"Here I stand; I can do no other. God help me. Amen.".



Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude
O Worship the King — Carter

Worship Song
Do It Again — Furtick, Redman, Brown, Brock

Verse 1
Walking around these walls
I thought by now they'd fall
But you have never failed me yet
Waiting for change to come
Knowing the battle's won
For you have never failed me yet

Chorus
Your promise still stands
Great is your faithfulness
Faithfulness
I'm still in your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed me yet

Verse 2
I know the night won't last
Your word will come to pass
My heart will sing your praise again
Jesus you're still enough
Keep me within your love
My heart will sing your praise again

Bridge
I've seen you move
You move the mountains
And I believe
I'll see you do it again
You made a way
Where there was no way
And I believe
I'll see you do it again

Ending
You've never failed me yet
I never will forget
You've never failed me yet
I never will forget

Confession
P: Let us confess our sin with the whole people of God.
P: Forgiving Lord, on this day of Reformation we remember that we are a sinful people that are called to be shaped by you,
C: Yet we stay hardened reflecting this world and not you.
P: Forgiving Lord, we remember that you have called us to love our neighbor,
C: Yet we think more of ourselves than you and our neighbors. We don't feed the hungry, clothe the poor and live unconditionally.
P: Forgiving Lord, we are gifted with so much from you,
C: Yet we complain and groan about the things we do not have or need.
P: Forgiving Lord, you love us even when we were captured in sin and could not free ourselves.
C: Forgive us Lord.
P: The Lord God runs after us and gives us grace we do not deserve. Almighty God, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ forgives you all of your sins!
C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Refrain
You're a Good Good Father
It's who You are, It's who You are, It's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, It's who I am, It's who I am

Standing in the grace and love of God, we pray for the world and all in need, kneeling, sitting, or standing as you are able.

Almighty and Loving God, we pray to you on this Reformation Day; remind us that it is through your grace that we are saved through faith in you, our Lord and our God. Renew our church and our hearts. Empower us to continually look at how we worship, serve, and love, to constantly reform ourselves to you. We pray for countries that are in war. May they find reconciliation. May the leaders seek out peace and compromise. Let your peace abound.

(refrain)

We remember those sick, hurting and alone. Be ever present in their lives. May the pressures of life not overwhelm their caregivers and loved ones. Bring them peace and healing. We lift up to you those in need of your presence that are on our congregational prayers list and those that we name aloud at this time or the silence of our hearts.

(We now invite you to speak aloud the names of those for whom you are praying.)

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name and 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.

C&C KIDS Pre-K though 3rd Grade

This Week's Story: Jonah & the Big Fish
Icebreaker Question: Which is cooler: a pirate ship or a space ship?

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

THE WORD

Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every
mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For no human will be
justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.
21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law
and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For
there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified
by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a
sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his
righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it
was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies
the one who has the faith of Jesus. 7 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind
of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by
faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

John 8:31-36

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32
and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered him, "We are descendants
of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made
free'?"

[34] Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. [35] The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. [36] So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Sermon **Pastor Melody Simpkins**

THANKSGIVING

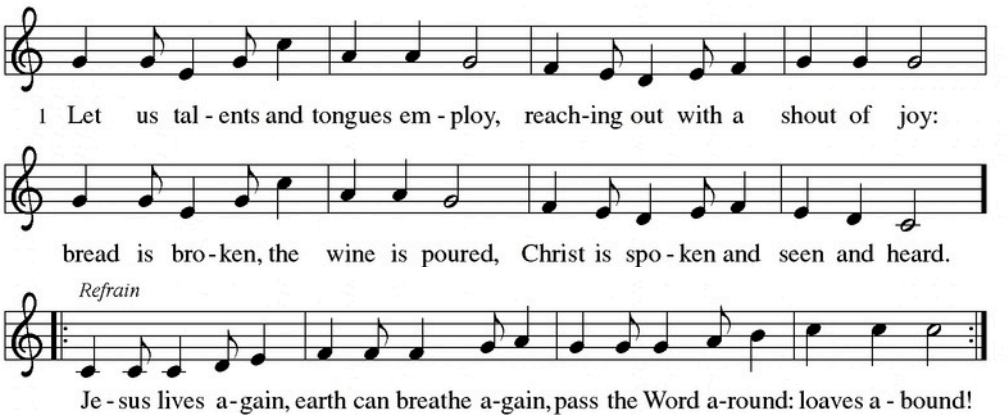
Anthem

504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Ein Feste Burg

(Stanzas 1,3,4 sung by the congregation. Stanza 2 sung by the choir.)

Offertory Hymn

674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ Linstead



Statement of Belief

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.

COMMUNION

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!

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

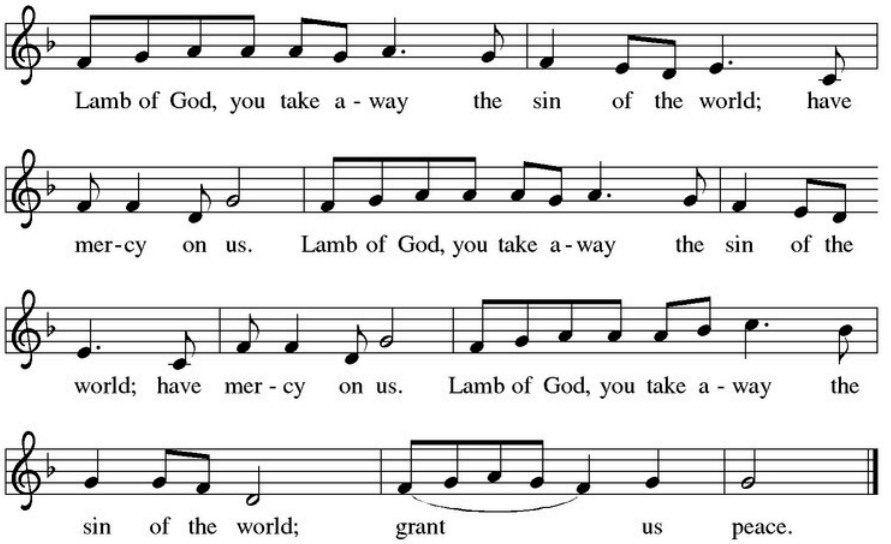
Welcome to the Table

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



Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Song
Reckless Love
Verse 1
Before I spoke a word You were singing over me
You have been so so good to me
Before I took a breath You breathed Your life in me
You have been so so kind to me
Chorus
(And) O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God
O it chases me down fights 'til I'm found
Leaves the ninety-nine
I couldn't earn it I don't deserve it
Still You give Yourself away
O the overwhelming never-ending reckless
Love of God yeah
Verse 2
When I was Your foe still Your love fought for me
You have been so so good to me
When I felt no worth You paid it all for me
You have been so so kind to me
Bridge
There's no shadow You won't light up
Mountain You won't climb up
Coming after me
There's no wall You won't kick down
Lie You won't tear down
Coming after me

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 love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.

Sending Song
I Thank God
Moses, Butler, Bowe, Cline, Holmes, George
Verse 1
Wandering into the night wanting a place to hide
This weary soul this bag of bones
I try with all of my might
But I just can't win the fight
I'm slowly drifting a vagabond
Pre-Chorus 1
And just when I ran out of road
I met a man I didn't know
And He told me that I was not alone
Chorus
You picked me up You turned me around
And placed my feet on solid ground
I thank the Master I thank the Savior
Because You healed my heart You changed my name
Forever free I'm not the same
I thank the Master I thank the Savior I thank God
Verse 2
I cannot deny what I've seen
Got no choice but to believe
My doubts are burnin' like ashes in the wind
So so long to my old friends burden and bitterness
You can just keep them moving
Nah you ain't welcome here
Pre-Chorus 2
From now till I walk streets of gold
I'll sing of how You saved my soul
This wayward son has found his way back home

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: Together we say our mission statement:
C: Following Jesus, loving and serving all!
L: Now, go and live it out!
C: Thanks be to God!

SUNDAY *Announcements*

Property Workday- October 31: 8 am



Let's spruce up our church grounds together! Reneau Van Landingham will be leading a workday at church on Saturday, October 31, and we'd love for you to join in.
We'll be trimming bushes, cutting tree limbs, and hauling what we cut to the woods. We're also open to other projects that come to mind between now and then.
Grab your work gloves and join us! Whether you can help for the whole day or just for a little while, we'd love to have you. Many hands make light work!

SET YOUR ROOTS

Welcome home! That's what we say every time we gather for worship. Are you ready to set your roots? Are you ready to deepen your faith in this community? Join us on November 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for Set Your Roots. This is a time to learn more about the Cross & Crown family. Lunch will be provided.

ANNUAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 8 BETWEEN SERVICES



TRUNK Or TREAT

Wednesday Night Happenings

WEDNESDAY OCT, 28 | 6 PM

Start the night at Wednesday Night Happenings for dinner at 6 pm, then head outside for our annual Trunk or Treat! Kids (and kids-at-heart!) can enjoy candy, decorated trunks, and plenty of festive fun. Bring your friends, neighbors, and costumes—it's a great way to share a meal, celebrate together, and enjoy a safe, family-friendly evening at church!



IMAGINE more

2027 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

What if we imagined more love, grace, welcome, joy, and courage? What would that look like in our lives, our church, and our world?

Every three years, thousands of high school students (current 8th grade and above) and adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) come together for the ELCA Youth Gathering, June 27–July 2, 2027. With the theme Imagine More, youth are invited to dream big, grow in faith, and discover what's possible when we imagine more of what God can do through us.

It's more than an event—it's an opportunity to experience faith, build community, ask big questions, serve others, worship together, and discover what it means to be the church. Through inspiring speakers, hands-on experiences, meaningful connections, high-energy worship, and powerful storytelling, young people experience the church in bold and unforgettable ways.

Join Cross & Crown youth and thousands of young people from across the country for this life-changing, faith-building experience!

The cost is $500 per participant, paid by the family, and everyone will be expected to help in fundraising events to help make the trip possible.

Come Imagine More with us! Registration is open **NOW!** In the coming months, we will give more details, so start thinking about how you can be part of this exciting adventure!

SCAN TO REGISTER

Faith Alive @ Lutheridge- Nov. 6-8

Middle schoolers this is for YOU! At Faith Alive, experiential learning provides meaningful and relevant lessons while friendships are built through shared cabins and caring counselors. Creative worship. crafts, songs, games, and a campfire create an unforgettable summer camp-like experience. Come Nov 6-8 to learn about one of the baptismal promises that youth make as they affirm their baptism!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER!

Let's Put Faces to Names!

We're Off to a Good Start!



We're updating the member photos in Breeze, and we'd love for everyone to have a current photo! Laura Van Landingham will be taking photos on Sunday mornings. Just find Laura on Sunday mornings and we will do the rest!

Once we've updated our photos, we'll create a printed pictorial directory and place it by the mailboxes for everyone to use. Our hope is that this will make it easier to put names with faces and get to know the people who make up our Cross & Crown family. When you see someone you don't recognize, simply look them up in Breeze or check the printed directory!

Thanks for helping us make Cross & Crown an even more welcoming place where everyone feels at home.

Join us each Wednesday for

Mahjong

1 pm

Beginners Welcome!

Questions? Contact the church office for more info.



CHARLOTTE AREA YOUTH

LOCK-IN

NOVEMBER 13-14

COST IS $15

Youth groups from across the Charlotte area are invited to gather for the annual Charlotte Area Lock-In, and Cross & Crown is hosting! This late-night gathering brings faith, friends, and fun for churches in the Charlotte region.

SCAN TO RSVP!

Blessing Our College Students & Military Personnel with Care Packages

Each year, the Miriam Circle prepares care packages for Cross & Crown's college students & military personnel, and we'd love to send one to your loved one! Because this ministry is focused on supporting our own congregation's young adults, the care packages are just for college students & military personnel



who are members of Cross & Crown, or whose parents are members (not grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or extended family).

Please let us know if there are any food allergies!
Scan the QR Code, email LeAnne in the office, or use the link in the Weekly Update on Friday!
Deadline for submissions is Sunday November 1st!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2027 Congregational Retreat January 15-17(18)

Join us for a weekend in the beautiful North Carolina mountains as we step away from our busy routines to connect with one another, grow in faith, and reflect on what it means to be the church together. Unlike past retreats focused on service projects, this year's retreat will center on belonging, discovering the gifts we each bring, and exploring how we can use those gifts to live out God's mission together. Through meaningful conversations, fellowship, worship, and fun, we'll celebrate what makes Cross & Crown special and look ahead to how God is calling us to grow together in 2027.

ONE BODY, MANY GIFTS, ONE MISSION.
CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT
LUTHEROCK
NEWLAND, NORTH CAROLINA
Welcome Home

Week at a Glance

Sunday, October 25
8:15 am- Worship
9 am- Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Sunday School
10:15 am- Worship

Monday, October 26
7:30 pm- Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, October 27
12 pm- Staff Meeting
1 pm- Congregational Care Team Mtg.
2 pm- Community Care Team Mtg.

Wednesday, October 28
1 pm- Mahjong
TRUNK OR TREAT
6 pm- WNH Dinner
6:30 pm- Council Meeting
6:45 pm- Handbells, 7:30 pm Choir

Thursday, October 29
1 pm- Gift Share

Friday, October 30
4:25 pm- Walking Club

Saturday, October 31



Sunday, November 1
8:15 am- Worship
9 am- Coffee Hour
9:15 am- Adult Sunday School
10:15 am- Worship

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:	**Christine Meiss**
Acolyte:	**Copeland Simpkins**
Communion Assistants:	**Mike Meath, Terry McClure**
Usher:	**Leonard Rutkowski, David Cox**
Communion Set-up:	**Jennifer LaMere**
Greeters:	**Cathy Kozlinski**
Nursery Assistant:	**Amanda Hayes**
C&C Kids:	**Brittany Wellborn, Kia Smith**
C&C Kids Youth Volunteer:	**Taylor Simpkins**
Contribution Counter:	**Barbara Maillet, Cathy Kozlniski**

You can give to C&C by scanning the QR code below.

SCAN TO GIVE

Our Staff

Melody Simpkins	**Co-Pastor**	**pastormelody@crossandcrown.org**
Matt Simpkins	**Co-Pastor**	**pastormatt@crossandcrown.org**
Larry Stratemeyer	**Dir. of Music Ministries**	**music@crossandcrown.org**
LeAnne Bates	**Church Administrator**	**office@crossandcrown.org**
Laura Van Landingham*	**Ministry Program Coordinator**	**ministries@crossandcrown.org**
Dan Goldstein	**Technical Director**	**tech@crossandcrown.org**
Terry McClure	**Hospitality Coordinator**	
Jessica Carter	**Custodian**	

***Free Notary Services: Laura Van Landingham is a commissioned Notary Public. Free notary services are available to Cross & Crown members. Contact Laura to to schedule.**

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Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, words, Fred Kaan, music, Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter Ó 1975 Hope Publishing Co.
Reckless Love, words and music, Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, Ran Jackson Ó 2017 Cory Asbury Publishing, Richmond Park Publishing, Watershed Worship Publishing, Bethel Music Publishing. CCLI Song # 7089641 I Thank God, words and music, Aaron Moses, Chuck Butler, Dante Bowe, Jesse Cline Enrique Holmes, Maryanne J. George Ó 2021 Bethel Worship Publishing, Heritage Worship Music Publishing, Maverick City Publishing, Aaron Moses Chiriboga Music, Be Essential Songs, Holmeboy Music Group, Jesse Cline Publishing Designee, Jord A Lil Music, MJ George Music. CCLI Song # 7169680
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CROSS & CROWN
LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Practical Way to Help Our Members in Need

One of the things that makes Cross & Crown so special is the way we care for one another. Right now, we have a number of individuals and families within our congregation who could use a little extra support.

Many of these needs are not widely known, as people often face difficult circumstances quietly. Through conversations with Pastor Melody and our Congregational Care Team, we are aware of situations where a little extra help can make a meaningful difference.

Rather than focusing on one specific family or circumstance, we are asking our church family to help us build a supply of gift cards that can be shared as needs arise. Gift cards for grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, Uber, Walmart, Target, pharmacies, or other retailers allow us to respond quickly and thoughtfully to a variety of situations.

During the school year, when we gather for Wednesday Night Happenings, our church family often prepares and delivers meals to members who are recovering from illness, grieving, welcoming a new baby, or simply going through a difficult season in life. During the summer months, however, those meals are not as readily available. A restaurant or grocery gift card allows us to continue extending that same care and support, even when Wednesday Night Happenings is on break.

Whether it's helping someone put food on the table, fill up a gas tank for work or medical appointments, or purchase everyday necessities, even a small gift card can be a tangible reminder that they are seen, loved, and supported by their church family.

You may remember receiving scam emails in the past that falsely claimed to be from Pastor Melody asking for gift cards. Those messages were fraudulent, and we appreciate everyone who helped spread the word. **This request is different—it's really from Pastor Melody and our Congregational Care Team.**

If you would like to help, you may drop off gift cards at the church office or place them in the offering plate in a sealed envelope marked **"Member Care Gift Cards."**

Thank you for helping us live out Christ's call to love one another. Your generosity allows us to care for members of our Cross & Crown family with dignity, compassion, and discretion whenever the need arises.

Grace & peace,
Pastor Melody, Pastor Matt & The Congregational Care Team