



Photo contributed by Laura Berndt



Photo contributed by Margie Reed

Blessed Christmas from Cross of Hope

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Photo contributed by Laura Berndt

Stir up your power Lord Christ, and come. Together we welcome the truth, joy, peace, justice, hope, and love of God that is forever arriving in our world. May it be so through your faithful living as the Body of Christ. Amen.



Photos contributed by Nancy Morrison



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

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: Linda Willoughby
 Editorial Staff: Beth Cretsinger
 Forrest Uppendahl
 Columnists: Pastor Russ Sorensen
 Gretchen Comfort
 Contributors: The Church Mouse
 Reporter and Writer: Mary Bresnahan
 Photographers: Antonio Alba
 Florence Begay
 Laura Berndt
 Nancy Morrison
 Margie Reed
 Council Communication:
 Pat Benchik,-President
 Margie Reed,-Vice President and Executive

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.

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.



Debra Alba, School Ministry Director

Cross of Hope School
P3 - 5th Grade

Early at the beginning of school each class came up with their own Class Mission Statement which is listed below.



2021-2022
Class Mission Statements

Lady Bugs
 I am strong in my mind!
 I am strong in my heart!
 I am strong in myself!
 I am strong in God!

1st Grade
 We will come to school every day ready to learn. We will pray, talk and listen to God. We will be a great friend to everyone.

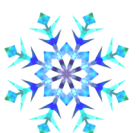
Busy Bees
 We are the busy bees and we want to learn about dinosaurs and pumpkins and how to write our names. We like trains, playing with play dough, and the cash register in the play area. We want to play at school and learn new stuff and about God too.

2nd Grade
 We are a class of "Darling Dolphins" who are children of God and a family of friends. We will work hard and learn new things by listening and helping each other.

3rd Grade
 We are a class that is always there for each other. We are considerate to others because we are Christians and love the Lord!

Kindergarten
 We are kindergarteners, God's friends, working together to be good listeners, helpful, kind and smart. We will work hard and believe that we are amazing because He made us!

4th/5th Grade
 We are encouraging and respectful of our peers, and we inspire others to have confidence in themselves.



School news continued from page 2

Cross of Hope School to Host Open Houses

For prospective families interested in learning more about our school

Tuesday, January 25 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 9 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Cross of Hope students participating in the school Las Posadas celebration! The students enjoyed chocolate milk and cookies after the Las Posadas event!



December school food drive collection and delivery to Rio Grande Food Project.



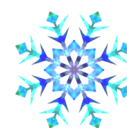
The Rays of Hope Team has begun a new series called "The Masked Hoper". Interviewer, Mary Bresnahan will feature a certain COH person in upcoming Rays of Hope publications. There will be a question, "Do you know who this person is?" This question will be posted prior to the upcoming journal either in the Hope-Filled Happenings or at the beginning of the Rays of Hope Journal.



Question

Do you know who **Question:** Who traveled around Western Europe in a VW bus? It was shipped back to the U.S. and finally died in the Mohave Desert?

See page 7 for the answer.



Making FAITH Connections

FRIENDS + FAITH + EVERYDAY LIFE

COH Small Group Ministry

New Worship & Small Group Series

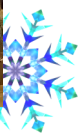
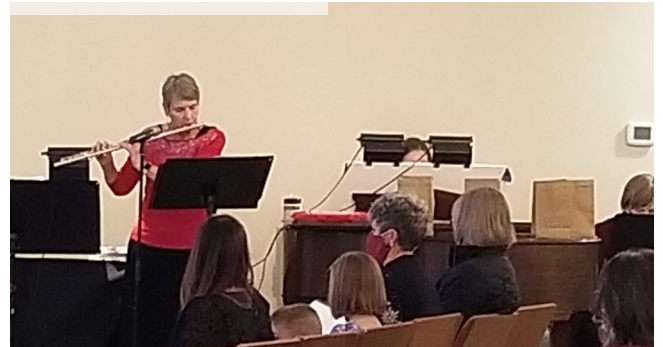
Will begin January 9. Watch for more information in the Hope-filled Happenings.

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.

Christmas photos continued from page 1

Photos contributed by Nancy Morrison





Heart Strings

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

- Mary Sue Hale 4-Jan
- Carly Adams 4-Jan
- Anthony Rivera 7-Jan
- Susan Strand 7-Jan
- Rosemary Neely 7-Jan
- Tullia Jones 10-Jan
- Alec Bramley 12-Jan
- Nick Neely 13-Jan
- Barbara J Owens 14-Jan
- Marisa Lent-Koop 14-Jan
- Emily O'Roark 16-Jan
- Tarra Toledo 17-Jan
- Lori Braunhardt 18-Jan
- Curtis Case 18-Jan
- Emily Walter 18-Jan
- Debbie Bokan 19-Jan
- Cheri Sorensen 21-Jan
- Silas Toledo 21-Jan
- Victoria Jahn 24-Jan
- Mike Snyder 25-Jan
- Don Cretsinger 26-Jan
- Ava Venegas 26-Jan
- Joseph Poyner 27-Jan
- Hayden Yost 28-Jan
- Kiersten Hielkema 29-Jan

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

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

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

Carol Sabrowsky
1250 Northland Dr Apt 110
Princeton, MN 55371

Carol Russell
404-0566
crgardener@aol.com
121 Second Street
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Russ and Mary Pat Edwards
Brookdale, 300 Valencia Dr
SE, Apt 345
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87108

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

New Email - Jahn Wright
jahnwright@gmail.com

New Address for BJ Owens
B.J. Owens
1355 Meadowlark Lane SE, #101
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

New Email and Address for the Orbinati family
Connie Orbinati -
cceleorb@gmail.com
Kel and Connie Orbinati
1105 Wigwam,
Leander, TX 78641

Thank you from the Hallstrom's for Your Overwhelming Care

Dear Cross of Hope Community,

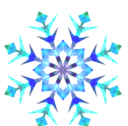
Thank you so much for your kindness, prayers, meals, thoughtful gifts, and overwhelming care for our family. This has certainly been a challenging month, but it has been a bit easier because of how God has blessed us through you. I continue to see God healing me day by day, and hope to be fully recovered soon.

Love and Many Thanks,

Katie, Kevin, Emma and Joanna Hallstrom, Pastor Russ and Cheri Sorensen, parents of Katie Hallstrom



- Dale and Shirley McCan 1/01, 27 years
- John and Kristi Valdez 1/20, 5 years
- Jahn and Barbara Wright 1/27, 53 years





Council Corner

By Sam Jones, COH Council

I hope everyone is enjoying this 2022 New Year. I would like to share the results from the November 16, 2021 COH Council meeting.

The Council authorized a 5 percent but not greater than 10 percent tuition increase for the COH Elementary School. The final amount will be determined by the School Ministry team.

Authorized the hiring of a second first grade teacher. This is to help keep the Student to Teacher ratio low.

The Wi-Fi system at COH was upgraded. Staff has noted that the performance increase is substantial.

The AED that was donated from a grant was installed and 7 attendees were trained in its use.

The SynLawn turf for the preschool is scheduled for installation during spring break (3/21/2022-3/25/2022).

From the COH Council I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

The Church Mouse

“Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders...” Psalm 72:18-19

The word “wonder” appears just a few times in the Old Testament but almost two hundred times in the New Testaments. We all have read about the many “wonders” of our Lord. Just think of the miracles that he did, turning water into wine, raising people from the dead to name a few. Just the story of the birth of our Lord is filled with wondrous things.

I looked up the Ancient Wonders of the World and I have to be honest, I wasn’t real familiar with a lot of them. We all study them in our history books, but what do we remember? I searched a little more and found the Modern Wonders of the World. Now, that list I knew a little better. Here are just a few: The Great Wall of China, the Taj Mahal, Machu Picchu, the Christ Redeemer Statue in Rio de Janeiro and the Great Pyramids. They even included the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty. Of course, to many of us, these are still ancient wonders.

Okay, now what would you put on the list, perhaps the Grand Canyon, the Colosseum in Rome, the Sacrada Familia in Barcelona or even Mt. Rushmore. What makes a Wonder of the World?

Even things in our every day life are wonders...the birth of baby, a full moon, a magnificent sunset or a baby’s smile. They’re all wonders, but the greatest thing is that they were all created by our Lord. We might have helped, but I’m sure he was the architect.





Lois and Terry Caipen

As interviewed by: Mary Bresnahan



Lois

Birthdate: March 16, 1954

Birthplace: Travis Air Force Base, CA

Married: December 31, 1976

Occupation: Occupational Therapist Asst.

Hobbies:

Boy Scouts, Woodcarving
Needlework, Sci-Fi novels

Previewing young adult books

Terry

December 7, 1948

Akron, OH

Mechanical Engineer;
Ph.D. Aeronautical Engineering

Reading, model rockets
Electronics, Micro-processor Programming
(Arduino or Raspberry PI)
Cooking

Lois grew up in Florida with her sister. Her dad was a jack-of-all-trades and her mother a bookkeeper in a drugstore. Lois earned a B.S. in Accounting from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, FL.

Terry grew up in Tallmadge, OH, a suburb of Akron. His dad was in sales. His mom was a full-time homemaker until he went to college. Then she went into sales. Terry was the oldest of four children - two brothers and a sister. Terry attended Michigan State University where he earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He worked as a civilian for the Navy in China Lake, CA (in the Mohave Desert) for a year and a half. Then to grad school at the University of California, San Diego majoring in Aero Space Engineering. Upon completion he applied to the Air Force.

While Terry was in flight training in Florida, he met Lois at a Super Bowl party. She was working for a radio station. Terry was sent to England for three years. After 6 months, (maybe he was lonely) he asked Lois to come for a visit. Since she thought he was a "nice boy," she accepted – and never left. They got married and spent their free time traveling around Western Europe in a Volkswagen bus with blue shag carpeting!

Lois worked in adult literacy and accounting. When they returned to the states, Terry was stationed in many cities.

Terry became a navigator spending his time flying and teaching. Always learning, he went on for his Ph.D. in Aeronautical Engineering which he obtained from Purdue University. He taught at the Air Force Academy and became Assistant Dean of Engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, his last assignment. He left the Air Force with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after 23 years. The next 23 years were with Applied Research Associates in Albuquerque.

In the meantime, Lois was busy doing her thing – mothering two children, a boy and girl. She got involved in the Boy Scouts because of her son and her daughter was in Brownies. When the kids were finished with Scouting, Lois kept on going. After their move from Colorado to Ohio, it was time for Lois to think about her future career. A skill assessment pointed her toward Occupational Therapy. Upon arriving in Albuquerque, Lois got a job as an Occupational Therapy Assistant. She spent 22 years working in the field.



Caipens continued from page 7

Lois has contributed to Cross of Hope by volunteering to get writers for the Lenten Devotions for several years. Additionally, she has become an active leader in the Family Promise program. She continues to be involved with the Boy Scouts and has gotten them to help with numerous projects.

Terry and Lois are fun, interesting people. They both love the outdoors. Give them a "hi" next time you see them and find out what their latest adventure has been.



An evening celebration at Cross of Hope's Annual Las Posadas on December 15.



Photos contributed by Laura Berndt



Hanging the greens on December 5



Photos by Florence Begay



Happy New Year from the Property Team

By Margie Reed

The COH Property Team held their annual fall clean-up day on December 11.

Pat Benchik, Rudy Simek, John Lacher and Margie Reed worked with the scouts to ensure everything on the list for the day was accomplished

About 25 Boy Scouts from Troup 126 came with leaders and parents and they eagerly arrived ready to work – and they did just that.

Photos contributed by Margie Reed

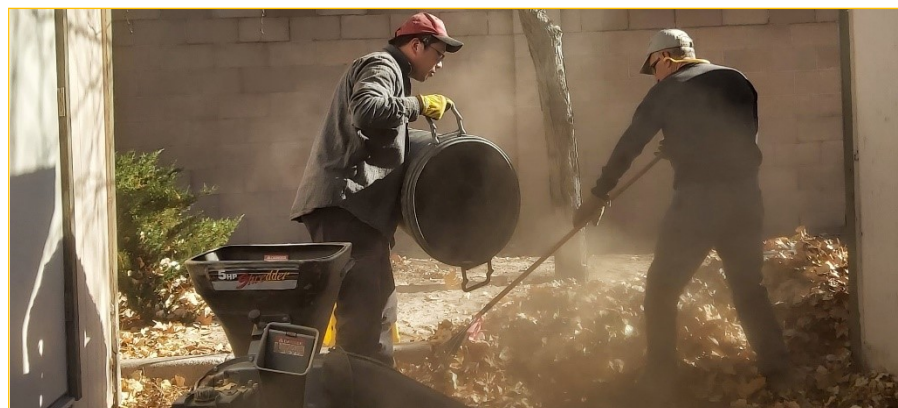


The temperature was around 22 degrees when we started but everyone warmed up once they began moving around.

The scouts cleaned up all the old, rotted wood and junk from behind the preschool and sheds. Then the area behind the shed was raked and leaves taken away. We even rented a dumpster so all the 'stuff' could be removed from the property.

While some of the scouts were busy with all the clean-up another group was putting down walk-on bark on the east side of the parking lot, across from the preschool. This is the same type of bark that was applied on the Kachina side of the fence last year. It doesn't blow around like regular mulch.

John Lacher and one of the parents raked leaves into piles behind the sheds and then ran them through the gas-powered shredder. By doing this lots more leaves fit into the bags.



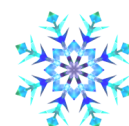
In the meantime, Jan Anderson and Laura Benchik cleaned the Great Hall windows, doors, bookcases, furniture and anything else that needed attention.

Rudy and Sherrie continue to clean up leaves which is an almost endless job.

Ruth Hinkel and Margie added to the festivities of the Christmas season by decorating the outdoor garden circle in front of the Church.

We are now looking forward to spring when new growth both on the trees and in the garden start to pop up and bloom and we can help nurture them.

If you would like to become a member of the Property Team or Hope Gardeners, please contact office@crossofhope.org.



Job Posting

Communications Director

The Communications Director ensures effective communication across various platforms such as website, social media, email, newsletter, bulletin, PowerPoint, and others as appropriate for Cross of Hope Church and School.

Scope: Part-Time

Duties include: Maintaining and updating all of the following:

Digital Communications: website, social media accounts, weekly community email

Worship Communications - Sunday PowerPoint, Sunday bulletin (Hope-filled Happenings), Sunday leaders guides, special worship services as needed.

Other Print Communications - monthly newsletter (Rays of Hope), and others as needed.

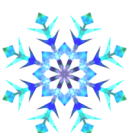
For a complete job description, email office@crossofhope.org. Please send your resume and references to office@crossofhope.org or mail to Cross of Hope Lutheran Church, 6104 Taylor Ranch Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120.

Rays of Hope Production Editor

This volunteer position consists of coordinating our monthly planning meetings with the ROH Planning Team and assembling the layout along with last minute additions.

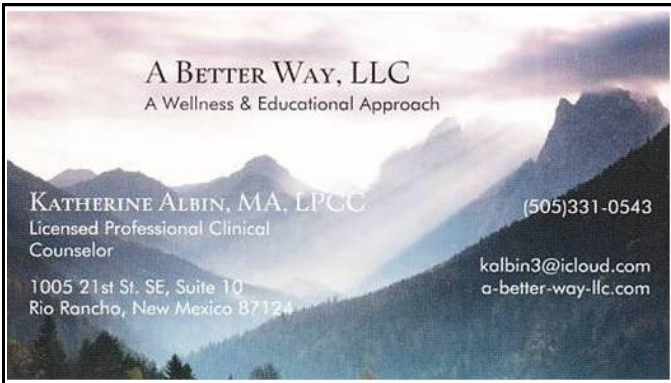
The volunteer position is 6-8 hours per month. For more information, email office@crossofhope.org or call (505) 897-0047, x102, Linda Willoughby will gladly talk with you more about what the job entails.

Gifts Collected and Distributed to Angel Tree Recipients



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.

A BETTER WAY, LLC
A Wellness & Educational Approach



KATHERINE ALBIN, MA, LPCC (505)331-0543
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor
kalbin3@icloud.com
a-better-way-llc.com

1005 21st St, SE, Suite 10
Rio Rancho, New Mexico 87124



David W. Hommel, ChFC®, FIC, CLTC®
Financial Consultant
david.hommel@thrivent.com



7600 Jefferson St NE Ste 25
Albuquerque, NM 87109
505-271-0065 / Cell: 505-269-1381
Fax: 505-856-3683

Connecting faith & finances for good.®




Stacey E Marz
FIC, CLTC®
Financial Consultant
Valley Consulting Group
stacey.marz@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/stacey-marz

☎ 480-237-3669 2222 S Dobson Rd, Ste. 700 Mesa, AZ 85202

☎ 505-271-0065 7600 Jefferson St NE, Ste 25 Albuquerque, NM 87109




Matthew J Klandrud
ChFC®, RICP®, CKA®
Financial Consultant
Valley Consulting Group
matthew.klandrud@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/matthew-klandrud

☎ 480-237-3669 2222 S Dobson Road Ste 700 Mesa, AZ 85202

☎ 505-271-0065 7600 Jefferson St NE, Ste 25 Albuquerque, NM 87109

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

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

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



There are openings for the 2021-22 school year (PreK-5th).
[Link to School \(PreK-5th\) Registration](#)

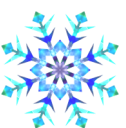
Help bring joy this season
Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates




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 Church and School Congregational Council Team
cohCouncil@crossofhope.org

Pastor Adam Berndt, Pat Benchik - President,
Margie Reed - Vice President,
Sam Jones - Secretary, Janet Conlon, Tim Fuller,
Kathy Gorman, Denise Kouri, Kristi Valdez



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

By Dee Gutierrez

Your Best Year Ever - Michael Hyatt - With the Your Best Year Ever goal setting and achievement course, you can launch into 2022 ready to brush obstacles aside and achieve your goals.

21 Ways to Finding Peace and Happiness - Joyce Meyer - Peace is hard to come by. When personal desires are followed, serenity is forfeited. By submitting one's life to God, a peace-filled life is ensured. Maintaining peace is a choice. How to find peace with yourself and with God.

The Generosity Ladder: Your Next Step to Financial Peace - Nelson Searcy, Jennifer Dykes Henson - The quintessential guidebook for anyone who desires to handle money with excellence, The Generosity Ladder clarifies what the Bible really says about honoring God with our finances and details a step-by-step plan for attaining financial excellence

Choosing Gratitude: Your Journey to Joy - Nancy Leigh DeMoss - Nancy Leigh DeMoss shares why our life should be full of gratitude and how we can have that kind of depth in our life.

Courage Faith: A Lifelong Pursuit of Faith Over Fear - Debbye Turner Bell - When you feel like giving up, seek God and ask for Courageous Faith. Set-backs, failures, and fatigue impacts us all. And at times we don't feel like going on. But we must! In this book you'll discover faith-filled principles to use as a blueprint for perseverance, and a new definition of success for your life.

