
The Glory Banner

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

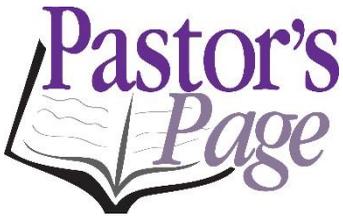
June 2021



“All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel 17:24

Cover Art: How Did You Come to Know Me? © Jan Richardson. Janrichardson.com



THE WORD IN THE WORLD

At a recent Cross of Glory Bible Study, I shared an invitation: instead of reading the Bible passage in your living room this week, try taking it to a new place where you wouldn't normally read it and see if that changes the way you hear the story. One member took the text to the gym. Another talked about reading it in her backyard. While our weekly Bible Study will be taking a break for the summer months, I've invited members to continue this practice as they're interested while we're apart.

Why read the Bible in different places? Just as our understanding of the Bible is shaped by *who* we read it with (or don't read it with), so too is our reading influenced by *where* we read it. "When we read scripture out in the world, we may find ourselves engaging with the world in new ways," said my preaching professor in seminary, Chuck Campbell, who encouraged all his students to give this practice a try. "We may find ourselves colliding with the world in new ways too." In other words, our surroundings, —the sights, smells, sounds around us—just might make the story we're reading come to life in a new way.

For example, how might we hear the story of Jesus healing the paralytic anew if we read it in a hospital? Would our understanding of Jesus feeding the 5,000 change if we read it in a soup kitchen? Could we hear the story of Jesus' crucifixion differently if we read it at a cemetery? How might we hear the words of the prophets Isaiah about proclaiming liberty to the captives if we read it in a prison? Would we have any new insights into Ezekiel 17:24 (see cover) if we read it in a forest?

If you're interested in engaging in a new spiritual practice this summer, I invite you to join me and some of the COG Bible Study members in this practice of "dislocated" Bible Study. Though I'll be on maternity leave, I'll commit to joining you in this exercise this summer. Some possible locations could include a park, shelter, bank, bus, hotel, city hall, farm, hospital, restaurant...or anywhere else you can think of!

“Jesus didn’t study the scriptures at home or in a library,” said Professor Campbell. “He went in the streets, the marketplace...he was all over.” What might we learn if we do the same?

I look forward to exchanging stories when I’m back in early September. In the meantime, may the living God surprise and delight you as you read the living world in the world,

Pastor Ali

To get a copy of the lectionary readings assigned for this summer, please reach out to Sue in the office at svukelich@crossofglory.us



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

There are many ways to worship with us here at Cross of Glory. Below are the various ways to take part in our worship life at this time:

- **In-person** – Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for worship in the sanctuary. Masks will continue to be worn on Sunday mornings as we continue to assess singing safety. The Task Force will reevaluate on June 30.
- **Zoom** - Tune into 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 our website.
- **Recorded services** - We’ll continue to post weekly videos of recorded services. Visit www.vimeo.com/cogtv for all recorded services.
- **Bulletins** – Starting in July, weekly bulletins will no longer be automatically mailed and emailed out ahead of time. Bulletins will be available at church on Sundays (for in-person worshippers) and all bulletin information will be available online (for virtual worshippers). If you’d like to continue receiving a bulletin by mail or email, please call the church office at 763-533-8602.

God's Growing Family



Brynn Elizabeth Edstrom Schneider
Baptized on May 8, 2021



Teagan Pearl Dossett, Baptized on May 23, 2021
Grant Dossett, Confirmed on May 23, 2021



McKenna and Madison Sward, Baptized on June 6, 2021



This month, Cross of Glory welcomes thirteen new and recently-transferred members into our community of faith. We give God thanks for their presence among us and for the ways they will bless our life together. Please join us in welcoming:

- Amanda, Josh, Milo, and Theo Smith
- Derek and Barbara Sahr
- Abby and Isabelle Kelley
- Isak Tranvik
- Kris and Tom Simon
- Bob Wertz
- Nathan Paulson

Holy God, through the love of your son Jesus Christ, you draw your people together and invite them into the family of faith. May we show your hospitality and love by embracing our new brothers and sisters as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Keep us close together in your Spirit in the breaking of bread, in worship and prayer, and in service to others, through the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Cross of Glory's weekly Bible Study and our monthly Adult Ed class (Table Talks) will pause for the summer months. We look forward to gathering again in September!

CROSS OF GLORY TO TAKE PART IN FAITH & NEIGHBORING PRACTICES LEARNING COMMUNITY

Cross of Glory is excited to share that we were recently selected to take part in a new initiative through the Minneapolis Area Synod that invites select congregations to explore the intersection of faith and neighboring. Beginning in the fall of 2021, Cross of Glory will be joining a two-year learning community alongside four other local ELCA congregations—including some of our Wildfire partner churches—to explore “Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices.” The project is supported by the Lilly Foundation’s Thriving Congregations Initiative, and hopes to foster practices that “deepen the spiritual life of the congregation through more significant engagement with the surrounding community, places where God’s presence precedes our engagement.” Five members of Cross of Glory will serve as congregational leaders in this project, attending monthly gatherings and quarterly retreats with our learning cohort, and inviting the larger congregation to share in these practices together. If you’re interested in learning more or taking part, please reach out to Pastor Ali at atranvik@crossofglory.us.



WELCOMING PASTOR KISTEN DURING PASTOR ALI’S MATERNITY LEAVE

Pastor Ali and Isak continue to be so grateful for the prayers of the Cross of Glory community as they prepare to welcome their child in mid-June. Pastor Ali’s last Sunday before maternity leave is June 13. We are excited to welcome Pastor Kisten Thompson, retired ELCA pastor and member of Christ the King Lutheran in New

Brighton, who will be with us for the twelve weeks that Pastor Ali is away. Pastor Kisten's part-time role (20-25 hours/week) will entail being available for pastoral care, weekly worship leadership, and preaching once a month. On the other Sundays, you'll have the opportunity to hear from a variety of guest preachers from across the metro area (see the schedule below). Once again, thank you for your ongoing love and prayers as the Tranviks prepare to welcome their daughter into the Cross of Glory community!



- June 20:** Kisten Thompson, summer interim pastor at Cross of Glory
June 27: Mark Tranvik, Professor of Reformation History and Theology at Luther Seminary
July 4: Art Montgomery, retired ELCA pastor
July 11: Tania Haber, Senior Pastor at Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park, MN
July 18: Babette Chatman, University Pastor at Augsburg University
July 25: Michael Chan, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary
August 1: Kisten Thompson, summer interim pastor at Cross of Glory
August 8: Bristol Reading, Candidate for Ordination in the ELCA
August 15: Cheryl Mathison, Teaching Pastor at St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN
August 22: Jan Melhoff, retired ELCA pastor
August 29: Keith Williams, choir director at Cross of Glory
Sept 5: Kisten Thompson, summer interim pastor at Cross of Glory

MUTUAL AID & COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

In the days immediately following the killing of Daunte Wright, Cross of Glory committed to keeping its doors open to the community. Given the closure of local businesses and the suspension of public transit, the church joined together with CAPI (a nonprofit that serves Brooklyn Center's immigrant and refugee communities) to collect and distribute emergency supplies and food to anyone who needed it.

Many of the people who came to pick up items ended up returning again and again to give of their time. And many of those who came to give of their time found that their own needs were being met too. That's why we called this work "mutual aid." While some models of charity or volunteerism have clearly-defined roles of "giver" and "receiver," mutual aid is committed to the notion that we all need each other, that our well-being is bound up together, that everyone who walks through our doors has something to give and everyone has something to receive.

Though stores have reopened, buses are back in operation, and the TV cameras have moved on, our need for one another remains. What, therefore, does it mean to be a site of mutual aid beyond the immediate crisis? What might it look like to continue to come together with neighbors to build a Brooklyn Center defined not by scarcity but by abundance? What does it mean to share God's love in our neighborhood in the coming weeks, months, years?

If you're interested in taking part in a conversation that explores these questions with members of Cross of Glory, CAPI, and the broader community, please reach out to Steve Ferley at ferleysteve@gmail.com. As we continue to ask these questions—and to address the ongoing material needs of our neighbors—Cross of Glory is hosting another mutual aid event and community resource fair on **June 19 from 10 am-2 pm** in our parking lot and fellowship hall. To take part, sign up for a work shift at <https://tinyurl.com/5jt5susu>, or simply stop by to welcome our neighbors!





Recap of May 2021 Council Meeting

Progeny School is renewing their lease for another year. Praise the Lord!

Faith Healing is back worshipping in our sanctuary and paying rent.

We had another BC Mutual Aid event on Saturday, May 29th. The next scheduled event is for June 19th.

Erik is working on Internet issues within the church.

We had discussion on possibly having an outdoor service sometime this summer.

Sunday, June 13 is Pastor Ali's last Sunday before maternity leave.

Pastor Kisten Thompson will be our interim pastor while Pastor Ali is gone. She will start on Sunday, June 20, but will be in church on the 13th so we can meet her then.

Judy Lewis, Council President



On May 25th, we began a new set of positive changes at Cross of Glory surrounding our COVID-19 protocols. These changes are possible due to CDC information on the effectiveness of the vaccine, and a relaxing of restrictions for those who are fully vaccinated. With the shared health of our entire community in mind, the following are in effect from May 30th to June 30th. At the end of June, we will re-evaluate our protocols. Some items to note are:

- Please wear a mask in the building before, during and after services.
- Please sanitize your hands whenever you enter the building.

- We will continue physical distancing in the sanctuary during this time (sharing the peace). Distancing is at your own discretion for all other gatherings.
- Congregational singing will be part of services.
- Communion will be celebrated in-place in the pews the first Sunday of the month.
- Masks are at your discretion indoors for meetings/gatherings outside of worship times if you are fully vaccinated. If you have not been fully vaccinated, please wear a mask inside the church.

For a copy of the congregational letter containing all of the details, contact the church office or visit crossofglory.us

These eased restrictions are only possible due to local vaccination rates. We encourage the Cross of Glory community to be vaccinated if possible. If you need information or assistance, please contact the church office, Task Force members, or visit <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/index.jsp>

Thank you for your ongoing grace, creativity, patience, and care as we seek to faithfully share life together.



GLORY BANNER DEADLINE

Want to include an article in next month's Glory Banner? Email Sue (svukelich@crossofglory.us) by June 28th.

WOMEN of the ELCA



June Bible Study Just Love, Part 2 Session 1: Just Wisdom

Session 1 “Just Wisdom” delves into how God can open our hearts and minds to a spiritual understanding that is not bound by our human comprehension. Just Wisdom comes to us through reverence for our awesome God. Our key verse for the first session in forms us: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (Proverbs 9:10) together we will consider our faithful response to Wisdom’s invitation.

Our summer Bible Study is written by Angela Khabeb, a pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. If the Part 2 confuses you, our Summer Bible study for 2020 was titled “Just Love.”

Something to Think About by Jackie Fryhling

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves. *James Matthew Barrie*

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

Take Part in Cross of Glory's Life Together

Worship with us in-person Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

Worship with us on Zoom by phone or online Sunday mornings at 9:30 am

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/crossofglorymn

Visit us online at crossofglory.us

Cross of Glory Office Hours:

Monday through Wednesday, 9:00am ~ 3:00pm

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