

The Compass



On January 18 four years ago, our plane touched down in Minneapolis. This was our first visit ever to Minnesota. Neither Donald nor I had ever been here, and we arrived excited to experience something new and different. That visit was the one which solidified our decision to permanently move to Minnesota following seminary graduation. While we spent one afternoon with the District Superintendent, for the most part, the trip was a vacation; a way of “getting away” from the rigors of everyday life and enjoy yourself.

Of course, vacations can be very exciting for most people. In fact, I don’t really know too many individuals who don’t look forward to their vacation (unless perhaps you are having to spend time with relatives you don’t like). Yet for pastors we share a love/hate relationship with vacations. On the one hand, it is wonderful to get away from the hustle and bustle of our lives, and to have a Sabbath in the truest sense of the word. Yet each time we leave, we silently hold our breath just a bit waiting for the calls we never want to receive. Those telling of us of some tragedy in our congregations, or a death, or a catastrophe with the building. We try to plan for every eventuality, and yet more often than not, we fail miserably.

I was grateful during our most recent trip to North Carolina to have NOT received any of these phone calls. It gave me a chance to disconnect from the stresses of the world, reconnect with family, and to help plan for the upcoming marriage of our son. It also reminded me of how important it is to take time out of our super-hectic schedules to take a Sabbath and focus our undivided attention on the Lord.

During our first trip to Minnesota four years ago, we traveled to Stillwater to see Ice Castles. For those of you who never experienced these, I first say “shame on you.” Second, I say “go as soon as you can.” For those who have been to see them, you will know what I am talking about. The Ice Castles are artificial castles made entirely of ice, with slides, walls of ice, and frozen fountains. If you are friends with me on Facebook, you probably saw our photos of these magnificent structures I recently reshared from our visit. Throughout winter, these castles remain standing in their frozen majesty, day after day, for visitors from all over the world come to see. During our tour of this place, I walked around in awe, and despite the numerous other visitors surrounding me, felt the peace and quiet of the wonders of nature, even man-made nature. I was struck by how little time and effort it takes to maintain these formations. Just turn on the water that is piped into the walls, and allow nature to do the rest. The wonder of God’s creation with its cold temperatures can be used to generate a heavenly configuration. During this visit, as I walked slowly through this complex, touching and feeling the icicles, it was almost as if time was standing still. The crowds melted away (no pun intended), and all I could see and feel was the wind touching my face. This is what I believe Sabbath should be; a melting away of everything that constrains us during our everyday lives, and simply feeling the Spirit of God in our hearts. To be so in tune with God through the work of the Spirit that we forget all that assaults us by the world. To be reminded that in those moments, we are joined with God who created the heavens and the earth (and the water and cold temperatures that create ice castles).

....continued on next page

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Admin Team Info	2
Fishing Tournament.	2
Birthdays/Anniv.....	2
The Link	3
Blood Drive.....	4

.....continued

As you pilgrimage through your life day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, let us always remember to take time to spend in Sabbath with our Lord. God believed that Sabbath was important, so important that it was one of only ten commandments given to the Israelites. I often think we focus so much on our own lives that we fail to focus on God. Even in churches, we focus so much on what other people are doing, especially when they are doing something we disapprove of, that we cannot focus on the Lord Almighty. Our relationship with Christ should always come first; before our families, our work, or even our congregation. When we place our primary focus on the Lord, the Spirit can use this focus to redirect our priorities and help to reorient us to the God of our salvation. This is what Sabbath does, and why it is so vital for maintaining what is truly important. When we keep our focus on God, all the other things in our lives are kept in prospective, and we show others through our lives the Christ who loves us without measure. So even if you cannot or do not make Sunday your Sabbath, allow yourself Sabbath time away from everything in this world to refocus your priorities towards God and away from the world.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Leslie

NEW ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM STRUCTURE

Welcome to 2022! The Administration Team for Cross Roads recently had its first meeting. If you recall from earlier newsletters and the charge conference, the structure of the Admin Team was changed starting in 2022. Previously, each committee head was appointed to the Admin Team. Going forward, there are still committees doing good works for the church (ie the Worship Team, Missions, Facilities, etc.) but the Admin Team members will now review and oversee the finances, "bigger" decisions relating to the building, broader church policies, etc.

The members of the 2022 Admin Team are: Pastor Leslie Zeek, Pat Solheid (chair), Al Boonstra (lay leader), Judy Zachariason (treasurer), Duane Daby, Diane Maurice, Dustin Pflipsen, Linda Kelvington, Tom Smith and Dave Evermann.

Cross Roads has been, and continues to be, blessed with dedicated people who step up and take on roles that keep our church, not only on track, but moving forward. Please pray for this team and ask God to guide us and give us wisdom and insight as we lead the church through 2022.

On a different note, I had the opportunity to make and serve dinner for the youth group in January. Pastor Leslie was under the weather so Tiahna Rohloff took charge and lead the group that night, assisted by Ralph Dickerson. What a great group of youth we have at Cross Roads! They are small in number but mighty in character and energy and enthusiasm. It was fun to be the "mouse in the corner" and observe the group that night. Thanks to Pastor Leslie who regularly leads the group with help from Don and Tiahna. Thanks to Ralph for stepping up to help that night as well.

Stay warm and stay connected (to Cross Roads, that is!).

Pat Solheid, Chair, Admin Board

Fishing & Fellowship Saturday February 19th 1-4pm

Cross Roads has an opportunity for you to fellowship while fishing. Bring your kids and invite your friends.

There will be ice fishing teams on possibly TWO different lakes near the church (more details to come).

A free-will donation is requested and ALL proceeds will go to Special Olympics. Prizes will be given and hot-chocolate and apple cider will be available to keep you warm. The team leads will drill holes, have bait available and a few ice houses to keep you warm.

After fishing you are invited to a soup supper to be held at the church. Soup, homemade rolls, and dessert will be available for a free-will offering. Again, all the proceeds will go to Special Olympics.

Go to crossroadsspicer.com and click on the events tab to register.

If you cannot participate but still want to donate; please send your checks to the church with "Special Olympics" in the note.

Contact Jenny Daby with questions. Jennydaby5@gmail.com or 320-470-0518.



February Birthdays

Wanda Zaske 2nd	Kathryn Sasse 18th
Joy Baker 4th	JoAnn Wright 18th
Deb Bronner 6th	Mary Jane Young 22nd
Kyle Denz 6th	Richard Kelvington 24th
Faith Duke 8th	Carol Underland 24th
Brody Duke 11th	Jordan Peterson 28th
Marjorie Green 15th	
Jayden Nelson 17th	

February Anniversaries

Jim & Pat Solheid 18th



January 2022 Updates

Happy New Year from all the staff and volunteers at The Link! 2021 was another challenging year for many, but because of the many generous donors, The Link was able to provide much needed support to those who needed it most.

CHRISTMAS JOY!, (which is our program to connect families in need with families that want to purchase gifts for them) was able to provide 60 families with gifts this year (223 individuals)! The total amount spent on these gifts/gift cards for families equaled over \$12,000!!! Needless to say, there were many thankful families that, because of YOU, were able to give their families Christmas this year! YOU are The Link!

The Community Revival Boutique and Thrift Store 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.

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.

In December, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 6 new families, served 45 children, 87 adults and 22 seniors. 4123.5 pounds of food was distributed and 523 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches. Food Rescue also brought in about 2146 pounds of food from Cashwise and ALDI.

The Wildcat Backpack Program 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 4 families in the month of December. Throughout the month, The Link was able to help with utility bills, rent payments, medical bills and gas for medical appointments. The Household Exchange Program also served 10 families in December 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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Spicer, MN 56288

320-796-2339
www.crossroadsspicer.com

February 2022

Christian radio stations in the area:

K-Love 90.9

KTIS 92.7 & 98.5

Spirit 92.9

Blood Drive

Cross Roads is hosting its first Red Cross Blood Drive! On Thursday, March 11, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Cross Roads will be hosting the blood drive in the Fellowship Hall. What do we need from the congregation? Two things:

- 1) If you are able to give blood, go to the Red Cross website and put in your zip code to find our blood drive. Then sign up! You can also call 1-800-RED-CROSS to sign up.
- 2) We need approximately 6-9 volunteers total (2-3 per shift) for two hour shifts to work the check-in desk and possibly help pass out refreshments.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jenny Daby at (320) 470-0518 or jennydaby5@gmail.com, or you can contact the church office or Pastor Leslie.

