

Mark 12:29-34 (The Message)

Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these." The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher! So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that's better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!" When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, "You're almost there, right on the border of God's kingdom."

Next to worship, discipleship is central to our relationship with God. We gather together for worship to give praise to God and seek God's guidance for living daily. In discipleship, we focus on what we do daily to enter into God's presence and the means by which we grow closer to God.

A question to ask is, "what is a disciple?" In *A Disciples' Path, Deepening Your Relationship with Christ and the Church*, Rev. Jim Harnish defines a disciple as, "a follower of Jesus whose life is centering on loving God and loving others" (p. 16 Daily Workbook). This definition comes from the Mark passage above, and our Wesleyan understanding of it. Jesus told his followers that they were to love God with everything and to love their neighbors as they love themselves. This was not a new concept for the Jewish followers of Jesus. The first half of this commandment is from Deuteronomy, and is called The Shema. This was Israel's rule of thumb for loving God. Throughout the laws in Deuteronomy and Leviticus the Jews were called to love others, to care for the stranger, the poor, the widow and orphan, and to welcome those outside the faith into their communities. So, this idea of following God was not new. The problem is it wasn't always followed. Those interpreting the laws moved away from simply loving God and loving others, and tacked many other laws to what it meant to be a follower of YHWH.

Jesus reminded his followers, and reminds us, that to be a follower of God we need to do two things, love God and love Others. For John Wesley it was simple, "The love which our Lord requires in all his followers, is the love of God and man; of God, for his own, and of man, for God's sake."

In *A Disciple's Path*, the question is asked: how do we love God? To love God with heart, mind, soul, and strength, we must spend time with God. Bible study, prayer, worship, and devotion, are all ways we spend time with God. Study is an important piece to discipleship. Being a part of a small group or a Bible study group or a class studying the teachings of the Church, are all ways we can grow closer to God and grow as a disciple of Christ.

We will once again have our small group Bible studies beginning in September. We will be focusing on the Book of Acts, and how those who were part of the early Church community learned to live and love together as the body of Christ. This will a 10-week study; however, it is designed with flexibility in mind in the event you need to miss a class or two. We will also begin Youth Group meetings in September on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. We have our Coffee Corner small group, where people can come together and fellowship with one another. Our Boutique will be taking place on October 8, and will need lots of volunteers to make it a success (and you can clean out your homes for gently used household items-no clothes) to be sold in our "Second Chances area). The Leadership Board of Cross Roads is continuing to engage in visioning and planning for the coming months and years in our congregation, so there will be other discipleship opportunities in the near future. Pastor Leslie is looking for individuals to help teach Bible study classes, to help prepare/clean up on Communion Sundays, as well as serve as Lay Readers during worship service.

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The Compass



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We are all called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, which means engaging in the life of your faith community in various ways. Therefore, I pray that in the coming days and weeks, you will sign up for Bible study, and spend a couple of months growing closer to one another and to God. I pray you will engage in the mission and outreach that Cross Roads has going on, and find ways to love and serve others.

You will hear more about discipleship over the next few months. My deepest desire is that all of us will participate in small groups, studies, and in growing closer to God. I believe this will help us live into our vision: At Cross Roads UMC, our desire is to help everyone find joy in their journey by: 1) Inviting everyone to walk with Jesus; 2) Growing together as Disciples; 3) Serving others we meet along the way; and 4) Joyfully Celebrating the Journey!

Please join me in praying for our group leaders, our Leadership Board, and our entire congregation as we move forward in discipleship, as we deepen our relationship with God. Next month we will focus on how we love others.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Leslie

Admin Team Notes

September is a time of transition. Leaves turn from green to yellow and red. Hot temperatures get left behind as the nights and days start to cool off. September is like the engine of a train, pulling us into the fall and the winter and all of the activities that start to ramp up, secular and religious, alike. As Christians, the September "train" is starting the journey towards one of our holiest of Christian seasons -- Advent and the birth of Christ. There are only 16 Sundays between now and Christmas, with lots of activities in between! Fall always seems like the time where we are building up "steam" as a congregation, heading toward the Advent season.

Metaphorically, one "car" on this Cross Roads "train" is the Nominations Team which has started its task of finding people to fill various positions and committee in our leadership structure for 2023. I hope you will consider serving if you are asked to do so, and (gasp) it's all right to reach out and volunteer to fill a spot BEFORE you are asked!! We are a small (but mighty) congregation, and it takes lots of hands to keep our church up and running. Like the old Uncle Sam ads stated: "We Need YOU."

Another "car" is the return of our students and teachers back to the classroom. Pastor Leslie did a blessing of the backpacks/bookbags at worship this past Sunday. God bless and Godspeed to all who are returning to the classroom, whether as a student or a teacher.

One train car we can all hop onto this fall is a Bible study. Pastor Leslie is teaching a Bible study on Tuesday mornings or Thursday evenings, so please sign up for one of them. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter or in the emails that you received about "What's Happening at Cross Roads." Pastor Leslie revealed that she has written and designed this Bible study herself. I hope you are looking forward to participating in one of these sessions as much as I am.

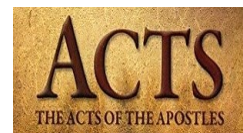
The big boxcar event coming up just over a month is the Boutique. The Boutique will make an appearance for the first time in many years, and it brings with it a level of activity and energy that are exhilarating.

There's lots of activities and fun ahead in the next month and I hope you come along for the ride. All aboard!

Pat Solheid, Admin Team Chair

Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, September 20, Pastor Leslie will be doing a 10 week Bible study on the book of Acts, written by Pastor Leslie herself. This class will be offered at two times: Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am and Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm. Both classes will be in hybrid form, with in-person classes being held in the church library. There is a workbook for this class, so please let Pastor Leslie know if you are interested in participating so there will be enough materials on hand.



FALL IS HERE AGAIN, and our Youth Group will be kicking off again soon. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month beginning at 6:30 pm. Dinner is served each week, followed by our time of learning, sharing, and fellowship. Please mark your calendars and let your youth know we will be gathering on the following dates this fall:

September 7
September 21
October 5
October 19
November 2
November 16
December 7
December 21

We are looking forward to being together again soon!

Meals Needed

If you are interested in providing a meal for one of our youth group meetings, please contact either Donna Smith or Pastor Leslie to let them know. We typically have between 10-12 persons each week.



Mission & Outreach-September

We have received a plea from The Link for food for their pantry as their supply is running low. SO, for September, that will be our focus....with a twist!

We will have the men in the congregation compete with the women in the congregation to see who can provide the most items! In the Sanctuary, on the steps....the items the women gather will be on one side and the items the men gather will be on the other...with the hopes of meeting in the middle. I would encourage you to ask your neighbors if they will provide an item or two to help fill the steps!! To be fair, any monies designated for The Link this month, will be evenly split between the two teams!

The WINNER of this competition, besides our friends at The Link receiving lots of food items, will receive a lovely meal SERVED to them by the losing team. The dinner will be held sometime in October. More about that later. In the meantime, start gathering your items!!!



Walk To End Alzheimer's

Pastor Leslie has created a team for the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Willmar on September 17 at Robbins Island. Her team's name is **Bea's Team**, and is in memory of her dear grandmother who died after suffering from Alzheimer's for several years.

She has created a fundraising goal for her team of \$2,000. If you would like to help her raise money, donate, or walk with her on September 17, please contact her and she will be happy to provide more details. Let's work together to raise money for research to end Alzheimer's disease!

Remember to Save Your Teals Receipts!

Cross Roads UMC is continuing to be part of the Teals' Market 1% Receipt Rebate Program.

When you shop at Teals, save your receipts, bring them to church, and put them in the special Teals Receipts box located just outside the sanctuary in the narthex area. Teals will donate 1% of our receipt totals to Cross Roads to put towards our many missions and outreach projects. All receipts will be accepted, even those from previous years. Please note that gas receipts ARE a part of the program!

This is a great opportunity to take part in a local business giving back to our community.

Thank you for your support!



Coffee Corner



Cross Roads Coffee Corner will meet Wednesday, September 7 and Wednesday, September 21st, both starting at 9am. Everyone is welcome to drop in and visit. Nothing is needed other than a desire for coffee and fellowship. We hope you will join us!

Missions & Outreach

The last planning meeting for the Fall Boutique will be held on Sunday, September 11th right after worship. Coffee will be available!!

August Mission update...Due to the generosity of Cross Roads, we were able to provide OVER 1,400 school supply items to The Link! In addition, \$100 worth of books were purchased for Tihana Rohloff's classroom. Cross Roads....you are AMAZING!!!!

September—During the month of September, we will hold a men vs women food drive competition. All food items donated will be placed on the steps in the sanctuary and all items will go to The Link for their food pantry at the end of the month. Please no expired food items. The losing team will prepare a meal for the winning team in October!! Get creative about gathering food items...ask your neighbors to join in the competition!!

Upcoming Mission Events:

October – the newly resurrected Fall Boutique will be held on Saturday, October 8th from 8:30 am – 11:30 am. Tell all your friends and neighbors. Posters will be available in the Narthex if you'd like to take one to post somewhere. All proceeds from this even will go into the general missions fund to be used for future events.

November – Tuesday's Table community dinner will be held at Cross Roads on Tuesday, November 29th. Watch for details about how you can help with this event!

Bless a Home – During the month of November, we will be collecting funds to be used towards the Bless A Home event as we have in the past. 10 families will be provided a full holiday meal and 6 families will receive gifts that they can wrap and give their family members.

December – A Red Cross Blood drive will be held on Wednesday, December 14th from 1 pm – 7 pm. Watch the announcements for details.

Sept. Birthdays

Jean Wolff 1st
Hayden Duke 2nd
Carter Bjornfald 3rd
Kaleb Smith 3rd
Kim Rohloff 4th
Barb Springman 6th
Elijah Kennedy 7th
Ralph Dickerson 8th
Logan Duke 13th
Jaden Smith 15th
Pat Evermann 18th
Trenton Rohloff 21st
Duane Daby 22nd
Don Ericson 22nd
Diane Maurice 27th
Robin Ryks 30th

Sept. Anniversaries

Richard & Linda Kelvington 4th
Brian & Jean Wolff 10th
Merle & Judy Kluver 12th
Dwight & Robin Ryks 22nd
Jeff & Diane Duke 24th
Jeff & Amy Denz 26th



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



3400 113th Ave NE
Spicer, MN 56288

320-796-2339
www.crossroadsspicer.com

September 2022

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

WE'RE BACK! PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
CROSS ROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH



Boutique



SHOP THESE AREAS

The Backyard • Bake Sale • The Soup Pot (homemade frozen soups)
Cross Roads Cafe (free cup of coffee & cookie) • Second Chances
Cookies by the Dozen • Crafts, Crafts, Crafts • The Book Nook

OCTOBER 8TH  8:30 - 11:30 AM

CROSS ROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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