Crown of Glory Lutheran Church

CROWNICLE

Fall 2021

"So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

I was with a friend the other day, who I had not seen in quite some time, and we started catching up on life. He said, "So, what's new in your life?" It was a joy to be able to share with him my experiences and adventures over the summer, as well as all the things that I am anticipating and looking forward to this fall season!

It is that time of year again! It is time to get acquainted with old friends we have not seen in a while, catch up on life, experiences, adventures, and ask one another, "What's new in your life?" This coming fall season feels brand new, perhaps because we have missed out on so many experiences in the past year due to the pandemic. Gathering back together after the summer months will feel like new! Kicking off our program ministries such as SPARK (Sunday School), Connect, Confirmation, and High School ministries will feel like new! Gathering in person for worship and fellowship to share in music, word, and sacrament will feel like new!

I anticipate that many people feel this same excitement for the fall season to get started. It means getting back to school and children's activities, getting back to a regular work schedule, and since last year's pandemic experience, it means getting back to or closer to a "normal" life once again. This excitement and hope will carry us forward, even as we continue to be cautious and navigate the ongoing pandemic with a clear sense of care and concern for the wellness and health of one another.

I am genuinely excited to start a new program year so that we all can rediscover "what's new in our lives." I hope that you share this same excitement and anticipation, take the time to check in on old friends and catch up on life, and along the way make some new friends! Join us this fall season for some new experiences and new adventures at Crown of Glory!

In Christ,

Pastor Reggie Klindworth Senior Pastor



Friends in Christ,

It is difficult to believe that summer is already drawing to a close and yet, it is exhilarating to think about all that awaits the Crown of Glory community in the fall!

While we all try to make the most of the remaining weeks of summer by visiting family and friends, taking those last trips to the cabin, and soaking up the warm weather, I cannot help but look ahead and already feel grateful for what lies in store for fall at Crown of Glory.

Adult Education and Ministry will be bursting with wonderful opportunities to explore your faith individually, with your partner, and with the larger Crown of Glory community. I cannot wait to journey through them all with you. This is so exciting!

Here are the opportunities that await us:

Adult Forum

There is a new adult education opportunity at Crown of Glory! The Adult Forum will take place from 10:00-10:40 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. Grab a cup of coffee and join the conversation! Contact me with any questions! All are welcome.

Women's Bible Study

Join fellow women of the Word one Saturday a month 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. This fall we will be studying the book of Esther together, which promises to be rich exploration of strength, perseverance, and faith. Please contact me with questions and to get signed up! All are welcome. Our schedule for the fall will be:

September 25

October 23

November 20

December 11



Couples' Bible Study

Join other couples at Crown of Glory in exploring and animating our faith together! This unique Bible study will dive into faith and Bible topics in a format tailored to couples journeying in faith together. We will meet on the first Sunday of the month (except December and January) from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Crown of Glory. Our first gathering will be on October 3! Childcare will also be provided by Krysta Flaharty, Director of Children's Ministry. The session dates are posted below, please contact me with questions and to get signed up! All are welcome.

Couples' Bible Study Dates:

October 3

November 7

December 12

January 9

February 6





Be sure to find the Adult Education and Ministry table at the Rally Weekend Ministry Fair in the Sun Hall on September 11-12. I will have more information, including sign-up sheets, on all these opportunities! I look forward to learning and growing in faith with you all as we jump into a new year together!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Crown of Glory will be celebrating our school-age kiddos and the return of a new school year in worship during Rally Weekend (September 11-12)! All children are invited to bring their backpacks to any of the three worship services to be blessed and to receive a backpack tag to serve as a reminder for



the year that as God's children, we are "blessed to be a blessing!"

Celebration of Fall 2020 & Spring 2021 First Communion

There were two classes of 3rd and 4th graders who went through a virtual First Communion instruction during the pandemic in the fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021. Now that we are worshipping in person again, it is finally time to celebrate these students' First Communion milestone! Crown of Glory will celebrate with these students and their families in worship September 18-19.



"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35

Fall 2021 First Communion Class

Calling all 3rd and 4th graders who are not yet receiving Holy Communion! It is time for your First Communion instruction! Krysta Flaharty (Director of Children's Ministry) and I, in partnership with Peter Potter, will offer a First Communion instruction class on Sunday, October 10 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sun Hall. The celebration of First Communion in worship for this class of students will be announced later in the fall. Visit our website (www.crownofglory.org/milestones) to register and contact me with any questions!

In Christ,

Pastor Laura Laughlin
Associate Pastor of Faith Formation

pastorlaura@crownofglory.org

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12: 1-2

SPARK Ministry

DATE	SPARK THEME
Sept. 12	NO SPARK Rally Sunday
Sept. 19	Who is the Greatest?
Sept. 26	Share God's Love
Oct. 3	Adam and Eve
Oct. 10	A Rich Man's Questions
Oct. 17	James and John
Oct. 24	NO SPARK MEA Break
Oct. 31	NO SPARK Trunk or Treat
Nov. 7	The Widows Offering
Nov. 14	Be Ready
Nov. 21	Christ the King Vol. Appreciation
Nov. 28	NO SPARK Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 5	Zecharaiah
Dec. 12	John the Baptist
Dec. 19	Mary Visits Elizabeth
Dec. 26	NO SPARK Christmas Break
Jan. 2	NO SPARK Christmas Break
Jan. 9	Jesus' Baptism
Jan. 16	Wedding at Cana
Jan. 23	Jesus Goes to Nazareth
Jan. 30	Jeremiah
Feb. 6	The Disciples
Feb. 13	The Beatitudes
Feb. 20	Joseph Feeds His Family
Feb. 27	The Transfiguration
Mar. 6	Tempted
Mar. 13	God's Promises to Abram
Mar. 20	Parable of the Fig Tree Vol. Appreciation
Mar. 27	NO SPARK Spring Break
Apr. 3	Mary Anoints Jesus
Apr. 10	Holy Week
Apr. 17	NO SPARK Easter
Apr. 24	Doubting Thomas
May 1	Saul to Paul
May 8	Year End Celebration

Warmest greetings to you all as I formally introduce myself as the new Director of Children's Ministry! I am a student at Luther Seminary and on track for a Master of Divinity degree. I am fluent in Spanish and hope to use my language skills in my ministry to bridge the gap between the Spanish and English-speaking populations. I love working with children and feel a unique energy when doing so. It has been an absolute pleasure being in this role thus far and a delight to get to know the congregation.

Children's Ministry is bursting with exciting opportunities this year! The first is that Sunday worship times have been adjusted so that SPARK will have a full 30 minutes for the lesson and time for a snack in-between services!

Volunteers will benefit from volunteer appreciation days and upon request, will be provided with a Community Service Hours document that can be used as needed. They will be able to select the days they are available to volunteer, will be provided with supplies, and given materials needed to lead their age group.

The best way to support volunteers is to have plenty of them for each age group! Each Sunday, I will be recruiting 12 volunteers. Volunteers can be middle school ages and older! Being a volunteer for SPARK is a great way to engage in fellowship and feel a greater connection to the church community. Volunteer roles for Sunday include being a Large Group Leader, Teacher, or Substitute that can be called upon at the last minute. I am also in need of a few volunteers that can help put together the lessons for the upcoming month on the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please sign up on the sheets provided outside of my office (next to the Youth Room) or fill out the online volunteer form under SPARK registration on the Crown of Glory website.

In addition to volunteer appreciation, we will also be providing childcare for monthly Adult Night Out events! Each event will have its own theme and will give parents the opportunity to participate in fellowship with one another. Be on the lookout for these events, as they will be limited and likely go fast!

Finally, a goal I have for this year is to have transparency between myself and SPARK parents. In order to provide a space for parent comments, suggestions, and ideas for SPARK, and to get to know me better, I will be hosting an in-person Q&A session from 5:30-6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8. I will also be sending home a document that details what children should have learned each Sunday from participating in SPARK. I will be personally checking in with parents during pick-up to hear what their children are absorbing from SPARK lessons and asking if there are any changes that need to be made to make SPARK the best experience possible.

I am thrilled to be in this position, and even more thrilled to establish transparent relationships with the SPARK parents at Crown of Glory!

With Joy and Excitement,

Krysta Flaharty

Director of Children's Ministry

Welcome to Connect!

We are excited to welcome our 4th and 5th grade students to this year's Connect Ministry! This year will look a little different than last year, that is for sure. We anticipate meeting in person each Wednesday evening at Crown of Glory for our Connect Ministry experience. This year's curriculum themes include *The Life and Ministry of Jesus* and



The Apostles and the Church. Each Wednesday during the program year, students will meet in the church Sanctuary for a large group gathering from 6:00-6:30 p.m. and break into small groups from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Visit our website (www.crownofglory.org/children) for more information and to register!

This program year, we are thrilled to welcome Tracie Peterson as the new Connect Volunteer Coordinator! Throughout her career as a Christian educator, Tracie has served on staff at other congregations in Children, Youth, and Family ministry. She and her family are longtime members of Crown of Glory and we welcome her to this new role! Please be sure to reach out to Tracie at tracieapeterson@gmail.com if you have any questions about our Connect Ministry.

Save the following dates for our upcoming Connect Ministry:

- Connect Orientation Night is on Wednesday, September 8 from 6:00-6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary!
- All 4th Grade Connect students will receive a Connect Bible as they enter this new milestone of their faith journey. Our 4th Grade Connect Bible Milestone is scheduled for Rally Weekend on September 11 and 12 at each of our three 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 so they can receive their Bible!
- Connect Ministry begins Wednesday, September 15 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. See the Connect calendar on our website for special service events that happen throughout the year.

In Christ,

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

Youth Ministry

Confirmation Ministry (6th – 8th Grade)

Confirmation Orientation Night

Wednesday, September 8 from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Confirmation Kickoff Night

Wednesday, September 15 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

See the Confirmation calendar on our website for special service events that happen throughout the year. I hope you are as excited for a brand-new year of Confirmation Ministry to begin as I am! I cannot wait to get started on this year of walking together and journeying in faith! We anticipate meeting in person each Wednesday evening at Crown of Glory for our Confirmation Ministry experience. This



year's curriculum themes include: *The Lord's Prayer*, *Reformation*, and *Baptism*. Each Wednesday during the program year, students will meet in the church Sanctuary for a large group gathering from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and break into small groups from 7:15-8:00 p.m. For this year's Confirmation experience, we anticipate returning to some of our favorite service projects and field trips throughout the year!

Visit our website (www.crownofglory.org/middle-school-youth) for more information and to register!

Pastor Reggie Klindworth Senior Pastor

Senior High Ministry (9th – 12th Grade)

If you are a senior high youth student, then you should be excited for this year's youth ministry! This coming year, we will prepare for the 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering (NYG) that will be hosted in Minneapolis, MN from July 24-28, 2022! It does not happen very often that the NYG is held in our own state!



The theme is "Boundless: God Beyond Measure." If you've never experienced the NYG, then you will not want to miss this opportunity. Visit the ELCA's website (www.elca.org/YouthGathering) for more information.

The National Youth Gathering Information Night is on Tuesday, September 21 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the church Sanctuary. What can you expect? Where will it be hosted? How much will cost? Come and check out what the NYG is all about!

Pastor Reggie Klindworth

Senior Pastor pastorreggie@crownofglory.org

Gathering to Worship

Did/do you sing in a choir in high school or college?

Crown of Glory needs you to lead worship by singing in the Chancel Choir!

Did/do you play an instrument in high school or college?

Crown of Glory needs you to lead worship by ringing with the Chancel Chimers!

Did/do you play in a garage band?

Crown of Glory needs you to lead worship by playing or singing with Servant Song!

Many people tell me they really do not sing, yet they sang in a choir or played an instrument in high school or college. If so, they have good preparation for joining a choir here at Crown of Glory. We are not necessarily looking for great singers; we are looking for great people willing to put in a little extra time to make our worship even better.

Music in worship is what we all do together, as a community. The primary job of our choirs is to be prepared to help us all sing the hymns and songs. Do not get me wrong, we still have fun learning all sorts of great music and growing in faith together.

If you are still not convinced, let me tell you a little story. Gary sat in the congregation for forty years and regularly heard from people, "You have a really nice voice. You should join choir." At age 72, he came to one of my voice classes, told me that story, and that he had not sung in choir since high school. I gave Gary a few voice lessons, discovered the congregation was right, and he still sings with his church choir. He loves the music and comradery. If 76-year-old Gary can do it, so can you.

God does not necessarily call the equipped.

Often God equips the called.

Perhaps there is a still small voice in your conscious telling you to try something new or to pick up where you left off in high school. Whatever you are thinking, Crown of Glory will be a better place with your musical leadership. Talk to me. We'll make it happen together!

Tom Paulson
Director of Music and Worship
tpaulson@crownofglory.org



Music Rehearsals Start Wednesday, September 8!

Servant Song 5:00 p.m.

Chancel Chimers 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir 6:45 p.m.

New members always encouraged!

Email Tom Paulson for more information.

Due to COVID-19 and how easily it is spread by singing, and now the spread of the more transmissible Delta variant, our COVID-19

Task Force Team is closely monitoring events. Our plans may need to be amended or changed entirely. Watch the Thursday Crown

Connections enewsletter and the church website for updates.



Fall Finance Corner

As we near the end of summer, we may think back on hot, dry weeks, vacations, trips to the ice cream shop, Chaska Cubs baseball, Crown of Glory softball, golf, sailing, fishing, and lazy afternoons in a hammock. We all hope that your summertime was great! With the programmatic year ending in May, there is less activity at Crown of Glory in the summer. Summertime is also typically slow on the financial side of things, as contributions tend to decrease from June-August. This summer has been like previous summers, but now that Labor Day approaches and back to school ads proliferate, we eagerly anticipate getting back to what we call normal!

The Finance Team reported in May that Crown of Glory had a shortfall of \$27,000 in our revenue vs. our expenses. By the end of July, that shortfall had become nearly \$50,000. Pastor Reggie sent out a letter in mid-July to the entire congregation reviewing our financial position. More importantly, he reviewed all the great things that are happening at Crown of Glory: we hosted VBS, we welcomed Krysta Flaherty, our new Director of Children's Ministry, we reopened the church to various ministries and for in-person worship. The letter also asked each of us to consider a one-time gift to help the church catch up on our finances. Since the letter went out, we have received several gifts that total nearly \$18,000. Thank you for your generous response to our need. However, we are still behind our contribution goal. We hope you can consider giving an extra gift and move us closer to breaking even.

Few notes:

- In the last issue of the *Crownicle*, we noted that contributions from the congregation through April totaled \$176,000 in 2021, versus \$203,000 in 2020; a negative difference of \$27,000. As of the end of July, our 2021 contributions from the congregation total \$313,000, versus \$392,000 in 2020 for a negative difference of \$79,000. Note that in July 2020, we had a giving drive that resulted in almost \$50,000 in extra contributions, which put us in the black by \$11,000. Perhaps that is possibility for this year.
- Expenses continue to be lower than budgeted. We congratulate the staff for finding ways to cut expenses during the year helping us to reduce our deficits. So far through July, we are about \$14,000 under budget for our expenses.
- The second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$58,000 has helped us pay the bills, salaries, and mortgage through the first seven months of the year. However, that money is almost all used up. The next five months are critical as we will be dependent on increased contributions from our congregation. We will be applying for PPP loan forgiveness in the next few months as soon as we are eligible.
- Know that a portion of your gifts support several ministries outside of the Crown of Glory community. Crown of Glory provides much needed help and on-going support to the following ministries: Loaves & Fishes, Launch Ministry, Love INC, Green Lake Bible Camp, and more.

So as summer winds down, and it is time to get back to your normal "back to school" routine, please consider a one-time gift to Crown of Glory so we can continue our ministry efforts for the congregation and the greater community around us.

Steve Tinker

Finance Team Chairperson, Council Member

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



Fall

September at Crown of Glory is always a time of new beginnings: a fresh start to learning on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, the renewed sounds of choirs in the sanctuary, and a return to worship and fellowship as summer's slower pace comes to a close. The church council joins with the rest of Crown of Glory as we look ahead to a year of exciting work on behalf of you, our siblings in Christ.

As part of the newest class of our church council, the last few months have been filled with new beginnings for me as well. I am thrilled to be part of the body that is working to make Crown of Glory as welcoming and inclusive as possible and to work on behalf of our entire congregation.

September also means that the church council is looking ahead to a year of community-building and relationship-forming, as we build intentional, loving relationships with all those who call Crown of Glory their church home. We are also eager to share the good news of this very special faith community beyond our walls, as we forge new relationships with our friends and neighbors in Chaska and beyond.

The coming year will also bring a continued commitment to the many other groups working so tirelessly to further the mission of Crown of Glory. We are each called to share the good news of God's grace in unique and wonderful ways, from the Justice and Inclusion Team's conversations to the Creation Care Team's work in our church and surrounding communities. Because all good works are most successful because of a village, we encourage every member of our church family to find a place where their gifts can best be used. Come to the Ministry Fair on Rally Weekend, September 11-12, to find a home for your amazing and unique gifts. If you have a gift or a need that you do not see represented, please let us know!

Looking further into the future, the council is excited to begin the important work of strategic planning for Crown of Glory's next chapter together. From crafting a mission statement to setting immediate and long -term goals, this is an exciting process that I am extremely proud of us for undertaking.

The church council is not an isolated body of decision-makers. Rather, we are the representation of the entire Crown of Glory community. If you have any suggestions or concerns at any time throughout the coming year, please do not hesitate to contact one of us. We are always happy to hear your ideas and learn from your suggestions.

Rachel Berg Scherer
Council Vice President

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 Church Council

Fall

Keeping You in the Know

New Member Information

New Member Orientation

- Saturday, November 6 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 7 10:00-10:30 a.m.

New Member Welcome

- Saturday, November 13
 5:00 p.m. worship service
- Sunday, November 14 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. worship services

Are you new to Crown of Glory? Have you been worshiping with us online through the pandemic and have now started to attend in person? Would you like to make Crown of Glory your church home? We



are so excited to be back in person for gatherings, ministries, and worship services. We are even more excited that you would like join us!

Throughout the year we provide several opportunities for guests and visitors to join Crown of Glory as members. If you or someone you know is seeking to call Crown of Glory home, then contact one of our pastors and get signed up for our New Member Orientation and Welcome events this coming fall.

2022 Stewardship Campaign: What Have We to Offer?

This coming November, we will journey together into our stewardship season asking ourselves, "What have we to offer?" Mark your calendar for each of these important weekends in November as our stewardship season unfolds and we become transformed together.

November 6 & 7: Stewardship 1

- Kick-off of our stewardship theme: What Have We to Offer?
- All Saints Weekend: We honor all in the Crown of Glory community who have died in the past year.

November 13 & 14: Stewardship 2

• Temple Talks: We hear from members as they reflect on their faith and service to their community at Crown of Glory.

November 20 & 21: Stewardship 3

- Commitment Weekend: All are invited to bring their Commitment Card to worship or to fill out the Stewardship Appeal Commitment Form on our website.
- Christ the King Weekend: Come and share in this engaging weekend of worship.

November 27 & 28: Stewardship 4

- Celebration Weekend
- Advent 1: We will begin our 2021 Advent season, where we encounter the light of the Advent star and anticipate the birth of the Christ child.

Outdoor Worship Service With Blessing of the Animals

Saturday,
October 2
5:00 p.m.



Let's Celebrate All God's Creatures!

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 6 Office Closed: Labor Day
- Sept. 8 Programming Orientation, Choir Rehearsals Begin
- Sept. 11 & 12 Rally Weekend
- Sept. 15 Wednesday Programming Begins
- Sept. 16 Men's Pub at Boathouse Brothers Brewing
- Sept. 18 & 19 Celebration of Peace
- Sept. 24 Good News, Good Brews Retreat
- Sept. 25 Women's Bible Study



OCTOBER

- Oct. 2 Blessing of the Animals
- Oct. 3 Couples' Bible Study
- Oct. 9 First Communion Class Registration Deadline
- Oct . 10 First Communion Class
- Oct. 19 Crown of Glory Date Night:
 Distinguished Taste Class
- Oct. 21 Men's Pub at u4ic Brewing
- Oct. 23 Women's Bible Study
- Oct. 28 Fare For All
- Oct. 29 CoG Fall Family Night



NOVEMBER

- Nov. 6 & 7 New Member Orientation
- Nov. 6 & 7 Stewardship Appeal Weekend
- Nov. 14 & 15 New Member Welcome
- Nov. 7 Couples' Bible Study
- Nov. 13 & 14 Temple Talk
- Nov. 18 Men's Pub at Roets Jordan Brewery
- Nov. 20 & 21 Appeal Commitment Weekend
- Nov. 20 Women's Bible Study
- Nov. 25 Office Closed: Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 27 & 28 Celebration
 Weekend



DECEMBER

- Dec. 5 Women's Advent Tea
- Dec. 11 Women's Bible Study
- Dec. 12 Couples' Bible Study
- Dec. 16 Men's Pub at Unmapped Brewing
- Dec. 19 Lefse Bake Sale
- Dec. 19 Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 27 Office Closed: Christmas Day Observed
- Dec. 31 Final day to submit gifts for the 2021 calendar year





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Rally Week

September 8-15



September 8

- Servant Song & Chancel Chimers
 Rehearsals Begin
 - Connect & Confirmation
 Orientation Night

September 11 - Rally Saturday

- Blessing of the Backpacks
- · Root Beer Float Fellowship
 - · Ministry Fair
 - · Bounce House

September 12 - Rally Sunday

- · Blessing of the Backpacks
- · Connect Bible Milestone
 - · Brunch Fellowship
 - · Ministry Fair
 - · Bounce House

September 15

- · Wednesday Programming Begins
 - · Wednesday Dinners Begin

All events subject to change.