

Fall Crownicle 2026

Crown of Glory Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation





Staff

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Chancel Choir Director

Servant Song Leader
Grace Becker

Chancel Chimers Director

Sarah Morrow

Organist

Tabitha Hanson



Information



Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Worship Schedule (All Year): Sunday 9:00 a.m.

SPARK Sunday School (Program Year): Sunday 9:55-10:35 a.m.

Crown of Glory Building and Offices Closed

Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day

Thursday, November 26, in observance of Thanksgiving Day

hello
Autumn

September 22, First Day of Fall

November 1, Daylight Saving Time Ends



Your Gifts Support Ministry

Scan the QR code to give.
Include the amount you
would like to contribute and
the fund you are giving to.





**We are one family of God,
inspired by the Holy Spirit to welcome
everyone, to serve our neighbors, and to
share God's love and saving grace.**



Senior Pastor Reggie Klindworth

What's Next!

I pray that you have enjoyed your summer! I hope that your summer days have been filled with warm delightful moments soaking up the sun and enjoying time with friends and family. This summer Crown of Glory has been celebrating as we welcomed Pastor Joe Orner as our new Interim Associate Pastor! His presence and ministry have been a wonderful addition to the Crown of Glory staff. Over the next few weeks and months Pastor Joe will begin working with Crown of Glory as we look forward to this transition time. I'm excited to get started on what's next for us!

I'm looking forward to some great milestones in faith this coming fall at Crown of Glory. Fall is a wonderful season of returning and I welcome you to join our fall kick-off on Rally Weekend on Sunday, September 13. Join us throughout this fall as we kick off our program ministries for children, youth, adults, and families! We are especially excited to get started on another year of education ministries so be sure to check out all the information in this edition of the Crownicle. In addition, don't forget to join us as we celebrate several milestones of faith for youth and adults in the weeks ahead and let the season of milestones begin!

Blessings,

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

2027 Stewardship Appeal: A Giving Spirit

Join us as we journey together through our stewardship season inspired by the theme "A Giving Spirit: The Holy Spirit changes who we are, leads how we live, and shapes our gifts." Mark your calendar for each of these important weekends in November as our stewardship season unfolds.

November 1: Stewardship Step 1: *Changed by the Spirit*

November 8: Stewardship Step 2: *Led by the Spirit*

November 15: Stewardship Step 3: *Shaped by the Spirit*

November 22: Stewardship Step 4: *Give Thanks for the Spirit*

Resources and financial gifts that are given out of faith support our congregation, serve our community, and uplift our mission and ministry. This fall, we invite you to join our stewardship season and become changed, led, and shaped by the Holy Spirit.

At the end of October, each household will receive a 2027 Stewardship Appeal packet by mail detailing this year's theme and goals. Please review the packet and join us during the first four weekends in November for our stewardship season as we explore A Giving Spirit together.



Interim Associate Pastor Joe Orner

What a joy it's been to join in ministry with you all! I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for the wonderfully warm welcome that you've shown me since beginning my role as your Interim Associate Pastor in July.

As we look ahead to the coming months, part of my job is to help fill in the short-term needs of the congregation. Another part is working alongside you so that, together, we can plan, prepare, and build for long-term wellness and sustainability.

Broadly, a good amount of my time will be spent fulfilling general pastoral duties—preaching, leading worship, and working together with Pastor Reggie and the wonderful staff here to help guide and support the church's people, ministries, and surrounding community. I'll also facilitate the work of our Transition Team as we discern how and where God's Spirit might be moving us next.

Additionally, my work will include coordinating with all of the people, teams, and ministries that help to make our worship services happen. That includes volunteers from the altar guild, worship arts team, AV team, worship assistants, communion bread bakers, Sunday hospitality team—and probably more!

If you're interested in serving through one of these extraordinary ministries, please consider how you might share your time and talents with the congregation, and please be sure to check out our ministry fair on Rally Sunday, September 13!

I am grateful to serve alongside you and excited for what God has in store for us and our shared ministry together!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Joe Orner
Interim Associate Pastor



SPARK Sunday School Director Gretchen Mitcham

Our children and youth programming gets pretty quiet over the summer, however we did have a fun-filled week of Vacation Bible school July 27-30. We had 33 kiddos come and participate in worship, Bible study, meals, crafts, and games! Many volunteers gave of their time or money to support this ministry.



Soon we will begin our program year of 2026-2027. SPARK Sunday School is for children ages 3-3rd grade. Age 3 is a guideline: we ask that children attending are independent in their bathroom use, and ready to participate in a group setting. SPARK Sunday School takes place on Sunday mornings after the worship service. Please review the SPARK calendar to see which weeks we are in session (see next page). Registration is open on our website:

<https://www.crownofglory.org/children>

Volunteer: SPARK Leaders, Helpers and Kiddos' Corner

I need your help! Each week for SPARK we need at least 2 volunteers. One is the Leader and one, or more, is(are) the Helper(s). Both the Leader and Helper(s) receive the lesson ahead of time by email. The Leader and Helper(s) are expected to preview the SPARK lesson so that they are prepared to lead. The Leader will do more of the reading and teaching (from a script). All art materials, coloring pages, and any needed items will be prepared and ready in the SPARK office prior to Sunday morning. The Helper(s) is there to assist the Leader. Volunteers for SPARK may choose to lead once or twice a year, monthly, or anywhere in-between. We encourage parents to volunteer, though it's a special gift to parents when others in the congregation volunteer too. It allows for relationships to be built across our congregation and its generations. You can sign up to be a Leader or Helper here. [crownofglory.org/children](https://www.crownofglory.org/children)

Another opportunity to volunteer is in our Kiddos' Corner during worship. This volunteer will oversee the children, making sure they are playing safely, and being relatively quiet. The volunteer will tidy-up the area at the end of the worship service. You can sign up to volunteer here. [crownofglory.org/children](https://www.crownofglory.org/children)

There will be a brief training session for volunteers on Wednesday, September 9, 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Contact me directly if that time does not work. All volunteers will complete a background check, paid for by the church.

Are you interested? Please email gretchen@crownofglory.org and let me know!

Looking forward to fall and a new program year!

Date	SPARK Schedule: Lesson
9/13	Rally Weekend (No SPARK)
9/20	The Vineyard Workers - Matthew 20:1-16
9/27	The Chief Priests - Matthew 21:23-32
10/4	Parable of the Vineyard - Matthew 21:33-46
10/11	The Wedding Banquet - Matthew 22:1-14
10/18	Fall Break (No SPARK)
10/25	The Greatest Commandment - Matthew 22:34-46
11/1	Be Humble - Matthew 23:1-12
11/8	Ten Bridesmaids - Matthew 25:1-13
11/15	Parable of the Talents - Matthew 25:14-30
11/22	Narrative Rehearsal
11/29	Thanksgiving Break (No SPARK)
12/6	Narrative Rehearsal
12/13	Children's Narrative
12/20	Christmas Break (No SPARK)
12/27	Christmas Break (No SPARK)
1/3	Christmas Break (No SPARK)
1/10	Jesus' Baptism - Mark 1:4-11
1/17	God Calls Samuel - 1 Samuel 3:1-20
1/24	Jonah and the Big Fish - Jonah 1-4
1/31	Teaching and Healing - Mark 1:21-28
2/7	The Transfiguration - Mark 9:2-9
2/14	Noah's Ark - Genesis 6-9 - Annual Meeting
2/21	Abraham and Sarah's Visitors - Genesis 18:1-15
2/28	The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:1-17
3/7	The Light of the World - John 3:14-21
3/14	Serve and Follow - John 12:20-33
3/21	Spring Break (No SPARK)
3/28	Easter (No SPARK)
4/4	Doubting Thomas - John 20:19-31
4/11	The Great Commission - Luke 24:36-53
4/18	The Good Shepherd - John 10:11-18
4/25	Philip and the Ethiopian - Acts 8:26-40
5/2	SPARK Celebration

Kids in Worship

Worship Activity Bags

Worship Activity Bags are located, in the North side of the Sanctuary, on the wall in the Kiddos' Corner. Worship Activity Bags can be utilized throughout worship service. Children are welcome to grab one and bring it back to their seat, returning it after service. Most bags include books, coloring sheets, crayons, a clipboard as a hard surface for coloring sheets, fidgets, and a sensory search and find tube. If you notice something is getting low or missing, please leave the activity bag as the church office so it can be restocked, etc.

Kiddos' Corner

The Kiddos' Corner, in the North side of the Sanctuary, is available during worship. Parents, please monitor your children and help to keep this space organized. The same applies to the Kiddos' Corner in the North Sun Hall. Thank you!

Worship Whiteboard!

Looking for a fun way for children to be involved in worship? Located to the left of the Hospitality Station outside the main Sanctuary entrance, the Worship Whiteboard is available to kids of all ages to volunteer to help in worship with things like passing the Offering plates, serving Communion to the Pastors, lighting candles, hand out bulletins, etc. All kids are encouraged to arrive by 8:55 a.m. on Sunday to get signed up. We welcome all children to participate in these worship activities.



Connect and Confirmation Ministries



4th and 5th Grade Connect Ministry

Connect Ministry is our pre-Confirmation ministry for 4th and 5th graders. In Connect, students learn practical ways to apply their faith in their daily life through biblical and historical stories.

Each Wednesday during the program year, students will meet in the church Sanctuary for a large group opening from 6:15-6:30 p.m. After the large group opening Connect students break into small groups from 6:30-7:00 p.m. with their Small Group Leader. At 7:00 p.m. Connect students head back to the sanctuary for their Large Group Session with Pastor Reggie, Connect Ministry Coordinator. Small group sessions will be led by adult small group leaders and will review the highlights of each lesson. Visit our website (crownofglory.org/children) for more information to register!



6th – 8th Grade Confirmation Ministry

Welcome students to Confirmation Ministry! We are excited to start another year of learning and growing in our faith together. Confirmation Ministry is experiential, faith-based, and interactive. Join us this year for a fantastic adventure in faith!

Confirmation begins at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays with a Large Group Opening. The Confirmation Large Group Gathering is from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Pastor Reggie leads a 30-minute lesson on the assigned evening curriculum. At 7:00 p.m. students and adult Small Group Guides break into groups for a deeper discussion on the evening topic until about 7:25 p.m. Students gather in the Sanctuary at 7:25 p.m. for a closing prayer and sending! Confirmation is completed each night at 7:30 p.m. Please note the Confirmation calendar for different start times for off-site special events and service projects. Visit our website (crownofglory.org/middle-school-youth) for more information and to register!

Check Out the New Times

Connect Time Schedule

6:15 p.m. Start Time- Meet in the Sanctuary
6:15-6:30 p.m. Large Group Opening- Sanctuary
6:30-7:00 p.m. Connect Small Group- Designated Classrooms
7:00-7:25 p.m. Connect Large Group- Sanctuary
7:25-7:30 p.m. Closing Prayer- Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. End time on a regularly scheduled Wednesday night.

Confirmation Time Schedule

6:15 p.m. Start Time- Meet in the Sanctuary
6:15-6:30 p.m. Large Group Opening- Sanctuary
6:30-7:00 p.m. Confirmation Large Group- Sanctuary
7:00-7:25 p.m. Confirmation Small Group- Designated Classrooms
7:25-7:30 p.m. Closing Prayer- Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. End time on a regularly scheduled Wednesday night.

Save the following dates for our upcoming Connect and Confirmation Ministries:

Connect Ministry Orientation Night for parents and students is on
Wednesday, September 9, from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Ministry Orientation Night for parents and students is on
Wednesday, September 9, from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Dinner begins Wednesday, September 16, from 5:15-6:15 p.m.
Confirmation students will be assigned to serve dinner throughout the year.

Connect and Confirmation Ministries begin Wednesday, September 16, from 6:15-7:30 p.m.
See the Connect or Confirmation calendar on our website for special service events that happen throughout the year.



Milestones and Youth

Blessing of the Backpacks

Calling all Crown of Glory kids! Remember to bring your school bag or backpack to worship with you on Sunday, September 13. Each child will receive a special tag to tie onto their backpack, along with a blessing to kick off the school and program ministry year.



First Communion Class and Celebration

We are happy to offer our First Communion Instruction Class for youth who wish to start receiving Holy Communion! We especially encourage all 3rd grade students to get signed up for the fall First Communion Instruction Class on Sunday, September 20 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Students will make their own clay communion chalice and receive instruction from Pastor Reggie. Register your child with the following link:

<https://form.123formbuilder.com/3035950/First-Communion-Instruction-Registration>



First Communion will be celebrated during worship on Sunday, October 4 at 9:00 a.m. Please register your child for the class at the church website (crownofglory.org/milestones) and contact Pastor Reggie(pastorreggie@crownofglory.org) with any questions!

Connect Bible Milestone

The 4th Grade Connect Bible Milestone is scheduled for Sunday, September 13 at the 9:00 a.m. worship services. 4th Grade students and their parents will be welcomed forward to receive their Bible during the service. If your 5th grade Connect student does not have a Connect Bible, please contact Pastor Reggie at pastorreggie@crownofglory.org.



9th Grade Affirmation of Baptism

Crown of Glory celebrates the faith of our young people together! This year's class of 9th grade Confirmation students will be affirming their baptism on Sunday, October 25, at a special Affirmation of Baptism service held in the sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. These confirmation students have enjoyed the last three years of learning and growing together in their faith. Each 9th grade student will be working on a Statement of Faith that shares their faith journey through their time in Sunday School, Connect, and Confirmation. Please join us in celebrating the faith of our youth!



Crown of Glory Senior High Ministry "Youth Group"

We are so excited to get started on a brand-new ministry for our senior high youth (9th-12th grade students). Each month there will be a new event or activity planned for students to enjoy! Please see below what's happening this fall!

September 20: Kickoff held in the Sun Hall from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

October 11: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Event offsite Hayride & Pumpkin Carving contest at Degler Farm near Chanhassen.

November 8: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Event TBD; plan for upcoming Lefsa making fundraiser.

December 13: Christmas Celebration from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Holiday Baking Party!





Wednesday Night Dinner

Most Wednesdays: September 16 through April 28

Do you want a night off from making dinner? Join us for a wonderful meal and fellowship on Wednesday nights. Dinner is served almost every Wednesday from 5:15-6:15 p.m. starting September 16, 2026. The cost is \$6 per youth or \$16 per family (cash or Venmo). Crown of Glory Venmo code is available at the dinner line for payment option. Meals are prepared by the Wednesday Night Dinner Team and served by Confirmation small groups.

Wednesday Night Dinner Team: Seeking New Team Members

Our Wednesday Night Dinner is made up of Connect and Confirmation parents and other members of Crown of Glory! They all work together to plan the meals, purchase food, prepare meals each week and oversee each Wednesday night serving time.

We are seeking new members to join this team of amazing leaders. Ashley Peterson is our new Wednesday Night Dinner Coordinator! If you are a parent of Connect or Confirmation students and would like to volunteer to serve on this team, we welcome your participation! Wednesday Night Dinner Team Members do NOT have to serve every Wednesday night; you can serve according to your schedule. Contact Pastor Reggie for more details and information.



Music Ministries



Chancel Choir

Come and sing with a group of passionate, joyful, and dedicated vocalists! Directed by Grace Becker and accompanied by Ginger Larson, all singing abilities are welcome and invited to participate. The Chancel Choir sings in worship twice a month and practices each Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. in the Music Room.

Chancel Chimers

If you have ever been wandering the halls on a Wednesday evening at 6:00 and heard delightful laughter coming from the Music Room, you have witnessed the joy of the Chancel Chimers! Directed by Sarah Morrow (sissybmorrow@gmail.com), this group of musicians plays a variety of pieces throughout the year and welcomes all abilities to join them. They play in worship once a month and practice each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Music Room.

Servant Song

Our Contemporary Worship band is a group of dedicated and talented musicians that love to lead worship and bring some diversity to the music once a month. Led by Servant Song Leader, Grace Becker, the band will practice at 5:00 p.m. every Wednesday in the Sanctuary throughout the entire year. If interested in playing, please contact Grace (grace.becker73@gmail.com).

Crown Brass

This ensemble is comprised of Crown of Glory members and friends of Crown of Glory to bring brilliant brass music to our worship a few times throughout the program year. If you play a brass instrument and would like to join this wonderful ensemble, please contact Ginger Larson (ginger.l.larson@gmail.com).

Rehearsals Begin:

- Servant Song and Chancel Choir, Wednesday, September 9.
- Chancel Chimers, Wednesday, September 23.



Worship Volunteer Opportunities

Altar Guild

This team bakes communion bread, monitors worship supplies, and prepares the altar and communion elements on Sunday mornings.

Interested in being a bread baker?

Contact Steve Clay (stevenhclay@gmail.com) to learn how to get involved.

Worship Arts Team

This is a team of creatives, artists, crafters, planners, and doers. They plan a theme for each worship/liturgical season and decorate the Sanctuary to bring that theme to life.

Contact Pastor Joe Orner, pastorjoe@crownofglory.org.

Worship Assistants

This group of volunteers reads the scripture lesson each Sunday morning and leads the Prayers of the People and the Statement of Faith. All ages are welcome.

Contact Pastor Joe Orner, pastorjoe@crownofglory.org.

AV Team

This group of volunteers helps with everything tech-related on Sunday mornings, including running the worship slides, the sound and the livestream.

Do you like working with tech and like-minded people?

Join the AV Team!

Contact Pastor Joe Orner, pastorjoe@crownofglory.org.



New Member Orientation and Welcome

Are you a newcomer to Crown of Glory? Have you been worshipping with us online or in person? Would you like to make Crown of Glory your church home? We are delighted to share with you in gatherings, ministries, and worship services and invite you to join Crown of Glory as members. If you or someone you know is seeking to make Crown of Glory your home congregation, please contact Pastor Reggie or visit our website (crownofglory.org/join-us) to get signed up for our next New Member Orientation!

New Member Orientation: Sunday, November 8 at 10:30 a.m.

New Member Welcome: Sunday, November 16 during 9:00 a.m. worship



Ministries

Safety, Security & Risk (SSR) Management Team

Over the past several months, a small team has been working to make our church campus safer and more secure. Homeland Security conducted an audit of our facility, and we partnered with Kingswood Security to complete a vulnerability assessment and to help us apply for government funding.

The assessment looked not only at our facility, but also at the surrounding community and some of the broader social issues we face. It identified opportunities to strengthen safety for our members, the school, and everyone who uses our facilities.

One recommendation was to develop clear safety policies and procedures and provide related training for staff and members. There is no cost for this initiative, and we are already working on these policies. This funding is a great opportunity to make important safety and security improvements. We will keep you updated on our progress over the next 6 to 12 months. Stay tuned.

Submitted by Bill Tyler



Seasonal Decor Team

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue...we've all heard the familiar wedding phrase. Did you know that it also closely describes the newly-refreshed sitting nook in the Gathering Space? After almost 10 years of regular use, the previous sofa set was well-worn. The Decor Team knew that the nook provides a much needed spot for visiting, relaxing, and waiting. We worked diligently to find the perfect replacement set, researching, exchanging pictures and ideas, and going shopping together. We were able to find the "new" dark "blue" set at a very reasonable price and used fundraising money from previous Advent Teas to fund the purchase. The coffee table has been refurbished and given new life with a couple of coats of paint. The small round side table is a gracious gift from the rummage sale - thank you to whomever donated it.

Our team enjoys planning and then executing our ideas - especially with the fun and fellowship that come with it. We recently had a potluck-work night to assemble the back to school pencil centerpieces. And, we were asked to help furnish the new Spark Sunday School room. What an exciting project to help with. We enjoy a creative challenge and some awesome team camaraderie. If projects and fellowship like this sound like something you would enjoy, we are always welcoming new team members, and invite you to join!

Thanks for everyone's continued support, and please enjoy the comfort of our updated Gathering Area!

Submitted by Julie Youngman





Justice and Inclusion Team

Ministries

Justice & Inclusion Team

Following each Sunday worship service this summer, the Justice & Inclusion Team led a five-minute Prayer for Peace at the Peace Pole. Together we sang, prayed aloud and in silence, and lifted up prayers especially for Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, and the Middle East. One of the prayers we shared was:

Lord, we pray for world peace in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for countries to find diplomatic solutions that will bring harmony between nations. We pray for wars to end. Give wisdom to world leaders, freeing them from selfish ambition and violence. Replace hatred with love, dispel all darkness, and protect the dignity of every human life. Until the day of lasting peace, let your grace overflow so that all people may live alongside one another in mutual flourishing and safety. Amen.

(Compassion UK)

On April 19, the Justice & Inclusion Team also hosted an in-person Prayer Vigil for Peace. The gathering included music, scripture readings, and prayer, and was attended by 36 people.

Our team also hosted a table at the Chaska Pride Picnic, held at Lions Park on June 27. It was a beautiful afternoon, and we welcomed visitors with suckers, temporary tattoos, and information about our congregation as a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church that welcomes and affirms all people, including those who identify as LGBTQIA+. Sponsored by the City of Chaska, the picnic featured food, tie-dyed T-shirts, games, and opportunities to celebrate and build community.

If you would like to join the J & I Team, please contact Becky Varone at rebecca.varone@gmail.com.

Faithful Knotters

The Faithful Knotters meet in the Bethany Room of Crown of Glory every Monday afternoon from 1:00-4:00 p.m. to work on quilts.

We are now busy making quilts for the fall sale on Confirmation Sunday, October 25.

These are the quilts we donated February-July 2026:

February

- 1 quilt to Pastor Laura
- 11 quilts and 1 baby quilt to the American Indian Family Center
- 16 quilts to His House
- 3 lap quilts to Auburn

April

- 1 quilt purchased for a grandson

May

- 11 quilts to High School Graduates
- 1 quilt sold
- 10 quilts to Child and Adolescent Treatment Center
- 3 lap quilts to Carver Ridge Senior Living

July

- 11 quilts to American Indian Family Center
- 15 quilts to His House

Submitted by Nancy Johnson

Church Council



Pictured from left to right:
Back Row: Deb KIELTY, Krista Hammann, Bill Tyler, Kristi Kirsch (Secretary),
Pastor Reggie Klindworth (Senior Pastor), and Eric Larson (Vice President).
Middle Row: Leah Skille, Sherri Eriksrud (President), and Rich Latterner.
Front Row: Deb Mangen.



Finance Corner

As we move into the fall of 2026, we want to thank our congregation for your continued generosity and faithful support of Crown of Glory. Your gifts make ministry possible every week—from worship and music to children's and youth programs, outreach, building care, and serving our community.

Through the first six months of the year, our financial position remained healthy. While giving naturally varied from month to month, successful fundraising efforts, building rental income, and careful stewardship helped support the ministry and mission of Crown of Glory.

This year has brought many encouraging signs. Our annual rummage sale raised more than \$13,000, and this summer we had additional fundraising opportunities, including volunteering at the Carver County Fair and Minnesota Twins concession stands. These events provided valuable financial support for our ministries while also creating opportunities for fellowship and serving together. Our building was also well utilized throughout the summer through Preschool Place, our Spanish-speaking ministry partners, and summer classroom rentals.

We continued to care for our church home by investing in needed facility maintenance, including HVAC and roof repairs, planning for required fire protection inspections, and pursuing grant opportunities for future security improvements. We remain committed to being responsible stewards of the church's financial resources while supporting the ministries that matter most.

When you see children learning in Sunday School, youth serving in the community, music filling our sanctuary, or neighbors gathering in our building throughout the week, you're seeing the impact of your generosity. Thank you for partnering in the ministry of Crown of Glory. We appreciate your continued support and remain committed to managing the church's finances with transparency and care.

Finance Committee: Lori Robinson, Ashley Pederson, Jodi Sie, Grant Taylor, Reggie Klindworth, Sherri Eriksrud, Eric Larson, and Kristi Kirsch.



Grieving with Hope and the Return to Joy

By: Deb Kielty, Church Council Member

Council Corner

9 years ago, I lost my husband James to cancer. I know I am not unique in this experience, but I also know that how we grieve is a very individual process. I do not claim to have the answers on how to navigate through this process, but as impossible as it seemed at the time, finding joy again is achievable.

In the first several months after Jim's death, I felt overwhelmed and helpless. I felt bitter, extremely sad and sometimes out of control. I felt cheated of life as I thought it would be. I wondered how it was possible to shed so many tears: when hearing a song, the sight of a rainbow, memories accentuated by a picture or video, even a Hallmark commercial could trigger this overwhelming sadness. Sometimes the tears were shared with family and friends... but most were shed in private...to protect myself and those around me.

The innocence of my granddaughters, who were 3 1/2 and 6 1/2 when they lost their "papa", somehow protected them from demonstrating their grief. They did ask questions that may have helped them cope in their own little ways.

"Which cloud is papa in?"

"Where is Heaven?"

"Can papa still see us?"

"Does he still have pain in Heaven?"

"Is he with Cody, Buffy and Bailey?" (Family pets that had passed)

"Can I still talk to him if I want?"

I look at them now and sadness still creeps in as I think that they have already spent so many years without their papa... and have lost most of their memories of him.

"There is no silence louder than the absence of a noise you used to hear everyday"

One of the biggest impacts is that no matter where I went; what I did; who I saw; when I came home it was always the same...silence. I wondered how silence could be so deafening. I had to learn to embrace the silence...listening for his voice, his laugh...to discover that silence could be a friend. In the silence I could dream of the future I had been denied. I could imagine growing old together and celebrating a new wrinkle of a life well spent. I discovered that silence wasn't empty...it was full of answers. I became fluent in silence and found that it became a great source of strength.

Grief is a reflection of love. It is a single emotion with a shifting landscape. Overtime, the sharp edges of loss may soften - not because the loss disappears, but because we slowly learn how to live along side it.

Returning to Joy:

Grief did not ask me to choose between sorrow and joy. Instead, it asked me to carry both. Love does not end with death, it changes form. It lives in a memory, in habits, in the quiet ways you might speak to the person who is gone. Returning to Joy was not a single moment of decision. It happened gradually, almost imperceptibly. It may have begun with a brief laugh or a peaceful morning where the weight felt slightly less. These moments felt fragile at first, even confusing. Yet, they were not signs of forgetting. They were signs of healing. Joy, when it returned, seems quieter than before. It carried a trace of what had been lost. Joy is shaped by an understanding that life is both fragile and meaningful. In allowing joy back in, I did not leave Jim behind. I am carrying the love forward into a life that continues...changed, but still capable of light.

This poem may speak to most of you who have experienced the loss of a spouse or another loved one:

I don't miss you with sadness anymore, I miss you the way the evening misses the sun-not in grief, but in quiet acceptance that it was beautiful while it lasted.

You exist now the way distant stars exist-not close enough to touch, yet somehow still part of my sky. Sometimes your memory arrives without warning, not to reopen anything, but to remind me how deeply a memory can live within a person.

I no longer wish to hold on or let go-because some things don't end, they simply learn how to live quietly within you.

-Akshata

In my journey, I chose to define hope from a confident expectation of what God has promised and the strength of faithfulness. I have found peace, inner strength, happiness, comfort and yes...Joy.

Join Us

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 13

9:00 a.m. Worship

Blessing of the Backpacks

Brunch Fellowship:
Eggbakes and fruit served by the
Church Council

Bingo

Bounce House

Yard Games

Blessing of the Backpacks
during 9:00 a.m. Worship



Sunday,
September 13, 2026

Kick off the school and program ministry
year with a special blessing and a tag to
connect onto your backpack.

Fantasy Football

The league is open to players of all levels of
experience. The draft party will be at Crown of
Glory on Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. If
you would like to join in the fun, contact Grant
Taylor by phone (952)210-7678 or via email
grantataylor@hotmail.com.

Learn about all of Crown of Glory's Ministries at the

MINISTRY FAIR

SEPTEMBER
9-16

A representative from each ministry will be available to answer
questions Sunday, September 13 from 10:15-11:00 a.m.

Day of Peace Worship
September 20

First Communion
Celebration
October 4

Reformation Sunday
October 25

Fall Social
November 14