



This issue:

Back to School Night

Wednesday, September 17

Community Dinner 5:30-6:30 pm
Program Open House 6:30-7:30 pm



Join us for dinner at 5:30pm as we begin a new school year together. At 6:30pm all families should gather downstairs for a brief orientation about classes, see the space and meet the teachers. Adult education teachers will be present as well to share about the upcoming year.

Blessing of Students

Sunday, September 28



Blessing Sunday School Teachers and Students
Blessing of Bibles for Students
Blessing our Acolytes

I ♥ SUNDAY

As students of the Word, we celebrate a new program year together by blessing our acolytes, praying for all students and gifting new Bibles to kindergarten and 4th grade students.

Connection Points and Staff

PAGE 2

From the Pastor's Pen

PAGE 3

Worship

PAGE 4

Stewardship

PAGE 5

Children's Ministries

PAGE 6

Youth Ministry

PAGE 7

Adult Education

PAGE 8

Small Group Ministries

PAGE 9

Cross Winds Community

PAGE 10

Finance Update

PAGE 11

Music Notes

PAGE 12

Women's Retreat

PAGE 13

August Highlights

PAGE 14-15

Hello September

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 Tuesdays - includes important information about the life of the church, and links for upcoming events
- Prayer Chain email updates

MN Annual Conference News

Stay up to date on news from the MN Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church:

www.minnesotaumc.org

Ministry Staff

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Cheryl Purkat, Jorie Emerson

Nursery Staff



“...Heart-Voice”

This morning, I was up early and decided to find a book which could guide my first steps into the day. I took my Diet Coke (my coffee) and opened the screen door to my patio to listen to the waking birds sweetly singing. What a comforting, creative sound. Resting gently in this sound, I picked up a book I hadn't read for some time and read an entry meant for this day, August 23. One phrase caught my attention: “If you have lived all your life hearing another voice in your heart....” I smiled.

These words were written by Sarah Ban Breathnach in her book *Simple Abundance*. She wrote the phrase to describe poet Amy Clampitt who published her first full length book of poetry when she was 63.

Although she had been a poet all her life, she found what she referred to as her authentic voice in her mid-fifties. I thought of all the people, not necessarily poets, who might describe themselves in a similar fashion.

I thought of the many other “voices” beside my own that I have heard over the years. I also thought of the times I had forgotten to listen to the voice that was in my own heart. Like most people, for many years, I carried the voice of a parent in my head, and I tried to follow that voice for all kinds of reasons, some of them helpful and some not. I listened to the voices of what was considered ‘right’ or ‘proper’ for a young woman of my generation. These voices also fit for me at times and at others led me down paths that were sometimes painful and certainly not authentic to my heart-voice.

As a person who has always found a home within the church, I have listened to many voices who would have me fit into a mold that was a certain type of Christian that was too different than what I heard Jesus saying. These were voices that did not allow me, and many others like me, the freedom or room I heard in the voice of Jesus. Stepping out from those voices often felt like a heart-breaking. But as I walked further away and listened more deeply within, I knew the voice I was hearing as my own led to the path to which I was called. I could say a prayer of blessing for those voices which did not reflect my own. I could offer a prayer of gratitude for my own walk, my own hearing.

Sometimes, it takes immense quiet to be able to hear our own heart-voices. Whether it is the din of sounds that fly at us at every turn in this 21st century world we travel or the sheer volume of information that gets stuffed into our daily living, it can be difficult to be in tune with the voice that is ours and ours alone. What is your heart-voice saying to you these days? Can you hear its unique sound among all the others? How are you following the lead that God offers you? Are you able to turn from all the voices that might be offering you sage advice and hear your own true, authentic self speaking?

It seems to me, when we are quiet enough to listen, truly listen, the voice that speaks deepest within us is the voice of the Spirit dancing with our own. That voice which emanates from our core is the one that was birthed within us and continues to work to be given speech through our living. Whether through poetry or parenting, through music or mission, through humor or humility, we each have a voice that is God-given and truly needed for the healing of the world.

Perhaps today is the day to let your voice be heard.

As one on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne

BOTH / AND

Real people don't
neatly fit into boxes

In a world of either/or
we have a both/and faith

Have you ever thought that clear cut categories would be helpful. They make life easier to understand. But real people don't fit neatly into boxes. We are a people full of tensions and paradoxes that – when embraced – can bring immense depth and beauty to life. Throughout this series, we will explore how faith in Christ calls us away from an “either/or” experience of the world and into the wonderful truth of “both/and.” Here are the themes and scripture for each Sunday.

September 7 - Heart & Head

Mark 12:30-31, Acts 8:26-40

Having faith is not just about believing the right things or feeling a certain way. Faith in Jesus brings together both head and heart, understanding and experience.

September 21 - Us & Them

Galatians 3:28-29, Hebrews 13:1-2

Categories like “us” and “them” can give us a false sense of identity and community based on who is inside and who is outside. But through Jesus, we no longer have to identify ourselves this way. We are called to reach across those boundaries with God's love in action.

September 14 - Sacred & Secular

Acts 10:9-16

Sometimes we divide up the world into “sacred” and “secular,” places where we expect and accept God's showing up – like church on Sunday morning – and places where we don't. But God reaches into all areas of life, leading us to live with compassion and grace no matter the time or place.

September 28 - Saint & Sinner

1 Timothy 1:12-17

In our divided world, it can be easy to cast blame on those we think have it wrong, seeing ourselves as “holier-than-thou.” But Paul reminds us that we are all sinners in need of God's grace and that Jesus is continually working in and on all of us – saints-in-progress.

A STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY SERIES

Counterculture

Dear Church Family,

In the beginning of October, we will begin a powerful new worship and spiritual growth series called “Counterculture” — a four-week journey that invites us to live generously, love boldly, and embrace our true identity in Christ.

We live in a world that constantly tells us who we are — often defining our worth by what we have, what we do, or how we compare. But scripture offers a different truth: that we are beloved children of God, created in God’s image, and called to live lives of compassion, purpose, and generosity. To do that, we must sometimes go against the grain — to be countercultural in the best and most faithful sense.

Each week of this series will explore a passage of scripture that challenges us to be transformed by God, to live from a place of gratitude and love, and to act with courage and generosity. These themes are rooted in our Wesleyan and United Methodist tradition — where discipleship is both inward and outward, personal and social, spiritual and practical.

Throughout this journey, we will also reflect on how our financial giving is a vital expression of our faith. At the end of the series, each household will be invited to prayerfully submit an Estimate of Giving Card for 2026 — not as a contract, but as a spiritual commitment, a next step in growing our faith through intentional and proportional giving.

This is not just about funding a budget. It is about forming a people — disciples who resist the culture of scarcity and self-interest and instead live into the abundance of God’s grace and the call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Over the next few weeks, you’ll hear more through worship, testimonies, and materials that will help you engage with this theme in personal and meaningful ways. I ask you to begin praying now — not just about a number on a card, but about the deeper transformation God might be inviting in your heart and your household.

Let us be shaped not by the world, but by the One who made us. Let us step into the freedom of living faithfully and giving generously. Let us walk this countercultural path — together.

With hope and gratitude,
Pastor Dianne Ciesluk



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Student Blessing Sunday September 28

As students of the Word, we celebrate a new program year together by blessing our acolytes, praying for all students and gifting new Bibles to kindergarten and 4th grade students.

Blessing of Students

Sunday, September 28



Blessing Sunday School Teachers and Students
Blessing of Bibles for Students
Blessing our Acolytes

I ♥ SUNDAY



Blessed with the best!

Program leaders:
Cheryl & Jorie- Nursey
Shawn-Elementary Sundays
Megan- Elementary Wednesdays





**Welcome to youth group,
John and Cailin!
We are blessed by your leadership!**

**Program leaders:
John and Cailin- 6th & 7th grade
Amber- 8th grade Confirmation**



CONFIRMATION

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT CROSS WINDS

SEPTEMBER 17: BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 24: CREATION

OUR FAITH STORY STARTS WITH CREATION
AND CREATION STARTS WITH GOD.



Adult Education



Back to School Night

Wednesday, September 17

Community Dinner 5:30-6:30 pm
Program Open House 6:30-7:30 pm



Back to School Night

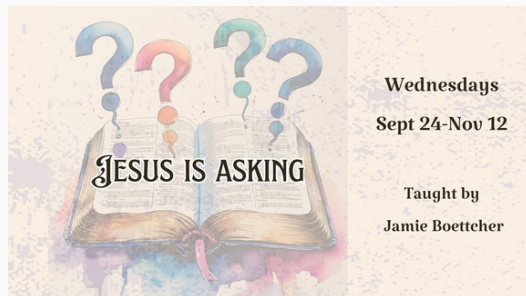
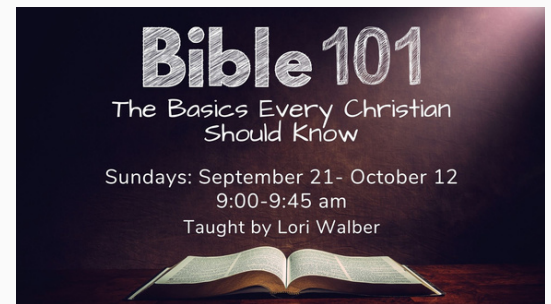
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Bible 101

Sundays - September 21-October 12, 9-9:45am

Not everyone is a Bible scholar, but every believer needs to know the basics. Whether you're new to the Bible, or just need a refresher, this is the class is for you.



Jesus Is Asking

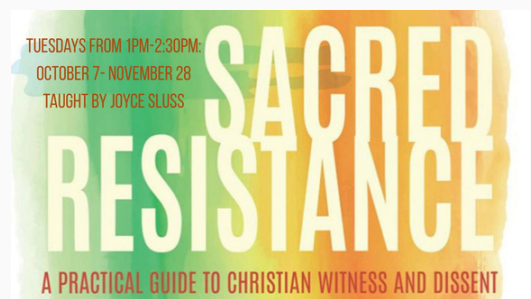
Wednesdays - September 24-November 12, 6:30-7:30pm

So often we think of Jesus as the one with the answers. But repeatedly in scripture, Jesus asks questions. He invites people into conversation and shows genuine interest in their responses. As we study these stories and the responses provided, we will consider the questions from the perspective of being asked of us today.

Sacred Resistance

Tuesdays - October 7-November 25, 1-2:30pm

The book Sacred Resistance: A Practical Guide to Christian Witness and Dissent (Ginger Gaines-Cirelli) serves as a reminder to look at politics through the eyes of faith, and also how to use your faith as a way to judge politics. Written in 2018 it is NOT about the current Trump administration. It is, however, a vital way to let our faith lead in our political understandings. Each week will stand on its own so come as often as you are able.



Small Groups Ministries



CROSS WINDS  **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 Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, September 2, 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.

Ladies Who Lunch

Tuesday, September 16, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, September 16 at 11:30 am at 3 Square in 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.

LADIES WHO LUNCH
September 16, 11:30am

Join us at 3 Square in Maple Grove. Sign up on the website or contact the church office by September 14.

CROSS WINDS 



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, September 22, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, September 22 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.

Prime Timers

Thursday, October 2

Join for a day trip to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska on Thursday, October 2. There will be car pooling opportunities leaving the church parking lot at 9:30 am. Arrive by 9:15 for prompt departure at 9:30. The Arboretum is located at 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska.

Activities can include a tram ride, lunch, touring the Snyder building, and walks through the gardens and trails.

Find more information and sign up online.

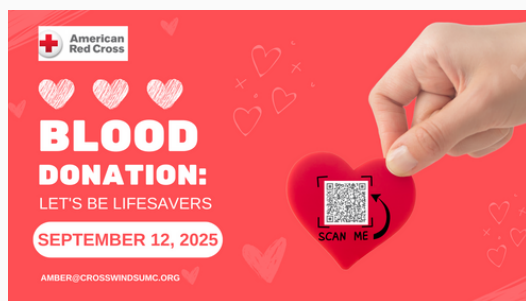
CROSS WINDS  **Prime Timers**

Join us for a trip to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on October 2.

SIGN UP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
9:30AM





Red Cross Blood Drive

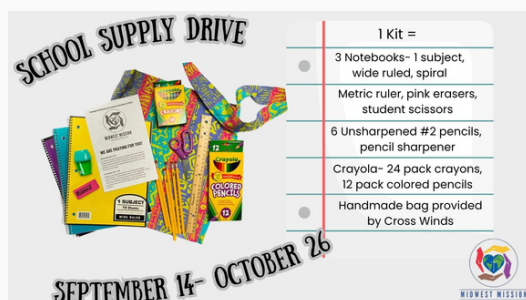
Friday September 12, 11am-5pm

Cross Winds will be hosting a blood drive with the Red Cross on Friday, September 12. Sign up to give the gift of life. Questions can be directed to Amber Lahtinen or contact the church office.

Family Movie Night

Friday September 12, 6:30pm

Everyone is welcome to come relax and enjoy the movie "Evan Almighty" on the big screen! Bring your friends, a dish to share (church will provide pizza) and something comfy to sit/lay on! The movie will start promptly at 6:45pm.



Midwest Mission - School Supply Drive

Sunday September 14 - Sunday October 26

As students prepare to go back to school, may we prepare our hearts to support those in need. Cross Winds will be collecting school supplies requested by Midwest Mission to assemble kits.

Shredding Event

Saturday September 20, 9-11am

Cross Winds will be hosting a shredding event on Saturday, September 20 in the church parking lot. Bring your paper bags and boxes of materials to be shredded on site. Suggested donations of \$10 per bag or \$20 per box. We are also looking for volunteers to help with this event. Please contact Michelle if you are interested in volunteering and for any questions about the event.



Community Meals

Wednesdays at 5:30pm beginning September 17

Wednesday night community dinners will be back on September 17 and so work begins now to prepare the team! There's something for everyone- grocery shopping/food order pick up, cooking, serving, set up and clean up- many hands make light work! Email Amber if you would like more information on how to serve in this awesome ministry!

abundance humanity UNCONDITIONAL
FRIENDSHIP offer make a difference
gratitude kindness UNITE gift
altruism support INSPIRE LOVE thank you
volunteer compassion give back charity
service SHARE community
get involved NOW TIME generosity



Finance Update

Thank you for your Giving for CWUMC. As we head into September, we now have a small deficit, which was expected. Our expenses have stayed at anticipated budget levels. As we enter the fall months, you can make a big difference with any additional financial support. No amount is too small. This will help to support our missions and necessary expenses during the rest of the year. Don't forget that you can also give online. A simplified giving form has been set up that goes directly into the operating budget. You can still use the giving form on the website to give to other funds besides the operating budget.

On another note, we would like to send out a sincere thank you to Don Bushen. Don has been Chair of our Finance Team and has faithfully served this position for over eight years and is stepping down. Alan Storry has taken over this role and we thank him for serving in this capacity.

Again, thank you again for your giving in 2025 to all of our ministries at CWUMC. 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.



SIMPLIFIED
GIVING FORM

Music Notes



Welcome Lisa Baker Cross Winds Choir Director

Born and raised in Ames, Iowa, Lisa's journey has been anything but ordinary. After earning her Bachelor's of Music from Iowa State (Go Cyclones!) and a Master's in Music Performance from Southern Methodist University (Pony Up!), she built a career rooted in dedication, creativity, and service.

From detasseling corn and delivering pizzas to leading music ministries in Albuquerque, Dallas and Crystal MN, Lisa has always embraced hard work and problem-solving. She has performed with Iowa State and SMU Opera Theatres, sung with Opera Southwest, and even directed the Albuquerque Women's Chorus. Her experience as a guest conductor, clinician, and speaker at church music conferences further honed her leadership and communication skills.

Lisa transitioned into real estate in 2005, starting as an agent with Coldwell Banker alongside her mother. She later joined their Relocation Team before moving to Edina Realty Relocation in 2011. With a deep understanding of the relocation process and a passion for helping agents and clients, Lisa blends professionalism with a personal, solution-oriented approach.

Outside of real estate, Lisa fosters service dogs in training for Can Do Canines, explores Minnesota and the North Shore, avidly supports women's sports teams, and cherishes time with family.

Music Note from Lori Lahtinen

I want to thank everyone in the Cross Winds congregation for your wonderful support of my ministries over the last 26 years. I have been blessed over and over again with all the volunteers that have said "yes" when I have asked people to share their God Given gifts or have the trust to develop new gifts. It has been my extreme pleasure to share my love of God through this ministry. Thank you also for your generous giving of yourselves toward my retirement. I so appreciate your thoughtfulness through kind words, hugs, cards, taking time to organize two retirement events, and financial funds. I feel overwhelmed with your generosity, and now I have time to "Be Still and Know That He is God". See you at Orchestra Hall on October 19.



Blessings and love to you all, Lori



PEACE IN SURRENDER

2025 Fall Women's Retreat

2025 Women's Retreat

October 10-11 - Optional second night available

Gather with other women from Cross Winds and Saint Michael Community Church for a time of fellowship, study, and renewal. Facilitated by Pastor Laura Cottington and friends, this year's retreat theme is "Peace in Surrender" based on *Lose Control* by Mary Shannon Hoffpauir. You do not need to buy or read the book as Laura will share teachings in our study sessions. Mary Shannon's study for women encourages you to let go of control, grow in your faith, and depend on God to find peace and accomplish His purposes in your life. There will be free time to enjoy the lake, trails, crafts, games, optional activities, visit or have some quiet time to read your Bible, journal, or take a nap. Costs vary from \$140 to \$215 depending on the length of your stay and double or private (limited availability) room. Some scholarship assistance is available upon request. The registration deadline is Monday, September 22. Contact Pastor Dianne, Pastor Laura or Dianne Roth for additional information. Stop by the information desk on September 14 and 21 if you have questions or complete a paper registration and payment.

The Retreat will be held at Koronis Ministries. It offers a beautiful lakeside setting for a retreat with the full amenities of hotel-style rooms. The rural setting feels a world away from the daily grind, but is conveniently located just 80 miles from the Twin Cities.

The retreat begins at 6:00pm Friday, October 10. Feel free to come early and enjoy some free time. The facility is available for our use at 3pm. Dinner will be served at 6pm and the opening gathering begins at 7pm. The retreat concludes at 8:30pm, Saturday October 11. There is an option available to stay a 2nd night with check-out at 11am Sunday.

Costs include lodging, bedding, towels, meals, and program supplies.

- Single Room (one night) - \$165
- Double/Triple Room (one night) - \$140

With Second Night (Saturday) plus two meals

- Single Room (two nights) - \$215
- Double/Triple Room (two nights) - \$180

* Retreat participants are encouraged to bring a snack to share for break times and evening.

August Highlights



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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

