



Love • Transform • Serve

RAYs of HOPE JOURNAL

April 2026, Volume 44, Issue 4

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.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Deut. 6:5-6

Connected in God's Word



Cross of Hope is connected profoundly to the wider church through God's word proclaimed in worship. Our readings in worship come from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) which came from an ecumenical team called the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT) with representation from multiple Protestant and Catholic denominations in Canada and the United States. They have provided a provisional update to the RCL that reexamines passages of Scripture that have historically been misused to justify discrimination and violence against Jews. This process involved extensive study and consultation with biblical experts, church historians and liturgical leaders, including a forum with the consultation and participation of Jewish scholars.

Throughout Christian history, references to "the Jews" in scripture - particularly in John and Acts - have been used to perpetuate negative stereotypes and falsely assign blame for the death of Jesus. These references gloss over significant distinctions among religious leaders, such as Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees, and obscure the fact that Jesus and his disciples were themselves Jews. As Christians, we confess and lament the history of anti-Judaism associated with these texts. We renounce the evils of violence and discrimination against Jewish people. We strive for mutual understanding, respect, and partnership with Jewish neighbors and commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation among people of all faiths.

To address the potentially harmful practice of replacing the first reading from the Old Testament with a reading from Acts during Easter Season, the CCT recommends alternative readings from the Hebrew Scriptures during Eastertide. For Christians not to read from texts shared with Jews during any season of the year is inherently problematic. God has exercised mercy and has worked deliverance and salvation throughout the biblical story apart from the specific events and dynamics of the passion. Indeed, the early followers of Jesus and the gospel writers, in particular, learned how to interpret Jesus' life and death as redemptive precisely by looking at what God had been habituated to do with Israel. Those stories were the paradigms of salvation that the gospel writers used to tell their story of Jesus. The readings from the Acts of the Apostles is moved to the time after Pentecost as alternate Epistle Readings. This first year they will be proclaimed in the fall while the next two years finds them in the summer months.

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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

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Contributors:	The Nurse's Corner Monthly Book Suggestions
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WE WANT YOUR NEWS ITEMS

Deadline is 10th of the month for the following month's edition. Send E-mail articles to office@crossofhope.org, lbagby@crossofhope.org, or deliver to church office.

Stewardship

Stewardship involves your time, talent and treasure. Contact the church office for assistance in getting started in any of our ministries. Please remember Cross of Hope in preparing your will.

School News

Open Enrollment for Cross of Hope School continues.

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 on page 2



The Busy Month of March

Read Across America – Preschool Book Parade

St Patrick's Day

Hawks Aloft

Baking Lenten Prayer Pretzels

School continued on page 4

School continued from page 3



The Roving Hope-r

By Mary Bresnahan

With the SUPER warm weather we have had it is hard to believe it's only March. There are many exciting holidays to keep us focused. One is St. Patrick's Day. Whether you know the history or tales, it is a fun day, especially for the kiddos. In addition, Easter is right around the corner. This month I gave the interviewees a choice of what they wanted to talk about. Thank you Amber Griffith for your assistance with our Busy Bees. Check it out.

Our Busy Bees shared their ideas:

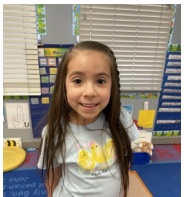


Gabe wanted to talk about both. On St. Patrick's Day, "I set a trap. Did you know that Leprechauns like buttermilk?"

"On Easter God raised Jesus."



Ivy talked about St. Patrick's Day and said, "I think it's my dad's birthday."



"I get to make colored eggs for Mom and Jesus," Aria informed Amber about Easter..

"We go to bed and wake up to eggs all over because Jesus has risen!" Henrick quipped.



Amelia had a twinkle in her eye when she said, "I'm going to set a trap, jump on the Leprechaun and steal all his gold!"

For St. Patrick's Day, Zander said, "I set a trap to save my brother. He's afraid of Leprechauns."



School News

School continued from page 4

Our Elementary School Kids were outside for lunch when they were interviewed.



Evelyn is a kindergartener. She told us, “St. Patrick’s Day is about leprechauns coming into your house. You trap him. He gave me a lucky charm (a star).” Her parting gesture was a peace sign.



Brooke is in first grade. She chose to talk about St. Patrick’s Day. “Yesterday we set traps in our classroom. This morning our classroom was a mess. It happened overnight. The leprechauns left us a note. He changed the calendar to July 29, 2028! He put coins in our backpacks and he left a note.”



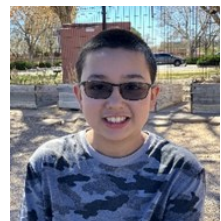
Ollie is in second grade. She told us, “The class read the book ‘Dragons Love Tacos.’ I made a leprechaun trap and I found the leprechaun. I stole his coins. I put him in the trap again today.”



Amelie is in third grade. She chose to talk about Easter. She told us “Easter means God is risen from the dead. He saved us from our sins. I get candy from my grandma and grandpa.”



Miles is in fourth grade. He chose to talk about St. Patrick’s Day. He said, “St. Patrick’s Day is about leprechauns and luck. I set up a trap for the leprechauns. I wore green and ate green lucky charms. The floor was covered in green (that was at home). My trap did not work.”



Jayce is in fifth grade. He talked about Easter. “Easter is about Jesus coming back from the dead. He died for our sins. I praise the Lord. We all go to my nana’s house. I might go to church.”

Connected and Easter Schedule continued from page 1

Cross of Hope continues to be a faithful partner in the journey of faith with the wider church and our neighbors of all faiths. Please be invited into conversation with me and your Worship Team as we experience this provisional update to the lectionary that connect us beyond ourselves as we learn and grow together in life and faith.

On behalf of the Worship Team,
R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

The Great Three Days

April 2, 7pm
Maundy Thursday

April 3, 7pm
Good Friday

April 4
The Vigil of Easter

**Resurrection of
Our Lord
Easter Sunday**

Worship at 8:45 and 10:45am

Blessing of the Banner on Palm Sunday,
March 29, 2026
Photo by Margie Reed



Procession of the Cross
Sunday, March 29, 2026
Photo courtesy of 3Morrphotos



Council Corner

by Bob Arseneau

"The waiting is the hardest part." Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, "The Waiting", from the album, "Hard Promises".

The song listed above reference isn't exactly scripture; however, it's very applicable when providing you with an update on where we're at with the solar project for the church building. As a community, we've been working on this project for almost a year. Three bids were obtained for a solar system. Those bids were evaluated and the Council selected Positive Energy Solutions (PES) to install our system. Due to the cost of the project, - a special congregational meeting was held to obtain the community's approval to make an expenditure of this size. The congregation overwhelmingly approved this action. A contract was signed with PES in July 2025. The building's roof was inspected and found to be in good shape. PES then designed a system for our building and started to obtain the appropriate approvals from the City of Albuquerque and PNM.

In the meantime, a new federal bill "the Big Beautiful Bill" was passed, which greatly impacted the clean energy landscape and the tax credits available for purchasing solar systems. Tax credits for individuals were ended at the end of 2025, and, for commercial or nonprofit organizations, the tax benefits end this year. This caused a large influx of residential projects for the local solar companies and resulted in our project's start date being pushed out by four months.

The system for our building was installed in January. It consists of 115 panels on the roof and three power inverters located in our building. When PES tested the system, one of the inverters was faulty and had to be replaced. The good news is the replacement part is installed, and PES has submitted the final application work to PNM. This will trigger PNM doing a final review of the system, installing the production electric meter, and activating our system.

We should be making our own electricity by the end of the first week of April. On an annual basis we should save around \$18,000 a year in electrical costs.

Thank you for your patience. Clearly, waiting has been the hardest part of this project.

I hope you've been having a good Lent and are enjoying the Lenten devotional prepared by our fellow congregants. And to everyone who supplied a devotional, thank you very much. My wife and I have been enjoying them.





Called By Name To Be A Child Of God

Margaret Rose Benham was baptized February 15 by Pastor Adam Berndt. Lucy, her sister proudly poses for a family picture with her sister and parents, Kevin and Elyse Benham.



**A new “build” is planned for
Saturday, April 18,
(Off Central Ave by the Bio Park.)**

If you're thinking about participating or have questions, please contact Tim George. Phone/text 505-412-9016 or email tgordon403@gmail.com.

A Thank you from Rio Grand Food Project

Pastor Berndt and all of our friends at Cross of Hope,



Thank you for your tireless support of our mission! We can't do this important work without you, and we are so grateful to have you as a partner in our fight against food insecurity. In 2025 Cross of Hope collected 1,235.36 pounds of food! Your church group, Banner Babes, contributed an additional \$500 dollar donation using monies from their November Tea.



Family Promise of Albuquerque



Community Outreach



New Mexico's Largest No-Kill Animal Shelter

April is a busy month at Cross of Hope!

**Pet Food Drive Starts March 29, 2026.
Please bring anything you can to contribute
to the church by April 12.**

The following items needed:

Dry dog food, Dry cat food, Cat litter, Bleach, and Fabuloso.

All of your donations need to be new and unopened. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out additional ways to give. Thanks for helping our animal friends.



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

Hungry

Through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving - activities meant to quiet our minds, still our hearts, and allow us to draw near to God, the season of Lent invites us to return to God as the center and guiding norm of our lives. Throughout Lent, we are called to put our priorities in order, and throughout scripture we receive the invitation to examine ourselves. Lent is a forty-day reminder that it is God who saves and we who respond in gratitude. This intentional time of reflection and spiritual practice can leave us feeling hungry as we long for God and the good news of forgiveness, life and salvation. Join us in worship and a ‘Making Faith Connections’ small group as we share the journey through Lent.

April 2	Maundy Thursday	Purpose
April 3	Good Friday	God
April 5	Vigil of Easter	Light

Resources for Small Group

Living Hope

This Easter season our worship and small group ministries will connect in reflection about a living hope. The resurrected Christ is our living hope. Our lives as Christians is a living hope. Through both the alleluias of life and the suffering of following the way of Christ, we are sustained by the living hope of faith. ***The book of 1 Peter - the Epistle readings during Easter Year A - will be our grounding and guide as we are fed by God's word for the journey we share.***

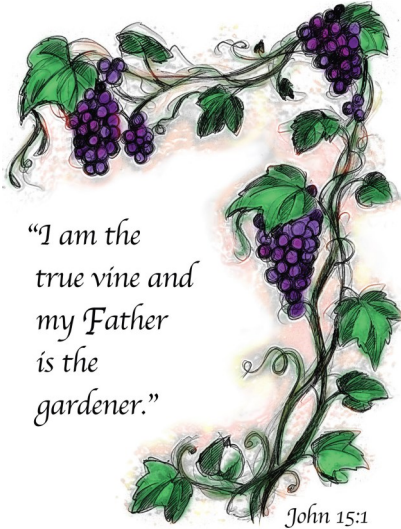
Would you like to be part of a small group?

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

The Weeds are Taking Over!

Help Is Needed



“I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener.”

John 15:1

Spring came so early this year. Rudy and Sherrie Simek have been out of commission for a few months (broken arm, knee replacement). Margie Reed is currently working to get the circle gardens in front of the Church and the south garden on the side ready for spring and summer. Our beautiful church campus is in need of some additional gardeners, weed eaters, and outside help to keep our grounds as pristine and wonderful shape.

In addition to yard and garden help, we are in need of large bags of garden soil. We have many large areas that will be needing new soil as it continues to get warmer.

Scouts Update

Greg Vaughn has stepped down as Scoutmaster for Troop 126, chartered by Cross of Hope. Greg was involved as a scouting leader for over 23 years. He was an amazing leader, and helped walk alongside many individuals as they progressed to their Eagle Scout rank.

Doug Chan is replacing Greg as the Scoutmaster. Doug has been involved in Scouting as a leader for over 16 years. Most of the Scouts in Troop 126 know Doug well, and will enjoy continuing to work with him.

Girl Troop 1226 is part of the Scouts at Cross of Hope, the Scoutmaster is Lily Bray.

Cubs 12 is also part of the Scouts program, the Scoutmaster is Katheryn Fletcher.

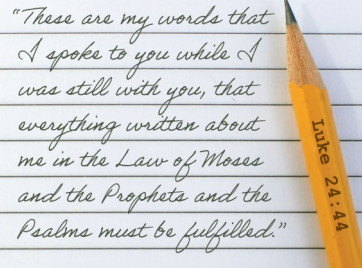
Scouts at Cross of Hope meet on Tuesday at 7p.

Cross of Hope’s Scout representing Sponsor is Gary Warner, 505-917-3968,
warner.gd@gmail.com

Written by Gary Warner



Heart Strings



Members of COH unable to worship with us on a regular basis. Please contact and let them know we care.

Zach Zimmer	2
Judy Will	4
Herah LaChance	4
David Wilson	4
Boden Bencomo	6
Kimberly O'Roark	6
Kathy Bramley	7
Tanya Zynda	9
Pat Holman	10
Elyse Benham	11
Steve Spinks	12
April Abeyta	14
Philip Wangberg	16
Zoey Gentile/Martinez	18
Charlie Anderson	21
Dennis Milks	21
Hunter Streff	22
Brant St-Martin	22
Brantley St-Martin	28
Dawna Pascarella	29
Laura Benchik	29

Wendy Harrison
6137 Agate Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Ruth Hinkel
Fairwinds @RioRancho
Apt 146
920 Riverview Dr SE
Rio Rancho NM 87124

Gary and Fran Hveem
884 Evening Primrose Lane
Bernalillo, NM 87004

Charlie and Gini Murphy
548 Eastlake Dr.
Rio Rancho, NM 87120

Marjorie Pool
Fairwinds @RioRancho
Apt 376
920 Riverview Dr SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

David and Diane Pressel
543 Whisper Pointe St SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121



	Day	Years
Jan Anderson and Dale McCabe	11	34
Anthony and Deborah Rivera	17	50
Pete and Janet Wormwood	20	36
Charles and Kay Hendrickson	23	33
Bickom and Linda O'Neal	25	39
Charles and Gini Murphy	30	70
David and Elizabeth Jennings	30	4



Join us for Fun, Fellowship, Bible study, and S'mores



What's on the Menu?

April 8 - Nachos

April 15 - Chicken Strips

April 22 Pizza

Camp will not meet on April 29.





Cross of Hope Church
6104 Taylor Ranch Road, 87120

505-897-0047, x102
 office@crossofhope.org
 www.crossofhope.org



at Cross Of Hope

No Fee!
Non-Church Members & Friends Welcome!

**ACTIVITIES
 INCLUDE**

- Outdoor Play
- Music
- Bible Studies
- Snacks
- Games
- Crafts
- Fellowship
- Special Events



**JUNE
 8-12**



SCAN ME

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

thrivent

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



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

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

Lunch Bunch

April 8, 2026 at 1pm

The Range

10019 Coors Blvd NW

Please RSVP to Florence Begay

505-363-5827 or email

florencebegay2011@gmail.com

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



Join other gardeners at
COH on
Fridays at 9
am, come
and make
some new
friends.

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.

April Book Suggestions

by Dee Gutierrez

The Tears of Things - Richard Rohr

In his most personal book yet, Richard Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, revealing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a crucial path forward today.

Good Faith - David Kinnaman

Readers will discover the most significant trends that offer both obstacles and opportunities to God's people, and how not only to challenge culture but to create and renew it for the common good.

Praying the Psalms - Rick Stedman

God delights in hearing your most honest prayers and uses them as the starting point for your transformation.