



LUTHERIDGE +
CROSS & CROWN

= HOME

15th Sunday After Pentecost
September 21, 2025
10:15 am



Come & See

WELCOME

Welcome to worship! We are so glad that you've chosen to worship here! Cross & Crown is a community of Christ-followers from all walks of life. We hope that you will feel a warm welcome from the congregation and will worship with us again!

ADDITIONAL SUNDAY INFORMATION

Sunday school classes are offered for adults located in the Multipurpose space. Our adult class, Books of Faith, meets in room 206.

Communion is offered each week. Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table!

Our church has something for everyone, and not just on Sundays. During the week, we have activities such as Bible studies and small groups. On Wednesday evenings we share a fellowship dinner at 6 pm. We hope you'll come try it out! See the back of the bulletin for more details about how to sign up.

Now that you know a little about us, help us get to know you better by completing the Connection Card handed to you by one of our greeters when you entered. You can hand it to one of the pastors or drop it in the offering plate.

PARENTS

We love the sound of kids in our service! Here are some ideas to keep them engaged.

Relax! It's ok to let kids be kids!

Sit close: Consider sitting up front where it's easier for kids to see and hear.

Explain: Kids are curious! Explain what's happening in the service.

Participate: Sing hymns loudly, pray, respond, etc. Children learn by following your lead.

Activities: If you would like a bag of quiet activities for your little ones, ask an usher and they will provide one for you.

Wander: It's ok to move around. Sometimes it's easier to let fidgety kids move a bit.

Need to Leave? No problem, but please come back! Sometimes kids just need a break. There are speakers in the narthex & lounge so you can hear. The narthex is a great place to get the wiggles out, and the lounge is nice if you need privacy.

Ask: Questions or just need help? Just ask one of our ushers.

Childcare: The nursery is down the hall in the Multipurpose Space for infants to age 4 and is available during both worship services. If you need assistance, an usher can help you. C&C Kids is offered to kids pre-K through 3rd grade. Kids depart the sanctuary during the Passing of the Peace and return to worship before communion.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Hartsell

Worship Song

Set A Fire

Reagan

Verse

No place I would rather be

No place I would rather be

No place I would rather be

Than here in Your love

Here in Your love

(REPEAT)

Chorus

(So) set a fire down in my soul

That I can't contain and I can't control

I want more of You God

I want more of You God

(REPEAT)

Prayers of the Church

(Refrain)

Lord I need You oh I need You. Ev'ry hour I need You.

My one defense my righteousness. Oh God how I need You.

My one defense my righteousness. Oh God how I need You.

(Refrain)

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy One, We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people.

Help us choose all that is life-giving. pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy.

Gracious Father, we pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace.

God of Us All, bring your peace, the peace that passes all understanding to this world. In places of war show your compassion and mercy. Bring reconciliation to all the countries that see war, destruction, and hardship with their own eyes.

And we sing...

(Refrain)

Compassionate God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. We lift up to you all on our congregational prayer list and all we name aloud at this time...

(Pause for congregation)

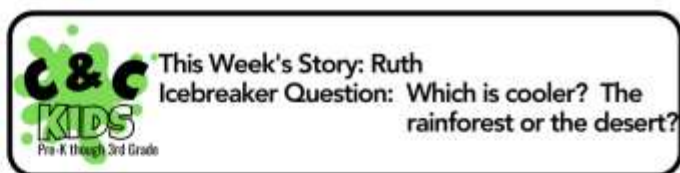
Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy.

God of Love, we pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. We pray over our "This is home" special appeal. May the updates and maintenance to our building bring you glory by providing a home for us and those that have not walked through our doors yet.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. We sing our AMEN.

(Refrain)

(Children may head out for C&C Kids)



Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Welcome Home and Announcements *(See back page for additional announcements.)*

Temple Talk

THE WORD

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.'²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Melody Simpkins

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

Give Thanks and Praise

Handel/Kihlken

With heart and soul and voice, give thanks and praise to God. Give thanks and praise, give thanks and praise;

To God who made the heaven and earth be glory thanks and praise.

The heavens proclaim the wonder of God, the oceans reply, the valleys shout for joy!

With heart and soul and voice, give thanks and praise to God. Give thanks, and praise, give thanks and praise;

To God who made the heaven and earth be glory thanks and praise.

(Please stand)

Offertory Response

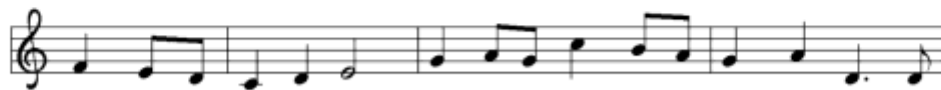
Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



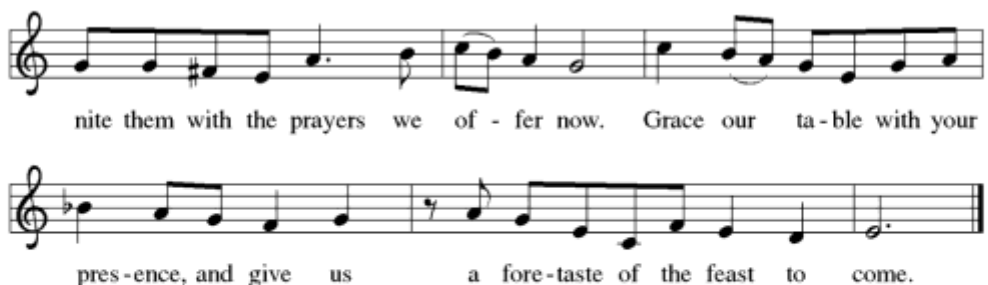
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



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 the dreams of all; u -



Statement of Belief

The 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.

Come to the Table-- Everyone's Invited!

Holy Communion is a celebration of Christ's love, shared through His body and blood. If you're hungry for His presence, this meal is for you! We commune by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into wine or grape juice. Need grape juice or gluten-free options? No problem—the assistant will gladly help you out. Kids are welcome, too! Just let the assistant know if your child will be receiving Communion or would prefer a special blessing. We're so glad you're here—let's share this joyful moment together!

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

OR

Our Father, who is of heaven,
Holy is your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
and deliver us from evil
For yours is the kingdom
And the power, and the glory
now and forever, Amen.

Welcome to the Table

P: Come now and feast on the gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Hymn 471 Let Us Break Bread Together

Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



The Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

This Little Light of Mine

Verse 1

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

Verse 2

Hide it under a bushel no
I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel no
I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel no
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

Verse 3

Don't let anyone blow it out
I'm gonna let it shine
Don't let anyone blow it out
I'm gonna let it shine
Don't let anyone blow it out
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

Verse 2

Everywhere I go
I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go
I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine let it shine let it shine

The Doxology (sung a capella)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

Sending

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



Weekly Announcements

AT CROSS & CROWN



ROOTED SUNDAYS

TODAY!

11:30-2:30

Join us for "Rooted Sundays"! Each month, one of our amazing members will jump in to share their talents with the kids! Get ready for hands-on fun, creative activities, and plenty of laughter as our children explore the building blocks of the Bible in exciting, unforgettable ways.

This Sunday we will be learning about baptism, and our activity will be making pottery.



Family Meet-up: Tailgate & Bike Race

SEPTEMBER 27 @ 4PM

LOWER CHURCH PARKING LOT
BRING YOUR OWN TAILGATE STYLE MEAL
BIKES, SCOOTERS, ETC.

**NEXT
SATURDAY!**



COFFEE & GOD'S WORD!

Start your day off right!

Join us!

Thursday, September 25th
7:45 am in the Common Room



BE A MAN. OF FAITH.

**MEN'S RETREAT:
NOV. 21-23**

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS...



**Wednesday
Night
Happenings**

6 pm

SCAN TO RSVP



9-24-25

**Chicken & Rice Casserole,
Mixed Veggies,
Garden Salad, & Dessert**



Children, Youth & Family

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 5

Sunday, Oct. 12

Friday, Oct. 24

Wednesday, Oct. 29

Confirmation, Youth Group, Faith Formation

Family Meet-up: Hall Family Farm

Corn Maze (Youth)

Trunk-or-Treat

Sunday, Nov. 2

Friday, Nov. 14

Sunday, Nov. 16

Sunday, Nov. 23

Confirmation, Youth Group, Faith Formation

Charlotte Area Lock-In (Youth)


Family Meet-up: Picnic Lunch & Board Games


Hanging of the Green @ 4pm


Paint & Sip- Nov. 22

Ladies, mark your calendars for another Paint & Sip! After such a fun time at our last gathering, we're excited to do it again. All women of the church are invited to join us for an afternoon of creativity, laughter, and connection!



 Saturday, November 22

 12:30-3:00 p.m.

 At the church

\$ \$35 per person (RSVP required in advance)

SIGN UP DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1ST.

WE CANNOT ADD ANYONE AFTER THE SIGN UP DEADLINE.

Scan to
RSVP



We'll sip on wine, enjoy light snacks, and share stories as we create together in a relaxed, judgment-free space. No painting experience needed—just come ready to unwind and have fun!

Love a Good Book & Good Conversation?

The Evening Book Club meets the first Thursday of every month at 7 pm in the Common Room.

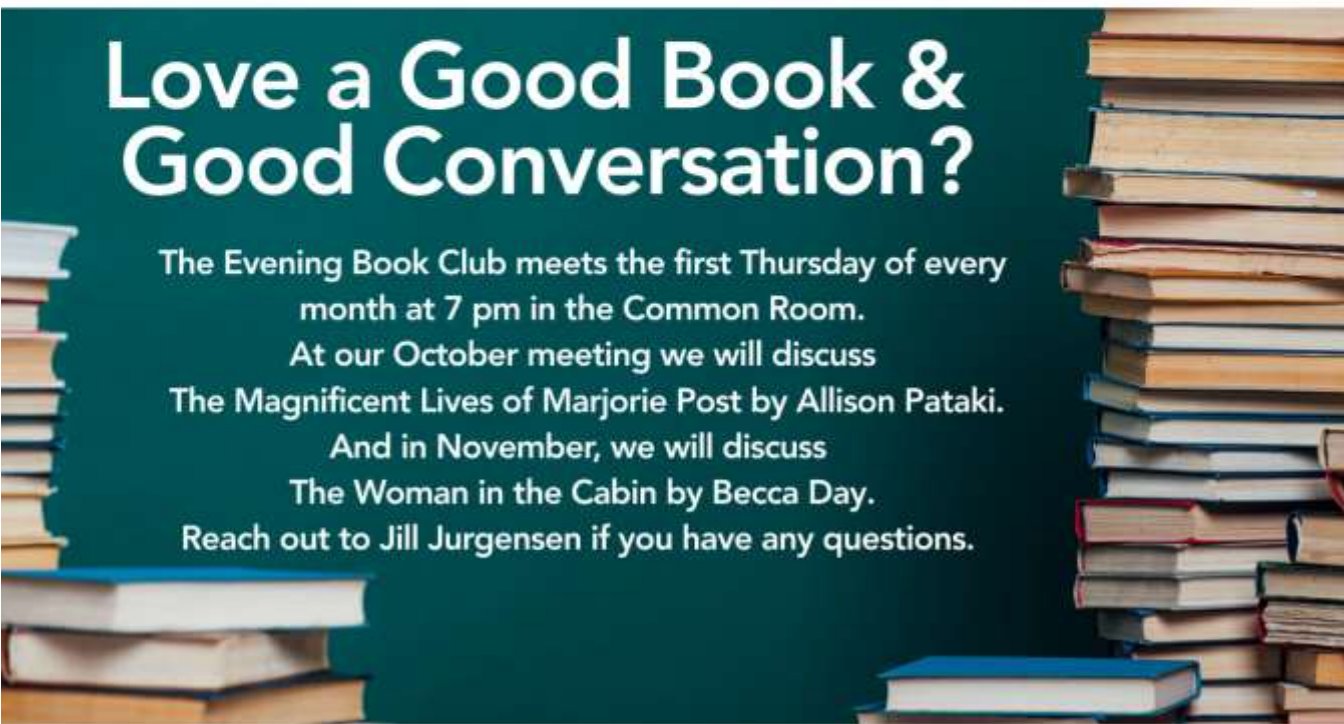
At our October meeting we will discuss

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki.

And in November, we will discuss

The Woman in the Cabin by Becca Day.

Reach out to Jill Jurgensen if you have any questions.



Week at a Glance

Monday, September 22nd

7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, September 23rd

12 pm- Staff Meeting
1 pm- Congregational Care Team Meeting
2 pm- Community Care Team Meeting
6:30 pm- Council Meeting
6:30 pm- Table Talk

Wednesday, September 24th

6 pm- Wednesday Night Happenings Dinner
6:45 pm- Handbells
7:30 pm- Choir

Thursday, September 25th

7:45 am- Men's Bible Study

Friday, September 26th

4:30 pm- Walking Club

Saturday, September 27th

4 pm- Family Meet Up!- Tailgate & Bike Race

Sunday, September 28th

8:15 am Worship
9 am Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Sunday School Book of Psalm
10:15 am- Worship

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:

Acolyte:

Communion Assistants:

Usher:

Communion Set-up:

Greeters:

Nursery Assistant:

C&C Kids:

Contribution Counter:

Allison Goode

Suzy Welzniak, Terry McClure

Leonard Rutkowski, David Cox

Hugh Kluttz

Kati Goode

Brandon Prickett, Jared Blackburn

Barbara Maillet, Cathy Kozlinks

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SCAN TO GIVE



Our Staff

Melody Simpkins

Matt Simpkins

Larry Stratemeyer

LeAnne Bates

Laura Van Landingham

Dan Goldstein

Terry McClure

Jessica Carter

Co-Pastor

Co-Pastor

Dr. of Music Ministries

Church Administrator

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Coordinator

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