



Love Transform Serve

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.

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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Annual Report
2025 - 2026

Annual Congregational Meeting

Love God, Transform Relationships, Serve Others

Sunday, August 23, 2026 (following the 10:00am worship)

AGENDA

Call to order

Sherrie Simek Council President

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Sherrie Simek/Jessica Williams
Council President/Secretary***

Opening Prayer and Welcome

Pastor Adam Berndt

Recitation of COH Mission Statement (projected) ***Congregation***

Gathering in Session: (projected) ***Congregation***

Leader: Let us sing to the Lord a new song!

ALL: For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: We gather in thanksgiving and great expectation

ALL: For God delights in the work of those seeking to follow Christ's mission in the world. We gather our hearts and minds and spirits as we begin this time together.

AMEN.

Introduction of Current COH council members

Sherrie Simek

WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST

Approval of Aug 24, 2025, Congregational meeting Minutes

Sherrie Simek

WE PRESENT OUR OFFERINGS

Report on the 2026 Rocky Mountain Synod

Glenna and Duane Meneely

Pastor's Reflection

Pastor Adam

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE (projected) Congregation

Leader: We are grateful, Creator God, for the work being done in our midst. We give thanks for the ministries of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church.

ALL: We celebrate our past and look ahead to the future. Bless us as we continue to serve you by serving one another. Amen.

Approval of Constitution and By-laws

Sherrie Simek

Greetings from our School Directors

Trisha McClain

WE OFFER OUR CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE

Approval of the 2026-2027 Budget

Greg Morrison, Treasurer

Election of Council Member

Sherrie Simek

Report on Prayer Garden/Columbarium Exploration Team

Pat Benchik/Duane Meneely

Gratitude and Grace

Pastor Adam and Trisha McClain

Adjournment

Sherrie Simek

Congregational Meeting Minutes

CROSS of HOPE CHURCH and SCHOOL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Love God, Transform Relationships, Serve Others
Sunday, August 24, 2025 (following the 10:00am worship)

Unapproved Minutes

Call to Order: (Margie Reed, Council President)

Margie Reed called the Annual Congregational Meeting to Order at 11:21am. She introduced herself and welcomed the congregation. Margie informed members as to the purpose of today's meeting. We currently have **413 members** and need **41** for a quorum.

There are **73 voting members** in attendance today.

Introduction of Current COH Council Members: (Margie Reed)

Opening Prayer and Welcome: (Pastor Adam Berndt)

Approval of Congregational Meeting Minutes: (August 25, 2024, and June 8, 2025)

(Margie Reed)

Sheri Phillips made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2024 Congregational Meeting. A second was offered by Denise Soto and they were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

Mary Bresnahan made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Congregational

Meeting on June 8, 2025. A second was offered by BJ Owens and they were approved by a unanimous show of hands.

Report on the 2025 Rocky Mountain Synod: (Greg and Nancy Morrison)

Nancy Morrison provided a detailed account of their participation at the 2025 Rocky

Mountain Synod, which was held in Albuquerque from May 22-24th. The theme was **"Dios está aquí. God is Here"** The theme was grounded in scripture, particularly Exodus 3:1-15, Matthew 18 and Psalm 139. This was an opportunity to experience and reflect on God's presence in your life.

The installation ceremony for the ELCA Presiding Bishop, Yehiel Curry is scheduled to take place on October 4, 2025.

Pastor's Reflection: (Pastor Adam)

Cross of Hope is a Spirit-Centered Community / care for the community

Pastor is called to steward God's word and Pastor stated that it has been a privilege working with his Worship Team and introduced them to the congregation (RC Jordan, Tom Ropp, Nancy Morrison, Jan Wormwood and Susan Ropp, who was out of town). Pastor Adam suggested that church members engage in conversation with this team about worship.

The new annual worship schedule for Sundays and Wednesdays (Camp at COH) is now available in print form for everyone to take home.

Courtney Knuttila, Director of Preschool Ministry, will be leaving to pursue a position in Early Childhood Research. Her last day is Friday, August 29th. Search is well under way for a new Director.

Pastor discussed the involvement of the ELCA with important Outreach Programs such as Young Adults in Global mission, Rainbow Trail and Luther House.

8/11/2025 (MCR) Pastor Adam introduced Susan Rivera, Director of the Education Ministry. She offered her gratitude to everyone for their generosity and faithfulness to the school and said it was a blessing working together.

Adoption of the 2025-2026 Budget: (Greg Morrison, Treasurer)

Greg provided an in-depth review of the budget/ balance sheets from last year. He then offered a detailed presentation of the current proposed budget for 2025-2026. Facts and figures are located in the Annual Report which was distributed to the congregation.

Pat Benchik made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Budget. David Kovarik and it was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

A second was offered by

Election of new Council Members: (Pastor Adam)

Pastor Adam made a motion to elect, by acclamation, Laura Burton, Art Kavanaugh, Todd Olsen and Bob Arseneau (second term) as Council Members for a two-year term,

2025-2027. A second was offered by Laura Benchik. This acclamation was approved by

a unanimous show of hands.

Thank you to Outgoing Members: (Margie Reed and Pastor Adam Berndt)

The Council offered thanks and gratitude to Janet Conlon, Ron Wirths and Margie Reed for their dedication and service to the Council. A cross was presented to each as a reminder of their service and the people they worked with and supported.

Thanks to all!

As an outgoing member, Margie stated that she was honored and humbled to have served God and his people through the ministry of the Church Council. She offered thanks to all past and present Council Members, and to the members of the Congregation for all the support she received during her 7+ years with the Council!

Closing Prayer: (Pastor Adam)

Prior to offering the closing prayer, Pastor offered thanks to Claudia Russo and the Hospitality Team.

Adjournment: (Margie Reed)

Margie Reed thanked everyone for attending and voting at this important Congregational

Meeting. She wished everyone a blessed day and an enjoyable potluck lunch.

Pete Wormwood offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second was offered by Jan Anderson and it was adjourned by Margie Reed at 12:20pm.

Congregational Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Janet Conlon, COH Secretary.

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LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

Pastor

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
Psalm 133.1

God delights in the unity of God's people! God's own self, expressed in the Holy Trinity, is a profound illustration of the beauty of unity. Three unique and distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and yet one God. The image of the church as the one Body of Christ is another powerful example of unity. Many diverse and distinct members make up the one Body of Christ that is the church.

How very good and pleasant it is to live together in the unity of God through this part of the church that is Cross of Hope. United in Christ to be **a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education, and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.**

This mission continues to ground and guide our life together in unity as the community of faith at Cross of Hope. I invite you to find enclosed in this Annual Report stories of the Holy Spirit's work through your ministries, the work of diverse and faithful people joined together by a love of God responding in love and service to our neighbors. Notice what God is up to in the unity of the baptized and look for the places you might be called to offer your gifts and skills joining others in sharing the grace and love of God with the world.

We experience the unity we have in God as we gather for worship each week. This past year we named and claimed the healing power of God on the 5th Sundays throughout the year. This has become an anticipated liturgy in our regular life together that grounds us in the healing love of God. This summer we maintained time for fellowship and Making Faith Connections small group by holding worship gatherings at 8:30am and 10:30am. This schedule will continue as our first worship returns inside in September. Presiding at our regular Sunday worship services along with Morning Prayer (Wed. 8:30am), Elementary and Pre School Chapels blesses and guides my week as your pastor. Making Faith Connections small group ministry continues to expand on our worship life together and it is a blessing to experience all the care and connection being made through them!

Camp @ COH is a wonderful intergenerational ministry that embodies the good and pleasant blessings of God! It is truly humbling to be a part of a team that creates this space most weeks.

Our unity in Christ stretches beyond space and time and so I appreciate the honor it is to care for Cross of Hope through times of pastoral care. Along with my typical visits to

homes and hospitals as the care of the church is called for, this year we also celebrated the completion of the baptismal journeys of Carroll Werling, Kay Hendrickson, Tim Fuller, and David Pressel.

As our School Ministry begins another academic year providing **high-quality education in a nurturing environment that respects each child's development** from Preschool through 5th grade, your faithful and dedicated staff continue to love and serve our families through their professional gift and skills teaching our children. We continue to respond to the needs of the community through a new opportunity for after-school care through a partnership with the Rio Grande Educational Collaborative. We are excited to welcome Rosa Marquez (PreK EA) and our own Amy Ellis (Specialist) to our extraordinary returning school staff and look forward to all the blessings of God through our ministry together this year. We said goodbye to some amazing teachers as well this year and the Directors will share about them below.

Trisha McClain joined us early last fall as our new Director of Preschool Ministry and has been a wonderful addition to Susan Rivera and me as the Executive Leadership Team called to the stewardship the ministries of Cross of Hope united in the mission we share.

It continues to be a blessing to serve with your Church Council as we continue to prayerfully and faithfully cultivate the gifts of God for the living out of God's mission for us. United in this work, we have adopted a form of meeting that is guided by a worshipful agenda that is grounded throughout in prayer and blessing to anchor the discernment work to which Church Council is called. Please join me in gratitude for their continued leadership!

A highlight this year was the completion and startup of our Solar System that has since August 18th has produced 49,241 kilowatt hours of electricity! Ask Bob Arseneau how many houses that is because he loves doing math and his passion for this project is inspiring! Not only is this helping our community, it has a real positive effect on our capacity for ministry. Join me in thanking Bob Arseneau for leading the project, and Greg Morrison for processing the tax credits!

These are just some highlights from this year as there are so many more faithful people united in faith doing extraordinary things in ministry as Cross of Hope to make real the truth of unity from the final verse of Psalm 133,

For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

Together in love and the hope of peace,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Adam Berndt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

Sherrie Simek, Council President

COH COUNCIL (2025-2026)

As we look back on the past year through this report, I would like to use 1 Corinthians 3:9 to emphasize shared ministry and teamwork.

“For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building.”

Serving on the church council as the president this past year, has been a profound privilege. I share this privilege and honor with the additional members of our church council: Laura Burton (acting Vice President), Greg Morrison (Treasurer), Jessica Williams (Secretary), Bob Arseneau, Ron Cordova, Art Kavanaugh, Todd Olsen.

We are deeply grateful for the leadership and spiritual guidance of Pastor Adam Berndt who serves faithfully alongside the council as a voting member as we discern the needs and vision of our church and school.

Council Activities August 2025 - August 2026

- The 2026 -2027 Employee Manual was updated and approved by the Council. It has been distributed to Church and School employees.
- The accreditation of the Preschool through ACSI (Accreditation of Christian Schools International) continues.
- Greg Morrison and Sherrie Simek updated our governing documents, constitution and by-laws, with the guidance of the ECLA who provided a model constitution for congregations to follow.
- In October, Pastor Adam and Sherrie Simek presented a new formatted worshipful agenda. You will experience this format at the congregational meeting on August 23, 2026.
- Greg Morrison updated the Finance Manual
- Bob Arseneau led the installation of our solar units, previously approved by the assembly, from start to finish.
- The council stood in support of the school ministry team hiring a local marketing organization to boost search analytics.
- Health insurance was researched and agreed upon for the 7 full-time employees of our church and school.
- Council approved recommended tuition increase for both elementary and preschool. Council offers gratitude for the two directors of our school. Susan Rivera (Director of Elementary School) and Trisha McClain (Director of Preschool).
- Budget process, personnel reviews and pay raises were discussed at our February meeting. Conversation was held as thoughts and seeds were planted for a mortgage payoff campaign.
- Approval by church council was made for the additional purchase of chrome books for additional students.
- Technology upgrade performed on system and various computers.

- Greg worked with our insurance carrier to have our umbrella coverage to include cyber security insurance, consolidate insurance policies to one renewal date.
- Council has started the process for hiring a church administrator. Linda Willoughby has submitted her retirement date, January 29, 2027.
- April 2026 Sherrie Simek, Property Manager Pat Benchik, and church Administrator, Linda Willoughby attended a town hall meeting held by the Rocky Mountain Synod to introduce the “Church Property Resource Hub”. During this town hall, suggestions and recommendations were made for assistance and to manage the use of our buildings to outside organizations. Skye Pipe and Drums, Scouting America, Music on the Westside and the Taylor Ranch Flea Market and Craft show organizations utilize our building. Wanting to understand each ministry and offer continued hospitality, Sherrie met with each organization to review and update safety and security requirements. These organizations and their ministries are exactly what the Church property Hub describes as healthy relationships we are called to offer our resources to.
- The Council approved Duane and Glenna McNeely, as voting members from COH, to attend the Assembly of the Rocky Mountain Synod in April in Denver.
- May 24, 2026 outdoor summer services began at 8:30 AM. We will continue outdoors through September 6, 2026. The second service is held in the sanctuary at 10:30 AM. The council approved 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM as beginning times when we return to inside September 13 2026.
- Budget was approved by the Council in July 2026 in preparation for presentation to the assembly at the August 23, 2026 congregational meeting. We are grateful for the work of Greg Morrison, Pastor Adam Berndt, Brianne Mares and Sherrie Simek for their hard work and discussion in compiling the 2026 - 2027 budget.

Thank you to the dedicated members of our church council who give freely of their time and heart to discern that which is necessary and important to the health of our church and school.

Linda Willoughby, Church Administrator

At Cross of Hope Church and School I work directly with Pastor Adam Berndt (my supervisor), Sherrie Simek - Council President, Pat Benchik, Property Director, Executive Team, staff, and volunteers. The volunteers we utilize are called and scheduled by the job.

Core Church and School Staff: Adam Berndt - Pastor; Linda Willoughby - Church Administrator; Peg Biedermann – Director of Digital Life; RC Jordan – Director of Worship and Community Life, Susan Rivera - Director of School Ministry, Trisha McClain – Director of Preschool Ministry, Brianne Mares – Bookkeeper and Payroll.

Computer backups for the Church and School: Our server is backed up to the Cloud; the service company is called Crash Plan. This is maintained through the guidance of outside consultant source Stephen Moeny, SETMO, Inc.

Crossofhope.org website – Our website platform is monitored by Real Time Solutions through the guidance of a COH Web Team. Peg Biedermann, Director of Digital Life, manages the website internally.

Contribution Maintenance – John Lacher, Contribution Secretary, enters pledges, provides reports to the Council and contribution statements to the congregation.

Weekly Counters: Rudy Simek, Margie Reed, Sherrie Simek, Sylvia Oelsner. Margie has recently retired and Diane Carrico has replaced her position.

Data Entry Office Volunteers: Margie Reed, Sylvia Oelsner, and Sherrie Simek enter contributions into the Shepherd's Staff every week.

Fire Sprinklers, Fire Extinguishers and Building Inspections of the Church and School: Fire alarm monitors, Rudy and Sherrie Simek schedule the inspections to be done in July with Western State Fire Protection. The Church Administrator or Property Assistant walks through the facility with the team logging on any issues we might need to address. Fire Monitors, Rudy, Sherrie Simek and Ron Cordova run monthly fire drills and quarterly lock downs for the school, they also check and maintenance smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, AEI monitor, fire extinguisher levels and emergency lights.

Electronic Marquee Sign: The Church Administrator maintains the electronic Marquee Sign with special announcements, school registration notices, service schedules. Please know that the Electronic Marquee has reached its warranty life and if it stops working we will either need to turn it off or look into investing into purchasing a new one.

Rays of Hope Team – The Planning Team is Lynne Bagby, Managing Editor, and editors: Mary Bresnahan, Beth Cretsinger, R.C. Jordan, Sherri Phillips and Linda Willoughby. The team meets at the beginning of each month to plan for next month's

journal issue. We discuss and schedule current events, articles, and deadlines. Before print release we review the layout, edit drafts, and try to adhere to the scheduled web posting and printing dates. The Rays of Hope is put on the website and emailed to the COH community and school with an attached link. Printed copies are mailed to the homebound, additional prints are made for those without email for pickup and for visitors.

On an additional note, after working at Cross of Hope for 31 years, I plan on retiring at the end of January 2027. I am looking forward to transitioning to the life of retirement, partly doing some volunteer work, swimming exercises, playing in quartets and more. For the Cross of Hope community this will take some planning in looking at the administrative position and its roles for the future.

It has been a tremendous blessing working at Cross of Hope, becoming lifetime friends with folks. I plan on being around for some things and available to assist at times where needed. 2026 has been a great stretch for me, I had a right hip replacement in January, a right knee replacement in June, downsized to a single-story home in July and put my house on the market in August.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with such a fine team of folks at Cross of Hope.

Sincerely,

Linda Willoughby, Church Administrator

Thomas Ropp, Director of Music Ministries

As we near the completion of my fifth year as Director of Music Ministries here at Cross of Hope, I reflect on the growth we have seen in this past year.

Our Voices of Hope choir, which sings in the 8:30a services throughout the school year, has had a successful season, with between 12 and 15 people joining us to provide musical offerings and introduce new hymns in the form of preludes. In addition to our usual offerings, we completed two cantatas, one for Advent and one for Easter. We were also able to work with other members of the congregation to accompany pieces not only with piano, but with flute, brass, and cello. This next year, we are especially looking for new members! Come join us at our open house rehearsal on September 17th at 6:00p or any Thursday at 6p after that to check out how we rehearse behind the scenes.

The Praise Team has maintained a schedule of rehearsing twice a month, which has helped us to better prepare for our services. We said goodbye to two high school graduates, Ethan and Elise, as they head out for their undergraduate studies at Albion College and New Mexico State University, respectively. While we are sad to see them go, we are now joined more often by Pastor Adam on drums! Looking into the year, we are working to address some comments we've had on the volume of the praise team singers and instruments to maintain an enjoyable worship space for all. We are also excited to host an end of summer shindig on October 17th at 7:00p!

All musical acts are welcome to join us for a night of music, secular or not.

I am incredibly grateful for our members' time and talent throughout the year, and our congregation's support and participation. Surgite Dance joined us, providing solo and group pieces for offerings, and participatory children's sermons, and Keri Sutter provided a number of musical offerings. The Ropp family provided offering music and service support over the summer, and Cody Broyles provided the music for a Camp Cross of Hope service.

I am looking forward to another music-filled year with Cross of Hope. I cannot wait to see what new horizons and growth await us as we continue our journey.

RC JORDAN, Director of Worship and Community Life

It has been a good year wrapping up refinements to the weekly Sunday information between Fall and Summer schedules, along with the inclusion of QR codes during summer. It's so wonderful to take notice of the congregation's participation and utilization of the many online resources.

One notable uptick is the review of the weekly generated COH email (aka Mailchimp for some folks) that is sent out every Friday, apart from special circumstances. This provides a quick snapshot of upcoming events and other highlights that are also linked to COH's website. This function provides further details for both the church and school sides under the Events tab. Kudos to all who have been incorporating this tool on a weekly basis. *By the way, if anyone ever needs a quick hand figuring out how to access our online tools – I am more than happy to sit down and walk you through it step-by-step.*

Speaking of school, it is a blessing to work alongside both Susan Rivera (*Elementary School Director*), and Trisha McClain (*Preschool Director*), plus their wonderful staff! I would say one of my favorite perks is during Wednesday's Kids Chapel service!! Working with the school helping in the sound booth during Kids Chapel is a joyful and grounding experience. *If all possible, during this upcoming school year, please swing by to watch the children shine during their Wednesday worship service beginning at 2:45pm to 3:15pm and witness their bright energy conducted by our amazing teachers!*

This past year, the awesome worship planning team of six: Pastor Adam, Thomas Ropp (*Director of Music Ministry*), Jan Wormwood, Nancy Morrison, Susan Ropp, and myself got together every quarter to plan out our Sunday services. Planning early, we had a blast looking ahead, mapping out themes, and picking just the right songs to match each sermon.

As your humble Altar Team Lead, I love working behind the scenes, keeping everything running smoothly by ordering our supplies, coordinating the weekly rosters, and welcoming new smiling faces to the team. I also send out gentle reminders and offer encouraging guidance, so everyone feels confident and ready to serve. Together, the team takes great care in making sure our altar team is beautifully prepared and full of warmth for our church family each Sunday.

Looking back on this year, I am so grateful for how our church and school have come together. Serving is a joy! God is clearly at work here. ***Thank you for your energy, your prayers, and your kindness.*** Let's keep building these beautiful connections and loving our community well in the year ahead!

Blessings,
RC Jordan, Director of Worship / Community Life

Peggy Biedermann, Director of Digital Life

- The focus of the year has been to continue to evolve the COH website into an easy to navigate, functional and engaging tool.
- The school section of the site has clear, current information that is accessible to potential new students and their families.
- Keeping the website up to date with pertinent information for the COH community is an ongoing task.
- As Director of Digital Life, I make forms, brochures, invitations, event updates, etc. for both church and school needs.
- Technology upgrades took place this year. Outdated COH office & school technology were decommissioned and sent to recycling.
- New PC towers and laptops were purchased for the office/ COH administration.
- New laptops were purchased for the COH school educators.
- Taking our network tech support person's advice, the COH school has switched from Apple/ Mac/ iPad devices to PC and Chromebook devices. These devices are easier to manage through an administrative panel. This will allow me to control student access to material and to track/ monitor student devices.
- At a network level, COH replaced the old server to improve security, speed and connectivity.
- We are looking into two access points in the school hallways, getting upgraded data lines and upgraded access points to improve connectivity for Wi-Fi users in the building.

It has been a pleasure to work with everyone, and I feel that COH has made great gains in technology and is working to use it to its greatest potential for both the church and school community. We want to continue to move forward in this area with an eye on digital safety/ security for all.

Thank you for all your support.
Peg Biedermann



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Cross of Hope School Ministry



Cross of Hope School is a welcoming Christ centered community providing high-quality education in a nurturing environment that respects each child's development.

Our Verse for the school year was "He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8"

This verse helped us focus our students as we gathered each Monday for a Roadrunner Rally where we set our intentions for the week and anchored in God's truth. I focused the learning on what the words in this verse mean, and how we can apply it to our daily lives. God was so faithful to use it as an anchor for supporting our students in regulating their behavior as well. Our rallies, combined with our time in the student-led chapel each week, solidified our school's focus on Christian faith.

As we wrapped up our school year, we said goodbye to Courtney Knutilla, Elaine Pratt, David Becker, Debra Gonzales, and Lisa White. They served our students with such love, grace, and fabulous fun. Their presence will be missed next year, but I am confident that they will be enjoying their free time well, and maybe even joining us as substitute teachers if possible. We provided a warm welcome to Trisha McClain as she joined us as our Preschool Director in September, and to Ellie Hand as she provided valuable assistance to our large Kindergarten class.

We hosted many events that brought us together to love, encourage and support one another, such as: Back to School Night, a fall and spring Field Day, Dads and Donuts, Moms and Muffins, Fall Festival, Balloons Aloft, Los Posadas, 100th Day of School, Open House, Night of Appreciation, Teacher Appreciation Week, an all school Ice skating field trip, an all school roller skating field trip, Friday Enrichment, 4th/5th grade Lock In, 5th Grade Promotion, and our fabulous Family Fun Day.

It was such a joy to see our preschool staff and students grow together in community as they joined in our field day, hop a thon, and Read Across America by hosting a character parade. We celebrated their successes at their Moving Up ceremony and

Ladybug Picnic. We also partnered with Sport's School, Lerner's Chess, Fun with Music, Kids Love to Dance, Story Tables, ABQ Water Authority, Hawks Aloft, Rhubarb and Elliott, Chic fil-A, and BK Design Solutions.

We also partnered with our church and families to provide for those in need by: offering a flu shot clinic, supporting Catholic Charities (collecting food for their pantry, and recycling plastic bags), donating clothing to New Mexico Dream Center, donating coats and sweaters to PB and J Family Services, donating pet food and pet supplies to Watermelon Ranch, collecting food for Rio Grande Food Project, and loving on our teachers through a Sunshine Cart.

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of those that contributed to the following fundraisers: Fall Festival, selling school spirit wear, selling Butter Braids, promoting Read Across America, hosting a Hop/Jump a thon, and collecting Box Tops for Education. We received several incredibly generous donations from church members towards our scholarship fund as well.

All of these activities allowed us to purchase new classroom bookshelves, replenish and maintain playground equipment, provide a week of activities for our teachers, invest in classroom materials, replace our old level reader sets with brand new phonetic reader sets, provide new bibles for every student in every classroom, purchase Christian book sets and big book sets for our classrooms, purchase instruments and materials for our music program, redesign our website, and create a marketing campaign to increase our visibility online. This summer we created a new office space so that Mrs. McClain can have some privacy as she meets with parents, staff and students in our preschool!

We were blessed by volunteers in our community from the Boy Scouts, Menaul School students, Women on Wednesday, Hospitality Team, Safety Team, Property Team, Catholic Charities, and our youth group. Without their support at our events, we could not have accomplished so much for our school. We are so very grateful.

It has been an honor to serve as the Director of School Ministry at Cross of Hope Church & School. Thank you for your love and encouragement as I continued to grow as an administrator. I look forward to many years serving alongside the servants at Cross of Hope.

Blessings,
Susan Rivera, School Ministry Director



Cross of Hope Preschool Ministry

This past year has been a wonderful season of growth, learning, and blessing in our preschool ministry. We are thankful for the opportunity to partner with families as we nurture children academically, spiritually, and socially in a Christ-centered environment. Additionally, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve alongside our church and school communities as the new preschool director.

Spiritually, our students continued to grow in their understanding of God's love through the intentional teaching and modeling of Christ-like behaviors. Children learned important Biblical values such as kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and gratitude while building a strong foundation of faith at an early age. Our chapel time was enriched each month by the gifts and talents of Keri Sutter, from Surgite, a Sacred Dance Company, who brought Bible stories and the Lord's Prayer to life through dance and movement! Students worshipped in song and with sign language, learning around 25 worship songs over the course of the year!

Academically, students made meaningful progress in social-emotional skills, literacy, early math, fine motor development, problem-solving, and kindergarten readiness skills. Our teachers worked diligently to provide engaging, hands-on learning experiences that encouraged curiosity, confidence, and a love for learning. We are proud of the growth and achievements demonstrated by our students throughout the year.

Family and community engagement remained an important part of our program. Families participated in special events including our Christmas Program, Muffins with Moms, Donuts with Dads, the Mother's Day Teas, a Storybook Character Parade, Field Day and a field trip to Dion's. We were also blessed by church members visiting our classrooms to read books to our students for Read Across America Week.

Our dedicated preschool staff completed over 100 hours of continuing education, including faith-based child development training through our Christian national accreditation organization, ACSI. Two staff members attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children New Mexico conference, where they collaborated with early childhood educators from across the state and gained valuable insight into current best practices for early childhood classrooms.

With the rollout of Universal Child Care this past November, we were able to provide one-time tuition discounts for preschool families whose children continued on to Cross of Hope Kindergarten. State reimbursement funds also allowed us to acquire new curriculum materials like children's books, purchase new classroom materials, and provide an in-house educational experience with Hawks Aloft. During this special field

trip, all Cross of Hope students had the opportunity to interact with and learn about birds of prey native to New Mexico.

At the end of the year, parents were invited to share feedback about their experiences through a family survey. We were encouraged and blessed by their responses, including comments such as: “We have had the most amazing and loving experience at Cross of Hope Preschool,” “I loved how the teachers incorporated Spanish and sign language into everyday learning,” “We love the staff,” and “My child had a wonderful year learning and growing.” One parent also shared that her daughter “...has grown academically, socially, and spiritually thanks to COH’s organized routines, exciting curriculum, and overall culture of patience and love.” These reflections are a meaningful reminder of the impact our preschool ministry continues to have on children and families.

This year also marks a bittersweet transition for our preschool ministry as we celebrate Ann Martin’s transition to a full-time role taking care of her grandchildren. We are incredibly thankful for her years of faithful service, dedication, and love for the children and families of Cross of Hope Preschool. Her impact on our program and school community has been tremendous, and we pray God’s continued blessings over this new chapter in her life.

As we look ahead, we are excited about opportunities for continued growth within our preschool program. In response to family needs and community interest, we plan to expand our scheduling options to better serve families while continuing to provide high-quality, Christ-centered early childhood education. We look forward to seeing how God continues to guide and grow our ministry in the coming year.

We are deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, and continued support of our church family. Thank you for investing in the lives of these young children and helping us create a nurturing environment where they can grow academically, socially, and spiritually while learning about God’s love.

Blessings,

Trisha McClain, Director of Preschool Ministry

Cross of Hope Youth

Nancy Lacher, Youth Ministry

Cross of Hope continues to be blessed with the children and youth ministry on Wednesday nights at Cross of Hope. The ministry is called Camp@CoH following the pattern of Rainbow Trail Camp. God has truly blessed this ministry. Often, we have 35+ kids and 10 or more helpers and leaders.

We continue to meet every Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:30. The time is broken up into 30-minute increments, which include all camp activities such as games, karaoke, relays, bingo, and other fun and engaging things.

Next, we have dinner together. We use a rotation of meals on a 4-week cycle. We want to thank our congregation members for faithfully providing the meals each week by using our Signup Genius. It helps a great deal. We encourage our members to continue supporting us each week with your generous donations.

After dinner we have Bible Study. We have a K – 2 group, a 3 -5 group, a mid-high group, and a Senior High group. All groups use the lectionary cycle to guide their Bible study. Thanks to Lynne Bagby and her daughter Kim who lead the K-2 group, Laurie Adams and an assortment of assistants who lead our 3- 5 graders, Pr Adam leads our Mid-High kids while Laura Burton and I lead the Senior High Youth.

Finally, we gather around a campfire for worship, singing camp songs, reading scripture, sharing a short message and then sharing a blessing. Most evenings we toast S'Mores after our worship.

None of this is possible without the incredible help and support of our members, volunteers, parent helpers, and financial donations. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your tireless and enthusiastic support of our youth. You all are indeed a blessing. If you are interested in coming and checking out Camp@CoH, please join us.

It is a privilege and joy to serve in this capacity as one of the Youth Ministry Leaders.

Peace, love, and joy,

Nancy Lacher

Property and Hope Gardeners

Sherrie and Rudy Simek, Property Assistants

It is with great pride and humility; the property team works hard inside and outside to maintain God's church. We are honored to maintain the grounds around Church and school, caring for gardens, shrubs, trees, grass, flowers and whatever needs attention.

As the property manager, Pat Benchik, handles large projects through vendors that we have an established and trusted relationship with. Pat communicates with Pastor Adam, Church council and members to ensure expenses remain within budget. The relationships that Pat has created over the years as property manager are reflected in their quick response, efficiency of completing projects and honest evaluations of requests. We have a dependable network of licensed, bonded and fully insured contractors who we count on for roofing, downspout and gutter repairs, door locks, heating and air conditioning, painting and electrical to name a few.

Work orders from teachers, staff and volunteers are coordinated through Linda Willoughby, church administrator and property assistants, Sherrie and Rudy Simek. Our team of volunteers, Pat Benchik, Anthony Soto, Kevin Kouri, John Lacher, Rudy and Sherrie Simek handle what they can with necessary repairs or requests handed off to our contractors and vendors. Each of our volunteers brings their talents to the team. There are always things to be moved and re-hung, leaky toilets, stained ceiling tiles replaced, light bulbs needing to be replaced and issues with sticky door locks.

Here are some of the projects completed by the Property team throughout 2025 - 2026.

—Stained ceiling tiles are replaced periodically throughout the year, typically before Christmas and Easter season and prior to the start of the school year.

—HVAC vendor keeps our A/C and furnace units running. Annual maintenance was completed in March 2026

—Western States and Summit Fire Security conducted the annual Fire and Safety inspection on July 9, 2026. All aspects of fire prevention tools and fire alarm system passed. The Annual Fire Marshall inspection will take place in September when our annual permit expires.

— 9 New emergency lights were installed in classrooms

— All floors throughout the facilities, including preschool, were stripped, waxed and polished. Carpet in the sanctuary was cleaned, and the sanctuary chairs upholstery was cleaned, all chairs were wiped down and dusted prior to Christmas season, Easter season, and during floor cleaning.

—Renovation of the preschool office was completed during the month of June. This renovation will provide a welcoming, functional environment where teachers will grow

professionally through coaching and encouragement. This space will offer privacy for conversations with parents, and a quiet space for students who are not feeling well or simply need a calm space before returning to class.

—Classrooms were reassigned and moved due to meet enrollment needs.

—Teaching tools such as whiteboards, projector screens and cork boards were repositioned as needed.

— Parts have been searched for by our electrical vendor, Schmidt Electrical Contracting, to repair our electronic sign. Unfortunately, due to the age of the sign parts are unavailable. Programming of the sign has been diligently conducted to make sure no info is in the quadrant that is out. Replacement is probably cost prohibitive.

___ Outdoor sprinklers and drip irrigation systems are checked and maintained by Rudy Simek and John Lacher. These two gentlemen do an amazing job repairing numerous leaks and sprinkler heads. They ensure the system is turned off and protected during the winter season.

—Gardens receive a new layer of topsoil each year. Grass area is reseeded in bare spots. Rudy Simek mow, weed eats and edges the lawn weekly beginning in early April through October.

—Property sheds are cleaned and organized throughout the year.

— Solar was approved at a special congregational meeting in June 2025. Our solar panel installation is completed was completed in February 2026. We went live in May 2026. Much gratitude is given to Bob and Bonny Arseneau for their commitment to see this project through to its completion. Their constant on-site presence during the installation process allowed for the church and school to run smoothly during two weeks of installation.

August saw the retirement of Margie Reed from our Hope Gardners.
Enjoy those long lunches with Bob now!

Safety Team and Temple Guard

The COH Safety Team works tirelessly to keep safety a top priority for our church and schools.

As we move into a new fiscal year, we continue to serve diligently to protect our facilities. We want to assure our church members, staff, students, school employees and parents that all precautions have been put in place to best provide a safe and secure worship and work environment. The COH Safety Team and the COH Temple Guards serve faithfully to accomplish this goal.

The Temple Guards make daily evening rounds to ensure and secure COH facilities and grounds, (doors locked, windows and blinds closed, all inside lights off, outside gate access locked and parking lot is being appropriately used by our scheduled community groups). Temple Guards include John Lacher, Doug Perry, Anthony Soto, Rudy Simek and Ron Cordova.

The COH Safety Team serves COH Church and Schools through monthly fire drills, inspection of equipment, exit signs and carbon monoxide alarms. Lockdown and shelter-in-place drills are conducted every other month and quarterly respectively. The Safety Team works directly with COH Administration, City of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Bernalillo Fire department to ensure all state and county requirements are met and followed. We continue to serve faithfully our COH Family. Safety Team members are Art Kavanaugh, Rudy and Sherrie Simek and Ron Cordova. We are available for any concerns or questions that you may have, please feel free to contact us.

We continue to service our COH Faithfully.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Cordova, COH Safety Team Lead

Scouts

The National Boy Scouts have changed their name to Scouting America. This includes Boy Troops, Girl Troops. And Cub Scouts. They are very different from Girl Scouts which is a separate entity.

Cross of Hope currently charters Boy Troop 126, Girl Troop 1226, and Cub Scouts Pack 12. Each of the 3 Scouting groups are very grateful to Cross of Hope Lutheran Church for Chartering them and the support provided by Cross of Hope Lutheran Church.

There have been significant changes in the Boy Troop, Greg Vaughn who was the Scout Master for many years has stepped down. Jason Cox, who has been a strong leader as the Committee Chair, will be stepping down the summer of 2026. Doug Chan has stepped up and is now the Scout Master. Mr. Chan brings many years of scouting leadership to Boy Troop is truly inspirational. Mr. Chan continues to lead Troop 126 in a positive direction and is helping the Scouts learn new skills. Mr. Chan is an Eagle Scout and has an adult son who is an Eagle Scout. Three of the Eagle Scouts who completed their Eagle awards in the past year have stayed with troop 126 as adult leaders to work with the Scouts that are still progressing through the Scouting ranks and development.

Girl Troop 1226 is a new troop. Their Scout Master is Lily Bray. Ms. Bray has many years of experience in leadership in Scouting. Including in her Scouting experience Ms. Bray has previously been part of the Scout Council, she too, is a strong and positive support to the girls in troop 1226. Ms. Bray has a son and a daughter who are both Eagle Scouts. Her daughter that earned her Eagle, is part of troop 1226 to help the other Scouts in their growth and their knowledge. Girl Troop 1226 has been involved in many growth activities since their inception earlier this year. As mentioned, Girl Troop is a completely different organization than the Girl Scouts. Cross of Hope currently has some of their youth attending Girl Scouts.

Cub Scout Pack 12 has also had some significant changes. Their Cub Master has stepped down. Nadine Real has stepped up to be the Cub Master. Kathryn Fletcher remains the Committee Chair and adds to the strong leadership in Pack 12. Ms. Real has been a Cub Scout leader for several years and now brings her positive energy as the Cub Master. Ms. Real has a son who is an Eagle Scout who has stayed with troop 126 as a leader. Pack 12 has a lot of high energy leadership that are helping in the development of our youth. Pack 12 is preparing for their annual welcome meeting in August, where new families and potential scouts come and meet with the leaders and learn what Cub Scouting is all about.

Each of the 3 Scouting troops greatly appreciated the support of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church. Gary Warner of Cross of Hope has been the Charter Organization representative for the past 3 years and has been greatly blessed by being part of the Scouts and Cross of Hope.

Thank you

Gary Warner, Charter Organization Representative.

Dear Cross of Hope Family,

On behalf of Scouting America Troop 1226, thank you for welcoming us and choosing to sponsor our new troop. We are incredibly grateful for the support of Cross of Hope and for the opportunity you have given more youth in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho to experience the Scouting America program.

Troop 1226 is a small but mighty troop of 10 Scouts, and we are already seeing what an incredible group of young people they are becoming. Our goal is to build strong, confident leaders through outdoor adventure, service, community involvement, and the everyday challenges and opportunities that Scouting provides.

Although Troop 1226 is a new troop, our adult leaders bring many years of experience and service to Scouting America. We are especially proud that one of our Scouts earned her Eagle Scout rank last fall. Rather than moving on from Scouting, she has chosen to continue growing with our troop, sharing her experience and helping teach and encourage our younger Scouts. Watching Scouts learn from one another and step into leadership roles is one of the most rewarding parts of what we do.

Our troop is very active outdoors, with a monthly campout and an annual summer camp. This summer, nine of our ten Scouts traveled to Colorado for a week of adventure at Camp Cris Dobbins. It was an incredible opportunity for our Scouts to challenge themselves, learn new skills, build friendships, and experience the kind of adventure that makes Scouting so memorable.

And we are just getting started! We are especially excited to be preparing for our first high-adventure experience next summer at Sea Base. We look forward to seeing our Scouts take on new challenges and discover just how much they are capable of.

Troop 1226 also believes strongly in the importance of family and community. As we grow, we are looking forward to adding more service opportunities to our calendar and finding new ways for our Scouts to give back to the communities that support them. We are also excited about building a strong relationship with Troop 126. We already

have several outdoor activities planned together, and we look forward to the friendships, shared experiences, and opportunities for our Scouts to learn from one another.

Most importantly, we want you to know that your support makes a difference. By sponsoring Troop 1226, Cross of Hope is helping create opportunities for young people to grow in confidence, character, leadership, and compassion. You are helping give them places to explore, people to learn from, challenges to overcome, and memories they will carry with them for years to come.

Thank you, Cross of Hope, for believing in our Scouts and for investing in the next generation of leaders. We are honored to have you as part of the Troop 1226 family, and we are excited to share this journey with you.

Here is report from Pack 12

Pack 12 has had a year full of adventure that included launching rockets, hiking local trails, camping together, racing Pinewood Derby cars, enjoying picnics, celebrating at our Trunk or Treat, visiting our local police substation, and collecting 2,269 pounds of food to donate to The Storehouse West.

Our Cub Scouts have been having a blast while trying things they might never have experienced otherwise. It's a pleasure to watch the kids grow in confidence, practice leadership, build character, and discover the values of teamwork and service. None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteer leaders and engaged families, who generously give their time and talents to create these experiences for the boys and girls in our Pack. We are deeply grateful to our charter organization, Cross of Hope, for supporting Pack 12 and helping us continue this mission.

Kathryn Fletcher

Women on Wednesday (WOW)

Prayer, Word, Fellowship, and Service

Lynne Bagby and Sherrie Simek

Women ON Wednesday (WOW) is a group of loving, spirited women who come together in faith to engage in prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and service. Our ministry provides opportunities to grow in God's Word while caring for one another and reaching beyond our group to serve our church, school, and community.

Prayer: Taking the Needs of Others to God

Prayer is at the heart of WOW. Prayer requests, updates, and celebrations are shared with a network of **46 faithful prayer warriors**. Together, we take the needs of the people God sends our way to Him in prayer. We also rejoice together in celebrations and answered prayers, supporting one another through all of life's seasons.

God's Word: Building One Church and School Community

Our ministry is striving to help make our church and school one large, connected community. One special way we do this is by studying the Bible in coordination with the children's Bible, *The Biggest Story*.

WOW meets on the **first and third Wednesdays from September through May**. Meeting on Wednesdays gives us a wonderful opportunity to connect our adult Bible study with what the students are learning.

After our in-person adult study, we have the delight of watching students bring those same Bible stories to life through skits under the direction of their teachers. Seeing familiar Scripture portrayed by the children adds another dimension to our own study and gives us the special opportunity of **experiencing God's Word through the eyes of children**.

It is a beautiful way for generations to learn from one another and for our church and school to grow together in faith.

Service: Putting Faith into Action

The third important part of our ministry is service to our church, school, and community. WOW members support our church and school by volunteering and providing a helping hand at community events.

At each meeting, we also participate in a "**Least Coin**" offering. These offerings are designated for organizations within our faith community, allowing even our smallest gifts, when joined together, to make a meaningful difference.

Women ON Wednesday is an exciting and fulfilling ministry where women encounter **fellowship, service, and God's amazing grace through prayer and His Word.**

There is always room for another woman to join us on this journey of faith. If you are interested in participating in Women ON Wednesday, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact **Lynne Bagby** at lbagby@crossofhope.org or **Sherrie Simek** at rsimek1053@yahoo.org for more information.

Banner Babes

Sherrie Simek

Banner Babes is a group of women who make their love of sewing and crafting into a ministry that connects with the mission statement of the church, "Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships through God.

Each year we connect with graduating seniors from our community and gift each one with a quilt that features their favorite colors, hobbies and interests. We presented 3 "made with love" quilts during services on Memorial Day weekend to 3 graduating seniors from our community. These quilts provide love during joyful and challenging times alike. The recipients know they are carried by their community of faith.

We present baptismal quilts or age-appropriate Bibles at each baptism.

This year we have created a new ministry within our ministry. Comfort Care Quilts are being created for anyone you know who needs a little comfort, loving care and warmth at any time in their lives. Again, the recipients know they are loved and carried by their community of faith. We have held one workshop where we made 4 quilt tops, shared fellowship and taste tested our tea menu.

We are working on 3 special seasonal banners.

Each year, a themed tea is held in November to aid in fundraising. This allows our ministry to continue quilt making as well as contribute to the needs of our community or communities faced with challenges. In December of 2024, Banner Babes made the following donations:

Cross of Hope Church	\$500.00
Cross of Hope School	\$500.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund	\$500.00
Saranam	\$500.00

Banner Babes meet on the first Monday of each month. There are currently 13 Banner Babes. We welcome newcomers and NO, you do not have to be an accomplished seamstress. If you are interested in joining Banner Babes, please contact Sherrie Simek at rsimek1053@yahoo.com or Diane Carrico at leoncarrico@gmail.com

Rays of Hope Monthly Journal

As I look back over another year of *Rays of Hope*, I am especially grateful for the many people who help make each issue possible.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to our editorial team: **Mary Bresnahan, Beth Cretsinger, RC Jordan, Sheri Phillips, Margie Reed, and Linda Willoughby**. Their careful eyes catch the mistakes I somehow manage to miss, and their help, encouragement, and attention to detail are truly invaluable to me. I am so thankful for the time they give and the care they show for *Rays of Hope*.

I want to give special recognition to **Mary Bresnahan**, our **Happy Hope-r and Roving Hope-r guest columnist**. These columns require a tremendous amount of time and effort. From arranging and conducting interviews, to gathering pictures, to writing and polishing the final articles, Mary puts a great deal of care into each story. Her columns help us get to know the people in our church family a little better and add such a personal touch to *Rays of Hope*. Mary, thank you for the many hours, thought, and heart you put into every column.

We are also blessed by several faithful contributors. **Dee Gutierrez** provides us with book suggestions every month, giving our readers new ideas for meaningful and enjoyable reading. **Mary Hughes** graciously steps in to write our nurse's columns, sharing helpful information and insight with us. **Jan Anderson** faithfully contributes articles about **Family Promise**, helping keep us informed about this important ministry and the ways it serves families in our community.

And, of course, we cannot forget our mysterious **Church Mouse**, who pops up from time to time with interesting thoughts and observations on a variety of subjects. The Church Mouse adds a little personality, reflection, and fun to our pages.

This year also brought a big change behind the scenes. This past summer, we said farewell to **Microsoft Publisher**, the program that had helped us create *Rays of Hope* for so long, as its days were drawing to a close. **July marked our very first issue created and published with Canva**. Learning a new program brought its share of challenges, but it also opened the door to new possibilities for the look and design of the newsletter. It was quite a milestone for *Rays of Hope*—and proof that even an old newsletter can learn new tricks!

Rays of Hope is truly a group effort. I am so thankful for everyone who gives of their time, talents, ideas, and encouragement throughout the year. Each person contributes something special, and together they help make our newsletter something our church and school family can look forward to each month.

Lynne Bagby, Rays of Hope Managing Editor

Hospitality and Care Ministry

1. Hospitality Team - tasked with planning, hosting, providing and serving food and beverages, greeting participants and guests, and cleanup for a wide range of events. There are 29 active, enthusiastic and generous members, some of whom have been participating for many years. They are always ready to answer the call for help. In addition, their generosity often extends to the purchase and donation of decorative elements, such as tablecloths and other decorations.
2. Care Team- tasked with providing services to members of the congregation and school families. Services offered include transportation, emergency meals and in-home sitting. Currently this team is comprised of 9 members.

Hospitality in 2025-2026

There was a total of 3 memorials for Russ Edwards, Tim Fuller and David Pressel.

Special Events included:

Establishment of Fellowship in the Great Hall
Reception for Staff Appreciation
Confirmation Reception honoring confirmands
First Sunday of Advent Celebration
Palm Sunday Observance Reception
Baptism Reception for Heron James Kristofic
Reception for COH HS Graduates
Community Potluck after Annual Meeting
Las Posadas

Care in 2025-2026

Transportation provided to 5 people
Numerous visits to members who are unable to get out
Meals were provided to 7 members, usually a week's worth.

In conclusion, both the Hospitality and Care Teams stand ready to provide service and love to our community. It is a privilege to be working with the amazing people who comprise these teams, including Sherrie and Rudy Simek, and Ron Cordova, without whom couldn't even begin to put on our events.

Submitted by Claudia Russo, Care Team Coordinator

Family Promise of Albuquerque (FPA) Ministry

Cross Hope Hosted twice: June 2025-June 2026 (August 25, and March 26) We also Hosted recently July 26-Aug 1. 2026

Members and attendees at COH provided 45 volunteers who Provided HOT Meals and groceries and household supplies and a Gas card \$50 each time.

Families served during this period 12,

14 adults, 21 children, (35 total)

Families currently being served: 2, 2 adults and 4 children.

The Success rate for the program is based on sustained independent 2 yrs or greater. This information was not provided by the current director. However, he did say that 4 families left the program under their own volition and opted out of stabilization program support offered to those who do not complete the program.

THE NEW CENTER at 314-316 Tennessee SE is OPEN! The day center can be used, and one apartment are being used currently. The work of renovation of the other 3 apartments continues to progress.

Many Thanks to the COH community for your generous monetary and tangible supply of support! We have 2 weeks next year on the roster of churches. March 7-13, 2027 and August 22 - 28, 2027. We are a great team !!!

A list of items needed to fill the new center is posted on the FP bulletin board.

Sincerely, Glenna Meneely, and Jan Anderson

Please continue to use the following mailing address:

Family Promise of Albuquerque

P. O. Box 20277

Albuquerque, NM 87154

Cross of Hope Outreach Team

The COH Outreach team is guided by an unchanging mission: "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." We focus on Jesus' words from *Matthew 25:35-36*: *"for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."* The team, after focusing on those words, came up with some guiding principles. We continue to focus our outreach activities on these needs: Hunger and

Basic needs (shelter, food, water and care). Our hope is that through our outreach opportunities we will provide systemic changes rather than just charity and that outreach will become a habit rather than something special or sporadic.

Hunger: Our desire is to provide the collected items to the Rio Grande Food Bank to be distributed to a variety of people. These outreach efforts will continue at regular intervals in the future:

Super Bowl Sunday
Mother's Day
ELCA Day of Service
[And as needed.](#)

Basic Needs: We will continue to help fill basic needs in a variety of ways.

Blood Drive: Three times a year COH will host a blood drive [usually in January, June, and September.](#)

Family Promise: Providing food, support and a friendly face to families who are transitioning into a new chapter in their lives COH serves as host twice a year.

Angel Tree Ministry: Providing a connection between an incarcerated parent and their children at Christmas Time.

NMRamp Project: Providing free ramps for older adults and people with mobility issues across NM.

Special Olympics: Volunteering at regional and state events as needed.

COH/Rainbow Trail VBS at CO in June. COH volunteers and others lead a VBS experience for our youth.

COH Special Needs VBS in July. Providing a day camp experience. Volunteers are always needed.

[Pet food drives will also be held a couple of times a year to help God's animal creations.](#)

If you are interested in volunteering at future events, contact COH office or refer to the Outreach Section in the weekly bulletin for information.

We are always looking for people who would like to work with our team to provide opportunities for outreach in our neighborhood and other places. Contact one of the team members named below.

Thank you for your continued support,
Pastor Adam, Kathy Gorman, Cheri Sorensen

COAST Crises Outreach and Support Team

Thank you, Cross of Hope Church and School, for your continuous support to the COAST fund. Since October 1, 2025, through August 14, 2026, you have contributed to the needs of your community with \$3,700.00 in gas cards to those in need. This includes Albuquerque Community Safety, Hope Works, Albuquerque for the Homeless and UNM Healthcare.

The COAST program is funded and operates through the City of Albuquerque.

Submitted by Linda Willoughby

Finance

Current Balance Sheet



Cross of Hope Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
as of 07/31/2026

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
Assets		
10210	COH General Checking - USBank	\$99,597.47
10230	COH Good Sam/COAST USBank	\$3,009.97
10235	COH Money Market USBank	\$64,304.57
10250	MIF Scholarship Account	\$9,245.59
10260	MIF Endowment Account - 3/18/26	\$115,000.00
11120	COH MIF Property Improvement	\$26,975.87
11190	COH E Jones Investment	\$53,302.49
11195	COH EJ Fund Account	\$213,002.56
15500	Buildings	\$1,491,015.50
15600	Improvements	\$14,473.12
15700	Furniture, Fixtures Equipment	\$235,496.77
15800	Land	\$182,532.18
16000	Acc Depreciation - Building	-\$852,161.39
Total Assets		\$1,655,794.70
Liabilities		
23360	Insurance - Disability & Life	\$177.09
24001	Deferred Tuition 2026-2027	\$82,250.00
24050	Deferred Scholarship Fund 2026/2027	\$32,508.62
24100	Deferred Registration 2026/2027	\$9,900.00
24200	Deferred Instructional Materials Fee 2026/20267	\$12,375.00
25420	Due to RMS Benevolence	\$20.00
25440	Due to Boys Scouts	\$72.00
26600	U.S. Bank Community Visa	\$9,488.11
27010	Mortgage Payable	\$411,741.44
27011	Payables	\$9,607.64
Total Liabilities		\$568,139.90
Equity		
30000	Church - General Fund	\$539,902.22
30001	Church - Good Samaritan Fund	\$573.39
30008	Church - Music Gifts Fund	\$751.00
30009	Church - Banner Babes Fund	\$2,623.52
30017	Church - Family Promise Ministry Fund	\$1,694.61
30020	Church - Building Fund	\$10,251.85
30021	Church - Youth Fund	\$4,135.20
30022	Church - MIF Endowment Fund	\$115,000.00
30024	ES - General Fund	\$77,244.51
30025	Preschool - General Fund	\$283,224.23
30026	ES - Scholarship Fund Fund Balance	\$52,254.27
Total Equity		\$1,087,654.80
Total Liabilities + Total Equity		\$1,655,794.70



Cross of Hope Lutheran Church
Income Statement
for the period of 08/01/2025 to 07/31/2026

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
Income		
40000	Tuition	\$464,661.34
40030	ECECD Assistance	\$132,330.96
40100	Registration Fees	\$14,875.00
40200	Instructional Materials Fee	\$21,850.00
40300	Misc. Donations & Other Income	\$42,067.11
40400	Scholarship / Financial Aid	\$5,294.86
40500	Memorial donations for School	\$2,000.00
40510	Field Trip Income	\$2,604.00
40520	After School Program	\$4,923.51
40860	Fundraising	\$4,098.08
41000	Tithes & Offerings	\$421,356.45
41400	Interest Income	\$11,130.72
41600	HEBREWS	\$1,923.50
42300	Donations Restricted	\$8,738.91
41805	Unrealized Gain Loss on Investments	\$25,205.54
Total Income		\$1,163,059.98
Expense		
50100	Curriculum & Books	\$7,025.20
50800	After School Program	\$2,277.69
51110	Worship/Flowers Expenses	\$3,618.70
51120	Substitute Pastor	\$1,117.00
51220	Music	\$1,934.76
51230	Guest Performers	\$900.00
52120	RMS / ELCA	\$20,166.63
52130	Benevolence other than ELCA	\$2,000.00
52140	Hospitality	\$10,684.56
54120	Las Posadas	\$1,100.00
54130	Camp@Cross of Hope	\$1,375.72
54140	VBS - Special Needs	\$300.00
54150	Rainbow Trail - Day Camp	\$1,956.31
55110	Confirmation	\$260.00
55150	Youth Programs	\$132.62
60100	Salaries	\$705,138.61
61000	Continuing Education/Training	\$703.04
62000	ELCA Pension	\$12,872.81
62100	403(b) Retirement Plan	\$22,800.18
62500	Health Care Stipend	\$15,830.92
64000	Payroll tax expense	\$48,986.38
64100	NM Workers Comp	\$239.70
65000	Housing Allowance	\$25,518.14
65110	Pastoral Continuing Education	\$209.39
65120	Pastoral Periodicals-Bks-Pubs	\$208.92
67000	Background Checks	\$1,141.69
70110	Postage	\$473.50
70120	Paper	\$1,393.69
70200	Supplies	\$10,051.64
70210	Copier Maintenance	\$1,293.91
70220	Toner & Copier Supplies	\$912.98
70240	Advertising & Public Relations	\$20,124.97
70260	Accreditation	\$6,526.88
70600	Dues, License fees & Memberships	\$4,840.84
71050	Bank Charges and Fees	\$10,204.14
71051	Payroll Processing Expenses	\$5,507.19

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
71100	Accounting Expense	\$5,211.40
71200	Utilities	\$20,802.87
71250	Telephone	\$6,546.30
71300	Insurance	\$28,883.40
71500	Debt - Interest	\$33,150.01
71700	Taxes Property	\$146.33
71800	Depreciation - Building	\$39,107.12
71900	Furniture & Equipment (AV)	\$2,937.06
72000	Computer Maintenance & Support	\$7,538.33
72300	Computer Hardware/Software	\$18,103.73
73110	Custodial Supplies	\$3,536.75
73120	Property Supplies	\$1,372.49
73130	Maintenance	\$29,583.45
73140	Custodial Services	\$24,982.72
73170	Misc. Property Improvments	\$8,619.14
76100	HEBREWS	\$651.70
76110	Synod Assembly & Conf	\$2,618.27
76120	Fundraising Expense	\$171.77
76130	Field Trip Expenses	\$3,181.15
82400	Good Samaritan/COAST Expense	\$6,540.00
82600	Banner Babes Expenses	\$4,356.83
Total Expense		\$1,197,869.53
Net Income (Loss)		-\$34,809.55

Proposed Budget 2026 - 2027

		TOTAL
		2026/27 Budget
40000	Tuition (actuals include discounts & FA)	\$ 435,000.00
40030	UCC Assistance	\$ 150,000.00
40100	Registration Fees	\$ 14,500.00
40200	Instructional Materials Fee	\$ 20,000.00
40300	Misc. Donations & Other Income	\$ 26,000.00
40400	Scholarship/Financial Aid	\$ 26,000.00
40510	Field Trip Income	\$ 2,000.00
40520	After School Care Income	\$ 20,000.00
40860	Fundraising	\$ 4,000.00
41000	Tithes & Offerings	\$ 420,000.00
41400	Interest Income	\$ 11,000.00
41600	HEBREWS	\$ 1,300.00
42300	Donations Restricted	\$ 7,000.00
42400	Endowment	\$ -
42500	COH Parent fund	\$ -
4200	Grant Income	\$ -
41805	Unrealized Gain Loss on Investments	\$ 20,000.00
Total Income		\$ 1,156,800.00
<u>Expense</u>		
50100	Curriculum & Books	\$ 6,600.00
50150	Library	\$ 250.00
50800	After School Care Expenses	\$ 1,000.00
51110	Worship/Flowers Expenses	\$ 3,500.00
51120	Substitute Pastor	\$ 2,100.00
51220	Music	\$ 2,000.00
51230	Guest Performers	\$ 600.00
52120	RMS / ELCA	\$ 22,000.00
52130	Benevolence other than ELCA	\$ 4,000.00
52140	Hospitality	\$ 10,000.00
54120	Las Posadas	\$ 1,200.00
54130	Camp@Cross of Hope	\$ 4,000.00
54140	VBS - Special Needs	\$ 1,000.00
54150	Rainbow Trail - Day Camp	\$ 3,000.00
55110	Confirmation	\$ 300.00
55150	Youth Programs	\$ -
60100	Salaries	\$ 705,000.00
61000	Continuing Education/Training	\$ 1,700.00
63000	ER Sponsored Health Ins	\$ -
62000	ELCA Pension	\$ 12,000.00
62100	403(b) Retirement Plan	\$ 24,500.00
62500	Health Care Stipend	\$ 21,600.00
64000	Payroll tax expense	\$ 49,400.00
64100	NM Workers Comp	\$ 415.00
65000	Housing Allowance	\$ 25,000.00

Proposed Budget 2026 - 2027

65100	Pastoral Reimbursed Expenses	\$ 1,400.00
65110	Pastoral Continuing Education	\$ 1,000.00
65120	Pastoral Periodicals-Bks-Pubs	\$ 250.00
65130	Pastoral Technology/Sabbatical Expense	\$ 500.00
66000	Other Discretionary Expenses	\$ 200.00
67000	Background Checks	\$ 1,000.00
70110	Postage	\$ 500.00
70120	Paper	\$ 2,000.00
70200	Supplies	\$ 8,500.00
70210	Copier Maintenance	\$ 7,000.00
70220	Toner & Copier Supplies	\$ 1,550.00
70240	Advertising & Public Relations	\$ 8,000.00
70260	Accreditation	\$ 7,000.00
70600	License Fees/Dues/Memberships	\$ 4,000.00
71050	Bank Charges and Fees	\$ 9,500.00
71051	Payroll Processing Expenses	\$ 5,500.00
71100	Accounting Expense	\$ 5,000.00
71200	Utilities	\$ 14,000.00
71250	Telephone	\$ 6,000.00
71300	Insurance	\$ 33,000.00
71500	Debt - Interest	\$ 30,000.00
71700	Taxes Property	\$ 150.00
71800	Depreciation - Building	\$ 30,000.00
71900	Furniture & Equipment (AV)	\$ 3,000.00
72000	Computer Maintenance & Support	\$ 8,000.00
72300	Computer Hardware/Software	\$ 16,000.00
73110	Custodial Supplies	\$ 4,000.00
73120	Property Supplies	\$ 2,000.00
73130	Maintenance	\$ 26,100.00
73140	Custodial Services	\$ 25,000.00
73170	Misc. Property Improvments	\$ 9,000.00
73180	Capital Improvements	\$ -
76100	HEBREWS	\$ 750.00
76110	Synod Assembly	\$ 3,000.00
76120	Fundraising Expense	\$ 200.00
76130	Field Trip Expenses	\$ 2,000.00
76145	COH Parent Fund	\$ -
82400	Good Samaritan/COAST Expense	\$ 5,500.00
82600	Banner Babes Expenses	\$ 4,000.00
82800	Youth Expenses	\$ -
Total Expense		\$ 1,185,765.00
Net Income (Loss)		\$ (28,965.00)

