



Love • Transform • Serve

RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

June 2023, Volume 41, Issue 6

Mission Statement

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

Does God Speak Your Language? June Message Series

How do you find a sense of belonging with others and with God if you feel that the communication of assuring love is missing? Everyone is unique in their ability to hear and receive good news about being loved by God or others around us. When we struggle with words to communicate, other methods may be more clearly understood...like acts of loving service or spending quality time together. What would it look like to explore God's use of many loving ways to communicate with us and with others through us?

Pastor Russ and Cheri Sorensen will begin this June series at Cross of Hope with a dialogue message on June 4 exploring some of the research of Dr. Gary Chapman about "Love Languages". We will hear a variety of voices and ways of communicating about God's love that leads to belonging and new hope. More info on www.5lovelanguages.com. We invite you to invite others to join with us in this fascinating journey!

Sunday, June 4 "Words of Affirmation" and "Acts of Service" Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday, June 11 "Physical Touch" Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sunday, June 18 "Quality Time" Matthew 9:35-10:8

Sunday, June 25 "Gifts" Matthew 7:7-11

Suggested Reflection Questions for the Journey Together...

"Words of Affirmation"

How have you been pleasantly surprised by someone else's words of affirmation toward you?
What do you think are examples of God's affirmation to encourage you?

"Acts of Service"

What are the needs for acts of service that are overlooked in your neighborhood?
What are some ways of speaking the love of God through acts of service?

"Physical Touch"

What are some examples of experiencing the loving touch of God through the physical world?
What are examples of sharing a positive physical touch dealing with pain or loss?

"Quality Time"

What does it mean to spend quality time with God and with others you care about?

"Gifts"

What are the greatest gifts we receive from God?
In what ways do people show the love of God through giving?



Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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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.

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 Greg and Nancy Morrison,
 Council Communication:
 Margie Reed-President
 Sherrie Simek-Vice President

Cross of Hope School

Now enrolling new students at Cross of Hope School

Please click on this link to begin our Online Registration process:

<https://ch-nm.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid=2059>

Campus tours are available for those families interested in becoming more familiar with Cross of Hope School. To schedule a tour prior to registering your child/children, please contact Debra Alba, Director of School Ministry at 505-897-1832 or email esdirector@crossofhope.org. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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



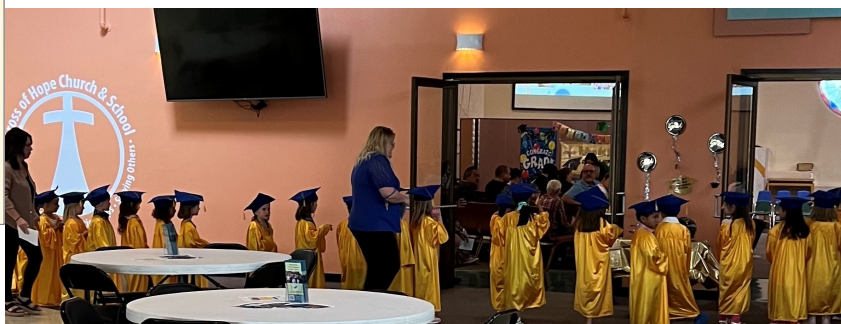
**COH
 Final School
 Chapel
 and
 5th Grade
 Promotion
 May 19,
 2023**

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, lbagby@crossofhope.org, or deliver to church office.

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.



**COH Preschool Four Year Old
 Graduation**

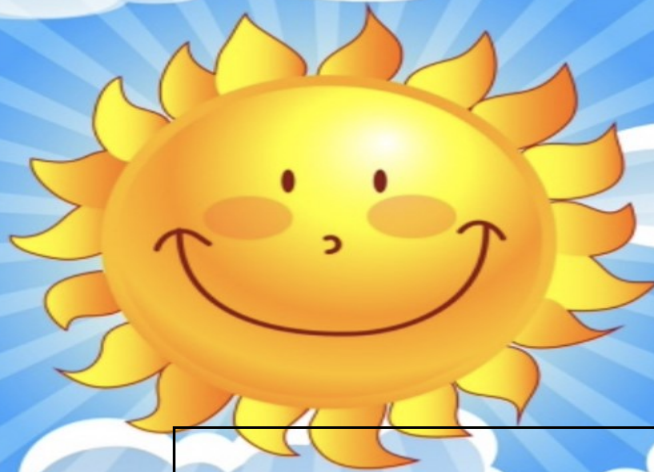


Announcing Our New Director of School Ministry, Ms. Susan Rivera



Beginning July 1, 2023. Ms. Susan Rivera begins her new position as Director of School Ministry for Cross of Hope Church and School. Susan has been a kindergarten teacher here at COH for the past two years. After recommendation from the school ministry team, the Cross of Hope Church and School Council approved the recommendation. During the month of June, she and Ms. Alba, the current Director of School Ministry, will be working closing together to make the transition as smooth as possible. Thank you for your continued prayers for our school ministry.

Special Needs Vacation Bible School



When: July 24 – July 28, 2023
Where: Cross of Hope Church
Information: 505-250-5186 Patty Westerfield

[Student Registration link](#)

[Volunteer Registration link](#)

Council Corner

by Sherrie Simek, Council Vice President

As you read this, Pastor Adam's sabbatical has begun or will begin shortly on June 3. Please remember, he will be unavailable by phone, text, and email. If you need assistance, please contact the church office. In addition, Margie Reed and Sherrie Simek, sabbatical stewards, will assist you along with the guidance and grace of others for anything that arises.

Margie Reed, Council President Phone: (505) 366-7149 cohcouncil@crossofhope.org

Sherrie Simek Council Vice President Phone (505)362-8571 rsimek1053@yahoo.com

- We welcomed new council members: Bob Arseneau, Linda Ehlers, Greg Morrison and Ron Wirths. Thank you, Pat Benchik and Kathy Gorman for your faithful service. Election of new council leaders was conducted. The floor was opened to nominations for President, Vice President and Secretary. In the absence of additional nominees, Pastor Adam mentioned that Margie Reed was willing to continue to serve as President and that Janet Conlon was willing to continue as Secretary. I had submitted a letter to Pastor Adam stating my willingness to serve as Vice President. Your Council leaders are:

President: Margie Reed

Vice President: Sherrie Simek

Secretary: Janet Conlon

- The Congregational Meeting will be held in September at which time a budget and spending plan will be presented. Pastor Adam will provide a discussion on his sabbatical.
- Church council received and approved (with gratitude) the resignation of Debra Alba. We received an overview of the Ministry's Team search for a new Director of School Ministry. Nancy Lacher is the chairperson of the School Ministry Team. They have been charged with choosing and selecting a new candidate for the Director of School Ministry. The hiring process was approved by the Church Council. Cross of Hope is governed by the Council and all hiring decisions are made by them.

Throughout the past year, I have learned a great deal about serving on the council and I will continue to learn as the Vice President. I have become better at offering suggestions, asking questions, and making my opinion understood while being at odds with others. Working together, we accomplished a great deal, and I am proud to have been part of those decisions. I am inspired every day by the love and joy that is the community of COH. I am reminded of 1 Peter 4:10 **Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.** He is calling me to this stewardship to utilize my time and talents to contribute to the future of COH.

Over the weekend, I attended "Hamilton" after waiting over 2 years for the performance. The second song in the first act is "MY SHOT". I love live theater, including even one or two operas. I love to travel, however also like the routine of being home.

Your council members are here to answer questions or concerns that you may have. Don't hesitate to reach out to one of us..

Respectfully submitted,
 Sherrie Simek, Vice President





COH Small Group Ministry

The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections Group

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

Dear Faith-Filled Faith Connections Group Facilitators and participants!

Thank you all for your great faithfulness in sharing the blessings of Making Faith Connections small group ministry! We thank God for your passion for providing opportunities for many to grow in loving relationships with God and each other. I am excited to witness the impact of your dedication to the ministry of Cross of Hope in this way.

We pray for Pastor Adam, for his two month time of sabbatical, renewal, rest and revitalization. But we also include prayers of renewal, joy and connection as a family, with Laura, Addy and Ben and their extended family as they spend some blessed time together.

As the people of Cross of Hope, it is also an opportunity for sabbatical renewal as well. In June we will have a chance to explore the languages of God's love, and then Pastor Rick will continue the ministry of care and proclamation of the Good News at Cross of Hope in the month of July. We share the excitement of this time of renewal and thank you for your prayers through the summer.

Speaking of summer...Feel free to use whatever resources are available for your Faith Connections groups to have fun together this summer. Meet as often as you choose, have a picnic? Go skydiving? Whitewater rafting?? Read a good book? Be creative! Pray together!

Please feel free to share the June series preview "Does God Speak Your Language?" with any and all in and outside of your group!

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Russ, 505-400-8206, r2csorensen@gmail.com





- Kaley McClain 3
- Patty Westerfield 4
- Sean Moser 4
- Kellie Webb 6
- Kelly Moser 9
- Violet adams 10
- Wendy Harrison 11
- Doug Perry 12
- Russ Sorensen 13
- Ron Wirths 13
- Jonathan McClain 15
- Gretchen Comfort 18
- Alex Abeyta 19
- Laurie Weiss 20
- Emilio Reynolds 25
- Aubrey Zimmer 25
- Patrice ledy 26
- Nancy Lacher 27
- Mike Westerfield 27
- Jerry Burton 27
- Tom Ropp 28
- Date Ropp 28
- Ken Anselme 30

Heart Strings

Members of COH unable to worship with us on a regular basis. Please contact and let them know we care.

<p style="text-align: center;">Dale and Edee Bauer 4905 Wagon Mound Trail NW Albuquerque, NM 87120</p> <p style="text-align: center;">John Fries Gardens - Retreat Villas Assisted Living 4100 Jackie Road SE, #15 Rio Rancho, NM 87124</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Karen Reiten 899-1504 4841 Shin Avenue NE Rio Rancho, NM 87144</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carroll Werling Palmilla Senior Living, 10301 Golf Course Rd NW - Room 267 Albuquerque, NM 87114</p>
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Pentecost Sunday



Choir and Surgite Dancers



	Day	Years Married
Gregory and Nancy Morrison	6	42
Karen and Alan Schwartz	10	56
Pat and Laura Benchik	14	43
Leeon and Diane Carrico	17	62
Alex Cortinas and Loyola Garcia	17	6
Jeff and Michele Moser	19	30
Bill and Gem Harris	19	52
John and Nancy Lacher	20	42
William and Lois Casto	25	29
Adam and Laura Berndt	25	13
Philip Wangberg and Pat Holman	28	51



Our Council President, Margie Reed re-sodding the flowerbeds

Nurse's Corner

By Mary Hughes, RN

Living Water, Summer Fun

Water is life and our lives are surrounded by it. It nourishes us, cools us, calms us or maybe frightens us. Water can be powerful and it is important to heed flood warnings. Our arroyos, ditches, rivers or irrigation canals can become torrential during a rainstorm in the mountains that doesn't even wet the city streets. The saying, "Turn around, don't drown" exists to protect you.

Summertime brings us to the pools and beaches. It's a great way cool off and relax. There are also a lot of tips to help keep us safe. Never swim alone. Make sure children are always watched. Use life vests in a boat, and drinking and operating a boat is never wise. (At least we don't have to worry about sharks in New Mexico!) But if you're around fresh water do be careful not to ingest it. Rinsing off after a swim is a good idea as well.

Speaking of drinking water, most people have been encouraged to increase their intake. How much is enough? You will find a multitude of answers if you look it up. Anywhere from 4-8 cups a day (32-64 ounces per day). Almost any liquid counts, but plain water is probably the best for hydration. It can depend on your age, size or medical conditions. It also depends on your activity level, more activity or heat leads to more sweating and should make you thirsty. But try to monitor how you're feeling too. Light headed or dizzy? Drink water. Headaches are sometimes caused by dehydration. If your child's urine is dark or they don't "need to go", make sure they get some extra liquids. (There can be other medical conditions that cause this, so don't let it go ignored for adult or child.)

Have fun, enjoy the summer and don't forget your sunscreen too!

Cross of Hope School End of Year Fun



Ms. Julie reads to Ms. Debra's class while the kids enjoy "breakfast in a bag". (left)

Field Day Fun (right)



Field Day Fun (left and below)



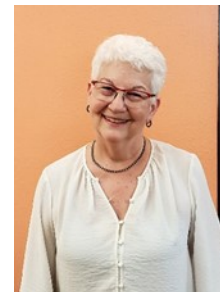
K-2 Parent Appreciation





The Happy Hoper

Claudia Russo



Birthdate: March 4, 1949

Marriage: Tom Hensch (divorced);
John Russo (deceased)

Children: Two Stepchildren – Anne

Occupation: Administrative Assistant, co-business owner, nurse

Birthplace: Albuquerque, NM

Married Where: Both marriages in Albuquerque

Grandchildren: Four

Hobbies: Embroidery, all things Scottish terriers, including a large collection, cooking (sometimes), COH volunteer

Claudia is a native Albuquerquean. They are hard to find nowadays. She was born at the old St. Joseph’s Hospital downtown. She was the oldest of four children – Martha lives in Santa Fe, Alice in Portland, OR, Sherwood died in 2008. Martha is a “recovering” CPA and has written several books. Alice is an architect and designer. This family does not lack for accomplishments, as you will see.

Claudia’s parents were Alice and S.Y. (Sherwood Young) Jackson Jr. S.Y. was actually the sixth S.Y. and brother Sherwood was the seventh. They were referred to as Jr (her father) and Sherwood. While her grandfather was still alive, he was S.Y. Jackson Sr. (They only counted those who were living. A little confusing, I agree. Guess you had to be there.)



Claudia’s grandfather came to Albuquerque from Monte Vista, CO. He was the son of a “Colporteur” a term for a Baptist minister who traveled throughout the southwest, preached, gave out library books and Bibles. Her grandfather would travel with his father in a covered wagon visiting small communities in Texas, New Mexico and Colorado. They

would be gone for months at a time leaving wife and family.

S.Y. Jackson Sr., Claudia’s grandfather, was very dedicated to Albuquerque. He did everything he could to develop the city and make it better. This was around 1918. S.Y. Sr. started many community organizations that still exist. He was a huge proponent of education, serving 26 years as the President of the APS (Albuquerque Public School) School Board. He and other interested people created TVI, which is now CNM. He was also highly involved with UNM and started the Lobo Club. (Unfortunately, you can’t ask Claudia for tickets to athletic events.)

S.Y. Sr. was hired by four men to run Excelsior Laundry, a large commercial and residential concern. He did that until 1972 when it was sold to American Linen. Claudia’s father worked at Excelsior as a young man, eventually becoming the manager. After it was sold, he had positions at Bank of New Mexico and retired as the head of the UNM Foundation.

Claudia’s mother, Alice, joined her father in all of his community efforts, worked at Dan’s Boots & Saddles in the North Valley and raised four children. Alice’s family came from Cartagena, Colombia. Although Claudia has never traveled there, many family members still live there.

Claudia went to UNM receiving a B.S. in Biology in 1972. She never really applied her degree until she went back to school receiving her B.S in Nursing in 1989. She worked at UNMH in

Russo continued from page 8

pediatrics. Claudia has always considered herself a nurse/care giver.

In 1972, right after college, she married Tom Hensch. He was originally from Minneapolis, MN and so they returned to live there. The marriage didn't work out. However, she is grateful to Tom for introducing her to the Lutheran church.

After her divorce she met the love of her life, John Russo in Minneapolis. John was divorced with three children. They married in 1980 in the UNM chapel but continued to live in Minneapolis. For a long time John was president of a specialty advertising company until it was sold. (Specialty advertising is promotional items. For example, if you are a business owner you might have give-away items like pens, folders, cup holders with your company name imprinted.) John fell in love with New Mexico the first time he saw it. (He was bitten by the Enchantment bug.) During the 1980's, they lived in Albuquerque. That is when Claudia went back to school for her nursing degree.

They lived in many places. John became a consultant and spent years working with various specialty advertising companies, revamping and improving their operations to prepare them for sale. They lived in Chicago, Connecticut, and Indiana before moving back to Albuquerque in 2005 to help out with Claudia's parents. By this time they had started their own specialty advertising distributorship business, which Claudia ran. They had websites. It was nice to be able to run the business from anywhere.

John was an avid stamp collector or more correctly a philatelist. He was particularly interested in "covers" or envelopes. His specialty was stampless covers - letters sent before the advent of stamps. Often the covers were just a folded piece of paper with the address on the outside and writing on the inside, sealed with wax. Claudia learned a great deal about stamps and covers. Through this she learned some interesting history and acquired an eye for the beauty of the hobby. John passed away in 2020.

Claudia's stepdaughter, Anne, lives in Milwaukee, WI and works in upper management for Kohl's. Her stepson, Steven, lives in Minneapolis, MN and works for a company that creates and supplies educational test materials and textbooks. As a result of her relationship with Anne and Steve, she is a grandmother to four. Her children and grandchildren are a special blessing. In addition, Claudia has a Scottish terrier, Wallace. She has had several of them. Wallace gives her good company.

Claudia is organizing the new "Care Outreach" team at Cross of Hope. The purpose of the latter is to provide transportation and meals to those in need during an emergency. Talk to Claudia to learn more. If you have a need for either of these services, contact Claudia or the church office.

Lunch Bunch

Meeting Wednesday, June 14 at 1p

M'Tucci's Italian Restaurant

Montano Plaza

NE Corner of Montano and Coors

Behind Walgreens

Questions? Contact Beth Cretsinger

Call/text (505) 249-1162, or email ddbecrets@gmail.com.



Cross of Hope Outreach Opportunities

' 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.' Matthew 25: 35-36

Blood Drive

Cross of Hope is hosting a blood drive on Sunday June 11th in the Great Hall. Vitalant has set up a direct [appointment scheduling](https://vitalant.org/) site for this drive.

If you have questions about your eligibility to donate, please review their website at <https://vitalant.org/>. Summer often brings fewer blood donations so anything we can do will help. Please consider donating if you are able. Thank you.

Contact Kathy Gorman, klgorman@aol.com if you have questions.



New Mexico Ramp Project

We are inviting you to work with COH as we provide a ramp for families in Albuquerque. We will work with the New Mexico Ramp Project. If you would like to be part of this great chance to make a difference in a person's life, please contact Cheri Sorensen, 505-400-8409 or sorensench51@gmail.com.

For more information about The New Mexico Ramp Project, you can access their website at: nmramp.org.



COH volunteers work together to create a ramp. They all had a great time and were pleased with the results of their teamwork.

Quilts for Graduates

The Banner Babes worked many months to create personal quilts for each of the graduates from Cross of Hope. Pastor Adam blesses each of the graduates, families, and quilters as they celebrate and recognize Carly Adams, Mitchell Mannings, Kaley McClain, and Emilio Reynolds, for their amazing accomplishment.

Thank you Banner Babes



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.

thrivent



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RAINBOW TRAIL LUTHERAN CAMP
DAY CAMP 2023

Where: **Cross of Hope Church**
6104 Taylor Ranch Rd NW, Albuquerque 87120

When: **June 12 - June 16, 2023**

It's All About
GRACE




DAY CAMP-2023
Ephesians 2: 4-10




FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT: 505-897-0047, x102
office@crossofhope.org

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



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

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



SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF ALBUQUERQUE
Summer Pops Concert
Beautiful Music Themes

Sunday, June 18, 2:00 pm
Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church


Sunday, June 25, 2:00 pm
St. John XXIII Catholic Community Church

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

Pastor Adam Berndt, Margie Reed- President,
Sherrie Simek- Vice President, Janet Conlon-
Secretary, Bob Arseneau, Linda Ehlers, Tim
Fuller, Greg Morrison, Kristi Valdez, and Ron
Wirths


Cross of Hope Care Outreach

Transportation
Medical Appointments
Other Appointments
Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals
Family Emergency
Illness
Death

Assistance is available:
• www.crossofhope.org/forms
• Email: care@crossofhope.org
• In the Great Hall
• Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



CROSS OF HOPE
Church & School
Love • Transform • Serve

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.

June Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

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

The question Yancey tackles concerns the practical value of belief in God.

God's & Kings (a novel, book 1). Lynn Austin

This is the story of King Hezekiah, heir to the throne of King David. When his evil father plots to sacrifice him, Hezekiah's mother, Abijah, searches frantically for a way to save him. But only two men can help her, and neither of them seems trustworthy.

A Burning in My Bones; the authorized biography of Eugene H. Peterson, translator of The Message. Winn Collier

This essential authorized biography of Eugene Peterson offers unique insights into the experiences and spiritual convictions of the iconic American pastor and beloved translator of *The Message*.