

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • MAY 18, 2025

CROSS

Cross Lutheran Church

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109

www.crosslutheranchurch.org office@crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329

Reverend Scott Simmons, Pastor

*Indicates
congregation to stand
as comfortable.

Preaching/Presiding:
Rev. Scott Simmons

Director of Music:
Kenneth Kusiak

Lay Minister:
5/18 Sherry Batterman
5/25 Duane Gudknecht

Assisting Minister:
5/18 Patty VanderWaal
5/25 Katie Erickson

Psalm:
5/18 Alternative
5/25 Katie Erickson

Ushers:
5/18 Dan and Katie
Erickson
5/25 Clara Volkers and
Carolyn Border

Livestream Producer:
Jamie Gudknecht

Altar Guild:
May: Jamie Gudknecht
and Sharon Crist

Coffee:
5/18 Board of
Stewardship

May Counters:
Sherry Batterman and
Duane Gudknecht

If you are interested in
serving coffee following
worship, please sign-up
on the bulletin board

If you would like to
provide flowers for
Sunday Worship, sign
up 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

*GATHERING HYMN

All Are Welcome



All are wel - come, friend and stran - ger at the ban - quet of the Sav - ior.



All are wel - come. All are wel-come here.



From the wo - man who comes cry - ing,
From the ones to who the feel for - got - ten,
Go in - to the streets and cit - ies,



leav - ing tears at Je - sus' feet, to the man who
those who sense their place is gone, to the ones who
to the farms and fam - i - lies, tell a - bout the



knows the right way but can - not see.
live in hun - ger, here you be - long.
splen - did ta - ble, God's mer - cy.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



Leader: Oh peo-ple of God, the Lord be with you. All: And may the Lord
be with you too. Leader: The Spir-it calls us to re-mem-ber
All: Oh Lord we lift our hearts to you. All: We fail to love you with our
You bid us come out from the
whole hearts or love our neigh - bors as we should. And so we're
sha - dows in - to the light by which we see Our sins for
ask - ing for for - give - ness Oh set us free and make us good.
give - en and for - got - ten for Jes - sus' sake we're clear and free

*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.**

KYRIE

Kyrie We Pray

Simmons



1 Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison we pray
5 Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison we
8 pray let there be peace let there be life let there be
pray for all the sighing for all the starving for all the
pray we trust your promise we crave your presence we need for-
11 love, let us have faith no more be war, no more be
aching we lift our prayer for all the crying for all the
giveness Lord, hear our prayer we trust your power we crave your
14 death, no more be hate, let us have faith
fearing for all the lonely we lift our prayer
blessing we need re-storing Lord, hear our prayer

The **Kyrie** in Lutheran liturgy is a plea for mercy. Its name is derived from *Kyrie Eleison*, which in Koine Greek means "Lord, Have Mercy." Quite often, the Kyrie will include the phrase "Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison" which translated to English is "Lord, Have Mercy; Christ, Have Mercy; Lord, Have Mercy." The Kyrie typically occurs after the rite of Confession and Forgiveness or the Remembrance of Baptism at the beginning of worship.

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW 167

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

Refrain

God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Lord of all, In Jesus you have made us all sisters and brothers in Christ. There is no distinction between Gentile and Jew. There is no separation that can remove any from fellowship in Christ's community. Blind us to our differences so that in unity we may proclaim your truth to all, for the sake of Jesus Christ in whom there is harmony and peace. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON

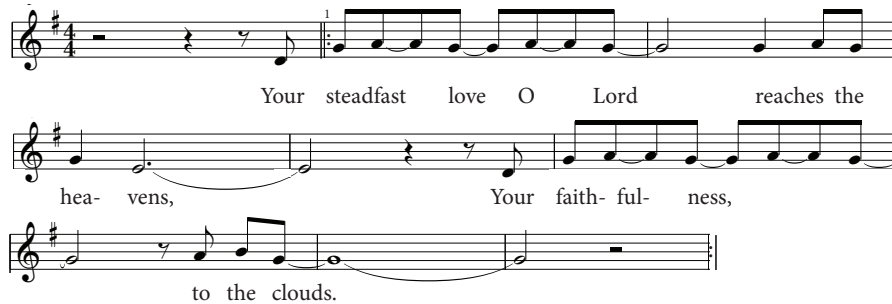
Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to 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.*

PSALM 22:25-31



From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,

and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

To him,ⁱ indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him
future generations will be told about the Lord
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 15:1-19

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be

*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.

the one through whom the gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us, and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

The whole assembly kept silence and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

'After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,
so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the gentiles over whom my name has been called.
Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things
known from long ago.'

"Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those gentiles who are turning to God...

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***ACCLAMATION**

Steadfast Love

pg. 189

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

***GOSPEL**

Luke 2:29-32

The Gospel according to Luke **Glory to you, O Lord.**

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

The Gospel of Our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*SONG OF THE DAY

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

ELW313



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin-ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless-ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

*STATEMENT OF BELIEF

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy, hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus 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:
Marya, Sheree, Janice,
baby Hayden, Henry,
Gabby and baby Creed,
Roman Joseph, Ray and
Clara, Dawn, Brady,
Richard, Judy, Marv,
Dottie, BettyLu, Robin,
Lonna, Kelly, Steve,
Joetta and family, Rick,
Pastor Brian, Nicks,
Dean and Shirley

*We offer continued
prayers for Norm
Sessing and Matt
Wickoren*

*If you have a name
to add or remove from
this prayer list, please
contact Jamie
Gudknecht or Pastor
Scott.*

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.

All are invited to proclaim the words of institution along with the presiding pastor.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

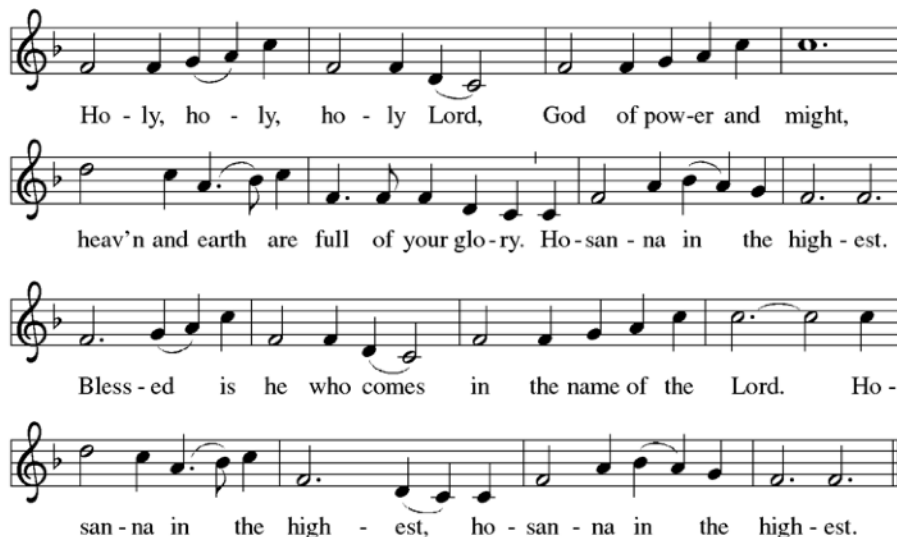
*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you And also with you
Lift up your hearts We lift them to the Lord
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise

*PREFACE

*HOLY HOLY

pg. 207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, in his death, resurrection and ascension, opened his arms to all, inviting all believers to participate in the sacred story, that...

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*PRAYER OF THANKFULNESS

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.**

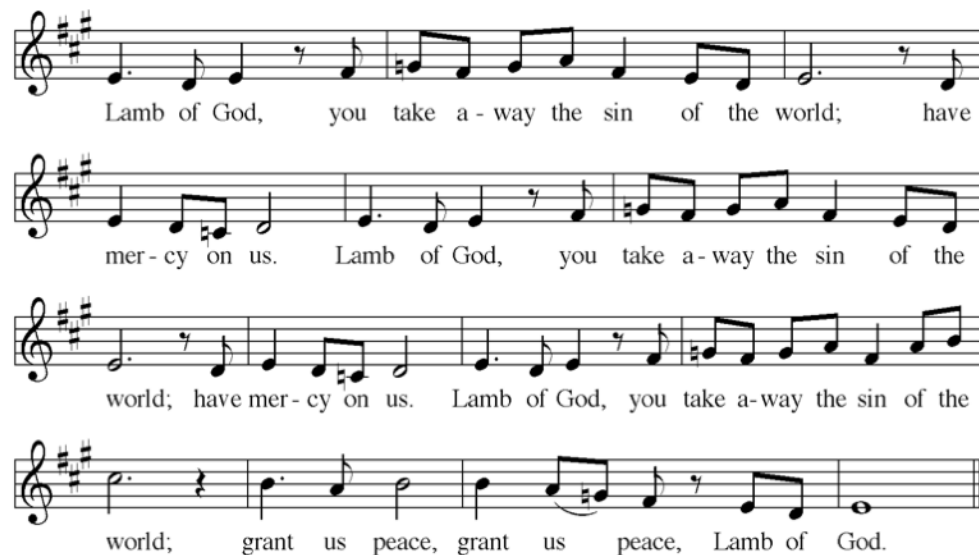
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

LAMB OF GOD



Communion hymns: ELW 742 - What a Friend We Have in Jesus
ELW 671 - Shine, Jesus, Shine

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

*We give thanks and offer
praise for the gifts of new
life and redemption in the
body and blood of Christ -
which we receive in, with,
and under the bread and
wine of Holy Communion.*

*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.*

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

***SONG OF THANKSGIVING "Give Thanks"**

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,

give thanks be-cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son, *(repeat)*

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

SENDING

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

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

***CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING**

***SENDING SONG**

"Go, Make Disciples"

ELW540

"Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.

Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.

Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.

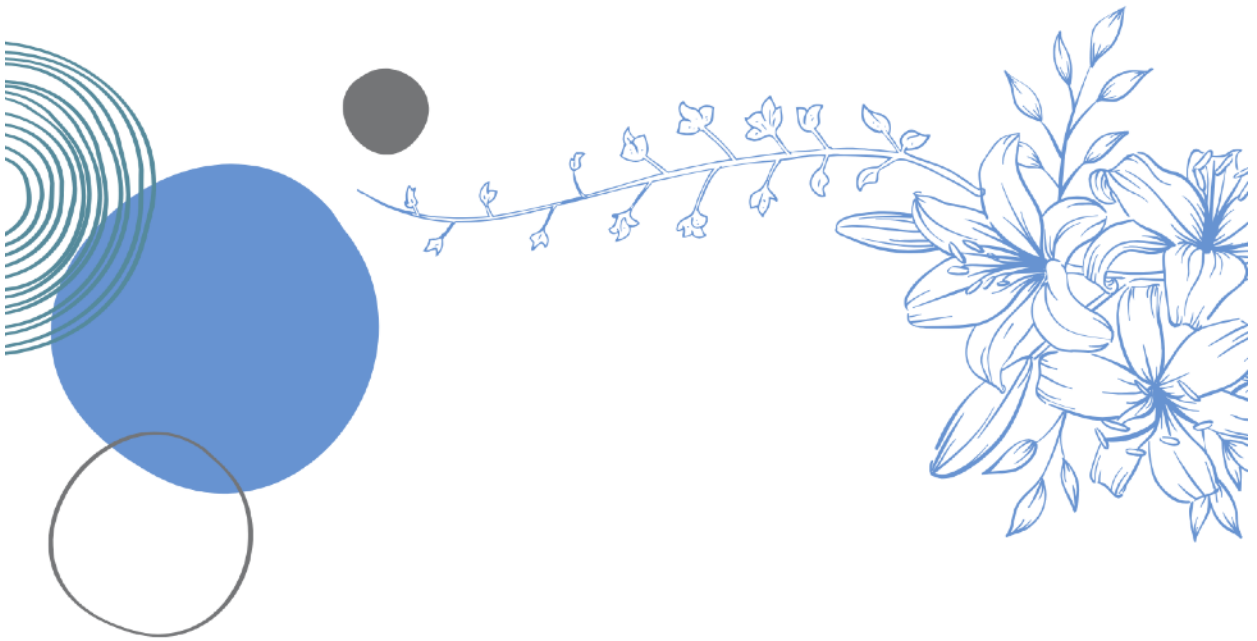
Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're

serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples."

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ. **Thanks Be To God.**

POSTLUDE



Thank You Volunteers!



TODAY AT CROSS

VOLUNTEER SUNDAY RECOGNITION Join us after worship in the community room with coffee and cake to say "Thank You" to all of our volunteers. Jill Miklausich, Principal of John Glenn, will be here to share thanks and give an update.

ADULT EDUCATION continues May 25. Book study on *When Church Stops Working - a Future for Your Congregation beyond More Money, Programs, and Innovation*. To order your copy, please visit <https://amzn.to/41KOj6u>.

CROSS CHOIR – Practice is on Thursdays from 6:00-6:30pm. Anyone is welcome to join, regardless of experience. If you have any questions, contact Ken at worship@crosslutheranchurch.org. We will be rehearsing through May for a final anthem on June 1st prior to summer break.

BELL CHOIR - Bell Choir will be rehearsing from 6:45-7:30pm on Thursday evenings for the month of May. We will be discussing the summer schedule. Please come early to assist with setting up.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY meets Thursday mornings at 10:30 am in the community room. All are welcome! It is always a lively time.

JOHN GLENN JET LAUNCHING PAD items for the coming school year:
May - Feminine Hygiene Products
Ongoing: Kleenex, Black Expo Markers, Coats



THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, May 18

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Volunteer Sunday

1:00 – 5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, May 19

Office Closed

6:30pm

Fleshpots of Egypt

Tuesday, May 20

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, May 21

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

2:30pm

Community Market - JG

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, May 22

10:30-11:30am

Bible Study/Comm. Rm

11:30-2:30pm

Pastor Scott Office by apt

3:00-4:00pm

Worship at the Shores

Friday, May 23

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, May 24

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, May 25

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee and fellowship

11:00am

Adult Education

1:00-5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

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Jamie Gudknecht, administrative assistant office@crosslutheranchurch.org

Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org

Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org