



THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER • APRIL 19, 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:**  
4/19 Dave Olson  
4/26 Duane Gudknecht

**Assisting Minister:**  
4/19 Phyllis Moser  
4/26 Carolyn Border

**Psalm:**  
4/19 Alternative  
4/26 Katie Erickson

**Ushers:**  
4/19 Nic Villodres and Carolyn Border  
4/26 Phyllis Moser and Sheree Kieffer

**Coffee:**  
4/19 Wayne and LuAnn Lund  
4/26 Diane Border and Bonnie Dischinger

**Altar Guild:**  
LuAnn Lund and Carolyn Border

**April Counters:**  
Kay Stack and Diana Border

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 O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus Thomas L. Williams  
Setting: Virginia Halberg

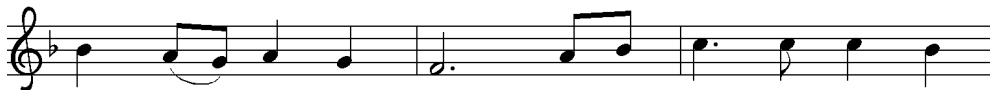
\*GATHERING HYMN All Are Welcome ELW641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
claim the faith of Je - sus:  
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
end to fear and dan - ger:  
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

# 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



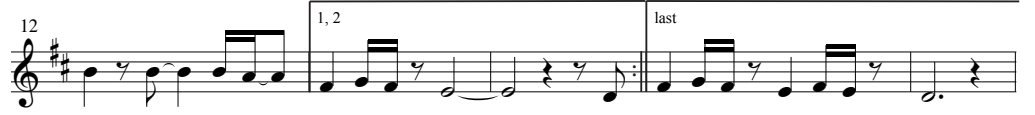
1. To God be the glo- ry, to God be all praise, we sing to the mer- ci ful cre-  
 2. To Christ be our wor-ship, to Christ here we sing. Your life is e- ter- nal, faith the  
 3. Your Spi-rit is with us, in this time and place, You bring us to- geth- er and you



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 who calls us into service, **Transform us as you transformed Paul. Shape us into children who rejoice in knowing and proclaiming you to the world. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON

Acts 9:1-19a

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

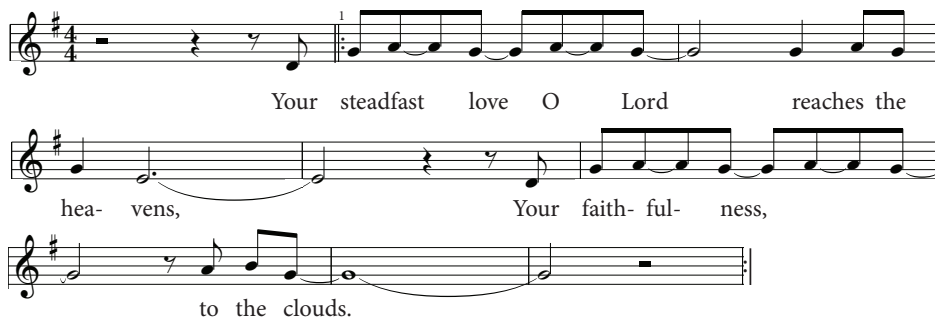
Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument

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

whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

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

**PSALM 61**



May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

**SECOND LESSON Galatians 1:11-24**

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin, for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when the one who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the gentiles, I did not confer with any human, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterward I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days, but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord’s brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, “The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they glorified God because of me.

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

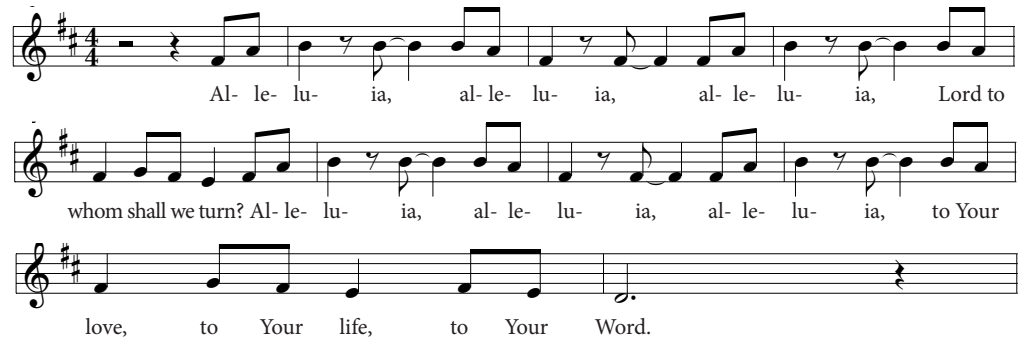
*For Lutherans, the **Gospel of Christ**—the Good News of what God has done in Jesus —is at the heart of our public witness and proclamation.*

*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.*

**\*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**

**Matthew 6:24**

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

**“No one can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.**


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

**SERMON**

**\*SONG OF THE DAY**

**Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil**

ELW512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,  
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

**\*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 THE PEOPLE

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**      **When Morning Gilds the Skies**      **Joseph Barnby**  
 arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

## 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**

## 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,  
 Lindsay, 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*

*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.*

**\*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.**

## 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:* ELW465 — *As the Grains of Wheat*  
ELW755 — *Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me*

## 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.  
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

*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 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.*

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

**\*SENDING SONG**

**Go Make Disciples**

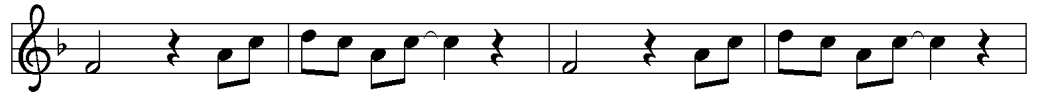
ELW540



“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.



Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.



Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.



Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're



serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

**When In Our Music God is Glorified**

**Charles V. Stanford  
setting: Mark Hayes**

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**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**May 11th**

**COMMUNITY MARKET**  
**THIS WEEK!**  
April 22nd

Come prepared to pack! Lots of produce, as well as some special items such as sardines, sugar, and pickle corn puffs



Fem. Hygiene Products/Pads	Ongoing: Kleenex, Black Expo
Bar Soap	Markers, Coats

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

**ADULT EDUCATION** New series—**Heaven and Hell**—begins today. Join Pastor Scott at 11 am in the community room for discussion and exploration of these important Christian concepts.

**FLESHPOTS OF EGYPT** on Tuesday, April 20th, at 6:30pm

**THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY** meets Thursdays at 11:00 am. All are welcome.

**CROSS CHOIR**—Next rehearsal will be on April 16th from 6:30-7:30, following bell rehearsal. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.

**BELL CHOIR**—Next bell choir rehearsal Thursday, April 16th, 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.



**THIS WEEK AT CROSS**

**Sunday, April 19**

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

11:00am-12:00pm

Adult Education

1:00-5:00

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

**Monday, April 20**

2:00-5:00pm

Pastor Scott office drop-in

6:30pm

Fleshpots of Egypt

**Tuesday, April 21**

1:00-5:30pm

Pastor Scott office by

appt

**Wednesday, April 22**

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

2:00-5:00pm

Community Market

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

**Thursday, April 23**

11:00am

Bible Study

1:00-2:00pm

Worship at the Shores

2:30-5:00pm

Pastor Scott Office

**Friday, April 24**

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

**Saturday, April 25**

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

**Sunday, April 26**

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](mailto:carol@crosslutheranchurch.org)

Kenneth Kusiak, director of music [worship@crosslutheranchurch.org](mailto:worship@crosslutheranchurch.org)