



THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 12, 2026

*Altar flowers today are given by Mark and Cindy Mattes,
in celebration of Jamie's and Cindy's birthdays.*

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

GATHERING SONG

"Cross of Grace"

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of, or as an invitation to, Holy Baptism.

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

C: Amen

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.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-13 (p. 598)

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:1-11 (p. 918)

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its slavery. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

“The Box”

Naomi Forehand

*“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, with the other Communion Assistants.***

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 13:1-9, 18-23 (p. 794)

SERMON

Pastor Teri Ditslear

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

“Firm Foundation (He Won’t)”

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 are with us as a guest, we hope we’ve been able to offer something to you this morning. If you choose to share an offering in the name of Jesus Christ, 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

P: Now may God bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

"This Little Light of Mine"

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 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.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY, JULY 12, 2026

Greeter: Deon Bishop

Ushers: Phil Galligan & Sandy Havel

Acolyte: Annika Forehand

Lay Reader: Kristen Anderson

Comm. Assistants: Dianne Kaucher & Christa Havel

Children's Church: Kim Forehand

Altar Setup: Connie Mitchell

Altar Clean Up: Kristen Anderson

Bread Baker: Zina Compton

Counters: Lynn Galligan & Betsy Goers

Cleaning Crew: Schwartz & Seigert

Lawn Mower: Miles Hercamp & Fred Fox

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GRACE

Sunday, July 12

- Traditional Worship – 8:30 a.m.
- Groundbreaking Blessing – 9:45 am.
- Contemporary Worship – 10:00 a.m.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry – 1:00 p.m.

Monday, July 13

- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14

- Kids' Movie Night – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15

- Summer Reading AM – 10:00 a.m.
- Food Pantry – 4:00 p.m.
- Summer Reading PM – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 16

- Cycling Club – 6:30 p.m.
- Praise Band – 7:30 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 18

- Moms' Nite Out – 7:00 p.m.

GENERAL FUND

Avg. Weekly Expenses:	\$11,477.58
Offering Last Week:	\$7,784.12
July Total:	\$7,784.12
Fiscal YTD Income (05/31/26)	\$587,007.57
Fiscal YTD Expense (5/31/26)	\$538,457.57

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

(Our fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30.)

BUILDING AND OUTREACH FUND

Three Year Commitment:	\$1,379,966.39
Offering Last Week:	\$3,895.23
Given To Date:	\$628,154.15

Our Building and Outreach Fund commitments began anew in January. 10% of these offerings will 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 as we wait to break ground and get to work!)

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 162

Mark Havel, *Lead Pastor* • Cogan Blackmon, *Pastor*

Jeannie Ellenberger, *Music Minister* • Sheri Bradley, *Contemporary Music Minister*

Amanda Terrell, *Administrative Assistant*

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