

From the Pastor...

I missed Easter this year. For the first time in the 29 years I have been a pastor, I missed worship due to an illness (stomach flu) and it happened to be on Easter!

I'm told that people stepped forward and we had a great and joyous celebration nonetheless. Susan Nienaber, our District Superintendent, stepped in to preach (after getting a desperate call from me at 7:00 that morning), Bea Z. led the opening part of worship including the prayers, and Donna K. did the children's message with the MANY kids (someone counted over 25 kids up front for the children's teaching time).

The flowering of the cross was beautiful again as people put individual flowers into the grapevine wrapped around the cross and made a beautifully decorated cross.

But I missed all of that. My illness put me in bed and I slept 22 of the 24 hours of Easter Day.

As I was commiserating with a friend the week following Easter, that I had missed Easter, she said, "No you didn't! Easter is here! He is risen!"

She's right. We're in the midst of the Easter season which lasts all the way to Pentecost on June 4. We are an Easter people who celebrate the resurrection throughout the Easter season and beyond. We may not have been in a worshipping community singing "Christ the Lord is risen today!" but the Alleluias echo throughout this season. It is because of the resurrection that we even exist as a Christian community and every Sunday is meant to be a reminder of the good news that Christ is alive!

I was talking with one of the baristas at The Nesting Grounds Coffee House in Wyoming and she said that she had met one of our church members at a garage sale over the weekend. This church member, upon hearing that she worked at Nesting Grounds, asked if she knew me, and when she said she did, this church member said, "Wyoming United Methodist Church is an amazing church, if you don't feel the love the moment you step into the building, you are not alive."

Christ is alive! We are alive! We are to spread the Easter good news of God's victory over death and God's eternal love for all of God's creation. Easter joy is for everyone everywhere!

~ Pastor Holly

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ~ Romans 12:12 (ESV)

Feed My Starving Children

Many thanks to all who participated in the Hosanna Lutheran Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack on April 22. Our church provided a total of 11 packers, working two different shifts. Those two shifts packed enough food for 214 children to live for an entire year on the food provided. The entire 3-day packing event created a total of 272,164 meals! That's a lot of food! Thanks to those who contributed \$850 toward the cost of the food we packed. We couldn't have done it without you! There will be another packing event at the River Center in St. Paul coming up the first weekend of June. Their goal for the River Center event is to pack 6 million meals.

UMCOR Sunday

On UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday, we collected \$716 which will be added to the collection from United Methodist Churches around the nation and used to cover the administrative costs of running UMCOR. Whenever there is a natural disaster anywhere in the world, UMCOR is there to help with people's immediate and long term needs. When our church puts out an appeal for help after a hurricane or flood or other disaster, one hundred percent of what we collect at that time goes to the people in need, thanks to the administrative costs being covered by UMCOR Sunday. Good job, church!

May Celebrations

Birthdays

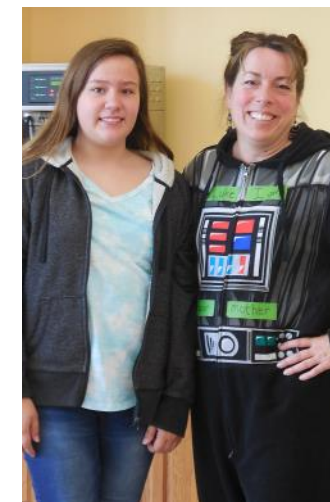
5-05 Jeremy S.
5-07 Alex R.
Taylor M.
5-08 Ersileen M.
Kyle R.
5-16 Mava K.
5-19 Holly K.

5-25 Carole A.
Gary G.
Julie R.
Cathy W.
5-26 Jenna W.
5-27 Ed K.
5-29 Marilyn B.
Peyton T.

5-30 Fran F.
Lucy K.
5-31 Larry M.

Anniversaries

5-01 Andy & Shurene E.



Holy Humor Sunday

On April 23, the Sunday after Easter, we celebrated Holy Humor Sunday, the celebration of the Resurrection Laugh. Several people came dressed in outfits designed to make someone smile. Enjoy these pictures and share in the joy of the Resurrection Laugh!



Forest Lake Area Mission for Families (FLAMF)

FLAMF is a coalition of 15 area churches which has been working long and hard with the Community Resource Center at St. Andrews Church in Mahtomedi to find and open a shelter for homeless families. The shelter was found in Hugo—the rectory building at St. John's

Catholic Church. The St. Paul Archdiocese has given its approval for this rectory to be leased for a shelter! Anyone wishing to tour the shelter before renovations begin are invited to do so on May 25th beginning at 6:30. Jane R. and Jessica S. have been representing our church in this FLAMF coalition and will have more updates as they become available. Many thanks to Jane and Jessica for doing this good work on our behalf!

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ~ Gal. 6:9 (ESV)

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Pastor Holly's email: hollyaastuen@gmail.com • Church email: office.wyomingumc@gmail.com



Fairview Wyoming Hospital has been using our Fellowship Hall on a series of Saturdays this spring to train therapy dogs for use in their hospital. Those animals that graduate from the program and are certified as therapy dogs will be able to visit people in the hospital to either help with specific therapeutic objectives or simply brighten someone's day.



Wyoming United Methodist Church
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Wyoming, MN 55092



Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger

May 2017

Emma Norton

For the month of May we're collecting pocket change for the Emma Norton Shelter. Emma Norton Shelter is a shelter for women and children that also offers chemical dependency and mental illness counseling. A jar will be in our church entryway to collect your coins for this important mission. Drop in your change to help make a change in people's lives. (You've got to try the coin jar, it adds your coin's value to the total it already has, so be sure and look for the digital numbers on the top of the jar.)

You Can Help

Starting in May we will be a collection spot for your used printer cartridges, Box Tops for Education, pop can tabs and Campbell's Soup labels. All of these items are being collected by our local Wyoming Elementary School and sent to the appropriate places. By sending these items in, Wyoming Elementary receives money back and savings on items they need for the school and all of that benefits our Wyoming kids. It's a simple way to support our local school and save them money on the educational tools they need to do their work. You'll find a container in the church entryway for you to drop off these items.



Holy Baptism

On Sunday, May 14 it will be our joy to welcome through baptism Savannah Jean Fechter. She is the little sister of Chevelle Fechter and the great-granddaughter of Gordy & Rita Pietruszewski.

Cradle Rocking

We are having our annual Cradle Rocking on Mother's Day, May 14, during the worship service. We will rock any babies, grandbabies or great-grandbabies who have been born in the last year or so (we haven't done the Cradle Rocking since December 2015, so there are bound to be some children who are over a year old). If you would like to bring someone to be rocked, please talk to Donna Keacher or Pastor Holly as soon as possible.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday is May 21. We will be confirming Alex B. during the worship service and having a congratulatory reception BEFORE the worship service during the 9:30 Fellowship Time. Confirmation is a time when our Middle School youth confirm the vows their parents made on their behalf at their baptism. Confirmation class is a time to learn more about our faith and confirm for ourselves that we "believe in Jesus Christ our savior, put our whole trust in his grace and promise to serve him with people of all ages, nations and races." We encourage you to be present and support Alex on this important step in his faith journey!



Worship Services in May

Throughout May we are exploring how God always gives us another chance to make things right. Even though we don't always get things right and at times we feel unlovable, we know that our God always wants to give us a second chance. The good news is that no matter where we are or what we've done, God sees beyond our imperfections, loves us, forgives us and offers us new life!

May 7

Given Another Chance:
Giving Up On Jesus
Luke 24:13-35

May 14

**Festival of the Christian Home/
Mothers' Day**
Given Another Chance:
Divorced Five Times
John 4:1-18

May 21

Given Another Chance:
No Longer Orphaned
John 14:15-21

May 28

Guest Preacher: Denny Hebrink
Memories Are Forever
John 15:13; 1 Cor. 11:24-25