



Love • Transform • Serve

RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

November 2024, Volume 42 Issue 11

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.

Thankful

*Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness. Psalm 115.1*

Thank you all for your kind words of appreciation and encouragement upon the occasion of both my birthday and the invitation to share appreciation for your pastor. The many cards and gifts filled with these words and sentiment humble me as I continue to both serve Cross of Hope as Pastor and share myself with you as an inseparable part of this call. I strive to do both honestly and well in faith and trust in God to guide and sustain us!

Thank you to the congregation represented by the group of leaders who surprised me on my birthday at the United match. With my title and name on the birthday celebrations at half time, the wonderful gift of a long sleeve United shirt, and silly hats and obnoxious (in a good way!) cheering, I could do nothing but let go and receive with gratitude your honor. I do not surprise easily, and your thoughtfulness genuinely touched me. I felt the love of God in this fun gesture of acknowledging my birthday and giving glory to God for that love made known in this public way.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness showing up for God and one another through the ministries of Cross of Hope. Whether in worship on Sunday; at School throughout the week; at Camp @ COH on Wednesday; at a Making Faith Connections small group; or at any number of ministry opportunities that God has called us to, your gift of time and money embodies the grace of God through Cross of Hope. Wherever you are on your journey of faith; no matter how many hours you spend in ministry through COH; regardless of how much money you are able to give through our shared ministries, **you are an important part of this journey.**

In all things, to God be the glory and from there may thankfulness abound! During the month of November, we will enter into intentional reflection on the stewardship of our many gifts including the commitment to faithful monetary giving through Cross of Hope. **Thank you** for welcoming and participating in this time of prayer, reflection, conversation and faith as we continue in thankfulness giving glory to God who is faithful!

Soli Deo Gloria (to God alone be the glory),
Pr. Adam



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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Cross of Hope School

SCHOOL REGISTRATION
Online Registration for the 2024-2025 year

[Click Here for Registration Details](#)



Cross of Hope School is hosting a canned goods food drive to support Catholic Charities this year. We are excited to join the 4th/5th grade class as we serve this organization by packing up donations for families. Our food drive will begin on October 28 and end on November 14. Thank you for donating food items!

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.

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](mailto:care@crossofhope.org)
- In the Great hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



Cross of Hope School Happenings

Fall Festivities



Thank you to the Cross of Hope Church community for donating their time, treasures, and talents to support our Fall Festival. You blessed us with volunteers for our cake walk, cakes, food, cars for our trunk and treat, hours of service. We are so grateful to all you do for this incredible ministry of the church! Our school is excited to return the blessing and support the church for Las Posadas in December.



The Roving Hoper

Thanksgiving is upon us – we have much to be thankful for. We needed to hear from our students. In addition, we needed to find out what they were for Halloween.

**Kindergarten
Ben**



“I was Hilo for Halloween.

There are seven people in my family. I am thankful for Beau.”

**First Grade
Rowan**



“I was Red from the ‘Descendant: The Rise of Red’ for Halloween. She is a princess. Her mom was bad and then became good.

At Thanksgiving I get to hang out with my family, including my nana and papa.”

**Second Grade
Ahren**



“I was the wolverine from Dead Pool for Halloween.

At Thanksgiving you can share everything. I am thankful for my family because I am being raised by them. They are all nice. There are 6 or 7 of them. I’m thankful for *me* because this is a wonderful world.”



**Second Grade
Ellie**



Ellie was the Wicked Witch of the West.

“I am thankful for my family, including my sister. We play games and watch movies together.”

**Fourth Grade
Colton**



Colton was Spider Man for Halloween.

“I am grateful for my mom who takes care of me and my brother. We play basketball together. Hopefully I will be on a basketball team soon.”

**Fourth Grade
Ellie**



I was “Red” from ‘Descendant.’

”I’m thankful for my dog, Apollo. He is huge - a husky. Also for my cousin’s dog - a chweenie named Piñon.

I’m also thankful for family’s three dogs: mom’s, dad’s, and my brothers.”

Roving Hoper continued from page 4

We have another treat! Having learned about our three new teachers in October’s Rays of Hope, this month we will be introduced to our part-time teachers. They are a blessing that enriches our school. We are thrilled to have them as part of our Cross of Hope family.



Janessa is our music teacher. She is here every Friday morning. Susan Rivera, our director, recruited her. Janessa really enjoys COH - the community of teachers, staff and children. Being at a Christian school, she feels more love which anyone would think is great. At COH everything is done in love with Christ.

Julie oversees Cross of Hope’s lunchroom. Julie was asked to run the lunch program, including the a hot lunch program. That was three years ago. The parents order from a health conscious and nutritious menu. Julie receives the hot food and makes sure each child gets what was ordered for him/her. Julie has two children here – one in pre-school and one in third grade. I would guess Julie will be with us for a while.



Leilani helps with the lunchroom. Like Julie, she is here every day. A neighbor suggested the Cross of Hope pre-school for her son. Next thing she knew she was asked to apply for a part-time job. With two children going to school here she plans on being here for a while. She “loves being with the kids. All the kids are kind. This is a kid-friendly, Christian place. All the volunteers are community-driven and kind.”

Lisa is our library lady and art teacher for Kindergarten through second grades. Lisa learned about the part-time opening through Ms. Paula (see below). She retired from teaching in California and came to New Mexcio where she worked at APS for thirteen years. Lisa volunteered at COH vacation Bible school doing arts and crafts. She loved the church and felt like she belonged. She met Nancy Lacher and they hit it off. Nancy asked her to apply for a part-time position. Lisa loves staying active in her retirement and this has been a perfect opportunity. She is in the library on Monday and Wednesday and does art on Tuesday. Lisa said, “I will be back as long as I can. The kids are entertaining, and the adults are precious.”



Meet MC (short for McMarshal). He is a Ph.D. student in PE at UNM. MC came to observe last year and was asked to take the part-time position. He is here every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons.

MC has a bit of an accent. I asked him where it was from, he said Cape Town, South Africa. That said a lot to me having been there. If you are not aware, South Africans are crazy about sports. After high school MC got a scholarship in “running.” Can you imagine, he turned it down? A couple years later he was approached with another “full-ride scholarship.” This time he took it! He went to California Baptist University for his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. When it

Roving Hoper continued from page 5

came time to decide on a Ph.D. program, he decided on UNM. He has 2 ½ years left in his program and intends to stay at COH. His focus is on teaching

Remember meeting Paula in the Rays of Hope when I interviewed Coal, the therapy dog. Paula is our math interventionist. She comes on Monday and Wednesday to work with the kids in all grades who need a little more encouragement (and Coal helps).

Paula thought she was finished when she got a phone call from Nancy Lacher with an offer to come to Cross of Hope. Wow, what timing! This was an offer she couldn't refuse.



Our Preschool will host the accreditation team from ACSI as the final task to renew their accreditation the week of November 18 - 22. Please welcome these volunteers if you see them around the building.

Thank you to the members of our Church Council and our School Ministry teams for attending and bragging on our staff and students. Congratulations to our incredible Preschool staff for all their hard work and dedication to excellence!



Cross of Hope School invites all church and school community for flu vaccinations
 Wednesday, November 6
 3:30-5:30pm

Cross of School will not be in session November 11 for Veteran's Day and The week of November 25-29 for Parent Conferences and Thanksgiving.

Church Council

Ron Wirths, Council Member

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

As we enjoy the changing of the seasons, I marvel at how seamlessly the work of the Council flows with the new Church fiscal year and the start of the school year.

The Council welcomed Jessica Williams and Ron Cordova as newly elected members to the Council. We had a brief roundtable introduction period. Half of the Council members have been at Cross of Hope for decades, and three members have been at Cross of Hope for four or five years. It was interesting to note that all three newer members felt that the enthusiasm, hospitality and energy at Cross of Hope were the deciding factors in their choosing a new church home.



Church Council Members

Overall, the financial health of both the Church and School remains solid, with expenses running slightly less than the budget and income holding close to projections.

The Council approved spending on new computing hardware to replace one server and a couple desktops that had passed their useful lives.

We discussed and approved a new laminator for the school.

The subject of new folding chairs was addressed. The need for the chairs has become more obvious with the overflow of people during recent memorial services. Several of the Church groups (Banner Babes and Women on Wednesday) have expressed an interest in helping with the funding. The Council voted to procure 54 new black folding chairs and a storage rack to bring our inventory to 150 folding chairs total.

The School Ministry Team continues to work on the accreditation processes for both the Preschool and Elementary School. Significant effort has gone into the planning and execution of the accreditation process. One hurdle on the horizon is the required audit leading up to the formal application. The School Ministry Team is still considering the timing of the two applications.

As an adjunct to the regular meeting, the Council toured the school facilities. As someone far beyond having youngsters of school age, I had not thought much about this part of the Cross of Hope ministry. I can honestly say that I was overwhelmed by the operation of both the Preschool and the Elementary School. The facilities are spotless, organized, and structured with safety in mind. The creativity and dedication of the teachers and volunteer support staff was evident at every turn. The classrooms were organized and set up for a stimulating learning experience. The layout of the facility showed a remarkable level of knowledge about a learning environment. I would invite everyone in the congregation to take a tour of the school, and you will see the great job being done there.



**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 service to others.

Last Week of Getting Our Bearings Series

Nov 3 Who is Cheering Us On? John 11:32-44

All Saints Sunday

Advent - The Space Between

Advent – The Space Between is not intended to be descriptive of the season at the beginning of the church year typically assigned to the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas conveniently occupying the space between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is most Profound. Advent is a season of the church year that invites us to step into, or at least gaze deeply at, the present time as the space between the promise of God's eternal reign set forth in Christ and the fulfillment of that promise at the end (or fullness) of time. You may have never noticed that the worship texts after All Saints Sunday often refer to the end of time. Even Sundays deep into the typical season of Advent only move to the beginning of the Christmas narrative the last Sunday or so before.

This year's theme carries us through the seven weeks between All Saints Sunday and the Eve of Christmas and invite us to reflect on the gift of the present moment as 'now and not yet' - the space between God's great revelation in Christ and the good news of 'Christ come again' in the fullness of time. We hope that this expanded season of Advent holds a blessing of space to wonder, marvel, and rejoice at the good news that Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Please join us as we reflect on our lives of faith in this space between.

Nov 10 - Space to Give

Nov 17 - Space to Love

Nov 24 - Space to Listen

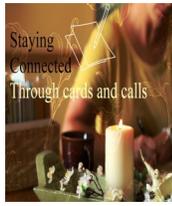
Dec 1 - Space to Wonder

Dec 8 - Space for Change

Dec 15 - Space to Rejoice

Dec 22- Space to Sing

Want a more consistent small group experience? Contact RC Jordan at media@crossofhope.org to be connected with, or start, a small group!



Heart Strings

Members of COH unable to worship on site.

Elisa Mclellan	2
Ron Cordova	8
Marcella Johnson	8
Kat Cooley	10
Nora Reed	10
Karen Schwartz	11
Gregory Morrison	13
Trisha McClain	13
Sydney Reynolds	14
Lois Casto	14
Chris Morgan	15
Joy Thornhill	17
Bruce Molde	17
Elise Hielkema	18
William Casto	18
Laura Berndt	18
Hans Zimmer	19
Ryan Hale	19
Beth Cretsinger	24
Nancy Morrison	26
Linda Molde	29

Carroll Werling
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	Day	Years Married
Kevin and Elyse Benhem	2	5
Mary and Dick Bresnehan	5	53
Joey and Lisa Fields	5	13
Nicole and Victor Bencomo	9	23
Jim and Mary Hughes	24	18



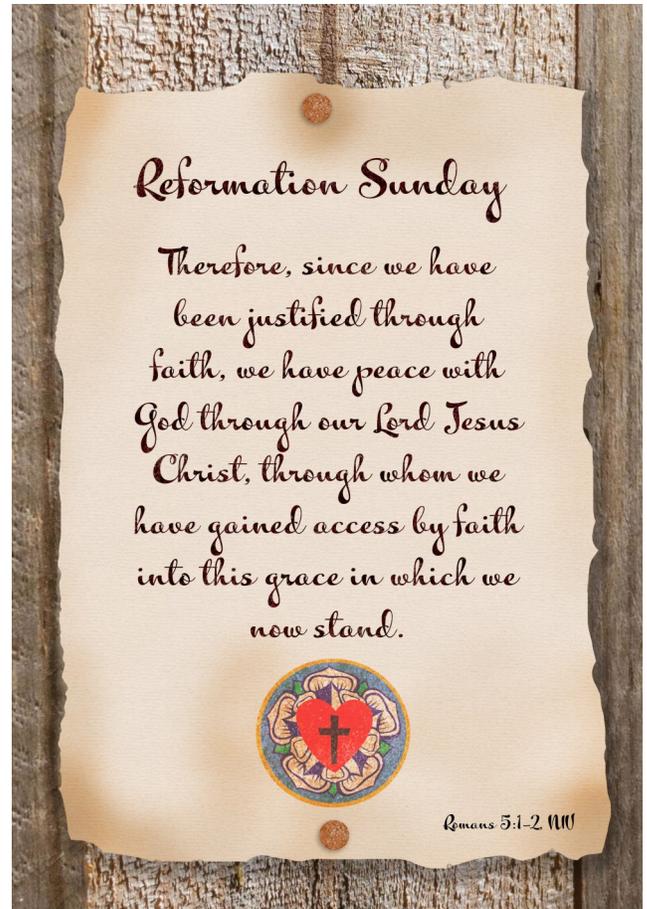
A Special Happy Sixteenth Birthday Party for Gaby Cortinas

With Gratitude

The family of Susan McWilliam is 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 Sue'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.

Carolyn Bye and all of Robert's family send heartfelt thank-yous to all for prayers and kind and wonderful support during Robert's last weeks. Additional thanks to all who helped with the memorial and reception.

Reformation Sunday and Baptismal Affirmations



On Reformation Sunday, we reaffirmed our baptismal vows and celebrated the baptismal affirmations of Gaby Cortinas and Abby Edwards.

Astronomy Night



Cross of Hope will be having a star party (Astronomy Night) at Mariposa Park on Friday, November 8, at 7:00 PM. It will be on the north end of the park in the large field. There will be a number of telescopes there, and we will be viewing the Andromeda galaxy, Alerio, Venus, the

Celebration of Birthday and Ministry



COH shares love and appreciation for Pastor Adam's birthday and pastor appreciation .



Leaf Clean Up



On Saturday, December 7, Boy Scout Troop 126 will be at Cross of Hope to rake and clean leaves from the property.

Lunch Bunch



Wednesday November 13
Cheddar's
5865 Pan American Freeway

Youth News

Our Middle and High School Youth will be having their annual candle sales on and November 17. Please join them in the Great Hall for some great seasonal scents!

If you would like to purchase online contact:

Patrice Leddy
[Email Patrice Leddy](mailto:Patrice.Leddy@lutheranadvocacy.com)
 Phone: 505-280-6943
 Mobile Phone: 505-280-6943



2024 Lutheran Advocacy Conference

All are invited to join Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-New Mexico on Saturday, November 16, from 8:30am to 1pm at All Saints Lutheran Church on Albuquerque's Westside for the 2024 Fall Advocacy Conference. This year's conference will feature several outstanding speakers including Rev. Wayne Mueller, Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino (D), Rep. Jason Harper (R), as well as others!

Both morning refreshments and lunch will be provided. In-person registration is \$25, and the Zoom online option is \$15. You may register here: [Fall Advocacy Conference!](#)

If you would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Kurt Rager at Lutheranadvocacy@yahoo.com.

Cross of Hope Church will be closed on November 11 in honor of Veteran's Day. The church will also be closed on November 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving.

As We Move Closer to Election Day . . .

Our election cycle has been long and, perhaps for many, concerning and tiring. Let us pause for a moment and consider some inspiring words from **Kurt Rager, Director, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM (LAM-NM)**.

As our ELCA Advocacy shares, “This church understands government as a means through which God works to preserve creation and build a more peaceful and just social order in a broken world. Our “civic participation is not simply voluntary, idealistic, or altruistic. The ELCA holds to the biblical idea that God calls God’s people to be active citizens and to ensure that everyone benefits from the good of government (Jeremiah 29:7, Romans 13:1-7).”

LAM-NM has vigorously maintained a non-partisan stance in its work, choosing instead to make change through influencing policy through our advocacy and congregational organizing. We do not and cannot endorse candidates in elections. Yet, significant change can occur in policy through elections. . . . With each candidate seeking your vote, ask about their positions as they relate to our key areas of focus: hunger, poverty, the affordable housing crisis, and turning the tide on the growing population of those with no place to call home. . . . The list is long, but you get the idea. More simply put and spot-on, **The Most Rev. Michael Curry**, former presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, and a long partner in advocacy efforts with the ELCA, shares, “The principle on which Christians must vote is the principle: Does this look like love of neighbor?”

Adapted from the August 2024 Newsletter of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM.



Our midweek Wednesday Camp@COH continues to grow!

We are excited to see the number of all ages (children, young adults, and adults) grow. If you have not yet visited us for some midweek fun, here is just a snippet of what we do:

5:30pm: Gather outside, or if necessary inside for some fun and games.

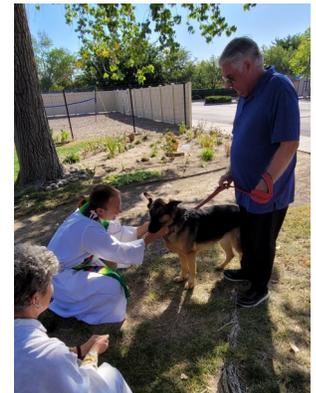
6:00 pm: Gather for a delicious meal (chicken, pizza, hamburgers or hot dogs, and tacos or nachos)

6:30 pm: Meet with age groups for Bible study and worship

7:00 pm: Enjoy the wonders of a real campfire with music, Bible reading, prayers and smores.

Please join us! You won't be disappointed!

Blessing of the Animals



Animals are gifts from God! Most of them give unconditional love, especially when they are pets. Cross of Hope church members brought many animals, including a pet rat, to be blessed on Sunday, October 6. Pastor Adam and Nancy Lacher enjoyed laying hands on and praying for loved members who don't always make it to church!

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

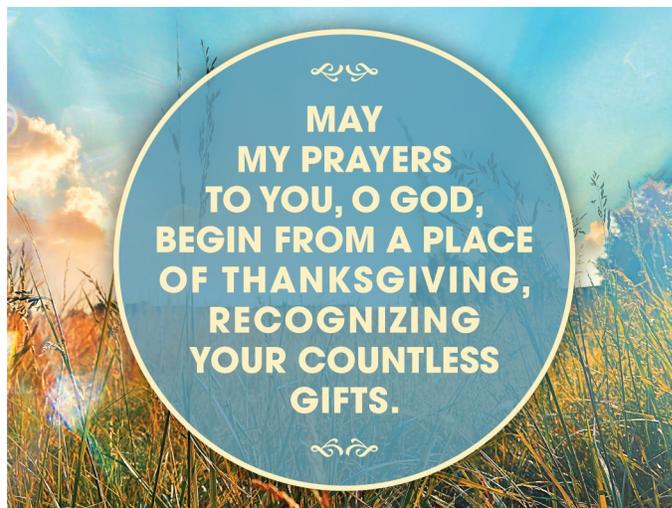
Pastor Adam Berndt, Margie Reed- President,
Sherrie Simek- Vice President, Janet Conlon-
Secretary, Bob Arseneau, Linda Ehlers, Tim
Fuller, Greg Morrison, Kristi Valdez, and Ron
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- In the Great Hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



CROSS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mission Statement

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 Rev. R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

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www.crossofhope.org

Facebook Page: Cross of Hope Church

Worship Times:

On-Site Sunday - 8:45 am
Sunday - 10:45 am

Digital: Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Devotions: Monday-Friday 9:00 am

November Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

Let God fight Your Battles - Joyce Meyer

Practical advice, biblical insights, and personal illustrations that illuminate how to accept God's help. Giving Him control will open your mind to receive His guiding wisdom, filling you with confidence and creative solutions to all of your challenges.

Undistracted: Capture Your Purpose Rediscover Your Joy- Bob Goff

Your undistracted life is an adventure waiting to happen. What stories will you live with undistracted purpose and unstoppable joy?

Somehow: thoughts on love - Anne Lamott

In Somehow: Thoughts on Love, Lamott explores the transformative power that love has in our lives: how it surprises us, forces us to confront uncomfortable truths, reminds us of our humanity, and guides us forward.