



WELCOME TO THE
**COMPASSION
BEAT**
we're so glad you're here!



Care for the Poor

COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

In the book of Acts, we meet a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman commander in the Italian Regiment—but more importantly, he was a man devoted to God. Scripture tells us that he prayed regularly and gave generously to those in need. His faith was not just something he believed; it was something he lived. It showed up in the way he cared for others.

In that same spirit, there are people and organizations today who are living out their faith through acts of compassion and generosity. Our friends at My Neighbor to Love Coalition are one example. They come alongside individuals in our community, offering support and affordable housing for those who have experienced homelessness.

Through Creekside Community, they are creating more than just a place to live—they are helping to restore dignity and stability.

The Compassionate Way has the privilege of partnering in this work in a small but meaningful way. When new residents move into Creekside Community, we provide a compassion basket filled with basic necessities. It may seem like a simple gesture, but it communicates something deeper: You are seen. You are welcomed. You are not alone.

Like any apartment community, there is a steady rhythm of people moving in and out. And each time a new resident arrives, we have another opportunity to respond with care. These small, tangible acts become expressions of faithfulness—ways we live out God's call to care for those in need.

Community Is...

Do connections and compassion automatically produce community? No. Simply forming connections with others does not mean community has been created. A person can have many interactions throughout a day and still feel deeply alone.

Think about how often we engage with others in passing—a brief conversation with a store clerk, a polite exchange in a waiting room, a quick greeting at church. These are moments of connection, but they rarely move beyond the surface. Interaction alone does not eliminate loneliness. What we long for is something deeper—relationships where we are truly known and where we truly know others.

We use the word community in many ways. It can refer to a place we live, a team we belong to, or a church we attend. Sometimes these are genuine communities—places where people share life together. But often, they are not. Neighbors may live side by side and never move beyond a wave or a brief hello. They share geography, but not their lives.

At times of crisis, something shifts. When a natural disaster strikes, people rally together. They carry one another's burdens. News stories highlight how "the community came together." And yet, once the crisis passes, many drift back into isolation, returning to lives that run parallel rather than intertwined.

We might assume the church has a strong hold on community—but even here, that is not always the case. There may be small pockets of connection, close-knit groups within the larger body, but true, whole-community life is often missing. Why? Because we live in a culture shaped by individualism and independence. Community, however, is not built on competition or self-sufficiency. It is formed through collaboration, shared life, and mutual care. It requires moving beyond surface-level interactions into spaces of honesty and trust.

Community takes time. It requires vulnerability. It asks us to risk being seen—to allow others close enough to know our joys, our struggles, and our needs. This is not easy in a culture that often prizes independence and keeps relationships at a distance.

But when true community is present—when people are known, loved, and supported—it changes everything.

So where in your life do you experience that kind of community? Where are you fully known—and where do you fully know others? And if you are searching for community, what might it look like to begin taking a step toward it?

CONNECTION & COMPASSION GATHERINGS



FREE

**Saturday, MAY 2
FROM 5:00- 6:00**

AT STONEYBROOK PLAYGROUND

OR

**Thursday, May 14
FROM 12:30- 1:30**

At Lakes Area Presbyterian Church

Please notify Candace Adams if you plan to attend, at least two days before the event, so that she may order enough food. You may call or text her at 320-905-5453.

Sponsored by the Initiative Foundation

Support Our Ministry

Please make checks out to Lakes Area Presbyterian Church, which currently acts as our fiscal sponsor. When sending a check, please indicate "For The Compassionate Way" on the memo line. Checks can be mailed to The Compassionate Way at 7761 Excelsior Rd., Baxter, MN 56425. Or you may contribute online at <https://lpchurchbaxter.org/give-on-line-here/>.

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