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Back to School - Family Gathering Night

Wednesday, September 18, 5:30 pm

Calling all families with students participating in children and youth programs. Join us on Wednesday, September 18th (5:30-7pm) for dinner, social time, and a brief orientation to the children and youth programming at Cross Winds!





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

We still have a small surplus as we move into September. Our goal is to continue to have a surplus. This will help to support our missions and necessary expenses during the rest of the year. Therefore, you can make a big difference with additional Giving or if you have not pledged for 2024. No amount is too small. We welcome any support that you can provide. Thank you again for your giving in 2024 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 contact us at finance@crosswindsumc.org.

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SEPTEMBER

Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



"Now these are the commandments, the regulations, and the case laws that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you to follow in the land you are entering to possess, so that you will fear the Lord your God by keeping all his regulations and his commandments that I am commanding you—both you and your sons and daughters—all the days of your life and so that you will lengthen your life. Listen to them, Israel! Follow them carefully so that things will go well for you and so that you will continue to multiply exactly as the Lord, your ancestors' God, promised you, in a land full of milk and honey."

~ Deuteronomy 6:1-3

Whether or not you have kids going back to school, September is a great month to welcome a "back to school" attitude about life. This fall, our worship series, "Well Spent: Cultivating a Life of Faith, Hope, and Love" has this kind of approach as we refresh our Christian lifestyles. Whether you've been a Christian your entire life or you are starting to

consider what it takes to live like Jesus, this worship series is meant to help you focus your attention on Christian habits that are well worth it. As we prepare for a time of reflection on each practice, I wanted to give you a sneak peek at the 5 habits. The practices themselves are deeply rooted in our United Methodist tradition as part of our membership vows and have been well articulated by UMC Pastor, Rev. Adam Hamilton in his book, *The Walk*.

Five Christian Habits That Cultivate a Life Well Spent

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

Join us this fall in worship as we consider why these are our top five Christian habits and how practicing each habit frequently can help you cultivate a life well spent.

WELL SPENT

Cultivating a Life of
Faith, Hope, & Love



As modern life becomes increasingly available “on demand,” it can be hard to choose what matters most. Join us this fall as we explore five Christian habits that will help you cultivate a life that can be well spent.

September 8 - Well Spent

Psalm 84

If you could have one day with an unlimited number of resources, how would you spend your time? The Psalmist answers this question by saying, “Better is one day in [God’s] courtyards than a thousand days anywhere else!” (Psalm 84:10) Join us as we explore the wisdom of the Psalms as they reveal how spending time with God can provide satisfaction for a life well spent.

September 22 - For What It’s Worth

Psalm 95

As we begin exploring specific Christian habits that cultivate a life well spent, we begin first with the practice of worship. In old English, worship was known as “worth-ship.” In other words, the practice of worship was rooted in an understanding that you showed honor and affection to someone or something you thought was “worth it.” Explore with us how modern practices of worship, including both personal prayer and community gatherings, help us to understand what matters most and is worth it for a life well spent.

September 15 - Rooted In Christ

Ephesians 3:14-21

Join us as we celebrate the work of our 2024 Senior High Mission trip team’s work in Benton Harbor, MI. They’ll share testimony of how their work deepened their understanding of being rooted in Christ. Just like a thriving forest or meadow full plants, being rooted reminds us of what it means to be spiritually healthy and share the boundless riches of God’s love in the world.

September 29 - Listen Carefully

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

When the daily noise and chaos gets overwhelming, it can be hard to know what to pay attention to and why. Join us as we explore the second Christian habit, study, which enriches a life of wisdom, maturity, and stability, providing clarity for both our hearts and minds.



Feed My Starving Children MobilePack

Returning April 16-18, 2026

Feed My Starving Children Partnership - Next Steps

Planning for April 2026

Cross Winds is a proud partner in the fight against hunger with Feed My Starving Children. In addition to providing volunteers and ongoing financial support, we hosted a special FMSC Mobile Pack in April 2024 which fully funded and packed 540 boxes of food (116,640 meals, 319 Kids fed for a year) which went to an FMSC partner, Food for the Poor in Grenada (affected by the most recent hurricane). We are incredibly grateful for the 500 volunteers who gathered to pack meals as well as all who gave financial donations to fully fund the event. Together we raised over \$35,000 to support these meals.

We are excited to announce that our NEXT mobile pack with Feed My Starving Children will be held April 16-18, 2026. Our hope is to work early and expand our reach, multiplying our partnerships and our impact! If you're interested in serving on the lead team for this next mobile pack or would like to provide sponsorship, please contact Pastor Stina or fill out an [interest form](#).



SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

So welcome each other,
in the same way that
Christ also welcomed
you, for God's glory
Romans 15:7

So All Are Welcome – Facility is Ready to Share!

The Cross Winds facility is ready to be used by community friends thanks to your support. We have renovated rooms, worked on administrative support, and gotten this church ready to share. Now we need your help getting the word out. Our website has information about affordable facility use - <https://crosswindslife.org/resources/facility-information-use/> To learn more about scheduling room usage, contact Michelle Schober, Director of Administration.

Capital Campaign Project - Building Security and Front Door Access

Thank you for your generous support of the Capital Campaign efforts. Our latest project, building security, has been under construction this summer.

The security system gives us the ability to program the doors for times they should be unlocked, for example Sunday mornings and during Wednesday evening programming. We can make sure the building is open and welcoming for groups scheduled to use the building.

We also have the ability to assign PIN numbers for access to church members who need it as well as our community partners that need access to the building.

If you have a need for church access, please contact Michelle in the office.

Endowment Project - Main Floor Office Renovations

We are incredibly grateful for the generous gift of the Cross Winds Endowment, which has allowed us to renovate our main floor office spaces for modern use.

Main Office Renovations – The main office has been fully renovated, with new workstations, storage, and paint. This office will continue to serve as a place of welcoming and as a hub for our staff to maintain essential church resources.

Work Room Renovations – The work room adjacent to the main office has been renovated so that all church members and ministry leaders have a main floor work room for ministry needs. This is a valuable space for collaborative ministry needs and will allow church members a space for private use as we continue to share our church rooms with the community.

Quiet Room – This small room, adjacent to the nursery, is now available as a quiet main floor room for church members looking for a private conversation space or family needs. Best suited for 2-3 people. Equipped with simple chairs, including a glider.

Pastor's Office now available as main floor conference room – The main floor pastor's office has been renovated to include meeting room seating. This space is now available for church groups looking for a main floor meeting space. To reserve this room for your small group, please contact the church office.

SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

So welcome each other,
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Romans 15:7

Additional Facility Projects

Fellowship Hall – stage renovation and seating updates

We are committed to ensuring our Fellowship Hall has the equipment needed to seat 150 people for premier event experiences, whether for our ministry needs or for the benefit of our greater community. To provide seating for 150, we have worked on 2 areas to achieve this goal.

Stage renovation: we have modified the stage platform area so that the stage step has a smaller footprint, allowing for additional floor space.

Seating Updates: We have purchased an additional 25 chairs, thanks to the generosity of the funeral ministry funds, which will now allow us to seat 150 people in the fellowship hall. We are also purchasing additional banquet style (rectangular) tables to comfortably seat large crowds. As we continue to focus on providing good care for our emerging needs, we have given away our older, heavy round tables, which had become unsafe to set up and difficult to move. We have kept the lighter round tables as part of our inventory for future needs. We look forward to the next chapter of ministry, which is made possible through these updates, and remain committed to working diligently on what will be needed as we welcome all to our facility.

Parking Lot Care

The trustees are also working on ensuring our parking lot is safely maintained. Work is being arranged so that our parking lot may have the necessary asphalt repairs, crack filling, and gator paving done soon.

CROSS WINDS 
So All Are Welcome

We Are Ready To Share!

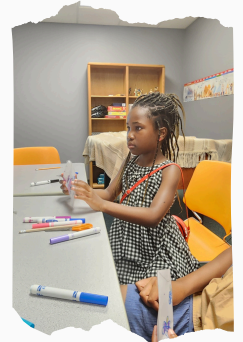
Contact the church office for rental rates and information





**"For everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose
under heaven."**

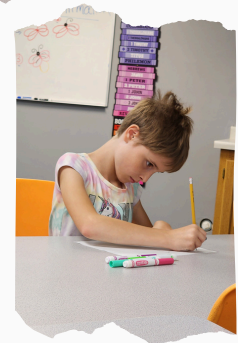
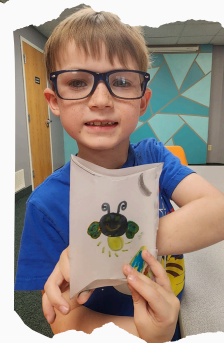
~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



There are so many great worship opportunities for kids this fall! Sundays beginning September 15 during 10 am worship and Wednesdays beginning September 18 (dinner at 5:30, programming at 6:30)!

Don't miss our Family Gathering Night on Wednesday September 18; We will have dinner, social time, and a brief orientation for the children and youth programming at Cross Winds! Be sure to register here- [2024-25 Registration](#)

For more information visit our website [Children's Ministry at Cross Winds](#)



**BACK TO SCHOOL
FAMILY NIGHT**

Wednesday, September 18, 5:30pm
Dinner, fellowship and information about
the program year.



Bible Sunday - September 29

Join us for worship on Sunday, September 29th as we give elementary students Bibles and bless their time of study. Story book Bibles will be given to kindergarteners. Fourth graders (and students looking for a Bible) will receive chapter study Bibles. If you know of a student who would like a Bible or you would like to give them a Bible, please contact Amber Lahtinen (Director of Children's Ministry) or the church office.



August Community Night

Thank you for everyone for coming to support the August Community night with the MN Raptor Center. We had a great time!



May our students enter school
knowing they are
valued, safe & seen...

and may they leave the building better
for having been there.

God, please protect our students' hearts,
bodies, minds & souls. Amen.



"God, please put a hedge of protection
and blessing around our students and everything they have.
Bless the work of their hands." (based on Job 1:10)

Volunteer in Children's Ministry

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



Youth Ministry Updates

Cross Winds Youth are committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and Jesus-centered community where everyone can live out their faith. We care about the well-being of your students and family life. Our programs offer space for students and families to develop Christian relationships, among peers, other adults, families, and even our pastor. This is why we offer gatherings that include family dinners, small groups, service, mentoring, and leadership in the community for both your student as well as your family. Our summer calendar also offers life giving mission trips and beloved camp gatherings for students that vary each year. We are excited to offer a great year of ministry and look forward to having your family join us.



Preview Fall Youth Programs and Register Today!

The new information about fall youth programming (grades 6-12) is ready. Wednesday evening programming will continue to include weekly meals and group opportunities for all ages starting September 25th. We also are offering a Sunday morning music program at the 9am hour beginning in September. Information & registration about fall programming is available online - <https://crosswindslife.org/engage/youth/>

Back to School - Family Gathering Night

Wednesday, September 18, 5:30 pm

Calling all families with students participating in children and youth programs. Join us on Wednesday, September 18th (5:30-7pm) for dinner, social time, and a brief orientation to the children and youth programming at Cross Winds!



Higher Ground Youth Choir Kick-off

Sunday, September 15, 9:00 am

We are excited to welcome all singers grade 6-12 to sing in our youth choir. The choir meets 2-3 Sundays per month in the music rehearsal room and sings in worship about 5 times per year. In rehearsal we focus on music reading, learning singing techniques, as well as ensemble singing skills with a variety of styles of music. We also share joys and concerns, pray together (and often eat donuts!). Contact Lori Lahtinen, Director of Worship and Music or the Church office to learn more.



Senior High Students - Sleeping Mat Loom Project

The new information about fall youth programming (grades 6-12) is ready. Wednesday evening programming will continue to include weekly meals and group opportunities for all ages starting September 25th. We also are offering a Sunday morning music program at the 9am hour beginning in September. Information & registration about fall programming is available online - <https://crosswindslife.org/engage/youth/>

Considering Confirmation - Middle School Families

Confirmation is a time in a student's life to discover and claim the Christian faith for themselves. It is an exploration of what it means to love God and love the world like Jesus through the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation students commit to an intentional 2-3 year course of study alongside our pastor, small group leaders, adult mentors, and peer small groups through shared classes, service, and worship. We also offer independent study options as well. At the end of Confirmation, they will be invited to make a public commitment to Christ and become a full member of our church community.

Students may begin their confirmation journey as early as 6th grade. Students are eligible to be confirmed in 8th grade or high school. New students who have completed work in other churches can speak with pastor about adapting the requirements to meet what they have already completed elsewhere. Confirmation Students complete their class requirements through attending Wednesday youth programs. Service hours and worship requirements are also a component of the confirmation experience. For additional information about the program, please refer to the [church webpage](#), contact Pastor Stina, or attend the **Back to School Night on Wednesday September 18th**.

Adult Ministries and Small Groups



CROSS WINDS  **Prime Timers**

Theater presentation of
On Golden Pond at
Minnetonka Theatre

SIGN UP

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
2:00 PM**



Prime Timers

Sunday, September 29, 2:00 pm

Prime Timers have an afternoon of theater scheduled on Sunday, September 29, 2024, at 2 PM. Fifteen tickets (four no stairs) have been reserved for On Golden Pond at Minnetonka Theatre, 18285 Highway 7 in Minnetonka. <https://www.minnetonkatheatre.com/on-golden-pond>

Retired couple Ethel and Norman Thayer are spending their 48th summer at their vacation home on Golden Pond. Their relaxing routine is given a bitterly comedic edge when their daughter Chelsea arrives with her new boyfriend Bill, and his teenage son, Billy Jr. The turbulent relationship between father and daughter, the generation gap between young and old, and the struggles of a long marriage, all combine in a play that effortlessly illustrates the hilarious, heartbreaking, human moments of which life is made.

Get full information and [reserve your spot by September 11 on Prime Timers under events](#) or contact Michelle/church office. Tickets are \$25

Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, September 3, 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.](#)

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**




LADIES WHO LUNCH

September 17, 12pm

Join us at 3 Squares Restaurant, Maple Grove. Sign up on the website or contact the church office by September 15.

CROSS WINDS 



Ladies Who Lunch

Tuesday, September 17, 12:00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, September 17 at 12:00 pm at 3 Squares Restaurant, 12690 Arbor Lakes Parkway in Maple Grove. You can check their website for menu information: <https://www.3squaresrestaurant.com/> We will be inside unless it is a nice day, and the patio is available. 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.

Adult Ministries and Small Groups



Grief Share

Begins September 9, 6:00-7:30 pm

Grieving the loss of someone close to you? Find comfort and support at GriefShare, 13-week grief support group meeting Monday evenings (6-7:30pm) beginning Monday, September 9th, 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 <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/239189>. This support group will be led by Bill Bryant, Sherri Sholund, Darrel Ibeling, and Marlan Tevis. Contact the Church Office or Pastor Stina to learn more.

Wednesday Book Study - Good Enough

Begins October 2, 1:00-2:30 pm

Join Pastor Shirley for this Wednesday book group, reflecting on the writings of Good Enough. Written gently and with humor, Good Enough is permission for all those who need to hear that there are some things you can fix—and some things you can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better. The first session will focus on the preface through page 33. [Register for the class online.](#) Copies of the book are available at church (\$10/book).



Book Study Wednesdays

October 2-November 6
1:00-2:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, September 23, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, September 23 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

3rd Thursday of the
month at 6:30 pm

Games for all ages!



Game Night - Thursday, September 19, 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.



Prayers of the People

Begins October 2
6-6:20 pm

Gather on Wednesday evenings to share prayer requests and pray for those needing prayer.

Prayers of the People - Gatherings Begin October 2nd Meeting Wednesday evenings 6-6:20 pm

Gather with pastors and Cross Winds friends to share your prayer requests and pray for the prayer requests of those who gather. These brief Wednesday evening gatherings will be led by Pastor Stina and prayer hosts for all who seek a time of prayer including brief scripture reading and reflection.

Gatherings will meet when Wednesday dinners are offered during the school year. Participants are welcome to come as often as they wish. The gatherings are meant to be a place of support for those looking for intercessory prayer. As we prepare to launch these gatherings, Pastor Stina is looking for a few friends who would like to help serve as prayer hosts (offering prayer support and care on Wednesday evenings). If you would like to learn more about serving as a prayer host, please contact Pastor Stina.

Wednesday Dinner Volunteers Needed

As we restart our Wednesday night meal program, we are looking for volunteers able to help cook meals. If you are interested in helping to prep, cook, or serve a meal, please contact Pastor Stina.

Volunteer
Wednesday
Night Dinners

Volunteers needed to help with
Wednesday night meals.
Contact the church office to help.



Community Meals Begin Wednesday, September 18

Calling all families with students participating in children and youth programs. Join us on Wednesday, September 18th (5:30-7pm) for dinner, social time, and a brief orientation to the children and youth programming at Cross Winds!



Home Communion Ministry Starting this Fall

The care team is developing a Home Communion Ministry team, equipping church members to share the sacrament of Holy Communion with those who are unable to receive it at church. As we prepare to begin this ministry, we covet all your prayers and are looking for volunteers interested in serving communion to others in their homes. Volunteer commitments will include serving for at least 1-2 hours a month but will vary depending on the availability of the volunteer. As we develop this ministry, volunteers will also receive training and have periodic support meetings as a team. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Home Communion Minister, please contact Pastor Stina.



Courageous Women Fall Retreat

OCTOBER 11-12TH
CAMP KORONIS RETREAT CENTER
FACILITATED BY PASTOR STINA



Courageous Women - Fall Retreat at Camp Koronis - October 11-12

Gather with other women this fall at the Lake Koronis Retreat Center for a time of fellowship, study, and renewal. Facilitated by Pastor Stina and friends, this year's retreat theme is "Courageous Women," where we will explore stories about courageous women of the Bible and throughout history. All participants are invited to bring a Bible and a picture (or be ready to tell a story) about a courageous woman that matters to them. We invite each participant to bring at least 10 clean plastic grocery bags, that we will use for a special service project in support of our Senior High Ministry Sleeping Mat loom project. Costs vary depending on which room and length of stay you prefer. Scholarships are available upon request. Registration is needed by September 22nd. [Learn more online](#) or at the Church Welcome Desk. Contact Pastor Stina or Dianne Roth for additional questions.

The Retreat will be held at Lake Koronis. It offers a beautiful lakeside setting for a retreat with the full amenities of hotel-style rooms. On the shores of stunning Lake Koronis, our group can come together in a place of natural beauty and refreshment. The rural setting feels a world away from the daily grind, but is conveniently located just 90 minutes from the Twin Cities.

The retreat begins at 6:00pm Friday, October 11th. 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 retreat program begins at 7:30pm. The retreat concludes at 7pm, Saturday October 12th. There is an option available to stay a 2nd night.

Costs include lodging, bedding, towels, meals, and snacks.

- Single Room (one night) - \$165
- Double/Triple Room (one night) - \$135

With Second Night (Saturday) plus two meals

- Single Room (two nights) - \$215
- Double/Triple Room (two nights) - \$175

Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

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The Compass

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Phone: 763-494-9463

