

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • AUGUST 24,
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

Livestream Producer:
Jamie Gudknecht

Lay Minister:
8/24 Sherry Batterman
8/31 Dave Olson

Assisting Minister:
8/24 Janice Neenan
8/31 Paul Schafer

Psalm:
8/24 Duane Gudknecht
8/31 Katie Erickson

Ushers:
8/24 Sharon Crist and
Sheree Kieffer

Altar Guild:
Mary Vatne and
Joann Nordrum

Coffee:
8/24 Wayne and LuAnn
Lund

August 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.*

GATHER

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

PRELUDE

Es ist gewisslich

Michael Praetorius

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Earth is Full of Wit and Wisdom

ACS1064



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - joice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**Merciful God, you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors
and follow our own way.**

**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**

**You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity, but we grow weary
in doing what is right.**

**In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

**You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.**

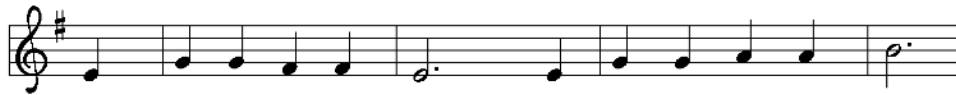
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. Amen.

*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.**

*KYRIE

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- 1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol-emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a-way our sin.
- 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de-part.



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin.
Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for-ev-er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a-lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre-a-tion, Fa-ther of sur-pass-ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav-ior, you have come from heav'n a-bove;
Ho-ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex-alt you, we a-dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir-it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an-gels bow be-fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re-store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in-her-it, glo-ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we love because you first loved us. Break into our ordinary lives; help us to trust your abundant love; and help us to love as you do. Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you always.
And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Simple Gifts
BELL CHOIR

Shaker Melody
arr. Susan E. Gershke

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.

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON

Micah 4:1-4

In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's temple
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised up above the hills.
Peoples shall stream to it,
and many nations shall come and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between many peoples
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more;
but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid,
for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.
Word of God, word of life. **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 103:1-8



Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—
who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R
who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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*GOSPEL

John 10:14-18

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you O, Lord.**

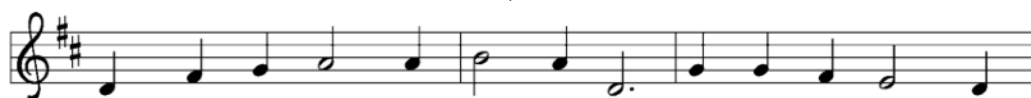
As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

*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.



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for:
 Marya, 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, Jerod, and Pat.

*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.*

*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

God in Your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Prayer

Carl Wilhelm Kern

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW188

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*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

*DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

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.*

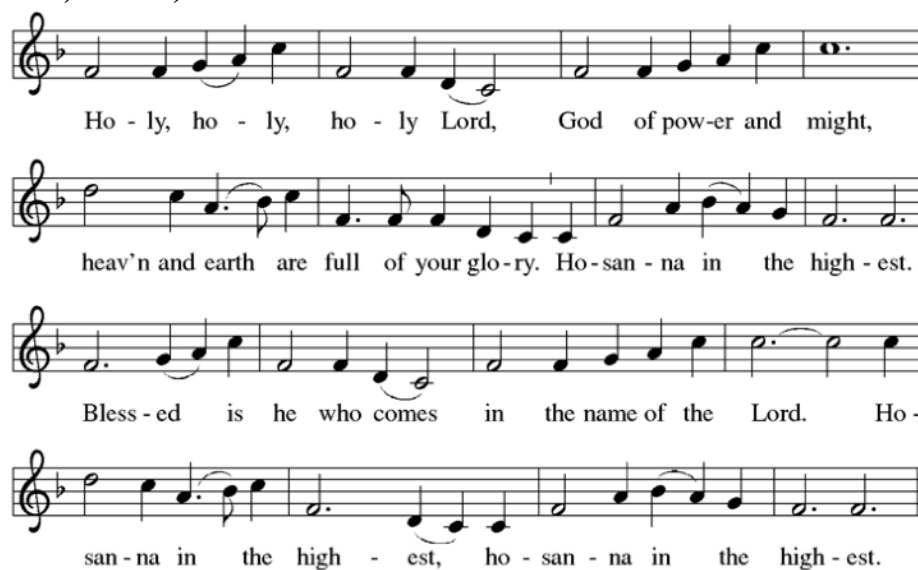
***All are invited to** proclaim the words of institution along with the presiding pastor.*

***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.*

*PREFACE

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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*PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
 Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.
 Praise to you for your presence by the Spirit and your invitation
 to share the sacred story:

*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

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
 as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
 O God of resurrection and new life:
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
 Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
 Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
 Breathe new life into us. Send us forth,
 burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With Matt, Norm, and your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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

LAMB OF GOD

p.208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

ELW471 — Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW883 — All People That On Earth Do Dwell

DISTRIBUTION

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

***SONG OF THANKS Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise**

ELW207



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

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.

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us
Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and
proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always. Amen.

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

SENDING SONG

To Be Your Presence

ELW546



1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your



pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the



ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!
love ex - pressed,
church, re - joice,

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata [Allegro]

Johann Gottfried Walther

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!

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

TODAY AT CROSS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Join us after worship for fellowship and coffee.

ADULT EDUCATION will not meet today

CROSS CHOIR — The first Cross choir rehearsal of the season will be on Thursday, September 4th, from 6-7pm. Anyone who is interested in singing is welcome to participate. Please contact Ken at worship@crosslutheranchurch.org if you have any questions.

BELL CHOIR — There will be no bell choir on Thursday, August 28th. There will still be occasional rehearsals for special music, depending on availability. We could still use one or two more ringers! Anyone who is interested in ringing or has questions, please contact Ken at worship@crosslutheranchurch.org.

PPC Meeting - Tuesday, August 26, 6:00pm

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY is taking summer sabbath. Look for information about the return of bible study later in the year. .



Joint worship and light lunch with Our Redeemer Lutheran,
Sunday, September 7, 10 am–Noon at Wakefield Park.

Service projects at Cross (blanket making), Our Redeemer (packs for homeless with hygiene products, energy bars, socks, etc.), and at Wakefield Park (details to come).

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, August 24

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

1:00 – 5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, August 25

Office Closed

Tuesday, August 26

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

6:00pm

PPC Meeting

Wednesday, August 27

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

1:30-3:00pm

Community Market set-up

3:00-6:00pm

Community Market

7:00–7:30pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, August 28

11:30-2:30pm

Pastor Scott Office by apt

3:00-4:00pm

Worship at the Shores

Friday, August 29

1:00 – 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, August 30

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, August 31

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

11:00am

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

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Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org

Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

