The Twenty Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2026

Altar flowers are given today by Frank & Bettina Puckett in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope – word, water, bread, and wine – eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Gathering Song **"Freedom"**

Welcome and Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of – or as invitation to – their baptism.

P: … in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.
C: Amen

Confession and Forgiveness

Opening Song **"Great Are You Lord"**

Prayer of the Day

This prayer is prayed in Christian churches throughout the world today. We pray it as a sign of unity and hope, shared with all God's children.

The Sharing of the Peace

We offer the peace of Christ as a way of preparing to break bread together as family and friends. It's a sign that we live in community as believers.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Musical Meditation "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" **Bells of Grace**
Mitchell Eithun, Ring Out Press RO3390

First Reading **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18** (p. 765)

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** (p. 960)
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON "The Box" **Natalie McMurtrey**
"The Box" is our way of welcoming children – and the Spirit of God through children – in worship. Each week a child brings "The Box" with a surprise for us to share. We never know what is inside, but we trust God always has something to teach us through the gifts that children bring. ***The child who brings The Box to worship, is also invited to help hold the basket for empty cups during communion, so please send them forward right after the Lord's Prayer.***

CHILDREN'S CHURCH
While children are welcome to stay in worship, they are also welcome to join other kids and adult leaders in the Fellowship Room for a time of learning and fun, just for them, so parents can focus on the sermon in a way most kids don't care to. Kids return during the Congregational Song.

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 25:14-30** (p. 807)

SERMON **Pastor Mark**

CONGREGATIONAL SONG **"Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me"**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

OFFERING
Sharing our gifts is a significant act of worship for Christians. At Cross of Grace our offering is a practice in gratitude, sacrifice and joy. If you choose to share an offering, we thank you for your generosity and trust you'll be blessed by your giving. Use the QR code here if you'd like to give via our website.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION
We give thanks for the meal and hear the "Words of Institution" – the same words Jesus shared with his disciples when he prayed at the Last Supper.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF THE MEAL

The meal of Holy Communion – like God's abundant grace – is a gift to be shared with all who will receive it. If you're a guest with us, please accept an invitation to the meal we share. It's an invitation that comes from us because it comes first from the God we worship. Welcome to the table.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG **"I Saw the Light"**

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

If you're a guest with us this morning, thanks for being part of our worship. We're blessed by and better because of your presence. Please let Pastor Mark, Pastor Cogan, or one of our Partners in Mission know you are here and join us again, soon. Also, take a minute to fill out the Grace Notes insert so we'll know who was with us, even if we miss the chance to welcome you in person.



Please recycle your bulletin using the bins near the main entrance.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Greeter: Shelley Swift
Ushers: Tonya Reid & Julie Zachary
Acolyte: Naomi Forehand
Lay Reader: Liz Blachly
Comm. Assistants: Sandy Havel & Jordan Reid
Children's Church: Tonya Reid & Emma Wolpert
Refreshments: Wenning, Hall, Conarroe, Gakpo
Altar Setup: Connie Mitchell
Altar Clean Up: Jordan Reid
Bread Baker: Paula McCain
Counters: Sandy Havel & Kevin Minnick
Cleaning Crew: Prickel, R. Graham, Stoeffler
Nursery: Denise Ehle

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GRACE

Sunday, November 15

- Bells of Grace – 5:30 p.m.
- HS Youth Group – 6:00 p.m.
- Alleluia Ringers – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 16

- Men's Sermon Talk – 12:00 p.m.
- Boy Scouts – 5:30 p.m.
- Agape – 6:00 p.m.
- Giving the Sense – 7:00 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17

- Breakfast with Pastor Mark – 6:30 a.m.
- Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 p.m.
- Church Council – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18

- Groceries of Grace – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 19

- Bethel Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.
- Praise Band – 7:00 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 20

- Craft Fellowship – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 21

- Prayer Vigil – 8:00 a.m.

Attendance Last Week: 188

GENERAL FUND

Avg. Weekly Expenses:		$11,012.71
Offering Last Week:		$18,466.48
November Total:		$32,589.80
Fiscal YTD Income	(10/31/26)	$198,558.16
Fiscal YTD Expense	(10/31/26)	$199,210.30

Our General Fund supports our ministry. We tithe 10% of it to the ELCA and its mission to start new congregations, fund worldwide missionaries, administrate disaster relief, and more.

(Our fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30)

BUILDING AND OUTREACH FUND

Three Year Commitment:	$1,379,966.39
Offering Last Week:	$10,903.31
Given To Date:	$852,527.16

Our Building and Outreach Fund commitments began anew in January. 10% of these offerings help Project Rouj build homes in Fondwa, Haiti, even as we grow our own home at Cross of Grace.

(Please be praying about the building project and for our Sweat Equity Team as things progress!)

Mark Havel, *Lead Pastor* ● Cogan Blackmon, *Pastor*
Sheri Bradley, *Music Minister*
Amanda Terrell, *Administrative Assistant*

www.crossofgrace.org ● Find us on Facebook and Instagram ● churchoffice@crossofgrace.org