

Ms. Emily Nord
Cross of Life Lutheran Church, Roswell, GA

Tell us a little about yourself and how you serve.

I am currently a graduate student at the University of Georgia pursuing my M.Ed. in Middle Grades Education with an ESOL endorsement and a certificate in Education Law and Policy. I am excited to graduate this upcoming May and start my teaching career. I have a strong passion for working with youth and helping them grow both academically and personally. This passion is also what drives the avenues in which I serve in the church. I have been a member of Cross of Life Lutheran Church in Roswell, GA for as long as I can remember. As a youth, I served through volunteering in worship, at VBS, and as an active member of the Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (SESLYO) as a conference representative for one year and the director of communications for two years. Now as a young adult, I serve locally at Cross of Life as a member of COL's youth ministry committee. I also serve as a chaperone at youth events both locally and synod-wide and as a small group leader at events such as All-GA and Affirm. Most recently, I joined the Synod Youth Committee and was appointed as the committee chairperson. This group works to find ways in which we can better engage the youth in our synod and promote youth-centered initiatives across the southeast. I am honored to help lead this team, and I am very excited to see what we are able to accomplish.

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

My favorite Bible verses are Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength" and Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God." While I have been very blessed throughout my life, I have also faced some personal obstacles, and these verses were always very encouraging for me to continue to be patient and come out of each challenge stronger than I was prior to each of them. One of my favorite songs, "Maybe IDK" by Jon Bellion, really connects with these verses to remind us that even when there are unknowns in our lives that may be unsettling or even scary, that we can rest assured that God has a plan and that if we can continue to find strength and patience in Him, that we can get through anything.

Where have you seen God recently?

Recently, I have seen God in the unconditional love of my new(ish) puppy. Technically, she is a "family dog", but in my heart she is mine. We adopted her in the height of the spring 2020 quarantine, and she has lit up our lives in a time when reprieve from all of the stressors of the world was hard to come by. We just celebrated her first birthday, and I know that she will continue to provide light and love in our lives for many years to come.

When/how have you been blessed by God's abundance?

I feel that God has blessed me with the people in my life. My family is extremely tight-knit and supportive of one another. Additionally, I am blessed with my boyfriend of almost 7 years who has been a constant source of comfort and support and friends who I know I can always depend on. These people uplift me and push me every day to be the best version of myself, and I know that my life would be less meaningful without their presence.