

Crownicle

From the Pastor's Desk

"New Things!"

New Things are fun, they are exciting and they bring an enthusiastic sense of joy to your life. You know when something is "New." You can sense it. You can see it without actually seeing it. *New Things* grab your attention and hold you captive. If you haven't noticed, Crown of Glory has been a place of *New Things*, lately!

God has a clear sense of what is new in the world! God's joy is a gift that is freely given to each of us. Crown of Glory is in the midst of undergoing what it means to experience the joy of *New Things* that God has given!

After a 12-month-long search that was overseen and conducted by our Call Committee, in partnership with the Bishop's Office of the Minneapolis Area Synod, and by the overwhelming affirmation of the congregation of Crown of Glory, together we have now received Pastor Laura Laughlin, her husband David, and their handsome son, Oliver. Together they have finally arrived, in joyful welcome, from of the heart of North Dakota, where she faithfully served two congregations for the past few years!

This *New Thing* is a good thing indeed! Crown of Glory is a congregation that is experiencing God's joy and it demonstrates that together we are moving in the direction of *New Things*. We look forward to the many years that Pastor Laura will serve as the Associate Pastor of Faith Formation, serving our youth, our families and all who call Crown of Glory home.

We have so much to look forward to this coming new year. We are now setting our sights on *New Things* such as living out our calling as a community congregation, sharing our gifts and blessings with others, welcoming new people into our community of faith, equipping and empowering leaders to serve in our community and answering the call to be God's people here in this place.

Another *New Thing* that we give thanks to God for is our new Administrative Office Assistant, Kellie Bokusky. Kellie joined our staff in early September and brings a joy-filled smile to our front office desk as well as a keen sense of organization to our church office. Please greet her with gracious welcome.

Finally, In the coming weeks our congregation will also set our sights on a new financial vision for our future when we enter into partnership with our new lender, *BankVista* of Chaska, and re-finance our Mortgage Foundation Fund. This new partnership offers us a more secure future together and a new vision of stewardship ministry in our congregation.

In response to this new partnership, our Stewardship Appeal Campaign will take on a new look this coming year. In the past we have practiced the renewal of congregational "pledges" in the early months of November. This year, we seek to join our two major funds; the General Operating Fund which supports ministries, staffing and day-to-day operations, and the Mortgage Foundation Fund which supports our building/facility mortgage. With a new partnership in place, our Stewardship Appeal Campaign for receiving pledges will begin in early January of 2020. In addition to this schedule shift, our approach to Stewardship ministry will change. Moving forward, we will refer to "pledges" as your "commitments." I look forward to sharing this new vision with you in the coming year!

In Christ,
Pastor Reggie Klindworth

Senior Pastor



""I will both lie
down in peace,
and sleep; for You
alone, O LORD,
make me dwell in
safety."
Psalm 4:8

Inside this issue

Council Corner	2
Weekly Worship	2
Children's Ministry	3
Financial Update	4
Music Notes	5
Pastor Laura	6
Sanctuary Floor	6
Lunch & Learn	7
Survey Results	8 & 9
Thrivent Dollars	10
Calendar	11
Ministry Update	12



Welcome Kellie Bokusky: Administrative Assistant



We are pleased to announce that Kellie Bokusky has joined Crown of Glory as our new Administrative Assistant. Kellie is a University of Minnesota graduate and brings strong church experience to the role. Her hours will be 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday. She, her husband, 4 children and Daisy, the miniature Dachshund, reside in Eden Prairie. In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor activities with her family. Please be sure to introduce yourself when you are in the office. Welcome Kellie!

Council Corner: Council Actions This Past Summer

Your Church Council was very busy this past summer. Some of the milestones for the Council include holding three Congregational Meetings:

- The Congregation approved the land swap/purchase deal with Pulte Construction Group.
- Recommended to the Congregation that we approve an agreement to refinance our mortgage with BankVista.
- Recommended to the Congregation the call for Pastor Laura Laughlin.

Pastor Laura arrived in September. The congregation had a chance to meet her in August when she visited Chaska for a house hunting trip and we are greatly impressed with her energy! Many thanks go to the Call Committee for their dedication in completing the call process.

The Pulte deal is still moving. Pulte is now negotiating with MnDOT for approval of the access road off Highway 41 that will cross the southern tip of the CoG property. We expect to hear more in the first quarter of 2020.

The Finance Team has moved forward with BankVista, and we are nearly ready with all the paperwork and red tape needed for closing the loan. The projected closing date is early November!

The Council also appointed Michael Bechthold to fill Charles Kelley's council position. Michael's partial term will expire in February of 2020. Our thanks to Michael for volunteering to serve!

Plus, you may have noticed that we have updated our logo to a cleaner look.

Next on the schedule is the start of our budgeting process.

The Council also developed a survey of the Congregation to help us understand what we are all thinking about worship life at Crown of Glory. A review of the primary survey results is included in this issue of **The Crownicle**.

Submitted by Steve Tinker, CoG Church Council



What's New In Children's Ministries

CONNECT for 4th and 5th graders on Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

This year we focus on the life of Jesus and the church. We will gather in the sanctuary from 6:00 – 6:20 p.m. for large group – story presentation in video format, followed by small group time to build relationships through prayer, study and activities. Volunteer group leaders are vital to the success of CONNECT

NEW!!

SAVE THESE DATES:
November 17th, December 8th. "Together In Faith" cross + generational learning on Sundays 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Contact Gretchen Pierskalla to be part of the planning and leading of these events.

See you in SPARK!

Let me know what would help your child have a positive experience in worship and in programmed learning! I am looking forward to a great year together and am grateful to be sharing faith with all of you and our children!

CoG staff conducted experiments and conversations during the summer months to explore families worshiping together and sharing in cross + generational learning with the whole congregation. *Maybe you have noticed the mobile in the worship space created during our "Together in Faith" cross + generational learning times over the summer! Thank you to all who participated in these efforts to do a new thing!*

These experiments tested what was learned from the congregational survey conducted last spring. Staff wanted to check if we had identified the correct adjustments to better meet needs for our congregation. Children were in worship with their friends and families all summer long! Summer SPARK was offered after worship from 10:30 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. Once a month, we gathered after worship for "Together In Faith," our inter-generational learning community intended for all ages and stages of life, to hear scripture, pray and play together. These experiments provided great insights and were warmly received and enjoyed! "Together In Faith" continues into the fall as CoG creates a new model for SPARK Sunday School!

SPARK's Fall Plan:

1st, 3rd & 4th Weekends

Age group SPARK lessons between the worship services from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Gather in the Emmaus Atrium, the large area outside the Pre-School classrooms, for large group singing and introduction. Then into age groups in the Emmaus Learning Center classrooms and in the Bethany Room. *Youth and Adults are welcome to sign up for teaching age groups each week!*

2nd Weekends

"Together in Faith" cross + generational learning in the Sun Hall for all ages 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. *Contact Gretchen Pierskalla to be part of a team to plan and put together these sessions!*

5th Weekends

Worship and Hospitality without any additional scheduled events.

We will welcome children in worship – wiggles and all. We believe that faith is passed on in song, prayer and by being present in the worshipping community. Nursery care is available for children under age 5 for those times when children or caregivers need a break.

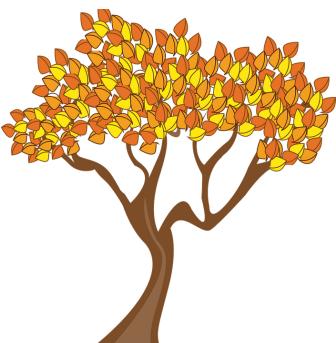
We will continue with the SPARK curriculum. It is easy to pick up and lead and kids enjoy it. Lessons will be emailed during the week to registered teachers and substitutes so you may pre-read and prepare ahead of teaching the lesson.

We will continue to sing with Laura Ross and share our songs in worship with the congregation throughout the year!

We will also prepare for the Christmas Narrative starting the last Sunday in October. SPARK kids will tell the story of Jesus' birth on Sunday, December 15th from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m., between the worship services. Dress Rehearsal will be Saturday, December 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., followed by a Birthday Party for Jesus!

Faith comes to us as a gift from God through relationships within the gathered and sent community. Shaping faith of children is the privilege of parents, family, sponsors and the congregation; built on the promises made at baptism. Our goal is to partner with parents and walk with children as they learn to follow Jesus, grow into their own faith and reach out to touch the world with God's amazing love!

Thank you for your partnership in sharing the gospel and growing in faith together at Crown of Glory!



Finance Corner: Ashley Pederson, Director of Finance



Crown of Glory is committed to supporting our staff, our wonderful church facility and our future together as a growing community congregation. Your contributions and gifts to the "General Operations Fund," support our staffing and day-to-day operations of the church, and the "Building Foundations Fund" supports the mortgage. We couldn't reach our monthly and annual goals without the generous partnership of our members.

Year-to-Date-Giving: Where are we financially?

Your financial offerings not only support the facility and staff, but they support our foundation that we are building for our future. In hope of offering more transparency to our congregation's monthly financial needs, we are providing a monthly report submitted in the church "Crown Connections" E-news letter as well as updates in the worship bulletins. The chart below shares our current financial commitments and up-to-date annual contributions through the month of September 2019. Contributions to the "General Operations Fund" is an estimated \$13,000 over our expenses and the "Building Foundations Fund" is an estimated \$22,500 below our commitments.

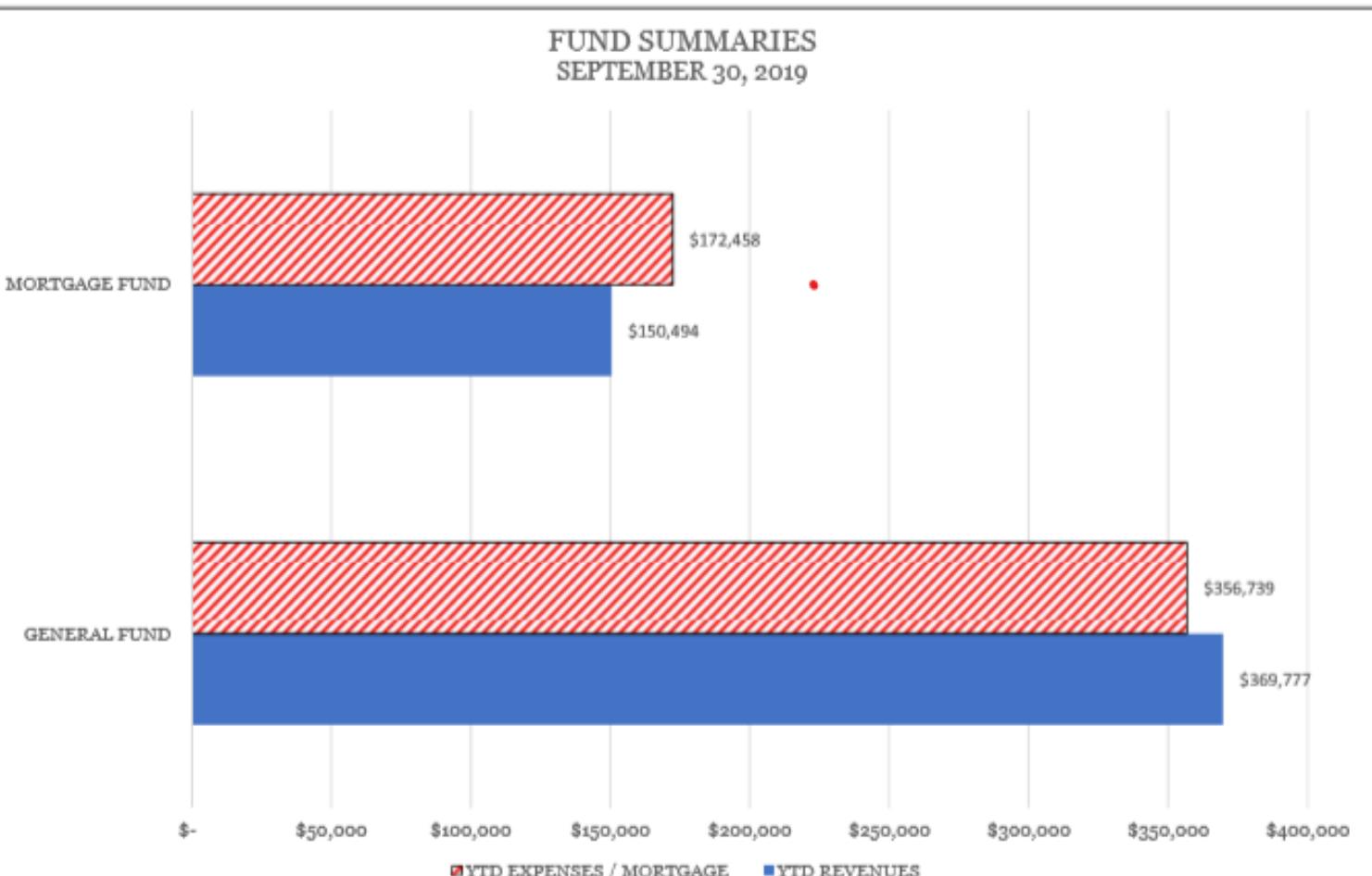
Commitments and Partnership:

What can you do to support Crown of Glory's Financial Needs?

As we look to secure a new financial partnership with Bank Vista, it is important to keep our financial commitments going strong.

V

Crown of Glory Year-To-Date Giving and Expenses



Music and Worship

LISTENING TO YOUR STILL, SMALL VOICE

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

Your community needs you to lead worship by singing in the Chancel Choir!

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

Your community needs you to lead worship by ringing with the Chancel Chimers!

Did/do you play in a garage band?

Your community needs you to lead worship playing or singing with Servant Song!

So many people tell me they really don't 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're not necessarily looking for great singers; we're looking for great people willing to put in a little extra time to make our worship even better for all of us, the whole community!

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

If you're 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 hadn't sung in choir since high school, 50 years ago. I gave Gary a few voice lessons, discovered the congregation was right, got him to join choir and today he regularly sings with his church choir. He loves the music and comradery.

God does not necessarily call the equipped.

Often God equips the called!

Choir rehearsals for the season have been underway since September 4. Perhaps there is a still small voice in your conscious telling you to try something new or pick up where you left off in high school. Whatever you're thinking, your community, Crown of Glory, would be a better place with your musical leadership. Talk to me. I can make it happen!

New members always encouraged!

See Tom Paulson, Director of Music and Worship

Tpaulson@crownofglory.org for more information.

Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly

Tom Paulson, Director of Music and Worship/Organist

TPaulson@CrownofGlory.org

***"Come, let
us sing for
joy to the
LORD; let
us shout
aloud to
the Rock of
our
salvation."
Psalm 95:1***



Staff & Ministry Partners

Senior Pastor

Reggie Klindworth

pastorreggie@crownofglory.org

Associate Pastor

Laura Laughlin

pastorlaura@crownofglory.org

Director of Worship & Music

Tom Paulson

tpaulson@crownofglory.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Gretchen Pierskalla

gretchen@crownofglory.org

Director of Nursery

Jennifer Payne

jenni@crownofglory.org

Office Administrator

Kellie Bokusky

kellie@crownofglory.org

Piano Accompanist

Ginger Larson

Financial Manager

Ashely Pederson

Ashley@crownofglory.org

Treasurer

Jill Nelson

jill@crownofglory.org

Custodian

Building Masters

pastorreggie@crownofglory.org

Volunteer Building Manager

Robert Chinnock

bobchinnock@mchsi.com

Church Council

council@crownofglory.org

General Email

crownofglorychaska@gmail.com

Church Council President

Mary Leopold

mary.l.leopold@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday

9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Tel: 952-448-3230

Welcome Pastor Laura Laughlin



We are excited to announce that on Sunday, August 4th Crown of Glory members voted unanimously to affirm Pastor Laura Laughlin as the new Associate Pastor of Faith Formation! We are excited to receive her into our church family. Pastor Laura and her family are living in the Chaska area and are settled into their new home. Pastor Laura brings an exciting energy and welcoming presence to our worship and congregational life! Please take time to get to greet her and her family as they get acclimated to Crown of Glory and the Chaska area.

Sanctuary Flooring Completed

The beautiful sanctuary flooring was completed. Our heartfelt thanks to all who made this possible gifts and special donations!



Adult Education Ministry: 2019 Lunch & Learn

This fall, we are pleased to be offering a 4-part Lunch & Learn series, "The Art of Aging: Plan Your Roadmap." As we age, we recognize the need to take care of our minds, bodies and the numerous housekeeping tasks that go along with living life to the fullest. Please join these sessions as we delve into these topics thoughtfully, pragmatically, spiritually and sometimes even humorously. All sessions include lunch, are FREE and open to everyone. Be sure to share this with friends and family who may be looking for information and assistance with any or all of these topics. All are welcome. RSVP to crownofglorychaska@gmail.com. More details about each event can be found at www.crownofglory.org/upcoming-events.

September 17, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

"A Healthier You Is Only a Habit Away"

Presented by Terri Mattson, Motivational Speaker and Coach,
Beginning Today Lifestyle Wellness, LLC

October 29, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

"Does the Thought of Downsizing and Moving Overwhelm You?

Presented by Gentle Transitions

November 19, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

"Take Care of Your Funeral"

Presented by Matt Hendrickson, Bertas Funeral Home & Cremation Services and Senior Pastor
Reggie Klindworth, Crown of Glory Lutheran Church

December 12, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

"The Life and Death Comedy Show"

Presented by Stevie Ray, Executive Director
Stevie Ray Improv

September Was 'Celebration of Peace'

On September 28th and 29th, Crown of Glory enjoyed our 2nd Annual Celebration of Peace rededicating our Peace Pole and our commitment to be a community church grounded in a message of peace.

The Celebration of Peace was held during worship services on Saturday, September 28th, at 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, September 29th, at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Everyone enjoyed this special celebration that was filled with music and the gospel message of spreading peace in our community.

Part of the service at Crown of Glory was held around our Peace Pole which displays the prayer, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," in eight languages and designates the church as a peace pole site. It is one of thousands of such sites in 180 countries around the world. These sites serve as constant reminders for us to visualize and pray for peace and inspire us to act in ways that lead to peace for all people. The Peace Pole at Crown of Glory was installed last September and is the first thing that greets people who enter our doors.

The theme at Crown of Glory Lutheran Church for the month of September was "Celebrating Peace." The Crown of Glory church council asked the City of Chaska to adopt a proclamation designating September 21st as the International Day of Peace in the City of Chaska. The City Council approved the Peace Proclamation at their September 16th meeting.

Our Church

Council Members:

President:

Mary Leopold

Vice President:

Steve Tinker

Secretary:

Susan Gray

Other Members of
Council:

Julie Brown

Steve Clay

Charles Kelley

Steve Mangen

Jeni Stifter

Patty Viajar

Crown of Glory Survey Results

Thank you to all who took time to complete the CoG congregational survey this April. We had 155 responses that provided great information, insights and comments on what you value about CoG and what your hopes, dreams, desires and wishes are for the future of CoG. By taking the survey, you partnered with us to help our leaders gather information that will help shape our future together. On behalf of the Council Survey Team and CoG Staff, we thank you for your participation and your special attention to this important survey!

Over the past several weeks, Pastor Reggie, Church Staff and Church Council have been reviewing the information gathered to discern opportunities, themes, needs and begin building a future vision including strategies and plans to best serve our congregation with meaningful worship and ministry programs.

For the short-term, Pastor Reggie and Church Staff have already begun implementing some changes based on feedback and comments from the survey.

For long-term planning, we are continuing to review all the information and comments to start building a plan that will guide our future work. The first step in this process was to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we will leverage and/or address, as well as the pillars for our long-term plan.

Our pillars are represented in the diagram below:



Our Community

Pastoral Needs

If your family has pastoral needs such as baptisms, hospital visits, marriage preparation, experiencing stress, transition or grief, please contact Pastor Reggie or Pastor Laura; we are glad to serve you and your family.

Caring Hands

This team responds to the special needs of families within our congregation. For information or to notify the church about a family event, contact Pastor Reggie.

Connect - Serve - Grow

We love and appreciate our volunteers. They play an important role in keeping our church running smoothly. We have many opportunities and social groups to help you stay connected between Sundays. Be sure to visit our website to learn more about how you can become part of our growing community that serves one another!

***Crown of Glory
"Where Family and
Friends Grow
Together in Faith."***

Crown of Glory Survey Results Continued

Looking To Get Involved!

Crown of Glory has lots of ways to serve, give back, experience small groups, enjoy friends & gatherings, and grow in your faith!

Check out one of the many ways you can be involved:

- Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- Lunch and Learn
- Loaves and Fishes
- Fare For All
- Landscape Ministry Team
- Building Ministry Team
- Chancel Choir
- Bell Choir
- Faith Knotters
- Faithful Knitters
- Men's Pub Ministry
- Lutheran Woman Gone Wild
- Creation Care
- Wednesday Night Dinner Team
- Décor Team
- Book Club
- SPARK, Connect, Confirmation, and Senior High Ministry
- Nursery Ministry

The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we need to consider as we build our strategic vision and plan are:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tenure of members• Fellowship• Outreach (to community)• Pastor Reggie as Sr. Pastor• Willingness to volunteer• Giving trends• Music programs• Located in growing community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sunday School programming & support• Aging Congregation• Building fatigue• Financial status• New member growth• Post-confirmation Youth programs to keep them engaged• Adult programming options for working members

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Located in growing community• Renovated building with room to grow & serve other organizations/outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changing attitudes towards organized religion• Changing service options/expectations – traditional vs contemporary vs blended• Increased activities for school aged youth – sports, extra-curricular activities, community activities

To ensure we provide a platform for open dialogue with the congregation, we will also be setting up round-table discussions soon for deeper conversations on key topics and focus areas. Some of the focus areas we have identified to explore include:

Worship service offerings, including discussions on preferred options for

Cadence – days/times

Service style – traditional, contemporary, blended, other

Sunday School Programs/Youth Programs

Outreach/New Member growth opportunities and approaches

Building and Financial status

In the meantime, if you would like to see a copy of the summary data from the survey, please contact the Church office and they can provide a copy.

Again, we thank all who participated in the survey and those that continue to support CoG in other ways with your time, talents and many contributions. We look forward to building our future with you.

*"Stay with us Lord
for it is evening
and the day is
almost over."*



Thrivent Financial Supports Congregations and Ministries in Multiple Ways

Thrivent Action Teams Assist Ministry with “Action Team” & “Choice Dollar” Donations

Are you a member of Thrivent? If so, please check your *Thrivent Choice Dollars* and possible *Thrivent Action Team* designations. Thrivent Choice Dollars must be allocated each year, and Crown of Glory is one possible choice you could make for those donations. To designate Crown of Glory for your *Thrivent Choice Dollars*, just logon to your account and select Crown of Glory as your congregation of choice!

Also, depending upon your membership, you may have one or two *Action Teams* allotted to you. If approved, you can receive \$250.00 for each *Action Team* you create – members taking action on their account to "seed" a project for Crown of Glory.

Action Team Dollars at Work at Crown of Glory!

Our senior high youth attending the Mission Trip benefited from 6 Thrivent Action Team Dollar grants for last summer's Mission Trip! The donation totaled \$1,500.00 to help defray the cost of our Mission Trip. We give thanks to our congregation members who designated their *Action Team Dollars* for this great cause and for supporting our youth ministry.

If you have any questions on how to designate or register for either the *Thrivent Choice Dollars* or *Thrivent Action Team Dollars*, please contact Pastor Reggie and he and other members can help find a great allocation of Thrivent Funds!

In Christ,

Pastor Reggie Klindworth

Senior Pastor

Adult Education Ministry

The Art of Aging: Plan Your Roadmap

The September and October lunch & learn sessions have been enriching and educational. In September, participants learned how to build a healthier lifestyle one habit at a time. In October, our topic was downsizing and de-cluttering; attendees learned tips and tactics with humor and fun.

Mark your calendars for parts 3 and 4 of this series and join us!

Part 3, Nov. 19: “Take Charge of Your Funeral”

Taking charge of your funeral planning results in peace of mind for you and lifts the burden from your family during a stressful time. Gain ideas on how to begin the planning process. Presented by Matt Hendrickson, Bertas Funeral Home and Senior Pastor Reggie Klindworth, Crown of Glory.

Part 4, Dec. 12: “The Life and Death Comedy Show”

A hilarious look at how to prepare for the inevitable. This presentation combines humor, education, and audience interaction to create an experience that enlightens as well as entertains. You won't want to miss it! Presented by Stevie Ray's Improv.

Calendar Highlights

September

- September 28th & 29th – One-year dedication of the Peace Pole

October

- October 27th - Affirmation of Baptism; 9th Grade Confirmation Service

November

- November 3rd - New Member Orientation and Dinner
- November 6th - First Communion Registration Deadline
- November 9th & 10th - New Member Welcome
- November 17th - First Communion Instruction
- November 28th & 29th – Office Closed; Thanksgiving Holiday

December

- December 1st – First Communion Milestone
- December 8th – Advent Tea
- December 14th – Lefse Bake Day
- December 15th - Chancel Choir Cantata
- December 15th - Children's Christmas Narrative
- December 15th – Lefse Bake Sale
- December 24th - Christmas Eve Worship
- December 25th – Office Closed; Christmas Day
- December 31st – Final day to submit gifts for the 2019 calendar year
- January 1st – Office Closed; New Year's Day

Ministry Updates: Creation Care Team & CoG Healing Ministry

CREATION CARE TEAM

On July 23, Carver County hosted a meeting on environmental practices and education at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Attendees included those representing school, industry, business, horticulture, agriculture, water, city and the faith community. CoG member, Jackie Jiran, represented the faith community and our Creation Care Team.

The focus of the meeting was to share current practices with waste, energy, and water and make connections with others. The county recognizes the great work CoG has done both on its own and with the \$4,000 in grant money to date. Creation Care and CoG are committed to being good stewards of our earth through our mission: Crown of Glory is committed to protecting, advocating and implementing practices that protect God's creation for future generations.

Look for more environmental outreach and events from Creation Care and our new community partners throughout the year. Check out our website for initiatives and to learn how you can help the earth <https://www.crownofglory.org/our-green-initiative>
To learn more or to join our efforts please contact Scott Firman at scfirman@comcast.net

HEALING MINISTRY BOOKSTUDY (3rd Wednesday of the Month, 12:45 - 1:45 p.m., Bethany Room):

The COG Healing Ministry team is inviting new members to join our Monthly Lunch and Book Study. We are reading and discussing the second half of the text, "Healing Oils, Healing Hands" by Linda Smith, in which we are delving more deeply into a discussion of the Essentials Oils mentioned in the Old and New Testaments, as well as those Oils used by Medieval and Modern Day Healers. Specifically, we are reading about the Biblical references, chemical constituents and the ancient/modern uses of the Blessed Oils. We are also beginning to envision how a Healing Ministry might unfold within the Body of Christ at Crown of Glory Lutheran Church.

If you have questions or would like a copy of the text, please contact Robyn (robynrae65@gmail.com)

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

