

# 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)

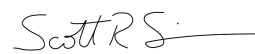
One of the often overlooked gifts that Martin Luther gave to the church are his hymns. Of course, most of us know *A Mighty Fortress*, a beautifully soaring sung sermon to the triumph of God through Jesus the Christ and the Holy Spirit. In fact, Luther composed dozens upon dozens of hymn tunes, but he also wrote hundreds of hymns over the years, many which have been translated into English, Swedish, Norwegian, Slovak, Polish, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Swahili, and others.

Our present hymnbook, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, contains fifteen of Luther's hymn texts. One of them—*Savior of the Nations, Come* (ELW 263)—is an Advent hymn which we will sing at some point in worship this month. The fifth verse is particularly lovely:

*Now your manger shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.*

It is a lovely reminder that despite shorter days and longer nights, and the creeping darkness which seems to be infecting the entire world, the light of God's love continues to shine. And the darkness will not overcome it. Let us together seek the light this Advent season.

Pax,



Pastor Scott



## 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, Rick, Pastor Brian, Nick, Joshua, Rose, Muiren, Kimberly, Gayle, Dean and Shirley, Jerod, Ruthann, Mary Beth, Mike, Stacey and Cristina.

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



# Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesdays at 4 pm & 6 pm  
Dec. 3, 10, 17.  
Featuring music from Holden Evening Prayer.



**BIBLE STUDY** 11 am,  
Thursday mornings In the conference room. Each week, we take a deeper look at the preaching texts for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join!

**CROSS BELL CHOIR** There will be bell practice on Thursday, December 4th at 5:30pm All are welcome! Questions? Contact Ken.



**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)

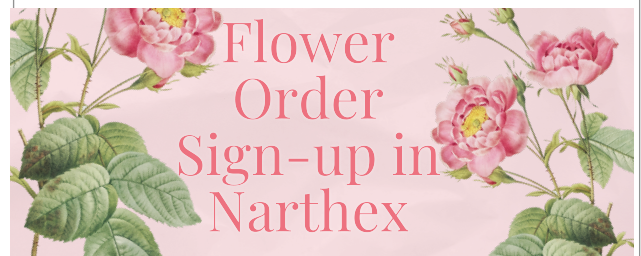


Our friends at Our Redeemer Lutheran (1390 Larpenteur) invite us to join them for **U.F.O Crafting Day**, the 3rd Saturday of each month from 8 am—4 pm in the ORLC Fellowship Hall. The next U.F.O. is scheduled for **Saturday December 20th**. Bring your *Unfinished Objects* and meet new people as you 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 is 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.



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



# STEWARDSHIP

## Dedicated Account Balances

Air Conditioning Memorial: \$5,000.00;  
Capital Improvement Fund: \$43,903.43;  
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



Using our new financial report - here are the highlights for October:

1. Actual income is a net loss of (\$2, 520.29) before we include any unrealized gain or loss from the CLIF.
2. Including the unrealized gain improves the loss to only (\$806.56).
3. Our Year to Date (YTD) numbers are on track with the budgeted amount through October with the exception of income because our expenses are so much lower than we budgeted.
4. Remember that we rely on our rental income and the funds being moved from savings to checking to help us with our operational needs - bills and salaries.

As we begin our budgeting process, we have asked the Boards to be very diligent in making their projections for 2026.

We are very grateful to everyone who made donations to Lutheran World Relief. We were amazed to be able to send them a check for \$40,460.00! THANK YOU!!

### 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	\$8,972.00	\$10,166.67	\$101,165.08	\$101,666.66	\$122,000.00	(\$501.58)
Holidays/Special Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,724.00	\$3,925.00	\$8,675.00	\$799.00
Interest Income Totals	\$3.19	\$12.50	\$33.73	\$125.00	\$150.00	(\$91.27)
Other Income Totals	\$4,016.00	\$4,082.67	\$46,205.00	\$44,651.66	\$76,767.00	\$1,553.34
Dedicated Funds Released Totals	\$2,146.83	\$2,146.83	\$21,468.34	\$21,468.34	\$25,762.00	\$0.00
<b>Income Totals</b>	<b>\$15,138.02</b>	<b>\$16,408.67</b>	<b>\$173,596.15</b>	<b>\$171,836.66</b>	<b>\$233,354.00</b>	<b>\$1,759.49</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Lay Ministry Totals	\$472.30	\$723.33	\$2,521.99	\$3,658.34	\$4,205.00	\$1,136.35
Executive Board Totals	\$12,742.99	\$13,644.93	\$126,771.44	\$136,449.14	\$163,739.00	\$9,677.70
Faith Formation Totals	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$1,139.73	\$1,850.00	\$2,000.00	\$710.27
Stewardship Totals	\$0.00	\$51.21	\$937.79	\$1,247.58	\$5,850.00	\$309.79
Church Properties Totals	\$4,443.02	\$4,496.65	\$42,875.76	\$47,714.04	\$57,560.00	\$4,838.28
<b>Expense Totals</b>	<b>\$17,658.31</b>	<b>\$18,991.12</b>	<b>\$174,246.71</b>	<b>\$190,919.10</b>	<b>\$233,354.00</b>	<b>\$16,672.39</b>
<b>Income-Expense:</b>	<b>(\$2,520.29)</b>	<b>(\$2,582.45)</b>	<b>(\$650.56)</b>	<b>(\$19,082.44)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$18,431.88</b>
Unrealized Gains/(Losses) Totals	\$1,713.73	\$0.00	\$15,451.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,451.28
<b>Totals Including CLIF</b>	<b>(\$806.56)</b>	<b>(\$2,582.45)</b>	<b>\$14,800.72</b>	<b>(\$19,082.44)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$33,883.16</b>



One student/one room  
Sunday School at Cross  
and Shared Confirmation  
with Our Redeemer LC  
continues to meet every  
other week.



Mark Your Calendars

# Christmas Potluck

following the Worship Service

## December 21st



VOICES OF ADVENT

Adult Education series on *Voices of Advent* continues Sunday Dec. 7 and 14 at 11:00 am. We'll hear the voice of Mary, Zechariah, and the Gospel of John on Dec. 7, and the voices of angels and prophets on Dec. 14.



# Joseph's Coat Clothing Drive



## 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.**



**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*

***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*





# John Glenn Market Report

## **COMMUNITY MARKET - November 19th**

We had a great market on November 19th. We continue to welcome Weaver families. We also had a wonderful volunteer turnout making for a smooth market. Next month our market is once again early due to the Holidays.

### **November 19th Statistics:**

Households: 98

Total people: 550

Kids: 259

Adults: 266

Seniors: 25

### **Total Pounds of Food**

7,032 pounds of food with 3,042 from Fresh & Frozen.

### **Total Volunteer Hours**

134 (82 from Cross/52 from John Glenn)

## **Next Community Market: December 17th**

Blessings to all,

Jamie Gudknecht

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!**



# Happy Birthday

## DECEMBER

12/1 Kelli Simmons  
12/6 Nic Villodres  
12/11 Peter Brown  
12/16 Jim Border

## JANUARY

1/1 Brady Mizinski  
1/6 Carolyn Gonser  
1/10 John Swanson  
1/18 Andrea Crist  
1/22 Robert Brynildson  
1/24 Emily Erickson

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.

# DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Worship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	1 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by appt only 4:00PM Cross BLM Meeting	2 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by appt only 4:00PM Advent Worship 6:00PM Advent Worship 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	3 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt. 4:00PM Advent Worship 6:00PM Advent Worship 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	4 11:00AM Bible Study with Pastor Scott 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office -- by appt. 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	5 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	6 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día
7 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	8 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by appt only	9 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by appt only	10 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt. 4:00PM Advent Worship 6:00PM Advent Worship 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	11 11:00AM Bible Study with Pastor Scott 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office -- by appt. 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	12 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	13 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día
14 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	15 6:30PM Flashpots of Egypt @ Dubliner Pub	16 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by appt only 6:00PM Cross Board of Stewardship 6:30PM Cross Board of Stewardship	17 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt. 1:30PM Community Market 4:00PM Advent Worship 6:00PM Advent Worship 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	18 11:00AM Bible Study with Pastor Scott 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office -- by appt. 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	19 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	20 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día
21 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	22 6:00PM Blue Christmas	23 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by appt only	24 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt. 6:00PM Family Candlelight Worship Service 9:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día 10:00PM Card Singing 10:00PM Candlelight Worship Service	25 10:00AM Festival Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office -- by appt. 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	26 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	27 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día
28 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	29	30 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by appt only	31 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt. 4:00PM Advent Worship 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Día	1 11:00AM Bible Study with Pastor Scott 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office -- by appt. 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	2 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by appt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	3 9:00AM Adventista del Séptimo Día 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Séptimo Día



**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. Please make checks payable to: Cross Lutheran Church. The last day to order flowers is December 14th



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

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