

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

– Ecclesiastes 3:1

This week, I finally decided it was safe to put away my winter clothes. Of course, this year, I don’t think we had much in the way of truly Minnesotan “winter” weather. However, I believe the season has dramatically changed in the last few weeks, finally turning to true spring (perhaps even early summer), and for many of us, it is most welcome.

The changes in our weather aren’t the only seasons that we experience in our life. In fact, King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that “for everything there is a season.” I encourage you to read the whole chapter of Ecclesiastes 3 along with this article. Solomon gives many examples of “changing seasons” in that chapter. Here are a few examples: our life in its entirety is but a season in the greater concept of time. There is a planting season and a harvest season, times of sadness and times of laughter, seasons to save and store, and there are times to spend and give.

For many of us, the warmer weather isn’t the only change of season happening right now. Maybe some in our church family have relatives who are getting married, or who are beginning to plan weddings for next year. Marriage begins a new season of life! Some of you may have family expecting babies. Many of you are entering into a time each year that you define as “lake season.” We have graduating seniors in our congregation who are ending this season of life and heading off to college in the fall, and we have those who are being confirmed and just beginning their spiritual journey. We have those who may be looking for new jobs. These are just a few of the ways that our lives change over the course of time, and these kinds of things happen all through life!

At the end of his list of seasons in Ecclesiastes 3, Solomon says that this is the business God has given to humankind and that God has made everything beautiful in its time. You know, these kinds of changes are often wonderful, but there are also changing seasons that are painful and filled with sorrow. Those seasons can last days or weeks, months or even years! One of the main points of the book of Ecclesiastes is that God is in control through all these seasons of life and that God is good to us. It may not always look like it, but God sees things from a different angle, a better and eternal perspective, and God makes everything beautiful in its time!

Because of that, Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 that the best thing for humankind in whatever we do in any season is to be joyful, “do good” as long as we live, and take pleasure in our toil or work, whatever it is. He says that this is God’s gift to humanity. In other words, God’s in control so enjoy yourselves! Isn’t that kind of a fun thought?!

Sometimes changes in our life cause fear. By nature, we don’t always like change. If that’s you, whether you’re graduating from high school, marrying off a child, moving a child to another part of the country, just entering the workforce or getting ready to retire, remember that God is in control, God’s good to you, and will take care of you, so enjoy whatever God has in store for your next season of life!

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Leslie

The Compass



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Admin Board Meeting

The Admin Board will be meeting on May 14 at 6:30 pm. Please let Pastor Leslie know if you need a link to attend via zoom.

Annual Conference

Annual Conference Dates are May 29-30. Pastor Leslie will be in Bloomington from May 28-30 (May 28 is Clergy Session).

Graduation and Confirmation Sunday

We will be having a joint Confirmation and Graduation Sunday on May 19 during worship. We have 2 Confirmands who will be joining our congregation as well as one high school senior we will be celebrating. Please plan to stay following worship for treats and fellowship as we celebrate these milestones in our youth's lives.

Celebration Bash/New Member Celebration

Our next Celebration Bash will be May 5 after worship. Please plan to stay for treats and coffee as we celebrate those with May birthdays and anniversaries, as well as celebrating our newest members!



Coffee Corner

Our next Coffee Corner will meet on Wednesday, May 8 at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall. Please join us for some good coffee and great conversation!



Lay Liturgists Needed

We have a few more dates available during the first half of this year for Lay Liturgists: May 12, May 26, June 2, June 16, and June 30. If you would like help with these dates, please contact Pastor Leslie.

New Bulletin Board!

Please notice the new bulletin board in the Narthex. Prayer is SO important in our daily lives and some of us don't always know what to say when we need to talk to God. There are several categories of prayers. TAKE WHAT YOU NEED! God is always listening.

May Missions & Outreach

April showers, bring May flowers! We have lots of flowers (opportunities) popping up at Cross Roads in May. Here are the details:

Family Promise - Cross Roads' opportunity to serve a meal to the residents is Thursday, May 9th, 6 pm. They only need one 9 x 13 casserole with salad and cookies, or something similar. Contact Jenny Daby if you are able to prepare, deliver, and serve this meal.

Mission Focus - We will have TWO opportunities to give this month:

- **Hope Care Pantry** - we will be collecting women's hygiene items in the month of May and deliver them to Hope Presbyterian Church for the Hope Care Pantry, where clients have opportunities to choose up to 15 items each month.
- **Foster Stitches** - you may have seen that Foster Stitches is now part of The Link. This program allows foster parents/kids to come to The Revival and choose clothing. MANY times, these kids arrive at their foster homes with only the clothes on their backs. Cross Roads will be collecting NEW panties, socks, and t-shirts for GIRLS age 10-16. Remember, kids come in all sizes. Not to worry, we'll cover the boys in June!

Blood Drive - Cross Roads will be hosting another blood drive on Wednesday, June 5th from 9 am - 3 pm. If you can volunteer to help check in folks, please contact Jenny Daby. The drive is OPEN to accept donors, so use your app and sign up to donate! We're still waiting for the soft-sided cooler to arrive and will be drawing a winner from the March drive. If you donate in June, you will receive a Memorial Day t-shirt!!!

If you have any questions or suggestions for future Mission opportunities, please contact Jenny Daby.

May Birthdays

Mellody Hanson 5th
Justin Pahl 7th
Sharon Hagen 10th
Riley Pflipsen 10th
Dave Muetzel 16th
Pat Kaiser 21st
Amariya Pahl 24th
Jean Ericson 25th
Amy Denz 30th

May Anniversaries

Don & Jean Ericson 5th
Scott & Lori Doty 14th



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





MARCH 2024 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

THE FOOD PANTRY

In March, The Food Pantry served **150 Households**- including 228 adults, 133 children and 55 seniors-- distributing a total of 8,461 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.

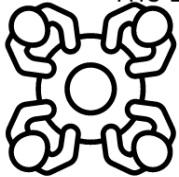
In March, your donations were able to support **36 families** by helping with medical bills and prescription cost, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic needs. The Link also provided **18 families** with basic household 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:

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS FOR RIBFEST 2024. SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 8TH!

Gently used clothing and household essentials.

Food: Kid friendly food (corn dogs, chicken nuggets, french fries, pizza, snacks, etc. , Monetary donations.



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**

3400 113th Ave NE
Spicer, MN 56288

320-796-2339
www.crossroadsspicer.com

May 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.