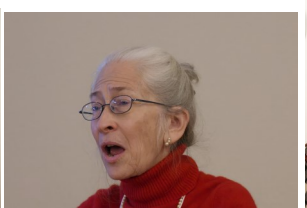


Merry Christmas! Joyful New Year! Worship this Christmas was a great blessing. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way to give shape and voice to the Holy Spirit flowing through Cross of Hope as we celebrated the birth of Jesus. I pray that you continue to know God's peace and love through this community of faith as we journey into this new year.

Peace, Pr. Adam

*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us,
authority rest upon his shoulders,
and he is to be named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*



Cross of Hope School

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School
 6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
 Albuquerque, NM 87120
 Phone Number: (505) 897-0047
 E-mail: office@crossofhope.org
 On the web at: www.crossofhope.org
cohcouncil@crossofhope.org



2022-2023
 Class Mission Statements

This Journal of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church is published each month for the enrichment of the mission ("Loving God • Transforming Relationships • Serving Others"), for the life of the people of God at Cross of Hope and our community.

Pastor: Rev. R. Adam Berndt
 Production Editor: Lynne Bagby
 Editorial Staff: Beth Cretsinger
 Forrest Uppendahl
 Linda Willoughby
 Columnists: Pastor Russ Sorensen
 Contributors: The Church Mouse
 Reporter and Writer: Mary Bresnahan
 Photographers: Jan Anderson,
 Florence Begay
 Greg and Nancy Morrison,
 Council Communication: Margie Reed-President
 Pat Benchik-Vice President

Kindergarten
 We are Kindergarteners trusting in God to help us make choices that help us be fabulous problem solvers and be good friends. We will learn, laugh, and pray every day.

1st/2nd Grade
 We are excited, curious, and kind First and Second grade Roadrunners! We come to school every day ready to listen and learn. We love God and Jesus with our whole heart. By showing respect, kindness, and care for others we will have a happy and joyful class.

2nd Grade
 We are a class of 'Caring Coyotes' who are friends, kind, and helpful. We come to school to learn about God and to have fun!

3rd/4th Grade
 The 3rd /4th grade class tries our best each day as we learn school subjects and about God. We work hard and learn and grow through our relationship with Jesus.

4th/Fifth Grade
 The 4th-5th grade class sets an example for others by always being helpful and encouraging. We are a class of confident students who try new things and never give up!

School continued page 3

WE WANT YOUR NEWS ITEMS
 Deadline is 10th of the month for the following month's edition. Send E-mail articles to office@crossofhope.org or deliver to church office.

School Online Registration

Tuition for the 2022-2023 School Year

Elementary Tuition
 Kindergarten - 5th grade: \$7,075
Preschool Tuition
 T/TH: \$2,290
 M/W/F: \$3,430
 M-F \$5,720
 For more information:

<https://www.crossofhope.org/schools>
 or contact Debra Alba (505) 897-0047, ext. 110

Stewardship
 Stewardship involves your time, talent and treasure. Contact the church office for assistance in getting started in any of our ministries. Please remember Cross of Hope in preparing your will.

Cross of Hope School

Students were busy in the month of December learning and preparing the way for the miracle of Jesus' birth. New playground equipment added more excitement to their Christmas excitement!

School continued from page 2



Row photos courtesy of Florence Begay



Row photos courtesy of Debra Alba and Joy Thornhill

Angel Tree



This year, Cross of Hope adopted four families connected with Albuquerque Public Schools, Title 1 Project (Homeless Project). Every year I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our congregation, but this year absolutely blew my socks off. These families were in need of clothes, toys for their kids, groceries, gift cards for propane to heat their house and cook, etc. Cross of Hope came through in huge ways. One family was blessed with enough grocery gift cards to feed their family of 8 for an entire month, while another will be able to afford propane through at least January, possibly even February.

In addition, I had to buy extra bags to load all the toys and clothes for each of the kids – what a wonderful problem! They were all provided with brand new super warm jackets and amazing new shoes – not to mention new clothes and brand new socks and underwear. I wish there were words more powerful than “Thank you”! Together, we purchased more than 100 gifts for these families and provided support in a very meaningful way.

There are already plans in the works for Cross of Hope to partner with COH Elementary School next year to serve even more families.

Thank you all for making that possible.
Deney Perkins



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.

Special Blessings for all as we conclude the Advent season and the season of Christmas! This is a great time to celebrate the gift of God’s love and joy born in the midst of our world. Emmanuel, God is with us!

During these days may God bless your families, friendships, times together in worship and Making Faith Connections groups! Some of our groups may chose to gather for a special fellowship time, or just make a point of being with one another for worship at Cross of Hope.

We invite you to look forward to our next Cross of Hope worship and small group series starting the week of January 8, 2023! This Epiphany series will focus on the revealing of God’s hope and blessing for the world in our time.

Look for more information on this new Epiphany series in the weekly Hope Filled Happenings.

Peace and Joy!
Pastor Russ and Pastor Adam

Sunday AM Classes

- Childcare (age 0-10) 8:50am - noon Rm 115 (Florence Begay)
- K—5th Grade 10-10:30am Rm 203 (Nancy Lacher)
- MidHigh and SHY 10 - 10:45am Rm 304 (Rowynn Adams)

Luther House



UNM’s Lutheran Community

Please visit our website at www.LutherHouseNM.org. to read about what is happening on the UNM Campus. Join us on Wednesdays at 5pm for a meal and fellowship. We would love to get to know you!

Consider supporting us financially.. You can donate directly to Luther House on our website, or send a check to Lutheran Campus Ministries of NM, Inc. 1805 Las Lomas Rd NE Albuquerque, NM. 87106

Las Posadas Celebration

What a celebration we had! Cross of Hope students and youth performed a re-enactment of the Biblical story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem in search of "Las Posadas" the night before our Savior's birth. The Church and community came together to enter in communion with one another in celebration of Christ's birth. The community was able to enjoy enchiladas, posole, beans, and cookies. The children took part in the breaking of the piñata.



Photos courtesy of 3MorrPhotos

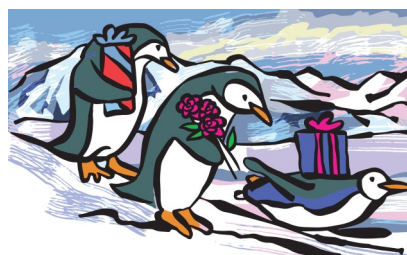


JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Carly Adams	4
Anthony Rivera	7
Susan Strand	7
Rosemary Neely	7
Alec Bramley	12
Benjamin Diehl	12
Susan Ropp	12
Nick Neely	13
Barbara J Owens	14
Emily O’Roark	16
Tarra Toledo	17
Curtis Case	18
Emily Walter	18
Debbie Bokan	19
Cheri Sorensen	21
Silas Toledo	21
Victoria Jahn	24
Don Cretsinger	26
Ava Venegas	26
Joseph Poyner	27
Haden Yost	27
Kiersten Hielkema	29

Address and Phone Updates

Sylvia Oelsner
 7353 Ticonderoga Rd NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87109



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

	Day	Years Married
Dale and Shirley McCan	1	28
John and Kristi Valdez	20	6
Jahn and Barbara Wright	27	54

From the family of Ruth Franz:

We are so thankful to all of you who prayed for us, sent cards, hugged, provided flowers and memorials, and in every way supported us during our Mom’s final days and after her passing to heaven. The Body of Christ truly has embraced us through this time of mourning. Thank you all.

I will give thanks
to the Lord
 with my whole heart;
 I will recount all of your
 wonderful deeds.

Psalm 9:1



Members of COH unable to worship with us on a regular basis.



Heart Strings

Herb Delker
6404 Santolina Dr NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Carroll Werling
2331 Westside Blvd SE #202
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Karen Reiten
899-1504
4841 Shin Avenue NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

Bobbi Dopslaf
10400 Universe Blvd. NW
Apt 815
Albuquerque, NM 87114

Dale and Edee Bauer
4905 Wagon Mound Trail NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

John Fries
Gardens - Retreat Villas
Assisted Living
4100 Jackie Road SE, #15
Rio Rancho, NM 87124



Cross of Hope member, Patrick McNealy died December 3, 2022. His funeral was held on Monday, December 12, 2022. Please keep Jeanette, Miranda, Mikayla, and family in prayer.

Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.



Send cards to:

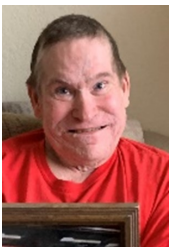
Jeanette McNealy and Family
6405 Whiteman Drive NW
Albuquerque. NM 87129



Cross of Hope member Carol Russell died December 11, 2022. She was a beloved member of our COH family.

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Information on arrangements is upcoming and will be in the Hope Filled Happenings.



Cross of Hope member Alan Johnson died December 16, 2022.

Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

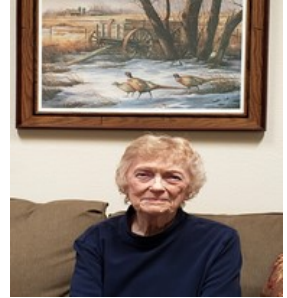
COH will host a Memorial Worship in the new year.

Special thanks to the Comforts, the Meneelys and Pastor Rick Alpers for their love and care for Alan over the past several years.



The Happy Hoper

Marjorie (Marj) Pool



- Birthdate:** July 1, 1928
Birthplace: Aberdeen, SD
Marriage: Sherman (Sherm) Pool (deceased)
When: Nov. 28, 1952, in Madison, SD
Children: Kathy Smith and Jeffrey
Occupation: Homemaker
Hobbies: Avid reader – biographies and mysteries

Marj's maternal great grandfather, Joseph Opperrud, came here from Norway with his son, Joseph Jr. The latter met his wife to be, Matilda, in Madison, SD. Funny thing she was from Madison, WI. Easy to get your Madison's mixed up! The father son team built the Lutheran church in Madison (Trinity Lutheran ELCA) and lived just a block away. The website states, "Trinity was founded in 1887 by Norwegian settlers who met in various homes until the first church was built on 1900. The present sanctuary was built in 1920 and has seen several additions over time."



Marj's mother was Ruth. She was the fifth child in a family with five daughters. Her father was, Ralph Lynch. He was a barber. That is always a handy profession to have in the family. Marj was born in Aberdeen, SD but says she doesn't remember it! When Marj was three months old her aunt (her mother's sister) died in childbirth. The decision was made that her parents, and another sister, Margaret, would raise the baby, Kenneth, in their family home in Madison, SD. Madison was a small town with a population of 5,000, at the time, and home to Dakota State University. (Now it is a booming(6,191.) Being close in age and showing up everywhere together, folks thought Marj and Kenneth were twins, even though they didn't look alike.

Marj attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD graduating with her BA in English in 1950. Upon returning home her parents suggested she attend Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School in Chicago. The thought was she would have a profession and could earn a living. There weren't a lot of professions for a woman to choose from – homemaker, secretary, teacher, nurse. Marj had various jobs in Madison when a friend called and asked her to come to Minnesota to share an apartment with five other girls. Marj went and got a job at General Mills as secretary to the treasurer. After a year she returned to Madison.

Sherm's sister was friends with a girl Marj knew from Camp Fire Girls. Marj had seen Sherm around at different functions (hard not to in a small town). Sherm was a couple years older. He left for World War II in December, before high school graduation, and was gone for four years. When he

Pool continued from page 8

returned, he went to State College of South Dakota graduating in 1951 with a BS in Economics.

When Sherm and Marj met again things were different – some sparks were flying. Sherm was working in Sioux Falls (about 50 miles away). This is where they lived after they married and where their daughter, Kathy, was born. Sherm sold heavy road equipment. At the time, to progress in your career you had to move when the company asked. After about 3 - 4 years they were transferred to Rapid City, SD. They were here for 3 – 4 years and their son, Jeffrey, was born. Sherm was offered a job with Clark Equipment who designed and manufactured heavy industrial and construction equipment. Their next transfer took them to Arlington Heights, IL and after a couple years they moved to Schaumburg, IL (which is close by). The next transfers took them to Cherry Hill, NJ, Benton Harbor, MI which is where corporate was and a final stop in Denver, CO. This is where they were when Sherm retired.

While Marj doesn't have a lot of hobbies, Sherm was an avid skeet shooter. He traveled around looking for a place where he could enjoy his hobby along with trap, hunting (ducks and pheasant) and fishing. He could do all of these in Albuquerque and the surrounding area. In 1987 they made the move.

It can be said that Marj has a sense of adventure. She gladly made the moves to follow Sherm's career. In each place she made new friends. When they arrived in Albuquerque, they joined Cross of Hope and she was involved with Stephen Ministries. They shared various activities together with good friends they had from church. Marj was also involved with exercise classes, bridge and dinner parties with Sherm's hunting friends and their wives. Her daughter, Kathy, who lives close by, spends a good amount of time with Marj taking her places (since she no longer drives) and having quiet time. Her son, Jeff, calls from Minneapolis every day to chat.

Marj is a sharp, vibrant woman who has enjoyed her life even if she will say it wasn't exciting. Like many women of her era, she chose to support her husband's career and raise their children. When you see Marj and Kathy in the back of church, take a moment to engage Marj in a conversation – ask her about some biography she has read. Her favorite is about Katherine Graham who owned the Washington Post from 1936 to 1991.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday January 11 at 1:00PM
Joe's Pasta House
3201 Southern Boulevard SE, Rio Rancho
 Questions? Contact Beth Cretsinger
 Call/text (505) 249-1162, or email ddbcrets@gmail.com.

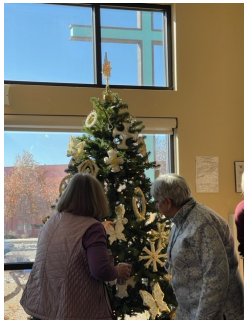


Save the Date



Spiritual Retreat
 Saturday, February 11, 2023.
 Watch for more information in Hope Filled Happenings.

Hanging of the Greens



Photos above courtesy of Florence Begay

Photos above courtesy of Jan Anderson

The Church Mouse - “That Family Tree”

“Honor your father and mother so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

Before we start to talk about families, I have a question for you. How many of you were able to keep up your thank you jar for all the things you were thankful for during 2022? I think I did pretty well. I only missed a few days. It’s amazing the things you are thankful for when you think about it.


One thing I’m very thankful for is my family. All of us are members of a family. Some are big and some not so big. I was blessed because I had my parents, two sisters, six aunts and uncles on one side of the family and six on the other side too. I also knew my grandparents and my great grandparents.

I’m sure you have heard about families where there is an argument about something, usually something small and the people involved do not speak for many years or maybe never. I knew of two sisters who had a disagreement about their mother’s rolling pin. The mother had passed away and they decided to auction off her belongings. One of the sister’s finally got the rolling pin for \$1200!

We have many families in our lives. What about the people you work with? After a while, they are family too. Even those grumpy ones.

We are truly blessed that we all have the COH family. I remember the first day we came here to church. We felt so welcome. COH is a wonderful place to worship. Let’s work in 2023 to make it even more welcoming.

When you need these services, please think of Rays of Hope sponsors.
 We thank them for their continued support in offsetting the costs (by \$10 per month) associated with producing Rays of Hope each month.



Are you interested in what the Bible says about money? Dave Ramsey dissects how Biblical principles apply to real life circumstance.

Come see what makes Financial Peace University the place for you. Classes begin January 25th.

We will meet every Wednesday at 6pm for nine weeks.

Contact Hans Zimmer at 505-900-1683 or zimmerahz71@gmail.com




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 Mesa, AZ 85202 | Albuquerque, NM 87109



Help bring joy this season
 Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates

Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0294144 to generate donations for Cross of Hope and check out our [AmazonSmile Charity Lists](#) to donate items we need most.


Cross of Hope School (Preschool-5th Grade)
Debra Alba
 Director of School Ministry

6104 Taylor Ranch Road, NW
 (505) 897-1832

email: esdirector@crossofhope.org
 website: www.crossofhope.org



Register online now for the 2022-23 school year (Preschool - 5th Grade).
[Link to School \(PreK-5th\) Registration](#)



Blood Drive at COH

Cross of Hope is hosting a blood drive February 26th in our parking lot from 10am to 2pm. You can donate before or after whichever service you attend. Please invite your family and friends. You must be at least 16 years old (there is no maximum age) and weigh at least 110 pounds to donate.

They require a minimum of 30 donors and we are a little short.

Cross of Hope Church and School
Congregational Council Team
cohcouncil@crossofhope.org

Pastor Adam Berndt, Margie Reed- President,
 Pat Benchik- Vice President, Janet Conlon-Secretary,
 Tim Fuller, Kathy Gorman, Sherrie Simek, Kristi Valdez

Thanks to those of you who have already signed up. If you would like to sign up please contact Kathy Gorman at klgorman@aol.com or talk to me after services. This is a great way to kick off your New Year's Resolution of doing more for your neighbor.

CROSS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

 Rev. R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

505-897-0047 • office@crossofhope.org
www.crossofhope.org

Facebook Page: Cross of Hope Church

Worship Times:

On-Site Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday - 10:45 a.m.

Digital: Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Devotions: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

January Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

What Good is God? In search of a faith that matters. - Philip Yancey

What good is God in a world where terrorists attack tourist sites in Mumbai, where women and children are sold into sexual slavery, and where six million people in South Africa alone suffer with HIV/AIDS? Does faith really matter when you're struggling with an addiction, or when you get laid off from your job and your home is in foreclosure? Philip Yancey travels the globe in search of an answer to a query posed the world over. His discoveries of redemption, hope, and grace provide evidence that faith really does make a difference, even when belief is severely tested.

The In- Between Place: Where Jesus Changed Your Story. - Kat Armstrong

God wants us to move toward the goodness He has planned for us. But what do we do when challenges stop our forward momentum?

The Centurion's Wife - David Bunn and Janette Oke

A woman's perspective of the very personal story of Leah, a young Jewess of mixed heritage trapped in a vortex of competing political agendas and private trauma.