the gifts and the needs in our community so that we can discern how to most faithfully share life together. Join us from 5:30-6:30 pm as we share a meal and get to know our neighbor (hood)! Last month, we heard from our fellow congregations at 5929. This month, neighbors at CAPI will be joining us. Please come as you're able, and reach out to Isak Tranvik with any questions! (*see insert for more details*)

•**Site Visits** - As we work to further discern our call, we'll also be learning from neighboring churches who have reimagined ways to share space for the sake of God's work. If you're interested in taking part in a site visit or two in the next few months to learn how these congregations began and sustain the work they do, and didn't have the chance to join us for an orientation last month, reach out to Kris Simon ASAP.

**THANKS TO THE COMMUNITY QUILTERS**

On Sunday, Nov 26, the Cross of Glory sanctuary was filled with quilts and baby clothing, lovingly and beautifully crafted by the Community Quilters. We blessed them, the hands that made them, and the hands that will receive them. Since then, they've been donated to CEAP (our local community emergency assistance program), where they will be shared with neighbors in our community this winter. A huge and heartfelt thanks to the quilters for their powerful work and their faithful ministry in our community!



**COMMUNITY FRIENDS**



The Brooklyn Center community is invited to take part in a new opportunity at CAPI. CAPI is looking for 20 individuals to be a "Community Friend" to our new Afghan neighbors. In the Community Friend program, individuals, families, or groups will be partnered with Afghan families who were evacuated to the US and resettled in our community this past year. Over the course of six months, Community Friends are invited to support our new neighbors through workforce

and social support as they begin their lives in MN. Community Friends are encouraged to be in contact with their family weekly, connecting in person once a month. CAPI will provide direct support and training to equip Community Friends in supporting their family. Please let Pastor Ali know if you're interested in learning more or taking part.



I wish to thank my Cross of Glory family for your prayers, cards, and phone calls as my husband Richard, transitions through dementia and other health issues. Your thoughtfulness is so appreciated

—Arlene Kosek

Thank you so much for the cards and phone calls.  
—Richard Peterson



**COVID & FLU SHOT CLINIC**

Got the sniffles? Let's get you taken care of!

October 27  
November 10  
November 20  
December 8  
December 18

**1 PM - 5 PM**

CAPI IOC  
5930 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Center

No registration or insurance required!

Logos: CAPI, ODAM MEDICAL GROUP, Pharmacy, ucare



**winter clothing Drive**

**Hats | Mittens | Coats | Scarves | Socks | Boots**  
Collecting all sizes, new or gently used

To be distributed at  
**Winter Fest**  
Friday, January 26  
5-7 pm  
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
5929 Brooklyn Blvd

Donations can be dropped off at Cross of Glory M-W 10-2 or Sun 9-12 between now and Jan 26. Monetary donations toward clothing can be made out to "Cross of Glory."



**WINTERFEST: JOIN US FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY (indoors, don't worry!)**

**Friday, Jan 26 between 5-7 pm in the COG Fellowship Hall**

As we continue to find ways to be a site of mutual aid, Cross of Glory is joining together again with neighbors at CAPI and in the broader Brooklyn Center community for a neighborhood block party celebration. Mark your calendars for Friday, Jan 26 between 5-7 pm, when COG will be hosting a winter clothing distribution, live music, a community resource fair, free food, kids' activities, and a covid and flu vaccination clinic (\$100 gift cards to those receiving their covid booster) hosted by Hennepin Health. Join us as we gather with neighbors old and new!

**Can you lend a hand?**

If you're able to help out for part of the evening, let the office know. Thanks!