



Love Transform Serve

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.

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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Annual Report
2024 - 2025

Annual Congregational Meeting

Love God, Transform Relationships, Serve Others

Sunday, August 24, 2025 (following the 10:00am worship)

AGENDA

Call to Order President)	(Margie Reed, Council
Introduction of COH Council Members	(Margie Reed)
Opening Prayer and Welcome	(Pastor Adam Berndt)
Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes (August 25, 2024, and June 8, 2025)	(Margie Reed)
Report on the 2025 Rocky Mountain Synod Morrison)	(Greg and Nancy
Pastor's Reflection	(Pastor Adam)
Adoption of the 2025 – 2026 Budget Treasurer)	(Greg Morrison,
Election of new Council Members	(Pastor Adam)
Thank you to outgoing members	(Margie Reed)
Closing Prayer	(Pastor Adam)
Adjournment	(Margie Reed)

Congregational Meeting Minutes

CROSS of HOPE CHURCH and SCHOOL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Love God, Transform Relationships, Serve Others
Sunday, August 25, 2024 (following the 10:00am worship)

Unapproved Minutes

- **Call to Order** (Margie Reed, Council President)

The Congregational Meeting was called to order at 11:25am. There are 413 members. We need 41 for a quorum. There are approximately 60 voting members present.

- **Introduction of COH Council Members** (Margie Reed)

- **Opening Prayer and Welcome** (Pastor Adam Berndt)

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes (May 7, 2023 and September 24, 2023)** (Margie Reed)

Pat Benchik made a motion to approve the Congregational Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2023.

A second was offered by Denise Soto and they were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

Laura Burton made a motion to approve the Congregational Meeting Minutes from September 24,

2023. A second was offered by Cheri Sorensen and they were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

- **Greetings from our Director of School Ministry** (Susan Rivera)

Susan described her vision for this year as “Anchoring in Loving and Serving Others”. She highlighted the names of new teachers and two new programs (Music and Math Intervention).

There will be a service dog on site and also a Community Service Project.

- **Report on the 2024 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly** (Greg and Nancy Morrison)

Nancy and Greg provided a detailed account of their participation at the 2024 Rocky Mountain Synod

Assembly. The theme was “On Our Way, Together”. The Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni is the

new Bishop Elect of the Rocky Mountain Synod.

- **Election of voting members - to attend the Annual Assembly of the Rocky Mountain Synod**

- **May 22-24, 2024 in Albuquerque, NM**

Pastor Adam opened the floor to any voting members that might be interested in attending. The decision

was made to table this discussion until closer to that date..

- **Pastor's Reflection** (Pastor Adam)

It is a "Blessing to be Anchored in Jesus"

We are anchored together with our school in Jesus.

Pastor Adam offered thanks and praise to the Leadership and School Ministry Teams.

He also

introduced the Meditation Bowl for future use during worship.

Pastor presented a new Processional Cross that will be placed into service on

September 15, 2024. A

gift and honor for our congregation.

2024/2025 Worship Schedule handouts were distributed which highlight the important events around

Worship Services (8:45am - traditional) and (10:45am - contemporary)

Camp at COH is also on the Schedule (Wednesdays from 5:30pm -7:30pm)

Faith Formation Hour begins at 9:45am between services.

- **Treasurer's Report (2024/2025 Budget)** (Greg Morrison, Council Treasurer)

Greg Morrison provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation of the 2024/2025 budget.

RC Jordon made a motion to approve the 2024/2025 budget. A second was provided by Denise Soto and

it was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

- **Nominations/Election** (Pastor Adam)

Pastor Adam made a motion to nominate Ron Cordova to the Church Council in a vote by acclamation

for a 2 year term. A second was provided by Denise Soto and he was approved by unanimous show of

hands.

- **Thank you, Todd Bramley** (Margie Reed)

Todd Bramley was thanked for his many years of service as Treasurer and presented with a cross as a

symbol of our gratitude for his dedication to COH.

- **Closing Prayer** (Susan Rivera)

- **Adjournment** (Margie Reed)

Lois Casto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second was offered by Pat Benchik.

Margie Reed adjourned the meeting at 12:20pm.

Annual Congregational Minutes submitted by Janet Conlon, COH Secretary.

**CROSS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
JUNE 8, 2025, 9:15AM AT CROSS OF HOPE
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
“LOVING GOD, TRANSFORMING RELATIONSHIP, SERVING OTHERS”

Welcome and Call To Order: Margie Reed, Council President

Call To Order: 9:30am

Purpose of Meeting: Congregational Approval of Solar Energy for COH

-There are 429 members of COH

-We need 42 for a quorum

Opening Prayer: Pastor Adam Berndt

Introduction of Greg Morrison, Church Treasurer

Greg Morrison provided information detailing current and past electric costs for COH and projections of future electrical expenditures.

(Roughly \$14,000 was spent on electricity from May, 2024-May, 2025)

(Projected costs for electricity over the next 10 years estimated to be \$144,000 - \$160,000)

A detailed comparison of solar energy costs was also provided.

Information from 3 Solar Energy Companies was shown to the congregation and previously researched by the Church Council. Council Members felt that Positive Energy Solar would be the best company for Cross of Hope. (Community of Joy installed solar energy using Positive Energy Solar and they were very pleased with the quality of their work and professionalism)

COH Solar Cost: \$136,000

Down payment is only \$2500, installation begins in approximately 90 days

Current COH funding for Solar Energy:

(Edward Jones Account: \$230,000/ Additional CD Accounts: \$90,000 / Money Market: \$50,000 / Mission Investments toward improvements:\$40,000)

Motion from Greg Morrison:

Where as the Congregational Council has unanimously approved a motion to install solar power, and

Where as the COH constitution provides that purchases over \$50,000 require approval from the Congregation, and

Where as the cost to install solar before the 30% tax credit is approximately \$136,000,

Be it resolved that the COH congregation approve the funds required to install solar power for the church.

Questions:

Questions from the congregation included concerns about maintenance and warranty, age of the current roof, type of roof application, manufacturing & ownership of solar panels, percentage of money being used from church accounts, tax credits available, how many years it would take to break even on costs and the importance of keeping the congregation informed with follow-up information.

The Council offers thanks to Hans Zimmer, John and Nancy Lacher, David Kovarik, Todd Bramley, Elisa Mclellan, Mary Bresnahan, Pete Wormwood, John McClain, Denise Soto, Shannon Reynolds and others for their questions and concerns.

Greg Morrison answered all questions prior to voting on the motion.

Laura Benchik made a motion for the COH congregation to approve the funds for purchase and installation of solar power as presented. A second was provided by RC Jordan and it was approved by a majority show of hands.

In Favor: (68)

Opposed: (1)

- **The motion carries!**

Pastor Adam and all Council Members offer their sincere gratitude to Mr. Bob Arseneau. Bob championed the solar energy project and spent a great deal of time researching and contacting solar companies, reviewing electrical use at COH and he was able to provide us with the information needed to make an informed decision regarding solar energy. Many thanks Bob!

Closing Prayer: Pastor Adam Berndt

Meeting Adjourned: Margie Reed

9:50am

Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled August 24, 2025

Minutes submitted by Janet Conlon, COH Secretary

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LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

Pastor Reflections, Adam Berndt

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.

Romans 12:1-2 The Message translation

Our everyday, ordinary life – our sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – when placed before God as an offering, as Paul encouraged a young community of faith to do in Rome, becomes extraordinary through faith in Christ. Together, we do the hard, privileged work of love and care that is the way of life and faith in God. It is a blessing. It is a call. It is the way of being a Christian in the world.

Through Cross of Hope, our ordinary lives are grounded in, and led by, the way of Christ and together become ***a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education, and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.***

As this mission continues to guide our life together as the community of faith at Cross of Hope, I invite you to find enclosed in this Annual Report stories of the Holy Spirit's work through your ministries. Notice how the extraordinary love of God touches the world through the stories of ordinary people joined together in mission and ministry. Look for the places the Holy Spirit may be calling us to move in new and renewed ways in the year to come. See how your gifts and passions can take root and bear the fruit of God's love through Cross of Hope.

Our School Ministry continues to be the major ministry of Cross of Hope providing ***high quality education in a nurturing environment that respects each child's development*** from PreK through 5th grade. Your dedicated and faithful staff continues to do extraordinary ministry in the 'ordinary' setting of school and the blessings of God abound! Your Director of School Ministry, Susan Rivera continues to learn and grow in leadership, entering her third year in this ministry role with your amazing school staff! We are excited to welcome *Jenniefer Vola (2nd grade)*, *Rebecca Lovato (EA)*, *Kristina Castillo (PreK EA)* and *Amber Griffith (PreK EA)* to our extraordinary returning school staff and look forward to all the blessings of God through our ministry together this year.

We'll soon say goodbye to our Director of Preschool ministry, Courtney Knutilla who is moving into an exciting new chapter in her journey of life and faith. We wish her Godspeed with joy and gratitude for her years of ministry through Cross of Hope!

It continues to be a joy to steward our worship ministry alongside RC Jordan your Director of Worship and Community life and our worship team. The team of Nancy

Morrison, Jan Wormwood, Susan Ropp and Tom Ropp, your Director of Music Ministry, have met with RC and I (almost) quarterly to plan the worship life of Cross of Hope. The addition of a *Rite of Healing* during each 5th Sunday worship has been a welcome part of our life together, especially with the two beautiful new kneelers which were a gift of the Incognito Craftsman. That same mysterious woodworking master took a vision for a new processional cross and made it a reality that we blessed and introduced on an observance of Holy Cross Day last September. I look forward to training cross bearers to carry this beautiful cross in procession during worship!

Our small group ministry is called Making Faith Connections, and you can learn more about its mission and history on page 31. Please share your gratitude with Pr. Russ Sorensen who was integral in launching and stewarding this ministry. As he's again taken on more pastoral leadership with congregations in transition, the stewardship of Making Faith Connections has been shifted over to RC who will be glad to connect you with a small group as you are interested. These are great places for deep connection, conversation, and spiritual growth! The drop-in Sunday morning group is a great faith formation opportunity beyond worship.

Wednesday continues to be a pillar of our life together with the Liturgy of Morning Prayer at 8:30am, Preschool and Elementary School Chapels, Woman On Wednesday faith formation group, and you in the evening. Nancy Lacher is a wonderful partner in leadership with this important ministry for our children, youth and adults through which to learn and grow in life and faith.

It is a blessing and honor to care for the community through times of pastoral care. Please know how much I value the opportunity to provide a listening presence and pastoral guidance as appropriate and helpful along the journey. The death of members of Cross of Hope is an ordinary part of any year, and it is important and healthy to gather in worship at the time of death to proclaim God's extraordinary love that conquers death. At the same time, it is always hard to say goodbye even as we commend our beloved to God's eternal care. This year we celebrated the completion of the baptismal journeys of Ross Sutter, Leeon Carrico, Linda Ehlers, Robert Bye, Susan McWilliam, and Mike Snyder, and will gather on Wednesday, September 17th to commend Russ Edwards and soon to commend Gem Harris.

We had the honor of commending to God's steadfast love the long-time pastor of Cross of Hope, Dale Bauer and his wife Edee. Their memory and impact will continue to live on through Cross of Hope Church and School through an estate gift to support our school ministry. The Church Council has established a quasi-endowment fund to be used for Scholarship to ensure that future generations will be able to attend the school ministry Dale and Edee loved and stewarded so well during their lifetime.

From that same gift, necessary and new technology was purchased for our school ministry including laptop computer stations for teachers and staff and Chromebooks for each student to be used as a helpful tool in the classroom. Your Director of Digital Life,

Peg Biedermann has been instrumental in the preparation and stewardship of this new gift of technology!

The Safety Team continues to care for the safety of our community, and team leader, Ron Cordova recently lead the installation of security cameras to help us best care for one another and our community. Read more about the work of our safety team on page 35.

As you read about the work of your Church Council, please join me in gratitude for their leadership and for the years of service for those outgoing members, Margie Reed, Janet Conlon, and Ron Wirths, and hold in prayer those considering a call to this leadership role!

These are just some highlights from this year as there are so many more faithful people doing extraordinary things in ministry as Cross of Hope. This is why our report is so long, and I hope you find in these pages many more highlights and gratitude for what God is up to through Cross of Hope!

It is a blessing to share the journey with you,
Peace,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Adam Berndt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

Margie Reed, Council President

COH COUNCIL (2024-2025)

I love the following scripture! It has been part of the Annual Report Council article for several years. This scripture tells why we have a Church Council and what their responsibility is to the Church.

“Eternal God, let us do everything with love right now. I pray that as we gather as a body of advisers, let us do so lovingly. Let us connect Your people and lead Your people with love in our hearts. Let the counsel we give be sweet to our Church brothers and sisters. Have Your divine way in all that we do, have Your divine way in the way we communicate and sharpen one another. Proverbs 27:9

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES DURING 2024-2025

This was another busy year for the COH Church Council. Each month the agenda was full of items for review, discussion, and approval, or not. This year's Council consisted of Margie Reed, President, Sherrie Simek, Vice President Janet Conlon, Secretary, Greg Morrison, Treasurer, and members Ron Wirths, Bob Arseneau, Ron Cordova, and Jessica Williams. An especially important part of the Council is honesty, integrity, love of COH and the ability to discuss important topics to make decisions for the betterment of our community.

Cross of Hope Church was blessed with gifts of a beautiful processional cross and two kneelers hand made by our incognito craftsman.

The 2024-2025 Employee Manual was updated, approved by the Council, and distributed to Church and School employees. It is important that everyone has the latest guidelines necessary to answer their employment questions.

The Preschool began a very intense process to receive accreditation through ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). The ACSI Team met with teachers, reviewed files, asked questions of the Council as to what their role is in regards of the Preschool.

The Council discussed the recommendations from the School Ministry regarding tuition increases. The motion was passed for the new tuition for 2025-2026 school year.

Pastor Adam conducted a Leadership Retreat with Council Members. The agenda consisted of three sections. First section included a review of our financial situation in light of our ongoing work together. The second section was a review of our missions and our structure as we prepared to receive and manage a large monetary gift. The third section included a discussion on tuition for our school ministry in 2025-2026 and conversation on salary, philosophy, and advancement.

Budget process, personnel reviews and pay raises were discussed at February's meeting.

Mission Investments (MIF) holds our mortgage. Interest rates increased. This led to a conversation with MIF about making payment toward our principal and then requested that the mortgage be re-amortized without penalty.

New computers for the administration offices were approved. This is needed before October 2025 when Windows 10 will no longer be supported.

Sherrie Simek and Ron Cordova laid the foundation for possible purchase of security cameras for the internal and external areas of the Church and School

Members of the Congregation came together for a special service and reception honoring Pastor Adam Berndt for his 10 years of service at Cross of Hope. His wife Laura, and their two children, Addy and Bennie, were proud to be part of the celebration. The Hospitality Team did an excellent job of organizing the occasion and included a delicious luncheon. Pastor and his family were presented gifts from the Congregation. Pastor on-to the next 10 years.

A committee was formed to research whether a Columbarium would be appropriate for COH. Those who may not be familiar with the term, it is a place where members can inter the remains of a loved one who has passed away. Duane McNeely made a presentation to the council. The next step was to conduct a survey to see if members would be interested. Many members responded positively. The committee members, Duane McNeely, Rick Alpers, and Pat Benchik will continue to research cost, pricing, style, locality, legalities, administration, and other matters. Stay tuned!

Cross of Hope was blessed with a monetary gift from the estate of Pastor Dale and Edee Bauer to the school ministry. A quasi-endowment fund was established to be used to fund scholarships. The balance of the gift was earmarked to upgrade the computer technology of the school. All students will have access to new Chrome Books. What a blessing for our school!

The Council approved Greg and Nancy Morrison, as voting members from COH, to the annual Assembly of the Rocky Mountain Synod held this year in Albuquerque, NM from May 22-24, 2025.

Memorial Day The summer outdoor service began on Sunday at 8:45am. It is so refreshing sitting under the trees, on the beautiful green grass, and in front of the "Garden of Hope." The second service is held in the Sanctuary at 10:00am.

Bob Arseneau presented information to the Council about installing solar on the Elementary School roof. This would certainly save a lot of money on utilities. The Council decided that it was a good project to undertake but because of the cost, a presentation regarding the Solar Energy at COH had to be made to the Congregation. The Council decided to move forward with solar installation pending approval from the congregation.

The Elementary and Preschool hired full-time and part time teachers, educational assistants, staff, and substitutes. I am sure they are looking forward to starting school in August 2025.

A special Congregational Meeting was held on June 8, 2025, with one agenda item – to request approval of members to purchase and install solar. The Congregation unanimously approved the motion. Bob Arseneau is the Project Manager.

Finally, after many years of discussing whether we need security cameras the Council approved the project. Ron Cordova is the Project Manager. July is the installation date, and they will be located throughout the school, great hall and outside.

The 2025-2026 Employee Manual was updated, approved by the Council and is ready for distribution to all employees.

Finale:

This year we say goodbye to four Council members - Margie Reed, Janet Conlon, and Ron Wirths. New members will be elected at the Congregational Meeting on August 24, 2025.

Writing this year's article is bitter-sweet for me. Since 2018, I have served as a member of the Church Council first as an Executive Assistant, then as a member, next as Vice President, and lastly as President.

I am both honored and humbled to have served God and His people through the ministry of the Church Council. I have learned so much about the Church, School, Ministries, and business matters.

Thank you, Pastor Adam, to all of the Council members past and present, especially Pat Benchik, and to the members of the Congregation for all the support you have given to me over the years.

Blessings!

Margie Reed

COH Council President

Linda Willoughby, Church Administrator

May of 2025, I celebrated working at Cross of Hope for 30 years. I am looking forward to transitioning to the life of retirement within the next two years. For the Cross of Hope community this will take some planning in looking at the administrative position and its roles for the future.

At Cross of Hope Church and School I work directly with Pastor Adam Berndt (my supervisor), Margie Reed - Council President, Sherrie Simek, Vice President, Pat Benchik, Property Director, Executive Team, staff, and volunteers. The volunteers we utilize are called and scheduled by the job.

Core Church and School Staff: Adam Berndt - Pastor; Linda Willoughby - Church Administrator; Peg Biedermann – Director of Digital Life; RC Jordan – Director of Worship and Community Life, Susan Rivera - Director of School Ministry, Brianne Mares – Finance Officer.

Computer backups for the Church and School: Our server is backed up to the Cloud, the service company is called Crash Plan. This is maintained through the guidance of outside consultant source Stephen Moeny, SETMO, Inc.

Crossofhope.org website – Our website platform is monitored by Real Time Solutions through the guidance of a COH Web Team. Peg Biedermann, Director of Digital Life, manages the website internally.

Contribution Maintenance – John Lacher, Contribution Secretary, enters pledges, provides reports to the Council and contribution statements to the congregation.

Weekly Counters: Rudy Simek, Margie Reed, Sherrie Simek, Sylvia Oelsner.

Data Entry Office Volunteers: Margie Reed, Sylvia Oelsner, and Sherrie Simek enters contributions into the Shepherd's Staff every week.

Fire Sprinklers, Fire Extinguishers and Building Inspections of the Church and School: Fire alarm monitors, Rudy and Sherrie Simek schedules the inspections to be done in July with Western State Fire Protection. The Church Administrator or Property Assistant walks through the facility with the team tracking any issues we might need to address. Fire Monitors, Rudy and Sherrie Simek run monthly fire drills and quarterly lock downs for the school, they also check and maintenance smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, AEI monitor, fire extinguisher levels and emergency lights.

Electronic Marquee Sign: The Church Administrator maintains the electronic Marquee Sign with special announcements, school registration notices, service schedules. Please know that the Electronic Marquee has reached its warranty life and if it stops

working, we will either need to turn it off or investigate investing into purchasing a new one.

Rays of Hope Team – The Planning Team is Lynne Bagby, Managing Editor, and editors: Mary Bresnahan, Beth Cretsinger, R.C. Jordan, Sherri Phillips and Linda Willoughby. The team meets at the beginning of each month to plan for next month's journal issue. We discuss and schedule current events, articles, and deadlines. Before print release we review the layout, edit drafts, and try to adhere to the scheduled web posting and printing dates. The Rays of Hope is put on the website and emailed to the COH community and school with an attached link. Printed copies are mailed to the homebound, additional prints are made for those without email for pickup and for visitors.

Thank you and I am immensely blessed for the opportunity to work with such a fine team of folks at Cross of Hope.

Sincerely,

Linda Willoughby, Church Administrator

Thomas Ropp, Director of Music Ministries

As we are near the completion of my fourth year as Director of Music Ministries here at Cross of Hope, I reflect on the growth we have seen in this past year.

Our Voices of Hope choir, which sings in the 8:30a services throughout the school year has had a successful season, with between 12 and 15 people joining us to provide musical offerings. In addition to the usual offerings, we completed two cantatas for both the advent and easter season and started a new tradition of introducing new hymns from the All Creation Sings book as preludes before their inclusion in the service music. We were also able to work with other members of the congregation to accompany pieces not only with piano, but with flute, oboe, trumpet, and horn.

This next year, I'd like to maintain a similar pace, with two cantatas, and a musical offering twice a month. In addition, I'd like to continue introducing a new hymn from All Creation Sings once a month or every other month as we continue to expand our repertoire as a congregation.

The Praise Team has also been working hard, and it continues to grow. We have maintained our schedule of rehearsing twice a month, which has helped us to better prepare for our services. The praise team drive has been working well, allowing us to catalogue what pieces we have played, and monitor member availability. This next year, we aim to work on adding additional new songs and creating a better environment for having the congregation sing with us during the service. We are also taking steps to improve our monitors and musical feedback to improve the experience of both our musicians and the congregations.

Finally, we also have had members of the congregation join us with their musical gifts. Martha has provided her musical talents on oboe, and Keri with her voice. Surgite Dance joined us, providing solo and group pieces for offerings, and participatory children's sermons. The Ropp family completed three special services over the summer, with a Brass service in June, a Dixieland service in July, and a Bluegrass Service in August. Rich Neely and Linda O'Neal also lent their vocal talents to the Dixieland service, while Bill Harris and Cinda Weile joined for the Bluegrass service.

I am incredibly grateful to our members' time and talent throughout the year, and our congregation's support and participation. I am looking forward to another music-filled year with Cross of Hope. I cannot wait to see what new horizons and growth await us as we continue our journey.

RC JORDAN, Director of Worship and Community Life

Dear congregation,

I am blessed to work alongside a wonderful group of staff and volunteers at Cross of Hope Church and Schools in a team environment. For reporting purposes, I do work hand-in hand with Pastor Adam and Thomas Ropp for worship related duties. Linda Willoughby for any day-to-day office issues and Susan Rivera is my main point of contact for the school side to blend in community events that are beneficial for both the school and congregation. My work hours range around 15 to 25 hours per week, depending on special worship events.

Altar Guild: As the Altar Team Lead, supplies related to worship and any special items needed are handled on my side for purchase. I have also streamlined the information flow process for Sunday Serving assignments that are more transparent for all designated volunteers.

Worship: A request was made for larger font print for our Sunday service PowerPoint slides. During the initial phase I began with the readings for each Sunday. As of today, the font size has been adjusted, not only for the readings, but now for all slides. Many of the congregation have noted the change and provided positive feedback to continue.

Office: Sunday Worship material is managed, processed, and printed on a weekly basis for liturgy and music. The information assimilated via COH's website and email Mailchimp are now handled directly by me with Linda Willoughby as backup.

Rays of Hope Team: As part of the team, I work with Linda Willoughby, Lynne Bagby (Production Editor), and several designated volunteers once a month to organize and plan for upcoming monthly journals. The group dynamics is to discuss, schedule current events, articles, and deadlines. My part has been to help fill in when needed, and at times, to complete the monthly issue in full for layouts, editing, printing, and available access via email (Mailchimp) and website.

There are so many awesome ministry opportunities that I do on the side for Cross of Hope too. Such as helping as a volunteer for the school events, working with Banner Babes, and participating in serving on Sundays. Cross of Hope is a wonderful place to build relationships and to grow in Christ. It is a rich blessing to serve here amongst the many resources people offer.

Blessings,

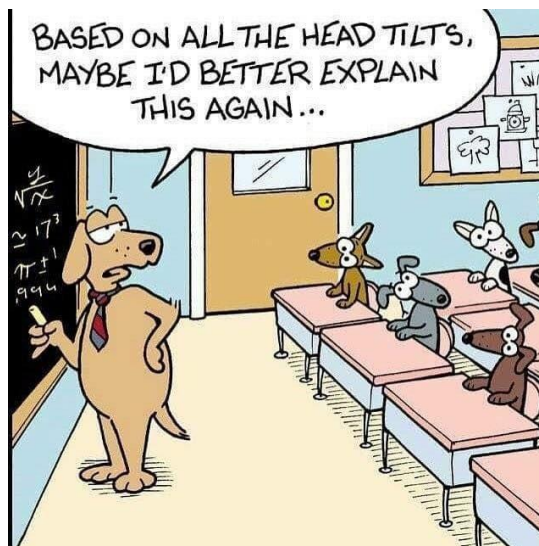
RC Jordan, Director of Worship / Community Life

Peggy Biedermann, Director of Digital Life

- The focus of the year has been to continue to evolve the COH website into an easy to navigate, functional and engaging tool.
- The school section of the site has clear, current information that is accessible to potential new students and their families.
- Keeping the website up to date with pertinent information for the COH community is an ongoing task.
- As Director of Digital Life, I make forms, brochures, invitations, event updates, etc. for both church and school needs.
- Technology upgrades took place this year. Outdated COH office & school technology were decommissioned and sent to recycling.
- New PC towers and laptops were purchased for the office/ COH administration.
- New laptops were purchased for the COH school educators.
- Taking our network tech support person's advice, the COH school has switched from Apple/ Mac/ iPad devices to PC and Chromebook devices. These devices are easier to manage through an administrative panel. This will allow me to control student access to material and to track/ monitor student devices.
- At a network level, COH replaced the old server to improve security, speed and connectivity.
- We are looking into two access points in the school hallways, getting upgraded data lines and upgraded access points to improve connectivity for Wi-Fi users in the building.

It has been a pleasure to work with everyone, and I feel that COH has made great gains in technology and is working to use it to its greatest potential for both the church and school community. We want to continue to move forward in this area with an eye on digital safety/ security for all.

Thank you for all your support.
Peg Biedermann



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Cross of Hope School Ministry



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

This year, our school anchored in Luke 6: 27-28, **"But I say to you who listen, love your enemy, do what is good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you."** This verse helped us focus our student's learning on what this verse means, and how we can apply it to our daily lives. God was so faithful to use it as an anchor for our work with families, staff, and community as well. **We loved our community:** We hosted many events that brought us together to love, encourage and support one another, such as: Back to School Night, Field Day, Bike Day, Dad's and Donuts, Mother's Day Tea, Fall Festival, Balloons Aloft, Los Posadas, Preschool Christmas Play, Secret Santa, 100th Day of School, Open House/Dessert Night, Night of Appreciation, Teacher Appreciation Week, Friday Enrichment, 4th/5th grade Lock In, Ladybug Picnic, Preschool Moving Up Ceremony, 5th Grade Promotion, and our fabulous Family Fun Day.

Our community changed and evolved this year as well. We said goodbye to Angela Durham, Janessa Cruz, and Leilani Dixon, and provided a warm welcome to Dea Evans (Kindergarten teacher) and David Becker (Music teacher). We hosted several student teachers from UNM's PE department, and joined forces with Music on the Westside, and Sport's School for after school enrichment on Friday. We are grateful for God's provision!

We served (do good) our community: We partnered with our church and families to provide for those in need by: offering a flu shot clinic, supporting Catholic Charities (serving at their food pantry, collecting food for their pantry, and recycling plastic bags), supporting Angel Tree Ministries (providing Christmas gifts), donating clothing to New Mexico Dream Center, donating pet food and pet supplies to Watermelon Ranch, collecting food for Rio Grande Food Project, and loving on our teachers through Classroom Guardians and a Sunshine Cart.

We blessed our community: We were overwhelmed by the generosity of those that contributed to the following fundraisers: Fall Walk a thon, selling school spirit wear,

selling Butter Braids, promoting Read Across America, hosting a Hop/Jump a thon, hosting a Silent Auction, and collecting Box Tops for Education.

All these activities allowed us to purchase new classroom bookshelves, replace worn classroom rugs, replenish and maintain playground equipment, provide new books for class libraries, invest in classroom document cameras, provide tables for our shade structure, replace worn white boards for our classrooms, provide new bulletin boards/strips for our hallways, and purchase countless sports equipment. This summer we will paint our preschool! We also were overwhelmed by a generous donation that allowed us to replace/upgrade our technology and IT equipment.

We were blessed by volunteers in our community from the Boy Scouts, Menaul School students, Women on Wednesday, Hospitality Team, Safety Team, Catholic Charities, and our youth group. Without their support at our events, we could not have accomplished so much for our school. We are so very grateful!

We prayed for our community: We asked for God's blessing and provisions for our School Choice Fair (new families), new teachers, during chapel, during Lent, in morning meetings, through prayer boxes, in our Roadrunner Rallies, before eating our food daily, and for our friends who were out sick, or were sad, for problems that needed to be solved, and to cover our families for parent teacher conferences. We also prayed for reconciliation for relationships that were strained, for staff to be refreshed, and for families to feel loved and supported.

It has been an honor to serve as the Director of School Ministry at Cross of Hope Church & School. Thank you for your love and encouragement as I continued to grow as an administrator. I look forward to many years serving alongside the servants at Cross of Hope.

Blessings,
Susan Rivera, School Ministry Director



Cross of Hope Preschool Ministry

Dear Parents, Staff, and Church Family,

As we come to the close of another joyful and faith-filled school year, we take time to reflect on all the ways God has blessed and guided our preschool community. The 2024–2025 year has been one of growth, learning, and grace for our students, families, and staff.

1. Spiritual Growth

At the heart of Cross of Hope Lutheran Preschool is our commitment to nurturing each child's relationship with Jesus. This year, our students memorized monthly Bible verses, participated in daily devotions and worship, and celebrated Christian holidays through plays, activities, and songs. Our weekly Chapel Time, led by Pastor Adam, helped sow seeds of faith and joy in each young heart.

2. Academic and Developmental Highlights

We continue to offer a developmentally appropriate curriculum rooted in both academic foundations and hands-on discovery. This year's highlights include:

- Utilizing our Cross of Hope Preschool curriculum to present best practices in the classroom.
- Assessing skills regularly to give feedback to families.
- Participating in 2 parent teacher conferences to show the children's growth throughout the school year.
- Creating an enrichment program for afterschool care.

3. Staff Excellence

Our dedicated teaching team poured their hearts into every classroom. Staff completed over 90 hours of continuing education, including faith-based child development training. We also welcomed one new educational assistant, Jade Gilmore, in the three-year-old Ladybug class. Their love for Christ and commitment to nurturing each child's potential is the cornerstone of our school.

4. Family & Community Engagement

Our preschool thrives because of the partnership we have with our families and church. Highlights for this year include:

- The Preschool Christmas Program with over 200 attendees.

- Mother's Day tea and Dads and Donuts with 100% turnout.
- Service projects that collected items for various charities.
- Multiple fundraising events that were used for classroom improvements.

5. Accreditation

A huge part of the first half of the school year was that Cross of Hope Preschool was due for re-accreditation through ACSI. Accreditation comes in three steps. The first step is to have all the documents required by ACSI, (which is a lot!), showing we are following the standards they require the preschool to do. Next comes the site visit, which is a three-day process, where a team from ACSI comes in the preschool, combs through every file, observes in the classrooms, interviews staff and leadership, gains information about the program and ultimately decides if we qualify for re-accreditation. The time spent getting all the materials together, the writing required in the accreditation, the qualifications the preschool must meet, and the significant amount of time preparing for their visit was immense. The third step is for the ACSI team to submit their findings to the ACSI Board of Directors who decides if we are approved for another accreditation term. I am proud to say that Cross of Hope Lutheran Preschool was approved for the next six years of accreditation through ACSI. I am so grateful for all the hard work the preschool staff put into the program and all the help they gave me in getting all the documentation together to submit before the site visit. The preschool is BLESSED by the people here at Cross of Hope and the support from church council, as well as the school ministry.

Looking Ahead

We are excited to add new members to our preschool team for the 2025-2026 school year! We are also looking forward to some upgrades in our facility, such as new paint in the classrooms, and a new wooden playhouse for our playground. We pray that God will continue to bless this ministry as we seek to raise children who know they are deeply loved by Him.

Thank You

Thank you for all of your continued support. We are honored to walk alongside you in planting seeds of faith, joy, and knowledge. To God be the glory for another wonderful year!

With gratitude,

Courtney Knuttila, M.Ed.
Preschool Director
Cross of Hope Lutheran Preschool



Friends+Faith+Everyday Life
COH Small Group Ministry

The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections Groups

- 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.

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47

In the book of Acts we hear the account of the birth and growth of the early church, somehow connecting daily nourishment in temple worship and breaking bread at home, eating food with "glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." Maybe they had it right...in the face of their very uncertain and even dangerous times they found strength and hope in making many faith connections. They connected worship, the food and words of hope, friends, faith, family and everyday life around a table in their home where they also became true community together.

Making Faith Connections small group ministry began five years ago, during pandemic times when it was tough to maintain and grow our community together. Through these years many, have been touched by the opportunity to grow in faith, connecting worship and the Word in the context of community, home and everyday life. A wonderful group of around 60 people have been involved in this ministry every week. Some have come and gone...some have moved to Texas, Colorado, and beyond the southwest. New friends have joined the venture and have been welcomed into fellowship, care and study with others hungry for growing in faith. Some have said about their experience: "I am keenly aware of the loving support one for another...a time to connect...a time to discover...a time to reach out." "Best and well spent few hours of my week." "I love them and pray for them!" "My group members are endearing, because of their sharing."

Talk to RC Jordan media@crossofhope.org for more information about joining a group!

Cross of Hope Youth

Nancy Lacher, Youth Ministry

It has been a blessing to serve as the leader of our children and youth ministry on Wednesday nights at Cross of Hope. This is our third year of doing youth ministry following the pattern of Rainbow Trail Camp. God has blessed this ministry, and we have expanded to a K – 12 model.

We continue to meet every Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:30. The time is broken up into 30-minute increments, which include all camp activities such as games, karaoke, relays, bingo, and other fun and engaging things. Then we have dinner together. We use a rotation of meals on a 4-week cycle. We want to thank our congregation members for faithfully providing the meals each week by using our Signup Genius. It helped a great deal. We encourage our members to continue supporting us each week with your generous donations.

After dinner we have Bible Study. This year we are expanding our study groups due to the number of students attending. We will have a K – 2 group, a 3 -5 group, a mid-high group, and a Senior High group.

Finally, we gather around a campfire for worship, singing camp songs, reading scripture, sharing a short message and then sharing a blessing. Most evenings we toast S'mores after our worship.

None of this is possible without the incredible help and support of our members, volunteers, parent helpers, and financial donations. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your tireless and enthusiastic support of our youth. You all are indeed a blessing.

It is a privilege and joy to serve in this capacity as one of the Youth Ministry Leaders.

Peace, love, and joy,

Nancy Lacher

Property and Hope Gardeners

Sherrie and Rudy Simek, Property Assistants as of April 2024

PROPERTY - It is with great pride, the property team works hard to maintain God's church, inside and outside. We are proud to maintain the grounds around Church and school, caring for gardens, shrubs, trees, grass and whatever else needs to be taken care.

Pat Benchik, as the property manager, handles coordination of projects through communication with vendors and Church Council to ensure expenses remain within budget. He has cultivated and maintained important relationships over the years with our vendors. This importance of our relationship with these vendors is evident as they are quick to respond and handle our requests efficiently and with the upmost care and concern. We have a dependable network of licensed, bonded and fully insured contractors established who we count on to do roofing, downspout and gutter repairs, door locks, heating and air conditioning, painting and electrical to name a few.

Margie Reed, the property assistant for 8 years, "stepped aside" in April 2025. We thank her and husband Bob, for many years of handling emergencies, leaky toilets and refurbishing the playhouse to name a few things.

Work orders from staff and teachers are coordinated through Linda Willoughby, church administrator, and new property assistants, Rudy/Sherrie Simek. Our team of volunteers, Anthony Soto, Kevin Kouri, John Lacher, Rudy and Sherrie Simek handle whatever they can and others are handed off to contractors as necessary. Although our team is small, each one brings their own talents to the table. There are always leaky toilets, carpets and tiles coming unglued, light bulbs needing to be replaced and problems with door locks.

Here are some of the projects completed by the Property team throughout 2024-2025

- Stained ceiling tiles are replaced periodically throughout the year, typically before Christmas and Easter season and prior to the start of the school year.

- Our HVAC vendor keeps our A/C units running - Cameras were installed the latter part of July, both inside and outside. This was an initiative approved by the safety committee and Church Council.

- Western States and Summit Security conducted the annual Fire and Safety inspection on July 10, 2025. Church and School passed. The Annual Fire Marshall inspection will take place prior to the start of school.

- All floors throughout the buildings, including preschool, were stripped, waxed, and polished. Carpet in the sanctuary was cleaned. Sanctuary chairs were wiped down and dusted prior to Christmas season, Easter season and during floor cleaning.

- A new pre-school playhouse was assembled from prefabricated material.

- Preschool classrooms were painted.
- White boards and cork boards were repositioned, some were replaced. Cork strips were hung throughout the halls.
- Members of WOW organized and cleaned up the Teachers Resource Room of the many books that had accumulated over the years.
- Menaul High School students organized other rooms, sheds and closets as a community service project. HOPE GARDENERS Current volunteers of Hope Gardeners are Rudy and Sherrie Simek, John Lacher and Margie Reed. Friday is our usual gardening/project day for all of us. Depending upon the season, you may see raking leaves, pulling weeds, mowing being done as needs require. Each season brings it own unique work. Here are some of the projects that the Hope Gardeners completed this year.
- Menaul High School students assisted Rudy and Sherrie Simek with spreading a delivery of bark on the playground. - Boy Scout and several members of the congregation assisted the Property team with a workday in December.
- Outdoor sprinklers and drip irrigation systems were checked by John Lacher and Rudy Simek. These two gentlemen, do an amazing job maintaining the sprinkler and drip irrigation system. They repair numerous leaks, and sprinkler heads throughout spring/summer/fall. They ensure systems are protected and turned off during winter freezing season.
- The gardens received a new topping of soil before new plants are added. Grass was reseeded in bare spots, including a whole area along the sidewalk.
- Property shed was cleaned out and organized in early Spring.

If you would like to become part of the Property Team or a Hope Gardner, please contact Sherrie Simek at (505)362-8571 or rsimek1053@yahoo.com.

Safety Team and Temple Guard

Our Cross of Hope Safety Team and Temple Guards continue to work faithfully and diligently to assure our COH schools and church are secure and safe. With due diligence each day/month we review several safety operational issues to assure COH is meeting and/or exceeding best practices for safety. The Safety Team conducts fire drills, shelter in place procedures and check fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide devices and report light bulb replacement needs. We work directly with the city of Albuquerque Fire Department to ensure we are meeting the city's requirements/standards for safety. We have installed safety cameras in all building and parking lot areas to ensure all activity both internal/external are monitored. COH Temple Guards check each evening that all facilities and classrooms are secure.

We continue to service our COH Faithfully.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Cordova, COH Safety Team Lead

Scouts

The Boy Scouts Troop 126 and Cub Scouts Pack 12 are very grateful to Cross of Hope Lutheran Church for continuing to Charter them.

The Boy Scouts maintain their strong, long-term leadership. Regularly, Troop 126 has visitors from other troops of Boy Scouts considering changing to Troop 126. Currently five Scouts have completed the work to become Eagle Scouts, they have the highest honor a Scout can earn and will have their Eagle Scouts Court of Honor over the next two months. A group of Senior Scouts will be going to Philmont Scout Camp, this summer, and the younger scouts will be going to a separate summer Camp to work on advancements. The scouts enjoy helping and doing service projects as they are able.

Cub Scouts Pack 12 have a strong leadership, many of the Cubs leaders are new to their positions and are really doing an amazing job. Several of the family members are taking an active role in the development of these young scouts. The energy of time put in by the leaders is truly heartwarming.

Gary Warner is very grateful for the opportunity given to him to remain the Charter Organization Representative and gives big thanks to Cross of Hope Lutheran Church for this opportunity.

Thank You Cross of Hope for making a difference in many developing individuals' lives.

Sincerely,

Gary Warner, Cross of Hope Sponsor for the Boy Scout Troop 126 and Cub Scout Pack 12

Women on Wednesday (WOW)

Lynne Bagby and Sherrie Simek

Women on Wednesday is a group of loving; spirited women committed to serving individuals and showing the love of God. Think of an old-fashioned 3-legged stool... service, prayer and Bible study.

Through email, we share prayer requests, updates and celebrations. Currently 46 prayer warriors humbly take the needs of individuals sent our way, to our God through prayer.

In addition, to our prayer ministry, we strive to make church and school one community. Our members serve our school community through physical attendance at school activities such as open house, fall festival, pre-school Christmas program, book fair, balloons aloft, dessert appreciation, and Family fun day to name a few. Through collection of the Least Coin offering, WOW served our church community, donating \$1,000 to the purchase of new black chairs and holding rack.

Lynne Bagby led us through Bible Study during our in person attendance every two weeks. This past season we shared study with the elementary school children by attending Chapel. We watched in wonder and awe as the students depicted that week's lesson through skits under the direction of their teachers. It is amazing to experience God's Word through the eyes of students. We utilize the "Biggest Story Bible Storybook" and the curriculum the teachers taught.

WOW is an exciting and fulfilling opportunity for all women to encounter fellowship with in person get togethers, serve others through outreach and feel God's amazing grace through prayer.

WOW meets in person on the 1st and 3rd WEDNESDAYS of each month.

If you are interested in joining WOW, please contact Lynne Bagby at lynnebagby@yahoo.com or Sherrie Simek at rsimek1053@yahoo.com

Banner Babes

Sherrie Simek

Banner Babes is a group of women who make their love of sewing and crafting into a ministry that connects with the mission statement of the church, "Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships through God.

Each year we connect with graduating seniors from our community and gift each one with a quilt that features their favorite colors, hobbies and interests. We presented 3 "made with love" quilts during services on Memorial Day weekend to 3 graduating seniors from our community. These quilts provide love during joyful and challenging times alike. The recipients know they are carried by their community of faith.

We present baptismal quilts or age-appropriate Bibles at each baptism.

This year we have created a new ministry within our ministry. Comfort Care Quilts are being created for anyone you know who needs a little comfort, loving care and warmth at any time in their lives. Again, the recipients know they are loved and carried by their community of faith. We have held one workshop where we made 4 quilt tops, shared fellowship and taste tested our tea menu.

We are working on 3 special seasonal banners.

Each year, a themed tea is held in November to aid in fundraising. This allows our ministry to continue quilt making as well as contribute to the needs of our community or communities faced with challenges. In December of 2024, Banner Babes made the following donations:

Cross of Hope Church	\$500.00
Cross of Hope School	\$500.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund	\$500.00
Saranam	\$500.00

Cross of Hope Church \$500.00 Cross of Hope School \$500.00 Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund \$500.00 Saranam \$500.00 Banner Babes meet on the first Monday of each month. There are currently 13 Banner Babes. We welcome newcomers and NO, you do not have to be an accomplished seamstress. If you are interested in joining Banner Babes, please contact Sherrie Simek at rsimek1053@yahoo.com or Diane Carrico at leeoncarrico@gmail.com

Hospitality and Care Ministry

1. Hospitality Team - tasked with planning, hosting, providing and serving food and beverages, greeting participants and guests, and cleaning up for a wide range of events. There are now 29 active, enthusiastic and generous members, some of whom have been participating for many years. They are always ready to answer the call for help. In addition, their generosity often extends to the purchase and donation of decorative elements, such as tablecloths and other decorations.

2. Care Team - tasked with providing services to members of the congregation and school families. Services offered include transportation, emergency meals and in home sitting. Currently this is comprised of 9 members. We would like to recruit other members in the near future.

Hospitality in 2024-2025

There was a total of four memorials for - Sue McWilliams, Robert Bye, Linda Ehlers and Russ Sutter.

Special Events included:

Young at Heart Gift Baskets and Acknowledgment during Service
Reception for Pastor Adam's birthday and Pastor Appreciation Month
Confirmation reception honoring confirmands
Las Posadas
Community Potluck
Easter Fellowship and Reception Honoring New Members
Reception honoring HS Graduates
Help with Special Needs Valentines Party
COH Church and School Dessert Night

Care in 2024-2025

Transportation was provided to 6 people plus around 25 days of transportation for Wendy Harrison.

There were numerous visits to members who are unable to get out.
We recently added a service for in-home sitting and a form requesting this service has been added to our website.

We continue to be ready to provide service and love to our community. Again, it is a privilege to be working with the amazing people who comprise these teams.

And a special call out and thank you again to Sherrie and Rudy Simek, without whom we couldn't even begin to put on our events.

Submitted by Claudia Russo, Care Team Coordinator

Family Promise of Albuquerque (FPA) Ministry

Family Promise of Albuquerque continues to be a Non-Profit organization holistically addressing the issue of Near Homelessness, requiring community services, or Homeless families requiring service and shelter. About 70 families have been served though services to stay housed, and about 6 families have been sheltered in the program arm that 15 local churches and Cross of Hope have served.

The building site at **San Pedro "Sold"** this year!!

The **County Commission** has passed (recently following a new process) a **grant** to FPA of \$500,000 (on Paper). When monies are received, a new property search will begin. In the meantime, The Shelter housing remains at Montgomery Church of Christ Parsonage at 1702 Montgomery Blvd NE.

Family Promise Office address is: PO BOX 20277 ABQ, NM 87254

Laura Combs, the Director of FPA, since I became joint coordinator 2025, has resigned effective August 6, 2025. (Right after our next Hosting 7/27-8/3) There are some recommendations for possible replacements, and the plan is to hire 2 Social Workers!! Please, help me pray for her future and FP stability.

Hosting in March was a success, and all Hosting, meals, and grocery/ household items were provided! Thanks to our community for their support.

We Hosted dinner time 5-7p IN PERSON for the first time since the 2020

Pandemic!! Because the baby became ill w RSV, we stopped the IN-Person Hosting after Tuesday for everyone's health. (No illness was reported in family members or hosting staff.) We continued hosting with drop-off meals and FPA paid extra staff hours to cover our volunteer hosts.

Pastor Adam states we can have In Person Hosting for upcoming Hosting! I

spoke to the coordinators during our last meeting about how well our signups went, how well food and hosting volunteer services were at our church! Laura hopes more churches will try it!! Laura thought it was therapeutic for the families to get out of the "house" and she attended twice at COH.

The generosity and kindness of the members/ volunteers continues to warm my heart!
They the hands and feet of Jesus!

Sincerely, Jan Anderson and Glenna Meneely

Cross of Hope Outreach Team

The COH Outreach team is guided by an unchanging mission: "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." We focus on Jesus' words from Matt 25:35-36: "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." The team, after focusing on those words, came up with some guiding principles. We continue to focus our outreach activities on these needs: Hunger and Basic needs (shelter, food, water and care). Our hope is that through our outreach opportunities we will provide systemic changes rather than just charity and that outreach will become a habit rather than something special or sporadic.

Hunger: Our desire is to provide the collected items to the Rio Grande Food Bank to be distributed to a variety of people. These outreach efforts will continue at regular intervals in the future:

Super Bowl Sunday

Mother's Day

ELCA Day of Service

Basic Needs: We will continue to help fill basic needs in a variety of ways.

Blood Drive: Three times a year COH will host a blood drive.

Family Promise: Providing food, support and a friendly face to families who are transitioning into a new chapter in their lives COH serves as host twice a year.

Angel Tree Ministry: Providing a connection between an incarcerated parent and their children at Christmas Time.

NMRamp Project: Providing free ramps for older adults and people with mobility issues across NM.

Special Olympics: Volunteering at regional and state events as needed.
COH/Rainbow Trail VBS at CO in June. COH volunteers and others lead a VBS experience for our youth.

COH Special Needs VBS in July. Providing a day camp experience. Volunteers are always needed.

If you are interested in volunteering at future events, contact COH office or refer to the Outreach Section in the weekly bulletin for information.

We are always looking for people who would like to work with our team to provide opportunities for outreach in our neighborhood and other places. Contact one of the team members named below.

Thank you for your continued support,
Pastor Adam, Kathy Gorman, Cheri Sorensen

COAST Crises Outreach and Support Team

Thank you, Cross of Hope Church and School, for your continuous support to the COAST fund. Since August 1, 2025, through June 25, 2024, you have contributed to the needs of your community with \$2,550.00 in gas cards to those in need. This includes Albuquerque Community Safety, Hope Works, and UNM Healthcare.

The COAST program is funded and operates through the City of Albuquerque.

Submitted by Linda Willoughby

Finance

Current Balance Sheet

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
as of 07/31/2025

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
Assets		
10210	COH General Checking - USBank	\$154,866.52
Total for 10210 - COH General Checking - USBank		\$154,866.52
10230	COH Good Sam/COAST USBank	\$3,882.97
10235	COH Money Market	\$61,823.36
10250	MIF Scholarship Account	\$4,603.21
10260	MIF Endowment Account - 3/18/26	\$115,000.00
11120	COH MIF Property Improvement	\$41,209.45
11190	COH EJones Investment	\$101,168.82
Total for 11190 - COH EJones Investment		\$101,168.82
11195	COH EJ Fund Account	\$240,434.13
Total for 11195 - COH EJ Fund Account		\$240,434.13
11601	5 Month CD - 1024 9/20	\$41,978.80
11603	11 Month CD - 1057 8/20	\$41,755.34
11700	COH HeBrews Drawer	\$420.60
15500	Buildings	\$1,491,015.50
15700	Furniture, Fixtures Equipment	\$104,437.77
15800	Land	\$182,532.18
16000	Acc Depreciation - Building	\$-810,320.97
Total Assets		\$1,774,807.68
Liabilities		
23360	Insurance - Disability & Life	\$105.14
23500	Employee deposit	\$682.89
27011	Payables	\$14,423.11
24000	Deferred Tuition 2025/2026	\$160,021.00
24001	Deferred Tuition 2024-2025	\$14,212.53
24050	Deferred Scholarship Fund 2025/2026	\$5,174.86
24100	Deferred Registration 2025/2026	\$14,050.00
24200	Deferred Instructional Materials Fee 2025/2026	\$20,150.00
25420	Due to RMS Benevolence	\$-70.00
25440	Due to Boys Scouts	\$12.00
27010	Mortgage Payable	\$443,363.71
26600	U.S. Bank Community Visa	\$1,506.12
Total Liabilities		\$673,631.36
Equity		
30000	Church - General Fund	\$539,240.56
30001	Church - Good Samaritan Fund	\$1,611.39
30008	Church - Music Gifts Fund	\$500.00
30009	Church - Banner Babes Fund	\$3,786.85
30017	Church - Family Promise Ministry Fund	\$1,694.61
30020	Church - Building Fund	\$10,031.85
30021	Church - Youth Fund	\$4,669.98

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
30022	Church - MIF Endowment Fund	\$102,347.00
30024	ES - General Fund	\$165,268.14
30026	ES - Scholarship Fund Fund Balance	\$32,495.92
30025	Preschool - General Fund	\$239,530.02
Total Equity		\$1,101,176.32
Total Liabilities + Total Equity		\$1,774,807.68

Proposed Budget 2025 - 2026

Updated 7/22/25		TOTALS		
		Actuals	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
40000	Tuition (actuals include discounts & FA)	\$ 419,881.10	\$ 522,865.75	\$ 526,700.00
40030	ECECD Assistance	\$ 67,025.02	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
40100	Registration Fees	\$ 11,445.00	\$ 9,850.00	\$ 14,700.00
40200	Instructional Materials Fee	\$ 13,825.00	\$ 14,025.00	\$ 20,400.00
	Discounts & FA	\$ (35,017.50)	\$ (35,260.75)	\$ (27,430.00)
40300	Misc. Donations & Other Income	\$ 12,676.03	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,700.00
40500	Memorial donations for School	\$ 24,180.00	\$ -	\$ 5,200.00
40510	Field Trip Income	\$ 466.50	\$ -	\$ 450.00
40520	After School Care Income	\$ 5,950.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -
40860	Fundraising	\$ 10,882.16	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
41000	Tithes & Offerings	\$ 395,864.46	\$ 398,000.00	\$ 412,500.00
41400	Interest Income	\$ 9,649.96	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
41600	HEBREWS	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,300.00
42300	Donations Restricted	\$ 6,499.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
42400	Endowment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
42500	COH Parent fund	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
4200	Grant Income	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
41805	Unrealized Gain Loss on Investments	\$ 11,534.77	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
Total Income		\$ 1,071,661.50	\$ 1,009,480.00	\$ 1,053,020.00
<u>Expense</u>				
50100	Curriculum & Books	\$ 4,591.39	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 5,500.00
50150	Library	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 250.00
50800	After School Care Expenses	\$ 510.84	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00
51110	Worship/Flowers Expenses	\$ 4,172.13	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
51120	Substitute Pastor	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,100.00
51220	Music	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
51230	Guest Performers	\$ 160.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
52120	RMS / ELCA	\$ 20,166.30	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00
52130	Benevolence other than ELCA	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
52140	Hospitality	\$ 6,889.50	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 7,000.00
54120	Las Posadas	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,200.00
54130	Camp@Cross of Hope	\$ 1,328.33	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,000.00
54140	VBS - Special Needs	\$ 417.34	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
54150	Rainbow Trail - Day Camp	\$ 3,217.71	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
55110	Confirmation	\$ 276.90	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
55150	Youth Programs	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
60100	Salaries	\$ 575,527.99	\$ 609,795.00	\$ 606,881.60
61000	Continuing Education/Training	\$ 1,095.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,350.00
62000	ELCA Pension	\$ 11,285.60	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
62100	403(b) Retirement Plan	\$ 17,934.45	\$ 20,118.10	\$ 23,066.07
63000	ER Sponsored Health Ins	\$ 9,555.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
64000	Payroll tax expense	\$ 38,931.12	\$ 41,707.09	\$ 45,489.65
64100	NM Workers Comp	\$ 179.40	\$ 371.80	\$ 394.00
65000	Housing Allowance	\$ 21,301.13	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
65100	Pastoral Reimbursed Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
65110	Pastoral Continuing Education	\$ 595.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
65120	Pastoral Periodicals-Bks-Pubs	\$ 121.90	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
65130	Pastoral Technology/Sabbatical Expense	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
66000	Other Discretionary Expenses	\$ 121.52	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00
67000	Background Checks	\$ 889.73	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 750.00
70110	Postage	\$ 648.79	\$ 750.00	\$ 775.00
70120	Paper	\$ 1,729.01	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
70200	Supplies	\$ 6,655.62	\$ 9,300.00	\$ 6,500.00
70210	Copier Maintenance	\$ 1,443.45	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00

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70220	Toner & Copier Supplies	\$ 135.89	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
70240	Advertising & Public Relations	\$ 1,856.28	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
70260	Accreditation	\$ 9,203.02	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,500.00
70600	License Fees/Dues/Memberships	\$ 4,035.18	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 4,425.00
71050	Bank Charges and Fees	\$ 7,981.88	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,300.00
71051	Payroll Processing Expenses	\$ 4,999.01	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,300.00
71100	Accounting Expense	\$ 4,517.63	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,000.00
71200	Utilities	\$ 21,687.35	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
71250	Telephone	\$ 7,417.73	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 7,700.00
71300	Insurance	\$ 31,458.86	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 33,000.00
71500	Debt - Interest	\$ 23,095.27	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 33,000.00
71700	Taxes Property	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
71800	Depreciation - Building	\$ 30,949.90	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
71900	Furniture & Equipment (AV)	\$ 5,392.32	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 5,250.00
72000	Computer Maintenance & Support	\$ 8,025.43	\$ 7,350.00	\$ 8,250.00
72300	Computer Hardware/Software	\$ 28,680.33	\$ 10,300.00	\$ 10,300.00
73110	Custodial Supplies	\$ 3,353.14	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
73120	Property Supplies	\$ 1,115.41	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
73130	Maintenance	\$ 18,539.86	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 22,150.00
73140	Custodial Services	\$ 24,863.15	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
73170	Misc. Property Improvements	\$ 9,095.77	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,350.00
73180	Capital Improvements	\$ 37,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
76100	HEBREWS	\$ 1,300.95	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,000.00
76110	Synod Assembly	\$ 1,768.57	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
76120	Fundraising Expense	\$ 5,276.08	\$ 5,050.00	\$ 4,500.00
76130	Field Trip Expenses	\$ 554.88	\$ 150.00	\$ 550.00
76145	COH Parent Fund	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ -
82400	Good Samaritan/COAST Expense	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
82600	Banner Babes Expenses	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -
82800	Youth Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expense		\$ 1,026,279.04	\$ 1,027,891.99	\$ 1,079,681.32
Net Income (Loss)		\$ 45,382.46	\$ (18,411.99)	\$ (26,661.32)