
The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

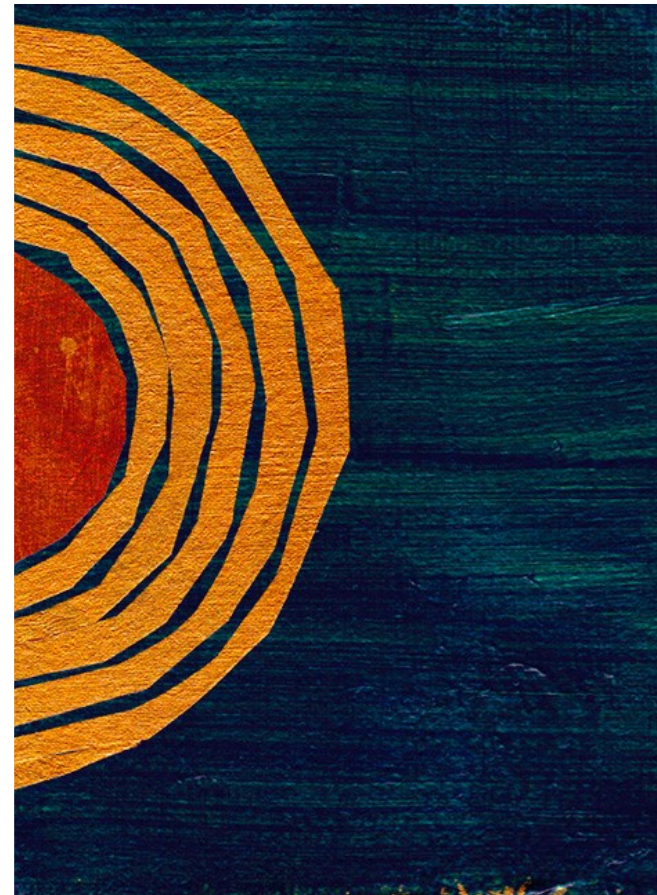
a Wildfire Congregation

January 2024

How the Light Comes

A Blessing For Epiphany, by Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you how the light comes.
What I know is that it is more ancient
than imagining.
That it travels across an astounding expanse
to reach us.
That it loves searching out
what is hidden, lost, forgotten, in peril, in pain.
That it has a fondness for the body
for finding its way toward flesh
for shining through the eye, the hand, the heart.
I cannot tell you how the light comes,
but that it does. That it will.
That it works its way into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape you did not foresee.
And so may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open and open more and open still
to the blessed light that comes.



An Ancient Light © Jan Richardson

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
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Matt Steven & Dan Jacobson

Tech Ministry:

The Bailey Family



**EPIPHANY:
A SEASON FOR ALL OUR SENSES**
This month, we celebrate the season of Epiphany. The word “Epiphany” comes from two Greek words: *epi*, which means “to” and *phainein*, which means “show” or “reveal.” It’s a season, in other words, of God’s presence being shown and revealed to us, of exclaiming “aha” (having epiphanies!) as we discover God’s presence made manifest in the world around us. And this season, we’re invited to tend to God’s presence through all our senses--to listen for God, look for God, even smell God and taste God, to touch God. Through the lens of the scriptural stories given to us this season, we’ll be exploring one sense each week in Epiphany, reflecting on how we may use it as we seek to experience God in and all around us:



5 Senses by Chloé Leys

Jan 7: Hear | Jan 14: See | Jan 21: Smell | Jan 28: Taste | Feb 4: Touch

God’s presence, born to us in Jesus Christ on Christmas, continues to dwell in our midst. Join us this season as we seek to witness the living God together!



Thanks to all who organized, baked, bought, packed, shared, delivered and opened your doors to receiving Christmas cookies last month! It was a joy to share the joy of Christmas in cookie-form!

The office has received so many thank you cards, emails, letters and phone calls to thank everyone for them.

I cannot put all of them in the Glory Banner or it would be extra pages! This ministry is so very joyous and know that it doesn’t go unnoticed by those receiving these wonderful plates.



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 - SUNDAY 1/7 - 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 - *Please note that due to winter break, first Wednesday activities have been moved back a week this month. On Jan 10, all are welcome for a community 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.

START THINKING ABOUT WAPO

Registration will open January 15th

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!

** More information regarding registration and camp will be coming soon.**



“INCARNATION”: A NEW ART EXHIBIT



If you haven’t yet stopped by the art gallery (adjacent to the sanctuary) the Worship, Music, Arts Team invites you to do so. Throughout the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons, we’re featuring an exhibit titled “Incarnation.” The exhibit includes a series of pieces that depict the incarnate Christ by artists representing a variety of races and nationalities. The images invite us to reimagine Christ through various cultural lenses, and in turn, reimagine the God whose image is made manifest in our world 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.





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 birthday
Ruth Boeser
We celebrate all those who have birthdays this month

—Funerals—

We continue to grieve the loss of
Penny Lindblom
Richard Kosek
Debbie Sjoquist
whose funerals took place at Cross of Glory in December



55+
FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS

the first 55+ game day is scheduled for Thursday January 18, 2024 at

1:15 to 3:15 pm.

all are invited. game day will be held, weather permitting.



WELCA Christmas Gathering was held on Saturday, December 2nd.

We met our current prayer partner, selected our new prayer partners, and turned in our Thank Offerings. A wonderful luncheon was served by Carol Knutson and her family. The speaker from CEAP was very informative and educational. She had several handouts and explained many of the different programs that CEAP offers to the northern Hennepin County area. We ended our program with a carol singalong, thank you to Marcy for playing the piano. Our Fall/Winter service is completed. Four totes of gift items were delivered to "Good Samaritan" on 11/27/2023. Cash donations will be used at their program coordinator's discretion. Thank you to all of you who donated gifts for the W/ELCA winter service project. Brooke (Activity Director) from Good Samaritan Home was very pleased and excited with the wonderful selection of gifts for their residents.

The WELCA board meeting is scheduled for February 2024. Gather Bible Study will meet at home during the winter months.

In Home January and February 2024 Bible Study Winter/Spring 2024: "Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith" by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith

January 2024 Weather: Powerful force for change

We can't control the weather, but we can learn from it. Storms, rain, drought and wind shape the lives of human and non-human beings, both in scripture and today.

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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK LUNCH: JAN 28



ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, Jan 28th, all Cross of Glory members are invited to take part in our annual congregational meeting. The meeting will entail giving God thanks for all that has been at Cross of Glory this past year, and looking to the year ahead (including voting on the 2024 budget, as well as new council nominees). As always, a quorum is needed to conduct the meeting. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary immediately following worship (approximately 10:30 am). You're welcome to take part onsite or online, using the same Zoom login information we use for worship. Then stick around after the meeting for a potluck lunch (and bring a dish to share! A sign-up is located at the Welcome Desk).

Annual Reports

All staff and committee chairs are invited to submit annual reports to Rachel by Jan 14. Annual reports will be available to pick up on Sunday, Jan 21, or anytime during the week ahead of the meeting (M-W 10-2). Reports will also be made available electronically. If you'd like a hard copy mailed to you, please let Rachel in the office know.

**Note: Due to the Annual Meeting taking place on the 4th Sunday in January, there will be no Table Talks, as regularly scheduled. We'll resume again on fourth Sundays beginning in February.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



A huge thanks to the CoG community for your financial pledges as we head into the new year. We are thrilled to share that pledged member support has increased over last year, with almost 30 new pledgers or pledgers who have increased their annual gift. Your pledges equip Cross of Glory staff and Council to faithfully prepare our 2024 budget, and your generosity will help empower us all to live out God's call in creative and courageous ways in 2024. *Thank you* for the many ways you give of your time, talents, and treasure for the sake of living out God's gift of life together!

2023 Giving Statements

Fourth quarter giving statements will be made available at the Welcome Desk in the coming days. If you prefer a copy is emailed or mailed to your home, please let Rachel in the office know.

2024 Giving Envelopes

Giving envelopes continue to be made available at the Welcome Desk in alphabetical order (currently through "X"). If you haven't yet received yours, check back next time you're at church, or call the office with any questions.

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) 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!



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 joy to hear from neighbors in Brooklyn Center and at faith communities across town as we work to further discern what God's call to life together might look like at 5929. We continue to invite you to take part in:

- **Neighborhood Listening Sessions** - On the third Wednesdays of the month (this month, Jan 17), 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 neighbors at CAPI (see summary included). This month, we'll be hearing from members of BC schools. Please come as you're able, and RSVP to Isak Tranvik by Jan 15.
- **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 in the next few months to learn how these congregations began and sustain the work they do, and haven't had the chance to take part in a short orientation, reach out to Kris Simon ASAP. See the summary included for last month's visit to Gethsemane Lutheran Church, and join us for our next visit tentatively scheduled for Calvary Baptist Church in south Minneapolis on Sunday, Jan 21st at noon. Reach out to Kris Simon with questions



Dear Cross of Glory friends,
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your prayers, that I know did help heal me.

Thank you for all the cards of concern, and phone calls and hospital visit by Pastor Ali. And lastly, thank you for the awesome and tasty plate of Christmas cookies and candies this past December. All your love and support has meant so much to me, and Bruce.

God Bless you all and thank you, again!
Sherry Mattfield

The family of Penny Lindblom kindly wishes to thank Pastor Ali and all our CoG friends for their loving Christian visits prayers and support.



Council Notes

We had our final 2023 Council Meeting on

December 17, 2023. We reviewed Progeny lease and space needs, went over Council positions and elections to be held at our Annual meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024, discussed budget for 2024 and went over building insurance renewal.

Looking forward to a blessed and revitalizing 2024!

Thank you for a thought provoking and successful 2023.

Judy Lewis, Council President

RESOURCE FAIR * PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO * ENTERTAINMENT

JOIN CAPI & CROSS OF GLORY FOR

Winterfest

COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTION

January 26th
5pm-7pm

Cross of Glory Church
5929 Brooklyn Blvd,
Brooklyn Center

Free food & activities for the whole family!

Get some winter clothing & earn a \$100 giftcard for getting your COVID vaccine!

CAPI Cross of Glory LUTHERAN CHURCH



Winter Clothing Drive

Hats | Mittens | Coats | Scarves | Socks | Boots
Collecting all sizes, new or gently used

To be distributed at
Winter Fest
Friday, January 26
5-7 pm

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
5929 Brooklyn Blvd

Donations can be dropped off at Cross of Glory M-W 10-2 or Sun 9-12 between now and Jan 26. Monetary donations toward clothing can be made out to "Cross of Glory."



WINTERFEST: JOIN US FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Friday, Jan 26 between 5-7 pm in the COG Fellowship Hall

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. Mark your calendars for Friday, Jan 26 between 5-7 pm, when COG will be hosting a winter clothing distribution, live music, a community resource fair, free food, kids' activities, and a covid and flu vaccination clinic (\$100 gift cards to those receiving their covid booster) hosted by Hennepin Health. Join us as we gather with neighbors old and new!

Can you lend a hand?

If you're able to help out for part of the evening, let the office know ASAP. Thanks!

Clothing Drive

At WinterFest, we'll be sharing winter clothing (new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, mittens, etc.). Please drop off donations anytime between now and Jan 26 in the box near the welcome desk. Thank you!