

*Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling
of the law.*

Romans 13:10



15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 6, 2026

10:15 am Family Contemporary Worship



Following Jesus. Loving & Serving All.

WELCOME

Welcome to worship! Cross & Crown is an inclusive, vibrant Christ-centered church committed to caring for and serving our communities and each other. We hope that you will feel a warm welcome and will worship with us again!

PARENTS

We love the sound of kids in our service! Here are some ideas to keep them engaged.

Relax! It's ok to let kids be kids!

Sit close: Consider sitting up front where it's easier for kids to see and hear.

Explain: Kids are curious! Explain what's happening in the service.

Participate: Sing hymns loudly, pray, respond, etc. Children learn by following your lead.

Activities: If you would like a bag of quiet activities for your little ones, ask an usher and they will provide one for you.

Wander: It's ok to move around. Sometimes it's easier to let fidgety kids move a bit.

Need to Leave? No problem, but please come back! Sometimes kids just need a break. There are speakers in the narthex & Common Room so you can hear. The narthex is a great place to get the wiggles out, and the Common Room is nice if you need privacy.

Ask: Questions or just need help? Just ask one of our ushers.

Childcare: The nursery is down the hall in the Multipurpose Space for infants to age 4 & is available during both worship services. If you need assistance, an usher can help you. C&C Kids is offered to kids pre-K through 3rd grade. Kids depart the sanctuary during the Sharing of the Peace and return to worship before communion.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sunday school classes are offered for adults located in the Multipurpose space. Our adult class, Books of Faith, meets in room 206.

Communion is offered each week. Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table!

Cross & Crown has something for everyone, and not just on Sundays. During the week, we have activities such as Bible studies and small groups. Come join us for a home-cooked meal on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. See the back of the bulletin for more details and how to RSVP.



Now that you know a little about us, help us get to know your story by scanning the QR code to fill out our First Time Guest Connection Form- share as much or as little as you'd like. It takes less than a minute!



SCAN HERE

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

Carter

Worship Song

Mighty to Save

Morgan, Fielding

Verse 1

Ev'ryone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

Chorus

Saviour He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

Verse 2

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Ev'rything I believe in
Now I surrender

Bridge

Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King
Jesus
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King

Confession

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for relection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation cries from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Refrain

*Holy Spirit You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your Presence Lord*

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us, kneeling, sitting, or standing.

God of Us All, you show us an immense amount of love. You are gracious, compassionate, and abounding in steadfast love. Help us to reflect your love in our homes, to our neighbors, and in our community. Fill our hearts and community with a spirit of deep understanding and care for others.

On this Labor Day weekend, we pray for all who work with their hands, minds, and hearts. Grant them strength for daily tasks, safe environments, and a fair wage to provide for their families. We lift up those who are seeking employment, those who are weary, and those unable to work due to illness or circumstance. Open doors of opportunity and surround them with our care and support.

(refrain)

God of Us All, Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. Fill us with compassion so we can care for one another through your eyes. Bring comfort to those who are hurting, strength to the weary, and hope to the forgotten. We lift to you those on our congregational prayer list and those we name aloud at this time.

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

Thank You for placing us together in the body of Christ for fellowship, ministry, and worship. Make your church a shining light and a place of real comfort. Help us serve our neighbors and show Your relentless grace to everyone we meet.

Strengthen all peacemakers who serve in dangerous places and work tirelessly to heal a broken world. Disarm the hearts of those who wage war and turn the thirst for power into a hunger for justice.

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.

(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.



This Week's Story: The Red Sea
Icebreaker Question: What is your favorite color?

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

THE WORD

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Jeremy Carr

THANKSGIVING

Anthem

Love Your Neighbor

Helman

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, with all your mind and all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

May your love move us to action: feed the hungry, clothe the poor, take away our blind indifference to the needy at our door.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, with all your mind and all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Grant us eyes to see the wounded, ears to hear their cries of pain; fill our hearts with your compassion, so we'll serve all in your name.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, with all your mind and all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Offertory Hymn

182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

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

Lord, I Need You

Nockels, Carson, Reeves, Stanfill, Maher

Verse 1

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus 1

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Verse 2

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Bridge

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

Chorus 2

Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

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.**

Raise a Hallelujah

Verse 1

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies
I raise a hallelujah louder than the unbelief
I raise a hallelujah my weapon is a melody
I raise a hallelujah Heaven comes to fight for me

Chorus

I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm
Louder and louder you're gonna hear my praises
roar
Up from the ashes hope will arise
Death is defeated the King is alive

Verse 2

I raise a hallelujah with everything inside of me
I raise a hallelujah I will watch the darkness flee
I raise a hallelujah in the middle of the mystery
I raise a hallelujah fear you lost your hold on me

J. Helser, M. Helser, Skaggs, Stevens

Bridge 1

Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)
Sing a little louder (Sing a little louder)

Bridge 2

Sing a little louder in the presence of my enemies
Sing a little louder louder than the unbelief
Sing a little louder my weapon is a melody
Sing a little louder Heaven comes to fight for me

(REPEAT)

Sing a little louder

Ending

I raise a hallelujah

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*

SEPTEMBER 20



Rooted Sunday is back for YEAR 2! After an amazing first year, our Rooted Sunday program grew quickly, and we're excited to continue creating a place where children and youth can grow deeper in faith together. Once a month, elementary students, middle schoolers, and high schoolers will explore a common theme through age-appropriate Bible stories, hands-on activities, meaningful conversations, and opportunities to ask questions and connect faith to everyday life. There's something for everyone, and we can't wait to see how God continues to grow our Rooted family!

LUNCH IS PROVIDED! 11:30-2:30

Sept
20

Foundations: What Is Church?/ What is Confirmation?

We'll explore that the Church is not just a building, but the community that gathers around Word and Sacrament. Children will discover that the Church is a place where we hear God's Word, receive God's grace, and grow together in faith. We'll also explore confirmation as a time to ask questions, deepen our understanding of faith, and claim the promises God made to us in baptism as we grow into our lives as followers of Jesus.

Women & Wine

Mimosas, munchies, and morning laughs—what could be better?

You're invited to Women & Wine where the vibes are light, the glasses are bubbly, and the company is fabulous. Hosted by Kati Goode & Tammie Hersey, Saturday, Sept. 12th, 9am-noon

Kati & Tammie will have the Mimosa Bar (non-alcoholic options available, too!) ready to go! All you need to do is bring an appetizer to share and your favorite beverage of choice (wine, coffee, tea... whatever makes you smile!) Let's sip, snack, and soak up some morning fun together!



SCAN TO RSVP!

New Cross & Crown Apparel Is Coming!

Show your Cross & Crown spirit while supporting our youth! Beginning next week, new Cross & Crown apparel will be available through an online store set up directly with our vendor.

There will be lots of options to choose from, including hoodies, long-sleeve T-shirts, hats, and a pullover option. With a variety of styles and sizes available, there's something for everyone!

Best of all, your purchase helps support our youth as they raise funds to attend the National Youth Gathering next year! It's a great way to add some new Cross & Crown gear to your wardrobe while helping our young people have an incredible faith-filled experience.

Watch for the online store link next week and start shopping! All orders will be placed directly through the online store and fulfilled by our vendor.

Wear your Cross & Crown pride and support our youth!



Suds & Duds: We Need Your Quarters!



The Community Care Team is getting ready for our Suds & Duds event this October, and we need your help—one quarter at a time!

Did you know that an average load of laundry can cost \$4–\$5 to wash and another \$3–\$5 to dry at a laundromat? We want to help make laundry day a little easier for someone in our community by gifting a small bottle of laundry detergent and a roll of quarters at several local laundromats.

So, start saving those quarters! Drop your spare quarters into one of the collection jars each week and help us spread a little kindness, encouragement, and joy this October. Your quarters can make someone's laundry day—and their day—a whole lot brighter!

YouthQuake- Sept. 26

YouthQuake is a gathering for 3rd-5th grade from across the NC Synod for fellowship, learning, service, and worship. This year, the theme is What is the Church? This year's YouthQuake, Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at First Lutheran, Greensboro. The cost of \$25/person includes lunch and a T-shirt! Adults: All adults attending must have Safe Gathering Certification or provide proof of other background check and training approved by the church.



**Scan to
Register!**



Hey Kids! Welcome to Worship!

Families with children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to Welcome to Worship on Sunday, September 13, immediately following the 10:15 am service.

This fun, 30-minute experience will help children and parents feel more comfortable and confident worshipping together at Cross & Crown. Parents will meet with Pastor Melody in the Common Room to talk about children in worship and how we can help them grow in faith. Children will meet with our C&C Kids Leaders in the Fellowship Hall to learn about C&C Kids this fall. Then, we'll head into the sanctuary together to explore the different parts of worship and learn why we do what we do each Sunday. We'll have snacks (allergy friendly snacks, too!)

Women's Zoom Bible Study Resumes September 14th!

The Women's Bible Study group meets via Zoom on Monday evenings at 7:30pm. We will be starting our next study on Monday, September 14th with "Friends & Sisters; Belong & Relating to One Another in the Family of Faith". This study will run from September 14th – October 12th. If you'd like to join this study please contact

Allison Muzevich @ acm0321@gmail.com.

Books can be purchased from Lifeway Women or by scanning the QR Code!



**Scan to purchase
your book!**

**Thursday:
September 10**

All women are welcome!
Join us at Metro Diner

12:30 pm

Text/Call Kathy Shepler
to RSVP: 330-603-4115



**TOWN
HALL
SEPT. 13**

Between Services

ROADSIDE CLEANUP: NEXT SATURDAY, SEPT. 12!



Our next Roadside Cleanup is NEXT SATURDAY, September 12! We'll gather at the church at 8:45 a.m. for a brief safety review before heading out at 9:00 a.m. Most teams finish in about two hours, but the difference we make lasts much longer! No experience is needed, and volunteers ages 12 and older are welcome. Come serve alongside fellow Cross & Crown members, meet new people, enjoy a morning outdoors, and be a visible reminder that Cross & Crown cares about our community. Scan the QR code to sign up or contact Jason Watts at jswatts72@gmail.com for more information.

Come be part of the team! Together, let's care for our community and help everyone feel a little more at home.



Why Do You Serve? What does serving at Cross & Crown mean to you?

Our Annual Ministry Fair is returning **September 13-20** in the Narthex, featuring the many active ministries that make our church community thrive. This is a great opportunity to discover ways to get involved, learn more about the ministries happening at Cross & Crown, and find a place where your gifts and passions can make a difference.

This year's theme is "Why Do You Serve?" We want to hear from you! Maybe you serve because you love connecting with others. Maybe you have a passion for helping children, caring for others, worship, outreach, or hospitality. Maybe serving has helped you grow in your faith or has connected you with people you now consider family. Whatever your reason, your story matters.

We invite everyone who serves in a Cross & Crown ministry to share a sentence or two about why you serve. Your responses will be featured as part of the Ministry Fair and may encourage someone else to take that first step into serving. Email your responses to Laura Van Landingham at ministries@crossandcrown.org.

Stop by the Narthex **September 13-20**, explore the ministries represented, and discover where God might be calling you to serve. And if you're already serving, take a moment to share why you serve—you never know who your story might inspire!

Week at a Glance

Tuesday, September 7

Labor Day- Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

9:30 am- Squares of Love Quilting
12 pm- Staff Meeting

Wednesday, September 9

1 pm- Mahjong
6 pm- WNH Dinner
6:45 pm- Handbells
7:30 pm Choir

Thursday, September 10

12:30 pm- Lunch Bunch
1 pm- Gift Share
7 pm- Miriam Circle

Sunday, September 13

MINISTRY FAIR!

8:15 am- Worship
9:15 am- Town Hall Meeting
10:15 am- Worship
11:15 am- Welcome to Worship Class
(Ages 3-3rd grade)

Serving in Worship Today

Assisting Minister:	Mike Meath
Acolyte:	Copeland Simpkins
Communion Assistants:	Suzy Wleznia, Cathy Kozlinski
Usher:	Keith Whitener, Roger Black
Communion Set-up:	Hugh Kluttz
Greeters:	Brittany Wellborn
Nursery Assistant:	Kati Goode
C&C Kids:	Jason & Dawn Watts
Contribution Counter:	Cathy Kozlinski, Vivian Farland

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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