

From the Pastor...

Easter comes early this year—the last Sunday in March—the earliest it has been since 2008, when Easter was March 23. Easter won't be celebrated again in March until 2024.

The celebrations of Holy Week—especially Palm Sunday and Easter—are high points of the Christian season. We remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the week and his resurrection the following Sunday.

But between these two high points, Jesus went through the anguish of his Last Supper with his disciples and the agony of being whipped and beaten and then hung on the cross to die. The events of Good Friday are hardly events to be celebrated. But we find that in remembering the difficult and powerful message of Christ's crucifixion, we are overwhelmed by the lengths that Jesus was willing to go out of his pure love for humanity.

I know it's hard to imagine that something so horrible as crucifixion can be considered 'good' but the word 'good' used in the title Good Friday is a substitute for the word 'holy' which points to the sacred nature of the event.

As Christians, we believe that that terrible Friday called Good Friday is good insofar as it led to the Resurrection of Jesus and his victory over sin and death and the celebration of Easter, the very pinnacle of Christian celebrations.

I encourage you to consider not only coming to the celebratory events we experience on Palm Sunday and Easter, but to experience Christ's Passion, his suffering and death that we remember on Good Friday. I personally believe that only experiencing the highs of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, robs me of the faith experience that Good Friday helps me to have. Rather than skimming the surface of my religion like a rock skipping across the top of the water, I find the Good Friday worship heightens my experience, heightens my sense of the gloriousness of Easter and the good news of Christ's resurrection.

Easter comes early this year, but it is never too early to celebrate the good news of God's great love for each one of us. You are invited to celebrate and remember the heights and depths and breadth of God's love for us as expressed in the events we remember during Holy Week.

In God's care,
Holly

Two Thumbs Up

I want to give a shout out to a local business. Appliance Solutions of Forest Lake has proved to be a valuable partner of the Care Crew. One of our recipients needed a washing machine. Appliance Solutions not only supplied a reconditioned machine at a reasonable price, but they did the installation and removed the old one under terrible conditions. As you might have experienced, there are almost always extras - like a cord or hose or something. Not so with these guys. The price charged was exactly what was agreed on initially. Thank you to Tim and Steve of Appliance Solutions. Need an appliance solution, give these guys a call.

-Dave F.



Artist--Dave Freemore

Wyoming Church's own Dave Freemore is a part of the collaborative art show at Hallberg Center for the Arts at 5521 East Viking Boulevard in Wyoming. The show, featuring 11 different artists, is called Impressions in Nature's Elements and features artwork in stone, glass, wood, metal and clay. Dave's creative work is in the form of artistic wood burnings. All the art work will be on display through Monday, March 21. The Center for the Arts is open every Friday from 4pm-8pm and every Saturday 12pm-4pm. For more information, visit www.WyomingCreativeArts.org.

March Celebrations

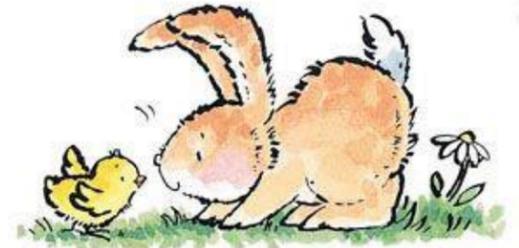
Birthdays

3-02	Sharron Freitag	3-28	Janet Rasmussen
3-03	Madelyn Janke		Gary Sycks
3-07	Sheila Proulx	3-29	Bessie Goranson
3-17	Jessica Standefer		Linda Richnofsky
3-18	Samantha Jo Kramer	3-30	Mike Harwell
3-19	Steve Kramer		
3-27	Tommy Anderson		
	Andy Engstrom		
	Kaylee Engstrom		
	Donna Keacher		

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

Anniversaries

3-31 Karl & Jeanne Lovgren



One Great Hour of Sharing

March 6 is the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Special Sunday Offering day. This offering supports the administrative costs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) which alleviates human suffering in over 80 countries around the world. The offering collected at One Great Hour of Sharing covers all administrative costs of this organization so that one hundred percent of all donations sent for particular humanitarian appeals (such as Bishop Ough's appeal for the European Refugees) go directly to the needs of the people in crisis. Please consider giving to OGHS!

Missionary Annie Harwell

Wyoming Church's own Annie Harwell will be speaking at our church on March 20th, bringing us up-to-date on her plans to spend her summer in mission. Annie is the daughter of Mike Harwell and Jane Denovchek. Please begin to pray now for Annie as she makes this significant step in mission. We will take an offering to support her work when she comes to speak.



European Refugees

Bishop Ough, the bishop of the United Methodist Church (UMC) of Minnesota and the Dakotas, has made a plea to all the UMCs to contribute funds to help with the Refugee Crisis in Europe. As over a million people flee the war zone in Syria, countries in Europe struggle to cope with the influx. We are asking you to consider donating to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, or UMCOR, which is the United Methodist branch of emergency assistance throughout the world. Please write your check to Wyoming Church and put in the memo "Refugees" and we will be sure your money gets to the right place.

Feed My Starving Children

There will be a MobilePack for Feed My Starving Children April 1 & 2 at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Forest Lake. There will be 2 hour shifts for volunteers. We can go as several groups of packers during the 2 day time period. They are hoping to pack 150,000 meals with 750 volunteers! To cover the cost of the food packed during your 2 hour shift the suggested donation is \$50 but please don't let that deter you from helping. We'll have sign up sheets as the time gets closer.



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13th at 2am! Remember to set your clocks ahead before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12th!





Whistle Down the Wind

Our own Nathan Aastuen is directing a play whose performances are March 4, 5, 11 & 12 at 7pm and March 6 & 13 at 3pm. The play, called Whistle Down the Wind, is a poignant and powerful musical that takes place in a small village where a mysterious man takes refuge in a barn and the village's children vow to protect him. The play is a production of Theater of the Spirit and will be performed at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in St. Louis Park. Dave and Alec are also in the play. Further details available on our community bulletin board or at www.aldersgatemn.com.

Stitch n' Rip Quilters

He brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times.

~2 Corinthians 1:4

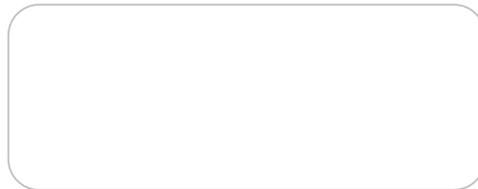
People need one another. Stitch n' Rip Quilters provides a way for quilters to connect with those of equal interests. Whether you are a seasoned quilter or just beginning we have room for you at our tables. Often times in our quilting community we find someone going through tough times and may just need a break. Getting together to work on projects gives us a common goal, a way to connect quilt pieces as well as to each other. It's relaxing and fun. Some say it relieves tension. Hmmm got to think about that one; most of the time it relieves tension.

Join us on Wednesdays from 9 am to 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Use kitchen entrance.

-Linda B.

"You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." -John 20:29

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New Pathways Hosting Week

It is our great privilege to be selected to host New Pathways families beginning Palm Sunday (March 20) and ending on Easter Sunday (March 27). It's a privilege because we can express our gratitude to God for sending our savior Jesus by serving families with no home of their own. We're Easter people! We believe in the resurrected Christ and live to love and serve in his name. What better week to serve than holy week? I hope you will find REVIVAL in your hearts and think of how you can be the one to show these families God's love even if you have never served this mission before. If you served long ago, please come back! Let's be creative in doing our very best work. Linda Richnofsky is graciously coordinating this week and will have a sign up sheet in the nook in early March. Ask how you can help!

Easter Flower Ministry

Easter is coming soon and if you would like to purchase plants for our Easter garden the sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Depending on availability, choices will include azaleas, hydrangeas, tulips, daffodils and other spring plants. As always, you may take your choices home on Easter Sunday after our Easter celebration. The sign-up sheet will include sizes and prices. We will try our best to accommodate your selections.



Holy Week Services

Holy Week begins with **Palm/Passion Sunday, March 20**, where we will remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the subsequent events of Jesus' week on earth.

On Good (or Holy) Friday, March 25 at 7 pm, we will share in communion as we remember Christ's Last Supper with his disciples, then go into a service of descending darkness, or Tenebrae service, where we remember how, one by one, people abandoned Jesus in his final hour.

Easter Morning, March 27, we will have a joyous Easter celebration at church! Here is our Easter morning schedule:

8:00-9:30am Easter breakfast will be served once again by the Saturday Men's Ministry group. You are invited to start your Easter celebrations with a delicious breakfast. We will be serving our New Pathways guests as well—beginning at 8am.

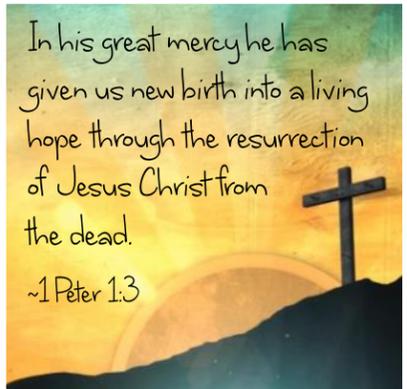
We will be needing donations of muffins again this year. With our New Pathways guests we will probably need about 12 dozen. There is a sign-up sheet in the nook.

9:15am Easter Egg Hunt (outdoors, weather permitting!)

10:00am Easter Worship with the Flowering of the Cross and Communion.

You are invited to this Holiest of Weeks as we remember the depth and the height of God's great love for us.

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen! -Luke 24:5-6



Worship Services in March

We continue this month with the sermon series on the faith and life of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement. The first three Sundays of March, we'll talk about Wesley's understanding of grace, the importance of putting faith into action and how we are meant to live a life of faith all of our days. The final Sunday of March we will celebrate Easter and the great news of Christ's victory over death!

Sunday, March 6th

"Revival: The Necessity of Grace"
Ephesians 2:8-10

Sunday, March 13th

"Revival: Works of Mercy"
James 2:14-18

Sunday, March 20th

"Revival: Persevering to the End"
Matthew 5:10-12;
Proverbs 31:8-9

Sunday, March 27th

"And Are We Yet Alive?"
Luke 24:10-12