

The Applesseed

La Crescent and Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Church

From the Pastor's Pen

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The end of summer always brings the passage of time into sharp focus. It's hard to imagine that over a year has already gone by since I came to La Crescent, yet here we are: school starts next week, family trips are wrapped up, and another season is turning.

While driving home yesterday, reflecting on all the years we've spent making that same trip as a family, I remembered an article I wrote four years ago about how we process the passing of time. Re-reading those words today, as my son edges closer to his teenage years, its message hit home all over again:

"I think that as finite creatures, we will always have trouble with the passing of time and the knowledge that it cannot come again. It can cause us to turn ever more to the past as being a place of refuge. I never felt the urge to hold on to the past until I had children who are for me the ultimate finite resource, as they grow faster

than we can imagine. At some point we must "share them with the world," as my wife said when my son went to school for the first time. What I had to remember as I poured through old pictures is that right there was another moment to reflect on what God has so graciously given me: that moment in time and the people around me represented in them. I love to sit and remember, but even more so, I love to spend time with people who color my life and make it more than just the passing ticks of the clock. The season of Autumn is even more precious because it passes by so quickly and is then replaced by Winter, which in our part of the world lasts for what seems like most of the year. But Autumn has its cool and beautiful days when there are opportunities to enjoy God's good creation. May God, who created everything and called it good, bless you in this joyful Autumn season."

Time may feel like an enemy or a source of fear, but I believe it is God's good gift to us; its passing makes every season more precious.

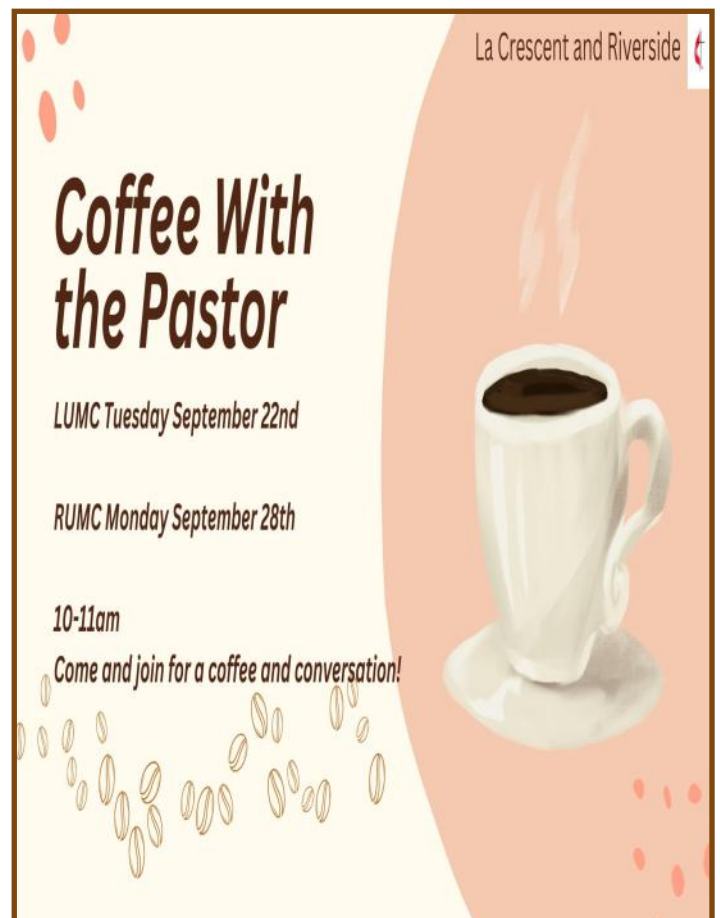
If summer never passed, it wouldn't feel nearly as sweet when it returns. It's like the fall apples I look forward to all year; the fact that they are only here for a short time makes me truly appreciate them. If we had them year-round, we would take them for granted and miss the gift they are.

We need to see God's goodness in this light as well: precious and present in all the seasons of life, including the moments that vanish all too quickly. Join me this fall in looking for His goodness as it passes with its customary quickness, and seek to see the God of joy and love in this Jocund (cheerful) season.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

In the Joy of God's love,
Pastor Chris





Blank Note

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

The beginning of a busy fall season is upon us. School has started and the summer is behind us. I watch the buses go by my house and remember my boys and how excited they got for school to start....at least for a couple days.

The season I am in is a rough one. I never thought I would be in this season so soon. Losing Rod has been devastating. It is like riding a rollercoaster that I want to jump off. He was the love of my life and I miss him more as the days go on. Of course God is always first and Rod always went by God, Family, Country.

Without faith and my church family it would be impossible to navigate any crisis. Through this journey I have learned that Rod and I have so many friends that are family. Every day through this season we were loved and supported by this church family and we read all the messages and cried at some and laughed at some, but they all were appreciated and needed.

Galatians Says "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." This pastor and congregation goes above and beyond this passage.

Rod is home and healed. As much as I would like him back I know he is with his Savior. He is feasting in the glory of God and we have to learn to be ok with Gods will. I cry everyday with a broken heart for the man I shared a wonderful life with. He was a perfect example of a servant of God. Even when he was losing his battle with cancer he was still calling the church checking on things and writing instructions for people for the sound booth.

Thank you Church Family! Rod and I love you all and appreciate the love and support you gave our family. To Rod I say "Well Done Good and Faithful Servant" Till we meet again dear husband.



Women's Study

"Bad Girls of the Bible"

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

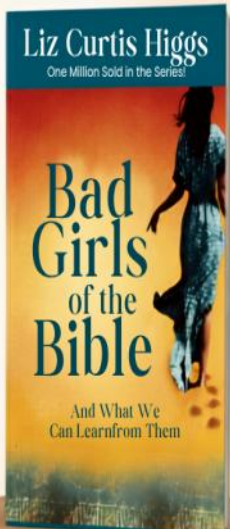
6:00 PM

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



Welcome To The Team

Custodian Teal Leistra

Help us welcome the newest member of our church staff! We are thrilled to announce that Teal has officially joined our team as our new church custodian. Please take a moment to give her a warm welcome the next time you see her around!

THANK YOU

We also want to extend a huge thank you to Maggie Crosby for her 2 years of dedicated service and care for our church building. We are so grateful for everything you've done, Maggie!

MISSION TEAM UPDATE - September 2026

Welcome to September, friends! Fall is my favorite time of year; back to a regular schedule of things with the kids in school, the daily grind of work (ok, I can probably live without that one), and being back in the routine of attending worship more frequently. I can't wait to see you all more often.

As the summer wraps up, we are able to celebrate the huge success of the Back-to-School event held in mid-August where more than 65 kids were provided with school supplies, a new school outfit, new shoes; meal-in-a-bag kits; and haircuts. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents; as well as those who generously donated supplies, clothing, and money to purchase goods and items for this event. What an awesome way for us to support these kids as they enter their next year of learning.

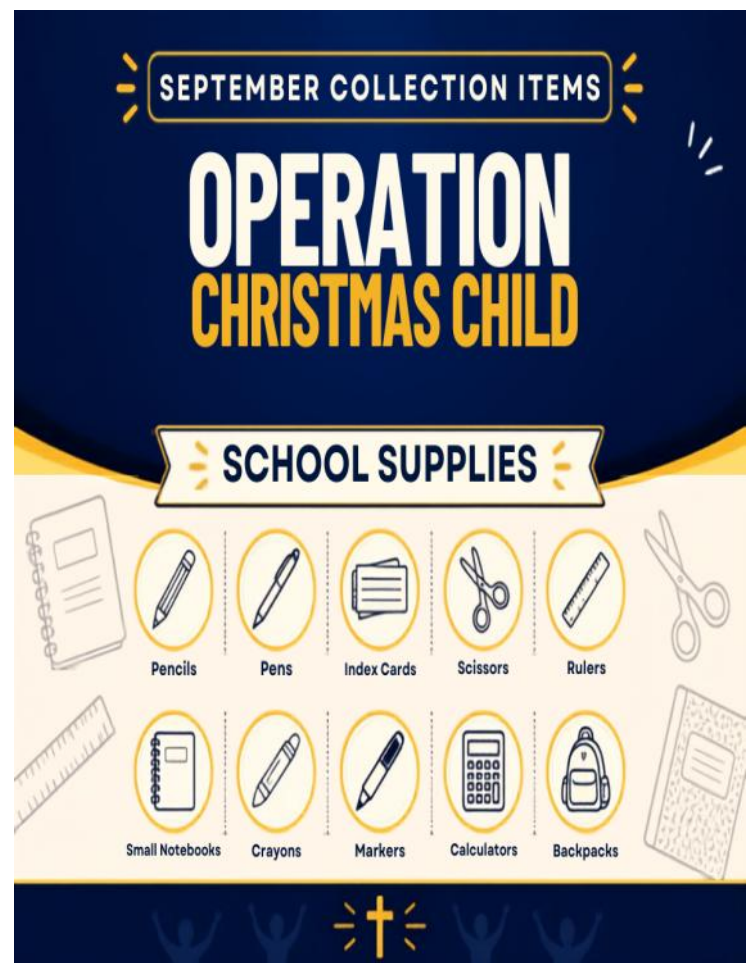
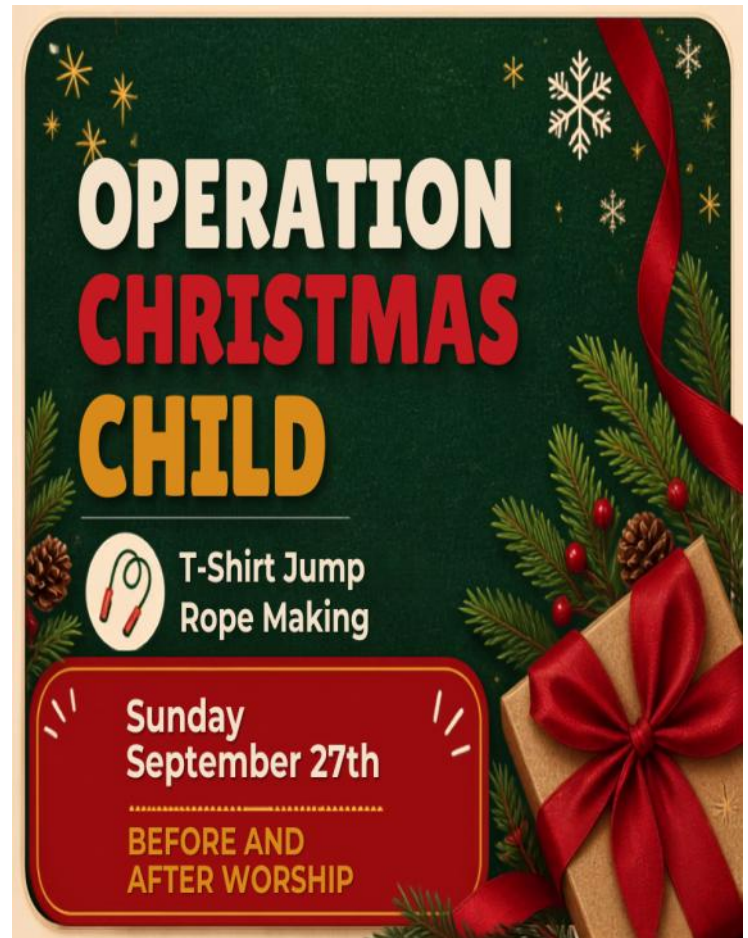
Coming up this fall we are starting our Operation Christmas Child supply drive and craft activity Sunday's which will be held before/after church service in the Narthex. For the month of September, we will still be collecting school supplies as these items are likely on sale. For the Christmas boxes please bring in items such as pencils, pens, index cards, scissors, rulers, small notebooks, crayons/markers, calculators, small backpacks, etc.

Additionally we will be making jump-rope t-shirts before and after worship on Sunday September 27th. If you have old T-shirts that can be used for our jump-rope t-shirt project, please bring them in. In October we will also be creating sewing & fishing kits; so please be on the lookout for any items for making small sewing kits (thread, needles, scissors, buttons, etc.) or fishing kits (line, hooks, sinkers, etc).

If you have any questions, ideas for the missions committee, or if you would like to join us; there is always a place at our table for you. May you have a wonderful September.

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**



JOIN US FOR OUR

BIBLE STUDY



**EVERY
THURSDAY**



9:00 AM



**La Crescent
UMC**



Thank you for your generosity!

LUMC offers several
convenient ways to give:



Cash & Checks



ACH Withdrawal



Online Giving
through Vanco



Automated Bill Pay



Wills &
Endowments



SCAN ME



For more information on giving go to
<https://lacscentumc.org/give>
or contact the church office or a member
of our finance team.



LUNCH WAGON 2026

By the Numbers

TOTAL NUMBER OF LUNCHES SERVED: 3326

HIGHEST DAY: 201

LOWEST DAY: 65

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED: 30+

YOUNGEST VOLUNTEER: 16

OLDEST VOLUNTEER: 90

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
OF THE LUNCH WAGON THIS SUMMER!



To help support the Lunch Wagon online, go to:
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHW9/campaign/C-14B67>



THE BRIDGE is hiring!

Know someone who would make a great mentor to middle school students and would like to work just a few hours each week? Send them the way of the Bridge! We are currently hiring 1-2 people who are available during the after school hours, days of the week determined by staff availability. Pay is competitive and work hours are flexible. Must be responsible, patient, and like to have fun! Email Mindy Kearney at mindy_todd@hotmail.com for more information.



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed supplies and made donations towards this year's Back to School event. We had such a tremendous response from families in the community! Because of your generosity, we were able to supply around 70 kids with most of their needed school supplies and a new outfit, shoes, underwear and socks to start the school year off right. AND, this year we offered haircuts as an addition. What a blessing you have been a part of during this time of need.

Carole would also like to extend a thank you to Brandi and Vonnie for their help with this mission!





We Are Family

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love."

Ephesians 5:1-2a (NIV)



Sunday Adventures Begins September 13!

Who? All children, ages 4 through 4th grade

What? Each week is an adventure as we explore God's word, learn Bible verses, play games, do service projects and learn how to pray.

When? Sunday mornings, 8:45-10:00 am

Where? In the Sunday Adventures Room (Room A)

Why? Because we love Jesus!

Our theme for September is "We are Family".

MISSION TRIP 27

Where will God lead us next summer?
Come help us figure that out on
Sunday, September 27 at 7:00 pm

All current 8th-12th grade students and
parents are invited to attend this mission
trip kickoff meeting!



YNOW

YOUTH NIGHT OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

6:00 PM

A worship service for 8th-12th grade youth in the community. Join us for worship, prayer, food, and games.





La Crescent and Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Church
520 North Elm Street | La Crescent, MN 55947

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

September 2026

La Crescent & Dakota-Riverside United Methodist Churches

The Applesseed

The LORD is my light
and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is
the stronghold
of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 27:1