CROSS OF HOPE Church & School

Love • Transform • Serve

RAYS OF HOPE JOURNAL

November 2026, Volume 44, Issue 11

Mission Statement

Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares inChrist'slovethrough worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.

Reformation Sunday,

October 25, 2026.

CONFIRMATION

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism



First time Acolyte, Jasmyn Soto



Hospitality Team setting up the reception tables





Boden Bencomo and Isaac Williams were Confirmed

Photos courtesy of 3MorrPhotos

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

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WE WANT YOUR NEWS ITEMS

Deadline is the 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



Page 10
Has more detailed information about the Food Drive.

Check out the school site for exciting events: Crossofhopeschool.org

Care Outreach

Transportation
Medical Appointments
Other Appointments

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)897-0047

CROSS OF HOPE Church & School
Love • Transform • Serve

Preschool and Elementary News

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Pumpkins, Balloons and Thankful Hearts

As we close out October, we're looking back with fond memories of the Elementary School Field Day, our exciting Balloons Aloft experience with the entire COH community, and a refreshing Fall Break! We're grateful for these special opportunities to learn, explore, and make memories together.

Forging ahead, November will be filled with gratitude and growing in God's goodness! The preschool students will explore the story of Noah and the Ark, focus on the Fruit of the Spirit - **goodness** - and learn our Bible verse, "God made us to do good" (Ephesians 2:10). In our classrooms, we'll discover more about pumpkins, practice thankfulness, honor our veterans, and celebrate the joys of the fall harvest.

November is also a time to celebrate our students' growth! Report cards will be sent home, and we look forward to connecting with families during upcoming parent-teacher conferences. We'll enjoy special time together at the Elementary School Thanksgiving Lunch and Preschool Dessert Picnic before heading into Thanksgiving Break. We are so thankful for our wonderful school families and community members, and look forward to sharing this special season of learning, fellowship, and giving thanks together!

With gratitude,

Susan Rivera and Trisha McClain, Directors



Balloons Aloft





Field Day

Preschool and School photos continued on page 4

Preschool and School photos continued from page 3









Field Day and Balloons Aloft





Council Corner

By Jessica Williams, Council Secretary

Our October church council meeting was almost exclusively dedicated to the topic of the proposed columbarium and prayer garden. Duane Meneely joined the council that evening as a representative from the exploration columbarium committee. Discussion centered on the alignment of a columbarium with the Cross of Hope mission and remaining challenges to implementation.

Property Update

“Change is inevitable, change is good”….. Pastor Adam

Have you noticed the changes in the gardens as we move through fall into winter? The grass has stopped growing, the flowers have finished blooming (except for the pink rose in the little circle garden), and the gardens are cut down, ready for sleep.

The Mexican sunflowers have almost reached their peak, but the morning glory flowering vine continues to wind its way throughout the roses.

We have some changes to the gardening crew too. Thank you to David Humble and Dennis Milks for bringing their energy, love and gloves to the property. Enjoy the changing of the seasons that make New Mexico such a special place to call home.

By Sherrie Simek, Council President

Church Women United

Church Women United, an ecumenical Christian women's fellowship, will meet for their World Community Day celebration on Friday, November 6 at St. Chad’s Episcopal Church, 7171 Tennyson NE. Coffee fellowship will begin at 9:30 with the program beginning at 10:00. The theme is “Peace Begins With Me”. Rev. Lucas Grubbs, Director of the New Mexico Conference of Churches, will be our speaker. Please join us and bring a friend! For more information, contact Shirley Nilsson at (505) 884-2467.



BIRTHDAYS

Elisa Mclellan	2
Ron Cordova	8
Marcella Johnson	8
Karen Schwartz	11
Gregory Morrison	13
Sydney Reynolds	14
Trisha McClain	13
Lois Casto	14
Chris Morgan	15
Joy Thornhill	17
Bruce Molde	17
Elise Hielkema	18
William Casto	18
Laura Berndt	18
Ryan Hale	19
Hans Zimmer	19
Beth Cretsinger	24
Nancy Morrison	26
Ashleigh Rae Soto	28
Linda Molde	29
Flora Telles	29

Lunch Bunch

The Range Cafe Coors
10019 Coors Blvd NW
November 11, 2026 at 12:30 pm

Heart Strings

Members of COH unable to worship with us on a regular basis. Please contact these Church members and let them know we care and are praying for them.

Fran Hveem
884 Evening Primrose Lane
Bernalillo, NM 87004

Joanny Wilson
10008 Ashland St NW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

Charlie and Gini Murphy
548 Eastlake Dr. SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Diane Pressel
543 WhisperPointe St SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



		Years Married
Kevin and Elyse Benham	2	7
Mary and Dick Bresnahan	5	55
Nicole and Victor Bencomo	9	25
Kimbo and Cinda Mundy	9	1
Jim and Mary Hughes	24	20



Happy Hope-r

The George's



Tim Linda

Birthdate:December 12	March 27
Birthplace:Pittsburgh, PA	Pittsburgh, PA
Married: September 18, 1981	Where: Pittsburgh, PA
Children: Tim, 39; Melanie, 36	Grandchild: Tiberius
Occupation: Metallurgist	Loan Officer & Real Estate
Hobbies: Ramp building, woodworking, stain glass creations, bicycling	Gardening, cleaning up after Tim, bicycling

Those who know Linda & Tim should get a kick from this picture. Linda mentioned that she used to be a red head.

Tim's dad, Bill, was originally from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Bill's family has lived in central Pennsylvania since before the American Revolution. Tim shared that although his father was a chemist, his career was most influenced by his grandfather, an exceptional machinist who managed to "keep all his fingers." Tim is an only child.

Tim's mother, Leona, was from Minnesota. Her family was originally from Eastern Europe and settled in Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota. Leona was a homemaker. Both of Tim's parents are deceased.

Tim is a metallurgical engineer. For those not familiar with what a metallurgist does they are a scientist or engineer that studies and works with metals. They can pull metals from natural ores, mix different metals and elements together to make them stronger or lighter

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Happy Hope-r continued from page 7

and they can test how various metals handle high heat, stress, and corrosion. In addition, they can inspect broken or rusted parts to determine why they failed. Tim earned his undergraduate degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and went on to earn an MBA.

Tim spent the bulk of his career – 30 years, in two intervals, at Los Alamos Laboratory. Among other things, he worked on the fabrication and testing of power supplies for NASA deep-space probes.

Linda's father, Bob, worked in criminal justice for over 30 years, and was once Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Police Department. Her mother, Pat, was a housewife and in charge of the kids. Linda is the oldest of four. She has a brother and two sisters. One sister passed away from adult-onset diabetes. Linda's remaining siblings still live in Pennsylvania.

Linda earned a B.S. in Psychology and Sociology. Her working career was split between positions as a Loan Officer, and later as a Real Estate agent. Linda originally worked for Allegheny International Corporation in a division that specialized in financing for lawn and yard equipment dealers, and later for the Los Alamos Credit Union (now Del Norte credit union).

Tim and Linda lived in Los Alamos (White Rock) for 22 years. In 2005, when they moved to Albuquerque, Linda began work as a real estate agent. At that time Tim had left Los Alamos lab for a position at an Albuquerque startup, and the move also made it easier to provide support for Tim's parents who were living nearby.



Tim and Linda have two children. Tim, 39, (not junior) who also lives in Albuquerque and is married to Margaret. Tim works at a local cannabis processing company. Tim and Margaret's son, Tiberius, attends Cross of Hope Preschool. The proud grandparents mentioned that at age five (nearly), Tiberius knows the names of all the planets.



Tim and Linda's daughter Melanie, 36, lives in San Diego, CA. She is an architect, and is married to Erik, a sergeant with the San Diego Police Department. Linda mentioned that police officers seem to run in her family!

I asked how Tim and Linda met. It was through a mutual friend at the University of Pittsburgh. Apparently, a group of engineering students hung out together, and even though Linda wasn't in the School of Engineering, her friend was. And so it goes!

Tim has been involved in the Ramp Project at Cross of Hope. He is pretty much in the lead role doing the organizing and planning for each project. It is really a wonderful ministry that helps people who may otherwise be confined to their house. It also builds camaraderie amongst church members. If you are interested in helping with a great project and can use a hammer or align boards get in touch with Tim.

Blessing of the Animals











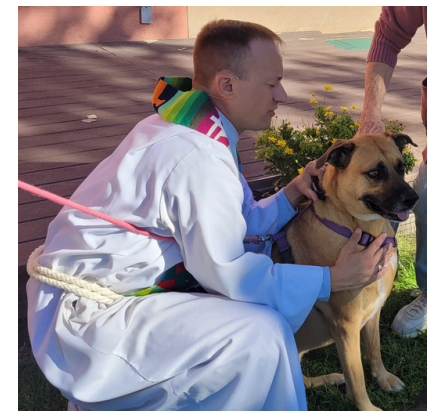

Shindig Music Night













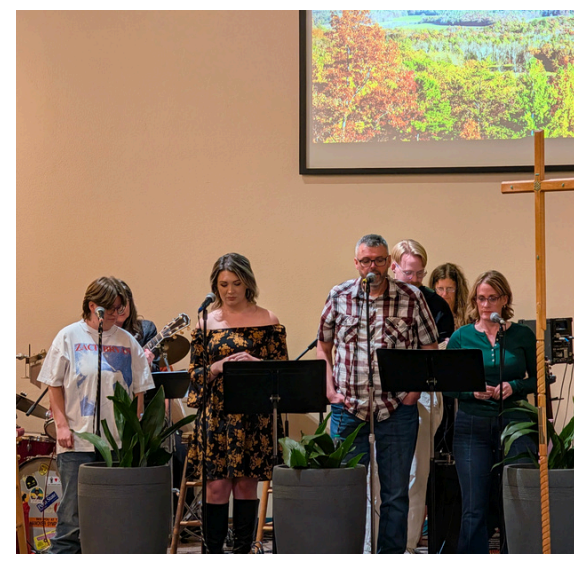



Photos courtesy of 3MorrPhotos



Scent with a Purpose!
Support our
Cross of Hope Youth
with
Mia Bella's Candles

November 15 -Fill your space with incredible scents while helping our youth program (Cash/checks/Venmo/Paypal)



School News



School News



Camp@CrossofHope

Camp@CrossofHope
Meets Wednesday evenings from 5:30 - 7:30pm.
Join us for games, food, Bible study and s'mores around the campfire.

No Camp on November 25, Thanksgiving

thrivent



Valley Consulting Group

7620 Jefferson St NE, Ste 3
Albuquerque, NM 87120-6065
valleyconsultinggroup@thrivent.com

27931C RS:2

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

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

Susan Rivera, Director of School Ministry

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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esdirector@crossofhope.org

School (505) 897-1832

Trisha McClain, Director of Preschool Ministry

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psdirector@crossofhope.org

Preschool (505) 899-0928

Join us for the 2026 Fall Advocacy Conference

An ecumenical gathering of people interested in advocating for justice in public policy.

NOVEMBER 14, 2026

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Locations: Central United Methodist Church- 201 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque and Peace Lutheran Church-1701 Missouri Avenue, Las Cruces. A Zoom option will also be available.

Registration: Will open October 1. Go to our website: https://www.lutheranadvocacynm.org/

Tickets: $25 for in-person attendance (lunch included) and $15 for Zoom attendance.

Presenters: State Legislators and Public Policy Advocates

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – New Mexico
A ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service

3pm Sunday, November 22, 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1100 Indian School Rd NE
Albuquerque, NM

Offering to Benefit
UNM/CNM
Food Pantry via
COMIDA
a ministry of Central United Methodist Church

CROSS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
6104Taylor RanchRoadNW
Albuaqurque, NM 87120

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission Statement
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Rev. Adam Berndt, Pastor
505-897-0047 • office@crossofhope.org
www crossofhope.org

Facebook Page: Cross of Hope Church

Onsite Worship Times:
Sunday - 8:30 am
Fellowship Hour - 9:30 am
Sunday - 10:30 am

November Book Suggestion

By Dee Gutierrez

Twelve Ordinary Men: How the Master Shaped His Disciples for Greatness, and What He Wants to Do with You - John McArther

You don't have to be perfect to do God's work. Look no further than the twelve disciples, whose many weaknesses are forever preserved through the pages of the New Testament. Join bestselling author John MacArthur in ***Twelve Ordinary Men*** as he draws principles from Christ's careful, hands-on training of the original disciples for today's modern disciple, you!

Please Note

The Church and School will be closed Wednesday, 11/11 for Veterans Day.
The School will be closed 11/23 and 11/24 for Parent Conferences.
The Church is open Wednesday, 11/25, the School is closed 11/25.
The Church and School will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 - 27.