

Crown of Glory Lutheran Church

# CROWNICLE

Summer 2021

DIVE In

### “Dive Right In...the Water’s Fine!”

Friends in Christ,

Have you ever watched a professional diver gracefully leap off a diving board and glide into the water below? It never ceases to amaze me how controlled and effortless it looks. Whenever I have taken the plunge from a lofty height into a pool or lake, I guarantee that grace and control are not words one would use to describe it. The thrill of taking the leap always leads to a shriek of adrenaline and joy that bursts from my lungs as I fall to the cool waters below.

I feel that same adrenaline and joy as we look forward to this summer at Crown of Glory! Re-opening the building at the beginning of May was just the start of our giant leap towards some semblance of normalcy in this COVID-era that we have lived in for over a year. Last summer, we were just hitting our stride with livestream and outdoor worship services. I remember the joy all the Crown of Glory staff felt at the first outdoor service when we were able to see so many of you in person for the first time in months.

This joy is now multiplied as we look to this coming summer with renewed hope at the possibilities that lie before us. Worship will move to our summer schedule, with indoor worship at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and indoor + livestream worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Our COVID-19 Task Force has been hard at work planning and responding to the lifting of restrictions and vaccination percentages in Carver County and across the state.

We were excited to start singing and speaking in unison with masks in worship beginning May 22-23, and look forward to celebrating Holy Communion and Holy Baptism as one community of faith June 5-6. The Task Force has set a goal to remove masks from indoor worship (while maintaining physical distancing) later this summer, but this goal may be subject to change depending on what the vaccination percentage is in Carver County.

This is so exciting! Not only are we moving towards a renewed sense of community in worship together, but we are also looking forward to seeing more of you throughout the building this summer as you engage in the Women’s Bible Study, Faithful Knotters and Knitters, Landscape Team, etc.

So...dive right in! Join us for worship! Get involved in ministries! It is summer at Crown of Glory, God is good, and we have so much to celebrate and be thankful for. I pray that the joy and adrenaline of leaping into cool waters fills your hearts and enlivens your faith as we embrace this next chapter together.

Diving with you,

*Pastor Laura Laughlin*  
Pastor of Faith Formation

*"The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. I will build you up again, and you, Israel, will be rebuilt. Again, you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful.'"*

*Jeremiah 31:3-4*

### **Ready. Set. Go!!**

Things are gearing up at Crown of Glory! The time of virtual-only ministries and events is ending, making way for new opportunities for everyone. This summer is like a giant diving board for so many old events and ministries to leap forward and be made new once again. I hope that you are as excited as I am to get started!

Re-opening also means that we will get to see each other face-to-face. Please join us for worship this summer on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. or Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Even though summer is a time to relax and rekindle the relationships that we have been separated from for so long, be sure to reserve some time and join us for summertime worship! If you cannot attend in person, please join our livestreamed 9:30 a.m. service from wherever you find yourself.

Our ministries and partner groups are steadily coming back to the church and we are looking forward to seeing more activity around the church building. It is starting to feel a little bit like "normal" once again. Do you have a special event that you are seeking space for? Consider using the outdoor church patio for outdoor summertime events or the beautiful Sun Hall for all indoor events! For more information contact Kellie Bokusky, Office Administrator, at 952-448-3230.

With so many exciting things happening this summer, both away from and at the church, I encourage you to remember your stewardship to Crown of Glory's Sustaining Fund. The Sustaining Fund not only supports the staffing and day-to-day operations of the church, but also covers the mortgage. Through your ongoing generosity and stewardship, you can help us reach our monthly and annual goals.

Please be sure to review the Finance Corner in this edition of the *Crownicle*. The article shares our current year-to-date expense and offerings. The summertime is also a great season to get signed up for *Simply Giving*, the automated giving program at Crown of Glory. The registration process is simple and quick! To find out more about how you can get signed up for automated giving today, contact Ashley Pederson, Finance Manager, at [ashley@crownofglory.org](mailto:ashley@crownofglory.org).

Thank you for your participation and your faith as we look forward to an excellent summer together. May your summertime be a refreshing way to dive back into your church home!

Diving in,

*Pastor Reggie Klindworth*  
Senior Pastor

### Nursery News

As we move into summer, I will continue to follow the safety guidelines set by our Task Force. Children are welcome to play in the Kiddos' Corner during worship services, and will be invited forward for the Children's Message. I will be there on Sunday mornings to lead some high-energy games that can be played quietly. There are also coloring sheets and wipeable books to keep little ones entertained while being a part of the congregation.



Continue to read the Nursery Nugget articles, found in the weekly Crown Connections email, for great ideas on how to spread God's love while having fun and splashing around. I am hoping to offer ways to keep kids from getting sunburned and for parents from getting burnt out!

*Jenni Payne*  
Nursery Coordinator

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### Director of Children's Ministry: Hiring Update

The Search Team has finished first-round interviews with all remaining applicants. The next step will be to conduct second-round interviews with applicants chosen to move forward in the hiring process. The goal date for hiring is June 15.

Thank you to our Search Team for all the time, energy, and passion that they have dedicated to this process!

*Pastor Laura Laughlin*  
Pastor of Faith Formation

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### Vacation Bible School: Coming Summer 2021!

Due to the timing of the hiring process for the Director of Children's Ministry, Vacation Bible School will take place later this summer with a specific date TBD. This will be the first event coordinated and hosted by new Director of Children's Ministry! More information will be sent out as soon as the hiring process draws to a close.

Questions? Contact Pastor Laura ([pastorlaura@crownofglory.org](mailto:pastorlaura@crownofglory.org))

*Pastor Laura Laughlin*  
Pastor of Faith Formation





## Summer

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism

The wait is finally over! We celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism for 17 of our 9<sup>th</sup> grade students on Sunday, May 16 at an outdoor worship service attended by 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 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Guides and Leaders: Rachel Berg Scherer, Dan Rue, Laura Hauck, and Confirmation Coordinator, Sherri Taylor!

*Pastor Reggie Klindworth*  
Senior Pastor

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmands

Elias Hunter Barnett  
Hannah Lynn Campbell-Payne  
Ali Marie Collins  
Eva Paige Dvorak  
Lydia Norma Edison  
Jacob Scott Fogarty  
Kathryn Edna Hauck  
Jackson Thomas Jorgensen  
Noah William Klindworth  
Benjamin Andrew Kordonowy  
Cale Daniel Kramer  
Nevin James Krause  
Hannah Jean Larson  
Jacob Formoso McCoy  
Marci Lynn Nelson  
Riley Jiahan Pudwill  
Calvin Lifan Rue

## Youth Ministry: Milestones in Faith

### 2021 Graduating Seniors

What a celebration of achievement! 28 graduating seniors celebrated together on May 16 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 of 2021

Maddie Behrens	Emily Logue
Cameron Campbell	Alexander Miller
Jared Cook	Alyssa Nelson
Jens Dohse	Emma Olson
Brady Driggins	Garrett Pritchard
Lauryn Dybvik	Katherine Sears
Jack Firman	Julia Segar
Payton Fogarty	Sydney Schultz
Grady Fossum	Andrew Uriell
Morgan Hagen	Elizabeth Uriell
Julia Hershey	Skyler Vangen
Kendal Jones	Luke Welch
Jacob Kadrlik	Carson Youngman
Mitchell Larson	Greta Zinke



MUSIC IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO THE PROFESSIONALS!

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

In any other year, I would be writing how summer is so different from the academic year. I would be thanking the Chancel Choir, Chancel Chimers, and Servant Song on behalf of the congregation for nine months of hard work, excellent worship leadership, and encouraging them to use the “living is easy” time to recharge and rest.

However, 2021 is not just another year. The pandemic seems to be getting better here in the US and over half our population has received at least one vaccination. As restrictions are in the process of being lifted, though thirty-some thousand people a day are still testing positive and seven hundred-some are dying, not to mention the spread of variants and the horrible situations in India and South America.

I do not want to be a pessimist; I am a hopeful person by nature and by faith. I think we are going in the right direction, and it is smart to be careful and cautious about how we gather. So, I am especially thankful to our COVID-19 Task Force and the thoughtful discussions they have had concerning how we, as a community rooted in the grace and love of Jesus, deal with this pandemic. Starting May 22-23, I am excited to sing and speak together in worship, albeit with masks and physically distanced. That is a step in the direction I want to go. The Task Force will meet before then to evaluate if it is still prudent. If you sing well, sing to praise the Giver; if you do not sing so well, sing to get even!

I will be meeting with all our musicians to see how we can collaborate throughout the summer to bring a joyful noise into worship and help us all remember the joys of singing. Worship in the summer should feel different than during the academic year. Summer is a great time to be creative, to try new or different things, and to think outside the box. If you have a musical gift to bring, I want to know about it!

The great American conductor Robert Shaw (1916-1999) famously said, "Music is much too important to be left to the professionals." He dedicated his life to this ideal. I agree with him both philosophically and practically. One of the great joys of leading music at Crown of Glory is hearing you sing and knowing that you are fearless about what you sing. Keep it up! One of my commitments to you is to mentor, teach, and guide all members of the congregation to develop their musical skills at whatever level, from the self-described tone-deaf to the aspiring opera singer. COVID-19 does not change that. I am thrilled to make music with you again and to hear you sing! We will celebrate the deep, passionate, unending, and all-inclusive love of God together once again.

Mr. Shaw was right while he lived, and 20 years later his words ring even more clearly! Music is too important for us not to sing. Keep the faith!

*Tom Paulson*  
Director of Music and Worship



## Summer

I have been a member of six Lutheran churches in my lifetime, but I have never served on a Church Council until now. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your representative on the Council! I look forward to hearing from you about issues that are important to you.

Crown of Glory, along with most other churches, has gone through a difficult and stressful time in the past year. We are a community of faith that gathers to worship God in our beautiful Sanctuary. We sing together, break bread together, and give one another the sign of peace by shaking hands. We gather in the Sun Hall for coffee after worship, have conversations, and eat meals together.

Through the last year, we still found ways to continue to care about one another. We gathered through Zoom Bible studies, virtual coffee hours, and outdoor worship services. We prayed for one another and tried to keep everyone safe and healthy by following the CDC guidelines. However, this is not the same as being able to meet in person. What a joy it is to worship together again!

I am still learning about my role as a Church Council member, but my priorities have to do with relationships: our relationship with Jesus and our relationships with one another. These relationships are also nurtured through our participation in small groups, from Faithful Knotters, Faithful Knitters, and Bible studies, to Men's Pub Ministry, Lutheran Women Gone Wild, and the Outreach, Creation Care, and Justice and Inclusion Teams. I hope you will consider joining one of these groups as a way to grow in your own faith.

I look forward to seeing you in church as we grow together in this community of faith.

*Becky Varone*  
Council Member

## Council Corner

### 2021 Council

#### President

Grant Taylor

#### Vice President

Rachel Berg Scherer\*

#### Secretary

Chris Gray

#### Members:

Julie Brown

Steve Clay

Mary Leopold

Jodi Sie\*

Steve Tinker

Rebecca Varone\*

Pastor Reggie

Pastor Laura

\*A special welcome to the new Council members who began their terms of service in March.



## Summer

## Finance Corner

We all can be thankful that we are slowly returning to some semblance of normal in our daily work, family, and church activities. The widespread availability of the COVID-19 vaccines has created an economic and psychological stimulus that we can all be grateful for. Now we are hoping for a similar stimulus for our church finances.

The Finance Team and the Council presented a very conservative budget plan which was approved by the congregation at our February annual meeting. We planned for a 3.1% increase in total revenue and a 0.9% decrease in total expenses. We believed this was a realistic, achievable budget, even understanding the uncertainty of when the pandemic and vaccine distribution will allow us all back to worship together. We also believed that this budget plan would allow us to continue to provide full worship and ministry support for our members and the community.

We are thankful that we are opening our sanctuary for worship which will improve the quality of our worship experience. But unfortunately, probably due to the continued lock-down of the church through the first four months of 2021, on a financial basis we started slowly and through April, we seem to be slowing even more. As of the end of April, our contributions and rental income totaled just under \$204,000; our expenses were just over \$240,000. So, going into May we are just over \$26,000 “in the red.”

Here is some additional commentary:

- Contributions from our members for 2021 is about \$176,000. This is concerning, considering that our contributions in 2020 totaled over \$203,000 at the end of April, a difference of \$27,000, year-to-year.
- Good News: We are in process of reopening the sanctuary for in-person worship and expect to see greater participation in the coming months; however, we are now entering the summer months when contributions historically decrease significantly.
- Due to the closing of the church, we have been able to continue to reduce expenses. So far this year we are \$10,000 under budget on normal operating expenses. On the other hand, as we open the church for in-person worship and open our spaces for use by various ministries, our costs are going to increase. For example, our cleaning expenses will increase significantly.
- More Good News: Crown of Glory applied for a second round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan and received \$58,100 from the Small Business Administration. This loan is helping us cover shortfalls in revenue but will be all used in the next couple of months if contributions do not return to 2020 levels.

We are all very grateful that the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us and that we will soon have a stronger, vibrant worship and fellowship experience at Crown of Glory. To celebrate, we ask that you consider a one-time “Reopening” gift to help get our finances back on track.

*Steve Tinker*

Council & Finance Team

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

### SUSTAINING FUND SUMMARY April 30, 2021

YTD Payments: \$230,605

YTD Revenues: \$203,945



## Summer

## Justice and Inclusion Team

CHARTER STATEMENT: Crown of Glory's Justice and Inclusion Team is called by grace to **foster** community, work for equity, **ally** with our neighbors, and **educate** ourselves and others to **challenge** forces that seek to exclude, harm, or discriminate against any child of God.

The J&I Team was born in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder. We all felt called to be a part of something that was working for the greater good in actionable ways.

Our first step was learning about ourselves and our own biases. In September of 2020, we completed the Intercultural Development Inventory with Mr. Jess Ross ([mrjessross.com](http://mrjessross.com)). We discovered that we are all at different places in our journeys to educate ourselves about other cultures and people who are different from us. We leaned into that realization and have since organized multiple events for the whole community, no matter where you are in your own journey.

November 2020 - We organized a drive-through coat drive and socially-distanced pictures with Santa in the CoG parking lot! The new winter gear collected was donated to a Jess Ross-led drive and donated to school-aged children in North Minneapolis.

January 2021 -The J&I Team hosted a book review of *I'm Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown. We had three separate groups that met during the month.

February – Our team hosted the first 'Conversations on Racism' Zoom event, featuring local activist Dontá Hughes.

May – The second virtual event, 'Conversations on Racism: Our Asian American Neighbors', featuring CoG's very own Patty Viajar among the four panelists.

Check out those signs! Our goal with the signs is to embrace what Jesus teaches, show the community how Crown of Glory embodies those teachings, and to simply, yet fiercely, love one another.



*Kate Peterson*

Justice and Inclusion Team

Members: Amy Alberg, Mikel Jones, Pastor Reggie Klindworth, Pastor Laura Laughlin, Deb Mangen, Steve Mangen, Kate Peterson, Rachel Berg Scherer, Jodi Sie, Becky Varone, John Varone, and Patty Viajar

## Building Update

Thankfully this past winter was a relatively quiet time for building maintenance issues. The second layer of paving on the drive lane, by the Preschool Place entrance, was completed in early May and the stripping was added. This completes Phase 1 of our parking lot project. The AV station in the sanctuary was rebuilt and doubled in size to allow space for two technicians. Also, the wonderful new chairs were put in place in the sanctuary and those people who attended in-person worship beginning May 1 got to experience them. We needed to replace the air compressor that services our sprinkler system due to numerous off-hours calls to Pastor Reggie from the sprinkler monitoring company. Some painting projects were also completed. Thanks to all the volunteers who have assisted with these activities, you know who you are.

*Bob Chinnock*

Volunteer Building Manager



## COVID-19 Updates

On May 17, the COVID-19 Task Force reinforced the continuation of wearing masks while indoors for church events and worship. This unanimous decision came at the base understanding that we are called to care for people that we welcome into our midst including those who are not able to be vaccinated at this time.

For some, this announcement may seem too cautious considering lifted restrictions across our state. Rest assured that we will continue to discuss and research all COVID-19 data, including rising vaccinations rates, for Carver County as we move forward into the summer months. As a community of faith, we cannot ignore our calling to serve our neighbor. As followers of Jesus, we are called to care for the person standing next to us just as much, if not more, than ourselves.

The Task Force agreed that certain restrictions can be lifted at this time, while still allowing us to remain a welcoming space:

1. Beginning May 22-23, masked singing and speaking in unison was welcomed and encouraged in indoor worship.
2. The celebration of Holy Communion and Holy Baptism will return to worship June 5-6!

It is in this hope-filled mindset that we journey forward with you all and joyfully anticipate worshipping, singing, and celebrating the sacraments with you as one community of faith!

COVID-19 Task Force Team: Pastor Reggie Klindworth, Pastor Laura Laughlin, Sherri Eriksrud, Jeni Stifter, Grant Taylor, and Debbie Trebiatowski

## [ JUNE ]

- June 19 — Women's Bible Study
- June 24 — Fare For All



## [ JULY ]

- July 4 — Happy Independence Day
- July 5 — Office Closed: 4th of July Observed
- July 17 — Women's Bible Study
- VBS — TBD



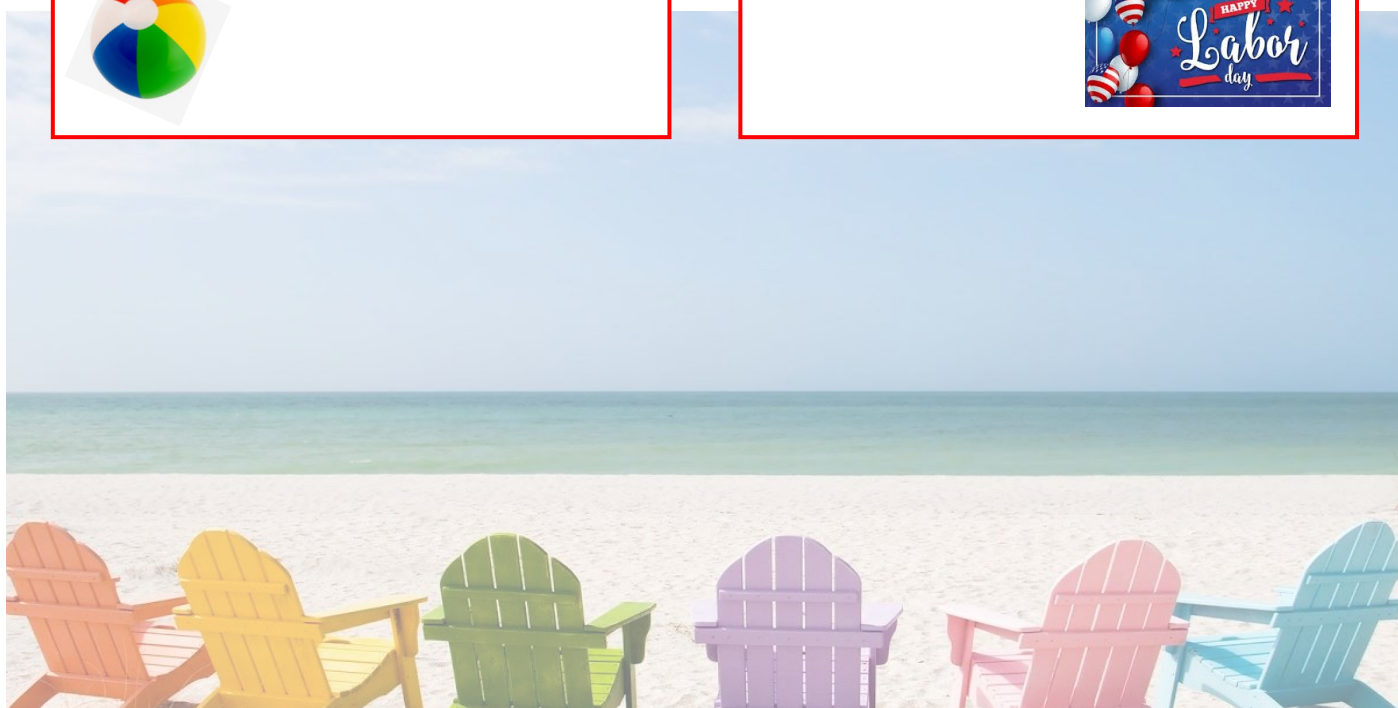
## [ AUGUST ]

- August 21 — Women's Bible Study
- August 26 — Fare For All



## [ SEPTEMBER ]

- September 6 — Office Closed: Labor Day
- September 12 — Rally Sunday
- September 15 — Start of programming





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SUMMER