

November 2023 Newsletter





CROSS Services Thanksgiving Contributions (Nov 1st-Nov 19th)

Support Cross Services food programs for our Thanksgiving food drive and offering. Cross Services is a Nonprofit organization incorporated in 1977. They serve families in Osseo, Maple Grove, Rogers, Dayton, Corcoran and Champlain (west of 169). A big part of their services is providing food through an on-site food pantry in Rogers, mobile food pantries, meals on wheels, and nutrition assistance for seniors. You can participate in giving in two ways: Purchase food for the food pantry or Donate cash for all food programs!

These boxed foods are suggested for donation: Pancake mix, cereal, breakfast biscuits, macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper meals, Taco dinners, or Tortilla kits

At Crosswinds we will build a Tower of Health and Hope from boxed items donated.

To donate money, make checks payable to Cross Winds or give online (select missions subfund and note CROSS Services in the memo line) at https://crosswindslife.org/give/

Finance Update
PAGE 2

Pastor's Corner

Annual Giving Drive

Worship PAGE 5

Adult Ministries
PAGE 6-7

Children's Ministries

Youth Ministries
PAGE 10-11

Cross Winds Community
PAGE 12-13

Kitchen Consecration Highlights
PAGE 14-15

Thank You PAGE 16

Feed My Starving Children
PAGE 17-19



Cross Winds United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Road Maple Grove, MN 55311 Phone: 763-494-9463

Website: crosswindslife.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sign Up To Stay Connected

Contact Michelle Schober to be added to the email distribution lists for

- "Cross Winds Life", distributed on Thursdays includes pastor's note, important information about the life of the church, and links for upcoming events
- Prayer Chain email updates

Finance Update

You should be receiving your 2024 pledge card. It's important for you to complete this and return it. It will help us determine the critical ministries that our Church can perform.

We have a slight deficit heading into November. We still have time before the end of the year to change this direction. No amount is too small as this will help all of us get to the goal of having no deficit in our operating fund. We welcome any support that you can provide, and thank you again for your blessings and giving for all of our ministries at CWUMC.

If you have questions about our 2023 Budget, 2024 Pledge card or questions related to our Capital Campaign Fund, Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance please contact us at finance@crosswindsumc.org

Ministry Staff

Christina Koppes
Lead Pastor
stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org

Michelle Schober
Director of Administration
michelleschober@crosswindsumc.org

Lori Lahtinen
Director of Worship & Music
Iorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Amber Lahtinen Director of Children's Ministry amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Joyce Sluss
Minister of Community
Engagement
joycesluss@crosswindsumc.org

Nancy Betterman Accompanist

David Hughes
Treasurer
treasurer@crosswindsumc.org

Cheryl Purkat Nursery Supervisor



HELLO NOVEMBER!

Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



"Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'"

~ Matthew 25:37-40

Jesus was fond of telling stories to reveal divine wisdom. In this story, he encourages us to see that when we serve others with mercy and kindness, we meet Jesus. Sometimes we don't even realize it in the moment. We need someone to point it out later on! Either way, Jesus reminds us that when we see someone in need, we see the face of God. This parable, often told on Christ the King Sunday (which is the Sunday right before Advent begins), is a fitting way to prepare for Christmas, for it reminds us of what the holiday season is all about – seeing God in one another, acting with mercy and kindness, and expanding our circles as we make room for God to dwell with us.

This parable also is a timely reminder for us as we prepare for the year of ministry that awaits us. Over the past year, the Cross Winds community has worked hard to build a new kitchen, in order to expand our capacity to feed people and be a place of community gatherings. This fall, we've had the gift of seeing what the kitchen is capable of doing, as we cook Wednesday meals, provide Sunday hospitality, and begin our community partnerships with weekday groups. It has been such a gift to experience the joy of family meals, especially on Wednesday nights, as people have time to deepen friendships, catch their breath, and remember that they are not alone. When we gather at table, Jesus reminds us that we are connected in the Spirit.

This has been good. Yet, we know that we have barely scratched the surface of what is possible.

This winter, we are planning to expand the reach of our kitchen ministries as well as our commitment to feeding people. In this month's newsletter, you'll see information about our Thanksgiving food drive in support of CROSS Services. There are new community events using the church kitchen that are popping up on the calendar, providing social opportunities for people of all ages, especially around the Christmas season. You'll also get a chance to see information about our April 2024 Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack event & upcoming Christmas offering to support this bold initiative of packing over 100,000 meals in two days at Cross Winds.

It is good to see the Spirit at work.

In this year to come, I ask for your continued prayers as we prepare for ministry opportunities like the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack, continue Wednesday meals, and discern what new ministry partnerships await us.

We know that God has blessed us to be a blessing. Thank you for being a people who share those blessings openly and abundantly!



Annual Giving Drive



crosswindslife.org

Annual Giving Drive Commitment Sunday - November 12

As we prepare for the year ahead in ministry, we give thanks that "Every good and perfect gift is from above." (James 1:17) Your generosity makes it possible for Cross Winds to keep doing all the good we can. We are excited to continue that work together through your support!

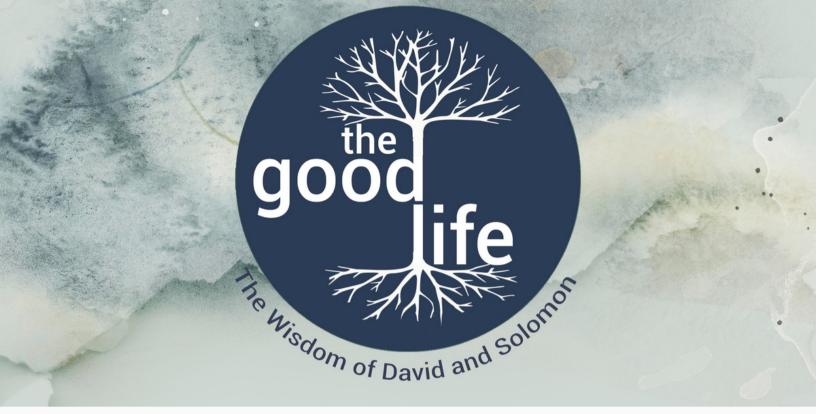
As you consider your commitment to the 2024 Cross Winds Annual Giving Drive, we ask that you please submit your Annual Giving Commitment Cards by Sunday, November 12th. Cards are available at Cross Winds or an electronic form is also <u>available online</u>. Your annual giving commitment helps your church plan ministry. Please return a card, even if you can only make a limited financial commitment at this time. Your commitment can be changed and does not set up your donation. It simply tells us what you are planning. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support. You can always increase or decrease your commitment if your situation changes by calling our Church Office or contacting our financial secretary, Steve Weeks. If you have questions regarding this card or your annual giving, call the Church at 763-494-9463 or contact Steve Weeks (finance@crosswindsumc.org).

Annual Giving Drive Flyer

Ways to Give Brochure

Cross Winds Charge Conference - November 14

There will be a Charge Conference at Cross Winds UMC on Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30pm for the purpose of reviewing and approving the 2024 Pastoral Compensation forms. At a Charge Conference, all church members are welcome to attend to provide voice only, while Board members have voice and vote. For more information, please contact the Staff Parish Relations Chair (SPRC), Lisa Midgarden, or Pastor Stina.



David and Solomon are two of the most famous kings in the Old Testament, with kingships that marked the golden age of Israel. Throughout their reigns, David and Solomon had their triumphs and tribulations as they wrestled with the meaning of life, the pursuit of justice, and what it meant to live honorably. In addition to the historical books of the Bible, both kings have several wisdom books attributed to them, such as Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and many of the Psalms. Join us this fall as we dive into the lives of David and Solomon, reading not only their historical accounts, but also searching the books of wisdom that search to find the meaning of a good life.

November 5 - What time is it? An is it time yet?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - Rev. Joyce Sluss

"There is a time for every matter under heaven." But what does that mean? What time is it? And is it time yet?

November 12 - A Strong Love

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8: 6-7

The wisdom books attributed to King Solomon conclude with love poetry from the "Song of Songs." Join us as we explore this poetry, why it is in the Bible, and how it shows a way forward to have a "love as strong as death."

Annual Giving Drive Pledge Sunday

November 19 - Give Thanks...Really?

Psalm 145:9-16 - Bill Lewis

Where have you been, and where are you today, with the collision of emotions the holiday of Thanksgiving may bring? Do you celebrate memories or do you struggle? Are you at peace and ready for what's next or anxious and fearful? We will look at what Psalm 145 provides, promises, and asks of us.

November 26 - Return of the King

Matthew 25:31-46

It's almost time to get ready for Christmas! Before we fully deck the halls and sing joy to the world, we reflect on the kind of Messiah and king we long for and what the Bible points us towards.

Adult Ministries and Small Groups





Sunday Morning Adult Education Doeth Thus...What?

Sundays 9:00 am - Thru November 19

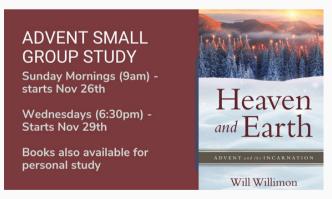
Join Rev. Lori Walber on Sunday mornings at 9am thru October 22. for the fall adult education Sunday School class. This fall, we will look at King David's relationships with Saul, Michal, Bathsheba, Nathan and Absalom.

Sunday Evening Advent Bible Study It's a Wonderful Life

Sunday Evenings November 12-December 17 6:30-8:00 pm

It's a Wonderful Life is one of the most popular and heart-warming films ever made. Its near universal appeal and association with Christmas has provided a rich story of redemption that has inspired generations for decades. Join us for an Advent study that examines this beloved holiday classic and reminds us how easily we can become distracted from what is truly meaningful in life. Books available for purchase at church or online for \$12. Facilitated by Dianne Roth and JoAn Baker.





Advent Study - Heaven and Earth

Sundays 9:00-9:45 am - Nov 26-Dec 17 Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm- Nov 29-Dec 13 Zoom w/ Bishop - Tuesdays 7-8:15 pm - begins Nov 28

Watch out. God is on the way. It's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now.

In Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation, Will Willimon introduces you to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. In Advent we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way. Books available at church for purchase (\$15/book) register online for in person or pay at class time.

To register for Bishop Lanette's zoom group - zoom registration.

Adult Ministries and Small Groups

Find a way to connect with others at Cross Winds!



Stitches of Love

The Stitches of Love sewing team is seeking donations of cotton material to continue making quilts for UMCOR. Have you inherited fabric or know of someone who wants to part with their cotton fabric stash? Please bring it in and we will distribute it to our sewers. Cotton flannel, baby cotton, and jersey knits accepted as well. If you are interested in sewing projects, we would be delighted to have you in our group. Questions and fabric can be directed to JoAn Baker or Maryanne Mbali, the co-chairs of Stitches of Love.





Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, November 27, 1:30pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, November 27 at 1:30 pm. Bring your own beverage and project that you are working on. You are invited to join us if you knit or crochet or would like to learn.

Senior Facilities Team

Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 am

Gather for fellowship and service with other men on Wednesday mornings. This group meets weekly downstairs for coffee and connection. Then the group works away at various indoor and outdoor projects. Men are welcome to attend as their schedule permits.





Game Group

Thursday, November 16, 1:30 pm

Do you like to play board games or enjoy fellowship with church friends? You are invited to bring your favorite board game to church for fun and fellowship. Please bring your own beverage of choice. No need to sign up. Just show up! Contact Marlan Tevis for more information or for questions.





Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights; being together is always a delight!













Bibles and Acolytes

What a joy to celebrate our acolytes and Bible recipients. May you all stay eager to learn your whole life through!







Christmas Eve is coming to Cross Winds Kids, and we want to include you!

Children's Bell Choir

Rehearsals Wednesdays, Nov 29-Dec 13, 6:00 pm Tech Rehearsal Thursday, Dec 21, 6:00 pm

The Children's Bell Choir directed by Miss Pam will be performing on Christmas Eve this year at the 4 pm Family service. All elementary school children are invited to participate. The kickoff is at the Advent Fest Event on November 29 at 6 pm with rehearsals continuing on Wednesday nights through December 13 at 6 pm. Tech rehearsal will be on Thursday December 21 from 6:00-6:30pm. Call time on December 24 at 3:15pm. All rehearsals are required. Register your kids to play bells.





Christmas Eve Prelude Performances

December 24, 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Does your child play the piano or another instrument? All kids/youth who have been studying the piano/instrument for 2 years or more are invited to play a Christmas carol before the service at the 4pm Family Christmas Eve service. Kids will need to arrive at CW at 3:30pm on Sunday afternoon. Register your kids to play by December 17th and our director Lori Lahtinen will reach out to you with more details.





Youth Ministry Updates

The holiday season is a time for gratitude and joy. We look forward to seeing you at Cross Winds as we have a great holiday season together. Included this month are a few ways you can make a difference in this world and celebrate the season. See you at Cross Winds!

November Schedule - Wednesday Night Activities November 1st - Dinner and Small Group Night

Dinner offered at 5:30pm-6:30pm; small groups meet 6:30-7:30pm

November 8th - Dinner and Small Group Night

Dinner offered at 5:30pm-6:30pm; small groups meet 6:30-7:30pm

November 15th - Thanksgiving Event and Mission Trip Meeting

Dinner served (5:30-6:30pm). Thanksgiving activities (6:30-7:30pm).

Celebrate Thanksgiving at Cross Winds with a homecooked meal and Thanksgiving fun! Thanksgiving activities for all ages afterwards include service projects for CROSS Services and the Feed My Starving Children Christmas Gift Fair. There will also be a 2024 Mission Trip Team meeting (see info below about trip.)

November 22nd - Thanksgiving break (no programming)

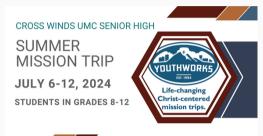
November 29th - Advent Event

Dinner served (5:30-6:30pm). Christmas activities (6:30-7:30pm).

Get ready for Christmas with Cross Winds as we enjoy some Christmas cheer. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30pm (recommended \$5/person donation) followed by Christmas activities for all ages afterwards include making Christmas nativity scenes for a Christmas Eve drama, helping with a service project for Feed My Starving Children, music opportunities for all ages, and Christmas crafts.







2024 Senior High Mission Trip to Benton Harbor, MI July 6-12, 2024

Students in grades 8-12 (during the 2023-2024 school year)

Registration is open for the 2024 Senior High Mission Trip to Benton Harbor, MI, through Youth Works. Space is limited to 16 students and 4 adults on a first-come basis. Attend our first team meeting and information session on Wednesday, November 15th (6:30pm-7:30pm). This will be an opportunity to meet team members, ask questions, and get ready for the trip. Register today at crosswindslife.org or contact Pastor Stina for additional information.

Preparing for Winter Middle School Mentor Series

Submit Names by November 15

Our winter mentor series for middle school confirmation begins in December. This year, we ask families to choose adult mentors that they wish to have assigned as spiritual mentors. Mentors provide a space for confirmation students to really wrestle with the questions on their hearts with support and encouragement. As a mentor, you are not expected to have all the answers, but are expected to be a person of faith, hope, and love to encourage the confirmation student in their journey. Information about the mentor program is available online at crosswindslife.org/engage/youth - look for the Mentor Flyer. Please let Pastor Stina (stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org) who you would like to invite as your student's mentor by November 15th so that she can prepare the mentor (welcoming, orientation, and background checks).

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DRAMA OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Musical

Kick-off November 1st - Performance December 10th

Our winter semester will be taking part in the Adult Choir Christmas Musical. The kickoff meets on Wednesday, November 1st. Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings at 7:30, allowing for the youth to still take part in the Winter Semester of Middle School and High School Programming. Schedule available online.

Christmas Eve Drama

Performance December 24th at 10:00 am Worship

All students interested in participating in a Christmas Eve drama are invited to contact Lori Lahtinen to sign up. The performance will be during Christmas Eve worship (Dec 24th at 10am). Rehearsals will meet: Sunday, Dec 3rd (9am-9:45am), Dec 17th (9am-9:45am), and Wednesday, Dec 20th (5:30-6:30pm).

Contact Lori Lahtinen, Director of Worship and Music (lorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org) for more information about worship and music programs.





Thankful Community Night

Dinner Served 5:30-6:30 pm; Thanksgiving Activities 6:30-7:30 pm Celebrate Thanksgiving at Cross Winds with a homecooked meal and Thanksgiving fun! The Hospitality team is hosting dinner (recommended \$5/person donation) followed by Thanksgiving activities for all ages afterwards including a service project for CROSS Services.

Advent Fest

Dinner Served 5:30-6:30 pm; Christmas Activities 6:30-7:30 pm

Get ready for Christmas with Cross Winds as we enjoy some Christmas cheer. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30pm (recommended \$5/person donation) followed by Christmas activities for all ages afterwards include making Christmas nativity scenes for a Christmas Eve drama, helping with a service project for Feed My Starving Children, music opportunities for all ages, and Christmas crafts.





Grief Share: Surviving the Holidays

Sunday, November 26, 11:30 am-1:00 pm OR Monday, December 11, 6:30-8:00 pm

A GriefShare Surviving the Holidays seminar, offers practical, actionable strategies for making it through the holiday season. At this 90 minute seminar, you'll view a video featuring advice from people in grief who've faced the holidays after their loss. You'll hear insights from respected Christian counselors, psychologists and

pastors. You'll receive a Holiday Survival Guide with practical strategies, encouraging words, helpful exercises, Q/As, and journaling ideas for daily survival through the holiday season. A light meal will also be served. Register online: November Event Registration or December Event Registration

New Member Sunday - November 19

During worship on Sunday, November 19th, we are honored to welcome new members to Cross Winds. If you are interested in becoming a member, stop by a "Coffee with the Pastor" event or contact Pastor Stina (stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org) to learn more about joining the church.







Faithful Servant Award 2024

Nominations Due December 17

Beginning in 2022, Cross Winds awarded its first annual Faithful Servant Award to congregation members to recognize volunteers who have given generously of their time and talents towards the efforts of Cross Winds. We are blessed with many people who give of themselves to this church in a variety of areas. The reasons include but are not limited to Building, Ministry, Education, Hospitality, Music, Sunday School, Worship leadership, Women's retreat, and Missions. Nominations are now open for the 2024 Faithful Servant Awards to be awarded later this winter. Please fill out a nomination form located on the Cross Winds website or paper copy on the welcome desk. Paper ballots can also be returned at the welcome desk. These should be returned by December 17.

Cookie Exchange

December 3, 2:00 pm

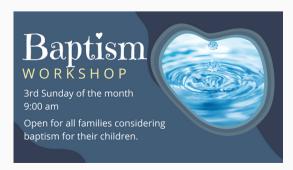
Gather together to exchange cookies and Christmas cheer. Bring 3 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to exchange and go home with 2.5 dozen of assorted holiday treats. Enjoy fellowship while we sample some cookies and share some holiday teas. Hosted by Allyson Tarnowski and Dianne Roth. Register online for the event.



Cub Foods Stamp Saver Cards

Do You Shop at Cub Foods? If you do then you can help. The Cross Winds Kitchen Team is collecting blue stamps that Cub gives you when you check out in order to buy some high-quality cookware for our new kitchen. For every \$10 you spend at Cub, either in-store or online for pickup or delivery, you will earn one stamp. One stamp saver card holds 20 stamps and is good for \$8.00 toward the purchase of any KitchenAid cookware. The promotion ends on December 3, 2023. Stamp cards and stamps can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or given to Michelle in the office.









Blessed to have Bishop Lanette Plambeck join us for worship and the Kitchen Consecration!















PAGE 14

Highlights

















PAGE 15





Thank You For Your Generosity!

Our list of thanks is long, because of the generosity of the Cross Winds community and friends. We are inspired by the generosity of your time, talents, and treasures that have made it possible to open this newly licensed commercial kitchen. Thank you to everyone who has given financially towards the Capital Campaign, "So All Are Welcome." Thank you to everyone who has given of their prayers, their time, their labors, and their love to building and equipping this new facility for the Lord's service. We are grateful for your faith, hope, and love.



Kitchen Consecration Brochure











December Offering

Give hope this Christmas

100,000 meal goal!





United Methodist Church



Every year millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, and under-nutrition. Today, hunger still causes nearly half of deaths in children under 5 years old. This is heartbreaking. But you can make a difference!

Through a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™ event at Cross Winds UMC on April 19-20, 2024, our community is responding to the cries of those in need by producing over 100,000 nutritious meals for kids around the world.

To help us meet our \$30,000 fundraising goal, this Christmas we are taking a special December offering for our FMSC Mobile Pack event. We also will have a Christmas Alternative Gift Fair open on Sunday, December 10th, providing an opportunity for people to purchase Christmas gifts for friends and family that will make an impact towards our mobile pack efforts to feed over 100,000 people!

Find out more in worship on November 26!





GIVE HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

Alternative Gift Fair December 10th

Supports



Alternative Gift Fair

At the Alternative Gift Fair on December 10th, token gifts will be out for "purchase," as you make donations towards our FMSC mobile pack event. These gifts are meant to be symbols of your donation towards the mobile pack and a way for you to give a gift to a loved one. Sample gifts include ornaments, bowl cozies, scrubbies, small games, etc. Gifts may be purchased by cash, check, or online payments.



GIVE HOPE
PACK 100,000
MEALS
APRIL 19-20TH,
2024





About Feed My Starving Children

Feeding kids. Feeding spirits. Empowering communities.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC meals are packed primarily by volunteers, then sent to a network of partner organizations that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development. FMSC MarketPlace™ supports local artisans, paying a fair wage for handcrafted goods and using the retail profits to fund more meals for kids around the world. Since our founding in 1987, FMSC has shipped over 3 billion meals to more than 100 countries. Learn more at fmsc.org.

About FMSC MobilePack Events

Volunteers just like you join hands with neighbors across the U.S. to pack and fund lifesaving FMSC MannaPack® meals through FMSC MobilePack events. Churches, businesses, community groups and schools host these food packing events and make a real difference in the fight against world hunger.

Funding the MobilePack

When you fund daily MannaPack® meals for hungry children around the world, you will help ensure they have the nutrients needed to fight malnutrition. One life-changing meal costs 29 cents. That's just \$106 to feed one child a daily meal for an entire year!

\$53 feeds six children for a month

\$79.50 feeds nine children for a month

\$106 feeds one child for a year

Our goal is to provide over 100,000 meals for kids in need, which puts our total fundraising goal at \$30,000. Help bring hope this Christmas by giving towards the December FMSC Christmas Offering.

Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Rd Maple Grove, MN 55311

Return Service Requested

The Compass

is the monthly newsletter of Cross Winds United Methodist Church

www.crosswindslife.org

Phone: 763-494-9463

