



## INVITATION

*"Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled." - Luke 14: 23*

Our community has learned a lot about ourselves this last year and God asks for us to **INVITE** people back into relationships with one another, with the church, and in our relationship with God.

We are focusing on our invitation to **CONNECT**, **PRAISE**, and **SHARE**, both individually and as a community. Our gathering to praise God is a reflection of all that God has done for each of us. Gathering for worship and participating in the many ministries that Cross of Christ provides helps us to better connect to each other as we serve the needs of the congregation, the community, and the world.

We look forward to your willingness to share in the support of the mission of Cross of Christ.



INVITATION TO  
**CONNECT**

INVITATION TO  
**PRAISE**

INVITATION TO  
**SHARE**





- "When I hear the word Invitation I feel accepted for who I am and not who I am expected to be."
- "I connect to God through women's bible study and Soli Dei choir."
- "I connect to my community of faith through serving community meals, bible study, and transporting people to church."

## INVITATION TO CONNECT

**"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."  
- Acts 2: 46 - 47**

"Sometimes others see something in us which we don't immediately recognize in ourselves and all it takes is an invitation to bring it into the light. Recently, I was invited to become more involved by serving as a council liaison. Though a bit apprehensive (do I have what is needed?), this invitation opened the door to new relationships within our church family, as well as helped me recognize God-given gifts that can support our congregation. I truly cannot think of a better way to connect with God than by discovering what you have available to give and then help to fill that need.

CCLC has been a constant in my family's life since 2006 just after my wife Kisha and I were married. We have cherished memories of our three children connecting to all of the same faith milestones Kisha and I shared as part of our upbringing. Our kids will find their own path in this world and have CCLC memories and guidance as their internal compass. Cross of Christ is like a second home to return to in moments of celebration, gratitude and even strife. We are continually reminded that despite our busy lives with work and our kids' activities, our faith journey is an ever present connection point – we just have to receive it." - Dave Babcock

- Which activities at Cross of Christ are a valuable point of connection to you?
- What can you do to ensure these activities grow and endure as part of our ministry?



- "It is important to spend time praising God because it draws me closer to God and calms my soul."
- "Praising God gives me a time to reflect on everything in my life and take a step back to be grateful for everything I have God has done for me."
- "It's important to spend time praising God because it gives me time to just think, and it helps me get sermon notes done too!"

## INVITATION TO PRAISE

**"Let everything that breathes praise the LORD. Praise the LORD."  
- Psalms 150: 6**

"Psalm 150 instructs us to praise the Lord! Praise him with trumpet, lute, harp, dance...let me add just a few more ways: guitar, trombone, percussion, piano, and voice. For me, music is praise! Most of my life I have participated in church choirs, small ensembles, solos, praise bands, and the musical life of all the churches I have attended. For the past 26 years, my way to praise God is to participate in CCLC's music program. I have been in choir, cantored, directed the children's choir, and led music for VBS. In times of joy and sorrow, I have been able to praise God through music. The CCLC music family is an extension of my family. My family connection with CCLC through music has enabled me to create lasting friendships, deepen my commitment with the church, helped me develop a deeper faith in God, and most importantly, given me a way to praise God using the talents he gave us. As Psalm 150:5 says, "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" - Dawn Miller

- In what ways does praising God through Cross of Christ grow your faith?
- What can you do to help bring the Good News of Christ to those in your community of faith?



- "Sharing my abundance means to give what God has blessed me with."
- "I learned to share my gifts through the example of my parents and grandparents."
- "Sharing my gifts means to be good stewards of God's gifts and care for those around us."

## INVITATION TO SHARE

**"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."  
- Matthew 25: 35**

"For our family, abundance is recognizing that we have been blessed and are fortunate enough to be able to give our time and resources back to this community. We give back to the church and to our community through things like pledging, volunteering for service projects, building faith chests, and chaperoning youth events. Doing these things means that we can help sustain the church, and we can also help spread the message of God's abundant love in the world." - Scott and Sandy Elvington

- God invites us to share, for sharing of your gifts and generosity glorifies God. What gifts do you bring that you can share with your faith community and the world?

