

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT + DECEMBER 7, 2025

CR#SS

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:

12/7 Duane Gudknecht 12/10 Janice Neenan 12/14 Dave Olson

Assisting Minister: 12/7 Phyllis Moser 12/14 Sherry Batterman

Psalm:

12/7 Katie Erickson 12/14 Duane Gudknecht

Ushers:

12/7 Sharon Crist and Carolyn Border 12/14 Phyllis Moser and Sheree Kieffer

Altar Guild:

Diana Border and Bonnie Dischinger

Coffee:

12/7 no volunteers

December Counters: Sherry Batterman, Mary Vatne and Diana Border

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

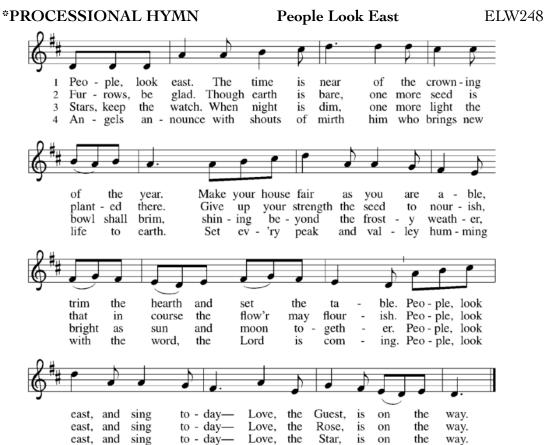
If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday Worship, sign up on the bulletin board in the back of the narthex, or contact the office.

GATHER

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

PRELUDE Freu dich Sehr

Egil Hovland



LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

the

Lord,

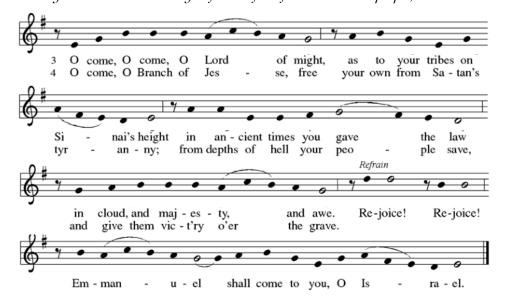
way.

The Advent Wreath is a reminder of God's love for us through the gift of Jesus Christ. Its evergreen branches are a sign of God's faithfulness to God's people, even in death.

Love,

to - day-

and



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM OF CHANCE JACKSON SANVIK

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

BAPTISM

WORD OF WELCOME

Chance, we welcome you to the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

*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.**

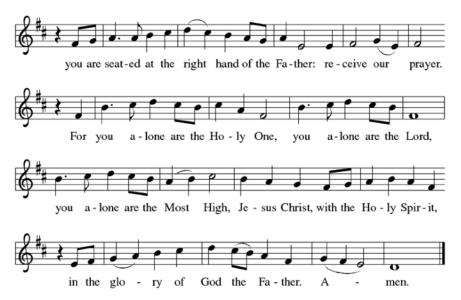
The **Kyrie** in Lutheran liturgy is a plea for mercy. Its name is derived from Kyrie Eleison, which in Koine Greek means "Lord, Have Mercy." Quite often, the Kyrie will include the phrase "Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison" which translated to English is "Lord, Have Mercy; Christ, Have Mercy; 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.

Following the Kyrie, we sing a song of joy, praise and celebration.





*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of breath, You promised new life to your people in exile by breathing into a valley full of dry bones. Breathe new life into us, so that we might live passionately for you. Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

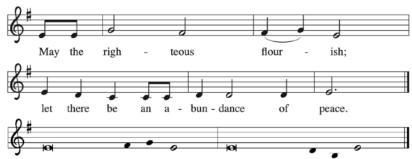
Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your

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

own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-10



Give the king your jus- tice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

Let him defend the needy a- mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor. R

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

In his time may the | righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

And blessed be your glorious | name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. R

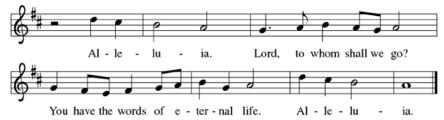
SECOND LESSON Romans 15:4-9a

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p.151



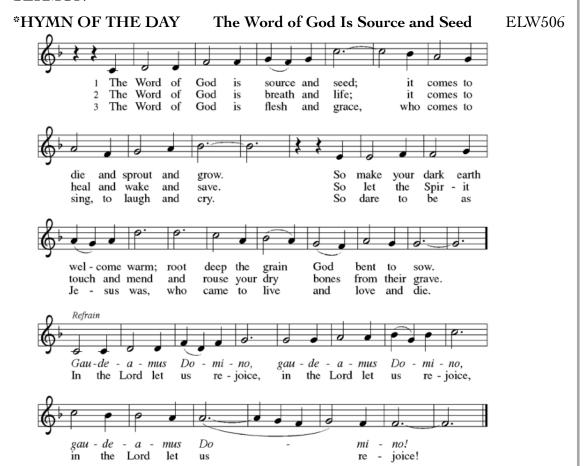
*GOSPEL John 11:25-26

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

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

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

SERMON



*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in Your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Soon and Very Soon CROSS CHOIR Andraé Crouch arr. Jack Schrader

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding! ELW246



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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for: Lisa, Marya, Sheree, baby Hayden, Henry, Gabby and baby Creed, Ray and Clara, Dawn, Brady, Richard, Judy, Marv, Dottie, BettyLu, Robin, Lonna, Bruce, Kelly, Steve, Pastor Brian, Nick, Joshua, Rose, Karen, Kimberly, Gayle, Dean and Shirley, Mary Beth, Mike, Stacey, Cristina, Wadby family, and MaryJo..

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.

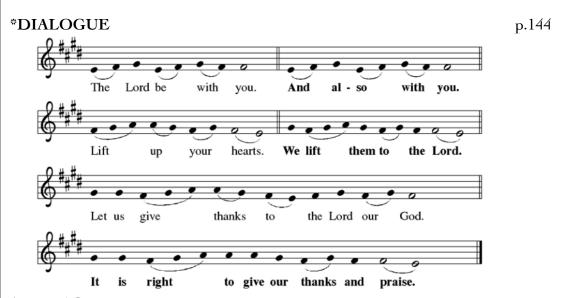
We remember God's faithfulness to God's people and God's purposes.

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

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

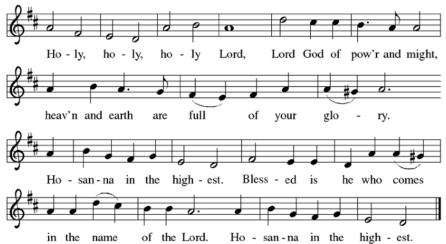
*GREAT THANKSGIVING



*PREFACE



p.144



*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 us to share the table of his love and proclaim to all 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

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.

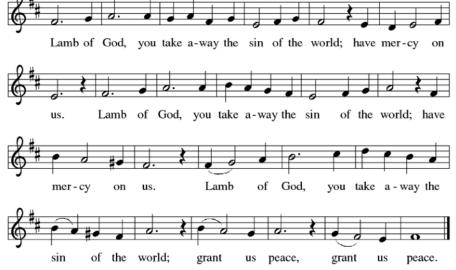
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

p.154



SONGS DURING COMMUNION

ELW254 — Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW466 — In the Singing

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

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.

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



*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

drive a - way the

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.

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. Amen.



gloom of

death and lead us

in - to

peace.

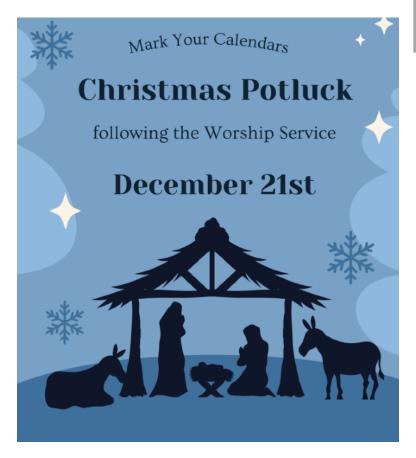
The Holy Spirit **SENDS** us, restored and refreshed in the Word and the Meal, to share the Good News.

POSTLUDE

Gottes Sohn ist kommen

Johann Sebastian Bach

All copyrighted hymns and liturgical elements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB166863 and/or One License A-739520.





Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 4 pm & 6 pm Dec. 10 & 17. Featuring music from Holden Evening Prayer.



First Sunday in Advent November 30, 9:30 am

Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer Wed., December 3, 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Second Sunday in Advent December 7, 9:30 am

Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer Wed., December 10, 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Third Sunday in Advent December 14, 9:30 am

Carols and Ales with the Fleshpots of Egypt

Mon., December 15, 6:30-8:30 pm Dubliner Pub

Advent Wednesday Evening Prayer

Wed., December 17, 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 9:30 am Christmas Potluck follows

Blue Christmas Worship

Mon., December 22, 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Wed., December 24
Shores of Lake Phalen
3:00 pm
Family Worship
5:00 pm (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
Candlelight Worship
10:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Thurs., December 25, 10:00 am

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 9:30 am

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 9:30 am





January 11-25

Please bring new or gently used items in small trash bags and place them in the shopping cart in the narthex. Joseph's Coat is a free store that serves people whose life challenges have left them in need of essential goods. They are currently in need of winter clothing, especially coats and jeans, for children, women and men.

They ask that items be in good condition - clean and stain free.

Here are some of the items on their needs list:

Winter clothing/Outerwear

Books for adults (novels and mysteries)

Bedding & towels

T-shirts, socks, & underwear

Children's games, toy & books

Hygiene products

Shoes and boots

Candles

Travel size toiletries

Adult backpacks, sleeping bags, duffel bags

Unopened Diapers & wipes

Household items: pots & pans, glassware, dishes, silverware, small electric items, rugs for bathroom and kitchen

Brown paper grocery bags with handles are always needed



CHRISTMAS GIVING at CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOR OUR JOHN GLENN FAMILIES: We are asking for Target (\$25) and Cub (\$50-\$100) gift cards which will be given to Miss Vivian at John Glenn to distribute to the families most in need. This will allow them

to purchase gifts if they wish and/or provide a nice holiday meal.

MERRICK COMMUNITY SERVICES HOLIDAY SHARE, DECEMBER 13: is an event where families are invited to shop for toys for their children. Last year this organization served over 600 families and 2,200 children. Many John Glenn families register for this event and it is a fun event to participate in.

If you are inclined donate toys for this event, here's your opportunity to visit the toy department. If you are not a shopper, gift cards are always appreciated. This was a huge success last year with Cross donating over 100 toys.

Popular wish list items for teenagers (13-17) include:

Headphones, phone stands, phone cases

Book Series (young adult, multi-book sets)

Beanies, water bottles

For Girls: belt bags, sunset lamps, paint marker pens, journals, lip balm, perfume

For Boys: LEGO sets, remote-controlled toys, sports balls, hoodies

All toys must be purchased and returned (unwrapped) to Cross by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**. Gift cards should be given to Tammy Erickson or Jamie Gudknecht **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 14**.

There are also opportunities to volunteer at Merrick the week of the event, either setting up for the event or helping the day of distribution.

Please contact Merrick for details.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR MANY!

THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church 1390 Larpenteur Avenue E - St. Paul

> Annual Cookie Shoppe! Saturday, December 13 9:00 AM—12 Noon

\$8 per dozen (Sorry, no pre-orders)

Proceeds go to ORLC Children's Ministries

For email notifications only contact office@ORLCMN.org

NEXT COMMUNITY MARKET

Wednesday, December 17th.

Set up begins at 1:30pm

Market runs from 2:30-5:00pm

Bring you plastic and paper bags

TODAY AT CROSS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Join us after worship in the community room for fellowship. Coffee would be a blessing since there are no volunteers signed up.

ADULT EDUCATION *Voices of Advent—an exploration of the Advent season* continues today at 11, as we hear from Mary, Zechariah, and the Gospel of John.

FLOWERS- The flowers on the altar are given by Kay Stack in memory of Allen Stack.

BELL CHOIR — There will be a Bell Choir rehearsal on Thursday, December 11th, from **5:30-6:30 PM**. We will be ringing one or two short, easy pieces, during the Advent/Christmas season. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.

CROSS CHOIR — There will be a choral rehearsal on Thursday, December 11th from **6:30-7:30 PM**. *NOTE TIME CHANGE*. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY meets every week at 11:00 am.

Christmas Poinsettias will once again decorate the altar for



Christmas. Order forms are available in the basket on the shelf in the Narthex. You may order red or white flowers for \$18 each. Please fill out the order form and place it in the offering plate. Make checks payable to: Cross Lutheran Church. The last day to order flowers

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
Jamie Gudknecht, 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, December 7

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

1:00-5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 - 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, December 8

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 9

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, December 10

4:00 & 6:00pm

Advent Worship

7:-00-9:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, December 11

11:00am

Bible Study

11:30-2:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

1:00pm

Worhsip at the Shores

5:30pm

Bell Practice

6:30pm

Choir Practice

Friday, December 12

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, December 13

9:00am - 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 - 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, December 14

10:00am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

11:00am

Adult Education

1:00-5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 - 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim