

Creator's Call

*All creatures worship God most high! Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Hymn 835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

On June 8, the Congregation Council has called a special meeting of the congregation with the sole agenda item to affirm the unanimous motion to install solar at Cross of Hope. One of my favorite hymns proclaims the Creator's call for all the universe to worship. We in New Mexico are intimately familiar with the bright splendor of brother sun that shines his 'alleluia' of warmth and energy to bless God's creation. We look with awe and wonder at sister moon and the stars of night whispering their 'alleluias' with breath-catching beauty at our frequent Astronomy Night. Pr. Rick Alpers both blesses us with wisdom on those nights and offers thoughtful words of litany in our own worship outside during the summer.

We are called to care for creation as we worship in her midst and to welcome and give the natural energy of the sun is a mission driven opportunity to move into this call. We care for creation by participating in the renewable energy to power our physical space and offer back to the grid that which we don't use. Our cost savings frees up significant monies for ministry. Through solar, we are both good steward and good neighbor.

This has successfully been done at many churches throughout Albuquerque and other areas of New Mexico. We are actually the last Lutheran Church on the West Side to install solar and I am grateful for the research and presentation of Bob Arseneau and the faithful and excited conversation of Church Council for discerning and moving this vision forward to the congregation to see and affirm!

I look forward to gathering with you all at 9:15am on Sunday June 8 to enjoy a presentation by our Congregation Treasurer, Greg Morrison, and get excited about solar! Alleluia!

Peace,
Pr. Adam



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, 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

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



Love • Transform • Serve

Welcome New Members

Cross of Hope welcomes 19 new members! In doing so we wanted other members to know:

How they found Cross of Hope
What made them come back
A little about them

Debra Gonzales



Debra knew about Cross of Hope because it is close to home and she drove by often. She retired from APS in 2019. In Dec, 2021, she got a call from a friend saying Cross of Hope School was looking for a teacher. She interviewed and started working as a first-grade teacher in January 2022. Debra fell in love with Cross of Hope. The next year she taught first and second graders. By working here, she became familiar with the church and the community. In 2023 she became a reading specialist working with all grades on a part-time basis (Tues and Thurs), in addition to substitute teaching.

Debra had not attended any particular church for some time, especially since COVID. In addition, she had not been raised in a church. Both Debra and her husband tried different churches. In September 2023, she felt a need for a church connection and a worship community. She mentioned how this fits with Pastor Adam talking about our "faith journey." By becoming a member, she was making a commitment to her journey.

Debra has become involved with the Hospitality Care team, Family Promise, WOW (Woman on Wednesday) and Bible study on Zoom. Debra attends the first service.

David and Elizabeth Jennings



David and Elizabeth found Cross of Hope doing an on-line search while living in LA. When they arrived in NM in April 2024, they came for a visit. They liked the welcoming atmosphere, and were greeted by Pastor Adam and several others. While at work, they met Thomas Ropp – another connection. Both Elizabeth and David are involved in the film industry.

Currently David and Elizabeth attend the second service. They will soon be visiting the first worship service since David is learning to do the live streaming of services.

Renae and Marc Johanssen



Renae shared that she went on Google to find an ELCA church after their move from Bellevue, NE last September. They were looking for a church that had similar features as their old church – a praise team and a good message. Once they attended Cross of Hope, they never went anywhere else!

Renae's parents had a house in Mesa AZ so they knew they liked the Southwest. Renae and Marc had driven through Albuquerque many times and thought it was nice. They all discussed a move to Albuquerque and were in agreement. This included Barb Oberhelman, Renae's mother too.

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Barb Oberhelman (Rena Johanssen's Mother)

They have settled in Mirehaven and love it. Marc found a job at Sandia National Labs as a Configuration Manager, while Rena and Barb hold down the fort at home. The family attends the second service.



Cecilia Lawrence



Cecilia previously attended Mesa View Methodist Church, but decided it wasn't a good fit for her. She visited COH last summer. Cecilia grew up as a Catholic and found ELCA had similarities.

Pastor Adam was the first to greet her and she said "I felt like I was walking on air. The Holy Spirit led me to walking on air. I felt like I have come back." She felt immediate warmth. The worship was "like being in God's living room. It was intimate and beautiful." The people made me feel welcome.

Cecilia is originally from San Diego, CA. She has been in Albuquerque for 12 years where she met her husband, Mallory. Her son is still in San Diego. Cecilia attends the second service.

Linda and Dennis Milks



Linda and Dennis previously attended All Saints Lutheran Church and then went to Messiah Lutheran Church. When the pastor retired, they started looking for a new church. They liked Cross of Hope from the very beginning. Everyone was "friendly and great." Dennis said "I heard the first sermon and told Linda, 'This is it!'"

Linda had been involved with Family Promise for ten years. When we had the sign-up for COH hosting, Lynne Bagby helped her sign-up, which also helped her feel welcome; like she fit in.

Both Linda and Dennis have been in New Mexico since 1972. Linda is originally from New Jersey and Dennis from New York. Linda became friends with Dennis' sister while Dennis was away at college. The rest is history. They attend the second service.

Bob and Barb Morton



Barb found Cross of Hope on the Internet. They moved here from Las Vegas, NV about four years ago and have attended just about "every ELCA church in the Valley." They had a fabulous pastor and were looking for someone like him. They wanted "someone who has 'fire in his belly'." There needed to be some spirit; not so traditional; some "joy." Cross of Hope was "friendly, which not all churches are." Music was important. They have been at Cross of Hope since the beginning of this year.

Bob is originally from Carlsbad. They lived in Silver City for about six years and have moved around a bit. They met in Las Vegas, NV but Bob wanted to come home to New Mexico. Barb says they are settled now and aren't

New Members continued on page 5

leaving. They attend the second service.

Nick Neely



Nick moved to Cross of Hope from First United Methodist Church with his parents, Rich and Rosemary Neely. That was ten years ago. Nick thought he was a member only to find out that wasn't the case.

"In middle school and before I attended Missouri Synod, I didn't care for that church." Cross of Hope is in my neighborhood. Also, several other people from First United Methodist came to Cross of Hope (Cynda in the Praise Team and Linda O'Neal). "I liked it, so came back. I did the slides for the first service at First United Methodist and my parents asked me to do them here. It is hard to believe it has been 10 years already." Nick attends the first service.

Todd Olsen



Todd and his wife, Maria, arrived in Albuquerque in 2001 moving into the Taylor Ranch Apartments. Since it was close, Todd tried out Cross of Hope. He came on and off and said COH reminds him of his hometown church in Montevideo, MN. It is "welcoming and warm. Pastor Adam is a great pastor."

Todd was involved in the "gaming" industry which brought him to Albuquerque, working at Sky City Casino. He now works for an asphalt company. Todd attends the first service.

Linda O'Neal



Linda has been attending Cross of Hope for 10 years. When she arrived Russ Sorensen was the interim Pastor. He held a new members' class. When Linda learned he was an 'interim' pastor she thought she would wait a bit to see how things worked out before she joined. Hard to believe that was 10 years ago!

Linda came to Cross of Hope with seven other people from First United Methodist Church. It was suggested that she check out Cross of Hope. "I loved the atmosphere and how people were nice. This is what made me stay." Linda sings with the Voice of Hope Choir and attends the first service.

Cecelia Pepper



Cecelia and her husband came to Cross of Hope in 2004 when Dale Baurer was the Pastor. The congregation was larger and they were a bit overwhelmed. They decided to go to All Saints Lutheran which was smaller and more intimate. They stayed there until the pandemic. Cecelia's husband was in poor health and couldn't return to church in person and didn't really get anything out of the on-line services. Pastor Doug, who had been at All Saints Lutheran, moved to Messiah Lutheran church. (Yes, you read almost the same story from Dennis and Linda Milks and will hear it again from Joan Wilson.) Cecelia and her husband attended Messiah from the end of 2020 until last summer. Her husband was glad he got to go there for a while until his health did not allow it any longer.

Cecelia is good friends with Linda Milks and 'Joanie' Wilson. They started their own Bible study group during the pandemic and continue to meet in person every Monday.

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When Cecelia returned to Cross of Hope she knew several people here, including Pastor Russ and Cheri Sorensen. She found everyone to be friendly and welcoming, especially Pastor Adam. In addition, Cecelia likes the fact that COH has a school ministry. She thinks it is important to give children a good start in their faith and education.

Holly Reimholz



Holly came to church with Hans Zimmer three years ago. She came back because she thought "it was a special little place. It was warm and welcoming." There was no religion in her history. She had gone to other churches with friends, but they just weren't a fit for her. It meant a lot to her that Hans wanted to share this part of his life with her and she wanted to be a part of that. Holly feels she is "in the right place."

Holly said it is hard to put into words why she joined Cross of Hope. "It is more a feeling. I feel a fullness in my heart and soul that I have never had before. The Holy Spirit is certainly with me when I am here." It may be "where I am in my life, maybe the people at Cross of Hope, maybe how Pastor Adam does an amazing job of connecting scripture to life today. It is all these things. I am glad to be at COH and want to continue to learn and grow." Holly attends the first service.

Gary and Rhonda Warner



Gary and Rhonda found Cross of Hope by driving by. They attended here for about a year and left to go to Paradise Hills Methodist Church. Gary wasn't sure why they left – the important thing is they're back! They have been at Cross of Hope for about four years now. Gary said they came back "because of the warmth of the people and the service was uplifting. It made us feel welcome and warm. It has helped us progress closer to God" and be a community with the people around us. "The people are warmer."

Rhonda is originally from Kansas and then moved to Phoenix, AZ. Gary originated in California and after a stop in Utah, moved to Phoenix, AZ. They met in Phoenix. They decided to move to Albuquerque to get four seasons (versus one in Arizona). They feel New Mexico is a beautiful state.

Gary is our church representative with the Cub and Boy Scouts. They both are scripture readers and Rhonda is an assistant minister. Gary and Rhonda attend the first service.

Joan Wilson



Joan attended All Saints and then went to Messiah Lutheran Church. When the pastor left Messiah Lutheran, she looked for something that was closer to home. She noticed that Cross of Hope always had quite a few cars in the parking lot (typically a good sign). Joan immediately "loved the pastor and congregation." This made her come back. The sermons showed pastor's good sense of humor. Joan has been at Cross of Hope for about 8 months. (You may have noticed that Joan, along with the Milks and Cecelia Pepper have the same church journey.)

Joan has lived in Albuquerque for about 10 years. Joan attends the first service.

Council Corner

By Janet Conlon

John 13: 34-35 (NIV) *“A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

Greetings to All,

Our last Church Council meeting was held on May 20, 2025, and the end of another school year is already upon us.

Lots of fun activities are happening at COH including moving up and graduation ceremonies as well as the annual Family Fun Day for students and parents.

So much excitement to celebrate the completion of another successful school year.

Our high school graduates were honored at worship services on 5/18/25 and presented with quilts specially made for them by the Banner Babes.

Camp at COH held its final session for the school year on 5/14 with a scrumptious ice cream party for everyone to enjoy.

Planned summer activities include Rainbow Trail Day Camp from June 9-13 and Special Needs Vacation Bible School from July 21-25.

The Summer Worship schedule begins Memorial Day weekend, May 25, 2025 and runs through Labor Day weekend, Sunday, August 31, 2025.

- Outdoor Worship on the Lawn at 8:45am
- Indoor Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00am

There is also a special Congregational Meeting scheduled for June 8, 2025 at 9:15am (between services)

- The Congregation is asked to please attend this meeting.
- Detailed information will be provided regarding the possibility of Solar Energy implementation at COH.

Planning for the 2025/2026 school year is well under way and student enrollment numbers are beginning to climb. There are currently 69 students completely enrolled, several others in queue and additional student enrollment anticipated.

Cross of Hope is accepting resumes and interviewing for the following positions:

- * 2nd grade teacher
- * Educational Assistant
- * Preschool Lead Teacher
- * Preschool Educational Assistant

The School Ministry Team is also moving forward on the development of a marketing plan for COH.

Security camera installation has been approved.

Council Corner continued from page 7

- Installation anticipated prior to the start of the 2025/2026 school year.

Solar Energy implementation will be dependent on Congregational approval.

Please take the time to stop by and speak with Council Members, between services, on Sunday mornings at the "Council Corner". We would love to hear from you and answer any questions you might have. Members are available on a rotating basis and look forward to meeting all of you!

Wishing everyone a delightful summer filled with happiness, laughter and love!

Blessings,
Janet Conlon, COH Secretary

Lunch Bunch



June 11 at

D.H. Lescombes Winery & Bistro—Cottonwood
3771 NM-528, Albuquerque NM
1:00pm

Please call Florence Begay or email her
for a head count by June 9.

Phone: 505-363-5827, email: florencebegay2011@gmail.com.

Astronomy Night



Photos courtesy of RC Jordan

What a blast! Pastor Rick shared fun facts about star gazing! Twenty-six curious minds attended with plenty of telescopes for viewing!



PROPERTY UPDATE

By Sherrie Simek

HAPPY JUNE FROM YOUR PROPERTY TEAM

This is my first update as half of the new property assistant managers since Rudy is the other half. I'll do my best to keep you informed as to what is happening inside and outside of our property.

I know many of you took the time to smell the beautiful pink roses that are still blooming in the small circle garden. With that in mind, take a few minutes to walk around and take in the wonder of God's creation in our gardens.

Thanks to John Lacher, Rudy Simek, and Just Sprinklers, each station of our watering system is up and running with no issues. Yes, we are germinating new grass. We appreciate your help with these green little shoots by staying out of the roped off portion. Margie has been weeding, adding dirt and cleaning up the gardens.

With school completed for this year, we will be scheduling a few annual items:

- A. Floors will be waxed and buffed during the weeks of June 16 and June 23.
- B. Our annual fire protection inspection will be conducted on July 10.
- C. Preschool classrooms to be painted
- D. Whiteboards and bulletin boards are to be repositioned or replaced.

We are always looking for additional hands to help with property upkeep, both inside and out. If you have a few hours and would like to help, come find one of us:

Pat Benchik-- Property Manager

Rudy and Sherrie Simek— Assistant Property Managers

Margie Reed and John Lacher— Hope Gardeners

Anthony Soto and Kevin Kouri—Maintenance



Congratulations Graduates!

Graduations are milestones in our lives. We couldn't miss the opportunity to recognize our graduates and hear about their plans for the future.

Adelle Adams

Adelle graduated from UNM in December 2024 with a degree in history and psychology. Originally her plans were to work for the Park Service. That didn't happen. Plan B was teaching. Last August she became an educational assistant at Explora Academy Charter School. After a week and a half, a math teacher left. She was asked if she would be interested in filling the math position. Adelle was willing and found out she loves it. For now, she is considered a 'long-term substitute'. She has a 'provisional waver' which allows her to teach for three years.



In the meantime, she needs to go to school to pick up the necessary classes for a teaching certificate. Adelle encourages the kids to do challenging things and loves it when things click.

Additionally, Adelle has moved out of the family home and into her own apartment. She is definitely on her way and is making a meaningful impression on the world around her.

Congratulations Adelle! Many wishes for the best life can offer.

Corbin Bencomo

Corbin attended Corrales International Charter School. He chose this high school because his older brother attended there and because classes are smaller. Also, he wanted the opportunity of taking 'dual credit' classes (this means getting some college classes behind you). Unfortunately, sports kept him from taking more classes as he would have liked. Corbin played soccer on the Cibola team.



Corbin plans to attend UNM majoring in chemistry and biology. His long-term goal is to become a physical therapist.

Currently he is working at the Texas Roadhouse. If you happen to go there, look for him.

Best wishes for success on your journey since it will take focus and endurance.

Alyssa Manning

Alyssa is the granddaughter of Liz Sanchez. Alyssa is graduating from West Mesa High School. She plans to attend CNM and then continue at UNM majoring in education with a focus to teach grades 1 – 3.

She was influenced by the "amazing elementary school teachers" she had. Alyssa shared that they had a huge impact on her - giving her "confidence" and "taught her to be her own person."

It is wonderful to hear that teachers can, and do, make an impact on their students' lives. Congratulations Alyssa. Good luck in your endeavors.



Congratulations continued on page 10

Hunter Streff

Hunter is the grandson of John (Susan) McWilliam. He was never fond of school, so he decided to finish early. Hunter enrolled in Penn Foster which is on-line and completed all his high school requirements at the end of 2024, graduating at the age of 16.

Hunter is a 'financial entrepreneur.' He is learning a lot, enjoys being his own boss knowing that if he doesn't work, he won't earn any money.

All the best to you Hunter with wishes for focus and determination as you work toward your vision.



And...

Holly Reimholz



This is a shout out for Holly.

In December 2024, she completed her two-year nursing residency at UNMH having earned a BSN degree. No matter what your age, you can accomplish great things.

Congratulations Holly!

5th Grade Promotions



Ceremony was held on May 24
for Addy, Jordan, Matthew, and Saylee!

Photos courtesy of Lynne Bagby



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

Jesus Lives!

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen! Luke 24:5b

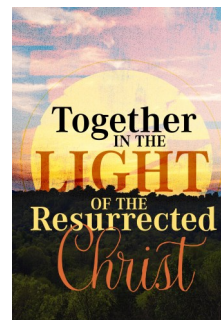
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. We proclaim the good news of Easter in hymn 389 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Jesus lives! We are the risen Body of Christ who walk by the grace of the Holy Spirit in newness of life. The great 50 days of Easter (a week of weeks!), we dwell in stories of the resurrection – hearing the Easter proclamation with the women at the empty tomb, seeing the wounds of the risen Christ with his disciples - and then moving from these stories of encounter to stories of call as disciples of the risen Christ. Join your Making Faith Connections small group in exploring the ongoing resurrection through Easter people – like you and like me - loving and serving through the Church today *until earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise* (ELW 389 v5)

Weekly topics in June

June 1 **Know and Walk with God**

June 8 **Through You**

June 15 through June 29: Pending



To join a small group, email RC Jordan at media@crossofhope.org

It was a beautiful day for Outdoor Worship!



3MorrPhotos



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

Kaley McClain	3
Patty Westerfield	4
Kellie Webb	6
Rick Alpers	8
Violet Adams	10
Wendy Harrison	11
Russ Sorensen	13
Ron Wirths	13
Jonathan McClain	15
Melanie Kouri	15
Gretchen Comfort	18
Alex Abeyta	19
Laurie Weiss	20
Patrice Leddy	26
Nancy Lacher	27
Jerry Burton	27
Tom Ropp	28
Kate Ropp	28
Ken Anselmi	30



	Day	Years
Gregory and Nancy Morrison	6	44
Karen and Alan Schwartz	10	58
Pat and Laura Benchik	14	45
Alex Cortinas and Loyola Garcia-Cortinas	17	8
Jeff and Michele Moser	19	32
Bill and Gem Harris	19	54
John and Nancy Lacher	20	44
William and Lois Casto	25	31
Adam and Laura Berndt	25	15
Philip Wangberg and Pat Holman	28	53

June

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OF ALBUQUERQUE

SUMMER 2025 POPS CONCERT
THE MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS
Conductor: Chris Torres

All Your Favorite John Williams Classics!

June 1, Sunday, 2:00 pm
Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church
8600 Academy, NE

June 8, Sunday, 2:30 pm
St. John XXIII Catholic Community Church
4831 Tramway Ridge Drive, NE

Honoring our 2025 High School graduates with homemade gifted quilts from Banner Babes



Photos courtesy of Lynne Bagby and Sherrie Simek

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®

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 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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Cross of Hope Care Outreach

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Emergency Meals
 Family Emergency
 Illness
 Death

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- 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:

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.

June Book Suggestions

by Dee Gutierrez

As Sure as the Dawn - Francine Rivers

As Sure as the Dawn is a novel by Francine Rivers, and the third book in the Mark of the Lion Series. The novel follows the life of Atretes after winning his freedom in the arena.

A Lineage of Grace: five stories of unlikely women who changed eternity- Francine Rivers

This bestselling compilation in one volume contains five novellas about such people—women in the family tree of Jesus Christ.

Tamar. Rahab. Ruth. Bathsheba. Mary.

Recommended by Charlie Anderson...

Glad You're Here: two unlikely friends breaking bread and fences - Walker Haves and Craig Allen Cooper

When Craig Cooper and Walker Hayes met, Walker was an alcoholic atheist reeling from the backlash of a failed music career. Through their unlikely friendship, Craig's life demonstrated the love of Christ in a way that shattered Walker's misconceptions of Christianity, ultimately leading him down the path to a dramatic conversion