



Love • Transform • Serve

RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

February 2026, Volume 44, Issue 2

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.

Learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. Isaiah 1:17

I give you a new commandment, that your love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. John 13: 34

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. John 14:1

Loving God and Loving and Serving Our Neighbor



Our faith is rooted and grounded in the Word of God and it is from there that we are called, equipped and convicted to faithfully live and serve in and with great love. My heart is troubled and my spirit shaken at the scenes of violence in Minneapolis by aggressive immigration enforcement and violence by federal law enforcement agents. In times of fear and uncertainty, it is understandable to feel paralyzed for what to say and do as we process incompatible and unconscionable treatment of our fellow human beings.

Lent offers us a time of intentionality for reflection and space to remember to breathe deeply, pray faithfully, and then ask again and seek what love bids us to do. In a world so polarized, our faith calls us to another way together - for worship and conversation as the diverse and united Body of Christ - to love God and love and serve our neighbor as the center of who we are. As we continue to do so, we not only learn and grow in life and faith, but we also model for the world what love and grace looks like while seeking to discern solutions to complex issues that respect and honor human dignity.

God calls us to be witnesses to God's presence, healing and hope in the world and, though this witness is sometimes hard, we persevere in confidence and faith in Christ to reconcile and redeem all things. God bless you this season of Lent as we journey through the cross to the empty tomb and commit ourselves again to the faithful love of God as we love and serve our neighbor.

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
cohccouncil@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 Editors:	Lynne Bagby 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



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

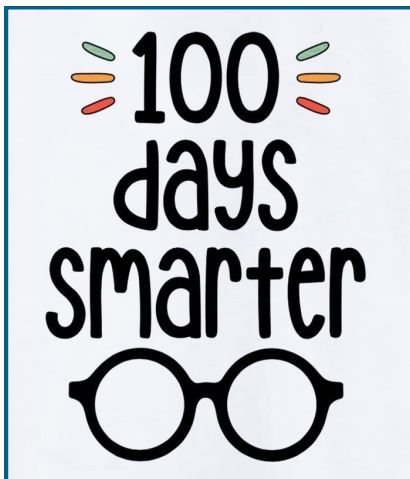
School continued from page 2



Pictures above and right

The kids enjoyed celebrating their mothers.

Nothing beats Mom, but muffins and donuts are special too!



Mr. David and Mrs. Argon pose with first and second grades.



Mrs. Evans poses with kindergartners.



Mrs. Pratt and Ms. Rivera pose for third, fourth, and fifth grades

Presidents' Day February 16 - School Holiday

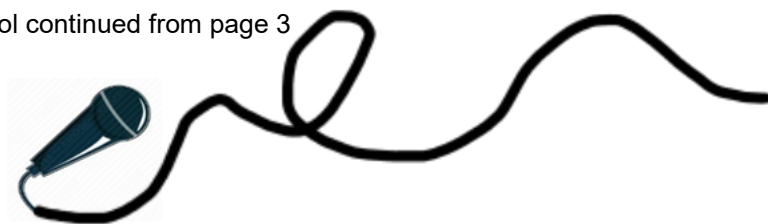


Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

School continued on page 4

School continued from page 3



The Roving Hope-r

By Mary Bresnahan

Hard to believe it is February already and last week we reached the hundreth day of school! Thinking about February brings thoughts of our cherished holidays – Valentines Day is the super special one for this month. With that in mind, we asked our young scholars what love means to them and how they might show it. This year, we are adding our preschoolers to our Roving Hope-r. Here are their answers :



Ace is a four-year old in the Busy Bees' class and he said love is "When my mommy gives me hugs."

Wrenley, a three year old in Busy Bees simply said, "I don't know. Look it up on your phone."



"It's in my heart and I share it with my friends and family." said four-year old Josie in the Ladybugs' class.

Four year old Jackson from the Ladybugs' class said, "I love dinosaurs!"



Lucia is in kindergarten. She said, "Love is caring about someone. I love my family - parents, brother, grandpa, and aunt."

Adi our first grader said, "Loving people means really liking people. That includes my dad, mom, dog (Kasie) and my 'stuffy' Maka-Ka."



Bryson is in second grade. He shared, "Valentine's Day is about love. I love my mom, my brother and my friends. Love means I talk to them a lot, listen to them and have fun with them."

Ahren our third grader said, "Love means loving and caring for each other. I give hugs to my parents and family. I help them when they are having problems and I offer my help."



Roving Hoper continued on page 7

Council Corner

Art Kavanaugh, Member

"Giving up doesn't always mean you're weak, sometimes it means you are strong enough and smart enough to let go and move on." *Ecclesiastes 3.6*

Happy New Year everyone! Our first Council meeting of the New Year was productive and informative.

The 2026-2027 proposed tuition for the Elementary School and Pre-School was presented by Susan Rivera, Director of School Ministry and Trisha McClain, Director of Preschool Ministry. After careful consideration and deliberation, the Council voted and approved the 2026 – 2027 proposed tuition.



The Council voted on and approved the Charter for a new scout troop organized under Scouting America. The Scouting America Troop will meet on Tuesday evenings, at the same time as the Boy Scouts.

Greg Morrison's treasurer's report showed a healthy position for the fifth month of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, for both Church and School.

Pastor Adam's report included creating the following teams comprised of Council members:

- Budget Team
- Personnel Team

Bob Arseneau provided an update on the Solar project. The work is ongoing and the solar panels are being installed. All should be in operation the end of January. Kudos to Bob. He has been at the church from the start to the finish of the solar installation. Bob assured the work was done, assisting with questions and answers from Church staff and construction crew.

Our school Open House will be February 4, 5 – 6:30pm.

Council members are available each Sunday between services at the front desk for questions or comments. Please come by say hello. We look forward to seeing you!



Interested in Membership at Cross of Hope?

New members devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers. - Acts 2:42

During Lent, Pastor Adam will gather with anyone interested in becoming a member of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church. Together we'll explore the mission and vision of Cross of Hope, our ministries, and the Lutheran tradition that is our guiding lens of faith. Details to follow as we form the group. Be invited to talk with Pastor Adam with questions or curiosities.



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 of God. Jesus is revealed as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin 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 the Light of the world!

Walk in the Light

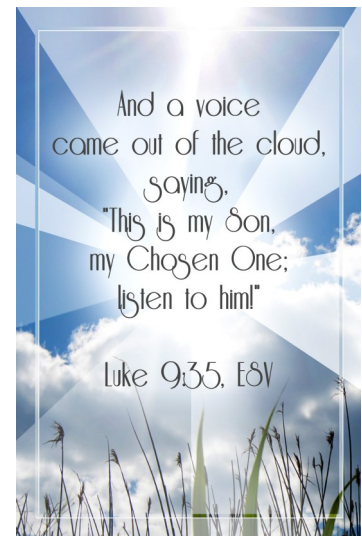
February 1: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Preacher

February 8: 5th Sunday after Epiphany – Teacher

February 15: Transfiguration of our Lord – God's beloved

February 22: Lenten studies will begin . . . *

* Look for Lenten small group studies in The Hope Filled Happenings or COH Website.



Would you like to be part of a small group?

Drop in 9:45am for small group after worship and join in on discussions to dive deeper into the texts for the day and connect with others in faith!

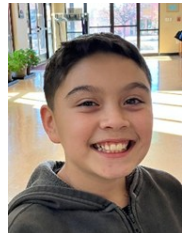
If you are looking for better times or options for participating in a small group, email RC Jordan at media@crossofhope.org

Roving Hoper continued from page 4



Joshua is in fourth grade. "Valentine's Day is all about loving and caring. I love my mom, dad, brother and dog, Jingle. I would get my mom chocolate and "special" rocks." When we reacted to him giving rocks (?*#), he said, "maybe a vacuum cleaner because she likes to clean." He did admit he might need some help from dad getting the money to pay for the vacuum.

Hunter, our fifth grader, gave our question much thought. He said, "Valentine's Day is about people being kind and eating some sweet stuff. It's about giving candy to people. Love means you care more about someone than someone you don't know. I say it to my dad and hug him and play games with him. Also, my stepmom. I help her with the chores."



Solar Update

Our solar panel installation is completed. We are waiting for PNM to certify the installation, and then we will be up and running.

Much gratitude is given to Bob and Bonny Arseneau for the commitment to see this through to its completion. Their constant on-sight presence during the installation process allowed for our church and school to run smoothly during the two weeks of installation.



The Church office will be closed on February 16 for President's Day.



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

What's on the Menu?

February 4: No Camp (School Open House)

February 11: Pizza

February 18:: No Camp (Ash Wednesday)

February 25: Sub sandwiches

Family Promise Update



We have some awesome news from our partners in ministry at Family Promise of Albuquerque. They have acquired new static site buildings. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey - we look forward to making you proud! Special thanks to our building fund donors and Bernalillo County for making this dream a reality.

These residential properties will become the home of the new shelter program, day center for workforce and life skills development, and a single unit for transitional housing.

FPA anticipates beginning renovations in March and April of this year and are in need of painters and those handy with the following:

- Light fixture installation,
- Door lock installation,
- General cleaning
- Furniture assembly
- Painting



If you or someone in your circle are interested in being part of our renovation team (in addition to our contractors), please reach out to FPA Executive Director Michael Trimm at director@familypromiseabq.org.

Cross of Hope will be hosting Family Promise the week of March 8-15, 2026

Lunch Bunch



OLD COUNTRY STORE

We will be meeting

February 11

1pm

Cracker Barrel

5700 Redlands Rd NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120

Please RSVP to Florence Begay

505-363-5827 or email florencebegay2011@gmail.com

Community Outreach

Food Drive through February 8, 2026



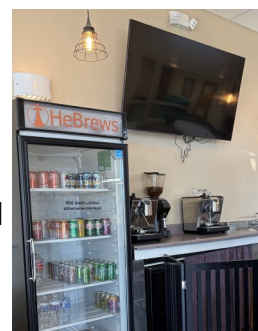
Wish List

Oatmeal and cereals
Pastas and sauce
Bread and crackers
Rice and grains
Canned and dried beans
Canned fish and chicken
Canned vegetables
Canned and dried fruit
Peanut and seed butters
Canned and boxed soups

Fellowship and Hebrews

You are invited to spend some leisure time to meet and greet those you see in Church but do not yet know between the 8:45am and 10:45am services each Sunday.

We have the best baristas around, Kathy and Todd Bramley, who would love to craft some coffee while you enjoy some delicious and savory snacks provided by our hospitality team and Church members.



in

to
by



	Day
Todd Olsen	5
Jane Fuller	5
John Valdez	6
Nancy Leon	7
Mike Sakelaris	8
Greta Williams	11
Karen Wilson	15
Glenna Meneely	18
Lucy Benham	18
Shannon Reynolds	19
Robert Phillips	21
Rhonda Warner	21
Linda Milks	23
Corbin Bencomo	24
Leof Strand	24
David Albin	25
Bob Morton	26
JanaLee Spongberg	28

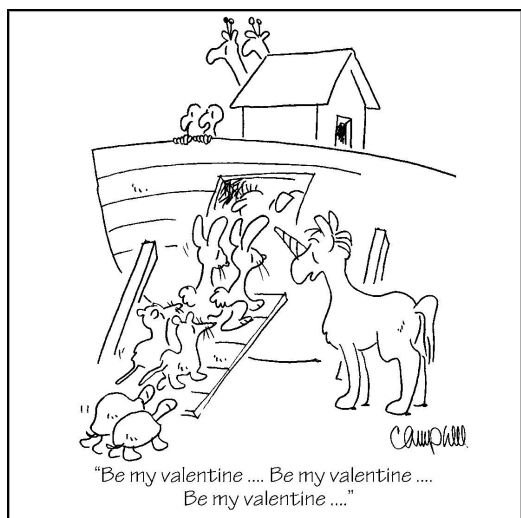


There has been a "Caring Card" ministry at Cross of Hope that has existed for decades. Wendy Harrison has been one of the best card ministers at Cross of Hope for years. She has sent literally hundreds of cards out to members of Cross of Hope - cards, filled with birthday and holiday wishes, and others filled with prayers for health and healing. Perhaps you have been the recipient of one of more of these cards. Wendy is no longer able to keep sending out her cards, but here's her address so our community can share with *her* how wonderful it feels to get an unexpected card in the mail.

Wendy Harrison
6137 Agate Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120



	Day	Year
Bob and Bonny Arseneau	2	41
David and Lynne Bagby	14	17
Bob and Margie Reed	19	60
Kevin and Deney Perkins	21	17
Bruce and Linda Molde	26	60



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
 cohccouncil@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



COMMUNITY MUSIC CONCERT
Sunday, February 15 at 2:00 pm



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
 6901 Wyoming Blvd. NE
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

Bring non-perishable food donations for the Food Pantry
 serving families in need and our unhoused neighbors.
Everyone is welcome to this free event.

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

psdirector@crossofhope.org
 Preschool (505) 899-0928



Cross of Hope Care Outreach

Transportation
 Medical Appointments
 Other Appointments
 Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals
 Family Emergency
 Illness
 Death

Assistance is available:

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



CROSS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mission Statement

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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.

February Book Suggestions

by Dee Gutierrez

Keeping Faith- Jodi Picoult

The book is about a custody battle involving a seven-year-old girl, Faith White, who may be seeing God.

A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence and Power - Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter that addresses the global discrimination and violence against women as a major human rights violation, arguing that religious texts are often misinterpreted to justify inequality and abuse, and calling for religious and world leaders to take action to secure equal rights for women.

** Charlie Anderson, church parishioner, suggested*

Migrant God: A Christian Vision in Immigrant Justice- Isaac Samuel Villegas

Migrant God takes readers to the front lines of immigrant justice activism where Christians are putting hope into action.