

I cannot remember a time when I was not a part of a church. I know there were times; however, for many of my earliest years there are memories of the church nursery, and then later youth group. Don and I have been in church almost every Sunday for over twenty years. Many of the most impactful moments are somehow related to the Church.

When I look back at what being a part of church community has meant for me it is so clear that my life is much richer, more purposeful, and more joyful because of the love, support, and challenge of growing in faith together with others. As I have told many of you before, even when I left the church for a season of my life, I found my way back by being loved back to God. What has church meant in your life? I think that question helps us understand why this work we are committing to of trying to grow is so important. When we remember the impact growing in God's love through a church community has in our lives, we understand that it is simply something too good for us to keep to ourselves.

I, like many of you, am sometimes uncomfortable with this idea of evangelism. We are not in the business of telling other people that they are wrong, that they are bad, or trying to convert them. That is not what the love of Jesus looks like. But what I have learned over the years is that reaching out to others does not have to look like that. People need community; loneliness is an epidemic in our society, especially in the last year during the pandemic. While you can find community in other places, what we have at Cross Roads is a community that is centered around grace—the unearned, unending, unconditional love of God. And that is something special.

So, in the months ahead I am committing to figuring out how to share our grace-filled community with others. That will look like your pastor once more spending more time out in the community (watch our weekly emails for my schedule at the coffee shops and cafes). It will look like some church meetings and gatherings moving from our church building outside into restaurants, coffee shops, the church lawn, and others spots in the communities in which we live. It will look like Cross Roads being more present at the places our communities gather together, like maybe Zorba's, Lake Affect Café, Middle Fork Café, the New London farmer's market, and other celebrations at Green Lake and in Willmar during the summer. And it will look like member-guest events. These are special events members done with a few other friends from church. The goal is to find something you like doing together (like wine tasting, a painting class, parades, site-seeing, etc.) and for everyone to invite one friend to join. All of these different pieces add up to help us reach our goal: to connect with more people in our own communities, showing them that we are normal people who are committed to a community of grace and love.

As I was reminded recently, people fall in love with the community of Jesus before they fall in love with Jesus. And Cross Roads, there are so many things about you which are lovable. I hope everyone will join me on this journey and try these different ways for us to reach out in love to our neighbors. It's an exciting road ahead for Cross Roads and for our communities, and I can't wait to see what God is doing through this work!

Pastor Leslie

# The Compass



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## MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is still feeding those in our communities who are the most in need. And they need our help again.



It's hard to believe summer is almost here again, but it will be July before we know it. Meals on Wheels has asked Cross Roads to step up and help deliver meals to those in our communities who are what Christ called "the least of these."

Cross Roads is requesting people to delivery each week, Monday through Thursday, beginning July 1 (there will be no delivery on July 5 in observance of the July 4 holiday).

Sign up information can be found by clicking [HERE](#), or you can visit our website to sign up. Prayerfully consider how you can make a difference in our communities and be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER SHAWLS

Did you know Cross Roads has a wonderful prayer shawl ministry? If not, it's probably because you missed worship service last week, as we had a Mission Moment on our Prayer Shawl ministry and we blessed approximately 40 prayer shawls to be given away.

If you would like to gift a prayer shawl to someone who is sick, suffering from illness, or just have a hard time in this difficult season of our lives, please contact Pastor Leslie and she will get one delivered to you. Each of these shawls have been prayed over and blessed by members of our congregation. We have various colors and sizes, and even have lap shawls for men. These are a terrific way to let someone know they are cared for and being prayed for as they face hard times.

## KEEP SAVING YOUR NEWSPAPERS

The Mission & Outreach Team is in the beginning stages of a potential project and are in need of LOTS of newspaper.

Therefore, each church member who receives a paper version of any type of newspaper is asked to collect them and drop them off at the church. These can be left with Pastor Leslie or just in the church office in the plastic bin marked newspapers.



This is a very easy way to help the M&O Team. More information about this potential project will be made available later in the summer.

### May Birthdays

Melody Hanson 5th  
Justin Pahl 7th  
Sharon Hagen 10th  
Riley Pflipsen 10th  
David Muetzel 16th  
Pat Kaiser 21st  
Jean Ericson 25th  
Dennis Gertgen 25th  
Alex Springman 26th  
Amariya Pahl 28th  
Beth Schultz 29th  
Amy Denz 30th

### May Anniversaries

Don & Jean Ericson 5th  
Scott & Lori Doty 14th  
Mike & Chandra Duke 20th  
Mitch & Carrie Duke 26th



**Jeff & Amy Denz invite you to join in the celebration of Kyle's high school graduation.**



Open House  
Saturday, May 22, 2021  
1:00-4:00pm at their home.  
14708 195th Ave NE  
Hawick, MN 56273

Kyle plans to attend Arizona State University to major in business.

**Paul & Pauline VanNurden invite you to join in the celebration of Haley's high school graduation.**



Open House  
Sunday, May 30, 2021  
3:00-6:00pm at their home.  
22839 62nd St NW  
Sunburg, MN 56289

Haley plans to attend SDSU for agricultural business with a minor in agricultural communications.



## April 2021 Updates

**We did it!** On March 1, we announced Minnesota FoodShare month was here and set a financial goal of \$25,000. Almost immediately after the fundraiser began, community members started sending in donations and contacting us wondering what they could do to help. The fundraising ended on April 11 and the grand total of donations was \$36,478.30!! In this time, The Link also took in 2800 pounds of food! Thank you to all the wonderful donors for stepping up and helping us exceed our goal by over \$10,000! What an amazing community we are a part of! Thank you does not seem like enough! Every dollar and pound of food is used to help your neighbors in need! And even better, there is a match from the Minnesota FoodShare campaign to stretch those dollars even further!

In other exciting news, RibFest is ON and is set to take place on Sunday, June 13! We are currently looking for anyone that would want to sponsor the event. Please contact Chasity at 320-354-5465 for more information! More details on this event will be in the next newsletter and on the RibFest Facebook page.

In March, **The Food Pantry** welcomed 14 new families, served 43 children, 48 adults and 14 seniors. 2468 pounds of food was distributed and 1646.5 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-** 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 7 families in the month of March. Throughout the month, The Link was able to help with utility bills, rent payments, car repairs and furniture.

### **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](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.



**Cross Roads Community  
United Methodist Church**

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Spicer, MN 56288

320-796-2339  
[www.crossroadsspicer.com](http://www.crossroadsspicer.com)

May 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