

# The CROSS

Currents

## Worship

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

## Faith Formation

Sunday School is ongoing, as is Adult education. There's something for everyone.

## Pastoral Care

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

## Church Calendar

If you have additions, changes, and/or questions about the church calendar, please contact the office at 651-777-1329 or email [office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org)

**W**hat in *our* world is God up to? The headlines will tell you that the world is going to hell in a handbasket. There are floods and fires, famine and war, economic uncertainty and governmental upheaval — so many challenges, so little time.

On the other hand, we proclaim a God who is everywhere and at all times creating, restoring, redeeming, and loving. Maybe the signs of God's handiwork aren't reflected in the headlines, but they are reflected in our lives together.

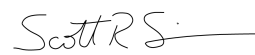
And it sure seems God us up to something. At the end of August, we'll be kicking off another season of the Community Market at John Glenn Middle School. Last year, we served 169 families at this kickoff event, and signs are that this year may even be bigger.

Our confirmation partnership with Our Redeemer continues in September. And we just received an invitation to join in on Our Redeemer's Quilting and Crafting groups. More details are in this newsletter.

What's more, we'll be partnering with Our Redeemer for **Gods Work. Our Hands.** Sunday on Sept. 7. We'll be joining over 8500 other ELCA congregations for this special day.

Yesterday, the ELCA elected a new presiding bishop, Yahiel Curry. Before becoming Bishop of Chicago Metro Synod, Bishop Curry served a church just a few blocks from the Chicago church where Pope Leo XIV. Small world.

Pax,



Pastor Scott



## We Pray For:

Sheree, 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, Nick, Joshua, Dean and Shirley.

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

We offer continued prayers for the families of 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.



**OPEN CALL FOR ADULT ED TOPICS** Pastor Scott is looking for suggestions for Autumn Adult Ed topics. If you have a suggestion, please leave a note in the office, email, or text him at 612.859.1134.



**Thursday Morning Bible Study** is taking a summer break. We'll resume in September. Stay tuned for details.

**CROSS BELL CHOIR** practices Thursdays at 6:30pm. If interested or have any ringing questions, please contact Ken.



Women of the ELCA | Saint Paul Area Synod



### SAVE THE DATE

*The Saint Paul Area Women's Synodical Organization invites you to our annual*

### Bible Study Enrichment

Previewing the 2025-2026 Bible Studies from the Gather Magazine with Bible Study Leader Pastor Carrie Stiles

**Saturday, September 20, 2025**  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church - North St. Paul**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM followed by lunch

All women are welcome!  
Registration and more information will follow soon.

*The mission of Women of the ELCA is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.*



Our friends at Our Redeemer Lutheran (1390 Larpentaur) invite us to join them for **U.F.O Crafting Day**, the 3rd Saturday of each month from 8 am—4 pm in the ORLC Fellowship Hall. The next U.F.O. is scheduled for **Saturday Aug 16th**. Bring your *Unfinished Objects* and meet new people as you tackle that crafting project that you've been wanting to get started or finished but needed a boost from other friendly crafters! Meals are on your own; but there's a refrigerator and microwave for your use.

**Quilting Ladies** meet 2nd & 4th Mondays 9 am—noon in Fellowship Hall at ORLC. The only skill you need is to tie a square knot. Next quilting is **Aug 11th**.



Any questions contact Sandy Pruden at 651.777.9637 or [slpruden@hotmail.com](mailto:slpruden@hotmail.com)



**Help Needed** Board of Properties seeks help with odd jobs around the church. If you have an hour or two to spare, we always need help. Please call or text Scott Patterson (651-955-9108) or email [mrscott1717@gmail.com](mailto:mrscott1717@gmail.com)

# STEWARDSHIP

## Current Dedicated Account Balances

Air Conditioning  
Memorial: \$5,000.00;  
Capital Improvement  
Fund: \$40,134.55;  
Education Memorial:  
\$1,224.04;  
Gifts/Memorials  
(Undesignated):  
\$8,539.64;  
Sound System  
Memorial: \$.21;  
Fund for Missions  
(\$497.25)  
Cross Lutheran  
Investment Fund  
(CLIF):  
\$112,500.00



Here is our financial picture through June, 2025

1. Through June we have transferred \$12,881.02 from Savings to Checking.
2. The net unrealized gain from the CLIF is \$7,171.52 and is included in total income.
3. Our expenses through June are lower than what we budgeted.
4. We continue to depend on the monthly transfers from savings that put us in the current financial position.

The Board of Stewardship

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	YTD Budget vs. YTD Actual
<b>Income</b>						
Weekly Offerings Totals:	10,630.00	10,166.67	65,792.75	60,999.98	122,000.00	4,792.77
Holidays/Special Totals:	395.00	175.00	4,694.00	3,925.00	8,675.00	769.00
Interest Income Totals:	3.39	12.50	20.71	75.00	150.00	(54.29)
Other Income Totals:	5,816.00	4,082.67	30,008.00	28,320.98	76,767.00	1,687.02
Dedicated Funds Released Totals:	2,146.83	2,146.83	12,881.02	12,881.02	25,762.00	0.00
Unrealized Gains/Losses Totals:	4,232.30	0.00	7,171.52	0.00	0.00	7,171.52
Income Totals:	23,223.52	16,583.67	120,568.00	106,201.98	233,354.00	14,366.02
<b>Expense</b>						
Lay Ministry Totals:	6.00	273.33	1,537.24	1,815.02	4,205.00	277.78
Executive Board Totals:	12,624.61	13,644.93	76,174.29	81,869.42	163,739.00	5,695.13
Faith Formation Totals:	240.00	675.00	718.04	1,050.00	2,000.00	331.96
Stewardship Totals:	72.90	51.21	937.79	1,042.74	5,850.00	104.95
Church Properties Totals:	4,299.02	4,156.65	26,170.47	29,215.44	57,560.00	3,044.97
Expense Totals:	17,242.53	18,801.12	105,537.83	114,992.62	233,354.00	9,454.79
<b>Income - Expense:</b>	5,980.99	(2,217.45)	15,030.17	(8,790.64)	0.00	23,820.81



# John Glenn School Supply Time



School supplies are appearing in stores. Here's the John Glenn wish list. Thanks so much for your continued support!

Spiral Notebooks  
Plastic two-pocket  
folders  
Colored Pencils  
Glue Sticks  
Expo Markers (Black)

Colored Markers  
Highlighters  
AAA Batteries  
Pencils  
Kleenex  
Backpacks



God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

**God's Work. Our Hands.** is a national day of service across the ELCA. This year, an expected 8500+ congregations will be involved. To kick off this yearly event, we'll be partnering with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for a joint worship on the morning of Sunday, September 7, followed by a number of service opportunities for members and friends of our two congregations.

If you are interested in helping plan and organize God's Work. Our Hands. please contact Pastor Scott. We are in the initial stages of planning, so please look for more information in the coming weeks.



## Today's Harvest VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

AT OUR NEW MAPLEWOOD LOCATION



We need YOUR help to run this program! There is a lot to do every day and we wouldn't be able to keep up without our incredible volunteers.

### We Need Help with:

- Organizing and sorting fresh produce, deli, meat, bakery, and dairy products
- Stocking shelves and organizing market displays
- Greeting shoppers and helping answer questions
- Box cutting and breaking down boxes

1740 Van Dyke Street  
Maplewood, MN 55109  
651-300-0662

LEARN MORE

[TODAYSHARVESTMN.ORG/NEW-VOLUNTEERS/](https://todaysharvestmn.org/new-volunteers/)



## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

### RESULTS

Boxes: 98

Meals: 21,168

Kids fed daily meal for 1 year: 58

Cost: \$6,138.72



Thanks to all the volunteers and our wonderful hosts for a great lunch!





# COMMUNITY MARKET

**25-26 Season Begins Wednesday, August 27, 3–6 pm**  
**Set Up at 1:30 pm**

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex if you will be volunteering. We will not have any school helpers for this first market due to the Open House. Last year we served 169 families. We will be busy! Pizza will also be provided (if food is your motivator). Thank you to everyone as we kick off another great year of helping our community!

## **COMMUNITY MARKET DATES**

**2025-2026 School Year**

**August 27th - 3:00-6:00pm (Open House)**  
**(sign-up sheet in Narthex)**

September 24th

October 29th

November 19th

December 17th

January 21st

February 18th

March 18th

April 22nd

May 20th

# Happy Birthday

## AUGUST

8/2 Dick Schultz  
8/3 Rona Villodres  
8/13 Kim Brynildson  
8/15 Paul Schafer  
8/15 Jamie Gudknecht  
8/20 Howard Vansteenburgh

## SEPTEMBER

9/20 Myrna Schultz  
9/24 Matheu Mizinski  
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

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](mailto:pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org)) or  
[office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org).

In a pastoral care emergency, please call or text  
Pastor Scott directly, 612-859-1134.



# AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Shores @ Cross Worship 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	28 6:30PM Flesh pots of Egypt @ Dubliner Pub	29 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours --- by appt only	30 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt. 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	31 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office --- by appt. 3:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Bell Choir Practice	1 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt only. 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	2 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día
3 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Adult Education 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	4	5 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours --- by appt only 4:00PM Cross BLM Meeting	6 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt. 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	7 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office --- by appt. 3:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Bell Choir Practice	8 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt only. 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	9 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día
10 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Adult Education 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	11	12 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours --- by appt only 6:00PM Board of Stewardship	13 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt. 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	14 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office --- by appt. 3:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Bell Choir Practice	15 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt only. 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	16 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día
17 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Shores @ Cross Worship 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Adult Education 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	18 6:30PM Flesh pots of Egypt @ Dubliner Pub	19 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours --- by appt only 6:30PM Cross Board of Stewardship 6:30PM Cross Board of Stewardship	20 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt. 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	21 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office --- by appt. 3:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Bell Choir Practice	22 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt only. 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	23 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día
24 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Adult Education 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	25	26 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours --- by appt only 6:00PM Cross PPC Meeting	27 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt. 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	28 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office --- by appt. 3:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Bell Choir Practice	29 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours - by appt only. 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	30 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día
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## Yehiel Curry Elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.



The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.

Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for election. Curry received 562 votes, Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

“Perhaps I’m out there in one of you,” Curry said. “I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

Want to see something in the next Cross Currents?  
Let me know! Always looking for new ideas.

Jamie

**CROSS**  
Lutheran Church

Pastor: Reverend Scott Simmons  
Office Manager: Jamie Gudknecht  
Financial Secretary: Carol Hastings  
Worship Director: Kenneth Kusiak

[pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
[office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
[carol@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:carol@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
[worship@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:worship@crosslutheranchurch.org)

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109  
[www.crosslutheranchurch.org](http://www.crosslutheranchurch.org)