



Love • Transform • Serve

# RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

December 2024, Volume 42 Issue 12

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.

## The Space Between

### Advent and Christmas at Cross of Hope

#### **December 1 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

10am worship

#### **December 8 - 5th Sunday of Advent**

8:45am and 10:45am worship

#### **December 14 - Preschool Christmas Program**

10:00am (doors open at 9:30am)

#### **December 15 - 6th Sunday of Advent**

8:45am and 10:45am worship

#### **December 18 - Las Posadas**

6:00pm to 7:30pm (see page 7)

#### **December 21 - Worship on the Longest Night**

6:pm service (see page 7)

#### **December 22 - 7th Sunday of Advent**

8:45am and 10:45am worship

#### **December 24 - Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Eve Worship**

4:00pm - Children's Worship

Christmas songs and stories

6:00pm - Contemporary Worship with Praise + Team

8:00pm - Candlelight Service

Music with Brass and Voices of Hope Choir

#### **December 25 - Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Day**

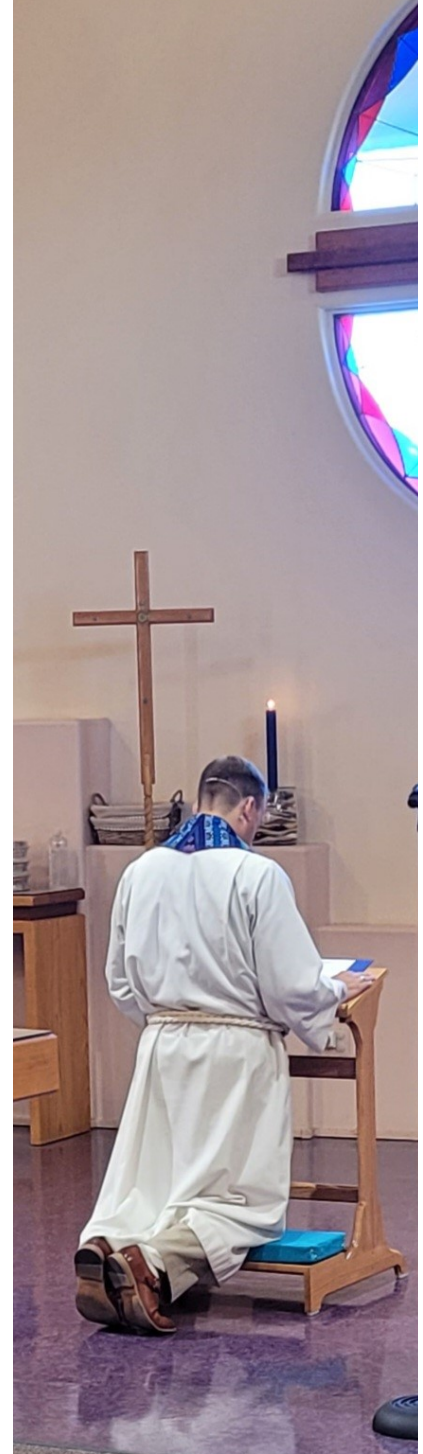
10am worship

#### **December 29 - First Sunday of Christmas**

10:00am worship

#### **January 5 - Second Sunday of Christmas**

8:45am and 10:45am



### 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](mailto:office@crossofhope.org)

On the web at: [www.crossofhope.org](http://www.crossofhope.org)

[cohouncil@crossofhope.org](mailto:cohouncil@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.*

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## Cross of Hope School

### School Website



December is a busy and exciting month for the elementary school. Children are learning about Jesus' birth and the true meaning of Christmas. It is a time of joy and wonder for these children. Excitement is in the air!

### 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](mailto:office@crossofhope.org), [lbagby@crossofhope.org](mailto: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](http://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 Preschool



At the end of November, Cross of Hope's amazing preschool was accredited through ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) for the next six years. Cross of Hope has been given the distinction of accreditation since 2009. Accreditation is a big deal. It holds the preschool accountable and ensures that the children in our care are getting a quality Christian education. Because of this, the preschool has been able to receive more grant money, get national recognition, and receive top notch professional development for all the teachers on the preschool staff. Each year during that time frame, the preschool will have to participate in a yearly review and go over the standards that are outlined and submit whether it meets them or not and what the staff has done to better the preschool.

How did we get this accreditation? Every five years, ACSI does what's called a site visit. There is a team that is designated to go through the preschool program and determine if the preschool meets the very high standards expected from ACSI. When the accreditation team comes in, they go through all of the preschool's files and records, observe in the classrooms, ensure the teachers are qualified, and look for Christianity throughout the preschool program. This is very intensive, and a lot of work, before, during and after. ACSI expects excellence, and the preschool must meet those standards in order to have the National recognition of being accredited through the organization.

We have a very special preschool. The amount of parent involvement, communication, the obvious Christian values instilled in our staff and program, and dedication from the educators to our preschool has led us to this continued great honor of accreditation. Each day I walk into the preschool, and can feel the love, dedication and faith each and every teacher has. Their devotion is poured out into the children. I see the children having fun learning new things and growing in their journey of faith. I see their families wanting to be involved with the preschool, making time to volunteer in the classrooms, and tap into their generous spirit. I see happy teachers, who truly want to be there, and care about each child in their classroom. And most of all I see the love of Christ through each and every person who walks in the preschool doors.

Courtney Knuttila M.Ed  
Director of Preschool  
Cross of Hope Church and School

**Cross of Hope School will be closed from December 23 through January 7 for Christmas and New Year's.**



School continued from page 3

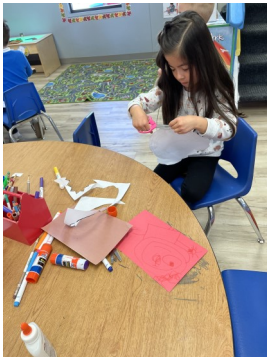
# Cross of Hope Preschool

**Never underestimate the minds and proverbial responses of preschooler!**

While taking pictures of a few children and marveling at the wonder of these classrooms, I was told, "Ethan lost his smile!"

"How do you lose a smile?" I asked

Ethan's reply, "I just lose it when I want to. I find it when I want to put it back on."

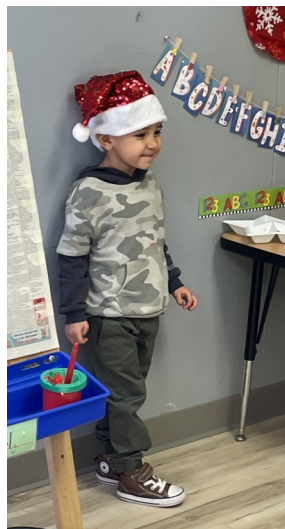


After spending a morning or so in with the preschoolers, I was made privy to some interesting insights.

When going to Colorado for Thanksgiving, I was informed that it will only snow on Wednesday.

I asked, "Why not on a Monday?"

The answer was simple: "Monday is too young to snow!"



## Additional School News



Our shade structure is finally up! We also have new tables for outdoor eating and game playing.



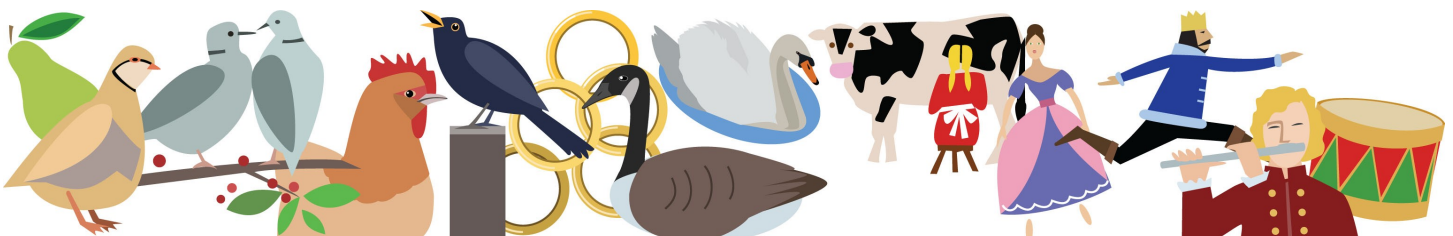
## Camp @ Cross of Hope

Camp resumes this Wednesday, December 4 at 5:30 with a chicken dinner so we have time to practice for Las Posadas. Additional volunteers are needed to help get our actors set up, our dramatization perfected, and all of our camp attenders fed!

If you are able to help, please arrive by 5:30pm. Contact Laura Benchik ([lbenchik@aol.com](mailto:lbenchik@aol.com)) for more information.

## Twelve Days of Christmas

Would you like to share a Christmas devotion or a Bible verse that speaks to you during this Advent season? What about a musical performance? We would love to feature you and place your devotion on our social media sites. The item should be approximately five minutes in length. We will be taping the twelve posts early this month. If you are interested in taking part, please see Nancy or Greg Morrison, or email them at [3morr@msn.com](mailto:3morr@msn.com).





# Church Council

By Margie Reed

November is over, Thanksgiving is a memory, and the COH Council held their last meeting until January 2025.

Now, we all know what's coming – it's time to enter the "Christmas-Holiday Season" full speed ahead!

Let's guess what that entails! Time to open all the dusty bins full of Christmas decorations. Sort through everything, check ornaments and **lights**, get ready to trim the tree and put that beautiful **angel** on top. The halls are decked with Santas, elves, wreaths, garland and whatever else is stashed away in those bins. Be sure and find a special space for the **straw**-filled Christmas crèche (**stable**).

Each year there are those just have-to-have latest and greatest cute new ornaments and gnomes that stare at us in the face as we walk into each store. Not to mention the bigger, better, and taller blow-up characters and **animals** for our front lawns.

We make a list, we check to see if what everyone wants is on our list, then we go shopping with our lists and credit cards, stand in long lines to check out, and at the same time wonder how many of the **gifts** will be returned after Christmas. Walmart, Amazon, Prime etc.! When will we find enough time to wrap, tape, and put ribbon and tags on all those presents?

Oh no, we need to buy the cards, the stamps, and make several trips to the post office to mail all of those out-of-town packages. Guest lists, food shopping, cooking, cookies, desserts, set the table!

Time is flying by - stress, stress, stress! The big day is almost here Santa is on his way to every home in the world to deliver presents. Tomorrow is Christmas day when enormous amounts of **food** is put on the table, for all to enjoy. And we watch as everyone tears open their presents. Oh My! What's next!

## Wait a minute! What is this all about? It's Christmas Eve! Slow down.

What's wrong with this story? Have we lost the true meaning of Christmas? Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and imagine what Christmas was like a long time ago. Here's what I see.

I think of Mary and Joseph, packing up a few things and starting their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in Judea to be counted in the census. I don't know the distance of their trip, but I can't believe it was very comfortable for Mary to ride on a donkey when she was about to give birth.

Many, many people were in Bethlehem for the census counting and had already filled up all of the inns. Mary and Joseph tried to find a place to sleep by going from inn to inn only to being turned away. Those innkeepers had no clue who was to be born that night.

One of the innkeepers told Mary and Joseph about an old **stable** where they could seek shelter. I can't imagine it would be too comfortable and clean but hopefully Mary and Joseph had an extra cloak to cover the **straw** to make a warm bed for them to sleep in. Did they have **food** and water?

Well sometime during the night Mary went into labor. They certainly didn't have any comforts of home, convenient supplies or help with the birth of the baby. Mary wrapped the baby in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. At last Jesus is here, He is in this world, He has come to save us all.

The dark sky became bright and filled with stars. One very, very bright **star** shown over the stable. An **Angel** appeared to the shepherds, who were tending to their sheep, and told them to follow the star where they would find baby Jesus, the Christ child who was just born. The shepherds arrived to find the king of kings lying in a manger.

On the thirteenth day after Jesus' birth the three wise men noticed the bright star and followed it to bring **gifts** to the newborn king. They fell down on their knees and prayed.

I could go on, but, sit on a comfy chair, open your bible to Matthew, Chapter 2 and enjoy the rest of the story.

Many of the words bolded and indented words in this article describe the hustle-bustle of today's Christmas preparations that are also mentioned in the Bible story of the night Jesus was born. The true meaning of Christmas.

May Jesus be in your heart! We sing! We pray! We celebrate!

The Cross of Hope Council wishes you all a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Continued from page 1

## Las Posadas



There is evidence that Las Posadas originated in colonial Mexico as a way for Spaniards to share Christmas traditions with native people. It is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico and some parts of the United States between December 16 and 24. The tradition, taking place in what we would call the winter solstice, was and is celebrated as a festival including a dramatization of when Joseph and Mary were only able to seek shelter in a stable. It was a mere stable where the Christ Child was born.

Cross of Hope will host Las Posadas on December 18 beginning at 6pm. There will be a reinactment, food (enchiladas, posole, beans, biscochitos, and hot chocolate), mariachis, and a piñata. Please join us for this fun-filled night. Our church and school community are excited about this annual event.

The Cross of Hope Hospitality Team is seeking contributions of food and assistance with hosting, serving, and clean up.

Please [click here](#) to sign up for a slot or two on the Sign Up Genius.



## The Longest Night



While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night worship may provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

Come and worship. Come and be still.



### 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.

## Advent - The Space Between

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.

- 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](mailto:media@crossofhope.org) to be connected with, or start, a small group!







# The Happy Hope-r

Art Kavanaugh and RC Jordan



RC

Art

**Birthdate:** October 9, 1959

December 5, 1959

**Birthplace:** Deerfield IL

Las Vegas, NM

**Partners:** Since November of 2016

**Met:** Albuquerque, NM

**Occupation:** Administration in health insurance; Price Contract Analysis with County Clerk Election Bureau: Director of Worship and Community Life here at Cross of Hope

Presbyterian Hospital in supply services; Bernalillo County Treasurer's Office; Compliance Officer

**Hobbies:** Eating, reading, sewing, crafts, movies, baking, walking

Trout fishing, gardening, video games, working out at the gym, cooking



Art's parents were Arthur and Martha (Lujan). He was the oldest of six children. He has three brothers (one deceased) and two sisters. All but one lives in Santa Fe. The other lives in Arizona. The picture from left to right: Shirley (the oldest sister), Sherry (the younger sister), Art, Martha (Art's mother), RC, Chris (RC's twin sister. She is 4 minutes older).

Arthur was a union painter doing commercial and industrial painting. He did this to fill in from his true occupation and love – a full-time cowboy. Martha married Arthur when she was 15 years old. Having six children was a lot for one so young. They divorced when Art was 15 years old.

The family lived in Las Vegas, NM. Arthur was a boxer when he was young, including when he was in the Army. He was stationed in Okinawa, Japan as a "radar operator." Radar operators played a crucial role in World War II. They watched for Japanese airplanes and warned of their approach.

Arthur tried out for the 1952 Olympics as a boxer representing his Army unit. Unfortunately, he did not make the cut. Art said his dad was not a big man, maybe 5'5" 130 pounds when wet, but he was very strong. Guess that would come from boxing and being a cowboy.

After the divorce, Art's dad moved to the South Valley (in Albuquerque). He had a "stud" horse he showed at different venues. He did trail rides along the ditch bank from Albuquerque to Santa Fe and from Albuquerque to Socorro. Additionally, he was part of the Sheriff's Posse. So of course, Art was also involved with the Junior Sheriff's Posse. Arthur passed away in March 2023.



Art and RC continued from page 9

Martha was a homemaker. The kids kept her busy. Art said that while they didn't have much, his mother always helped the neighbors bringing them food. Maybe that is where Art gets his generous and caring heart. Martha is living in Santa Fe.

After the divorce, Art moved to Albuquerque to live with his grandparents for a year. At the age of 16, he got his own apartment and a job at Presbyterian Hospital. Of course, there was school (Rio Grande High School). Art played football, basketball, wrestling and track. What a surprise!

While playing football at age 15, Art detached his retina but didn't know it. He was ready to continue playing. Martha made an appointment with an eye doctor who was ready to schedule surgery. Art said he had a game to play. The doctor told him that was fine but if he played, he may never see again. It was Art's choice. Art decided on the immediate surgery. It was time to switch sports to something a little less physically intense because the doctor wouldn't sign off for him to play. Now it was wrestling, track, shot put, javelin and basketball. The latter didn't last because Art was too physical. Hmm, can you imagine. With all this going on, his studies did not suffer. Art was a member of the National Honor Society. Art went to college at UNM but dropped out his freshman year. He returned to school 40 years later and earning a B.A. in Accounting from the Anderson School of Management in 2010.

After high school, Art continued working at Presbyterian Hospital until 1988, working his way up. Then he went to work for Bernalillo County for 25 years and retired. While working here he had the opportunity to attend conferences locally and out of state. He met a lot of different people, and they discussed legislative issues and helped develop new legislation.

RC described herself as an "Army brat." Her father, Edmund, was stationed mainly in El Paso, TX and Germany. There were five children in the family – two boys and three girls. Her parents divorced when RC was very young. Her mother was no longer a part of her life. Due to circumstances, RC's dad had to put the children into foster care for a time. He made sure they were all together and that when situations changed, he could get the children back in his custody. Her father did remarry while stationed in Germany. RC did not have a good relationship with her stepmother. She left home when she was 17 years old with nothing but the clothes on her back.

RC 's high school years were in El Paso. Texas was the one state she remembers living in longer than four years. While there she went to UTEP for a short period of time. She always wanted to be a nurse but had no funds for that schooling. Instead, she went to school to become a Medical Transcriptionist. Unfortunately, she couldn't get a job because she was not bi-lingual. Instead, she got a job as a teller in a local bank. There she became friendly with a banking customer who was a manager at a local insurance agency. She encouraged RC to come work for the agency as a claims rep. RC worked her way up in the agency over the next six years.

After five years with the insurance agency, RC wanted to take a vacation. Her little sister suggested she fly to Hawaii for a visit. RC always wanted to see other places. The two she was determined to see were Hawaii and Australia. With some foresight, she updated her resume before going to Hawaii for a one-week visit. The stars must have aligned in her favor. The day before her vacation ended, she applied for two jobs, landing one at an insurance agency. She moved all her belongings to Hawaii in May 1990 and stayed until August 1998. While there she got married, became a homeowner and had a child, Connor. RC's favorite pastimes were golfing, racket ball and boogie boarding. She laughs recalling the "leash" attached to the surf boards were not long enough for her (the scourge of being tall). After eight years it was time to come back to the mainland.

For three years she ran a pre-school in her home until Connor was old enough to start first grade. For the next five years she worked in a law firm that dealt with Native American issues. Sadly, one of the partners passed away which ended the partnership contract. RC was hired by Cardinal Health where she spent eight years until the company decided to outsource their work to the Philippines. RC received a good severance package which allowed her to consider college again.

Art and RC continued from page 10

At the same time her marriage was coming to an end. She knew she had to start over again and being able to go to school was a blessing. RC attended Brown-Mackey College (now defunct) full-time. She achieved her A.S. in Business Administration in 2016 with a 4.0 GPA.

RC's son, Connor, lives in Albuquerque. RC is proud of Connor and his two children. Elliot is seven years old and Ms. Anna (Anastasia) is five years old. They call her "Gigi Grandma."

Art and RC met at the Los Volcanos Senior Center. Art was working out with his gym partner, Rudy Simek. Along comes RC. She watched how they were doing their workouts and was impressed. RC asked if she could workout with them. They had a schedule of routines and worked out six days a week. Weights was something she never did before. The threesome has expanded to include Sherrie. "Pumping iron like nobody's business!" The four are known as the "Dream Team."

Art and RC help out at Cross of Hope. RC is the Director Worship and Community Life. She does a variety of different things behind the scenes. Art is a bit more visible – he ushers with Rudy Simek and Ron Cordova. This is the team that greets you with warmth and a smile every Sunday and they make sure there are hymnals and plenty of chairs for all.

Both Art and RC have been a wonderful addition to our congregation. They certainly have brought supplemental help that helps us function.

The final question that should not be left uncovered – What does RC stand for? She didn't tell me. I guess you have to ask her and see if she will share that information.

## Columbarium Committee

A committee is forming to explore the possibility of having a columbarium at Cross of Hope. If you are interested in information or would like to be on this committee contact Rick Alpers, [rgalpers@gmail.com](mailto:rgalpers@gmail.com) or Duane Meneely, [dmen1@aol.com](mailto:dmen1@aol.com) or 831-578-3140



## Fall Cleanup



**Saturday, December 7, 2024**  
**9:00am to 1:00pm**

To prepare our church property for our December festivities, the Cross of Hope Gardeners are asking our church community to join them and the Boy Scouts in some raking, mowing, bagging leaves, sweeping, and general cleaning up of our space. This would be a great opportunity for some fellowship and teamwork.



# Lunch Bunch

Join us BJ's Restaurant at 10000 Coors Blvd NW - right outside of Cottonwood Mall. Cottonwood

December 11 at 1:00. Please contact Sherrie Simek  
[rsimek1053@yahoo.com](mailto:rsimek1053@yahoo.com).



# Angel Tree



Cross of Hope has partnered up with the Albuquerque Public School Homeless Project. The families adopted this year are either homeless, newly housed, or bunking up with other families. The gifts given may possibly be the only gifts for these families.

In the past, we were limited to one gift per person. Things have changed this year. We are providing a complete outfit for each person including a jacket and shoes. Those of you who have drawn angels are only committed to purchasing the gifts noted on the angel tag you have selected.

This year participants have been given out information sheets to simply give a bit more information about these families and children. This allows for gifts to be a bit more personal.

You may bring the gifts back in gift bags or simply return in a shopping bag. If you did not select an angel, but still want to help, we can use gift bags and tissue paper, or gift cards to Walmart, Smith's or Target. Go to [Sign Up Genius](#) to choose the gift(s) you would like to get for these families.

All gifts must be returned to the church no later than December 15. If you cannot meet this deadline, please call Deney Perkins 505-321-5549 right away.

## Words for a Hurting Heart

Because we serve the One who is the Solution and the Answer, those of us who are Christians tend to feel the need to bring a solution or an answer to most crises and difficult situations. It's easy to feel helpless and empty-handed without a spiritual or practical answer for a friend in a crisis. The temptation is to stay away because we feel helpless or useless.

The important news is that your friend does not want you to wait to visit until you can comfort the person with an answer. It's not a secret that your friend knows you don't know the answer. The friend does not expect you to change the situation.

The next time someone you love is in a difficult circumstance that just doesn't make sense, feel free to just run to that special person with your love. That friend knows you don't understand and you don't know the right words. Just be there; you are needed.



## Heart Strings

*Members of COH unable to worship on site.*

Kevin Benhem	1
Noelle Kouri	2
Art Kavanaugh	5
Luke Walter	8
Lynne Bagby	8
Beth Christians	8
Ann Martin	9
Star Cooley	10
Linda Willoughby	11
Kathy Branson	11
Susan Rivera	11
Rowynn Adams	13
Addy Berndt	15
Jericho Adams	16
Laurie Adams	17
Karen Hawley	18
Ed Christians	19
Erin Hielkema	20
Carol Wirths	20
Vicki Bachman	21
Jason Adams	27
John Curtin	31
Martha Hughes	31

### Carroll Werling

Palmilla Senior Living, 10301 Golf Course Rd NW Apt. 144  
Albuquerque, NM 87114  
(918) 639-8044



	Day	Years Married
Jerry and Laura Burton	8	34
David and Karen Wilson	27	44
Ron and Carol Wirths	28	50
Tanya and Steve Zynda	30	29

We are deeply saddened to announce the death of our sibling in Christ, Leeon Carrico, who died peacefully on November 30, 2024.

Please hold Diane, family and friends in your prayers and care.

Memorial Service to be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 2:00pm at Cross of Hope,

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

Cards may be sent to:  
Diane Carrico and Family  
5200 Timan Ave NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87114



Cross of Hope Church will be closed half day on December 24 and a full day December 25 and 26 and January 1, 2025.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



# Beyond the Looking Glass



The Banner Babes Tea was the best ever!

Our queen was the best mistress of ceremonies.

Our surprise visit from the anonymous white rabbit added a lot of laughter and fun.

We had over 100 raffle items.

All of your words of praise are so very appreciated.

Until next year . . .

Thanks to all





**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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27193C N9-22

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**cohcouncil@crossofhope.org**

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 Sherrie Simek- Vice President, Janet Conlon-  
 Secretary, Bob Arseneau, Linda Ehlers, Tim  
 Fuller, Greg Morrison, Kristi Valdez, and Ron  
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27193C N9-22

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 Preschool (505) 899-0928

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## SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF ALBUQUERQUE CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2024

Conductors: John Yuan/Victor Garcia

**HANDEL: SELECTIONS FROM "MESSIAH"**  
**CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG**

**TSCHAIKOVSKY:**  
**SELECTIONS FROM "NUTCRACKER"**

**ADAM: O HOLY NIGHT**

And Many More!

\*\*\*\*\*

### DATES AND LOCATIONS:

**December 8, Sunday, 2:00 pm**  
**Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church**  
**8600 Academy, NE**

**December 15, Sunday, 2:00 pm**  
**St. John XXIII Catholic Community Church**  
**4831 Tramway Ridge Dr., NE**

**WE HOPE THAT YOU CAN JOIN US FOR THIS  
 GREAT PRESENTATION!**

## 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](http://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**  
 Church & School

Love • Transform • Serve

## 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](mailto:office@crossofhope.org)  
[www.crossofhope.org](http://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

## December Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

### The Prayer Box - Lisa Wingate

Hidden in the boxes is the story of a lifetime, written on random bits of paper--the hopes and wishes, fears and thoughts of an unassuming but complex woman passing through the seasons of an extraordinary, unsung life filled with journeys of faith, observations on love, and one final lesson that could change everything.

### Dusk Light Dawn- Anne Lamott

How can we recapture the confidence we once had as we stumble through the dark times that seem increasingly bleak? As bad news piles up—from climate crises to daily assaults on civility—how can we cope?

### The Ride of Her Life - Elizabeth Letts

In 1954, sixty-three-year-old Maine farmer Annie Wilkins embarked on an impossible journey. She had no money and no family, she had just lost her farm, and her doctor had given her only two years to live. But Annie wanted to see the Pacific Ocean before she died. She ignored her doctor's advice to move into the county charity home. Instead, she bought a cast-off brown gelding named Tarzan, donned men's dungarees, and headed south in mid-November, hoping to beat the snow. \*This book was recommended by Jan Anderson.