



## Rainbow Trail Day Camp 2025



*Photos taken by  
Adelle Adams*

### Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW  
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](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.

# Cross of Hope School

## Cross of Hope School

# ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN

### PRESCHOOL-5TH GRADE

- ✓ 5 Star Nationally Accredited Preschool
- ✓ Researched Based Curriculum
- ✓ Low Student/Teacher Ratio
- ✓ Safe and Secure Campus

**ENROLL NOW**

Visit Our Website  
[www.crossofhope.org/schools/](http://www.crossofhope.org/schools/)

505-897-1832



Cross of Hope School is a welcoming Christ-centered community providing high quality education in a nurturing environment that respects each child's development.





6104 Taylor Ranch Rd. NW  
87120



## HAPPY FOURTH of JULY

Church Office will be closed  
Friday - July 4, 2025

# 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



Love • Transform • Serve



# COUNCIL CORNER

by Ron Wirths

*Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.  
(Joshua 1:9)*

The Cross of Hope council agenda addressed several items essential to the ongoing operation of the Church and School. The School Director reported that we can expect another banner year next term with 44 elementary students enrolled with 3 pending, and 31 preschool enrollees. The financial health of the congregation continues to be fundamentally sound. Both income and expenses are tracked closely to the fiscal year budget which ends on July 31. Budget preparations are in process for the upcoming year, and the July meeting will finalize the proposed budget for the Congregational Meeting in August. Only one change in the budget process is anticipated. Treasurer Greg Morrison recommended that the special activities that are currently funded largely by separate donations be formally tracked and budgeted so we can monitor the funding for those activities. These changes affect the Camp@Cross of Hope, Special Needs VBS and Rainbows Trail programs.

The Council recognized the efforts of Bob Arseneau, who championed the installation of the solar system for the facility. Bob did research on potential rebate opportunities, solicited bids for the installation and generated cost-benefit analysis that resulted in the congregation voting resoundingly for the expenditure of \$136,059 to complete the project. He will continue as project manager until completion.

In anticipation of the August Congregational meeting, the council will need to recruit four new members for the Council to replace members Bob Arseneau and Ron Wirths along with current President Margie Reed and current Secretary Janet Conlon, all whose terms expire on July 31. To facilitate the recruitment process, information will be provided to the congregation outlining the roles and responsibilities of Council members. This will allow members to decide whether and how their talents and time might best meet the needs for Council participation.

Another major undertaking for the meeting involved a thorough review and update of the Cross of Hope Employee Manual. Most changes were geared toward clarifying professional standards of conduct, setting the holiday schedules for next year and generally reorganizing the structure of the document.

## Temple Guards Says Hello!



Photo by Florence Begay



# Happy Hope-r

## The Williams Family

By: Mary Bresnahan



### Jessica

### Kevin

<b>Birthdate:</b> Oct. 17, 1975	May 9, 1968
<b>Birthplace:</b> Wadena, MN	Seattle, WA
<b>Married:</b> Oct. 2, 2004	<b>Where:</b> Sipapu, NM
<b>Children:</b> 2: Greta, 16 & Isaac, 13	
<b>Occupation:</b> Pediatric Radiologist M. D.	Interventional Radiologist M. D.
<b>Hobbies:</b> Cooking, reading, puzzles, yoga	jogging, yardwork

Jessica's parents, Colin and Dee Murphy, were originally from Minnesota. They met at a Bible study at a "hippie" commune after Colin had "come to the Lord." They married in 1973 and were called to do missionary work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. They went through linguistic training and were sent to Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 1984. At this point Jessica was eight years old.

Colin and Dee worked with the Nahu people. Their village was only accessible by helicopter. There was no running water or electricity. Colin and Dee had a home at the mission base in Ukarumpa, where Jessica went to school. When her parents went to the village for three-month periods, her schooling became a boarding school situation. After Jessica graduated from high school in 1993 the family moved back to the states because Jessica's parents did not want to be so far away while she was in college. By this time Jessica had two brothers (Michael is eight years younger and Spenser is 15 years younger), both born in PNG. Jessica attended Taylor University in Upland IN where she majored in psychology and pre-med. Her parents moved around and finally landed in TX which gave her residency for medical school. She attended the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, TX. Jessica's internship and residency were at the University of New Mexico and her pediatric radiology fellowship at the University of Colorado through Children's Hospital of Colorado. Her parents now live in Rio Rancho, NM. Her brothers and their families live in Minneapolis, MN and Omaha, NE.

As a pediatric radiologist Jessica interprets imaging exams for children ages 0 to 18, used by referring physicians for management and treatment of their patients. She has been at Radiology Associates of Albuquerque and Presbyterian Hospital for 5 years. Prior to that Jessica was an associate professor at UNM for 11 years.

Kevin's parents were Dave and Lu Williams. Dave grew up in Hobbs, NM and Lu grew up in Missouri and South Dakota where her father, a Lutheran pastor, served many calls. They met on the pediatric ward at St. Louis Children's Hospital where Lu was a pediatric nurse and Dave was a WashU Medicine medical student. The second of two boys born in Seattle while Dave was in radiology residency, Kevin was a year old when the family moved to northern New Mexico where Dave practiced radiology in Los Alamos. In addition to serving as a nurse, Lu learned to be a radiologic technologist and ran the business side of Dave's practice. While New Mexico is truly home for Kevin, Jessica having been more transient, never realized the importance of a

Williams continued from page 4

geographical “sense of home” until settling down with Kevin. They have now lived in the same home for 20 years (she isn’t transient anymore!). Both Dave and Lu are now deceased - Lu on December 15, 2024 and Dave on December 16, 2018 (almost exactly 6 years apart to the day). Kevin’s older brother, David, is an architect here in Albuquerque.

Kevin attended UNM for undergraduate and med school. His surgical internship was at the U of Utah and radiology residency at the U of Colorado. He practiced with his dad for 2 years before returning to UNM for an interventional radiology fellowship in 2001. This is where Jessica and Kevin met.

For the last 23 years, Kevin has worked at UNM Hospital as an interventional radiologist performing minimally invasive “image-guided” procedures (like medical plumbers—using tiny tubes and wires to unclog, patch up and reroute the body’s internal highways without ever picking up a scalpel). Kevin teaches radiology residents and fellows while serving as the interventional radiology fellowship program director at UNM.

When asked how they got to Cross of Hope, Jessica said that for the longest time they found it difficult to find a church they both liked because they came from different church backgrounds. One Sunday when visiting Kevin’s childhood church, Bethlehem Lutheran in Los Alamos, they heard an interim pastor from Albuquerque by the name of Russ Sorensen who gave a sermon that “said it all” making them curious what church Pastor Sorensen attended. Several years later when Kevin’s father died, the good people of Bethlehem Lutheran took care of everything for the funeral. Jessica said this was the kind of church she wanted. The Bethlehem pastor at that time knew of Pastor Adam Berndt at Cross of Hope. When they visited in 2019, lo and behold, who did they meet? Russ and Cheri Sorensen! Cross of Hope has been their church home ever since.

Pr. Adam invited Jessica to join the Church Council which she did in September of 2024. Jessica said she is learning a lot, especially about the school. She is learning what it takes to make the church run and how many people donate their time (there are a lot) to make everything work, e.g. the “temple guards.” Jessica also lends her lovely voice to the church choir.

Now for the kids. Greta is 16 years old and, though a new driver, she is learning quickly and doing well. She is a sophomore at Albuquerque Academy. It is a great, though challenging, school according to Greta. She will be well prepared for college. Greta is not sure what her future path will be but is considering medicine.

Greta says she has been “dancing all my life” and loves it. She likes to bake and is particularly good at making fancy birthday cakes for family and friends. Greta likes to do volunteer work. She found Birthright of Albuquerque by doing a Google search and spends one day a week helping. This organization helps women with unplanned pregnancies. They give them clothes and provide everything they need, if they can’t do so themselves. Greta has also volunteered at Cross of Hope’s VBS camp in the summer.

Isaac is 13 years old. He loves to draw--particularly the eyes of people. He plays basketball and is a center. (Jessica asked what that was. It is the tall kid who shoots baskets, guards others and is an all-around go-to person on the court.) Most plays “key” off the center. Currently he is playing “club” and school basketball. He also likes video games.

Isaac attends Albuquerque Academy. He is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and a straight “A” student. Isaac (like Greta) likes Albuquerque Academy a lot. He said it has a “cool campus and I have a lot of freedom.” He is not sure about his direction after high school but might do something in the fine arts or computer graphics. Isaac also helps at VBS camp at Cross of Hope.

What a dynamic family. They typically attend the first service. Seek them out for a pleasant conversation.



# PROPERTY UPDATE

By Sherrie Simek

## HAPPY MONTH OF JULY

Did you observe the stunning display of God's creation in the Easter lilies that bloomed in the tree well as you enter/exit on Kachina early in June? Did you know that Easter Lilies should not be planted in the same garden as other lilies due to a potential virus that can impact the growth of the other lilies?

Often called the "white robed apostles of hope" lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Jesus's agony on the cross. Tradition has it these white lilies sprung up where drops of Jesus's sweat fell in his final hours of sorrow and distress. Their usual blooming period is in late May and June. Bulbs are planted in pots and forced under controlled conditions to bloom just in time for Easter. The plants in our tree well are those leftover from Easter seasons of this year and last. We are blessed to see them bloom in such glory again.



Outside property maintenance continues with weeding, weeding, and more weeding. Gratefully, we had a wet June, however, weeds love the rainwater just as much as our grass and flowers.

Take a few minutes and walk among our gardens, enjoying baby's breath in abundance, red gladiolas, and many different colored lilies, protected from Easter lilies. Let me introduce you to Joy, the resident garden ceramic cat, who now resides in Rudy's garden at the corner of the property by the playground.

Inside property maintenance includes:

1. Annual floor maintenance was completed in the weeks of June 16/23.
2. Preschool classrooms received a fresh coat of paint.
3. New white and cork boards were hung in the hallways and classrooms in the Elementary school. Some were repositioned.
4. Solar project was approved at the congregational meeting on June 8.  
The initial processes have started.
5. Cameras will be installed during the month of July.

As always, if you are interested in becoming part of our team, contact Pat Benchik or Sherrie/Rudy Simek. Until next month...

*"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.*

**Acts 20:28**

## Banner Babes

by Sherrie Simek

If you've ever known a quilter or seamstress or perhaps you are one yourself, you know how material accumulates. The same is true of our Banner Babe ministry and their material closet. What to do with all that material? In a conversation with Pastor Adam a few months ago, he mentioned it would be nice to have a quilt to give as he visits those who are ill, homebound, or facing challenging situations. VIOLA! Comfort Care Quilts was born.

It was an honor and privilege to present Ruth Hinkel with our first comfort care quilt made by Jan Wormwood. In our own words, Ruth captured what our vision is!

We are holding a sewing workshop on July 7 at COH. If you or someone you care about would take joy and pleasure in a comfort quilt, let us know. Every stitch we sew, every square we cut, every needle we thread is filled with an abundance of love.

*"Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up".*  
**Proverbs 12:25**



### Comfort Care Quilt in Action!

Please see Ruth's response via text to Jan Wormwood: (Permission from Ruth to share).

"Dear Janet, how can I thank you and the Banner Babes for this beautiful quilt? I received it this afternoon. I shall put it on my bed tonight and all your warmth and love will keep me sleeping and dreaming of you and your so precious love. How you humble me.

I treasure it!!

May the Lord bless you richly. I will sing your praises. I feel better already. The Lord knows best. I am in His hands. He has already blest me with a good long life, almost 93 years. Every day is a gift!"

## Lunch Bunch

**Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen**  
 4865 Pan American FWY NE 87109  
**Wednesday, July 9 at 1:00pm**

Please call Florence Begay or email her for a head count by July 7.  
 Phone: 505-363-5827,  
 email: [florencebegay2011@gmail.com](mailto:florencebegay2011@gmail.com).





### 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

### Extraordinary Ordinary Faith

**Drop in all summer at 9:15am** for small group - before or after worship - to dive deeper into the texts for the day and connect with others in faith!

To join a small group, email RC Jordan at [media@crossofhope.org](mailto:media@crossofhope.org)

## FAMILY PROMISE 2025 Summer Hosting

*July 27 through August 3*

Our Cross of Hope community has the honor to serve and host two families who are currently in the Shelter Program of Family Promise. Starting at 5:00 to 7:00pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at COH. This will allow easier access to participate!! **Saturday's meal** to be dropped off at Montgomery Church of Christ (**MCC**) site to give the families a day off from traveling.

#### NEEDS:

- ♦ Hot meals and two Hosts to come to COH at 4:30pm  
*No allergies to food, but "easy cheese" is requested.*
- ♦ Hot meal delivery to MCC for Saturday, July 2.  
*Please use disposable containers.*
- ♦ A list of requested foods and household items for the MCC site is listed at the website below.  
<https://www.familypromisealbuquerque.org/wish-list>
- ♦ Prayers and monetary donations are always needed.



Glenna Meneely and I will be available to assist each night for this hosting as well until everyone is comfortable. For entertainment, if you like to dance and want to offer to teach a dance, bring some tunes if that's in your "wheel-house!" Playing a instrument or providing a game to play, a puzzle to work on might be brought in too! We would love to keep the families engaged.

A Ministry Moment and Sign-Up Tables will happen Sunday, July 13 and Sunday, July 20. There will be more details available then. Thank You!

#### **MATTHEW 25:35**

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in.*

With sincerity and hope,  
Jan Anderson  
505 362 3663



# Rudy having FUN!!!



## School Supply Drive

**Crayola Colored Pencils—12 CT**

**Crayola Crayons—24 CT**

**Crayola Jumbo Crayons—8 CT**

**EXPO Dry Eras Markers**

**Elmer's Glue Bottles**

**Elmer's Jumbo Purple Glue Sticks**

**Elmer's Small White Glue Sticks**

**Fiskar Scissor—Blunt & Pointed**

**Paper Towels**

**Soft Facial Tissues**

***Please bring items to church  
throughout the month of July.***



## New Mexico Ramp Banquet Invitation

Information on the Banquet can be obtained by clicking on this link <https://www.nmramp.org/>  
Donations can also be accepted there.

## NM Ramp Project 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet

**Saturday, July 12, 2025**

**St. John's United Methodist Church**  
**2626 Arizona NE— Albuquerque, NM 87110**



I block N. of Menaul—I block E. of San Pedro—Family Life Center—Park in E. Lot  
**Silent Auction Starts at 11:00 Lunch to follow.**

**Donations are appreciated for the Silent & Live Auction. Casual Dress.**

**Proceeds support NM Ramp builds & operational expenses.**



## 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

Diane Carrico	1
Marjorie Pool	1
Dave Comfort	1
Beth Locke	3
Lynnette Anselmi	3
Mary Hughes	6
Cecilia Lawrence	7
Liz Sanchez	8
Jackie Taylor	9
Isabel Wickert	9
Jane Anderson	10
Mia Maldonado	10
Duane Meneely	14
Cooper Horn	18
Leilani Streff	21
John Romisher	21
Steven Weiss	26
Abigail Edwards	26
Stacey Taylor	26
Deborah Rivera	29
Draco Wormwood	30
Stephanie Webb	31



	<b>July</b>	
	Day	Years
Chris and Meagan Warner	4	10
David and Diane Pressel	23	42
Brant and Kristyn St-Martin	23	9
Michael and Dee Gutierrez	25	36
Louise Hawley and Bob Grogan	25	14
Steven and Laurie Weiss	26	22
Russ and Cheri Sorensen	29	53

## FAREWELL & GODSPEED

**Ken and Lynn Anselmi**  
 as they move to Idaho Falls, Idaho to be near family.





**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**

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

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 2222 S Dobson Road, Ste 700 Mesa, AZ 85202  
 6565 Americas Pkwy NE, Ste 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110



**Cross of Hope Church and School  
 Congregational Council Team**  
[cohccouncil@crossofhope.org](mailto:cohccouncil@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.

**thrivent**

Stacey E Marz, FIC, CLTC®

**Financial Consultant**

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 2222 S Dobson Rd, Ste 700 Mesa, AZ 85202  
 6565 Americas Pkwy NE, Ste 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110



## Special Needs VBS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

**Dates: July 21 – July 25**

**Time: 9:00am – 11:30am**

**[Registration Form Link](#)**

**Questions or more information,  
 contact Patty Westerfield,**

**[pattyw50@aol.com](mailto:pattyw50@aol.com)**

**or 505-250-5186.**

**Susan Rivera, Director of School Ministry**  
**Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School**



6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW  
 Albuquerque, NM 87120-2639

[esdirector@crossofhope.org](mailto:esdirector@crossofhope.org)

School (505) 897-1832



**Courtney Knutla, Preschool Director**  
**Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School**



6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW  
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[pssupport@crossofhope.org](mailto:pssupport@crossofhope.org)

Preschool (505) 899-0928

[www.crossofhope.org](http://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](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 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:

Outdoor service Sunday - 8:45 a.m.

Worship in Sanctuary and Streamed online Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

Devotions: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

## July Book Suggestions

by Dee Gutierrez

### **He Leadeth Me: an extraordinary testament of Faith - Walter J. Cszek, S. J.**

Captured by the Russian army during World War II and convicted of being a "Vatican spy", American Jesuit Father Walter J. Cizek spent some 23 agonizing years in Soviet prisons and the labor camps of Siberia. He here recalls how it was only through an utter reliance on God's will that he managed to endure.

### **Under the Overpass: a journey of Faith on the streets of America - Mike Yankoski**

Ever Wonder What it Would Be Like to Live Homeless? For five months Mike and his companion, Sam, experienced firsthand the extreme pains of hunger, the constant uncertainty and danger of living on the streets, exhaustion, depression, and social rejection—and all of this by their own choice. They wanted to find out if their faith was real, if they could actually be the Christians they said they were.

### **Freefall to Fly: a breathtaking journey toward a life of meaning - Rebekah Lyons**

Overwhelmed by the pressure to be domestically efficient, professionally astute, and physically attractive, Rebekah finally realized that freedom can come only by facing our greatest fears and fully surrendering to God's call on our lives.