

Turning Toward God's Abundance

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Joel 2:13

We sing this verse from Joel as our Gospel Acclamation during the season of Lent. With it, we welcome the stories of Jesus that call us to reflect and focus on repentance and God's amazing grace. Turning to God and asking for God's goodness and mercy to forgive our sins and show us how to live anew in the abundant life of God is the gift of Lent.

We also turn toward Easter and the abundant life that is proclaimed through Holy Week and the Three Days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter. God in Christ Jesus passing over from death to life. This good news is the center of our faith and the hope in which we journey.

Through the 40 days of Lent, join us in turning toward God's abundance in devotions created by the community of faith at Cross of Hope Lutheran Church. Together we will encounter scripture, contemplate in reflection, and pray together as we turn toward God's abundance.

We are grateful for the members of this faith community who have offered prayerful reflection for our life in devotion together this season of Lent. We are grateful for the heartfelt coordination and production of Nancy Morrison without whom this resource would not be possible.

You can find a digital copy of [Turning toward God's Abundance](#) on our website or pick up a copy at church.

Each Wednesday during Lent we'll gather for a midweek 6 PM worship of word and prayer exploring the theme, Turning toward God's Abundance. Join us for these additional opportunities for prayer and reflection.

Lent calls us to practice sacrificial giving. Give additional offerings during lent through the ministries of Cross of Hope, for relief for those affected by [the Marshall Fire](#), or our partners at the [Rio Grande Food Project](#).

God hold you as we journey together this Lent.

In the hope of Peace,



R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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 Albuquerque, NM 87120
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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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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.

Cross of Hope School News



Debra Alba, School

The month of February our Bible concept was "God wants me to love and care for others". One of the week's Bible story was about Ruth and Naomi. It's such a powerful story about love and what it looks like to abandon ourselves for the well-being of someone else, without reservation or hesitation. I

recently discovered a 60 Minute clip titled, "Saving the Children from the Holocaust"

(<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=AKe0SMPzIVQ>) that powerfully shares how one man, Nicholas Winton from England, saved over 669 Jewish children from Czechoslovakia! If we look closely there are examples all around us of people who have given so much to love and care for others.



At the end of February the classes voted on our school mascot, and you guessed it, the winner is the Roadrunner! I love the choice for several reasons; it's VERY regional, it ties in beautifully with our chapel Journey theme, and there are several great Bible verses about running our race well! My favorite is Hebrews 12:1

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us ..."

Photo to the right

Ms. Lea Vera's second grade class dressed as 100 year old students (on the 100th day of school).





School Online Registration is Open

<https://www.crossofhope.org/schools/>
for more information.

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

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 Journal), 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.

The Rays of Hope Team has begun a new series called "The Masked Hoper". Interviewer and photographer, Mary Bresnahan will feature a certain COH person in upcoming Rays of Hope publications. There will be a question, "**Do you know who our Masked Hoper might be?**" This question is posted at the beginning of the Rays of Hope Journal.



Who is our "Masked Hoper" question

Do you know who was born in Strasbourg, France?

See page 7 for the answer.



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.

Rocky Mountain Synod Council

Composition: The Synod Council has twenty-one members; the four synod officers; one from each of the ten RMS Conferences; and seven at-large positions (one each for lay male, lay female, rostered leader, youth, young adult (18-30 years old), and two from ethnic-specific congregations). Terms are four years except for the Bishop (six years) and the youth members (elected in even-numbered years for a term of two years). Terms are limited to two consecutive terms.

Description: The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of the Synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly, or which are not precluded by provisions of the constitution and bylaws of the Rocky Mountain Synod or the ELCA. The council normally meets monthly via Zoom with in-person meetings three times per year. Other functions are set forth in the RMS Constitution (S10.03).

Positions to be elected in 2022:

link to the online Nomination Form and information for the Synod Council : <https://www.rmselfca.org/elections>

Making Faith Connections Worship and Small Group series for Lent

Turning Toward God's Abundance

Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022
Turning Toward God's Abundance - Psalm 51: 1-17

Lent 1, March 6, 2022
Faithfulness – Luke 4:1-13 the temptation of Jesus

Lent 2, March 13, 2022
Mercy – Luke 13:31-35 lament over Jerusalem

Lent 3, March 20, 2022
Compassion – Luke 13: 1-9 the barren fig tree

Lent 4, March 27, 2022
Forgiveness – Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32 the prodigal son

Lent 5, April 3, 2022
Love – John 12:1-8 Mary anoints Jesus

Sunday of the Passion – Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022
Luke 19:28-40

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 15, 2022
Psalm 22

Vigil of Easter, April 16, 2022
Romans 6:3-11

Resurrection of our Lord, April 17, 2022
Luke 24: 1-12

Send nominations to David Fry (RMS Nominating Committee) at daveandkate32@gmail.com. His cell phone is (505) 250-8275. David is a member of Bethlehem Lutheran in Los Alamos.

Ruth Hoffman is the Rocky Mountain Synod Vice-President. She can be reached at vp@rmselfca.org Cell (505) 660-7472.

- One (lay or rostered) from the North Colorado Conference
- One (lay or rostered) from the Utah Conference
- **One (lay or rostered) from the North New Mexico Conference**
- One (lay or rostered) from
- **One At-Large lay male**
- **One At-Large lay female**
- One Youth
- Two from ethnic-specific congregations



Heart Strings

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

Margie Reed	1-Mar
John Webb	2-Mar
Kevin Perkins	3-Mar
Robert Walsh	3-Mar
Elaine Pratt	4-Mar
Trevor Schuman	5-Mar
Lindsay O'Roark	6-Mar
Sylvia Oelsner	6-Mar
Bobbi Dopslaf	10-Mar
John Fries	12-Mar
Pat Benchik	15-Mar
Alexis Girard	16-Mar
Lois Caipen	16-Mar
Ethan McClain	17-Mar
Kelly Erickson	20-Mar
Todd Bramley	21-Mar
Norman Hubbard	23-Mar
Larry Erickson	23-Mar
Ross Sutter	23-Mar
Sam Jones	24-Mar
Sharon Halstead	24-Mar
Xander Bencomo	24-Mar
Joel A Wickert	26-Mar
Maddie Dennis	28-Mar
Bob Grogan	28-Mar
Jahn Wright	28-Mar
Ethan Dennis	31-Mar

Carroll Werling
2331 Westside Blvd SE #202
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899-1504
4841 Shin Avenue NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

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Russ and Mary Pat Edwards
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SE, Apt 345
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87108

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

Phone and Email Update

Anthony Girard 505-363-8917 (uses a cell only).

Barbara Wright

barbarawright45@gmail.com



Duane and Glenna Meneely	1-Mar	47 Years
Robert and Carolyn Bye	7-Mar	41 Years
Rick and Megan Jahn	11-Mar	10 Years
Rich and Rosemary Neely	13-Mar	40 Years
Richard and Erin Hielkema	25-Mar	22 Years
Ken and Lynnette Anselmi	25-Mar	55 Years
Patrick and Jeanette McNealy	30-Mar	26 Years

Celebrating 7 years at Cross of Hope

March 1, 2022 - Pastor Adam.



Graduates Wanted!

Every year the Banner Babes make a quilt for each of our COH graduating seniors. These are seniors who have attended Cross of Hope and are graduating from high school. If you have a senior at your house, would you please contact Kathy Bramley 505-990-6296 or Diane Carrico 505-554-1128.

Council Corner

By Tim Fuller, COH Council Member

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” - Jesus, Matthew 22:37.



Tim and his wife Jane Fuller

Greetings from your council. Our meeting on February 15, 2022 was fast paced and full of blessed discussion on several issues.

A Keurig Coffee Maker was provided for the Preschool staff to use (it is said that the anticipation was palpable).

Our financial report and outlook are very good, and we will monitor the situation to stay on top of any potential issues.

During the School Update, it was mentioned that two open houses have been held and sign-up lists are looking strong. Preschool is almost at capacity. The Preschool is receiving a large ECECD Grant that will lead to many improvements and good things for the staff and students alike. A committee is being established to allocate spending of the funds in accordance with the grant terms.

The effort to hire a new Communications Director is still in process, but slow. More to come on this, I am sure.

A new contract to hire Susan Whitlinger of Personal Bookkeeping Services was approved.

COH 40th anniversary planning is off to a good start, with a meeting at the church planned for Saturday February 19th at 10:00 AM. Target for the celebration is May 14 and 15. We are all excited to celebrate such a milestone and a chance to look back at the rich history of COH.

Now, on a personal note; as many of you know, Jane and I are retiring this May from our long careers. Jane has been a Social Worker and Mental Health Therapist for the Kansas City, Mo VA Medical Center, Greenwood, Arkansas Public Schools, UNMH, and Albuquerque Public Schools. I have been an Electrician, then an Engineering Technician and Senior Engineering Tech Specialist for Honeywell (AKA Bendix, Allied Signal, etc.) for 43 years in Kansas City, Missouri, Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas and here on Kirtland Air Force Base.

We have 4 Children and 9 Grandchildren and more blessings than we can count, not the least of which is Cross of Hope Church and the wonderful congregants!

Blessings to you all and thanks for your kindness and friendship.



March 13 - Daylight Saving Time starts



Ruth Franz

As interviewed by: Mary Bresnahan



Birthdate: August 14, 1923

Birthplace: Strasbourg, France

Married: July 14, 1943

Occupation: Homemaker, Secretary

Hobbies: Visiting, reading, short walks; in years past – painting, quilting, sewing, knitting, crocheting, gardening

You may know Ruth. Maybe you have seen her at Sunday service sitting with her family – Jan and Pete Wormwood and John and Sue McWilliam.

Can you believe she will be 100 years old next year!

Ruth was born to Martin and Lydia Strasen. Her father graduated from Concordia College in Milwaukee, WI. As a new minister, he agreed to serve overseas. His first call was to Strasbourg, France, located on the border with Germany. Lydia, Martin's sweetheart, stayed back in Milwaukee. After a year, Lydia went to France where she and Martin were married. They lived there for ten years – long enough to build a church.

Martin and Lydia had four children (two girls and two boys) – Ruth being the oldest.

Things were tough after World War I. Nevertheless, Ruth had some good memories of her time there as a small child. Her father travelled to many little villages on a motorcycle. In these small villages a band woke up the people to tell them it was time to go to church. In a time of need, the local Catholic church had a lot of communion wafers, which they shared with the locals.

Martin and Lydia returned to Milwaukee due to health issues Martin was having. Now they were close to Ruth's grandparents. When Ruth was 13 years old, her mother, Lydia, passed away. Martin remarried and had two more children. Martin was a guest speaker at many churches. He served in Brazil and taught at Concordia College.

Ruth Franz continued from page 7

Ruth met her husband, Raymond, in Milwaukee at church (of course). He was in the Army Air Corp during World War II. They had four children (two girls, Janet and Susan, and two boys, Paul and Mark). Janet was born in Hobbs, NM and Susan in Milwaukee, WI.

Ray had various jobs, which meant they lived in different places. A friend of Ray's brought him to Muleshoe, TX to be the manager of the Chamber of Commerce. He continued to work for various Chambers – from Portales to Santa Fe and back to Portales.

Ruth was the secretary to the Superintendent of Schools in Portales. When they became computerized, Ruth recalled spending her lunch period learning how to work the computer.

In Portales, they would have Sunday night supper for Lutheran students attending Eastern New Mexico University.

Ray and Ruth were always involved in their church – Ray playing the organ and as the choir director; Ruth singing in the choirs and teaching Sunday School in every church where they lived.

With Janet and Sue living in Albuquerque, Ruth and Ray retired and were convinced to move here, too. When they came to Cross of Hope, Ray was involved with GOLF – Greater Order of Lutheran Fellowship, which meant they golfed following men's bible study on Tuesday mornings. Ray also became the choir director and Pastor Dale Bauer said he had a place for Ruth. She became the "Membership Secretary". All the records - births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages and deaths - were kept in a "Big Red Book".

Since Ray was the church organist and choir director, Ruth and the children sang in the choir. Like the bands in France when Ruth was a child, this was a way to make sure you were in church on Sunday morning. A singing and musical family (all the children played an instrument). Does it remind you of another family?

Ray died in 1994. Jan recalled it was a Thursday night – and she had choir practice. Needless to say, she didn't have choir practice that night!

Ruth had a grand time reminiscing a life well lived. Hopefully one day COVID will be behind us and you will see Ruth in her usual place with her family at Sunday service. For some younger members you might ask her about those years in France between the WWI and WWII. Hearing about personal experiences during these challenging times is well worth your time.



Save the Date:

Cross of Hope's Anniversary Celebration - May 14 - 15.



COH HOSTING: March 13-20

Currently, there are three families with a total of nine people, (3 adults, and 6 children ages 4-15). A newborn expected 2/28!! There are NO anticipated family graduations soon. The families will be sheltering in a New location: Montgomery Church of Christ, Parsonage at 7201 Montgomery Blvd. NE 87109. We formerly hosted, in our building, 2 weeks concurrently, and now we host one week at a time, four months apart.

The Family Promise (FP) board has prioritized forward movement with renovations of the San Pedro site that will lead to Certificate of Occupancy ASAP. However, there have been supply and other delays for many reasons related to Covid.

We thank you for your gracious and generous support of the Families who would otherwise be homeless. Instead, they are safely supported through a very difficult time.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: WRITE our dates of Hosting on your calendars and PRAY for the families.

SIGN-UP TO DONATE FOOD AND HOUSEHOLD items: from the list of items at FP sign-up tables 3/6 and on the 13th.

PROVIDE hot MEALS: needed Sunday 3/13 through Saturday at 5:00 P.M. (Delivery help will be available.) PRAY about your volunteer possibilities.

SIGN-UP to HOST!! FINALLY, In-Person Hosting is a New Option for you to help by donating 2 hours of your time. (Please, join the families for the hot meal provided.) MASKS are expected to be worn by all present unless they are eating or drinking.

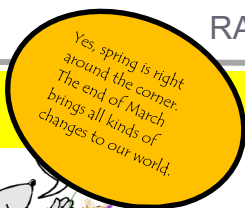
Lois and Jan are so very grateful for your generous gifts of time, money, food, household items, and of course your prayers. **Together**, WE MAKE a DIFFERENCE in the lives of all of the children served because their families are able to survive the stress of near homelessness.

You are such a BLESSING to the Family Promise Ministry here and in all of Albuquerque!

Thank you, Jan Anderson,
505 362 3663.



2022 February photo of the moon by John McWilliam



The Church Mouse

Springtime in New Mexico



Before I forget, I need to ask,..."How is everyone doing on their thank you jars?" If you've forgotten, back in November of 2021, the Church Mouse suggested you get an empty container and cut a slit in the top, then everyday write on a slip of paper what you are thankful for and then put it in the jar. So far, I've kept up and it's amazing all of the things you sometimes take for granted that you are really very thankful for. So, eat all those nuts or M and M's to empty that jar and then start filling it up. You will be amazed at things that come to mind. Good luck.

"For as the earth bringeth forth her bud and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and peace to spring forth before all nations."

Yes, spring is right around the corner. The end of March brings all kinds of changes to our world. It gets warmer, thank goodness. Then the flowers start to stick up their little heads and there are birds, birds, birds. In some parts of the country, everyone is on the lookout for the first robin. It is a time of celebration.

Springtime just makes us feel better. Those cold, dreary days of winter are a thing of the past. At least here in New Mexico, the sun shines just about everyday, so that helps. So, what else does spring do for us?

For me, it's a time of renewal. Let's do a few home projects, maybe paint a room or how about some new curtains or a new rug. If we go out in the yard, we can plant some flowers, redo a flower bed or maybe paint a little there too.

Yes, it's a new time. So, let's think about doing some clean up in the rest of our lives too. How about an Act of Kindness. A few days ago a member of our congregation told us about a recent trip to McDonald's for a quick lunch. He and a lady coming out of a nearby parking lot arrived at the drive-thru window at the same time. Being a gentleman, he let her go in line in front of him. When it was his turn to order and pay, he found that she had already paid for his lunch. A simple Act of Kindness. Or how about volunteering somewhere or doing something as simple as picking up the trash in your neighborhood.

There are so many little things you can do in this world to make it a better place. Always remember that you have a helper on your journey. The Lord is always with you, spring, summer, fall or winter.



2022 February photo of the moon by John McWilliam

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

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

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 (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](#)

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

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 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.

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

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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.

March Book Suggestions

By Dee Gutierrez

The Five Wounds : Kristin Valdez Quade (a novel)

It's Holy Week in Las Penas, Mexico, and thirty-three-year-old unemployed Amadeo Padilla has been given the part of Jesus in the Good Friday procession. He is preparing feverishly for this role when his fifteen-year-old daughter Angel shows up pregnant on his doorstep and disrupts his plans for personal redemption. With weeks to go until her due date, tough, ebullient Angel has fled her mother's house, setting her life on a startling new path.

Led by Faith : Rising from the Ashes of the Rwandan Genocide - Immaculee Ilibagiza

As a young university student, she miraculously survived the savage killing spree that left most of her family and friends, and more than a million of her fellow citizens, dead. As hundreds of killers hunted for her, Immaculee formed a profound and transforming relationship with God that transcended the bloodshed and butchery - a relationship that enabled her to emerge from the slaughter with a spirit purged of hatred and a heart brimming with forgiveness.

God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope in Our Time - Desmond Tutu

Tutu; "Many of us can acknowledge that God cares about the world but can't imagine that God would care about you or me individually. But our God marvelously, miraculously cares about each and every one of us. The Bible has this incredible image of you, of me, of all of us, each one, held as something precious, fragile in the palms of God's hands. And that you and I exist only because God is forever blowing God's breath into our being."