

According to a medieval legend, God once sent two angels to the earth on a special mission, with each one of them carrying a basket. One angel was assigned to gather up all of the prayers of petition, and the other was assigned to gather up all of the prayers of thanksgiving.

The first angel returned very quickly, and her basket was filled to overflowing with requests. “Ah, yes,” reported this angel, “the people of God have remembered well the Bible’s counsel: ‘Ask, and you shall receive.’” Yet the second angel was gone a long time, and when she finally returned, her basket was nearly empty. “I had a hard time finding people who pray prayers of thanksgiving,” she said quietly.

Like everyone else, I too have plenty of petitions to place in the first angel’s basket, including a petition for peace with justice and mercy throughout our country and our United Methodist denomination. I have a petition that God will inspire and empower each of us to be not part of the problems but rather part of the answers which I believe are forever and always blowing in the wind, that wind which is the Holy Spirit of God. I have a petition that all of the subtle systemic aspects of racism in our world will be both honestly recognized and courageously overcome. I have a petition that every protest, strike, walk-out, etc. will clearly seek to address the problems which all of us have created together and which all of us need to correct together without creating distractions that lead us away from these tasks. I have a petition that we will seek what Martin Luther King, Jr. once called a “double victory” of freedom for the oppressed and the oppressor alike and that each and every issue will always be ultimately rooted in that divine love for all humanity which casts out human fear. And I have a petition that we will all recognize the truth the Franciscan monk Richard Rohr expressed when he wrote, *“If we do not transform our pain, we will most assuredly transmit it.”*

At the same time, I do not want to neglect the second angel’s basket, as we are all often tempted to do. I want to give thanks for a God who steadfastly refuses to give up on any of us—a God who is forever and always at work for good: forming, reforming, and transforming the world, the church, and every human heart. I want to give thanks for the privilege of being called—along with all my Christian siblings—to be not passive spectators but active participants amidst the ongoing struggle for peace with justice and mercy in our personal relationships, our neighborhoods, and our world. I want to give thanks for the strength God graciously promises to us amidst that struggle. And I want to give thanks for congregations such as Cross Roads which, for all its flaws and foibles, still offers the world a glimpse of people who keep humbly seeking to learn to live together in love.

Yes, I have my petitions, but I also have my prayers of thanksgiving ... and not just on the fourth Thursday in November.

Pastor Leslie

The Compass



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Admin Team Meeting

The Admin Team will be meeting on Tuesday, November 2 at 6:30pm to vote on final approval of all nominations for next year as well as the 2022 budget. If you are part of the Admin Team, please plan on attending this meeting.

Charge Conference

The Charge Conference this year will be online, and is being held Thursday, November 11 at 6:30 pm. You are welcome to join a group who will be livestreaming together in the church library or you can livestream from home or wherever you may be on that evening.

All Saints Sunday

This year, Cross Roads will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 7 during worship. We will recognize those in our congregation whom we have lost this year. In particular, we will celebrate the life of Shari Heitke, who was a trusted and beloved member of our congregation for the last several years and whom we really did not get a chance to say goodbye to following her death.



Please make sure to join us on November 7 at 9:30 am as we share memories of those who have now gone on to be a part of the great cloud of witnesses!



Cross Roads will once again be partnering with The Link for our annual Christmas mission, Bless A Home. As in years past, we will provide families with all the 'fixings' for a Christmas meal and a gift for each family member.

The pandemic led us to a new strategy last year, that coupled with your amazing generosity, allowed us to provide meals for 10 families, gifts for 6 families and additional gift cards for gas, groceries, the bakery and take out meals. Staff at The Link were able to spread the joy of Christmas to many in our community.

The mission team plans to use that same strategy of requesting your monetary gifts for the Cross Road super shoppers can work their magic! We look forward to spreading the love of our church family throughout our community.

Coffee Corner



On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall, our newest small group, Cross Roads Coffee Corner, will be held. Everyone is invited to come as frequently or as little as you like. This is a time for coffee and fellowship; just a way to catch up with what is going on with others in the congregation, especially those you perhaps haven't had a chance to really talk to since the pandemic began, or those you would like to get to know better.

Our next group times this month is on Wednesday, November 3 and Wednesday November 17, at 9:00am. Come join us any time you like. We look forward to seeing you soon!!

Celebration Bash

On Sunday, November 7, following worship service, we will be celebrating everyone who has a birthday or anniversary in November. There will be coffee and cake available for anyone who is interested in helping us celebrate.



Each month, we will celebrate on the first Sunday of the month after worship the birthdays and anniversaries of those during the coming month.

We hope you will plan to join us in October, and every month, as we celebrate these milestones in the lives of congregation members.



Nov Birthdays

Richard Johnson 2nd
Chandra Duke 6th
Lindzy Nelson 11th
Arend Ryks 11th
James Schultz 12th
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.*



October 2021 Updates

Thanksgiving is upon us, which means there will be Thanksgiving baskets available to families in need. These boxes will include turkey, potatoes, a veggie, bread and a dessert. Requests for these baskets will be taken until November 12th. If you know someone that could use one of these boxes, please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 to sign up. Pick up will be scheduled for the 23rd and 24th of November.

The Community Revival Boutique and Thrift Store has been open for over a month now and the amount of support has been extremely humbling to witness. The store has been welcomed to downtown with open arms and in the first month took in over \$13,000 (which is kicked back into The Link's programs) along with 711 volunteer hours to make it happen. Shawna Roemeling is excited to be back after being gone for 2 years as the store manager. From being part of starting Revive and Redeem to seeing where it is today, she is thrilled to be back and a part of The Link's mission and The Link couldn't be happier to welcome her back!

Donations of clothing and most household items are being taken Wednesdays-Fridays 10-3 and Saturdays from 10-2 (or by appointment). Please call if you have any questions about when/where to drop off items and if there is a need for any of your bigger household items.

Volunteers Needed!!! We are in need of more volunteers!!! The Store hours are Wednesday-Friday 10am-3pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer on a regular basis in a fun, fast paced environment, please contact Shawna at 320-347-1047 or stop in during store hours. We have a lot of different jobs available from sorting and pricing donations to opening the store and running the till.

In September, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 5 new families, served 39 children, 60 adults and 14 seniors. 2445.5 pounds of food was distributed and 961.5 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches.

The Wildcat Backpack Program is officially up and running. There are 2 kids from the High School that come help pack the backpacks and deliver each week. So far, there are approximately 50 kids that are utilizing this program weekly. If you would like to donate any food for this program, please contact Ashley at 320-354-5555 for more information.

Senior Food Delivery- The Senior Food Delivery program is designed to deliver food to anyone that is homebound. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about this program please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

The Link's **Client Outreach** program served 6 families in the month of September. Throughout the month, The Link was able to help with utility bills, rent payments, medical bills, phone bills, car payments and gas for medical appointments. The Household Exchange Program also served 3 families in September by giving families in need beds, living room furniture, kitchen appliances and dishes and dining room furniture.

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**

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November 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