

# The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

a Wildfire Congregation

February 2024

## Wilderness

**Wilder • ness**  
“state of the wild”

*Bless now, O God, the journey  
that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence,  
the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert  
and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters,  
the road where faith is found.*

*Bless sojourners and pilgrims  
who share this winding way;  
your hope burns through the terrors,  
your love sustains the day.  
We yearn for holy freedom  
while often we are bound;  
together we are seeking  
the road where faith is found.*

*Divine eternal lover,  
you meet us on the road.  
We wait for land of promise  
where milk and honey flow,  
but waiting not for places,  
you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written  
on roads, as faith is found.  
- ELW 326*



### 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

#### JOIN US THIS LENT

Lent is a wilderness season—a season of wandering and journeying, fasting and praying, confronting sin and struggle and embracing uncertainty. And yet the wilderness, despite its appearances, is not empty. It's a place where God dwells. It's a place where we are invited to be led by the wild stirring of the Spirit. It's a place where life together can happen. This Lent, join us as we journey through scriptural stories of wilderness and through practices of prayer that invite us to encounter anew the God who meets us on the way.



# Wilderness

## **Ash Wednesday - Where our Lenten Journey Begins...**

Join us on Wednesday, Feb 14, either at 12:00 pm or 6:30 pm for an Ash Wednesday worship service, which includes the imposition of ashes.

### **Lenten Worship: Stories of Wilderness**

#### **Sunday, Feb 18 - God Forms us in the Wilderness**

Exodus 1:1-5 - Moses and the Burning Bush  
Matthew 4:1-11 - Jesus Tested in the Wilderness

#### **Sunday, Feb 25 - God Provides in the Wilderness**

Exodus 16:4, 13:21 - Manna in the Wilderness  
Psalm 121 - The Pilgrim's Psalm  
Luke 9:10-17 - The Feeding of the Five Thousand

#### **Sunday, March 3 - God Makes a Way out of No Way in the Wilderness**

Ezekiel 37:1-14 - The Valley of Dry Bones  
John 11:32-43 - Lazarus is Resurrected

#### **Sunday, March 10 - God Brings about New Life in the Wilderness**

Exodus 17:1-7 - Water from a Rock  
Isaiah 43:18-21 - Rivers in the Desert  
Acts 8:26-40 - The Ethiopian Eunuch is Baptized

#### **Sunday, March 17 - God Calls us to Life Together in the Wilderness**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 - Life in Exile  
Luke 10:29-37 - The Good Samaritan

### **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.



**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 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.



### **START THINKING ABOUT WAPO**

**Register now for a fun time this summer!!**

Here are the details:

- ◆ Kids grades K-2 (completed 2023-24) are welcome to attend **Wapo one day camp!** 9am-3pm Wednesday, July 24
- ◆ Kids grades 1-3 (completed 23-24) are welcome to attend **Seeds Weekend!** Friday-Sunday, July 19-21!
- ◆ Kids grades 4-9 (completed 23-24) are welcome to attend **Wapo Youth Camp** Sunday-Friday, July 21-26!

**Registration is NOW OPEN!!**

Look for information in the coming weeks about financial aid and fundraising opportunities. Call Rachel for mor information



### **ART GALLERY**

If you haven't stopped by the art gallery (adjacent to the sanctuary) lately, the Worship, Music, Arts Team invites you to do so. Throughout the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons, we've featured an exhibit titled "Incarnation." The exhibit includes a series of pieces that depict the incarnate Christ by artists across time and place. The images invite us to reimagine Christ through various cultural lenses, and in turn, reimagine the God whose image continues to live incarnate among us 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.

**Art Talk - Sunday, Feb 11:** From approx 10:30-11 am, Keith Williams will be leading a short talk about the pieces in the Incarnation exhibit. Please note this exhibit will be taken down the following week, so if you're interested in engaging more with the current pieces, we encourage you to take part on the 11th!

**Upcoming Exhibit:** For the season of Lent and Easter, we are excited to feature a new exhibit "Painted Prayer," which features various prayers in artful calligraphy. The artist is Gary Feyen, member at Faith Lilac Way in Robbinsdale, another Wildfire partner congregation.





**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—**

This month's milestone birthdays  
Ethel Smith  
Richard Hoium  
We celebrate all those who have birthdays this month



**55+ FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS**

The 55+ game day this month is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024 from 1:15 to 3:15 pm.

All are invited. Game day will be held, weather permitting.



To my Cross of Glory friends,  
Thank You for all the love and support we have received through your prayers, cards, and phone calls as we mourn Richard's passing. You are truly a blessing.  
Arlene Kosek and family

**Prayer Practices that Sustain us in the Wilderness**

**Prayer in Worship**

- **Motio Divina ("Divine Movement")** - During the Prayer of Confession, you'll be invited to explore a simple physical posture of prayer, in addition to our spoken words.
- **Lectio Divina ("Divine Reading")** - During the scripture readings, you'll be invited to listen for how God may be speaking through the Living Word, and to take a few moments of silent prayerful reflection to follow.
- **Visio Divina ("Divine Seeing")** - Our Lenten services will also include an invitation to pray through an artistic depiction of the scriptural story(ies).

**Lenten Midweek Prayer**

On Wednesday morning Feb 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20 at 9:30, join us on Zoom (using the same link as worship Sundays) for a short time (+/- 15 min) of midweek prayer, where we'll explore prayers that have sustained those in the wilderness. These materials will also be made available for those who cannot take part in live-time via Zoom.

**Art Exhibit**

Throughout the Lenten and Easter seasons, the Cross of Glory Art Gallery will be hosting an exhibit titled "Painted Prayer," which includes a variety of calligraphed prayers created by Gary Feyen, member at fellow Wildfire church, Faith Lilac Way in Robbinsdale. Stop by before or after worship, or anytime during office hours (M-W 10-2).

**Other Invitations this Lent**

The Lenten season began on Ash Wednesday when we were marked with ashes and told that "we are dust, and to dust we shall return" —that we are made of the stuff of the wilderness, and to the stuff of the wilderness we shall return. As such, Lent invites us to confront death... and indeed, life, too. Join us this season for gatherings where we're invited to reflect together on death...and indeed, on life, too.



**Table Talks**

On Sunday, Feb 25 (4th Sunday), we'll welcome Dr. Cody Sanders, Associate Professor of Congregational & Community Care Leadership at Luther Seminary, as our guest presenter. Cody will speak on the topic "Death and Dying (in America)". Please plan on attending. We'll get started around 11:00 am in the education wing. A timely subject that should spark a lively discussion!  
See you there. -Gordy Johnsrud

**Funeral Pre-Planning Workshop**

The following Sunday, March 3, you're invited to take part in a funeral pre-planning workshop. Because it's often difficult for families in the midst of grief to make decisions regarding funeral arrangements at the time of the death of a loved one, we invite you to think about your own funeral plans as well as do some reflecting on your life. All are encouraged to attend (even if you've taken part in a similar workshop at CoG in years past...we want to make sure our files are up to date and faithfully reflect your hopes and wishes).

**In Home January and February 2024 Bible Study  
Winter/Spring 2024:**

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

**February 2024 Creatures: Our siblings in praise and trust**

Jesus invites us to consider the birds, but we'll get to know biblical critters beyond the sparrows. We'll look at biblical animals (some adorable, some terrifying) from ravens and lions to a big fish, paired creatures on the ark, and that sneaky serpent in Eden. Stories of human and animal interactions in Scripture help to reorient our relationships with the non-human world, while pulling us into deeper trust in God.

**March 2024 Rivers: Springs of life and hope**

Fresh water. Most of life on our planet depends on it, and the story of God's saving work flows alongside it, through stories of biblical rivers that offer a vision of flourishing creation. Together we'll journey from the rivers in Eden to the prophetic springs in the desert, and from Jesus' baptism at the river Jordan to the crystalline river of life in Revelation. We'll discover how rivers are sites of healing, restoration, identity and imagination.

**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?

**The WELCA board meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2024.**

**Gather Bible Study will meet in person March 20th at 1pm (weather permitting)**



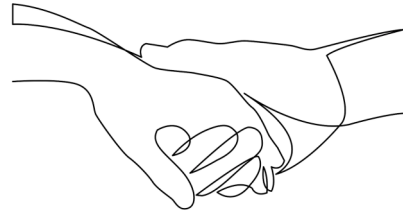
**ONGOING DISCERNMENT OF OUR CALL TO LIFE TOGETHER**



We are **CALLED**



We are called to **LIFE**



We are called to life **TOGETHER**

It's been a gift to hear from neighbors in Brooklyn Center and at faith communities across town as we continue to wrestle with what God's call to life together might look like at 5929. This month, we continue to invite you to take part in:

**Neighborhood Listening -**

On the third Wednesday of the month (this month, Feb 21), 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 to discern ways we may share life--and space--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 BC educators (see summary back of the calendar insert). This month, we'll be hearing from those representing various institutions along the Brooklyn Blvd corridor. Please come as you're able, and RSVP to Isak by Feb 19 to ensure we've got enough food.

**Site Visits -**

As we work to further discern our call, we're also 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 to learn how these congregations began and sustain the work they do, reach out to Kris Simon. See the summaries included for last month's visits to [Calvary](#)

[Baptist](#) and [Salem Lutheran](#), and join us for our next visit to Faith Lilac Way on Thurs, Feb 15 at 10 am. RSVP to Kris ahead of time.



**ANNUAL MEETING RECAP**

We had our Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024. We went over 2023 summary reports, all of which were in the 2023 Annual Report and highlighted our 2023 balanced Treasurer's Report, thanked outgoing Council President Judy Lewis, and at large members Laura McClanahan and Dennis Olson. New Business included presenting and approving the 2024 budget and voting on new Council positions, as listed in the Annual Report. We nominated and voted in new at-large members Amanda Smith and Mike McClanahan. Thank you for taking part as we celebrated what God is doing at Cross of Glory!

-Judy Lewis, outgoing Council President



**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**



Thrivent members are invited to designate where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable grant funds. Members make this recommendation by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations and churches, including Cross of Glory. Please note: Thrivent no longer sends reminders to members to donate these dollars, so many of them end up expiring. The deadline for these free dollars to be directed to the nonprofit of your choice for the preceding year is March 31. We invite you to consider directing your Choice Dollars to Cross of Glory. To do so, log on to Thrivent ([www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)) and click on My Thrivent - Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars. For further assistance, call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. Thanks for your consideration!

**THANKS TO ALL WHO TOOK PART IN WINTERFEST**

It was a full and festive night in the Fellowship Hall! On Friday, Jan 26th, over 300 neighbors came to Cross of Glory for a winter clothing distribution, community resource fair, free food, kids' activities, and a covid and flu vaccination clinic. Our special guests, Baila Venezuela, a newer folk dance group in the Twin Cities, added another element of fun to the event. A big thank you to all who donated winter clothing ahead of time, to our community partners for providing resources throughout the evening, and to our friends at CAPI for collaborating as always and helping to make it a wonderful night!



Photo credit: CAPI USA