

The Applesseed

La Crescent and Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Church

From the Pastor's Pen

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Autumn is now upon us, and the trees have started to gain some color; the promise of fall's yearly beauty is beginning to appear. Fall is often a time of introspection as the days grow shorter and the cool weather takes over. I often find myself wanting to sit inside, curl up in my favorite chair, and read a good book.

It is also the beginning of the road that leads us toward Advent and, eventually, Lent. The coming months are deeply Christ-centered, as we reflect on His birth, His life, His death, and ultimately His resurrection.

There is an important connection between this season of fall and the season of Lent. Both invite us to look inward. They give us an opportunity to slow down, examine our lives, and prepare our hearts. As one of our familiar Christmas songs says, we are called to “**make room**” for the birth of Christ in our hearts.

With that in mind, I want to begin something called **Breakthrough Prayer**.

The purpose of Breakthrough Prayer is similar to that preparation, but it goes a step further. We are going to ask God to **break into our lives in a real and powerful way**. We will ask God to break through

our fears, our assumptions, our desire for control, and the things that keep us from seeing where He is already working.

Over the next several months, each month will have a different focus. I will invite us to pray that prayer together when we gather for worship, and I will also provide a shorter version that you can pray at home throughout the week.

This will be a time of **prayerful discernment**—a time of asking God to help us see, listen, trust, and follow where He is leading. We are not simply asking God to bless the plans we have already made. We are asking God to show us His plans.

We will be making ourselves ready for God to move us where He wants us to go, and to follow boldly when He does.

I hope you will join me as we seek God's plan for our lives and for the life of our church.

Five Months. Five Prayers.

Each month will give us a different prayer focus:

October — Open Our Eyes

God, show us where You are already working.

November — Open Our Hearts

God, make us willing to follow You wherever You lead.

December — Deepen Our Roots
God, deepen our relationship with You.

January — Show Us the Way
God, reveal where You are leading us.

February — Give Us Courage
God, give us the faith to follow You.

Perhaps through these prayers we will discover God working in places we have overlooked. Perhaps we will notice people who need encouragement, opportunities to serve, relationships that need attention, or signs of faith that were there all along.

Perhaps, as we pray, listen, and watch, we will discover that God has been working among us all along.

So let us make these next months a time of prayer, reflection, and connection to the **fount of all life**. Let us open our eyes, open our hearts, deepen our roots, seek God's way, and prepare ourselves to follow wherever He leads.

“God, where are You leading us?”

Let that be our prayer.
Amen.

With the splendor of God all around us,

Pastor Chris



LA CRESCENT
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Where is God
leading us?

Not just for what we want, but for what God wants.

SEE • TRUST • FOLLOW

PART 1 | BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER OCTOBER 2026 - FEBRUARY 2027



OCTOBER
OPEN OUR EYES

*God, show us where
You are already
working.*



NOVEMBER
OPEN OUR HEARTS

*God, make us willing
to follow You
wherever You lead.*



DECEMBER
DEEPEN OUR ROOTS

*God, deepen our
relationship
with You.*



JANUARY
SHOW US THE WAY

*God, reveal where
You are leading us.*



FEBRUARY
GIVE US COURAGE

*God, give us the faith
to follow You.*

PART 2 | LENT MARCH 2027



PART 3 | INTRODUCING THE WAY APRIL - MAY 2027

THE | **WAY**

WORSHIP • ABIDE • YIELD
Not a program, but a way of life.

PART 4 | RECOGNIZING THE WAY APRIL - MAY 2027



PEOPLE WHO LIVE THE WAY

*Seeing God at work
in and through our church.*

PART 5 | LIVE THE WAY JUNE - AUGUST 2027



JUNE
WORSHIP

*Look for God
in the ordinary.*



JULY
ABIDE

*Make space to
remain connected
to Jesus.*



AUGUST
YIELD

*Ask God:
Where do You want
me to serve?*

PART 6 | LOOK BACK • LISTEN • DISCERN FALL 2027



What did we see?



What did we learn?



Where did we grow?



Where did we experience
breakthrough?

Then we ask again...

God, where are You leading us now?



LA CRESCENT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Blank Note

**By Emma Blank,
Director of Music Ministries**

In September I had a couple very fun gigs. I played music for kids at Applefest and on the float for our very own Methodist Church. Both gigs were very different as on Saturday when I played for the kiddos it was raining. It did not seem to stop the fun as the rides were still in operation and the enthusiasm was still very high. I played for an hour and everyone had so much fun. We definitely made lemonade out of lemons that day just as God teaches us to do.

Sunday brought sunny skies and a beautiful day for the King Apple Parade. We had a great group and a wonderful chauffeur and TONS of candy as we walked and rode our way through La Crescent. We shared laughter and love as we rode through town. I played many songs and we sang together with lots of gusto! We made the most of that beautiful day sharing Gods love while displaying a cart that was made with the same love that will enable a non mobile individual the freedom of movement.

Both days for me will always be remembered as special days of outreach and I will tuck those memories in my mind. Thank you church family for being intentional on going beyond the doors of our church building and bringing God's love to all we meet in our daily lives!

This year I am hoping to have a Christmas Choir. Below will be the rehearsal dates listed. It is a short commitment and all who wish to raise a voice are welcome.

Christmas Choir Rehearsal Dates

Thursday December 4th-6pm-7pm
Thursday December 11th-6pm-7pm
Thursday December 17th-6pm-7pm

We will sing during
the Christmas Eve
Service

God's peace,
Emma Blank



Women's Study

"Bad Girls of the Bible"

1st and 3rd
Sundays of the month
Begins October 4th!

6:00 PM

**La Crescent United
Methodist Church**

Liz Curtis Higgs
One Million Sold in the Series!

Bad Girls of the Bible
And What We Can Learn from Them

The book cover for 'Bad Girls of the Bible' by Liz Curtis Higgs. It features a woman in a blue dress walking away from the viewer on a path. The title is in large, bold letters, and the author's name is at the top. A banner at the top says 'One Million Sold in the Series!'.

Men's Study

Wild At Heart
By John Eldredge

1st and 3rd Sundays
6:00 PM
LUMC

The book cover for 'Wild At Heart' by John Eldredge. It features a man in a blue shirt and a woman in a red dress walking away from the viewer on a path. The title is in large, bold letters, and the author's name is at the top.

MISSION TEAM UPDATE - October 2026

October is here and we are fully into the fall season! Thanks to those who have brought in supplies for the Operation Christmas Child boxes, crafting days, and who stayed to help make t-shirt jump ropes last month.

Coming up in October we are continuing the supply drive for Operation Christmas Child, but we are shifting gears to collecting personal hygiene products for the boxes we will be sending out into the world. Things we are in need of include combs/brushes, band aids, eating utensils, water bottles/cups, nail clippers/files, small blankets, etc.

We will also be hosting another craft making day to create sewing kits and fishing kits before and after worship on Sunday October 25th. For this we are still looking for supplies to include thread, needles, scissors; small sinkers, and small bobbers.

Also coming up in October is a regional mission opportunity to attend a day trip to the Feed My Starving Children packing facility located in Eagan, MN on the 24th. This opportunity is open to all ages 5 and above. We will meet at the church at 9:15 am to carpool to Eagan for a food packing shift from 12 – 145 pm; so be sure to pack a lunch for the road. After our packing shift is complete, we will stop somewhere nearby for a tasty treat and fellowship together.

If you have any questions about the missions committee or ideas to share with us, please feel free to join us for our next meeting on Sunday October 18th at 8:45 am in the church library.

Blessings,

Mandy



Missions In Action Opportunity!

Help Pack Meals for Feed My Starving Children

Sign up today!

**Saturday,
October 24th**

**Eagan, MN**

**Meet at Church
at 9:15 AM to
Carpool Together**



OCTOBER COLLECTION ITEMS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS



Comb, brush, toothbrush, washcloth, band aids,
eating utensils, water bottle, cup, nail clipper,
file, small blanket, etc

CRAFT OPPORTUNITY

Operation Christmas Child

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
BEFORE AND AFTER WORSHIP
MAKE FISHING AND SEWING KITS**



Who is my Neighbor?

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."
Luke 10:27

That verse has always been a favorite of mine. I remember memorizing it in Sunday School. But I always wondered: who is my neighbor? Which neighbor did Jesus mean? Did I really have to love the neighbor boy who always called me "chubby"? Today... I still wonder: who is my neighbor?

In a month, I will be traveling to meet some of my neighbors. I will be traveling with FSPA's Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Immigration Team (JEDI) on their third immersion experience to Kino Border Initiative (KBI). The Kino Border Initiative (KBI) is a binational organization located in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. For 17 years they have offered humanitarian assistance: meals, first aid, clothing and shelter to support migrants and deported individuals. Their Mission is: Migration with Dignity. Their Vision: Help make humane, just, workable migration between the US and Mexico a reality.

- I will be traveling with the Franciscan Sisters and other community members (10 total) to be immersed in the KBI mission. Along with the others on the team:
- I will walk 1 ½ miles crossing the border to meet with migrants, asylum seekers, and recent deportees to learn from their stories and to understand the broader context of the border and immigration.
- I will be going to the border to learn about the realities and current policies of the border.
- I will accompany the Kino team in providing humanitarian services, as well as hike in the desert, and converse with ranchers in a rural town in Arizona
- I will learn about undocumented immigration - causes and possible solutions
- I will agree to speak to groups about what I learned, saw, and experienced when I return

Sometimes God works in mysterious ways. I never thought I would be traveling to the border, but when I was asked, I immediately said, "Yes." I want to learn more about my neighbors, and help if I can. My trip is all covered, I do not need any help with that. But if your heart moves you, below are two ways that you can support the Kino Border Initiative. The money goes directly there.

Grace and Peace,

Lavon Court

[Give Financially - Kino Border Initiative](#)

KBI Amazon
wishlist:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/22RQGW3BYZZ25?ref=wl_share

What is the Congregational Care Team?

Congregational Care members at United Methodist churches are lay volunteers who work with our pastor and staff to provide care and support to the congregation. The Congregational Care team at LUMC currently provides support to 12 people from our congregation. The people we support may be homebound, in assisted care, nursing care, or at the hospital. Support is often a visit, a phone call, a card, music and song (Emma), and sometimes a ride to church. Relationships of caring and love are at the heart of the ministry.

Currently we have 8 members on our team: Yvonne Voigt, Judy Kumpf, Carole Plenge, Helen Hill, Emma Blank, Lenys Kramer, Jeff Court, and Lavon Court-chair.

If you know of a congregational member who would like a visit or is in the hospital please let the office or one of the team members know. We are often unaware of who needs a visit or call unless family or friends notify us. If you are looking for a way to become more involved and feel Congregational Care is where God is moving you, reach out to any of the members of the team, or the office. We would love to add you to our team.

Blessings.
Lavon Court-
Congregational Care Chair

LA CRESCENT NURSING HOME WORSHIP

Every 1st Tuesday of the month

10:00 AM

(Please note date and time change)



LA CRESCENT HEALTH SERVICES
101 S. Hill St. La Crescent

Help us spread joy and the word of God to our senior community!
All are welcome to join us.

MISSION TRIP

BREAKFAST TIME



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:30-9:45 AM

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TEAMS WILL PROVIDE BREAKFAST;
A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

YNOW

Youth Night of Worship

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 11

6:00 PM

ALL 8TH-12TH GRADE STUDENTS WELCOME

WORSHIP. PRAYER.

TESTIMONIES. FELLOWSHIP.

It's "Talk Like a Pirate Night" at

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE

**A NEW youth group
for Middle School students!**

Sunday, October 11

4:00-5:45 pm

For 5th-8th grade students

At La Crescent United Methodist Church

Games, Food, Bible study and more!
All Middle School students welcome.

For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."
~Matthew 6:21

YOUTH GROUP COMBO OUTING

CORN MAZE

FOR 5TH-12TH GRADERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

LEAVE CHURCH AT 11:30 AM

RETURN between 2- 3:00 PM

COST: \$14 PLUS \$ FOR TREATS

**YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT BY OCTOBER
1 AND HAVE A CURRENT REGISTRATION FORM ON FILE TO
PARTICIPATE. ADULT DRIVERS ARE NEEDED.**

Trick-or-Treaters Needed!

Middle and High School Youth-- we need you! On Halloween night, we need about 80 youth to help us trick-or-treat for food for the La Crescent Food Shelf. Please sign up with Mindy in advance. Drivers are also needed. We will meet at the church at 5:30 pm.

There will be a Halloween party back at the church afterwards for all who participate!



A COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY
LACRESCENT YOUTH FAITH COLLABORATIVE &
FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES IN
COOPERATION WITH THE LA CRESCENT FOOD SHELF

TRICK or TREAT FOR FOOD

Oct. 31

5:30
pm



MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS
INCLUDE: CANNED MEATS AND
MEALS, FRUIT, PASTA, RICE
SIDES, HEARTY SOUPS AND
STEWES, COOKING AND BAKING
ITEMS, CONDIMENTS, DESSERT
MIXES AND SALAD DRESSINGS.

THE YOUTH WILL BE
COLLECTING FOOD ITEMS
DURING REGULAR TRICK-OR-
TREATING. IF YOU DO NOT
PLAN ON BEING HOME, PLEASE
LEAVE YOUR DONATIONS ON
YOUR FRONT STEP.



THE BRIDGE

Youth Center

Open Mondays and Wednesdays

After school-5:00 pm

For 5th-8th grade students & friends

Check us out on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/thebridgelacrescent/>

The Bridge Youth Center exists to bridge the gap between students and what they need to succeed.

Coming soon
to Sunday Adventures!

TEAM SPIRIT

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." — Proverbs 3:5

FALL

Dinner Church



Wednesday, October 28th
5:00 PM

LUMC FELLOWSHIP HALL

Food, Pumpkin Carving & Worship
Bring a pumpkin to carve and your favorite pie!

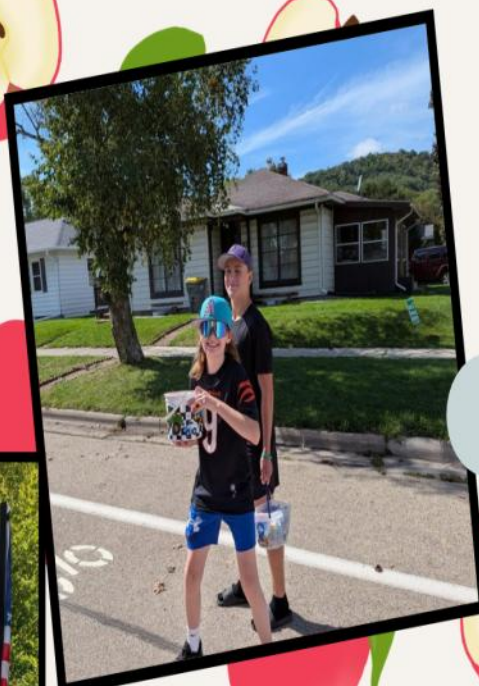


≡ PASTOR CHRIS ≡

Happy Pastor
Appreciation
Month!

≡  ≡
Thanks for all you do! ≡

God provided a beautiful day for the King Apple Parade!
A huge thank you to everyone who supported La Crescent UMC and Mobility
Worldwide. We loved seeing so many smiling faces and are incredibly grateful for
our amazing community!





La Crescent and Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Church
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Phone: 507.895.2373

Website: <https://lacscentumc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/lacscentumc>

<https://www.facebook.com/Riverside-Dakota-UMC-436563933430687>

Pastor Chris Leistra

Youth Director: **Mindy Kearney**

Music Director: **Emma Blank**

Office: **Jessica Wallace-Bialecki**



When emailing the church office use:

office.lacscentumc@gmail.com

Made Specially For

October 2026

La Crescent & Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Churches

The Applesseed