



Crown of Glory Lutheran Church

CROWNICLE

Summer 2022

Going Places

“Oh, the Places We’ll Go!” – Dr. Seuss

There was a children’s book that I used to frequently read to my youngest son, Micah. The book was *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!* by Dr. Seuss; it was one of his favorites. When Micah graduated from Preschool Place, he received the book to encourage adventure in his young life. It begins, “Congratulations! Today is your day. You’re off to Great Places! You’re off and away!” That was certainly a good message for a young child. It is also an appropriate message for each of us, no matter our age, as we head into summer once again.

This summer, I feel truly blessed and honored to be able to take a clergy sabbatical from my call as Senior Pastor. Summer is a time to recoup, rejuvenate, and relax. Simultaneously, it is a time to get up and go places. I am confident my sabbatical experiences will be all these things and more. Oh, the places I will go!

Voyager Lutheran Ministries Camp in Cook, MN is one of the many places that I will visit during my sabbatical. It is a wonderful ministry that is nestled in the North Woods of Minnesota, the perfect spot for youth and adults to enjoy the great outdoors! Voyager also has an amazing canoeing outfitter program. During my college years, I worked one summer as a maintenance employee and support staff for youth campers and deeply enjoyed my time there. This summer, I will be investing my time at Voyager as a maintenance volunteer, helping wherever I am needed the most. It should be a great adventure and a wonderful part of my sabbatical recharge.

Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity. I am most grateful for our amazing staff and the many partners in ministry that will be taking over all my duties this summer. Our staff will be led by another gifted leader, Pastor Laura Laughlin. In partnership with Tom Paulson, the two will lead our worship services. We will expand our summer experience to include some very special guest preachers and worship leaders for a few weeks out of the summer when Pastor Laura and Tom are on vacation. I pray that you dive right into this summer’s worship life and enjoy every experience.

May your summer be filled with chilling at the beach, soaking up sun rays on a boat, and spending quality time with your children, grandchildren, and friends. Upon my arrival back to Crown of Glory at the end of August, I anticipate sharing with you the many places I was able to go and hearing all about your experiences! Until then, may God bless the places that you go and the experiences you gain.

Be bold and be a blessing this summer,

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

“Let the trees of the forest sing, let them sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. Give thanks to the LORD, for [she] is good; [her] love endures forever.”

1 Chronicles 16:33-34

Friends in Christ,

Another program year is ending and that fleeting season of summer is preparing to welcome us once more. I am thrilled to experience the most “normal” summer at Crown of Glory since I started as Pastor of Faith Formation in September of 2019! It is hard to believe that, so far, the only summer experiences I have had at Crown of Glory all took place during the pandemic. I am delighted to worship with you in person and over livestream, indoors and outdoors, throughout this summer. I cannot wait to catch up with you and your families as you come and go between vacations and cabin time and hear all about the memories you are making.

I am also excited for all that is in store for worship at Crown of Glory this summer! As you know, Pastor Reggie will be enjoying a much-deserved sabbatical from May 30 - August 22. I will be taking on many of his responsibilities throughout these coming months, including preaching and leading worship. As we planned this summer’s worship together, Tom Paulson and I also looked at the summer months as being full of possibilities for different worship opportunities. There will be something for everyone this summer!

The Sunday worship service will move to 9:30 a.m. as part of our summer schedule beginning Memorial Day Weekend. This service will be held in person and via livestream. Saturday worship will continue at 5:00 p.m. in person only. Each month, Saturday and Sunday services will enjoy a variety of music from ensembles and solo musicians, in addition to Tom Paulson and Ginger Larson.

Worship on Sundays, June 12, July 10, and August 21 will be outdoors in the parking lot led by Servant Song (weather permitting). These will also be livestreamed! We intend to hold at least one Saturday service outdoors on the lawn amphitheater with a campfire; specific date TBD.

We will also have the wonderful opportunity to hear from a handful of pastoral voices as we welcome guest preachers throughout the summer! Our own Krysta Flaharty, Director of Children’s Ministry and Master of Divinity student at Luther Seminary, will be providing pulpit supply, as well as Pastor JoAnn Sorenson, Pastor Susan Engholm, and Pastor Craig Peterson. What an amazing chance for us to hear God’s Word proclaimed from multiple voices and perspectives!

I encourage you to remember Crown of Glory throughout the summer and maintain your stewardship commitment as you are able. God continues to be at work among us and I give thanks for all the opportunities that await us as a church community, and for the opportunity to walk with you as your Pastor of Faith Formation. May God continue to guide us as we live our faith together.

In Christ,

Pastor Laura Laughlin
Pastor of Faith Formation

Nursery News

Over the summer, the Kiddos' Corner will continue to be stocked with fidget toys, Lego blocks, books, coloring sheets, and activity sheets to keep kiddos busy! On occasion, there will also be arts and crafts activities to enjoy.

We will be looking to hire a new Nursery Ministry Coordinator in the fall. If you or someone you know would be interested in working with kiddos, keep your eyes out for a Crown Connections email with a position description and contact Krysta Flaharty (krysta@crownofglory.org) for more information.



Thank You SPARK Volunteers!



What a great year of SPARK! A special thank you to those who volunteered. If you did not get a chance to volunteer or if you know a middle or high school student that could use volunteer hours, it is not too late! Please contact me if you are interested, and I can go over the details with you. It is super easy and a fun way to connect with the kiddos of our community!

VBS on the Farm

Crown of Glory will be partnering with Cristo Obrero, Prairie Oaks, Cross of Peace, West and East Union, River of Life, Tapestry, St. Paul's, and St. John's Lutheran churches for VBS this year! This will be an incredible opportunity to get to know our neighboring churches, practice some Spanish, and have an amazing time on a farm while doing it. What is so great about this unique VBS experience is that all the churches in the area are pooling their expertise and resources to design games, outdoor activities, and crafts. Our registration deadline is Friday, June 17 so be sure to sign your kiddos up via our website (crownofglory.org/vbs) and spread the word! This is a VBS you will not want to miss.

Krysta Flaharty

Director of Children's Ministry



9th Grade Faith Retreat

Our 9th grade Confirmation Faith Retreat will be held August 26 – 28 at the Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp, the partner camp of Green Lake Bible Camp near Spicer, MN. The purpose of this Faith Retreat is to gather our upcoming 9th grade class (current 8th grade Confirmation classes) together to begin writing their Faith Statements and to prepare for their Affirmation of Baptism Service on Confirmation Sunday, October 30.

Confirmation students are expected to participate in this weekend Faith Retreat and registration is required.

Please contact Sherri Taylor (sherriktaylor@hotmail.com) for more information and get signed up today!

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor



Graduating Seniors

What a celebration of achievement! Twenty-one graduating seniors were celebrated on May 14 & 15 during worship in recognition of their academic and faith achievements. Each senior was gifted a hand-made quilt from our Faith Knotters! We rejoice with our graduates and their families as they begin a new chapter in their life and faith!

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

Graduating Class

Nick Beireis	Lukas Husfeldt
Trevor Collins	Paige Jenkins
Devin Curtis	Rylie Jorgensen
Sophie Demuth	Jonathan Kordonowy
Jordyn Ehlert	Elizabeth Nordvold
Nick Ekstrum	Wil Olson
Max Eriksrud	Jacob Ryan
Max Firman	Kirstyn Saulsbury
Joseph Hammerschmidt	Samantha Schmidt
Maddie Hauck	Julia Wacker
Cooper Hogan	



Making the Most of the Livin'-is-Easy Time

Summertime, and the livin' is easy. Fish are jumpin', and the cotton is high.
(Ira Gershwin, from *Porgy and Bess*)

This famous song, a staple of the Great American Songbook, comes from *Porgy and Bess*, an opera set in New Orleans during the Great Depression. As much as I love this song, it is more evocative of New Orleans than Minnesota. "Fish are jumpin'" works for me, but maybe we should sing "and the soybeans are high."

All joking aside, living may not always be easy in the summer, but it certainly has a very different feel than the rest of the year. After a long winter, we all have cabin fever and are pining to get outside to garden, bike, fish, hike, etc. With a cool, rainy April and the possibility of COVID-19 becoming more endemic than pandemic (fingers-crossed), this feeling will probably be even more intense.

Our worship life also has a different feel. Our regular music leaders have rehearsed diligently since September 1, learned many new songs, and have given time, energy, devotion, and skill to help us worship and grow in faith. For their perseverance, skill, dedication, faith, smiles, jokes, and love, I say a huge "THANK YOU!" Their leadership is key to our faith, life, and growth together. However, they also need some "livin'-is-easy" time to recharge and rest. So, I give thanks to the Crown of Glory worshipping community for giving them the summer off.

Instead of our traditional musical leadership, summer is a great time for solos, duets, ensembles, and one-time or "pop-up" choirs. If you have some musical skills you would be willing to share, let me know. Summer is a great time to be creative, to try new or different things, and to think outside the box, especially where our worship life is concerned.

This time also gives us the chance to worship in a few different ways. A couple of times this summer we worship in the great outdoors. We will take the opportunity to learn a new setting of liturgy; the music from Setting 10 in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal is all based on familiar hymn tunes and seems like a doable summer project. Campfire worship is always a lot of fun as well. Watch the Thursday Crown Connections for updates.

As you read in Pastor Reggie's article, he is going to be on a well-earned, somewhat overdue sabbatical. I wish him well as he rests, studies, recharges his batteries, and pounds nails. His steady, encouraging leadership has been important to Crown as we weathered the pandemic. His sabbatical gives us the chance to hear the perspective of several other preachers in the area including our own Krysta Flaharty, a student at Luther Seminary, and Craig Peterson, an ordained pastor serving in the Bishop's office.

I am excited to attend my first worship and music conference in four years! The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians is in July at Valparaiso University. I, too, could use a little rest, relaxation, and recharging, and it will be great to catch up with colleagues from around the country.

During this "livin'-is-easy" time, I encourage us all to remember the role of faith and community in our lives. If you are out traveling or biking on Sunday morning, come to Saturday evening worship. If your Saturday evenings are full, come to Sunday morning worship. You will be glad you gave yourself the opportunity to grow in grace, faith, love, and hope each week.

I hope the living is easy. May you be blessed to be a blessing to others.

Tom Paulson

Director of Music and Worship

Summer

I am Roger L.T. Lee. As a new Council member, I am pleased to share about myself, my family, and my love for our community. Cindy and I have been members of Crown of Glory for over thirty years now. Our three grown sons grew up and were confirmed here. We now have five grandchildren that are 3 and under. I served on Council many years ago. When we began the Saturday Evening Worship, I enjoyed assisting with hospitality for several years.

I grew up in Fargo and am a graduate of NDSU. I majored in Sociology with a Religion minor. I worked in the Lutheran Church for about ten years, serving in Moorhead, MN; Pendleton, OR; Coeur d'Alene, ID; and Ramsey, MN. I then sold insurance for a handful of years. I recently retired from a 20-year career working with newspapers and news media with their online efforts and news innovation. The states that I worked with were Minnesota, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Texas. I loved the State Press Association Annual Conventions throughout the south in the winter! I gained an appreciation for the freedom of the press and courageous journalists serving their communities.

I appreciate how our congregation is working to focus on the needs of the community we serve. We are intentional about justice and inclusion, creation care, creative sacramental worship, inspiring music, and nurturing kiddos, youth, and adults. All are truly welcome, and we are intentionally working to create a safe and nurturing space for all. Our future Memorial for Survivors of Sexual Assault will provide a healing space for those who may feel unsafe in a church.

One key reality is that our society no longer automatically joins organizations and churches. People are drawn to opportunities for authentic community. The challenges of the pandemic years required creative efforts, and we are working diligently to gently welcome dear souls to participate in ways that are life-giving to them.

“When we do not know what to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us,
with sighs too deep, for words to express.”

Romans 8:26

Roger Lee
Council Member

Council Corner

2022 Council

President

Grant Taylor

Vice President

Rachel Berg Scherer

Secretary

Jodi Sie

Members:

Roger Lee

Mary Leopold

Sarah Morrow

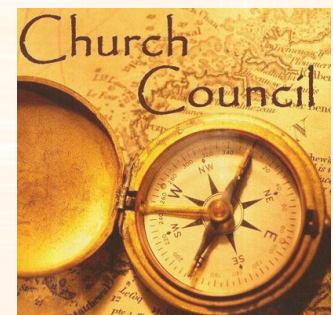
Sandi Rue

Rebecca Varone

Andy Wright

Pastor Reggie

Pastor Laura



Summer

Finance Corner

After a cold and rainy spring, we are seeing hints of summer as we come into May. However, our financial future continues to look gloomy.

From a financial perspective, the first four months of 2022 did not live up to our hopes and financial goals. We are currently nearly \$38,000 in the red on a cash basis for the year. We did not experience any increase in offerings associated with the Easter season in the month of April. In previous years, we have been able to work our way through giving shortfalls due to a significant amount of cash reserves in our general operating fund. Two years ago, in April of 2020, we had about \$158,000 in our cash reserve accounts. One year ago, in 2021 at the end of April, we had over \$125,000 in our cash reserve accounts. In April 2022, we only have slightly under \$40,000 in our cash reserve accounts. Over the last year, we used cash reserves to pay down some of the personal loans that were due and to cover the budget revenue shortfall for 2021.

Over the first four months of 2022, our average monthly offerings and revenue were \$53,558 compared to our average monthly expenses of \$62,747. This yielded an average monthly shortfall of \$9,189. That is nearly a 15% shortfall of revenue vs. expenses. During the summer months, we usually experience a decrease in our average monthly giving numbers as our attendance drops as members of our congregation enjoy their weekends at a lake cabin or take an extended vacation. If this proves to be true in 2022, our cash reserve will be down to zero before the end of the summer. That will require some very difficult decisions by our Church Council on ways to reduce or eliminate some expenses. Our expenses breakdown this way: 48% staff, 32% mortgage, 20% other (12% general and admin; 5% facilities/maintenance; and 3% ministries/benevolences).

We are asking that you consider increasing your weekly/monthly giving by 15% to help us offset our shortfall and to reduce the pressure on our cash reserves. Or please consider a larger one-time gift that will help us get through the summer months.

Thank you for considering helping your church continue to be a strong part of our community.

Steve Tinker

Finance Team Member

Finance Team: Jill Nelson, Ashley Pederson, Lori Robinson, Jodi Sie, Steve Tinker



SUSTAINING FUND SUMMARY April 30, 2022

YTD Payments: \$250,988
YTD Revenues: \$214,232

Summer

Strategic Planning Team Update

On May 17, the Strategic Plan Team concluded the first phase of our dreaming, writing, and creating together. We would first and foremost like to express our deepest gratitude and prayerful appreciation for the support and feedback we received from so many members of this congregation.



Our team has met regularly since Holy Week – a feat in and of itself, considering our group consists of our two pastors and our Director of Worship and Music. We have worked with and been mentored by Dr. Ronald Thomas of the Department of Instructional Leadership and Professional Development at Towson University near Baltimore, Maryland. His expertise was tantamount not only to our fundamental understanding of mission and vision, but also to our ability to work seamlessly as a team to create a mission statement on behalf of the entire Crown of Glory community. This was not a responsibility that we took lightly, but it was one that we embraced and enjoyed thoroughly.

With continued momentum and hope for the future, we are excited to share a working draft of a new mission statement for Crown of Glory:

**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.**

Note that this is a draft statement. It is not set in stone. We need your help to make this draft statement a final mission statement that is fully embraced by all of Crown of Glory.

Next steps:

1. Attend a discussion session around the draft statement. We want to hear your thoughts! Look for opportunities to join an in-person or virtual discussion sometime in June, as well as a survey that will allow you to share your thoughts.
2. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to our chairperson or any member of the team to share your thoughts or ask any questions. We truly want to hear from you.

Our most important takeaway from this entire process is that the statement we have written together will become a living, breathing document for Crown of Glory. These are words that we all will experience and live every day. They were created by a few, but they belong to all of us. Because words only matter when they lead to action.

With hope for our future,

Rachel Berg Scherer

Strategic Planning Team Chairperson
rbscherer@gmail.com

Members: Amy Alberg, Bob Chinnock, Tom Paulson, Sara Rekow, Rachel Berg Scherer, Grant Taylor, Steve Tinker, May Youngman, Natalie Youngman, Pastor Reggie Klindworth, Pastor Laura Laughlin

Crown of Glory offers ways to serve, give back, gather, and grow in your faith!

Check out one of the many ways you can be involved:

- Women's Bible Study
- Couples' Bible Study
- Fare For All
- Landscape Ministry Team
- Building Ministry Team
- Chancel Choir
- Chancel Chimers
- Servant Song
- Faithful Knotters
- Faithful Knitters
- Men's Pub Ministry
- Lutheran Women Gone Wild
- Creation Care Team
- Justice and Inclusion Team
- Wednesday Dinner Team
- Décor Team
- SPARK: PreK - 3rd Grade Ministry
- Connect: 4th & 5th Grade Ministry
- Confirmation
- Senior High Ministry

Men's Pub Ministry

Upcoming Events:

June 16

Mana Brewing, Shakopee

July 21

Chaska Cubs Baseball Game
Athletic Park

August 17

Grill Out on the Church Patio



Women's Ministry

Upcoming Events:

June 2

Jordan Taphouse

July 7

Potluck, Sun Hall

August 4

Cuzzy's, Chaska

September 1

Dangerfield's, Shakopee





Text to Give
833-497-3991
www.crownofglory.org



Let's Stay Connected This Summer

Summer Worship: Sat 5:00 p.m. | Sun 9:30 a.m.



1141 Cardinal St., Chaska, MN 55318 | 952-448-3230

[JUNE]

- TBD — Strategic Planning Discussion Session
- TBD — Staff Work Retreat
- June 12 — Outdoor Worship
- June 19 — Happy Father's Day
- June 24 — Fare For All



[JULY]

- July 4 — Office Closed: Independence Day
- July 10 — Outdoor Worship
- July 21 — Fare For All



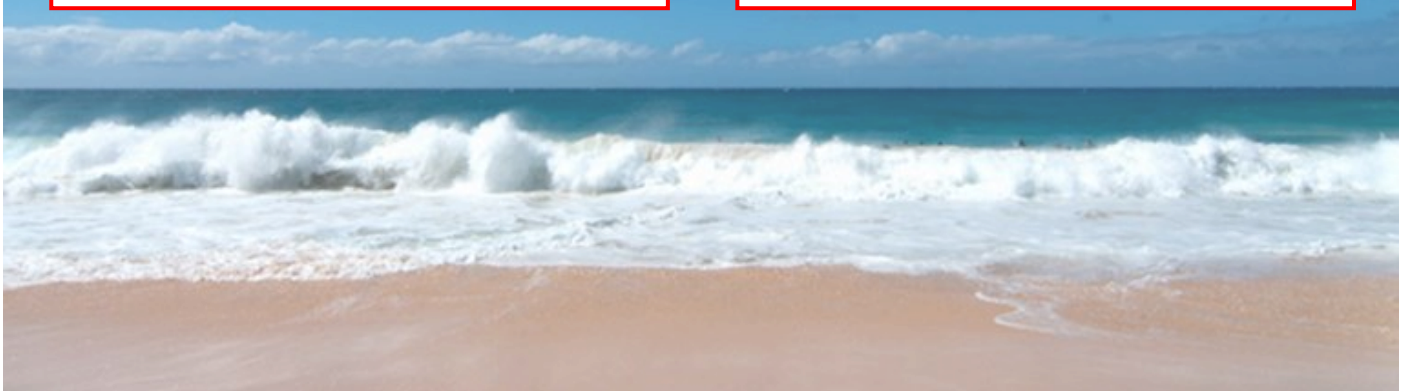
[AUGUST]

- August 1-5 — VBS on the Farm
- August 21 — Outdoor Worship
- August 22 — Pastor Reggie Returns from Sabbatical
- August 25 — Fare For All
- August 26-28 — 9th Grade Faith Retreat



[SEPTEMBER]

- Sept. 5 — Office Closed: Labor Day
- Sept. 10 & 11 — Rally Weekend
- Sept. 14 — Programming Begins
- Sept. 17 — Women's Bible Study
- Sept. 22 — Fare For All





Crown of Glory Lutheran Church
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