

Beloved Church Family,

We all know what it feels like to be harried; to see the accumulation of half-completed chores and unfinished projects pile up at home or at work while we try to get a handle on another day's demands: work, childcare, laundry, meal planning, sports, lessons, volunteer activities, exercise, emails, lawn care, and on and on. If you're like me you are perpetually longing for that "light at the end of the tunnel" when the desk will be cleared, the chores will be done, the "honey-do" list will be completed, and there will be space for one huge SIGH, a day to kick-back and to savor life.

In *The Fiddler on the Roof*, Tevye the milkman sings about how he would use that "down" time—a time he imagines would surely be his, if only he "were a rich man." The sweetest thing of all, he warbles, would be studying "the holy books with the learned men seven hours every day." We all have dreams about how we would use our time if we only had the time. The point, of course, is what we choose to do now with the time that we have; how we pattern our lives now, not in some imagined world that, in reality, we will never realize.

When the apostles returned from the missionary journey on which Jesus had sent them, they were full of stories and experiences they wanted to share about what they had seen and done and taught. Mark tells us that their ministries met with some success. [6:13] Jesus was well aware of the demands of ministry, and how their enthusiasm and growth had to be matched with time away, time to unwind, to reflect, and to receive. The journey onto which he had invited them, after all, was not a sprint but a marathon. So, after he listened to all they had to share, he invited them to "come away and rest a while." It is a pattern into which he invites us as well.

One of the great gifts from the tradition of our Jewish forbearers is the Sabbath. A day each week of community supported down time, a pattern whose origin the tradition traces back to the very beginning of creation and God's own actions. [Genesis 1]. Sabbath is a time for resting, a time for rekindling our spiritual life, reconnecting with family, giving rest to beasts of burden, being restored through a rhythm that will enable life to carry on for the long haul. In our chronically overworked society, Sabbath time must seem to most of us like a distant dream, yet the fact is for century upon century real people in real life have practiced that tradition. Maybe it's time to take it back.

My own pattern has been to carve out concentrated "sabbath" time during the summer. I have taken a few days off here and there, including some time while my children were all visiting, to have a "stay-cation." I also take a weekly Sabbath day on Monday, spending time with Donald who also has Mondays off. We are rediscovering the wonder of God's creation, something which was difficult to do in North Carolina during the summers because of the horrendous heat. We have bikes and kayaks now, so you can often find us on one of the many lakes in our area or on the bike trails (or even just riding around the streets of Willmar).

Whatever your plans are during the next couple of months, I hope that you, too, will take time to heed Jesus' call to "come away and rest for a while." I've found that it's often during the time away that the things that have been hazy in my life, the question marks, the puzzles, become clarified. I pray the same for you. May God grant you refreshment the remainder of this summer ~ whether you are home or away, whether we meet here at Cross Roads, on the lake, or on the bike trails. May God's deep peace inhabit your soul.

Love in Christ always,

Pastor Leslie

# The Compass



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Admin Team.....	2
Coffee Group .....	2
Books etc. wanted.....	2
Birthdays/Anniv.....	2
The LINK.....	3

## Admin Team Meeting

The Admin Team will be meeting on Tuesday, August 17, 6:30pm, in the church library. Pastor Leslie will send a link out for Zoom if you are unable to attend in person.

## We Have a New Small Group Coming to Cross Roads!

Beginning Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 9:00 am, Cross Roads will be kicking off its newest small group, and everyone is invited!

Cross Roads "Coffee Corner" will begin the first Wednesday in August and will be held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to come as frequently or as little as you like. This is a time for coffee and fellowship; just a way to catch up with what is going on with others in the congregation, especially those you perhaps haven't had a chance to really talk to since the pandemic began, or those you would like to get to know better.



Currently the Coffee Corner will provide only coffee; however, you are welcome to bring any type of treat you like for yourself or others. And bring a friend, especially someone who doesn't have a church family. This would be a terrific way to introduce them to folks at Cross Roads in a casual setting.

## New Teacher Looking for Books & Supplies!

One of our young adults at Cross Roads, Tiahna Rohloff, will begin her first year as a teacher at Willmar Middle School, teaching 6th Grade ELA (English/Language Arts).

Tiahna is looking for books to fill her classroom. She is more than happy to take donations, and is also willing to pay for them (remember she is a first year teacher). She would really like to have a classroom library full of books for all of her students at all reading levels. They can be chapter books and non chapter books.

Tiahna is also accepting donations for her classroom. Her wishlist can be found by going to the "Events" tab on our church website. If you would like to help her out, please feel free to do so.

If you have any books you would like to donate to Tiahna's classroom, please contact her at (320) 894-1388 or email her at [tiahnarohloff2@gmail.com](mailto:tiahnarohloff2@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support!!



## A Note from our Admin Chair

Jim and I recently had the opportunity to host the Youth Group for a summer activity. It was just a joy. It was one of the few days this summer where rain loomed on the horizon, threatening to derail any outdoor plans. In anticipation, I set up our garage with a large Jenga game, a washer toss game (like indoor horseshoes) and checkers because the event was on, rain or shine.

Luckily, the rain held off enough that we were able to get out on the lake for a pontoon ride and some of the kids even went wading at the sandbar on Nest Lake. When we got back to our house, it was "game on" as well as time for a bonfire--not for heat, but for cooking hot dogs and roasting marshmallows. (I'd say that most of the kids need to work on their roasting skills, or maybe it's their patience that needs work!). One hardy soul wanted to fish and caught her first fish, albeit a small one. It was a great day and we were blessed to get the chance to spend the afternoon with the kids. Their camaraderie, easy banter and good natures were evident and I can say unequivocally, they are a great bunch. Kudos to Pastor Leslie for keeping the youth group moving forward after we lost the last youth leaders. If anyone wants to step up or step in, I'm sure Pastor Leslie would appreciate the help!

I encourage you to take the time to get better acquainted with the great group of youth that we have at Cross Roads. What we lack in numbers, we make up for with quantity! While I hate to see any of the church youth grow up and move on, it's the way of life and it's heartening to see the great adults that they all become. We're lucky that we get to have a small role in that as their church family.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Pat Solheid  
Chair, Admin Team



## August Birthdays

Pat O'Connor 2nd  
Myrtle Caskey 9th  
Tiahna Rohloff 10th  
Doug Decker 13th  
Michele Albers 14th  
Al Boonstra 16th  
Karen Dean 16th  
Merle Kluver 16th  
Shelli Peterson 16th  
Kevin Navratil 18th  
Bob Kaiser 22nd  
Riley Bjonfald 24th  
Robbie Johnson 26th

## August Anniversaries

Jordan & Ashley Massmann 10th  
Eric & Jamie Bjonfald 15th  
Joel & Sharon Hagen 17th  
Dustin & Kendra Pflipsen 17th  
Tom & Donna Smith 17th  
Al & Lylas Boonstra 24th





## July 2021 Updates

**The Link has some exciting news!** The dream of a new building is becoming a reality! Revive and Redeem and The Community Closet will officially be combining as one Thrift Store and is moving to Midtown Plaza, 15 Main St. S in New London August 2nd. We are excited about this opportunity to be in downtown New London, in a larger, more accessible location. We hope this move will generate more revenue for The Link's mission. We will be starting to take donations at this location on August 3rd. Until we are more settled, we will only be accepting donations Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am-3pm. Please help us spread the word about our new location. We are praying for a smooth and easy transition to the new space and look forward to seeing more traffic.

In June, The **Food Pantry** welcomed 8 new families, served 34 children, 60 adults and 13 seniors. 2930 pounds of food was distributed and 630 pounds of food was donated from community members and churches.

The **Wildcat Backpack Program** is done for the school year, but we will continue to serve families as needed throughout the summer. If you know a family that could benefit from this program, please have them call Ashley at 320-354-5555.

**Senior Food Delivery-** The Link volunteers have been out delivering some food to seniors in that benefit from not going out and about. 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 9 families in the month of June. 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 2 families in June by giving families in need dressers, dishes, curtains, bathroom rugs and other kitchen utensils.

### **Tuesday's Table:**

Tuesday's Table continues to be cancelled until further notice.

We have begun to see an increase in need for The Food Pantry and our Client Outreach services since June hit. If you would like to donate to any of these programs specifically or to our general fund, please see below for more details.

### **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](http://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](mailto:ashley@youarethelink.org) for more information.



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United Methodist Church**

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August 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