

As I was driving to work this morning, the song by Matthew West entitled “Do Something” came on my radio (I actually use iTunes). The lyrics struck me, because they say the following:

*I woke up this morning
Saw a world full of trouble now, thought
How'd we ever get so far down, and
How's it ever gonna turn around
So I turned my eyes to Heaven
I thought, "God, why don't You do something?"
Well, I just couldn't bear the thought of
People living in poverty
Children sold into slavery
The thought disgusted me
So, I shook my fist at Heaven
Said, "God, why don't You do something?"
He said, "I did, yeah, I created you!"*

As I said in my sermon on February 21, Jesus came to preach the good news to the world, but he didn't unearth the evil world rulers, nor did he lift the poor and oppressed out of poverty. Christ came to teach us to do these things. So, this leads us back to Matthew West's song: God created us to do something. Therefore, WHAT DO WE DO?

The Mission & Outreach Team of Cross Roads met a few weeks ago, and we discussed several ideas. Some of them you will begin to hear more about in the coming weeks and months, but I have been asked to share just a few of them with you.

First, we will no longer be designating our white bucket offerings each week or month. Instead, we will use the funds from these offerings to meet our obligations for Compassion Children. If there are excess funds each month, the funds will remain in the Mission & Outreach account and will be used for local ministries and outreach to our communities throughout the year. We know there are many in need within our communities and this is where Cross Roads wants its focus to be in 2021.

Second, we will be designing new outreach materials personalized for our congregation which will be used to reach out to those in our communities we want to invite to join us. Some of these materials will involve “New Neighbor Baskets.” These are baskets which will be available at the church for anyone in our congregation who has a new neighbor move in and wants to welcome them to the community and to Cross Roads. All you need to do to get one of these for a new neighbor is contact Linda Kelvington, Shari Heitke, or the church office.

Finally, in coming months you will hear more about how you can get involved in helping to reach out to the businesses in our communities to show them how much we appreciate all they do for us, especially during this pandemic when many have been hard hit by the economic downturn. We need to support them and there are many ways we can do this, which you will hear about more in the near future.

As we are now in the Lenten season, let us consider, instead of giving up something for Lent, we instead find ways to do more; more giving, more outreach, more love, more of anything Jesus caught us (grace and mercy also come to mind).

God created YOU to do something. To care for the poor and homeless, to reach out to those who are oppressed with love and grace, to stand up for the injustices in the world. There is much we can do, maybe too much, but if we start with the single step, just one simple act, it can affect us and those we touch more than we realize. Let's make the motto for Cross Roads in 2021 “Do Something!” Go ahead, get started!

Pastor Leslie

The Compass



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Worship Service Information

We have officially begun in-person worship. Our worship service begins at 9:30 am.

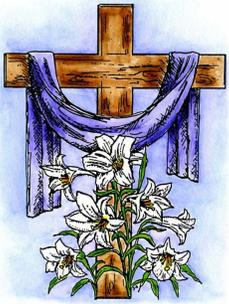
You can also our service online by finding the link to our worship service on the "Home Page" of our church website, www.crossroadsspicer.com.

This link will continue to be available online at any time after Sunday, so if you miss worship at our regular time, you can still watch during the week!

If you will not be attending in-person and have prayer requests you would like announced on Sunday or included in our weekly email, you may contact the church office to provide information, or you can include them in the "Comments" section of our online worship service.

Easter

Easter will be here before you know it, and unless we see a huge spike in COVID cases in our area, we plan to be open for worship this year. However, as with all things pandemic related these days, worship will be somewhat different than in years past.



We will have THREE (3) worship services this year for Easter, with Holy Communion being celebrated at each one. The service times will be 7:30 am; 9:00 am; and 10:30 am. The 9:00 am service will be our "senior friendly service"

and the 10:30 am service will be our "family friendly service", although you are welcome to attend whichever service you wish.

You will need to register for whichever service you and your family plan to attend in order to make certain we limit the number of people at each service and to ensure we have enough space to properly social distance. And because we will be having three back-to-back services, you are asked to please wait to enter the building until the previous service has dismissed.

Sign-ups for worship services can be made by going to our website and clicking the "Events" tab. There you will find a link for each service to the sign-up page. Please make sure you indicate the number of people who will be with you and a contact number in the event there are any issues with your registration.

As followers of Christ, we are an Easter people; a people who rise even from the depths of chaos, despair, and disease. It will be wonderful to see many of you this Easter, especially those who have been absent for so long.

Taco Tuesdays!

During Lent Pastor Leslie is hosting a fellowship event, where each week, you can be a part of a virtual dinner get-together. This is on Tuesdays each week at 6:00 pm, and the menu of course is tacos (hence the name). These events will continue until Holy Week.

The link for these dinners will be sent out weekly in our church-wide emails, as well as on our church website and Facebook page. Everyone is welcome to join for just one week or every week!

Remember to Save Your Teals Receipts!

When you shop at Teals, save your receipts, bring them to church and put them in the special Teals Receipts box located in the narthex, or mail them to the church office. Teals will donate 1% of our receipt totals to Cross Roads to put towards our many mission fundraising activities.

All you have to do is shop Teals, save your receipts, send them to or bring them to the church. We will do the rest!

Please note that gas receipts ARE a part of the program!

This is a great opportunity to take part in a local business giving back to our community.

Thank you for your support!

~The Missions Team



Kandiyohi County Food Shelf Fundraiser

The Kandiyohi County Food Shelf is partnering with Lakeland Broadcasting to host its 16th annual Radio for Relief Fundraiser on Friday, March 19, 2021. Cross Roads has been invited to participate in this fundraiser by raising monies which will go to help purchase food for those in need right here in our local communities.

The Food Shelf is able to take a \$20 donation and turn it into \$200 worth of food through Second Harvest Heartland.

If you would like to donate to the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf, please either donate online at one of giving plat-

forms, making sure to designate the funds for the Food Shelf, or mail a check payable to the church to the office.



All funds collected will go to helping those in need, and will be a wonderful opportunity to give back to our communities.

March Birthdays

Terry Albers 8th
Diane Duke 13th
Don Zeek 17th
Jim Solheid 19th
Donna Gertgen 21st
Alan Zaske 22nd
Donna Smith 24th
Natalie Denz 26th

March Anniversaries

Vern & Karen Dean 1st
Warren & Barb Gerdes 20th





February 2021 Updates

March is quickly approaching, which means Minnesota Food Share month is soon upon us.

Minnesota FoodShare engages thousands of Minnesotans annually via the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. Minnesota FoodShare seeks to educate the community about food insecurity and encourages legislators and community decision makers to lend a compassionate and objective voice to public policy debates that impact Minnesota families living in poverty. The [Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign](#) brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. Minnesota FoodShare has distributed over 18 million dollars to March Campaign participating food shelves throughout the state via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund. This fund includes donations secured year-round from corporations, individuals, foundations, and businesses. 100% of donations received by Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go into the FoodFund and are distributed to March Campaign participating food shelves.

For more information on the Minnesota FoodShare, visit www.mnfoodshare.org.

2020 March Campaign* results:

- \$21,523,865.31 raised by food shelves
- 7,443,959 pounds of food collected

\$306,658 distributed to participating food shelves via the Minnesota FoodShare FoodFund

In January, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 5 new families, served 34 children, 60 adults and 13 seniors. 2930 pounds of food was distributed and 630 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches.

The Wildcat Backpack Program continues to deliver to Prairie Meadows Headstart program and we also have a few families picking up their backpack food during the week. 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 5 families in the month of January. The Link was able to pay rent, a car payment, utility bills and some medical bills for community members. The Link's Household Exchange program was also able to serve 7 families by providing them with necessities to get back on their feet. There have been some amazing donors and dedicated volunteers ensure families get some much needed items including beds, tables, couches and kitchen utensils.

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 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 for more information.



**Cross Roads Community
United Methodist Church**

3400 113th Ave NE
Spicer, MN 56288

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www.crossroadsspicer.com

March 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