

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

Join us Today:

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

10:15 a.m. – Facebook Live-Cross of Christ Worship Service

10:15 a.m. – Cross of Christ Worship Service



Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.

Website: <http://www.crossofchristhouston.org>

Church Number: 507-896-3102

Church Office Email: cofc@acegroup.cc

Sunday, November 28, 2021- Thanksgiving Service- First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Advent Hymn-ELW #240 “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” vss.1

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

HYMN ELW #855 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

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| 1 Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home. | 4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home! |
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The Call to Give Thanks:

Pastor: God has given us His bounty. Let your mind be aware of His Fatherly love. Let your heart beat to the rhythm of the overflowing grace of His Son. Let your spirit rejoice in new life, revived by the breath of His Spirit.

People: So be it? And our presence will reveal our hearts felt gratitude. Our works will proclaim our sincere thanks. Our praying and singing will pulsate with gratitude. Our gifts will convey our honest praise!

Pastor: May our whole being be a song to thanksgiving to our Lord!

Prayer: (in unison): O Lord God Almighty, the Giver of life; the Redeemer of lost life; and the sustainer of growing and ongoing lives: In one voice of Praise and thanksgiving we unite our spirits with yours to communicate our thankfulness to your From the dawn of creation to this present moment you have given yourself that we might experience the ultimate in Joyful living. Accept the thank offering we give though Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN ELW #840 “Now Thank We All Our God”

- 1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.
- 2 Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.
- 3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Responsive Reading A Psalm: Psalm (read in unison)

Psalm: Psalm 126

- ¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.
- ²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things for them.” R
- ³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.
- ⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.
- ⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.
- ⁶Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves. R

People: **And to sing praises unto Thy name, O Giving Lord.**

Pastor: O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

People: **Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.**

Pastor: For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

People: **O Come, let us worship and bow down: Let us kneel before the lord our maker.**

Pastor: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

People: Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.

Pastor: Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

People: Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless his name.

Pastor: For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting and His truth endureth to all generations.

HYMN "Praise and Thanksgiving" ELW #689

1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.

A Litany of Thanksgiving:

Pastor: O Thou, who are the Giver of all good gifts: for Thy majesty and power; for The wisdom and understanding, for Thy great love which gave us Thy Son.

People: Now thank we all our God.

Pastor: For this and all places of worship and praise, where we may seek Thee out and find Thee, for those who join with us in prayer, here or afar, on land or sea, for all who minister in thy name.

People: Now thank we all our God.

Pastor: For the beauty of the earth and the glory of the skies, for life and liberty, for this land of freedom with it's heritage of Christian faith.

People: Now thank we all our God

Pastor: For the many blessings of our daily lives, for homes and loved ones, for food and raiment.

People: Now thank we all our God

Pastor: For all your gifts of the Spirit- for hope in despair, for forgiveness in failure, for comfort in sorrow, for joy in sadness for strength in weakness, for peace in confusion, for courage in discouragement, for life in death.

People: Now thank we all our God

SILENT REFLECTION AND THANKSGIVING

HYMN “For the Beauty of the Earth” ELW #879

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

5 For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: Refrain

SERMON-“The Grace of Gratitude”

Pastor Duane Everson

HYMN “We Praise You, O God” ELW #870

1 We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore
you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we
sing.

2 We worship you, God of our fathers and
mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have
been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake
us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we
win.

3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we
raise.
With you, Lord, beside us,
your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be
praise!

CLOSING PRAYER

HYMN “Let All Things Now Living” ELW #881

1 Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

P:Go in Peace. C:**To love and thank the Lord!**

Postlude

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AT CROSS OF CHRIST THIS WEEK: 11/28/21-12/5/21

TODAY: 9:00 Sunday School
10:15 In-Person Worship Cross of Christ
10:15 Facebook Live-Cross of Christ Worship
11:15 Deck the Halls

MONDAY:

TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY: 11:00 Prayer Group

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY: 9:00 Confirmation
9:00 Sunday School
10:15 In-Person Worship Cross of Christ-Holy Communion
10:15 Facebook Live-Cross of Christ Worship
11:15 Thrivent Rep.

Gifts of Grain

Cross of Christ is instituting a new way to give which may be especially helpful for those in our agricultural community of grain producers. Called, Gifts of Grain, an account has been established at the Farmers Co-op Elevator in the name of Cross of Christ. If you are a producer who wishes to give a portion of a load, one or several loads of grain, simply let the WINN Farmer's Elevator know you wish for the sale of the grain to be given to Cross of Christ. A check for the grain proceeds will be sent to the church. The producer will not have to pay income tax on the profit or the self-employment tax.

Our church family is a beautiful tapestry of individuals who give of their time, talent and treasures in many ways to Cross of Christ. Giving is an opportunity to honor the Lord for all the abundant blessings He gives our lives, faith, family, work, and the beauty of nature he bestows on us.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

It's time to ring in the holiday season with the Salvation Army bell ringing at Root River Market! Tis the season to join friends and family by raising money to help people in need. Sign up via Sign Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044ca8ac22abfb6-salvation2>

Or call Lisa Skifton at 507-429-3820 or lisa.skifton@winona.k12.mn.us to sign up.

All proceeds stay in Houston County.

From the Cemetery Board

The Stone Church and St Peter's Cemetery Association board has been discussing having a cemetery walk fund raiser. No date has been set for the event. The board would like input from interested persons and volunteers to help selecting the sites to visit. We have talked about using a theme for the walk such as special couples, single persons, famous people etc. Re-enactors, guides, teams, and background persons are needed. If you are interested in helping with this event let us know... please feel free to attend our monthly meetings. We meet every 2nd Sunday of the month at 9 AM in the Cross of Christ library. We need to have a fund-raising event to off-set normal expenses and make improvements to the grounds. If this first attempt is successful; it could become an annual event with a different theme each year. Please consider contributing your time and talents toward this event. We need to have the history researched for each site. Contact the church office: 896-3102 or members of the cemetery association board. Cheryl Eaton: 896-3568, Wayne Runningen: 507-450-8316, Denise Rostad: 608-632-0804, Patrick Forsyth: 896-3480, Gene Lundak: 896-3486, LeRoy Thompson: 507-313-0515, Royce Bergsgaard: 507-450-4499

Up Coming Area Events and Dinners:

North Prairie Lutheran Church W/ELCA Bake Sale- Friday December 10, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. or until gone at Sterling Drug Lobby, Rushford, MN. Pre order for Rommegrot, Sweet Soup, Krumkaka, rosettes, and Sandbakkelsers by calling 507.875.2339 by December 3rd Pick up Thursday December 9 2-4 North Prairie Lutheran Church, Lanesboro.

Note for Cross of Christ Congregation:

Pastor Jeff Forbes will be starting at Cross of Christ as our Interim Pastor on December 1. This is a new term for us at Cross of Christ. The Synod has trained interim pastors to assist congregations with the transition from a settled pastor who took a different call to a new settled pastor who we call as our new permanent pastor. A settled pastor is a pastor who stays with us until taking a different call, as Pastor Linda did, or until retirement. Interim pastors typically stay for about a year. During that time they complete all the pastoral duties that a settled pastor would do. He also will help the congregation thoughtfully evaluate who we are as a congregation and what attributes we would like to see in the new pastor we call. Interim pastors cannot be called by the congregation as their settled pastor. The Synod leadership, who have been helping us through this process and will continue to assist us, felt calling an interim pastor would be the best path forward in this process for our congregation.

One more Sunday! Update to the Holiday Bazaar: Sunday November 28st 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. A mini-Bazaar will be held with crafts and homemade items. Also, fresh, frozen produce and homemade canned goods. Unfortunately, due to covid 19 we won't be having our traditional bazaar this year with a luncheon, bake sale and Lefse.