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**Community Night**  
February 7 (5:30-7:30 pm)  
Support the Senior High Mission Trip  
Dinner & Silent Auction  
Special Entertainment - Tony Ducklow

## February 7 Community Night Fundraiser

Dinner 5:30-6:30pm

Silent Auction and Entertainment 6:30-7:30pm

Support the 2024 Mission Trip at our upcoming February Community Night on Wednesday, February 7th. The mission team will be hosting dinner and a silent auction. All proceeds will benefit the team's trip to Benton Harbor, MI. Tony Ducklow will be our guest entertainment, providing cheer for all ages. Bring your friends and spread the word!

Interested in donating an item to the silent auction for the mission team? Items due by February 4th. Contact Pastor Stina.

## Ways to support the Mission Team

Support a team member today by donating your financial gifts, prayers, or volunteer hours. Donations may be made online: [crosswindslife.org/engage/youth](https://crosswindslife.org/engage/youth) or checks may be made payable to Cross Winds UMC. When donating, you can select whether it goes to the greatest need or name a specific team member and it will be credited towards their mission account.



## **Cross Winds United Methodist Church**

15051 Weaver Lake Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55311  
Phone: 763-494-9463  
Website: [crosswindslife.org](http://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**

The 2024 Budget was presented to the Congregation and approved on January 14th . Thanks to Pastor Stina, Michelle Schober, Steve Weeks, and the Finance Team for all their assistance, leadership and review in assembling our 2024 Budget.

Almost half of our Pledgers (current and new) increased their pledge for 2024. If you have not pledged yet, you can make a difference with additional Giving or Pledges that you can contribute. No amount is too small. We welcome any support that you can provide. Thank you again for your blessings and giving for all of our ministries at CWUMC.

If you have questions about our Operating Fund, Your 2024 Pledge or questions related to our 2024 Budget, Capital Campaign Fund, Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance please contact us at [finance@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:finance@crosswindsumc.org).

## **Ministry Staff**

Christina Koppes  
Lead Pastor  
[stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org)

Michelle Schober  
Director of Administration  
[michelleschober@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:michelleschober@crosswindsumc.org)

Lori Lahtinen  
Director of Worship & Music  
[lorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:lorilahtinen@crosswindsumc.org)

Amber Lahtinen  
Director of Children's Ministry  
[amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org)

Joyce Sluss  
Minister of Community  
Engagement  
[joycesluss@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:joycesluss@crosswindsumc.org)

Nancy Betterman  
Accompanist

David Hughes  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:treasurer@crosswindsumc.org)

Cheryl Purkat  
Nursery Supervisor

H E L L O

F E B R U A R Y

## Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



*"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who committed serious sins and separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness and restored to participation in the Church's life. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith."*

~ "Invitation to Observance of Lenten Discipline"  
(Ash Wednesday Liturgy) *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Fresh starts are the stuff of magazine covers, TV shows, and social media feeds. Advertising is built on the premise that we need to change something, buy something, fix something, or aspire to something to find happiness. Social media bombards us with algorithms intentionally created to affect our brains into consuming what we think we specifically need to "live our best life."

In the Christian tradition, fresh starts and "living our best life" are the stuff Ash Wednesday and Lent celebrates as well. Yet unlike an algorithm designed to convince our brains to buy more, Ash Wednesday rolls through like an urgent wake up call, shouting at us to repent, turn around, and change. When we receive the imposition of ashes, we often hear the famous phrase, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." It can feel jarring and disorienting. It is meant to be. At its best, Ash Wednesday is meant to catch our attention and remind us to pay attention to what matters.

Instead of a call to consume more, the season of Lent (beginning with Ash Wednesday), is a call to release and reflect. We are encouraged to be counter-cultural. See what you can live without. Think about what you pay attention to and how it affects you. Be honest about what you really value and where your life is heading. It is uncomfortable. Yet it is also an invitation to soften the heart and open the door to an incredible outpouring of grace meant to remind us of the stuff we are made of – the image of God that rests deeply within us. It is a journey that refines our lives, burning away that which holds us back and strengthening the best within us.

As we prepare once more to celebrate Ash Wednesday, this year on February 14th, and embark on another Lenten journey....

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word..." - The United Methodist Book of Worship

May it be a time of forgiveness, mercy, and renewal.



## Three Simple Rules

1. Do No Harm

2. Do Good

3. Love God

*In our search to live like Jesus, United Methodist Christians follow Three Simple Rules to Guide the way. Join us this winter as we explore these simple rules as a way to strengthen, encourage, and inspire our lives. Learn more about the roots of the United Methodist traditions and how the church continues to make an impact in the world today.*

### **February 4 - Both Head and Heart**

Ephesians 2:8-10 - Rev. Joyce Sluss

The United Methodist Church has its roots in the spiritual revival led by John Wesley in 18th century England. That heritage has two distinct aspects. We will speak to them and look at the church's Social Creed. We will also take time in worship to recognize our 2024 Senior High Mission Trip Team as we bless their upcoming work.

The United Methodist Church has a Social Creed that we will be talking about in worship on February 4th. That Creed is printed below. This is an opportunity to read it in advance and decide for yourself if you agree with it or if it can apply to you. We will be reading it during worship on February 4th. As you will hear that day the Social Creed is very much in the history and spirit of Methodism.

#### **Our Social Creed**

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family. We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF  
**LUKE**  
REMEMBERING MERCY



**Meet Jesus through the eyes of Luke, a gospel writer, who encourages us explore what it means to live in the ways of mercy, compassion, justice, grace, and love. Over the course of 40 days follow the life of Jesus, as we read through the Gospel of Luke together, starting at the manger, and continuing through Jesus' life of teaching, healing, and reconciliation. In addition to Sunday morning sermons, we will also have 6-week small groups available to discuss bestselling author Adam Hamilton's book, Luke.**

**February 11 - Remembering Mercy**

Luke 1:46-55

Meet Jesus through the eyes of Luke, a gospel writer, who encourages us explore what it means to live in the ways of mercy, compassion, justice, grace, and love. Over the course of 40 days follow the life of Jesus, as we read through the Gospel of Luke together, starting at the manger, and continuing through Jesus' life of teaching, healing, and reconciliation. This morning we start at the beginning of Luke, meeting Jesus' mother Mary as she sings. During worship today we will also celebrate Scout Sunday and invite you to a special pancake breakfast after worship hosted by the scouts.

**February 18 - Shown Great Love**

Luke 7:36-48

As we pray through the Gospel according to Luke, we encounter people who testify what it means to experience the merciful love of God. Join us as we meet a woman in Luke's gospel through the voice of a dramatic presentation by Krista Kemp. During worship, we will also celebrate the 2024 Faithful Servant Award recipients.

*Ash Wednesday*

FEBRUARY 14

COMMUNITY MEAL 5:30 PM  
& WORSHIP 6:30 PM



**February 14 - Ash Wednesday**

Psalm 51, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, which is a period of forty days set aside for spiritual renewal and preparation for Easter. Take time out of your week to pause, find refreshment, and start anew with God as we gather for worship on Ash Wednesday. Dinner will be offered from 5:30-6:30pm. Worship begins at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.

**February 25 - The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly**

Luke 15:11-32 - Rev. Lori Walber

In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, to whom do you relate? Are you the brother who has squandered his inheritance and comes crawling home? Or are you the rule-keeping, responsible older brother who withholds joy when his brother returns home? The Good News is that God's grace extends to all of us.



# Gospel of Luke

## 40 DAY READING PLAN

Prayerfully read the Gospel of Luke this Lenten season.

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE 40-DAY READING PLAN

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Day 1:</b> Luke 1:1-38       | <b>Day 21:</b> Luke 13:1-35     |
| <b>Day 2:</b> Luke 1:39-80      | <b>Day 22:</b> Luke 14:1-35     |
| <b>Day 3:</b> Luke 2:1-40       | <b>Day 23:</b> Luke 15:1-32     |
| <b>Day 4:</b> Luke 2:41-3:20    | <b>Day 24:</b> Luke 16:1-31     |
| <b>Day 5:</b> Luke 3:21-4:13    | <b>Day 25:</b> Luke 17:1-37     |
| <b>Day 6:</b> Luke 4:14-44      | <b>Day 26:</b> Luke 18:1-17     |
| <b>Day 7:</b> Luke 5:1-26       | <b>Day 27:</b> Luke 18:18-43    |
| <b>Day 8:</b> Luke 5:27-6:16    | <b>Day 28:</b> Luke 19:1-28     |
| <b>Day 9:</b> Luke 6:17-49      | <b>Day 29:</b> Luke 19:29-48    |
| <b>Day 10:</b> Luke 7:1-35      | <b>Day 30:</b> Luke 20:1-19     |
| <b>Day 11:</b> Luke 7:36-8:3    | <b>Day 31:</b> Luke 20:20-44    |
| <b>Day 12:</b> Luke 8:4-21      | <b>Day 32:</b> Luke 20:45-21:28 |
| <b>Day 13:</b> Luke 8:22-56     | <b>Day 33:</b> Luke 21:29-22:23 |
| <b>Day 14:</b> Luke 9:1-27      | <b>Day 34:</b> Luke 22:24-53    |
| <b>Day 15:</b> Luke 9:28-62     | <b>Day 35:</b> Luke 22:54-71    |
| <b>Day 16:</b> Luke 10:1-24     | <b>Day 36:</b> Luke 23:1-25     |
| <b>Day 17:</b> Luke 10:25-11:13 | <b>Day 37:</b> Luke 23:26-56    |
| <b>Day 18:</b> Luke 11:14-54    | <b>Day 38:</b> Luke 24:1-12     |
| <b>Day 19:</b> Luke 12:1-34     | <b>Day 39:</b> Luke 24:13-35    |
| <b>Day 20:</b> Luke 12:35-59    | <b>Day 40:</b> Luke 24:36-53    |

For use with Adam Hamilton's *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Abingdon Press.

# Adult Ministries and Small Groups



## Lent Small Groups

Sundays, February 18-March 24, 9:00-9:45 am  
Wednesdays, February 21-March 20

Meet Jesus through the eyes of Luke, a gospel writer, who encourages us explore what it means to live in the ways of mercy, compassion, justice, grace, and love. Over the course of 40 days follow the life of Jesus, as we read through the Gospel of Luke together, starting at the manger, and continuing through Jesus' life of teaching, healing, and reconciliation. In addition to Sunday morning sermons, we will also have 6-week small groups available to discuss bestselling author Adam Hamilton's book, *Luke*, on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Books are available for purchase at church for \$15, either for small group or personal study.

**THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**  
REMEMBERING MERCY

### LENT SMALL GROUPS BEGIN IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 18 9:00 am  
Wednesday, February 21 6:30pm

**Sign up online**  
**Books available for \$15**

Small Group Study

## Wrestling with Doubt

Wednesdays, February 21-March 27, 1:00 pm

## Small Group Study - Wrestling With Doubt

Begins Wednesday, February 21, 1:00 pm

Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God. In *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, Adam Hamilton discusses some of our most significant sources of doubt and shows how a steady trust in God can emerge from them. Wrestle with doubt and find faith—belief and trust, not certainty; mystery rather than simple answers. This six week class led by Pastor Shirley includes both a book and a video component. Books are available for purchase at the church for \$15. You can sign up for the class by contacting Pastor Shirley, the church office, registering on Sunday, or visiting [crosswindslife.org](http://crosswindslife.org)

## Grief Share - New Series Starts in February

Mondays, February 26-May 20, 3:30-5:00 pm

Community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend are invited to register for the GriefShare program held at Cross Winds UMC. This nondenominational program features Christ-centered, biblical teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was seen on the DVD.

GriefShare will be held on Mondays (3:30-5pm) beginning February 26th in the adult education room of Cross Winds UMC. Register online - <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/179613> or contact Pastor Stina for more information. Suggested donation of \$20.

## GRIEF SHARE

February 26-May 20

Register at [crosswindslife.org](http://crosswindslife.org)

## Game Night

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

Games for all ages!

## Game Night - Thursday, February 15, 6:30 pm

Join together with friends and have fun. It will be a game night for family and friends. Games for all ages will be there but feel free to bring your favorite game to teach others. This game group will meet in the evening of every third Thursday of the month. We will be playing a variety of games. Please spread the word and join us. Questions? Call Mike Sluss at 503-951-7815.

# CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



**Dinner, prayer,  
lesson and song**  
We're happy to be  
together all  
month long!



## 100,000 Prayer Challenge in Children's Ministry

The Cross Winds kids are so excited to pray for the meals being backed for God's children all around the world. They may be small but their prayers are mighty! Here's a few resources you might like to have at home.



## TEACH ME TO PRAY



Dear Lord, you are awesome because \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_  
 I'm sorry for \_\_\_\_\_  
 Help me \_\_\_\_\_  
 I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ Amen!

## February Theme - Wow!

Whether it's a rocket car powered by soda and mints or a tornado in a water bottle, there's so much in our world that can fill us with awe. The world of STEM is full of things that look like little miracles, but they're nothing compared to the miracles God can perform. In this four-week series, kids will take a look at some of the miracles that Jesus performed during his ministry. Through stories showing the power of Jesus, they'll no doubt go, Wow! Jesus has the power to heal, to calm our fears, to provide, and to save.





## Youth Ministry Updates

This summer we have great opportunities for both middle school and high school students. For our Middle School families, we are excited to offer a group trip to Summer Festival Camp. For our Senior High families, we are honored to share the latest update on our mission trip team efforts.



### MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

#### Summer Festival Camp (July 14-17)

Open to students finishing 6th-9th grade in the 2023-2024 school year.

Cost \$250.

Location – Gustavus Adolphus College

For a week during the summer, teens have the chance to get away from real life, hang out with people from across the Midwest, deepen friendships, and talk about God. Everyday speakers come to share inspiring and challenging stories about real life, God, and where the two intertwine. The days are packed with fun surprises of all kinds. From the music, the movies, the games, the speakers, and club – all with laughter to tears – Summer Festival Camp really has something for everybody. To learn more about SFC visit: <https://summerfestivalcamp.com/>

If your students are interested in attending SFC with Cross Winds Youth or you are interested in serving as an adult leader, please contact Pastor Stina ([stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org](mailto:stinakoppes@crosswindsumc.org)). Space is limited. Registration available online. Total spaces available are dependent on adult chaperone availability. Registration for all campers will be due by June 1st. Scholarships available upon request.



### 2024 Senior High Mission Trip Team Has Assembled!

Support the 2024 Senior High Mission Team work as they prepare for their trip to Benton Harbor, MI from July 6th through July 12th. During a week in Benton Harbor, the group will partner with local organizations to serve the city across age and racial divides. In the evenings, they will tour the community and learn about the fine arts revitalization in Benton Harbor from a community friend.

## Mission Trip Team Recognition in Worship – Feb 4th

On Sunday, Feb 4th, we will take time in worship to bless and recognize our team as they get ready for their work. Learn more about the trip and who is going!

Partnering with YouthWorks ([youthworks.com](http://youthworks.com)), our team will be immersed in experiences that seek to restore relationships, love others, and serve communities because Jesus set that example for us. Sample service projects and activities include partnering with local organizations to meet ongoing needs in the community. Students may serve all or part of the week at a food shelf, clothing distribution center, or by assisting with painting, cleaning, or simple repair projects. During a week in Benton Harbor, our group will partner with local organizations to serve the city across age and racial divides. In the evenings, we will tour the community and learn about the fine arts revitalization in Benton Harbor from a community friend. We will also have the opportunity to experience local BBQ, visit a Lake Michigan beach, and explore Benton Harbor's sister city, St. Joseph. YouthWorks has partnered with this community since 2000.

**Adult Leaders** – Cindy Bailey, Emily Goodermont (Osseo UMC), Randy Goodermont (Osseo UMC), Karmyn Nelson, Grant Nelson, and Cheryl Purkat

**Students** - Bridget B, Teagan G (Osseo), Emma G, Elliana H (Osseo), Luken L, Elise L, Abby L, Gavin N, Kiara N, Jeremy P, Aubrey S, and Colton S.

# Prayer Shawl Ministry



## Prayer Shawl Ministry Donates Shawls to Perry, IA

When the Cross Winds prayer shawl ministry learned of the tragic school shooting, we contacted the Perry, Iowa First United Methodist Church. The church was coordinating interdenominational support to those grieving and hosted a community prayer vigil the evening of the shooting. The office manager, Bill, was most grateful for our offer of prayer shawls and was interested in learning about prayer shawl ministry. Five prayer shawls for students and adults were sent. First UMC expressed an interest in starting their own prayer shawl ministry and our group has supplied information and offered support.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting Monday, February 26, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, February 26 at 1:30 pm at church. Bring your own beverage, the project that you are working on and completed shawls or hats. You are invited to join us if you knit or crochet or would like to learn.



# CROSS WINDS




**Thank you for your generosity**  
Over \$25,000 raised!

Help us reach our \$30,000 goal




## Thanks for your generosity - Over \$25,000 already raised!

On April 19-20th, Cross Winds will partner with Feed My Starving Children to pack 100,000 meals. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over \$25,000 towards funding these meals. Thank you! Over the next few months, we will be raising the additional \$5,000 needed to get all our meals fully funded. Be sure to spread the word about this major event and ministry opportunity.

## 100,000 Prayers Challenge

In preparation for the mobile pack, we also have the audacious goal of praying one minute for every meal we pack. That means we need your prayers and for our surrounding community to pray for this event! Get devotional materials and log your minutes online at [crosswindslife.org](http://crosswindslife.org)



**100,000 Prayers Challenge**

One minute per meal  
January 10th-April 20th

Join together for one cause:  
TO FEED STARVING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD.




**Community Night**

March 20  
5:30-7:30 pm

Feed My Starving Children  
Dinner to support MobilePack  
& Prayer Challenge Event

## Community Night Supporting FMSC Mobile Pack Community Dinner (5:30pm)

### Prayer-a-thon gathering (6:30pm-7:30pm)

As we keep collecting those prayers, join us for a midway community event to pray, pray, pray for those 100,000 meals. We will have a simple community dinner (5:30-6:30pm) and then various prayer stations and activities for you to help reach our goal of one minute per meal! Friends welcomed and encouraged to join us.

## Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for over 500 volunteers to help with our mobile pack event on April 19-20th. Some volunteers will be able to assist with early set up and additional hospitality needs. Beginning in March, registration will be open for volunteers who would like to pack meals on April 19-20th. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities or share information about a group reservation, fill out the Mobile Pack Interest form linked with our FMSC materials at [crosswindslife.org](http://crosswindslife.org)



**Volunteer Registration opens in March**

April 19-20th  
Pack 100,000 Meals



# 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](http://www.crosswindslife.org)

Phone: 763-494-9463

