

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Psalm 100:2

For many, the summer months offer a time of rest, renewal and preparation. In our northern hemisphere, the warmer weather offers an attractive time to travel, camp, or other routine breaking endeavors. The same is historically true of life as the church. Summer may hold an important time of rest and reflection from ongoing ministry commitments that lead to both a recommitment of our time and energy and a time of change for our time an energy. This can offer an important perspective and balance keeping as well as prevent burn out as simplification allow us all to take a collective breath!

Early in Cross of Hope's young history, I learned recently that the community would move outside for worship because the building did not have air conditioning. What was a necessary function of the community became a beloved tradition for those who look forward to worshipping outdoors. With the hope and intention of worshipping well in the midst of needed rest, renewal and tradition, this year we're going to try something completely new!

Sundays between June 2 and September 1:

8:45am - Creator's Call Worship - new outdoor worship opportunity

This simple worship will entail an emphasis of God as Creator and will meet on the south lawn and beautiful garden. This 30-45 minute worship will be an inspiring blend of a creation environment with trees, birds, grass, and sky; along with worshipping the very God who made these and all other things, including us! BYOC (Bring your own chair!)

10am - Worship - indoor/digital worship opportunity

This full worship will be rooted in our Lutheran way of worship each week, and we will enjoy a diversity of music throughout the summer from our Praise+Team, Voices of Hope Choir, and special music from members. It takes the essentials of our typical patterns of worship through the year and offers a time for us to gather together in worship, fellowship and community in our beautiful Worship Space.

Hebrews will be open at 9:30am for you to grab some coffee and spend time together before worship.

The Sunday Making Faith Connections group will continue to gather at 9am during this time.

Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

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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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Cross of Hope School

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Online Registration for the 2024-2025 year

[Click Here for Registration Details](#)



Pre-Kindergarten Graduates



5th Grade Graduates

School continued on page 10

WE WANT YOUR NEWS ITEMS

Deadline is 10th of the month for the following month's edition. Send E-mail articles to office@crossofhope.org, lbagby@crossofhope.org, or deliver to church office.

Stewardship

Stewardship involves your time, talent and treasure. Contact the church office for assistance in getting started in any of our ministries. Please remember Cross of Hope in preparing your will.

Care Outreach

Transportation

Medical Appointments
 Other Appointments
 Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals

Family Emergency
 Illness

Assistance is available:

- www.crossofhope.org/forms
- [Email: care@crossofhope.org](mailto:care@crossofhope.org)
- In the Great hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



Love • Transform • Serve

Summer Fun and Learning



[Tap to register for Day Camp or to Volunteer.](#)



[Tap to register for Special Needs VBS or to Volunteer.](#)

Special Needs Vacation Bible School
 July 22 – July 26, 2024
 9am – 11:30 am
 Cross of Hope Church
 6104 Taylor Ranch Rd NW, Alb 87120
 Information: 505-250-5186

Summer Schedule continued from page 1

Don't miss these Special Music Sundays:

- June 9 - Jazz**
- June 30 - Bluegrass**
- August 4 Dixieland**

The month of August will include training for all worship leaders and final preparation for a Ministry Fair to kick things off on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday on September 8th! Planning for the next program year is already well under way and that can include YOU! Please be invited and encouraged to talk with me about our worship life or any other aspect of our life together as church.

I look forward to all that God is preparing for us to do in love and service together as we share our journey of life and faith.
 Soli Deo Gloria, Pr. Adam Berndt

Council Corner

by Sherrie Simek, Council Vice President

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3 ESV

Our May meeting began with a meaningful devotion from Margie titled, “The Power of Prayer”. The council prayed that each of you have a great summer.

The school year ended with a fantastic, well attended Family Day. At May’s Council meeting, Susan Rivera, Director of School Ministry, updated enrollment numbers which are steadily increasing: Currently 41 elementary students have completed their enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year (Eight are pending with a verbal ‘yes’ to Susan). Additionally, 31 pre-school students have enrolled for next school year.

We have hired a 1st and 2nd grade teacher and an EA (educational assistant) for pre-school. A kindergarten teacher still needs to be hired. Six substitutes are on the list to provide coverage as needed.

The marketing video for Cross of Hope School has been placed online at the Cross of Hope website and our Facebook page. It has received tremendous feedback. Marketing postcards are ready for mailing within a one mile radius of COH.

We are moving forward with proposals for a much needed shade structure for the elementary school. Currently, there have been two proposals submitted with a possibility of a third to come. The goal is to have a shade structure in place by the time school begins in August. This structure will provide much needed shade for our students and staff. There is potential for more classroom activities utilizing the area covered by shade.

By the time you read this edition of Rays of Hope Newsletter, summer worship schedule will have been implemented. (See page 1).

The Safety Committee gave an update on continued practices. As always, your council members are available for questions and comments. Come find us.

Respectfully submitted
 Sherrie Simek
 Vice President Church Council

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will get together this month on **June 12 at 1pm.**

Olive Garden at 10500 Coors Blvd. Bypass NW

If you plan on going please contact Leon Carrico by phone or email at 505-554-1128, leon.carrico@gmail.com

Property Update

By Margie Reed, Council President and COH Gardener

Two Spirited Women and a Guy with a Chainsaw

Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. It literally translates to “tree” day from the Latin origin of the word *arbor*. It is a holiday that celebrates the planting, upkeep, and preservation of trees.

Hope Gardeners Rudy, Sherrie and Margie missed the Friday in April date but made up for it on May 10 by celebrating the trees on the COH property. However, they did not plant trees – they trimmed them – so I guess we could call that day un-arbor day.

The City of Albuquerque blessed us with a city code violation. It referenced tree limbs blocking the 25 mph sign on Kachina Street as well as limbs blocking the traffic light on Taylor Ranch Road.

I want to say that COH has probably one of the best manicured Church properties in Albuquerque, so we really took a code violation personally.



Quick to help resolve this issue, “Two Spirited Women and a Guy with a Chainsaw” as we now like to call ourselves, arrived at COH on what turned out to be an extremely windy day. Armed with chainsaw, pole saw, clippers, and wheelbarrows, the three set out to get rid of unwanted branches. The first branches were tossed into the dumpster but then we realized we could not put any more in there and probably would get a fine if we did. Hence, the “Two Spirited Women” made probably twenty or so trips up the street and through the parking lot and ‘carefully’ placed the branches next to the dumpster.

The trio worked for almost three hours on the hardest project done -so far. There was not a need for a ladder since Rudy, the “Guy with a Chainsaw”, was able to reach all the branches with a pole saw. What a blessing because we all escaped without major injuries and with just a few scratches. This process really should have been videotaped perhaps for “America’s Funniest Videos”.

We thought we could ask our fearless leader Pat Benchik, Property Manager, if he could take them to the dump in his little red truck. However, I sent him a picture of the piles of branches and limbs and suggested he find someone with a lot of energy, muscles, and a big truck to remove them for us.

Our property truckers, Pat and Rudy came to our rescue each taking two loads of branches in their respective trucks to the dump.



Two Spirited Women continued from page 7

Cross of Hope High School Graduates

Congratulations to three graduates who are excitedly moving into the next chapter of their life. Best wishes and prayers as you start your new adventure.

Rose Abeyta



Rose graduated from eAcademy High School. She will be attending Georgia State University majoring in Public Relations. Ultimately, she wants to be a Locations Manager in the film industry. You wonder how she decided on Georgia State. Rose has family there involved locations management.

Rose has been employed at St. James Tea Room. She moved up from a dishwasher to a server. She has learned to slow down rather than rushing through things. She has applied this to her life – “Be present in the moment.”

Kiersten Hielkema

Kiersten graduated from Home School which she attended for her 11th and 12th grades. Many of her classes were through CNM and were dual credit. She will be attending Western New Mexico University, starting as a sophomore and majoring in Forestry and Wildlife. She hopes to work in a National Park. She received a scholarship, along with the NM Lottery scholarship that will pay for her tuition, fees, books plus \$2000 off her housing costs.

Kiersten was part of the Rio Rancho Youth Chorus. She will explore opportunities to continue singing when she gets to WNM.



Victoria Jahn

Victoria graduated from Explora Academy. She just moved into her own apartment and is working full-time at Scooters Café in Rio Rancho. She does not currently have plans for college but is thinking about attending CNM focusing on Business and Marketing.

Victoria has started her next chapter and is enjoying her apartment that she shares with her two rescue dogs, Cosmo and Rita.

Gratitude for a Special Graduate



Traditionally, May is graduation month. I, along with many of you are celebrating the graduation of someone near and dear to me. No, mine is not a high school senior or college senior, but nonetheless means so much to me and my family. My great nephew, Max, graduated kindergarten from the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on May 22, 2024.

As I reflect on what this means to me, God’s surprising and amazing grace comes to mind. For you see, Max was born with several disabilities, I wondered if he would survive. So this graduation is an accumulation of six and a half years of

Graduate continued on page 9



Heart Strings

Members of COH unable to worship on site.

- Kaley McClain 3
- Patty Westerfield 4
- Sean Moser 4
- Kellie Webb 6
- Rick Alpers 8
- Kelly Moser 9
- Violet Adams 10
- Bill Hicks 11
- Wendy Harrison 11
- Russ Sorensen 13
- Ron Wirths 13
- Jonathan McClain 15
- Gretchen Comfort 18
- Laurie Weiss 20
- Emilio Reynolds 25
- Aubrey Zimmer 25
- Patrice Leddy 26
- Nancy Lacher 27
- Jerry Burton 27
- Tom Ropp 28
- Kate Ropp 28
- Ken Anselmi 30

<p>Edee Bauer 2301 Golf Course Rd SE Apt. 1106 Rio Rancho, NM 87124</p>	<p>Carroll Werling Palmilla Senior Living, 10301 Golf Course Rd NW - Apt. 144 Albuquerque, NM 87114</p>
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	<u>Day</u>	<u>Years Married</u>
Gregory and Nancy Morrison	6	43
Karen and Alan Schwartz	10	57
Pat and Laura Benchik	14	44
Leeon and Diane Carrico	17	63
Jeff and Michele Moser	19	31
Bill and Gem Harris	19	53
John and Nancy Lacher	20	43
William and Lois Casto	25	30
Adam and Laura Berndt	25	14
Philip Wangberg and Pat Holman	28	52



Jasmyn Christina Marie Soto was baptized on May 5. She is the granddaughter of Denise and Anthony Soto.



Wyatt Richard Walsh was baptized May 19. He is the child of Chelsea Purcell, the grandchild of Kathy Smith, and the great grandchild of Marjorie Pool.



The Happy Hope-r

Shannon Reynolds

By Mary Bresnahan



Birthdate: February 19, 1971

Birthplace: Albuquerque, NM

Marriage: July 14, 1989. to Robert

Where: Albuquerque, NM

Children: Sydney and Emilio

Occupation: Retired, Mental Health Therapist and School Counselor

Hobbies: Training a service dog, sports, gardening, fishing, camping, Praise + Team (working in the sound and video booth)

Shannon is the daughter of Flora and Richard Telles. Her dad passed away in August 2016 and is sorely missed. Shannon has one younger sister, Antoinette Telles. Her father was a contractor and retired from the City of Albuquerque after 32 years of service, where he worked as the Assistant Operations Manager at the Biological Park for 25 of those years. Richard will always be a part of Albuquerque’s history as he supervised and built many of the exhibits at the Rio Grande Zoo, Bio Park, the Aquarium, the reconstruction of Tingley Beach, the first ever River of Lights, and the Japanese Garden, which was his last project before he retired. He traveled to Seattle, WA to learn more about Japanese gardens so he could build the one our community enjoys today. If you haven’t seen it, you need to make a visit. It is beautiful and tranquil. The farmhouse (which is now being renovated) was also his handy work along with the train. He certainly left a legacy with his work – in addition to his amazing family.

Both of Shannon’s parents were very involved in her children’s school which was Cross of Hope Elementary. Her dad was instrumental in getting the playground equipment installed and set up. Part of this was easy since they were the children’s caregivers and spent a lot of time helping at Cross of Hope while the children were in school. Shannon’s mom, Flora, worked for the City of Albuquerque in the Department of Purchasing and after she retired from the city, Flora then worked for the admissions department at CNM until Sydney was born. Flora also volunteered at Cross of Hope Elementary School and was the “Grandma” for the 2nd grade class for a short time. Flora also helped serve lunch at Cross of Hope Elementary School for one year among other various activities. Flora is a current member of Cross of Hope and attends the 10:45 am service. Shannon’s sister, Antoinette was a high-ranking civilian for the Albuquerque Police Department. She over saw the records department and compiled all APD’s FBI statistics until she retired.

Since Flora and Richard didn’t have any boys, Richard wanted to be sure the girls could be self-sufficient. Consequently, he taught them how to do home repairs, as well as gave them the joy of fishing and camping, which they have passed on to the next generation. Richard worked with Shannon to build the family’s current house.

Shannon and Robert met while Shannon was in high school. They got married one month after Shannon graduated high school and now have been married for nearly 35 years. They were married for 12 years before they had their first child, Sydney. Shannon is very proud of both her children and says that her and Robert have two high achievers who are wonderful contributing citizens (You’ll read more in a bit about Sydney). Emilio is a Freshmen at the University of New

Shannon continued on page 10

Shannon continued from page 11

Mexico with a bright future ahead of him.

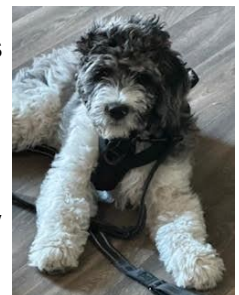
Shannon worked for APS (Albuquerque Public Schools) for ten years as a school counselor and then branched out into clinical counseling where she would go to various schools throughout Albuquerque and Rio Rancho to conduct school based mental health services. Shannon is very proud to say she was the first ever school counselor at Volcano Vista High School and worked very hard being a part of the inaugural staff. She will always be a part of that school’s special history.

Shannon had always been active in sports. She “lived and breathed softball.” In August 2013, she had a life changing injury when she was hit in the back of the head with a softball while playing a game (impacting her autonomic system – this regulates all major bodily systems). After her accident, it was hard to be self-employed, so Shannon went back to APS in 2014 for four and a half years, before on the recommendation of her Mayo medical team, retired on disability.

Shannon has completed a 4-year program in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine. Currently she is studying for her boards. There are four national and one state board. She has passed two national boards and is gradually working on the others. Her injury has caused her to have multiple weekly visits to various doctors to keep her system regulated and functioning properly. Hopefully one day she will open her own practice. She is doing her best with her medical conditions and knows it is a longer road than average to accomplish her goals. In the meantime, she loves to be out in nature which is calming and centering.

Shannon is active with the Praise + Team at Cross of Hope. She volunteers in the sound booth. For her the music is how she prays. It is therapy for her. Additionally, she is working on training a beautiful Bernedoodle (Bernese Mountain Dog and a standard Poodle) to be a service dog (at her medical team’s recommendation). Sanadora, at 17 weeks old, holds the promise of aiding Shannon with mobility once she matures and completes her training successfully. With a blend of luck, patience, and diligent training, there's hope that Sanadora will fulfill this role effectively.

Shannon is very accomplished. She holds a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of New Mexico. In the mid ‘90’s, she worked as a DJ (disk jockey) for a couple of local radio stations. She decided that wasn’t the best way to make a living and so returned to school and earned an M.A. in Mental Health and School Counseling from New Mexico Highlands University. Now she is a D.O.M. (Doctor of Oriental Medicine) candidate as she earned a Master of Acupuncture with a Chinese Herbal Medicine Specialization. Once Shannon is fully licensed in the state of NM, she will be a primary care physician as a DOM. No matter the situation, these are accomplishments to be proud of.



Graduate continued from page 6

challenges, hardship, surgeries. It is a wonder and awe and by God’s grace I find myself filled with joy, hope, and pride. As Max moved his wheel chair on his own to accept his diploma, I was overwhelmed by love for this “brave little man”. The world is open to Max and his future looks bright. Join me in celebrating all the graduates this May. Join me in celebrating God’s amazing grace and love. On to first grade Max!

With love and gratitude, Sherrie Simek



School continued from page 2



From gardening, beekeeping, music, and of course, graduation. Cross of Hope school children are ready for summer!



The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections Group

To provide an opportunity for all people to share Christ's love and authentic community in a small group setting where lives are transformed through growth in faith and service to others.

COH Small Group Ministry

We've begun the time of the Church Year we call 'Ordinary Time.' This largest part of the cycle sits opposite the two main festival seasons of Christmastide and Eastertide (-tide being inclusive of Advent and Lent, respectively, to the anchor day of each season). As the first half of the Church Year focuses on the person and work of Jesus, this second part now explores the implications of Christ for the life of the church. How do we proclaim, bear witness to, and live out God's unconditional love for the sake of the world?

I will continue to produce questions to guide small group reflection each week based on our preaching texts from the lectionary. We will pause a guiding theme for the first part of summer until we get to the bread cycle of readings from John 6 in late July. More information on that in July's Rays of Hope. Please check in with your group facilitator, and those you are connected with in small group, to decide whether or not (or with what frequency) you will meet over the summer.

Connecting in faith,
Pr. Adam Berndt

When you need these services, please think of Rays of Hope sponsors.
We thank them for their continued support in offsetting the costs (by \$10 per month) associated with producing Rays of Hope each month.

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Sherrie Simek- Vice President, Janet Conlon-
Secretary, Bob Arseneau, Linda Ehlers, Tim
Fuller, Greg Morrison, Kristi Valdez, and Ron
Wirths

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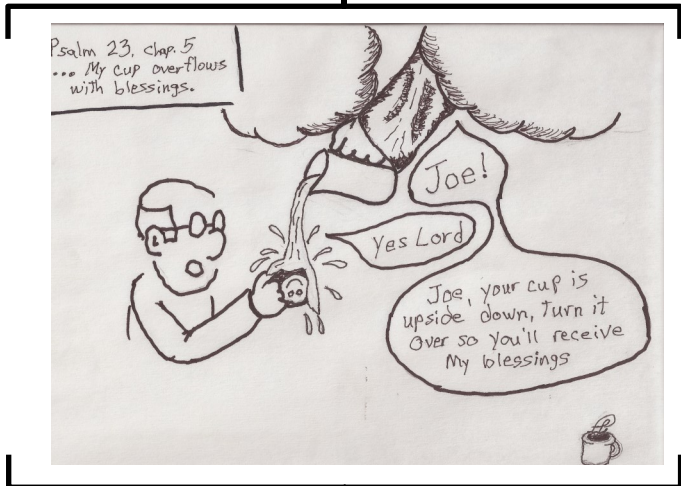
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- In the Great Hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mission Statement

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

 Rev. R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

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www.crossofhope.org

Facebook Page: Cross of Hope Church

Worship Times:

On-Site Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday - 10:45 a.m.
Digital: Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Devotions: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

June Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

Keepers of the Covenant- Lynn Austin

In their darkest hour, would Hope be found? In one life-changing moment, the lives of the exiles in Babylon are thrown into despair when a decree from the king's palace calls for the annihilation of all Jews, man, woman and child.

River of Fire - Sister Helen Prejean

The nation's foremost leader in efforts to abolish the death penalty shares the story of her growth as a spiritual leader, speaks out about the challenges of the Catholic Church, and shows that joy and religion are not mutually exclusive.

Love Must Be Tough - Dr. James Dobson

You've forgiven a thousand times. You've bent over backwards to make your partner feel loved and accepted. But the only reward for your loyalty has been anger, indifference, infidelity, or abuse. Your spouse may even be ready to walk out the door. Do you feel like all is lost? Are you ready to give up? There IS still hope.