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Christmas Eve

2pm Traditional Family Worship Service - Includes your traditional favorites for all ages to enjoy. This is our only livestreamed Christmas Eve service.

4pm Children's Worship Service - Led by our children and youth, this worship service will give all children a chance to put on a Christmas costume and be a part of the fun. Be ready to smile from ear to ear and make some noise.

10pm Candlelight Worship Service - Enjoy the peace of a traditional candlelight service, complete with many beloved Christmas traditions and music by the choir.

DECEMBER

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

Dianne Ciesluk

Lead Pastor

dianneciesluk@crosswindsumc.org

Michelle Schober

Director of Administration

michelleschober@crosswindsumc.org

Amber Lahtinen

Director of Ministry

amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Lisa Baker

Choir Director

lisabaker@crosswindsumc.org

Joyce Sluss

Minister of Community
Engagement

Nancy Betterman

Accompanist

David Hughes

Treasurer

treasurer@crosswindsumc.org

Cheryl Purkat, Jorie Emerson
Nursery Staff



"...Lamplighters"

Advent again, and the very stones are silent. In the east, no star; only shadows and the threat of darkness. We have run out of light, and we wait in fear. Still, from the cosmic distance, tentacles of brilliance probe, seek us out, look for a dwelling place among us.

~ Caryl Porter



One of the truly wonderful and beautiful things about my work is that people often send me poetry, words they know I might enjoy or find helpful. A few times, and what a joy it was, someone has actually called me and read me a poem over the phone. It is at those moments, among others, that I pinch myself to think this is my work!

The poem above came to me last week from a dear friend and colleague. I read it repeatedly and felt the weight of it on my chest. Yes, Advent again. I have often said that the true gift of the seasons of the church year is the fact that, if we are blessed or lucky, we will have the opportunity to go to them once again. And the truth is I am different than I was last Advent. As are you. As is the world. The life experiences we have had have made it so. Our hopes, our disappointments, what we've learned, how we have chipped away at our unknowing, has brought us to this place in the last week of November with, perhaps, recognizable faces but changed spirits. It will always be so.

Yesterday I sat with two friends, and we talked about the fear that comes of darkness. Literal darkness and the darkness that threatens to overcome in what we are uncertain of, future and past. We talked of our own times of darkness when we faced illness, our own or of a loved one, what it means to grow older, our view of the world's environmental changes that seem dark and foreboding. In those times, it is true that it seems 'we have run out of light' and 'we wait in fear'.

But just as quickly as we painted these pictures of dark and stormy nights, we began also to speak of the people who held the lamplight for us. Those who, often through very small acts or a well-turned phrase, allowed us to not let the fear debilitate us. It was as if there was some miracle of light that illuminated the darkness, making it holy.

Today I am thinking of all those for whom this may not be the case. People are living through life situations and doing so in very lonely ways. Those with a chronic illness or chronic job loss. Those who suffer from the darkness of depression or the effects of loss of sunlight. Children seem lost. Parents are aging and need more help than any child can offer. The cold has surrounded and there is no bed, or home, or friend to walk beside.

And yet, here we are, me writing and you reading. From what I know of the faith story, of all sacred scriptures, we are imprinted with the tendency toward goodness, kindness, and love, by the One whose very Breath caused us to be. That breath of never-ending Life probes the darkness and asks to breathe through us. We are the lamplighters. We are the tentacles, dim as we may be, whose acts of hope have the power to change the world. Or at least one life. On one day. In the cold, dark days of December.

So be it.

As one on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne



Sanctuary

; ROOM FOR ALL

THERE IS NO ROOM AT THE INN

December 7 - Room in Your Heart

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist went ahead of Jesus to make way for him and his ministry. In our own season of Advent preparation for Jesus, may we find ways to make room for Jesus in our minds and hearts.

December 14 - Room in Relationships

Luke 1:24-45

The story of Mary and Elizabeth shows us the importance of having relationships that can serve as sanctuaries for us—where we can bring our joys, fears, and full selves.

Enjoy the Choir Cantata!

December 21 - Room for Hope

Matthew 1:18-24

When Joseph found himself in an impossible situation, an angel of the Lord arrived with hope, making room for a new God-given possibility! How is God making room in the places in our lives that feel impossible and hopeless?

December 24 - Christmas Eve: Making Room

Luke 2:1-20

When there seemed to be no room, God made room for Jesus—placing the holy in a humble manger and calling shepherds as messengers—inviting us to see that sanctuary is not about grandeur, but about welcome and unexpected grace.

December 28 - Refuge and Sanctuary

Matthew 2:1-18

This postscript to the Christmas story is a painful reminder of the evil and hatred that humans are capable of. While we celebrate the survival of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we are also challenged to see the ways people still suffer this kind of persecution and violence today and to discover how we are called, as agents of the Prince of Peace, to work for a world where there is room for all.

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 NOW community
get involved TIME generosity



Finance Update

We are continuing to work on our 2026 Budget. A vital piece of the formation of our upcoming budget are the pledges we receive as a part of our Stewardship Campaign. We are nearing the end of the campaign and if you haven't made your pledge yet, we sincerely appreciate any support that you can give. We are nearing the end of 2025 and we thank everyone for their ongoing support in 2025 and your pledges for 2026. Pledge cards can be found on the welcome desk at church or you can use the online form found [HERE](#).

Regarding our operating fund, the deficit increased last month. While it is still within budgeted expectations, we do need your support to achieve a strong finish for the year. If you have any questions regarding our operating fund, stewardship campaign, endowment fund or mortgage balance, please feel free to contact us at finance@crosswindsumc.org.



SIMPLIFIED
GIVING FORM

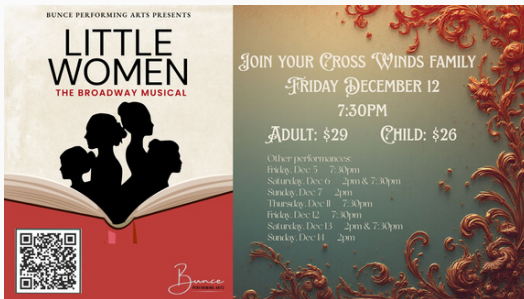


The ABCs of Christmas Sunday December 7, 10am

The CW Kids and Youth are invited to participate in this presentation during Children's Moment on December 7. All ages are welcome; no need to memorize lines.

Caroling at the Bee Hive Sunday December 7, 12:45pm

Bring the joy of the season to our neighbors at the Bee Hive. Bring a picnic lunch to church and then we will head over around 12:30pm. A max of 15 singers only so please sign up with Amber in advance.



Family Movie Night Friday December 12, 7:30pm

Our traditional movie night will look different this month as we host Buncie Performing Arts! They are presenting Little Women. The Cross Winds family will be showing our support by attending on December 12.



Blessed with the best!

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





Program leaders:
John and Cailin- 6th & 7th grade
Amber- 8th grade Confirmation
JoAn- 9th-12th grade

CW Mentorship

Wednesdays Dec 3- Feb 11. 6:30pm

Mentors are an important part of a confirmands journey. Our middle school students will be seeking mentors soon. Please pray for our students and mentors.



I've Got Mail

Wednesday Dec 24, 4:00pm

What kind of Sunday School teacher sends Christmas cards all year long? The kind that wants their students to remember that Jesus, our Immanuel, was born, and is always with us.

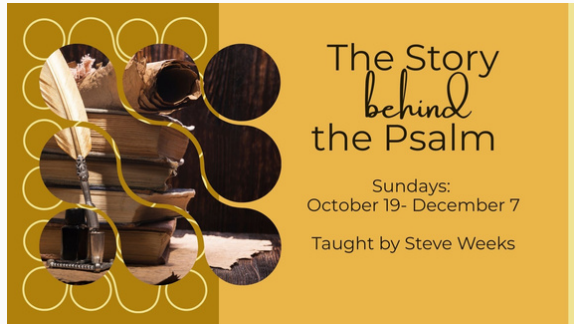
CONFIRMATION

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT CROSS WINDS

DEC 10 - WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP
 JAN 7 - WAY OF SALVATION
 JAN 14 - WESLEYAN QUADRILATERAL
 JAN 21 - WORSHIP
 JAN 28 - SACRAMENTS
 FEB 4 - LIVING A HOLY LIFE



Adult Education



The Story Behind the Psalm

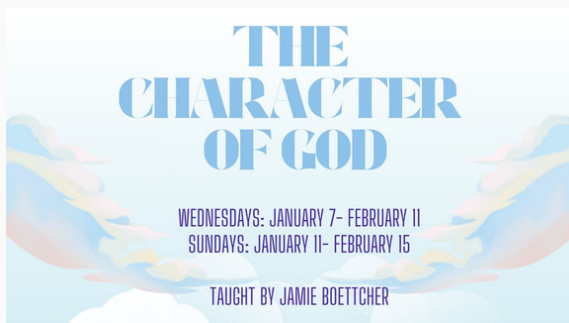
Sundays through December 7, 9-9:45am

Ever wonder what inspired the prayers, poems and songs we know as the Book of Psalms? Join Steve Weeks as we explore what was happening in David's life when he wrote some of the Psalms. We will primarily use the books of Samuel to understand the context behind some of David's writings- and discuss how we might respond to similar circumstances including being unjustly attacked, living with fear, dealing with anger, enjoying success, sinning, facing family problem problems and aging.

Advent Study

Wednesdays December 3 through 17, 6:30pm

Dig deeper into Advent with a quick, three week character study of the incredible faith stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Joseph, and Mary. Join Pastor Lori for three Wednesdays, Dec 3, 10 and 17.



The Character of God

Wednesdays Jan 7 through Feb 11, 6:30pm

Sundays Jan 11 through Feb 15, 9:00am

Discover the core attributes of God as described in the book of Exodus. Our key verse is: "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness." (Exodus 34:6). This verse invites us into a lifetime of pondering the depths and mysteries of the character of God. This six-week series is based on the "Character of God Word Study" from The Bible Project and features short videos to introduce each topic, followed by exploration of related scriptures.

Note: The same session held on Wednesday will be on the following Sunday.

Small Groups Ministries



Prime Timers Brunch

Join us monthly for Prime Timers Brunch at Lynde's Restaurant in Osseo

First Tuesdays 11:30 AM

SIGN UP

Prime Timers Monthly Brunch

Tuesday, December 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, December 16, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, December 16 at 11:30 am at PF Changs 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

Join us for a monthly gathering at a variety of local restaurants.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

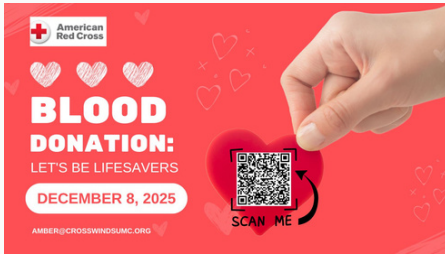
Monday, December 22, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, December 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.



Stitches of Love

Stitches of Love will have its next meeting on Thursday, December 4 at 1pm in the lower level. We welcome any members interested in helping with our mission related sewing projects. We meet every two months except for the summer. We focus on sewing book bags and quilts that go to Midwest Mission. We also sew feminine hygiene kits that are sent to third world countries where feminine hygiene products are not available for young girls trying to go to school. Sewing is done in your own home. We provide the patterns and have funds for material used. Come join us!



Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday December 8, 12pm-6pm

Cross Winds will be hosting a blood drive with the Red Cross on Friday, December 8. Sign up to give the gift of life. Questions can be directed to Amber Lahtinen or contact the church office.

Choir Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 14, 10:00 am

Experience the warmth and wonder of the holiday season through timeless carols and cherished hymns that have inspired generations. Let the music of Christmas fill your heart with peace and joy as we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ.



Brooklyn Community Band Holiday Concert

Monday, December 15, 7:00 pm

Enjoy your holiday favorites played by the Brooklyn Community Band on Monday, December 15 (7:00-8:00pm) at Cross Winds. This concert is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Food and Monetary Donations

The Spirit of God is among us as we endeavor to work to help our neighbors in need. Cross Winds is sponsoring a food drive and we are asking everyone to help in as many ways as you can. We will gather and disperse food and monetary donations to area food pantries. For the month of November, CROSS services has a matching donation program in place.



Caring Ministries

The Cross Winds Caring Ministry would like to add to their current team. The Care Team aims to provide support, care and a sense of community to individuals. We will be focusing on four specific areas: Communion Ministry, Meal Ministry, Card Ministry and Visitation Ministry. If you would like to learn more or are interested in heading up any of these please fill out a connection card or contact the church office.

Faithful Freezers

Faithful Freezers is an opportunity to prep and cook meals for your freezer. We will also prep a few extra meals to help church friends with a meal during times of need. Sign up for the session on Saturday February 7 at 10 am. This session is being offered at ½ price from the Linda Dickey memorial fund. The cost is \$50 for 8 family size meals. Contact the church office to sign up.



November Highlights



Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

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The Compass

is the monthly newsletter of
Cross Winds United Methodist Church

www.crosswindslife.org

Phone: 763-494-9463

