

# 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: [pastorsscott@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorsscott@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)

Greet now the swiftly changing year,  
with joy and penitence sincere,  
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks  
embrace another year of grace.

*Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year.  
Jaroslav Vajda, LBW181*

**T**his morning, I saw a lonely Christmas tree, shorn of lights and ornaments, propped up beside a trash container — a sign, perhaps, that for some people, Christmas is done, gone, and in the past.

But I'm not feeling it. Yes, a new calendar year has begun, and with it comes a flurry of activity as we get back to the regular rhythms of life. Here at Cross, we're already preparing for the annual meeting of our congregation — recapping the previous year, prepping budgets, recruiting candidates for boards and councils, doing our best to anticipate the coming 12 months.

Yet in the church year we are still held in the joy of Christmas and the gift of the Christ child. Epiphany comes soon enough (next week on January 6). So let us continue to rejoice and give thanks. For even as the church seasons change, the grace of God remains, steadfast, ever-present, embracing us and calling us to lives of love and service, peace and justice.

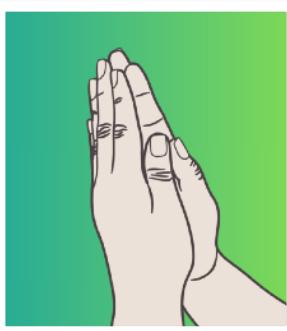
Pax,

  
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, 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.



## HELP US UNDECORATE THE CHURCH

**JANUARY 4TH**  
**FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP**

**Many Hands make light Work.**



Bible Study

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

**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.

**CROSS 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 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 [mrsco1717@gmail.com](mailto:mrsco1717@gmail.com)



## NEIGHBORLY CONNECTIONS



unfinished objects crafting group

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 January 17th**. 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 [s1pruden@hotmail.com](mailto:s1pruden@hotmail.com)



# STEWARSHIP

## Dedicated Account Balances

Air Conditioning Memorial: \$5,000.00;  
 Capital Improvement Fund: \$44,644.43;  
 Education Memorial: \$1,224.04;  
 Gifts/Memorials (Undesignated): \$8,539.64;  
 Sound System Memorial: \$.21;  
 Fund for Missions (\$27,190.09)  
 Cross Lutheran Investment Fund (CLIF): \$112,500.00



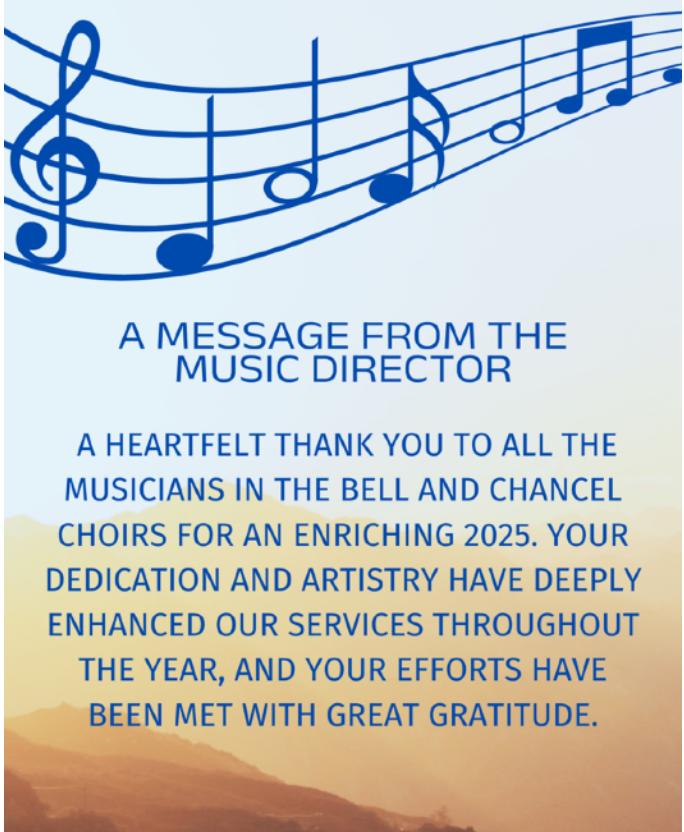
As we come near the end of the year - here are the financial points to highlight for November:

1. Our actual year to date income is only \$659 lower than we projected.
2. Our Boards continue to operate well below budget with expenses \$18,497 less than projected.
3. There is a year to date loss of \$3,495 but this again is better than the projected \$21,334 loss through November.
4. Our other income of \$48,521 from the other congregations and AA as well as the release of the dedicated funds from savings of \$23,615 is a necessity for our continued operation.
5. The unrealized gain from the CLIF gives us a positive \$11,306 net income.

If you have not submitted a pledge for 2026 - there are blank pledge cards on the table in the narthex. The PPC will be working on this budget in the coming weeks and an accurate forecast of anticipated income is vital to this process.

The Board of Stewardship continues to be extremely grateful for the faithful giving of our members and friends in support of Cross Lutheran and our ministries. THANK YOU!

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	YTD Budget vs. YTD Actual
<b>Income</b>						
Weekly Offerings Totals	\$9,569.00	\$10,166.67	\$110,734.08	\$111,833.33	\$122,000.00	(\$1,099.25)
Holidays/Special Totals	\$365.00	\$400.00	\$5,079.00	\$4,325.00	\$8,675.00	\$754.00
Interest Income Totals	\$3.17	\$12.50	\$36.90	\$137.50	\$150.00	(\$100.60)
Other Income Totals	\$2,316.00	\$4,082.67	\$48,521.00	\$48,734.33	\$76,767.00	(\$213.33)
Dedicated Funds Released Totals	\$2,146.83	\$2,146.83	\$23,615.17	\$23,615.17	\$25,762.00	\$0.00
Income Totals	\$14,400.00	\$16,808.67	\$187,986.15	\$188,645.33	\$233,354.00	(\$659.18)
<b>Expenses</b>						
Lay Ministry Totals	\$431.90	\$273.33	\$2,953.89	\$3,931.67	\$4,205.00	\$977.78
Executive Board Totals	\$12,491.47	\$13,644.93	\$139,262.91	\$150,094.07	\$163,739.00	\$10,831.16
Faith Formation Totals	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$1,139.73	\$1,925.00	\$2,000.00	\$785.27
Stewardship Totals	\$32.42	\$51.21	\$970.21	\$1,298.79	\$5,850.00	\$328.58
Church Properties Totals	\$4,279.52	\$5,015.98	\$47,155.28	\$52,730.02	\$57,560.00	\$5,574.74
Expense Totals	\$17,235.31	\$19,060.45	\$191,482.02	\$209,979.55	\$233,354.00	\$18,497.53
Income-Expense:	(\$2,835.31)	(\$2,251.78)	(\$3,495.87)	(\$21,334.22)	\$0.00	(\$17,838.35)
Unrealized Gains/(Losses) Totals	(\$649.27)	\$0.00	\$14,802.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,802.01
Totals Including CLIF	(\$3,484.58)	(\$2,251.78)	\$11,306.14	(\$21,334.22)	\$0.00	\$32,640.36



## A MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL THE MUSICIANS IN THE BELL AND CHANCEL CHOIRS FOR AN ENRICHING 2025. YOUR DEDICATION AND ARTISTRY HAVE DEEPLY ENHANCED OUR SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND YOUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MET WITH GREAT GRATITUDE.



Beginning January 8, Pastor Scott will be in the office for drop-in visits Thursdays from 3 pm to 6 pm. Of course, you can always call, text, or email to schedule a meeting at any other time during the week.



The next **Hymntap with Pastor Scott and the Fleshpots of Egypt** is Mon., January 19, from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Dubliner Pub in Saint Paul. There's always a large group from Cross. Join us. For more information, please contact Pastor Scott.

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

Adult education will resume in February. If you have a suggestion for a study topic, please contact Pastor Scott.



# 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

Huge Thanks to everyone that donated toys for Merrick and Gift Cards for families at John Glenn. Your support to these programs has made a big difference for families in our community.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR MANY!

THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP/OUTREACH





# John Glenn Market Report

## COMMUNITY MARKET - December 17th

We had a great market on December 17th. In addition to the market, we packed some boxes for delivery to families due to fear of ICE agents. Thanks to all the volunteers that make our market run so smoothly each month. Happy New Year!

### December 17th Statistics:

Households: 109

Total people: 550

Kids: 258

Adults: 263

Seniors: 22

### Total Pounds of Food

5,914 pounds of food with 3,664 from Fresh & Frozen.

### Total Volunteer Hours

133 (80 from Cross/63 from John Glenn)

## Next Community Market: January 21st

Blessings to all,

Jamie Gudknecht

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!**

# Happy Birthday

## 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

## FEBRUARY

2/8. Clara Volkers  
2/12 Marv Gardner  
2/18 Elise Simmons

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.

# JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Worship Fellowship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Stewardship Meeting 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	29 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by aptpt only 9:30AM Worship Fellowship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Stewardship Meeting 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	30 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by aptpt only 9:30AM Worship Fellowship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Stewardship Meeting 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	31 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 9:30AM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Dia	1 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 9:30AM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	2 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 9:30AM Cross Organ Practice 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Septimo Dia	3 9:00AM Adventista del Septimo Dia 9:00AM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim
4 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Worship Fellowship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Stewardship Meeting 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	5 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by aptpt only 4:00PM Cross BLM Meeting	6 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by aptpt only 4:00PM Cross BLM Meeting	7 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Dia	8 11:00AM Bible Study with Pastor Scott 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office -- by aptpt 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	9 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	10 9:00AM Adventista del Septimo Dia 9:00AM Cross Organ Practice 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Septimo Dia
11 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Worship Fellowship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Adult Education 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	12 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by aptpt only	13 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by aptpt only	14 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Dia	15 11:00AM Bible Study with Pastor Scott 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office -- by aptpt 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	16 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	17 9:00AM Adventista del Septimo Dia 9:00AM Cross Organ Practice 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Septimo Dia
18 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Worship Fellowship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Adult Education 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	19 6:30PM Fleshpots of Egypt @ Dubliner Pub	20 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by aptpt only 6:00PM Cross Board of Stewardship 6:30PM Cross Board of Stewardship	21 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 1:30PM Community Market 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	22 11:00AM Bible Study with Pastor Scott 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office -- by aptpt 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	23 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	24 9:00AM Adventista del Septimo Dia 9:00AM Cross Organ Practice 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Septimo Dia
25 7:30AM Cross Worship/Education 9:30AM Worship Fellowship 10:30AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00AM Adult Education 1:00PM Promesa De Dios 5:00PM Ebenezer Elim	26 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by aptpt only 6:00PM Cross PPC Meeting	27 1:00PM Pastor Scott Office Hours -- by aptpt only 6:00PM Cross PPC Meeting	28 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Adventista Del Séptimo Dia	29 11:00AM Bible Study with Pastor Scott 11:30AM Pastor Scott Office -- by aptpt 1:00PM Worship at Shores of Lake Phalen 4:15PM Pastor Scott Office 6:30PM Choir Practice	30 1:00PM Pastor Scott's Office Hours -- by aptpt only 7:00PM Ebenezer Elim	31 9:00AM Adventista del Septimo Dia 9:00AM Cross Organ Practice 1:30PM Cross Organ Practice 5:00PM Adventista del Septimo Dia

# CROSS

## Annual Meeting

### 01/25/26



FOLLOWING  
WORSHIP



**CROSS**  
Lutheran Church

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

[pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
[office@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
[carol@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:carol@crosslutheranchurch.org)  
[worship@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:worship@crosslutheranchurch.org)

1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota 55109  
[www.crosslutheranchurch.org](http://www.crosslutheranchurch.org)