



Reaching Out to Grow  
Hope-Filled  
Followers of Jesus!

# Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and Schools

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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Dear Cross of Hope Lutheran Church faithful,

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Friends in Christ, we find ourselves passed two years on our journey together as pastor and people. We've experience together the dynamic community of faith in powerful worship, saying goodbye and blessing some on their way, greeting newcomers and learning from each other's gifts, and growing in life and relationship with God. Through all of the blessings, change and challenges, we rejoice, pray, and give thanks without stopping because God indeed is faithful and God's love endures forever.

Next month the leadership of Cross of Hope will begin a year-long relationship with facilitator and ELCA pastor Mike Ward in Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS). We will join other congregations in our Rocky Mountain Synod in this year of learning and implementing year-round, on-going stewardship ministry as part of a grant from the Lilly Foundation. Together we will engage the ministry and spiritual discipline of stewardship – the prayer, care, and intentional giving of money resources through the ministries of Cross of Hope.

Thank you in advance for faithfully engaging the SAS leadership team this year.

As we prepare to begin this exciting ministry, we do need to faithfully plan for the coming fiscal year (July) as we journey together in mission and ministry. To assist in this planning, we're inviting members of Cross of Hope to engage in prayer, reflection, research and conversation and communicate your intent to give on a pledge card.

If you have done this in the past, be encouraged to consider your ability and call to increase your giving. If you give, but have never communicated your intent to give, I encourage you to do so on a pledge card this year to help leadership most faithfully plan.

If you're new to giving money through the ministries of Cross of Hope (or any community of faith), I invite you to talk to me regarding the spiritual discipline of giving.

Enclosed for your convenience are some tools for reflection and research as you prepare your intent for giving and turn in your pledge card on or before Sunday, April 23, 2017.

Peace,

R. Adam Berndt  
Lead Pastor, Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and Schools

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