

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 is ongoing. 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



During the season of Advent, you are invited to gather on Wednesdays for a brief time of prayer and reflection. As we did last year, we'll gather at two different times, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm, in order to accommodate those who'd rather not drive in the dark and those who work later in the afternoon. And as we've done in the past, we'll be using Holden Evening Prayer as our primary liturgy.

I know that Holden is one of our congregation's favorite and most meaningful musical settings. As I write, I can hear in my mind's eye us singing together "let my prayer rise up..." two sets of voices swirling around the sanctuary in sacred sound — a holy synchrony of lyric and melody rising and falling to resolve at the end in beautiful unity.

In some ways, it is an apt metaphor for the season, where Advent's quiet and harmonious anticipation of the coming Christ Child intersects the broader culture's frenetic embrace of the holiday season, especially the Christmas story, in the here and now — carols and bells and lights and the steady pa-rump-a-pum-pum of





We Pray For:

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This month we pray for: The Stack family at the death of Allen, Dawn, Sharon, Caroline, BettyLu, David, Ray and Clara, Brady, Andrew, Sheree, Kennedee, Kenny, Judy, Marv, Marya, Robin, Yvonne, Hailey, and Dottie.

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

shopping and parties and festive occasions crescendoing to Christmas Day celebration. After which, and sometimes even the same day, societal attention turns to a new year and the resumption of 'everyday' life.

Meanwhile, Advent's hopeful and muted tune provides a crucial and calming countermelody to the often frantic and frenzied jingle and jangle going on all around.

This year, I am finding hope in both.

I find hope in the excitement and energy and attention devoted to a celebration of our lord, Jesus Christ. Even though many who observe are celebrating things other than what God has done in Jesus Christ, they are celebrating the very things that God promised for the world in Christ — peace, goodwill, joy, and love. And that's reason for hope.

And I find hope in the essential practice of Advent worship: setting aside frequent time and space (Wednesdays and Sundays) to reflect, and wait, and wonder what God has done, is doing, and will continue to do through the Christ Child, Emmanuel, God with us.

I encourage you to join us in the coming Wednesdays, at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm for Advent Evening Prayer. May it help make these coming days more hopeful and joyful.

Pax,

Pastor Scott



This year, as in the past, the congregation will be providing poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like a plant placed in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please fill out an order card in the narthex, so we can put it in our Christmas bulletin. Poinsettias will be available to take home after our Christmas services.



November was another busy month for our **Confirmation** students. In addition to two learning sessions (one at Cross taught by Pastor Scott and the other at Our Redeemer taught by Pastor Karsten), the students served at Our Redeemer's weekly food program on Nov. 1, and attended a Deep Dive event with 8 other synod confirmation groups at Project Home, hosted by Interfaith Action of Saint Paul. While there, they learned about homelessness and pitched in on various projects.



December promises to be full, also, highlighted by a group trip to see *A Christmas Carol* at the Guthrie Theater on Dec. 17

Book Club Our Advent Book Club will meet at 11 am on Sunday, December 10 to discuss *The Three Women of Advent: Connecting the Dots to Their Life, Legacy, and Lessons*, by Gloria K. Ashby. For more information, please contact Dottie Bingman. You need not have read the book to attend.

Adult Forum on Revelation is taking a short break during Advent and Christmas, returning on the first Sunday in Epiphany on January 7, 2024. All are welcome to join in.

Looking Ahead Into God's Preferred Future. Once again we start a new year — a time to look back and remember, and a time to look forward and imagine. With so many changes happening both within and outside of the church, it seems like a perfect time to ponder where God might be asking our congregation to go.

Starting in February, after our annual meeting, the Board of Faith Formation is planning on hosting a series of discerning conversations during the adult education hour. These conversations will focus on seeing where God has been in our past, where God is active in our future, and how God might be calling us forward. Stay tuned for more information.



CHRISTMAS GIVING

Christmas Giving lists are almost full. Thank you for your quick response and generosity. Of course, additional \$25 Target and Cub Food Cards are always helpful. Please check the list in the Narthex before and after worship to see our final needs.

This is also a season of “baking”. To help make our Christmas Baskets Festive, we would like to add homemade cookies, breads, or candies. Each list will provide a space for all the bakers to share... a special treat for our families. All purchased items should be delivered by Sunday, December 17th; baked goods by Thursday, December 21st. Volunteers to pack (December 21st) and deliver (December 21st, 22nd, or 23rd) will be needed.....delivering is the most rewarding part of this event. Gift cards can be left in the church office, given to Sylvia Graham, Tammy Erickson or Carol Hastings.

STEWARDSHIP

Current Dedicated Account Balances

Air Conditioning Memorial: \$6,526.00;
 Capital Improvement Fund: \$24,174.83;
 Education Memorial: \$1,224.04;
 Gifts/Memorials (Undesignated): \$7,404.64;
 Portico Entrance Memorial: \$3,500.00;
 Sound System Memorial: \$12,353;
 Fund for Missions \$682.82;
 Cross Lutheran Investment Fund (CLIF): \$100,000.00



As we gave thanks at Thanksgiving and begin to look forward to Advent and the Christmas season, Cross Lutheran Church has many blessings which continue to keep us in a strong financial position. With these blessings we are able to pay all of our bills, including the new sound system in November, and had an overwhelming Community Market where all were served and all of the food was given away! Thanks be to God! Shown here is the financial report for October. We have a positive income for the month and our YTD income is strong at \$10,968! This compares to a YTD projected loss of (\$14,191.00). A good portion of this income is from the 2022 budget surplus. We have moved from savings to checking through October a total of \$30,824. This is partly thanks to the excellent stewardship provided by our boards, who stay well below their budget in expenses. You will see that the stewardship board has exceeded theirs this year but this is because a large expense was not budgeted until December but we paid that one earlier in the year.

Thank you to everyone who provided a statement of intent for 2024. The budget process is easier when we have a projected income amount from our members. If you still want to provide a pledge for 2024 you can email it to Carol Hastings at carol@crosslutheranchurch.org.

October 31, 2023 Statement of Activities

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	YTD Budget vs. YTD Actual
Income						
Weekly Offerings Totals:	14,296.00	10,375.00	108,633.15	103,750.00	124,500.00	4,883.15
Holidays/Special Totals:	0.00	0.00	4,377.00	4,300.00	7,650.00	77.00
Grant PPP CARES Income Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Income Totals:	16.52	1.25	126.14	12.50	15.00	113.64
Other Income Totals:	3,202.25	3,317.92	49,512.31	35,179.16	62,015.00	14,333.15
Dedicated Funds Released Totals:	3,188.40	3,188.40	30,824.51	30,824.51	37,201.34	0.00
Unrealized Gains/Losses Totals:	(2,032.50)	0.00	(1,019.43)	0.00	0.00	(1,019.43)
Income Totals:	18,670.67	16,882.57	192,453.68	174,066.17	231,381.34	18,387.51
Expense						
Lay Ministry Totals:	14,192.31	13,625.19	133,665.94	135,891.96	163,142.34	2,226.02
Faith Formation Totals:	43.50	264.58	4,560.32	5,145.84	5,675.00	585.52
Stewardship Totals:	0.00	71.67	3,241.90	1,716.66	7,360.00	(1,525.24)
Church Properties Totals:	3,375.09	4,100.32	40,017.29	45,503.36	55,204.00	5,486.07
Non-Budget Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense Totals:	17,610.90	18,061.76	181,485.45	188,257.82	231,381.34	6,772.37
Income - Expense:	1,059.77	(1,179.19)	10,968.23	(14,191.65)	0.00	25,159.88



This past month's John Glenn Community Market was on Wednesday, October 25, and what a great turnout!

You Served:

- Households: 113
- JG students: 78
- Other kids in family: 213
- Seniors: 22
- Total Adults: 285
- New Families 47

Total persons: 597

- Volunteer Hours: 100+
- Pounds of food 5,016 with 2,697 from fresh and frozen.

The **December Community Market will be on December 20th**, with volunteers to arrive at 1:30pm. There is a great need for paper bags with handles- so please bring some if you can!

LAY MINISTRY

The Board of Lay Ministry is working on updating our membership at Cross along with a new Church Phone Directory. If you have had a change in address, phone number, cell number or email address, let the office know. We will make sure these changes get updated in the next directory. There will also be a review of member contact information in October. More information will follow.

Thank you!
Jamie Gudknecht



John Glenn School Supply Drive

School supplies are always needed at John Glenn Middle School. Your donations can be placed in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Items Needed:

The donation items for November is \$5-100 *Cub gift cards* and \$25 *Target gift cards*. Please give to Sylvia, Tammy, Katie, or leave in the church office.

Ongoing Needs:

Expo markers and backpacks.
Coats when sales are good.



BLUE CHRISTMAS

AN EVENING OF HOPE AND HEALING

THURSDAY, DEC. 21 • 6:45 PM SILENCE AND CONTEMPLATION • 7:00 PM WORSHIP

For some, Christmas is not a season of joy. Rather, it is a time of sadness and grief, longing, and loneliness. God understands. After all, it was into such a hurting world that the Christ Child was born. And it is into the midst of our own hurt and sadness that God continues to reach out in love, in hope, and in understanding. Join us for a special time of worship and prayer as we bring the sadness and hurt that color our holidays to God's table of forgiveness and blessing, in hope for a brighter day.



Join us for the annual Cross Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 17 during our 9:30 am worship. See the Christmas story come to life through word, song, costume and characters. Note to all participants: dress rehearsal will be after worship on Sunday, Dec. 10.



The **United Sisters** invite you to participate in and come to the Christmas Brunch, on Sunday, Dec. 17 after the Christmas Pageant/Worship. We have decided to change up our meal by making it a POTLUCK! So, break out those cookbooks, go through your favorites, or just follow a recipe from Google. It will be fun & interesting! We are also asking for some baked goods, cookies, and/or breads to share with our 9 shut-ins. Sign up sheets for helpers will be available by December 3rd. We're looking forward to a great day together.



Advent Wednesday worship featuring Holden Evening Prayer will be held, once again, at 4 pm and 6 pm in the sanctuary. Join us Dec. 6, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20 for this lovely time of prayer and reflection as we look forward to Christmas Day and the coming of the Christ Child.



2023 is one of those rare years when Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday. So what do we do with Sunday morning worship? Pastor Scott teaches that worship is one of the most important things we do together as a community, so whether two or 50 are gathered, we'll celebrate the **4th Sunday of Advent** with worship at **9:30 am** on Dec. 24, then gather at **5:00 pm** for traditional **Christmas Eve worship** and again at **10:00 pm** for a quieter and more intimate **Candlelight Worship**.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS at CROSS

Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Second Sunday in Advent

December 10, 9:30 am

Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Third Sunday in Advent Cross Christmas Pageant and Worship

Sunday, Dec. 17, 9:30 am

Christmas Brunch follows

Carols and Ales with the Fleshpots of Egypt

Monday, Dec. 18,

6:30-8:30 pm Dubliner Pub

Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Blue Christmas Worship

Thursday, Dec. 21, 7:00 pm

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 9:30 am

Christmas Eve Worship

Sunday, Dec. 24

Shores of Lake Phalen

3:00 pm

Family Worship

5:00 pm

Candlelight Worship

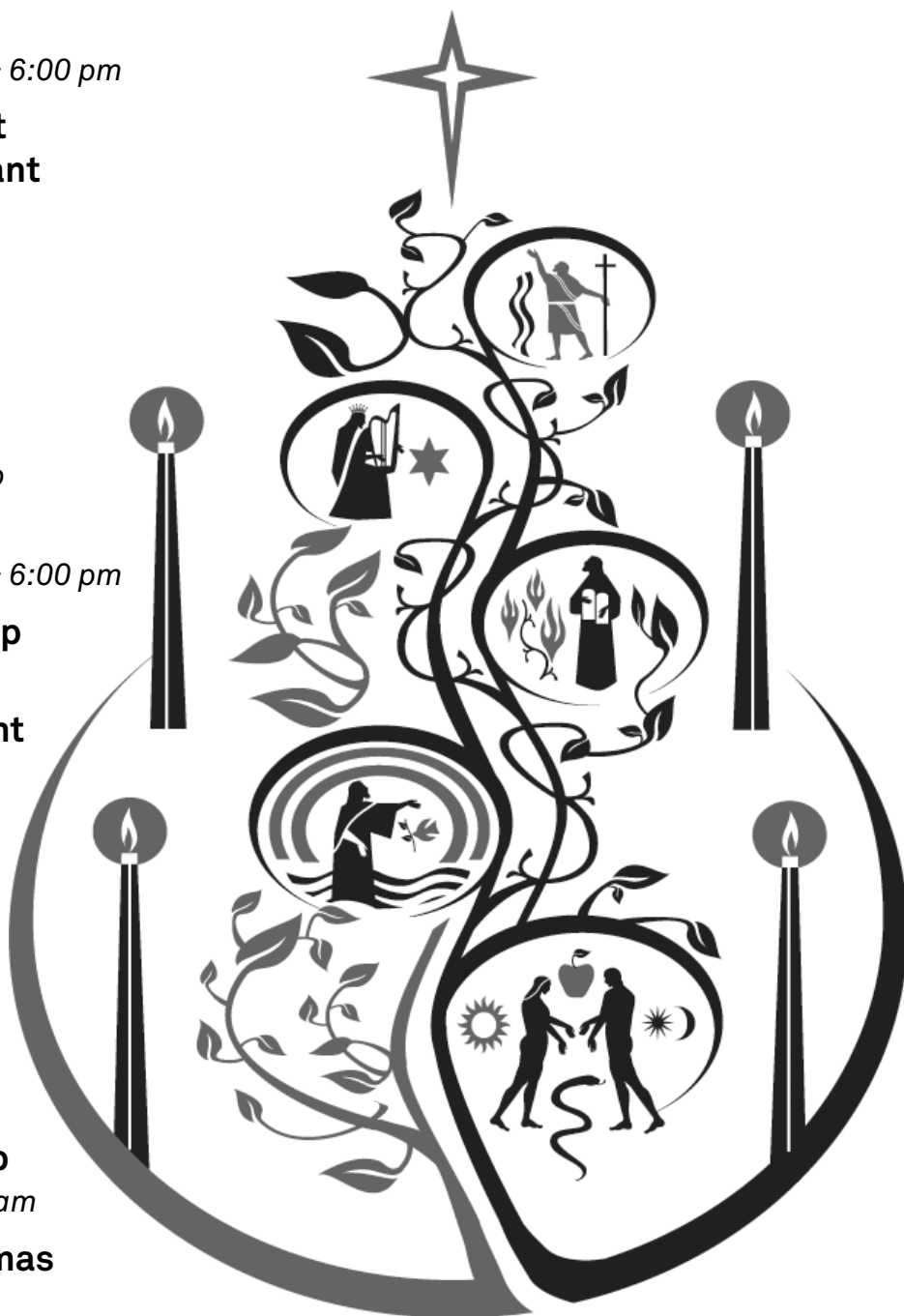
10:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Mon., December 25, 10:00 am

First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 9:30 am



Happy Birthday

DECEMBER

12/1 Kelli Simmons
12/6 Sharon McGinnis
12/6 Shayla Walker
12/7 Hudson Munt
12/12 Brooks Pfefferle
12/30 Forrest Murphy

JANUARY

1/1 Douglas Linroth
1/1 Brady Mizinski
1/1 Keith Paananen
1/1 Susie Paananen
1/1 Josh Seeman
1/1 Soren Tryggestad
1/1 Lisa LeMay
1/1 Saybah Jallamai
1/1 Lou Hopkins
1/1 Linda Duncan
1/ 2 Paige Stepnick
1/ 6 Carolyn Gonser

JANUARY CON'T

1/10 Ruthann Ritchie
1/12 Amber Baune
1/18 Andrea Crist
1/22 Nick Ryder
1/24 Emily Erickson
1/25 Jody Linroth
1/27 Kennedy Paananen

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

Coffee and Fellowship, 10:30am

Adult education at 11:00am on Sundays in the Community
Room.

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.

Click the link to open the Cross calendar:

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 10:30am - Coffee Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School	27 1pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross PPC Meeting @	28 1pm - Pastor Scott Office 4pm - Holden Evening Prayer 6pm - Holden Evening Prayer 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	29 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 4pm - Holden Evening Prayer 6pm - Holden Evening Prayer 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	30 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Worship at Shores of 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office	1 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Elim	2 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del
3 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 10:30am - Coffee Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School	4 1pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross Lay Ministry	5 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 4pm - Holden Evening Prayer 6pm - Holden Evening Prayer 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	6 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 4pm - Holden Evening Prayer 6pm - Holden Evening Prayer 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	7 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Worship at Shores of 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office	8 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Elim	9 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del
10 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 10:30am - Coffee Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School 11am - Adult Education @	11 1pm - Pastor Scott Office	12 1pm - Pastor Scott Office	13 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 4pm - Holden Evening Prayer 6pm - Holden Evening Prayer 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	14 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Worship at Shores of 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross Choir Practice	15 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Elim	16 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del
17 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 10:30am - Coffee Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School 11am - Adult Education @	18 11am - Allen Stack funeral 6:30pm - Fleshpots of Egypt	19 1pm - Pastor Scott Office	20 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 4pm - Holden Evening Prayer 6pm - Holden Evening Prayer 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	21 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Worship at Shores of 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross Choir Practice	22 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Elim	23 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del
24 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - Fourth Sunday in 9:30am - Worship Live 1pm - Promesa De Dios 5pm - Ebenezer Elim	25 10am - Festival Christmas	26 1pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross PPC Meeting @	27 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 1pm - Volunteers for 2:30pm - John Glenn 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	28 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Worship at Shores of 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office	29 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Elim	30 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del
31 7:30am - Cross 9:30am - In Person Worship 9:30am - Worship Live 10:30am - Coffee Fellowship 10:30am - Sunday School	1 1pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross Lay Ministry	2 1pm - Pastor Scott Office 6pm - Cross Lay Ministry	3 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Adventista Del Séptimo	4 8am - Katie Tomek Office 10:30am - Bible Study with 11:30am - Pastor Scott 3pm - Worship at Shores of 4:15pm - Pastor Scott Office	5 1pm - Pastor Scott's Office 7pm - Ebenezer Elim	6 9am - Adventista del 1:30pm - Cross Organ 5pm - Adventista del

CROSS
Lutheran Church

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

pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org
office@crosslutheranchurch.org
carol@crosslutheranchurch.org
harpist46@hotmail.com

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55119
www.crosslutheranchurch.org