

Have you ever played the game “Two Truths and a Lie?” For those of you unfamiliar with this game, a person lists three interesting facts about themselves; two truths and one lie. The object of the game is for the opponent to guess the lie. I won this game once several years ago with these statements: I served in the U.S. Navy; I have a daughter in college; and I once met the President of the United States. But this article isn’t about me.

In some families of faith, the word I am about to use is almost seen as a dirty word: **Money**. There; I said it. And I am glad I did. Some might say that talking about money in church is a necessary evil; however, I believe that in order for a church to be effective in ministry, talking about money is actually a necessary goodness, and not just once a year. So, in the fashion of the game I mentioned above, here are three facts about money from a biblical perspective.

#1. Stewardship is something we should consider all year long, not just “in season.” **True!** God’s creation clearly shows growth and focus during the springtime— but that doesn’t mean everything is on hold during the other three seasons. Summer capitalizes on what spring has begun. Autumn brings many fruits to bear, ready for harvest. And during the winter, as the creation cycle is complete, the earth rests, but is hardly inactive.

#2. Jesus talked about money all the time in his ministry. **True again!** Some say Jesus taught about money more than he taught about any other issue! A quick Google search popped up over fifty occasions when Jesus spoke to the crowds about money, giving and stewardship.

#3. My gift is too small to make any difference at all. **Lies, lies, lies!** Remember when you were little, and someone you love gave you a whole dime—and you could go see a movie? A quarter meant you could also get popcorn—and maybe some jujubes! So where did you get the idea that your gift, however small, isn’t valued in God’s eyes (and in the church budget)?

Pastors often have a hard time talking about money and giving. We know, Sunday is the day you don’t want to hear about that kind of stuff! But if we are committed to lovingly and effectively serving God, we need to think and talk about money, and all the other gifts we bring before God. Our time, our talents and our treasure belong to the One who created each one of us, unique and perfect. And that, friends, is a truth we must never forget.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Leslie

P.S. I have never met any President of the United States; however, I had an aunt who worked directly in the White House during four separate administrations. However, the person guessing my lie all those years ago thought my lie was that I had a daughter in college, which at the time I did. Now you know.

The Compass



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Office Hours	2
Youth News	2
Note- Admin Chair ...	2
Birthdays/Anniv.....	2
The LINK.....	3

Updated Office Hours

Beginning June 1, 2021, Cross Roads will resume having regular office hours. The new hours will be as follows:

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9 am to 12 noon each of these days.

Pastor Leslie will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (as Mondays are her Sabbath); however, as always, she is available to meet at other hours by appointment, whether it just to chat or for a specific topic of conversation.

Youth Group Summer Activities

Group will not formally be meeting during this summer this year; however, we will be planning some summer activities. We understand the youth often work, travel with their families, or have other commitments during the summer. We have done our best in the scheduling to accommodate as many of the youth as possible but you cannot attend, we certainly understand.



if

Thus far, we have events scheduled for June and July, and are still working on an event for August.

In June, we will have an outdoor movie night. This event will begin until 8:30 pm, to allow for the darkness to help with outdoor movie viewing. There will be drinks and popcorn. We will meet on the backside of the church property by the rear kitchen door.

In July, we will be meeting at 2:00pm on July 14 at the home of Jim & Pat Solheid for an afternoon boat outing. The Solheids have graciously offered to take the youth out for an afternoon on their pontoon boat.

We are working on an event for August, but are considering a lock-in at the church. Pastor Leslie and Don are looking at a potential date of Sunday, August 15th for this event. They would like to know if this date would work for the majority of our youth, so if your youth CANNOT attend on this date for some reason (sports, vacation, etc.) please let them know ASAP so an alternate date can be chosen.

Please mark you calendars for the June and July dates. We want to give the youth a chance to stay connected this summer as we move back to some sense of "normal."

June Birthdays

Whitnee Nelson—1st
Coltin Pflipsen—11th
Mike Evenson—22nd
Wyatt Huls—27th
Leslie Zeek—27th
Linda Kelvington—28th
Avery Pederson—29th
Brittany Kluver—30th

June Anniversaries

Dennis & Donna Gertgen—6th
Ross & Joy Baker —11th
Howard & Mary Jane Carlsen—14
Jim & Doree Leither—21
Bryan & Diane Maurice—28

On May 23, I heard a strange sound. It was a "humming" sound, with occasional spikes in volume, that I hadn't heard for many a month. Was it coming from a bee hive? No, I was indoors. Was someone flying a drone? No, again, I was indoors. Then it struck me--it was the "hum" of many conversations occurring at the same time. It was the sound of members of our congregation visiting with each other after the church service! A phenomenon that hadn't happened for well over a year! This was our first Sunday without masks (for vaccinated people) in a long while. Everyone in attendance in church that Sunday had an air of excitement about them. No one seemed to want to leave when worship was done! People were introducing themselves or reintroducing themselves to those who'd never seen the lower half of the others' faces! For the first time in a long time, church felt almost "normal."

For all of us at Cross Roads, however, we're going to have to get reacquainted with what "normal" means these days. While things seem to be getting better, we are still in a pandemic and life as we know it will never be like it was in 2019. Church will never be like it was in 2019. Is that good? Is that bad? I'm not sure what things will look like or how they will be but I do know this -- we're all going to have to embrace a "new normal."

At the most recent Administrative Team meeting (May 11), the committee leaders of the church along with Pastor Leslie started a dialog about our "new normal" and I'm confident we will continue to have this dialog as we wind down the remainder of 2021. New doesn't have to equate with bad...things may just end up being different than they have in the past. One example of our new normal is the on-line worship component. Streaming the service on Sunday isn't going to stop. Personally, this means that I am participate in worship services MORE than I did in the past. Being on vacation used to mean missing out on what happened on Sunday. Now it means that I can stay connected when I'm out of town or I can get caught up when I get back. Is that good? I think so!

Cross Roads is bustling even though things are different. The large screens installed over a month ago have substantially enhanced the visual quality of our service (in person and on-line). Who needs a bulletin to hand out on Sundays, anyways! We've proved that we don't! The new sound system makes the audio sound great. Plans for a community garden are being bandied about. We celebrated an important milestone with our high school and college graduates from last year and this year. Activities are planned for the youth group to stay engaged this summer. Things are happening throughout Cross Roads!

If you're someone who doesn't like change, you'll have to get over it. Changes are here and more are still coming! At some future time, we need to have some "visioning" sessions to get input, feedback and consensus about how we move forward into 2022 and beyond from all the members of the congregation. For the time being, however, embrace and enjoy our "new normal" and enjoy the ride! Through God's grace, mercy and love, we'll find the right path into the future.

In Christ's Love,

Pat Solheid
Admin Team Chair



May 2021 Updates

Another month gone and it feels so good to return to some normalcy here at The Link!

We are well underway planning **RibFest** which is set for Sunday, June 13. The information is as follows:

When: Sunday, June 13, 2021

Where: Goat Ridge Brewing Co.

Two ticket options:

Tasting tickets are \$25 and tasting will be 2 pm - 5 pm.

5 samples + 1 piece of pie

NEW: VIP tickets* are \$100 with early access from 1 pm - 2 pm

Rib Sample from each rib team + 2 pieces of pie + 2 beverages

VIP tickets for people wishing to gain early access with the first tastes of ribs and pie. It is designed for two people to share a rib from each team.

Only 100 VIP tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Chasity at 320-354-5465 or Ashley at 320-354-5555, stopping in at The Link or ordering online on The Rib Fest facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ribfestforthelink>) or following this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/smokin-for-the-link-rib-fest-tickets-154431253035>.

In April, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 5 new families, served 26 children, 53 adults and 24 seniors. 2322 pounds of food was distributed and 1520 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- 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 5 families in the month of April. Throughout the month, The Link was able to help with utility bills, rent payments, car repairs, furniture, kitchen appliances and a hotel stay for a husband who wanted to be present where his wife was having surgery.

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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June 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