



PRESS RELEASE

You Have Come Home

In the summer of 2018, at a national youth conference in New Orleans attended by 30,000 youth and their leaders, Deacon Erin Power of the Rocky Mountain Synod, a regional expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, proclaimed "You Have Come Home. We See You. You Belong."

Speaking to a diverse audience, mostly in their teens, she knew from personal experience that an individual can feel lost, without direction, and alone. That speech, and that quote in particular, is the theme for the holiday welcome program at Cross of Hope Church located at 6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW.

Deacon Erin states, that "In today's world, it can be hard to find community. We don't always have the entry points into places that naturally foster community: living near family, having a spouse and/or children, attending a residential college or university. People aren't always looking for a church, but many are looking for a place to belong, they are looking for community. The beauty of the church, when the church is at its best, is that it offers community with no strings attached. There are no membership fees or skills required. You don't need a certain background or degree. 'Come as you are, all are welcome' are the words we hear our pastors say each week as they invite us to communion. And for those of us who gather in worship each week, this extraordinary invitation becomes ordinary. We forget how radical and unusual this sort of invitation is! Our challenge is to take that radical word of grace into our daily encounters with God's people: the new visitor, the grouchy person in line at the grocery store, your child's teacher. You matter just as you are."

A sermon series based on each part of this quote begins on Sunday, November 10 with Pastor Adam speaking on "You Have Come Home". On November 17 Deacon Erin Power will speak on "We See You", and on November 24 Pastor Adam will finish with "You Belong." A series of events for teens will be presented November 3 - December 4 with discussions on "Believe It!", "Stressed Out?", and "Not Worth Living". We invite all youth to attend these discussions as desired.

Pastor Adam believes that this welcome program will "enable our faithful membership to reach out to their community circles during the holiday season." He believes that by intentionally engaging those who may be seeking a church home, the love and sense of community will shine through each of the members who are reaching out with an invitation.

Cross of Hope is a welcoming, safe place; a place where those who are in need of a friend, someone to listen, and an opportunity to learn about the light and love of Jesus Christ. All are welcome.

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