

The Bible tells us that, wearied by travel across a barren and harsh landscape, the Holy family sought refuge in an inn at Bethlehem. Can you imagine Mary and Joseph's disappointment when the innkeeper informed them that there weren't any vacancies? All would have been a loss except for the gracious innkeeper who offered the couple a stable located at the back of the inn. In that stable was the manger which provided warmth and shelter for the baby Jesus.

An ordinary act of simple hospitality lies at the heart of the birth of Jesus Christ!

Before the world would know the graciousness of God who was born to serve, to die, and to rise, Mary, Joseph and our Lord would know an ordinary act of hospitality by the innkeeper. Hospitality is a sure sign of Christmas!

There are many people whose travels through life have left them wearied. Such people flock to churches this time of year yearning to hear "Good News". Some are familiar with the Christmas story and it draws them back because they still hear the voice of the "Good Shepherd". Others may know little about the story but are drawn out of curiosity. They may wonder, "Is there really something to all of this?". As God's Church we are called to offer hospitality to such as these. To those we say— take heart for, "today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you, he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11-12). He is the One who gives rest to the wearied, grace to the sinner, hope to the desperate, joy to the despondent, and light & life to all who believe!

In proportion to grace given to you, give generously this Christmas. By doing so, Cross Roads can offer programs of outreach, evangelism, and nurture that touch people's lives. Like the innkeeper gesture, our ordinary acts of hospitality, become an extraordinary means of grace to those seeking refuge. Your support makes this possible. May the innkeeper's hospitality be your guide this Christmas and always!

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Leslie

The Compass



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Christmas Services ...	2
Coffee Corner	2
Note from Admin	2
Birthdays/Anniv.....	2
The LINK.....	3

Youth Christmas Service

This year our youth will be leading the service (including preaching!) on **Sunday, December 12**. Please be sure to come and support Cross Road's youth as they lead us all in worship.



Christmas Eve Service

This year's Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held on

Friday, December 24, at 5:00 pm.

Come as you are, and celebrate as we welcome the Christ child once again into our hearts and lives.



Bless A Home

Our Bless a Home super shoppers have started shopping! Thank you so much for your generous support! A final update will be in next months newsletter.



Coffee Corner

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall, 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 December 1 and December 15, at 9:00am. We look forward to seeing you soon!!



A Note from our Admin Chair...

Recently I had a chance to watch the 20/20 news magazine show on television that told the story of Jennifer and Jordan Turpin. Without going into great detail, they were two of 13 children rescued from a horribly abusive home in California about four years ago. What struck me most about these women and their story is their great positivity about what the future holds for them and how they plan to live their lives looking forward and not back. They spoke of hope. Hope for new lives. Hope for jobs and homes. Hope for their futures. They both said that they can't dwell in the past -- they are pushing on to the future. I couldn't help but admire their outlook of hope when they had all the reason in the world to wallow in despair. Hope is a powerful force in the world.

December is the end of the year from a calendar standpoint but it's the beginning of the year for a season of hope for us as Christians. The birth of baby Jesus brought hope to the world. A new savior was born on a December night so long ago and with him came hope for us all. December is a wonderful time for Christians and for Cross Roads as well! I hope that everyone is filled with Christmas spirit and finds the joy and hope that come with the season.

As a church, we also have a chance to provide hope to others in our area through the Bless a Home project. For many years we have provided support to local families to provide food and gifts for meaningful Christmas Day. I'm sure that members of Cross Roads will rise to the occasion as they have in years past and provide donations to make Christmas 2021 a joyous and hopeful occasion for others.

A year-end update on 2021 won't be available until January but at our last Administrative Team meeting in November, things were on pace for a good finish to our year.

Thanks to the dedicated and caring membership of our church members! We have so much for which to be grateful and are filled hope for our future! As it says in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

God's blessings to all during this joyous and hopeful season!

Pat Solheid
Admin Board Chair

December Birthdays

Barb Gerdes 1st	David Evermann 19th
Judy Kluver 2nd	Carson Smith 22nd
Cera Finney 3rd	Ashley Massmann 28th
Kay Ruhl 7th	Daryl Hoogeveen 30th
Tom Smith 8th	Bonnie Hoogeveen 30th
Dustin Pflipsen 9th	Annette Muetzel 30th
Briella Kennedy 12th	
Mae Barker 18th	
Bob Erickson 19th	

Dec Anniversaries

Don & Leslie Zeek—23rd

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



November 2021 Updates

The Holiday's are in full swing at The Link! Staff and volunteers have been busy prepping for Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as continuing our regular programming! Thanksgiving baskets were just wrapped up last week and distribution will be Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving. There were over 75 families signed up to receive these baskets! Christmas sign up has also started. There are a few ways you can help families in need this holiday. The Link distributes gifts, gift cards and Christmas meals to families the week of Christmas. If you would like to participate in purchasing anything from gift cards and gifts to food for the food baskets, please call The Link and let us know what you'd like to do. Also, if you know any families that could use a little help this holiday season, sign up to receive gifts is open until December 2nd. This allows families that are shopping some time to get the gifts purchased and to The Link the week before Christmas. Any families signed up are confidential. There is no identifying information shared with the shoppers. There is a system in place to ensure the privacy of each family is respected unless they want to be known.

In October, **The Food Pantry** distributed 2616.5 pounds of food, had 12 new families and served 36 kids, 71 adults and 420 seniors. The Link also served 7 families in **Client Outreach** to assist with everything from rent and utility assistance to gas for medical appointments and money to do laundry.

The Wildcat Backpack Program is seeing an increase in numbers for the first time since distant learning took effect. We are currently serving 50 kids between Prairie Meadows, Prairie Woods, the Middle School and High School. If you are looking for non-monetary ways to help, The Wildcat Backpack Program can always use extra non-perishable items including: mac-n-cheese, chef Boyardee meals, applesauce or other fruit pouches, single serve snack bags (chips, cheese its, pretzels, etc.), treats and juice boxes.

Senior Food Delivery- The senior food delivery program is designed to help those who are homebound and find it difficult to get food. There are many volunteers who would love to deliver food to anyone in need. If you have any questions as to how this program works, please call Ashley at 354-5555.

The Community Revival Boutique and Thrift has seen a significant increase in donations and sales! Currently the store is open Wednesday-Friday from 10-3 and Saturdays from 10-2. Because of the increase in donations and shoppers, we are looking for more volunteers (especially for Saturdays). If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer in a fast paced, fun environment, please call Shawna at 320-367-1047.

Thank you for your continuous support. It does not go unnoticed! YOU are the Link!

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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December 2021

Christian radio stations in the area:

K-Love 90.9

KTIS 92.7 & 98.5

Spirit 92.9

