

# The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

a Wildfire Congregation

May 2023

## WORSHIP WITH US!

**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  
[atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us)

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

**Office Manager/CLC**  
Rachel Marquardt  
[office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us)

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

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

**Custodian/Facilities Manager**  
Matt Steven

**Tech Ministry**  
Ryan Bailey



Image credit: Mary Button (Marybutton.com)

Above, one of the images from the Stations of the Cross series that is currently displayed in the new Cross of Glory art gallery. The collection is woven together with Emily Dickenson's poem. For more information, see page 7.

*Hope is the Thing with Feathers*  
Emily Dickenson

*Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul  
And sings the tune without the words  
And never stops at all.*

*And sweetest in the gale is heard  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land  
And on the strangest sea  
Yet never in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.*





## Called to Life Together

What is God’s call for us Cross of Glory, and how do we faithfully listen for it? This is a question that we explored together during Lent -- “A Season of Prayerful Listening.” It’s also a question that the Vision + Vocation Team has spent the past year and a half wrestling with, both through listening to the Word (reading biblical stories of call, like we did during Lenten worship), and by listening to the world (reading stories of what God’s call looks like on the ground in the world).

This listening has led the Vision + Vocation Team to a preliminary and tentative understanding of being “Called to Life Together.” But in order to unpack what this call might mean for us on the ground here at Cross of Glory, your voice is needed. To that end, during Lent and Easter, you’ve been invited to “Discernment Dialogues”--an opportunity not only to learn more about this discernment process thus far, but to take part in it going forward.

If you haven’t had the chance to participate in Discernment Dialogues, reach out to myself or the church office as soon as possible, and the Vision + Vocation can catch you up to speed (note: if you’re not able to get to the church, we can arrange for this via a home visit, phone call, or Zoom). Your voice is important as we work to listen to God’s call!

In addition to Discernment Dialogues, we are also exploring what being “called to life together” might mean through ongoing stories in worship (see more on page 3), Table Talks, & more. In the coming pages, you’ll find ways to take part as together we continue listening to the God who is at work in and all around us! -Pastor Ali

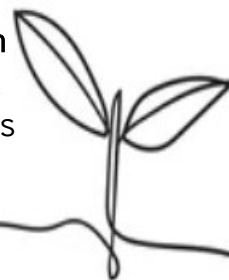
### Easter Worship at COG

This Easter season, as we keep on proclaiming the good news of Jesus’ resurrection, we also proclaim that *all* the earth experiences the gift of this new life. Join us for worship throughout Easter on Sundays at 9:30 am as we explore various stories in scripture that proclaim life even in the midst of death, and what this gift of life means for our life together here.

#### EASTER 2023: A Season of Proclaiming Life Amidst Death

\*On May 14, Mother’s Day, we are excited to welcome back the Dixieland Band, with our very own Keith Williams. Join us for a morning of lively music as we sing beloved hymns in jazz-style!

\*On May 21, we are glad to welcome back Allan Mahnke, who will be accompanying our service on organ.



### PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Ali is available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer. You can reach her by phone and email throughout the week. Her designated hours for pastoral care and conversation (onsite or online) are Tuesdays from 10:30-1:30 and Wednesdays from 2-5, and home/care facility visitation hours are Thursdays from 3-5. 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.



Got a green thumb—or want to have one? Get your hands dirty in the COG gardens this summer! From the garden beds out back to the courtyard, there are a variety of ways to take part in doing the holy work of tending God’s creation at COG. If you want to claim a garden plot (or two!), let Rachel in the office know. If you’re interested in lending a hand here and there with other gardening/beautification projects, let Pastor Ali know.



### National Lutheran Choir Hymn Festival & Concert

Join the National Lutheran Choir for the conclusion to its 37th season with a Hymn Festival and Spring Concert! This weekend of events will celebrate the work of conductor David Cherwien’s leadership as he completes his tenure with the choir. The hymn festival, titled “God Has Called Us,” will take place at 7:30 pm on May 5 at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church in Bloomington. Tickets at [NLCA.com/Hymn-Festival-2023](http://NLCA.com/Hymn-Festival-2023). The spring concert, titled “Ventures Known and Unknown” will take place at 4 pm on May 7th at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi. Tickets at [NLCA.com/Spring-Concert-2023](http://NLCA.com/Spring-Concert-2023). A free-to-all livestream is also available!



### Spring Clean-Up Day

If you’re willing to lend a hand in doing some spring cleaning at Cross of Glory around the building and grounds, join us on Saturday, May 6th between 9-11. Treats (and good company) provided!

### Cross of Glory Art Gallery

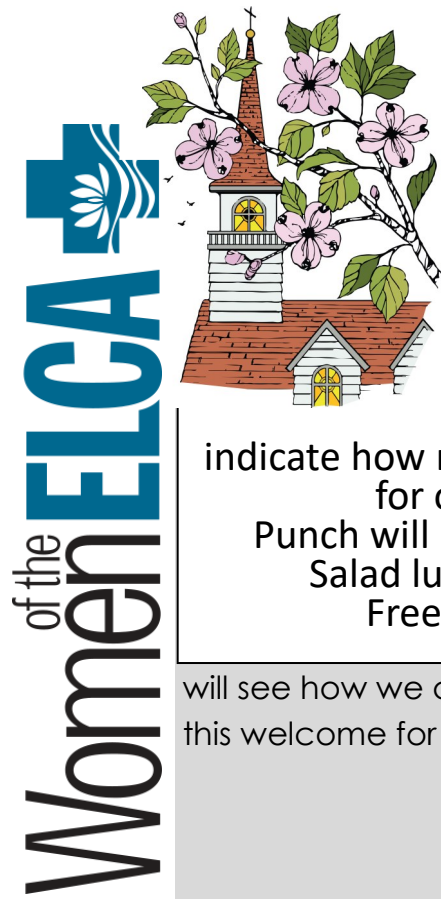
Cross of Glory is excited to house a new art gallery, located in the hallway between the sanctuary and the office. A huge thanks to Keith Williams and the Worship, Music, Arts Team for their leadership in bringing this gallery to life. Our first exhibit is a 14-piece collection titled “Stations of the Cross: Pandemic Hope.” The stations outline Jesus’ journey to the cross through the lens of the Covid-19 pandemic, lifting up images and stories of hope, resiliency, and relationship that took place even in the midst of grief, despair, and death. The pieces feature the dedicated work of healthcare, sanitation, and mortuary workers in moments of tenderness in the face of disease and death. Each station is paired with stanzas from Emily Dickinson’s poem “Hope is the thing with feathers,” as well as a prayer and questions for reflection. If you haven’t had the chance to walk/pray through these stations, you’re invited to do so this month; the exhibit will remain in the gallery throughout the Easter season.



### CPR Training

At this time the church is looking to update its CPR/AED capabilities. We are looking for people who would be willing to do the training for this program (cost covered). Please let the church office know ASAP.





**SPRING LUNCHEON  
WILL BE  
MAY 6th 2023**

All women and guests are welcome. Sign-up poster near the Welcome Center to indicate how many will be attending for our Caterer. Punch will be served at 11:30. Salad lunch at 12 noon. Free will offering.

will see how we all have the capacity to help others feel welcome and to accept this welcome for ourselves.

**Summer 2023 Bible study**

Salvation Now by the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen  
(three part Bible Study, June, July and August)

**May 2023 Love in action—May 17, 2023  
1pm**

The art of intergenerational hospitality  
by Sarah Carson

In this one-session devotional, Sarah Carson, Gather's former managing editor and a self-described hospitality-challenged member of the body of Christ, explores what creativity can teach us about hospitality. While studying passages from Romans, 1 Kings, Matthew and Luke, participants



Nine campers from Cross of Glory are headed to Camp Wapo in Amery, WI. From June 23-25, 1st-3rd graders will attend a weekend called Seeds. From June 25-June 30, 4th-8th graders will attend the week-long camp. Kris Simon and Pastor Ali will both be making visits too! Please hold campers in your prayers as they prepare for a week of faith formation, fellowship and fun!

We were so generously supported on Easter morning by so many wonderful offerings. THANK YOU!!

**This month our kids have made greeting cards and are being sold in packs of 5 for \$5. There are cards for every occasion and all made by our CoG kids! Pick up a pack today or check [crossofglory.us](http://crossofglory.us) to purchase them online! All funds raised will go to further support CoG Youth!**



**First Sundays** - We continue to invite kids of all ages to join us on the first Sundays of the month. On first Sundays during part of the worship service, kids are invited to take part in "Godly Play" with our children's ministry leaders--a time of imaginative and question-filled storytelling. And as always, kids are invited to play musical instruments on the last song in worship! See you all on May 7th!

**Confirmation**—It's been a joy for 3 COG youth to begin confirmation this past year. The last confirmation gathering of the year will take place on Wednesday, May 3rd at 7 pm.

**Table Talks**

This winter and spring, a few of our Table Talks sessions--CoG's monthly education hour that takes place on 4th Sundays--are helping us further explore being "called to life together." Here's a review/preview!

- **Called** - During the season of Lent, Mark Tranvik, Professor of Reformation History and Theology at Luther Seminary, led a conversation about *call*. He taught us about Luther's understanding of vocation--our calls as neighbors, children, parents, spouses, citizens, friends, church members, etc. If you're interested in learning more about the Lutheran theology of vocation, check out Mark's book. "Martin Luther and the Called Life," available on loan through the church office.
- **Life** - During the season of Easter, Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen, ELCA pastor and "freelance theologian" out of Two Harbors, MN, joined us to talk about what it means to be called to *life*. Anna left us with a quote to consider: "Now that we know that death does not win, there's more to do with our lives than preserve them." To learn more about Anna's work, check out her latest book "Joyful Defiance: Death Does Not Win the Day."
- **Together** - As we begin the season of Pentecost, join us for Table Talks this month as we welcome Nick Tangen, Director of Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices with the Minneapolis Synod, who will be leading a conversation about *life together*. Throughout the past two years, Nick has helped the Faith/Neighboring cohort at Cross of Glory consider what it might mean to foster a deeper kind of togetherness in the neighborhood. We look forward to inviting the broader COG community into this conversation on Sunday, May 28 at 11 am in the library.

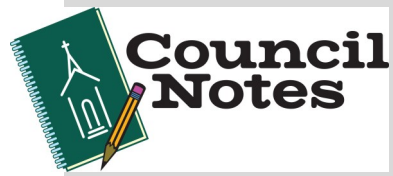


**Pentecost Potluck Picnic - Sunday, June 4**

The season of Pentecost is all about a kind of life together that's bigger and more wild than we can imagine ourselves. It all begins with the story in Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit baptized the disciples into a new kind of community, one full of rich and beautiful differences--a community we now call the church. That same Spirit still blows in our midst, calling us to be the church in Brooklyn

Center today. As we celebrate that calling and the gift of living into it with one another here at COG, we invite you to an all-congregational potluck picnic after worship on Sunday, June 4th (outdoors, weather permitting). We'll provide main dishes (veg options included), you bring a side dish or dessert to share! There will be lots of food, kids activities, and some updates from the Vision + Vocation Team. Mark your calendars and join us for this time of food and fellowship!





**Council notes from March Meeting** - Given we welcomed two new members in 2023, we had discussion on the overall structure and purpose of the Council and the duties of each elected officials and the council at large. We will be reviewing these duties and updating as needed.

We have another Seventh Day Adventist group who will begin renting space in May. Discussion on getting a central person to coordinate space rentals.

Will be working on getting bids for repairs to the front parking lot, part of which is the responsibility of the City of BC from equipment damage for Brooklyn Blvd project.

Have had several boiler repairs this winter. Discussion on various gardening projects around church. Will meet with Progeny in May to discuss space needs this fall. - Judy Lewis, Council President

### World Refugee Day

Hosted by CAPI and the City of Brooklyn Center, Twin Cities World Refugee Day is June 11, 2023 from 12-5 at Centennial Park. World Refugee Day aims to recognize the refugees living in MN and celebrate the gifts they bring, raise awareness around refugee issues (including international conflicts and violence that create refugee

crises, the refugee resettlement process both here and abroad, and the challenges and opportunities faced by refugees after resettling in MN), and build a cultural bridge between longtime MN residents and our newest community members. Event-goers enjoy free live entertainment, food and vendors from around the world, children's activities, a community resource fair, and interactive educational displays. To learn more, visit [www.capiusa.org/world-refugee-day/](http://www.capiusa.org/world-refugee-day/).



Photo credit: CAPI



Our milestone birthdays for the month of May are:

**Dick Mero  
Iva Stockdill**

Many blessings for a happy and wonderful birthday month!

### Welcome to New Neighbors



Starting this month, a new 7th Day Adventist community "Messiah's Messengers Sabbath Assembly," will be gathering at Cross of Glory for worship. They'll worship in the gym on Saturday mornings. The Brooklyn

Center Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Group continues to meet on Saturday mornings in the Bethel Room. If you cross paths with our new 7th Day Adventist neighbors, join us in welcoming them to 5929 Brooklyn Blvd!

Welcome to those who have recently started worshipping at Cross of Glory! If you're interested in learning more about Cross of Glory or joining as a new member, we are excited to host a new member gathering and welcome session this month! Reach out to Pastor Ali for more details.



### Restored to Life Anew: Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly

On April 29, Steve Ferley, Mike McClanahan, and Pastor Ali Tranvik are attending the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly at Lord of Life Lutheran in Ramsey. The theme of this year's gathering was "Restored to Life Anew." The keynote speaker was Rev. Otis Moss III, pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, and son of Otis Moss Jr., who worked with Martin Luther King Jr. in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and served as co-pastor with Martin Luther King Sr at Ebenezer Baptist Church. Moss III's recent book "Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times" is what shaped the assembly's theme this year. If you're interested in learning more about the gathering, reach out to one of Cross of Glory's 2023 delegates!



### Wildfire Resources

- **Respite Care** - Do you know someone who is a caregiver and needs a little break? Tell them about Respite Care, 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. 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 that aims to enhance a caregiver's coping skills through mutual support and informational sharing. There is no need to register for this, just come. Contact Debbie Haney (612) 408-2049 or Mary Ann Pukal (763) 533-8333 if you have questions.
- **Household Helpers** - Need a hand with non-professionalized household tasks? First Lutheran of Crystal, one of our Wildfire partners, has a pool of helpers 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!

support Our



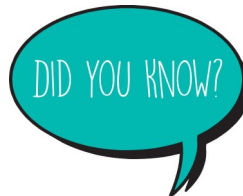
### SEMINARIANS

#### Summer of Seminarians

It's a gift to hear the gospel proclaimed from guest preachers at Cross of Glory throughout the year! This summer, we are especially excited to welcome a few seminarians--students at Luther Seminary who are currently in the candidacy (ordination) process with the ELCA. Part of the call of the broader church is to help nurture, pray for, and raise up such leaders, so we look forward to welcoming these pastors-to-be into the pulpit throughout the summer months.

#### Want to Watch/Re-watch Worship Online?

Did you know...you can access an archive of past worship services on our website at any time? Go to [www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us), click on "Worship," and click on the link for our service library. There, you'll find an archive of both service bulletins and below that, worship videos.



[Click here for our service library](#)