



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY • FEBRUARY 8, 2026

CROSS

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:
Kelli Simmons

Lay Minister:
2/8 Phyllis Moser
2/15 Duane Gudknecht

Assisting Minister:
2/8 Janice Neenan
2/15 Sherry Batterman

Psalm:
2/8 Alternative
2/15 Dottie Bingman

Ushers:
2/8 Sharon Crist and
Kirby Doughty Crist
2/15 Dan and Katie
Erickson

Altar Guild:
Diana Border and
Bonnie Dischinger

Coffee:
2/8

January Counters:
Sherry Batterman and
Phyllis Moser

Flowers:
In loving memory of
Arlo from 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

Morning Has Broken

Gaelic melody
arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

*GATHERING HYMN

God, We Gather as Your People

ACS1038



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev 'ry-one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSON 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 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
giveness 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 glory, to God be all praise, we sing to the merciful creature.
 2. To Christ be our worship, to Christ here we sing. Your life is eternal, faith the gift which you bring.
 3. Your Spirit is with us, in this time and place, You bring us together and you are the author of days, Your peace and your power are one in the same, Your gift which you bring. Your mercy is endless for give-ness divine, Your give us your faith. You call us to join in your life in the world, to love is the answer to our grief and our shame, Glory glory, now and ever, glory kingdom is here and coming all of the time, (chorus) work love and justice as your hope is unfurled,

12 glo- ry, hear our praise, hear our praise, 1, 2 glo- ry, hear our praise, hear our praise, last glo- ry, hear our praise, hear our praise, Your; To; praise, hear our praise, hear our praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of miracles, **Sometimes we are slow to believe in your power, even when your miracles occur all around us each and every day. Open our eyes to see and our hearts to believe. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 2:1-4

Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message declared through angels proved valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was confirmed for us by those who heard him, while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will.

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

PSALM 40:1-5

Your steadfast love O Lord reaches the
heavens, Your faithfulness,
to the clouds.

I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit.
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear
and put their trust in the LORD.

Happy are those who make
the LORD their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts
toward us;
none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

SECOND LESSON

John 4:46-54

Then he came again to Cana in Galilee, where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my little boy dies." Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him." The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he himself believed, along with his whole household. Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

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

*ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Simmons

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Lord to
whom shall we turn? Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, to Your
love, to Your life, to Your Word.

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.

*GOSPEL

John 5:1-18

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

After this there was a festival of the Judeans, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Bethzatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many ill, blind, lame, and paralyzed people. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The ill man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a Sabbath. So the Judeans said to the man who had been cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk?’” Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.”

The man went away and told the Judeans that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Judeans started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.” For this reason the Judeans were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the Sabbath but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

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.

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, MaryJo., Jose Aguilar and family, Pastor Rodolfo, and Lew.*

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY Song without Words, Op. 30, No. 3 Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

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

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.*

*HOLY HOLY

pg. 207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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.

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,

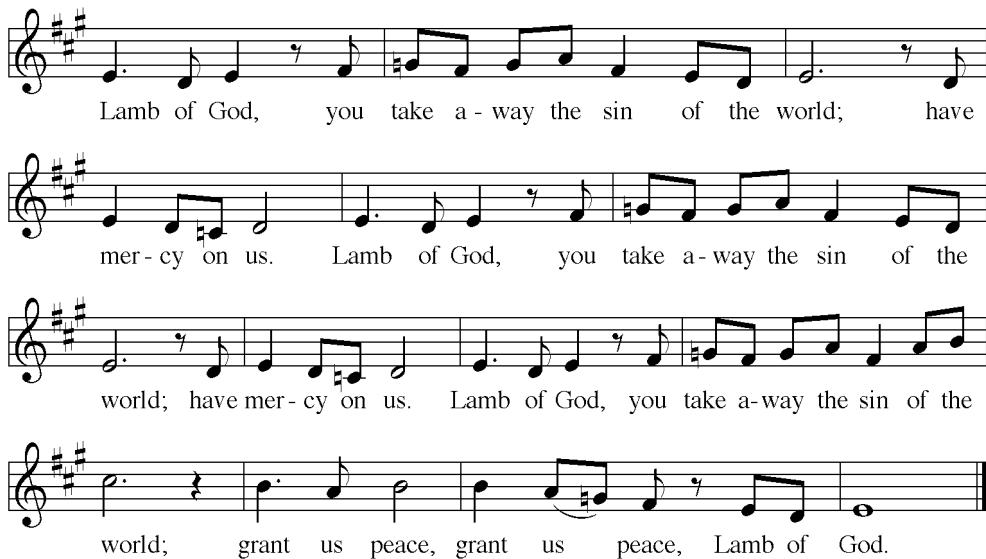
**hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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



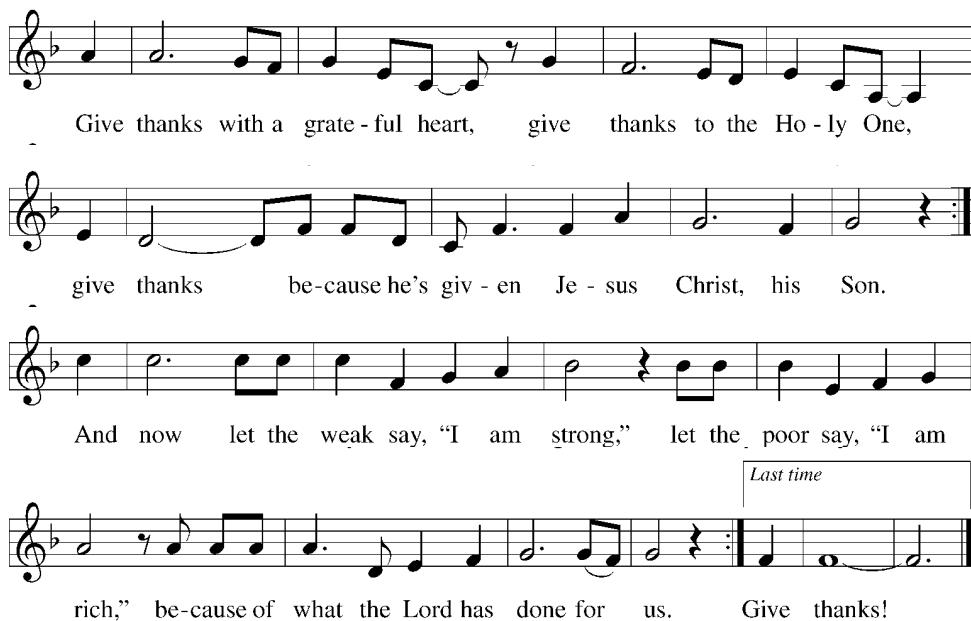
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way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

Communion hymns: *ELW 742 - What a Friend We Have in Jesus*
ELW 774 - What a fellowship, What a Joy Divine

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.
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!
Last time

SENDING

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

*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

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 from the assisting minister in the narthex.

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

***SENDING SONG**

Hands, Hearts, and Voices

CLH001

Sheet music for 'Hands, Hearts, and Voices' in G clef, common time. The music consists of eight staves of melody with lyrics. The lyrics are as follows:

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 he 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 ing 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.

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***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Go Down, Moses

Traditional spiritual
arr. Mark Hayes

TODAY AT CROSS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Join us after worship in the community room for fellowship and coffee.

FLOWERS on the altar are in loving memory of Arlo by Kay Stack.

ADULT EDUCATION .returns today with *Fear Not*, where we engage Gospel stories where Jesus urges his followers (including us) not to fear, but to trust. We will explore scripture, stories, song, and more. 11 am in the north community room.



COMING UP

DARKNESS TO LIGHT—A weekly gathering for prayer, song, silence, and discussion as we together discern how we can be church for each other, or partners, our neighbors, and the world during this time of disruption and upheaval.

HYMNTAP WITH THE FLESHPOTS OF EGYPT will be playing Monday, February 16th, 6:30pm

COMMUNITY MARKET - Wednesday, February 18th. Set up begins at 1:30pm. Market runs from 2:30-5:00pm.

CROSS CHOIR — There will be Cross Choir rehearsal on Thursday, February 12th from 6:00-7:00 pm. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

BELL CHOIR — Bell choir rehearsals will have a rehearsal on Wednesday, February 11th, from 5:30-6:30pm. Rehearsals will be typically held twice a month going forward. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY meets every Thursday at 11:00 am. All are welcome.

MATH CARNIVAL is February 26th from 5:30-8:00pm. Watch for sign-up in Narthex. See Katie Erickson with questions.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS begin February 25th. Sign up on the board across from the kitchen to bring soup or a dessert. See Diana Border with questions.

DONATIONS continue for our other congregations. We have 26 families sheltered at home. They are looking for: toiletries, toothpaste, paper towel, corn tortillas, avocados, cilantro, bell peppers, and celery. Leave donations on the table in the Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, February 8

9:30am Sunday Worship

10:30am Coffee and Fellowship

11:00am

Adult Education

1:00-5:00

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, February 9

Office Closed

6:30pm

Fleshpots of Egypt

Tuesday, February 10

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

6:00-7:30

From Darkness to Light

Wednesday, February 11

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, February 12

11:00am

Bible Study

1:00-2:00pm

Worship at the Shores

2:30-5:00pm

Pastor Scott Office

6:00pm

Choir Practice

Friday, February 13

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, February 14

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, February 15

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee and fellowship

11:00am

Adult Education

1:00-5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

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Reverend Scott Simmons, pastor pastorschott@crosslutheranchurch.org 612-859-1134

Jamie Gudknecht, administrative assistant office@crosslutheranchurch.org

Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org

Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org