

# The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

a Wildfire Congregation

April 2024

*From gardening to quilting, serving coffee and donuts on Sundays to serving soup and bread on first Wednesdays, from sharing stories during Godly Play with our youngest members to sharing stories during a visit to our homebound members, from tending to our budget to tending to our building and grounds, the Everyday Liturgy--the work of the people--of Cross of Glory happens in all sorts of ways! As we continue to share in this work together this Easter season--not always fully knowing the ways it makes manifest God's vision--below is a blessing for it.*

## A Blessing for our Everyday Liturgy

Adapted from Every Moment Holy vol 1  
By Douglas Kaine McKelvey

We gather together because we believe  
that we are called together into a work  
we cannot yet know the fullness of.  
Still, we trust the voice of the  
One who has called us.

And so we offer to you, O God:  
Our dreams, our plans, our vision  
--shape them as you will.  
Our moments and our gifts  
--use them as you will.

Richly bless the work before us, O God.  
Shepherd us well lest we grow enamored  
of our own accomplishment  
or entrenched in old habit.

Instead let us listen for your voice,  
our hearts ever open  
to the quiet beckonings of your Spirit.  
Let us in true humility and poverty of spirit  
remain ever ready to move  
at the impulse of your love.

You alone, O God,  
by your gracious and life-giving Spirit

have power to knit our pain and our joys,  
our stories, and our gifts, one to another.

May our acts of love and creation,  
frail and wanting as they are,  
be met and multiplied by the mysterious  
workings of your Spirit,  
who weaves all things together  
toward a life more full  
than we yet have eyes to see,  
or courage to hope for.

May our love and our labors  
now echo your love  
and your labors, O Lord.

Let all that we do here  
in these our brief lives,  
in this our brief moment to love,  
in the work of this community,  
flower in winsome and beautiful foretaste  
of greater glories yet to come.

O Spirit of God,  
Now shape our hearts.  
O Spirit of God,  
Now guide our hands.  
O Spirit of God,  
Now build your kin-dom among us.  
Amen.

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

Bookkeeper:

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

Tech Director/ Worship Leader:

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

Choir Director:

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

Office Manager/CLC:

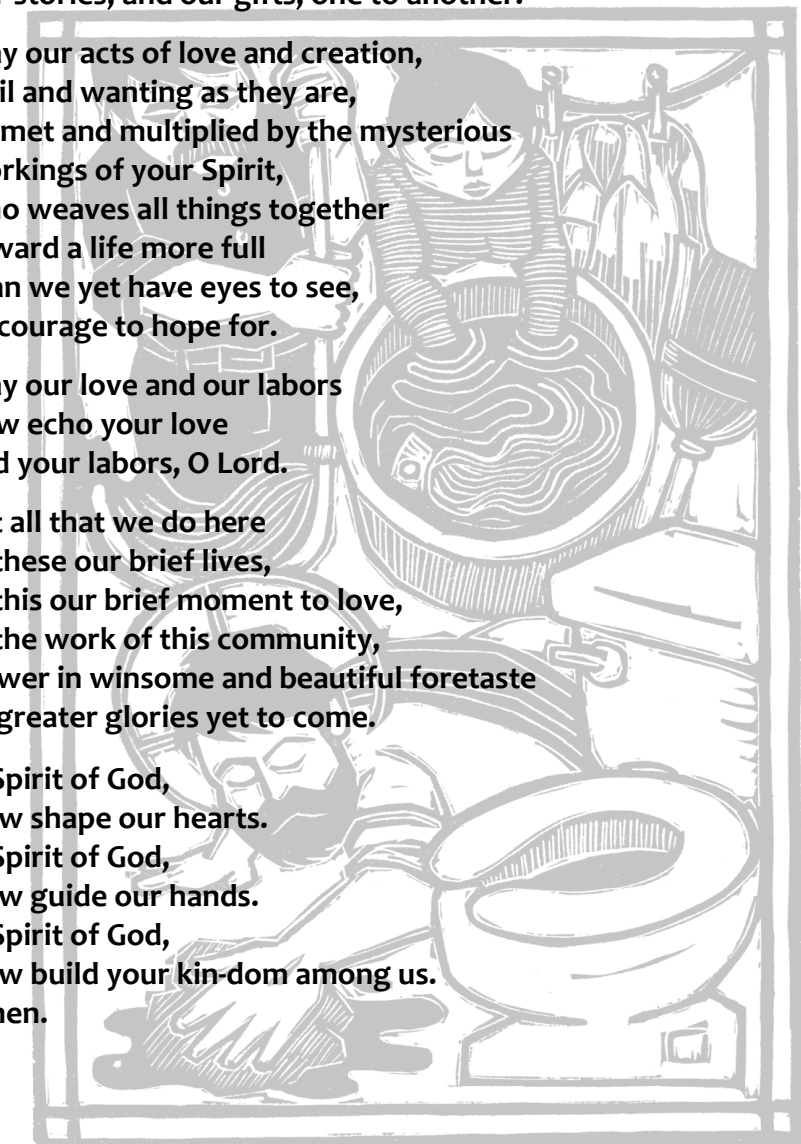
Rachel Marquardt  
[office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us)

Custodian/Facilities staff:

Matt Steven & Dan Jacobson

Tech Ministry:

The Bailey Family





## MATERNITY LEAVE COVERAGE PASTOR UPDATE

Pastor Ali and Isak are grateful for your kind words and prayers in the wake of sharing the news last month of their second child, expected to arrive in early August. Pastor Ali, Council, and the Personnel Team have been working to prepare to welcome a coverage pastor while Pastor Ali is on leave (roughly scheduled for August-October). This part-time role will help oversee the areas of worship, education, pastoral leadership, and pastoral care. We are thrilled to share that Rev. Peter Samuelson will be joining the Cross of Glory community during this time. We look forward to sharing an introduction from him in next month's Banner!

### 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.



### TABLE TALKS

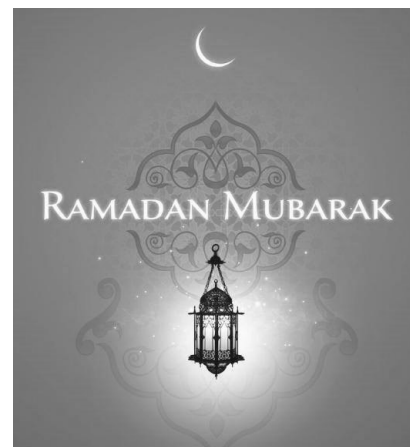
On the fourth Sunday of this month (April 28), join us for Table Talks, our monthly education hour where we explore the ways

our faith informs various aspects of our everyday lives. This month, the topic is Faith + Housing, and we'll be hearing from a guest speaker with Agate Housing. Table Talks take place at 11 am in the southernmost classroom of the upstairs education wing. If you have any questions, reach out to Gordy Johnsrud. We look forward to seeing you there!

### BREAKING BREAD WITH OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

For nearly 20 years, the Minnesota Council of Churches has invited Christians and others to get to know their Muslim neighbors through a partnership with the Muslim American Society. During Ramadan, the month on the Islamic lunar

calendar during which Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunup to sundown, mosques are opening their doors to share the "iftar" (the breaking of the fast) with neighbors across faith traditions. This year, Ramadan takes place March 10-April 9. On Saturday, March 23, members of Cross of Glory took part in the iftar at Imam Husain Islamic Center, just up the road on Brooklyn Blvd, after an invitation from them shared at our February Neighborhood Listening Session at Cross of Glory. Our neighbors at Imam Husain invited the CoG community to return to take part in any upcoming iftars. These meals are free and open to the public. If you're interested in taking part anytime before April 9, register at <https://mnchurches.org/what-we-do/taking-heart> or reach out to Pastor Ali.



**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! Our next Sunday is April 7th! Come join us!



**FIRST WEDNESDAYS for Kids** - We begin the night with open gym time at 5pm for kids, community meal for all at 5:30 pm. At 6 pm, older children are invited to Study Buddies (homework help) and younger children for Storytime, and games. Confirmation starts at 7 pm for children ages 6th-8th grade. Reach out to Kris Simon or Chellie Sebald with questions. As we moved our Kids first Wednesday to Maundy Thursday of holy week, our next Wednesday is May 1st! Come and join us!



**We have 13 kids signed up to go to camp!!** How exciting that these 13 kids will be able to feel God's presence in the open air of Lake Wapogasset! This year we are pulling out all the stops for our kids to fundraise for their camp experience.

Thank you to all who purchased cinnamon and caramel rolls this year, and also thank you to all who purchased Gertens spring flowers!



### 55+ FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS

The 55+ game day this month is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024 from 1-3pm.  
And May 16th from 1-3pm  
All are invited.



### COMMUNITY EVENT

Vendors across the metro area are joining together to host a community-wide vendor fair in the Cross of Glory Fellowship Hall on Sat, May 18th from 9am to 4pm. Items available include homemade crafts, Norwex, jBloom jewelry, thirty one, and much, much more! Rental fees for this event will go toward Cross of Glory youth attending Camp Wapo. While this is not a Cross of Glory sponsored event, the CoG community--in addition to any friends, family, neighbors--is warmly welcome to take part. If you have any questions about the event, contact Rachel Marquardt. If you would like a booth to sell your goods, contact [Tammypage26@hotmail.com](mailto:Tammypage26@hotmail.com)  
\*Please note: this is also the day that any plants ordered from Gertens as part of the youth camp fundraiser will be available for pick up.

**Winter/Spring 2024:**

**“Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith”  
by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith**

W/ELCA bible study is scheduled for Wednesday April 17th at 1pm.

**April 2024 Food: Daily bread for the health of the world**

Most of us hunt, harvest and forage in grocery store aisles. We’ve forgotten the ways our food first comes to us—from fields, flocks, forests and farms. Considering our relationship with creation and our faithful stewardship of the earth means paying attention to the ways we eat. In this final session, we’ll see how stories of food in scripture offer us ways of faithful eating that are responsible, celebratory and delicious. Locust and wild honey, anyone?

**Summer 2024 “After certainty: A biblical guide” by the Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni**

A global pandemic, political upheaval, a changing climate... these days, the future is more uncertain than it has ever been. Or is it? For the people of the Bible, life was often shaped by deep uncertainty. Encounters with God sparked awe, confusion or courage, but rarely certainty. Instead, God’s people have always been called to follow God into the unknown, trusting in God’s certain grace and love. This three-session summer Bible study explores God’s invitation to the people of the Bible and to us, to take the holy journey beyond certainty to curiosity, community and compassion, where we find abundant life in Christ.

**May/June 2024 issue  
After certainty: Curiosity**

Jesus’ ministry, during the uncertainty of the first century Roman occupation, often challenged the “certainties” of the status quo when it came to faith, power and relationships—both the relationships between people and God, and between people in community. Just as curiosity drew people to Jesus and his message, holy curiosity can still lead us to the places where God transforms “what is” to “what could be.”

**SAVE THE DATE! WELCA**

Spring Luncheon: Saturday  
May 4, 2024  
WELCA Spring Luncheon  
(free will offering for luncheon expenses)

Program information:  
11:30 Punch and coffee  
12:00 luncheon is served  
1:00 PM program  
(entertainment to be determined.)

Spring service project details to be provided soon

**The WELCA board meeting**

is scheduled for  
Tuesday, April 23rd at 1pm  
**Gather Bible Study**  
will meet in person  
April 17th at 1pm



**COG GOLF LEAGUE**

Cross of Glory’s golf league will begin their summer season at the end of next month. This is an informal, fun group open to those of all levels and experience. We play every Thursday at 5 PM at Pheasant Acres golf course. If you are interested, please email Mike McClanahan at [mikemc5751@outlook.com](mailto:mikemc5751@outlook.com).

**FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING**

If you didn’t have the chance to take part in the funeral pre-planning session last month--an opportunity to reflect on and put some initial plans in place for our own funerals--you have the opportunity to do so via the form found on our church bulletins boards, and/or meet with Pastor Ali to do so together. These plans will assist the church, family members, and the funeral home in honoring your hopes and wishes around your funeral. There are also resources available about green and natural burial, which Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders shared more about at our February Table Talks conversation. Please reach out to Pastor Ali for more information.

**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY SUNDAY: APRIL 7, 2024**

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities bears witness to the love and mercy of Christ in the midst of 55,000 young adults at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. We often talk about young adults as the "future" of the church, and fail to understand the ways they are shaping it now, in the present. As we move into a new, post-pandemic life together, we continue to learn so much from the young adults in our midst. Whether bearing the weight of mental illness, entrenched polarization, or the deepening climate crisis, young adults are learning what it means to be resilient and faithful amidst a world that will likely be uncertain for a very long time.



And still, or maybe because of this uncertainty, students are actively engaged with their faith. They are hungry, and they show up to pray, to serve their neighbors, to learn, and to worship together. More than anything, they show up to connect, and to center down in the love of God. At LCM, we see first-hand the incredible work of the Holy Spirit, who animates these young adults and our ministry among them.

We are excited to share that a student will be preaching at Cross of Glory--and other congregations throughout the Twin Cities--on April 7th. Student preachers have been working hard under the guidance of Lutheran pastor, theologian, and renowned author Rev. Barbara Lundblad to prepare to proclaim the Gospel and share stories about their life as a young adult. There will also be a member of the LCM board at Cross of Glory on April 7th to lead a brief educational forum following worship, who will share more about LCM and how congregations can support this vital ministry. We are also excited to thank you, and to invite you into further partnership with this ministry. Your support matters now as much as it ever has, and we are grateful that Cross of Glory will be taking a special offering during worship in support of this ministry. Please consider making a gift that day, or at any time either by visiting [www.umnlutheran.org/support-us/](http://www.umnlutheran.org/support-us/) or by scanning the QR code here. Thank you for being the church together.

-Rev. Kate Reuer-Welton, LCM Pastor



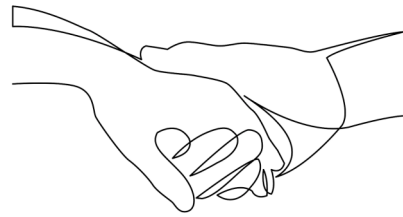
## NEXT STEPS IN DISCERNMENT



We are **CALLED**



We are called to **LIFE**



We are called to life **TOGETHER**

Thanks to all who attended Neighborhood Listening Sessions and Site Visits over the course of the past five months! If you missed any listening sessions or visits and would like to know more, please refer to the summaries of these gatherings that have been included in Glory Banners each month, or pick up additional copies of combined summaries at the bulletin board near the art gallery.

### SITE VISIT - Thursday, April 11th

Join us for a final site visit as we learn from neighboring churches about ways they've creatively and courageously shared space. On April 11 at 6:30pm, we'll be doing a virtual visit via Zoom to hear the story of how Calvary Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis, a block off George Floyd Square, repurposed much of their building and parking for affordable housing. If you plan to take part or have any questions, reach out to Kris Simon (simonsings@aol.com).

### CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION - April 14th

As we discern next steps, the CoG community is invited to a conversation after worship on Sunday, April 14th. We'll be reflecting on what we've heard and seen throughout the neighborhood listening sessions and site visits this winter, and beginning to prayerfully ponder next steps as we seek to live out God's call to share life--and space together--at 5929 Brooklyn Blvd.

## BISHOP'S ELECTION

This year's Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly (May 2-4) includes the election of a new bishop. The synod has been hard at work in prayerfully preparing for this election. In February, nominations were made at Conference Assemblies. In April, the synod will host forums with nominees that invite congregations to get to know them further. If you'd like to take part, see the info below, or reach out to this year's delegates: Pastor Ali, Carolyn Davis, and Judy Lewis

- Sunday, April 7, 2024 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. | Location: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 19001 Jackson Street NE, East Bethel
- Wednesday, April 10, 2024 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. | Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church 16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie
- Saturday, April 13, 2024 | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. | Location: Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Avenue S, Minneapolis
- Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. | Location: Via Zoom



Office hours are changing effective April 1. The office will be open as follows:

**Monday 10am-2pm**  
**Wednesday 10am-2pm**  
**Thursday 10am-2pm**

Thank you so much for your flexibility as I continue cancer treatment and navigate appointments and family life.

With appreciation— Rachel



## Council Notes

At our church council meeting on Sunday, March 17th, we began by reflecting on reports from the Neighborhood Listening Sessions and the Site Visits, prayerfully

considering what CoG's future ministries might look like, and focusing on "Big Picture" planning. This of course includes use-of-space considerations, (Progeny Academy, other congregations using space, and other renters.)

Moving on to other business, the following:

- Parking lot patching
  - Fellowship hall roof repair (above the kitchen)
  - Church property insurance renewal
  - CoG Youth fundraising
  - Possible worship space remodeling in musicians area
  - Pastor Ali's maternity leave
  - Stewardship; the "Embodying God's Hospitality Campaign," which includes making our main entry doors handicapped accessible and repairs and updates to the lift
- The church council has approved these upgrades and will present it to the congregation in April.
- April 14th; a conversation is planned (following worship) to reflect on next steps for space usage. All are welcome.

And remember to keep our church and it's leaders in your prayers.

Submitted by Gordy Johnsrud



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—

We celebrate all those who have milestone birthdays this month

#### **Dolores Patterson**

And others that have birthdays this month!

#### **Barb and John**

**Thomson** celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary this month!

### —Grieving—

We continue to grieve the death of Sandra Sward, whose funeral took place at Cross of Glory on March 25. Please hold the Sward family in prayer.