

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • JULY 7, 2024



Cross Lutheran Church 1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109 www.crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329 Reverend Scott Simmons, Pastor office@crosslutheranchurch.org, worship@crosslutheranchurch.org Indicates congregation should stand as able.

Preaching/Presiding: Reverend Scott Simmons

Director of Music: Kenneth Kusiak

Lay Minister: 7/7 Dave Olson 7/14 Duane Gudknecht

Assisting Minister:

7/7 Patty VanderWaal 7/14 Phyllis Moser

Cantor: 7/7 Katie Erickson 7/14 Alternative

Ushers:

7/7 Clara Volkers and Carolyn Border 7/14 Matt Wickoren and Sheree Kieffer

Acolyte:

7/7 Amelia Brynildson 7/14 Henry Mizinski

Livestream Producer: Katie Tomek

Altar Guild:

July: Linda Duncan and Lisa LeMay

Coffee:

If you are interested in serving coffee following worship, please sign-up on the bulletin board between the narthex and the kitchen.

If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday Worship, sign up on the bulletin board in

on the bulletin board in the back of the narthex, or contact the office.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE Ach Gott und Herr Johann Gottfried Walther *GATHERING SONG This Is My Song ELW887 0 This 0 God of all the is na - tions, 1 my song, 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean. prayer, 3 This is my 0 God of all earth's king-doms, 0 song of peace for lands far and mine. а a sun - light beams and on clo ver - leaf and pine. your king - dom come; earth your will be done. on This is my home. the coun-try where my heart is; But oth er lands have sun-light too, and clo-ver, God, ed 0 be lift up till all shall serve you, 0 0 dreams, my ly here are my hopes, my ho shrine: - where as blue and skies are ev 'ry as mine. and hearts u _ nit ed learn to live as one. 0. but oth er hearts in oth - er lands are beat-ing So hear song, Ο God of all the na - tions, my 0 all So hear prayer, God of the na - tions; my with hopes and and high mine. dreams as true as song of peace for their land and for mine. а my - self I give you; let your will be done. Text Sts. 1,2 © 1934, 1962, Lorenz Publishing Company. St. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. Amen. Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin. God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life

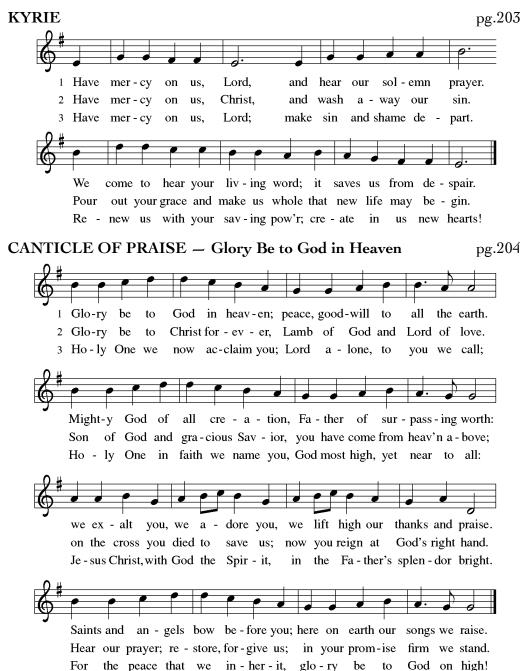
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, + the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



The Liturgy of Holy Communion, which we celebrate every Sunday, is the principal form of Lutheran worship. Here, the Holy Spirit gathers us around the means of grace— the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.

The basic pattern of this liturgy—gathering, word, meal, sending—is a structure that allows for freedom and flexibility in the ways our worship may be shaped locally, while focusing on what the church holds in common. The whole people of God are joined by the same gifts of grace, for the sake of the same mission of the gospel, into the life of the one triune God.

We gather around the WORD in reading, preaching, and song, as we enter into the steadfast love of God as proclaimed through Holy Scripture.

For Lutherans, the Gospel of Christ—the Good News of what God has done in Jesus —is at the heart of our public witness and proclamation.

This Good News is received through the Gospel accounts of the apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, yes, but also in the writings of Paul, John, and Peter; in the witnesses of the Old Testament prophets; the memories of the people of Israel; and through the poetry and prose of Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs and others. The Gospel is truly the Good News of Christ proclaimed from Genesis to Revelation, whenever and however it points to God's loving, redeeming, and creative power in, with, and through Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. Good News indeed.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

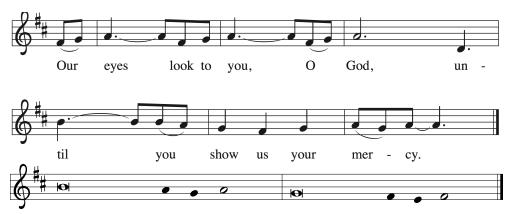
FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 2:1-5

A voice said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 123



To you I lift | up my eyes,

to you enthroned | in the heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand | of her mistress,

so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God,

until you show | us your mercy. R

Have mercy upon us, O | Lord, have mercy,

for we have had more than enough | of contempt,

too much of the scorn of the in- | dolent rich,

and of the derision | of the proud. R

SECOND LESSON 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

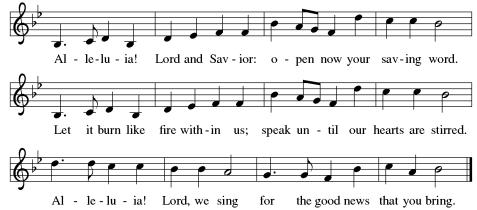
I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On

behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



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*GOSPEL

Mark 6:1-13

Jesus came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ. PREACHING SCRIPTURES Here are the main biblical texts for the coming weeks:

July 7

Ezekiel 2:1-5 Psalm 123 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13 July 14 Amos 7:7-15 Psalm 85:8-13 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29 July 21 Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 Julv 28 2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145:10-18 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21

SERMON *SONG OF THE DAY Open Your Ears, O Faithful People ELW519 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo-ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word. They who have ears to hear the mes-sage, they who have ears, now let them hear; 2 roy - al priest-hood, God has pen your hearts, O you. come to they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word. Refrain hal - le jah! To - rah То rah o - ra, - lu o - ra, hal - le - lu God has spo-ken to the peo-ple, jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu To - rah o - ra, jah! of wis-dom, jah! God has spo-ken words hal - le - lu 10 То rah o - ra. То rah o - ra. hal - le - lu jah! has spo-ken the peo - ple, hal - le - lu God jah! to hal - le - lu To rah To rah o - ra, jah! o - ra, God has spo-ken of wis-dom, hal - le - lu words jah!

*APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God, receive our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you. *Please share a covid-friendly sign of peace with those around you.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for: Andrew, Marya, Carolyn, Marilee, Margo, Roman Joseph, Sherry, Ray and Clara, Dawn, Brady, Richard, Judy, Sheree, Marv, Dottie, BettyLu, Greg, Kennedee, Robin, Hailey, Jerrod, Lonna, Heather, Joe and Family, Kelly, and Dawn L.

We pray for Kelly and John, missionaries in Papua, New Guinea.

We offer continued prayers for the families of Allen Stack, Bud Nasby, Ellie Scot-Meyer, Dave Davidson, and Deb Grothe (Patty's sister).

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

MEAL

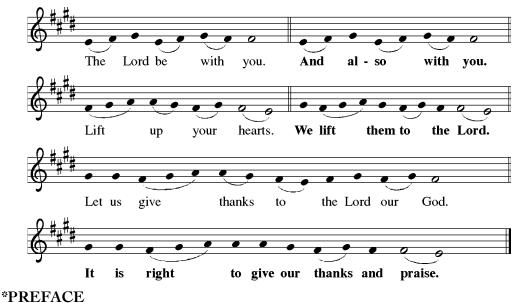
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*DIALOGUE



OFFERING

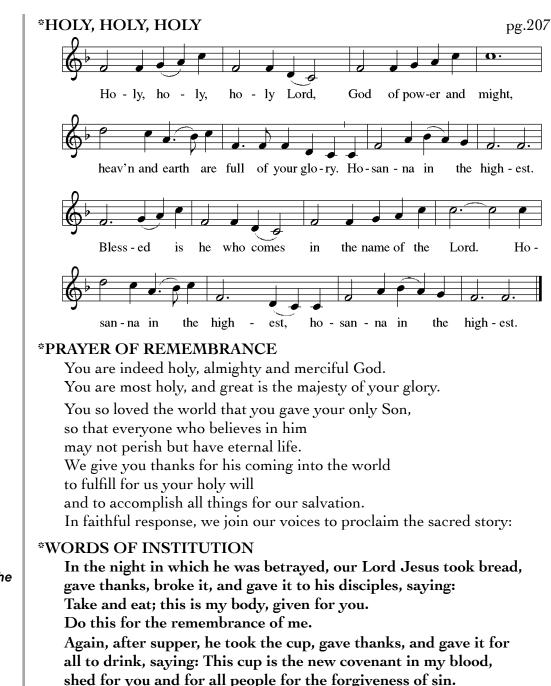
We bring our offerings to God with grateful hearts, in confidence they will be used to support the work of the church both here and throughout the world.

In ELCA liturgy, the Offering is set within the context of the Meal, for it is here that we set the table with the fruits of our hands— financial offerings, yes, but also bread and wine which are products of human effort and gifts of our gracious God. It is from this table of blessing that God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

In Holy Communion,

we receive the gift of Christ's presence in bread and wine (the body and blood of Jesus) through the holy promise that this gift is "for you." All who desire to receive Christ's presence in, with, and through the wine and the bread are invited to this table.

We remember God's faithfulness to God's people and God's purposes.



proclaim the words of institution along with the presiding pastor.

All are invited to

*PRAYER OF THANKFULNESS

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

pg.154 Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION



Communion songs:

#485 - I Am the Bread of Life; #599 - Lord Jesus, Think on Me

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

***COMMUNION PRAYER**

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always. Amen. Today we practice continuous communion using a pouring chalice as a common cup. Ushers will invite you to proceed up the aisle towards the pastor. Please offer cupped hands to receive the bread. Proceed to the cupbearer, select an empty cup and hold it for the lay minister to fill. Please recycle your cup in the basket provided and return via the side aisle.

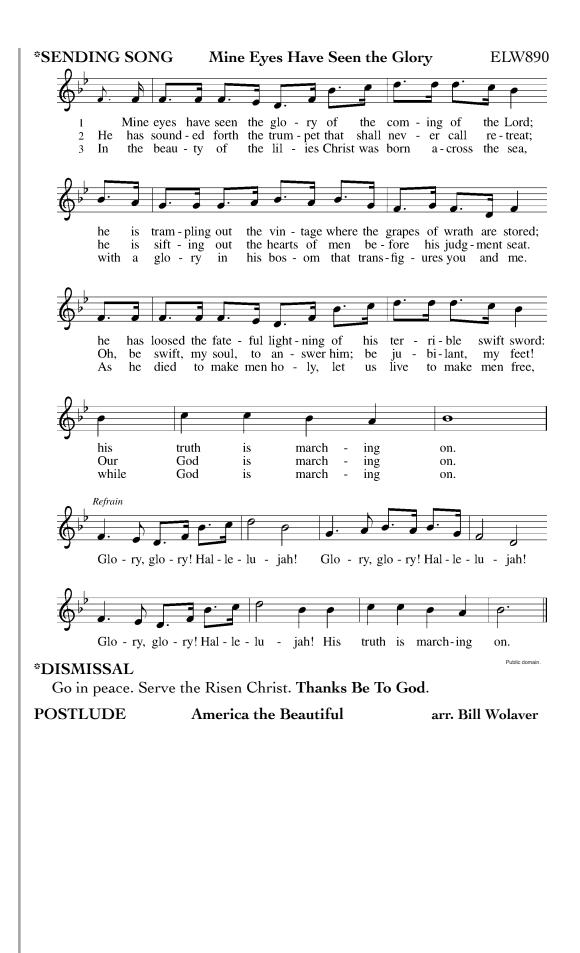
If you require a gluten free wafer, please tell the pastor when you approach to receive the bread. Pre-filled grape juice cups are available in the silver tray.

Children who are not yet communing and others wishing not to commune may receive a blessing from the pastor. Please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

Individual sealed communion sets are also available at the sanctuary entrance.

ANOINTING After communing, you may receive prayer and anointing with oil from the assisting minister in the narthex.

The Holy Spirit SENDS us. restored and refreshed in the Word and the Meal. to share the Good News.



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Thank you to everyone who purchased shares to support our youth at the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Our confirmation youth (Amelia, Henry, and Kirby) and Pastor Scott (who is blessed to tag along) will be joining around and 20,000 Lutheran youth and adult chaperones for 5 amazing days of service and learning, fellowship, worship, and fun.

Because of your support, \$2900.00 was raised to support this trip. and an additional anonymous donor also gifted \$75 in fun money for each of our youth.

Please keep our youth in your prayers and plan on blessing them in worship on July 14 as we send them off to an experience of a lifetime.

And plan on joining Amelia, Henry, Kirby, and Pastor Scott for a **special presentation** of their trip on **Sunday**, July 28, during **adult education**.



I ave you ever been in worship and felt that you did not "fit"? Or that something in worship itself was off and you left feeling that you had not been spiritually engaged? Some around you seem satisfied and engaged, and yet others are agitating for change, perhaps in ways that feel disruptive and make you uncomfortable.

You are not alone. Most people of faith have encountered this multiple times in our lives. Making sense of it, however, is another thing.

Over the years, I have learned that in regards to worship, there are real differences in the way people feel about and respond to the patterns, language, rituals, music, and so on that define the worship style of any congregation. Some engage us and move us, yet some don't. Although these experiences are all valid, all are not experienced by everyone in the same way. But everyone does respond spiritually to the different things that make up worship, and there are ways to identify and measure that response. We call this a **personal spirituality profile**. What's more, every church — in its practices and rituals, language and music — has a profile too, **a community spirituality profile**.

Join Pastor Scott during **adult education on Sunday, July 7** to learn more about how you can **Discover Your Spirituality Profile** and how it connects with the ways we worship at Cross. What's more, your participation will help us better identify, acknowledge, and understand the community spirituality profile of Cross Lutheran Church, and how we may worship together more fully, more collaboratively, and even more spiritually

If you missed the June 30 session, please join Pastor Scott at 11:00 am to take the survey. All who attended last Sunday can join in at 11:15.

TODAY AT CROSS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Join us after worship in the community room for coffee and fellowship.

ADULT EDUCATION Join us today as we continue our look at different profiles of individual spirituality and how that diversity can strengthen and balance us as a whole. Join us in the community room. There will be no adult education on July 14.

BELL CHOIR. Bell choir is now practicing to play during a few Sundays in July and August. Our next rehearsal will be setup at 5:30 pm, then 6:00-7:30 for practice on Thursday, July 11th. Please contact Ken at worship@crosslutheranchurch.org with questions.

THE BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY decided, recently, to modify our liturgy so that there aren't so many long periods of standing during worship, which is an increasing issue among many. We will continue to rise and stand on those sections where it is recommended in ELCA liturgical guidelines, but have removed the indication to stand from other sections. Of course, if you would like to stand, please do. But do not feel you must on those sections of the liturgy which are not marked with an *.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP July 14 and August 11. The Board of Lay Ministry voted to worship outside on the East Lawn, weather permitting on Sunday, July 14 and August 11. Invite your friends and neighbors. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket and let's take advantage of the wonderful weather and tree-covered yard. Stay tuned for more details.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN packing event will be held Saturday, July 20. Join us at 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121 from 9:00 — 11:15 am to pack food. Immediately after, we'll be having lunch at the Gaubert home (1382 St Andrew Boulevard, Eagan, MN 55123). Space is limited. Please reserve your spot on the signup sheet in the Narthex.

Cross Lutheran Church, 1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota, 55109 www.crosslutheranchurch.org office@crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329 Reverend Scott Simmons, pastor pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org 612-859-1134 Katie Tomek, administrative assistant office@crosslutheranchurch.org Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, July 7 9:30am Sunday Worship 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 11:00am-12:00pm Adult Ed 1:00 - 5:00 pmPromesa De Dios 5:00 - 9:00pm Ebenezer Elim Monday, July 8 Office Closed **Tuesday**, July 9 1:00-5:30pm Pastor Scott office by appt Wednesday, July 10 1:00-6:00pm Pastor Scott office by appt 7:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia Thursday, July 11 8:00am-5:00pm Katie Tomek office 10:30 -11:30am Bible study in comm. room 11:30am-2:30pm Pastor Scott office by appt 3:00-4:00pm Worship at the Shores Friday, July 12 1:00-4:00pm Pastor Scott office by apt 7:00pm - 10:00pm Ebenezer Elim Saturday, July 13 9:00am - 1:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia 1:30pm - 4:30pm Cross Organ Practice 5:00 - 7:00pm Adventista Septimo Dia Sunday, July 14 9:30am Sunday Worship outside 10:30am Sunday School 10:30am Coffee Fellowship 11:00a-12:00pm Promesa De Dios 5:00 - 9:00pm Ebenezer Elim