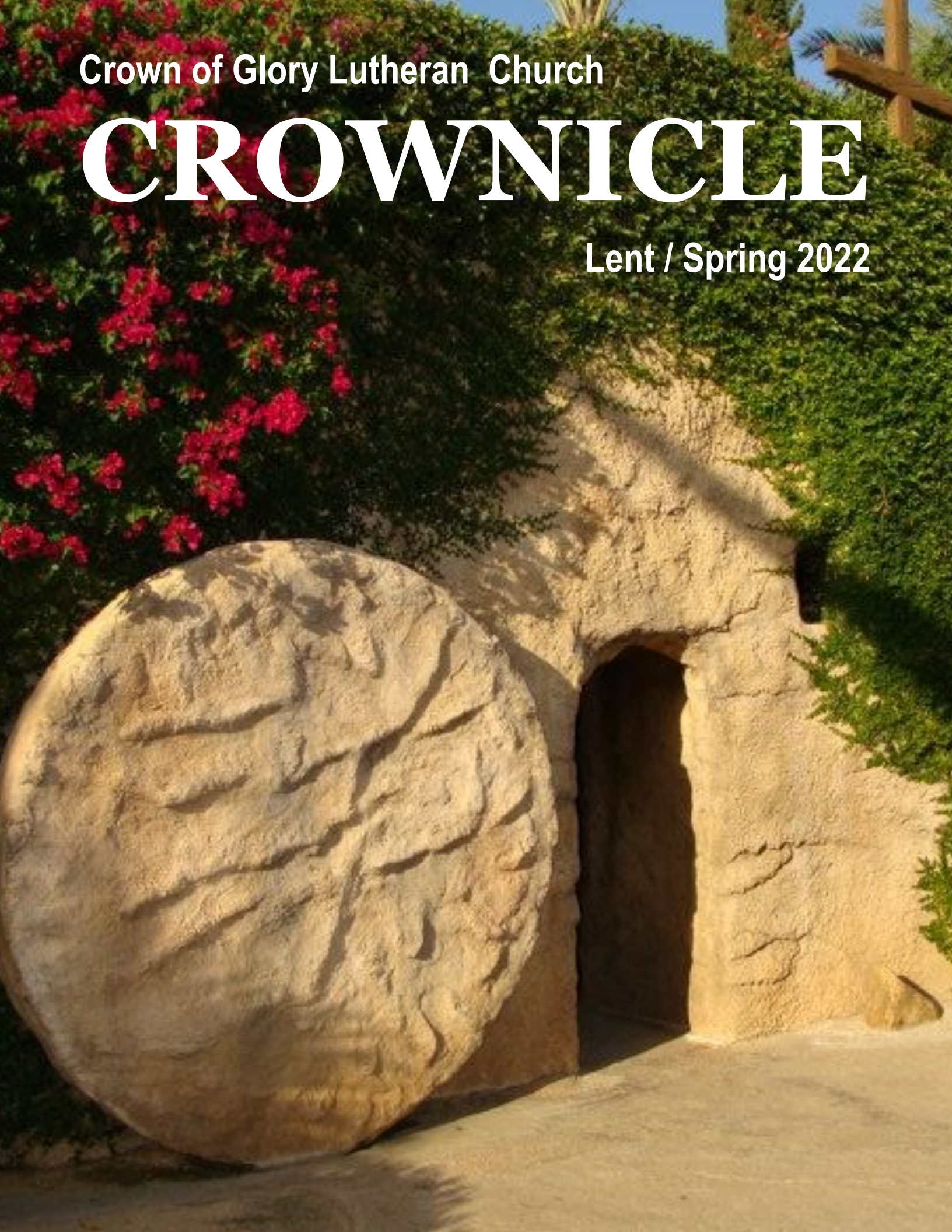


Crown of Glory Lutheran Church

CROWNICLE

Lent / Spring 2022



Lent 2022 Saturday/Sunday Sermon Series: The Book of Job

Friends in Christ,

We are well into the new year and with that transition comes the preparation for another season: Lent. After celebrating the birth of Christ at Christmas, welcoming the wise men to the manger at Epiphany, and reflecting on the presence of God among us in the Time after Epiphany, we are at the precipice of yet another cornerstone in our faith journey.

The season of Lent brings with it a reconciliation of the sins we carry, the shadows that follow us, and the reality of grace and love poured out for us in Christ's sacrifice on the cross. This year, Lent also comes at a time when we as a church community find ourselves in a place we have never been before: two years into a pandemic, financial uncertainty, challenges in our worshipping life, and amid all of it, a growing sense of hope and new life in God's promises.

We know the ups and downs that come with living out our faith during a time when all hope seems lost, when frustration and anger are more prevalent than mercy and patience, and when fear simmers under the surface of our hearts ready to breakthrough at a moment's notice. The Book of Job in the Old Testament is a story that highlights the rollercoaster that is a life of faith. It is a humble and prophetic account of one man's ability to be tested beyond his limits and still find faith, and a relationship, with God.

This Lenten season, Pastor Reggie and I will be focusing our sermons on a series through the Book of Job. Each weekend, we will read a longer passage as a first reading and then a second passage for our preaching text. Together as a congregation, we will learn about Job's journey and discover where God was present, and how God might be present with us, too.

Lent 1 (March 5-6): Job 1:1-12 and 20-22 "Introduction to Job"

Who was Job? Why was he tested? Why was Satan an active player in Job's journey? All these questions and more will be discussed this first weekend of Lent as we are introduced to Job and experience the beginning of his story.

Lent 2 (March 12-13): Job 2:1-10 and 11-13 "Divine Justice?"

As Job experiences a variety of tragedies and trials, Job holds true to his faith. What does it mean that God had faith in Job? Does God have faith in us? Job not only faces tremendous challenges, but he also does so in the company of his friends. We will talk about the power of community and how we are stronger together, even in the face of difficulty.

Lent 3 (March 19-20): Job 3:1-5 and 20-26 "Why Me?"

Have you ever been in such a difficult time of life where you tearfully wonder or maybe scream out to God asking, "Why me?" Job did, too. Together we will look at the depths of pain and anger that can come from such immense hurt and grief. We will examine the resilience of the human spirit and the reality that God is with us in our suffering, not the cause of our suffering, but guiding us through and suffering with us.

Lent 4 (March 26-27): Job 38:1-15 and 40: 1-14 "God Speaks"

So often, God can seem far too silent. Silence is not indicative of absence, however. After journeying with Job through all the ups and downs of his suffering, God finally speaks and offers further challenges to Job's heart and spirit. God calls us to remember that God does not abandon us, no matter how difficult life is or unclear the way forward appears to be.

Lent 5 (April 2-3): Job 42:1-6 and 12-16 "Blessings and Endings"

Is it possible for faith to grow out of great challenge and pain? The end of the Book of Job provides a perspective on a growing, ebbing, and flowing relationship with God. It is up and down, filled with hope, and riddle with challenges. But God is with Job through every twist and turn, until his final breath. God does the same for us, too. How are we called to respond?

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday

Every year, the last week of Lent, or Holy Week, is the final leg of Jesus' journey to the cross, the tomb, and ultimately the resurrection. Throughout Holy Week, it is typical for us to read from portions of each of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). In doing so, we can glean the fullest scope and breadth of Jesus' story, however because this is the tradition, it can be helpful to sometimes focus on just one Gospel account to become more familiar with the author's perspective, how it differs from others, and hear this well-known story in a new way.

This year, we are going to do just that! Beginning with Palm Sunday, moving through Holy Week, and finishing with Easter Sunday, we will be journeying through the Gospel of John's account of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. John offers an array of detail that is not all found in the other three Gospels, but he also leaves some of the other pieces of the story out that the other authors include. Together we will discover one author's description of Jesus' sacrifice and wrestle with what it means for our own lives today.

I hope you will join us on such a special journey of faith, discernment, and promise this Lenten season. God will guide us through it all and I look forward to learning and growing in faith with you.

In Peace,

Pastor Laura Laughlin

Pastor of Faith Formation

“Not Just the Next Thing”

Much of our everyday life is getting ready for the “next thing.” This is true for our lives of faith, too, especially now as we prepare for the journey that will take us to the empty tomb of Jesus. The journey begins on Ash Wednesday with a sacred rite of ashes and the rest of the Lenten season unfolds from there. The six-week season of Lent seems to go by quickly, offering us a subtle pause in our faith as each week brings us one step closer to the “next thing.”

This year during our Wednesday Lenten series, in addition to the worship setting *Holden Evening Prayer*, we will focus on the timeless prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, *Prayer for Peace*. (Yes, St. Francis is Catholic, and yes, we can still benefit from his spiritual gifts!)

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen



Each Wednesday night in Lent, we will hear and say the *Prayer for Peace*. Praying these words invites each of us to consider how our everyday life and faith can be inspired by these transforming words. You are invited to be open to how these timeless words can shape what you think, do, see, and believe. This Lent, come and experience the journey before the “next thing.” Our midweek worship services, offered both in person and via livestream, will also feature five Crown of Glory members as they boldly share their journeys of faith and speak to a phrase of St. Francis’ prayer that resonates with them.

2022 Midweek Lenten Theme: “Lord, Make Me an Instrument...”

Ash Wednesday: March 2
“Where there is hatred, let me sow love...”

Lent 4: March 23
“Where there is despair, hope...”

Lent 2: March 9
“Where there is injury, pardon...”

Lent 5: March 30
“Where there is darkness, light...”

Lent 3: March 16
“Where there is doubt, faith...”

Lent 6: April 6
“Where there is sadness, joy...”

In Christ,

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor



SPARK News

What a whirlwind of a winter so far! I am looking forward to Spring and all the fun events that will be taking place. It is a busy season, so I have included a list of dates to mark on your calendars! March, April, and May are going to be so much fun for our SPARK kiddos... you will not want to miss it!

- February 27: We will be "burying" the Alleluias! We will have kids color or decorate a paper with "Alleluia" on it and "bury" it during worship until Easter to signify that we will not be saying "Alleluia" during Lent.
- March 2: On Ash Wednesday, we will have Drive-Thru Ashes from 4:00-5:00 p.m., in addition to worship at 6:30 p.m., and I will be there to say hello and help impose the ashes!
- March 2 - April 6: Wednesday night worship services at 6:30 p.m. I will be present during these 45-minute worship services in the Kiddos' Corner! Bring your kiddos to come hang out with Miss Krysta!
- March 20: Volunteer Appreciation Day during SPARK! Feel free to stop by after worship for a big "thank you" from our SPARK kiddos! We love our SPARK volunteers and want to let them know how special they are.
- April 14: Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 p.m. Bring your kiddos to come hang out with Miss Krysta!
- April 15: Good Friday service at 6:30 p.m. Bring your kiddos to come hang out with Miss Krysta!
- April 17: Easter Sunday! There is no SPARK that day, but I will be in the Kiddos' Corner to do a fun Easter activity with them during each of our worship services!
- May 8: SPARK will wrap up a fun year with our Year-End Celebration Party!

SPARK Curriculum

In alignment with worship on Wednesdays and Sundays (March 2 - April 6), SPARK will be focusing on the themes in the Midweek Lenten Series: "Lord, Make Me an Instrument...", as well as the themes from the Saturday/Sunday sermon series on the Book of Job, in addition to our SPARK curriculum. This will be an exciting way to keep families on the same page in worship!

I am so excited for the weeks to come and to connect with you and your families during this Lenten season. The coming of Spring and the Lenten season reminds me of the theme of renewal, which sounds so refreshing after the high number of COVID-19 cases that we saw this winter.

Krysta Flaharty
Director of Children's Ministry

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

2 Corinthians

5:17-19

Connect and Confirmation: In Recess During Lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship on March 2 at 6:30 p.m. Connect and Confirmation students and their parents are invited to join worship for the imposition of ashes on this sacred day. Connect and Confirmation groups will not meet during Lent. Confirmation students are expected to join worship at least 4 out of the 6 weeks of Lent.

All Confirmation students are expected to complete at least 20 worship notes throughout the program year. Lent worship notes are located at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Once completed, place it in the basket at the worship note table! Completed Lent worship notes are worth “double credit.” Confirmation students can take advantage of this and catch-up during Lent!

Confirmation worship notes are also available on our website (crownofglory.org/worship-notes). Those worshipping in person or via livestream can complete worship notes and submit them electronically when finished!

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

Senior High Ministry Events

Crown of Glory invites all 9th-12th grade senior high youth to join the following events for the remainder of the programmatic year. Invite a friend to each event and double the fun!

- March 13: Dunkin’ Donut Event!

The ice-skating event has been changed to an afternoon of donuts and coffee (or drink of your choice) at Dunkin’ Donuts in Chaska! Drop-in at Dunkin’ on Sunday, March 13 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.!

- April 13: Time to Jump into Spring!

Join us on Wednesday, April 13 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. as we head to Sky Zone in Edina for an evening of jumping during Holy Week. Registration is required. Need a ride? Check with Pastor Reggie.

- May 15: Bowling Night!

Get signed up for “Bowling is Boss Night” at Shakopee Bowl on Sunday, May 15 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.! Registration is required. Pizza and drinks will be provided!

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

Milestone Ministry



Pastor Laura and Krysta Flaharty, in collaboration with Crown of Glory member Peter Potter, will be offering a First Communion class on Sunday, March 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sun Hall. All third and fourth grade students are encouraged to attend, but all ages of kids are welcome! First Communion will be celebrated during Maundy Thursday worship on Thursday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. Please register your child for the class at the church website (crownofglory.org/milestones) and contact Pastor Laura (pastorlaura@crownofglory.org) with any questions!

Adult Education

Women's Bible Study

We began studying the Book of Jonah in February and will be concluding the study with the following meeting dates: March 19, April 23, and May 21. All women are welcome to attend! We meet once a month in the Sun Hall (Zoom also offered) on Saturday from 9:00-10:15 a.m.



Women's Bible Study

Couples' Bible Study



We will continue our way through the *Animate: Bible* series on March 20 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. and will then be done meeting until the Fall. Couples of every variety are welcome to attend this engaging and fun-filled study! Krysta Flaharty, Director of Children's Ministry will provide childcare. Join us!

Sunday Morning Adult Forum

The Adult Forum will continue to be offered at 10:05 a.m. on Sundays through May 22, 2022. Join us for engaging presentations from Pastors Laura and Reggie, ministry teams, and speakers from local organizations! All are welcome!



"...lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

Ephesians 4:1^b-6

“Lent, Lint, What? Why?”

At a previous congregation, I had a colleague who hated Lent. She thought it was depressing and boring, always referring to it derisively as Lint. No amount of philosophical, theological, or practical discussions could change her mind. Fortunately, I was a part of those discussions, Bible studies, readings, and planning sessions, too. Those experiences, combined with her obstinacy, helped me form a clear picture in my mind of why Lent is important. We do not journey through Lent simply because we always have, just because it is tradition, or because someone is forcing us. We do so because we and our world are not what God intended us to be.

Let me be clear. God created us, and we are God’s people. Each of us is an unrepeatable miracle of God, blessed to be a blessing. God loves us as we are and too much to leave us there. The confession, ashes, prayer, and stories of Lent let us name the things that separate us and our world from God. Lent gives us a process to make a change, to rise from the ashes like a phoenix, and live a better life.

We will be helped in our process by gathering every Wednesday night (March 2 through April 6) to worship, mostly using the beautiful music of Marty Haugen’s *Holden Evening Prayer*. This has been a Crown of Glory tradition since long before my time, and I see it as some of the most joy-filled, soul-searching worship we do as a community.

We will be helped in our process by Psalm 137. Read it sometime; it is truly depressing. However, we are using a contemporary adaptation by Susan Briehl, a Lutheran Pastor and poet, formerly associated with Holden Village. Briehl’s adaptation, ELW 701, has a bigger vision of the world, and a broader picture of Lent. She reminds us of the hope we know in Christ.

*Once we sang and danced with gladness, once delight filled every breath;
Now we sit among the ashes, all our dreams destroyed by death.
Come, O Christ amid the ashes, come to wipe our tears away;
Death destroy and sorrow banish; now and always, come and stay.*

As God’s beloved, we call for Jesus to fulfill his promise to be with us always, to be with us in this process. How else would this process be possible? We could (and maybe should) sing, “Come, O Christ, amid the COVID,” or “Come, O Christ, amid the despair,” or “Come, O Christ, amid the poverty, racism, fear, division” or fill in your own word. In 2022, we have several choices. However, as Archbishop Desmond Tutu says, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness.”

We will be helped in our process by the *Prayer for Peace* (found in Pastor Reggie’s article). Those words will be incorporated each Wednesday into worship somehow, either singing or reading. We will also take the opportunity to focus on the parallels (hatred/love, injury/pardon, etc.). I love these words for the potential they see in us.

Finally, we will be helped in our process by a favorite hymn. We close Ash Wednesday worship on March 2 singing, “I want to walk as a Child of the Light. I want to follow Jesus. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.”

We journey through Lent because we and our world are not what God intended us to be. Lent is a process of intentionally acknowledging our obstacles and focusing on overcoming them. I am sure I never changed my former colleague’s mind, but in the process, I was challenged to think about Lent more deeply. And that has brought me clarity, vision, and commitment, all good things if I want to follow Jesus. May Lent 2022 bring you all good things as you seek to follow Jesus.

Peace and Good Health,

Tom Paulson

Director of Music and Worship

I am writing this just before the Crown of Glory Annual Meeting. One of the responsibilities I have as Council President is to prepare the Annual Meeting PowerPoint slides, which are used to inform and update the congregation regarding key items such as finances, electing new council members, etc. One of the slides that caught my attention was titled Key Statistics. The slide provided a snapshot of activities like weddings, funerals, and attendance for the year. In addition, it lists some of the charitable things that have been done such as donating food, quilts, etc. As I updated these statistics, I started to reflect on how Crown of Glory helps Chaska and neighboring communities.

To help get a sense of this, I decided to look at the Crown of Glory calendar that is available on our website (crownofglory.org/calendar). The calendar shows that Crown of Glory is home to several Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops. During their meetings, scouts develop skills that will help them throughout their lives. Crown of Glory provides space to OA (Overeaters Anonymous) and CoDA (Co-Dependents Anonymous) to work on the challenges that they face. Fare For All routinely uses Crown of Glory as a venue to provide affordable groceries that help participants stretch their food dollars. The Memorial Blood Centers' Bloodmobile was able to make a stop to collect much-needed blood last year and another blood drive is scheduled on May 2. Two businesses, not on the calendar, operate out of Crown of Glory. Preschool Place provides full-time childcare and part-time preschool. DS West Driving School helps the next generation of drivers learn the rules of the road and get the skills needed to operate vehicles safely.

Just think of all the lives that are touched by Crown of Glory being home to so many groups and businesses! Thank you to all our members who have helped make Crown of Glory a vital part of our community.

Grant Taylor
Council President

<u>Members</u>		
<u>President</u> *Grant Taylor	*Julie Brown	*A special thank you to those Council members who are completing their terms of service in March.
	**Roger Lee	
<u>Vice President</u> *Rachel Berg Scherer	Mary Leopold	** Welcome to the new elected Council members!
	**Sarah Morrow	
<u>Secretary</u> *Steve Clay	**Sandi Rue	
	Jodi Sie	
	*Steve Tinker	
	Rebecca Varone	
	**Andy Wright	
	Pastor Reggie Klindworth	
	Pastor Laura Laughlin	

At the end of 2021, we closed out one of our best stewardship appeals in years! Our theme for the 2022 Stewardship Campaign was based on our Offering hymn, “*What Have We to Offer?*” Throughout November, we learned how God calls us to *Care* for our neighbor, *Share* our gifts, and *Live* our faith! Crown of Glory members responded with generosity and a strong commitment to the future!

Our 2022 Stewardship Campaign gathered a total of 114 commitments, an increase of 12 from 2021. The total amount pledged for the 2022 fiscal year increased by just over \$15,000 from last year’s appeal, for a total amount of \$379,000 pledged for 2022! One of the most exciting things about this year’s response was 63 of the 114 commitments gathered increased their commitment from the year before, for a total increase of \$64,000 in gifts for 2022!

Your faith in and gifts to Crown of Glory speak volumes, and provide the much-needed financial support to our ministries, our mortgage commitment, and our dedicated staff. Thank you for your continued partnership in this community of faith.

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

Contributions Summary	
Pledge for January 1 - December 31, 2021	\$363,898.00
Amount given by people who have pledged	\$439,566.32
Difference	\$75,668.32
Percent of pledges paid	120.79%
Amount given by people that did not pledge in 2021	\$161,665.23
Total contributed for January 1 - December 31, 2021	\$601,231.55

Pledges Summary		
	2022	2021
Number of New Pledgers	13	13
Total Amount of New Pledges	\$29,980.00	\$42,400.00
Number of Pledges Increased	63	54
Total Amount of Increases	\$64,234.00	\$80,762.00
Number of Total Pledgers	114	102
Total Amount Pledged	<u>\$379,014.00</u>	<u>\$363,898.00</u>
<i>\$15,116 Increase in pledge amounts for 2022</i>		

[MARCH]

- March 2 - Ash Wednesday
- March 5 & 6 - First Weekend of Lent
- March 13 - Spring Forward: Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 13 - First Communion Class
- March 19 - Women's Bible Study
- March 20 - Couples' Bible Study
- March 23- Last Day to Order Easter Flowers



[APRIL - MAY]

- April 10 - Palm Sunday
- April 14 - Maundy Thursday with the Celebration of First Communion
- April 15 - Good Friday
- April 16 - No Saturday Worship
- April 17 - Easter Sunday
- April 23 - Women's Bible Study
- May 11 - End of the Programmatic Year
- May 21 - Women's Bible Study
- May 30 - Office Closed: Memorial Day



Lent and Holy Week Schedule

(In Person and Livestream)*

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 2
*6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 14
*6:30 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays
March 9 - April 6
*6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Cantata

April 15
*6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday Weekend Worship

Saturday, April 9
5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 10
*9:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday Worship

April 17
*9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.





Crown of Glory Lutheran Church
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