

# The Compass

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Cross Roads Community  
United Methodist Church

May 2010

## Letter to the Confirmation Class of 2010

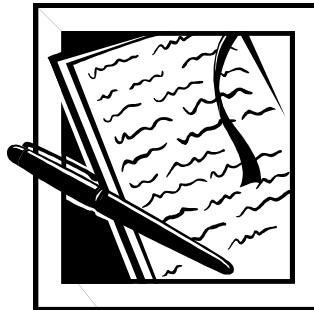
Dear Confirmation Class of 2010-

Do you remember when we sat down to our very first Confirmation class? We tried a game to remember everyone's name. We kept circling the table saying "hi" to each person over and over again. We watched a couple of video clips- one from Forrest Gump who was just running and running with a bunch of people who followed Forrest without having any idea why they were following him. They were just a bunch of folks who knew each other's names, but did not have any understanding about why they were doing what they were doing.

My hunch is that not all of you had a strong understanding why we were gathering at Confirmation other than someone thought it would be a "good idea" for you to attend. Yet as we continued to gather we began to gain a deeper appreciation of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in the midst of the people who are in our every-day-walking-around-lives. We found out that our every-day lives included things like cell phone calls and texts and questions like "who cleans this table?" Our everyday lives also included conversations like "is everyone going to heaven?" and "do we all sin?"

You have been by far the most inquisitive confirmation class I have taught. That has been your gift to me, because when a person asks questions it is a sign that you are engaged in learning. Granted some of the questions were not "on topic" but even those questions brought us into a deeper understanding of grace and faith. The apostles had all kinds of questions for their teacher as well. However, their "rabbi" always had answers and was much more patient.

Those disciples were not asked to interview people as to why they did or did not attend church, or go to a Church Conference meeting where people made motions by saying "all in favor say aye" or talked about who was going to serve on what committee. There were no committee meetings or Administrative Council to take notes at. Nor was there any conversation about how many Wisemen were at the stable. (None.) Nor at the end of each class would they stand in a circle with one person in the middle and bless them, but we did.



Some see Confirmation as a type of graduation. While it is a rite of passage, I would not want to be held responsible for offering a condensed all encompassing course that provides you with everything you will need to know about the Christian faith. I hope you did learn your faith is something that will continue to be matured depending on how you desire to nurture and grow in it. So continue to bring your questions- seek out answers in the Bible and through prayer. Be active within a congregation because it is in the midst of God's people we grow stronger in faith.

But if you learned nothing else, I hope you understand that grace is a gift Christ offers to us without price to us. It is what makes Christianity unique among other faith practices. We can have forgiveness of sin and everlasting life by just asking God for it. It is always available. God's love surrounds you always- be open to God's embracing arms. He knows your name. "Do not be afraid, I've redeemed you. I've called your name. You are mine." Isaiah 43:1  
God's Peace-Pastor Randy

## Special Music

Now that summer is almost here, we are giving the choir a rest and looking forward to hearing special music. If you would like to sing or play an instrument, or know of someone who you would like to ask to share their God given gifts, please talk to Sandy at [ransas@juno.com](mailto:ransas@juno.com), 320-295-0660, or call or text at 507-351-8657. There will also be a sign up sheet with dates in the narthex. We have only 15 Sundays to fill so be sure call earlier so we can include you and/or your friends.

## New Member Sunday

We will be welcoming new members on Sunday, May 16th. If you are interested in becoming a member of Cross Roads, please contact Pastor Randy by May 9th.

## Honoring Our Graduates



We will be honoring our graduates on Sunday, May 23rd during worship. Our high school graduates include Dustin Ericson, Jessica Fortney, Ben Schlitter, Alex Wiegmann, Nikole Witt, & Emmett Young. Our college graduates include Jonathon Knisely from University of Minnesota, Barry Koppen from Gustavus Adolphus, and Matt Leither from Northwestern. If you have a graduate in your family, please let us know, as we'd love to honor all our graduates!

## Quilters



The quilt committee will be meeting on Thursday, May 20th at 9:15 a.m. We have at least 2 quilts that need to be finished. Bring a lunch. Anyone is welcome to join us.

## Heifer Project Updates...

We raised \$500 dollars for the Heifer Project!! This will allow for the purchase of a heifer!! Heifer donates animals of all types to families throughout 57 countries, including the United States. These animals offer a long-term, sustainable solution to poverty. With Heifer International, each recipient family becomes a donor by passing on the gift of their animals first offspring and training to another family in their community., providing sustainable food, income and opportunity to more and more families.

Thank you to all who contributed!

## Open House Graduation Reception Honoring Dustin Ericson

When: Sat., May 29, 2010

Time: 1:00 - 4:00

Where: 12700 Co Rd 4 NE  
Spicer, MN 56288

Everyone is Invited !!!

-Don & Jean Ericson

## LOVE Offering

Your gifts to the Minnesota United Methodist Love Offering this year will support International Projects, National Projects and Minnesota Projects.

—International Projects: Worshipping community in Saint Petersburg, Russia: equipment to enhance worship, and equipments for other areas of the church.

—National Projects: Native American Ministry: Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and Native American Comprehensive Plan

—Minnesota Projects: New Church Starts; New Day UMC in Big Lake, Spirit River Community UMC in Isanti, and Good Samaritan UMC in St. Peter.

The Love Offering will be received on May 23rd. Please mark your gift "Love Offering". The gifts will be taken to Annual Conference on June 2nd.

## Our Stewardship Last Month:

	Attendance:	General Fund Offerings	Building Fund
April 4th	192	\$5709.25	\$ 612.50
April 11th	82	\$2945.50	\$2225.00
April 18th	95	\$3100.16	\$ 125.00
April 25th	82	\$1804.25	\$ 65.00
<b>Average this month</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>\$3389.79</b>	<b>\$756.88</b>

Average General Fund offering per Sunday needed to meet our 2010 Budget is \$2931.

Our average offering per Sunday to date this year is \$3080.07.

# Hey kids!

Join us for VBS this year!!!

**JUNE 6 - 10 | 6PM - 8:15PM**



- 5 NIGHTS, 6PM - 8:15 PM
- JUST \$10/CHILD OR \$20/FAMILY
- PERFECT FOR PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE
- DINNER SERVED EACH NIGHT
- ART, GAMES, STORIES, SCIENCE & MUSIC EACH NIGHT

*Join us for Vacation Bible School! Invite your neighbors and friends!*

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Child Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Child Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

YES NO (circle) My child's photo may be put on the church web site | Registration fee may be paid on the first night!

*To reserve your spot, mail form to:*

*Cross Roads Community Church, VBS Registration*

*3400 113th Ave NE | Spicer, MN 56288*

*(We're located behind TheinWell, on the corner of HWY. 71 & CR 10)*

*Contact Betsy at [betsyb@redstarcreative.com](mailto:betsyb@redstarcreative.com)*



## Walk For Hospice

Dave Hammerschmidt and the Country Stop in Spicer will be sponsoring a "Walk For Hospice" on Saturday, May 15th. Walk "round trip" on the DNR trail! Begin at Hope Presbyterian Church by Old Mill Inn and walk to Faith Lutheran Church in Spicer, then back to Hope. OR...begin at Faith Lutheran Church in Spicer and walk to Hope Presbyterian Church then back to Faith.

Registration from 9:00 to 10:00 am at each church.

All pledges and donations are free will, 100% of proceeds will be donated locally to Rice Hospice.

Please come and join us for a leisurely 4 1/2 mile walk on the DNR trail!

Water will be furnished by Kandiyohi Premium Water.

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### Decision Hills SPRING INTO SUMMER bake sale items needed

Decision Hills Camp is hosting it's first SPRING INTO SUMMER event on Saturday, May 15th, which will include a great bake sale. The bake sale coordinator is asking for home made baked items that are wrapped in non-returnable containers identifying your home church.

Favorite items could include home-made bread, pies, cookies, bars and your own favorite specialties.

Deliveries of baked goods are asked to be to the camp on Friday May 14th, OR you can contact Linda Kelvington prior to May 14th o make arrangements o have her pick up your goods at our church. Her contact information is 796-0755 or Kelvington@tds.net. If you have any questions, please call Linda.

Thank you for helping in this event.



# Spring into Summer Event

**Saturday May 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**At Decision Hills Bible Camp Located on the East Side of George Lake**

Fundraising Event to support Decision Hills Bible Camp on George Lake.

Feature Project is adding a deck on the Homewood Cabin and the Decision Hills general fund.

#### **Items Being Sold:**

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| -Premium Grade hanging baskets  | -Gently used sporting equipment, outdoor items |
| -Premium Grade Potted plants    | and recreational items                         |
| -Premium Grade flats of flowers | -Baked Goods                                   |
| -Large variety of perennials    |  |

#### **Special Guest:**

*Master Gardener - Judy Toth*

Discussing Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels and Shoreline Restoration  
as well as answering questions.

**Breakfast and Lunch will be available on site.**

This event is growing by leaps and bounds so it is constantly changing. To see all the activities and a smattering of what is for sale check the Decision Hills website as it will be updated as more items and activities get added. [www.decisionhills.org](http://www.decisionhills.org)



## The Link Update May 2010

### **Mission:**

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

### **Connections:**

*"We are not put on earth for ourselves, but are placed here for each other. If you are there always for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you."*

Our goal is to bring people together and to build relationships among neighbors. We want to build natural supports for people that do not depend on the resources of government agencies, but on the good will and the resources of community members. Complete an interest survey for The Link- so that we can help you find ways to be there for others.

### **EMAIL Network:**

We are looking for people who would like to be on an email network in order to respond to various requests and needs that we become aware of in the community. Here are just a few examples: exchange of furniture or appliances, school or sports equipment requests, volunteer teams for household or moving needs, etc. We will also include you for other important updates about upcoming projects and events! If you would like to be on this list, please email Michelle Peterson at [flc\\_michelle@tds.net](mailto:flc_michelle@tds.net)

### **Supporting Students**

This school year is coming to a close and before we know it, students will be gearing up for another year in the fall. We would like to assist families in those preparations, and here is how you can help: Contribute gift cards for clothes shopping and sports equipment, backpacks, new or used scientific/ graphing calculators, and new jump drives and three ring binders and tab dividers.

### **Household Exchange**

We are currently accepting the following items at our household exchange in the New London office:

Sets of dishes and silverware, toasters, coffemakers, lamps, side tables, new bed linens, pillows and towels, brooms, buckets and mops.

We also are looking for beds- twin and double size.

### **Community Visits**

We would be pleased to come and visit your group to talk about the work of The Link and ways you can get involved! Call us to schedule a time to speak with your bible study, adult education group, book club, civic organization, etc.

**Contact Information: Michelle Peterson 320-796-2522 [flc\\_michelle@tds.net](mailto:flc_michelle@tds.net)**

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## May is Mental Health Month

Are you feeling stressed out? Maybe it's the bills that keep piling up. Maybe it's the raising young children, caring for aging parents, or endless deadlines at work. Whatever your situation life can be incredibly stressful. And too much stress can really damage your health, your mood, your focus, and our relationships with people around you.

There are proven, practical tools that can help you cope better, giving you more joy and more hope:

- connect with others
- stay positive
- get physically active
- help others
- get enough rest
- create joy and satisfaction
- eat well
- take care of your spirit
- deal better with hard times
- get professional help if you need it

Woodlands Centers is a local service provider for mental health services in a six-county area that includes Kandiyohi County. If you would like more information about Woodlands Center's services, contact them at 320-235-4613.

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## Weekly Hospitality Ministries

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
<b>Greeters</b>	Boontra/Young	D.Ericson/Evenson	Evermann/Fixsen	Ostlund/Albers	Fortney/Osborn
<b>Ushers</b>	Hagen	Bergstrom	Decker	Wosmek/Blokzyl	Bonnema
<b>Readers</b>	Hagen	A.Johnson	Kaiser	Kelvington	Knisely
<b>Coffee</b>	Evenson/S.Peterson	Albers/Maurice	Duke/Brink/Laughlin	Dean/Lobbins	Broman/Springman
<b>Nursery</b>					

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

	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 28
<b>Greeters</b>	M. Kluver/C. Kluver	Palmer/Magnuson	Feeken/Engelson	Minnick/Rohloff
<b>Ushers</b>	Deans	Fortney	Boonstra	G.Young
<b>Readers</b>	C.Kluver	M.Kluver	Koppens	Laughlin
<b>Coffee</b>	Kelvington/Sasse	D.Ericson/Carlsens	Fixsen/M.Duke	Muetzel/Doty
<b>Nursery</b>				

### May Birthdays

Diane Fortney 1st  
 Marc Knisely 5th  
 Russ Wright 6th  
 Stephania Vilven 9th  
 Sharon Hagen 10th  
 Riley Pflipsen 10th  
 Michael Nibaur 15th  
 Dave Muetzel 16th  
 Melissa Kluver 17th  
 Kayla Lobbins 18th

Pat Kaiser 21st  
 Steph Schlitter 21st  
 Alex Wolff 21st  
 Dustin Ericson 22nd  
 Jean Ericson 25th  
 Brandon Wolff 25th  
 Alex Springman 26th  
 Alex Wright 27th  
 Amy Denz 30th  
 Greg Kaiser 30th



### May Anniversaries

Don & Jean Ericson 5th  
 Scott & Lori Doty 14th  
 Gary & Diane Fortney 17th  
 Mike & Chandra Duke 20th  
 Randy & Sandy Koppen 24th  
 Mitch & Carrie Duke 26th  
 John & Char Laughlin 29th

*Have a Happy Day!*

**\*\*\*Remember to check the kiosk for community wide events!\*\*\***

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United Methodist Church**

3400 113th Ave NE  
Spicer, MN 56288

320-796-2339  
[www.crossroadsspicer.com](http://www.crossroadsspicer.com)

**May 2010**