

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!

This refrain, repeated for millennia past and to come, is at the very core of our faith and life as Christians. It points to a particular moment in time (the crucifixion/resurrection) that caused the world to stop and change directions, almost as surely as if the rotation of the earth itself began spinning in the opposite direction.

Does that sound too dramatic? It shouldn't, because the direction of life that was pointed to by Jesus as he lived and died on the cross invites us on a journey in quite the opposite direction from which the world is heading.

When I was younger, one of my favorite summertime activities was to go to the pool with my cousins. They lived in a nice apartment complex which had a pool, and in North Carolina, any time you could spend in the water made it much more bearable, especially when the heat index hit 100 degrees or more. A favorite pastime in the pool was for several of us to get the water moving in a whirlpool by running as fast as we could in a circle. Then we'd just float and let it carry us along for a while. Sometimes we'd try to go against the current - for exercise or just amusement - and found it really difficult. (Yes, this passed for real excitement in my younger days).

The life-metaphor here is fairly obvious. We can continue to "go along with the flow" of things in life, but unlike floating along in the safety of the pool, going with the flow of the world can take us to places we really don't want to end up. Trying to change the direction of our lives will be difficult, but really is worth the effort. The current against which we struggle will make things seem more difficult at first, but as we build up our strength of will, and as our character deepens in faith, the effort seems much less onerous, and amazingly (like the pool water), the direction of the flow in our lives will change.

I have walked with people whose lives seem a series of one calamity after another. All of their primary relationships are dysfunctional and amazingly difficult to maintain. They are always putting out fires, always in battle about something. Too much drama! I sometimes wonder if they think that the only way to tell that they're alive is to be in some sort of conflict (imagined or real) with someone. Over time, even these intrepid souls begin to wear down and wonder "why am I never happy? Why is everything so difficult? Why is everyone (but me, of course!) so stubborn?" The closest that many people come to "happiness" is when they can completely control and dominate others (then no one else is happy!), or when their own pain is dulled by chemicals or the rush of newness in relationships or stuff. Even if they try to make small steps in a healthy direction in their lives, when the whole direction of their lives is unhealthy, small steps in a healthy direction just frustrate them and make the endeavor even more unpleasant. It's just easier, after a while, to flow along as usual with the thought that "this is the way it's supposed to be. Why even bother to try?"

The power of the resurrection that we celebrate at Easter addresses this very issue. It offers us a new way of life, a complete change of direction, an utter alteration of priorities. Is it easy? In a word, no. In fact, it's quite difficult, at least at first, to begin living a life with priorities informed by attitudes of forgiveness and love, with a desire to be a part of the healing process in peoples' lives (rather than being a part of the problem), and with an orientation away from ourselves and directed toward God and others around us. It's never too late, and it begins with accepting and understanding God's forgiveness in Christ for us. In that forgiveness we are set free to truly be the people of God.

Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!

Pastor Leslie

The Compass



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OUR NEW NORMAL

The Oxford Languages on-line dictionary defines the word "normal" as "conforming to a standard; usual, typical or expected." It didn't take a dictionary to tell us that for the last two years, nothing has been "normal." The same dictionary defines "new normal" as "a previously unfamiliar or atypical situation that has become standard, usual, or expected."

Now THAT sounds familiar!

On April 26 at 6pm, the Administrative Team is going to engage in some strategic planning or at least some strategic discussions. Where are we at at Cross Roads? Wherever we are at, is this our "new normal?" Is this what we want for our new normal? What are things we'd like to change, and once identified, how would we change them? Could we change them? Where would we like to be? How will we get there? What do we think God has in mind for our church? What does He want us to do and what does He want us to be?

I doubt that we'll walk away with a comprehensive plan of any sorts but we will have at least spent time talking about the present and future of Cross Roads Community Church and hopefully we'll have a roadmap or at least an idea of where we need to head in 2023 and beyond.

Administrative Team meetings are always open to everyone in the congregation and if you are interested in participating in this discussion, we'd love to hear from you. No official church business will be discussed at this meeting. The team meets every other month and this is an additional meeting so we can allocate time for a discussion.

Here are some verses to ponder as we prepare for this upcoming discussion.

"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."

Please join us on April 26 if you are able and interested.

Pat Solheid

Holy Week and Easter Services

These services will all be in-person, or you can watch the live-stream online.

- Palm Sunday 9:30am
- Maundy Thursday 6:30pm
- Good Friday 6:30pm
- Easter Sunday Sunrise 7:30am
- Easter Sunday Service 9:30am



April Celebration Bash

Our next Celebration Bash will be held on **Sunday, April 3**, following worship service, Cake and coffee will be provided. Please join us in celebrating our congregation's April birthdays and anniversaries!



Coffee Corner

Our next Coffee Corner gatherings will be held on **Wednesday April 6th and Wednesday April 20th, both starting at 9:00 am.**

Our Cross Roads Coffee Corner group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month for anyone who would like to drop in and visit. Nothing is needed other than a desire for coffee and fellowship. We hope you will stop by sometime and say hello!



MISSION & OUTREACH

Jesus has called us to feed the hungry and care for the poor!

Funds placed in the white bucket will first and foremost, go towards our commitment with Compassionate Children, where we have sponsored three children. All other funds will go towards other outreach ministries throughout the year.

Your generosity in March helped raise over \$850 that will go towards the MN Food Share. This program will in turn, provide the Link DOUBLE the funds to purchase food. Due to the Link's partnerships, they can purchase ten times the amount of food that we could on our own. THANK YOU Cross Roads!!

APRILS MISSIONS



Family Promise - Family Promise is a Kandiyohi County non-profit that assists homeless families gain emergency shelter, daily meals and partners with other agencies to equip families with the skills they need to overcome homelessness. A volunteer from our congregation will prepare and deliver a meal that serves 8-10 adults/children.



YMCA – Excess funds gathered in April will go towards the YMCA located in Willmar, services the Kandiyohi County area in a variety of ways.

- \$100 will provide two children with water safety and swimming skills.
- \$200 will allow 10 children to play at the Y with a Membership scholarship for one year!
- \$250 will help six children learn teamwork through soccer.
- \$500 will allow four kids the opportunity to enjoy Summer Day Camp for a week.

Fall Boutique Planning Meeting

Mark Your Calendar! Boutique Planning Meeting - Sunday, April 10th at 10:30 right after Sunday Services in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee will be provided! If you want to be part of this event, but cannot attend, please contact JenyDaby at jenydaby5@gmail.com or 320-470-0518.



April Birthdays

Howard Carlsen 9th
Nick Zachariason 9th
Andrew Ryks 13th
Harlan Halbersma 16th
Amy Pahl 18th
Ken Flowe 26th
Bryan Maurice 26th
Anna Duke 28th
Jeff Duke 30th

April Anniversaries

Daryl & Bonnie Hoogeveen 9th
Terry & Michelle Albers 11th
Bud & Kay Ruhl 15th
Kevin & Leann Navratil 16th



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

Ukraine Donations

Some individuals have inquired regarding giving through the United Methodist Church to help with the humanitarian needs in Ukraine as a result of the violence happening there.

If you would like to make donations, you can donate to Cross Roads via any means you would normally use. Simply be sure to mark your payment "Ukraine" or "UMCOR." These donations will be forwarded to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which is our denomination's mission ministry.

If you have any questions about donations, UMCOR, or the situation in Ukraine, please contact Pastor Leslie.





**Cross Roads Community
United Methodist Church**

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April 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