



CROSS WINDS



APRIL 2026

This issue:



HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday

April 2

5:30 pm Dinner & Worship

Good Friday

April 3

Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm

Easter

April 5

10am Worship

Connection Points and Staff
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March Highlights

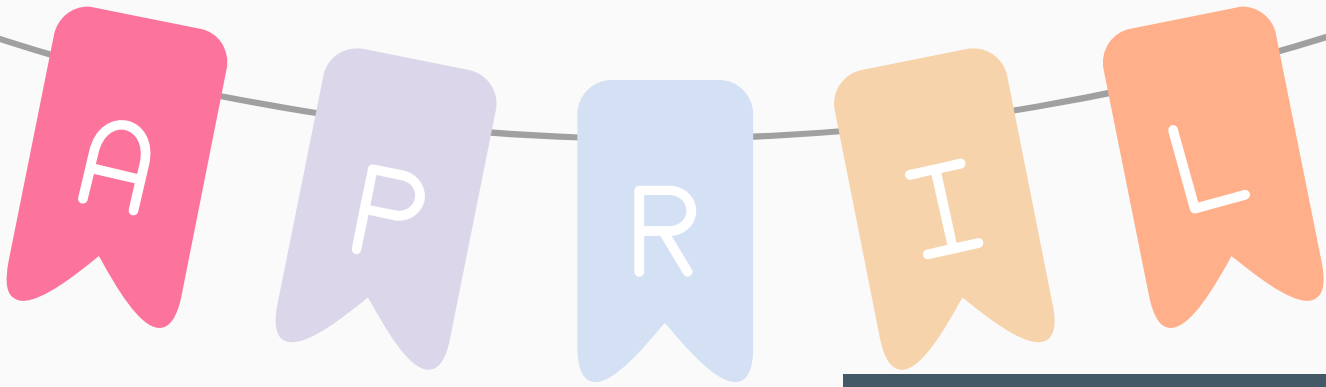
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Calvary's LOVE

Choir Cantata
Sunday, April 12
10:00 am



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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

Finance Update

We want to thank you for your giving for CWUMC. As we head into April, we continue to have a small operating surplus, which is to be expected at this time of the year. We appreciate that.

As always, we welcome any support that you can provide no matter what time of the year. No amount is too small. If you haven't pledged yet for 2026, it's also not too late.

Again, we sincerely thank you for your giving in 2026 to all of our ministries at CWUMC. If you have questions about our Operating Fund, or questions related to our 2026 Budget, other Reserve Funds, Endowment Fund, or Mortgage Balance, please contact finance@crosswindsumc.org.

Ministry Staff

Dianne Ciesluk
Lead Pastor

diannebiesluk@crosswindsumc.org

Michelle Schober
Director of Administration
michelleschober@crosswindsumc.org

Amber Lahtinen
Director of Ministry
amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org

Lisa Baker
Director of Music
lisabaker@crosswindsumc.org

Joyce Sluss
Minister of Community
Engagement

Nancy Betterman
Accompanist

David Hughes
Treasurer
treasurer@crosswindsumc.org

Cheryl Purkat, Jorie Emerson
Nursery Staff



"... Longest Lent"



At first I thought it was just me. But yesterday I received an email from a friend who wished me greetings in this 'longest Lent'. In a regularly scheduled Monday meeting I remarked to my colleagues that this Lent has seemed longer than its 40 days. And we still have nearly two weeks to go before Easter. For me, this particular Lent has brought with it the feeling of moving through mud. Except the mud is ice. And snow. And cold. And there does not seem to be any end in sight.

The word Lent itself is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencten*, meaning "Spring," and *lenctentid*, which means not only "Springtide" but also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls. Like most of our seasons and holy days in the church, they were layered over the rituals and celebrations of people who lived more closely to the earth than we now do. The early church fathers, and they were, found it easier to layer Christian meaning and intentions over these already long-held days of importance to the people. The hope was that over time the less prescribed celebrations would fall away and purely Christian understanding as defined by the church would be what people remembered.

For the most part that has been true. It is only when someone asks the question: "Why is Easter celebrated on a different date every year?" that we move into these muddy....or icy...waters. It was the Council of Nicaea in 325 A. D. that set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon that falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox. The full moon of April, if you have checked, falls on Thursday, April 2nd and Friday, March 20th is the spring equinox. This makes the celebration of Easter fall on April 5th. Got it?

I have thought all week about how we in the Christian household somehow live in both the world created for us as the church and with the ancient memory of those who came before. Both were, and are, filled with a sense of the Mystery we have formed into a faith tradition and story. As we live the days of Lent, following in the path-story of Jesus, we also are living at some level the deep longing for the season we call spring. Both stories tell of the new life that comes out of the places that are dead. They are the stories that combine to make our spiritual DNA.

So in that case, it has been the longest Lent. While we are about to open once again the triumphant story of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on Sunday, April 5th, signs of the long awaited spring are currently nowhere in sight. We will wave our palm fronds but that will be the only green that graces our worldview. It is a pretty good bet that come Easter Sunday snow may still be covering any ground where colorful eggs might be hidden.

I am reminded of the Natalie Sleeth song that has become a favorite to many:

"In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree,
In cocoons, a hidden promise, butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

This year, in this longest Lent, I am looking for the lessons in ice and snow. And longing for the spring that waits to be.

As One on the journey with you,
Pastor Dianne

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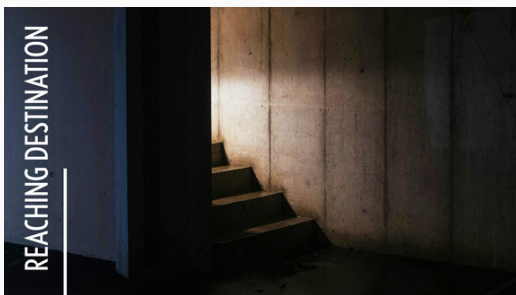
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Maunder Thursday April 2 - *Eat and Run*

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

We may linger at the table for a few moments this evening. But we gather, already prepared to eat and run because the world needs us to be at work for the kin-dom.



Good Friday April 3 - *Reaching Destination*

Readings from James H. Charlesworth

Many of the events surrounding the last days of Christ are shrouded in darkness. In the fourth century, a solemn observance of the Lord's Supper, known as "Tenebrae" was celebrated. This service involved the extinguishing of candles as a reminder of the darkness that covered the earth after the passion and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The word "Tenebrae" means darkness.



Easter Sunday April 5 - *A New Start*

Matthew 28:1-10

Easter is a new start for all of us who journey together in grace as the Body of Christ, for it is the good news that binds us together and empowers us to continue on the path set before us.

Stories That Matter



The season of Easter, or Eastertide, is a time of embracing the promise and hope of Resurrection. It is a time of leaning into the stories that matter. Come and gather around the stories of those who wrestled with the Easter event and some of the words of preparation that Jesus gave to help us live the reality of eternity now. As a bonus, we've added some resources for Ascension Day, which you could use in place of the Seventh Sunday of Easter, or have a special midweek Ascension Service. It is clear from these stories that Jesus wanted to equip us to thrive in a season of Easter promise. This season, we hope you'll engage in stories that matter.

Calvary's LOVE

Choir Cantata
Sunday, April 12
10:00 am



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April 12 - *Calvary's Love* - Choir Cantata

This cantata takes a deeper look into the qualities of Christ's love; how it was expressed to those He met in His time and how that same love has spanned generations and is still given to us today.

Astounded Us



April 19 - *Astounded Us* Luke 24:13-35

Resurrection unsettles our certainty and invites us into astonishment. This week's worship explores how joy and disruption coexist as we live into the astounding news that Love has conquered death.

Knowing That Voice



April 26 - *Knowing That Voice* John 10:1-10

Like sheep, we learn to recognize the Shepherd's voice together. Worship this week focuses on discernment as a communal practice and listening for Christ's call to abundant life.



Spring Series - Prayer

Wednesdays this Spring: March 4- May 6

We have a responsibility to be pray-ers: people who pray silently and aloud, alone and with others, and with our very lives. Jesus' disciples said to Him, "Teach us how to pray." So prayer must be something that we can learn to do or learn to do better. This spring we will study a variety of prayer forms to encourage holy habits of prayer and meditation.



Family Movie Night

Friday April 10, 6:30pm

Join us at Cross Winds on April 10 at 6:30 PM for our final movie night of the 2025-26 school year! We're wrapping up the season with a screening of Jesus Revolution, a powerful and inspiring true story set against the backdrop of the 1970s counter-culture movement. Let's send off the school year with a full house. We can't wait to see you there! Dinner provided.

Volunteer Needs

Preparing for Fall 2026

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to support the ministries of our church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Our programs are only possible with Jesus and YOU! Would you prayerfully consider how you'd like to get involved in the ministries at Cross Winds? Contact Amber with questions, suggestions and commitments!



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

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High School Opportunities

Summer 2026

The Family Ministry Team is in the early stages of planning Vacation Bible School. If you are interested in being a leader for this event, please let Amber or Cailin know.

Summer Festival Camp

Summer 2026

Save the Date! Please let Amber know if your student is interested in camp so we can determine if we have enough kids to attend camp.



HIGH SCHOOL WEEK:
 JULY 12-15, 2026

MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEK:
 JULY 19-22, 2026



CONFIRMATION

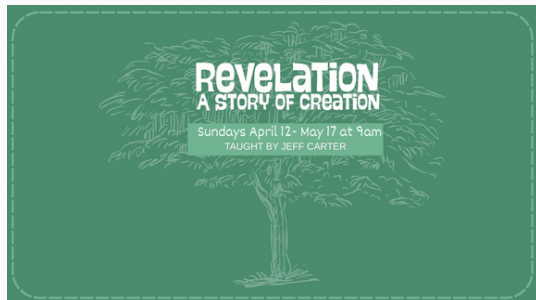
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT CROSS WINDS

- APR 1 - NO CLASSES. HOLY WEEK
- APR 8 - I BELIEVE (THE CREEDS)
- APR 15 - NO CLASSES. FMSC MOBILE PACK
- APR 22 - PPGSW
- APR 29 - GOING FORTH



CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY
MAY 24, 2026
 REHEARSAL ON WEDNESDAY MAY 20

Adult Opportunities



Revelation Study

Sundays at 9am, April 12 - May 17

Genesis is a creation story...but Revelation is also a creation story. Join Jeff Carter in open conversation about the symbolism in the story of Revelation with creation in mind. Gain a better understanding of the end of the Bible and the beginning of our eternity. You are encouraged to read Revelation 1-4 before the first class.

Braving the Truth

Wednesdays at 6:30pm, April 8 - May 6

Rachel's work has always been a sanctuary for those of us navigating the messy middle of faith, patriarchy, and justice. This collection includes reflections from voices like Glennon Doyle, Jen Hatmaker, and Lisa Sharon Harper and explores what it means to live honestly in a culture (and sometimes a church) that often prizes certainty over integrity. Essays include "An Evolving Faith: on doubt, asking questions, and liberation from certainty"; "That Unholy American Trinity: on patriarchy, white supremacy, and religious nationalism"; "Casseroles and Kingdom of the Hungry: on the church"; "All right, then, I'll go to hell: on gender and sexuality"; "Still a Bible Nerd: On Scripture, biblical literalism, and a better way"; and more. All are welcome. Order Braving the Truth at your favorite bookstore or contact the church office for assistance. An audio version is available as well.



Social Justice

The Social Justice group has been busy caring for specific families as well as collecting non-perishable food items and household supplies. Additional donations go to Cross Services or other local food banks. Monetary donations are very helpful as well. Anything you contribute will be delivered in a timely manner and will be greatly appreciated. Cross Winds will also be sponsoring voter registration events to be held April 16-18 from 3:00-6:00pm. Encourage everyone you know to be sure they are properly registered. All are welcome to join this group. If you have questions or would like to be on our contact list please contact the church office.

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.



Small Groups Ministries



CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

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, April 7, 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 Event

Monday, April 20, 1:30pm

Prime Timers Cinema presents "Tea with Mussolini". In Florence, Italy on the brink of WW11. A group of ladies (Cher, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright, Maggie Smith, and Lily Tomlin) appeal to Mussolini during tea to preserve Italy's works of art. Of course, he betrays them which takes these ladies on quite a journey. Come on Monday April 20 at 1:30 to enjoy a "radiant beautiful film"(Gene Shalit). Bring your own beverage and a snack to share if so desired.

**PRIME TIMERS
April Event**
Monday, April 20, 1:30pm

Tea with Mussolini
Bring own beverage and if you like a snack to share.

Meet downstairs in conference room A4.

"A story of civilized disobedience"

LADIES WHO LUNCH
April 21, 11:30 am

Join us at Olive Garden in Maple Grove.
Sign up on the website or contact the church office by April 19.

CROSS WINDS United Methodist Church

Ladies Who Lunch

Tuesday, April 21, 11:30 am

Ladies Who Lunch will gather on Tuesday, April 21 at 11:30 am at Olive Garden 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.

Game Night

Thursday, April 16, 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.

Game Night

3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

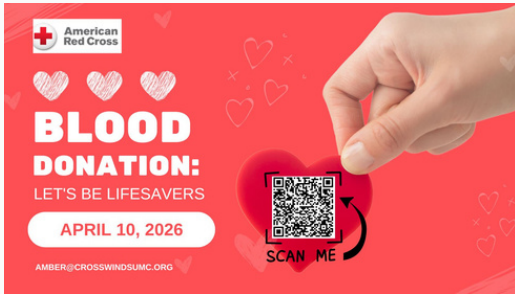
Games for all ages!



Highway Cleanup & Cornhole Construction

Saturday April 11, 9:30am-3pm

We are looking for some help for our Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up and the construction of some Cornhole Game Boards. Adopt-A-Highway is open to Older Elementary (w/ parent participation), YThere will be a cost for the materials for the Cornhole Boards. If you feel called to donate money to this project, please mark your donation as Cornhole Boards. For more details, including off-site location, please contact the church office.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday April 10, 11am-5pm

Our February drive was our biggest yet and spots are already filling up for Friday April 10. Sign up to give the gift of life. Can't donate but want to help? Contact Amber Lahtinen or contact the church office to volunteer in other ways.

Faithful Freezers

April 25, 9:30 am

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. For more information about this ministry, contact the church office.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, April 27, 1:30 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, April 27 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

Thursday, April 9, 2:00 pm

Stitches of Love will have its next meeting on Thursday, April 9 at 2pm 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!



March 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

