

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
5929 Brooklyn Boulevard  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429-2583  
Change Service Requested



Cross of Glory  
Office hours: M-W 10-2  
[www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us)  
763-533-8602

### WORSHIP WITH US!

**In-person** – Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for worship in the sanctuary.

**Zoom** – 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 continued 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:

**Lead Pastor:**  
Rev. Ali Tranvik  
[atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us)

**Bookkeeper:**  
Mike Edstrom  
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**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 Manager:**  
Matt Steven

**Tech Ministry:**  
Ryan Bailey

# The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

A Wildfire Congregation

December 2022

“Advent is not a season. Advent is a way of responding to a God who comes to us....not always according to our calculation, not always in the way we would desire, but in ways that are fitting for God’s justice and grace.”

-Fred Craddock

## IMAGES OF GOD

Advent 2022

Sundays | 9:30 AM  
Onsite + Online



*Exploring the many ways that  
God Emmanuel dwells with us...*

**Nov 27:** God as teacher

**Dec 4:** God as darkness

**Dec 11:** Service of Lessons & Carols

**Dec 18:** God as hen



### EMMANUEL IS ALL AROUND US

Mennonite pastor Isaac Villegas writes that “Advent is a celebration of the incarnation, of God who became human flesh in Jesus Christ. The advent of Jesus, the accounts of his birth and life and death — all are glimpses of God, announcements of what God’s presence looks like in the world and in our lives.” Therefore, during the season of Advent, we are invited to look for such “announcements” God’s presence in the world and in our lives. As we await God’s incarnate coming, we are invited to explore the ways that Emmanuel (God *With Us*) dwells among us here and now, in ways that are ordinary, surprising--and surprisingly ordinary!

Where might we glimpse Emmanuel in the world and in our lives? Scripture gives us some clues. As you know, the Bible is full of different names, metaphors, and images of God. Some we likely already know: king, shepherd, father, bread. Others, though, are perhaps less familiar: hen, shade, thunder, gardener, midwife. These are not names for God that we typically use in our worship life or our prayer lives...but they’re deeply biblical! They remind us that God comes to us in ways that are both familiar and in ways that might seem strange or surprising—in ways, as Craddock notes in the quote on the cover, that don’t always function according to our preferences or expectations.

Here at Cross of Glory, we have explored scriptural images of God for the past couple years during Advent. In 2020, we looked at God the potter, God the quilter, and God the shepherd. In 2021, we focused on God as clothing, migrant, composer, and mother. This year, we will explore three new scriptural images of God: teacher, darkness, and hen.

As I shared in years past and, again last Sunday, these biblical images of God invite us to do three things:

- 1) To see **God** in new ways. We start noticing God in unexpected places or people. We start encountering God not just in church on Sundays, but in the ordinary “stuff” of daily life.
- 2) To see **ourselves** in new ways, as people made in God’s image (Gen 1:26).
- 3) To see **our neighbors** in new ways. Rev. Dr. Lauren Winner claims that the attributes that we say belong to God are those we tend to value in the world around us. So if we picture God as king, for example, we’re likely to give greater esteem to political leaders or wealthy rulers. But following this same logic, if we see God as an inmate on death row (Luke 23:13-25), for example, perhaps this might change the way we see our incarcerated neighbors. This is all to say that our spiritual imaginations make a difference. Exploring these different images of God shapes how we do “life together” on the ground.

Join us for these worship services on Sundays at 9:30 am, as together we worship the many ways that God, Emmanuel, is with us!

#### PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Ali is available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer. You can reach her by phone and email throughout the week. Her designated hours for pastoral care and conversation (virtual or in-person) are Tuesdays from 10:30-1:30 and Wednesdays from 2-5, and home/care facility visitation hours are Thursdays from 3-5. Please reach out to schedule a time to connect!

#### HOME COMMUNION

If you are unable to commune in-person at Cross of Glory, we would love to come visit you and bring you communion. Please reach out to schedule a time.



**WINTERFEST: JOIN US FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY (indoors, don't worry!)**  
**Friday, Dec 9 between 4-7:30 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. On Friday, Dec 9 between 4-7:30 pm, COG will be hosting a food truck, entertainment, a community resource fair, food distribution, kids' activities, and a covid and flu vaccination clinic 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, sign up for a work shift at [www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us). Thanks!

#### QUILTS HEADED TO CEAP!

On Sunday, November 20, hundreds of quilts and baby clothing, lovingly and beautifully crafted by the Community Quilters, were on display in our sanctuary. Julie Aulwes blessed them, the hands that made them, and the hands that will receive them. Since then, they've been donated to CEAP (our local community emergency assistance program), where they will be shared with neighbors in our community this winter. A huge and heartfelt thanks to the quilters for their beautiful work and their faithful ministry in our community!



# YOUTH Christmas ACTIVITIES

- **First Sundays** - COG is excited to offer a special time for kids during part of worship on the first Sunday of the month. During the sermon time, our children's ministry leaders have an activity prepared for kids, including storytelling, crafts, music, and snacks. Upcoming dates include Dec 4 and Jan 8 (note: we're gathering on the second Sunday in Jan due to the holiday break).
- **Christmas Eve** - Join us for a special children's message and song in worship on Saturday, Dec 24 at 4 pm.



Our Christmas Cookie Tradition continues. We have been blessed with donations of cookies from all our parishioners in the past. The cookie plates are always cheerfully and thankfully received by our homebound, Care Center members and those who have experienced a life changing event. Many cookies are needed to fill our plates. We will plate the cookies following fellowship hour on Dec 11. Helpers are needed! Fill out the form at the office.

Call Marcy Hartlage, 763-999-4944 with questions.

### The Following Comments Received in Years Past

"Thank you for the Christmas cookies. I shared them with friends at our dinner table. We really enjoyed them!" —Claudia Reitan

"A special thank you for the cookie plate and also a thank you to all the workers and those that delivered the cookies. God's blessing to all of you." — Dorothy Shoemaker



WELCA Christmas Gathering was held on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. A good time was had by one and all. We learned who our prayer partners were for 2022 and selected new partners for 2023. All money is sent to the Minneapolis W/ELCA. They send half to the National Office. This money is used to support witness, evangelism, education and missionary work.

**Circle Bible Study** will not meet in December 2022, January and February 2023.

### **In Home December 2022 Bible Study:**

**December 2022: Advent devotional by the Rev. Becca Erlich**

**In Home January and February 2023 Bible Study:**

Winter/Spring 2023 Bible study, "The Ten Commandments" by The Rev. Christa von Zychlin  
Join Gather magazine and revive your soul in 2023 with a four-session study of the 10 commandments. ELCA pastor and Bible study author Christa von Zychlin will help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance. For example, Martin Luther taught that the commandment, "Do not kill," means not only refraining from murder, but actively promoting the health and life of others. Get ready to explore old and new interpretations of God's laws, using Luther's Small and Large Catechism and more!



- Sunday, Nov 27 at 9:30 am:** God as teacher
- Sunday, Dec 4 at 9:30 am:** God as darkness
- Sunday, Dec 11 at 9:30 am:**  
Service of Lessons & Carols, featuring Cross of Glory musical ensembles
- Sunday, Dec 18 at 9:30 am:** God as hen
- Saturday, Dec 24 at 4:00 pm:**  
Christmas Eve Worship
- Sunday, Dec 25th at 9:30 am:**  
Christmas Morning Worship

## CoG CARE MINISTRY

Have a little time to share every couple of months? Interested in forming and deepening friendships? A small check-in with one of our homebound, grieving, sick, or hospitalized members can go a long way! The Cross of Glory care & visitation team is a community that checks in with such members, either by phone or in person. In person visits can include anything from grocery shopping assistance to home communion, prayer to an ice cream outing! If you're interested in either receiving a visit or being part of the care & visitation team, let Pastor Ali know.



## THANKS FOR YOUR GOOD COURAGE!

This stewardship season, we explored the ways that we are called to "Be of Good Courage," and put our trust in the God who fills us with it, as we seek to live into the work God's calling us to in 2023. *Thank you* for your courageous financial commitments thus far. We are in the midst of finalizing our budget for the new year, so if you haven't yet had the chance to submit your pledge card, we invite you to mail it to the church office (5929 Brooklyn Blvd), drop it off at church, or email your pledge information to [office@crossofglory.us](mailto:office@crossofglory.us) as soon as possible. Thank you for the many ways you live and give with good courage!



### Make a Gift Today

Cross of Glory has an online giving page that makes giving easy! Scan the QR code here or visit [www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us) and go to the "Give" tab at the top. There, you can safely make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts. Thank you for considering making an end-of-year gift.

### Ways to Give

If you have any questions about annual pledges, memorials or planned gifts, or designating ThriventChoice dollars to Cross of Glory, please contact Pastor Ali at [atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us) or Mike Edstrom at [medstrom@crossofglory.us](mailto:medstrom@crossofglory.us).

### Giving Statements

If you would like more information about the current status of your giving in 2022, please reach out to Rachel



Our monthly education hour, scheduled for after worship on the 4th Sundays of the month, will not be gathering in December due to Christmas. We'll look forward to resuming again in the new year. With topic ideas or questions, reach out to Gordy Johnsrud.

December 4—  
**Greeters:** Audrey Retrum and Luella Hinnenkamp  
**Reader:** Dan Aulwes  
**Communion:** Linda Knudsen, Kris Simon and Judy Olson

December 11—  
**Greeters:** Linda Knudsen and Tom Simon  
**Reader:** Kim Jacobson

December 18—  
**Greeters:** Judy Lewis  
**Reader:** Judy Lewis

December 25—  
**Greeter:** Linda Knudsen and Judy Olson  
**Reader:** Gayle Merritt

January 1—  
**Greeters:** Sharon Quick, Judy Lewis  
**Reader:** Sharon Quick  
**Communion:** Sharon Quick, Judy Lewis, and Gayle Merritt

### HOLDEN VILLAGE WILDFIRE TRIP

A few Wildfire churches are currently discussing the possibility of joining together for an intergenerational group trip to Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in Washington state, this coming summer. If you're interested in learning more about this opportunity, please let Pastor Ali know ASAP.



### GIVING THANKS ON THANKSGIVING

Thanks to all those who took part in the evening prayer service and community meal (including our 5929 neighbors from Faith Healing and the Hispanic 7th Day Adventists!) on Wednesday, Nov 23. It was a joy to gather together and give thanks for the gift of community! Below is a blessing we shared during our prayer service that evening. May it continue to bless you at whatever tables you find yourselves at this holiday season.

#### “And the Table Will Be Wide” by Jan Richardson

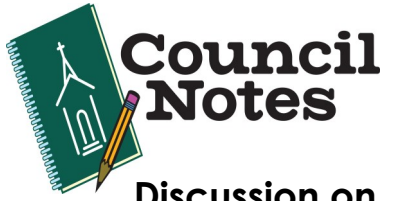
And the table will be wide.  
 And the welcome will be wide.  
 And the arms will open wide to gather us in.  
 And our hearts will open wide to receive.  
 And we will come as children who trust there is enough.  
 And we will come unhindered and free.  
 And our aching will be met with bread.  
 And our sorrow will be met with wine.  
 And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.  
 And we will turn toward each other without fear.  
 And we will give up our appetite for despair.  
 And we will taste and know of delight.  
 And we will become bread for a hungry world.  
 And we will become drink for those who thirst.  
 And the blessed will become the blessing.  
 And everywhere will be the feast.



### Worship Music & Art

#### Giving in the Time of Thanksgiving

In this time of the Thanksgiving holiday Cross of Glory is hoping to have its members and surrounding community provide and especially bountiful amount of giving to CEAP. Although CEAP will accept all of our gifts whenever they are offered, we are hoping to aim for the Third Sunday of Advent, (Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>), as our big day of giving. Lots is going on that day between the annual music focused Advent service and the cookie delivery day, but we are asking for folks to also bring food and other items as well as monetary offerings for CEAP so that we can do God's work for the poor and oppressed in our neighborhood.



### Council Notes

**Discussion on Openings for 2023 Council. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2023.**

- ⇒ Brooklyn Blvd Project is pretty much done, and we recapped the project. Some discussion on new sign, landscaping needs, better lighting for front and side of building was held.
- ⇒ Council will talk with Buildings and Grounds on repairs for front parking lot. Part of it will be taken care of by the City where their equipment caused damage.
- ⇒ Michael Balzer would like to do something for the church for his Eagle Scout Project. Thank you Michael

#### NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are beginning to assemble the new photo directory! If you haven't yet shared a picture and any updated contact info with us, please do so ASAP. We're excited to share the new directory in the coming weeks, both in-print and online (password protected). The directory will equip us to connect with and stay in touch with one another. But in order to do this, we need your help...



**Submit a photo** - If you haven't already had your photo taken, you may submit a recent photo of yourself/your family either as a hard copy or electronic file to Rachel Marquardt office@crossofglory.us. If you don't have one, contact Rachel to schedule a time to have it taken (for free!) at church.

**Share updated contact info** - Have you moved? Updated your phone number? Have a new email address? Let Rachel know any updated contact information so we can include you in the directory and keep you in the loop with COG news.



### Keith's Clef Notes

The discussion around labels is ongoing. Are we the Cross of Glory Senior Choir, or the Cross of Glory Choir. (Since I want all ages to join we have dropped the “senior” part of our name.)

In the bulletin, is it listed a “Choir Anthem” of “Special Music: Cross of Glory Choir”? It is arguably the case that our music program is pretty special. I am told every week how much the choir is appreciated. Collaborating to make music with others is a special gift from God. – On the other hand... the word “special” makes it seem like the club is exclusive. Only special musicians can make special music. Words matter, so I think about these things. It isn't about ‘Political Correctness’ and inclusive language, although those ideas are important to a degree. The question for me is: “What best describes and forwards our music ministry?”

My conclusion is to simply list this part of our worship service as “Choir Anthem”....I would love to add, “All are welcome to join and sing.”.....