



Love • Transform • Serve

RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

April 2025, Volume 43, Issue 4

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.



Then the women remembered Jesus' words. Luke 24.8

Holy Week begins on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13 and ends with the great celebration of Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday, April 20. As the bookends of our Hosannas and Hallelujahs hold the space and place to gather as a community of faith, we remember both the words of Jesus and the sacrifice he made to offer the hope of new life. Come and listen. Come and be still. Come and worship. Know the enduring life and love of God that is our hope for and through all time.

Blessings this Holy Week and Easter!
Pr. Adam

April 13 - Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Worship begins with palms outside

8:45am and 10:45am

April 14-16

Morning prayer

8:30am

April 17 - Maundy Thursday

Worship with foot washing and more

6:30pm

April 18 - Good Friday

Worship with the adoration of the cross

6:30pm

April 20 - Easter Day: The Resurrection of Our Lord

Worship 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
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.

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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, 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.

Cross of Hope School

CROSS OF HOPE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

2025/2026

[Click Here](#)



Preschool-5th Grade

5-Star Nationally

Accredited Preschool

Low Student/Teacher Ratios

Researched Based Curriculum

Safe and Secure Campus

505-897-1832

6104 Taylor Ranch Rd. NW

<https://www.crossofhope.org/schools/>

Care Outreach

Transportation

Medical Appointments
Other Appointments
Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals

Family Emergency
Illness
Death

Assistance is available:

- www.crossofhope.org/forms
- Email: care@crossofhope.org
- In the Great hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



Love • Transform • Serve

School continued from page 2

Cross of Hope School News

Night of Appreciation for all of our Amazing Volunteers

Wednesday, April 2

6-7:30pm



Easter Crafts

Fellowship

Food

Fun

Silent Auction

Spring Hop-a-Thon

April 14-16 during school hours.

Students are practicing now for bragging rights on numbers of hops, jumps, and hot peppers they can do.



Chipotle Fundraiser for COH School

Please join us at Chipotle, 3400 NM528 STE B, Albuquerque, for a spicy fundraising dinner, April 16, 4 - 8 pm. 25% of event sales get donated to the cause.

Order online for pickup using code JHJVYPZ or show this flyer in restaurant.



There will be no school April 18 or April 21 due to Easter Break.

There will also be no school on April 24 due to Professional Development.

School continued on page 4

School continued from page 3



The Roving Hope- r

By Mary Bresnahan

This year we celebrate Easter in April. We needed to hear what the kids thought Easter was and what they do to celebrate this special holiday.

We start with **Astrid** in kindergarten. She chose to have Marty, her cat, as her picture. She loves him very much.



"When we say Easter, I think about bunnies and cats. We do a scavenger hunt for candy in plastic eggs. I love all the candy."



Bryson is in 1st grade. He likes "catching the Easter bunny and eating him for dinner." (I think he was pulling my leg!) He also mentioned the Easter egg hunt. "We find fake eggs with money, toys and other stuff. There is a prize."

"Today I will be leaving school early to get my cast off. My scooter went flying away and I went with it."

Camren is in 2nd grade. In place of his picture, he wanted his Aussiedoodle dog, Teddy. "He is very playful. He is brown and white all over. He is eight months old."



"Easter is the day that God came back to life. We go to Grandma and Papas to celebrate. We have donuts and soup. We also do an egg hunt (with fake eggs). They have coins (money) inside."



From the 3rd grade **Sebastian** joined us. He chose to have his dachshund in place of his picture. "He is my dog from Germany."

For Easter "we go egg hunting. Some eggs have candy and some eggs are chocolate. We put the eggs in the garden. I have two other brothers, Tino and Ethan. We go to L.A. to see friends. When I was at another school (in L.A.) we got a t-rex and my brother got a transformer."

Ellie, from the 4th grade was next to join us. She said, "Easter means when Jesus rose from the dead. We spend time with my cousins and family at Grandpa's house." We hunt for "fake eggs most of the time." Most have candy inside but "if you get lucky you can find the 'golden' egg." The egg hunters include my brother and cousin." We have chicken and mashed potatoes for dinner."



Roving Hope-r continued from page 4



Finally, we spent time with **Saylee** who is in 5th grade. Easter is when Jesus rose from the dead. That's usually what I always think about Easter.

"Most of the time we go to my grandpa's house. I usually hide the eggs (with my aunt) because I am the oldest. They have money or candy in them. My cousins are all between the ages of 7 and 9" years old. For dinner we always have salad and any kind of meat."

I know I, *the Roving Hope-r*, am older but we never found money during the egg hunt! Of course, the eggs were typically not fake. We usually hoped the squirrels didn't find them before we did. One thing is still the same – there was plenty of candy. We also had a new Easter outfit to wear to church in the morning. How things change and stay the same. Happy Easter!

Dads and Donuts



A big thank you to all of our dads who joined us in March for this special event.



Anatomy of a Gift

Council Corner

By Greg Morrison, COH Treasurer

Recently Cross of Hope was blessed with a substantial gift from the estate of Pastor Dale and Edee Bauer. As part of their estate the initial gift, which is to be used exclusively for our school ministry, totaled some \$137,000 with a small additional amount expected later this year when the estate is fully settled.

Desiring to ensure that the gift has the most impact for years to come the congregational council has established a quasi-endowment fund with \$115,000 from the gift to be used to fund scholarships. The principle of the fund will be held in perpetuity or until the council chooses to release any or all of the fund. The interest from the endowment will be rolled out of the fund each quarter to help fund the scholarship program for the school. The balance of the gift, some \$25,000 has been earmarked to upgrade the computer technology of the school.

The beauty of such a gift is a great reminder of ways we can continue to share the gifts our God has provided us through planned giving. Stewardship through planned giving can take many forms. We often think of planned gifts as being made to organizations after a one's death, but planned gifts can provide assets while allowing the giver to earn income for a period during their life.

One such example is the qualified charitable distribution option that Pastor Russ and Hans Zimmer have spoken about over the last few years. The QCD allows those who are 73 and older to give funds from their IRAs with no tax ramifications. Russ and Hans have put together a great brochure on the subject which is available through the church office if you are so inclined.

Other potential planned gifts might include appreciated assets items such as real estate. Gifts of real estate often deliver a much larger value than gifts of other assets by providing savings such as capital gains offset and estate tax savings. Gifts of stock or bonds is another option which can potentially be a tax-efficient stewardship option for some. In gifting stocks you'll be able to claim a charitable tax deduction for the full, fair market value of the securities, and you'll pay no capital gains tax on the transfer.

Another option we don't often think of is the gift of a life insurance policy. There are a number of ways to do this, from simply naming the church as one or the sole beneficiary of the policy to taking a policy out in the name of the church which can also immediately produce tax advantages.

Finally, like the Bauer's, leaving a bequest is a great option and is the most popular type of planned gift. One simply leaves a percentage or a specified amount to the church in their will or trust, and church will receive the full amount in the event of one's death.

No matter which option for a planned gift you might consider when doing so it is always advisable to seek advice from a financial consultant or legal counsel to ensure that the gift is set up properly and has the greatest benefit to both the church and you.

Register Now for RTLC Day Camp



Cross of Hope Church
6104 Taylor Ranch Road, 87120

505-897-0047, x102
office@crossofhope.org
www.crossofhope.org



Rainbow Trail Day Camp

at Cross Of Hope

No Fee!
Non-Church Members & Friends Welcome!

**ACTIVITIES
INCLUDE**

- Outdoor Play
- Music
- Bible Studies
- Snacks
- Games
- Crafts
- Fellowship
- Special Events

**JUNE
9-13**



SCAN ME



[Registration is
now open.
Click here](#)



Please join us April 2, 9, 16, and 30 for a great meal,
oodles of fun, faith-building, music and more!

5:30pm - 7:30pm



Happy Hope-r

Bob and Bonny Arseneau

By: Mary Bresnahan



Bob

Bonny

Birthdate: September 18, 1961	August 18, 1961
Birthplace: Kankakee, IL	Volga, SD
Married: February 2, 1985	Where: Volga, SD
Children: 1 son, Morgan He lives in Salt Lake City, UT.	
Occupation: Retired	FDIC Retired
Hobbies: Golf, cooking, travel	Golf, puzzles, reading, travel, walking

Bob's dad, Robert, was a barber. He had his own shop and was a Korean War vet. His mother, Lois, worked for General Foods in Promotions. She ran the program for Gevalia coffee. Bob has two older sisters – one lives in South Carolina and the other in Florida.

Bob spent one semester in college and decided it wasn't for him. He was introduced to one of his dad's friends who got him a job in banking. The bank failed and Bob was offered a job with FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation). Bob's second assignment took him to a failed bank in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Bob hired Bonny's sister and saw Bonny around. That's where their life chapter together began.

Bonny's parents were Richard and Marge Kleinjan. Her dad was a farmer, primarily raising corn and pigs. Marge was trained as a nurse. She stayed home with the kids (one brother and two sisters). Once the kids were grown and gone, she worked in an elder care facility. She still resides in Volga and is 86 years old. Bonny's brother lives in Chino, CA and one sister is here in Albuquerque and the other in Sioux Falls, SD.

Arseneau continued from page 8

Bonny attended Dordt College in Iowa receiving a B.S. in Accounting in 1983. In 1993, she received an MBA in Finance from DePaul University in Chicago.

Bonny worked for Western Bank in Sioux Falls when she met Bob. When Bob returned to Chicago, Bonny joined him and later also began working for FDIC. Between Bob and Bonny, they received FDIC job-related transfers from Chicago, IL to Minneapolis, MN, back to Chicago, Dallas, TX, and their final assignment in Minneapolis.

Bonny was always involved in finance. Healthy banks did not mind seeing her come for an examination, but she found the exams of struggling banks more interesting. However, Bob's arrival at a bank was another story. When he walked through the door, the bank had already failed; employees were scared and worried about their jobs, insured depositors needed their money, and he was there to liquidate what was left. Bob quit FDIC five times and they rehired him each time. Like any job, it had good times and some not so much.

They were living in Minneapolis when Bob retired in 2018. This was also the year both of their dads passed away within six weeks of each other. Once he retired, Bob researched cities that might hold interest as a place to retire. His list focused on the southwest: Salt Lake City, UT, St. George, UT, Tucson, AZ, El Paso, TX, Dallas, TX, Las Cruces, NM, and Albuquerque. They took a long road trip to these places and Bob had arranged meetings with builders in each city. (You will notice Bonny's Utah Ute's sweatshirt in the picture. That is where their son went to school and has now settled.) The final decision of Albuquerque was partly because other builders wouldn't build the smaller house with the features they wanted. When they told their son about their adventures, they spent most of their time talking about the lot they looked at in Rio Rancho. (It has a fabulous view of the Sandias, which are in the background of their picture.) In addition, living here is much more affordable. The house was built while they were still in Minneapolis. Bonny retired in 2020 and then they moved to NM and into their retirement house.

Bob is the main cook and Bonny is the baker. The latter requires more preciseness while cooking can be more flexible. Bob does not use recipes. He knows what goes well together.

When Bob and Bonny arrived in Albuquerque, we were in the midst of the pandemic. It made it harder to make new friends and find a church. They continued on-line with their old church for a year. When they started to look for a new church home, they found that many people had not yet returned to in-person services. It made it hard to get a sense of the "community" in many churches. When they came to Cross of Hope, everyone was friendly. They liked Pastor Adam's energy. They described it as "infectious." Bob found his way on to the church Council. That is a good thing for both Bob and the church. Thankfully, we don't need to use Bob's skills as a liquidator.

Community Outreach News



Members of our Church community were busy March 29 with another great ramp project.



Photos courtesy of RC Jordan

PROPERTY UPDATE



Changing of the Guards in the land of Property!



I have loved working as the Property Assistant for 8 years but it's now time for me to step aside. I am looking forward to continuing to be the gardener girl for the circle gardens, side garden, shrubs along the walkway, and pots and decorations in front of the Church.

Here's what the new Property Team now looks like:

Pat Benchik, Property Manager, will continue to collaborate with our vendors to request estimates for indoor and outdoor projects, set up appointments and forward appropriate information to Rudy, Sherrie and Linda.

Rudy and Sherrie are now the new Property Assistants. They will follow up with Pat and/or vendors and be on-site for projects by vendors if Pat is unavailable. They will receive work orders from staff and teachers and work with Linda to find the appropriate person to complete the request. They will also continue to be landscapers for the property.

John Lacher will continue to take care of gardening on Kachina St. as well as fixing copiers, lights, and everything else that he does for COH.

Anthony Soto, new to the Property Team, has agreed to use his skills to respond to calls from Rudy and Sherrie or Linda regarding work orders and will fix such things as plumbing problems, small carpenter-related issues, etc.

Kevin Kouri, who is also new to the Team will work with Pat on projects. He has recently installed new ceiling tiles and works on COH school computers.

Linda – thanks for helping me all these years. You manage work order requests, contact vendors, complete purchase vouchers, check requests, set up inspections, obtain necessary permits, and much more.

I've loved working with all of you. I will be happy to answer any questions or help you all if I'm able.

Thank you, Margie Reed



The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections Group

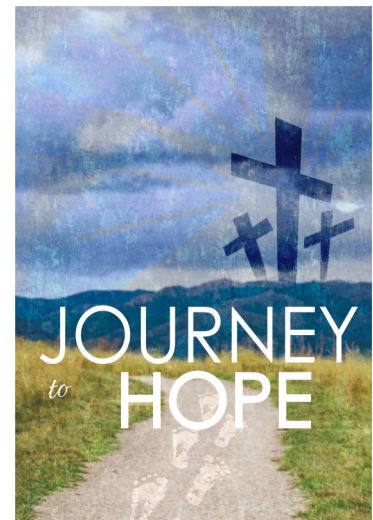
To provide an opportunity for all people to share Christ's love and authentic community in a small group setting where lives are transformed through growth in faith and service to others.

COH Small Group Ministry

We are continuing the journey theme from the first eight weeks of this year. We've journeyed to community, reconciliation, peace, and generosity. The focus of Lent will be "Journey to Hope".

Journey to Hope

April 6	Fifth Sunday of Lent	<i>Intention</i>
April 13	Sixth Sunday of Lent	<i>Service</i>
April 17	Maunday Thursday	<i>Loss</i>
April 18	Good Friday	<i>Wonder</i>
April 20	Easter Sunday	<i>Gift</i>



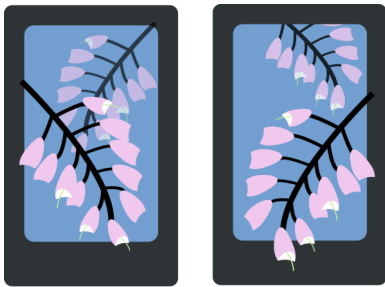
Dear COH Family Promise of Albuquerque (FPA) Hosts, Hot Meal Providers, Prayer Partners, Bib makers, and financial supporters,

THANK YOU!! The FPA program is successful because of YOUR efforts! It has survived because of you, and we in turn are helping families survive and thrive. Baby Christopher was released from UNMH without oxygen on Tuesday after his RSV illness. As far as I know at the moment, no volunteers exposed became ill. Thank the Lord! Three of the 4 of our members who were exposed had already received the RSV vaccine

available for adults with medical history of concern and/or older than 65. THANK YOU FOR SERVING GOD WITH US!!

The Church office will close at 12pm on April 18 (Good Friday) and reopen on Monday April 21.

April Birthdays



Zach Zimmer	2
Judy Will	4
David Wilson	4
Herah LaChance	4
Kimberly O'Roark	6
Boden Bencomo	6
Kathy Bramley	7
Tanya Zynda	9
Pat Holman	10
Elyse Benhem	11
Steve Spinks	12
Rose Abeyta	14
Philip Wangberg	16
Zoey Gentile / Martinez	18
Charlie Anderson	21
Dennis Milks	21
Hunter Streff	22
Brant St-Martin	22
Brantley St-Martin	28
Dawna Pascarella	29
Laura Benchik	29

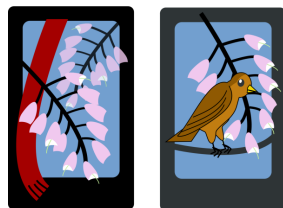


Heart Strings

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

Carroll Werling

Palmilla Senior Living
10301 Golf Course Rd NW
Apt 144
Albuquerque, NM 87114



April Anniversaries

	Day	Years
Jan Anderson and Dale McCabe	11	33
Dave and Gretchen Comfort	15	47
Anthony and Deborah Rivera	17	49
Pete and Janet Wormwood	20	35

Lunch Bunch



The Range Wednesday, April 16, 2025

10019 Coors Blvd NW
at 1:00 pm

Please call Florence Begay or email her for a head count by April 12.
Phone: 505-363-5827, email: florencebegay2011@gmail.com.

A Columbarium for Cross of Hope?



What a cemetery is to graves, a columbarium is to cremation remains- cremains. It is a place that houses the ashes of loved ones who've passed.

Most recently constructed churches don't have cemeteries, especially here out West, but some have columbaria. Such an offering provides a physical memorial environment where people can gather to think of their loved ones.

A committee has been formed to explore the question whether or not a columbarium would be appropriate and desired by the congregation.

In an effort to determine this, in the coming weeks a brief survey will be distributed to congregation members.

It will be very basic. It will ask each member whether or not to allow the pursuit of information and possible construction of a columbarium, or if they simply want to know more about it.

Down the road there would be many considerations such as cost, pricing, style, locality, legalities, administration, and other matters. But right now this survey will simply be given out to determine what is the basic interest level of Cross of Hope.

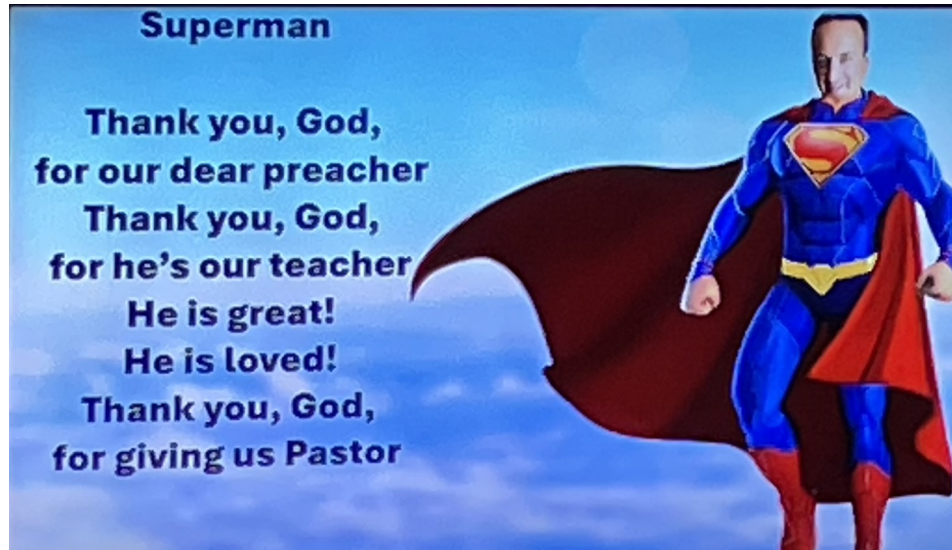
If you would like more information, contact [Duane Meneely](#) [Pat Benchik](#), or [Rick Alpers](#).

**Welcoming
New Members**



Please join us as we welcome new members to
Cross of Hope
Easter Sunday at each of our services.
8:45 and 10:45am

Celebrating 10 Years of Service



Photos courtesy of Florence Begay and Lynne Bagby

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.

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Matthew J Klandrud, ChFC®, RICP®, CKA®

Wealth Advisor

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 6565 Americas Pkwy NE, Ste 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110



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

Pastor Adam Berndt, Margie Reed -President,
 Sherrie Simek -Vice President, Greg Morrison –
 Treasurer, Janet Conlon - Secretary, Bob
 Arseneau, Jessica Williams, Ron Wirths, and
 Ron Cordova.

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esdirector@crossofhope.org

School (505) 897-1832



**Courtney Knutla, Preschool Director
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www.crossofhope.org



Cross of Hope Care Outreach

Transportation
 Medical Appointments
 Other Appointments
 Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals
 Family Emergency
 Illness
 Death

Assistance is available:

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



CROSS OF HOPE 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.

April Book Suggestions

by Dee Gutierrez and Charlie Anderson

An Echo in the Darkness - Francine Rivers

This is the second installment in of the story of Hadassah, a courageous Christian slave girl with unrelenting faith, and Marcus, the Roman aristocrat who claims her heart. Continuing to search for meaning and faith, Marcus turns away from the opulence of Rome, led by a whispering voice from the past into a journey that could set him free from the darkness of his soul.

The Holy Spirits Presence: Accessing God's Power by Acknowledging Our Weakness - A. W. Tozer

Tozer explains that in His mercy, God has provided His followers with the Holy Spirit, a divine Helper meant to guide, empower, and transform lives. Yet, Tozer laments that many Christians fail to recognize or embrace this gift, depriving themselves of the Spirit's strength and guidance.

Charlie Anderson recommended:

Lessons I've learned from a little black dog-Wade Carey

So many people develop an intense bond with certain furry members of our world which runs so deeply, it's sometimes hard to believe. As a result, the sorrow over losing a beloved pet can summon a level of grief that is both intense and perplexing. But is this natural? Is God involved in the process somehow?