



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT • MARCH 15, 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:
Jamie Gudknecht

Lay Minister:
3/15 Phyllis Moser
3/18 Duane Gudknecht
3/22 Sherry Batterman

Assisting Minister:
3/15 Sherry Batterman
3/22 Phyllis Moser

Psalms:
3/15 Alternative
3/22 Katie Erickson

Ushers:
3/15 Sharon Crist and Sheree Kieffer
3/22 Carolyn Border and Nic Villodres

Altar Guild:
Linda Duncan and Lisa LeMay

Coffee:
3/15 Sherry Batterman
3/22 Howard Vansteenbergh

March Counters:
Linda Duncan and Kay Olson

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

Sonata in c minor

Domenico Cimarosa

*GATHERING HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ELW388



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



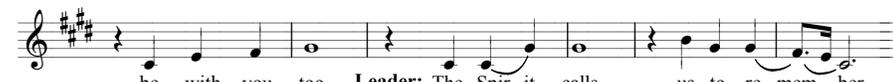
from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

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



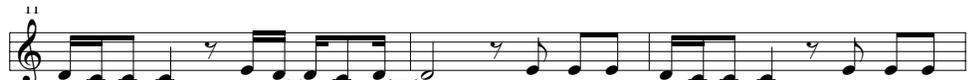
Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison we pray



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
 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

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- geth -er 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



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,



glo- ry, hear our praise, hear our praise, To; praise, hear our praise, hear our praise.
 Your;

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of truth, Too often we bend truth to fit our needs. Show us how to recognize and follow your truth, shown to us by the love and life of your son, Jesus. Amen

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.

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 45:18-21

For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!),
who formed the earth and made it (he established it);
he did not create it a chaos; he formed it to be inhabited!):

I am the LORD, and there is no other.

I did not speak in secret in a land of darkness;

I did not say to the offspring of Jacob,
“Seek me in chaos.”

I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right.

Assemble yourselves and come together;

draw near, you survivors of the nations!

They have no knowledge— those who carry about their wooden idols
and keep on praying to a god that cannot save.

Declare and present your case; take counsel together!

Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old?

Was it not I, the LORD? There is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Savior; there is no one besides me.°

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

PSALM 4145:10-13

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

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and all your faithful shall bless you. and your dominion endures throughout all
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom generations.
and tell of your power, The LORD is faithful in all his words
to make known to all people your mighty deeds and gracious in all his deeds.
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

SECOND LESSON

John 18:28-38

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Judeans replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Judeans?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Judean, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me

from being handed over to the Judeans. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

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.

***GOSPEL**

John 18:38-40

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

After he had said this, he went out to the Judeans again and told them, “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Judeans?” They shouted in reply, “Not this man but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a rebel.

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

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.

SERMON

***SONG OF THE DAY**

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

ELW 816

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.

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.

***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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for:
Lisa, Marya, Sheree,
Marie, baby Hayden,
Gabby and baby Creed,
Ray and Clara, Henry,
Dawn, Brady, Judy,
Marv, Dottie, BettyLu,
Lonna, Bruce, Kelly,
Pastor Brian, Nick,
Joshua, Rose, Dean and
Shirley, Mike, MaryJo,
Jose and family, Lew,
the Johns family, Barb,
Janice, Ron, and the
Marilyn Lewinski
family.

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

*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 Song without Words, Op. 102, No. 6 Felix Mendelssohn

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

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

Here at the Table

Simmons



1. Here at the ta- ble you gather us in with your lo- o- ove. Serving forgive- ness,
2. Here at the ta- ble, we share the feast of your lo- o- ove. Ev-ry one's wel come



6 feeding our faith with your lo- o- ove. CH: We bring our hun- ger, we bring our tears.
to be re- leased in your lo- o- ove.



11 We bring our hopes and the things we hold dear. You take them all and in mercy unite us as one.



15 3. Here at the ta- ble you ga- ther us in with your lo- o- ove.



21 Serving for- give- ness, feeding our faith with your lo- o- ove, with your lo- o- ove, with your



27 lo- o- ove, with your lo- o- ove.

DIALOGUE

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

Simmons

1
Ho-ly ho-ly God, Al- migh- ty in Christ Je- sus, You are

5
here, You are here. Ho-ly ho- ly, Christ Al- migh- ty, in Your Spir- it, You are

9
here, You are here, You are here.

*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.**

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.

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.

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.

*Communion hymns: ELW 485 I Am the Bread of Life
ELW 330 Seed That In Earth is Dying*

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

*COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

*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

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



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 - cr.



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 -

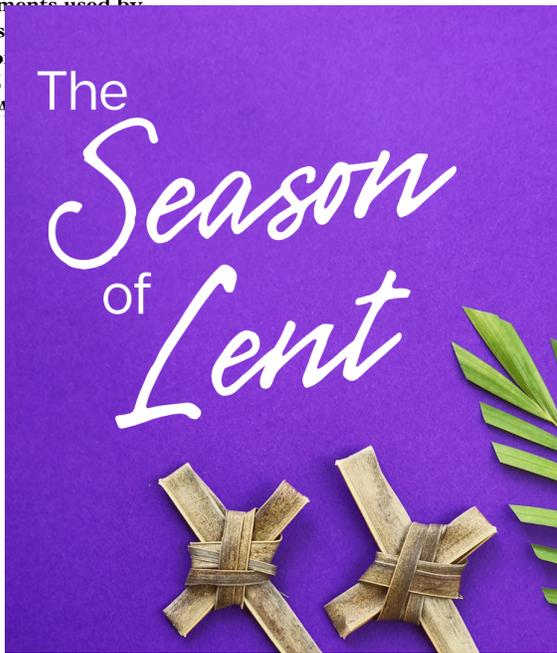


oth - er. We will sing our song, praise the Lord, and love each oth-er.

*DISMISSAL

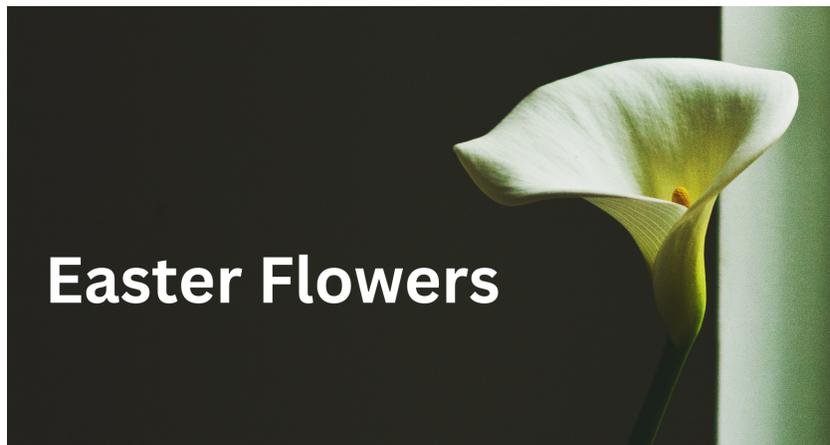
Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ. **Thanks Be To God.**

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Wednesday Evenings

- Community Soup Supper
5:00-5:45pm
- Holden Evening Prayer
6:00-6:45pm
- Darkness to Light
Candlelight Reflection
6:45-7:30



Easter Flowers

TODAY is the LAST DAY to
order flowers for Easter

Envelopes available in the
Narthex

COMMUNITY MARKET THIS WEDNESDAY

MARCH 18TH

*We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because
by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world*

HOLY WEEK

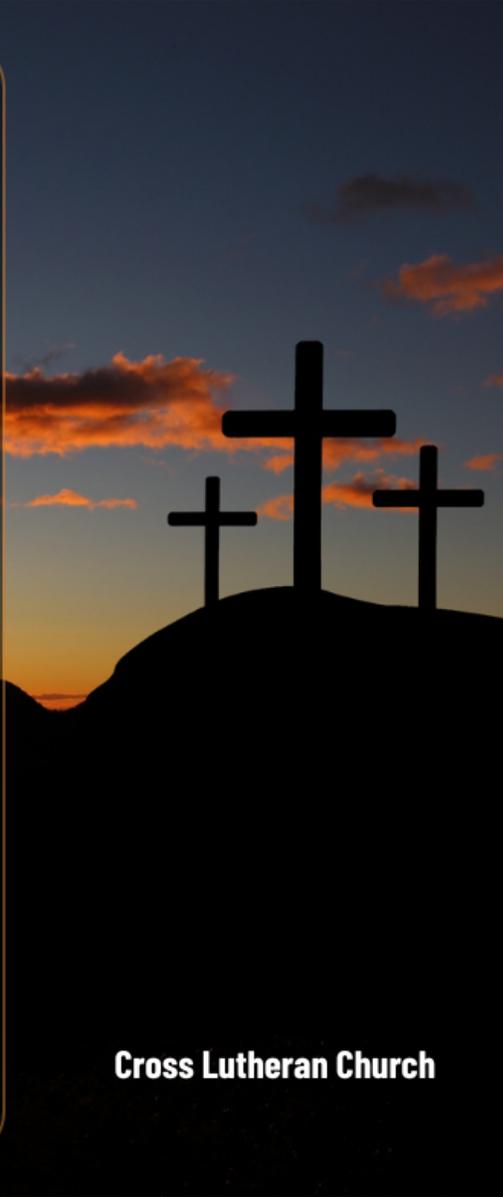
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday (March 29):
9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday (April 2):
6 PM

Good Friday (April 3):
Seven Last Words
6 PM

Easter Sunday (April 5):
7:00 AM Sunrise Service
10:00 AM Easter Celebration



Cross Lutheran Church

TODAY AT CROSS

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

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, March 16th, 6:30pm

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

CROSS CHOIR — There will be Cross Choir rehearsal on Thursday, March 19th from 6:30-7:30 pm. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

BELL CHOIR — Bell choir rehearsals will have a rehearsal on Thursday, March 19th, 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.

LIKE TO READ? If you are interested in reading the Bible lessons during worship, let one of the members of the Lay Ministry know. The board is making a list of readers to help out with our Sunday morning worship.

THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, March 15

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, March 16

Office Closed
2:00-5:00pm
Pastor Scott office drop-in
6:30pm
Fleshpots of Egypt

Tuesday, March 17

1:00-5:30pm
Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, March 18

1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
5:00-5:45pm
Soup Supper
6:00-6:45pm
Lenten Worship
6:45-7:00pm
Darkness to Light
7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, March 19

11:00am
Bible Study
1:00-2:00pm
Worship at the Shores
2:30-5:00pm
Pastor Scott Office
5:30pm
Bell Practice
6:30pm
Choir Practice

Friday, March 20

1:00 - 6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm – 10:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, March 21

9:00am – 1:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia
1:30pm – 4:30pm
Cross Organ Practice
5:00 – 7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, March 22

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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Carol Hastings, financial secretary carol@crosslutheranchurch.org

Kenneth Kusiak, director of music worship@crosslutheranchurch.org