

The Glory Banner

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church (ELCA)

A Wildfire Congregation

July 2022

Cross of Glory
Office hours: M-W 10-2
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.

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 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 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

Bookkeeper:
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Worship Leader.:
Mark Trease
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Choir Director:
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Custodian/ Facilities Manager:
Matt Steven

Tech Ministry:
Ryan Bailey



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“Every day I see or hear something
that more or less fills me with delight,
that leaves me like a needle in the haystack of light.
It was what I was born for
--to look, to listen, to lose myself inside this world,
to instruct myself over and over in joy, and acclamation.
Nor am I talking about the exceptional, the fearful, the dreadful, the very
extravagant
--but of the ordinary, the common, the very drab,
the daily presentations.
Oh, good scholar, I say to myself,
how can you help but grow wise with such teachings as these
--the untrimmable light of the world, the ocean's shine,
the prayers that are made out of grass?”

–Mary Oliver, *adapted*





RISKING DELIGHT

In Mary Oliver's poem on the cover, she speaks of the delight that she witnesses in the ordinariness of life. But as she confesses, we need to practice seeing it. "[I need] to instruct myself over and over in joy, and acclamation," she says.

I don't know about you, but delight seems hard to come by these days. Given the cruelty of the world, rage, resentment, or despair seem to be much more viable options than delight. Delight seems laughable at best, insulting at worst.

But even as we enter into the season of Pentecost, what we proclaimed on Easter remains as true as it was on April 17, and as it was on that first Easter morning thousands of years ago: God lives. And if those wild two words are true, then maybe Oliver is on to something. As another poet, Jack Gilbert says, maybe "we must risk delight."

Risking delight does not mean that we should deny suffering, or to pretend that all is well. Indeed, the opposite. It is when we confront and confess the depths of our sinfulness and suffering (the Good Friday moments, that continue far beyond Holy Week) that we begin to experience the depths of joy and delight (the Easter moments, that also continue far beyond Holy Week). And that's when we begin to glimpse what the Gospel is all about. As theologian Debie Thomas writes, "[Christianity must] acknowledge the reality of pain and death, but it is not *about* pain and death, it's about life and joy. It's about a God who died so that we can live. It's about a kingdom that enacts justice and healing so that all of creation can revel in abundant life."

What does it mean as a community of faith to *revel*? To instruct ourselves over and over in joy? There are many ways we can do this--and many ways we do! Worship each Sunday is a kind of reveling. When we worship, we proclaim God's abundance in the world sold on scarcity. We read stories about life even as stories of death fill the news. We sing even though there is more than enough to complain or cry about. We eat bread. We splash babies with water.

We practice delight beyond worship though, too--through sending cards to each other and singing happy birthday for one another. Through gardening together, quilting together, eating together. You all have instructed me over and over in joy.

This newsletter is full of more invitations to come and risk delight. There are community meals and a big neighborhood block party. There's visitation and Vacation Bible School. There's Brooklyn Center senior luncheons and community gardening, where as Oliver says, there are "prayers that are made out of grass." However it is you take part, my prayer is that you have some holy fun.

Pastor Ali

PASTORAL CARE

Pastor Ali is available for pastoral care, conversation, and prayer. You can reach her by phone and email throughout the week. Her designated office hours for pastoral care and conversation--(virtual or in-person)--are Tuesdays from 10:30-1:30 and Wednesdays from 2-5, and home/care facility visitation hours are Thursdays from 3-5. Please reach out to schedule a time to connect!

Home Communion

If you are unable to commune in person at Cross of Glory, we would love to come visit you and bring you communion. Please reach out if you'd like to schedule a time.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Fresh Food Fridays at CAPI - Every 2nd and 4th Friday CAPI distributes free fresh produce from its parking lot. If you're able to lend a hand, sign up at www.capiusa.org. July dates are the 8th and 22nd, and distribution runs from 1-3 pm.

Centennial Park Summer Music Series - On Tuesday nights at 7 pm throughout the summer, Centennial Park in Brooklyn Center is hosting a concert series at its amphitheater. July dates include the 12th, 19th, and 26th. Visit www.ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us/ for more info.

Senior Luncheons - There's a free senior luncheon every Tuesday at noon at the Crossings at Brookwood. Lunch is followed by fellowship and game time. Tours of the facility are also available. To RSVP for a "Chat & Chowder" luncheon this month, call Diane at 763-561-7405.

Community Garden Plots - Do you have a green thumb (or do you WANT to have a green thumb)? There are still a few plots open in the Cross of Glory Community Garden! Plots are free and open to all congregation and community members. Let Dan Jacobson know if you want one!



COG CARE MINISTRY

Are you interested in having a Cross of Glory friend come and visit your home for some conversation and company? Do you need help with errands, or a ride to church on Sundays? Are you a care-giver

in need of a little break? Are you interested in having communion brought to your home? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, let Pastor Ali know, and we'd love to arrange for someone to visit you.

Do you have gifts for caring for others? Are you interested in good conversation and company? Do you have a little time this summer to make some phone calls or a few visits? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, let Pastor Ali know, and we'd love to arrange for you to be a visitor!

We had the choir sing yesterday in worship as we do once a month during the summer. We had enough singers for three part harmony. Choral harmonies feel wonderful.

I am mindful of the fact that we are very different people. We don't all have the same life habits. Some love the outdoors,. Some love books. Some have wanderlust, and some are home bodies. Some are young and some are old... Well, most are older... ;) We don't all share the same political beliefs on every issue, and my guess is the theologies we think about are also different, even though we are all Lutheran.

Our harmonies do not depend on us being the same, or in agreement on all matters. God's laws of harmonics allow us to have an emotional and spiritual experience in worship by simply deciding to collaborate. Many voices make only one choir.

Keith's
Clef
Notes

Keith Williams

STORIES OF CROSS OF GLORY



Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices



As the Faith & Neighboring Practices group continues to lead us in exploring our call to be neighbors, we want to hear from you! This summer, we are collecting stories from the people of Cross of Glory about how you've experienced and encountered neighborliness in the congregation and community throughout your time at Cross of Glory. From the church building being built to the community garden being built, from the Cross of Glory Preschool to youth trips, from the garage sale to circle groups meeting in living rooms across town...we'd love to hear your stories! Do you have a story or two you'd be willing to share with us? Please contact Pastor Ali to set up a time to chat sometime this summer. Thanks for telling the stories of Cross of Glory as we work to tell the story of God's presence here in this place!

-Abby Kelley, Nathan Paulson, Isak Tranvik, Mike McClanahan, Pastor Ali



Thanks to all who joined us for our meal on June 15!



SUMMER COMMUNITY MEALS

It's been a long pandemic. It's been a long winter. But the days are finally here where we can break bread together again. To celebrate, our Faith & Neighboring Practices Group is hosting monthly community meals. These

meals are an opportunity to catch up with neighbors you may already know and maybe to get to know some you don't. They're an opportunity to listen to each other and to share stories. But most simply, they're an opportunity to just eat together! Upcoming meals are scheduled for **Wednesday July 13 and August 17 at 5:30 pm**. We'll plan to eat outdoors (weather and covid depending). Please join us, and feel free to invite some friends, family, and neighbors--everybody's welcome!

We look forward to seeing you there, Abby Kelley, Nathan Paulson, Isak Tranvik, Mike McClanahan, Pastor Ali



JULY 23 2022

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM



Donations needed for July 23



Hygiene Items

Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bath soap

Household Products

Laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels



Personal Hygiene / Baby Items

Diapers, baby wipes, feminine products (pads specifically)

School Supplies

Pencils, pens, notebooks, folders, colored pencils, notecards, markers, crayons, erasers, scissors, rulers



SUMMERFEST: JOIN US FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

**Saturday, July 23 from 12-2
in the COG Parking Lot**

As we continue to find ways to be a site of mutual aid, Cross of Glory is joining together with neighbors at CAPI and in the broader Brooklyn Center community for a neighborhood block party celebration. On Saturday, July 23 from 12-2, the COG parking lot will host a food truck, live music, health resources, tabling with community partners, supply distribution, kids' activities, and more. Join us as we gather with neighbors old and new! See below for more information, including the supplies we're collecting ahead of time for distribution.

**SUMMER BLOCK
PARTY**

Donations can be dropped off at the grocery cart near the welcome desk, anytime between now and July 23. Thanks in advance for your donations!

Worship

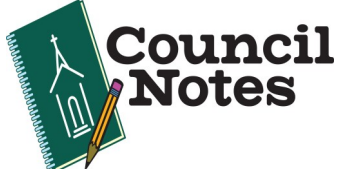
July 3—
 Greeters: Josephine Cook & Delores Olson
 Reader: Kris Simon
 Communion: Kris Simon, Verle Smith, Gayle Merritt

July 10—
 Greeters: Judy Olson and Brenda Edstrom
 Reader: Dawn Bailey

July 17—
 Greeters: Ron and Lois Tollefsrud
 Reader: Lois Tollefsrud

July 31—
 Greeters: Bruce and Sue Vukelich
 Reader: Bruce Vukelich

August 7—
 Greeters: Barb Thomson and Luella Hinnenkamp
 Reader: Julie Aulwes
 Communion: Lois Tollefsrud, Dawn Bailey, and Linda Knudsen



Council Notes

Church Council did not gather in June. We look forward to gathering next month and will share a report to follow.



VBS - This summer, Wildfire churches are joining together to host Vacation Bible School! All Wildfire kids (and their friends & neighbors!) are welcome to take part. Join us August 1-4 from 5-8 pm, starting with a community meal for families (5-5:45 pm) at Elim Lutheran Church in Robbinsdale. Cost is \$25 per child for the week. Scholarships are available. To learn more or register (deadline is July 17), reach out to Rachel at office@crossofglory.us.



Camp Wapo - We're thrilled to have sent five kids to camp Wapo in Amery, WI this summer. Thanks for your prayers and support to help make this experience possible. The kids are excited to share stories with you this next month upon their return.



First Sundays - 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.



COVID TASK FORCE

Thanks for your ongoing flexibility as the CDC's community risk levels for Hennepin County have fluctuated up and down in these recent months. The Covid Task Force will be gathering again this month to revisit our policies as we look toward the fall. As always, if you'd like to submit a question to the Task Force, please contact us or join us at the beginning of our meeting. Reach out to co-chairs Mark Trease and Linda Knudsen for more info

Cross of Glory Activities by COVID-19 Risk Level

(updated March 11, 2022)

ACTIVITY	HENNEPIN COUNTY RISK* -->		MEDIUM		HIGH
	LOW		Worship	Non-Worship	
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.



UKRAINIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE Thanks to all those who designated special donations for refugee support in recent months. Your gifts were directed to the synod, who shared them with organizations like Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). One ministry that LDR supports is Mandák House, a church in Budapest, Hungary, with a long history of helping vulnerable populations. Since the first refugees from Ukraine arrived in Budapest in March, the Mandák House staff and volunteers have dedicated themselves to supporting them. Over 600 volunteers receive such donations as clothing, bedding, toys and hygiene items, and distribute them to refugees. Alongside other hospitality houses and aid organizations, Mandák House has adapted its response as the refugee crisis continues, now working to support children with school enrollment, and assist adults with employment, language classes, and access to healthcare. Thanks for your support as the needs of our Ukrainian neighbors continue--and continue to evolve. You can learn more about the latest needs by visiting www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response.



SUMMER BIBLE STUDY : Crafted in Christ--a summer of rest and renewal, is written by Rev Katie Hines-Shah. The three session Bible Study uses the concept of quilting to explore rest, renewal and Christian community. The Old and New Testament readings will be discussed as the patterns we follow and how the pieces of our lives and communities are bound together in Christ. She suggests we can create a quilt project as a reminder of our time together this summer. Another suggestion she gives would be to bring a quilt, picture or story about quilting to share.