

The CROSS Currents

Worship

Cross Lutheran worships every Sunday morning at 9:30 am. Worship is also live-streamed via our facebook page and on our YouTube channel. Please join us.

Faith Formation

Adult education and Sunday School for children resumes Rally Sunday, September 10. after worship. There's something for everyone.

Pastoral Care

If you have a pastoral care concern or request, please email Pastor Scott at: pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org or phone direct 612 859 1134



Words About Wisdom

During the past few weeks, I've spent a fair amount of energy thinking about "wisdom." That makes sense, of course, because the primary preaching focus this past two weeks, and the next two, is on biblical wisdom literature.

One of the things that has struck me is how both Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are really about simple common sense. The 'wisdom' each passes on is not grounded in prophetic utterances nor messianic hope. There is, however, a shared sense that the world is what it is, and one would be wise to understand and live within its bounds. And to do so starts with following common sense.

Each book comes at it from different perspectives: Proverbs as wise instruction to young men preparing to make their way in the world; Ecclesiastes as the musings of an older teacher who ignored common sense and pursued riches and achievement and





We Pray For:

David Jackson, Yvonne Mowry's husband Bill, Ray and Clara, Brady, Andrew, Sheree, Kennedee, Kenny, Judy, Marv, Marya, Robin, and Dottie.

We offer continued prayers for the Anderson, Buck, Hastings, Brynildson, Moser, and Sylvester families.

If you have a name to add or remove from this prayer list, please contact Pastor Scott or Katie Tomek, Admin. Assistant.

personal pleasure. And despite achievement, success, and excess, he finds himself jaded and disillusioned. Where Proverbs assumes that the world is wide open for the taking; Ecclesiastes counters that seeking pleasure, accolades, and accomplishments for their own sake are 'hevel' — as fleeting as vapor; as permanent as mist.

Where Proverbs is idealistic and hopeful; Ecclesiastes is reflective and somber. Together, however, they offer a clearer picture of what it means to live life as God intended. What's more, both paint a realistic picture of the world as it is: bad things happen, injustice is real, things don't always turn out like we planned.

But together they offer a clear common sense vision of how to live life together as church. When we celebrate the gifts that God has given us, when we live our lives together for the sake of each other and the neighbor, then we are blessed. Yet when we place our collective attention on things other than God's good gifts — political and personal agendas, power and influence, barriers and judgment — then the results will be, once all is said and done, nothing but 'hevel.' Nothing but fleeting smoke and formless mist.

Of course, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are but two of the Bible's 65 books. They provide important insight, but not the final word. That comes from the Word made flesh, Jesus the Christ, who comes to us through the gospels and epistles and other writings of New Testament and Old; through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and through the communion of the Holy Spirit which is the church.

We would be wise to keep that in mind.

Pax,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott R. S." followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Pastor Scott

FAITH FORMATION

Church Summer Events: When asked, the congregation showed a diverse interest in fun summer activities to share, and therefore it was decided to select one or two events and move forward.

BFF elected to schedule Bonfire Sing-a-Long events on the back lawn of our church, every other Wednesday through the end of Summer. (see right)

Confirmation: In early July, Pastor Scott, Katie Brynildson, and confirmands Kirby, Henry, Amelia and Amber joined youth from other St Paul Area Synod congregations for a powerful immersive service and learning experience in Memphis, Tennessee. The group was hosted by Memphis Youth Ministries, an organization whose mission is to bring civil rights and equity to life. Our students delivered Meals on Wheels in some of the most needy areas of Memphis; sorted food for the Food Bank of the South; worked with underserved children in a summer literacy program; did yard work at a shelter for homeless families; and learned harsh lessons about civil rights from the Memphis Lynching Project and at the National Civil Rights Museum (located at the Lorraine Hotel where Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated).

The confirmation class is hoping to attend the National ELCA Youth Gathering next summer in New Orleans. Please look for details on how you can support this trip in the coming weeks.

Book Club: Faith Formation has planned a Family Book Club for the coming year. Our first meeting will be Sunday, September 17 at 11 am. We will discuss “The Well” by Stephanie Landsem — a historical fiction story about the Samaritan Woman who encountered Jesus at the well. You can purchase your copy through amazon.com. You do not need to have read the book to attend.



Join us every other Thursday at 6:30 pm on the East Lawn for song, food and fellowship. Aug. 17 and 31; Sept. 14 and 28; Oct. 12 and 26 (weather permitting). Bring a folding chair and drinks, and even a snack to share. If you play guitar or another campfire band style instrument, please join in. Lyrics and chords will be provided.

FALL ADULT EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Sept. 10	Rally Sunday Preview
Sept. 17	Book Club “The Well”
Sept. 24-Oct. 22	“Job”
Oct. 29	Book Club - Reformation
Nov. 5-Dec. 3	“Revelation”
Dec. 10	Book Club - Advent
Dec. 17	Christmas Pageant



STEWARDSHIP

Current Dedicated Account Balances

Air Conditioning Memorial	\$7,800.00
Capital Improvement	\$21,691.27
Education Memorial	\$1,224.04
Gifts/Memorials (Undesignated)	\$6,404.64
Portico Entrance Memorial	\$3,500.00
Sound System Memorial	\$21,900
Cross Lutheran Investment Fund	\$113,922.11



June 23, 2023

Income

Weekly Offerings Totals:	8,992.50	10,375.00	65,771.15	62,250.00	124,500.00	3,521.15
Holidays/Special Totals:	50.00	0.00	4,312.00	4,300.00	7,650.00	12.00
Interest Income Totals:	17.98	1.25	61.63	7.50	15.00	54.13
Other Income Totals:	4,262.50	3,317.92	35,078.06	21,907.48	62,015.00	13,170.58
Dedicated Funds Released Totals:	3,037.04	3,037.04	18,222.24	18,222.24	37,201.34	0.00
Income Totals:	16,360.02	16,731.21	123,445.08	106,687.22	231,381.34	16,757.86

Expense

Lay Ministry Totals:	13,906.12	13,565.19	79,819.55	81,391.20	163,142.34	1,571.65
Faith Formation Totals:	0.00	264.58	829.81	1,587.52	5,675.00	757.71
Stewardship Totals:	0.00	71.67	2,341.90	1,429.98	7,360.00	(911.92)
Church Properties Totals:	3,413.45	4,350.32	25,900.76	29,102.08	55,204.00	3,201.32
Expense Totals:	17,319.57	18,251.76	108,892.02	113,510.78	231,381.34	4,618.76

Income - Expense:	(959.55)	(1,520.55)	14,553.06	(6,823.56)	0.00	21,376.62
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We again saw a decline in weekly offerings for June over what was budgeted for the month. However, we are still \$3,500 over budget for the entire year through June. You can see that our other income is over \$13,000 ahead of the year to date budget. This is because we had some unexpected miscellaneous building income, there were unexpected gifts to the general fund and our youth shares were \$3,000 over budget. For the actual month of June we had a net loss of \$959.55 but because of the large other income and weekly offerings over budget year to date our income for the first 6 months is still an amazing \$14,553! This is **\$21,377** over the budgeted loss for the first 6 months. As a reminder, we are moving over \$3,000 each month from our savings to the checking account which was needed to balance the 2023 budget. This amount was from the remainder of the 2021 surplus. We will continue to move these funds as this was needed to balance the 2023 budget. Any surplus funds at the end of the year will be moved to our savings account.



John Glenn Community Market returns Wednesday, August 30 during the Middle School Open House. Details are being finalized, so stay tuned for more information.

As always, folks are needed for market setup and serving. Volunteers typically begin between 1:00-1:30 pm and are done around 5:00 pm. Family and friends are invited to volunteer with us and keep this important ministry going.

LAY MINISTRY



Hymn Sing Sunday, September 3. To mark the end of Summer break and the beginning of the school year, we're singing our favorite hymns for worship on Sept. 3. We need your help, though. Fill out a ballot with three of your favorite hymns and we'll use the most popular for worship that day. Ballots and ballot box are located in the narthex through Sunday, August 27.



John Glenn School Supply Drive

It's that time again. School supplies are on sale and are greatly needed at John Glenn Middle School. The following supplies are needed for the beginning of the school year. Your donations can be placed in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Pencils

Glue sticks

Spiral Notebooks

Plastic 2-Pocket Folders

Markers (any kind)

Notebook paper

Ongoing Needs: Expo

markers and backpacks.

CONFIRMATION



Thank you to everyone who made our Confirmation Trip to Memphis possible. Your prayers, support and financial gifts were a blessing to all of us.

Happy Birthday

AUGUST

8/2 Terra Donahue
8/2 Richard Schultz
8/4 Sylvia Graham
8/9 Sophia Frey
8/11 Timothy Frey
8/13 Kim Brynildson
8/15 Jamie Gudknecht
8/15 Paul Schafer
8/18 Justin March
8/20 Howard Vansteenburgh
8/26 Joan Jensen

SEPTEMBER

9/2 Caroline March
9/2 Celia March
9/4 JoDee Bridges
9/15 Debbie Walker
9/19 Kaylie Egginger
9/20 Myrna Schultz
9/24 Matheu Mizinski
9/25 Patricia Bobick
9/25 Laine Linroth
9/26 Richard Polly
9/30 Lily Pfefferle

Join us every Sunday at 9:30am for worship
onsite and online on You Tube or Facebook.

Coffee and Fellowship, 10:30am

Summer education schedule is limited.

Call the office or visit the online calendar for details.

To schedule or request a pastoral care visit or conversation,
please call the office (651-777-1329) or email Pastor Scott

(pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org) or

Katie (office@crosslutheranchurch.org).

In a pastoral care emergency, please call or text

Pastor Scott directly, 612-859-1134.

August 2023 Calendar

Click the link to open the Cross calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/o/r?pli=1>

30 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 11am - Adult Education @ 1pm - Promesa De Dios 5pm - Ebenezer Eilm	31	1 1pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross Lay Ministry	2 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	3 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Community Worship - 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office 6:30pm - Sing Around the	4 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Eilm	5 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del
6 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 11am - Adult Education @ 1pm - Promesa De Dios 5pm - Ebenezer Eilm	7	8 1pm - Pastor Scott Office	9 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	10 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Community Worship - 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office	11 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Eilm	12 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del
13 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 11am - Adult Education @ 1pm - Promesa De Dios 5pm - Ebenezer Eilm	14	15 1pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross Board of	16 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	17 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Community Worship - 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office 6:30pm - Sing Around the	18 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Eilm	19 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del
20 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 11am - Adult Education @ 1pm - Promesa De Dios 5pm - Ebenezer Eilm	21 6:30pm - Fleeshpots of Egypt	22 1pm - Pastor Scott Office	23 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	24 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Community Worship - 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office	25 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Eilm	26 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del
27 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 11am - Adult Education @ 1pm - Promesa De Dios 5pm - Ebenezer Eilm	28	29 1pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross PPC Meeting @	30 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 1pm - Volunteers for 2:30pm - John Glenn 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	31 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Community Worship - 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office 6:30pm - Sing Around the	1 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Eilm	2 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del



Pastor: Reverend Scott Simmons
Admin Assistant: Katie Tomek
Financial Secretary: Carol Hastings
Worship Director: Ruthann Ritchie

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