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Deck the Cross Winds halls on Saturday, December 3, 10am-noon for this Christmas open house event. Bring your family and friends to decorate cookies, make Christmas crafts, and play games as we get ready to make this season merry and bright. Stations will be set up around the church for you to choose from 10am-11:30am. Stay for a few minutes or the entire time. Stick around for Christmas caroling and a Christmas costume contest beginning at 11:30 am. To volunteer, contact Amber Lahtinen amber.lahtinen@crosswindsumc.org



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 Fridays - includes pastor's note, important information about the life of the church, and links for upcoming events
- Prayer Chain email updates

Finance Update

Thank you for all your giving this year as we enter December to support all of our CWUMC ministries. Our latest financials are indicating a deficit so we need your help in these last few weeks to drive this deficit down.

If you have not pledged for next year it's not too late. We need your support. Total pledged giving for the year helps us plan and provide the needed ministry to all.

If you have questions about pledging or questions related to our proposed 2023 budget please contact finance@crosswindsumc.org

Thank you again for your blessings and support for our ministries at CWUMC.

Ministry Staff

Christina Koppes
Lead Pastor

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Michelle Schober
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Accompanist

David Hughes
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Christy Sturlaugson
Pastoral Intern

Cheryl Purkat
Nursery Supervisor

Thank you!

Thank you to our Cross Winds family for supporting the Lahtinen family during this time of healing from surgery for both Amber and Kristi. Your prayers, visits, cards, and meals mean so much to us; we feel truly cared for. You all are the light of Jesus to us. The Lahtinens

Pastor's Note by Stina Koppes



"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, 'God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.'"

Luke 1:41-45

This fall I've had the joy of having friends and colleagues surprise me with visits during worship. After services, when I've had time to greet them, I tend to rush up and blurt out, "It's so good to see you! What are you doing here?!" My heart is filled with joy at seeing them.

Surprise visits can make our hearts leap and our voices blurt out. When old friends stop by unexpectedly to church, it makes me wonder like Elizabeth, "Why do I have this honor that you should come to me?"

The Christmas season tends to bring unexpected visits. Whether at church or out and about in our daily lives, this is a season when we have both planned and unexpected visits. The Biblical stories at Christmas are filled with this theme - Mary visiting Elizabeth, the shepherds, and the wisemen. Story after story of unexpected visits that erupt in joy.

Sometimes the visits are with familiar friends and family, like Mary & Elizabeth. Yet more often, the visits come from unprompted strangers like those shepherds and wisemen coming to visit Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Christmas has a way of drawing our circles wider, as we welcome even more people into our lives. I think about all of the people that will be coming to Cross Winds events this month, and my heart leaps for joy; not because of the numbers of people, but for the opportunity for this community to extend hospitality, grace, and love. My hope is that each person who comes through our doors this month will be welcomed with a blessing and filled with joy.

Wherever life takes you this Christmas, I encourage you to be open to these holy moments, when God sends people your way unannounced. Your house may be a mess. Your calendar may be overstuffed. Let them in. Welcome them. Let yourself blurt out! In these encounters, this is where the Holy Spirit has room to leap within you as you experience a deeper joy that comes at Christmas.

MY CHRISTMAS

Wish

November 27 - *A Wish for the Days to Come*

Isaiah 11:1-10

Pastor Stina

Wishes often express hopes we have for the future. As we begin the season of Advent, we take time in worship to share the hopes we have with God as we listen to what scripture says about God's hope for our world.

December 11 - *A Wish That Brings Joy*

Luke 1:46b-55

Pastor Stina

When we wish someone a "Merry Christmas" or a "Happy Birthday" our well wishes can bring joy. When God shared divine wishes with Mary, this caused her to burst out in joyful song. Today we explore how God's wishes can bring joy to our lives and how our wishes can bless the world. We also welcome the Brooklyn Big Band as our musicians to fill the worship service with joy, joy, joy!

December 18 - *Cross Winds Presents: A Christmas Special*

Cross Winds Music

We will celebrate this fourth Sunday of Advent in worship with a multi-generational birthday party for Jesus which includes drama, comedy, and music. Experience the unexpected in a light hearted setting. Invite your family and friends to join you.

December 4 - *The Divine Silence*

Luke 1:5-25

Josh Greer

There are many known themes in the Bible, but one that quietly persists in the background is the theme of silence. This week, we will look at the story of Zechariah where silence takes on new and profound meaning for a person and a group of people that have negatively experienced silence for generations.



Brooklyn
BIG BAND
at Cross Winds UMC in Maple Grove

Sunday, Dec 11
during and after
10AM Worship



Cross
WINDS
Presents
A Christmas Special

Sunday, December 18, 10:00 am

MY CHRISTMAS

Wish

December 24 - Christmas Eve 2:00 pm

This is My Christmas Wish

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Stina

This family Christmas Eve service includes traditional hymns, choral music, children's time, sermon, and candle lighting. Worship will be available in-person, livestream, and on-demand.

December 24 - Christmas Eve 10:00 pm

This is My Christmas Wish

Luke 2:1-20

Pastor Stina

Enjoy the peace of a traditional candlelight service, complete with many beloved Christmas traditions and sanctuary choir.

This service will not be livestreamed.

December 24 - Christmas Eve 4:00 pm

Luke 2:1-7

Pastor Stina

Bring your kids to this high energy, celebratory, band-led worship service, where all children will have 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.

This service will not be livestreamed.

December 25 - Christmas Day

A Wish Fulfilled

Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor Stina

Spend Christmas morning in-person or online with your Cross Winds family. This Christmas Day worship service will be a time of celebration, fellowship, and joy.

Worship will be available in-person, livestream, and on-demand.



SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

So welcome each other,
in the same way that
Christ also welcomed
you, for God's glory
Romans 15:7

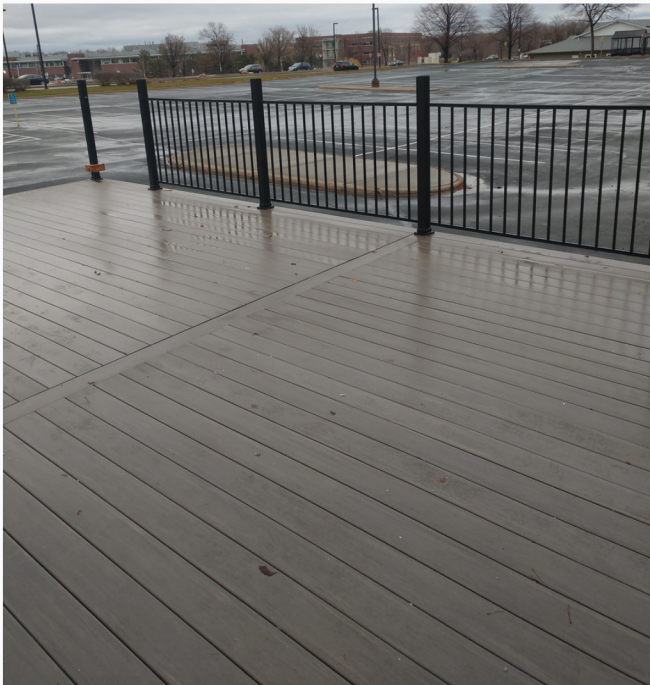
Capital Campaign Update

The outdoor deck is here and just in time before the snow started flying. A big thanks to all of our volunteers who gave so many hours of their time! A special thanks to Jeff Ducklow, Mike Ronning, and Paul Crosland of the Project Management Team for coordinating this building project.



SO ALL ARE *Welcome*

So welcome each other,
in the same way that
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Romans 15:7



Now that the deck is here it is time to move forward with the kitchen. Thanks to the work of our Capital Campaign Project Management Team, Trustees, Board, and Hospitality Team we are excited to share that the plans for the kitchen are now complete. A general contractor has been selected and we are ready to move forward with the kitchen remodel. The church has begun the permitting process and we are excited to get ready. Be on the lookout this winter for the project to begin!

Once again, a big thank you to our Project Management Team - Paul Crosland (trustees chair), Linda Dickey, Jeff Ducklow, Dave Looney, Dick Post, Mike Ronning, Don Bushen, Pastor Stina, and staff liaison, Michelle Schober.



Christmas Gift Program



SIMPSON
HOUSING SERVICES

Christmas Gift Program - Simpson Housing Services

Give the gift of hope this Christmas through the Cross Winds Christmas Gift Program in support of Simpson Housing Services. Simpson Housing Services' mission is, "To house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness." Since their beginnings in 1982 in the basement of Simpson United Methodist Church, Simpson has become a leading nonprofit providing assistance to people experiencing homelessness. In response to unmet community needs, their services have grown to include five key programs: emergency shelter, supportive housing programs for youth, single adults, and families – along with developmental and educational services for children of families in their Family Housing Program. Last year, they provided supportive services to 568 individuals and 275 families with more than 593 children. This December, Cross Winds will be collecting money and **New Women/Men's Winter Supplies** to support Simpson.

- Gloves
- Hats
- Thermal Underwear
- Hand/Toe Warmers

The first \$750 collected will go towards our youth shopping trip to purchase supplies for Simpson. Donations of supplies may be dropped off at church.

To learn more about Simpson Housing Services - www.simpsonhousing.org





Annual Giving Drive Update - Standing on the Promises

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

A big thank you to everyone who has made a financial pledge towards the 2023 annual giving drive. We are very grateful for the initial pledges made and honored by your commitment to Cross Winds. This month, as we continue to receive pledges, the Finance Committee and Cross Winds Board members are working diligently to prepare a 2023 finalized budget for congregational review in January.

Our goal is to ensure that we are faithful financial stewards of the gifts you share with Cross Winds so that we may continue to do all the good we can. To learn more about the 2023 pledge drive results and official budget, we invite all to attend a **Cross Winds church conference meeting on Sunday, January 22 at 11am at Cross Winds UMC**. During the meeting, the board and finance team will also present the 2022 financial updates as well as answer questions about 2023 ministry priorities.

If you haven't pledged yet, there is still time to share your 2023 commitment. Pledge cards are available at the church welcome desk or online.

Thank you for your generosity. Your giving makes a difference!



Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 10, 2:00-4:00 pm

Savor and celebrate the season of Advent at Christmas Tea. This year we welcome Alison Young, the Blissful Hiker, as a special guest. Cost is \$15. Space is limited. Reserve your seats online: <http://www.crosswindslife.org/event/9624700-2022-12-10-christmas-tea/>

From Adventure to Advent with Alison Young, the Blissful Hiker

There are times in the church year set aside for reflection. Advent is one of those times. Literally meaning “arrival,” Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation for Christ’s birth, as well as a time for contemplation and spiritual renewal. But, as most of us know, that’s not always how we experience advent. Rather, we find ourselves overwhelmed, racing from one errand to the next, frantically crossing things off our shopping lists and trying to create the picture-perfect Christmas. Last year, Alison Young – the Blissful Hiker – walked the 800-mile Arizona Trail. As desert gave way to forest, canyon to “sky island,” surprises were revealed to her as if opening an Advent Calendar. Her steps became grounded with the spirit and ones of meditative wonder.

Join Blissful for an inspirational talk, gorgeous images as well as thoughts and ideas to take on your advent journey.

A former professional flutist and American Public Media radio host, Alison Young is the “solo female middle aged titanium reinforced long distance backpacker” Blissful Hiker. She’s hiked on six continents and in one year, walked New Zealand’s “long pathway” Te Araroa and the Pacific Crest Trail. She tells her story through sound on the Blissful Hiker podcast and also hosts and produces Walking Distance. Find out more at BlissfulHiker.com.

CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



December Curriculum

Why are there so many Christmas songs about angels? Because angels show up all throughout the Christmas story with great news! In this four-week series, kids will explore the foundational stories of Jesus' birth with a focus on the angels who were there to witness them! From the city where Jesus was born to the cities we live in today, the angels' message is just as important now as it was then!

Jesus is God's plan, calms our fears, makes everything new, and is God's love for everyone.

**we will not have Sunday School on December 25. See you in worship at 10am!*



Join the Team

Are you feeling called to serve in Children's Ministry? We are looking to add to our team for the 2022-2023 school year! Come and be a blessing all while being blessed in the Kid Min program!

Christmas Eve Recital for Children

"Tis the season to celebrate with all levels of Christmas music!"

If your child plays an instrument and has been working on Christmas Carols with their teacher, we would love to have him/her play for prelude before the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

All beginners or accomplished players are invited to play one carol. You will need to have your child at church by 3:30 pm if you'd like them to play.

Contact Lori Lahtinen or the church office to sign up.

Mark your calendars!



3: Advent Fest 10am

17: Rehearsal 9am
18: Cross Winds
Presents:
A Christmas Special

24: Christmas Eve
services at 2pm,
4pm family &
10pm candlelight
25: Worship 10am

CROSS WINDS CHILDREN



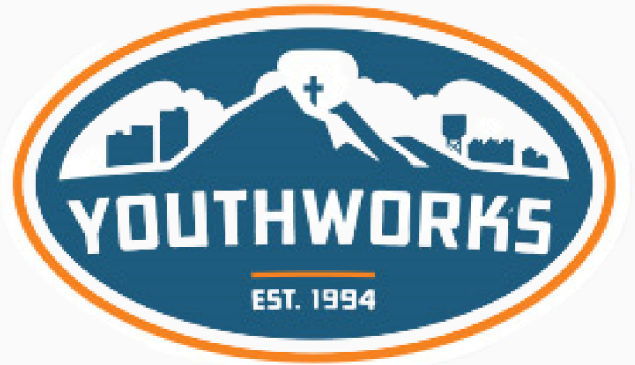
In November
we climbed Mt Everest and saw the Northern Lights, swam in the Great
Barrier Reef and the Grand Canyon sand brought us delight!





2023 High School Mission Trip

Mark your calendars! In June 2023, we will be serving alongside the YouthWorks team in Kansas City. Our teens will serve with local organizations on both sides of the state line that strive to provide basic needs for community members. We will serve residents of all ages through maintaining community gardens, assisting at local community kitchens and food pantries, and working alongside of organizations that care for the basic needs of their neighbors. In the evenings, we will engage with a long term friend of YouthWorks who will share more about the neighborhoods we serve. We will also experience the sites and history of the city through a scavenger hunt and have time to enjoy local attractions and some great BBQ! Youthworks has partnered with this community since 2008.



- Ages: This mission trip is for 9th-12th graders.
- Dates: June 25 - June 30, 2023
- Location: Kansas City, MO

As we prepare for the mission trip, our first step will be a mandatory student/parent information meeting. If your student(s) are interested in participating on the mission trip, at least one family representative is **REQUIRED** to attend a mission trip information session. We will offer two sessions.

In the session, we will go over registration, student commitment/responsibilities, cost, fundraising, transportation, deadlines, and other important items.



The first meeting will take place after worship service on **Sunday December 11**. We will meet in the middle school room downstairs.

The second meeting will take place **Wednesday December 14** at 6:00pm, also in the middle school room.

*If you are unable to attend because of an emergency please contact Josh; josh.greer@crosswindsumc.org



Student Christmas Shopping Event

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00-8:30 pm

On December 14, we will have our annual student Christmas shopping event. On Wednesday night, students and adult chaperones will head out to Target (15300 Grove Cir N, Maple Grove, MN 55369) to purchase urgently needed items for Simpson Housing Services. This event is open for student's 6th-12th grade.



We Are Collecting Cardboard

We are collecting cardboard for a January youth event. If you have any large cardboard boxes, please consider donating them to the youth group

Christmas Tree Stands

We have sold the old tree stands used for the Christmas Tree Lot. Heidi's GrowHaus & Lifestyle Gardens has generously purchased them and the funds will go to support future youth events.

If you are purchasing a live Christmas tree this season, consider Heidi's GrowHaus & Lifestyle Gardens in Corcoran for your purchase as a thank you for supporting our youth!



Spreading Kindness Thank You!

Thank you to all who gave Peanut Butter for our Thanksgiving offering! Our victors were the 6th grade class with 57 jars of Jif. Then came the 8th grade class with 45 jars of 'other' peanut butter and then the 7th grade class with 38 jars of Skippy. We also had monetary donations of \$865.

Thank you for Spreading Kindness to CROSS Services

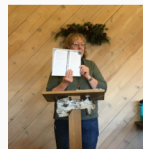


Women's Retreat

Women's Retreat

The October women's retreat at Mt. Olivet was a blessing! We are grateful for all the women who participated and are excited to have restarted the women's retreat ministry.

A extra special thanks to those who helped to prepare and lead this retreat including Dianne Roth, Lori Lahtinen, Nancy Betterman, Ann Anderson, Mary Le Loper, Cindy Hall, Becky Real, JoAn Baker, Mary Ann Eckenberg, Jamie Boettcher, and Linda Corbett.





Bishop Lanette Plambeck Assigned to Dakotas-Minnesota Area

Bishop Lanette Plambeck has been assigned as the resident bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Area effective Jan. 1, 2023. She was elected to the episcopacy at the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. Before her election, she served as the assistant to the bishop and director of clergy and leadership Excellence in the Iowa Annual Conference.

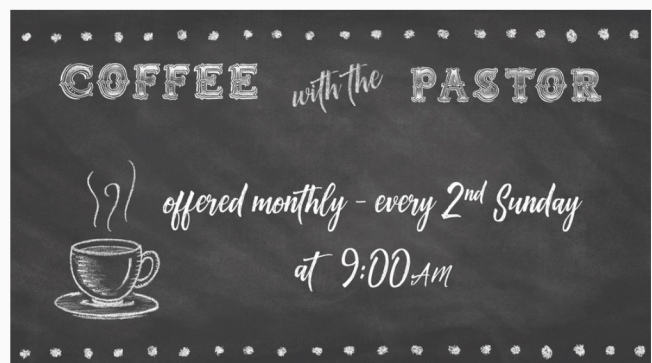
Bishop Plambeck, in her pastoral service, has served as a local church pastor in four different pastoral settings including urban, county seat, town, and country. She has experience as a college chaplain and a licensed counselor in family systems and chemical and substance abuse. She is a veteran of the U.S. Army and was deployed to Desert Storm/Desert Shield.

She says the measure of her leadership is three questions she asks herself at the end of each day: Did I glorify God? Did I point people to Christ? Did I love? She describes herself as “unapologetically Wesleyan and so in love with Jesus and his ministry marked by compassion, grace and justice.” A gift she brings as a leader is “to inspire others to live lives of significance as we work for ‘kingdom on earth as it is in heaven’ through active discipleship as we respond to the suffering in the world. I am committed to developing leaders (clergy and laity) to grow into the very best versions of themselves so that they can be at their very best for God.”

Bishop Plambeck has one adult daughter who lives in the Washington, D.C. area.

[Read press release.](#)

Learn more about Bishop Plambeck - www.minnesotaumc.org



Cross Winds

United Methodist Church

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The Compass

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www.crosswindslife.org

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