

CROSSROADS

Atonement Lutheran Church
Cross of Glory Lutheran Church
Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey



December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens



CROSSROADS PARISH



**Proud to be a Reconciling
In Christ Community**

Three Churches, One Big Community In Faith. All Are Welcome



**ATONEMENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
New Brighton, MN



**CROSS OF GLORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Mounds View, MN



**IGLESIA LUTERANA
CRISTO REY**
Crossroads Parish

Atonement Lutheran Church

1980 Silver Lake Road NW
New Brighton, MN 55112
651-633-2240
AtonementNB.org
Worship at 10:45am

Cross of Glory Lutheran Church

5472 Adams Street
Mounds View, MN 55112
763-784-2528
CrossofGloryMV.org
Worship at 8:30am

Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey

Pastora Ana Becerra
1980 Silver Lake Rd NW
New Brighton, MN 55112
763-225-7079
Servicio en Español al mediodía

THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Cassie Nault
Pastora Ana Becerra
Ivan Konev – Cross of Glory Accompanist
Matt Verkuilen/ Jon Thomalla – Audio/Visual
Marilyn Goldsworthy - Sunday School
Maani Grace – Crossroads Music Coordinator

Deacon Brad Mills
Dawn Saros-Kirk – Office Administrator
Debora Holmes – Atonement Accompanist
Tony Houfek/Alice Sponholz – Audio/Visual
Dani Gow – Youth Group

	8:30	10:45
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Gretchen Davis	Andrea Weatherly
LECTOR	Jaime Verkuilen	Royce King
USHER/ACOLYTE	Paula Reed	Judy Hill
GREETER	Jeanne Boyle	Gwen & Kevin Blomseth
BREAD BAKER	No Communion	
COMMUNION SETUP/CLEANUP	No Communion	
COMMUNION SERVERS	No Communion	
COUNTERS	Gretchen Davis, Patsy Thorsbakken	Gwen Blomseth, Tony Houfek

We acknowledge that we gather as Atonement and Cross of Glory Lutheran Churches on the traditional land of the Wahpekute, a band of the Dakota and one of the seven groups of Oceti Sakowin, translated as “the Seven Councils Fire”, also referred to as the Great Sioux Nation as well as Anishinaabe people and other indigenous nations who have called this land home. We further acknowledge that both the State of Minnesota and the United States Government carried out genocide, ethnic cleansing, forced removal and broken promises against indigenous people as a way to acquire land. This calls us to commit to learning how to be better stewards of the land and to support indigenous communities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

TRINITY CHIMES

The singing bowl rings out 3 times to remind us we are gathered in the name of the Triune God.

WORDS OF WELCOME

10:45 Prayer Shawl Blessing

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

Long-expected God,

we confess that we look to ourselves

for the peace and security only you can provide.

We reach for swords and spears,

reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.

We become impatient while waiting

and weary of keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance,

and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.

Increase our trust in God's timing,

and awaken us to your advent among us,

that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"All Earth Is Hopeful/Toda la tierra" vv. 1-4

ELW 266

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, & the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vv. 1 & 2

ELW 257

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

All: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 *(Please read responsively.)*

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 151 ELW

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

The Holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him,

⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Deacon Brad Mills

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hope Awaits for Us at Advent” vv. 1-4

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vv. 1-4

ELW 279

Please stand as you are able.

WE ARE NOT ALONE

L: And now we confess our faith together in the words of “We Are Not Alone”, a creed from the Church of Canada.

**All: 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 INTERCESSION (Response after each petition.)

L: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

LORD’S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us now pray the Lord’s Prayer in whatever language is most familiar.

All: Our Father...

REMINDER OF GOD’S PEACE – *During cold & flu season, we refrain from sharing a sign of peace.*

L: May the peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

L: Please be seated.

OFFERING

Offertory Music: “Prepare the Royal Highway” vv. 1-4

ELW 264

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God of new beginnings, as we lift up our offerings to you, we are filled with hope. We enter the season of Advent with expectation; help us to leave fear and uncertainty behind. May our gifts be dedicated to help heal the brokenness of our world and to welcome our Messiah into the world once again. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“He Came Down” vv. 1-4

Hymn of the Month - ELW 253

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All: Thanks be to God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week at Atonement & Cross of Glory:

Today	8:30 – Worship at Cross of Glory 9:30 – Sunday School/Youth at Cross of Glory 10am – FCC at Atonement 10:45 – Worship at Atonement Noon – Cristo Rey at Atonement Noon – Charitable Giving Meeting Offsite 12:45 – 3:30 - Joint Choir/Orchestra/Brass/Strings Rehearsal at Cross of Glory 3:30 – Recital at Atonement
Monday	8am – Crossroads Bible Study at Atonement 2pm – Puzzles at Atonement 6pm – Girl Scouts at Atonement 6pm – Atonement Property Committee Meeting
Tuesday	6pm – Zumba at Atonement 6:30 – Council Meetings at Cross of Glory
Wednesday	6:30 – Holden Evening Prayer at Cross of Glory 7:30 – Joint Choir Rehearsal at Atonement
Thursday	10am – Mary Circle at Atonement 10am – Naomi Circle at Cross of Glory 1pm – Game Day at Atonement 3pm – Marnie Thies Violin Lessons
Friday	Offices Closed 5pm – New Birth at Cross of Glory
Saturday	9am – New Birth at Cross of Glory 9am – Mount of Blessings at Atonement 2:45 – 6:30pm – All Christmas Cantata Program Rehearsal at Atonement & Pizza
Sunday	8:30 – All Program Warmups & Final Rehearsal 9:30 – Christmas Cantata Program and Breakfast Potluck at Atonement 10am – FCC at Atonement LL <u>Noon – Cristo Rey at Atonement</u>

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE – Join us this **Wednesday, December 10** at Cross of Glory for a Holden Evening Prayer worship service at 6:30pm.

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED this Friday, December 12.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA AND BREAKFAST POTLUCK – **Sunday, December 14**, we will gather together at Atonement for our Christmas Cantata program at 9:30, followed with a breakfast potluck brunch (think breakfast items: egg bakes, hashbrowns, cheesy potatoes, sausages, muffins, etc.). Please bring a dish to share if you are able.

CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY – Wear your ugly or favorite Christmas sweater next **Sunday, December 14** for our Christmas Cantata Program. We'll take a group photo after the program.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY – The kids will have a holiday party **Sunday, December 21** at 9:30am in Cross of Glory's youth room. There will be an ornament exchange (please bring a wrapped \$5 or less ornament if you are able) and Pastor Cassie will show a short slide show of her sabbatical adventures. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US** in the youth room for the sabbatical slide show.

SENIORS TO SENIORS CONCERT - The Irondale High School Music Department invites the community to our annual **Seniors to Seniors Holiday Concert** on **Friday, December 12** at **12:30 p.m.** The Concert Choir, Symphonic Winds, and Symphony Orchestra will perform a free holiday concert for parents, grandparents, and community members. Caroling (with free coffee and cookies) starts at 12:00 in the lobby. Come enjoy beautiful music! For further details, please contact: Jason Etten at 651-621-6847 or jason.etten@mvpsschools.org.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR SNACK DRIVE - Due to lack of Federal funding we are again asking for your help to supply snacks to 11 elementary schools in the Mounds View School District. We so appreciated your help In September and we're hoping you will help again. If you choose to give, we're looking for large boxes or individual bags of Cheezits and pretzels. These can be found at Target, Amazon, Costco and Sams. **Please bring your donations by Sunday, December 14.** Thank you for your generosity. Laurel Nelson & Leslie Pierce

WINTER COAT COLLECTION ENDS DECEMBER 14 – The Mounds View Police are collecting gently used or new winter weight coats for their Annual Winter Warm-up Coat Drive. Bring in your donations to benefit the Salvation Army and Harbor Light Center and leave them in the coat area at either church. Thank you!

RALPH REEDER FOOD SHELF – Please bring in non-perishable food donations to benefit families in our community. Monetary donations are even better; for every \$1.00, Ralph Reeder can purchase up to 8 pounds of food. AND there is currently a generous matching holiday challenge from Bell Lumber and Pole. All first-time donations or increased giving by a current supporter over the previous year will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$150,000 through December. Ways to make a monetary donation: By mail; online at RalphReederFoodShelf.org; or drop it off at Ralph Reeder. Food donations can be left at either church.

THE ATONEMENT COUNCIL is seeking 2-3 members for election at the next annual meeting. If interested, please see a member of the Nominating Committee: Andrea Weatherly, Carol Hoiby or Tony Houfek.

CROSS OF GLORY COUNCIL – Please see one of our current council members if you are interested in learning more about being part of our church council. (Paula Reed, Kolleen Olsen, Peg Lindner, Kevin Gaylor, Gretchen Davis, Claire Verkuilen, Brianna Thomalla)

THANK YOU FROM CHIEF BEN ZENDER - Recently Cross of Glory and Atonement made a donation to the K9 unit of the Mounds View Police Department and we're sharing the thank you. "Good afternoon, I just received the check to go towards the training of our new K9 in the Spring of 2026. I can't thank you all

enough for all your support and partnership throughout the years. Thanks again and we really do appreciate it!" Chief Ben Zender, Mounds View Police Department

ABCD 2026 SCHEDULE – Please talk to Nancy Jahnke if you have any questions about the book club.

No meetings in July and August

Jan 5 *The Eyes and The Impossible* by Dave Eggers

Feb 2 *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak

March 2 *The Small and the Mighty* by Sharon McMahon

April 6 *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach

May 4 *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel

June 1 *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kristen Miller

Sept 14 (2nd Monday) *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

Oct. 5 *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir

Dec. 7 *The Six: The Untold Story of America's First Women in Space* by Loren Grush

PAPER ANGELS CARD MINISTRY – Birthday, anniversary and other life event cards are sent out by the Paper Angels Card Ministry group. Please check with the office to make sure we have your birth date and anniversary date so we can send you a card.

CROSS OF GLORY 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Coming soon! If you don't usually receive a box of envelopes, please let Dawn know that you would like one.



Holiday Schedule

MID-WEEK ADVENT (6:30pm)

December 10 – Holden Evening Prayer at Cross of Glory

December 17 – Longest Night Service at Atonement

SUNDAY ADVENT

December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent/Hanging of the Greens

December 14 – Christmas Cantata Program at Atonement **(9:30am)** with potluck brunch to follow

December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS

December 24– Christmas Candlelight Service at Atonement **(4pm)**

December 24 – Christmas Candlelight Service at Cross of Glory with Cristo Rey **(10pm)**

December 28 – Lessons and Carols at Atonement **(9:30am)**

January 4, 2026 – Epiphany