

The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

a Wildfire Congregation

March 2024

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:

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Custodian/Facilities staff:

Matt Steven & Dan Jacobson

Tech Ministry:

The Bailey Family

I Rest This Day in God - Howard Thurman

I do not seek the comfort of a guarantee that all my tomorrows will be safe, and sure, that strength will be mine at a single time to carry all my needs in the days ahead. This would be much, too much for such a one as I.
I rest this day in God.

I put in a single place all the pieces of my erring ways, the urgent thoughts both good and bad, together with my rights and wrongs. All in a single place they go. Here they lie where all is loss and all is gain, for they are mine. As for me--
I rest this day in God.

I do not seek to cast aside the burdens which are mine, to find some easy way to lift the heavy load, to shift to other backs what has found its way upon my own. They are mine, shaped and fashioned in their own sure place-- Why? I am never sure.
I rest this day in God.

Wilderness

Howard Thurman was a Christian teacher, author, mystic, civil rights leader, and theologian, whose poems and prayers can offer comfort and courage in our wilderness journeys. We recently read a couple of his prayers during Lenten Midweek Prayer. To learn more about Thurman, check out his books: "Jesus and the Disinherited" and "The Inward Journey." To join us for Lenten Midweek Prayer at 9:30, join in on the CoG Zoom or call the office for more info.

**PASTORAL
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dear CoG community - Isak and I are excited to share with you that, by God's grace, we hope to welcome our second child, due to arrive in early August. The Council, Personnel Committee, and I are already working together on a coverage plan for my maternity leave (roughly scheduled for August-October). While specific arrangements are still being made, we are hoping to welcome a part-time pastor and some guest preachers to help oversee the areas of worship, education, and pastoral care, the cost of which is accounted for in our dedicated accounts (if you have any questions about that, you're welcome to reach out to our treasurer Mike Edstrom). We'll share more details as these plans continue to take shape in the coming weeks and months, but be assured that between the fabulous lay leaders who will continue to lead you, the Holy Spirit who will continue to guide you, and the coverage pastor who will have the honor of joining you, you will be well-cared for during these twelve weeks. Should you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out. Isak and I are delighted for the opportunity to welcome this child into the Cross of Glory community, and we give thanks for all the ways in which your love and prayers surround and sustain us. -Pastor Ali



STORIES OF WILDERNESS

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

PRAYER PRACTICES THAT SUSTAIN US IN THE WILDERNESS

Prayer in Worship

- **Motio Divina ("Divine Movement")** - During the Prayer of Confession, you're invited to explore a simple physical posture of prayer, in addition to our spoken words.
- **Lectio Divina ("Divine Reading")** - During the scripture readings, you're 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

This month, Lenten Midweek Prayer continues on March 6, March 13, and March 20 at 9:30 am. Join us on Zoom (using the same link as worship Sundays) for a short time of prayer, where we'll explore different prayers that have sustained those in various times of "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).



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. Our next Wednesday is April 3rd! Come and join us!

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 more information



SUPPORT OUR CAMPERS!

Camp kids are taking orders for Cinnamon and Caramel rolls for you to enjoy at your Easter celebration!

Look for a table after service March 10th- Palm Sunday to purchase a single, pack of 6, or a dozen! Or call the office to place your order!

A special thanks to our bakers: Kris Simon, Wendy Toenies, & Brenda Edstrom!



Thank you for supporting

Cross of Glory Campers

through Gertens online fundraising!

Our group will earn 30% on plants and 15% on Gertens Plant Cards.

To place your order go to **gertensfundraising.com**

and enter Store ID **959**

*All orders must be completed by 10pm on April 1, 2024.



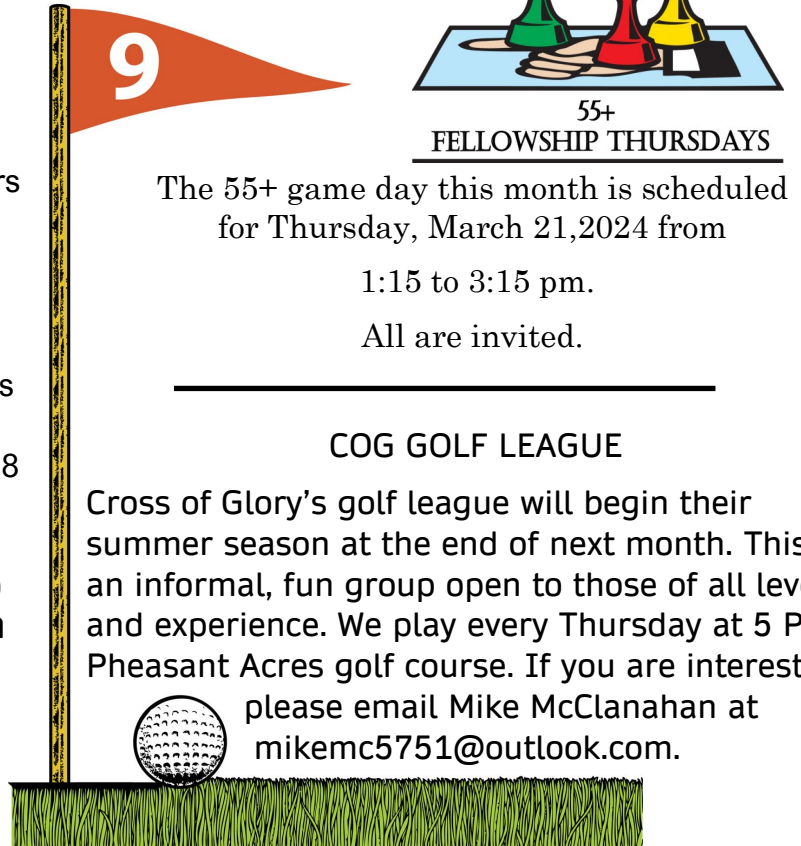


Dear Cross of Glory family,
With a grateful heart, I want to thank you for the cards, well wishes, and prayers. Your prayers gave me comfort as I went through my total knee replacement surgery. The surgery went well and I am getting stronger every day.

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Blessings, Deb Olson



Thank you to everyone who has shown so much concern and prayer for me after Debbie’s death and funeral. I appreciate it very much .
—Carol Sjoquist



9


55+
FELLOWSHIP THURSDAYS


The 55+ game day this month is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 1:15 to 3:15 pm.
All are invited.


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.

Holy Week at Cross of Glory

-  **Palm Sunday** 9:30 am - Worship onsite + online
*Deadline to place carmel roll orders for youth camp fundraiser

-  **Maundy Thursday** 6:30 pm - Worship with communion onsite + online

-  **Good Friday** 6:30 pm - Tenebrae worship onsite + online

-  **Easter Sunday** 9:30 am - Worship onsite + online
10:30 am - Fellowship & treats
*Carmel roll pick-up and time of fellowship with Easter treats

FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING
If you didn’t have the chance to take part in the funeral pre-planning session on March 3--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. Please reach out to Pastor Ali for more information.

Winter/Spring 2024:
“Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith”
by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith

Women of the ELCA

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?

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 e determined.

Spring service project details to be provided soon.

The WELCA board meeting
is scheduled for
Mon. March 25th at 1pm
Gather Bible Study
will meet in person
March 20th at 1pm
(weather permitting)

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY SUNDAY: APRIL 7, 2024

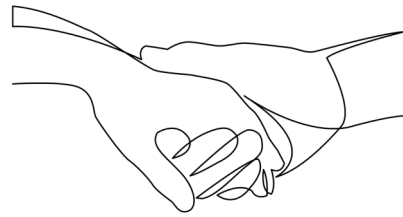
Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities bears witness to the love and mercy of Christ in the midst of 55,000 young adults at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. We often talk about young adults as the "future" of the church, and fail to understand the ways they are shaping it now, in the present. 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 let you know 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 with 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 education 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/ or by scanning the QR code here. Thank you for being the church together. -Rev. Kate Reuer-Welton, LCM Pastor



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, March 20), 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 those representing various institutions along the Brooklyn Blvd corridor (see summary on included insert). This month, we'll be hearing from Brooklyn Center city staff. Please come as you're able, and RSVP to Isak Tranvik by March 18 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 summary included for last month's visits to Faith Lilac Way, and stay tuned regarding a March visit.

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. On February 10th, representatives from Cross of Glory attended the Conference Assembly, where nominations were made. 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, our 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: TBD
- 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



Council Notes

Our Cross of Glory church council gathered at Valley of Peace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley on a Sunday afternoon for the purpose of equipping our new council to lead the CoG community in living out God's call to "Life Together". Our immediate focus being; space, staff, budget, programming & ministry.

Our training facilitator, Kristin Wiersma along with Pastor Ali and Erik Haugland led us in some "creative thinking" exercises, and practical matters of; Role Clarity, Accountability, Agenda and Decision Making (the unanimous consent process). We examined the "What, How and Why" concept, focusing on the "Why" which is our purpose; the very reason our organization (Church) exists.

Council members in attendance: Gordon Johnsrud Steve Ferley
Amanda Smith Kathy Stejskal-Swendiman Pastor Ali Tranvik
Erik Haugland Mike Edstrom
Gayle Merritt Mike McClanahan

Please keep our Church Council and Staff in your prayers.
On behalf of the Cross of Glory Lutheran Church council, Gordy Johnsrud



MN FOOD SHARE

This month, we're collecting non-perishable food items to share with our neighboring food shelves at CAPI and CEAP here in Brooklyn Center. All donations can be dropped off in the grocery cart near the Welcome Desk. *Please note, CEAP's food shelf is also in need of paper grocery bags with handles.* If you'd like to give a monetary donation, you're welcome to do so using an envelope at the Welcome Desk.

- **CEAP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE**
CEAP is hosting "March of a Million Meals," a food drive with a goal of collecting 150,000 pounds of food, which will support one month of CEAP food assistance program. MN FoodShare provides a proportional match for every pound of food or dollar donated to CEAP. We invite you to drop off food throughout the month, or make a monetary donation using the envelopes at the Welcome Desk.
- **CAPI FOOD DRIVE**
CAPI is also collecting food as part of the MN Foodshare campaign. CAPI's food shelf is unique and important in the Brooklyns because of the culturally-specific items it provides to immigrant and refugee families. See the Welcome Desk materials for a list of those items. Monetary donations can also be made using the envelope at the Welcome Desk.



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

The Thrivent Choice program encourages Thrivent members to designate where charitable grant funds are directed. We invite you to route yours toward CoG! 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. The deadline for these free dollars to be directed is March 31. Thanks for your consideration!

ISAIAH MEETING WITH WILDFIRE CHURCHES

ISAIAH is multi-racial, state-wide nonpartisan coalition of faith communities working for racial and economic justice in MN. Isaiah is working with our 7 elected Hennepin County commissioners to fund 1) permanently affordable housing, 2) weatherizing and decarbonizing homes and businesses, 3) programs for youth, especially in our lowest income communities. Our district is represented by commissioner Jeff Lunde, who will be joining us at House of Hope (4800 Boone Ave N) for a meeting on Sat, March 23 from 10-11:30am. Join fellow Wildfire congregations discuss these efforts. RSVP to Kris Allen at kristinmarieallen@gmail.com or 763-202-5139.