



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:
pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org
or phone direct 612 859 1134

Church Calendar

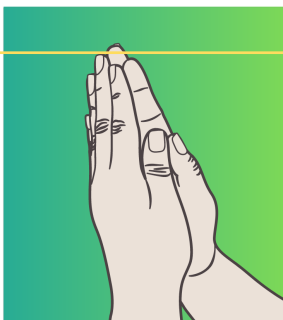
If you have additions, changes, and/or questions about the church calendar, please contact the office at 651-777-1329 or email **office@crosslutheranchurch.org**

In a few days our nation will mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, signed in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. The Declaration's second line: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness" is widely considered one of the most significant lines in recorded history. But as we know so well, there has been significant debate over the years about what those words actually mean, a ferocious debate that continues this very day. One thing I've noticed is that most people approach the debate from the standpoint of their own self. What are my rights, my own personal liberties, my own happiness? How can I protect them? Where are the people who feel the same way I do? What this does is create a system founded on and defined by self-interest, self-preservation, and division. Which is untenable and unsustainable in the end.

Jesus invites us, calls us, to a different path. Love God and love neighbor *first*. So what if we considered it both our religious commitment and our civic duty to to seek life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for our neighbor, every neighbor, first? That would be something to truly celebrate.

Pax

Pastor Scott



We Pray For:

Nancy, Lisa, Marya, Sheree, Marie, Janice, Mary, baby Hayden, Gabby and baby Creed, Ray and Clara, Henry, Dawn, Brady, Judy, Marv, Dottie, BettyLu, Rick, Bruce, Kelly, Pastor Brian, Nick, Joshua, Rose, Dean and Shirley, Mike, MaryJo, Jose and family, Lew, Barb, Lindsay, Ron, Molly, Bob, Raphael, Nancy, the McDonald family, Dave Olson and family, the Marilyn Lewinski family, Zach, and the Rick Novak family.

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



All Together in One Place

America at 250: Holding gratitude and humility

June 23, 2026

Dear Church,

As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to “pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace” (ELCA social statement “Faith and Civic Life,” p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God’s own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ’s new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people’s lives are obstructed by federal and state orders. There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in ‘the already but not yet’?”

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God’s own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God’s future. God’s future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).
- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.
- Serve the common good in society as “earthly measures toward God’s intention” (“Faith and Civic Life,” p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet.

And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God’s grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



CONSCIENCE AND CONVERSATION:

A STUDY DURING THE RECONSIDERATION OF THE SOCIAL STATEMENT *HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND TRUST*

Beginning in 2022, the ELCA Council has been reconsidering the 2009 ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, which opened opportunities for people in same-gendered sexual relationships to serve as rostered leaders (pastors and deacons) in the ELCA.

The second phase of this process is an opportunity for congregational discernment among ELCA congregations. You are invited to join Pastor Scott during adult education to study, discern, and consider this important issue in our church. We will meet on four successive Sundays in August: 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23.



It is that time of year again! We'll be packing meals at **Feed My Starving Children** in Eagan, Saturday, July 18. Last year, Cross Lutheran assembled 23 boxes producing 4,968 meals which went to Liberia and Haiti.

Plan to meet at the Eagan site, 900 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, at 9:15am.

Lunch will be provided following our packing session at the home of Rita and Jim Gaubert, 1382 St. Andrew Boulevard, Eagan.

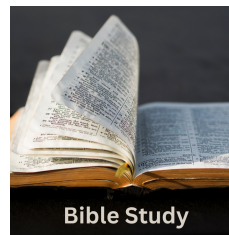
Feed My Starving Children do have "sit down" jobs available if standing does not work for you. We can also arrange carpools for those not wanting to drive.

Please sign up in the Narthex if you will be attending. Questions? Contact Rita at 651-343-7024 or email at rkdgaubert@gmail.com

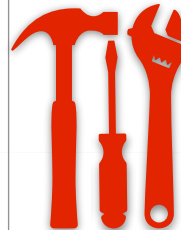


Join Our Redeemer Lutheran (1390 Larpenteur) for **Unfinished Objects Crafting Group**, every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8 am—4 pm in the ORLC Fellowship Hall. Bring your *Unfinished Objects* and meet new people. **Our Redeemer Quilting Ladies** meet 2nd & 4th Mondays 9 am—noon in the ORLC Fellowship Hall. Any questions contact Sandy Pruden:

651.777.9637 or
slpruden@hotmail.com



BIBLE STUDY continues throughout Summer, Thursday mornings at 10:30. Join us in the community room for conversation, coffee, and treats. Each week, we take a deeper look at the preaching texts for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join!



Board of Properties seeks help with odd jobs around the church. If you have time to spare, we have a job for you. Please call or text Scott Patterson (651-955-9108) or email mrscott1717@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Current Dedicated Accounts

Air Conditioning Memorial:
\$5,000.00;
Capital Improvement Fund: \$36,927.80;
Education Memorial:
\$1,224.04;
Undesignated Gifts and Memorials:
\$8,539.64;
Community Outreach:
\$3,525.99
Fund for Missions:
\$9,621.23
(CLIF) Cross Lutheran Investment Fund:
\$112,500.00



	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	YTD Budget vs. YTD Actual
Income						
Weekly Offerings Totals	\$11,942.00	\$10,196.75	\$59,458.38	\$50,983.75	\$122,361.00	\$8,474.63
Holidays/Special Totals	\$125.00	\$175.00	\$3,990.00	\$4,675.00	\$9,425.00	(\$685.00)
Interest Income Totals	\$3.79	\$3.33	\$18.15	\$16.69	\$40.00	\$1.46
Other Income Totals	\$4,117.00	\$4,800.33	\$24,642.23	\$24,651.69	\$79,504.00	(\$9.46)
Dedicated Funds Released Totals	\$1,804.33	\$1,804.33	\$9,021.69	\$9,021.69	\$21,652.00	\$0.00
Income Totals	\$17,992.12	\$16,979.74	\$97,130.45	\$89,348.82	\$232,982.00	\$7,781.63
Expenses						
Lay Ministry Totals	\$6.00	\$331.25	\$1,523.34	\$1,956.25	\$4,275.00	\$432.91
Executive Board Totals	\$14,701.69	\$13,468.60	\$65,859.74	\$67,380.80	\$161,659.00	\$1,521.06
Faith Formation Totals	\$0.00	\$70.83	\$0.00	\$729.19	\$2,300.00	\$729.19
Stewardship Totals	\$1,125.00	\$1,166.67	\$2,496.16	\$3,333.31	\$6,000.00	\$837.15
Church Properties Totals	\$4,144.64	\$5,325.62	\$22,821.38	\$24,839.56	\$58,748.00	\$2,018.18
Expense Totals	\$19,977.33	\$20,362.97	\$92,700.62	\$98,239.11	\$232,982.00	\$5,538.49
Income-Expense:	(\$1,985.21)	(\$3,383.23)	\$4,429.83	(\$8,890.29)	\$0.00	\$13,320.12
Unrealized Gains/(Losses) Totals	\$3,174.31	\$0.00	\$9,191.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,191.81
Totals Including CLIF	\$1,189.10	(\$3,383.23)	\$13,621.64	(\$8,890.29)	\$0.00	\$22,511.93



August 4, 5 pm—8 pm. Save the Date.

This August, Cross is partnering with the City of Maplewood and several of our congregational partners to host a simple and fun National Night Out celebration for our partners and neighbors. We'll have food and drink, yard games, and live music. Stay tuned to the bulletin and social media for more information as the planning continues.



The next **Hymntap with Pastor Scott and the Fleshpots of Egypt** is Mon., July 20, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Dubliner Pub in St. Paul.



Pastor Scott's Monday afternoon drop-in office hours have changed to Thursdays, 2:15 pm to 6 pm. Of course, you can always call, text, or email to schedule a meeting at any other time during the week. pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org • 612 859-1134



One student/one room Sunday School at Cross and **Shared Confirmation with Our Redeemer** will be taking a summer break. We will resume in September.



The cost of **Altar Flowers** has increased. One vase is now \$30 and two vases for \$50. The order forms in the Narthex have been updated.





John Glenn Market Report

COMMUNITY MARKET DATES 2026-2027

August 26th (Open House)

January 20th

September 23rd

February 24th

October 21st

March 17th

November 18th

April 21st

December 16th

May 19th

Happy Birthday

JULY

7/8 Marya Pfefferle
7/10 Dave Jackson
7/11 Mary Vatne
7/14 Kay Olson
7/17 Marilee Jackson
7/20 Chris Long
7/26 Diana Border

AUGUST

8/2 Dick Schultz
8/3 Rona Villodres
8/13 Kim Brynildson
8/15 Jamie Gudknecht
8/15 Paul Schafer
8/20 Howard Vansteenbure

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
(pastor.scott@crosslutheranchurch.org) or
office@crosslutheranchurch.org.

In a pastoral care emergency, please call or text
Pastor Scott directly, 612-859-1134.



Tuesday Singalong

Every other Tuesday, beginning June 2
6 pm under the Portico
bring your voice, bring your instrument

NEXT SINGALONG IS
JULY 14TH

CROSS
Lutheran Church

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

pastorscott@crosslutheranchurch.org
office@crosslutheranchurch.org
carol@crosslutheranchurch.org
worship@crosslutheranchurch.org

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