

**Reaching Out To Grow  
Hope-Filled  
Followers of Jesus**

**Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and Schools**

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**Annual Report**

May 2017 — May 2018



## **Agenda**

**Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and Schools**

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

***“Reaching out to Grow Hope-Filled Followers of Jesus!”***

**May 20, 2018**

**11:00 a.m.**

### **AGENDA**

**Call to Order  
Opening Prayer  
Approval of Agenda  
Approval of Minutes  
Annual May 2017 minutes  
Treasurer’s Report**

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

Election of Council Leaders

Election of voting members to Synod Assembly  
Adelle Adams and Elisa Mclellan

2018-2019 Budget Conversation, Plan, and Approval

**Closing Prayer**

**Adjournment**



## Church Leadership

### Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and Schools Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes (Unapproved) *“Reaching Out to Grow Hope-Filled Followers of Jesus”*

May 21, 2017  
10:30 a.m.

#### *Reaching out to Grow Hope-Filled Followers of Jesus!*

10:30 a.m.

Call Meeting to Order: 10:55 a.m.

by President Nancy Lacher

Opening Prayer

Pastor Matt Powell

Quorum: 69 persons present

**Approval of Agenda** (noted in May 2016 - May 2017 Annual Report) Amended today to include President Nancy Lacher will give Treasurer’s Report as prepared by Todd Bramley who is out of town. **BJ Owens; Marcella Johnson; Approved by voice vote.**

**Approval of Minutes; Annual May 2016 minutes and April 2, 2017 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes: Rosalie Hipple; Karen Schwartz; Approved**

**Treasurer’s Report** (By Nancy Lacher) Discussion and questions answered. **Sheri Phillips; Carolyn Bye; Approved**

**Old Business: None**

**Lead Pastor Adam Berndt** announced to take this time for stories including Cross of Hope celebrated it’s 35<sup>th</sup> birthday May 16, 2017.

**Music director Richard Hielkema** shared that RTLK South location near Cloudcroft, NM would be serving as Confirmation Camp site this year. He asked that the 2018 National Youth Gathering be put on our Faith Journey TIME-LINE. He stated 30,000 other youth will be celebrating their faith and the experience will enrich congregational ministry as they return asking the question “How can I find God at home like I did at the Gathering?”

**Pastor Matt Powell** shared stories of how an Uber driver from Wednesday service and Un- Binding Our Hearts shared how God showed up by giving him the conversations to ask his riders about God experiences in their lives.

**New Business:**

Thank you to out-going Council Members Bill Hicks, Bill Wooten, Carolyn Bye, Jan Anderson, and Johannah and Brian Ruddy.

Followed by the **Election of New or continuing service Council Leaders:** Nancy Lacher, Todd Bramley, Francine Sedillo, Sam Jones, Bob Rutland, Leann Frazer, and Larry Erickson. **Approved Unanimously by Voice Vote.**

**2017-2018 Budget Approval:** Discussion budget is FLAT; better stewards of the monies is the goal going forward as noted in the example of the updated decreased utility costs from \$8000.00/ month to \$800.00. **David Kovarik; Shirley McCan; Approved.**

**Report from Synodical Assembly “Christ’s Church Better Together” Bishop Gonia**

Pastor Adam, Nancy Lacher and Rich Neely attended.

Pastor Adam requested permission of the congregation to ask the gathered Cross of Hope assembly for volunteers to attend 2018 Synod Assembly to be voted on today. Carolyn Bye volunteered: **Pastor Adam; Karen Schwartz; APPROVED UNAMIOUSLY by voice vote.** There are two representatives needed and Pastor Adam asked for the plan for Council to have permission to appoint the second representative **APPROVED Unanimously by voice vote.**

**Rich Neely** reported the highlight of the event was opening worship with 1,000 folks singing and multiple denominations worshipping together.

Nancy Lacher discussed **God’s Work, Our Hands** theme as the ELCA looks forward to sharing how God shows up.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: by President **Nancy Lacher; Jan Anderson; Approved**

Closing Prayer:

Pastor Matt Powell

Adjournment @ 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jan Anderson, acting Council Secretary

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## R. Adam Berndt, Lead Pastor

### Abounding Together in Hope and Gratitude



Friends, as we mark another year in ministry together in Jesus' name as Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and Schools, we continue abounding in hope and gratitude. Throughout these pages, you will hear of the work God is doing through our church, schools, and partner ministries that proclaim God's hope to the world and share gratitude for the gifts, blessings, and growth opportunities we have been given. As we reflect on our year and the ministry God is doing through us, may we always be mindful of the reason we gather, wash, eat, learn, and grow: to know and share the love of God in Christ.

*Abounding in Hope and Gratitude* centered our 2018 Stewardship Appeal as we learned and grew together in the first cohort of Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS). We participated in this cohort group with other congregations thanks to the generous Lilly Foundation Grant through the Rocky Mountain Synod Initiative: Educate, Equip, Enact (3E). Through SAS we have begun new ways to invite, equip and enable all people to respond to God through faithful giving. We will continue to build our stewardship ministries in the model of Stewardship for all Seasons. We will continue to pray, share, and grow as faithful givers on our journey of faith.

*Reaching Out to Grow Hope-filled Followers of Jesus* continues to be the mission that drives our ministries as Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and Schools. Through our Preschool and Elementary school ministries, we commit to learning and growing together through the formal education process. The Preschool ministry is preparing to bless and send our long time Educational Assistant, Marie Atencio into retirement to be a full time, first time grandmother. We are grateful for her 25 years of faithful ministry and the countless lives God has blessed through her. We have also begun the process of re-accreditation which is an important commitment on the preschool landscape. Your continued prayers for this thorough process are much appreciated.

Pastor Matt Powell, Nate Bruch, and Nancy Lacher shared a year of transitional leadership in our Elementary School Ministry. Together with our faithful and dedicated staff, we learned and grew throughout this Spirit-led year as we shared the journey with our awesome students. As part of this transition, we began a multi-step discernment process of prayer, listening, reflection, conversation and more prayer. That process revealed God's call for a full time Director of Elementary School Ministry to help shepherd us into a new chapter in this ministry as we strive to be the best place to learn and grow in the hope of God. We are grateful for Pastor Matt's leadership and pastoral guidance this year as part-time Director. We are excited for all that God has planned for the future of this ministry!

The blessing of our active, diverse community continues to be an opportunity for growth as we continue to pray, reflect, and strive for best practices in the structure, communication, and telling the story of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and Schools. The Executive Team, Council and Board leaders continue to work hard to lead together as stewards of the ministries of Cross of Hope. I am grateful for their work. As the mission to *Reach out and Grow Hope-filled Followers of Jesus* leads us abounding into a future of hope, please continue in prayer, reflection, and conversation as we seek to faithfully live out God's call in all we do. We are grateful for our volunteer staff who are transitioning to new ministries on their faith journey. We celebrate Brian Hipple who invested faithfully as our webmaster for many years, and Karen Schwartz who served tirelessly as our Director of Finance and Business Operations. They have both been instrumental to the shepherding of this place through times of transition. Thank you for your ministry!

We are beginning a time of transition with the MOPS ministry. We are grateful for, and celebrate the blessings of our partnership with Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) ministry over many years since being a charter group in New Mexico. There are countless stories of how MOPS was an important part of this community of faith. With the blessings of vibrant Pre- and Elementary School ministries we have not had adequate space to host MOPS on site. Through time of discernment, we've mutually agreed to transfer sponsorship of the west side MOPS ministry to Family Church. They are eager to welcome MOPS where they will be able to meet on site with the appropriate space. Our relationship will continue as we still hope and plan to be connected through our preschool ministry, pastors, and service opportunities through Family Promise as we enter this new chapter. Your prayers, volunteer and financial support, and friendship of MOPS are welcome and appreciated as we continue together in new ways.

These are just a few ways that our journey together has been marked this past year as we continue abounding in hope and gratitude. Please find more stories of the journey in the pages that follow and be invited to contact anyone in these pages to share conversation together and to get involved in the ministries of this community of faith.

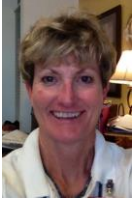
It is a blessing to be on this journey together. Soli Deo Gloria!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Adam Berndt".

R. Adam Berndt, Lead Pastor

## Nancy Lacher, Council President



It's hard to believe another year has flown by. I am awed by the faithfulness of our God as He continues to bless our congregation and our efforts with “*Reaching Out to Grow Hope-filled Followers of Jesus*”. Our Unbinding Your Heart study last year has grown into a Silent Prayer ministry which met with our Council to provide some recommendations for this year. They hope and pray for incorporation of more prayer, fellowship and outreach opportunities for our church.

The three leadership boards (school, pre-school, and council) continue to meet on Tuesday evenings at the All Boards Night. We have been working toward our goal of better communication, integration of resources, and ministry opportunities.

During our work together this year we have held listening posts to help us discern a call for a new leader for our elementary school. We want to thank Pastor Matt Powell for his leadership this past year as an interim Director to help us with this transition. The Council, along with Pastor Matt, worked in conjunction with the Elementary School Board to craft a job description, select a hiring team, and interview several very qualified candidates. At this writing, a candidate has been selected and is moving through the hiring process toward approval. We are very excited by our prospects for working together with our new director.

As you all have heard over the past few weeks, we have implemented and started our stewardship appeal for this year with a goal of increased giving for the next fiscal year. Stewardship for All Seasons is the initiative that has been driving our congregation along this path. As this effort wraps up with our Commitment and Celebration Sundays, we anticipate that God will again provide for His work with our hands. *Abounding in Hope and Gratitude*, our Council will move ahead with budgeting wisely the resources provided to us.

One of the things the Council is considering as part of our effort to be good stewards of God's resources is to streamline our accounts and budgeting processes which would include the church, school, and pre-school. We are looking at some new web-based programs that will assist us as we move ahead to simplify this process. This in addition to increased giving may result in some revisions to the budget once we have final results.

It is indeed a privilege and joy to serve on the Council and as your President. I would like to thank all the members of this Council for their work and leadership this year- Francine Sedillo, Todd Bramley, Sam Jones, Bob Rutland, Leann Frazer, Susan Mann-Biddison, Larry Erickson, Pastor Matt, and Pastor Adam.

In His Service, Nancy Lacher



## Property Manager, Pat Benchik

Written by Margie Reed, Property Assistant



COH should be cared for in a way that demonstrates its sacred nature and purpose. Members share the responsibility to keep the property and grounds clean, orderly and in good working condition.

Key to this is to have a Property Manager who is instrumental in identifying problems and tasks and arranging to get them done in a timely manner. Pat Benchik is that Property Manager (volunteer position) who uses his expertise and experience to assign jobs to different parties (volunteers, handyman and professional contractors) based on who will do the best job for the best price or at no cost.

When Pat took the helm, the task list was huge. Everywhere, both inside and outside, things needed to be cleaned, fixed, upgraded, repaired, replaced, preventative maintenance scheduled, identified and initiated, and more. Work orders kept coming in for such things as roof leaks, downspouts not connected, irrigation leaks, broken toilets and stall latches, doors and locks not closing or working, outdoor school banners and signs blown down, carpets and tiles in classrooms unglued, loose table legs, replacement of Sanctuary dimmer switches, etc.

At first the list was a bit overwhelming but the team started to chip away little by little until things were actually being accomplished.

Considering there are only a couple of regular volunteers to work on and fix things around the Church, several clean-up days were held where additional volunteers stepped up to help with projects. Some of the major accomplishments completed, under budget and on-time are:

- All new light bulbs in the fixtures in the Sanctuary, Great Hall, classrooms, hallways and outside under the front door canopy
- Leaks in the roof fixed and all downspouts secured
- Dead pine trees cut down and dangerous tree limbs removed to prevent injury
- Tree trimming in the parking lot
- Leaves raked, weeds pulled and debris cleaned up around the property
- All windows, fans, vents, chairs, loft and furniture cleaned and polished, carpets shampooed, tile floors cleaned and polished

Pat now has established a dependable network of licensed, bonded and fully insured contractors he can count on to do landscaping, roofing, downspout and gutter repairs, door locks, heating and air conditioning, to name a few.

Currently there are several big projects being bid out for this year. They include:

- fix or replace the wood and chain link fences around the playground to ensure safety and security

- repair the asphalt and curbing in the parking lot
- repaint the red (fire lane) curbing
- repair or replace electrical boxes in parking lot
- clean carpets and strip and wax tile floors

As a member of the Safety Committee Pat inspects all areas of entry, exit points of Church and School and suggests and implements measures to ensure a safe and secure property for members and their children.

Pat reports to Council President Nancy Lacher and the Director of Finance and Operations. Coordinating and communication of work orders and other property-related information is through Linda Willoughby, Church Administrator. Margie Reed, Property Assistant (volunteer position), keeps and updates the weekly Task List, writes articles for COH newsletters, tackles all the smaller tasks and work orders and coordinates clean-up days.

## Church Administrator Annual Report

Dear Congregation,

I work directly with the staff and volunteers at Cross of Hope Church and Schools. Below is a description of some of the things I do to assist in coordinating projects of communication within the church community. (My work hours are 30 hours per week.)

I report directly to R. Adam Berndt, Lead Pastor; he is my supervisor. I also work directly with Pastor Matt, Council President, Nancy Lacher, and Finance and Business Operations.

**Core Church and School Staff:** Pastor Adam; Pastor Matt Powell; Linda Willoughby - Church Administrator; Nancy Morrison - Administrative Assistant; Richard Hielkema – Music and Youth and Family Ministry; Mary Sue Hale – Preschool Director; Pastor Matt – School Director, Erin Sachs – Bookkeeper. We hold weekly staff meetings: beginning with a prayer and praise reports, each staff person shares prayer requests, calendar agenda items and upcoming projection of events.

**Computer backups for the Church and Schools:** Our server is backed up to the Cloud; the service company is called Crash Plan. Kel Orbinati helps out with this, along with the guidance of outside consultant source Stephen Moeny.

**Web Master:** Brian Hipple – Maintains the Cross of Hope.org website. He assigns users such as Core staff, designated volunteers, church, school and preschool staff privilege rights to maintain their section of the website. Office volunteers, Jan Wormwood and Chuck Oelsner assist me (Linda W.) with the church portion.

**Contribution Maintenance:** Office Volunteer Diane Carrico - enters the contributions into the Shepherd's Staff every other week when she volunteers in the office. John Lacher is the Contribution Secretary and he enters pledges, provides reports to the Council and contribution statements to the congregation.

**Fire Sprinklers, Fire Extinguishers and Building Inspections of the Church and Schools:** The church administrator schedules for these inspections to be done in July with Western State Fire Protection.

**Office Volunteers:** Office volunteers answer telephones, assist with inquiries, copy or print material, input data entry, update ministry profiles, fold bulletins, assist with property inventory, distribute mail, and take special assigned projects. Special projects include – updating and printing brochures, taking photos, updating and printing the photo directory, assisting with the setup of packets for various things, and updating bulletin boards. We currently have nine scheduled weekly Office Volunteers – Florence

Begay, Diane Carrico, Mary Hughes, Marcella Johnson, Sylvia Oelsner, Sheri Phillips, Carol Russell, and Jan Wormwood. We could use some volunteer floaters to fill in this position when our regular scheduled volunteers are out of office.

**Reception Desk Volunteers:** Florence Begay, John McWilliam, Bob and Mary Rutland, and Carroll Werling. ***We could use more volunteers to serve in this important position on Thursday a.m. and Friday a.m.*** The reception volunteer greets guests, has the guest(s) sign in the log book and fill out a name badge to wear while inside the building. The visitor is asked who they are meeting with, the coordinating party is then called to come and meet with them. The Reception Volunteer receives deliveries and has it delivered to the designated location. Our Reception Volunteer also helps out with overflow assistance to the Office Volunteer, such as with data entry, printing labels, cleaning up coffee and kitchen from Sunday, taking boxes to the recycle across the street, emptying the large trash containers out to the dumpster (when needed), screening and transferring phone calls, and printing photo directories.

**Electronic Marquee Sign:** The Church Administrator maintains the electronic Marquee Sign. For those who would like to have a message posted, go to the [crossofhope.org](http://crossofhope.org) website and fill out the online Marquee Sign form which will then go directly to the office or get a printed Marquee Request form, fill out the information and take to the office.

**Fire Drills and Lockdown Tests:** Volunteer David Pressel schedules and provides the fire drills and lock down tests with the schools and church quarterly during the school year.

**Rays of Hope Team:** There are five folks on the Rays of Hope Editorial staff. - Design Editor (volunteer position is open), Nancy Morrison, Carol Russell, Forrest Uppendahl and Linda Willoughby (current Design Editor until the position is filled). The team meets once a month to plan for the next month's journal. We discuss and schedule current events, articles, and deadlines. During the month before release we review the layout, edit drafts, target scheduled web posting and printing dates. The Rays of Hope is put on the website and emailed to the congregation and schools with an attached link. Printed copies are mailed to the homebound, additional prints are made for those without email for pickup and for visitors.

At Cross of Hope there are many ministry opportunities. Cross of Hope is a wonderful place to build relationships and to grow in Christ. It is a rich blessing to serve here amongst the many resources people offer.

We are a blessed congregation and have much to be thankful for.

Continuing In His Service,

Linda Willoughby, Church Administrator



# Organization Leadership

## Cross of Hope Preschool

The Cross of Hope Preschool ministry continues to give praise, honor, and glory to the Lord and will continue to pray for His will and guidance.

*“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”*

*Proverbs 22:6*

*Mission Statement: Cross of Hope Preschool teaches children the truths of God in a loving environment through a quality educational program that respects each child’s development.*

### **Achievements 2017-2018:**

- Enrollment of 71 children in our preschool program. Provided financial aid to four families. Full enrollment is 86 children.
- An average of 5 parents per week volunteered in the classrooms.
- Enrolled 10 preschool students into Cross of Hope Kindergarten. To strengthen the connection between the preschool and elementary school, our pre-k students visited our kindergarten.
- Provided mission outreach through enrolling 70 children outside our own church community.
- Continued to address one of the Major Recommendations identified by the ACSI Accrediting team.
  - Curriculum Development - Curriculum consultant met regularly with staff for training
  - Teachers implemented new student assessment and portfolio system
- Maintained membership in the National Evangelical Lutheran Education Association, Association of Christian Schools International, National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the National Child Care and Education Association.
- Maintained all required licenses, including a 5-star license with the State of New Mexico (the highest license available).
- Provided the staff with professional development opportunities and financial support to continue early childhood development education.
- Maintained regular contributions to Cross of Hope annual budget for maintenance of facilities.
- Maintained benevolence to All Faiths Receiving Home.
- Replaced exterior sign and added our colorful logo.
- Increased advertising campaign to include:
  - Advertised in NM Kids Magazine

- Advertised in Albuquerque Mom's Blog
- Joined TRNA and advertised in association's newsletter
- Created a Google listing
- Created a Yelp listing
- Listed in Nextdoor.com
- Created a Facebook page and post regularly
- Advertised on Facebook
- Distributed flyers and brochures to local churches and public elementary schools
- Posted flyers at Taylor Ranch Community Center
- Made a presentation to the COH MOPS charter and gave information to Albuquerque MOPS Coordinator for distribution

**Objectives for 2018-2019:**

- Maintain open lines of communication with the church and elementary school.
- Encourage staff members to continue professional development training opportunities.
- Provide financial aid to qualifying families.
- Paint interior of preschool building.
- Continue to address recommendations contained in the ACSI Accreditation Team Report.
- Finish ACSI accreditation self-study and submit completed report to ACSI in December 2018 for a site visit in spring of 2019
- Continue with advertising campaign including developing a plan for utilizing radio spots
- Achieve full enrollment of 86 children.

Please continue to pray that the Lord's work continues in His preschool.

In His Name,

**Board members:** Pastor Adam Berndt, Rosemary Neely, Susan Case, Geoff Bokan and Mary Sue Hale, Preschool Director.

## Matt Powell, Pastor and Director for Elementary School Ministries (2017-2018 Academic Year)



May 10, 2018

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.*

*Philippians 1:3-4*

It continues to be a joy to serve as one your pastors here at Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and Schools (COH) since September 2013! I serve in a creative arrangement that I hope benefits COH as much as it does me and my family - I work an average of 27 hours per week when Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) are in session and 8 hours per week when APS is on break. I have joyfully agreed to serve in this role for quarter-time compensation while working a bit over quarter-time overall throughout the year. What a joy and blessing this is for me and my family! I am blessed to focus on evangelism, outreach, and leadership development in my call as pastor in this place. Serving in a part-time capacity enables me to be bi-vocational - answering the call to serve as an ELCA pastor in your midst as well as serving in the ministry of family as an active father to our now ten year old, fourth grade son and supportive husband to my wife who is full-time pastor at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (ELCA) here in Albuquerque. Your openness *to* and creativity *in* this arrangement blesses me and my family each day of our lives, thank you!

I help to lead worship at Cross of Hope at least two Sundays per month, while preaching at least one of these Sundays. I also help to give leadership to *Walking in the Way Wednesdays* each week, emceeding the dinner hour, often leading adult Bible study and filling in for other Bible studies and/or pastoral care as needed, helping to lead worship, and preaching about every other week. I lead the pastoral portions of elementary school chapel three Wednesdays per month and preschool chapels about once a month. I share other pastoral duties including member visitation, pastoral care, hospital visitation, and home-centered visitation. One of the great joys I have is to connect with visitors and returning members who re-connect to Christian community through COH. When visitors or returning members show up for worship or other events I have the joy of inviting them out for coffee to hear their story, get to know them, and answer any questions that they have. These are always Holy Spirit conversations!

In addition to my role as pastor, I assumed the role of Director of Elementary School Ministries for the 2017-2018 academic year. This was designed to be a one-year commitment for the purpose of giving the congregation and school a year of visioning and redeveloping the ministry for the future. I spend Tuesdays and Fridays focusing on elementary school ministries with Wednesdays being a shared day with congregational

ministry. I served in this role in a 40% capacity compared to a full time principal/director and will complete my duties as director when this school year ends.

I put together a listening and visioning team in the fall that visited the preschool staff, elementary school staff, the parent's organization of the elementary school, the elementary school board, congregational council, members of the congregation, and the congregational staff to listen to the hopes and dreams of all who are invested in our shared mission and ministry. Thank you to Kathy Bramley, Nick Garcia, Denise Kouri, and Dee Padilla for serving on this team with me!

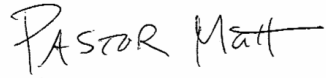
After the first of the year I then formed a team to amend the job description for Director of Elementary School Ministries based upon the feedback we had received over the fall months. We met several times to amend the job description and then passed it along to the elementary school board and congregational council for feedback and approval. Thanks to Pastor Adam Berndt, Lois Casto, Mary Sue Hale, Sharon Halstead, and Nancy Lacher for serving on this team with me! The council passed the updated job description along to the hire team who began their work of searching and interviewing candidates at the beginning of March.

My year as Director of Elementary School Ministries would not have been possible without the work of Nancy Lacher, a retired APS Principal. Nancy volunteered her time this school year to mentor and support me in my role, lead and implement professional development with the teachers and staff, make classroom observations and offer meaningful feedback to teachers, attend and support monthly staff meetings with the elementary staff, lead our annual visioning retreat, and facilitate conversation with a family that had become conflicted with the elementary school, amongst countless other leadership roles. Thanks be to God for Nancy's skill, time, passion, energy, and joy through all of this!! Another person who supported me in my role this year is Jennifer Mercer. Jennifer has an educational consulting business and volunteered her time this year to provide me with administrative coaching. She was helpful as a guide, listener, and as someone who offered helpful feedback. Thanks be to God for Jennifer's wisdom and patient guidance with me!!

I have the honor and privilege to serve alongside Pastor Adam Berndt. Pastor Adam is generous in sharing leadership, skilled at the position of Lead Pastor, and is a joy to work with each and every day. Pastor Adam's humor and passion for ministry are contagious to me 😊. I also have the honor and privilege of working with the skilled and dedicated staff of COH. They not only inspire me in my ministry, but also make it possible for me to serve in a part-time capacity as they administrate so much of what happens in this place. Thank you to each one of the passionate members of the staff, you are a joy to partner in ministry with!

And finally, I have the honor and privilege of serving in your midst, the people of Cross of Hope. Your faithfulness, curiosity with God's word of scripture, joy in sharing your faith in everyday life, love of serving God's people around our city and the world, joy and

humor, diversity, and kindness continue to inspire me each day! Thank you for being one of the many places I encounter God in my daily life.  
Blessed to be on this journey of faith with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Matt". The word "Pastor" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Matt" is written in a smaller, cursive script to its right.

Pastor Matt Powell

Cross of Hope Elementary School Board

R. Adam Berndt, Lead Pastor  
David Kovarik, President  
John McWilliam, Treasurer

Matt Powell, Associate Pastor  
Steve Weiss, Secretary



## **Stewardship Leadership**

### **Finance Business and Operations**

Erin Sachs, Bookkeeper Accounting Assistant (paid employee) – Erin began in Mid-March, 2014 and is serving as primary in weekly accounts receivables, payable and bi-weekly payroll processing. Erin performs these functions for the Church, School, Pre-school and MOPS. She is also responsible for file management and data retention. Erin also reconciles bank accounts and creates the month-end financial reports and distributes them to the boards and council.

Karen Schwartz, Director Finance and Business Operations (volunteer) – about 20 hours a week approving payables, processing journal entries, updating policies and procedures, performing risk assessments and negotiating insurance coverage, managing investments, cash management, signing checks, performing month end processing, updating and maintaining Peachtree system, maintaining employee records, managing insurance policies and agency relations and other miscellaneous financial procedures as needed. Karen also spends about 4 hours a week performing miscellaneous financial analysis including answering questions for the council, attending the executive and council meetings as needed and budgeting.

Hans Zimmer, Assistant Director of Finance – Hans is beginning to work with the Finance Team backing up Erin and Karen. He will have check signing authority and will be able to perform all Sage Accounting functions.

Possible Changes in 2018 - Karen will be leaving her position in early Summer 2018. We are looking for a new outsourced payroll solution and to switch from Sage Accounting, which is very unstable, to either Aplos Church Accounting or Quickbooks. Karen will continue in her roles in Cash and Risk Management and will assist Pastor Adam in HR Management.

Nancy Morrison performs some human resources and finance functions as back-up to the volunteer staff.





## **Stewardship for All Seasons**

### **ABOUNDING IN HOPE AND GRATITUDE**

Last year, Cross of Hope became a recipient of a gift awarded to the Rocky Mountain Synod providing consultation with Gronlund Syther Brunkow, a national church consulting firm, for implementation of its Stewardship for All Seasons program. Cross of Hope and Peace Lutheran in Las Cruces were the two New Mexico ELCA churches selected for this gift. After initial meetings with our consultant Evan Moilan, a team consisting of the following dedicated Cross of Hope members was selected to spearhead the program at Cross of Hope: Jan Wormwood, Hans Zimmer, John Lacher, Ruth Hinkel and Chris Morgan. Pastor Adam provided spiritual support and guidance to our team throughout the year. Prior to our work, each of us read Henri Nouwen's book, "A Spirituality of Fundraising" which provided valuable biblical insight into the task set before us. Church Council made recommendations for our stewardship focus and last fall the congregation participated in a church wide survey. Church Council and our SAS team reviewed the results of the survey with Evan Moilan.

Subsequently, our team decided on a title for the Cross of Hope SAS program, "Abounding in Hope and Gratitude". For six weeks articles from "6 Steps to Joyful Giving" authored by Dr. Robert Gronlund appeared in our Hope-Filled Happenings. The SAS team selected lay and staff speakers for four consecutive Sundays who presented personal talks in support of ongoing and future ministries at Cross of Hope which could be enhanced by increased giving and service. Our speakers were Larry Erickson, Richard Hielkema, Rosalie Hipple and Hans Zimmer.

Chris Morgan developed the text for our brochure, and three bulletin inserts utilized for the weeks of the talks. The goal for increased giving was set at \$65,000.00. John Lacher compiled our financial data on existing and projected giving. Congregational letters were written and mailed, articles were drafted for our church publications, pictures were selected for our brochures which were ultimately inserted in our Hope-Filled Happenings. This was all possible due to the tireless work of our incredible staff: Linda Willoughby, Nancy Morrison and our office volunteers.

After Hans Zimmer spoke on May 6, 2018, commitments were offered at both services. According to John Lacher, the congregation turned in a record number of commitments for the first week of our program. At the time of this report, we have received 87 statements of intent to give totaling \$71,000 of new giving. The Lord has greatly blessed the ministries of Cross of Hope.

Stewardship for All Seasons will continue in the coming year.

Blessings and thanks to all,

Rich Neely



## Ministry Leadership

### Worship Ministry Task Coordinators / Leaders

May 2018

Acolyte Coordinator	Richard Hielkema
Assisting Minister Coordinator	Nancy Morrison
Host Coordinator	Ruth Hinkel
Lector Coordinator	Nancy Morrison
Ushers – Head Usher	Ron Cordova
Altar Guild Leader	<i>Unassigned</i>
Banner Babes Team Leader	Diane Carrico
Flowers for the Sanctuary - Orders & Caregivers Leader	<i>Unassigned</i>
Temple Guard	David Pressel
Coffee - Sunday Morning Coordinator	Elisa McLellan

#### Altar Guild

- Over 20 members have served on Altar Guild this past year. Thank you to all who served as sacristan, baked bread, donated wine & juice, and decorated the Sanctuary.
- We are blessed by the beautiful banners for pillars behind the altar made by Karen Wilson and Diane Carrico of Banner Babes.
- Sacristans for Early Service – Jan Anderson, Debbie Bokan, Ron & Janie Cordova, Lisa Jones, Nancy Lacher and Sheri Phillips
- Sacristans for Late Service – Carolyn Bye, Lisa Shay and Shirley McCan
- Sacristans for Wednesday Evening Service - Kathy Bramley
- Bread Bakers – Lisa Jones, Susan McWilliam, Sheri Phillips, Karen Schwartz, Joy Thornhill, Hans Zimmer, Ruth Franz and Shirley McCan
- Providers of Wine and Juice – Debbie Bokan, John & Susan McWilliam, John Chavez, David & Diane Pressel, and Shirley McCan
- Special Thanks - Nancy Lacher, Sheri Phillips and Debbie Bokan
- We are looking for an Altar Guild Coordinator going forward from June 2018. Please prayerfully consider taking on this role.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley McCan, served as Altar Guild Coordinator for Advent 2014 through April 2018.



## **Music Ministry**

Our Voices of Hope choir, which sings in the 8:30 a.m. service throughout the school year, has had another wonderful season! The strength and balance in the voices has led to many great anthems that have weekly blessed our congregation through scripture and text in song. The strength and passion in the wonderful voices continues to grow with each and every anthem.

We have, in the past year, started an instrumental crew that has added energy and excitement to a handful of our 8:30 worship experiences. We look forward to watching this group of musicians grow and excel in their role of worship leadership.

The praise team has just recently set out a desire to build on our relationships with ourselves, with the church, with those outside of our church and of course always building our relationship with God! We have made a shift in the presentation of our name to now read praise + team. This to us represents that we will “lift up” God in all we do and lift up all those we come in contact with. We will also continue to always do this act of lifting up as a team, together as a strong unit. We have continued to grow this past year with up to as many as thirteen people participating in the worship leadership at one time. We said goodbye to our drummer, Don Lister, after twenty eight years of pouring his heart into our church and our praise team.

As part of Walking in the Way Wednesday worship this year, we grew to include guitar, drums, keyboard, bass and a wonderful talented voices to help meld together worship styles that adhere to the many who worship on Wednesday evenings.

Richard Hielkema

## **Christian Education WOMEN ON WEDNESDAY (WOW)**

September 2017 – May 2018

From October through February, we completed the study, “A Mile in Her Shoes.” Most of us were familiar with the old saying that one cannot truly understand what someone else is experiencing until we’ve walked a mile in that person’s shoes. Through this six-week study, we attempted to do just that by examining the lives of six remarkable women whose stories are told in the Old Testament: Deborah, Abigail, Hannah, Rahab, Hagar, and the unnamed widow with the oil in Second Kings.

Our most recent study, “Daring to Hope in an Unstable World” offered us encouragement and help for navigating the uncertainties and challenges of life. By

examining God's words of instruction to His wayward people through the prophet Jeremiah, we discovered six guidelines for living that can help us overcome fear, worry and doubt as we surrender our wills to God and put our hope in Him alone. We also discovered the book of Jeremiah is just as relevant to our day and culture as it was nearly 2700 years ago. This study encouraged us to yearn to truly worship the Lord and be more intentional about staying close to this God who delights to give us a purposeful future and enduring hope for each day.

In connection with Cross of Hope's mission statement, "Reaching Out to Grow Hope-Filled Followers of Jesus," our ongoing service projects provided help in defraying childcare expenses for the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) ministry and some financial assistance to a family in crisis through donations to the Good Samaritan Fund. Twenty-seven ladies participated this year and average attendance was 18-20. The time devoted to Bible study and prayer is about 2 hours. WOW is an opportunity for all women and meets September through May (usually 10-12 weeks of Bible study) on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. For more information about this exciting gathering of women interacting with God's Word, please contact Sheri Phillips.

## **Caring Ministry and C.O.A.S.T.**

### **Crisis Care Ministry**

Our sincere thank you to the many who shared your culinary arts to support this ministry. In the past year, our volunteers provided food and hosted four Funeral/Memorial Service Receptions.

Our special event receptions included an Elementary School Parent Orientation, Commemoration of 500<sup>th</sup> Year of Reformation along with Rite of Affirmation of Baptism, and a Reception honoring Don Lister for his faithfulness in sharing his time & talents over many years as a drummer with our Praise Team.

We always welcome newcomers to our list of volunteers. If you enjoy cooking and/or baking, assistance with set ups or clean ups, please contact Carolyn Bye at 898-1844 [nanabye@icloud.com](mailto:nanabye@icloud.com) or Linda Molde at 294-8166 [lmolde@comcast.net](mailto:lmolde@comcast.net) .

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carolyn Bye & Linda Molde

## **Family Promise Ministry**

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35*

Because of the dedication of the volunteers of Cross of Hope, the Family Promise program continues to thrive at our church. Cross of Hope hosted/housed Family Promise families four weeks in the past year. Three of those weeks were at Cross of Hope: two consecutive weeks June/July 2017 and one week during Holy Week in March 2018. Cross of Hope assisted the hosting at All Saints Lutheran Church for one week in September 2017.

Cross of Hope has become a model for Family Promise of Albuquerque as far as partnering churches to work together when hosting families. The goal is to continue to recruit new churches to work together so we can serve more families. Since last summer All Saints has received a new partner church, Cottonwood Heights Ward LDS. Cross of Hope welcomes our new partner, our neighbors, Mesa View United Methodist Church. They assisted our church during Holy Week and will be volunteer partners for our two week hosting this summer: July 8 – July 22, 2018. Cross of Hope volunteers will assist Mesa View when they host families at their church during the school year. Several other churches have newly committed to serve as hosting churches in 2018. What a blessing to see the Family Promise program grow!

In the past year, 16 families have graduated into independent housing and sustainable employment! Those families include 21 adults and 29 children who now have a safe place to lay their head at night. That further translates to 29 children who have been given the opportunity to break the cycle of homelessness and become successful adults. That is a huge impact on our community.

There is only one way to complete this report: Thank You. To each and every person who did their part to create a temporary, but welcoming home for our guests, thank you. You fed, donated, drove, visited, laundered, slept overnight, cleaned the van or in some way, took time out of your busy life to serve a family that needed your help. YOUR help. Not the guy down the street, not the lady at that other church. YOU answered the call of our Father to love others. Thank you.

## **COAST Crises Outreach and Support Team**

Cross of Hope has a partnership with COAST (Crises Outreach and Support Team). Cross of Hope gives 50% of incoming (unallocated) Samaritan money to COAST monthly. We have partnered with COAST since September of 2014.

Thank you Cross of Hope Church and Schools for your continuous support to the COAST fund. Since July 1, 2017 through May 14, 2018 you have contributed to the needs of your community with \$175.00 in cash, \$500.00 in gas cards and \$225.00 in Walmart cards to those in dire need as requested by COAST officers.

The COAST program is funded and operates through the City of Albuquerque. The COAST Officers representing the west side of Albuquerque are Officer's Celina Lopez, Denise Thomas-Hovey, and Yvette Garcia.

Submitted by Linda Willoughby



## **Small Groups Ministry**

### **Youth and Families**

This year our MHY and SHY groups have remained as a part of our Walking in the Way, Wednesday program. Last year we participated in the “Amazing Race” with our Rocky Mountain Synod Southern congregations but this year we had the joy of hosting the event, including a lock-in at our church with almost 50 youth from around the state and El Paso. I was touched at the incredible level of service shown by our church family in donations of food, supply and time to make this happen. Because of those gifts, we were able to use much of the registration fee as a donation to our service project partner for that weekend-Family Promise.

This is now the ninth year that W<sup>3</sup> has expanded to include all ages and to allow everyone an opportunity for fellowship, recreation, bible education and a time for worship skill development. We continue to shift things around a bit from year to year but the general schedule for our Walking in the Way Wednesday is at 5:15 a time of recreation and fellowship time, dinner at 5:45 p.m., worship at 6:30 p.m. and Bible Study time from 7 - 8 p.m.

This is the sixth year the RTALC (Rainbow Trail Lutheran Day Camp) at Cross of Hope has shifted into true ministry mode as we have again do not charge a registration fee, but to serve all those who are able to have their children in our church by blessing them with the gift of God’s word via the fun and fellowship of Day Camp! We do continue to seek help with the gifts of time, supplies and food to make it happen, but it always does! We are excited again for the life and love that the RTALC counselors bring to our church and school!

Special Needs VBS is another wonderful service Cross of Hope provides during the summer. As we get nearer to this event, Patty Westerfield will be doing ministry moments to let you all know how you can be involved.

Richard Hielkema

## **Prayer Buddy Ministry**

Cross of Hope's Prayer Buddy Ministry is a continuing support ministry for our confirmation students. As the students enter 6th grade, they are paired with a member of Cross of Hope who volunteers to pray for that student throughout their entire confirmation experience. These faithful (anonymous) folks take time in their regular prayer lives to pray for the confirmation student. At the end of the student's 8th grade year, their prayer buddy is finally revealed to them. In addition to praying for confirmation students, we encourage the prayer buddies to send cards and letters of encouragement to their confirmation students. A big thank you to all of our past, present and future prayer buddies!! Please contact Deney Perkins, 505-321-5549 or [deneyp@osolawfirm.com](mailto:deneyp@osolawfirm.com), for more information.

## **Outreach Ministries**

### **Angel Tree Ministry**

2017 was a very exciting year for the Angel Tree Ministry. We hosted an Angel Tree Party (complete with Santa!), partnered with a Nazarene church in Hobbs to provide gifts in that area, and increased the amount of children we connected with their incarcerated parent from 50 to over 100! An exciting year indeed!! For 2018, our plan is to take what we learned from last year's Angel Tree Party, and improve this year to reach more families. We will also be partnering with another church again this year (whether it will be the same church in Hobbs or a new church entering the Angel Tree family). We are excited to continue to grow this ministry and partner with new churches interested in starting an Angel Tree Ministry in their church. Last year's Hobbs experience was incredible and exciting and we hope to connect more children with their incarcerated parents by connecting more churches with the Angel Tree Ministry. Thank you to everyone who plays any part in this ministry. Every aspect of your participation is crucial to making this ministry a success!!

## ***MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) and MAPS (Moms at Peace)***

The 2017-2018 year's theme is Free Indeed. It was a chance to ask what does it mean to really be free?

*Free from worry.*

*Free from feeling stuck.*

*Free from hustling to be loved.*

*Free from a heaviness you can't put your finger on.*

*Free from thinking you should be someone other than exactly who you are.*

*At the core, maybe what we are all longing for is to be Free Indeed.*

Cross of Hope Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) and Mothers After Preschool (MAPS) ran a combined group that met 19 times with an average attendance of 20 moms this year. We offered a friendly Christ-centered and age appropriate MOPS Kids curriculum to about 25 children from birth to kindergarten and separate activities for the homeschooling MAPS families in our group.

Royce Weil (MOPS) and Miranda Moore (MAPS) continue to be the leaders for this group along with an involved Steering Team that plans our Kids Program, Mom's Nights Out, meal trains, fundraising and meetings. We look forward to the future of this group and continuing to support mothers, children and families.



## **Proposed 2018-2019 Budget for Congregational Meeting**

