

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY • JANUARY 18, 2026

**CROSS**

**Cross Lutheran Church**

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109

[www.crosslutheranchurch.org](http://www.crosslutheranchurch.org) [office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto: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:**  
1/18 Phyllis Moser  
1/25 Sherry Batterman

**Assisting Minister:**  
1/18 Paul Schafer  
1/25 Katie Erickson

**Psalm:**  
1/18 Alternative  
1/25 Katie Erickson

**Ushers:**  
1/18 Dan and Katie  
Erickson  
1/25 Nic Villodres and  
Carolyn Border

**Altar Guild:**  
Sherry Batterman

**Coffee:**  
1/18 Wayne & LuAnn  
Lund

**January Counters:**  
Sharon Crist and Kay  
Stack

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.

## GATHERING

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

PRELUDE      Blessed Assurance      Phoebe P. Knapp [ASSURANCE]  
arr. Michael Hassell

\*GATHERING HYMN      Gather Us In      ELW532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



Leader: Oh peo-ple of God, the Lord be with you. All: And may the Lord  
be with you too. Leader: The Spir-it calls us to re-mem-ber  
All: Oh Lord we lift our hearts to you. All: We fail to love you with our  
You bid us come out from the  
whole hearts or love our neigh - bors as we should. And so we're  
sha - dows in - to the light by which we see Our sins for  
ask - ing for for - give - ness Oh set us free and make us good.  
give - en and for - got - ten for Jes-sus' sake we're clear and free

## \*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

### Kyrie We Pray

Simmons



Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison we pray  
Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison we  
pray let there be peace let there be life let there be  
pray for all the sighing for all the starving for all the  
pray we trust your promise we crave your presence we need for-  
love, let us have faith no more be war, no more be  
aching we lift our prayer for all the crying for all the  
givenness Lord, hear our prayer we trust your power we crave your  
death, no more be hate, let us have faith  
fearing for all the lonely we lift our prayer  
blessing we need re-storing Lord, hear our prayer

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.

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

## SONG OF PRAISE

## To God Be The Glory

Simmons



1. To God be the glo-ry, to God be all praise, we sing to the mer-ci-ful cre-  
 2. To Christ be our wor-ship, to Christ here we sing. Your life is e-ter-nal, faith the  
 3. Your Spi-rit is with us, in this time and place, You bring us to-gether and you  
 a- tor of days, Your peace and your po- wer are one in the same, Your  
 gift which you bring Your mer- cy is end- less for- give-ness di- vine Your  
 give us your faith You call us to join in your life in the world, to  
 8 love is the an- swer to our grief and our shame, Glory glo- ry, now and ev- er, glory  
 kingdom is here and coming all of the time, (chorus)  
 work love and justice as your hope is un-furled,  
 12 glo- ry, hear our praise, hear our praise, To; praise, hear our praise, hear our praise.  
 Your;

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Patient God, Your son, Jesus, expressed anger at abuses and injustice. Help us to show concern, not apathy, for injustice in our world, and teach us to make right all that may be wrong. Amen.

## WORD

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

### FIRST LESSON

### Jeremiah 7:8-15

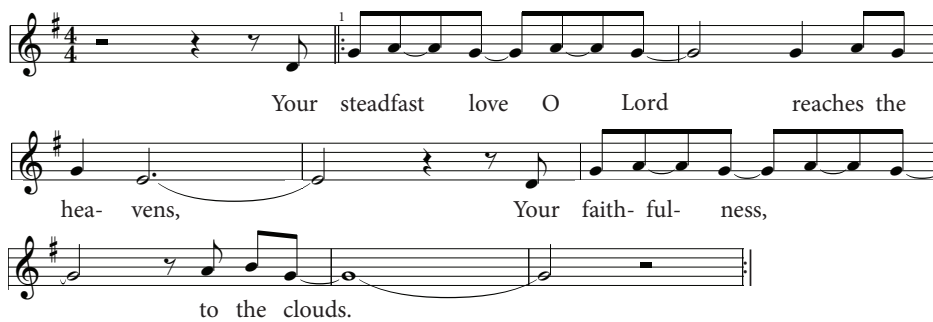
The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you<sup>a</sup> in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD."

For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own hurt, then I will dwell with you in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your ancestors forever and ever.

Here you are, trusting in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, "We are safe!"—only to go on doing all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your sight? I, too, am watching, says the LORD. Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. And now, because you have done all these things, says the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently, you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your ancestors just what I did to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, just as I cast out all your kinsfolk, all the offspring of Ephraim.

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

## PSALM 127, 1,2



Unless the LORD builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.  
Unless the LORD guards the city,  
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early  
and go late to rest,  
eating the bread of anxious toil,  
for he gives sleep to his beloved.

## SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 3:16-20

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

"He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

and again,

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,  
that they are futile."

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

## \*ACCLAMATION

## Alleluia

Simmons



## \*GOSPEL

## John 2:13-25

The Gospel according to John **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Passover of the Judeans was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Judeans then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Judeans then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

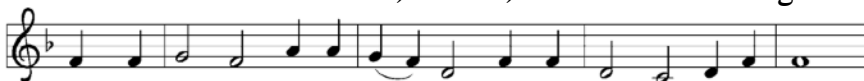
If you have a name to add or remove from this prayer list, please contact Jamie Gudknecht or Pastor Scott.

When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone, for he himself knew what was in everyone.

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

## SERMON

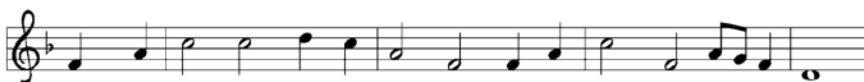
**\*SONG OF THE DAY** Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters ELW 445



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.  
 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.  
 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
 Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
 To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.  
 God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
 We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.  
 one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
 By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

## \*STATEMENT OF BELIEF

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
 who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
 to reconcile and make new,  
 who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,  
 to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,  
 to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
 our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Lord have mer-cy, Christ have mer-cy, Lord have mer-cy, hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

## \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERTORY**      **Consolations – I. Andante con moto**

**Franz Liszt**

## 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.

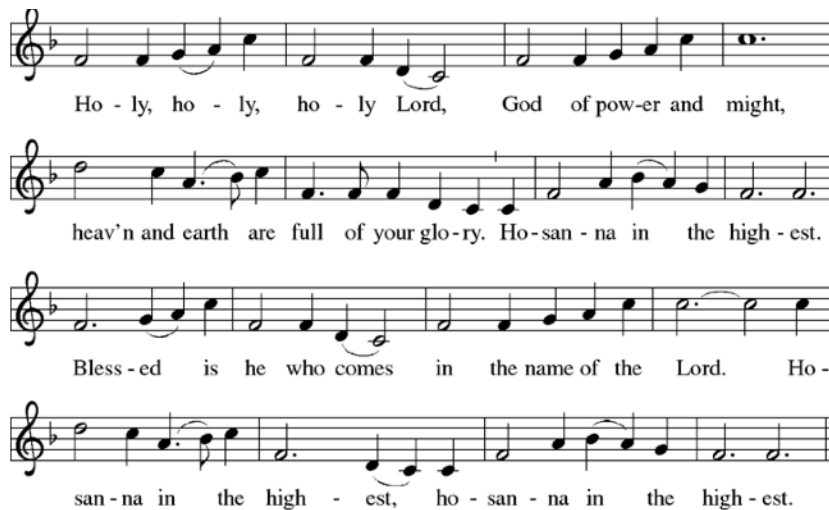
## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you    **And also 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

## \*HOLY HOLY

pg. 207



## \*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 all believers to participate in the sacred story, that...

## \*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.

## 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.

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.

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.**

## LAMB OF GOD



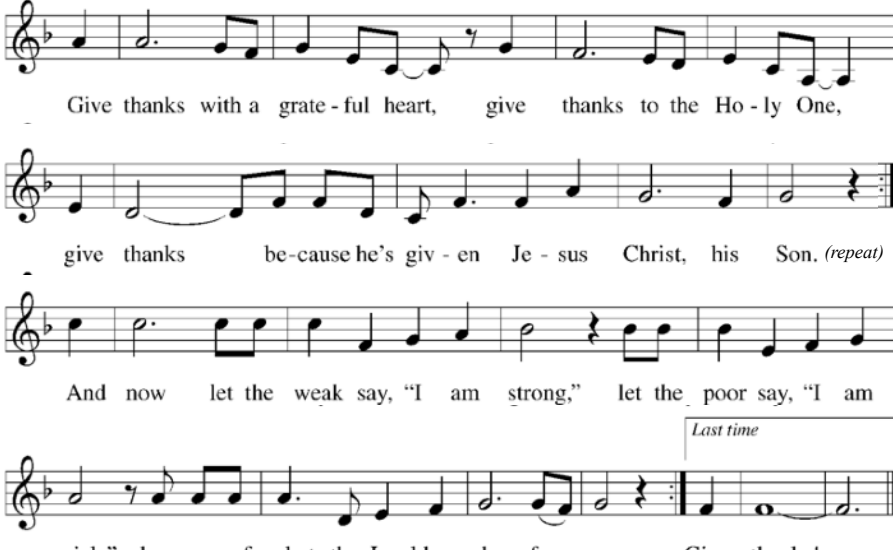
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

*Communion hymns:* ELW483 — *Here is Bread*  
ELW638 — *Blessed Assurance*

## DISTRIBUTION

### \*COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

### \*SONG OF THANKSGIVING "Give Thanks"



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,  
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son. (repeat)  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am  
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!



# SENDING

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

## \*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

### \*SENDING SONG

### Hands, Hearts, and Voices

CLH001

We have a call that draws our souls to - geth-er that was  
there be - fore we came and will be there for - ev - er:  
We have a need to reach out for each oth-er whe-ther old or young,  
weak or strong, in Christ's own love we be - long to - geth-er.  
1 The hands that hold, the hands that guide, the hands that ease our hurt-ing in - side. The  
2 The voice that sings, the voice that laughs, that light - ens our un - cer - tain path. The  
hands that reach for bread and wine, that brings God's peace in these trou-bled times.  
voice that in-spires the voice that in-quires, what does God's love mean to me?  
Will we stand in the night will we be God's light? Will we find the strength we lack? Will our  
hands be will-ing will our voi-ces be strong to bring the dark-ness back? We have a  
call that draws our souls to - geth-er that was there be-fore we came and will be there for-ev - er.  
We have a need to reach ut for each oth-er Whe-ther old or young,  
weak or strong, in Christ's own love we be - long to - geth-er.  
We will clap our hands, (clap clap) Clap our hands, (clap clap) and pray with one an -  
oth - er. We will sing our song, praise the Lord, and love each oth-er.

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

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**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ. **Thanks Be To God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**And Can It Be** Thomas Campbell [SAGINA]  
arr. Mark Hayes



Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting  
Sunday, January 25th  
Following worship

Last Monday evening, a group of folks — some from Cross, others not — gathered in the Cross sanctuary prayer, song, reflection, and discernment. We asked how God might be asking us, as a community and as persons, to participate in God's loving and just response to the hate which reared its ugly head in our midst.

We're meeting again, this Tuesday evening, January 12, 6:00pm, to continue this important work. Please join us. And please feel free to share this invitation with friends and family.



# 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

Ebenezer Elim