



**CROSS OF HOPE**  
Church & School

Love • Transform • Serve

# RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

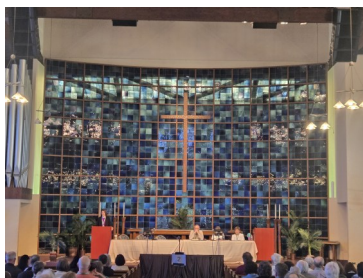
May 2026, Volume 44, Issue 5

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.

*Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. Romans 6: 3-4*

## Vida en Cristo



Our life in Christ is held in the death and resurrection of Jesus! It is here in the power of the risen Christ that we walk in newness of life. This gospel sets us free to live together the life in Christ in our various vocations. Last month Duanne and Glenna Meneely and I attended the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly as voting members from Cross of Hope. It was a wonderful time of worship, reflection, fellowship and the necessary business centered around the theme Vida en Cristo – Life in Christ. It was a blessing and encouraging experience for how our life in Christ goes beyond the wall of Cross of Hope.



The Meneely's and I got to spend time with friends, old and new as, we brought love and greetings from Cross of Hope to Forrest Uppehdahl. We return with his love and greetings to you all. This year's Assembly was hosted by our partners in ministry at Bethany Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado. This is the congregation that Deacon Debra Alba discerned a call to and it was a wonderful gift to receive her welcome and hospitality in her new setting. Antonio also sends his love and greetings!

As I reflect on this important time in our life together, it strikes me that there are so many faithful people using the gifts that God has given them to do the good things of God through the church! It gladdens my heart to experience the love of God at Cross of Hope and through our church that lives beyond our walls.



I leave you with the other anchor verse for our Assembly, *“and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20,*

Thanks be to God!

Peace, Pr. Adam

**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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**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](mailto:office@crossofhope.org), [lbagby@crossofhope.org](mailto: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](http://www.crossofhope.org/forms)
- Email: [care@crossofhope.org](mailto:care@crossofhope.org)
- In the Great hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



Love • Transform • Serve

# School News

School continued on page 2

## May Dates

Mother's Day Tea May 5, 6, and 7.

Field Day May 15

## Last Days of School

### Preschool

May 19

Ladybugs Picnic

May 20

Moving Up Ceremony

### Elementary School

May 21

Closing Chapel  
Fifth grade Promotion Ceremony  
Family Fun Day



School continued on page 4

School continued from page 3

Ms. Joy Thornhill had an awesome group of fifth graders this year with nine boys and two girls! The kids took some time to reflect on their time here at Cross of Hope and to share their next step in their educational journey. Their



Hi, my name is Atlas Romero, and I am going to St. Pius for middle school. One of my favorite memories is when I got hit in the face with a wiffle ball and it broke on my face! I did not know where that ball was. I will miss this school because all my friends were here.



I'm Averí Sanchez. My favorite memory was last year at the lock-in when we had to eat spaghetti with random utensils. Next year I am going to St. Pius. I'm excited to meet new people and experience a new school. Although I'm really excited, I'm going to miss the teachers, my book buddies, recess, my classmates that I have known since kindergarten, and just this school.



Hello, my name is Colton Endres. I am in fifth grade at Cross of Hope. One of my favorite memories is the lock-in because it was a big sleepover with the entire class at school. Another one is when the class got to change the schedule - it was fun because we moved the most boring class to the shortest time, like math right after tech time. I am going to St. Pius and I feel sad and happy because some friends are going and some are not. What I will miss about elementary school is the lock-in and all of my friends that are in younger classes, and, I will also miss brain breaks during math. I will miss music with Mr. David.



Jacob Asher Kouri here, and my favorite memory at Cross of Hope was in 2024 when I went to Acoma Pueblo. I saw two dogs and I got ice cream afterwards. I am going to St. Pius and I'm excited for new adventures. I'm going to miss Ms. Paula and Coal because they are so nice and helpful. Coal gives me lots of licks. I will also miss all of my former teachers who valued my education.



My name is Ellie Gallegos and my favorite memory is my friend and teachers at Cross of Hope. For middle school, I'm going to James Monroe. I will miss my friends and teacher going in middle school, but I'm nervous if I will make friends there. Will I ever see my friends again? But I hope in this small world, I will see my friends again.



My name is Hunter Sype. My favorite memory from Cross of Hope is going ice skating, because when I went on the ice it felt like I could do anything, and just had fun in general. When I go to my new school I will not be that sad, but instead, excited to go to my new school. I will really miss my friends because I have been with them for 6 years and I grew up with them, but I will make new friends in the new school

continued on page 5

# School News

Fifth graders continued from page 4



My name is Jayce Garcia and my favorite memory is the lock-in. It was a very memorable event, and it was very fun and enjoyable. I am going to Cleveland Middle School. What I will miss about elementary school is how easy 1st-2nd grade math was and is.



Hi, I'm John Beltran. My favorite memory at Cross of Hope is going to the Puye Cliff dwellings. When we were driving, we got eleven semi-trucks to honk. The middle school I am going to is St. Pius. The thing I will miss at Cross of Hope is the staff and the teachers that always have smiles on their faces, ready to teach, the ones that greet you at the door and the ones in the classrooms. Those are my memories and the people I will miss at Cross of Hope.



Hello, my name is Sam Halfacre and my favorite memory from Cross of Hope is when we went to Acoma Pueblo. This was probably my favorite memory because it was a tour that took you around the pueblo, and it was also the longest field trip I have ever been on. It was also so cool to see the church. It had so many unique pictures on the wall. Next year I'm going to St. Pius, and I'm so happy that I'll start a new adventure. The thing I'll probably miss the most about elementary school is recess and my friends who aren't coming to St. Pius.



I'm Sebastien Rodis LaSalle and my favorite memories are when we went to Acoma Sky City. We went to the church, and we saw two dogs. They would follow us and would hide and we would watch them. Also, in second grade during PE while playing flag football, we saw Jack with the ball and we all chased him. It was funny. For middle school, I'm going to St. Pius, and all my friends are going to the same school. What I'm going to miss about Cross of Hope is PE, playing soccer, football and sharks and minnows.



Hi, my name is Valentino Rodis LaSalle. I have a few favorite memories during my time at this school. One of them was when we went to Puye Cliff dwellings for a field trip. Not even a few minutes after we got there, Jacob decided to throw a rock at an ant hill - it didn't end well for him. Another favorite memory was when our class had the lock-in, which is a sleep over at school, and we are going to do it again! For middle school I'm going to St. Pius. I feel good

about it because when we went for the tour, I discovered that the school is huge! It has cool subjects to learn about like engineering, 3D printing, abstract art, I think, and many more subjects. After the tour, we went to a classroom to take the test, and a few months later we were accepted. But, the coolest thing was when we were there Atlas took the tour and test with us! What I will miss about elementary school is recess, because Cross of Hope has recess, but at St. Pius there is no recess. It was nice being a student at Cross of Hope and making friends. I'm going to miss going to this school, but I'm happy that almost all of my friends are going to St. Pius which makes me happy! Peace out!



FRIENDS + FAITH + EVERYDAY LIFE

**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*

The great fifty days of Easter, The Day of Pentecost and Sunday of the Holy Trinity will take us through the month of May and so we will finish our Making Faith Connections Small Group series, *Living Hope*, that has been grounded in the Epistle of 1 Peter. This epistle continues to provide a lens with which to explore community, mission and perseverance in faith as we share the *alleluia* of Easter with one another and the world. Next month brings the Summer schedule and season of rest and play for many of us. Be on the lookout for information and invitation about small groups as we continue to follow Jesus as we learn and grow together in life and faith.

**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](mailto:media@crossofhope.org)*

**Nurse’s Corner** By: Mary Hughes

National Nurse’s Day started in New Mexico. In 1982, Nurse Carol Lewis proposed the idea of establishing a day to recognize nurses across the nation.

With the support of Congressman Manuel Lujan (R-NM), who served in the House of Representatives 1969-1989. The U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution designating May 6 as a National Recognition Day for Nurses. On March 25, 1982. President Ronald Regan signed the proclamation into public law, formally recognizing the vital role nurses play in the health of the nation.

In 1990, the American Nurses Association expanded the recognition into a weeklong celebration concluding on the birthday of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale.

New Mexico nurses proudly care for patients and families in our state in hospitals, clinics, schools, homes, tribal communities, rural areas, and public health settings. They serve as caregivers, educators, advocates, and leaders – continuing a legacy of service that began generations ago and will guide the future of healthcare in NM. Together, we honor our history, protect our legacy, and build the future of nursing.

Cross of Hope is fortunate to have some wonderful nurses as a part of our community. They have served in many ways; nursing spirituality has been at the heart of nursing theory and research for over 30 years. So remember to thank them for all they have done both in our church, school and community.

Thank you!

Jan Anderson	Gretchen Comfort	Mary Hughes
Becca Lenzo	Holly Reimholz	Deborah Rivera
Claudia Russo		

# Heart Strings



*Members of COH unable to worship with us on a regular basis.*

*Please contact these Church members and let them know we care and are praying for them..*



**Gary and Fran Hveem**

884 Evening Primrose Lane  
Bernalillo, NM 87004

**Joanny Wilson**

10008 Ashland St NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87114

**Charlie and Gini Murphy**

548 Eastlake Dr.  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

**David and Diane Pressel**

543 Whisper Pointe St SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87121

# Lunch Bunch



**Mariscos Altamar**

April 8, 2026 at 12:30pm  
10019 Coors Blvd NW

Please RSVP to Florence Begay 505-363-5827 or email [florencebegay2011@gmail.com](mailto:florencebegay2011@gmail.com)

*CAMP @ COH*

**Last Camp Night is May 6.  
It's time for a Party!**

*Wednesdays 5:30pm - 7:30pm*



## Called By Name To Be a Child of God

	Day
David Humble	5
Gary Warner	5
Louise Hawley	5
Diane Pressel	8
Barbara Wright	10
Susan Case	11
Tim Fuller	11
Michele Moser	12
Sheri Phillips	12
Kristi Valdez	12
Carolyn Bye	14
Pete Wormwood	16
David Bagby	17
Janet Wormwood	18
Linda O'Neal	21
Christian Wylie	22
Morgan O'Roark	24
Oliver Kouri	24
Florence Begay	25
Toby Fuller	26
Denise Soto	26
Bob Reed	28
Julie Morgan	31



Heron James Kristofic was baptized April 26, 2026 by Pastor Adam Berndt.



	Day	Years
Mike and Sylvia Adair	10	14
Charlie and Jane Anderson	25	52
Mike and Patty Westerfield	27	48
David and Kathy Alvin	28	49
Rick and Kimberly O'Roark	28	32



We are deeply saddened to share that our sibling in Christ passed away on April 12, 2026. Memorial services were held on April 15, 2026.

*Cards may be sent to:*  
Charles Hendrickson  
6063 Atlas St.  
Las Cruces, NM 88012

*Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.*

# Community Outreach



## Mother's Day Food Drive

We will be collecting non-perishable food  
May 1 through May 10.



## NM Ramp Project completed on April 18<sup>th</sup>

We had a great team.  
This was a BIG project.  
The recipient of this was moved to tears.



Special thanks to Tim George, RC Jordan, Art Kavanaugh, Kevin Kouri, Elisa Mclellan, Joe Poyner, JanaLee Sponberg, Gary Warner, Steve Weiss and Hans Zimmer.

### Graduation

marks both an ending and a beginning

As we celebrate students stepping into new seasons, we give thanks for the growth, perseverance and calling God has placed in their lives. May we surround our graduates with prayer, reminding them that God goes before them and walks with them wherever the journey leads.

### We will be recognizing our High School Seniors

**Sunday, May 17.**

We will have baskets in the Great Hall for any who would like to drop in a gift to these

- Ethan McClain
- Elise Hielkema
- Mia Maldonado
- Alex Abeyta

**Cross of Hope Church & School**  
505-897-0047, x102  
office@crossofhope.org  
www.crossofhope.org

**Cross of Hope Church**  
6104 Taylor Ranch Road, 87120

**DAY CAMP**  
HANDS WIDE OPEN  
Philippians 4:5-7

**Rainbow Trail Day Camp**

**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**

### Summer Worship Schedule

Our Summer Worship Begins on May 24, 2026 and will continue through Labor Day, September 6. First Service will be outside on the lawn. Second service will be in the Sanctuary.

**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**



**Valley Consulting Group**  
 7620 Jefferson St NE, Ste 3  
 Albuquerque, NM 87109  
 505-271-0065  
 valleyconsultinggroup@thrivent.com

27193C R5-25

**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.



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

Let's Celebrate  
**Ron Barth**

Cross of Hope's first and foremost pastor has a birthday celebration in June  
 The family is asking for cards or stories be sent by June 12 to:

Kim Stiff  
 103 Hometown Rd  
 Carolina Beach, NC 28428



**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](mailto:office@crossofhope.org)  
[www.crossofhope.org](http://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.

# May Book Suggestions

by Dee Gutierrez

## Lioness: Mahlah's Journey - Barbara Britton

While the Israelites struggle to occupy the Promised Land of God, Mahlah bat Zelophehad is orphaned and left to care for her four sisters. But daughters of the dead are unable to inherit land, and it will take a miracle for Mahlah to obtain the means to care for her sisters and uphold the vow she made to her dying mother.

## Vanishing Grace: Phillip Yancey

Yancey tackles challenging and timely questions and offers a discerning look at what contributes to the rising hostility toward Christians—acknowledging the ways that Christians themselves have contributed to this hostility and exploring how we can respond with both grace and truth.