



The Compass

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Cross Roads Community
United Methodist Church

January 2012

Firm is the Foundation

My sister Jill and her family are building a new house. It is on the same land that has been in her husband's family for many generations. Excitedly she shows the pictures of the blueprints of the house to be. Who's room will be whose. The porch that wraps around the front. An island in the kitchen (nothing about a palm tree on her island though.) Their new home will be very nice. What the blueprints didn't show was the foundation.

I had talked with her after they had "poured" the foundation. Although it is pretty cool to know that the foundation is the beginning of it all- we often don't think too much about the foundation. No talk about what type of elements make up the foundation. The pictures of the backhoe digging up the ground for the basement are ones that most people will skip over when the album of "our new home in the making" comes out. I've never built a new home, but I haven't a clue about poured foundations, block foundations or that Styrofoam stuff. The foundation would be something I would just entrust the contractor to care for without much input from me.

The very word- foundation-calls for more introspection that I've given it. It means "the bottom or base." The place where the support lies. Foundations are important if you want your house to stand. Although they didn't have basements in Jesus' day- he knew how important a foundation is (Matthew 7:24-27.) Over time I understand that the foundation of the house "settles." As I understand it (and remember I have no engineering bone in my body) the home sinks down and sometimes causes the foundation to crack. If there are cracks, then it is important to monitor those cracks lest the house become unstable.

Regardless if your house has a cracked foundation, a sinking one, or one that you have no idea why it supports what it supports- ask yourself this question. "What is the condition of my spiritual foundation?" Do I know why I believe in what I believe in?

Do I even know what I believe in? Are there some cracks that I have just decided to let alone even though it would be a good idea to know why those cracks came about and is there any mortar I could use to strengthen those cracks? The foundation of your faith has been built over the years by a number of things. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, believed his faith was based on reason, tradition, experience and Scripture and Scripture was the trump card.



I had to read and write a lot of papers in seminary, there is only one that I can remember without looking back at the

old manuscripts. It was a theology paper (theology is just a \$50 word for a study of how you talk about God.) I decided to start my paper with a Letterman's 10 Top Ten beliefs I hold as a Christian. It was helpful to do as it made me write down my beliefs about God and to see how they got prioritized. Some of the stuff that I thought was so important didn't even make the list because there were other tenets that were a lot more valuable.

Typically people make resolutions to do any number of things at the beginning of a new year. I have never checked the foundation of my home to what is going on. I just believe that unless the walls start to crumble why examine the foundation. Unfortunately it is too late to look at foundational problems once the walls are crumbling. If that is true for a place made of sticks and stones, isn't it even more important to check the foundation of our faith before any walls start to sag or ceilings begin to crack?

This month our worship services will focus on the foundations of our Christian faith. What is your number one? What doesn't make your list? As you check your foundation may you sense God's Holy Spirit at work in supporting you as well as allowing you the freedom God gives to strengthen the base.

God's Peace-
Pastor Randy

Bless A Home

You are a Blessing!

The Cross Roads congregation passed along a blessing to 18 different families in 2011. Eight of those families received \$50 gift cards to a local grocery store. The other families received very generous gifts that you selected for each member of that family. They also receive groceries to prepare an ample Christmas meal. Each family is selected through Kandiyohi Human Services Department. We learned that one of the families did not have any way to use a television they had received. The social worker had suggested in addition to the gifts for each of the family members, to also purchase a DVD player so they could watch movies. This note came from that social worker who delivered the gifts and meal:

You should have seen the girls eyes light up when they saw their first dolls. The parents were very teary-eyed when they received the food, sweatshirts and a DVD player. They can now watch movies during family time. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you. Your generosity has brightened the holiday for a family in need. How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it.

Thank you to all who participated in Bless a Home in 2011! You are indeed a blessing!

Food Shelf Mission

Please help the Willmar Area Food Shelf by bringing: Canned Fruit, Mac & Cheese, Canned Ravioli or Spaghetti-O's, Canned Meat (Tuna or Chicken), Jelly or Peanut Butter.
Thank-you!! ~ The Missions Committee



WOW- thank you for your expressions of the Christmas season that we received last month. The gift of money you gave as a congregation is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your kindness. We also received numerous other gifts most of which we have and will continue to eat and enjoy. It is great to receive your cards and notes. Looking forward to a great 2012 alongside of you.

~Randy & Sandy

Are We Cancelled?

If the weather is questionable for any reason, please tune into KWLM 1340 AM or KQIC 102.5 FM, to listen for any cancellations. The information will also be on Operation Snowdesk found at www.kwlm.com We will also try to put the information on the church answering machine.

—**Thank you** so much for the Christmas gift! I am truly blessed to work here, and my family is very blessed to be a part of this amazing church family.

Thank you again... The Pflipsens



Red Bird Mission Trip

I know that there are still some of you thinking about going to Red Bird but you just haven't made up your mind yet. We are going to Red Bird this April 9-18. Well before we leave, all of you will be going along. If you really can't go physically, then you can be involved by contributing and allowing someone else to go who may not be able to afford it, or by praying. You can start praying now as the trip is being planned that God will put it on the hearts of those who need to go and to see His glory in the works at Kentucky. Also pray for safe travel, for fellowship with travelers and local residence, for learning to take place, and for a renewal of our hearts for missions.

For the travelers, we need your registration and \$100 deposit by January 28, to secure your seat and to make deposits on reservations.

Any donations can be placed in the offering or put in the church office and marked for Redbird tip as a donation for fabric, travelers, or deposits.

Thank you for taking time to see God's hands at work. If you have questions about the Redbird trip, contact Sandy Koppen; ransas@juno.com or 295-0660

Our Stewardship Last Month:

| | Attendance: | General Fund Offerings | Building Fund |
|---------------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|
| December 4th | 111 | 3956.13 | 40.00 |
| December 11th | 146 | 2431.00 | 160.00 |
| December 18th | 87 | 4505.49 | 690.00 |
| December 25th | 73 | 2532.50 | 3370.00 |
| Average this month | 104 | \$3356.28 | \$1065.00 |

Average General Fund offering per Sunday needed to meet our 2011 Budget is \$2989.

Our average offering per Sunday to date this year is \$3099.64.

2012 Serving Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Greeters</u> | <u>Ushers</u> | <u>Worship Reader</u> | <u>Coffee/Treats</u> |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Jan. 1 | Pflipsen/Redington | Wiegmann | Solheid | O'Brien/Ostlund |
| Jan. 8 | Wosmek/Sasse | Minnick | Springman | Palmer/Wosmek |
| Jan. 15 | Schlitter/Smith | Doty | D. Visser | Ruhl/Ryks |
| Jan. 22 | Solheid/Springman | Rohloff | D. Wright | R. Wright/Zachariason |
| Jan. 29 | Visser/D. Wright | Wolff | Wiegmann | Schenk/Baker |
| Feb. 5 | Row/Albers | Bonnema | Hagen | Bjonfald/J. Duke |
| Feb. 12 | Blokzyl/Gerdes | Broman | A. Johnson | Cumming/Dean |
| Feb. 19 | Decker/Denz | B. Erickson | Kaiser | D. Ericson/Evermann |
| Feb. 26 | Evenson/Peterson | Feeken | Kelvington | Fixsen/Forkrud |
| Mar. 4 | Fortney/Hagen | M. Hanson | Knisely | Hoogeveen/R. Johnson |
| Mar. 11 | Jean/A. Johnson | Kaiser | M. Kluver | Kelvington/C. Kluver |
| Mar. 18 | M. Kluver/Knisely | B. Koppen | C. Kluver | Laughlin/Leither |
| Mar. 25 | Lewis/Lockwood | Maurice | Laughlin | Muetzel/Doty |
| Apr. 1 | Negan/Nibaur | Ostlund | Leithers | Pflipsen/Redington |
| Apr. 8 | Rohloff/Ryks | Sasse | Lockwood | (Easter-No Treats) |
| Apr. 15 | Ruhl/Schenk | Schlitter | Nibaur | Solheid/Springman |
| Apr. 22 | Triplett/Maurice | O'Connor | O'Brien | Visser/D. Wright |
| Apr. 29 | Decker/Denz | Gerdes | Ostlund | Kaiser/M. Hanson |
| May. 6 | Zachariason/Baker | Ardoff | Ryks | Barker/Zaske |
| May. 13 | Duke/Bjonfald | Bonnema | Sasse | Boonstra/Broman |
| May. 20 | Cumming/Dean | Albers | Solheid | Decker/Denz |
| May. 27 | B. Erickson/D. Ericson | Evenson | Springman | Feeken/Fortney |
| June. 3 | Evermann/Fixsen | Forkrud | D. Visser | Blokzyl/Gerdes |
| June. 10 | M. Hanson/Hoogeveen | A. Johnson | Wiegmann | Harried/Hagen |
| June. 17 | Kaiser/O/Connor | Kelvington | D. Wright | Jean/M. Kluver |
| June. 24 | C. Kluver/B. Koppen | Knisely | Zaske | R. Koppen/Lewis |
| July. 1 | Laughlin/Leither | Lockwood | Baker | Maurice/Minnick |
| July. 8 | Doty/Muetzel | Negan | Bonnema | Nibaur/O'Brien |
| July. 15 | Ostlund/Palmer | Redington | Dean | Rohloff/Sasse |
| July. 22 | Wolff/Bonnema | D. Wright | J. Duke | S. Peterson/Evenson |
| July. 29 | Barker/Zaske | Zachariason | Evenson | Ardoff/Albers |
| Aug. 5 | Boonstra/Broman | Baker | Evermann | B. Erickson/M. Hanson |
| Aug. 12 | Feeken/Forkrud | Dean | Forkruds | A. Johnson/Kaiser |
| Aug. 19 | Kelvington/Minnick | Hoogeveen | Feeken | Knisely/R. Koppen |
| Aug. 26 | Wiegmann/Visser | C. Kluver | Fortney | B. Koppen/Lockwood |
| Sept. 2 | Blokzyl/Gerdes | Barker/Zaske | Gerdes | Decker/Denz |
| Sept. 9 | Cummings/D. Ericson | J. Duke | Hagen | Bonnema/Evermann |
| Sept. 16 | Fixsen/Fortney | Row | A. Johnson | Jean/Schenk |
| Sept. 23 | R. Johnson/Laughlin | M. Kluver | Kaiser | Leither/Maurice |
| Sept. 30 | O'Brien/Ostlund | Muetzel | Kelvington | Negan/Nibaur |
| Oct. 7 | Evenson/S. Peterson | Pflipsen | Knisely | Schlitter/Palmer |
| Oct. 14 | Redington/Rohloff | Ryks | C. Kluver | Ruhl/Smith |
| Oct. 21 | Sasse/Springman | Solheid | M. Kluver | Wosmek/R. Wright |
| Oct. 28 | Albers/Ardoff | Wolff | Laughlin | Zachariason/Baker |
| Nov. 4 | B. Erickson/M. Hanson | Boonstra | Leithers | D. Ericson/Feeken |
| Nov. 11 | Hagen/Jean | Fixsen | Lockwood | Forkrud/Hoogeveen |
| Nov. 18 | A. Johnson/Kaiser | Evermann | Nibaur | Kelvington/C. Kluver |
| Nov. 25 | M. Kluver/Knisely | Lewis | O'Brien | Lockwood/Ostlund |
| Dec. 2 | Pflipsen/Ruhl | Palmer | Ostlund | Ryks/Springman |
| Dec. 9 | Smith/Solheid | Wiegmann | Ryks | Visser/D. Wright |
| Dec. 16 | Schlitter/Negan | R. Wright | Sasse | Barker/Zaske |
| Dec. 23 | Doty/Muetzel | Nibaur | Solheid | Cumming/J. Duke |
| Dec. 30 | Bonnema/Decker | Denz | Springman | Broman/Boonstra |

IMAGINE YOURSELF DEBT FREE

Dave Ramsey's

Financial *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

Financial Peace University is a 13-week, video-based small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth, and give like never before.



CLASS STARTS SOON!

Interested?

Check out the free preview on Monday, January 2nd at 6:30p.m. You can then decide on if this program is one that will help you be debt free.

Classes will be Monday nights from 6:30-8pm beginning January 8th.

Call For More Information

Talk with Pastor Randy.

pastor@crossroadsspicer.com

320-796-2339

or hunt him down at the office during the week.

daveramsey.com

Weekly Hospitality Ministries

| | January 1st | January 8th | January 15th | January 22nd | January 29th |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Greeters | Pflipsen/Redington | Wosmek/Sasse | Schlitter/Smith | Solheid/Springman | Visser/D.Wright |
| Ushers | Wiegmann | Minnick | Doty | Rohloff | Wolff |
| Readers | Solheid | Springman | D.Visser | Wiegman | D.Wright |
| Coffee/Treats | O'Brien/Ostlund | Palmer/Wosmek | Ruhl/Ryks | R.Wright/Zachariason | Shenk/Bakers |

*If you are not available to serve when you are scheduled,
please ask another person to fill in for you.
Thank you for your willingness to serve!*

| | February 5th | February 12th | February 19th | February 26th |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Greeters | Row/Albers | Blokzyl/Gerdes | Decker/Denz | Evenson/S.Peterson |
| Ushers | Bonnema | Broman | B.Erickson | Feeken |
| Readers | Hagen | A.Johnson | Kaiser | Kelvington |
| Coffee/Treats | Bjonfald/J.Duke | Cumming/Dean | D.Ericson/Evermann | Fixsen/Forkrud |

January Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Cindy Nibaur 2nd | Steve Row 18th |
| Angie Wiegmann 3rd | Bud Ruhl 21st |
| Sheryl Nelson 4th | Jodi Evenson 22nd |
| John Laughlin 6th | Judy Zachariason 22nd |
| Josh Redington 6th | Jordan Baker 26th |
| Jeanette Fixsen 9th | Matt O'Brien 27th |
| Scott Doty 13th | Kendra Pflipsen 27th |
| Pat Solheid 14th | Adam Nibaur 28th |
| Eric Bjonfold 15th | Troy Rohloff 30th |
| Brian Nelson 15th | |



Have a Happy Day!

Remember to check the kiosk for community wide events!

NEWS from THE LINK



January 2012

“Creating a community where neighbors share the love of God through service to each other.”

From the Director....



Thank you to everyone who participated in The Link's Christmas Concert, *Child of Joy, Child of Peace*. It was a wonderful evening of music and fellowship and we raised over \$2400 in our offering to help our neighbors in need.

This past month we have helped families with basic needs such help with the electric bill in order to keep the heat one, we have helped with emergency car repairs and we have helped a few families be able to buy some Christmas presents.

One client came in to ask for gifts for her sons. When I asked her what she wanted, she paused, choked up a bit and said, "No one has asked me what I wanted for Christmas in 20 years!" When I pressed her she said, "Well maybe some new shoes for work because I'm on my feet all day." Your generosity gives hope and support to people in our community in many different ways! Thank you so much for remembering The Link this season and for all that you share!

Naomi Mahler
Director, The Link

Don't Forget...TUESDAY'S TABLE

Free Community Meal Every Tuesday night at 6pm!

Tuesday's Table is a great way to enjoy some fellowship and conversation. Invite a friend! Volunteer to help!

1st Tues @ Our Lady of the Lakes, Spicer

2nd Tues @ Evangelical Covenant, NL

3rd Tues @ Faith Lutheran, Spicer

4th Tues @ Peace Lutheran, New London

5th Tues @ Hope Presbyterian, Spicer



Check out our new website: www.thelinknls.org

Like The Link on Facebook!

Let's Make 2012 The Year Minnesota Resolves To End Homelessness.

Homeless advocates are embarking on a year-long campaign to engage Minnesotans of every walk of life, from every county, every city, in pledging to do their part to end homelessness. We know we cannot end homelessness in one year, but we can significantly move public will.

Will you make a resolution to do your part in 2012?

Here's how it works: Record a short video that includes the words "I resolve..." with your personalized message. Email your video clip to videos@mnhomelesscoalition.org and we will share it through social media and other sources.

Instructions & Tips

Please keep video to one minute or less.

Title your video - consider using your city/region or resolution theme

Please consider resolving to do actions that truly get at ending homelessness. Think about where you have influence. What can you do with that influence to help end homelessness?

Email your video to videos@mnhomelesscoalition.org

Examples of actions you might consider taking:

I resolve to have my business contribute volunteers and financial resources to build and sustain housing.

I resolve to give my employees the option to participate in employee giving

I resolve to participate in Homeless Day on the Hill on March 8, 2012

I resolve to dedicate a percentage of my rental units to housing people who are transitioning out of homelessness

I resolve to raise \$1,000 to help homeless advocacy and/or The Link

I resolve to greet warmly every homeless person I meet

I resolve to meet with my legislators to share facts about homelessness

I resolve to visit my local homeless program to educate myself about homelessness

I resolve to sponsor one family transitioning out of homelessness by helping to stock their apartment with kitchen and bathroom necessities

I resolve to volunteer on one Habitat for Humanity house

I resolve to include people experiencing homelessness in my daily prayers

I resolve to have my students do a book/research report on homelessness.

I resolve to provide a free ride to a homeless person who needs a ride to shelter.

I resolve to donate food from my farm to somebody transitioning out of homelessness to stock their fridge/freezer.

I resolve to offer a free haircut to a homeless person at my salon.

I resolve to listen to the facts without preconception.

I resolve to learn how I can make a difference.

Thank you for your commitment to ending homelessness!

**Cross Roads Community
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