

The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

a Wildfire Congregation

September 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.

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!

“Imagine how our world would be transformed if synagogues, churches, and mosques recaptured God's gardening vision by turning parking lots and manicured lawns into vegetable and flower gardens, and then became a focal point and inspiration for local food economies of the future. Imagine if all followers of the gardening God became advocates and supporters of public policies and economic practices that made the healing of each place a top priority. This would not only be a powerful witness to God's desire that creatures be well-fed and cared for. It would demonstrate that we have joined hands with God's healing and reconciling ways with the world, ways that not only make the world more beautiful, aromatic, and delectable, but also bring us more deeply and directly into contact with the forever fresh and fertile grace of God.”

-Norman Wirzba, “For God So Loved the Dirt”

Last month at Table Talks--Cross of Glory's education hour hosted on fourth Sundays--we pondered Norman Wirzba's challenge and invitation to reimagine church lawns and parking lots filled with flowers and fruits and vegetables, a visible (and edible!) reminder of the “forever fresh and fertile grace of God.” This month, our Table Talks topic invites us more deeply into these questions as we begin to discern what God's call to life together means for the land. Learn more on page 4.

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:
Ryan Bailey



WORSHIP AT CROSS OF GLORY

This year, we are working to listen for and live into God's call to life together. Join us onsite or online at 9:30 am as we continue exploring it through our worship life...



LENT
Stories of Call:
A Season of
Prayerful Listening



EASTER
Stories of Life:
A Season of
Proclaiming Life Amidst Death



PENTECOST
Stories of Togetherness:
A Season of
Exploring Life Shared Together

CALLED TO LIFE TOGETHER...EVERYDAY

This past month, the Vision + Vocation team hosted another round of Discernment Dialogues with the purpose of sharing a draft of the "Community Liturgy," which was crafted in light of the call stories the congregation shared throughout the summer. As we discussed in the dialogues, this liturgy does not affect the worship liturgy we share together on Sunday mornings, but rather it affirms that the "work of the people" (which is what the word liturgy means) doesn't end on Sunday...that's when it begins! This everyday liturgy will guide our work and our life together for the rest of the week (Sunday afternoons to Saturday nights!). As we prepare to unpack what God's call to life together looks like more concretely in the coming months, we invite you join us on Reformation Sunday as we celebrate this call:

Reformation Worship - Sunday, Sept 29 at 9:30 AM: Led by members of the vision + vocation team, this service will celebrate that we are an ever-reforming church, called to life together

Reformation Potluck Luncheon - Sunday, Sept 29 at 10:45 AM: Stick around after worship to break bread together as the vision + vocation team shares more about next steps, and how you're invited to take part!

LOCAL ELCA YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

Gather Twin Cities is an ELCA ministry for those who are hungry for community and connection with other young adults in the metro area. The table is set for you to create relationships, experience community with other young adults, and find rest in the whirlwind of life.



Gather is LGBTQIA+ affirming and eagerly invites siblings of any sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression into full leadership and participation. Gather is a ministry for young adults, is roughly defined as ages 19-35, though that age range is meant to clarify, never exclude. On Sunday, Oct 8th at 5:30 pm, Gather is hosting an evening of worship, food, and fellowship at University Lutheran Church of Hope in Dinkytown. Local musician Andy Pokel will be offering original music for this service, so come for a deep breath and time for rest, renewal, and community. Learn more and RSVP on Gather's FB page: www.facebook.com/gathertwincities.

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.



BROOKLYN CENTER THURSDAY FARMERS MARKET
2023 SEASON
JUNE 29-OCT 26
EVERY THURSDAY
2pm-7pm
7200 Brooklyn Blvd
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429



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!

CONFIRMATION - We look forward to resuming confirmation this year for students grades 6-8. Confirmation will begin Wednesday, Oct 4 at 7 pm.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



Children of all ages who have not yet taken part in a first communion class, as well as their parent(s), are invited to take part in a First Communion class in CoG's Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, Oct 25 from 5:30-7pm. We'll share a meal, bake communion bread, and learn together about the sacrament of Holy Communion (after which they're invited to take communion in worship on Sundays).

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

Have you ever worshiped with 40,000 other people!? It's an experience you don't want to miss! The ELCA National Lutheran Youth Gathering, hosted every three years, is an opportunity to explore who God has created us to be through worship, service, and learning. The upcoming gathering will take place in New Orleans on July 16-20. The eight Wildfire churches of the NW Metro Area, of which CoG is a part, are planning to join together for the gathering. If you are currently an 8th-11th grader, or an adult who is interested in going as an adult leader, reach out to Pastor Ali ASAP. The discounted, early-bird registration rate deadline is Oct 15. Please RSVP to Pastor Ali by Wed, Oct 18.



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. **October---**

Holy places: Sanctuary

For thousands of years, physical spaces have been set apart for individual prayer and community worship. "Sanctuary" is one word for such spaces. Throughout history, "sanctuary" has also referred to spaces of safety and refuge. If God is everywhere, what is the importance of sanctuary? What can Jesus' teachings and Paul's correspondence with the early church teach us about what sanctuary looks like today?

The WELCA board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 24, 2023 at 1pm. Gather Bible Study will meet on **WEDNESDAY October 18, 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

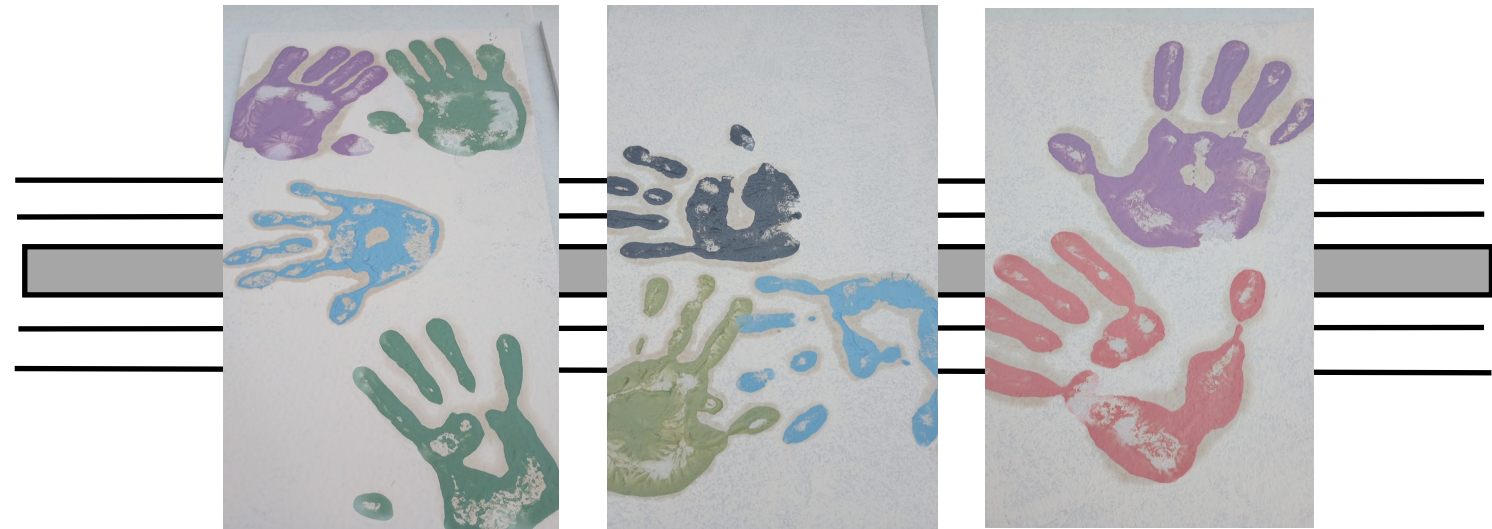


Under the theme of "Just Love," Women of the ELCA in the Minneapolis Area Synod is inviting all WELCA members across the synod to connect, inspire, and create a better world – one act of love at a time! The retreat includes Bible Study, worship, classes on mental health, loneliness, social justice, and women's imprisonment, yoga, lunch, and more. Childcare is available. Retreat will take place on Saturday, November 4 from 9-4 at First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights (1555 40th Avenue NE). Learn more and register at <https://mplswomenofelca.org/index.html>.

COG COMMUNITY GARDEN HARVEST
On Sundays, check out the CoG community garden harvest table located by the Welcome Desk and help yourself to some fresh fruits and veggies grown in our church's backyard. You're welcome to bring any produce you grow at home as well to share.



BUILDING & GROUNDS THANK-YOU
A huge and heartfelt thanks to all those who chipped in on the building projects over the summer as we worked to make updates to meet fire code regulations, ensuring we can continue hosting all those who call 5929 Brooklyn Blvd home for another year! A special thanks to Dan Aulwes for his many contributions to and coordination of these projects.



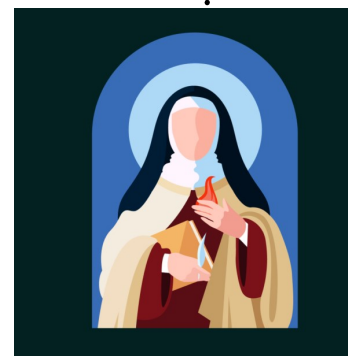
COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

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."

Last month on God's Work our Hands Sunday, we began a community art project that reflects this calling to be the hands of Christ in the world. Keith Williams and Mark Trease are 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.*



**Christ Has No Body--But Yours
By St. Teresa of Avila**

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.

COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTION
FALL FEST
FREE ENTRY
12 OCT 4-6PM
5930 Brooklyn Blvd Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
FREE FRESH PRODUCE FOODTRUCK KIDS ACTIVITIES RESOURCE FAIR VACCINE CLINIC & OTHER TREATS!
CAPI
Cross of Glory LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALLFEST: A NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY
Thursday, Oct 12
between 4-6 pm in the CAPI Parking Lot on Brooklyn Blvd

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. On Thurs, Oct 12 between 4-6, join us across the street in the CAPI parking lot (5930 Brooklyn Blvd - street parking

FOODSHELF OPEN REGULAR HOURS

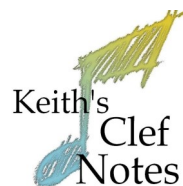
available west of the lawn) for a food truck dinner, hot apple cider, a community resource fair, fresh food distribution, kids' activities (including a bounce house!), a covid and flu vaccination clinic, and more. Share the word with neighbors and friends!

*If you're interested/able to lend a hand to help set-up, clean-up, etc, stay tuned for a forthcoming sign-up form on our website and at the Welcome Desk.



OCT TABLE TALKS: "REIMAGINING THE CHURCH PARKING LOT"

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. October's topic is "Faith + Parking Lots," and will take place in the educational wing upstairs above the fellowship hall after worship on Oct, Sept 22. Our conversation will be guided in part by a short piece by "Reimagining the Church Parking Lot" by G. Travis Norvell. Check it out ahead of time here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p936ajf>) or grab a copy at the bulletin board before the 22nd just outside the sanctuary/church office. Reach out to Gordy Johnsrud with any questions. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Keith's Clef Notes

This is a personal note presented in COG's Glory Banner. Some of you know this, but for the rest - I am 65 years old. 65 is a time when people begin to think about retiring, or more accurately, it is often when they act on those thoughts that have existed for some time. My retirement is not imminent from Concordia University, but it is on the visible horizon. Kris has been retired for a few years now. We are thinking about what that looks like for us. We are having conversations about possible, but uncertain futures. Here is one of my certainties. I am adding more musical opportunities to my life rather than paring them back as I transition out of professoring. My life is made richer by making music. I am happiest during and after my Dixieland and church music rehearsals. Music is praise, thanksgiving and prayer for me. I know this is the case for many, many others. One doesn't have to be gifted, or even good, to be enriched by music making. I imagine we get a limited glimpse of our Creator's glory when we get lost in our music. Please consider joining COG's music ministries and join me in not retiring from this wonderful gift.



COG CARE MINISTRY

Are you interested in having a Cross of Glory friend come and visit your home for some conversation and company? Do you need a hand with errands, or a ride to church on Sundays? Are you a care-giver in need of a little break? Are you interested in having communion brought to your home? OR, do you have gifts for caring for others? Are you interested in good conversation and company? Do you have a little time this summer to make some phone calls or a few visits? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, let Pastor Ali know, and we'd love to arrange for you to be a visitor!

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!



WILDFIRE ISAIAH LISTENING CAMPAIGN

What do you, your neighbors, your family, or members in your church community need to make life in MN more livable? This is the question that ISAIAH--a multi-racial, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities, Black barber shops, childcare centers, and other community based constituencies fighting for racial and economic justice in MN--is inviting faith communities across the state to reflect on this fall as ISAIAH prepares to shape its agenda for the next legislative session. What changes do you want to see in housing, for example? Or education? Or healthcare? How can we work to address the racial disparities that structure our society? Or organize our communities and neighborhoods to more robustly care for the land and water on which we live and depend? These are questions that we as people of faith are called to wrestle with--together. On Sunday, Oct 22nd, members of Wildfire churches are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall at Cross of Glory at 2 pm for an ISAIAH listening session. Come and share your thoughts, concerns, ideas, and questions! Please register ahead of time at <https://tinyurl.com/ygyhkznm>.



This month we celebrate **MILESTONE** birthdays in October

Judy Olson

Many blessings for a happy and wonderful **milestone** birthday this month!

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