



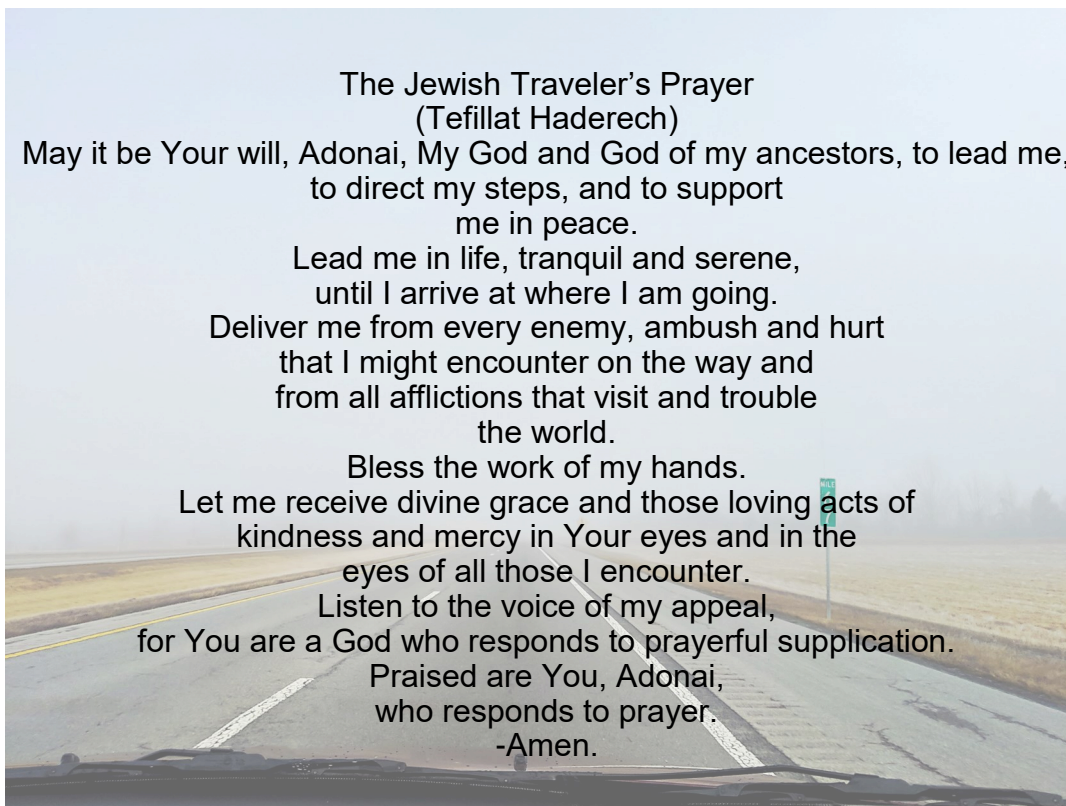
Love • Transform • Serve

# RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

February 2025, Volume 43, Issue 2

Mission Statement

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



Our Making Faith Connections small group ministry is in the middle of an eight-week study offered from the New Mexico Conference of Churches called The Journey Project. Between our reflection together in worship and small groups, we continue to explore our journey of life and faith through stories of journey from the Bible.

Each theme has two journey stories to deepen our reflection on the:

- Journey to Community
- Journey to Reconciliation
- Journey to Peace
- Journey to Generosity

Journey Project continued on page 8

**Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School**  
 6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW  
 Albuquerque, NM 87120  
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 E-mail: [office@crossofhope.org](mailto:office@crossofhope.org)  
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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 10th of the month for the following month's edition. Send E-mail articles to [office@crossofhope.org](mailto:office@crossofhope.org), [lbagby@crossofhope.org](mailto: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.


**Cross of Hope School**

**Cross of Hope School**  
**DESSERT NIGHT**  
**AND**  
**OPEN HOUSE**

Bring a pie, cake or favorite dessert to share for this community event.

**When**  
 Wednesday, Feb. 12th  
 6-7:30PM

**Where**  
 COH Great Hall




**Care Outreach**

**Transportation**

Medical Appointments  
 Other Appointments  
 Necessary Errands



**Emergency Meals**

Family Emergency  
 Illness  
 Death

**Assistance is available:**

- [www.crossofhope.org/forms](http://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**

School continued from page 2

# Cross of Hope School News



Love of God  
Love of Learning  
Love of Others



## Cross of Hope 2025-2026 SCHOOL ADMISSION

REGISTRATION DATES

Re-enrollment for current families begins February 24th  
Enrollment for new families will begin March 3rd

### HIGH QUALITY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Cross of Hope School Offers:

- ✓ 5-Star Accredited Preschool
- ✓ Low Student/Teacher Ratios
- ✓ 100% State Licensed Teachers
- ✓ Research Based Curriculum
- ✓ Onsite Therapy Dog

6104 Taylor Ranch Rd NW, 87120



[crossofhope.org/school-main-page/](http://crossofhope.org/school-main-page/)  
**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**



Call For More Information  
**505-897-1832**



[facebook.com/COHSchool](https://facebook.com/COHSchool)



## Butter Braid Fundraiser!



Sale begins: 2/5/2025

Sale ends: 3/19/2025

Frozen Butter Braids will be delivered on March 12, 2025

This sweet treat is a wonderful addition to any holiday celebration. We will use the funds we raise from the sale of this delicious pastry to continue making improvements to our classrooms.

Forms are available at the Welcome Desk for Church members to sign up.

# Oldies but Goodies!



Preschool and Elementary School Pictures from our one hundredth day of school.

School continued on page 4



# The Roving Hope- r

By Mary Bresnahan

School continued from page 3

It's hard to believe we are in February already. Our students are growing in so many ways. Everyone is working on social skills, especially how to deal with conflicts. Of course I am using some big words here. The question to the students was "How do you make peace with someone." Here are their answers.

## Kindergarten



## Caden

"Saying sorry. Let's be friends." On another note, Cayden said, "I have to tell you something. We are moving to Texas before my birthday (March 31). My aunt and uncle live there."

## First Grade



## Castiel

"We have a table in our classroom, and we go to the table to talk about it. I ask them to please stop. It works and I do that often. I have a little sister, and she is good to me and I am good to her."

## Second Grade



## Evolette

"I make peace with someone by gifting them something they like – like an elf on the shelf for Andrea. They say, 'thank you' and they want to be friends for the rest of the year." Evolette said she likes axolotls. They are in the salamander family and are endangered.

## Third Grade



## Miles

"I might say sorry or check for instructions if you are playing a game. When they say something you don't like first you tell them to stop."

## Fourth Grade



## Jayce

"If you have to make peace with someone first talk, make a solution and then make peace. Sometimes you need to make space; 'don't say that again because it hurts my feelings.' We have a peace path. Agree to a 'practical solution.' That's practically it."

## Fifth Grade



## Jordan

"Making peace: 'Hey, hey stop. We are wasting time fighting instead of having a good time.' If you want to make friends, ask them to hang out."

# Council Article

By Ron Cordova, Council Member

Happy new year from your COH Council members. We look forward to serving you as we move forward in 2025. Our 2024 year closed with a firm foundation that will provide us to serve our faithful followers moving forward. The Council did not meet in December due to the many holiday activities planned at COH where we served our community with the Angle Tree Giving (over 100 individuals served), Los Posadas with 260+ attending the celebration, and the many Christmas services celebrating the birth of Christ. Thank you for all your time talents and contributions that made the Holiday Season a Great success.

We started 2025 with a January COH Council Retreat to review our mission statement purpose and goals. Pastor Adam also introduced The Journey Project (eight- week workshop of faith reflection created by local faith communities here in New Mexico). Reflection and discussion guidebooks are available for your journey and classes will be held during the Epiphany season at COH.

Susan Rivera, COH School Principal, gave an update on the elementary school and we will review the upcoming 2025-2026 school year budget and needs as we move through the month. Susan also discussed the need for more community outreach and marketing for our preschool and elementary school. The Council will discuss these matters at our future meetings.

COH Council members are now available each Sunday for any questions, concerns and ideas you may have for our Cross of Hope Community moving forward. Please feel free to approach your council member to chat.

We look forward to faithfully serving COH and the community and members as we journey through 2025.

## Adult Education Class Offering

### Dreams

Class offered by Pastor Rick Alpers

Dreams can be a direct gift from God. We will explore some Biblical dreams and some dreams that influenced science and history. Pastor Rick will also share some personal stories, and give tips on interpreting your own dreams.

Class will be held February 2 and 9 between services at 9:45am in the Library (west hallway, room 306).



# Special Needs Valentine Party

You are cordially invited

When: 1:00 - 2:30pm  
February 8, 2025

Where: Cross of Hope Great Hall

[Valentine Attendee Registration Link](#)  
[Valentine Party Volunteer Registration Link](#)



## Family Promise Hosting March 9-16, 2025



Stay tuned to Ministry Moments on February 23 for specific details. There will be a sign-up table for hosts, grocery and household needs on February 23 and March 2. Hosting times will be from 5-7 for five evenings, and we will be asking Cross of Hope to prepare hot meals for six days. This is such a rewarding experience.

Please continue to pray for the sale of the San Mateo property to go through so Albuquerque Family Promise is able to have an amenable place for families, volunteers, and staff.

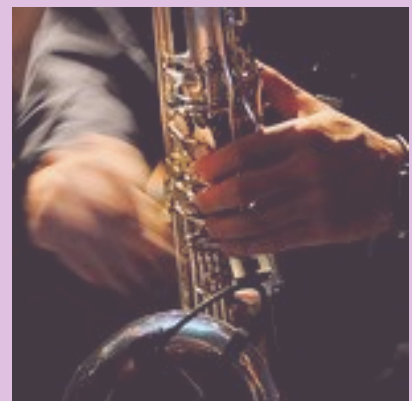
We appreciate your warm and loving support,  
Jan Anderson and Glenna Meneely



## Sweet Jazz Concert

**Save the Date: Sunday, March 2, 2025**  
**4-6 pm**

All benefits will go to Albuquerque Family Promise  
Albuquerque Family Promise also needs gift baskets, gift cards and more for door prizes.  
Jan Anderson will be selling Sweet Jazz tickets by February 9.





# Happy Hope-r Janet Conlon

By: Mary Bresnahan



<b>Birthdate:</b> October 12, 1954	<b>Birthplace:</b> Valley Stream, New York
<b>Married:</b> Wayne on August 7 1976	<b>Where:</b> Trinity Lutheran in Alden Terrace, New
<b>Children:</b> Shawn, Mike and Chris	<b>Granchildren:</b> Chase
<b>Occupation:</b> Registered Nurse	<b>Hobbies:</b> Grandson, logic puzzles, crochet, arts and crafts of any kind

I'm sure you have seen Janet around, especially if you attend the first Sunday service. She has served as the Council secretary for several years.

Janet was the youngest child of Nina and Tom Thorsen. They both immigrated to the U.S. Nina was about 14 or 15 years old and Tom was 16 years old. They met here in the U.S. and settled in Long Island, NY. Nina was a homemaker. Tom was a carpenter and started his own business as a construction contractor – T & G Construction. He built their family home and the entire community it was in. "He was a hard worker. After dinner, he did side jobs." Both Nina and Tom did what was necessary to provide for their family.

Janet's brother, Tom, is 14 years older than she and her sister, Barbara, who is 11 years older. Guess Janet was a bit of a surprise! Tom lives in New Jersey and Barbara lives in Kentucky. Janet had an aunt who lived around the block and Janet was at her house all the time. She was like a second mother. That is a nice added blessing.

Janet went through the Valley Stream school system and upon graduating from high school went on to nursing school at Cochran School of Nursing. Janet met Wayne after graduation. They dated for two years before getting married. Wayne's primary profession was as a Dental Tech. As a side job, he was a videographer making videos of weddings. This kept him busy on weekends. Janet said there was a lot of juggling of schedules.

Janet worked at North Shore University Hospital in pediatric intensive care for several years. She also worked at a satellite hemodialysis center affiliated with Long Island Jewish Hospital for a couple years. Her last 23 years, prior to retiring, were spent as a middle and high school nurse for the Carle Place School District.

Janet and Wayne first lived in Queens for four years and then lived in Westbury, NY for 37 years

Janet continued from page 7

before moving to Albuquerque. As the time to retire was approaching, Janet and Wayne went through the usual debate of “where to go.” They had visited New Mexico often since their sons were all here. This is not a location that was initially on their radar. They finally decided they wanted to be close to the boys and made the move in 2017, with no regrets. Janet and Wayne enjoy being close to the boys and involved in their grandson’s activities. They also love the New Mexico skies and the community. Once they made their decision, they found a lot of people familiar with New Mexico. Amazing how that happens – you go from New Mexico being a well-kept secret to lots of folks having some knowledge of the state.

Their oldest son, Shawn, moved here in 2008. He is still here and is an Operations Manager for the FAA. He is married to Karen and has a son, Chase (who occupies a lot of Janet’s time). Their middle son, Mike, is also in town and works for FedEx as a Dept. of Transportation Ramp Agent. Their youngest son, Chris, is now in Denver working for Costco as an Assistant General Manager.

When living in New York, Janet attended Trinity Lutheran in Hicksville for 36 years. When the time was approaching to move to Albuquerque, Janet began checking out churches by listening to sermons online. She liked Faith Lutheran but realized it was on the other side of town. Cross of Hope was also included in the churches she looked at. When she arrived in town, she came to church and was warmly greeted by Susan McWilliam and Sheri Phillips. Everyone was so friendly and nice.

Janet got involved with the church Council when she was approached by Susan Mann-Biddison. This was during COVID (2021). Susan has since moved out of state. Janet became secretary in July of 2022. She has enjoyed her time and working with a great group of people. Her term will be ending August 2025. Keep this in mind if you want to replace her.

So I don’t forget, Janet has one dog Carlee. She is a black lab they adopted from Socorro, after their previous dog passed away. We all love our pets, and Carlee filled an empty space in their home and hearts.

Journey Project continued from page 1



**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.

The beautiful Reflection and Discussion Guide also includes daily devotions for personal use that have proven to be moving and meaningful to many who are reflecting on their own journey during these weeks of study together. I’ve also found them helpful during our Wednesday morning prayer. It’s never too late to join a small group or grab a Guide and jump in with us as we share the journey in life and faith!

Peace for the journey,

Pr. Adam

To join a small group, email RC at [media@crossofhope.org](mailto:media@crossofhope.org)





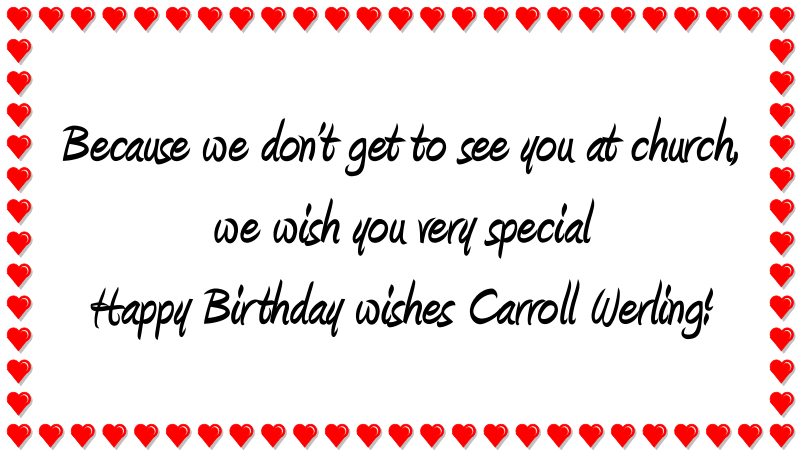
## Heart Strings

**Members of COH unable to worship with us on a regular basis. Please contact and let them know we care.**

Jane Fuller	5
John Valdez	6
Nancy Leon	7
Mike Sakelaris	8
Greta Williams	11
Karen Wilson	15
Carroll Werling	16
Glenna Meneely	18
Lucy Benhem	18
Shannon Reynolds	19
Robert Phillips	21
Rhonda Warner	21
Linda Milks	23
Leof Strand	24
Corbin Bencomo	24
David Albin	25
Morgan Case	27
JanaLee Sponberg	28

### Carroll Werling

Palmilla Senior Living  
10301 Golf Course Rd NW  
Apt 144  
Albuquerque, NM 87114



	<u>Day</u>	<u>Years Married</u>
Bob and Bonnie Arseneau	2	40
David and Lynne Bagby	14	16
Bob and Margie Reed	19	59
Kevin and Deney Perkins	21	16
Bruce and Linda Molde	26	59



# Lunch Bunch



**Olive Garden**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**  
 10500 Coors Blvd Bypass  
 1:00pm

Please call Florence Begay or email her for a head count by February 12.  
 Phone: 505-363-5827, email: [florencebegay2011@gmail.com](mailto:florencebegay2011@gmail.com).

# Banner Babes



The Banner Babes thanks everyone from Cross of Hope who helped or attended our Fall Tea - "Through the Looking Glass". Because of the overwhelming success, Banner Babes was able to donate to the following organizations:

- Cross of Hope School
- Lutheran Disaster Response (to help with those affected by the unfathomable damage from the tornadoes in Florida this past fall)
- Saranam
- Cross of Hope for additional chairs needed for hosting events at the Church.

We are in the process of planning for another great tea next fall!



Our Safety Team at Cross of Hope

**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.**

**thrivent**



Matthew J Klandrud, ChFC®, RICP®, CKA®

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 6565 Americas Pkwy NE, Ste 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110

**Cross of Hope Church and School  
 Congregational Council Team**  
[cohcouncil@crossofhope.org](mailto:cohcouncil@crossofhope.org)

Pastor Adam Berndt, Margie Reed -President, Sherrie Simek –Vice President, Greg Morrison – Treasurer, Janet Conlon - Secretary, Bob Arseneau, Jessica Williams, Ron Wirths, and Ron Cordova.

**thrivent**



Stacey E Marz, FIC, CLTC®

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 2222 S Dobson Rd, Ste 700 Mesa, AZ 85202  
 6565 Americas Pkwy NE, Ste 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110

**Community Outreach News**

Super Bowl SUNDAY

**FOOD DRIVE**

**Sunday, Feb 9th**  
**RIO GRANDE FOOD PROJECT**  
 DROP OFF AT:  
**COH Sunday Service**

Please start collecting non perishable food items to donate. Thanks for helping us continue on our mission to serve others.



**35 years**  
 RIO GRANDE FOOD PROJECT

**Susan Rivera, Director of School Ministry**  
**Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School**




6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW  
 Albuquerque, NM 87120-2639

[esdirector@crossofhope.org](mailto:esdirector@crossofhope.org)  
 School (505) 897-1832

**Courtney Knutilla, Preschool Director**  
**Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School**





6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW  
 Albuquerque, NM 87120-2639

[pssupport@crossofhope.org](mailto:pssupport@crossofhope.org)  
 Preschool (505) 899-0928  
[www.crossofhope.org](http://www.crossofhope.org)

**Cross of Hope Care Outreach**


Transportation  
 Medical Appointments  
 Other Appointments  
 Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals  
 Family Emergency  
 Illness  
 Death

Assistance is available:

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



**CROSS OF HOPE**  
 Church & School  
 Love • Transform • Serve

# CROSS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120

## 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

505-897-0047 • [office@crossofhope.org](mailto:office@crossofhope.org)  
[www.crossofhope.org](http://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.

## February Book Suggestions

by Dee Gutierrez

### **A Voice in the Wind - Francine Rivers**

Ancient Rome is in decline and a slave girl is torn between her love for a handsome aristocrat and her faith in God.

### **Trusting God - Jerry Bridges**

Explore the scope of God's power over nature, nations and the detailed lives of individuals, you'll begin to acknowledge His loving control.

### **The Pursuit of God - A.W. Tozer**

Come near to the Holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God.