

Change can be hard for anyone. Change seems to be, for many in our society, a nasty four-letter word (or in this case, six letters). We don't like change in our lives, because it messes with the expected and usual; it messes with our routines and traditions. For example, every Monday evening at my house is pasta for dinner. Most nights is spaghetti, because it is my favorite, with garlic bread and salad. Occasionally, we will switch things up and have penne pasta, but every now and then we have something going on and cannot have pasta. When that happens, you would think the world was coming to an end for me. Change, in whatever form it comes, is difficult for all of us.

These last few years have seen one change after another. At times we feel like it is just slapping us in the face. Of course, one of the main things to change over these last few years, mostly because of the pandemic, has been the way we worship. At first, we were forced to worship online. Then we were allowed back in the sanctuary with social distancing and masks. Then we were back online. Now, we have gotten back to in-person worship in the sanctuary and seems (hopefully) we are here to stay. However, not everyone has returned to in-person worship, or last not on a regular basis. Many people like the option of being able to sit at home in their PJ's, with their coffee or breakfast, and worship. And remember what I said this past Sunday, worshipping from a distance is nothing new. Paul worshipped with the churches he formed, visited, served; however, when he was away, he wrote letters and sermons and worshipped with these same churches from a distance.

One of the topics being discussed over and over again in local congregations, at the Conference and national levels is how we can change our church congregations to meet the needs of those who need the Church, and need Christ. It is challenging for us in the church to realize there is no going back. The past is in the past and what used to work has lost its effectiveness. However, this doesn't mean we need to "dis-remember" who we are, or forget who we are and where we came from; how we got to where we are today continues to shape us as a local congregation and a global Church. This also doesn't mean we have to agree with everything that happens, but it is vital we acknowledge that traditions and institutions should never replace the why of what we are doing. Never let your pessimism over change become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

In the book of Malachi, the Lord tells us that God never changes. What that means is that God is, and should be, the only constant within the Church. Traditions, institutions, ministries, programs, etc. may change; God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. However, in Jeremiah we read that God, in sending Jeremiah to see the potter work, is clear that just as the potter reworks a piece of clay that has failed, God too can rework human beings, societies, even the world. God is graciously flexible, and the "clay" God works with (humanity) has a mind of its own, and God must respond accordingly.

Because of this, we must realize that that we cannot get weighed down by our own expectations of what the Church, even our local congregation, should be, because God will always defy every expectation. When God calls God's people to ministry, God equips. So perhaps what we need at Cross Roads in 2022 and beyond is a new story; not a better story with better answers, but one with better questions. Who do we need to reach? How can we most effectively do that? How can we rise up and be in the strength of the Lord? How can we be the hands and feet of Christ? We still have an identity, and within that identity is our context. What is our purpose? What do we want to accomplish, and why? Are we willing to get out of our comfort zones to do what Jesus has called us to do? Can we change from a church that is for us, to a church that for them? Can we change from being accountable to people to being accountable to the mission of God? God's mission should always be at the center of everything we do.

Change often comes from the need for something better. God knows what we need better than we do and God wants to help us find that better thing. Our relationship with God is knowing our place, and having a humble spirit in that place. It is about putting the needs of God and God's people before our own. We had much change at Cross Roads in the last few years, but I believe it has been very good for our congregation. And I believe that more change is coming. We have an opportunity to learn how best to reach those in our community who need to see Christ in us. What will we become now, with our neighbors, and with God?

Pastor Leslie

# The Compass



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## Hymn & Prayer Service

On Sunday, October 30 during worship, we will be having a Hymn Sing and Pray service. We will be singing your favorite hymns and having various types of prayers (including a time of healing prayers with anointing).

Following worship, we will be having a Potluck Luncheon. Everyone is asked to bring whatever you like. Just bring enough for you and your family, and maybe 1-2 more. During the luncheon, the Admin Board will be hosting a "Town Hall" meeting, where we will be updating everyone on what is going on in the life of the congregation.

We hope you will all plan to join us as we sing, pray, and fellowship together. Just like they did in the early Church!

## Missions & Outreach

**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. The proceeds from the boutique will be used for a Food Packaging project next spring.

**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.

## Coffee Corner

There will not be Coffee Corner on Wednesday, October 5th so the Boutique team can set up. We'll get together again on October 19th.



Starting in November, we will gather once a month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Looking forward to gathering on the 19th!

## Celebration Bash

The October Celebration Bash will be held on Sunday, October 9 following worship service. Please join us in celebrating our October birthdays and anniversaries!



### Oct. Birthdays

Konnor Rohloff 3rd  
Jeff Denz 12th  
Joel Hagen 28th  
Michael Sasse 29th  
Kevin Bronner 30th



### Oct. Anniversaries

Kevin & Deb Bronner 4th  
Brian & Sheryl Nelson 8th  
David & Pat Evermann 20th  
David & Annette Muetzel 26th

## Boutique

**October 8th from 8:30-11:30**

*We still need volunteers to help work at the boutique. Please see Bonnie Triplett or Pastor Leslie for an opportunity to serve!*

Items NOT sold will remain at the church for a couple weeks so if you couldn't attend on October 8th to shop, please check after Sunday Services to see if you wish to purchase anything. A report of income will be announced at the October 30th Potluck, so mark your calendar and plan to attend. The proceeds from the boutique will be used for a Food Packaging project next spring.

A HUGE HUGE thank you to all the folks who crafted, baked, crocheted or donated gently used items.

Clearly it wouldn't be an event without all your hard work! Also, a HUGE HUGE thank you to the team who assisted with all the coordination and ALL the hands who came to help set-up, work the day, and cleanup.

So grateful to be part of an event where everyone comes together!

It was a pleasure to chair this event!!



## Parent Small Group Gathering

If you are the parent of a child, youth, or young adult in our congregation, you are invited to kick off our new school year with our Parent Small Group!

On Sunday, October 2, Pastor Leslie and Don will host our first parent group for the fall. We will meet at 4pm at their home, located at 1205 16th Street, SW, Willmar. The Zeeks will provide the main dish (pulled pork-Eastern NC style) and everyone is invited to bring a side.

We hope you will join us for this event; it's been a while since we all got together.

Please RSVP no later than Thursday, September 29, so we can make sure we have enough for everyone!

## Youth Group Meals Needed

Cross Roads Youth Group will begin meeting on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 pm.

The Youth Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 pm, as well as the 3rd Sunday of each month following worship.

THANK YOU to everyone who has volunteered to help with meals. We still have two dates we need meals for (approximately 10-12 youth/adults):

Wednesday, October 19  
Wednesday, December 7

If you are interested in providing a meal for the Youth Group for any of these dates, please contact either Donna Smith (our Youth Group Team Leader) or Pastor Leslie. This is a great way to meet the youth of our congregation and get to know them!

## A Note From Our Admin Chair

### MULTITASKING WITH GOD

I am a great multitasker (or so I think). My modus operandi has always been, "Why just do one thing when you can do two?" When I was in school, I could study and watch TV. During COVID when I was sewing masks, I would also watch movies on TV. Whenever I go for a walk, I listen to an audiobook or podcast. When I talk on the phone, I empty the dish washer, fold laundry or some other household task. Sometimes multitasking out for me, sometimes it does not! There are times, for example, when I have been so engrossed in my walk that I have to go back and start my podcast over or rewind to the previous book chapter because I didn't pay attention to a word being said!

Tonight as I was in the yard throwing the ball for the dog, multitasking, of course, (listening to an audiobook through my AirPods), I wondered what the Bible had to say about multitasking. When I got back into the house, thanks to the power of "Google," here's something I found from Romans 14:18-23:

"Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll kill two birds with one stone: pleasing the God above you and proving your worth to the people around you. So let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault. You're certainly not going to permit an argument over what is served or not served at supper to wreck God's work among you, are you? I said it before and I'll say it again: All food is good, but it can turn bad if you use it badly, if you use it to trip others up and send them sprawling. When you sit down to a meal, your primary concern should not be to feed your own face but to share the life of Jesus. So be sensitive and courteous to the others who are eating. Don't eat or say or do things that might interfere with the free exchange of love. Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others. You're fortunate if your behavior and your belief are coherent. But if you're not sure, if you notice that you are acting in ways inconsistent with what you believe - some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them - then you know that you're out of line. If the way you live isn't consistent with what you believe, then it's wrong."

It truly is a miracle, isn't it, how God speaks to us when we turn to him for guidance?

We have several opportunities to single-mindedly serve Christ in upcoming weeks in many different ways. Participate in one of the two weekly Bible study sessions. Attend Sunday worship, in person or virtually. Help at the Boutique by providing goods or working at the event or supporting it through your purchases (and hopefully all three!). A church clean-up session is coming soon -- attend if you can. Provide a meal for the youth group. Bring food products in for The LINK. Reach out to someone whom you haven't talked to or seen recently. Pray!

A busy month is ahead for our church. Above all, whatever we each choose to do, let's do it with positive energy and enthusiasm. Let's show the love to each other that we have for Christ!

Pat Solheid, Admin Team Leader

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### Admin Board Meeting

Our Administrative Board will be meeting on Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30 pm in the church library. Our primary agenda item will be the preparation of the 2023 budget. All board members are encouraged to make every effort to attend; however, anyone is welcome to attend the meetings as they are open to the entire congregation.



### Tuesday's Table is Coming to Cross Roads

Tuesday's Table is a weekly meal (on Tuesdays, duh!) for those living in the community. It is open to anyone who would like to come. There are four (4) churches in our area who provide the meals on a monthly basis: Lady of Our Lakes, Covenant Church-NL, Faith Lutheran, and Peace Lutheran.

However, a few times a year there is a fifth Tuesday in the month, and this is where we come in. Cross Roads and some other smaller churches who cannot commit on a weekly basis have agreed to take turns hosting on these Tuesdays. And November is our time to shine and show off!

Tuesday, November 29, we will be hosting the Tuesday's Table here at Cross Roads. And we NEED YOUR HELP! We need lots of volunteers to cook, serve, and clean up. So, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Jenny Daby or Pat Evermann to let them know. Many hands....well, you know the rest!



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October 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