

Dear Friends,

February is the month we celebrate love in the form of Valentine's Day. I have always wondered why it is that in our society we must have a holiday to remind us that we are to remember those we love. Aren't we supposed to do that all year long?

Scripture tells us in 1 John 4:7-11, "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

God is love. And God showed forth that loving character by sending Jesus to live and die for those who did not love God, in fact who despised and rejected Christ – us. God did not love us because we loved God first, indeed, we cannot by fallen nature ever love God on our own. No, God loved us first because God alone IS love. A sacrificial Love. And since God lovingly sent his Son to us, God has graciously made us truly alive in Christ – that is, those who once again by grace through faith are connected to God and God's love. Those who can reflect God's love and image to those around us.

Martin Luther has these thoughts on love: "Love is the inevitable fruit of faith. This is what Christ meant when He finally gave no commandment except that of love (John 15:12), by which men were to recognize those who are His disciples and true believers. For where works and love do not appear, faith is not genuine, the Gospel has not taken hold, and Christ is not recognized aright."

The second half of Galatians 5:6 tells us, "The only thing that counts is faith working through love." We should have the Love of God in Christ flowing into us, causing us to respond with fruits, acts of love and godliness to those around us. Loving acts are of God, and bear witness to God's love and the faith and life which God has re-created within us. Loving acts did not MAKE us alive, rather they are the evidence of that life, indeed, the natural result of that life that is ours through faith.

My family in Christ, as the 14th of February draws ever closer, may the God who is Love, make you ever mindful of The Valentine of all valentines, God's dear Son, nailed to a cross for you, buried in a tomb for you, and raised from the dead for you. And mindful of that Love which made you alive by God's work of grace, that you would be so moved to love in kind not only your Lord, but those who are around you, that they too might see the Love of God for themselves lived out through you. That they might know you are Jesus' disciples by your love for them.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leslie

# The Compass



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## Leadership Retreat Rescheduled

Due to impending weather has been rescheduled. The new date is **February 1, 2020**. The retreat will be from 9:00 am-3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will begin at 8:30 for anyone who would like to join us. During the retreat, training will be provided to all current and incoming leaders, as well as setting goals for our church. This meeting will also serve as the Admin Team meeting for January, so attendance is very important. Lunch will be served, so if you are a part of the 2020 Admin Team, please plan to attend. *If you are a part of any leadership team for 2020, and would be interested in attending this event with the Administrative Team, you are welcome to attend.* All we ask is you RSVP to Pastor Leslie so we can be sure to have enough food for lunch.

## New Outreach Team

The new Outreach Team (formerly the Care Team and Faith in Action Team now combined) will meet on Sunday, February 2 following worship service in the church library. If you a part of this important ministry, or would like to be part of this team, please plan to attend our first meeting.

## Sermon Series

### "Marks of a Methodist"

Beginning February 2, Pastor Leslie will begin preaching an eight-week sermon series entitled "Marks of a Methodist." Each week we will focus on a topic and how each of these topics relate to us in a uniquely Wesleyan manner. Topics include scripture, grace, personal holiness, social holiness, community and unity, the sacraments, and practical issues. Join us for this wonderful series and learn more about our Methodist and Wesleyan heritage. We are looking into having these sermons uploaded to YouTube, and if we are able to do so, we will be sending out a link to view them. Therefore, if you happen to miss a Sunday and would like to hear the sermon, these may be available online (if Pastor Leslie and the Teach Team can make that happen).

## Food Pantry Donations

This year, Cross Roads will be designating a specific food category for collection each month that will go to The Link's food pantry. *Our food item for February, our food category is canned vegetables.* All food donations may be dropped in the black baskets on the shelf at the front door entrance. Thank you for helping those in need in 2020!

...let us love one another, for love comes from God.

## Save Your Teals Receipts!

Cross Roads UMC is now part of the Teals' Market 1% Receipt Rebate Program.

When you shop at Teals, save your receipts, bring them to church, and put them in the special Teals Receipts box located on the cabinet outside of the kitchen and fellowship hall. Teals will donate 1% of our receipt totals to Cross Roads to put towards our many mission fundraising activities.

All you have to do is shop Teals, save your receipts, and bring them to the church. We will do the rest!

*Please note that gas receipts ARE a part of the program!*

This is a great opportunity to take part in a local business giving back to our community.

Thank you for your support!

~The Missions Team



### February White Bucket Offerings

**February 2**  
Human Relations

**February 9**  
Compassion  
Children

**February 16**  
Compassion  
Children

**February 23**  
Compassion  
Children

### Our Stewardship Last Month:

	Attendance:	General Fund Offerings	Building Fund
Jan 5	50	\$4586.00	\$0
Jan 12	75	\$2642.00	\$0
Jan 19	32	\$1306.00	\$0
Jan 26	65	\$1591.00	\$0
<b>Avg this month</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>\$2531.25</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Average General Fund offering per Sunday needed to meet our 2

**2020 Budget is \$3155.**

January 27, 2020

Dear Cross Roads Family:

A few years ago, committee members and leaders at Cross Roads Church participated in training to help us resolve conflicts and disputes that can happen within our church. Flyers and refresher cards were distributed at the time, but since the training we've changed pastors, changed committee leaders, etc. We feel it's time to re-energize the Rule of Christ process and get our entire congregation involved.

The Rule of Christ provides a way to address and resolve concerns/conflicts with discernment of God's will, personal responsibility, open communication and love in a way that's guided by scripture.

The Rule of Christ is rooted in the Gospel of Matthew:

Matthew 18: 8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. 9 And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell. ... 15 "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. 18 "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

These are the steps to follow if (or when) conflict or disagreements arise:

### **Step 1: Self-Reflection To Discern God's Will**

Pray, meditate, or contemplate: What is my concern/conflict? What value/personal principle underlies my position? What is my perception of the other person's position on this matter? Can I let it go? If I am able to let it go, the matter is resolved. What does God want? What is God's point of view? If I can't let it go, I will proceed to Step 2.

### **Step 2: Talk With The Person One-on-One to "Care-front" vs "confront."**

Meet with the person face-to-face in a neutral location. Remember that we are ALL part of the body of Christ. Begin the meeting with prayer. The goal is to find a way to work together to satisfy both parties. Work hard to understand the other person's point of view. Share using "I" statements example: I feel ... when... happens. *Listen* carefully and ask questions to help clarify my understanding. Determine together, if the matter is now resolved and whether each party is satisfied and able to move forward. If a satisfactory resolution is not found, proceed to Step 3.

### **Step 3: Get Some Objective Help**

Set up and meet with the appropriate Ministry Area and the Pastor. Prior to the meeting, provide a written statement describing the concern. Bring one or two others to participate in this meeting. All invited to this meeting will be made aware of who will be attending the meeting. It will be a closed meeting and the goal of this meeting: discussion in effort to resolve the conflict so that all parties are satisfied. If a satisfactory resolution is not found, proceed to Step 4.

...continued

**Step 4: Take It To The Church**

The ministry area or committee, the person bringing the concern and Pastor set up and meet with the Administrative Board. A written statement describing the concern is provided to the Administrative Board. If the person(s) with the concern are not comfortable or able to meet with the Administrative Board, the written description of the concern and statement from those who attended the Step 3 meeting will be used to present the concern to the Administrative Board. If a satisfactory resolution is not found, proceed to Step 5.

**Step 5: Shake The Dust**

There are some matters that may not be resolved, despite our best efforts. Let go of related anger, resentment and hurt feelings and focus on the mission of our church.

The important thing to remember about the Rule of Christ process is that it is a healthy and Christ-like way to resolve issues and differences. It's important to remember that we worship together and work together in love and caring. This is a way to keep hurt feelings or issues from festering and undermining our efforts to do the will of God.

You will hear more about this process and there is help available to you if you have a concern that you'd like to pursue. Any or all of us are here to help—just reach out.

With faith and joy,

Pastor Leslie Zeek

Al Boonstra  
Lay Leader

Doree Leither  
Chair, SPRC

Pat Solheid  
Chair, Admin. Board

# February 2020 at Cross Roads

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9am CRCC Leadership Retreat
2 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Outreach Team Meeting	3 6:30 Bible Study	4 10am Bible Study	5 Pastor Leslie at meeting out of town	6	7 Pastors Day Off	8
9 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School	10 6:30 Bible Study	11 10am Bible Study	12 6:30pm Youth Group	13	14 Pastors Day Off	15
16 9:30 Worship NO Sunday School	17 6:30 Bible Study	18 10am Bible Study	19	20	21 Pastors Day Off Church Office Closed	22
23 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Team Meeting	24 6:30 Bible Study	25 10am Bible Study	26 6:30pm Youth Group	27	28 Pastors Day Off	29

## Health Note

Have you heard or said the phrase “getting older is not for sissies”? OK we are all getting older, so what can we do to stay healthy and have good quality?

15% of Americans are 65 or older; there are a lot of us; that is one in seven. Do you think getting older means an increase in health problems and suffering? Again nutrition and exercise to the rescue. Improving nutrition and implementing exercise will improve quality of life as you age. Making smarter food choices, being more physically active will reduce stress and help you sleep better. You will feel better, stronger, and be more self sufficient. That leads to a better quality of life. An article in The Seattle Times by Carrie Dennett gives us some places to start:

**1<sup>st</sup>-NUTRITION:** Pair protein with physical exercise. As we age we lose skeletal muscle. This starts around age 40 and increases as we age. We need protein more as we age. The article recommends taking your weight in pounds, dividing in half. That is the number of grams of protein you need daily. One ounce of meat equals 7 grams. For other foods, read labels. Be sure you get enough calcium and vitamin D for your bones and you also need iron and vitamin B12.

**2<sup>nd</sup>-EXERCISE:** You don't need to go to the gym or lift weights. You need 150minutes/week. This can be broken up. Park farther away from the store, go for a walk, golf without a cart and/or garden. It does not have to be strenuous. It should make you feel good.

**SET REASONABLE GOALS:** If you want to increase your fruit and vegetable intake, go from two servings a day to three. This is a marathon not a sprint.

Aging is changing, 40 is the new 20, 60 is the new 40. Take care of yourself, positive changes will happen over time.

Shari

### Weekly Hospitality Ministries

***If you are not available to serve when you are scheduled, please ask another person to fill in for you.***

***Thank you for your willingness to serve!***

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
<b>Greeters/</b>	Schutzl	K.Rohloff/Zeek		Sasse
<b>Coffee/Treats</b>	Ryks/M.Hanson	Pahl/Evermann	Solheid/Muetzel	D/Ericson/ Hoogeveen

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
<b>Greeters/ Ushers</b>	VanNurden	Pflipsen	Heitke/ Harried	Boreen	D.Ericson
<b>Coffee/ Treats</b>	Kennedy/ Pflipsen	Knoke/	Maurice/ B.Erickson	Heitke/ Harried	Triplett/ Laughlin

### February Birthdays

Wanda Zaske 2nd	Jayden Nelson 17th
Sue Wiegmann 3rd	Brian Wolff 17th
Joy Baker 4th	Kathryn Sasse 18th
Deb Bronner 6th	JoAnn Wright 18th
Kyle Denz 6th	Gerald O'Connor 21st
Faith Duke 8th	Mary Jane Young 22nd
Brody Duke 11th	Richard Kelvington 24th
Dan Wiegmann 13th	Carol Underland 24th
Marjorie Green 15th	Jordan Peterson 28th

### February Anniversaries

Dan & Sue Wiegmann 9th  
 Josh & Emily Redington 18th  
 Jim & Pat Solheid 18th



*If we have missed your special day, please call or email the office to let us know.*



### **January 2020 Updates:**

After the busy holiday season, the staff have finally been able to settle in here at The Link and figure out exactly what kind of impact was made to local families throughout 2019. Looking back at the past year, it is humbling to see all of the generous donations and volunteer support that have made it possible to serve those who need it the most. We thought now would be a great time to share some numbers with YOU, The Link, so that you can see just how your support has made a difference to so many in the community.

### **Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry is growing and it's getting difficult to keep the shelves full!

-In 2018, The Link distributed 30,085 pounds of food to 589 families. And now, in 2019, The Link distributed over 43,000 pounds of food to 804 households, which included 1,281 adults, 791 children and 179 seniors.

-2019 brought in 13,304 pounds or 6.65 tons of donated food from generous individuals, families, churches, businesses and the NL-S School District.

-**Save the date:** The 2019 Minnesota FoodShare Campaign is March 1— April 12. Please help fill The Link's Food Pantry during this time. All food items and monetary funds donated are greatly appreciated.

-The Link orders food from Second Harvest so that every \$1 donated can be used to purchase \$10 worth of food.

### **Household Exchange, Christmas Joy and Holiday Food Baskets**

-Between Christmas Joy, Holiday Food Baskets and the Household Exchange program, The Link served 85 families in need, helping with everything from Christmas gifts and extra holiday food to the essentials to help get them back on their feet.

### **Wildcat Backpack Program**

The Wildcat Backpack program continues to provide 95 students each week with extra food for the weekend. In 2019 3,658 backpacks were packed!

### **Client Services and Outreach**

In 2019, The Link provided resources and/or financial support to help stabilize 204 local families experiencing hardship.

### **The Community Closet Corner by Kay**

We enjoy sharing our building space with The Link and their Revive & Redeem Thrift Shop. Thank you to our volunteers, our customers, those who have donated clothing, and our supportive community. In total, The Community Closet gave \$16,462.75 to various non-profit organizations. Of this amount, The Link received \$2,721.75. This ministry has indeed been blessed and it is our desire to be a blessing to our community and beyond! We look forward to 2020!

### **YOU are the Link!**

We are so very thankful to everyone who has provided support financially, prayerfully and by volunteering. In 2019, The Link's amazing volunteers put in a combined 605 hours to help The Link live out its' mission! We are excited to see what 2020 brings!

### **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. 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**

3400 113th Ave NE  
Spicer, MN 56288

320-796-2339  
www.crossroadsspicer.com

February 2020

Christian radio stations in the area:

K-Love 90.9

KTIS 92.7 & 98.5

Spirit 92.9

**Putting Your Faith into Action  
Our Monthly Random Act of Kindness Challenge**

Opportunities to put our faith into action are all around us. The Faith in Action Team would like to challenge everyone to participate in a random act of kindness each month. You are encouraged to put your faith into action with some of the ideas listed below. New ideas will be listed each month. We would love to hear some testimonies of what people experience. Be sure to tell them Jesus loves them!

**February Suggestions**

- ◆ Bake cookies for the police or sheriff's department
- ◆ Pay for the person in line behind you
- ◆ Send a positive note to someone
- ◆ Share your favorite recipe

