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COMEDYSPORTZ®

TWIN CITIES

Community Night

February 5
5:30-7:30 pm

Dinner and
Improv Comedy



February Community Night - Featuring Comedy Sportz
February 5, 5:30-7:15pm

Dinner at 5:30pm-6:30pm

Comedy Sportz Show at 6:30-7:15pm

Join us for dinner and a show on Wednesday, February 5th, as we welcome Comedy Sportz to church. ComedySportz is fast paced improv comedy played as a sport! Two teams of actors create short comedy games and scenes on the spot based on audience suggestions to earn points and laughs. You, the audience, assist in the comedy by yelling out the suggestions and voting each round to award points! ComedySportz is rated E for Everyone!



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

The 2025 Budget has been approved by the Congregation. Your pledges for 2025 represent a 6% increase year over year. Even though our Stewardship Campaign has ended, you can still make a difference with your pledge for 2025. We welcome any support that you can provide and no amount is too small. Thank you for your giving in 2024 and for your Pledge for 2025.

On another note we would like to thank Steve Weeks our Financial Secretary who will be stepping down and has faithfully served this position for over 12 years. Steve will continue to serve us in his role of Adult Bible studies and training our new Financial Secretary.

If you have questions about our Operating Fund, or questions related to our 2025 Budget, other Reserve Funds, Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance please contact us at finance@crosswindsumc.org.

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H E L L O

F E B R U A R Y

Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction; don't neglect your mother's teaching; for they are a graceful wreath on your head, and beads for your neck."

~ Proverbs 1:8-9

This winter we have been reflecting on Tough Love that is fueled by God and capable of sustaining relationships through better and worse. Whether it's loving our kids, our spouse, our neighbors, or ourselves, having tough love is something that is experienced over time. It is an embodied wisdom we gain from our elders, whether biological or spiritual parents. This month, I encourage you to spend time reflecting on the instructions and wisdom that have been passed down to you as well as the wisdom you want to pass along to future generations. What is it that matters most?

As you reflect on those instructions, I encourage you to think about the discipling, methods, and habits needed to keep that wisdom alive. This is a beautiful part of our United Methodist faith. We care about methods and practices. The disciplines and real habits that make our lives immersed in the grace of God are crucial for our spiritual health. So, as you think about the wisdom you want to pass along, I ask you to take things a step further. What are the habits you want to pass along? What about your life is worth modeling to others for the future? What habits need to change? What in your life needs to be reconsidered?

If you're feeling in a rut or looking for help, I recommend to you five life changing habits that are worth your time. I promise that each of these will bless your life and show you how to give and receive a tough love that will last through better and through worse. I hope these habits sound familiar from the fall.

Five Life Changing Christian Habits:

- **Worship/Prayer** - Pray 5 times a day. Worship once a week
- **Study** – Read at least 5 verses of scripture a day
- **Serve** – Pursue 5 acts of kindness a week
- **Give** – Practice 5 acts of generosity a month
- **Share (Witness)** - Share my faith with 5 people each year

Do these things and you will live. Through these ordinary practices God will have space to shape and transform your hearts to receive and share the kind of tough love you need.

Blessings, Pastor Stina

TOUGH LOVE

Sustaining loving relationships takes hard work, commitment, and an abundance of grace. Join us as we talk about the tough, sacrificial love that is needed to bless our families, friends, and communities. Gain practical tips to strengthen your own relationships and renew your efforts to share a tough love that makes a difference.

February 2 - What Do You Want For Your Marriage?

Ephesians 5:15-33

Marriage is a special love where we can uniquely experience becoming “one flesh” with another person. Through this sacred intimacy, we understand what it means to help and be helped by another person that is “bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh” (Genesis 2). This week, we will focus on the love that deepens in a marriage over the years. How can we look to God to guide our marriage so that we can be faithful, “for better and worse.”

February 16 - How Do You Know Your Neighbor

Luke 10:25-28

Often we do not know our neighbors. That may mean we don't respect them or value them. Part of loving God is honoring our neighbors and that means being able to openly talk to them.

February 9 - What Do You Want For Your Marriage After 20 Years?

Hebrews 13:1-8

Research shows that marital bliss often dips dramatically after the first five years of marriage and may not rebound until much later in time. What does it take to strengthen a marriage to endure the hardships of life and be able to find happiness in your marriage when life is tough? What is your hope for your own marriage in 20 years from now? (Or for the marriages of your children?) Join us as we reflect on the habits needed to build a strong marriage that will last across the decades.

February 23 - What Do You Want For Your Enemies

Luke 6:27-38

We conclude our series with one of the toughest loves. Jesus admonishes us to “Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you.” (Luke 6:27-28) How is it possible to show compassion to those who wish us harm or when our own hearts are filled with anger and rage?

Christmas Offering Thanks!



Layette Kit Drive
\$2000 worth of items collected
\$2000 additional financial gifts



Baby Showers in Bundles - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped to assemble dozens of baby showers in bundles to support moms across the world through our partnership with Midwest Mission. Thanks to your generosity we collected over \$2,000 in baby item supplies for layette kits AND over \$2,000 in financial gifts. With the actual items we had on hand, we assembled 28 kits and had plenty of supplies for additional help PLUS the amazing financial support to finish future kits and help more moms. Thank you!

Supply Totals Included:

215 Diapers 56 Sleepers
159 Onesies 194 Washcloths
359 Diaper Pins 28 Jackets/sweaters
117 Blankets

We also received additional items including socks, hooded towels, and other baby items that will be sent along with the donations. Midwest Mission can use all these supplies for future projects, so we look forward to getting them to the Distribution Center soon.





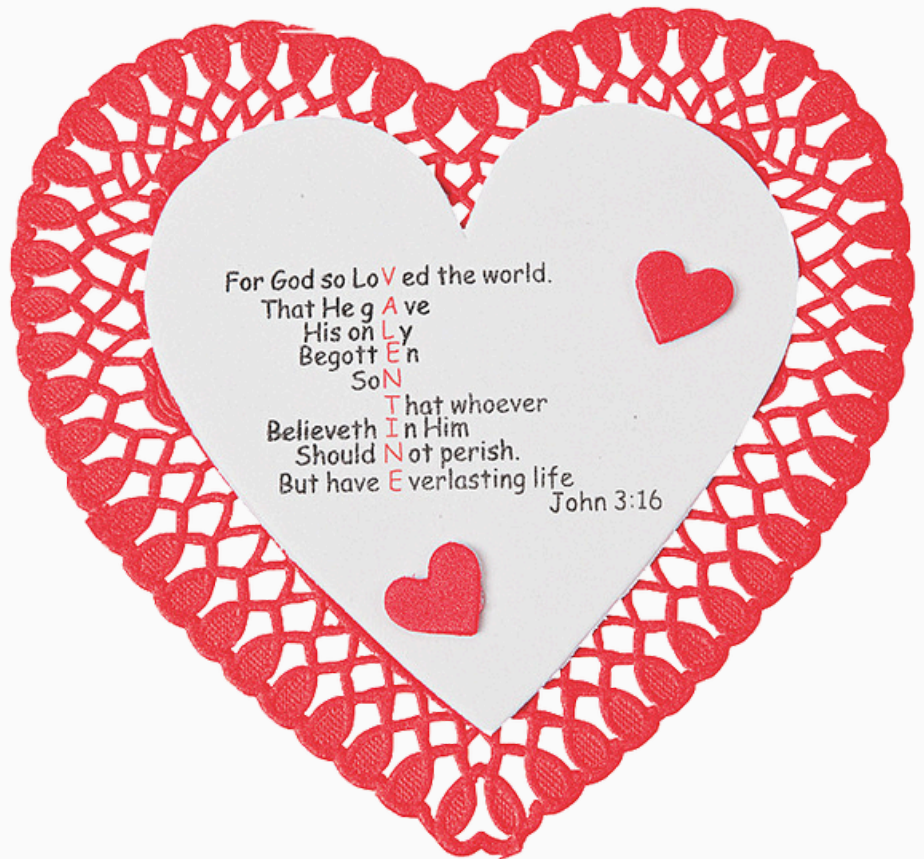
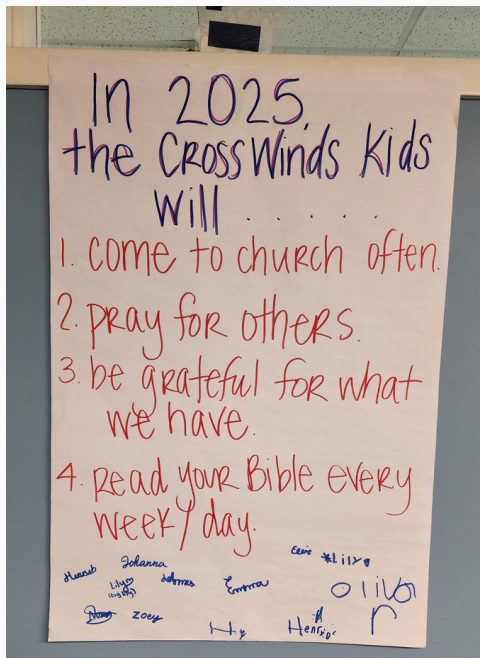
What a joy to be together on Sundays AND Wednesdays! Here's what we are learning:



When we visit an aquarium, we find a whole world filled with sea creatures, plants, and more. Some of the discoveries we've made about what lives underwater can seem almost like a miracle. But it's not just under the sea where miracles happen—Jesus used water in some of his most well-known miracles!

In this 4-week series, kids will learn about some of the incredible miracles Jesus performed to help people grow closer to God. As they do, they'll learn how Jesus does everything out of love, calls us to follow him, knows what we need, and most of all, that Jesus can do anything!

2025 Cross Winds Kids Goals



CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



2024-2025
CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM
REGISTRATION
www.crosswinds.org

Join us in Children's Ministry

It's never too late join us!
Register for programming [HERE](#)
[For more information visit our website.](#)

Volunteer in Children's Ministry

If you're feeling called to serve in Children's Ministry, connect with Amber!





Youth Ministry Updates

This winter, our Middle School students are meeting with family members to discuss the Apostles Creed and other traditional Christian beliefs. I am incredibly grateful for the devotion of our parents to making time and space for these crucial conversations. Be sure to hold these families up in your prayers as we finish our mentor series in February. To learn more about additional youth events, check out the church webpage or contact Pastor Stina to get involved.

February Wednesday Nights At A Glance

Dinner is offered from 5:30-6:30pm. Programming meets from 6:30-7:30pm.

- February 5 – Community Night – Comedy Sportz Entertainment
- February 12 – Middle School students gather for Mentor Night. High School will prepare for Loom-athon.
- February 19 – Respectful Conversations Event
- February 26 – Middle School students gather for Mentor Night. High School will prepare for Loom-athon.

**LOOM-ATHON
SLEEPING MAT
PROJECT**
Sunday, March 9
9am-2pm
Register for a
one hour shift

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

Senior High Students needed to help organize Sleeping Mat Loom-athon

Sunday, March 9, 9am-2pm

All Senior High students are invited to gather on February 12 and Feb 26 (during Wednesday night programming at 6:30pm) to help organize a spring loom-athon project. The goal is to organize the congregation to weaving a sleeping mat out of plastic bags in one day. Volunteer shifts will be available for registration (9am-10am, 11am-12pm, 12:30-1:30pm) for grades 6 through adult. Volunteers will help prepare the bags for use in weaving as well as weave the plastic strips on the loom.

We need our senior high students to figure out how to accomplish this goal and host the event! Join JoAn Baker on Wednesday nights to get ready for this.



Looking Ahead



SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP SUMMER 2026

Informational Meeting
 Wednesday, March 5th at 5:30pm
 (Before Ash Wednesday worship)

Informational Meeting - 2026 Summer Mission Trip Wednesday, March 5, 5:30 pm (Before Ash Wednesday worship)

All students and parents interested in participating in the summer 2026 mission trip are invited to a planning meeting on Wednesday, March 5th (5:30-6:30pm). Grab dinner from the Fellowship Hall and gather with Pastor Stina as we discuss the location and timeline for the next high school mission trip!

REGISTRATION OPEN for Summer Festival Camp

High School Camp: July 13-16, 2025

Middle School Camp: July 20-23, 2025

Cost \$250 per student

Open to students who have finished 6th-12th grade in the 2024-2025 school year.

Location – Gustavus Adolphus College



SUMMER FESTIVAL camp

High School
 July 13 – 16, 2025

Middle School
 July 20 – 23, 2025

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 or bringing a friend with Cross Winds Youth or you are interested in serving as an adult leader, please contact Pastor Stina. Space is limited. Total spaces available are dependent on adult chaperone availability. Registration for all campers will be due by June 1st. Scholarships available upon request. [Register online](#)

Adult Ministries and Small Groups



Grief Share Loss of Spouse Seminar

Sunday, February 16, 11:30-1pm OR Thursday, February 20, 4:30-6pm
Loss of a Spouse is a seminar for people grieving a spouse's death. The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and widowed men and women. They offer helpful insights on: What to expect in the days to come. How to deal with the loneliness. What to do with your spouse's belongings.

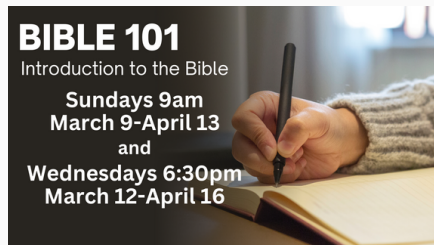
Why it won't always hurt this much. And other practical help for dealing with the challenges of widowhood. Everyone who attends will receive a booklet with over 30 short readings on how to live with grief and eventually rebuild your life. For more information, contact Pastor Stina or register online.

Grief Share Group Begins in March

Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 pm - March 6-June 5

Grieving the loss of someone close to you? Find comfort and support at GriefShare, 13-week grief support group meeting Thursdays (4:30-6pm) beginning March 6 at Cross Winds. Each session has a video for discussion and optional personal homework for additional reflection.

Personal workbooks will be provided by the church. Suggested donation of \$20. [Register online.](#)



Lenten Study - Bible 101

Sundays at 9am (March 9-April 13) and
Wednesdays at 6:30pm (March 12-April 16)

New to the Bible? Rusty on the basics? Ready for a refresher? Join Pastor Lori in a Lenten class entitled "Bible 101". The Bible is God's gift to us, a living document of God's work in our

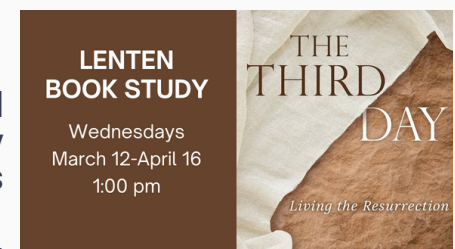
world. With broad strokes, we'll take a look at how the Bible came about, its timeline, different literary styles, Old Testament vs. New Testament, and lots more. Ultimately the goal is to understand why the Bible is important and how we can get the most out of it. Identical sessions offered on Sundays and Wednesdays. [Register Online.](#)

Lenten Book Study - *The Third Day*

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm (March 12-April 16)

Join Pastor Shirley this Lenten season to discuss, *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, by Tom Berlin. Meet Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection.

This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives. Books cost \$20 and are available at church. Registration for class is [available online.](#)



Adult Ministries and Small Groups



Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, February 4, 11:30 am

A Prime Timers Brunch has been arranged for the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 am at Lynde's Restaurant in Osseo. Breakfast and Lunch menus will be available. Everyone invited! Sign up on the church website.

Prime Timers Brunch
Join us monthly for Prime Timers Brunch at Lynde's Restaurant in Osseo
SIGN UP
First Tuesdays
11:30 AM

Prime Timers
Join us for Bingo Night at Messiah UMC.
Fun, snacks, prizes
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
6:30 PM

Prime Timers February Event

Friday, February 7, 6:30-8:00 pm

BINGO Night is coming! Join us at Messiah UMC, (17805 County Rd 6, Plymouth) for a fun night of BINGO games, prizes, and snacks. Fun for all ages!

We will meet at Messiah at 6:30 pm. Please sign up on the church website by Wednesday, February 5 so that we will have an idea how many are coming. If you wish to carpool from Cross Winds, please indicate on the sign up form, so that we can have drivers available to meet at 6:00 pm. Prime Timers is for anyone retirement age or approaching and looking for fun activities with church friends.

Ladies Who Lunch

Tuesday, February 18, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, February 18 at 11:30 am at Biaggi's Maple Grove. Please sign up on the Cross Winds Ladies Who Lunch Events page or let the church office know so reservation can be confirmed with restaurant. All ladies are invited to join us.

LADIES WHO LUNCH
January 21, 11:30am
Join us at Malone's, Maple Grove.
Sign up on the website or contact the church office by January 19.



Prayer Shawl Ministry - Monday, February 24, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, February 24 at 1:30 pm at church. Bring your own beverage, current project, and any completed shawls. We invite you to join us if you knit or crochet or would like to learn. We meet monthly on the fourth Monday.

Game Night - Thursday, February 20, 6:30 pm

Enjoy the fun, food, and fellowship of Game Night at Cross Winds.

Our next Game Night at Cross Winds will start at 6:30 on Thursday, February 20. Game Night at Cross Winds is always at 6:30 on the third Thursday of the month.

Game Night is for game players of all ages. Feel free to bring a boardgame or card game you would like to play.

Game Night
3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm
Games for all ages!

Mission Updates

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Preparing for 2026

Volunteer Meeting, Sunday, March 16, 11:15 am

Cross Winds is preparing to host another Mobile Pack with Feed My Starving Children in 2026. To get ready for this event, we've got a year to start praying, planning, and spreading the good news. If you are interested in helping on the planning committee, serving as a volunteer, or learning more about FMSC, join us for a volunteer meeting on Sunday, March 16 (11:15am-12pm). If you are unable to attend the meeting, but interested in helping, please contact Pastor Stina.

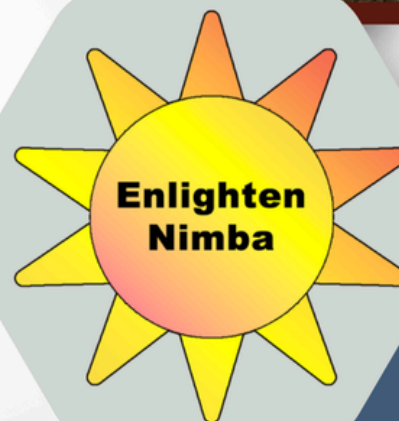


Feed My Starving
Children MobilePack

Returning
April 16-18, 2026

ENLIGHTEN NIMBA MISSION UPDATE

- Work continues on the dormitory. Completion is expected before the start of the new school year.
- A partnership is being initiated with a global group who can supply nutritious meals to the school.
- The school may connect with the power grid this year.
- Financial support is always appreciated.





RESPECTFUL CONVERSATIONS EVENT

Wednesday, February 19
5:30-7:30pm



Join Respectful Conversations about the Election Wednesday, February 19, 5:30-7:30pm

Practice conversations designed not to change minds, but soften hearts, while being curious about our differences.

With all the news about the election we have so many emotions – and so much to respond to – that it’s hard to know where to begin. When we do talk about the election we can leave feeling worse about the people we disagree with, and sometimes worse about ourselves.

There is a way to talk about it all that feels open and honest. You can actually speak freely, be heard, and be curious about people with other perspectives. Thousands of Minnesotans have participated in Respectful Conversations since 2012. These facilitated, structured conversations are designed not to change minds, but soften hearts on topics that divide us.

Experience a Respectful Conversation for yourself at one of two Minnesota locations in November. These communities have chosen to be sources of peace, cooling the heat of division and learning to be peacemakers. Join in to learn how you can have a great conversation that builds empathy even in the face of disagreement.

“This process was wonderful and hope-filled.” –previous participant

Event Details:

A Respectful Conversation about the election

Wednesday, February 19, 5:30-7:30pm

Please reserve online in February. Dinner is provided.

The Respectful Conversations Project is a program of the Minnesota Council of Churches designed to strengthen civic life in Minnesota. Congregations throughout Minnesota have hosted conversations that explore issues through the lens of deeply held convictions while maintaining, even enhancing, relationships among those who disagree.

About Minnesota Council of Churches

The Minnesota Council of Churches’ mission is to manifest unity in the church and to build the common good in the world. The Minnesota Council of Churches programs align with two broad categories: welcoming refugees and community engagement and civic life. For more information, visit www.mnchurches.org



STITCHES OF
LOVE

Special Offering
FEBRUARY 23



Stitches of Love

Crosswinds Church has been blessed to have a dedicated group of about 11 sewers who stitch together quilts, book bags, and feminine hygiene kits. Sewing is done in individual homes and the group meets every other month, except for summer, to discuss goals, progress and distribute materials. Meetings end in a prayer over the items that have been completed and for those who will receive them.

The cotton light weight quilts go to Midwest Mission and typically are sent to warm weather areas experiencing a disaster. We use the pattern supplied by Midwest Mission to fit the cots they provide. It takes approximately 6 yards of material to create each quilt. Retail cost of material per quilt is \$18-20 per quilt. We created approximately 130 quilts last year.

We also create book bags and they are distributed nationally and internationally. We sent approximately 30 bags last year and they cost \$1.50 each to make. A school in Peru was one of the recipients of bags last year.

A significant part of our work involves a partnership with the women of Maple Grove Rotary. We have stitched feminine hygiene kits in the past several years that are distributed through the Days for Girls organization. The Days for Girls organizations mission is to remove barriers to school attendance for girls. Period poverty is a term they use that describes the struggle many women and girls face in developing countries because they lack access to safe and affordable menstrual products. This challenges their ability to participate in school and the workplace because of absenteeism, wage loss and inconsistent focus on education. Our kits have gone to school girls in Kenya, Haiti, and Nigeria in past years. The Rotary Club provides parts of the kit, such as soap and some materials. The portion that Crosswinds provides costs approximately \$5.20 per kit. Last year we stitched and assembled 125 kits with a cost of approximately \$650. The Rotary Club works with other organizations to arrange for shipping and distribution of the kits.

New sewers are always welcome. We can accommodate varying skill levels. Contributions of clean cotton or flannel material is very much appreciated with pieces that are 1/2 yard or larger preferred. Fabric should not have animal pictures, political or patriotic designs, holiday, camouflage, or corporate logos. Funding this ongoing work is always the challenge so contributions are also appreciated. We are grateful to all who have solicited corporate grants or have given personally. We seek to improve the lives of those less fortunate one stitch at a time.

January Highlights



Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

15051 Weaver Lake Rd
Maple Grove, MN 55311

The Compass

is the monthly newsletter of
Cross Winds United Methodist Church

www.crosswindslife.org

Phone: 763-494-9463

