



# Crosslake Presbyterian Church *Messenger*

August 2020

14444 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, Minnesota | Tel: (218) 692-4769 | [www.crosslakepres.org](http://www.crosslakepres.org)

## Message from

# Pastor Tony

I became a *Mumford & Sons* fan about a decade ago, so when I saw their newest album *Delta* (released in 2018), it immediately made it into my playlist. The album is quite a departure from their normal sound, and quite a few critics, and fans, have raked them over the coals for the, seemingly, abrupt change of sound. While different, the songs have a rawness to them that can't be ignored. The band is singing from their pain, their struggles, their hardships, from their life; the album is a musical journey. Listeners are drawn into this journey from the very first song, 42. It starts out with beautifully mixed acapella harmony, "*Where do I turn to when there's no choice to make?*" While the song speaks of a relationship broken by drugs, that opening line has been running through my head these last few weeks as I've been thinking and praying about life, present circumstances of the world, and our church.

*Where do I turn to when there's no choice to make?* Obviously, when I feel stuck, pressured, lost, confused, or uncertain I turn to God. I also, turn to others. I turn to my family, my friends, colleagues, mentors, and the community of faith. I turn to you because we're in this together. Not just as humans sharing the same space and time, but as Christians and as people committed to the same intentional community of faith (Crosslake Presbyterian Church).

This question is a question (*Where do I turn to when there's no choice to make?*) we all need to contemplate over the next few weeks, but with a slight variation: Where do *WE*, turn when there's no choice? Many, if not almost everyone, feels like COVID-19 has left us with *no choice* in life.

As if we have little say in what the future holds or how to do even basic things like shopping for groceries.

And yet, the question remains, "Where do we, as a community of faith, turn when there's no choice?" Where do we find our path, where do we find our way forward, where do we get our strength, how do we continue to be a community of faith in times when things feel both uncertain and completely out of control? How do we move forward when we feel there's no choice for us to make?

First, we turn to God, admitting how we feel. Openly. Honestly. We lift both our deepest questions and our most surface-level questions to God; we let God have all the questions of our hearts.

Second, we can turn to one another. We come together as a community of believers and seek prayer, guidance, and support from others. It doesn't matter if they have experience in what we're struggling with or if they are in the same struggle. All that matters is that they (we) listen and are willing to struggle alongside us.

In that spirit, as CPC contemplates worship this fall in light of COVID-19, I would like to ask you to be in prayer for our worshipping community. It may seem like we have *no choice* (or little choice) about worshipping in the midst of COVID-19, but we do. We get to determine what worship looks like. We get to determine how we are a community, how we remain a community, and what it means for us. Additionally, I'd like to ask you to be in conversation with us, the leadership, about where you feel God calling us as a community; not what you think we "*need*" to do, but where you feel God is calling us as a church. Over the next few weeks, we'll have different ways for you to share your thoughts, including a few brainstorming meetings, so stay tuned for more info on how to share your thoughts.

In the meantime, keep turning to God and to one another! Have a blessed day!

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



5	Rusty Taubert
9	Ronda Hopkins
13	Jack Sargent
14	Sarah Duffield
15	George Young
16	Rev. Tony Oltmann
21	Dave Fischer
24	Bea Broz
27	Barb Kohl
31	Marilyn Whitehead

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### VISITATIONS

Pastor Tony will be making visitations again. Please contact the church office via email or phone message if you would like to schedule an appointment. Visits can be outside on the patio, porch, or deck and Pastor can visit for 60-90 minutes. Pastor Tony doesn't drink coffee, but water or lemonade would be perfect.

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### SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



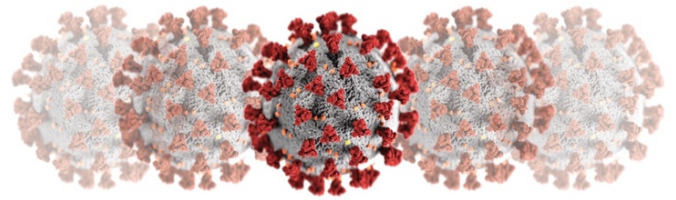
Session is calling for a *Special Congregational Meeting* to be held after the Worship Service on Sunday, August 23 (at approximately 11:30 am) in the parking lot to discuss, and then vote on, whether to renew Pastor Tony's contract. The contract expires at the end of 2020. A discussion will be followed by a paper ballot.

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### NO MONSTER SALE

Session has decided that there will be NO Monster Sale this summer but will shoot for summer 2021.

## CPC's COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN



As required by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), CPC has developed a **COVID-19 Preparedness Plan** to address issues related to reopening the church building. The CPC plan can be found on our website: [www.CrosslakePres.org](http://www.CrosslakePres.org).

If your group or committee has plans to meet and would like to meet in the church building please contact the office to schedule the date and time, and receive a copy of the Preparedness Plan and full instructions on how to follow the new procedure. If you are in the building for any reason, please ensure you sign in and out so we know which area to clean to keep our building safe and healthy for all to use. Per the new Minnesota Emergency Executive Order 20-81, *it is now necessary to wear a mask during the time you are inside the church building*. The church is currently closed to outside groups.

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### MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

The men will not be meeting at Pine Peaks again this month, luncheons are temporarily stopped.

The women of the church will also not be meeting this month.

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### THANK YOU'S



Over the last several months, we have received many thank you notes for our mission giving from the following organization:

*Bridges of Hope  
Crosslake Food Shelf  
Emily Food Shelf  
Pine River Area Food Shelf  
Lakes Area Food Shelf  
Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen*



## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The staining of the church is being held up because of the wet weather we have had. The building has been power washed and hopefully we will get some dry days so they can continue with the painting. The church has had air purifiers installed in the duct work of the furnace for fresh air in the church.

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## CAMP KNUTSON

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Auction Fundraising event is led and supported by volunteers to benefit campers with disabilities and medical needs. This year's auction will be held on Saturday, August 8 2020 online. Live auction streaming starts at noon, and online bidding opens Friday, July 31 at noon. On the grounds of Camp Knutson, COVID safe in person quilt previews will be available starting July 31 till August 7 by appointment only, please contact [Cindy](#) at (612) 723-0342, to set up your preview time. Please register or make a gift at [campknutson.org/quilts](http://campknutson.org/quilts) or call (218) 543-4232. Guests who register will receive an email with instructions for joining the online auction and other event information.

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## NOTE FROM STACY ERDAL

We recently received a note from our former Choir Director, Stacy Podoll-Erdal, on July 1st:

*Dear Members,  
I don't recall if I ever sent a thank you for my prayer shawl! Ginny did such a wonderful job as always, I think of you and your congregation often. I miss our little choir. I had intended to visit on a Sunday this summer but then Covid changed all our lives. My daughters, Lily and Claire, and our dog, Artemis are at Lily's home in Idaho for 2 ½ weeks. Then we will move her to Aberdeen SD. She will base out of Aberdeen for the next 2 years. My musical service to churches has certainly been affected by Covid. Bethlehem: handbells have been on hold. Trinity: I have played on our home for Wed recordings of worship every other week and I have played for their outdoor drive-up service about once a month.*

*Blessings and Peace to you All!  
Stacy Podoll-Erdal*

## CPC'S LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



***We Need More Books!***

Do you have books on your shelves (or hiding in storage boxes) that you enjoyed reading but are unlikely to read again? We have an opportunity for you to share those books with others.



The Little Library that Session voted to install next to the walking/biking path in front of our church building is up and running. Several people have donated books, and the library is being used by many. Fiction seems to go over best, and books for both adults and children seem to disappear as fast as we can get them out there. If you have books you would like to donate, please contact Ginny Anderson at [\[ginnya47@gmail.com\]](mailto:ginnya47@gmail.com) or 218-692-1950.