

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Now what do we do?

Our Lenten journey is over. We traveled to the upper room on Maundy Thursday with Jesus and his disciples. We heard Jesus say those powerful, effective words that are still effective when we hear them on Sunday mornings, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins” (Matt. 26:28). We traveled to the foot of the cross on Good Friday and heard Jesus utter a lonely cry of abandonment, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me” (Mark 15:34)? We heard the words of finality that Jesus spoke with his last breath, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). And we traveled to the empty tomb to hear again about the group of women that traveled there early on the first day of the week to find it empty. We heard once more the words of the angels at the empty tomb, “He is not here, but has risen” (Luke 24:6). The final, culminating day of the resurrection is over. Now what do we do?

The month of April reminds us that Easter is more than just one day. Easter is an “every Sunday” celebration during which we come together to receive the fruit of the cross and resurrection of Jesus—the forgiveness of sins and the certainty of eternal life with God. Easter is also an “every day” celebration in which we live each day trusting in God through Christ, knowing that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25) for us.

So what do we do now as we go forth from the empty tomb? Let us follow the example of the first witnesses of the empty tomb. After the two angels reminded Mary Magdalene and the other women that Jesus had risen, Luke tells us that “they remembered the words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest” (Lk 24:8-9, emphasis mine). They went forth from the tomb changed by the resurrection of Jesus. They went forth from the tomb to bring an “every day” witness of God’s power.

Where do we go when we leave the empty tomb? Let us follow the example of Jesus’ first disciples. After Jesus walked through locked doors to appear to the disciples and to show himself to Thomas, many of the disciples went back to their fishing business (John 21:1-14). They went back to their vocations or stations in life and took the witness of the resurrection with them. They lived in the joy of the resurrection of Jesus while carrying out the daily, ordinary labor and responsibilities given to them.

Similar to the women at the empty tomb and the eleven disciples, we are “every day” witnesses and participants in the resurrection of Jesus. We believe and are baptized. We have the hope of eternal life. We have the joy of the resurrection living inside of us. Also like the women at the empty tomb and the disciples, we have vocations or stations in life that God has given to us as gift. Most of us are not fishermen, but all of us have one or more of these callings: father, husband, mother, wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, employee, retiree, friend, and neighbor. Each of these callings comes with a set of duties and responsibilities. As Christians, by God’s grace we wrap the daily duties and responsibilities of our vocations in the joy, love, peace, and forgiveness of Christ. Hopefully others will take notice and God will use our faithful work by giving us opportunities to “tell all these things to all the rest” (Luke 24:9).

Now, we go forth from Easter Sunday and the celebration of the empty tomb free as God’s forgiven children in Christ. Go forth empowered by God’s Spirit living and active within us to live in the joy of the resurrection as “every day” witnesses.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Leslie

The Compass



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Admin Team Notes

At the Admin Team meeting on March 19, we had the pleasure of meeting our district supervisor, Rev. Laurie Kantonen. Rev. She has served as our superintendent for four years now, but beginning this July, she will transfer to a different district and the Rev. Becky Jo Messenbrink (who was born in Atwater) will be our D.S. Rev. Kantonen gave us an update as to the issues to be discussed at the upcoming General Conference that will be held in Charlotte, NC from April 23 - May 3. Rev. Kantonen asked us how things were going at Cross Roads and seemed pleased with the warm, supportive and enthusiastic responses she received from the Admin Team members.

She did pose two questions to the team and challenged us to pray and be intentional about finding a way to address them:

1. How do we as a congregation find a way to fill a niche or a need within our community?
2. How do we build a community with our on-line congregation so they feel included in the life and activities of the church?

We don't have the answers to these questions right now, but as we continue our faith journey together as a congregation, hopefully the answers become clear. If you have any ideas or thoughts, your feedback is always welcome.

At the meeting, the other main discussion the team held was about purchasing a new electronic sign. A new sign would help us be more visible in the area, help us communicate to people passing by about the activities going on in our church and to help us be able to communicate last minute changes (i.e. cancellations due to weather) among other things. Dave Evermann, Randy Ronning and Duane Daby volunteered to form an ad hoc committee with Pastor Leslie to further explore the costs, design and infrastructure needed for a new sign. More details to come!

As always, if you have any questions about things going on in the church, don't hesitate to ask any member of the Admin Team or Pastor Leslie.

By the time you read this, hopefully Spring will actually be upon us!

Pat Solheid

Chair, Admin Team

April Birthdays

Emma Friesen 5th
Howard Carlsen 9th
Nick Zachariason 9th
Harlan Halbersma 16th
Amy Pahl 18th
Bryan Maurice 26th
Anna Duke 28th

April Anniversaries

Daryl & Bonnie Hoogeveen 9th
Terry & Michelle Albers 11th



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

Celebration Bash

Our next Celebration Bash will be April 7 after 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!



Coffee Corner

Our next Coffee Corner will meet on Wednesday, April 10 at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall. Please join us for some good coffee and great conversation!



Hymn and Prayer Service

April 14 we will be having a Hymn and Prayer service during worship. Please come with your favorite hymns and be ready to praise God through song!

95th Birthday Celebration!

On Sunday, April 21, Pat and Dave Evermann will be providing coffee and treats following worship in honor of Mariel's (Dave's mom) 95th birthday. Come for worship and stay for the celebration!

April Missions & Outreach

April Mission Focus - The Reel Hope Project



The REELHOPE Project's mission is:

A forever family for every child.

Their goal is to make a video for all youth in our focus states who are experiencing foster care and awaiting an adoptive family. Each reel is provided free of charge to the representing county or adoption agency as a recruitment resource for prospective adoptive families. Their vision is to mobilize the faith community to step into adoption, foster care, and prevention efforts. They serve as a bridge between Church and State, partnering broadly on both sides to see an end to youth waiting for families. They believe in approaching this need from both ends of the spectrum – preventing kids from entering the system and finding families for kids awaiting adoption.

All excess funds in April will go towards helping them create the videos.

Tuesday's Table - we will be hosting Tuesday's Table on April 30th. The menu is set and we'll be serving chili, grilled cheese sandwich, and a variety of bars for dessert. If you are able to assist with serving, please contact Jenny Daby.

Boutique - The Boutique has been scheduled for Saturday, October 5th from 8:30-11:30. There will be an informational meeting held on Sunday, April 14th, right after worship services! Please plan to join us!



FEBRUARY 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

THE FOOD PANTRY

In February, The Food Pantry served **180 Households** including 306 adults, 191 children and 61 seniors-- distributing a total of **9,720** pounds of food!



CLIENT OUTREACH and HOUSEHOLD EXCHANGE

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.

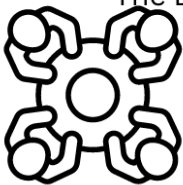
In February, your donations were able to support **31 families** by helping with medical bills and prescription cost, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs. The Link also provided **17 families** with basic household needs including clothing, furniture and winter gear!

WILDCAT BACKPACK AND SNACK PANTRY

The Link is currently serving **96 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 **31 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: Crossroads Community Church (Spicer).

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 clothing and household essentials. Food: Kid friendly food (corn dogs, chicken nuggets, french fries, pizza, snacks, etc. , Monetary donations to support the increased need in outreach and The Food Pantry .



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 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!



**Cross Roads Community
United Methodist Church**

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April 2024

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.