

Recently, I was asked what determines when we celebrate Easter Sunday? Before you read any further, do you know the answer?

Easter Sunday is held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox, the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator (the imaginary line in the sky above the Earth's equator) from south to north (www.timeanddate.com). In other words, Easter Sunday is tied to the transitions of nature so that the date moves from year to year.

There are lots of reason why it was set up this way. Here are two I like. First, Easter is connected to a change in the seasons. Something new is happening. The world is on the brink of change and will look different soon. Second, Easter doesn't have a specific date. That connects with the church's view that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. It isn't just once a year that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Easter is the way we live our faith, ask our questions, offer our prayers, gather as the body of Christ, serve in and through our shared ministry, mature as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Bible never says celebrate Easter on one specific day. Instead, it encourages disciples to live Easter's good news of new life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ every day. The greatest way we can do that is to do what the first disciples did. They gave testimony to how they saw the Lord.

Jesus appeared in all kinds of places — in locked rooms, along the road, in the midst of fear and doubt, injustice and despair, to people who longed for meaning, purpose, wholeness and faith, and certainly in the joys of being found, healings, people being feed, the discovery of God's way and will.

Where do you see Jesus? How are you experiencing new life in this Easter season? The good news of Easter tells us that wherever we look, regardless of what day it is, Jesus is there, waiting to be seen, waiting for our eyes to open and see new life and new possibilities.

As you look through this edition of the newsletter, I hope that your eyes will be opened to the wonderful ways God is working through us and calling you into new life and encouraging you to be a part of sharing it in your own life and in our life together. God's new life is at work in us and around us! When I see the breadth and impact of our ministry, I can't help but say, "I have seen the Lord!"

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Pastor Leslie

The Compass



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STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Cross Roads will be hosting a walk-through Stations of the Cross during Holy Week.

This will be a series of 14 stations that you can visit which represent the stages of Christ's passion and death.



STATIONS

The church will be open on Monday-Wednesday of Holy Week (March 29-31) from 9:00am-12:00 noon and 4:00-6:00pm each of these three days.

This is a self-guided event, and you are welcome at any time during these hours-reservations are not required. Everyone is invited; you do not need to be a member of Cross Roads. For those who are members, be sure to invite a friend to join you!

This experience will be interactive and engaging as we ponder the events Jesus went through prior to his crucifixion.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Leslie.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP



Thursday, April 1, beginning at 6:30pm, Cross Roads will be having a Holy Thursday (or Maundy Thursday) worship service. This service will be in-person, or you can watch the live-stream online.

During worship, we will be celebrating Holy Communion, so if you will be worshipping with us online,

please have whatever communion elements you would like to use ready.

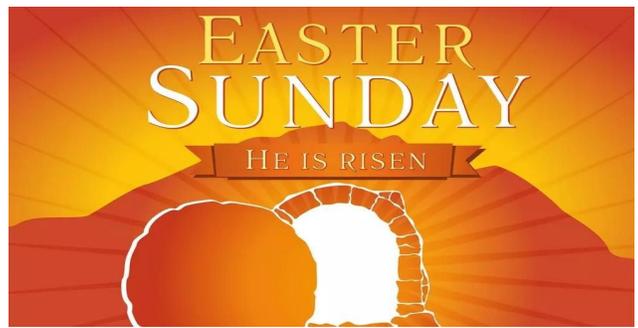
The link for this online service can be found on our church website on the home page. www.crossroadsspicer.com

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Cross Roads will be hosting an online Good Friday service. This service will be available via YouTube beginning, Friday, April 2 at 12:00 noon.

This service will be an intimate look at the betrayal, torture, and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and will give us pause as we enter into the Holy Weekend.

The link for this service will be available on our church website, www.crossroadsspicer.com beginning precisely at noon.



EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

This year, Cross Roads will be hosting three (3) worship services. These services will be held at **7:30 a.m.**; **9:00 a.m.**; and **10:30 a.m.**

Reservations will be required this year for attendance in order to ensure proper social distancing.

You can find the information to register on our church website, www.crossroadsspicer.com. Click on the tab at the top of the home page entitled "Events" and look for the information on Easter Sunday signups. Click on the worship time you wish to attend, and fill out the RSVP with your name and the number of people in your group. Once a service is full, the sign up site will be closed.

The Youth Group and Education Team will also be providing "grab-and-go" breakfast following the 7:30 and 9:00 am services, and prior to the 10:30 am service. Please stop by and say hello to those you haven't seen in quite some time!

We understand this is not how we were hoping to have Easter services this year; however, we are most grateful to be able to worship together in-person. As always, should you still not feel comfortable attending in-person, our 9:00 a.m. service will be live-streamed. That information will be available on our church website at the beginning of Holy Week, as well as via email.

Easter "Grab n Go" Breakfast

The Youth Group and Education Team will be providing a "grab-and-go" breakfast following the 7:30am and 9:00am services, and prior to the 10:30am service. Please stop by their table in the narthex and say hello to those you haven't seen in quite some time!

April Birthdays

Howard Carlsen 9th
Nick Zachariason 9th
Andrew Ryks 13th
Amy Pahl 18th
Bryan Maurice 26th
Anna Duke 28th
Jeff Duke 30th

April Anniversaries

Daryl & Bonnie Hoogeveen 9th
Terry & Michelle Albers 11th
Bud & Kay Ruhl 15th
Kevin & Leann Navratil 16th
Melvin & Marcie Degeest 27th





March 2021 Updates

It's hard to believe March is almost over. We are in full swing of fundraising for the MN FoodShare campaign and the community is once again showing The Link how lucky we are to be a part of so many giving people. 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.

With its' efforts to raise money for Minnesota FoodShare month, The Link set a goal of raising \$25,000 before April 7th. On this quest, Three Sisters offered a match of \$1,000 and if that match was met by March 17, they would donate another \$500. This match was met within a few days of their announcement! Richard and Barbara Gunderson also offered to match \$2,000 and have said if that goal is met by the end of March, they want to donate another \$1,000! As I am typing this update, this match was also met and we are extremely close to our goal! Needless to say, the generosity is humbling and there is no doubt The Link will meet its' goal by the time the campaign is over. Thank you does not seem enough for all the outpouring support! YOU truly are The LINK!

In February, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 7 new families, served 39 children, 76 adults and 15 seniors. 3480 pounds of food was distributed and 506 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 9 families in the month of February. Thanks to some generous volunteers, a lot of large furniture items that had been donated to The Link were delivered to families in need!

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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April 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