



Love • Transform • Serve

RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

January 2026, Volume 44, Issue 1

Mission Statement

Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares in Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.

Joy to the World

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6-7*



Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
 Albuquerque, NM 87120
 Phone Number: (505) 897-0047
 E-mail: office@crossofhope.org
 On the web at: www.crossofhope.org
cohcouncil@crossofhope.org

This Journal of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church is published each month for the enrichment of the mission ("Loving God • Transforming Relationships • Serving Others"), for the life of the people of God at Cross of Hope and our community.

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Pastor: | Rev. R. Adam Berndt |
| Production Editor: | RC Jordan |
| Editorial Staff: | Lynne Bagby Mary Bresnahan Beth Cretsinger Sheri Phillips Linda Willoughby |
| Contributors: | The Nurse's Corner Monthly Book Suggestions |
| Reporter and Writer: | Mary Bresnahan |
| Photographers: | Jan Anderson Lynne Bagby Florence Begay RC Jordan Greg and Nancy Morrison |
| Council Communication: | Sherrie Simek |

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.

School News



Please Join Us for Cross of Hope School's
MUFFINS WITH Mom

WED, JANUARY 14TH
 8:15 AM- Everyone

THU, JANUARY 15TH
 8:15 AM- Preschool

Come out for coffee & pastries as we appreciate & celebrate all moms

School continued on page 3

Care Outreach

Transportation

Medical Appointments
 Other Appointments
 Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals

Family Emergency
 Illness
 Death

Assistance is available:

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



Love • Transform • Serve

School News

Our Preschoolers ready to perform at their Preschool Program



Photos courtesy of 3Morrphotos

Upcoming Events

January 14: Moms and Muffins (elementary and preschool)

January 15: Moms and Muffins (preschool only)

January 19: Martin Luther King Holiday - No school

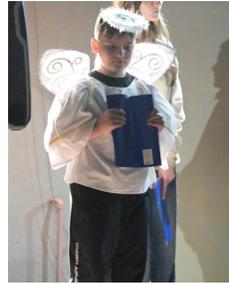
February 4: School's Open House



*Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly
with your God.*

Micah 6:8

Las Posadas



Photos courtesy of 3Morrphotos



The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections Group

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

COH Small Group Ministry

We’ll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dew-drops of mercy are bright.

Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

Refrain of Jesus, the Light of the World, song 914 in All Creation Sings

In the Gospel of John, Jesus reveals himself as the way, the truth and the life and so as followers of Jesus we walk in the light of this good news revealed in him. This time after Epiphany reveals Jesus as God’s servant who preaches and teaches about the way, truth and life of God. Jesus is revealed as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and speaks as prophet from the grounded place of God’s beloved. We do well to listen, learn and walk in the light of Jesus who is the Light of the world!

Walk in the Light

January 11, Baptism of our Lord – God’s servant

January 18, 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany – Lamb of God

January 25, 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany – prophet

February 1, 4 th Sunday after Epiphany – preacher

Would you like to be part of a small group?

Drop in after the 8:45am service small group after worship - to dive deeper into the texts for the day and connect with others in faith!

If you are looking for better times or options for participating in a small group, email RC Jordan at media@crossofhope.org



Join us for fun, fellowship, Bible study, and s'mores

What's on the Menu?

January 7: Pizza is on the menu

January 14: Burgers and Hot Dogs

January 21: Nachos

January 28: Chicken Strips



Because of you,
life doesn't stop

**BLOOD
DRIVE**

Sunday, January 18, 2026

From 10:00 am to 1:30 pm in the Nursery

**To make a lifesaving appointment,
please scan the QR code
or [Click Here](#)**

(<https://donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa/appointment/guest/phl/timeSlotsExtra?token=flgrRAwDhyRSkh1%2BVV0JIXWxZ%2FqDNx3TKseYu2sz7w4%3D>)

Walk-ins welcome too!



Lunch Bunch



We will be meeting
 January 14
 1pm
 Red Lobster
 10520 Coors Bypass

Lobsters are red
Cheddar Bay Biscuits are Tasty
Our lobsters are fresh
So join us for lunch, and make it
hasty!

Please RSVP to Florence Begay
 505-363-5827 or email florencebegay2011@gmail.com

2026 MLK DREAM WEEK

MISSION POSSIBLE 2

BUILDING COMMUNITY, UNITING A NATION THE NONVIOLENT WAY

JAN. 12-19, 2026 ACROSS THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

JOIN THE NEW MEXICO MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. STATE COMMISSION IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS NEW MEXICO AS WE ADVANCE AND HONOR DR. KING'S LEGACY. VISIT THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE TO FIND 2026 MLK HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES IN COUNTIES STATEWIDE.

Holy Cow!

The Banner Babes made several \$500.00 donations after their November Tea. One of the donations was to ELCA Good Gifts for the purchase of a cow.

One dairy cow can produce a few gallons of milk each day. Milk provides a calcium-packed source of nutrition for growing children, and a family can generate income by selling extra milk, cheese, yogurt, butter and more. With food, funds and fertilizer, the gift of a cow does it all.

Now you know about the cow!

Stay tuned for more Banner Babes donations.



Property Update

by Sherrie Simek

2025 is into the history books! We have reached a point where we are chasing leaves instead of leaves chasing us.

Cross of Hope had a work day on December 6 with Boy Scout troop 126. (See picture) The troop was such a great help in blowing leaves, raking and picking up piles.



Every year for the past five years, over 100 bags of leaves have been picked up to head to Jemez Springs, where they are mixed with sawdust and mulch. Our friend spreads them on her property as pathways. (See picture)

Margie Reed decorated the big garden circle at the church entrance for the season.

We continue our attempt to live compatibly with squirrels. SynLawn repaired a deep trench under the preschool turf in early November.

Ironclad is taking preventative action around the outdoor stage area and throughout the preschool area. Rudy has kept the holes filled to the best of his ability, although even he has been outnumbered.



Come join us at anytime. We work both outside and inside. See Margie Reed, Sherrie and Rudy Simek, John Lacher, or Pat Benchik.

The Church office will be closed on January 19 for the Martin Luther King Holiday



| | Day |
|-------------------|-----|
| Carly Adams | 4 |
| Susan Strand | 7 |
| Rosemary Neely | 7 |
| Susan Ropp | 12 |
| Nick Neely | 13 |
| Barbara J Owens | 14 |
| Emily O'Roark | 16 |
| Tarra Toledo | 17 |
| Curtis Case | 18 |
| Emily Walter | 18 |
| Debbie Bokan | 19 |
| Joan Wilson | 20 |
| Cheri Sorensen | 21 |
| Silas Toledo | 21 |
| Don Cretsinger | 26 |
| Joseph Poyner | 27 |
| Kiersten Hielkema | 29 |
| Wyatt Walsh | 31 |

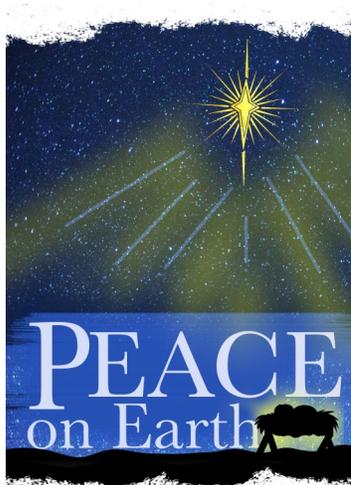
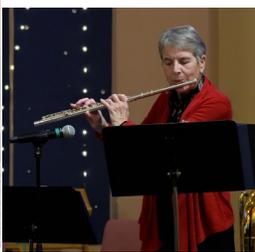


Start the New Year with
Prayer



| | Day | Year |
|-------------------------|-----|------|
| Dale and Shirley McCan | 1 | 31 |
| John and Kristi Valdez | 20 | 18 |
| Jahn and Barbara Wright | 27 | 57 |

Christmas Eve at Cross of Hope



Photos courtesy of 3Morr Photos

When you need these services, please think of Rays of Hope sponsors.
We thank them for their continued support in offsetting the costs (by \$10 per month) associated with producing Rays of Hope each month.

thrivent



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

Wealth Advisor

Valley Consulting Group
matthew.klandrud@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/matthew-klandrud

Office 480-237-3669 • **Office** 505-271-0065
2222 S Dobson Road, Ste 700 Mesa, AZ 85202
6565 Americas Pkwy NE, Ste 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110

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

Pastor Adam Berndt, Sherrie Simek –President
Greg Morrison –Treasurer, Jessica Williams,-
Secretary, Bob Arseneau, Laura Burton, Ron
Cordova, Art Kavanaugh, Todd Olsen,

thrivent



Stacey E Marz, FIC, CLTC®

Financial Consultant

Valley Consulting Group
stacey.marz@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/stacey-marz

Office 480-237-3669 • **Office** 505-271-0065
2222 S Dobson Rd, Ste 700 Mesa, AZ 85202
6565 Americas Pkwy NE, Ste 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110



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



6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-2639

esdirector@crossofhope.org

School (505) 897-1832



Trisha McClain, Director of Preschool Ministry
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School



6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-2639

pssupport@crossofhope.org

Preschool (505) 899-0928

www.crossofhope.org



Cross of Hope Care Outreach

Transportation
Medical Appointments
Other Appointments
Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals
Family Emergency
Illness
Death

Assistance is available:

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



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

Onsite Worship Times:

Sunday - 8:45 a.m.
Sunday 10:45 a.m.

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

January Book Suggestions

by Dee Gutierrez

Reclaiming Christianity: A call to authentic Faith - A.Z. Tozer

In a never-before-published-work from the author of *The Pursuit of God*, the author argues that the modern Church must stop parroting words carelessly, and instead allow the meaning that these words convey to empower, shape, and direct the work of the Church.

Faithfulness Fulfilled- James W. Meyer and Linda M. Meyer

Where is God? What is He thinking? Does He hear you when you pray? It's likely those questions have crossed your mind, and your heart, at least once. Perhaps you are asking them right now.

A Passion for Faithfulness: Wisdom from the Book of Nehemiah - J. I. Packer

He was one of the Bible's greatest leaders. A man of action who took on the incredible task of rebuilding ancient Jerusalem. He was dedicated and wise. A zealous man who saturated himself with prayer. In all of this he helped set the standard for Godly leadership. And yet you probably know nothing about him. He was Nehemiah.