

## From the Pastor...

One of the benefits of being older is hindsight. Those of us who are older can look back on what we've done in the past and say, "That wasn't right. I wish I could do that over again. I know better now." I suppose at any age you can look back at the younger version of yourself and see where you succeeded and where you failed and, with the benefit of hindsight, change how you would treat that situation in the future or, alternatively, celebrate how well the situation went considering all that could have gone wrong.

When I was younger I worried a lot more, especially about how people looked at me and what people thought of me. I still do, but to a lesser degree, and I more often can tell myself that as long as I'm doing what I know in my heart to be right and what I know God wants me to do, I'm okay. I don't need to worry as much.

Another one of my concerns as a younger person was being enough: "Am I good enough to get the job?" "Am I attractive enough to find a life partner?" "Am I smart enough to figure out this stage of life?" "Do I have enough confidence to try new things?" "Will people respect my perspective in this situation?"

It's hard to know if you are enough when you measure yourself by how others treat you. If you are blessed to find someone who affirms you and what you do, you are truly blessed, but not all of us find that kind of cheerleader in our lives.

The cheerleader we all have in common, the one who loves and affirms and cheers us no matter what, is God. "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Scripture tells us that we are enough.

Another fear of my younger life was that I was alone, that I was the only one who felt a certain way, that I was the only one who did certain things, that I was the only one who liked certain things and that if anyone ever found out what I felt, did or liked I would be shunned for being odd. Now I know that everyone has felt that way at one time or another in their lives and we know that nothing we do is really done in secret, at least nothing is hidden from God. And yet God embraces every one of us.

"Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness'... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

This October we will be looking at what we wished we knew when we were younger, how we can affirm our goodness that God created and how we can affirm those around us for being authentic to the way God created them to be.

One of the benefits of being older is hindsight. May that hindsight give us the foresight to live our lives in ways that benefit our lives as well as the lives of others.

Peace,  
Holly

## Guitar Guys Jam Sessions

All are welcome to come to the Guitar Guys Jam Sessions on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of the month. Men, women, boys, girls, singers, non-singers, guitar players, non-guitar players, all are welcome to sit in on a session or on several of these jam sessions. They love to have more people join them as an appreciative audience or as a novice participant. Consider coming to a jam session soon!

## Ways You Can Help

If you would like to donate to the relief efforts for hurricane victims in Florida and Texas and surrounding areas, please write a check to Wyoming Church and put in the memo 'UMCOR.' For cash donations, please put UMCOR on the envelope. One hundred percent of your donation will go to those in need.



If you would like to make or contribute to making a Cleaning Kit for hurricane victims in Florida and Texas, look for the orange buckets in the narthex and take a materials list (the list is 2-sided). You can shop for as many or as few items as you wish and bring your purchases to church to be added to others' contributions for making Cleaning Kits.

## Cookies and College

The Spiritual Prayer Group of our church wants to send cookies to our college-age kids and wish them a Happy Halloween! If you have a college-age son or daughter who is attending college or community college away from home, we'd like to brighten their day! Please give the office their mailing address and the Spiritual Prayer Group will get some goodies sent their way!

## October Celebrations

### Birthdays

10-1	Alex B.	10-11	Don M.	10-20	Angie M.
10-6	Nathan A. Zachary P.	10-16	Jennifer M. Tom W.	10-23	Lonnie N. Aayden A.
10-7	Shirley J. Zana J.	10-18	Allie B. Gordy P.	10-24	Joyce M. Carrie M.
10-9	Connie W.	10-19	Nicki A.	10-25	Abby T.
10-10	Sandy B.		Bud J.	10-28	Amanda J.

### Anniversaries

10-2	Craig & Jane R.
10-5	Steve & Cyndi T.



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



Congratulations to Trevor J. and Abby S. who were married in our sanctuary on Saturday, September 16th.



## Stagecoach Days

A big thank you to all who helped make our booya and pie extravaganza on September 16 a joy again this year. We had to make a few changes to accommodate the wedding being held on the same day in our church and we're grateful to everyone who helped with cooking, cutting, serving, parking lot managing, and cleanup. More than one person from the community said that the booya and pie was the highlight of their Stagecoach Days experience. All the proceeds (\$788!) will be going to local missions. Thanks for your generous support!

## Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes began Sunday, September 17 and will meet again Sunday, October 1 after worship. Any kids who are ready to explore their faith and learn for themselves what it means to be a Christian are invited. This year's class has two 7th graders and one 8th grader. We meet twice a month immediately following worship. Please talk to Pastor Holly if you have any questions or want to sign up your child or grandchild.

## Hugo Shelter Renovation Volunteers Needed

The new shelter in Hugo is one step closer to completion. Forest Lake Area Mission for Families (FLAMF) is now calling for renovation volunteers, general laborers who are willing to do some work in making the shelter ready for use. We will train and equip you with the necessary tools to complete your supervised task. A sign up and information meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12th from 7-8:30pm at St. Genevieve Church's lower level at the corner of Highway 61 and Frenchman Road (former St. John the Baptist Church building). Volunteers can commit to one volunteer opportunity or as many shifts as your schedule allows. We will share the renovation schedule as well as sign-up information at this meeting. Representatives from FLAMF as well as representatives from sponsoring churches will be available at the meeting. If you have questions feel free to contact Liz Schreier, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church at [lschreier@saintandrews.org](mailto:lschreier@saintandrews.org).



*He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.* -Ps. 33:5

## Box City Homeless Challenge

You are invited to this year's Box City Homeless Challenge Saturday, October 7th to Sunday, October 8th held on the Isanti County Fairgrounds. Hosted by New Pathways, this annual event is their biggest fundraiser of the year. To learn more, please talk with Jane R.



### Reading Buddies

This year's Reading Buddies have doubled in size! In addition to the six we had starting in January of 2017, we have Mike H., Carol S., Ann S. from church and three from the Wyoming Library Book

Club community: Marilyn R., Nancy B. and Sherry A. We are extending our reach into kindergarten, so now each classroom in grades K-2 at Wyoming Elementary School has a Reading Buddy!

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Pastor Holly's email: [hollyaastuen@gmail.com](mailto:hollyaastuen@gmail.com) • Church email: [office.wyomingumc@gmail.com](mailto:office.wyomingumc@gmail.com)



### All Saints' Sunday

During worship on Sunday, November 5 we will be remembering those we love that we have lost to death in recent years. As we participate in this time of remembrance we will invite any who wish to come forward, tell the congregation for whom they are lighting a candle, and then that person will light a candle. Please invite to this worship service any you know who might appreciate being a part of this time of remembrance.

## Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger

October 2017

### Senior Game Day

Senior Game Day starts up again on Thursday, October 5 from 1:30-3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. People gather to play a variety of card games, some requiring skill, some requiring no skill at all! Come and see! For more information talk to Ed or Karen Kramer.

### Thursday Women's Bible Study

The Thursday evening Women's Bible Study will begin Thursday, October 12 at 7pm and we will be studying Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton. This eight-week study will help us understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. In his book, Hamilton addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. We will be distributing books (\$10 per book) at our first session, so there's no need to get the book and read before our first session. Please come.



### Fall Turkey Dinner

Our Annual Fall Dinner is Saturday, October 14 from 4-7pm. We need all kinds of helpers from food makers to wait staff to set up and clean up. Please contact Gordy Pietruszewski if you haven't yet signed up to help. Also be sure and invite your friends and neighbors to come and enjoy this wonderful dinner that is a gift to the community. Enjoy this Thanksgiving-like meal, give thanks for the blessings in your life, and thankfully, gratefully give your donations to help those in need. All proceeds go to benefit The Refuge and the Lakes Center for Youth and Families (formerly Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau).



### Worship Services in October

In October we begin a series called Dear Younger Me. Inspired by a question that's been widely asked on the internet: "If you could write a note to your younger self, what would you say?" this question causes us to wonder what is important in life, both for the younger version of ourselves and for the current version of ourselves. We invite you to consider how you would live your life differently knowing now what you wished you knew then.

#### October 1

"Daring to Dream: Finding Home"  
Mark 5:18-20

#### October 8

"Dear Younger Me: Don't Worry"  
Luke 10:38-42

#### October 15

"Dear Younger Me: You're Enough"  
Luke 17:11-19

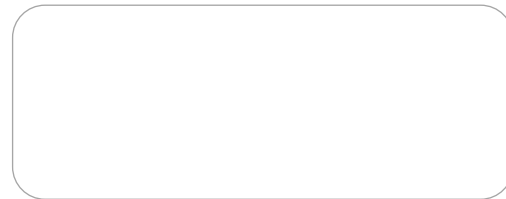
#### October 22

"Dear Younger Me: Be Brave"  
Mark 5:21-43

#### October 29

Guest Speaker: Mike Harwell

*He has made everything beautiful in its time.  
-Ecclesiastes 3:11*



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