

Crown of Glory Lutheran Church

CROWNICLE

Winter 2022

The Light

Making New Advent Memories

Advent is upon us and, as we recall from years past, there is a twinkle in our eyes because we know there is nothing quite like it! Who could forget the flickering of soft candlelight and glistening bulbs on the tree? Who could forget the sparkle of anticipation in the eyes of little children? Who could forget the joy and wonder that builds up inside each of us during this holy season? The memories of Advent from years past bring about a flood of feelings knowing that this year's Advent will be even better than the last.

One of my favorite memories of Advent from my youth has to be the lighting of candles on the Advent wreath. I recall running, almost full speed, up to the front of the Sanctuary to join the other children for the lighting of the Advent candle. Each week, our pastor would pick one lucky student to hold the candle lighter and assist them. I knew it was a special moment. First, the pastor would share a story about the significance of the candle we were lighting that week. Then, the moment of truth happened, the pastor would pick one lucky kid. It was always a little bit of a conniption as each of the kids would push their way to the front, in hopes that they would be picked. I just sort of hung back because I did not like the crowded feeling it gave me. To my surprise, one special week, the pastor chose me. What a memory!

This Advent, we not only want to recall old memories, but we hope to make new memories through our worship, ministries, and celebrations this coming holy season. First, we hope that you would join us for a month-long worship sleigh ride through Advent beginning the weekend of November 26 and 27 as we open our Advent theme of *The Light Shines in the Darkness*.

Traditionally, Advent is the season of light, where we anticipate the joy of the light of Christ being lit in our lives once more! Therefore, this Advent, we will focus our thoughts and hearts on how God's light shines through every aspect of our lives. For week-by-week themes, check out our Advent schedule below, and do not miss out on making new memories together.

Advent 2022 at Crown of Glory: *The Light Shines in the Darkness*

Advent 1 - November 26 and 27: Watching for the Light

Advent 2 - December 3 and 4: Seeking the Light

Advent 3 - December 10 and 11: Waiting for the Light

Advent 4 - December 17 and 18: Rejoicing in the Light*

*Join us for a special Advent 4 celebration on Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. as we celebrate with music from this holy season as our choir presents our Cantata.

In Christ,

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.”
Isaiah 9:2*

Siblings in Christ,

Can you believe that the Advent and Christmas seasons are almost upon us? Time has moved so quickly over the last few months, due in part to all that has been taking place at Crown of Glory. It has been so invigorating to experience the “buzz” of energy on Wednesday nights during dinner, programming, and rehearsals, and be overwhelmed with the joyful enthusiasm of our worshipping communities on Saturday and Sunday each week.

As you have read from Pastor Reggie’s article, we are focusing on the theme of “light” in our Advent season this year. More specifically, the Light that shines in the darkness...and if you are familiar with Marty Haugen’s *Holden Evening Prayer*, you know how that phrase ends. However, we are choosing to leave it unfinished for Advent because the theme continues into the season of Christmas.

While we watch for, seek, wait for, and rejoice in the Light during Advent, we will find ourselves gathered at one of our three Christmas Eve services on Saturday, December 24 (2:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m.) to celebrate the coming of God’s Light in the form of Jesus Christ. One of the scripture lessons that will be read on Christmas Eve will be from Isaiah, chapter 9, the second verse of which I quoted above.

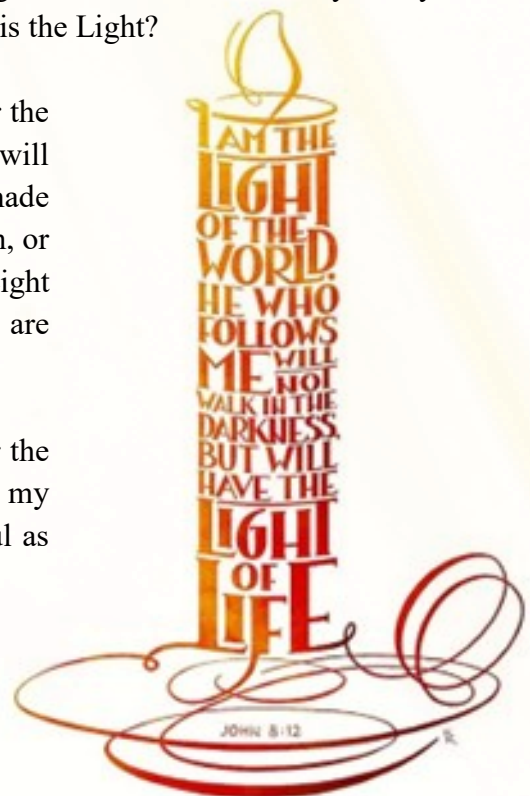
We are people who have walked and often continue to walk in deep darkness. The world as it exists right now is reeling from a variety of disasters to divisive politics and contentious battles, to a lingering pandemic virus and a resurgence of other viral diseases. Life right now can be immensely heavy and the shadows that surround us might sometimes feel too thick. Where is the Light?

In Advent, we will focus on the tumultuous reality of waiting for the Light in a world so often void of light. On Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the promise, proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah, and made alive in the person of Jesus Christ, that God does not let death, sin, or the shadowy darkness of this world have the final word. God’s Light shines through it all and we, those who walk in the darkness, are never without hope because the Light of Christ is everlasting.

I hope you will join us for the season of Advent waiting and for the celebration of welcoming the Light on Christmas Eve. It is my prayer that each of us will discover something new and beautiful as we learn, grow, and journey together.

Watching for the Light,

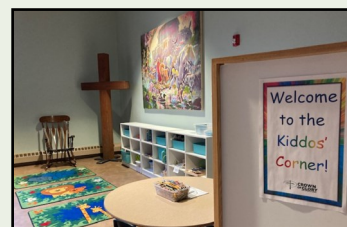
Pastor Laura Laughlin
Pastor of Faith Formation



Kiddos' Corner

The Kiddos' Corner will continue to be sanitized and stocked with toys so that kids of all ages can use the space to get their wiggles out! I will also be supervising the space during worship services.

Feel free to make use of the several activity bags, stocked for multiple ages, located at the south end of the Sanctuary by the main entrance during worship!



SPARK News



What an amazing start to the fall we have had! We had an incredible time during Rally Weekend. We saw some new faces since coming out of the pandemic and I've been told that the energy has started to feel like it did pre-pandemic.

Wednesday dinners are back, and it has been such a joy to share a meal with one another! I have been especially excited to have that time to talk with new people and build relationships within the community.

The kiddos and I have had the unique opportunity to observe several baptisms this year. It has been a joy to witness their entrance into our community of faith up close next to the font.

This past October, I provided childcare for our Fall Social. It was so fun to celebrate with 24 kiddos that night while their parents had some fun for a good cause. We also had our annual Fall Family Fun Night event, and the turnout was great. I loved seeing everyone in their costumes and so many people enjoying fellowship and food together. After such an energetic fall, I truly cannot wait for the Advent season and Christmas activities!

This year, we will support Lutheran World Relief (LWR) by building personal care kits to send to families struck by natural disasters in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. Our build date is Wednesday, December 21. Kits will be dropped off at the LWR Warehouse in Saint Paul the next day. We are collecting bath towels, bars of soap, adult-size toothbrushes individually packaged, sturdy combs, nail clippers, and yarn to go in the kits up until the build date. We are also accepting donations for shipping the kits! It is humbling to be a small part of a larger mission to share the peace of Christ!

We will have our annual "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" celebration on December 17 following our Christmas Narrative Rehearsal. More details to come on this!

Christmas Narrative: "The Holy Family is Here"

I am overjoyed to announce that we will be performing a new Christmas Narrative this year by *SparkHouse* called, "The Holy Family is Here." Please contact me (kysta@crownofglory.org) if you or your Connect/Confirmation-age kid would like to help with the narrative this year!

We will be performing the Christmas Narrative on December 18 at 10:30 a.m. I cannot wait to see you all there!

With Joy and Excitement,

Krysta Flaharty
Director of Children's Ministry



Winter

Connect and Confirmation: Gift Night

We are moving into the Christmas season, a season of giving. Our Connect and Confirmation youth are invited to take part in a tradition that has been upheld at Crown of Glory for the past fifteen years: our Annual Christmas Gift Night! Each year, our youth go shopping at a local department store in search of gifts that will support charities for local families who normally would not be able to afford Christmas gifts. Students are asked to bring five dollars that will be matched by Crown of Glory. Students will use ten dollars to purchase a gift for a child in our community. Connect and Confirmation students can be dropped off at the Target Shopping Center in Chaska where they will be met by their adult small group leaders and shop for the evening! All gifts will be collected, paid for, and offered to the local Toys for Tots. Please see the times listed below for Connect and Confirmation students. Check out the sidebar for other exciting events!

Connect Christmas Gift Night December 7



- Drop Off Time at Target: 6:00 p.m.
 - * Shop for Christmas gifts for local families.
- Pick Up Time at Target: 6:45 p.m.

Confirmation Christmas Gift Night December 7



- Drop Off Time at Target: 7:00 p.m.
 - * Shop for Christmas gifts for local families.
- Pick Up Time at Target: 7:45 p.m.

Youth Ministry

Connect and Confirmation students will partner together and enjoy some outings and service events! Please be sure to save the dates on your calendars and check for special Wednesday evening start times for each event.

- Wednesday, November 30: Confirmation students visit Temple of Ekankar in Chanhassen, MN. Connect students will participate in their regularly scheduled class.
- Wednesday, December 21: Connect and Confirmation students head out to Auburn Manor for an evening of Christmas Caroling!
- Wednesday, December 28: Christmas Break. Connect and Confirmation programming resumes on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.
- Wednesday, January 18: Mark your calendars for our Connect and Confirmation tubing night at Buck Hill in Burnsville!

9th Grade Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism

We celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism for our 9th grade students on Sunday, October 30 at a worship service attended by nearly 300 family and friends. We give thanks for each of these students as they celebrate this great milestone in their life and faith. Our thanks and appreciation to the 9th Grade Confirmation Guides and Leaders: Bridget Boche, Nicole Washburn, Jill Nelson, Lori Robinson and Confirmation Coordinator, Sherri Taylor!



Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

Confirmands

<i>Lillian Colette Boche</i>	<i>Linzy Rose Martinez-Gaytan</i>
<i>Mylie Lynn Brandt</i>	<i>Charles Robert Nelson</i>
<i>Adison Maureen Christensen</i>	<i>Kamryn Jean Remick</i>
<i>Evan Colin Connolly</i>	<i>Nicholas Steven Robinson</i>
<i>Erik Robert Doerfler</i>	<i>Noella Abigail Ross</i>
<i>Haaken Lee Dohse</i>	<i>Caelan Aidan Rupert</i>
<i>Sadie Marie Fossum</i>	<i>Olivia Lou Schaefer</i>
<i>Kathryn Lily Goetze</i>	<i>Joel Allen Skille</i>
<i>Andrew Elmer Kalenze</i>	<i>Noah Paul Smith</i>
<i>Bryn Ann Stanke Krause</i>	<i>Coltan Mitchell Wacker</i>
<i>Brody Leo Lage</i>	<i>Madison Lynn Washburn</i>

Senior High Youth Ministry: Mission Trip 2023

All senior high school youth in grades 8th – 12th are welcome to take our favorite picks survey and help us determine where we will be headed for our summer Mission Trip 2023.

At our last meeting, we discussed four amazing sites, and each of them has a lot to offer us for an incredible Mission Trip experience. Please email Pastor Reggie (pastorreggie@crownofglory.org) your favorite picks, #1 through #4, by December 1.

- Kansas City, MO
- Nashville, TN
- Denver, CO
- Philadelphia, PA

Dates for the mission trip are not yet determined. Once we select a site, we will lock in a date and open our registration!

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor



Winter

Women's Bible Study

Join fellow women of the Word once a month on a Saturday at 9:00 a.m. for coffee and a deep dive into a book of the Bible! All ages of women are welcome to attend. We will be continuing our study of the book of Exodus, which continues to be a rich exploration of call, leadership, and forgiveness. Our second study will be on the book of 1 John, focusing on the comforts and challenges that come with a life of faith. It is never too late to join us! The upcoming session dates are to the side, please contact Pastor Laura with questions and to get signed up! All are welcome.

Practices and Dialogues: A Study for Partners

This educational opportunity is for partners of all shapes and sizes (i.e. any two people who share a close relationship): an adult and their parent, two good friends, romantic partners, siblings, etc. Together we will continue our study of *Animate: Practices*, which focuses on faith practices and how we can grow in our spirituality. We meet on the second Sunday of the month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Crown of Glory. Childcare is provided by Krysta Flaharty, Director of Children's Ministry. The upcoming session dates are to the side, please contact Pastor Laura with questions and to get signed up! All are welcome.

Adult Forum

This educational opportunity will continue to take place from 10:05-10:45 a.m. on Sundays in-between worship services. A wide range of topics will be presented and discussed pertaining to our church life together, faith, and the broader community. Presentations will be by the pastors, ministry team leaders, and outside speakers. Join in the conversation and contact Pastor Laura with questions, or to make topic suggestions! Check out the schedule for December and January.



Adult Education and Ministry



Women's Bible Study

2022-2023 Dates:

December 10

January 14

February 18

March 18

April 22

May 13



PRACTICES AND DIALOGUES: A STUDY FOR PARTNERS

2022 –2023 Dates:

December 11

January 8

February 12

March 12

April 16

May 21



Adult Forum Topics and Speakers

December 4

Advent 101

(Pastor Laura)

December 11

Shopping Smart

(Pastor Laura and Matt & Rachel Scherer)

December 18 & 25: No Forum

January 1: No Forum

January 8

Lutheran Faith Practices: The Lord's Prayer
(Pastor Laura and Tom Paulson)

January 15

Lutheran Faith Practices: Holy Baptism
(Pastor Laura)

January 22

Lutheran Faith Practices: Holy Communion
(Pastor Laura)

January 29

Global Health Ministries
(Pastor Doug Cox)



BECOMING THE LIGHT

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. The Light no darkness can overcome.

About ten years ago, *Downton Abbey* was one of my favorite TV shows. It is a period drama about the adventures of the lauded, titled, and wealthy Crawley family and their many servants living on a grand estate named, appropriately enough, *Downton Abbey*. One of the major ongoing themes throughout the series involves the dowager countess, i.e. grandmother and formidable matriarch, and her struggle to deal with change. Her many unfiltered quips provide comic relief and historical perspective. In one of the earliest episodes, the estate recently had electricity installed. The dowager countess subsequently walks into a brightly lit room, guards her eyes with her fan, and says “I thought I was on stage at the Gaiety!” Intentionally or not, this foreshadows many changes.

Downton Abbey’s use of light as a life-altering metaphor was certainly not a first. The prophet Isaiah said, “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.” The Gospel of John’s first chapter proclaims in verse five, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.” Furthermore, Revelation 22:5 speaks about a better world to come: “And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”

As Minnesotans, we experience this metaphor in a very personal way. We are now entering into the season with the least amount of sunlight. On Sunday, November 6, we set our clocks back an hour to make the best use of the light available to us. By December 21, we will only have about eight hours of sunlight per day. Seasonal Affective Disorder is experienced by people in greater numbers the further north you live in the Northern Hemisphere.

As we enter Advent, look for the light in the hymns and songs we sing. Light is always a powerful metaphor, but focusing on it now emphasizes its power in ways that cannot be done in July. Jesus Christ is our hope in a world darkened not only physically, but spiritually and socially.

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. Christ, be our light! (ELW 715)*

As we celebrate the birth of the Light, (Dec. 24/25 and Jan 1), we will sing:

*While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens, there shown a holy light. Go, tell it on the mountain. (ELW 290)*

Because Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, and the Light has not been overcome, we have reason to hope, to celebrate and be glad, and to not give into despair and discouragement.. Jesus also calls us be the light. As we baptize, we say, “Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works.” That is the emphasis of the season of Epiphany, January 6, through February 19, Transfiguration. So again, look for light in our songs and hymns, but this time look for how each of us can be the light.

*This little light of mine; I’m gonna let it shine. (ELW 677)
Rise, shine you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story. (ELW 665)
Hold out your candle for all to see it; Take your candle, and go light your world. (Chris Rice)*

We open every Saturday evening service with the words quoted at the beginning of this article. As our world gains more daylight starting in mid-December, the reality that darkness does not win is a great reminder for all of us. May we grow in faith more and more each day, and become the light that God created each of us to be.

See you in church,

Tom Paulson
Director of Music and Worship

Winter

Finance Corner

Welcome to winter! The year is ending, Advent is upon us, and our annual stewardship season has begun. This means that it is time to reflect on the church and what it means to our community, to our families, and to us as individuals. Part of that reflection should include a review of what our financial commitments are and how they can help Crown of Glory advance our mission to welcome, serve, and share.

Our financial health took a turn for the better in the month of October. In the Fall Crownicle, we reported that a federal government rebate check of \$29,544 had been received, which helped us to maintain our current staff through the summer and into the fall. At the end of July, we had a \$16,000 shortfall in giving. Unfortunately, August and September's giving numbers were very low. Our cash flow analysis showed us over \$41,000 "in the red" through September 30. In October, we celebrated the financial benefits of the Fall Social, a successful event that generated nearly \$14,000 in additional revenue for Crown of Glory. However, these funds are designated to our "Special Gifts" account to be used for improving our building by adding door access for individuals with disabilities at the North entrance and a hearing assist system in the Sanctuary.

As stated previously, the monthly giving in October increased by over \$8,000 versus the YTD average through September! We received over \$63,500 in contributions and rental revenue, but our expenses also totaled over \$66,000, which still leaves us nearly \$46,000 "in the red" for the year. We are not without hope, though, as these last two months of the year have the potential to make up this deficit and end the year "in the black."

Our staff has been diligent in controlling their expenses, but two areas have hit us hard this year: utility costs (increased over 25% versus 2021) and building maintenance and repair costs (increased over 66% versus 2021). We have still done our very best to hold very close to our budget, paring back expenses where we can to make up for the increases in utilities and maintenance.

During 2022, our cash accounts were substantially depleted. We had over \$111,000 in our reserve/operating income fund at the end of 2021. Today, that reserve fund is just over \$48,000, which means that we have used over \$63,000 of our reserve in the last ten months. Obviously, that is not sustainable.

We need increased giving for the last two months of 2022 to avoid staff and programming cuts in the future. We encourage everyone to join us in a new goal of \$190,000 of member giving in November and December. As a point of comparison, last year's giving total for November and December was \$153,000. If everyone increases their end of year giving by 25%, we can achieve this goal.

This goal is not an easy one, but it is achievable together. Please help us start the new year from a position of financial strength and support the staff and ministries that are so crucial to Crown of Glory and our mission. Thank you for your faithful consideration and participation in this community of faith.

Finance Team

Sara Morrow, Jill Nelson, Ashley Pederson, Lori Robinson, Jodi Sie, and Steve Tinker

SUSTAINING FUND SUMMARY October 31, 2022

YTD Payments: \$629,485

YTD Revenues: \$583,813



2022 Council

President

Grant Taylor

Vice President

Rachel Berg Scherer

Secretary

Jodi Sie

Members

Roger Lee

Mary Leopold

Sarah Morrow

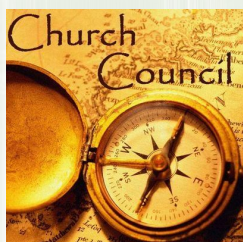
Sandi Rue

Rebecca Varone

Andy Wright

Pastor Reggie

Pastor Laura



My mom is an optimist. She is 91 and nearly blind. She lives in her own home in Watertown, South Dakota with her tiny Yorkie, Cookie. She has a large perennial garden full of flowers. She also has a vegetable garden and when she first moved in, when she was 88, she planted two apple trees. I was so amazed by that. Who plants trees and expects fruit at that age?

Her companion, Harry, is 97. They have been together for four years. He lives two blocks away. Harry goes downstairs to walk on his treadmill in the morning and then heads down for morning coffee (and maybe a date bar or a sugar cookie) with Mom. They go dancing twice a week at the Senior Center. Mom usually bakes something for lunch at intermission. Together, they are the picture of optimism. We could all take a page from their book. Keep dancing, keep planting, keep baking, and keep expecting fruit!

At Crown of Glory, have optimism too. We are spending time together in the church, having coffee, visiting, and getting to know each other better. We are having fun at events like Rally Weekend, the Fall Social, Blessing of the Animals, and so much more. Members are raising their hands to volunteer and lend a hand. Now we need to invite friends and neighbors to join us. Crown of Glory is ready for more. More families, more teens, and more people who would enjoy all that there is going on in this space! It is time to blossom like Mom's apple trees! It is time to expect more fruit!

I am new on the Church Council this year, and I am listening and learning. I am hopeful that we will grow and become a stronger congregation. We are seeing signs of this already. There are baptisms and weddings and children in the Kiddos' Corner! The church is buzzing. Let's keep it going!

Sandi Rue
Council Member



DECEMBER

- Dec. 10 - Women's Bible Study
- Dec. 11 - Women's Advent Tea
- Dec. 11 - Study for Partners: Practices
- Dec. 15 - Men's Pub at Unmapped Brewing
- Dec. 17 - Lefse Bake Day
- Dec. 18 - Lefse Bake Sale, Cantata, and Christmas Narrative (No Adult Forum)
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Worship (No Adult Forum)
- Dec. 26 - Office Closed: Christmas Day Observed
- Dec. 31 - Final day to submit gifts for the 2022 calendar year



FEBRUARY

- Feb. 3,4 & 5 - Good News, Good Brews Men's Retreat
- Feb. 12 - Annual Meeting
- Feb. 12 - Study for Partners: Practices
- Feb. 18 - Women's Bible Study



JANUARY

- Jan. 1 - New Year's Day Worship (No Adult Forum)
- Jan. 2 - Office Closed: New Year's Day Observed
- Jan. 7 & 8 - Baptism Milestone
- Jan. 8 - Study for Partners: Practices
- Jan. 14 - Women's Bible Study



FOR
unto us a

Child

is born, Unto us a

Son is given

And the government shall be

upon His shoulder

And His name shall be called

WONDERFUL

Counsellor

The Mighty God

The Everlasting Father

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

ISAIAH

9:6





NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHASKA MN 55318
PERMIT NO. 52

Crown of Glory Lutheran Church
1141 Cardinal Street
Chaska, MN 55318

Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24

2:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m.

In Person & Livestream

5:00 p.m.

