



Love • Transform • Serve

RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

November 2025, Volume 43, Issue 11

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.

Grateful For Renewal

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! 2 Corinthians 5:17

For someone who tries to pattern their life on the Christian calendar, to be away from the community on both Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday is a noticeable and unique experience. And yet, this year has offered this unique opportunity and I am grateful for the opportunity for reflection and renewal even as I miss these festival Sundays.



First, I acknowledge the disappointment of those who noticed my birthday landed on Reformation Sunday and had planned to help me celebrate. I am grateful for the thoughtfulness of the community and appreciate your understanding as I attend **ReVision** *What do we do with Christianity? a gathering hosted by the Center for Action and Contemplation here in Albuquerque. Looking to the Christian contemplative traditions for wisdom to see with new eyes, ReVision is an opportunity to ask honest questions and engage Christianity as a living tradition still unfolding that might help us reimagine the institutions, stories, and spiritual practices that shape us. If Reformation is the movement of God's word in Christ to make all things new, I am excited to learn and grow in the Spirit as we abound together as followers of Christ today.*

All Saints Sunday is one of my favorite festival days of the year. Remembering and naming the saints who have gone before us is always a powerful testimony to God's enduring love beyond space and time that holds us together in the great mystery of the Body of Christ. I'm disappointed to miss the offering of our new All Saints banner. This gift from the Banner Babes will hold the names of those from Cross of Hope who have completed their baptismal journey. Our preview was filled with tender memory and story of those who have gone before us in faith. I am excited for you to experience this new fabric of our life together in faith and I appreciate the space to be away to celebrate Laura and my birthdays this weekend.

God bless you with reflection, renewal and gratitude for the journey shared!



Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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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.

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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



Fall Festival Volunteers



Family Fun!

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

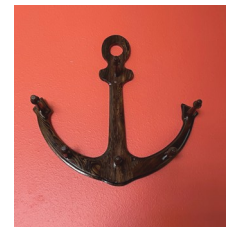
Tis the Season to begin celebrating!

Our school has been blessed abundantly by the families and the congregation the past few months. We have so much to celebrate! We had an extremely successful walk-a-thon, Fall Festival, and Cross of Hope spirit wear sale that provided funds for our school. These funds will enable us to replace our current leveled reading sets with research based reading sets. These readers will complement the science of reading, and encourage our youngest of learners with developmentally appropriate introductions to reading in our classrooms. **We celebrate the generosity of all those that contributed to our fundraising efforts.**



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

Micah 6:8



Tis the Season continued on page 5

School continued from page 3

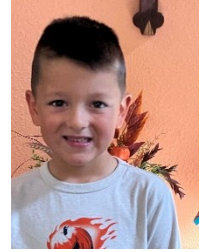


The Roving Hope-r

By Mary Bresnahan

Another year and opportunity for me to be thankful that I get to spend a little time with our precious students. They are all thankful for turkey and their families - hear from their lips! The question was, "What does Thanksgiving mean to you."

Karson is cute kindergartener who has joined us from the preschool. He said Thanksgiving means "taking good care of everyone." Usually, the family is together which includes a cousin who is maybe 1 or 2 years old." Sorry I can't demonstrate the height he showed me.



Brooke is a beautiful first grader. She said Thanksgiving means "turkey and giving thanks. She is thankful for her family" which consists of her mom, dad and sister.

Diego is a good looking second grader. Thanksgiving means "turkey." He spends it with family which means mom, dad, gramme, aunties, uncles, cousins and his dog. Sometimes the family goes to Ohio (it depends on his dad's work schedule). When everyone is together, he thinks it is 20 people. He is also thankful for his friends.



Ellie is a charming third grader. For her, Thanksgiving is a time when you "give thanks to everyone who helped me. Those who raised me – mom, dad, grampa, aunties, uncles. Also, those who teach me math and reading – teachers and parents."

Joshua is an engaging young man in the fourth grade. He doesn't believe in smiling. I have been lucky enough to see his beautiful smile. He informed me that his class took a field trip to the museum to learn how pictures are made. In those old pictures people didn't smile. We think that is something to ponder – why didn't they smile? He said, "Thanksgiving means spending time with relatives." (Too bad I don't have last year's picture! He works much too hard at not smiling.)



Tis the Season continued from page 3

In October, we hosted a Flu Shot Clinic. Adults as well as children received their shots. **We celebrate a healthy community.**

This month we will be collecting items to donate to the PB and J Family Services beginning on 11/3 and ending on 12/5. Please join us in blessing this incredible outreach here in Albuquerque with clothing, school supplies, hygiene products, and non-perishable food items. Please use this link for more information. <https://pbjfamilyservices.org/> **We celebrate the ability to share with others in need!**

Finally, we look forward to sharing the amazing progress our students have made through progress reports in preschool, end of 1st trimester report cards in elementary school, and parent teacher conferences with all of our families at the end of the month. We will then all enjoy a long weekend to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday 11/26-11/28. **We celebrate all our blessings!**

I celebrate this incredible congregation for the love and support of the work we do here at Cross of Hope Church and School.

Blessings,
Susan F. Rivera
Director of School Ministry
esdirector@crossofhope.org



Photos courtesy of RC Jordan



Students will not be in school November 10 for professional development and November 11 for Veteran's Day.

The school will not be in session during the week of November 24-28. Teachers will be having parent-teacher conferences on November 24 and 25. The 26 through 28 will be Thanksgiving break.

The Roving continued from page 4



Sam is a handsome fifth grader. He said, "Thanksgiving is when I get to spend time with relatives – mom, dad, one brother, two sisters and his grandparents. It is also a time to give thanks to God for all he has done" for him and I get to eat turkey and sweet potato casserole."

Council Corner

Sherrie Simek, Council President

"Where there is no guidance, a people will fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory"
Proverbs 11:14

October brought our first Council meeting with newly elected officers and members. As our leadership shifts, we are seeking a worshipful approach to our agenda and meetings.

Greg Morrison's treasurer's report showed a healthy financial position two months into our 2025-2026 budget.

Pastor Adam's report included areas for future discernment and council work.

- Leadership shift to feel the spirit on our mission work and vision for the future.
- Camp@COH
- Personnel team and staffing needs
- Worship team has completed the worship/ministry calendar through year's end.

Bob Arseneau provided an update on the solar project. Work will begin mid November with completion in two to three days. We will be given a week's notice in order to prepare and prep the construction area.

Discussion continued on understanding of the governing constitution and by-laws.

A reminder that Council members are available each Sunday between services at the front desk for questions or comments. Come say hello! We look forward to seeing you.



Taking Money and Giving Tickets with a smile at the Fall Festival



Shopping for Cross of Hope Shirts and Swag



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.

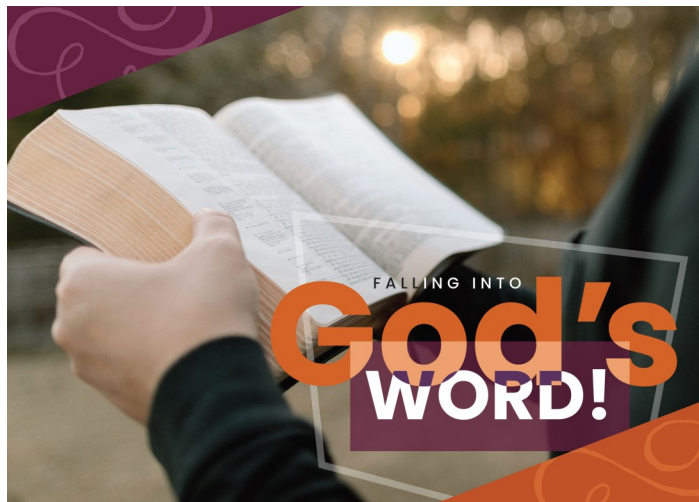
COH Small Group Ministry

Say What!?

The grace of God can often sound scandalous to our modern ears. I wonder if it's always been that way and perhaps that's the point. This fall we'll encounter some parables from the Gospel of Luke that might have us responding, 'say what!?' Our Making Faith Connections small groups will wonder together while we share the journey through life and faith as followers of Jesus. Need a small group? Contact RC Jordan at media@crossofhope.org

November

- 2 – Love your enemy
- 9 – Silly question
- 16 – The end is near!
- 23 – How many kings?



Lunch Bunch



November 12

1pm

Garcia's Kitchen

6961 Taylor Ranch Rd NW

RSVP to Florence Begay

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

November 10.

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - New Mexico

Fall Advocacy Conference
November 15
9:00am to 1:30pm

Join us for our annual Fall Advocacy Conference. This is an inspiring and informative gathering of people of faith who care about justice in our state's public policy ensuring that our most vulnerable New Mexicans have a voice in Santa Fe. The conference will be offered in person(\$25.00 or on Zoom(\$15.00).

To register go to LAM - NM website,
www.lutheranadvocacynm.org

**Lutheran
 Advocacy
 Ministry**
 New Mexico

Rocky Mountain Synod
 ELCA



Cross of Hope

EMERGENCY

Food Drive

**SUPPORT FOOD BANKS
 DURING GOV SHUTDOWN**

UNTIL NOVEMBER 9TH

DROP-OFF LOCATION:
 6104 Taylor Ranch Road

**ACCEPTING UNEXPIRED CANNED
 FOODS & NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS**

WHAT WE NEED:
 Oatmeal & Cereals, Pastas, Sauce, Bread, Crackers, Rice, Grains,
 Canned Dried Beans, Canned Fish, Chicken, Canned Veggies,
 Canned and Dried Fruit, Nut, Seed Butters, Canned & Boxed Soups.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT rgfp.org/donate-food/

Property Update

By Sherrie Simek



Happy Autumn

Have you looked out across the bosque? Or perhaps you've driven to 4th of July Campground? You know it's autumn as God uses His paintbrush to paint the trees stunningly beautiful colors. What causes those beautiful leaves to fall? As days shorten and temperatures drop, trees sense the change. They produce hormones like ethylene, which signals the leaves to prepare for winter. By shedding its leaves, the tree conserves energy as it prepares for winter. It's time to break out the rakes and leaf shredding machine.

The property team is working to prepare the gardens and grass for winter. Flowers are cut down, pots are emptied, and mowing ceases.

Take a few minutes to enjoy the beautiful autumn garden created by Margie, in the big circle at the church entrance.

I'll leave you with a poem from Elsie N. Brady.

LEAVES

How silently they tumble down
And come to rest upon the ground
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,
Beneath the trees without a care,
Content to sleep, their work well done,
Colors gleaming in the sun.

At other times, they wildly fly
Until they nearly reach the sky.
Twisting, turning through the air
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.
Exhausted, drop to earth below.



Photo Courtesy of Florence Begay



Photo Courtesy of RC Jprdam



The Church Office will be closed
Thursday and Friday, November 27
and 28 for Thanksgiving.

The Art of Quilting

By The Church Mouse

Many of us have quilts in our homes that are either on our beds or on our walls for decoration. Quilting is not a new hobby. Historians say that quilting started as far back as 3400 B.C.

Quilting in America started around the late 1700s. Most of the quilts of that time were what we would call "Whole Fabric" quilts. One piece or maybe just a few strips sewn together. Then that piece would form the top with a layer of some kind of batting and another piece for the bottom. The design in the quilt would come from the hand sewing that was done on the top. The quilts were mainly used for warmth on the beds.

With the invention of the sewing machine, quilting advanced to what it is today. It's an expensive hobby, but really, what hobby isn't expensive? The Cross of Hope Banner Babes came into existence around 2007 and the "Friendship Tea" started in 2008. The first Friendship Tea was in 2008 and we had seven items to raffle. Last year 107 items were raffled off.

The money from the tea is used for donations to various charities, graduation quilts, baptism quilts, comfort quilts and the banners that you see hanging around the sanctuary. This year a new banner will be hung on All Saints Sunday.

Cross of Hope All Saints Banner

A few months ago, Pastor Adam came to the Banner Babes and said he would like a banner that would honor our members who have passed away. A small committee got together and designed and put together a banner that would do just that. This new banner has all the names on it for our members who have died since the opening of the Church in 1982. It will be hung on All Saints Sunday and possibly will hang a little longer. (See banner below)



This banner is a visual remembrance of those loved ones we miss, who have completed their baptismal journey, and rest eternal with God. In honor and tribute for our existing two angel banners, created by Banner Babes most of whom are no longer with us. Our All Saints Banner will reside between the two angels for a time. As we give thanks for those who have died, let me add this... fabric is more than cloth, stitches are more than thread, each piece, each part is made with an overflowing love from the heart. On behalf of the Banner Babes, we present our All Saints Banner.

The Walk to End Alzheimer's

By Nancy Lacher

Team of Hope Exceeds All Expectations

What a day! Our team really showed up for The Walk to End Alzheimer's. As the team captain, I hoped to raise \$750 to contribute to the Alzheimer's Association. I was blown away by the generosity of those who financially supported Team of Hope. We exceeded my goal by more than three times over, raising \$2,420.

I walked in memory of my sister, Linda who hopefully was watching and cheering us on from her vantage point in Heaven. Many other walkers also walked in memory of loved ones who have passed on. In addition, several walkers carried yellow flowers signifying that they have cared for a loved one with Alzheimer's. We were blessed with good weather and an enthusiastic team of fourteen people and dogs. We also appreciate the many other supporters (financially and emotionally).

Thanks to all the supporters and walkers. It was an amazing and memorable day.



Camp@Cross of Hope

Join us on Wednesdays

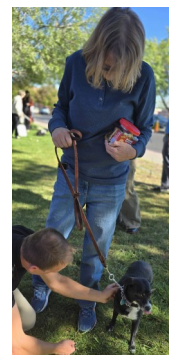
5:30 - 7:30pm



We always enjoy games, dinner, Bible study, campfire songs and s'mores!

The Wednesday Camp@COH is for children, youth and families. Many of the activities are those children experienced during the summer at Cross of Hope's Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp.

Blessing of the Animals



Photos courtesy of RC Jordan



Elise Mclellan	2
Barb Mortin	2
Ron Cordova	8
Marcella Johnson	8
Kat Cooley	10
Nora Reed	10
Karen Schwartz	11
Gregory Morrison	13
Trisha McClain	13



David Comfort passed away peacefully on October 6, 2025. Please hold Gretchen and all of her family in your prayers and care.

Cards may be sent to:
Gretchen Comfort
4928 Deborah Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

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

Lois Casto	14
Sydney Reynolds	14
Chris Morgan	15
Joy Thornhill	17
Bruce Molde	17
Elise Hielkema	18
William Casto	18
Laura Berndt	18
Hans Zimmer	19
Ryan Hale	19
Beth Cretsinger	24
Nancy Morrison	26
Ashleigh Rae Soto	28
Linda Molde	29
Flora Telles	29



Day Years

Kevin and Elyse Benhem	2	6
Tim and Jane Fuller	2	29
Mary and Dick Bresnehan	5	54
Joey and Lisa Fields	5	14
Bob and Barb Morton	6	21
Nicole and Victor Bencomo	9	24
Jim and Mary Hughes	24	19

Be thankful always:

God's will is for you to "be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances" 1 Thessalonians 5:18-18.

This means being grateful even during difficult times.

Youth News



The Middle and High School Youth have been not only busy and helpful at Camp@COH, but also stepped up to assist us with our Cross of Hope Community Fall Festival.

Our youth will have a fundraiser with Mia Bella's Candles on November 16 in the Great Hall between services and during fellowship time. All of the candles will be set up for you to see, smell, and take home as a gift or home accent. Candles are \$20.00 (Cash/checks/Venmo/PayPal).



Cody Broyles sharing his gift of music with the Fall Festival guests and Luke. Luke really enjoyed his music.

Photo courtesy of RC Jorday

Calling All Kids to God's Table

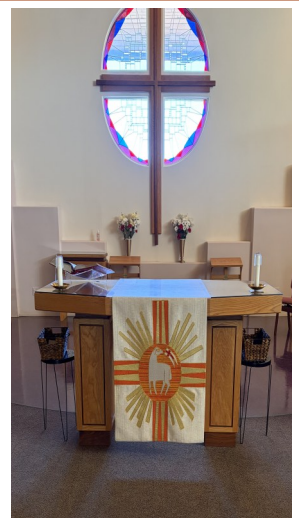
Join Pastor Adam Sundays, November 9, 16, and 23 at 10:00am.

We will prepare to "taste and see" that the Lord is Good during a 30 minute interactive learning lab.

Whether you are communing already, asking questions about communion, or just feeling left out and wanting to participate with the rest of the community during communion, this time is for you.

We will learn and grow together and all come to God's Table together on the First Sunday of Advent at the special worship time of 10:00am.

Please let Pastor Adam know if you are planning to attend!



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

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**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,

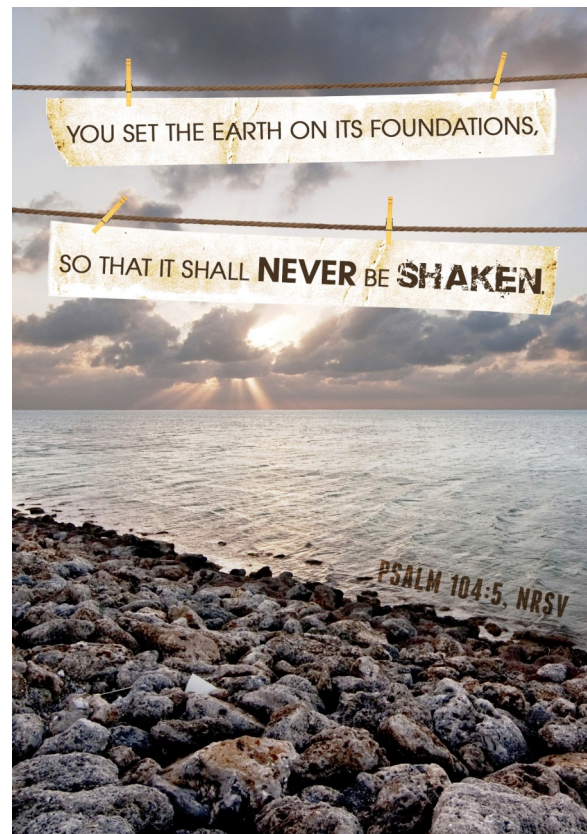
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Stacey E Marz, FIC, CLTC®

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School (505) 897-1832



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



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pssupport@crossofhope.org

Preschool (505) 899-0928

www.crossofhope.org



Cross of Hope Care Outreach

Transportation
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Emergency Meals
 Family Emergency
 Illness
 Death

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- 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

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.

November Book Suggestions

by Dee Gutierrez

Where the Light Fell - Philip Yancey

Philip uncovered a shocking secret about his father's health while he was in college - his mother's volatile behavior and the chaos of his youth. By looking back, he was able to go forward.

The Abolition of Man - C. S. Lewis

Lewis critiques modern education for its tendency to dismiss morality as mere subjective feeling, which he argues leads to a society of "men without chests" who lack the "heart" to properly judge and act on moral truths.

God Will Use This for Good: Surviving the mess of life - Max Lucado

Find hope from God to get you through when life is messy. Does it ever feel like life is out of control? Could you use the reminder that God is in control?