



Cross Winds has been blessed with the music leadership of Lori Lahtinen for 26 years. We invite you to save the date to celebrate her ministry with us as she retires from her work as the Director of Worship and Music ministries this August.

Sign up to join the Alumni Choir and join the celebration dinner on Wednesday, August 13

Come to worship on August 17 and stay after worship for a reception in Lori's honor.

#### **Card Shower**

We also invite all church friends to share cards of appreciation for Lori. These will be collected throughout August and presented on August 17.

**Connection Points and Staff**PAGE 2

Worship PAGE 3

From the Pastor's Pen PAGE 4-5

Children's Ministries
PAGE 6

Youth Ministry
PAGE 7

Adult Ministries
PAGE 8

Finance Update
PAGE 9

Music Notes
PAGE 10

Women's Retreat



### **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: <a href="https://www.minnesotaumc.org">www.minnesotaumc.org</a>

## **Ministry Staff**

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Who emails anymore? Well, some do, of course. Paul and other epistle writers would have used any method of communication to share the message they brought. Maybe we can think of email as a place to enlarge the conversation. We can go a little deeper, invite serious thinking, and seek input and responses to the ideas and plans put forth. Is it possible to hear the gospel as an invitation to engage in dialog? Are we allowed to ask questions and consider the implications and applications of what we read or hear? Certainly! That's what it means to be engaged as the "Dear Children of God."

### August 3 - Set Your Mind

Colossians 3:1-11

This week marks the last "email" from Paul to the Colossians, the last reminder about who the Christians of Colossae are and how their story forms their identity as a community. But it is not God's last message to us.

### August 17 - For the Sake of Joy

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Joy can be a hard thing to nail down. Last week, we talked about defining yet not grasping faith. The substance of faith sweeps us with it toward the "better country." This week, we turn to joy.

### August 10 - Desire a Better Country

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

This week as enter into the letter to the Hebrews, our call is not to lose the energy and vitality that flows between the lines in the letter. This is our call to live into as the people of God.

### August 24 - Cannot Be Shaken

Hebrews 12:18-29

Week by week, we gather to sing, pray, and proclaim our praise of God and the good news of the gospel as a community. How might you help your congregation connect that the work of worship is also the work of building home together in Christ?

### **August 31 - Let Mutual Love Continue**

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

We encourage you to approach worship planning with honesty about what it means to be a community of mutual love.

From the Pastor's Pen by Dianne Ciesluk

### "...Signposts"

"With rock piles and signposts, mark the way home, my dear people. It is the same road by which you left."

~ Jeremiah 31:21



Summer is the time of travel. Even if folks aren't going on vacation or literally traveling, the rhythm of days is often varied enough that it feels like a different path. Perhaps it is that 'school year' mentality that is planted in us at an early age that causes summer to become the season of freedom, of blessing, of out-of-theordinary. We allow even the most regular of activities to become a little lax, slowing down, playing more than we normally allow. Summer becomes a kind of excursion all its own. It is good, very, very good.

At different points of the last few months, the words of the prophet Jeremiah have been showing up all over the place for me. I have stumbled over them even in my sparse summer reading. I've always loved this book of scripture, so I am always excited when these challenging and poetic words fly across my radar screen. And these short but powerful phrases above, from the end of this ancient text, capture my imagination.

First, they remind me of the towers of stones I have witnessed on travels throughout the United States and in parts of Ireland, Scotland and Great Britain. These piles of stones called cairns can be seen dotting roads and paths, as well as the ledges and tops of hills and mountains. One of my favorite places to find them is near the shores of Lake Superior. It is as if they beacon me home. Their presence is meant to mark experiences that people have had along the way. They are ways of pointing out to others that something important has happened in just that spot. These building block statues both mark the place and point the way. They can become a language for telling others that the travelers that preceded them had indeed been there and were now, perhaps, on their way home.

### "...Signposts" (continued)



The other part of this scripture that draws me in is the statement: "It is the same road by which you left." I think of how often we believe we need to leave home, leave ourselves, or our families, to find that vista that is just beyond our view. There is something about being human that gives us the wanderlust to always believe whatever it is we seek is out 'there' someplace. Why is this? Most of the stories that shaped us, those myths of the hero or heroine's journey prove that this urge to set out for a land of promise in which we will be transformed is not far from the surface in any of us.

Myth aside, I remember when my kids were born. I remember thinking as I held them and looked into their beautiful, perfect faces, that they came into the world with all they needed to become their true selves already planted within them. It would be my privilege as a parent to watch them blossom and come to know the gifts that were already stitched into their cells, their personal DNA. I could help create a map and offer tips for the journey, but they had their own compass. As they have grown into adults, I have been excited and nervous all at the same time. I still wish for health, happiness and self-sufficiency for all my kids and I hope they never forget the sign-post that brings them home to sacred beginnings, over and over again.

Each of us, blessed in our own uniqueness, are always winding our way toward that place we call home. Sometimes this is a literal place and other times it is toward some peace we long for within, some place where we can softly settle in and not struggle so. I imagine the people Jeremiah was writing to had similar experiences, similar longings. All of us, in this human body having a spiritual experience need those rock piles and signposts to mark our way. With each step we remember that the way home is often the same path we left. In that realization we find the way and call it holy.

As one on the journey with you, Pastor Dianne





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



VBS 2025: "Power of Prayer" consists of 12 carefully crafted sessions, each focusing on a different biblical passage that highlights specific aspects of prayer. Cross Winds' Very Blessed Summer will run June 15-Aug 31!

- August 3- A prayer of praise: Paul and Silas's joyful worship. Acts 16:19-40
- August 10 A prayer of humility: The tax collector's modest request. Luke 18:9-14
- August 17- A prayer of intercession: Abraham advocated for others. Genesis 18:16-33
- August 24- A prayer of unity: The early church's joint supplication. Acts 4:24-30
- August 31- A prayer of salvation: Simeon meets the savior. Luke 2:22-40

For more information visit our website <u>Children's Ministry at Cross Winds</u>











### **Summer Festival Camp**

A group of 5 high schoolers and 2 chaperones attended Summer Festival Camp.













# Adult Ministries and Small Groups





### **Prime Timers Monthly Brunch**

Tuesday, August 5, 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, August 19, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, August 19 at 11:30 am at The Highlander at Rush Creek Golf Course. Please sign up on the <u>Cross Winds Ladies Who Lunch Events page</u> or let the church office know so reservation can be confirmed with restaurant. All ladies are invited to join.





### **Prayer Shawl Ministry Annual Lunch**

Monday, August 25, 12pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet for their annual celebration lunch on Monday, August 25 at Pittsburgh Blue in Maple Grove. Please <u>sign up online</u> so we can confirm a reservation with the restaurant.

### **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!





### **Finance Update**

Thank you for your giving for Cross Winds. As we head into August, it is likely that we will have a small deficit. As has been mentioned previously, changes in our ministry staff will impact our budgeted expenses for the remaining months. In light of these staffing changes, we need to consider our on-going funding for our church staff and our ministries. Therefore, you can make a big difference with additional giving or if you have not pledged for 2025. No amount is too small. We welcome any support that you can provide.

Don't forget that you can also give online. A <u>simplified giving form</u> has been set up that goes directly into the operating budget. You can still use the <u>giving form on the website</u> to give to other funds besides the operating budget.

Again, thank you again for your giving in 2025 for 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 <a href="mailto:finance@crosswindsumc.org">finance@crosswindsumc.org</a>.





### Save the Date - October 19

Cross Winds Choir will be joining our voices with singers throughout the metro area to premier the incredible musical "Amazing Grace: From Blind To Free" composed by Lloyd Larson at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis on October 19th. This is the same work that we presented at Carnegie Hall in NYC in July.

You are all invited to come to the concert which starts at 4pm. We have sold out of the tickets and spots on the bus that were arranged through the church, but you can still purchase tickets through the <u>Orchestra Hall website</u> and arrange your own transporation.

The choir is busy preparing music for this wonderful event; it provides us an opportunity to deepen both our faith and our musical connection to our world and God. We would love to have you join us! See you at the concert!

### **Cross Winds Job Opening - Choir Director Position**

Cross Winds is seeking a part-time Choir Director to prepare the sanctuary choir and worship leaders to sing in weekly worship. The Director works with the worship staff to ensure that each worship service has a welcoming and worshipful atmosphere where the community feels invited to participate and encourages and empowers other to share their worship leading gifts with congregation. The Choir Director is expected to work on-site on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, with additional time built in for personal rehearsal, planning, and collaboration with the worship staff. More information can be found on the <u>church website</u>.



### 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

<sup>\*</sup> Retreat participants are encouraged to bring a snack to share for break times and evening.

# **Cross Winds**

United Methodist Church

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### **The Compass**

is the monthly newsletter of Cross Winds United Methodist Church

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