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# *The Glory Banner*

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*Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA), a Wildfire Congregation*

*January 2016*

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*January*  
*2016*



*January 6 ~ 50 + and Friends*

*January 11 & 25 ~ Women's Cancer Support Group*

*January 18 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday -  
Church Office Closed*

*January 19 ~ Women's Circles*

*February 7 ~ Combined Worship at 10:00am with  
Cross of Glory's Annual Meeting to Follow*

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It's always a bit surprising how much the first real snowfall transforms the landscape. The pines, spruce and fir are dusted with snow. The fence lines stand out amidst a background of white. The fields that had been so dark and rich now look almost like frozen lakes, pale brown reeds sticking up through the surface of the icy snow. Ditches and creek beds are full of brown cattails swaying in the stiff wind. It's lovely, really, at least for those of us who grew up here on the frozen tundra. While it looks cold and dead, we who know how these same fields and forests will burst with green in a few months realize things are just resting, dormant for a time before new life begins.

Ages ago the Psalmists often found the creation to be both sign and metaphor of God's creative work. The beauty of creation reminded them of God's power and protection. The uncertainty and terror of storm and wind and lashing rain reminded them of the mystery of God, that which is unknowable, incomprehensible to the human mind. The seasons served as metaphor for the seasons of life, of family and community and purpose.

What seasons will 2016 bring to Cross of Glory? We are a much smaller place than in the 60's and 70's and it would be tempting to see only decline. Yet new life abounds in the midst of these changes. We just experienced a lively Advent and Christmas with great music, great gatherings and meaningful worship. Under the leadership of Lois Tollefsrud and Judy Lewis, our visitation ministries are getting renewed with many new people getting involved. Members are stepping forward when asked to consider leadership in the new 2016 Church Council.

While none of us know the seasons ahead, we do know that the God of all creation is at work in our midst. Even more amazing, the Good News of Christmas is that this very God is also Emmanuel, God with us, born in a manger to transform death to life, darkness to light. Jesus' love is sure and all our tomorrows rest in God's hands. I wish you every blessing in the New Year, especially the blessing of an ever greater hope and trust in the God who loves you.

Peace,  
*Pastor Doug*

## Sunday Bible Readings for January

**January 3: Mark 1:21-45** ~ Jesus heals a man with an unclean spirit, Peter's mother-in-law, and a leper.

**January 10: Mark 2:1-22** ~ Jesus heals a paralytic and eats with tax collectors.

**January 17: Mark 4:1-34** ~ Parables of sower and mustard seed.

**January 24: Mark 5:21-43** ~ Jesus heals Jairus' daughter and the woman with the flow of blood.

**January 31: Mark 6:1-29** ~ Jesus rejected at Nazareth; sending of the Twelve; death of John the Baptist.



**Cross of Glory's Annual Meeting  
will be held Sunday, February 7.**

**We will have one worship service at  
10:00am and our meeting will  
follow immediately.**

**Please turn in your Annual Reports  
as soon as possible.**



## Sunday Morning Ministers

### Ushers:

9:00 a.m.

Dale Haase                      Jerry Rowley  
Chuck Isenberg                John Rowley  
Dick Mero                        Don Custer

11:00 a.m.

Gordy Johnsrud    Don Halverson

### Communion Servers:

1/03    Merlie Solie, Judy Lewis  
          Lois Tollefsrud  
          Jan Roth, Judy Olson  
1/17    Sharon Quick  
          Arlene Kosek  
          Carol Stejskal  
1/31    Don & Gayle Merritt  
          Jody Quiner

### Lay Lectors:

1/3    Marian Priest  
1/10    Lois Tollefsrud  
1/17    Maranda Schoffstall

1/24    Merle Solie  
1/31    Britta Maddox

### Coffee Servers:

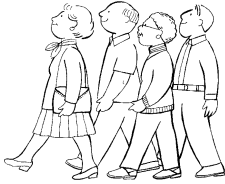
1/3    Dawn Bailey  
          Diane & Dale Haase  
1/10    Dawn & Bill Bailey  
1/17    Dave Hengel  
1/24    Mary Beth Bierwagen  
          Judy Lewis

*Newsletter*  
**DEADLINE**

Articles for the February, 2016  
*Glory Banner* should to be turned  
in to Sue Vukelich by January 12<sup>th</sup>.

C H U R C H  
**GARAGE SALE  
MEETING**

**February 22, 2016  
2:00pm**



## 50 + and Friends

Happy New Year! The plans for the New Year are on the bulletin board. Help yourself so you can schedule your dates.

January 6<sup>th</sup> we are going to the Old Log to see “The Wedding Singer.” Robbie Hart, after his fiancé leaves him at the altar, decides to make everyone’s wedding as miserable as his. We have 38 people going.

On February 17<sup>th</sup> we’ll see and hear “Country Roads – the Music of John Denver” at the Plymouth Playhouse. Our lunch is a buffet of baked chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, coleslaw, Jell-O, bread and butter, dessert, coffee and iced tea.

March 18<sup>th</sup> takes us to St. Cloud and the Paramount Theater for the “Ring of Kerry” with the music of Ireland. The St. Paul dancers will do their jigs and reels. Our lunch is at the Texas Roadhouse with salad, baked potato and a choice of sirloin steak or barbecued chicken breast.

Please watch the date due that is listed for payment as I often have to have the count and payment in a month ahead of time.

Come join us. We tried to make activities with little walking so those of us with problems can join in.

*Marian Priest*

## Women of the ELCA

The Circles will meet on the third Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Community Needs Circle meets at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall; the Glory Circle meets at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall; and the Mission Circle meets in a member’s home at 12:30pm. We will have the Hostess and Bible study leaders listed in the January *Happenings*.



## **W/ELCA Bible Study**

January will begin a four month Bible study entitled *Christian Citizenship*. Our Bible study will concentrate on the book of Philippians. January's session is *Confidence in God's Beginnings and Endings*. In this first session we will study Philippians 1:1-26.

**Remember: the February session is included with the January ~ DO NOT DISCARD.**

The Christmas Smorgasbord was well attended. We had a lot of food and it was all very tasty! Our entertainment was Allen and Matt, a father/son who shared their passion for classic country, gospel and hymns. Allen gave us something to think about.

At our December Smorgasbord we met our Prayer Partner for 2015. We were given the opportunity to have a new prayer partner for 2016.

At our November Board meeting we decided to cancel our March service project. We were not

able to find a project that would also have someone available to come and speak to us about their program. If you have any suggestions talk to your Circle Chair. If you do not belong to a circle, you can place a suggestion in the W/ELCA mail slot or give it to Sue.



*Thanks,  
Everyone!*

## **2015 Holiday Cookie Trays**

It is always heartwarming to see the participation for our Holiday Cookie Tray event. In Cross of Glory's tradition, we prepared over 60 delicious Holiday cookie trays on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> to be distributed to our members who are unable to come to worship. We include a Christmas card from Cross of Glory and we wish them God's peace this Christmas season. Thank you for your efforts in making this ministry possible.

*Marcy Hartlage*

Thank you to all who donated toys for CEAP's "Toys for Joy" program. Over 100 toys were donated!

*Community Needs Circle*

## THANK YOU

Thank you for the lovely cookie tray! It was very much appreciated.

*Helga Skrade*

Thank you to everyone for the cookie donations at the Smorgasbord. A special thank you to the girls that set up plates for the “homebound.” Special thanks to Jenny Nordstrom for bring a plate to me.

*Jeanetta Barhorst*

Judy, thank you for bringing the wonderful Christmas cookies to me. The best to you and Cross of Glory.

*Joan Johnson*

Thank you to all members for the get well cards and prayers – it is so appreciated. Greatly appreciated were the visits from Pastor Doug and Pastor Christian and the flowers from church. I’m still working on my recovery.

*Myrna Kragness*

Thanks to all for their prayers and cards during my surgery and hospital stay. A special thanks to Pastor Doug for his visits.

*Doug Grabau*

Thank you for the delicious cookies and the Poinsettia plant. It is nice to have good friends at Cross of Glory.

*Don Youmans*

On behalf of the youth, staff and board of **Avenues for Homeless Youth**, I want to thank Cross of Glory for raising \$1,714.48 at the Reformation Sunday Organ Concert and Benefit for Brooklyn Avenues on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Your donation allows us to continue supporting youth in our community who are homeless.

*Deborah Loon, Executive Director*

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
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**Worship at Cross of Glory on Sundays**  
9:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship  
10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee Fellowship  
10:30 a.m. ~ Sunday School/Safari Search  
11:00 a.m. ~ Crosswalk Contemporary Worship  
To watch worship services: [www.coqtv.info](http://www.coqtv.info)

**Cross of Glory Office Hours:**  
Monday through Thursday, 8:00am ~ 4:00pm

**Cross of Glory Staff:**

**Lead Pastor:**

Rev. Doug Mork ~  
[dmork@crossofglory.us](mailto:dmork@crossofglory.us)

**Minister of Crosswalk Ministry:**

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