

## From the Pastor...

I am looking forward to my first Advent/Christmas season with Wyoming United Methodist Church. Though I've celebrated Advent and Christmas in many churches before, I am looking forward to what this spirit-filled congregation has in store for ministry, for study, for worship this December.

Some of your traditions, though 'old' to you, are new to me. Traditions like Joy Bells, Christmas Tea, Santa's Helpers and Rocking the Cradle are all new to my experience and I look forward to learning how you celebrate the joy of the season and spread that joy to those less fortunate or those who simply need a break.

Some of my traditions, though new to you, are 'old' to me. Traditions like a Christmas Open House at the Aastuen's on December 12, no rehearsal Christmas Pageant on December 20, and 'Questions You've Always Wanted to Ask' on December 27 are traditions that I'm looking forward to sharing with you.

What are the traditions you'd like to keep and which ones would you like to discard this season? I still remember the Christmas Day, long ago, when my brother asked the question after another Christmas morning gift opening frenzy, "What do we want this day to mean to us and to our children? Do we want them to remember what a 'haul' they got at Grandma's and Grandpa's house or do we want them to remember something else?" The following Christmas we started a new tradition of drawing names. And ever since that Christmas, we have still gathered as the extended family to eat and laugh and sing, but getting a plethora of gifts is no longer the main focus of that day.

Change is hard, traditions are important and family relationships are more important still. As you think about what's most important to you this season, remember to be gentle with yourself and with those you love as we together let every heart prepare him room.

In Christ's love,  
~Pastor Holly

## You're Invited!



### Aastuen Open House

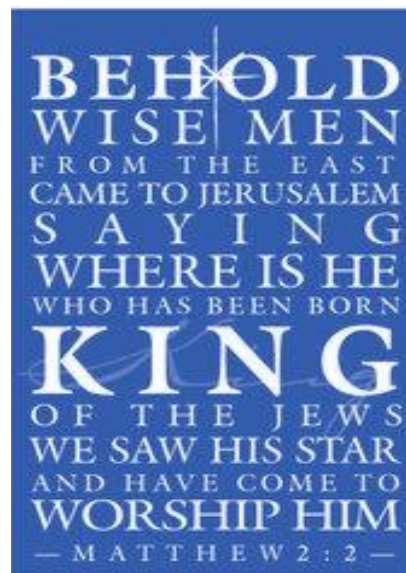
On Saturday, December 12th from 1-4pm you are invited to come to the Aastuen home and enjoy delicious food, warm fellowship and a chance to re-connect with friends.

The Aastuens live at 3545 Harriet Ave. in Shoreview, just two blocks south of 694, halfway between Rice Street and Victoria Street.

If you need a map to the Open House, please see Pastor Holly.

## Thank You

Thank you to all of you who turned in your Estimate of Giving cards in November. Thanks to you we are able to continue to plan for ministry into 2016 and know we can count on you to keep us building bridges to Christ's love. We are so grateful for your gifts and faithfulness!



## December Celebrations

### Birthdays

12-02	Carly Rylander	12-25	Lily Anderson
12-03	Archie Lessard	12-27	Buck Broadbent
12-08	Dolly Amlee		Chevelle Fechter
12-09	Derik Iverson	12-28	Jane Rylander
12-12	Hans Bartsch		April Walter
	Nathan Myers	12-31	Dave Freemore
12-20	Brett Howe		Al Jackson
12-22	Lucas Pampusch		

### Anniversaries

12-17	Mike Harwell & Jane Denovchek
12-26	Neil & Dolly Amlee



\*If you do not see your special date listed, please let Michelle in the office know!

## Christmas Eve Offering

The Administrative Council has decided that this year's Christmas Eve offering will be given in support of the weekend/school break food for the students in need at Wyoming Elementary School. WUMC started supplying food packages last May. Currently we send breakfast & lunch food for 26 students through the Rangers Supporting Rangers program insuring that students have something to eat when school is not in session. Without weekend/school break food, school nurses see many, many student in their offices on Monday with stomach aches. Their stomachs ache because they haven't had enough to eat over the weekend! This is hunger right down the street from our doors - hunger that will prevent children from learning along with contributing to many other developmental problems. The cost to provide the food for the weekend food packs is approximately \$3000 for the school year. Please give generously this Christmas Eve! If you will be out of town & will miss the collection of this special offering, checks can be written anytime: mark them FOOD PACKS. Food is a basic need. Supplying money for food is a direct expression of our love for God and our savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for your gift!

## Santa's Helpers are Coming!

### Why?

To provide child care for parents (of 3 to 10 year olds) who want an evening for Christmas shopping-- or whatever! No charge! We just ask that you bring a food shelf donation. Supper will be served.

### Where?

Wyoming United Methodist Church  
5459 East Viking Blvd., Wyoming

### When?

Friday, December 11, 2015 from 5:00-9:00 pm

### How?

Call the church office at 651-462-5276 or send an email to [office.wyomingumc@gmail.com](mailto:office.wyomingumc@gmail.com) to register your children for this evening.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. -Lk.. 2:12



## Joy Bells Ministry

Our Joy Bells Ministry continues this year as we give gifts and a food basket to families in need at Christmas. We have received

the names of families from the Wyoming and Linwood Elementary Schools and we want people or groups from the church to “adopt” a family and buy Christmas gifts for the children. The church provides a basket of food with everything needed for Christmas dinner. If you’d like to make a cash donation, please designate it to ‘Joy Bells’ and we will use it to help purchase the food.

Gifts must be brought to the church no later than Friday, December 4th as families will pick up their gifts and food on December 9 and 10.

Thank you for shining the light of Christmas love in the lives of these families!

## Christmas Concert

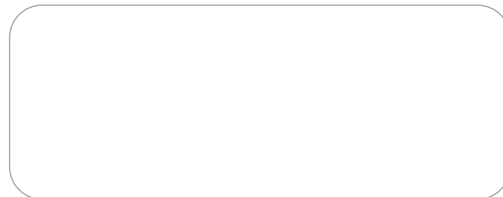
The choral company Unexpected Company will present a concert here at Wyoming UMC at 7:30 pm on Friday, Dec. 4th. The concert will include both sacred and secular music of the season. Members of the chorus include Audrey Bowen, Jan & Dave Freemore, and Shirley Faber. Tickets will be available at the door (\$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors) but pre-purchased tickets will have a \$1 discount.

A second concert will be on Sunday, Dec. 6th at 3 pm at the Performing Arts Center of Chisago Lakes High School. Purchased tickets can be used for either performance.

See posters on the church doors for further information or ask those members mentioned above. Come and enjoy the music of the season with us!

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. -Matthew 2:10*

Wyoming UMC • 651-462-5276 • Care Crew North: 651-462-4890 • www.wyomingunitedmethodist.org  
Pastor Holly's email: hollyaastuen@gmail.com • Church email: office.wyomingumc@gmail.com



Wyoming United Methodist Church  
5459 E Viking Blvd., PO Box 247  
Wyoming, MN 55092



## Cradle Rocking Sunday

In this season of Advent, as we anticipate the birth of the Christ Child, we will participate in a tradition called Cradle Rocking. On Sunday, December 13, we will rock any babies, grandbabies or great-grandbabies who have been born in the last year (or so). If you would like to bring someone to be rocked, please talk to Donna Keacher or Pastor Holly.

## Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, December 20th, we will have a no-rehearsal Christmas Pageant for participants of all ages. As you enter the worship space, people (especially children) will be invited to put on a piece of a costume and become a sheep, or an angel, or a shepherd. As the service progresses, sheep, angels, and shepherds will be invited to come forward and gather around the manger as we sing songs of Christmas. Come and see what fun this will be!

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

Our Christmas Eve 5pm worship service will be a traditional service of Lessons and Carols as together we welcome the Christ Child into our hearts. This is a perfect time to invite friends and family to come with you, to sing the well-known songs of Christmas and light individual candles as we celebrate the One who brought light into the darkness.

**Christmas Tea**

The BeFriendHers of Wyoming UMC will host their annual Christmas Tea on Thursday, December 3, 2015 at 1:30pm.

You're cordially invited to join us for a time of fellowship, singing of Christmas Carols, food and fun as we prepare together for this Christmas Season.

Donations accepted for Joy Bells— our 20th annual outreach to children in the community who may not have a blessed Christmas without our help.

For questions or information call 651-462-5276 or 651-464-3060.

## Worship Services in December

In December we explore the Advent Conspiracy, a conspiracy of love that seeks to remind us what is truly important in this season. As we seek to prepare for Christmas and the birth of the Christ Child, let us not get so distracted by the things of this world that we forget the reason for the season. Let every heart prepare him room, let every life seek to give time to God whose son's birth is the reason we celebrate! The Sunday after Christmas we will have time to request and sing our favorite Christmas Carols as well as ask Pastor Holly questions (about faith, about church, about God, etc.) that we've always wanted to ask.

**Sunday, December 6:**  
*The Advent Conspiracy: The Way of Peace*  
Luke 1: 67, 76, 79;  
Luke 3:7-8, 10-11

**Sunday, December 13:**  
Cradle Rocking  
*The Advent Conspiracy: Songs of Joy*  
Isaiah 12:2-6

**Sunday, December 20:**  
Christmas Pageant  
*The Advent Conspiracy: Love Came Down at Christmas*  
1 John 4:7-12

**Sunday, December 27:**  
Christmas Carol Sing  
*Questions You've Always Wanted to Ask*  
Luke 2:41-52

*Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel. -Is. 7:14*