

The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

a Wildfire Congregation

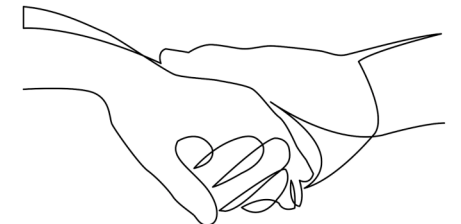
November 2023



We are **CALLED**



We are called to **LIFE**



We are called to life **TOGETHER**

Called to Life Together: An Everyday Liturgy

The word “liturgy” means “the work of the people.” We believe that we are called to not only share in the liturgy of worship on Sundays--rooted in the rhythms of Gathering, Word, Table, and Sending--but also to a liturgy that is lived out the rest of the week, in and with the broader Brooklyn Center community. This liturgy seeks to express the work that we, the people of Cross of Glory, are called and committed to in our everyday lives from Sunday afternoons through Saturday nights, in light of being **called to life together**.

GATHERING - We are called to embody God’s hospitality by generously sharing space, time, gifts, and resources, and by meeting neighbors on their terms and for their sake--open to what we can both give and receive.

WORD - We are called to listen and look for the ways that God, is love, is alive, both within the church and throughout the broader neighborhood, especially where the Gospel tells us it is most often found: in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned.

TABLE - As embodied by Jesus on the cross, we are called to grieve the sin and suffering of ourselves, our neighbors, and the earth. And as embodied by the resurrected Jesus, we’re called to celebrate God’s gift of life (together). We believe that grieving and celebrating often happen most powerfully at tables, where bread is broken and shared.

SENDING - We are called to work for a just community, caring for neighbors in body, mind, and spirit, and tending to the earth’s gifts with humility and love.

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.

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 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 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

Tech Director/ Worship Leader:
Mark Trease
mltrease@comcast.net

Office Manager/CLC:
Rachel Marquardt
office@crossofglory.us

Bookkeeper:
Mike Edstrom
medstrom@crossofglory.us

Choir Director:
Keith Williams
williams@csp.edu

Custodian/Facilities Manager:
Matt Steven

Tech Ministry:
The Bailey Family



LISTENING + LEARNING

On Reformation Sunday--a day when we recall that we are an ever-reforming church--we celebrated God's call to life together in our worship service. We blessed the seven members of the Vision + Vocation Team who have gathered monthly for the past two years to discern our call and create our Everyday Liturgy (see cover). We read that liturgy aloud together. We broke bread (in the form of hamburger and hot dog buns!) at our Reformation Potluck Lunch. We talked at tables about what it means to be a reforming church. We reminded each other that in the midst of the wilderness, God is with us. And we heard from the Vision + Vocation team about how--for the sake of both sustainability and living into God's call to life together--we'll be exploring new ways of sharing life--and space!--together here at 5929 Brooklyn Blvd. As we begin this season of exploration, we invite you to take part in the following next steps:

Neighborhood Listening Sessions - Starting this month on the third Wednesday of the month, we'll be 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 specific 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)! This month's session, featuring neighbors from our fellow 5929 congregations, will take place on Wed, Nov 15. Reach out to Isak Tranvik with questions.

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, join us for a brief orientation on either Thurs, Nov 16 at 7 pm on Zoom or onsite after worship on Sunday, Nov 19 at 10:45 am. Reach out to Kris Simon with questions.

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.

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST

Would you be willing to offer a ride to someone on Sunday mornings a time or two a month? A few folks who live within a few miles of the church have recently requested rides to worship. If you're willing to help, even occasionally, please let Rachel in the office know ASAP, and we'll coordinate a schedule. Thanks in advance for considering helping our fellow brothers and sisters get to church!



55+ FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS

Due to the upcoming holidays, the November and December 55+ afternoon games and conversations has been changed to Thursday November 30th, from 1:15 to 3:15, in the fellowship hall. All are welcome. Treats will be provided. The next game day will be in January 2024.

COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

Throughout the season of Pentecost, which began in May and takes us through the end of November, we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. And medieval mystic Teresa of Avila reminds us where to look for it: God's presence, she claims, is embodied in us and in those all around us. As the living body of Christ in the world, *ours* are the "eyes with which Christ looks compassion on this world... the feet with which he walks to do good...the hands with which he blesses all the world."

On God's Work our Hands Sunday a couple of months ago, we began a community art project that reflects this calling to be the hands of Christ in the world. Keith Williams is leading us in a project that invites all members of the Cross of Glory community--as well as the other communities that gather here at 5929--to print or paint hands on a tile panel that will be included on the cross located in the church's backyard at the intersection of Admiral and Ewing...indeed a "cross of glory!"

If you haven't yet had the chance to take part, stop by the art station by the welcome desk after church on Sundays, or anytime M-W 10-2. If you're unable to take part onsite, reach out to the office to schedule a visit from a member of our care and visitation team who will bring the project to you at home. Thanks for lending us your hand (literally!) as we lift up and celebrate the many hands that share in God's gift of life together at Cross of Glory and beyond.

**A special thanks to Ceramic Tileworks in Maple Grove and Minnesota Clay Company in Plymouth for their generosity in supporting our work with their tiles and glazes for our hands to make our cross a living and glorious cross for our community.*



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.

Save the Date—W/ELCA Christmas Luncheon Saturday 12/2/2023

Fall 2023 Bible study “Holy places” by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

Physical places often shape our identities, relationships and faith. “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it,” Paul writes. Part of what this means is that faith doesn’t just reside in our thoughts or emotions. Faith resides in our whole bodies, and how our bodies “live and move and have our being” in the sacred places where God encounters us. In this Fall 2023 Gather Bible study, written by an ELCA missionary living in Jerusalem, we’ll explore what holy places mean, not only for the Holy Land of the Bible, but for each of us, wherever we may be.

November---Holy places: Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage, a journey to a sacred place, is a spiritual practice with a long history in Christianity (and many other religions). In the Bible, pilgrimage is not only about the destination, but also about the “holy place” of the journey itself. Considering the journey of the Magi, the walk to Emmaus, and Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem, we’ll ponder how pilgrimage can inspire, challenge and transform our faith and our lives.

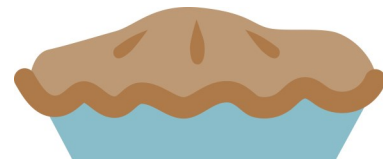
The Fall/Winter service project will consist of gathering gifts for Good Samaritan Home residents who have no family to celebrate Christmas with. Brooke (Activity Director) informed Carol there are 10 men and 10 women who “qualify”. She also provided a list of appropriate items. Collection will run from Oct. 15 thru Nov. 18.

The WELCA board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 28, 2023 at 1pm. Gather Bible Study will meet on Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 1pm.

Bring your own drink, snack and a friend. Everyone is welcome. Copies of the Bible Study will be available if needed. A microphone will be used

THANKSGIVING PIE DELIVERY

As we give thanks for the abundance of God’s gifts this Thanksgiving season, we invite you to help share pie with those in our community who may particularly enjoy a slice on Thanksgiving. If you’d like to help with pie delivery on Thursday morning, Nov 23 if you’d like to receive some pie!--let Isak know (itravik@gmail.com) or call the church office at 763-533-8602 by Nov 15.



MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD BISHOP ELECTION COMMITTEE

As we prepare to elect a new bishop to the Minneapolis Area Synod in May 2024, there are Listening Sessions scheduled in the coming weeks in order for the Bishop Election Committee to hear from as many people in synod congregations as possible. During these one-hour sessions, a pair from our bishop election committee will guide you through a series of questions. They’ll also invite you to share the gifts, responsibilities, and traits you’d like our next bishop in this Synod to have as we discern who God might be calling next to lead our Synod. You can visit <https://mpls-synod.org/2024-bishop-election/> for more information.

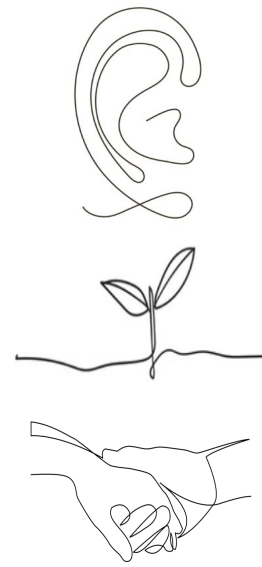


Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA

Upcoming Listening Sessions

- November 2, 2023; 6:30 p.m. at **Immanuel Lutheran Church**, Eden Prairie
- November 15, 2023; 12:00 p.m. on **Zoom**
- November 16, 2023; 6:30 p.m. at **Grace Lutheran Northeast**, Minneapolis

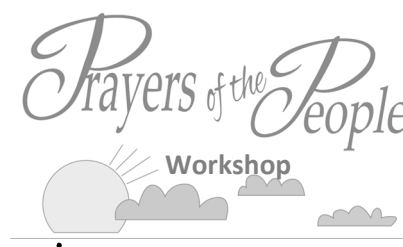
STEWARDSHIP



We are called to life together. And now, it’s time to live into this call! One way we do so is by generously sharing our financial gifts. In the coming days, you’ll receive a letter in the mail with some stewardship materials, including your 2024 pledge card, which invites you to make a prayerful giving estimate and helps us faithfully plan the church budget for the year ahead. As we open ourselves to God’s call to life together in 2024--and to what that means for the giving of our time, talents, and treasures--may we continue to remember that even as we are led into ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, or through perils unknown, God’s hand--as the Prayer of Good Courage reminds us--is leading us, and God’s love is supporting us!

Ways to Give

- **Pledged Giving** - Complete your 2024 pledge card and bring it to worship on Nov 19, Stewardship Sunday, or mail it to the church anytime before then. You can also complete an electronic pledge card at www.crossofglory.us
 - * **Electronic** - Automatic electronic payments are a simple and secure way to give via Vanco, Cross of Glory’s online giving platform. If you don’t already have a Vanco account and would like to get set up, we’d be glad to assist you. Please call Rachel Marquardt at 763-533-8602.
 - * **Envelope** - In an effort to be faithful stewards of our resources and of the earth, we’ve made offering envelopes in-house again this year. In early January, we will provide monthly and quarterly envelope options to those who have pledged that they would like to continue giving via envelopes. If you’d like to make other arrangements regarding envelopes, reach out to Rachel at 763-533-8602.
- **One-time or Special Gifts** - Make a one-time or recurring online gift by credit or debit card by visiting www.crossofglory.us/give.html.
- **Planned Giving** - Learn more about how to make a planned gift, or include Cross in your will, by reaching out to Pastor Ali at atranvik@crossofglory.us.
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** - As an additional way to give, Thrivent members may choose to direct Thrivent Choice dollars to Cross of Glory, anytime before March 31. You can direct dollars by visiting Thrivent (www.thrivent.com) and clicking on “My Thrivent - Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars, or by calling 800-847-4836.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WORKSHOP

If you’re interested in helping lead the Prayers of the People on occasion, please join us for a short gathering after worship on Sunday, Nov 12. We will consider what it means to pray for “the church, the world, and all neighbors in need,” and share some resources as we work to make our liturgy more fully reflect “the work of the people!”

THANKS TO ALL WHO TOOK PART IN FALLFEST

Despite the wind and the cold, the warmth of the community was apparent on Oct 12th as we gathered with Brooklyn Center neighbors to celebrate "Fall Fest." Hosted in conjunction with CAPI, the gathering included a free fresh produce distribution, a bounce hour and fire truck tours for kids, free flu shots and covid boosters, hot cider served by CoG members, free children's books and toys, and delicious food from a food truck.

Thanks to all the many hands that took part! Stay tuned for WinterFest, our next neighborhood gathering tentatively scheduled for January.



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.



Council Notes

Council met on October 15, 2023.

- Treasurer's report was approved.
- Pastor's report about the exciting things happening in our community such as confirmation classes, communion class, table talks, and the vision and vocation team.
- Updates from buildings and grounds about the items that need attention and cost/budget for each of these items.
- Budget planning is scheduled for December.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2023.

—Judy Lewis, President

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!



This month we celebrate --
MILESTONE
birthdays
Bill Lauster
Carol Stejskal

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

—Welcome of new members—
We give God thanks for our two newest members: **Carolyn Davis** and **Charles Korkoyah**.

—Funerals—
We continue to grieve the death of **Don Youmans**, whose funeral took place at Cross of Glory on October 3rd.

We also grieve the death of **Georgie Proctor**, whose funeral will take place Nov. 10; visitation at 10, funeral at 11am with luncheon to follow.

GRATITUDE FOR THE GREEN THUMBS

As harvest season comes to a close, we give thanks for the many green thumbs in our midst. A special thanks to all those who shared apples, peppers, tomatoes, basil, beets, zucchini, and beans as part of our community garden harvest table throughout the summer and fall.



FALL CLEAN-UP CREW THANK YOU!
Thanks to all those who chipped in to care for our building and grounds as we prepare for the colder weather. We are grateful for the TrueStone employees who did projects across our grounds on Oct 9, and all the CoG hands that helped harvest, rake, prune, and paint on Oct 21.



NOVEMBER TABLE TALKS: PAYDAY LENDING

Join us for Table Talks, an educational gathering that takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month and explores what faith has to say about topics like forgiveness, borders, money, grief, prayer, prisons, art, and more. November's topic is "Faith + PayDay Lending." In this month when we're called to reflect on our money in regards to stewardship and financial pledges, we also bear in mind the financial struggles many of our neighbors face as a result of predatory lending practices in our community. A representative from Exodus Lending, a nonprofit started by Trinity Lutheran in Minneapolis that worked to help Minnesotans get out of predatory lending debt, will be our guest speaker. The conversation will take place in the educational wing upstairs above the fellowship hall after worship on Sunday, Nov 26. Reach out to Gordy Johnsrud with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you there!