Crown of Glory Lutheran Church

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.



Winter Crownicle 2024

Index and Information

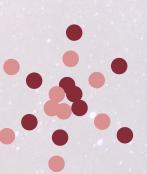
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Staff

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

Phone: 952-448-3230

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Servant Song Leader Grace Becker		



Your contributions matter

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



Council Members 2024





Pictured:

Back row, from left to right:

Pastor Laura Laughlin, Sherri Eriksrud, Kristi Kirsch, Mikel Jones (Secretary), Eric Larson, Pastor Reggie Klindworth, Bob Chinnock

Front row, from left to right:

Deb Mangen, Sarah Morrow (Vice President), Kate Peterson (President), Deb Peterson



From the Desk of Pastor Reggie

Stewardship Season: Steppingstones of Faith

We are making our way step-by-step through our 2025 Stewardship Appeal, *Steppingstones of Faith*. This stewardship season has been a reminder of what it means to live out our faith: stewardship is not just one season of the year, but an ongoing part of the life of the church. Stewardship means sharing our time, talents, and gifts as we live out our faith and look forward to our future. Your stewardship brings new life to the ministries of our congregation, enhances every part of our mission, and lays a foundation for future generations.

Now more than ever, Crown of Glory faces new challenges ahead, which makes your commitment vital to the life and ministry of this congregation. These are challenges that we are called to face together one step at a time. Over the 2024 fiscal year, we have faced a shortfall in contributions but have been able to sustain our ministries and our overall budget. We hope to grow our future together by increasing our giving and enriching our faith.

Crown of Glory has also grown this past year! Over the past year, Crown of Glory called and hired new staff members to our Music Ministry and Children's Ministry, and we are so very excited to share the gifts and talents of these new staff members. These are vital areas of ministry for our congregation's health and future. I am excited for our future, and I cannot wait to take these next steps forward with you.

I am also excited for the opportunity to join you for the rest of our stewardship season, close out our 2024 fiscal year, and meet the new challenges and opportunities ahead in 2025. The giving of your time, talents, and gifts is vital to our mission as we grow together in our faith. My sincere thanks for your continued commitment and the generosity of your shared gifts, your partnership and support, and most of all, your renewed faith in our future.

Rev. Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor

From the Desk of Pastor Laura

Advent and Christmas 2024:

"Season of Transformation"

As autumn weather shifts to colder temperatures, everything in creation points to the anticipation of change: winter is coming. With this change arrives the brief, but welcome liturgical season of Advent. Our sanctuary will be covered in royal blues and shimmery golds, and each week we will light a candle on our Advent wreath as we look to the coming of our Savior, Emmanuel.

The Worship Arts Team has been hard at work studying the Scripture passages for Advent and Christmas and reflecting on the themes that resonate most deeply. This year, the season for Advent and Christmas is "Season of Transformation." As a community of faith, we will be leaning into the uncertainty of faith, the frustration in waiting, and the holy discomfort of being transformed from within by the God who created us.

Along with lighting a candle each week of Advent, our "Season of Transformation" will follow four phases of the moon that will be projected around the hanging cross in the Sanctuary, with a different phase introduced each week. As more of the moon appears, we get closer to Christmas and the fullness of God's light and love made known in the person of Jesus Christ and illuminated in the moon and stars of the glorious night sky.

Each week of Advent will have a sub-theme that is taken from the Gospel passage assigned for that weekend that directly fits within the larger seasonal theme, "Season of Transformation." I invite you to read through the list below for each week of Advent and Christmas Eve to discover what we will be reading, learning, and seeing together in worship for those five weeks.



"Season of Transformation" Advent Week 1

New Moon: "What's Next?" (Luke 21: 25-36)

Advent Week 2

Waxing Crescent Moon: "Change" (Luke 3: 1-6)

Advent Week 3

First Quarter Moon: "Renewal" (Luke 3: 7-18)

Advent Week 4

Waxing Gibbous Moon: "Hope Magnified" (Luke 1: 39-55)

Christmas Eve

Full Moon: "Love Embodied" (Luke 2:1-20)

I also invite and strongly encourage you to join us for worship throughout Advent and Christmas! In addition to worship, a few special events will be taking place in December: the Children's Christmas Narrative on Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 a.m. and the Christmas Cantata (featuring all of Crown of Glory's music ensembles) on Sunday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m. The vocal ensemble traveling to Carnegie Hall will be hosting a brunch after the Cantata service as a fundraiser to help offset the expenses involved with their trip.

As we watch and wait for the birth of our Savior, and the hope that he brings to our broken, divided world, may we also be encouraged to open our hearts and minds to the movement of the Spirit and be transformed by the light and love of our Creator.

Waiting and walking with you,

Pastor Laura

Kids in Worship



Worship Whiteboard!

Looking for a fun way for children to be involved in worship? Located to the left of the Hospitality Station outside the main Sanctuary entrance, the Worship Whiteboard is available to kids of all ages to volunteer to help in worship with things like passing the Offering plates, serving Communion to the Pastors, lighting candles, hand out bulletins, etc. All kids are encouraged to arrive by 4:55 p.m. on Saturday or 8:55 a.m. on Sunday to get signed up. We welcome all children to participate in these worship activities.

Kiddos' Corner

The Kiddos' Corner, in the North side of the Sanctuary, is available during worship. Parents, please help to keep this space organized. If a volunteer is not present, please monitor your children. The same applies to the Kiddos' Corner in the North Sun Hall.

Thank you!



Worship Activity Bags

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

Kiddos' Corner Volunteers Needed

We're seeking youth volunteers ($8^{th} - 12^{th}$ grade) to serve as the Kiddos' Corner attendant during the Sunday morning worship service. Attendants will serve for one hour in the Kiddos' Corner helping direct children with 'quiet activities' during worship and assist in cleaning up following worship. Confirmation students, this is a great way to fulfill your Confirmation service hours for the year! To sign up contact Gretchen.

SPARK is off to a great start this fall! We have a wonderful group of students and volunteers. As we enter the Christmas season, our focus will be on telling the story of Jesus' birth. The SPARK kids will have the opportunity to participate in the Children's Christmas Narrative. All in the congregation are invited to join us on December 15 at 10:30 a.m. for "Twas the Evening of Christmas" as the SPARK kids read, sing, and act out the greatest story ever told. The script is based on a book by Glenys Nellist.

As we look forward to the 2nd half of the SPARK program year, I ask again for volunteer support. There is a January - May sign up available for the Kiddos' Corner and SPARK on the website.

One volunteer is needed every Sunday morning as a helper in the **Kiddos' Corner** during worship. This volunteer will oversee the children, making sure they are playing safely and relatively quietly. The volunteer will tidy-up the area at the end of the worship service.

SPARK Sunday School also takes place on Sunday morning. We always have at least two adults for our SPARK program. One is the Leader and one, or more, volunteer(s) is the **Helper**. Both the Leader and Helper(s) receive the lesson ahead of time by email. The Leader and Helper(s) are expected to preview the lesson so that they are prepared to lead. The Leader will do more of the reading and teaching (from a script). All art materials, coloring pages, and any needed items will be prepared and ready in the SPARK office prior to Sunday morning. The Helper(s) is there to assist the Leader. Volunteers for SPARK may choose to lead once or twice a year, monthly, or anywhere in-between.

Need more information or have questions? Please email gretchen@crownofglory.org and let me know!

I look forward to journeying with you and your kiddos through the upcoming holiday season!

Gretchen Mitcham Interim SPARK Director

Date	Lesson
11/24	Narrative Rehearsal
12/1	Thanksgiving Break (No SPARK)
12/8	Narrative Rehearsal
12/15	Children's Narrative
12/22	Christmas Break (No SPARK)
12/29	Christmas Break (No SPARK)
1/5	Jesus the Word - John 1:10
1/12	Jesus' Baptism - Luke 3:15
1/19	Wedding at Cana - John 2:1
1/26	Jesus Goes to Nazareth - Luke 4:14
2/2	Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:4
2/9	The Disciples - Luke 5:1
2/16	The Beatitudes - Luke 6:17
2/23	Joseph Feeds His Family - Genesis 45:3
3/2	The Transfiguration - Luke 9:28
3/9	Tempted - Luke 4:1
3/16	God's Promises to Abram - Genesis 15:1
3/23	Parable of the Fig Tree - Luke 13:1
3/30	Spring Break (No SPARK)
4/6	Spring Break (No SPARK)
4/13	Holy Week - Luke 19:28
4/20	Easter (No SPARK)
4/27	Doubting Thomas - John 20:19
5/4	Saul to Paul - Acts 9:1
5/11	Peter and Tabitha - Acts 9:36
5/18	SPARK Celebration



SPARK Sunday School Schedule Reminders

There is no SPARK Sunday school on Sunday, December 22 and 31, 2024. SPARK Sunday School resumes Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Milestones

9th Grade Confirmation Student Affirm Their Faith!

On Sunday, October 27, 2024, our 9th Grade Confirmation students affirmed their faith after a three-year Confirmation experience. Students and families celebrated during the 2:00 p.m. Affirmation of Baptism service at Crown of Glory, with nearly 140 family members and guests in attendance. We give thanks to the faith of our youth and celebrate this milestone with each one.



Drake Andrew Brandt
Grady Allan Brandt
Eleanor Linda Edison
Grant Robert Jones
Weston Paul Jones
Morgan Riley Kramer
Thomas Shaun Leeper
Ethan Terry McCormick
Kathryn Marie Robinson
Rebecca Joyce Ross
Cooper Anthony Vranicar

Youth Ministry

Connect and Confirmation Special Winter Events

This coming winter our Connect and Confirmation students will partner together and enjoy some fun outings and events! Please be sure to save the dates on your calendars and check for special Wednesday evening start times for each event.

Wednesday, December 4: Connect and Confirmation students head to Target in Chaska for our Annual Christmas Gift Night! All toys purchased will support the local Toys for Tots program!

Wednesday, December 11: Christmas Carols at Auburn Manor in Chaska!

Wednesday, December 25 & January 1: Connect and Confirmation in recess for Christmas and New Year's Break!

Wednesday, January 22, 2025: Mark your calendars for our Connect and Confirmation tubing night at Buck Hill in Burnsville!

Senior High Youth Mission Trip

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY All senior high school youth in grades $8^{th} - 12^{th}$ is invited to a special meeting for this coming summer's Mission Trip experience. Join us for a night of exploring and learning more about the Mission Trip 2025 on Tuesday, December 3 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. We'll partner with YouthWorks to experience a fantastic Mission Trip! Contact Pastor Reggie for more details and get signed up!

Wednesday Night Dinners

Do you want a night off from making dinner? Join us for a wonderful meal and fellowship on Wednesday nights. Dinner is served almost every Wednesday from 5:15-6:15 p.m. The cost is \$5 per youth or \$15 per family. Meals are

prepared by the Wednesday Night Dinner Team and served by Confirmation small groups. You can view the menu on the main Crown of Glory website or see the display board in the





Annual Quilt Sale

The Faithful Knotters decorated the chairs in the Sanctuary Reformation Weekend with quilts they made. By the end of the sale, all those chairs were empty and they had sold over 30 quilts!

A portion of the proceeds will go towards the CoG vocalists traveling to Carnegie Hall.

Kitchen Essentials Ministry

Help Support Families in Need: Donate to the Kitchen Essentials Ministry! The Kitchen Essentials Ministry is dedicated to helping families in need by providing essential kitchen items. From pots and pans to baking sheets, toasters, and coffee makers, your donations make a real difference in the lives of those who are just starting to build their kitchens or those facing challenging times.

Our Greatest Needs Right Now:

Pots & Pans Baking Sheets Toasters Coffee Makers

You can make a difference by donating new or gently used kitchen items. And with Black Friday shopping around the corner, it's a great time to pick up some extra items that will truly help others! For your convenience, you can also make a financial donation through Venmo. Just send your donation to [Venmo Handle] and include "Kitchen Ministry" in the memo line. We'll take care of purchasing the items for you.

Thank you for your continued support—your generosity helps us meet the needs of families in our community!

Tracy Cunningham Jodi Potter Sue Aschenbeck





Adult Bible Studies

Men's Faith Retreat

Join us for the Men's Faith Retreat: Good News, Good Brews at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN from Friday, January 10 -Sunday, January 12! We'll explore the process of making home brew together, bottling, tour a local brewery, and dive into devotional series led by Pastor Reggie. More information and registration are available by emailing Pastor Reggie.

Registration deadline is December 10, 2024.



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study

Led by CoG member, Sherri Taylor (sherriktaylor@hotmail.com), this group of curious and delightful women meet once a month on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. throughout the program year to study a book of the Bible together. This year, they will be journeying through the Gospel of Luke.

See below for their schedule:

Sunday Conversations

Dive into thought-provoking discussion in our adult study group, where we explore a range of biblical themes, social justice issues, and relevant topics. This year, we'll focus on the book Dialogues: On Race. They meet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Sun Hall. Contact Pastor Laura more information! See schedule below:

December 14

<u>2025</u> January 11 February 1 March 15 April 12 May 17



December 15: Christmas Cookies from Cambodia

January 12: America Amnesia February 16: Wither the Women? March 16: Two Christianities

April 27: A New Heaven and a New Earth



Music Ministry

Music Ministry

Rehearsal Times

Garage Band Mondays at 5:00 p.m.

Servant Song Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

Chancel Chimers Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.

Crown Brass Throughout the year (TBD)

Upcoming Music in Worship:

December 1: Chancel Chimers

December 8: Servant Song December 15: Chancel Choir

December 22: Christmas Cantata (all ensembles)

December 24: Chancel Choir, Chancel Chimers,

Soloists

December 29: Organ Christmas Magic

January 5: Servant Song

January 12: Chancel Choir

January 19: Chancel Chimers

January 26: Chancel Choir February 2: Servant Song

February 9: Chancel Choir

February 16: Chancel Chimers

February 23: Chancel Choir



2024 Giving Tree: Now through December 22

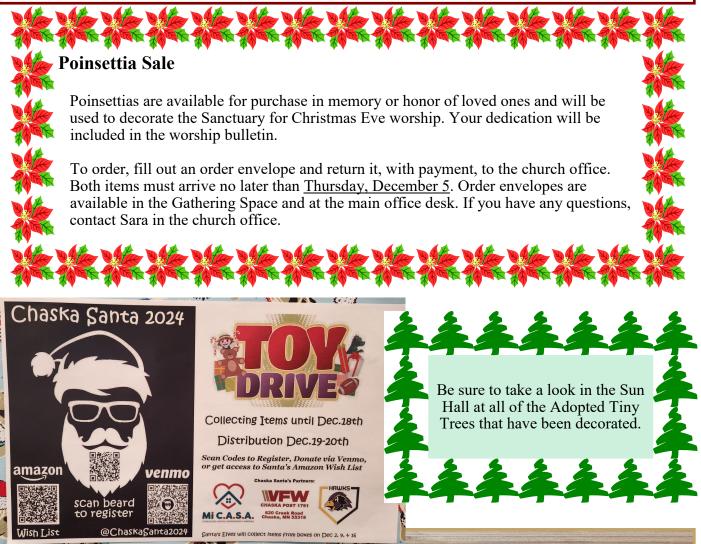
Crown of Glory proudly announces the 2024 Giving Tree! Each holiday season our congregation partners with local charities and ministries to offer support to families in need. This year's Giving Tree will be virtual and available in the Gathering Space outside the sanctuary for the next few weekends after each worship service! Please consider making a special gift.

Which Ministries are We Supporting? Bountiful Basket, Kitchen Essentials, and Faithful Knotters Our congregation's goal is to support three ministries that impact our congregation and community. Gifts given to the Giving Tree will be split evenly to each of the ministries listed above. Suggested donations of \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100 or more are accepted.

Ways to Give:

- You can grab an envelope from the Giving Tree on the weekend and drop it in the offering plate or drop box in the church office. Checks can be made out to "Crown of Glory" with "Giving Tree 2024" in the memo line.
- You can make a gift by using the Venmo code with "Giving Tree 2024" in the memo line.
- Visit our website and make a gift, be sure to select "Giving Tree" box.

We offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to all who support our community partners during this holiday season with a special gift to the Giving Tree ministry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Thank you for helping us give joy this year!



Finance Corner

As we approach another holiday season with excitement, joy, and wonder, it is also time to reflect on what we are grateful and thankful for. We want to take a moment to offer the congregation a word of thanks for all the financial support this past year and give an update on Crown of Glory's financial position.

As a reminder, the approved annual net operating budget for 2024 is \$3,902 (in the black). As of September 30, our contributions are \$42,000 below our projections. We have been able to offset a portion of this shortfall by carefully managing our operating expenses. We were also able to lower our monthly mortgage payment due to the loan modification this past summer, and we received some additional proceeds from the loan modification that were contributed to the sustaining fund. Overall, we are \$11,510 behind budget. Please click here for a more detailed financial snapshot. While we are grateful for every dollar that the congregation contributes, it is not keeping pace to support our ministries and financial obligations. Meeting our contribution goals is a top indicator of our financial stability. Please help us get back on track with our contribution goals by considering an increase to your giving!

There are many ways to contribute to Crown of Glory with your time, talents and financial gifts. Click here to learn more about all the ways to give financially. If you have time or talents that you would like to give, please reach out to one of the pastors, all help is appreciated! Here are a few things that your generous gifts are used for:

- To meet our mortgage obligations and maintain our buildings and grounds. Not only is our church the place we gather for worship and fellowship, but it is also used by so many amazing community organizations allowing us to live into our mission of serving our neighbors.
- To support our amazing staff who work tirelessly to deliver high quality programming, outstanding music, motivating and thought-provoking sermons, and support to all members in need.
- Deliver engaging programming to kids of all ages, not only to help them build their spiritual foundation but help sustain our faith for generations to come.

During this holiday season, please take a moment to reflect on why you are grateful for Crown of Glory and consider making a joyful donation to our church home. May you all find joy and peace in the little and big moments in the coming weeks. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and Very Merry Christmas!

Submitted by the Finance Team

Sarah Morrow, Ashley Pederson, Lori Robinson, Jodi Sie, Grant Taylor, and Pastor Reggie Klindworth



Upcoming Events



"Season of Transformation"

Advent Week 1

New Moon: "What's Next?" (Luke 21: 25-36)

Advent Week 2

Waxing Crescent Moon: "Change" (Luke 3: 1-6)

Advent Week 3

First Quarter Moon: "Renewal" (Luke 3: 7-18)

Advent Week 4

Waxing Gibbous Moon: "Hope Magnified" (Luke 1: 39-55)

Christmas Eve

Full Moon: "Love Embodied" (Luke 2:1-20)

SPARK Children's Christmas Narrative



Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Come and enjoy the Children's Christmas Narrative as we read through *Twas the Evening of Christmas* by Glenys Nellist and sing some of our favorite songs! Fellowship and treats will follow as children enjoy Happy Birthday Jesus party!

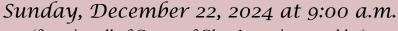
Longest Night Ecumenical Service

Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an ecumenical *Service of The Longest Night* at the Chaska Moravian Church, in downtown Chaska. This service will include faith leaders from the Moravian Church, the ELCA, and UCC.

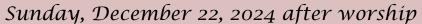
The Longest Night Service, also called Blue Christmas in the Western Christian tradition, is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. On this day, some churches in Western Christian denominations hold a church service that honors people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief. This worship service is traditionally held on or around the longest night of the year, which falls on or about December 21, the Winter Solstice. This service is meant to acknowledge the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss. The worship will include opportunities for expression of grief, pain, and heartbreak through song, scripture, and prayer. But they will also focus on the promise of hope found in Christ. Candles will be lit during the service in remembrance of those whom we are missing a little bit extra during this time of year. Leadership will come from the Moravian Church, the ELCA, and UCC, all are invited to attend.

Chrístmas Cantata



(featuring all of Crown of Glory's music ensembles)

Carnegie Hall Brunch Fundraiser



The vocal ensemble traveling to Carnegie Hall will be hosting a brunch after the Cantata service as a fundraiser to help offset the expenses involved with their trip.



**Please note events are subject to change and may be added. **

November

- 25- 2024 Giving Tree Begins
- No Connect, Confirmation, Dinner, or Music Rehearsals

(Thanksgiving Break)

28- Office Closed (Thanksgiving Day)



December

- 1- No SPARK Sunday School
- 4- Connect and Confirmation Service Event: Christmas Gift Night
- 5- Final Day for Poinsettia Orders

Lutheran Women Gone Wild at La Hermosa, Chaska

- 11- Connect and Confirmation Service Event: Christmas Caroling Night
- 14- SPARK Children's Christmas Narrative Rehearsal

Women's Bible Study

15- SPARK Children's Christmas Narrative

Sunday Conversations

19- Fare for All

Men's Pub Ministry at Back Channel, Spring Lake Park

Longest Night Ecumenical Service at the Chaska Moravian Church

- 21- Christmas Cantata Rehearsal
- 22- Final Day for 2024 Giving Tree Gifts

Christmas Cantata

Carnegie Hall Brunch Fundraiser

No SPARK Sunday School

24- Christmas Eve Worship

2:00 p.m. (In Person)

3:30 p.m. (In Person & Livestream)

5:00 p.m. (In Person)

- 25 & 26- Office Closed (Christmas and day after)
- 25- No Connect or Confirmation (Christmas Break)
- 29- No SPARK Sunday School



January

- 1- Building and Office Closed (Happy New Year)
 No Connect, Confirmation, or Dinner (New Year's Break)
- 2- Lutheran Women Gone Wild at Pablo's, Shakopee
- 4 & 5- Epiphany
- 11 & 12- Baptism Milestone
- 11- Women's Bible Study
- 12- Sunday Conversations
- 16- Men's Pub Ministry at Hackamore Brewing Company, Chanhassen
- 20- Building and Office Closed
- 22- Connect and Confirmation Event Night at Buck Hill
- 23- Fare for All

February

- 1- Women's Bible Study
- 6- Lutheran Women Gone Wild at Crooked Pint, Chaska
- 9- Annual Meeting
- 16- Sunday Conversations
- 20- Men's Pub Ministry at Trove Brewing, Burnsville
- 27- Fare for All

Final Worship for MRC at Crown of Glory: December 28 & 29

Our Partner, Ministerios Renacer Church (MRC), will hold their final worship at Crown of Glory on December 28 & 29, 2024. We wish them blessings on their future in their new location and worship home.

Stewardship Appeal 2025: Steppingstones of Faith

At the time of publication 69 Commitments had been made to Crown of Glory's Stewardship Appeal.

Haven't submitted your commitment yet? There is still time! Commitment cards may be submitted online at crownofglory.org/2025-pledge or dropped off at the main office.







Join Us December 24



Christmas Eve Worship

2:00 p.m. (In Person) 3:30 p.m. (In Person & Livestream) 5:00 p.m. (In Person)