
The Glory Banner

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

May 2015



Starting May 31st

8:30 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship

9:30 a.m. ~ Coffee Fellowship

10:30 a.m. ~ Crosswalk Worship



⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephesians 4: 7-8, 11-13

A New Chapter

One of the many things I have appreciated about Pastor Christian since he joined our staff more than two years ago is his passion to grow in his ministry. In his Pentecostal tradition, the path to ordained ministry has been one of long term apprenticeship. He's had considerable experience in a variety of ministries but few opportunities for formal, seminary education. After joining Cross of Glory and becoming a Lutheran, he has consistently expressed his desire to grow in this way. This academic year he has begun to take online classes at Sioux Falls Seminary. At the same time, he applied for candidacy for ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) under a special program called TEEM, Theological Education for Emerging Ministries. In October he was unanimously endorsed by the Minneapolis Area Synod for this program.

After some additional paperwork, Christian has now been admitted to the TEEM program at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. This program includes a mix of week-long residential classes and online distance learning classes and some intensive work with a pastoral mentor and ministry site supervisor. Pastor Mark Vinge at House of Hope in New Hope has agreed to serve as his mentor and I will be serving as his ministry site supervisor. His first classes begin in June with both Mark and I joining him for some orientation at Wartburg.

As a congregation, we will support Christian in many ways during this time. The Council has voted to provide some limited ongoing financial support and the Minneapolis Area Synod has a fund for candidates in the TEEM program that will provide almost \$2500 per year. Please pray for Christian as he begins this new chapter in his life of faith and ministry. Pray for Florence and Eugene as they walk with him in this journey. May God continue to bless and equip Christian for the ministries to which He is calling him!

Peace, Pastor Doug

Bible Readings for May

May 3 ~ Romans 1:1-17: Gospel as power of God for salvation to all, both Jews and Greeks.

May 10 ~ Romans 5:1-11: God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit; Christ died for the ungodly.

May 17 ~ Romans 6:1-14: We were buried with him by baptism into death, so that we might walk in newness of life. Hope of resurrection.

May 24 ~ Romans 8:18-39: The groaning of creation, Spirit helps us in our weakness, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.



Summer 2015 Youth and Children's Programming

We have an exciting summer planned for our children and youth. Here are some of the key activities already in the works:

Safari Search Performing Arts and Music Day Camp

Tuesdays and Thursdays June 16 to July 30 from 10 AM to 3 PM

For children ages 6-12 plus a preschool program for 4 and 5 year olds if there is enough interest

Wildfire Vacation Bible School (this year at St. James Lutheran Church in Crystal)

Monday through Thursday, June 22 to 25 from 5:45 PM to 8:00 PM

For children age 3 to completing 5th grade

Summer Youth Group

Wednesdays, June 10 to August 26, 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

For youth grades 9-12

High School Mission Trip to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota

August 1 to 8

For youth grades 9-12

One of the programs that our youth have recently volunteered for is Feed My Starving Children. In March, FMSC staff person Allison Schwartz, daughter of Bruce and Sue Vukelich, along with several of her co-workers spent a week in Haiti. Here is Allison's reflection upon her return from spending a week at the Love a Child Orphanage which Feed My Starving Children works with:

Reflections of Haiti

Love Is Something You Do

On my first night in Haiti I could not fall asleep - still trying to process everything I had seen on the bus ride from the Port Au Prince Airport to the Love a Child compound. Garbage covered every spare inch of the streets, each building was broken into rubble, people were crowded into vehicles and small shacks, bare children played on makeshift playgrounds, the natural landscape was brown and barren. All I could see was brokenness and despair. I was in disbelief - how does this happen? How will Haiti ever lift itself out of this hole? I understood why some call Haiti hopeless.

As the week went on, it became abundantly clear how - love, God's love. I saw God's love in so many ways...

Love in the sweet voices of a girls choir dressed in all white singing praises for their food.

Love in the children's smiling faces as they patiently waited for a bowl of rice to be placed in their little hands - older children selflessly telling us to give to the younger children first.

Love in our partners' hearts as they traveled up mountains, down river beds, across treacherous terrain, getting stuck in mud to deliver our food to the hard to reach villages - food people so desperately rely on to live.

Love in a line of people in the village of Despizio, still under the control of a voodoo priest, singing 'How Great Thou Art' as they waited for their box.

Love of mothers for their children - waking at 3:00 am walking miles in the dark and rain to wait in line at the malnutrition clinic to get medical care and MannaPack for their sick babies.

Love in the joyful children at Pastor Claude's orphanage - they prepared their precious ti panou for *US* to eat.

Love in friendships built across FMSC staff and MobilePack hosts through a common experience and bond.

God's love is where it starts. I saw so much more than despair, I saw love and beauty in the land and people of Haiti. There is HOPE. Hope for a generation to be raised up and know God's love.

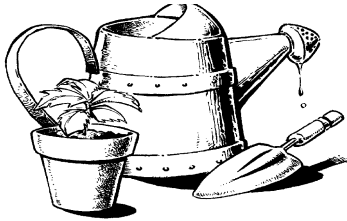
Bobby from Love a Child said 'Love is something you do.' This special organization embodies love in action.

'Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and truth.' –

I John 3:18.

I am forever grateful and blessed to have experienced God's love in this way.

Allison Schwartz ~ Feed My Starving Children



MAY

Lay Lectors:

5/03 Kim Schoffstall
5/10 Lois Broesamle
5/17 Paul Geske
5/24 Gale Geske
5/31 Don Merritt

Sunday Morning Ministers

Ushers:

9:00 a.m.

Charles Witry Don Custer
Dick Mero

11:00 a.m.

Doug Lenarz Doug Graske

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

Articles for the June, 2015
Glory Banner should to be turned
in to Sue Vukelich by May 12th.

Communion Servers:

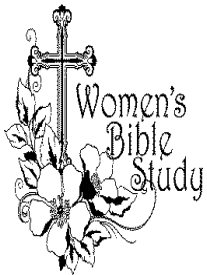
5/10 Judy Olson, Myrna Kragness
Paul & Gale Geske
Merle Solie
5/17 Al & Georgie Proctor
Marian Priest
5/31 Jan Roth, Sharon Quick
Marian Priest



W/ELCA

**Spring Salad Luncheon
Saturday, May 16, 11:30am
All women are welcome!**

The Garms Family was so well received at our December Smorgasbord that Donna was able to book them again. There is a signup poster near the Welcome Center if you would like to bring something to share. You are welcome even if the signup sheet is full or you don't feel you can bring a dish to share.



May is the last of our nine-month Bible study on *Transforming Life and Faith*. This month we will concentrate on *The Church Transforming and Reforming*.

Theme Verse

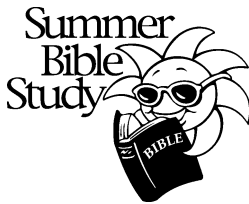
After they finished speaking, Jesus replied, "My brothers, listen to me. Simon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written, 'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David which has fallen; from the ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord – even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called . . .'" Acts 15:13-17

Overview

In this final session, we return to the Acts of the Apostles to study Jesus' commission to the disciples to be witnesses to the ends of the earth, and, as a consequence, the Jerusalem church leaders' debate about the proper relation between Jewish law and Gentile believers. Learning from Paul's letters to the Christians at Corinth and Rome, we will consider how the church today can affirm the gifts of all members of the body of Christ and can work together to "discern what is the will of God – what

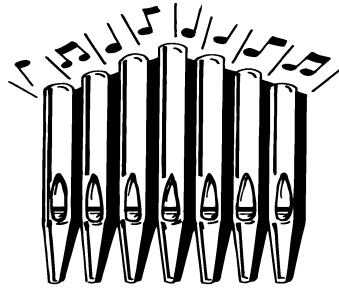
is good and acceptable and perfect.”
(Romans 12:2)

Our Circles meet on Tuesday, May 19th. The Community Needs Circle meets at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The Glory Circle also meets in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00pm. The Mission Circle meets in a member’s home usually at 12:30pm.



In June, July and August the circles meet together on the third Tuesday of each month at 9:45am. In June we will meet in the Library. This will be a three month study on giving. In June we will concentrate on ***Give In Secret.***

If you are not a member of a circle this would be a good time to come and see what we are all about! Pastor Doug has agreed to lead our Bible study. Of course, there will be treats and coffee!



The work on the organ is going very well. Pipes are being removed, cleaned, tuned and returned. Some have required major repair, some that were never a good fit have been replaced. Louvers now fully open and new catwalks built to access untunable pipes. The pipe work will likely continue through much of May. The final phase of work involves the keys and console. We will lose the use of the organ for as long as 2 months, likely this summer. We'll keep you posted!



50 + and Friends

May brings us flowers according to the rhyme. But for us, May 13th brings Polish music and murals. We are going to New Prague where we'll view the murals on the outside walls of some buildings. We will go into St. Wenceslas Church to see the beauty of this old Catholic church. For lunch we go to Creek Bend Country Club where we'll build our own sandwiches to go with salads and dessert. While we eat our lunch, we will be entertained as the Polish Singers in their colorful costumes sing in the native language. Our last stop is the bakery where you can get some kolacky or other goodies to take home. We will leave church at 9:00am.

On June 24th we'll go out to the completely redone Old Log Theater. We will have lunch with a choice from their new menu of beef short rib, tilapia, or chicken. After lunch we'll go in the theater to see "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." It's the story

of Miss Mona's bordello and how a puritan nemesis watchdog causes its closing. We leave at 11:00am.

July 15th brings our annual trip to the pavilion on Nicollet Island to hear the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra. They always play a variety of classical and popular music that's fun to listen to. Remember that it's cool in the building so you may want to bring a sweater or jacket. We'll come back to the Broadway Pizza in Brooklyn Park for their pizza buffet. We will leave at 8:30am.

Mark your calendars. We have 20 places reserved to go to Black Bear Casino in October. I don't have any more information as yet but I'll let you know as soon as I hear.

Plan to join us and make your summer fun and interesting!

Marian Priest



2015

Annual Community Garage Sale

The dates for this year's sale are **July 8, 9, 10, and 11th**. We will be setting up for the sale on Saturday, **May 30th**. Receiving will begin on **Monday, June 1st until Tuesday, June 23rd**. Again this year we have been asked by Advent Lutheran Church in Maple Grove to come on Saturday, **May 16 around 12:00pm** to pick up any of their treasure that didn't sell.

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 9:00am to 4:00pm, give us a call and we will be happy to meet you at church.

Additional workers will be needed during the sale dates to work as cashiers, baggers, security, clean-up, etc. We will need many volunteers on **Saturday, July 11th** 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 saleable condition. We will NOT accept mattresses, baby cribs, playpens, highchairs, strollers, car seats, hard sided suitcases, computers and accessories, console 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. Any questions? Call Linda Knudsen at 612-518-4879.

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
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Change Service Requested

Welcoming all people to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ



Worship at Cross of Glory on Sundays
9:00 a.m. ~ Traditional Worship
10:00 a.m. ~ Coffee Fellowship
11:00 a.m. ~ Crosswalk Contemporary Worship
10:15 a.m. ~ Sunday School
To watch worship services: www.cogtv.info

Cross of Glory Staff:

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Doug Mork ~

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