



AUGUST 2025

WELCOME TO

The Compassionate Way

we're so glad you're here!

When Compassion Calls You to Stop

As I was driving through Brainerd, I noticed a young couple sitting on the ground. The woman looked deeply distressed, and the man seemed to be doing his best to comfort her. In that moment, I sensed God nudging me to stop and see if they needed help. Part of me hesitated I didn't want to intrude on what might be a private moment. Yet, my heart longed to let them know they were seen and cared for. I approached gently, letting them know I simply wanted to check if they were okay and see if they needed any assistance. To my relief, they welcomed me. They expressed genuine gratitude that I had stopped, greeting me kindly as we shook hands.

As we began to talk, their story quickly unfolded. These two young adults were experiencing homelessness. The woman shared that she had been battling dark, oppressive thoughts throughout the day. She was visibly moved when she noticed the cross around my neck—a cross I don't wear every day. In fact, that very morning it had fallen to the floor by my bed, and I had felt prompted to put it on.

We spoke about their journey, and I was able to share some community resources that might help them find stable housing. They told me a friend was on his way to pick them up. For now, they are couch-surfing, staying with friends as long as they can without jeopardizing their hosts' situations.

As I left, my heart ached. I wanted to do more, much more.

"We envision a community where every person, regardless of circumstance, experiences God's compassion, knows their inherent worth, and becomes a bearer of compassion in the world."



Baskets Needed!

The Compassionate Way touches lives through thoughtfully designed baskets, each tailored to bring comfort and encouragement to those in need. These baskets serve as a small but significant gesture of love and support. We have an urgent need for more baskets to be used in our blessing ministry; these baskets are approximately 9x7 inches. Recently, we have been distributing three to four per week.

Blessing Baskets are designed for women entering substance abuse treatment facilities or recovery homes. These small baskets include a reusable drinking cup, prayer cards, drink packets or hot chocolate, a journal, Werther's candy, and a mini pack of tissues. Each woman also chooses a book. These gifts remind recipients that they are not alone in their path toward healing and renewal. The ministry has given out over 230 blessing baskets!

These baskets are more than just collections of items; they represent hope, care, and community. Through these offerings, The Compassionate Way ensures that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, feels seen, supported, and valued.

If you have baskets, please contact Candace Adams at 320-905-5453 or they can be dropped off at Lakes Area Presbyterian Church on Sunday mornings. Thank you for considering this request!

To experience God's compassion is to be truly seen, deeply loved, and tangibly cared for in a way that reveals God's heart and restores dignity and hope.

COMPASSION BEAT



In I Corinthians 1:3–4 we read, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (NIV).

Compassion is more than meeting practical needs—it is helping people sense God’s presence with them in the midst of their struggles.

Many of the people I meet have experienced deep loss—not just of circumstances, but of relationships. Family and friends have walked out of their lives, leaving wounds that are far more common than we’d like to admit. Relationships can be fragile, and sometimes they simply don’t last.

For someone who has been abandoned by those closest to them, it can be hard to believe that God is truly for them. Even when they’ve heard the promise that God will never leave nor forsaken them, fear can whisper that God, too, might eventually walk away.

To embody God’s compassion is to walk alongside those who are marginalized—those who feel unseen, unworthy, or forgotten. It’s to reflect God’s presence through a kind word, a gentle smile, a prayer, and/or countless other small acts of love.

We need your support. Please consider joining The Compassionate Way movement. Your gifts enable us to spread the Good News! You may give online by clicking <https://lpchurchbaxter.org/give-on-line-here/> or by scanning the QR code with your phone



or mail a check to The Compassionate Way at 7761 Excelsior Rd., Baxter, MN 56425. Checks should be made out to Lakes Area Presbyterian Church – our fiscal agent.

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