

November is the month of Thanksgiving. And with Thanksgiving comes thoughts of blessings. The staff (Kendra and Dave) and I have been blessed with the honor of serving this congregation. Kendra has been with Cross Roads for almost 22 years, Dave has been here for over a decade, and I, as the infant of the group, am in my fifth year of ministry with all of you.

We are all grateful for the dedication and support you have shown us over the years; for prayers during times of grief, for laughter in abundance, for comfort and strength during stressful times. We are ever so appreciative of the financial support you provide to our congregation which allows us to continue to be in ministry with Cross Roads.

One thing that we would most definitely be thankful for is recognition that other than the myself, the staff does not work on Sundays, but instead they come to church to worship, just as each of you do, and it is hard to separate their work role from their congregant role. It is also hard for me to remember almost anything someone says about a meeting for the week, or asking for a call, or anything else except the worship service on that given day.

Therefore, we ask that you be respectful of our time on Sunday mornings. Allow us to focus on what we are there for; for Kendra and Dave it is simply to worship God, and for me it is to lead you in worship. If you have something to share with us about “work related” issues as they pertain to our various roles within the church, leave us a note on our desks, or send us an email. We will always respond as soon as we are back at the church during the week doing the work God has called each of us to do.

And finally, one of the most important things the staff and I covet is your prayers. Pray for us with a grateful heart, offering praise to God for our lives and asking God to lead us in the path of God’s choosing. Pray that God will use our respective ministries to strength and grow Cross Roads, and that we do will be meaningful to everyone in our communities.

I am so incredibly thankful for each one of you, both individually and collectively. I am grateful for the communities which we each call home. I am thankful for all that God is doing among us as we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future. Blessing to each of you during this month of Thanksgiving!!!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Leslie

# The Compass



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Admin Team .....	2
Missions .....	2
Advent Studies .....	2
Celebration Bash.....	2
Birthdays/Anniv .....	2
The Link updates .....	3

## Update From the Admin Team

Busy, busy, busy -- that seems to be the theme for fall and for November!

You've heard Reverend Leslie mention that the last Sunday in October will be next "town hall" meeting and our Stewardship Sunday. We are asking our congregation to make a financial commitment/pledge for 2024 because our giving pledges will lay the groundwork for preparing our 2024 budget. The budget will be the focus of our next Admin meeting on November 14. It's no secret that we have struggled to break even this year and are on the path to significantly eat into our reserves. This is why we accumulated a reserve over recent years--to tide us over during tough times --but we can't continue to eat away at them. When our reserves are gone, they'll be gone. Our goal is to cover our expenses with our giving and God willing, to replenish our reserve account at a future time. With that in mind, we hope that everyone can prayerfully and intentionally make a commitment for 2024 so the Admin Team can continue to do its work on the budget.

Now that Reverend Leslie has the authority to conduct a charge conference since her ordination, the Admin Team decided that we will hold our charge conference meeting on Sunday, December 10 at 11:00 a.m., right after church. We will have treats and coffee (rather than a potluck) since it will be the busy holiday season. Look for more to come...

Lastly, we owe the Boutique team our gratitude and thanks for their good works. The church was filled with crafts, books, cookies, soup and baked goods, and over 150 people came to shop. This event is not only great because of the money earned for missions and the like, but for the fellowship it brings to our congregation. Whether you baked, parked cars, made crafts or greeted shoppers, you engaged in fellowship and outreach. As it says in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them." Amen!!

Pat Solheid, Admin Team Chair

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## Advent Bible Studies

We have two options for Advent studies coming up.

1) Pastor Leslie will be teaching an Advent study beginning November 30 for 4 weeks. The book we will use for this study is entitled "Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent" by Matt Rawle. This study will meet at 2 different times on Thursdays: 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. The morning class will meet in person at the church in the library; the evening class will meet online (Zoom link will be provided). If you would like to sign up, please contact Pastor Leslie or the church office.

2) Minnesota Annual Conference Bishop, Lanette Plambeck, is hosting an online Advent study based on Bishop Will Willimon's book "Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation." This study will be held on Tuesdays starting November 28 at 7:00 pm. To register for this online Advent study, please see the weekly email, or talk with Pastor Leslie.



## Missions & Outreach

It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us! Lots of opportunities to help and serve in the month of November:

**November Mission Focus** – all excess funds (after our obligation to Compassion Children) will go towards the Bless A Home event. This event blesses clients from The Link in two ways. 1) we will prepare 10 food totes that have a full holiday meal. If you'd like to assist with putting these together, let Jenny Daby know! And 2) we will be shopping for Christmas gifts for families from The Link. If you'd like to be a shopper, let Jenny Daby know!

**The Revival Store** – The Link has a wonderful gently used items store in New London. Area churches volunteer to staff the store. We will be staffing the store on Saturday, November 11th. Jean Ericson has graciously volunteered and since she is a "regular" volunteer, anyone who works with her will NOT have to do the additional 1 hour of training. If you'd like to help, please let Jenny Daby know!

**Family Promise** – The Pahl Family has graciously offered to provide a meal to the residents on Thursday, Nov. 2nd.

**Christmas Greens Project** – a team has already harvested the greens to create the Christmas pots. All proceeds will go towards the Bless A Home project! If you'd like to purchase a pot, please let Pat Everman know!

### LOOKING AHEAD:

-December 7th, Family Promise – we will deliver a meal and serve the residents.

-December 13th – Blood Drive at Cross Roads from NOON to 6 pm. You can sign up now!

-Missions will continue to collect funds for Bless A Home

-Cookies From Cross Roads – Christmas cookies will be delivered to area assisted living locations.

## Celebration Bash

Our next Celebration Bash will be Sunday, November 5th following worship, where we will celebrate those who have birthdays and anniversaries during the month. Be sure to stay following our service and share in some good cake, coffee, and some wonderful fellowship!



### Nov Birthdays

Richard Johnson 2nd  
Lindzy Nelson 11th  
Lacey Solheid 12th  
Lloyd Greiner 14th  
Ross Baker 17th  
Lori Doty 22nd  
Cole Baker 26th

### Nov Anniversaries

Kent & Barb Springman 17th  
Michael & Kat Sasse 22nd  
Bob & LuMae Erickson 28th



*If we have missed your special day, please let the office know.*



# SEPTEMBER 2023 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

## THE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry continues to see an increase in need due to increased cost of living. In September, The Link welcomed



**25 new families** and served **129 households** - distributing a total of **7285 pounds of food**.

## CLIENT OUTREACH



Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living.

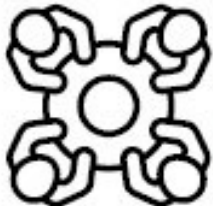
In September, your donations were able to support 17 families by helping with transportation, medical bills and prescription cost, gas, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs.

## WILDCAT BACKPACK AND SNACK PANTRY



The Link is currently serving **86 children** each week from NL-S schools! This is an ability to supplement children's food for the weekend when they are not in school.

The Link is also currently connecting **28 teachers** with snacks for students in their classroom.



## TUESDAY'S TABLE

A free community meal the 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Rotating (call 320-354-5555 for more information).

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Pray for the Link and the community; Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and family and sharing on social media; Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive; Volunteer at the thrift store or in the food pantry;



Donate your gently used clothing and household goods- (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs);  
Donate financially-

**Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest.**

**CURRENT NEEDS:** Gently used kids clothing, winter gear, new socks/underwear, blankets.  
Food: Kid friendly food (corn dogs, chicken nuggets, french fries, pizza, snacks, etc.

### Donations made easy

Monthly giving at the the Link is convenient . You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) by scanning the QR code. You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823 , New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New London. Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555.



**Thank you for your support! YOU are The Link!**



3400 113th Ave NE  
Spicer, MN 56288

320-796-2339  
[www.crossroadsspicer.com](http://www.crossroadsspicer.com)

November 2023

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