

# The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

A Wildfire Congregation

May 2022

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  
[medstrom@crossofglory.us](mailto:medstrom@crossofglory.us)

**Pianist/Worship Leader/Tech Dir.:**  
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



Every day do something  
that won't compute.  
Love the Lord. Love the world.  
Work for nothing.  
Take all that you have and be poor.  
Love someone who does not deserve it.  
Ask the questions that have no answers.  
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.  
Say that your main crop is the forest  
that you did not plant,  
that you will not live to harvest.  
Say that the leaves are harvested  
when they have rotted into the mold.  
Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.  
Put your faith in the two inches of humus  
that will build under trees every thou-  
sand years.  
Expect the end of the world.  
Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable.  
Be joyful  
though you have considered all the facts.  
Be like the fox  
who makes more tracks than necessary,  
some in the wrong direction.  
**Practice resurrection.**

-Excerpt of "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front" by  
Wendell Berry



PASTORAL CARE

## PRACTICING RESURRECTION

“If you want to know anything about God, you’ve got to look in the dirt,” gardener and poet Wendell Berry once said (and as I had shared in my sermon on Easter). Dirt is a place of death, but it’s also a site of resurrection. All the stuff that decays and decomposes in the dirt transforms into the stuff of new life.

That’s why I think it’s so cool that Mary supposed Jesus to be the gardener that first Easter morning, because the risen God who appeared to her as a gardener (apparently so covered in the dirt of his own tomb!?) had in fact *always been* a gardener! This God had always been one to get his hands dirty for the sake of bringing about new life. He had always been in the business of taking the stuff we see as dirt and transforming it into the stuff of new life.

The wild truth that we proclaimed together on Easter Sunday—and the one that we proclaim throughout this whole Easter season—is that God is *still* bringing about new life (even if Minnesota’s weather has decided it’s not quite ready for it...and yes, even if we aren’t quite ready for it either). Resurrection is happening...in the dirt beneath us and in the world all around us.

The invitation in this Easter season is for us to live into it, to “practice it,” as Wendell writes in the poem (prayer?) included on the front of this month’s newsletter.

What does it mean to practice resurrection? Berry gives us all sorts of examples. But maybe the best place to begin is simply to name it when we sit. As Paul writes in 2 Cor 5:17, “Everything old has passed away; *behold*, everything has become new!” Our call is to behold. To look. To pay attention.

With that in mind, the Cross of Glory community is invited to take in a spiritual practice of sorts this Easter season. For these 50 days of Easter, you’re invited to “practice resurrection” by sharing with us photos and phrases of where you behold it. Whenever you catch a glimpse of new life as you go about your day, you can either send us **a photo** (this could be anything from a picture of a flower sprouting up in your garden, to a child in your life, to a bird's nest you spot in your neighborhood--no explanation needed!) or **a phrase** (this could be anything from "forgiveness from a loved one," to "one month sober," to "catching up with an old friend on the phone"). Like we did with the Lenten cross photos last year, photos and phrases will be anonymously incorporated into a short time of prayerful

reflection during worship throughout the season.

And remember, there are no "wrong answers!" We need one another to help us see what God is doing, so however and wherever you behold God the Gardener planting something new, we'd love to see it/hear about it!

I look forward to the glimpses of resurrection that we’ll share with each other in the season ahead, as together we work to practice the resurrection that is already taking place all around us,

Pastor Ali



## Who are the People in our Neighborhood?

This past month, through tutoring, I had the privilege of meeting a couple students that attend Progeny Academy. I was so amazed by these kids. It reminds me of the Bible story in Matthew 18; when the disciples were fighting over who was the greatest, and [Jesus] said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” I was struck by how often I am like these disciples, how often I have not given my own children the time, or sometimes feel burdened by them. How often I have thought, goodness, how is this world going to survive when these young kids are in charge? It gave me great pause, as I thought about these kids, how well behaved, kind, caring, and thirsting for knowledge, They are accepting for others that don’t look like them, and kind to someone they didn’t know—it was truly amazing. I have learned I can learn a lot from a child. I encourage you to learn something too. Maybe even one here at 5929 Brooklyn Blvd! Rachel — Community Life Coordinator/ Office Manager



You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:39

## Community News



- As the ground thaws and weather warms, we’re looking forward to growing plants and produce in our church’s backyard community garden plots this year. All are welcome to join COG members, Progeny Academy students, and Brooklyn Center neighbors for gardening this spring & summer. Reach out to Dan Jacobson if you’re interested in learning more or taking part.
- Newly-arrived Afghan families are still in need of some household items and school supplies for kids as they get settled. CAPI, the organization located across the street from COG that provides support services for immigrants and refugees in our community, has organized an online wish list of items through Amazon. Visit <https://a.co/7LWz5BS> to view the list and purchase an item.
- There’s a free senior luncheon every Tuesday at noon at The Crossings at Brookwood. Lunch is followed by fellowship time and a game. Tours of the facility are also available. To RSVP for a “Chat & Chowder” luncheon this month, call Diane at 763-561-7405.

## “Grief: Lessons on Loss, Healing & Hope”

Hosted by Elim Lutheran Church of Robbinsdale and organized and sponsored by a Wildfire churches, “Grief: Lessons on Loss, Healing & Hope” will be on Wednesdays in May from 7:00-8:30PM. The event will include presentations by professionals in the field of grief and mental health. Each of these evenings also includes optional group discussions and closing prayers. Please contact Elim at 763-537-8481 or our faith community nurse, [Jan Nelson-Schwartz](#), to clarify any details. Registration is at the door beginning at 6:45pm. This event is free.





### FAITH PRACTICES & NEIGHBORING PRACTICES

Cross of Glory's Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices (FPNP) group continues to meet monthly with our Wildfire cohort as we explore the ways God calls us to be neighbors, and the faith practices that sustain that call. On May 14, our congregational

cohort, which includes Abby Kelley, Nathan Paulson, Isak Tranvik, Mike McClanahan, and Pastor Ali Tranvik, will gather with all fifteen congregations involved in FPNP across the synod for our quarterly retreat. We are also working to plan some gatherings over the summer that focus on listening to and getting to know our neighbors--which you'll be invited to take part in! We'll be sharing more details in the coming weeks. As FPNP Director Nick Tangen writes, through listening to our neighbors, we get to "learn about the places where God has rooted us. This summer we will get the opportunity to remind ourselves that our communities are sacred ground."

### VISION & VOCATION TEAM

Where is the Holy Spirit at work among us? How can we celebrate what God is doing at Cross of Glory? What does it mean to be the church at 5929 Brooklyn Blvd? What are the most pressing needs within our community, and what gifts has God given us? These are some of the questions that the Vision & Vocation Team has been wrestling with. Our vocational discernment is rooted in confession, prayer, stories from scripture, stories from the world that stir our imagination, and 1:1 relational meetings that seek to listen to the voices of our congregation and community. This spring, we are beginning to explore language that express God's call. We look forward to sharing more with you as together we work to discern--and live into--God's call!



Circles Gather Bible Study will meet Wednesday May 18th at 1pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring your own drink, snack and a friend. All women are welcome. Copies of the Bible Study will be available if needed. There will be coffee and also a microphone.

**MAY BIBLE STUDY** is titled ACROSS THE GENERATIONS - One act of welcome can beget another, written by Sarah Carlson, Ralen Robinson, Anna Madsen, Violet Little, Helen Hollingsworth, and Denise Rector.

May Gather considers intergenerational relationships. This month several of their authors have shared interesting stories. The study is different and you might be surprised by the power of relationships and hospitality to inspire change.



All are welcome to take part in Bible Study every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am as we study the word. We offer both an in-person and Zoom option (connect via Zoom using the same information as Sunday worship.)

### EARTH DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Lutherans Restoring Creation, a grassroots movement in the ELCA that works to foster care of creation, has created an Earth Day themed worship service. The service includes liturgy and music from faith communities throughout the country, and a sermon from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. The April 24th service can be found by searching "Lutherans Restoring Creation" on YouTube.



### FELLOWSHIP HOUR

We give thanks to be gathering again for a time of fellowship following worship each Sunday. Please join us! As we continue into the future weeks and months, we will need additional helpers for set up and clean up. Sign up at the ushers table or call the church office.

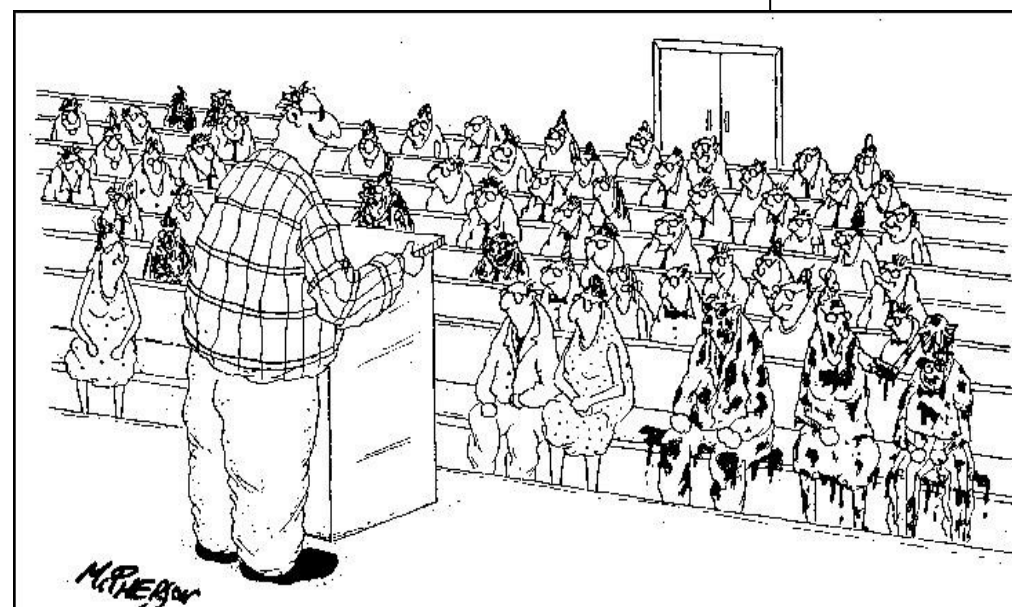


### SYNOD ASSEMBLY

On April 30th, Kim Jacobson, Judy Lewis, and Pastor Ali are attending the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly at Central Lutheran Church in



downtown Minneapolis on behalf of Cross of Glory. This year's assembly explores the theme "Life Together." Dr. Eric Barreto, Professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, is the keynote speaker, and leading a study of the book of Acts, which invites attendees to explore the ways the early church embodied God's transformative call to share life together. The assembly also includes worship, the election of synod leaders, the celebration of our companion synod, messages from partner ministries, and voting on synod resolutions.



"I'D LIKE TO OFFER MY APOLOGIES TO THOSE OF YOU WHO DIDN'T REALIZE THAT OUR VOLUNTEERS WERE SEALING THE PARKING LOT THIS WEEKEND."





May 1  
 Greeters: Josephine Cook and Judy Olson  
 Reader: Julie Aulwes  
 Communion: Judy Olson, Bruce and Sue Vukelich

May 8  
 Greeters: Linda Knudsen and Carol Sjoquist  
 Reader: Dawn Bailey

May 15  
 Greeters: Ron and Lois Tollefsud  
 Reader: Lois Tollefsrud

May 22  
 Greeters: Tom Simon and Marie King  
 Reader: Kim Jacobson

May 29  
 Greeters: Sue and Bruce Vukelich  
 Reader: Bruce Vukelich

June 5  
 Greeters: Judy Lewis and Arlene Kosek  
 Reader: Dan Aulwes  
 Communion: Linda Knudsen, Judy Lewis, Arlene Kosek

**AID TO UKRAINE**

A few folks have asked about ways to support neighbors in Ukraine. Donations--which go toward food, basic supplies, and other emergency needs--can be given directly through Lutheran Disaster at [www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster). You may also write a check to Cross of Glory and mark it as "Ukraine Aid" and we will direct those funds toward these efforts.



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 will have an activity prepared for kids--from singing songs to baking communion bread, planting a garden to storytelling, crafts to games! We look forward to worshipping with you, and for our time together on first Sundays. Our upcoming dates are May 1st and June 5th.

**Keith's Clef Notes**

**SHARE YOUR SONG REQUESTS!**

Whenever a 5th Sunday of the month rolls around, Cross of Glory has a service of Lessons & Music. If you have a favorite song or hymn that you'd like us to sing that day, please send your request to the church office by Sunday, May 22nd. We'll do our best to feature as many as we can!  
 (Hint... the next one is coming up May 29th)

**COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE**



We are happy to report that the current COVID risk rating for Hennepin County is "Low," therefore masking and physical distancing are currently optional at the church for services and anywhere in the building, for those who are vaccinated.

An additional COVID-19 vaccine booster is available for:

- Adults ages 50 years and older
  - People ages 12 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised
  - People who got 2 doses (1 primary dose and 1 booster) of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
- Make sure it's been at least 4 months since your last COVID-19 booster before you schedule a your next booster shot. Boosters are available through your doctor's office, and at Hy-Vee, Walgreens, CVS, and other pharmacies.

Per CDC guidance, we ask that those exhibiting Covid symptoms, those with a positive test, and those who have had exposure to someone with Covid and are unvaccinated, should temporarily refrain from taking part in in-person activities, and those who are unvaccinated should wear a mask regardless of Hennepin County's risk level. We strongly encourage everyone who can to be fully vaccinated and boosted. See [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) for more information.

Cross of Glory Activities by COVID-19 Risk Level (updated March 11, 2022)

HENNEPIN COUNTY RISK* -->	LOW	MEDIUM		HIGH
		Worship	Non-Worship	
<b>ACTIVITY</b>				
Masking	Optional	Required	Optional	Required
Distancing	Optional	Required	Optional	Required
Meals **	YES-no restrictions	YES - per Nov 2021 Meals policy		Pause
Musical ensembles	YES	YES - per Dec 2021 Musical Ensembles Guidelines		Pause
Communion	YES - per Feb 2022 Communion Guidelines	YES - per Feb 2022 Communion Guidelines		YES - per Feb 2022 Communion Guidelines
Sharing the Peace	Greet others at your own comfort level	Distanced gesture of peace		Distanced gesture of peace
Children's Activities	Masks are optional	Masks required	Masks required	Masks required

\* as determined by the CDC  
 \*\* includes all food sharing, such as Coffee Fellowship, funeral lunches, meeting snacks, etc.



Holy Week went well, with meaningful services and sermons. On May 3 there is a meeting and dinner at church for groups that organized and worked the mutual aid network last year. All are welcome to participate in this gathering. Visioning and Vocation Team - Doing One-on-one visits and working on future visions for our church. Spoke about visitations to care center and homebound members and also possibility of organizing transportation to church for those in need on Sundays. Pastor Ali, Kim Jacobson and Judy Lewis will be attending the Synod Assembly on Saturday, April 30 at Central Lutheran downtown. Church Directory - looking at doing a new church directory with photos this fall. Judy Lewis—Council President

