

# CROSSROADS

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



The Good News Is...So Good, It Catches Us By Surprise  
February 22, 2026  
First Sunday in Lent



# 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

	<b>8:30</b>	<b>10:45</b>
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Jaime Verkuilen	Andrea Weatherly
LECTOR	Kolleen Olsen	Vicki Klaers
USHER/ACOLYTE	Leslie Bjork	Carol Hoiby
GREETER	Annette Steichen	Vicki Klaers
COMMUNION SETUP/CLEANUP	Linda Radtke	Carol Hoiby
COMMUNION SERVERS	Gretchen Davis, Linda Radtke	Vicki Klaers, Andrea Weatherly
COUNTERS	Bob Reed, Gretchen Davis	Gwen Blomseth, Bruce Jahnke

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

(ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship cranberry hymnal; ACS = All Creation Sings)

### 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

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

The good news of the gospel is:

**All: manna in the desert,  
water turned into wine,  
love after loss,  
forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**All: release for the captive,  
hope for the hopeless,  
mourning turned to dancing,  
and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

**All: Let us worship this good-news God.**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may have heard, "All is fair in love and war," or "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But God says, "Forgive seventy times seven." God says, "I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." God says, "Turn the other cheek." God's mercy catches us by surprise. So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer. Let us be surprised by God's grace all over again. Friends, let us pray:

**All: Loving God,  
somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful,  
we have to be serious.  
We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.  
We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.  
We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.  
But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed.  
You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.  
And all of a sudden, we wonder:  
Can we be like that mustard seed?  
Can we be faithful and unruly?  
Can we be playful and curious?**

**Can we be messy and still be yours?  
We know the answer already.  
The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.  
Forgive our doubt.  
Pull us closer into your embrace.  
With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.**

God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising. God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?" the answer is and always will be:

**All: of course, of course, of course.**

This is the good news of the gospel.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### OPENING HYMN

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" vv. 1-3

ELW 325

#### 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.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**All: Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed. It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it. It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst. So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us. Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news. We wait with bated breath. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

"This Little Light of Mine" v. 1

ELW 677

*Children, please come forward while we sing.*

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Cassie Nault

"This Little Light of Mine" v. 2

*As the children return to their families, the lector comes forward.*

#### READING: JOHN 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup> He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. <sup>9</sup> When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from

(though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” <sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

LENTEN ACCLAMATION

page 205 ELW

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-32

The Holy gospel according to Matthew.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

LENTEN THEME SONG “Improbable” - Lyrics and music by Britt Kusserow

SERMON

Deacon Brad Mills

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus Is a Rock in a Wearily Land” vv. 1-3

ELW 333

CREED

L: Please stand as you are able as we confess our faith together.

**All: I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**It sounds like welcome**

**and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter**

**and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love**

**and feels like a seat at the table,**

**so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**I have seen it alive in the world.**

**And even when my heart aches,**

**even when wars rage,**

**even when mercy feels out of reach,**

**I remember the one who**

**welcomed the children**

**and led with nonviolence.  
I remember the one who  
cared for the vulnerable  
and inspired those around him.  
I remember that the good news really is good news,  
for I have seen it alive in the world.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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: “Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church” vv. 1-3

ELW 321

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

page 206 ELW

The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

page 207 ELW

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD’S PRAYER

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

**All: Our Father...**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*During the season of Lent, we receive wafers for communion as the symbol of preparation. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. There is wine which is red in color and white grape juice in the center. There are baskets at the end of each aisle for empty communion cups.*

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

“Bless the Lord/10,000 Reasons” – *Hymn of the Month*

ACS 1097

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” vv. 1-4

ELW 599

## COMMUNION BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

### BENEDICTION

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won’t, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” vv. 1-4

ELW 319

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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*“Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”  
“Improbable” © Britt Kusserow 2026 | Commissioned by A Sanctified Art LLC www.brittkusserow.com  
Featuring art by: Nicolette Faison, Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell, T. Denise Anderson, Lauren Wright Pittman,  
Hannah Garrity Video by: Lisle Gwynn Garrity*

## 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 10:45 – Worship at Atonement 3pm – FCC at Atonement
Monday	8am – Crossroads Bible Study at Atonement 2pm – Puzzles at Atonement 6pm – Girl Scouts at Atonement
Tuesday	6pm – Zumba at Atonement
Wednesday	5:30 – Soup Supper at Atonement 6:30 – Midweek Lenten Worship at Atonement
Thursday	1pm – Game Day at Atonement 3pm – Marnie Theis Violin Lessons at Cross of Glory
Friday	4pm – Charitable Giving Meeting Offsite 5pm – New Birth at Cross of Glory 7pm – Women’s Retreat through Sunday at 1pm
Saturday	9am – New Birth at Cross of Glory 9am – Mount of Blessings at Atonement
Sunday	8:30 – Worship at Cross of Glory 9:30 – Sunday School/Youth at Cross of Glory 10am – FCC at Atonement <u>10:45 – Worship at Atonement</u>

**PLEASE JOIN US** this Wednesday, February 25 for soup supper and mid-week Lenten service at 6:30pm at Atonement.

**2025 ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS** are in your mailboxes at both churches.

**CROSSROADS SPRING PLANT SALE** – Order your spring plants early. Ordering is open until 10pm on Monday, April 6. We cannot accept late orders. Order early as some items have limited quantities. Pick up day will be Wednesday, May 13 from 2pm – 6pm at Cross of Glory. See Dawn if you need help with ordering.

**EASTER** flowers can be ordered now to help beautify our sanctuaries for Easter Sunday. This year, we will offer Easter Lilies to purchase, as usual, however due to allergies, they will not be displayed in the sanctuary. You can pick up Lilies before Easter and the rest of the plants can be picked up right after Easter service.

**BWCA BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE TRIP** - August 12-16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - We have secured 1 permit for 9 people for entry #16 Moose/Portage River North up to the Boundary Waters on an intergenerational adventure trip! **When:** August 12th, we will leave in the evening at 6pm and arrive at Grace Lutheran in Ely, MN and

spend the night in the church basement. We will be on trail 3 full days and then come off water Sunday morning August 16th and arrive home around dinner time.

**Who:** Intergenerational trip, all ages welcome however if under 6th grade an accompanying adult is required.

**Where:** Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Ely, MN

**Cost:** \$375 Approximate depending on group sizes.

**Register:** Sign up and put down a \$50 deposit by June 30<sup>th</sup>

**Bring:** Full pack list will be coming but you will need your own sleeping bag & pad, canoe pack (rental available), clothes, tent, personal plate/spoon/cup set, and LifeStraw water filter bottle.

**Provided:** Church will provide (with help of outfitting) Kevlar canoe, paddle, all food and camp kitchen, maps, permits and legal documents, and leadership/canoe guide (on over a dozen group trips). We will also provide spirituality content, first word, bible study, prayer and more.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** – Mark your calendars for our Good Friday morning Easter Egg Hunt at Cross of Glory. Volunteers are needed that morning to help assemble treat bags and hide eggs. Watch for more information!

**MEMORIAL SERVICE NOTIFICATION** – Cross of Glory former member, Jocelyn Daneizen passed away. Her family is having a memorial service on Friday, March 6 at Summit Funeral Home, 6415 Carmen Ave E, Inver Grove Heights 55076. Memorial service at 1:30 followed by lunch.

**THRIVENT ACTION GRANT** - Do you have a Thrivent Financial product, policy, or account? Did you know you are eligible for a \$250 grant every year? Please contact the church office if you have a Thrivent account and would like to use your action team grant towards outreach in our church community as we are assembling a list of all members with Thrivent action grants.

**RENEW: WAPO WOMEN'S RETREAT is next weekend, Friday, February 27 at 7pm to Sunday, March 1 at 1pm.** This retreat is designed to offer space to renew your spirit. Cost is \$200 with \$50 non-refundable fee at registration. Must be 18+ years old. Sign up in the narthex so we know who's attending. Register here: <https://lakewapo.org/programs/renew-wapo-womens-retreat/>

**ROOTED & RESTORED: WAPO MEN'S RETREAT** - Mark your calendars for the Wapo Men's Retreat which is led by a talented Bible Study and Worship leader along with our retreat staff. Come for a fun weekend to recharge. There will be lots of time for fun and games as well as time for some serious relaxing. **Friday, May 1 at 5pm to Sunday, May 3 at noon** for ages 18+. Cost is \$200. (Register by April 1<sup>st</sup> to get 10% off). Register here: <https://lakewapo.org/programs/recharge-wapo-mens-retreat/>  
Sign up in the narthex so we know who's attending.

**QUINCY HOUSE** - Quincy House is a home in Mounds View (8025 Red Oak Drive) where there are after school activities (basketball, volleyball, outdoor play, etc.) and opportunities for conversation and guidance. Youth receive personalized attention. A fundraiser for Quincy House will be held on Saturday, February 28 from 6:30-9:30 PM at The Mermaid (2200 Mounds View Blvd). If you would like to attend,

contact Director Darnell Baker at [Operations@quincyhouse.org](mailto:Operations@quincyhouse.org). Tickets are \$75/person. ~ The Charitable Giving Team

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS** - If you'd like a Lenten Devotional booklet, they are \$2 each, to cover the cost of printing, and will be printed as needed. Please sign up if you would like to receive one and it will be delivered to your church mailbox. Just drop \$2 in the offering basket any time.

## **MID-WEEK LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Soup Supper 5:30; Worship 6:30

### **MID-WEEK SERVICES**

February 25, March 4 – Atonement

March 11, 18, 25 – Cross of Glory

#### **Artist's Statement for Cover Art**

“We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep” by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell  
Inspired by Matthew 13:31-32; 11”x14” Acrylic, mustard seed on paper

Loose mustard seeds are nearly impossible to contain. They drift and scatter with the slightest breeze, asserting their own unruly will much like the mustard plants themselves. The mustard plant, dismissed as invasive weeds by some, is cultivated for healing and nourishment by others. Even now, after completing this piece, I am still finding stray seeds in my laundry, my car, my hair.

“They tried to bury us; they didn’t know we were seeds,” a line attributed to Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos,<sup>6</sup> has become a rallying cry for separated families along the Mexican-American border. More than a century earlier, Toussaint Louverture—the formerly enslaved commander of the self-emancipated army of Black cultivators in Saint-Domingue (colonial Haiti)—voiced a similar belief upon his deportation and imprisonment in France: “You have done no more than cut down the trunk of the tree of Black liberty. . . It will spring back from the roots, for they are numerous and deep.”

From the Corn Mother of Indigenous myth to African women braiding okra seeds into their hair as they were forced from their homelands, many of our ancestors understood the power of carrying life in its smallest form. Seed-carrying is an act of faith. These tiny, unassuming specks hold the audacious hope that wherever we go, we already have what we need to take root and flourish in strange and foreign soils. May our faith and our hopes be just as audacious, resilient, and uncontainable as the seeds which hold the fruits of our faith. —Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell