

## From the Pastor...

April is a celebration new life and new birth. Easter was back in March, but the celebration of Christ's victory over death will resonate throughout this month as we remember the echoes of Easter, the stories of new birth and new life and second chances.

The forty days of Lent are followed by the 50 days of Easter and though in today's society it seems that Lent gets all the press, we have an even longer season than Lent to celebrate the Easter resurrection! The resurrection isn't just about what happened to Jesus, it is also about what happens to us. Following the crucifixion, Jesus' disciples went into hiding, but after Jesus' resurrection appearances, they gained new life and a new resolve to go out into the world to share this good news.

Each of us is the best advertisement for the Christian life. Our God, who set Jesus free from the bonds of death, also sets free in us the joy-filled power of a life lived in God's grace, God's unconditional love. We are free to laugh in the face of all that threatens to undo us, to believe that with God, all things are possible.

And so, in April we laugh. As Easter people we laugh with hope. We believe that with the resurrection, God has the last laugh. In a world where we are separated by race and ethnicity and citizenship and gender and orientation and education and economics and politics, God laughs and announces that nothing is too difficult for God to overcome. Facing the same old ridiculous impossibility that our world will ever change, God's laughter sets free in us the new possibility of tearing down the walls that divide us so that God's vision for peace and justice and equity will be ours.

The season of Easter gives us reason to hope. Even though crying may seem like the only appropriate response to all that overwhelms us, we laugh because we believe in the possibility that God's Kingdom will truly be a reality here on earth. We laugh because we believe that God's promises will be kept and God's presence known in our world.

The tomb is still empty and our hearts are full. Do not be afraid, do not despair, because Christ is not dead, he is alive! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

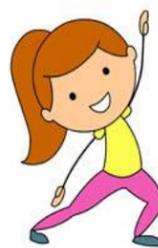
With joy,  
Pastor Holly

## Artist: Dave Freemore

The Art Show, including work of David Freemore, is extended into April. Wyoming Church's own David Freemore is part of the collaborative art show at Hallberg Center for the Arts at 5521 East Viking Boulevard in Wyoming. Originally scheduled to end March 21, the show has been extended to Sunday, April 17. Come and see the variety of artworks displayed. The show, called "Impressions in Nature's Elements," features artwork in stone, glass, wood, metal and clay. The Center for the Arts is open every Friday from 4pm-8pm and every Saturday 12pm-4pm. For more information, visit [www.wyomingcreativearts.org](http://www.wyomingcreativearts.org).

## Pancake Breakfast

You are invited to a **Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday, April 16 from 8:30-11am at Trinity Lutheran Church in North Branch (38460 Lincoln Trail). Benefitting the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of Chisago County, this pancake breakfast includes pancakes, sausage and eggs. The cost? A freewill offering. Find more information at [www.relayforlife.org/chisagomn](http://www.relayforlife.org/chisagomn).



## Sweatin' Sweeties

Sweatin' Sweeties have finished their 'run' for the year and will not meet again until next fall.

## Game Day

The last game day for the academic year will be Thursday, April 7. Game Day will start up again in the fall.

## April Celebrations

### Birthdays

4-01	Mary Jo B.	4-22	Barb L.
4-07	Shurene E.	4-24	Cyndi T.
4-08	Nancy H.	4-25	Craig R.
4-09	Karen K.	4-26	Alyssa K.
	Elizabeth R.	4-28	Lynne C.
4-10	Lisa I.		Paul S.
4-11	Molly B.		Betsy W.
4-15	Pat R.	4-29	Max H.
4-17	John H.		Makenna H.
4-19	Bea Z.		

### Anniversaries

4-17 Eric & Julie R.



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



## Rangers Supporting Rangers

Craig Rylander and Pastor Holly Aastuen presented a check to Tiffiny Passeretti of the Forest Lake Food Shelf. The check, for over \$3000, is earmarked for Rangers Supporting Rangers, the weekend/school break food for students in need at Wyoming Elementary School. Because the check was given in March, the money will be doubled for this valuable program.



While Craig R. and Pastor Holly went to the food shelf in Forest Lake to give them a check for the Rangers Supporting Rangers, Sammy Rylander paid our office a visit. Church secretary, Michelle Johnson, says that Sammy was pretty good at running the copier and filing but she was lousy at typing.

## European Refugees

Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to raise over 1,600 dollars to send to those helping with the Refugee Crisis in Europe. We are grateful for your compassionate donations and your ongoing prayers.

It's been a busy March. Your missions team thanks you for your support of needs as God presents them to us! ~Jane R.

## A Note of Thanks

To the congregation:

I want to genuinely thank each and every one of you for your supporting me in my mission with Athletes in Action this summer. God provides in amazing ways and I am so grateful to come from such a loving, supportive church. Thank you for all the blessings you have brought into my life and look for updates on my journey this summer!

~Annie Harwell

## New Pathways

Many thanks to the people who helped with the New Pathways hosting for the homeless families during Holy Week. Thanks to the cooks, the evening and overnight hosts, the drivers, the ones who donated food, and to all of you who prayed for this valuable ministry. You have made a difference in the lives of those who were going through a low point and have brightened their path. Thanks to Linda Richnofsky who skillfully coordinated the effort!

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Thanks to you, we have collected \$330 for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)! OGHS enables the disaster relief arm of the United Methodist Church to spring into action whenever there's a need around the world. And when we collect for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in response to earthquake or tsunami or hurricane damage anywhere around the world, 100 percent of our offering goes to that need and none to administrative costs, thanks to our gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.





### Native American Ministries Sunday

Native American Ministries Sunday is April 10. Included in that Sunday's bulletin will be an offering envelope giving you details about the valuable Native American Ministries across the nation. Our offering empowers local spiritual development and educates Native American seminary students to serve God faithfully. We also equip Native congregations like New York's Onondaga Nation UMC and Nebraska's Native American Sacred Winds congregation—to worship and serve as only they can.



### Holy Humor Sunday

April 3 is Holy Humor Sunday! It's the Sunday that we celebrate the Resurrection Laugh and remember God's triumph over evil, God's ability to draw the greatest good out of the greatest evil. Your role in the celebration is to come that Sunday, dressed in a way that makes someone smile. On previous Holy Humor Sundays we've seen bowling shirts, square dance outfits, housedresses, feather boas, outrageous hats, and Halloween costumes.



Come with a heart open to have some fun. The Easter laugh is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, so let the party begin. Our God reigns, the power of evil has been broken and of all people, Christians have the most reasons to laugh and live the Easter joy that Christ came to bring.

### Worship Services in April

This month is a celebration of the good news of Easter: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! We, as Christians, are a resurrection people, who celebrate Christ's victory over death and the joy that the promise of eternal life brings to us. Join with us as we continue to hear the echoes of the good news in story after story of new life and new birth in the stories of Jesus' followers.

#### Sunday, April 3rd

Holy Humor Sunday  
"Easter Echoes:  
The Resurrection Laugh"  
John 20:19-31

#### Sunday, April 10th

New Member Sunday  
"Easter Echoes: A Call to Love"  
John 21:1-19

#### Sunday, April 17th

Guest preacher: Denny Hebrink  
"Bridges: Building or Burning"  
Luke 23:34a;  
Ephesians 2:13-17

#### Sunday, April 24th

"Easter Echoes:  
Everyone's Welcome!"  
Acts 11:1-18

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In honor of Holy Humor Sunday, here are some puns for your enjoyment:

- ☺ Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- ☺ I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- ☺ I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind.
- ☺ A friend of mine tried to annoy me with bird puns, but I soon realized that toucan play at that game.
- ☺ I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.
- ☺ I'd tell you a chemistry joke, but I know I wouldn't get a reaction.
- ☺ Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda? He was lucky it was a soft drink.
- ☺ I used to be a banker but I lost interest.
- ☺ Claustrophobic people are more productive thinking outside the box.

### New Member Sunday

New Member Sunday is Sunday, April 10. As of this writing, we have 11 people who want to become members of Wyoming United Methodist Church. When asked by one young couple what the difference was between membership and simply being a regular attender, Pastor Holly put it this way: "It's like the difference between renting and buying. When you live in a rental space, you can do pretty much all the same things you can do in a home you own, but when you own the home, you are saying, "This is my home." We welcome the people who are publically declaring on Sunday, April 10, "Wyoming United Methodist Church is my spiritual home!"

In celebration of New Member Sunday, you are all invited to a reception following worship on April 10. We'll serve cake and beverages and you'll have a chance to personally greet every new member.



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