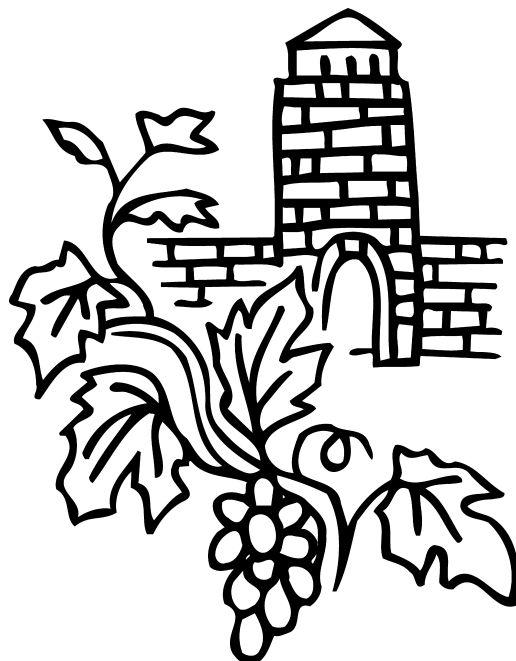




NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



OCTOBER 4, 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:
10/4 Dave Olson
10/11 Carolyn Border

Assisting Minister:
10/4 Phyllis Moser
10/11 Phyllis Moser

Psalm:
10/4 Peter Brown
10/11 Duane Gudknecht

Ushers:
10/4 Nic Villodres and
Carolyn Border
10/11 Marilee and Dave
Pfefferle

Coffee:
Linda Duncan and Lisa
LeMay

Altar Guild:
Kay Stack and Carolyn
Border

Counters:
Kay Stack and Sharon
Crist

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.

GATHER

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Thine the Amen

Carl F. Schalk
Setting, Sherri Hansen

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Can You Feel the Seasons Turning

ACS1065



1 Can you feel the sea - sons turn - ing, winds and waves grown
2 Can you hear the crea - tures cry - ing— lynx and ot - ter,
3 Can you feel the sea - sons turn - ing? Storm clouds gath - er



wild and strange? Can you feel cre - a - tion groan - ing,
wolf and whale? Can you hear the Spir - it sigh - ing
in the skies. All a - round us signs of warn - ing



fear - ful of the com - ing change: ice - caps melt - ing,
as her chil - dren grieve and fail? Na - ture's poor, the
bid us o - pen fright - ened eyes. Called by God to



o - ceans ris - ing, homes and hab - i - ta - tions lost?
first to suf - fer, pay the price of hu - man greed.
serve as stew - ards till earth's gar - den greens and thrives,



Can you feel the sea - sons turn - ing? Can you count the bit - ter cost?
Can you hear the crea - tures cry - ing, beg - ging us to stop and heed?
can we learn in time to lis - ten? Can we turn and change our lives?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in
the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and
bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.

Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom
there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

*GREETING

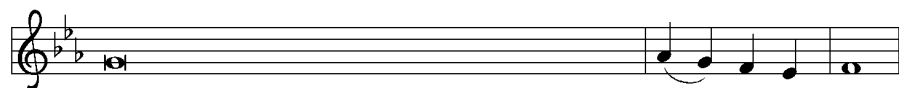
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*KYRIE

p.203



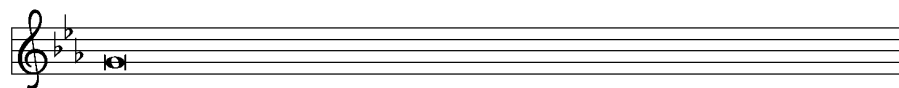
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



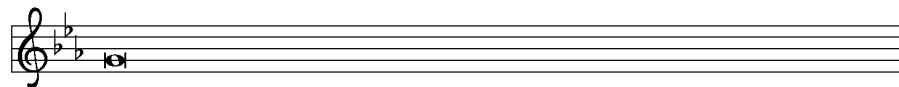
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 204



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo-ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion:

Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and strength, and
Bless-ing and hon-or, glo-ry and might be to

hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.
God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be-

gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you always.
And also with you.

Let us share with each other a sign of peace.

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

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

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
 and people of Judah,
 judge between me
 and my vineyard.
 What more was there to do for my vineyard
 that I have not done in it?
 When I expected it to yield grapes,
 why did it yield rotten grapes?
 And now I will tell you
 what I will do to my vineyard.
 I will remove its hedge,
 and it shall be devoured;
 I will break down its wall,
 and it shall be trampled down.
 I will make it a wasteland;
 it shall not be pruned or hoed,
 and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
 I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.
 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
 is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah
 are his cherished garden;
 he expected justice but saw bloodshed;
 righteousness but heard a cry!
 The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:7-15



Look down from heav'n, O God; be - hold and tend this vine.



Restore us, O God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
 you cast out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it;
 it took root and filled the land.

**The mountains were covered by its shadow
 and the towering cedar trees by its boughs. R**

You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
 and its branches to the river.

**Why have you broken down its wall,
 so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
 and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

**Turn now, O God of hosts,
 look down from heaven;**

behold and tend this vine;
 preserve what your right hand has planted. **R**

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*ALLELUIA

p.205

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said:] "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?"

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture

"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

How Firm a Foundation

ELW796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

*APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God, receive our prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

This week we pray for:
Marv, Nancy, Ray and Clara, Sheree, Lisa, Marya, Marie, Janice, Bob and Pru, Niki, Gabby, Creed and baby Ryker, Brady, Judy, Dottie, BettyLu, Bruce, Laura, Kelly, Trudy and Murlyn, Pastor Brian, Nick, Joshua, Rose, Dean and Shirley, MaryJo, Lew, Barb, Lindsay, Molly, Bob, Raphael, Maja, Kenny and family, Niki, the O'Brien family, and the Rick Novak family.

We offer continued prayers for family and friends of Mary Vatne

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 Chorale Prelude on "Love Divine, all Love Excelling" Hans Klotz

***PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

ELW184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

***DIALOGUE**

p.206

The Lord be with you. And al-so 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.

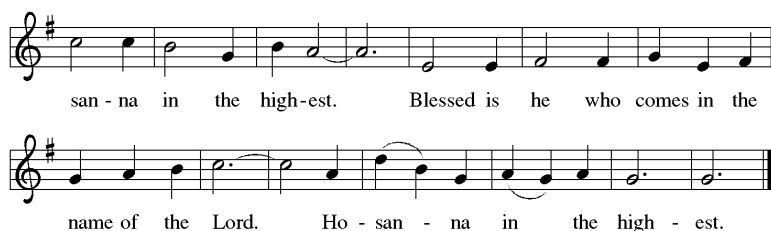
***PREFACE**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

p.207

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-

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



*PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We remember the gift of your presence through Christ, by the Spirit, as we share in this sacred story:

**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 Christ's love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church without end. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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 ever. Amen.**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

p.208

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.

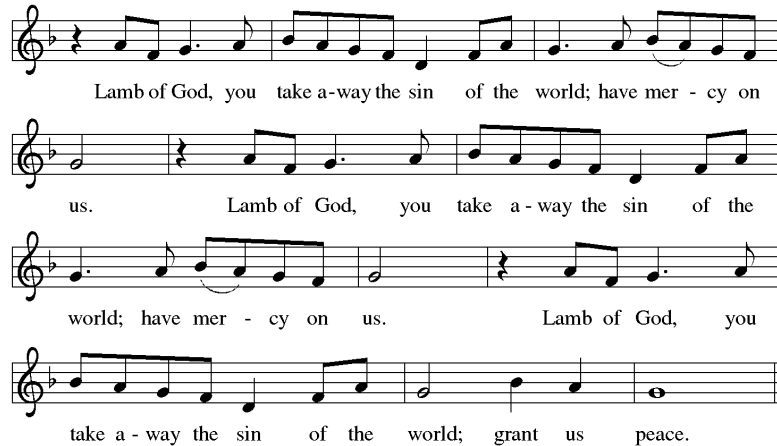
If you require a gluten free wafer, please tell the pastor when you approach to receive the bread. Pre-filled juice cups are available in the silver tray.

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.

ANOIDTING 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



SONGS DURING COMMUNION

ELW466 In the Singing

In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in your presence at this table,
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.

In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people,
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.

ELW661 I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.
*I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word.
*I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long.
*I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love*

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

God bless you and keep you.
God shine on you with mercy and grace.
God look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Sonatine in F Major
 I. Allegro assai

Ludwig van Beethoven

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

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY is on a temporary hiatus. Stay tuned for updates.

BELL CHOIR—Next bell choir rehearsal will be Thursday, October 8th from 5-6pm. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.

CROSS CHOIR—Next Cross Choir rehearsal will be Thursday, October 8th from 6-7pm. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for a United Sisters Bake Sale and lunch on October 24th. We will need donations of baked goods and few folks to make a crockpot of sloppy joes. The sale and lunch will run from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

There IS a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for baking, cooking and serving.

All proceeds go to the United Sisters!



THIS WEEK AT CROSS

Sunday, October 4

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee Fellowship

1:00-5:00

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Monday, October 5

Office Closed

Tuesday, October 6

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, October 7

1:00-6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, October 8

1:00-2:00pm

Worship at the Shores

2:00-5:00pm

Pastor Scott office drop-in

Friday, October 9

1:00 - 6:00pm

Pastor Scott office by appt

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Saturday, October 10

9:00am – 1:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

1:30pm – 4:30pm

Cross Organ Practice

5:00 – 7:00pm

Adventista Septimo Dia

Sunday, October 11

9:30am

Sunday Worship

10:30am

Coffee and fellowship

1:00-5:00pm

Promesa De Dios

5:00 – 9:00pm

Ebenezer Elim

Cross Lutheran Church, 1945 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, Minnesota, 55109
www.crosslutheranchurch.org office@crosslutheranchurch.org 651-777-1329
Reverend Scott Simmons, pastor pastorscott@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

