

CROSSROADS



DECEMBER
2023



Atonement Lutheran Church

1980 Silver Lake Rd NW, New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-2240

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

5472 Adams Street, Mounds View, MN 55112
763-784-2528

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The "season" is upon us: yes, the cold weather has arrived. And also, the season of "Commercial Christmas" is upon us. In the church, we observe Advent, the season that leads to the twelve days of Christmas that will last from December 25th—January 6th (Christmas Day to Epiphany). However, too often we let the flurry of busyness in this season overwhelm us. I think the past year or so has seen an uptick in the busyness, as we try to make up for the time with loved ones we missed at the height of the pandemic. So, it is here that I must remind you that our faith calls us to slow down—to be present in the moment. That is, our faith does not hinge on us observing all the Christmas celebrations.



Psalm 90:4 reminds us that *"For a thousand years in [God's] sight are like yesterday when it is past or like a watch in the night."* In other words, it is not that God is slow, but that we are too hasty.

If "Jesus is the reason for the season," and Jesus is indeed God, then we too shall strive to focus on God in this season.

Yes, there is much to do: at Crossroads, we have midweek Advent services on Wednesdays at 6:30pm leading up to Christmas. And there are many traditions to choose from at this time of year: decorations, cookies, parties, concerts, and so much more. None of those are bad things--however, if you feel that you are participating because you are "supposed to," remind yourself that your Christian faith does not require you to "get in the holiday spirit." Instead, your faith calls you to look to God. To lean on your community. To serve your siblings in Christ.

For each one of us, the holiday season will look different--and that is a good thing. Instead of striving for the "perfect" Christmas season--look to the perfect One and take a deep breath, knowing that God is indeed with you at this time of year and always.

Alleluia and Amen,
Pastor Cassie



Cross of Glory Council President Update

It's hard to believe that we are already in December. In beginning this article, I found myself reflecting on the past year and am constantly in awe of everything that we have done over the last twelve months together not only as Cross of Glory, but also in partnership with Atonement as part of our Crossroads Parish. To think that it wasn't all that long ago, we gathered to approve the formation of this parish, and it has been wonderful to see both congregations benefit from this partnership. While the phrase "it takes a village" perhaps becomes overused in today's society, there is some legitimate truth to that. Without our various villages, the very much needed work simply would not be possible. THANK YOU to everyone who continues to make our village strong and cared for.

Over the past year, we have been able to make some improvements around the church, with more on the horizon for the next year. Here are only some of the highlights:

- Through a grant partnership with Xcel Energy, all of the fluorescent lights have been replaced with energy-efficient LED lights. This includes the fixture (ballasts) as well as the lights and was done at no cost to the congregation.
- A new water fountain was installed that creates a healthier and safer option for those that use our church facility. If any of you are like me, I especially appreciate having the ability to fill a water bottle as well!
- A testing well that had been part of our parking lot has now been capped and the cement work fixed to restore a smooth surface..
- We had a very successful Jumbo Sale and Fall Festival and used some of the funds raised to replace many of the old heavy tables.
- We have added and continue to add online and credit card options as ways to donate to Cross of Glory.

In the community, we have continued to expand our outreach in some very significant ways. One such event was held during Pride Week and involved handing out flowers to our community at both churches. This was such a great event and was very well received in the community. Thank you to Deacon Brad Mills and his family for heading up this event!

Over the course of the next year, several things are already in the works: updates to our constitution and by-laws to include a much overdue welcoming statement (thank you to the Reconciling In Christ task force for the work on this initiative), solar panels being added to supplement our electrical uses and reduce our overall electrical bill (at no cost to the congregation), purchasing an AED (automated external defibrillator) with training to soon follow, a new website, a new stewardship and generosity program, and additional community outreach opportunities, just to name a few. This is only a partial list, and it is only possible through the strength and dedication of our "village" of volunteers.

One of the biggest pieces this next year is our Reconciling in Christ initiative. I am grateful to our taskforce, which includes members of both churches, for their dedication to this work. The importance of this work cannot be understated. As a church, we should always be a place where EVERYONE feels welcome, where everyone feels safe without having to worry about being judged on who they are, how they look, how they

Continued on next page...

Council Update continued...

identify, or their particular orientation. We are all one body, all children of God. In a world of prejudice and shame, it's our responsibility to love and welcome our neighbor, to be that beacon of light in a world that seems like only darkness.

I THANK YOU on behalf of your church council, for all that you do throughout the year and for being part of the Crossroads Parish family and I wish you a very blessed holiday season for you and your family.

Matthew Verkuilen, Council President
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

Faith and a Pint Monthly Fellowship Group

Join Deacon Brad and others for Faith and a Pint—a monthly Fellowship Group—all are invited!

When: December 29 @ at 6:30pm

Where: Torg Brewery in Spring Lake Park - 8421
University Ave NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

Who: All ages welcome! Blue Sun Soda and other non-alcoholic options served.

What: A social get together with folks from church! Come talk about faith, the world, and your life while sipping a craft brew with your friends.

Cost: Bring a few bucks and check out their tap selection at <https://www.torgbrewery.com/>



ABCD Atonement Book Club Daytime

The **Atonement Book Club Daytime** book discussion group will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Atonement Lutheran Church on **Monday, December 4 at 1:30 pm**. **Please note the time change.** We will discuss ***Oogy*** by Larry Levin. This is a nonfiction book. We will also pick our books for discussion in 2024. People from both Atonement and Cross of Glory are welcome. You can attend all of the discussions or only those that interest you. Please bring a mask and your own beverage.

King's Kids Preschool Fundraiser

Deadline December 3



There's still time to order your gift cards through the King's Kids Preschool (KKP) fundraiser. In order to receive your gift cards by December 17, **the deadline is Sunday, December 3.** Gift cards are the perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for person in your life. Or order cards for yourself to places you always go to anyway. KKP will make a percentage from each gift card purchased.

Order forms are available in the narthex at both churches. Return completed forms with a check to the KKP mailbox at Atonement or to Dawn at Cross of Glory.

The gift cards will be delivered to your church mailbox at Atonement and Dawn will deliver them to you at Cross of Glory.

A full list of companies participating is at www.raiseright.com.

This is King's Kids Preschool's only fundraiser. Thank you for your support!

Parent's Night Out!

Need an evening out to yourself(ves) or need to do a little Christmas shopping without your children? The youth are hosting a childcare night on Saturday, December 16 from 5:00pm—8:30pm at Cross of Glory.

Drop off your children for an evening of games, movies, decorating cookies, making crafts and dinner will even be provided!

There is no charge but free-will donations will be accepted which will be donated to Camp Wapo and Youth Gathering scholarships.

If you have questions or have special food needs, please contact Dani Gow at thetapdance@cs.com.



December Schedule for Sunday School & Youth

December 17—**Youth Group Christmas party**—It's wear your favorite holiday sweater Sunday. We'll begin by taking a group photo in the sanctuary. Please bring a breakfast treat to share.

December 24—No classes for both Sunday School & Youth

December 31—No classes for both Sunday School & Youth



Holiday Activities

Donate Toys for Operation Joy Holiday Toy & Gift Shop

New and unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the following collection sites by

Friday, December 8:

The Mounds View Community Center – 5394 Edgewood Drive

The New Brighton Community Center – 400 10th Street NW

The Winkin' Rooster – 3600 Lexington Ave N #106, Shoreview



Make & Take Christmas Planter Fundraiser & Chili Lunch



Join us at 1pm on Sunday, December 3 at Cross of Glory for some creative fun making Christmas planters/décor. Supplies will be provided that you purchase depending on the size and amount of supplies, and the proceeds go towards Camp Wapo/Youth Gathering scholarships.

There will also be a chili lunch provided. Contact Paula Reed with questions at 612-232-4954.

Santa Parade

The Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View Fire Department's Annual Santa Parade for Mounds View is Tuesday, December 6. The parade begins in Blaine at 6:30pm and will make its way to the Mounds View viewing area at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church. Bring a donation for the food shelf and meet us in the parking lot to watch the parade and Santa go by on the fire truck.

Holiday Sweater Weather

Wear your favorite holiday sweater to church on Sunday, December 17th.

It can be ugly, pretty, colorful—whatever your favorite sweater is.

Let's fill the pews with holiday colors & fun!

We'll take a group photo in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service.





Another Successful Holidale Boutique



Thank you to Virginia Cahow for igniting the flame that culminated into the cozy bonfire that became Atonement's 50th Holidale Boutique on Saturday, November 4th. It is always wonderful to welcome both familiar and new faces into the building. Thank you to everyone who contributed time, goods and prayers.

It was magical to watch potatoes turn into lefse; sugar and dough turn into caramel rolls; fruit turned into jams, jellies, and pies; flour into delicious baked goods; cloth, yarn, glue and thread turned into crafts; water or cream turned into soups; baskets, tubs and wood turned into raffle baskets; and magic turn into LOVE.



MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES – 6:30pm

December 6 – Holden Evening Prayer at Cross of Glory

December 13 – St. Lucia Program at Cross of Glory

December 20 – Blue Christmas at Atonement

CHRISTMAS EVE

9:30am at Cross of Glory; 4:00pm at Atonement

9:00pm – Congregation-led Candles & Carols at Cross of Glory

CHRISTMAS DAY

No worship service – Merry Christmas!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 – NEW YEAR'S EVE MORNING

9:30am at Cross of Glory

Church Offices & Buildings Closed December 24 & 25

Financial Guests

We had several tables at the Fall Festival with guests who provide assistance with a variety of legal and financial issues. If you weren't able to speak with them and would still like to, we are providing their contact information for you to use if needed.

STEVE HALVORSON

Health Planned Consulting Services LLC

Healthplannedconsulting.com

shalvorsen11@gmail.com

Steve Halvorsen is your partner in working through the complexities of Medicare Advantage (Part C), Medicare Supplements and Prescription Drug Coverages (Part D). Steve enjoys educating and answering questions about Medicare and truly believes that a more informed audience will make better decisions about their healthcare options. He has done educational sessions on various health insurance topics across Minnesota and Wisconsin and presents in a manner that informs and yet is also inviting for participants to ask questions.

With more than 30 years as a senior executive in management and sales at two regional insurance companies and a benefit administrator, Steve has worked with large and small employers on their benefits as well as educating individuals on their own personal benefits decisions. Now as the owner of Health Planned Consulting Services LLC, he enjoys working primarily with Medicare individuals and small and mid-sized employers on their benefits decisions. Steve is licensed in Minnesota and Wisconsin and holds designations in both group and individual insurance from America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) as well as their annual Medicare certification.

JANINE M. HEDBACK

Associate Attorney

Hedback Law Firm, PLLC

1257 Gun Club Rd

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

612-436-3288

Janine M. Hedback is passionate about guiding her clients through their complex interactions with the legal field. Her focus is on helping clients have a better future, whether it is conquering financial issues or planning for their family's well-being, a bright future is always the target. Janine studied music in college, and credits that experience with giving her the creative tools to better serve her clients. Janine has worked in law firms since high school, and dealt with a wide variety of individuals. Janine grew in the Twin Cities area and now lives in St. Paul. She loves music, her cat, travel, and spending time with family and friends.

Services Offered:

- Wills
 - Trusts
 - Health Care Directives
 - Powers of Attorney
 - and more!
-

Financial Guests Continued...

GREG L. SCHRAUFNAGEL FIC, RICP

Financial Advisor—Thrivent

Financial guidance focused on your goals and values.

States Licensed: AZ, FL, IA, MN, OH, OR, WI

11990 Aberdeen St. NE #4

Blaine, MN 55449

612-242-4748

As a Financial Representative my goal is to establish an ongoing financial relationship with you to help you reach your financial goals. I specialize in helping people be more secure in areas of: • Retirement income planning • Investment management • Protecting loved ones against the impact of long term care, death, and disability • Charitable giving • College planning My office is centrally located to help service people in the surrounding areas of: Blaine, Fridley, Columbia Heights, Spring Lake Park, Anoka, Coon Rapids, and Ham Lake. Call or stop by my office to learn more or set up an appointment.



**From all of us at Atonement & Cross of Glory,
wishing you a blessed & Christ-filled Christmas**



and a Happy New Year!

Notes & Care

Crossroads Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec 5 Matt Verkuilen

Dec 8 Nancy DeValk

Dec 8 Jim McDonald

Dec 10 Greg Olson

Dec 13 Bruce Jahnke

Dec 15 Matt & Jaime Verkuilen (2001)

Dec 17 Ione Schwendemann

Dec 19 Pastor Paul Hanson

Dec 19 Connie Jones

Dec 22 Rollie King

Dec 25 Pete Fabian

Dec 27 Ray & Grace Lucas (1967)

Dec 28 Royce & Rollie King (1963)



Thanks & Joy—Atonement & Cross of Glory

- ♥ Thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or supported the 2023 Holidale Boutique! Special thank you to Virginia Cahow for her continued leadership.
- ♥ Thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or supported the 2023 Fall Festival! Many, many thanks to Dani Gow & Bea Kaden for resurrecting the Fall Festival and for their leadership.
- ♥ Thank you to Cheryl Lunde for helping with bulletins/funeral bulletins when I was out sick with Covid.
~Dawn Saros-Kirk
- ♥ And thank you everyone for all you do for Atonement and Cross of Glory every day!

In Our Prayers

† Prayers for:

- † Ron & Will; Carol Uecker's sons
- † Tom; Carol Tilden's brother-in-law
- † Betsy Carlson's sister's family
- † Roger Steen
- † Monika Cook
- † Jeanne Oplinger
- † Marilyn Nelson, her brother Pete & their family

† Continued prayers for:

- † Ruby Ryan
- † Leslie Bjork

† Comfort for the grieving:

- † Nancy Husby & family for their loss of Nancy's sister, Jeanne.
- † The Madsen family for their loss of Bruce Madsen.



			Mid-Week, Dec 20, 6:30pm at Atonement; Blue Christmas	
	Sunday, December 3		Sunday, December 24	
	8:30	10:45	9:30am	4:00pm
Worship Assistant	NA	Andrea Weatherly	NA	TBD
Lector	Gretchen Davis	Jim Nelson	Gretchen Davis	Virginia Cahow
Ushers/Acolyte	Melanie Thomalla	Lindsey Fabian	Paula Reed	Carol Hoiby
Greeter	TBD	Janice Schmidt	Linda Radtke	Carol Hoiby
Bread Baker	Shelly Markham	Lynn Miller	Shelly Markham	Lynn Miller
Comm Setup	Linda Radtke	Judy Hill	Jeanne Boyle	Carol Hoiby
Comm Servers	Jaime Verkuilen	Andrea Weatherly	Jaime & Claire Verkuilen	TBD
Counters	Bob Reed, TBD	Bruce Jahnke, Sally Kline	Gretchen Davis, Bob Reed	Gwen Blomseth, Bruce Jahnke/Royce King
Coffee Setup/Clean	TBD	NA		NA
COG Closer	TBD	NA	TBD	NA

Mid-Week, December 6, 6:30pm at Cross of Glory; Holden Eve Prayer

	Sunday, December 10		Sunday, December 31	
	8:30	10:45	9:30 at Cross of Glory	
Worship Assistant	NA	Steve Klaers	NA	
Lector	Jaime Verkuilen	Carreen Houfek	Shari Waddell	
Ushers/Acolyte	Jeff Olson	Lindsey Fabian	Linda Radtke	
Greeter	Linda Thorson	Judy Hill	Annette Steichen	
Bread Baker	Shelly Markham	Lynn Miller	No Communion	
Comm Setup	Jeanne Boyle	Carol Hoiby	No Communion	
Comm Servers	Gwen Lentsch, Linda Radtke	Steve Klaers	No Communion	
Counters	Bob Reed Roger Steen	Gwen Blomseth Sally Kline	COG: Bob Reed, Jason Emerson ALC: Sally Kline, Royce King	
Coffee Setup/Clean		NA	TBD	
COG Closer	Dani Gow	NA	TBD	

Mid-Week, December 13, 6:30pm at Cross of Glory; St. Lucia Program

	Sunday, December 17		Sunday, January 7	
	8:30	10:45	8:30	10:45
Worship Assistant	NA	Scott Carlson	NA	TBD
Lector	Claire Verkuilen	Lorna Schultz	Kolleen Olsen	Steve Klaers
Ushers/Acolyte	Linda Thorson	Bonnie Anderson	Benson/Redding	Judy Hill
Greeter	Paula Reed	Nancy Jahnke	Jeanne Boyle	TBD
Bread Baker	Shelly Markham	Lynn Miller	No Communion	
Comm Setup	Linda Radtke	Judy Hill	No Communion	
Comm Servers	Gretchen Davis, Linda Radtke	Scott Carlson	No Communion	
Counters	Roger Steen, Gretchen Davis	Tony Houfek, Sally Kline	Jason Emerson, Roger Steen	TBD
Coffee Setup/Clean		NA		NA
COG Closer	Marilyn Goldsworthy	NA	Bob Reed	NA

December 2023 - Crossroads Parish

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
8:30am - C-Worship 9:30am - C-Sunday 10:45am - A-Worship 12pm - A-Charitable 12pm - C-Rehearsal St. 12:30pm - A-Faith Comm	8am - A-Men's Bible 1:30pm - A-ABCD 6pm - A-Girl Scouts	6pm - C-Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Santa Parade	10am - C-Prayer Shawls 4pm - C-Worship 6:30pm - C-Advent	10am - C-Funeral 1pm - A-Game Day 5pm - C-Recital	5pm - C-New Birth	9am - A-Mount of 9am - C-New Birth
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A-Prayer Ministers 8:30am - C-Worship 9:30am - C-Sunday 10:45am - A-Worship 12:30pm - A-Faith Comm 4pm - C-Rehearsal St.	8am - A-Men's Bible 1pm - A-Kitchen Kutups 1pm - C-Fellowship Circle 6pm - A-Property		6:30pm - C-St. Lucia	9:30am - A-Mary Circle 10am - C-Naomi Circle 1pm - A-Game Day	5pm - C-New Birth	9am - A-Mount of 9am - C-New Birth
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
						9am - A-Mount of 9am - C-New Birth 5pm - C-Parent's Night
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am - C-Worship 9:30am - C-Sunday 10:45am - A-Worship 12pm - C-Private Event 12:30pm - A-Faith Comm	8am - A-Men's Bible 1pm - A-Kitchen Kutups 6pm - A-Girl Scouts	6pm - C-Girl Scouts	6:30pm - A-Blue 6:30pm - Councils Meet	1pm - A-Game Day	5pm - C-New Birth	9am - A-Mount of 9am - C-New Birth
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve No Sunday School 9:30am - C-Worship 12:30pm - A-Faith Comm 4pm - A-Worship 9pm - C-Candles & Carols	Christmas Day Office Closed	Office Closed		1pm - A-Game Day	5pm - C-New Birth 6:30pm - Faith and a Pint	9am - A-Mount of 9am - C-New Birth
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
New Year's Eve No Sunday School 9:30am - C-Worship 12:30pm - A-Faith Comm						

Contact Us

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Friday

Atonement 8am—Noon

Cross of Glory 1pm—5pm

Due to appointments, things that come up or schedule changes, please call ahead to be sure someone will be at the church.

How to Contact Us:

Pastor Cassie Nault

Cassie@Crossroads55112.org

Cell: 612-910-2697

Atonement: 651-633-2240

Cross of Glory: 763-784-2528

Deacon Brad Mills

Brad@Crossroads55112.org

Cell: 612-242-7250

Atonement: 651-633-2240

Cross of Glory: 763-784-2528

Office Administrator—Dawn Saros-Kirk

Dawn@Crossroads55112.org

Atonement: 651-633-2240

Cross of Glory: 763-784-2528

Minister of Music—Shannon Rosas

Shannon@AtonementNB.org

Cell: 651-387-0662

Like Us on Facebook!

Find us on our websites:

Crossroads55112.org

AtonementNB.org

CrossOfGloryMV.org

You are welcome to contact the church staff at either site, regardless of where you attend worship.



Please submit newsletter articles by the
THIRD MONDAY
of the month.

WE are CROSSROADS



Atonement Lutheran Church

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Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

5472 Adams St, Mounds View, MN 55112

Two churches.

One big community in faith.