



Love Transform Serve

Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community
that shares Christ's love
through worship, education and outreach
to develop and strengthen relationships with God.

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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Annual Report
2022 - 2023

Cross of Hope Church and School

Annual Congregational Meeting

Love God, Transform Relationships, Serve Others

Sunday, May 7, 2023 (following the 10:00am worship)

AGENDA

Call to Order (Margie Reed)

Opening Prayer and Welcome (Pastor Adam Berndt)

Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 26, 2022 (Margie Reed)

Greetings from our School Ministry (Debra Alba)

Treasurers Report (Todd Bramley)

Pastor's Reflection (Adam Berndt)

Election of Council Members and Treasurer (Written Ballot)
([] attendees [] ballots)

Closing Prayer (Debra Alba)

Adjournment (Margie Reed)

Leadership

Congregational Meeting Minutes

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 26, 2022

Call to Order: 11:25am

Pat Benchik, President

The current rolls of membership of Cross of Hope lists 545 confirmed members. Therefore, fifty-five present are required for a quorum. There are seventy-four present, so we have a quorum and I call the annual meeting of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church to Order in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Opening Prayer:
Ministry

Debra Alba, Director, School

Approval of Annual Minutes from July 11, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes made by Lois Caipen, seconded by Margie Reed and unanimously approved by voice vote and a show of hands.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Benchik reviewed the Balance sheet and Income statement
Todd Bramley presented the Revenue and Expenses for the FY 2021-2022 Budget
BJ Owens made a motion to accept the Treasurers report, seconded by Rick Alpers and unanimously approved by voice vote and a show of hands.

Pastor Adam Berndt's Reflection

Pastor Adam showed his gratitude by acknowledging Ministry teams for their service and continued leadership throughout the year. Pastor recognized those who were responsible for the 40th Anniversary celebration weekend and was pleased to report that COH gained eighteen new members that weekend. Small Faith Groups, Family Promise, the COH Council, Hospitality and Care Teams were among those recognized. He spoke about Nancy Morrison, the Media Director who has been with Cross of Hope for over 25 years.

Pastor said that there are new ministry opportunities that can be built off other groups. Youth and family ministries, Outreach teams including Finance, Worship and Hospitality.

Pastor is in his seventh year at Cross of Hope and will be taking an 8-week sabbatical.

Greetings from our School Ministry

Debra Alba

Debra talked about the school being a Ministry of COH Church. She emphasized high-quality education offered at Cross of Hope, the tremendous group of teachers, the Church's Compass statement, and being Christian in the classrooms.

Report on the Rocky Mountain Synod (Tim and Jane Fuller)

Election of voting members to attend the Annual Assembly of the Rocky Mountain Synod in El Paso in 2023 (There were no volunteers)

Open the floor for Nominations to the COH Council (Pat Benchik)

Election of Council Leaders and Treasurer

Sharon Halstead was on the ballot for Council Member and Todd Bramley for Church Treasurer.

John McWilliam moved to vote by acclamation for Sharon and Todd. Seconded by Karen Schwartz and unanimously approved by voice vote and a show of hands.

Closing Prayer (Debra Alba)

Adjournment 12:25pm (Pat Benchik)

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Pastor Reflections, Adam Berndt

May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

We abound in hope. That's what we do as people of faith. This past year we've abounded in hope together moving out of the pandemic phase of life with COVID and into a time that feels a bit more settled. It's not a 'new normal' or 'post-COVID.' It simply is who we are as the body of Christ *now* in this moment. As it feels a little more settled perhaps, you might also feel with me the stirring of the Holy Spirit!

Cross of Hope is **a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education, and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.**

This mission continues to guide our life together as the community of faith at Cross of Hope.

- A community that is as dynamic as the annual changing of the school year. Next month we'll say 'thank you and God bless you' to Debra Alba as our Director of School Ministry even as we prepare for next year's school ministry that has real focus and direction under her and our school ministry team's leadership.
- A community that is as dynamic as the lives of the people who make up this congregation. You'll notice a significant decrease year over year in our reported membership numbers. This reflects our work of intentionally addressing our membership data in a way that most accurately reflects our life in this current moment of the journey.
 - Besides this administrative work, you've undoubtedly noticed those who have moved out of state and those who have died this past year. In many ways it has been a year of 'goodbyes,' and as the Holy Spirit stirs, there are also those preparing to join the community. *This is life together.*
 - We have lost some significant committed givers with these transitions and our communicated intentions for giving this year will allow us to evaluate and appropriately invest in God's call for our ministries this next year with faith and confidence. This year, we will gather again in September to approve a budget that includes accurate and up-to-date information from our school ministry.

Our dynamic community is led by a faithful and hard-working group called to serve on Church Council. It is a blessing to serve with them as things settle and as the Spirit stirs.

I have been inspired this year by the faithful group of youth and families that have gathered on Wednesday for our *Camp @ COH* ministry. Not knowing what to expect last summer, we set out to try something and we have a real base from which to grow.

Again, it feels like it is settling and stirring! A big thanks to Nancy Lacher and Rowynn Adams for their leadership in all things youth this year. Our youth's presence and participation in an Albuquerque-wide youth initiative, *Love God. Love Neighbor.* was a blessing this year.

Another place I feel the Holy Spirit stirring is the teamwork of Kathy Gorman and Cheri Sorensen who along with Richard Mohr-Kelly got our coordinated Outreach ministry off the ground. It was neat to see all the places this community is already reaching out into the community beyond our walls, and how much is stirring as we move into the future together to live out God's mission for us.

Claudia Russo and the wonderful team of hospitality and care that has re-emerged this year humbles me, and I anticipate and hope that more teams will emerge this year as we continue to discern and follow the stirring of the Holy Spirit through our worship, education and outreach in Christ's love.

As we prepare for a time of sabbatical this summer, know how grateful I am for each of you and the ministry that God has blessed us with to share. It is a blessing and honor to be your pastor and I look forward in faith to abounding in hope with you all as our journey together continues.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pr. Adam", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Pr. Adam

Margie Reed, Council President

“And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask,
we know that we have obtained the requests made of Him. (John 5.15)

Each month the Cross of Hope Council meeting begins with a prayer by Pastor Adam followed by a devotional read by one of the Council members. These prayers and reflections help us to work diligently to discuss and make important decisions for our community.

Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month and last about two hours. The agenda begins to take form weeks before the meeting, by compiling both old and new business. We discuss each item carefully prior to anything being approved.

Listed below are some of the topics from our Council meetings - July 19, 2022, through April 18, 2023.

June 26, 2022

- The Congregation Meeting was held on June 26, 2022. The Annual Report was distributed, the budget for 2022-2023 was discussed and approved, and new Council members were elected.

July 19, 2022

- The main objective of the first Council meeting following the Congregation meeting was to elect new Council officers. Margie Reed, President; Pat Benchik, Vice President and Secretary, Janet Conlon comprise the Council and Executive Committees. Todd Bramley continues to serve as Church Treasurer.
- Long time Communications Director Nancy Morrison retired after many years of service to COH and Ross Langford was hired to fill the position of Director of Communications.

August 16, 2022

- The Council approved the hiring of Courtney Knutilla as the new Preschool Director; Pat Mohr-Kelly, librarian and Julie Martin, lunch manager.

September 20, 2022

- Each year, beginning in May, the Employee Manual is updated. This is to ensure that all of our employees have the latest guidelines necessary to answer their employment questions. This was accomplished and the final copy was approved at the September meeting and distributed to all employees.
- The Council accepted the resignation of Council member, Sharon Halstead, who moved out of state.

October 18, 2022

- The School Ministry Team meets each Tuesday of the month to discuss items pertinent to running a successful preschool and elementary school. They also prepare any requests that need to be approved by the Council. Margie Reed will be the Council representative and attend the meetings.

- There was a brief conversation of Pastor's Sabbatical and how to prepare for it. Further discussion and planning are anticipated.
- Conversation and approval for Pastor Adam's health insurance needs.

November 15, 2022

- Elementary School tuition will remain unchanged for the 2023-2024 school year.
- The Outreach Ministry will organize and host a blood drive in the early spring.
- Los Posadas is scheduled for December 14, 2022, with a potluck dinner and a mariachi band.
- Pastor Adam delivered a detailed report of Tithing and Stewardship and end of year gift appeal to support the ministries of Cross of Hope.
- Annual stewardship campaign with a January 15, 2023, anticipated start date.

January 17, 2023

- The School Ministry Team is working with the Church Council to pursue new accreditation for both Preschool and Elementary School that will continue to improve our education system and attract more families to our Church. They also presented marketing plans to promote the school and inform the community about the excellent education ministry of COH.
- At the same time, complementing marketing strategies were developed to welcome new people to our Church community and increase community awareness about Cross of Hope.
- The Council compiled input from staff, and council and Congregation members to evaluate Pastor Adam, reflect on his almost 8 years of leadership at Cross of Hope Church, provide him performance feedback, and facilitate discussion that will look into his goals and our future together.
- The need for repairs in and around the church and school was open for discussion. They include a new roof over the admin offices and the alcove, damaged ceiling tiles need replacement, plumbing issues need to be resolved, the preschool playground structure needs repair and the area behind the altar on the outside of the church needs wood repair. The Council approved a motion of allocating an amount, not to exceed \$25,000 and repairs will be done by the end of March 2023

February 21, 2023

- Debra Alba gave a school update and shared information about the success of the Open House held this month. Online registration for current students opened on February 13, 2023, and registration for the 2023-2024 school year is definitely under way.
- Pastor Adam updated the Council on the progress of the Stewardship and Tithing Campaigns that began on Commitment Sunday.
- Pastor Adam provided the Council with his Sabbatical Planning Guide. The dates are June 3-July 29, 2023. Margie Reed and Sherrie Simek are heading up the team for all of the necessary coverage during Pastor Adam's Sabbatical.

March 28, 2023

- The school requested two additional financial incentives be included in the update to the Employee Manual (2023-2024). They are: \$300 sibling discount for second and third child enrolled at Cross of Hope school and \$100 incentive for referral of a

student to Cross of Hope school. After a review and discussion, the request was approved.

April 18, 2023

- Debra Alba presented the teaching staff with a letter of intent to return for the 2023-2024 school year. Responses will be returned to Debra.
- Sabbatical – Margie Reed and Sherrie Simek updated the Council on the Pastoral coverage to be provided by Pastor Russ Sorensen and Pastor Rick Alpers. Pastoral care for Sunday services home visits, hospital visits, funerals, etc. will be provided by Pastor Russ during June and Pastor Rick during July. Anyone in need of Pastoral Care should contact the office for assistance. There will be a Council member present before, during and after each Sunday Service to be of assistance to the Pastor or answer any questions by our community.
- Wednesday evening activities and Daily devotions are cancelled for the summer.
- Summer Service schedule begins the first Sunday in June (Worship: 9:00am Outdoor; 10:45am Indoor)
- Election of current COH Council members and election of two new members to be held Sunday, May 7, 2023, at the Congregation Meeting.
- Debra Alba presented the Council with her resignation as Director of School Ministries effective June 30, 2023. The School Ministry Team will begin developing a job description for the position which will be reviewed by the Council.

The current Cross of Hope Council consists of Margie Reed, Pat Benchik, Janet Conlon, Tim Fuller, Kathy Gorman, Sherrie Simek, Kristi Valdez, Pastor Adam Berndt and Todd Bramley, Church Treasurer. If you would like to know more about the outcome of the meetings, minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside of the office or you may contact one of the Council members.

Linda Willoughby, Church Administrator

At Cross of Hope Church and School I work directly with Pastor Adam Berndt (my supervisor), Margie Reed - Council President, Pat Benchik, Property Director, Rudy and Sherrie Simek, Property Assistants, Executive Team, staff, and volunteers. The volunteers we currently utilize are called and scheduled by the job.

Core Church and School Staff: Adam Berndt - Pastor; Linda Willoughby - Church Administrator; Ross Langford – Communications Director; Debra Alba - Director of School Ministry, Brianne Mares – Bookkeeper/Payroll Clerk.

Computer backups for the Church and School: Our server is backed up to the Cloud, the service company is called Crash Plan. This is maintained through the guidance of outside consultant source Stephen Moeny, SETMO, Inc.

Crossofhope.org website – Our website platform which premiered in April 2018. The website is monitored by Real Time Solutions through the guidance of a COH Web Team. Ross Langford, COH Communications Director, manages the website internally.

Contribution Maintenance

Weekly Counters: Rudy Simek, Margie Reed, Sherrie Simek, Sylvia Oelsner, Marcella Johnson.

Data Entry Office Volunteers: Margie Reed, Sylvia Oelsner, and Sherrie Simek enter contributions into the Shepherd's Staff every week. John Lacher, Contribution Secretary, enters pledges, provides reports to the Council and contribution statements to the congregation.

Fire Sprinklers, Fire Extinguishers and Building Inspections of the Church and School: The church administrator schedules the inspections to be done in July with Western State Fire Protection. The Church Administrator or Property Assistant walks through the facility with the team logging any issues we might need to address. Volunteers, Rudy and Sherrie Simek run monthly fire drills and quarterly lock downs for the school, they also check and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, AEI monitor, fire extinguisher levels.

Electronic Marquee Sign: The Church Administrator maintains the electronic Marquee Sign with special announcements, school registration notices, service schedules.

Rays of Hope Team – The Planning Team is Lynne Bagby, Managing Editor, and editors: Forrest Uppendahl, Mary Bresnahan and Linda Willoughby. The team meets at the beginning of each month to plan for next month's journal issue. We discuss and schedule current events, articles, and deadlines. Before print release we review the

layout, edit drafts, and try to adhere to the scheduled web posting and printing dates. The Rays of Hope is put on the website and emailed to the congregation and schools with an attached link. Printed copies are mailed to the homebound, additional prints are made for those without email for pickup and for visitors.

Welcome Desk Volunteers: Laura Benchik, Cheri Sorensen, Forrest Uppendahl, Florence Begay, John McWilliam, David Bagby, Gretchen Comfort, Beth Christians, Sheri Phillips, Lynne Bagby, Margie Reed.

At Cross of Hope there are many ministry opportunities. Cross of Hope is a wonderful place to build relationships and to grow in Christ. It is a rich blessing to serve here amongst the many resources people offer.

We are a blessed congregation and have much to be thankful for.

On a special note, thank you to the church and school community for your love and support in December during the short illness and at the death of my husband Jeff. I feel your prayers and am comforted to know that my friends are beside me. Also, at his Celebration of Life it was wonderful to have so many COH friends at the service.

Continuing In His Service,

Linda Willoughby, Church Administrator

Thomas Ropp, Director of Music Ministries

Since I started my position a year and a half ago, our music at Cross of Hope has grown in several ways.

This year especially I have focused on planning and preparation to make sure that our musicians and staff feel comfortable with the musical aspect of each service. Starting in January, I was planning the Easter service, and we currently have songs and services planned out until Pentecost Sunday.

Our Voices of Hope choir, which sings in the 8:30am services throughout the school year has had a very successful season. We've gained two new members since this past year, further filling out our soprano section. We have provided the musical offering two to three times each month during the year, and with an additional anthem into the summer. Voices of Hope has also worked with other instrumentalists to bring flute, oboe, and cello into our anthems. During Christmas time, we provided an anthem as well as lead the congregation in carols and hymns in conjunction with a brass quartet. During the easter season, Voices of Hope also provided a cantata for Palm/Passion Sunday, as well as music for Good Friday and Easter. "Cross of Hope", a piece written for the combined forces of Voices of Hope and the Praise Team will see a return at Pentecost, and the two groups will also be joined by Surgite Dance company.

The Praise Team has also been working hard and it continues to show. We have increased our number of rehearsals from once per month to twice per month, allowing us to rehearse for specific Sundays more effectively. I have also created an official drive in which each member can access annotated music for each piece, along with additional resources such as listening links, and information about the song. We joined a number of other praise teams to put together the second West-Side music festival, and we are actively looking forward to the next. This season also saw the return of the McClain family to singing with the team, along with two possible musicians (one guitar player and one vocalist) who are interested in joining us.

Finally, we also have had members of the congregation join us with their musical gifts. Martha Hughes has provided her musical talents on oboe, and Keri Sutter with her voice. I myself have also provided a number of pieces for horn and piano. This year, Rick Alpers has also provided us with his gifts on violin and viola. Rich Neely also lent his vocal talents to leading a service outdoors, and we have had a number of variety services including jazz and Dixieland. Beyond services, a small group known as the Banner Boys returned this year to sing beach boys songs for the Banner Babes fundraiser. My family's brass quartet (Mike, Susan, Kate and Thomas Ropp) has also provided offerings and accompaniment within the services and is sometimes joined by Pastor Adam on Tuba! I also worked with Beverly, the musical director at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church to include Brass within their Easter Vigil service this year.

I am incredibly grateful to our member's time and talent throughout the year, and I am looking forward to another music-filled year with Cross of Hope. I cannot wait to see what new horizons and growth await us as we continue our journey.

Education

Cross of Hope School Ministry



Cross of Hope School is a welcoming Christ centered community providing high quality education in a nurturing environment that respects each child's development.

Throughout the academic year there's constant activity in our classrooms, hallways, playground, great hall, and sanctuary. Our students are so kind, generous, loving, energetic, and their minds are so curious! They have so much to learn and so much to teach us! Even though set routines are established in each classroom not a single day is ever the same. There's always room for nuance and the unexpected movement of the Holy Spirit!

This year we celebrated the hiring of our new Preschool Director, Courtney Knutilla. She has effortlessly transitioned into her new role, after teaching at Cross of Hope preschool for the past seven years.

We've also celebrated the following new hires this year:

- Preschool Teacher – Lori Braunhardt
- Librarian – Pat Mohr Kelly
- Lunch Manager – Julie Martin
- Arts & Culture – Carly Haynes
- UNM PE – Alex Kurtzman

Each of these individuals has been an amazing addition to our team. We are so fortunate they can share their gifts and talents with us.

This year, after parents expressed interest, we began working with a local catering company, Rhubarb & Elliott, to provide hot lunches to our students. This partnership has been a tremendous success and the food gets a high rating from everyone who tries it!

We are now completing our 2nd successful year working with UNM's Physical Education department. Our agreement with UNM provides us with two doctoral students to teach our elementary students PE twice a week. Both Coach Vasquez and Coach Alex have become a very special part of our community.

A special elementary highlight this year has been our Friday Fun Days! We've been able to offer three different after-school activities for our students, Art & Culture, Learner's Chess Club and The Sports School. Every Friday we have at least 30 students staying after school to participate in one of these fun activities.

Our preschool families have enjoyed a full year of fun activities including the cherished Christmas Program, Mother's Day Teas, and Donuts for Dads.

We've also enjoyed several school wide community activities this year; Albuquerque Aloft, a Dessert Gathering, Las Posadas and in just two weeks we'll all celebrate our Last Day of School with a festive party!

It has been an honor to serve as the Director of School Ministry at Cross of Hope Church and School these past five years. Thank you for your love and encouragement as I transition into God's continued call into rostered ministry.

Peace, Debra Uppendahl-Alba

Making Faith Connections with Friends, Faith and Everyday Life!

Pastor Russ Sorensen



Friends+Faith+Everyday Life
COH Small Group Ministry

The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections Groups

- To provide an opportunity for all people
- To share Christ's love and authentic community
- In a small group setting where lives are transformed through growth in faith and service to others.

In the witness of the early church, what did it look like to be strengthened in faith and everyday life? In the familiar "Walk to Emmaus" passage in Luke 24:13-35, we read that it looked like a surprising Easter encounter by the risen Christ to bring hope to disciples struggling with their own loss of hope.

It came through...

- Words shared on a familiar road when eyes were clouded with tears.
- Care from a stranger who listened intently to their broken dreams and their longing to understand...even one who would listen to their deepest disappointments... "But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel!"
- The guidance of this new stranger who somehow cast new light on the hope filled words of scripture and the full picture of God's love and mission.
- This stranger, becoming a road companion and friend who responded to the invitation to come into their home and eat with them, at their ordinary table that fed their family and other guests.
- The breaking of bread in their home, that opened their eyes to recognize the presence of the living, love of God through Christ with the words "this is my body, given for you", present and active on the road, sharing everyday life, in the midst of good days and bad, no matter how we feel, opening scriptures, hearts warmed with hope and a hunger to share the Easter good news with others.
- The community life of the early church where we hear in Acts 2:42, "They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers."

So, how does this translate into our life and times through the mission of Cross of Hope and Making Faith Connections groups? Making Faith Connections is all about deepening faith and relationships with God and one another. It is about eyes being opened as we listen to God and each other. It is about breaking bread together and revealing the hope we share each day as we love and serve others. It is about having an opportunity to carry our worship experience and study of scripture with us every week as we explore new ways to put that faith into action.

It has been and continues to be an honor to work in partnership with a wonderful gift of Facilitators and supporters for this effort over the past three years! We thank Pastor Adam for coming up with the focus questions every week and for Rich Neely, John Valdez, Jan Wormwood, Sheri Phillips, Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly, Lois Caipen, Jan Anderson and for others in the groups who have faithfully stepped up to the need as Facilitators through this year.

Overall, this year we now have 67 participants in the Making Faith Connections groups. With the changing needs and natural adjustments of the groups, through adding new participants and sharing travel blessings for folks moving out of town, we have actually grown from the original 50 participants last year. The flexible nature of the Sunday morning and Wednesday night formats have encouraged more people to be involved.

We also thank Pastor Rick Alpers and Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly for providing additional Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Bible study options this last year. How can Making Faith Connections expand to provide more opportunities for growing in faith and life together through Cross of Hope? Perhaps we can provide even more special focused Bible studies or other ways of reaching out to address the spiritual and community building needs in our neighborhood? Give it some thought and prayer. I would love to hear your ideas and to talk with you about the possibilities!

With Grace and Peace,

Pastor Russ Sorensen

Cross of Hope Youth

Nancy Lacher, Youth Ministry Lead and Rowynn Adams, Youth Ministry Assistant Lead

Cross of Hope Youth are active and doing well. Over the past year, our youth have been working on service projects with other ELCA youth from around the city. We have prepared the Tres Hermanas fields, served at Mandy's Farms, learned about food insecurity, participated in an activity to experience blindness, among other service-learning projects. By participating in these projects our youth have built relationships with youth across the city, served and helped those in need, and learning that loving God involves loving your neighbor. We also were able to provide babysitting for families who needed to do some Christmas shopping.

We did some group experiences to build our fellowship with each other. We did the splatter paint room, played games together, went to events like soccer games. We participated in weekly activities at our Camp at Cross of Hope including worshipping together in a camp like atmosphere, did some Bible studies, talked about our faith, and shared questions and struggles with each other.

Through it all, our youth have grown in their faith and learned that loving God transforms relationships. We are learning to live into the Cross of Hope mission together.

***Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares
Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to
develop and strengthen relationships with God.***

In His Service,

Nancy Lacher

Outreach Ministry

Property Manager, Pat Benchik

What is property management?

The property in Property Management consists of anything and everything that is owned by the congregation to assist the Church in glorifying God.

The Church is it's people.

Cross of Hope Church represents it's people.

The Church property is a place where God dwells with his people.

It is our place to come together and praise and serve God, and love and care for one another.

The Property Management Team oversees the buildings and grounds.

This team's purpose is all about the place. Our place should be welcoming, comfortable, maintained, repaired and constantly improving as it supports our combined faith.

"Property" in Property Management is the sanctuary, the meeting spaces, kitchen areas, offices, classrooms, bathrooms, plumbing, heating and cooling systems.

Property is the lights, floor coverings, ceilings, furniture, phones, copiers, and computer systems.

Property is the Cross at our front entrance, awnings, message sign, bannisters, accessibility, parking, landscaping, irrigation, security, safety and alarms.

The phrase "if it's broken, fix it" is the day to day call of property management.

Our goal is to create a positive environment and a quality place for congregating and spreading the word of God.

Our Church Administrator Linda Willoughby is responsible for Cross of Hope's Property Management Team. Linda relies on Pastor Adam and Church Council for support and direction. Linda oversees the vendors who clean our buildings. She is responsible for the contractors who maintain our sprinklers, phones and computer systems. She manages the scheduling for property matters.

The rest of the Property Management Team are volunteer congregation members and spouses who manage and continuously improve our property.

Margie Reed seeks out property deficiencies and opportunities and manages the "task list".

Rudy and Sherrie Simek care for the landscaping and grounds. They weed, rake, trim,

and repair everything outside, including the irrigation system. They also oversee our safety systems.

John Lacher assists in managing the grounds and irrigation. John services the copiers, and he does light electrical and maintains the lights, fixtures, bulbs, ballasts and timers. Our Temple Guards are Ron Cordova, Rudy Simek, John Lacher, John Valdez, and Doug Perry. They check the property and secure the building every evening. Bob and Margie Reed are a handy duo who repair it, fix it, build it, paint it, and hang it as needed during weekend hours.

Roy Pederson and Dave Comfort are on-call for plumbing and quick fix it jobs.

Pat Benchik coordinates agreements and relations for our specialty contractor group that provides services such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing, paving, locks, floors, gutters and roofing.

Lois Caipen coordinates our Scout Ministry with Boy Scout Troop 126 and Cub Scout Troop 12 that brings over 25 scouts and family members to help during our twice a year property clean ups and property projects.

This past year has brought several major Property Management projects including

- * Installing new spinners, moving play structures, and enhancing the safety of our playground equipment,

- * adding interior and exterior window shading and new floors in preschool building,

- * replacing roof over administration offices,

- * rerouting roof gutters,

- * improving access to cottonwood lawn, and

- * repairing eaves over the Sanctuary windows.

Dreaming continues about possible future improvement projects that include, but are not limited to

- * kitchen remodeling with laundry room,

- * improving administrative offices and meeting areas,

- * installing solar panels, and

- * developing a columbarium garden area.

Property management is a 24 hour a day activity.

Our Property Management Team works for Cross of Hope to honor God and preserve the wonderful resource that has been bestowed on our Church community.

Hospitality and Care Ministry (CTM)

July 1, 2022 to May 7, 2023

This year the Care Ministry of COH split into two teams to reflect the different missions of the two entities.

1. Hospitality Team - tasked with planning, hosting, providing, and serving food and beverages, greeting participants, and cleanup for events. There are 28 active, enthusiastic, and generous members. They are always ready to answer calls for help and have also been willing to teach me the ropes in this, my first year as Coordinator.

2. Care Team - tasked with providing transportation and emergency meals to those in need of these services. There are 9 active team members who are ready and willing to provide meals and transportation. Fall of 2023 we will be expanding the reach of services to include the COH school families. We are always working to bring in more team volunteers.

Hospitality in 2022-2023	Celebration of Pastor Appreciation Month and Pasto Adam's Birthday.
There was a total of 12 memorials.	Confirmation reception honoring confirmands .
Special events included: COH 40th Anniversary Celebration	Las Posadas
Ice Cream Social for school and church	Community Potlucks – two
Reception honoring Nancy Morrison's years of service	Fellowship for congregation on Easter
Celebration of 90+ birthdays among the congregation	Multiple meals were provided for two people over the course of a couple of weeks.
Balloon launch.	Transportation was provided to two people.

Going forward, our Hospitality and Care Teams are ready to continue providing service and love to COH. It is a privilege to be working with the amazing people who comprise these teams.

Submitted ,by- Claudia Russo, Care Team Ministry Coordinator

Family Promise of Albuquerque (FPA) at Cross Of Hope

FPA is part of an International Interfaith Program. Cross of Hope has participated for eight of the 30 years Family Promise of Albuquerque has been here.

Twenty-two Ecumenical Churches help the Social Worker, and two case workers, assist potentially homeless or currently homeless families. There are no new posted stats available on the current web site. The mission is to help these families through crisis phases and toward sustained independent living. This program accesses available community and government agencies in order to help these families get control of their lives and to regain some hope and dignity. The static site plan has greatly assisted the congregational support. We now only need to provide two Hosts five evenings a week for two hours, hot meals six evenings a week, groceries to compliment the current pantry and some smiles and hopefulness when the opportunity is opened by the families. This last March hosting, one mom agreed we could give her child turning 11 a gift! He was so excited! It was such a joy to share cake and dance with him!

The renovations are truly going to begin soon. The County Commission voted to provide FPA 1.5 mil. so now there are definite plans being finalized (which must be approved by the city who delegates the money). The FP Social Worker director is working diligently and persistently to get the approvals needed every step of the way, she is so patient. The site is 1516 San Pedro NE. The current static site has been graciously provided by Montgomery Church of Christ.

We served three families in both August of 2022 and March of 2023 six adults and thirteen children. There are still families served who are not in the shelter part of the program that gets our attention. No stats are available to mention. **Our Next Hosting Is August 6-13, 2023.**

Please, help me in giving **many thanks** to Lois and Terry Caipen who have helped FP since 2021 but are now moving away. I **welcome** Glenna Meneely who will assist COH continuing doing God's work with our hands and feet.

COH congregation has been very generous with sharing their gifts of time, talents, and donations of goods and home furniture and monetary donations. Each Hosting has been successfully covered and more! Thank you for your graciousness! This April's SWEET JAZZ fundraiser has sold out!! Awesome!!!

Respectfully submitted, Jan Anderson and Lois Caipen

Cross of Hope Outreach Team

When the COH Outreach Team first met August 29, 2022, Pastor Adam reminded us of our mission: "Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God." He then quoted Jesus' words from Matt 25:35-36: "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." The team, after focusing on those words, came up with some guiding principles. We focus our outreach activities on these needs: Hunger and Basic needs (shelter, food, water and care). Our hope is that through our outreach opportunities we will provide systemic changes rather than just charity.

This year, starting in February, the Outreach Team has sponsored and will continue to sponsor opportunities for COH members to reach out to our neighbors in many ways.

Hunger: Our desire is to provide the collected items to the Rio Grande Food Bank to be distributed to a variety of people. These outreach efforts will continue in the future, also.

- The Super Bowl Food Drive
- Rio Grande Food Bank Food Drive
- Mail Carrier Food Drive.

Basic Needs: Basic Needs come in a variety of ways.

- Blood Drive
- Family Promise: providing food, support and a friendly face to families who are transitioning into a new chapter in their lives.
- Angel Tree Ministry: Providing a connection between an incarcerated Mom or Dad and their children at Christmas Time
- NMRamp Project: Providing free ramps for older adults and people with mobility issues across NM.
- Special Olympics: volunteering at Track meet, Bocce ball competition, and Bowling.
- COH School Service Project: Collecting travel size soaps, shampoos, conditioners, toothbrushes, toothpaste, single size crackers and juice boxes/pouches to be distributed to those in need throughout our community.
- COH/Rainbow Trail VBS at COH June 12-16. A team from Rainbow Trails Lutheran Bible Camp will come from Colorado to work with COH volunteers to lead a VBS experience for our youth.
- COH Special Needs VBS in July, 24-28. Providing a day camp experience. Volunteers are always needed.

If you are interested in volunteering at future events, contact COH office.
We are always looking for people who would like to work with our team to provide opportunities for outreach in our neighborhood and other places. Contact one of the team members.

Thank you for your continued support,
Pastor Adam, Kathy Gorman, Cheri Sorensen

COAST Crises Outreach and Support Team

Thank you, Cross of Hope Church and School, for your continuous support to the COAST fund. Since May 31, 2022, through April 25, 2023, you have contributed to the needs of your community with \$950.00 in gas cards and \$75.00 in Walmart cards to those in dire need as requested by COAST officers. This includes Albuquerque Community Safety, St. Martin's, Hope Works, and Coalition for the Homeless.

The COAST program is funded and operates through the City of Albuquerque. The COAST Officers representing the west side of Albuquerque are Officers Celina Lopez, Yvette Garcia, and Lisa Chavez.

Submitted by Linda Willoughby

Scouts BSA

Thank you to Cross of Hope for sponsoring Troop 126 of Scouts BSA for many years. We also thank our Church Council for agreeing to sponsor Cub Scout Pack 12 beginning in January 2023!

The last 12 months, we have seen a lot of changes. We took the advice of the youth and added more fun to our excellent Troop program, explored new options for Eagle service projects, engaged our parents more, and began strategies to strengthen our connection to the Elementary age Cub Scouts, Family Pack 12. Cub Scouts and younger parents just naturally add a lot of energy, and we are enjoying working with them.

Speaking of energy, we are pleased to announce that Gary Warner is our new liaison between Cross Of Hope and both Scouting units. I have delighted in serving for many years, but have moved to Cortez, CO. Please show Gary the same wonderful support you have given me, our Pack, and our Troop.

While wrapped in a fun package, everything the Pack and Troop does contributes to the

Scout Mission, which is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices throughout their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

Thank you Cross of Hope!!!

Lois Caipen, old Charter Organization Representative
Gary Warner, new Charter Organization Representative
Robert Landon, Cubmaster
Greg Vaughn, Scoutmaster

Women On Wednesday (WOW)

In connection with the church's mission statement, "Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God." During this past session we discussed the "good" women of the Bible and in our own lives.

Every session a different WOW woman presented information on a good Biblical woman and then discussed the good women in our own lives and how they impacted us. We learned much about Biblical women and even more about each other and those who changed our lives.

Through the collection of the Least Coin Offering Women on Wednesday provided \$888.21 toward the Good Samaritan Fund, and special requests including helping church member Alan Johnson with needed clothes for his move to Taos and then flowers for his memorial.

Women on Wednesday is an exciting opportunity for all women to enjoy fellowship and interaction with one another and God's Word, resuming in the fall of 2023 when we will discuss the impact of specific Bible verses on our lives. – Submitted by Kathy Gorman

Finance
Balance Sheet (March 31, 2023)

COH Year to Date Budget Report

Account Name	Year to date 2022-2023		Difference
	Actual	Budget	
Church Revenue	\$ 365,696.20	\$ 398,251.60	\$ (32,555.40)
Tithes, Offerings, Donations, Restricted Donations and Other Income			
School Ministry Revenue	\$ 503,517.00	\$ 434,955.30	\$ 68,561.70
Tuition, Reg Fee, Instructional Mat Fee, Scholarships, After School Care and Fundraisers			
Total Revenue	\$ 869,213.20	\$ 833,206.90	\$ 36,006.30

Account Name	Year to date 2022-2023		
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Employee Expenses and Taxes	\$ 541,394.18	\$ 597,617.50	\$ (56,223.32)
Building, Utilities and Maintenance	\$ 169,832.98	\$ 163,970.90	\$ 5,000.58
Worship Resources and Operating Supplies	\$ 41,440.19	\$ 45,166.70	\$ (3,726.51)
Training, Advertising and other Expenses	\$ 24,708.02	\$ 20,708.10	\$ 3,999.92
Ministries, Youth, ELCA and Events	\$ 30,394.80	\$ 29,125.10	\$ 1,269.70
Total Expenses	\$ 807,770.17	\$ 856,588.30	\$ (48,818.13)

This is the 1st 10 months of the current Fiscus year (July 1st through June 30th)
Note that the Budget year will shift to September to better plan for spending after the school year has started.

Balance Sheet as of 03/31/2023		
Account Number	Account Name	Amount
Assets		
Cash		
10210	COH General Checking - USBank	\$268,315.21
Total for 10210 - COH General Checking - USBank		\$268,315.21
10230	COH Good Sam/COAST USBank	\$6,034.70
10240	COH Building Fund Ck-USBank	\$6,678.07
11100	COH Savings - General USEagle	\$5.00
11120	COH MIF Property Improvement	\$69,969.64
11190	COH EJones Investment	\$269,879.25
Total for 11190 - COH EJones Investment		\$269,879.25
11320	ES USEagle CDs	\$1,599.07
11510	PS USEagle CDs	\$536.32
11700	COH HeBrews Drawer	\$420.60
Total Cash		\$623,437.86
Accounts Receivable		
12100	Cost Share Receivable	\$2,999.88
Total Accounts Receivable		\$2,999.88
Other Current Assets		
12700	Prepaid UNM Teachers	\$3,621.00
Total Other Current Assets		\$3,621.00
Fixed Assets		
15500	Buildings	\$1,491,015.50
15700	Furniture, Fixtures Equipment	\$50,780.08
15800	Land	\$182,532.18
Total Fixed Assets		\$1,724,327.76
Accumulated Depreciation		
16000	Acc Depreciation - Building	\$-722,015.78
Total Accumulated Depreciation		\$-722,015.78
Total Assets		\$1,632,370.72
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
23330	ER Sponsored Health Ins	\$20,313.30
23360	Insurance - Disability & Life	\$318.08
24400	Accrued Housing Payable	\$210.00
24600	Accrued Pay Payable	\$513.71
Total Accounts Payable		\$21,355.09
Other Current Liabilities		

24000	Deferred Tuition 2022/2023	\$39,029.75
24100	Deferred Registration	\$2,370.00
24200	Deferred Instructional Materials Fee	\$14,280.00
25400	Passthrough Account	\$96.00
25420	Due to RMS Benevolence	\$275.00
25440	Due to Boys Scouts	\$195.20
Total Other Current Liabilities		\$56,245.95
Long Term Liabilities		
27010	Mortgage Payable	\$525,294.50
Total Long Term Liabilities		\$525,294.50
Short Term Liabilities		
26600	U.S. Bank Community Visa	\$409.95
Total Short Term Liabilities		\$409.95
Total Liabilities		\$603,305.49
Equity		
Church		
30000	Church - General Fund	\$514,606.09
30001	Church - Good Samaritan Fund	\$6,425.14
30002	Church - Scholarship Fund	\$202.14
30008	Church - Music Gifts Fund	\$544.42
30009	Church - Banner Babes Fund	\$4,740.92
30017	Church - Family Promise Ministry Fund	\$3,209.61
30020	Church - Building Fund	\$61,446.31
30021	Church - Youth Fund	\$4,565.68
30022	Church - COH Endowment Fund	\$3,435.45
Total Church		\$599,175.76
Elementary School		
30024	ES - General Fund	\$227,109.32
Total Elementary School		\$227,109.32
Preschool		
30025	Preschool - General Fund	\$191,176.38
30026	ES - Scholarship Fund Fund Balance	\$11,603.77
Total Preschool		\$202,780.15
Total Equity		\$1,029,065.23
Total Liabilities + Total Equity		\$1,632,370.72