

FIRST SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY + JANUARY 11, 2026

CR[†]SS

Cross Lutheran Church

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109

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

Reverend Scott Simmons, Pastor

*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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.

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The **heart of worship** is not found in what we do, the words we speak, or the songs we sing. The heart of worship is **what God does** and **what God gives**.

In the presence of all of us together—in baptism, in the word sung and preached and prayed, in the gift of the body and blood of Christ in holy communion—we participate in God's mission to the world.

On this day of Christ's resurrection, and at other times, we make the sign of the cross, the sign first marked on us in holy baptism.

We **confess our sin and receive God's word of forgiveness**, giving thanks that, even while dead in our trespasses, God makes us alive together with Christ *Ephesians 2:5*

Together we are brought into the presence of God with an honest recognition of human sin and brokenness and the reality of our own sin and brokenness.

Together we hear God's promise and declaration of forgiveness.

United in worship, we are God's people, gathered around Word and sacrament.

During the gathering, music plays an important role in giving us a common identity.

Gathering songs welcome us to the mercy of the triune God and move us from our individual experiences into the purpose of worship.

Whether the gathering is brief or extended, the presiding minister and assembly greet each other in the name of the triune God.

The **Kyrie** is our prayer of peace for God's mercy to fill the church and the world.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister: Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All: Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

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The **Canticle of Praise** gives thanks for God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ.

When we sing *Glory to God*, our voices join with the angels in a song from Luke's gospel.

In *This is the Feast*, we gather with all creation around God's heavenly throne, singing words from the book of Revelation.

The **Prayer of the Day** marks a hinge or turn in the service. This prayer gives thanks to God through Jesus Christ and is prayed in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Led by the presiding minister, the Prayer of the Day gathers all our praise into one and highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

All Christian worship is biblical. In scripture reading, preaching, and song, the church hears the good news of God acting in this and every time and place.

The **first reading**, usually from the *Old Testament*, is followed by a psalm sung in response to the reading.

The **second reading**, usually from a *New Testament* letter, bears the witness of the early church.

After the second reading and before proclaiming the Gospel, we join in another sung response.

This **pattern of read, sing, read, sing.** is a practice Christians inherited from the ancient synagogue worship of the Jewish people.

Before the **Gospel** is read, we stand and acclaim the living Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, who is among us.

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.
For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of revelation, You made your son known as a guest at a wedding, a public celebration of love. Celebrate love with us by revealing Jesus in our midst. 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

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn
and her salvation like a burning torch.

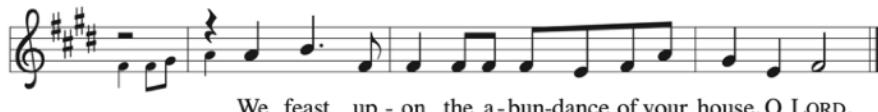
The nations shall see your vindication
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her
and your land Married,
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 36:5-10



Your love, O LORD, reaches ¹ to the heavens,
and your faithfulness ¹ to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like ¹ the great deep;
you save humankind and ani- ¹ mals, O LORD. R**

How priceless is your ¹ love, O God!

All people take refuge under the shadow ¹ of your wings.

**They feast upon the abundance ¹ of your house;
you give them drink from the river of ¹ your delights.**

For with you is the ¹ well of life,
and in your light ¹ we see light.

**Continue your lovingkindness to ¹ those who know you,
and your favor to those who are ¹ true of heart. R**

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

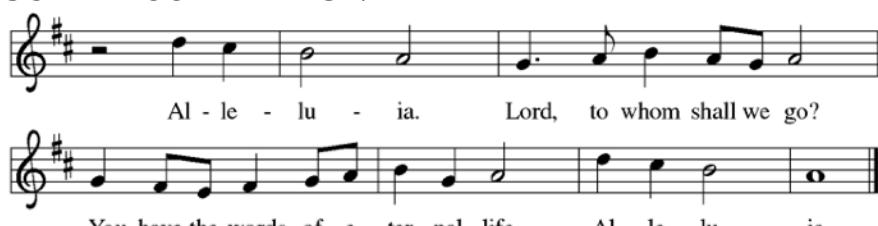
Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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The Gospel then leads directly to **preaching**. Luther considered preaching to be the first of two peaks or high points in the worship service.

For Lutherans, preaching is biblical and participates in the creating and transforming word of God, proclaims Jesus Christ crucified and risen, and brings God's word of law and gospel into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith.

The Holy Spirit works through preaching, forming and empowering us to carry out the mission of God in our daily lives.

This **preaching event is a means of grace**.

God's word is now further proclaimed as we sing and confess our faith.

One uniquely Lutheran element in the service of Holy Communion is the **Hymn of the Day**.

This hymn is the assembly's response to God's word read and preached and echoes themes of the season or the day.

The creed that follows is also both response to the word and proclamation of the word.

A creed professes the faith of the whole church. **The Apostles Creed** is anchored in holy baptism. **The Nicene Creed** ponders the wonder of the incarnation.

Each creed links us to the saints, our ancestors in faith, and is a confession of faith that unites us with the church around the world and people of every nation, from all tribes, peoples, and languages *Revelation 7.9*

God's word read and preached, sung and acclaimed, leads the assembly to the **Prayers of Intercession**.

These prayers are the assembly's prayers for the wideness of God's mercy to be known throughout the world. Prayers for the church, for the well-being of creation, for peace among nations, for the poor and all in need, for local needs and special concerns, and for the faithful departed, take up St. Paul's invitation that supplications, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone *1 Timothy 2:1*

Following the prayers of intercession, the presiding minister and assembly *greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ*. This greeting is more than a "hello" or "good morning." This greeting is the very peace by which Jesus greets his disciples following the resurrection.

The peace we share, which marks another hinge or turn in the service, is a sign of God's mission of reconciliation among us and the reconciliation we have with one another in Christ Jesus.

The same peace of God, now received and extended, also reaches out from this assembly and into the world.

A *collection* of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a *sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts*.

As the gifts are gathered, the table is set with bread and wine.

The proclamation of the Word of God and the celebration of the Lord's Supper are connected.

Luther called these the *two "high points"* in the liturgy of Holy Communion. In the Word read and proclaimed, God speaks to us.

*GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

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

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, **"Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."** Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his **glory, and his disciples believed in him.**

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

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

ELW816

1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a

way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can

strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

*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.

In the Lord's Supper, a "visible word" of which Luther speaks, **God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

Before the Lord's Supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into **thanksgiving** for the gifts of creation and redemption, including themes of the season or festival that are the focus of this gathering.

As part of thanksgiving we join our voices with all of creation and sing the angels' song, "Holy, Holy, Holy." *Isaiah 6.3*

In the meal of Holy Communion, **the grace of God's gift for us is always proclaimed** by the presiding minister, in Jesus' own words of command and promise.

This clear proclamation in **the words of institution** is shared by the assembly, and **included in a prayer of thanksgiving**, which includes praise to God for creation, for God's faithfulness to the people of ancient Israel, for God's revelation in the saving work of Jesus Christ, remembering the crucified and risen Christ, and praying for the Holy Spirit in this meal.

The Great Thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God's saving mission is made known. We sing as the bread is broken and as the meal is shared.

We receive the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world *John 1.29*

We are forgiven and given new life.

Like the disciples, we recognize the presence of the risen Christ who is made known in the breaking of the bread. *Luke 24.30.*

Christ, who died and rose from the dead, is given to

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

As with Gladness Men of Old Henry J. Markworth

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS As With Gladness Men of Old (v3) ELW302



3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.

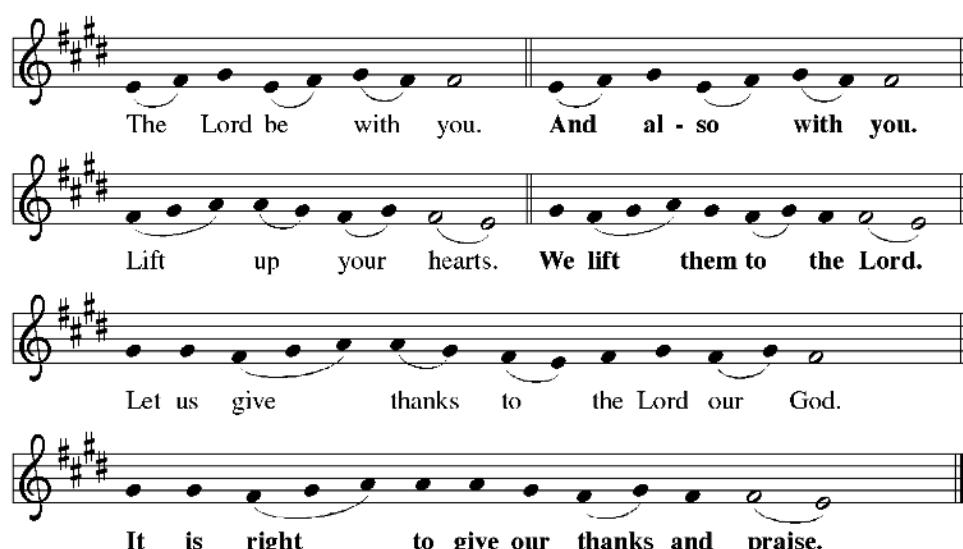
*OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOGUE

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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.

*PREFACE

us and we are united with one another in the body of Christ. Through this meal, God also nourishes us for mission in the world.

We receive the body of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion to live as the body of Christ in the world.

The Sending brings our worship full circle. We have been gathered, in all our diversity, and shaped into a community, one body in Christ.

From the table where, in communion, Jesus Christ brings forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out in mission, into daily baptismal living.

The presiding minister blesses us in the name of God, granting us God's favor and peace.

With the blessing of God we go out to live as Christ's body in the world, proclaiming the good news that the kingdom of heaven has come near. (Matthew 10.7), living in service to others, caring for all in need, and continuing our participation in God's mission, only to be gathered here again around the means of grace, God's Word and sacraments.

Adapted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Narrative Holy Communion. ©2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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, Rick, Mary Beth, Mike, Stacey, Cristina, Wadby family, Barry and MaryJo.

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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*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

All are

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

**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 ever. Amen.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

ELW 781 — *Children of the Heavenly Father*

ELW 629 — *Abide with Me*

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DISTRIBUTION



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.

*COMMUNION BLESSING

*SONG OF THANKS Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise ELW 207

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

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

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.

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.*

*BLESSING



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,

Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
es - tab - lished it fast by a change-less de - cree,
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
and sweet - ly dis - till in the dew and the rain.
our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. Amen.

SENDING SONG

Oh, Worship the King

ELW842

***DISMISSAL** Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Johann Pachelbel

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

TODAY AT CROSS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Join us after worship in the community room for fellowship. Coffee may be optional since we have no volunteers.

ADULT EDUCATION will return in February - watch for information in the next few weeks.

PPC BUDGET MEETING - following worship

COMMUNITY MARKET - Wednesday, Jan. 21st, 2:30-5:00pm. Set-up begins at 1:30pm. .

BELL CHOIR — Bell choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, February 4th, from 5:30-6:30. Rehearsals will be typically held twice a month going forward. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact .

CROSS CHOIR — The next choir rehearsal will be on Thursday, January 22nd, from 6:00-7:00. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY meets every Thursday from 11am-12pm. All are welcome.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 25th

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, January 11

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

11:00am

Budget Meeting PPC

1:00-5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, January 12

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 13

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, January 14

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00-9:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, January 15

11:00am

Bible Study

1:00pm

Shores of Lake Phalen

2:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

Friday, January 16

1:00-4:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, January 17

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, January 18

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

1:00-5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

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

Reverend Scott Simmons, pastor pastorsscott@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

