

A photograph of a wooden roller coaster track curving downwards, with a scenic mountain landscape in the background under a clear sky. The track is made of metal rails on wooden supports, and the surrounding area is filled with wooden railings and planks.

*And so
the
adventure
begins*

Crown of Glory Lutheran Church
CROWNICLE
Summer 2023

Let's Try Something New!

Siblings in Christ,

At the end of April and beginning of May, a survey was conducted to inquire about the worshiping needs of the Crown of Glory community. The Crown of Glory Staff and Council are continuously asking the question, "Who are we as a congregation post-COVID-19?" Upon reflecting on the trends pre- and post-COVID, it became apparent that it was time to try something new with our summer worship schedule.

Change does not come without its challenges: the Saturday Evening Vespers service is a beloved staple in our worship schedule for many of our members during the program year and has been for about a decade. This is why the Staff and Council felt that it was important for us to only make a temporary change because our worshiping community also temporarily changes for the summer months. Many of us travel on the weekends, visit our cabins, stay at our favorite campgrounds, and use these few months to see friends and family. We will look forward to welcoming the Saturday Evening Vespers service back to our worship schedule for the program year starting September 9 at 5:00 p.m.

This summer, we will worship together on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. (in person and livestream) and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. (in person only). There are already plans in motion for fun family and community activities that will take place throughout the summer either before or after the Wednesday services. Stay tuned for updates on these as the summer arrives!

I am filled with hope and excitement to try something new with you this summer. If there is one thing I know for sure, it is that God will be with us every step of the way.

Walking with you,

Pastor Laura Laughlin
Pastor of Faith Formation

A graphic with the words "TRY SOMETHING NEW" in a bold, sans-serif font. Each letter is a different color, creating a rainbow effect: T (purple), R (blue), Y (teal), S (green), O (light green), M (yellow), E (orange), T (light orange), H (pink), I (light pink), N (light purple), G (light blue), N (light green), E (light yellow), W (yellow).

Adult Education and Milestones for Summer 2023

All Adult Education and Milestone ministries will pause for the summer and return September 2023. Mark your calendars to plan for when these ministries start again in the fall:

Women's Bible Study: Saturday, September 16 (9:00 a.m.)

Adult Forum: Sunday, September 17 (10:15 a.m.)

First Communion Class: Sunday, September 17 (1:30 p.m.)

Partner Study: Sunday, September 24 (6:00 p.m.)



Spirit On The Move!

The Holy Spirit is alive and moving at Crown of Glory! Our program year for ministries may be drawing to a close, but we are getting ready to move with the Spirit into a summer that is packed with a lot of opportunity and adventure for everyone to enjoy. I invite you to take part in all the summertime activities, events, and Spirit-filled experiences.

Our worship will have a new look to it this summer! In fact, after a very strong response from our Summer Worship Survey, we are temporarily moving our Saturday Evening Vespers service to Wednesday nights starting at 6:30 p.m. for the summer. The service itself will retain much of the same format and feel of an evening style worship. Saturday Evening Vespers Worship will return for the regular program year on September 9, 2023. Join us Sundays and Wednesdays for worship and experience something new!

There is still more to explore this summer and even more that the Holy Spirit has moved us to do! We are headed to Nashville, TN for a weeklong mission trip experience with our senior high school youth the week of June 25-July 1. I invite you to hold this group in your prayers as we prepare for all that God has in store for us on this trip. It has been three long years without a mission trip and we are finally able to answer the call once again. This year's summer mission trip will certainly help shape our faith and help us to better understand where and how God is calling us to serve.

As the summer winds down, do not forget about Vacation Bible School for our kiddos and friends in August! I am thrilled to be part of VBS this year. Crown of Glory's VBS will be led by Miss Krysta, the Director of Children's Ministry, and held here in the church building. Get signed up early and invite your friends; we want everyone to get involved this summer!

We are staying the course and on track with our stewardship and gifts moving into the summer, as well. Be sure to review the Finance Corner of this edition of the *Crownicle*. The Finance Team shares a detailed report of our current year to date expenses and offerings. The summer is also a great time 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, our Finance Manager at ashley@crownofglory.org.

As we look forward to an excellent summer together, make sure you stay connected with this community of faith through worship, service in the community, and ministries. May your summertime be filled with the awesomeness of the Holy Spirit!

Blessings,

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor



The Kiddos' Corner will continue to be available during worship throughout the summer. I will be in the Kiddos' Corner each week with the exception of a couple weeks when I will be on vacation. I look forward to worshipping with you all this summer!



Thank You, SPARK Volunteers!



What a great year of SPARK Sunday School! A big thank you to all volunteers who helped with SPARK! Volunteers are what keep our SPARK program running. Thank you for taking the time to support the kiddos of our church!

VBS 2023: "Operation Restoration: Mending God's World"

Mark your calendars and register (<https://www.crownofglory.org/vbs>) for this year's VBS! The cost is \$50 per child which includes a t-shirt and a daily lunch and snack. Preschool participants will have a separate program that will end at 12:00 p.m.

- Who: Preschool to Fifth Grade Kids
- What: VBS *Operation Restoration*
- When: July 31-August 4, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- Where: Crown of Glory Lutheran Church
- Why: To mend God's world, grow in faith, and be in fellowship with one another!

We welcome all adults and youth who are interested in being a volunteer! Volunteers will attend a brief training session, get a free t-shirt, snacks, and lunch. Email Krysta Flaharty (krysta@crownofglory.org) if you are interested!

Krysta Flaharty
Director of Children's Ministry



9th Grade Faith Retreat



Our 9th grade Confirmation Faith Retreat will be held August 25 – 27 at the Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp, the partner camp of Green Lake Bible Camp near Spicer, MN. The purpose of this Faith Retreat is to gather our upcoming 9th grade class (current 8th grade Confirmation classes) together to begin writing their Faith Statements and to prepare for their Affirmation of Baptism Service on Confirmation Sunday (Sunday, October 29 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.)

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

Please contact Pastor Reggie Klindworth (pastorreggie@crownofglory.org) for more information and get signed up today!

Graduating Seniors

What a celebration of achievement! 27 graduating seniors were celebrated on May 13 & 14 during worship in recognition of their academic and faith achievements. Each senior was gifted a hand-made quilt from our Faithful Knotters. We rejoice with our graduates and their families as they begin a new chapter in their life and faith!



Class of
2023



Megan Beireis	Jackson Holmlund	Elise Pudwill
Grace Boche	Katie Jiran	Abby Robinson
Braden Campbell	Lauren Kalenze	Myla Schachner
Noah Connolly	Isabella Kendrick	Emily Segar
Signe Dohse	Aaron Lage	Caleb Smith
Danielle Dorian	Natasha Lage	Max Rain
Caden Ellingson	Makina Larson	Dylan Remick
Patrick Fossum	Jacob Middendorf	Brendan Rupert
Griffin Hagen	Nathan Olson	Brynn Vangen



Senior High Mission Trip

Four high school youth and two adults are set to journey to Nashville, TN from June 25 to July 1 to serve on their mission trip. This will be Crown of Glory’s first mission trip in three years! They will be partnering with Youthworks to serve in a variety of ways including partnering with local organizations through food and clothing distribution and sorting, spending time with the elderly, community beautification projects, and helping facilitate children programming. Please keep all our mission trip participants in your prayers this summer.

Pastor Reggie Klindworth
Senior Pastor



Making the Most of Summer Music

“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy.”
(Ira Gershwin, from *Porgy and Bess*)

Living may not always be easy in the summer, but it certainly has a very different feel than the rest of the year. After the long winter, we all have cabin fever and are pining to get outside to garden, bike, fish, hike, etc. After a long winter and snow in April, summer 2023 is a welcome change.

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

However, summer need not lack for musical leadership. Instead of our traditional musical leadership, summer offers a wonderful opportunity for solos, duets, ensembles, and one-time or "pop-up" choirs. If you have some musical skills that you are willing and excited to share, let me know! If you think you might have those skills, but need a little coaching, a few lessons, or a little encouragement and support, let me know; we will set up time(s) to meet to learn and grow together. If you have a friend(s) or daughter, son, father, mother, brother, sister who would like to sing, play instruments, or do some drama together, let me know. A unique time of year invites us to be creative, to try new or different things, and to think outside the box, especially where our worship life is concerned.

The great conductor Robert Shaw said, "Music is much too important to be left to the professionals." Obviously, I agree with him. If I ask you to lead some music this summer, I hope you will say, "yes." If I don't ask you, I may not know about your gifts. Come and talk to me, I would love to hear from you!

Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly.

Tom Paulson

Director of Music and Worship
tpaulson@crownofglory.org



The 2023 Crown of Glory Council wasted no time diving into the church’s challenges and plans for the upcoming year. We have had great momentum over the past couple years, and this year’s Council is eager to continue to build our community.

The Council has many goals for this year and beyond, from starting the process of finishing the kitchen to exploring options for the unfinished lower level. In the short term, most of our focus this year will be on meeting the budget.

The Council will work closely with the Finance Team to monitor certain metrics, specifically those related to meeting our budget goals. One of these metrics will be based on offering, which will be categorized by households and by members who pledged versus those who did not pledge. Our metrics will also track giving across various channels such as giving in-person, through Venmo, or online.

Part of the Council’s year-long commitment to the budget is to support the newly formed Welcome Team, not only in growing membership, but also in serving our existing members. We need to make sure we continue to live into our mission statement and strengthen our existing membership and ministries, because having strong, active ministries *will* attract new people to Crown of Glory. It will also foster greater involvement and a sense of belonging for those who are already here. All Council members are encouraged to be active and visible on other ministry teams.

The entire Council is excited about the many wonderful events being planned for this year! Look for more information about Vacation Bible School, a Garage Sale fundraiser, Rally Weekend, the Fall Social, and many more. Each ministry team could always use more help. Reach out to a Pastor or member of the Council if you’d like more information about any of the groups listed below. If you have an idea for a new event or fundraiser, we would love to hear about that, too!

It is no secret that these past few years have left us with challenges; however, Crown of Glory has a strong Council that is dedicated to the success of this congregation. We are honored to lead this family of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit to Welcome, Serve, and Share.

Crown of Glory offers a wide variety of ministry teams for every age. Here are a few ministry teams from each area.

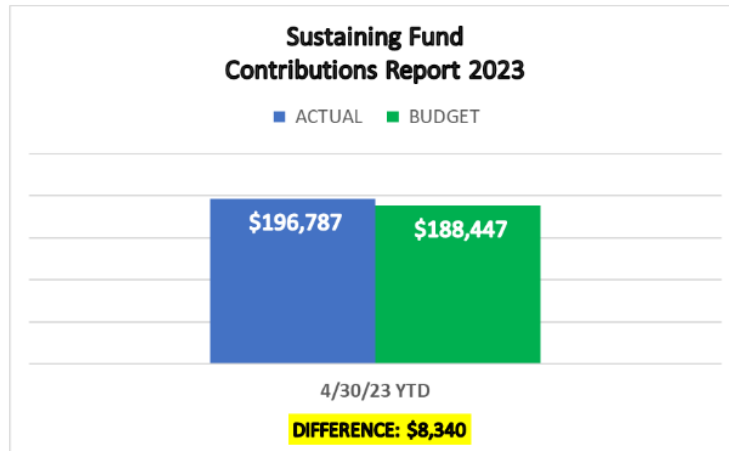
<p><u>Children/Youth Ministry:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPARK Sunday School (age 3 – 3rd grade) • Connect (4th and 5th grade) • Confirmation (6th – 8th grade) • Senior High (9th – 12th grade) <p><u>Adult Education Ministry:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Adult Forum • Women’s Bible Study • Study for Partners <p><u>Adult Social Ministry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lutheran Women Gone Wild • Men’s Pub Ministry <p><u>CoG Property:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time, Talent, and Tasks Ministry • Landscape Ministry 	<p><u>Music Ministry:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chancel Choir • Chancel Chimers • Servant Song • Garage Band (Middle and High School) <p><u>Community Ministry:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Team • Justice and Inclusion Team • Creation Care Team • Fare For All • Kitchen Essentials • Faithful Knotters • Faithful Knitters • Caring Hands
--	---

Sarah Morrow
Council Secretary

Spring has finally arrived in MN! As the program year is coming to a close, the Finance Team wanted to give an update on the financial health of Crown of Glory. We have had a stronger start to 2023 than expected and want to continue to build on that momentum! Please reach out to one of our team members or Pastors if you have questions on the information below.

Giving Update

We have recently shifted to showing a bar graph of actual versus budget totals for contributions to the Sustaining Fund in the worship bulletins. This is an opportunity to convey to the congregation the line item in the budget that members can have the biggest impact on. Contributions are \$8,340 ahead of budget for the first four months of 2023. Crown of Glory has given generously so far in 2023, and for that, we say thank you!



Total giving units for 2023 is 191, up from 188 for the same time period in 2022. We had 19 new giving units so far in 2023! New givers have contributed \$8,585 in 2023.

2023 Budget vs Actuals

As a reminder, the Council and Finance Team proposed a three-year approach to building back to a balanced budget. This approach would allow Crown of Glory to continue to build on the momentum that we saw in the fall of 2022 without reducing Staff. The proposed 2023 budget, which was approved at the Annual Meeting, would result in a net loss of \$(27,742) on a cash flow basis for the year.

The table below shows the YTD actuals versus budget for the period from January 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023. Our budget projected a net loss of \$(27,495) as of this date but revenues have been better than expected and the actual net loss was only \$(12,439), for a positive difference of \$15,506. (cont'd on next page)

Sustaining Fund - Cash Flow Summary as of 4/30/2023			
	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Difference
Contributions	\$196,787	\$188,447	\$8,340
Other Revenue	43,500	37,075	6,425
Total Revenues	240,287	225,522	14,765
Operating Expenses	171,963	172,927	(964)
Mortgage and Interest Payments	80,763	80,540	223
Total Expenses	252,726	253,467	(741)
Net Cash Flow	\$(12,439)	\$(27,945)	\$15,506

The Finance Team is very encouraged to see this upward trend in contributions and other revenue. Thank you to all who have given generously! Now is the time for us to stay vigilant and continue to support Crown of Glory. While it is great news that we are ahead of our budget, we are still in a negative cash flow position, and need to continue to work together to build back to a place of financial stability.

Construction Loan & Mortgage Update

As part of the 2023 Stewardship Appeal, there was a special appeal to pay back construction loans. \$21,619 was pledged for the year and as of April 30, 2023, we have received \$13,210. Loans due in 2023 total \$20,000, so we are in a good position to pay back those loans using the Special Appeal funds.

Construction Loan Update	
Maturity Date	Amount
2023	\$20,000
2024	\$172,000
2025	\$20,000
2026	\$0
2027	\$15,000
Total Construction Loans	\$227,000

Crown of Glory continues to pay down our mortgage each month on time and is in good standing with our bank.

Fundraisers

We will have two fundraisers in 2023 that will both benefit the Sustaining Fund: a garage sale this summer and the Fall Social. If you are interested in helping with either of these events, please reach out to one of the pastors or a member of the Finance Team.

Summary

It has been a difficult few years financially for Crown of Glory and churches in general. Crown of Glory took a leap of faith when we decided to take a three-year approach to building back to a balanced budget. The first four months of 2023 have been very encouraging. Please partner with us in continuing to contribute both with your time and financial resources.

Finance Team

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

Memorial to Survivors of Sexual Violence

Crown of Glory Lutheran Church is honored to be one of only three churches from across the nation to be selected to house a one-of-a-kind art piece that serves as a national memorial to survivors of sexual violence. The art piece was created by artist Michele Gutlove from Boston, MA. Michele was selected from a nation-wide group of seventy artists. We invite you to visit Michele's website at studiogh.com to learn more about her work.

The three national memorial pieces were commissioned and championed by Bishop Bill Tesch of the Northwest Area Synod of Minnesota, Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, and Crown of Glory Lutheran Church. These art pieces will publicly recognize the hurt caused by the Church and serve as a step toward reconciliation, hope, and healing to survivors of sexual violence. The memorial art piece at Crown of Glory was installed on the North side of the church building on May 22, 2023. A dedication of the memorial will be set for a later date. It is a great honor to welcome this beautiful memorial to our church community as we stand together as a beacon of safety and healing for all.



Artist, Michele Gutlove, and CoG member, Roger Lee



[JUNE]

- June 1 — LWGW, Oak19
- June 10 & 11 — Women's Retreat @ Mt. Olivet Retreat Center
- June 15 — Men's Pub, Boom Island
- June 18 — Happy Father's Day
- June 22 — Fare For All
- June 25 to July 1 — Senior High Mission Trip



[JULY]

- July 4 — Office Closed: Independence Day
- July 5 — No Wednesday Worship
- July 6 — LWGW, Ruby's
- July 27 — Men's Pub @ Chaska Cubs
- July 27 — Fare For All
- July 31 to August 4 — VBS



[AUGUST]

- August 3 — LWGW, Stick's Tavern
- August 17 — Men's Pub Grill Out @ CoG
- August 24 — Fare For All & Shoe Bus
- August 25 to 27 — 9th Grade Faith Retreat @ Shores of St. Andrew



[SEPTEMBER]

- Sept. 4 — Office Closed: Labor Day
- Sept. 7 — LWGW, O'Brien's
- Sept. 9 & 10 — Rally Weekend
- Sept. 13 — Programming Begins
- Sept. 16 — Women's Bible Study
- Sept. 17 — Adult Forum
- Sept. 17 — First Communion Class
- Sept. 24 — A Study for Partners
- Sept. 28 — Fare For All





Crown of Glory Lutheran Church
1141 Cardinal Street
Chaska, MN 55318

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CHASKA MN 55318
PERMIT NO. 52

SUMMER

W O R S H I P S C H E D U L E

Sundays	Wednesdays
9:00 a.m. (in person & livestream)	6:30 p.m. (in person)

May 28-August 30, 2023