

The Weekly Update

September 18, 2026



MEET LAUREN, OUR NEW YOUTH MENTOR!



We are excited to welcome Lauren Bloss to Cross & Crown as our new youth mentor. The youth mentor is a college student that's supports the pastors in the area of youth ministry. But most importantly, Lauren will be there to create relationships with our youth, provide them with an example of a young adult with strong faith, and walk with our youth throughout their faith journey in middle school and high school.

Lauren grew up in Blythewood, South Carolina, where she was baptized and confirmed at Living Springs Lutheran Church. There she was an active member of the youth group and participated regularly in service through dance and music and other layperson opportunities. Last summer she served as a counselor at Lutheridge and is continuing to work with Lutheridge throughout the year by serving as a counselor in the bRIDGE program. She currently attends Winthrop University where she is a Junior majoring in dance education. After graduation, Lauren's current spirit tug is leading her to attend seminary. Lauren is passionate about Faith formation and youth ministry and is excited to work with the youth at Cross & Crown.

G.E.T. READY! GUEST EXPERIENCE TEAM TRAINING SUNDAY!

This Sunday, September 20, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service, join us for a light lunch and training for our new Guest Experience Team (G.E.T.)!

Pastor Matt will lead the approximately one-hour training and help us learn how we can make every person who walks through our doors feel welcomed, valued, and at home.

Jeff Bratschie and Jill Jurgensen will coordinate the G.E.T. We're building four teams of two people for the 8:15 a.m. service and four teams of four people for the 10:15 a.m. service, with teams serving on a rotating basis.

Already registered? No need to sign up again! If you haven't registered yet, use the link below to sign up for lunch and training. We'd love to have you join us!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 4:00 PM

Join us for a special Blessing of the Animals Service at 4:00 PM as we celebrate the wonderful creatures God has placed in our lives! Bring your dogs, cats, bunnies, birds, hamsters, fish—if it wiggles, wags, woofs, or chirps, it's welcome! And this year, we'll have HORSES joining us as a special treat! For everyone's safety, please keep pets on a leash or in a carrier.

Don't have a pet? No worries! We'll have stuffed animals available, so everyone can join in the fun and receive a blessing. Come celebrate God's creation with us—furry, feathered, four-legged, and all!



ROOTED SUNDAY IS THIS WEEK!

Kids and youth of all ages will dig into faith through Bible stories, hands-on activities, real conversations, and more. One Sunday a month. One shared faith journey.

Different ages. One ROOTED family.

AND YES—LUNCH IS INCLUDED!

Foundations: What Is Church?/ What is Confirmation?

This Sunday, children will discover that the Church is more than a building—it's a community where they hear God's Word, receive God's grace, and grow in faith together. They'll explore what it means to follow Jesus and, through confirmation, have a chance to ask questions, deepen their faith, and live out their baptismal promises.



Lutheranism 101: Exploring the Lutheran Faith

Curious about what Lutherans believe and why we worship, serve, and live out our faith the way we do? Lutheranism 101 is a relaxed, welcoming class for adults who are new to the Lutheran faith or simply want to learn more about what it means to be Lutheran. We'll explore the basics of Lutheran theology, worship, Scripture, grace, Baptism, Communion, prayer, and what it means to live out our faith in everyday life.

The class will meet once a month during Sunday school 9:15-10am, September 2026 through May 2027. No prior knowledge or experience is necessary—just bring your questions and curiosity! Whether you're new to Lutheranism, coming from another faith tradition, or have been Lutheran for years and want to better understand what we believe, you are welcome.

September 27 — What Is Lutheranism?

An introduction to the Lutheran tradition and what makes it distinct. We'll explore the central Lutheran understanding of grace, faith, and Christ, and begin looking at how Lutherans understand God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

FALL FUN AT HALL FAMILY FARM!



Grab the kids and join us at Hall Family Farm on Saturday, October 3 for an evening of fall fun for families and youth! There will be something for everyone! Youth will take on the corn maze, while families can enjoy all the other fun activities the farm has to offer. Then we'll all come together around the bonfire for a hot dog roast—because nothing says fall quite like hot dogs, fire, and good friends!

More details and sign-up information coming next week. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

SUDS & DUDS: Give a Little, Make a Difference!

The Community Care Team is gearing up for Suds & Duds this October—and we need your quarters!

Laundry at a laundromat can cost \$7–\$10 per load. We're helping make laundry day a little easier by gifting laundry detergent + a roll of quarters to people in our community.

Start saving those quarters! Drop them in the collection jars each week and help turn a handful of change into a whole lot of kindness.

Every quarter counts!



* New Cross & Crown Apparel Is Here!

Use the link below to place your order!

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!



PRAYER list

MEMBERS:

JEANETTE ABBOTT
JENNY BOOTH
JIM BURNS
DENNIS DOWNEY
LINDA FARIES

HAROLD HEIDEGGER
KATHI & FRANK MACARINE
GREG & KELLY RICHARDSON
JD WINFREY

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

Andrew Bernauer, son of Wayne & Rosemary Bernauer
Deb Ciganek, friend of Jill Jurgensen
Sandra Duncan, friend of Felicia Eybl
Nancy Farden, friend of Larry Stratemeyer
Jim Kozlinski, Cathy Kozlinski's husband
Mark & Ellen Kramm, friends of Jill Jurgensen
Ted Meiss, Christine Meiss' husband

Warm Hearts, Warm Hands

We're collecting new winter scarves, hats, gloves, and socks for A Roof Above, helping provide warmth and comfort to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Please place your donations in the collection basket in the Narthex throughout the month of September. Thank you for helping us share warmth, care, and compassion with our community!

Donations are due by Sunday, October 11th.



Grab your lederhosen and your little ones —it's time for Oktoberfest at C&C!

Cross & Crown's Annual Oktoberfest CELEBRATION

October 24 4 pm

We'll have all the classics you love—brats, sauerkraut, beer, etc. For the kids? Bounce house & games that will keep them smiling all afternoon long. So bring your appetite, a dessert to share, your friends, and your festive spirit! RSVP COMING NEXT WEEK!

Happy Birthday

Katherine Ansel
Phyllis Macmurphy
Felicia Eybl
Leo Rock

SEPT 18
SEPT 19
SEPT 21
SEPT 22

If we have missed your birthday, PLEASE email LeAnne @ office@crossandcrown.org so we can add your birthday to our list.



Wednesday Night Happenings

September 23

Good food, good conversation, & community!

Single \$7
Kids (ages 4-10) \$3
Families \$25
(AGES 0-3) FREE!



Shepherd's Pie

Savory seasoned beef cooked with peas and corn topped with whipped potatoes. And gravy!

Sides: Carrots, Garden Salad, Rolls & Dessert

Men, it's time to settle the score!

The annual Crossman Championship is happening Friday, October 2, at Lucky Strike in Matthews.

We'll meet at 7:00 PM and hit the lanes for at least two rounds of bowling—with the possibility of more depending on the turnout. Come ready to bowl, compete, and have a good time with the guys!

Everyone pays for themselves at Lucky Strike, but we don't want cost to keep anyone from joining us. A limited number of scholarships are available for those who need one.

No payment is needed up front. Just sign up so we can get an accurate headcount and determine how many scholarships are needed.

Bring your game. Bring your competitive spirit. Let's see who takes home the Crossman Championship!



RSVP LINK BELOW!

MEAT UP! CROSSMAN MEN'S GROUP SEPT. 27- 4PM

Men, meat, and meaningful conversation! MEAT UP is a meal and meaningful conversation for the men of Cross & Crown. We are coming together for the men of Cross & Crown to eat, talk, and get to know one another. Share stories, talk about life and faith, and enjoy some pressure-cooked steaks from the grill. That's right, we're grilling! Great conversation and plenty of fellowship, great conversation, and plenty of meat!

THINGS TO KNOW:

- BRING SOMETHING TO GRILL
- BRING A SIDE IF YOU'D LIKE
- BYOB

Coming up this week...

Monday, Sept. 21: 10am- Book Club
7:30 pm- Women's Zoom Bible Study
Tuesday, Sept. 22: 12 pm- Staff Meeting
1 pm- Cong. Care Team Meeting
2 pm- Community Care Team Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 23: 1 pm- Mahjong
6 pm- WNH Dinner
6:30 pm- Council Meeting
6:45 pm- Handbells, 7:30 pm- Choir
Thursday, Sept. 24: 1 pm- Gift Share