



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



OCTOBER 18, 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:
10/18 Duane Gudknecht
10/25 Phyllis Moser

Assisting Minister:
10/18 Carolyn Border
10/25 Sherry Batterman

Psalm:
10/18 Alternative
10/25 Katie Erickson

Ushers:
10/18 Sharon Crist and
Phyllis Moser
10/25 Dan and Katie
Erickson

Coffee:
Wayne and LuAnn Lund

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Joseph Barnby
arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

*GATHERING HYMN

All Must Be Well

Indelible Grace



1. Through the love of God our
2. Though we pass through trib - u -
3. We ex - pect a bright to -



Sav - ior, All will be well; Free and
la - tion, All will be well; Ours is
mor - row, All will be well; Faith can



change - less is His fav - or, All is well;
such a full sal - va - tion, All is well;
sing through days of sor - row, All is well;



Pre - cious is the blood that healed us, Per - fect
Hap - py still in God con - fid - ing, Fruit - ful
On our Fa - ther's love re - ly - ing, Je - sus



is the grace that sealed us, Strong the hand stretched forth to
ev - 'ry need sup - ply - ing, Yes in liv - ing Spir - and it's
in



shield us, All must be well.
guid - ing, All must be well.
dy - ing, All must be well.

2. Though we
3. We ex



well. On our Fa - ther's love re -



ly - ing, Je - sus ev - 'ry need sup - ply - ing, Yes in



liv - ing or in dy - ing, All must be well.

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
givenness 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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BELL CHOIR

Amazing Grace

John Newton
arr. R. Edgar Horton

WORD

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

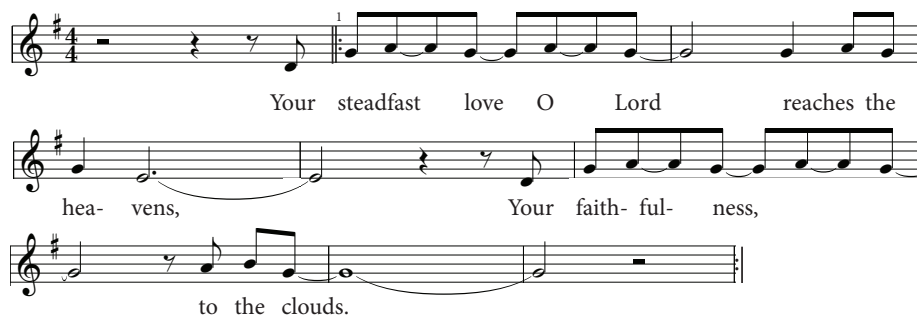
*We gather around the **WORD** in reading, preaching, and song, as we enter into the steadfast love of God as proclaimed through Holy Scripture.*

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
 whose right hand I have grasped
 to subdue nations before him
 and to strip kings of their robes,
 to open doors before him —
 and the gates shall not be closed:
 I will go before you
 and level the mountains;
 I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron;
 I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and riches hidden in secret places,
 so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
 For the sake of my servant Jacob
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name;
 I give you a title, though you do not know me.
 I am the LORD, and there is no other;
 besides me there is no god.
 I arm you, though you do not know me,
 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
 and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
 I am the LORD, and there is no other.
 I form light and create darkness,
 I make weal and create woe;
 I the LORD do all these things.
 Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96:1-9



Sing to the LORD a new song;
 sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
 Declare God's glory among the nations
 and God's wonders among all peoples.
For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.
 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
 but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
Ascribe to the LORD the honor due thy holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.
 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
 tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

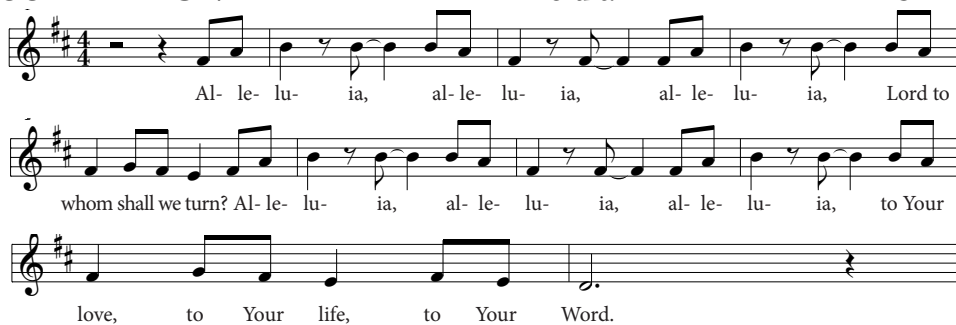
We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

*ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Simmons



*GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

SERMON

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God’s people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.



1 What is the world like when God's will is
 2 What is the world like when God's will is
 3 What is the world like when God's will is
 4 What is the world like when God's will is
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -



done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than
 done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
 done? No more is neigh - bor just
 done? Read - y for feast - ing, we
 parts, filled with the Spir - it who



we can con - ceive: roots thread the
 child com - ing home; watch as the
 al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
 watch through the night, tend - ing our
 joins us as one. Born through our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 plac - es where once there was none.
 lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

***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

*SHARING 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 *Lied ohne Worte, 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

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



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.



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



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



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

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

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 and Bob Brynildson

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*

*HOLY HOLY

Simmons



*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:

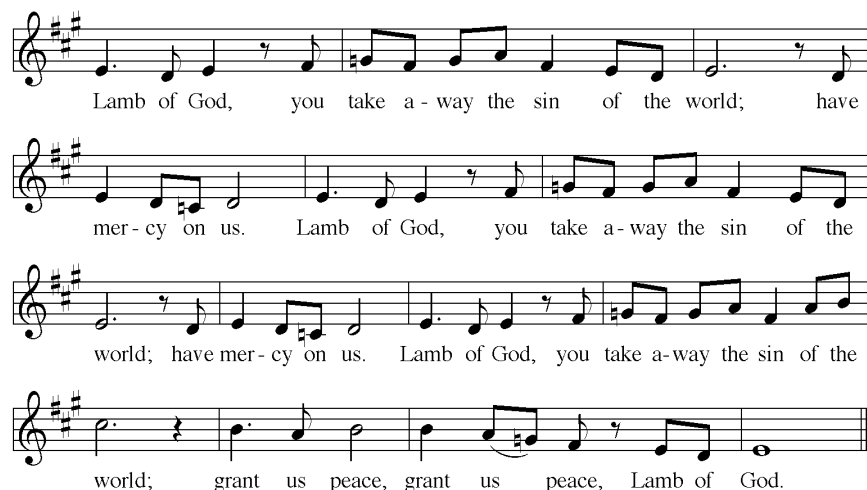
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.**

LAMB OF GOD



Communion hymns:

ELW396 — Spirit of Gentleness

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
 blow through the wilderness calling and free;
 Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
 stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters,
 you called to the deep,
 then you coaxed up the mountains
 from the valleys of sleep;
 and over the eons you called to each thing:
 "Awake from your slumbers
 and rise on your wings." *Refrain*

You swept through the desert,
 you stung with the sand,
 and you goaded your people
 with a law and a land;
 and when they were blinded
 with idols and lies,

then you spoke through your prophets
 to open their eyes. *Refrain*

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
 then you whispered in silence
 when the whole world was still;
 and down in the city you called once again,
 when you blew through your people
 on the rush of the wind. *Refrain*

You call from tomorrow,
 you break ancient schemes.
 From the bondage of sorrow
 all the captives dream dreams;
 our women see visions,
 our men clear their eyes.
 With bold new decisions
 your people arise. *Refrain*

ELW742 — What a Friend We Have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
 all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 ev'rything to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
 oh, what needless pain we bear--
 all because we do not carry
 ev'rything to God in prayer!
 Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged--
 take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful
 who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
 take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
 cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Savior, still our refuge--
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Do your friends despise, forsake you?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you;
 you will find a solace there.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

*COMMUNION BLESSING

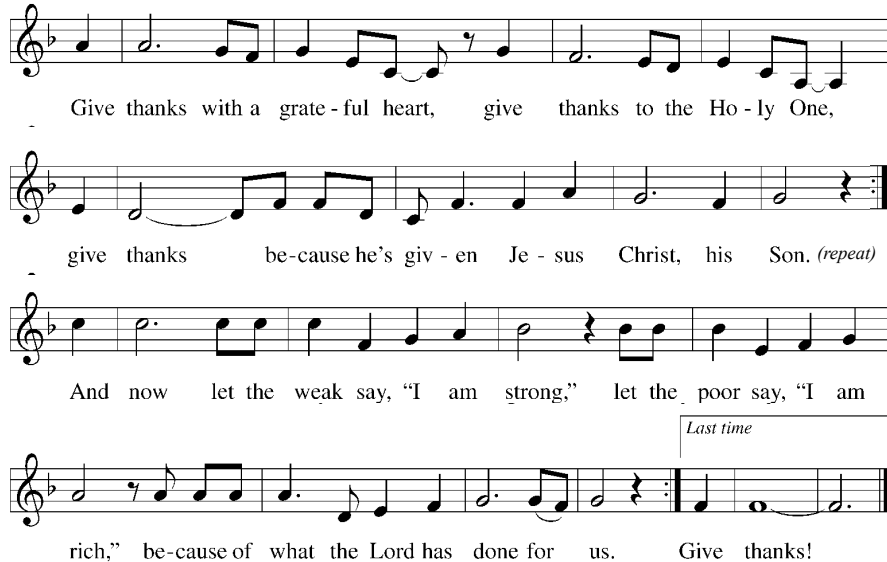
*COMMUNION PRAYER

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

W&P41



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!

Last time

SENDING

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

*CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING

*SENDING SONG

Go Now

Peterson/Olson

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



vs. 1 Filled with the Ho - ly Spir - it go now with God,
vs. 2 Of - fer - ing a hand to a stran - ger
vs. 3 Wa - ters of mer - cy have found us
vs. 4 Cross-ing ev' - ry bound'-ry, ev' - ry na - tion

go now with God. In - to the world as a serv - ant
Trust-ing in the ris - en sav - ior
Grace on the jour - ney sur - rounds us
Danc-ing in the gift of lib - er - a - tion

go now with God, go now with God. Go now,
go now, go now with God.
Go now, go now, go now with God.

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

Sonata in G Major

Domenico Cimarosa



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**COMMUNITY MARKET
THIS WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21ST**

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

ADULT EDUCATION The Future of Community Responders in Maplewood. We recently learned that the City of Maplewood is cancelling the Appropriate Response Initiative (Community Response Team) at the end of the month, two months before the original contract ends. As a congregation which has partnered with the Community Responders, how might we support and advocate for the program in the days and weeks ahead? Join Pastor Scott and, possibly, a few special guests, to discuss. 11 am, Community Room.

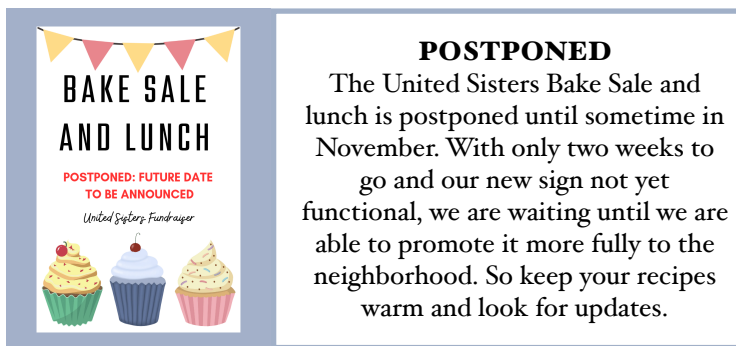
FLESHPOTS OF EGYPT - Monday, October 19th, 6:30pm

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP - Meets Tuesday, August 25th at 6pm

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

BELL CHOIR—Next bell choir rehearsal will be October 29th from 5-6pm. There will be no rehearsal on October 22nd. Anyone interested in ringing or has questions please contact Ken.

CROSS CHOIR—Next Choir rehearsal will be October 29th from 6-7pm. There will be no rehearsal on October 22nd. Anyone interested in singing or has questions please contact Ken.



**THIS WEEK AT CROSS
Sunday, October 18**

9:30am
Sunday Worship
10:30am
Coffee Fellowship
11:00-12:00pm
Adult Education
1:00-5:00
Promesa De Dios
5:00 – 9:00pm
Ebenezer Elim

Monday, October 19

Office Closed
6:30pm
Fleshpots of Egypt

Tuesday, October 20

1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt

Wednesday, October 21

1:00-6:00pm
Pastor Scott office by appt
7:00pm
Adventista Septimo Dia

Thursday, October 22

1:00-2:00pm
Worship at the Shores
2:00-5:00pm
Pastor Scott office drop-in

Friday, October 23

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

Saturday, October 24

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

Sunday, October 25

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