

Recently, I have been reminded of how much each of you mean to me. Looking back on my first eighteen months here, I can honestly say I am grateful to be a part of this congregation. I see so much potential within Cross Roads, and I am excited about the faithfulness of God and what we can accomplish in 2021.

Friends—2020 has been a challenging year for us as a nation and for many of you as individuals. An enemy known as the Coronavirus invaded our nation without our permission. We have (and are still going through) major transitions in Washington, D.C. And so much more.

God is all powerful, and God is a mighty provider who can do more than we can possibly imagine. We have a wonderful opportunity to avoid some mistakes of the past and move forward to be in ministry together and doing whatever it is that the Lord sets before us.

As we begin a new year, let's focus on provisions for a journey. We're also a culture that, when faced by the unknown, like to stock up on what we need. Right now as I write this, winter storms are predicted to move across our area tomorrow and into the eastern parts of the United States later in the week. People are "stocking up" for the possibility that they'll be sheltering in place following this storm.

So my question for you is this, focusing on the year ahead: what are the most important "provisions" you will need for our journey? When you think about the most challenging times in your life, what are the most important things that have tided you over?

Personally, I can think of some precious things that have gotten me through. The majority of these things take up little or no physical space, which make sense because Jesus always encouraged his disciples to travel light. In Mark 6:8-9, Jesus "charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics." His point was to focus them, not to be impoverished, but to clear their vision of material things so that they can clearly see the most precious provisions of all: other people, and the presence of God in those people. Of the most precious things on my journey, I think of those transcendent moments when I hear the voice of God through music or song. Living with a daughter whose life is always about music, I have learned to hear God's words to me through all types of music. Each type speaks differently, but each has something important God wants me to hear.

So, at the beginning of this new journey of 2021, I ask you to contemplate this: who and what are the real provisions of your life? Think of them, and tuck them away in that special part of your heart that you reserve for precious things.

Welcome to 2021! Let's get started again on our journey for Christ!

Pastor Leslie

# The Compass



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## Bless A Home Mission

The Mission Team, along with its helpers, has completed the 2020 Bless A Home project. Thanks to your amazing generosity we were able to provide meals for 10 families, gifts for 6 of those families and gift cards for 4 families to help with their Christmas shopping. In addition, 28 gift cards were purchased to help recipients with groceries, gas and other purchases.

Many thanks to our partners in this project, The Link. Ashley and Chasity work tirelessly to help our neighbors with food insecurities, family crises and finding services to assist in a myriad of needs.

Special thanks to Pat Solheid, Pat Evermann, LuMae Erickson, Robbie Johnson, Tom and Donna Smith, and Kendra Pflipsen who always has my back, for all of their help.

This was truly a mission of loving our neighbor!

~Linda Kelvington

## January White Bucket

Because the Polar Plunge has been cancelled this year, our *White Bucket Offerings for the month of January will go to The Special Olympics*. If you would like to make a donation at any time during the month for this mission, you may either donate online or mail a check to the church office (please be sure to mark your giving for The Special Olympics).

## Health Note

We have been hearing a great deal about vaccinations of late. I would like to share some information from an article found in Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals December 12 2020. The article tells us that unless an individual has had a severe allergic reaction in the past they can receive the COVID vaccine. About 1.6% of the population has had a severe allergic reaction to a food or some other environmental aspect. There is concern in leaving that large a portion of the population unprotected. These individuals are encouraged to consult with their health care providers. They also should chose to receive their vaccination at a site able to respond if a severe reaction occurs.

I grew up in the years before many of today's vaccinations were available, so I had the measles, mumps, and chicken pox. With one I was very ill. I did not have polio but remember the fear. I did have classmates that forever bore the scars. Obviously I am pro-vaccine and hope you are as well.

Shari

## January Birthdays

Sheryl Nelson 4th	Bud Ruhl 21st
Josh Redington 6th	Jodi Evenson 22nd
Jeanette Fixsen 9th	Judy Zachariason 22nd
LuMae Ericson 10th	Jordan Baker 26th
Scott Doty 13th	Kendra Pflipsen 27th
Pat Solheid 14th	Leann Navratil 30th
Eric Bjonfald 15th	Troy Rohloff 30th
Brian Nelson 15th	

## Goodbye (and good riddance) to 2020!

### Let's extend a big hearty welcome to 2021!

Everyone has tales of woe involving 2020 and no one dodged the impact of the pandemic. The loss and constriction of in-person contact within our community and from family and friends was isolating. The deaths of loved ones from COVID or otherwise seemed to weigh more heavily because gathering together to mourn and remember was limited. Proms and graduations were cancelled or watered down. Education was turned totally upside down. Masks became an integral part of our wardrobe. The way we handled our daily lives just became...different...every day.

But we are an Easter people! We live our lives with hope and with love. We know that dark days today will be overcome by bright days ahead.

We need to be proud of the great things that happened this year in our congregation. Our on-line setrvice brought worship directly to people and new technology enhanced the experience. Your faithful giving allowed the church to meet its needs. The Mask Mission provided masks to thousands who needed personal protective equipment. Several families received meals and presents this Christmas from your generosity. The Youth Group still met (albeit virtually at times) and provided Advent wreaths to EVERY church family. The roof was completed and the parking lot resurfaced. The list of good things that happened is to be forgotten or overshadowed by Covid!

As the chair of the Admin Board, I'd like to personally commend our staff and committee members for keeping the faith and keeping our church going this year. In particular, Pastor Leslie, we definitely could not have done it without you and your leadership. Thanks also to Don for his unflagging support of Pastor Leslie and for being the worship service production crew!

Fill your hearts and minds with optimism and joy as we start the year anew. No doubt there will still be challenges ahead, but we'll face them together, knowing that God is our ally. I look forward to the great things that Cross Roads Community Church will accomplish together in 2021!

**"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18**

Looking forward to a Blessed 2021,

Pat Solheid  
Chair, Admin Board

## Admin Team Online Meeting

January 12, 2021, 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting details will be send by email.

## Youth Group Online Gatherings

January 6th and January 20th, 6:30pm  
Pastor Leslie will send out Zoom links prior to each date.



## December 2020 Updates

Christmas is definitely upon us here at The Link! We have been extremely busy with people reaching out, not only looking for help, but offering to help those in need. There has been many food and gift donations, monetary donations and families wanting to shop for other families to ensure children have something to open on Christmas. The staff and volunteers have spent many hours serving families, taking donations and organizing Christmas Joy. Seeing the giving spirit definitely reminds us what Christmas is all about and makes us excited to be a part of such a compassionate and God serving community.

For Thanksgiving, The Link was able to help provide 116 families and 503 individuals with Thanksgiving meals thanks to those who donated money to help us purchase baskets and those who shopped themselves. There were a lot of people that were able to save a trip to the grocery store in these uncertain times thanks to these food baskets and everyone who picked up expressed extreme gratitude.

In November, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 14 new families, served 41 children, 79 adults and 21 seniors. 3960 pounds of food was distributed and 1688 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches. The Food Pantry has been busier this past month than it has been since March. We have seen an increased need for food and more and more new families calling to sign up for services.

The **Wildcat Backpack Program** continues to serve the kids in the Headstart program at Prairie Meadows. When school opens back up in January, we hope to find a plan that works well with all the schools in getting food delivered. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

**Senior Food Delivery**- If you, or someone you know, is interested in hearing more about this program please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 8 families in the month of November by helping with medical bills, utility bills and rental payments. This program also connected families with needed appliances and furniture as well as financial resources outside of The Link to help with bigger bills and necessities. There has also been a lot of referrals to The Hope Care Pantry over the past month for people in need of hygiene items, toiletries and other household essentials as well.

As always, a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has reached out to help in any way, to those who have donated food and/or monetarily and to those who have prayed for and with us here at The Link! God is working in many wonderful ways this holiday season and we are grateful to serve such an amazing community and an even more amazing God! Merry Christmas and God Bless!

### **Tuesday's Table:**

Tuesday's Table continues to be cancelled until further notice.

### **Monthly Giving Opportunities:**

The Link makes monthly giving a convenient option for our donors. You can set up online giving through The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) or directly through your bank. If you would like to make a one time donation, you can send a check to P.O. Box 823, New London, MN 56273 or via Venmo @The-Link-1. Please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 or email her at [ashley@youarethelink.org](mailto:ashley@youarethelink.org) for more information.



**Cross Roads Community  
United Methodist Church**

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[www.crossroadsspicer.com](http://www.crossroadsspicer.com)

January 2021

Christian radio stations in the area:

K-Love 90.9

KTIS 92.7 & 98.5

Spirit 92.9

**The Cross Roads Mission**

To help everyone find joy in their journey by:

Inviting everyone to walk with Jesus,

Growing together as His disciples,

Serving others we meet along the way

And Joyfully Celebrating the Journey