
The Glory Banner

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

June 2016



*Youth Group Mission Trip Fundraiser
Picnic Lunch and
Crosswalk Band Concert
June 5, 2016, 12:30pm*

*The concert is free and the proceeds of any
picnic food you purchase will go to support the
youth mission trip to the Dominican Republic*



I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. Isaiah 45: 3

God of Light *and* Darkness

When I was a freshly minted pastor almost 20 years ago, I recruited several of my clergy friends to do a week of continuing education together at Kirkridge Retreat Center in Pennsylvania. The topic was preaching, and five of the best preachers in the country spent the week with our group of 75 or so. The two women among the presenters were especially remarkable, Barbara Brown Taylor and Barbara Lundblad, women I have sought out either in person or in their books ever since and who have shaped me significantly as a preacher and theologian.

I just finished reading Barbara Brown Taylor's "Learning to Walk in the Dark." Barbara is a bit of a mystic, less linear sequential than me and she often dwells in places mainstream modern Christianity sometimes fears to go. She is a woman of extraordinary faith who has not always found the modern church or the way we talk most about God to make sense to her experience of God and the world. This book was an invitation to remember that God created light AND darkness, that God is present and active in both, that fearing God's absence in real or metaphorical darkness is not faithful to the biblical witness.

One of the things I found powerful was her challenge to much of the modern church's tendency towards what she calls "full solar spirituality", the unwavering focus on "absorbing and reflecting the sunny side of faith." This way of thinking about God tends to understand faith as "a sure sense of God's presence, certainty of belief, divine guidance in all things, and reliable answers to prayer." Sounds great, right? We talk about these things, don't we?

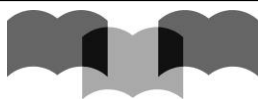
The problem is, what happens in the rest of our daily lives, when the darkness comes? What about when we don't have a clear sense of God's presence or activity in our lives? What about when we're not sure what to do? What about when it seems God isn't listening? What about when we are overwhelmed in grief and loss or deep in struggle with the demons that haunt us? What about some of our theological convictions become a little less sure, what if we notice new problems in old metaphors?

The problem with holding on only to the metaphor of light for God's presence and activity is that then we learn to fear the dark. We are left without tools, imagination or language for the other half of our lives, when the metaphorical darkness prevails, when things aren't clear, when words don't seem adequate, when brokenness seems insurmountable. If faith is always a happy, clear, upbeat place, than we are prone to imagine that faith has failed us in these times, maybe even that God has failed us.

Every day is marked by both light and darkness. God created both, darkness is not evil. Christian mystics would remind us that darkness can be an especially powerful moment in which to experience God. Doubt and confusion are not the opposite of faith but part of it. Sadness and pain do not point to the absence of God. God is not contained in our descriptions of God, our creeds and confessions, our rites and ceremonies. At best these give language to our experience of the Holy One. At worst, when they fail us, when they no longer ring true, we're tempted to turn away from God altogether.

For my part I hope to explore the darkness a bit more, to speak more of the mystery of God, the God beyond my knowing. If, perhaps, you too have been taught to fear the dark, I invite you along.

Peace,
Pastor Doug



Sunday Bible Readings for June

June 5 ~ 2 Corinthians 4:1-15 — Treasures in Clay Jars

June 12 ~ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10 – Walk by Faith not Sight

June 19 ~ 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 – Reconciliation

June 26 ~ 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 -- Generosity



Sunday Morning Ministers

Ushers:

9:00 a.m.

Allan Knudsen Dick Mero
Maynard Henjum David Hengel
Masayuki Ionue Don Custer
Ryan Bailey

11:00 a.m.

Dan Aulwes Don Halverson

Communion Servers:

6/05 Lois Tollesfrud
 Jodi Quiner
 Linda Knudsen
 Bruce & Sue Vukelich

6/19 Merle Solie
 Verle Smith
 Carol Stejskal

Lay Lectors:

6/05 Merle Solie
6/12 Britta Maddox
6/19 Kris Simon
6/26 Carol Stejskal

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

Articles for the July, 2016
Glory Banner should to be turned
in to Sue Vukelich by June 14th.

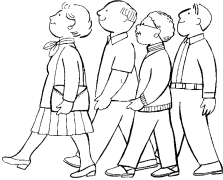
THANK YOU

O.A.R.E. thanks Cross of Glory for your Fellowship Hall as we celebrated Cinco-de-Mayo for our Spring Luncheon.

Thanks also to Carol Knutson for the colorful tables, hats, trees, and exciting foods, it all made for a festive day.

Monetary checks were given to the office with our thanks.

Osseo Area Retired Educators
Marcia Janasz (Program Chair)



50 + and Friends

Our June 15th boat trip will be a go – but with some changes. We will change to a box lunch of a sandwich with two meats, cheese and lettuce, chips, cookie and beverage. We'll eat while on an eighty minute narrated trip down the beautiful St.

Croix River. We leave church at 8:45am.

July 19th brings us our annual trip to Nicollet Island for the band concert. There's coffee and treats, good music, and door prizes in the big air conditioned building beside the river. After the concert we'll come out to the Pizza Ranch. If they don't have the kind you want on the buffet, they'll make it and serve you the first piece. We'll leave church at 8:45am.

There are a few places left for our August 14th trip to the St. Paul Saints. Our seats are just below the entrance walkway so we don't have to climb down and then up very far. The game starts at 5:00pm so it should still be light for the drive home. The games are good and the times between innings entertaining. We'll leave church at 4:00pm.

Join us for summer fun!

Marian Priest

deal with conflict through the ministry of reconciliation. Angela is a pastor of King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas, Texas.

Spring Salad Luncheon

The Salad Luncheon started with punch at 11:30am. Jan Roth read an inspirational article written by Joan Groettum in 1985. This was followed by a delicious luncheon of many varieties of salads and desserts. The entertainment was Bob Clark who sang RAT PACK songs (Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr.), accompanied by Mary Kopep on the keyboard.

Carol Stejskal has volunteered to be coordinator for any further group W/ELCA meetings.



Summer Bible Study

Angela Shannon has written a three session study on "The Heart of the Matter" learning to

During the summer months, the Circles meet together on the third Tuesday of each month ~ June 21st, July 19th, and August 16th in the Library at 9:45am. We will have a group Bible study with the June 21st meeting during the Garage Sale. Take a little longer coffee break and see what we are all about: Bible study, coffee, treats, and a lot of good conversation!



Here are some ideas for something to do this summer at COG:

The W/ELCA Bible Study meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9:45am on June 21st, July 19th, and August 16th. You do not need to be a member of a Circle to attend!



Faithfully Fit meets on Tuesday and Thursday each week at 8:45am. It is a good time and fellowship while doing low impact Aerobics to keep fit.

You can knit or crochet prayer shawls for Social Concerns. See Sue Vukelich for directions on how to knit a prayer shawl.

Don't forget the Garage Sale for the best fellowship of the summer. Watch the Glory Banner as well as the bulletin for information. New helpers would be very welcome! Many hands make less work.

Something to Think About:

*Do not walk ahead of me ~
I do not follow.*

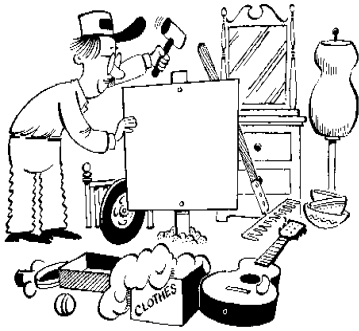
*Do not walk behind me ~
I do not lead.*

*Walk beside me and be my friend.
Henry Gardas (Albert Camus)*

Holy Nativity Invites you to join their Super Adults!

Once again Holy Nativity's Super Adults are going to the Saints game. Please join us on Tuesday, July 26, when we will see the Saints playing against the Sioux City Explorers at 7:00pm. We will have a bus leaving from the Holy Nativity parking lot at 6:00pm. The cost is only \$16.00.

For reservations call the church office, 763-545-1647, or Lynn Kvalness, 763-546-3940, by June 27th. Checks are payable to Holy Nativity and due by the 27th also. See you there!



2016 Annual Community Garage Sale

Now that winter is finally over it is time to get geared up for our annual Garage Sale.

The dates for this year's sale are **July 6, 7, 8 and 9th**. We will be setting up for the sale on Saturday **June 4th**. Receiving will begin on Monday **June 6th** until Friday **June 24th**.

Volunteers are needed during the preparation time prior to the sale.

The Garage Sale is a great activity that involves many of our church members and their families and friends. It is a social time for everyone with coffee breaks and treats for all. You do not need to work every day during the prep time. We realize that many of our members are still working full-time jobs. If you can work one day a week for a few hours or one evening it will be greatly appreciated. It takes 25-30 people working about 30 hours a week during the preparation time to get ready for the sale. All volunteers work according to their own schedules. If you are able to come and help after the normal hours of 9:00 to 4:00 Monday through Thursday or 9:00 to 2:00 on Friday or Saturday 9:00 to 12:00 give us a call and we will be happy to meet you at church.

Additional workers will be needed during the sale days to work as cashiers, baggers, security, clean-up etc. We will need many volunteers on Saturday, July 9th to get the church cleaned and back to normal.

If you haven't already done so it is time to check out your closets, garages, storerooms or any other place that you might find items that are useable but you no longer need or use and **bring them to the main door of the church during the receiving times**. All items are to be clean and in good saleable condition. We will **NOT** accept mattresses, baby cribs, playpens, highchairs, strollers, car seats, hard sided suitcases, computers and accessories, televisions, exercise equipment, curtain rods, window shades, Christmas trees, encyclopedias, bicycles with missing or broken parts and flat or unusable tires.

Thank you to all of the many volunteers we have had in the past and all of the new volunteers we will have this year.

Linda and Al Knudsen
763-421-5714 Home
612-518-4879 Linda's cell
612-805-5855 Al's cell

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

Saturday, May 21th

Around 11:30 – Pickup up at Advent Lutheran Church

Saturday, June 4th

9:00 am – Setup for the Garage Sale
Many hands make easy work

Monday, June 6th through June 24th

We will receive items at the main entrance of the church.

Receiving Hours are

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wednesdays: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Fridays: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Saturdays: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Sale dates are July 6th – 9th

Wednesday, July 6th: Pre-sale from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

\$3.00 Admission at the door

Thursday, July 7th: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Friday, July 8th: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday, July 9th: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Clean up after the sale will begin around 12:30 on the 9th.

Those who pick up items (for other charities) not sold can start at 1:00 pm on the 9th.

Cross of Glory Youth Group Mission Trip Dominican Republic August 1-8, 2016



Seven of our teenagers and Pastor Mark will be going to the Dominican Republic in August. They will be building a house for a needy family, conducting three days of VBS Sports camp for elementary children and they will play 3 exhibition basketball games against Dominican High School teams. They will also get to do some sightseeing.

The Dominican Republic is a Spanish-speaking third world country in the Caribbean. Our youth will experience poverty like they have never seen it before. What is exciting is that five of our seven youth speak Spanish and will be able to build relationships with the Dominican youth. The trip will have a big impact on our youth and will give them a chance to give to people who are less fortunate.

The missions pastor at Lord of Life Lutheran is helping us to coordinate the trip and our group will be working with two mission groups in the DR, Servidores Mundiales and Building Without Borders.

Support Our Youth

Five ways you can offer support to our youth:

1. Please pray that the trip will help our youth grow in faith, teach them the value of service and help them see how their lives can impact the world for good.

2. During June-July you can hire two youth to come to your home to help you with various projects. (A signup sheet is available.)
3. Attend a Mission Trip Fund Raiser Concert & Picnic put on by our Crosswalk Worship Team in our parking lot on June 5th.
4. Buy food during the garage sale from the youth food tent.
5. Make a financial donation for the trip. (Use the envelopes in the pews and just indicate "Youth Mission Trip.")

Help Us Build A House

One of the exciting opportunities for our youth is to actually build a house for a needy family. In order to do that our youth have committed to raising \$3,000 to buy the building supplies for the home they will build. If you want to contribute to the purchase of building supplies please indicate that on the offering envelope with the designation "Mission: Build A House."

**For More Information
Contact Pastor Mark
763-232-6242**

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
5929 Brooklyn Boulevard
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429-2583
Volume 2016 – Issue 6

Standard Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 1412

Change Service Requested



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

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

Cross of Glory Staff:

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Doug Mork ~
dmork@crossofglory.us

Minister of Crosswalk Ministry:

Rev. Mark Hostetler ~
markhostetler@mac.com

Organist:

Rev. Dr. Allan Mahnke ~
FuriusBib@comcast.net

Director of Senior Choir:

Keith J. Williams ~
williams@csp.edu

Outreach:

Rev. Christian Vincent ~
cvincent@crossofglory.us

Bookkeeper:

Mike Edstrom ~
medstrom@crossofglory.us

Administrative Assistant:

Sue Vukelich ~
svukelich@crossofglory.us

Contact us at:

Phone: (763) 533-8602
E-mail: office@crossofglory.us
www.crossofglory.us