

From the Pastor...

I'm so pleased with the expanding ways that our congregation is getting into the community and helping those in greatest need. I know I'm brand new to this, only being in the community for 3 years, but community ministry is the thing that excites me the most about this congregation.

We have so many ongoing ministries to those in need in the community, that have evolved over the years into the ministries they are today—feeding the community in the fall with Stagecoach Days pie and the October Fall Dinner, hosting families in our church each summer and winter, ministries that individuals in our community do with those who are blind, who are in hospice, who are young and needing mentors, who are Reading Buddies, the list goes on.

Now we've added a (Huge) Little Free Library to the Elementary School, expanded our help for families experiencing homelessness in Washington County, and started weeding the overgrown gardens at Wyoming Elementary. The people of this congregation aren't good at tooting their own horns, so I'm sure there are multiple other things we are doing in the community that I never hear about and never see.

But I know that you love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength, and you love your neighbor as yourself so that each day, each week you are working for good in the world.

One of the questions I have been asking myself lately when I feel God urging me to do ministry out in the community and I'm tempted to stay in the safe shell of my church office, is "A year from now, would what you do in your office during this time be more meaningful/more memorable than what you are being called to do out in the community?" Of course, the answer is always 'no,' and that helps me get off my duff and out the door.

One of the things I encourage you to do this month of August is to ask yourself that question: "Is what I'm doing in the comfort of my home more significant, more meaningful than what I feel like God is calling me to do instead?" And after you ask yourself that question, act upon your answer.

I'm so grateful to be pastor of a congregation that is other-focused and ministry focused. What a blessing you are to me and to the community!

~Pastor Holly

Thank You!

Thank you one and all for your help with this most recent New Pathways families hosting (July 29-August 5). We couldn't have done it without everyone's help and especially the coordination by Linda R. of all our efforts. Thank you for helping these families as they are on the path to finding permanent homes.

Drive Thru Prayer Requests

Our Prayer Request Box has been up for a year now, and over that time, we've gotten a slow but steady trickle of prayer requests from the community. We've gotten a few thank yous as well. "Thanks for your prayers for my mother's bout with cancer. We could feel your prayer support." "Thanks for your prayers during my heart surgery. This time the surgery went much better." Well done, good and faithful servants!

Emma Norton

Thanks to all who dropped your pocket change and checks and paper money into the jar in the entryway of the church to help the Emma Norton women & children's shelter. We've collected somewhere around \$275 thanks to your generosity! Emma Norton ministry offers housing along with chemical dependency and mental illness counseling for women. Thanks for making a difference in people's lives.

A Thank You from Sharon Mills' Sister

The siblings and families of Sharon D. Mills wish to express our sincere thanks to your church, Pastor Holly Aastuen, the organist Bea Zaruba, and all of the ladies that provided us a wonderful lunch at her funeral. We are so thankful that it was held at your church as she once served it as pastor. Thank you again for a wonderful service. Sincerely, Sandy Schroeder, Chisago City.

August Celebrations

Birthdays

8-1	Shirley F.	8-13	Karyla P.
8-2	Shelley B.	8-14	John S.
8-4	Hazel N.	8-17	Chris S.
8-5	Kaylin F.	8-19	Pam T.
8-6	Devantay K.	8-21	Jenny W.
	Monique K.	8-27	Rita P.
8-9	Alex I.	8-30	Augustus L.
8-13	Jim L.		Lee P.

Anniversaries

8-4	Erik & Katie N.
8-6	Larry & Angie M.
8-10	Steve & Mary Jo B.
8-12	Jim & Donna K.
8-14	Paul & Lisa S.
8-25	Dennis & Lisa R.
8-28	Ben & LeAnne P.

Don't see your special date? Please let Michelle in the office know.



St. Andrew's Family Shelter, Hugo

July 31, 2018 is the first night that St. Andrew's Family Shelter hosted a family! Giving homeless families a safe place to rest is the goal of this new shelter. Thanks to all for their time and effort and passion you put into raising up the need and helping create a solution to address it. The renovation on the parish house is complete. We're still finishing up some final details—gutters, asphalt repair, internet connection, landscaping, etc., but we are finally underway!

The Lydia Project

The United Methodist General Conference (a group that gathers every 4 years) will be coming to Minneapolis in 2020. The Dakotas-Minnesota Area has a wonderful opportunity to come together to provide hospitality for this conference.

They intend to greet every delegate, dignitary, bishop, and spouse with a handmade scarf, to serve not only as a memento of General Conference but also as a practical solution to drafty, air-conditions rooms. That's where you come in!

They are inviting United Methodists in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota to knit or crochet 10,000 purple scarves. They are calling this initiative The Lydia Project, after Lydia in Acts 16.

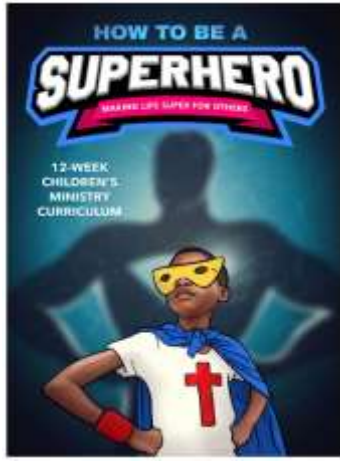
If you are interested in knitting or crocheting for this project, look for details at <https://www.minnesotamc.org/lydiaproject> or talk to Pastor Holly. Scarves need to be a minimum of 6 inches wide and 60 inches long (not counting optional fringe). We ask that all scarves be solid purple (Viking or Prince purple, not lavender or variegated) and acrylic (so it is easily washable). Two yarns that have worked well are Caron brand Simply Soft or Lion Brand Vanna's Choice.



S.T.O.R.M. Camp

Both our youth missionaries had a great time of serving God's beloved children the week of July 22-28 as they spent that time at mission camp. Allie B. and Maddie J. served at STORM Camp (Service to Others in Relational Ministry) in Elk River, Minnesota. Thanks to Jane R. who helped with recruitment and transportation. Many thanks to all of you for your support for our youth missionaries! As soon as we can, we will schedule a time for the two of them to report to the church about their week of mission work.

I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; I will talk about all your wonderful acts. -Ps. 9:1



Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday School begins Sunday September 9 at 10 a.m. This year's theme is "How to be a Superhero!" Sometimes superheroes do great things. Other times it's the little things that make them super. Big and small things add up to a life that

honors God and allows us to do some super things for others. In Sunday School, kids will learn that small acts done for Jesus can lead to a super life and they'll learn how to make life super for others.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. —Psalm 46:1

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

Save the Date!

You are invited to a Lunch and Golf Benefit for Spirit River Community on Saturday, September 8. Join Bishop Bruce and Char Ough for a fun day of food and information about the Spirit River Foundation and its work to meet the needs of fragile families. If you love golf please join us in the morning or afternoon for a round of golf to help us raise money for this important work. **If you don't golf, don't stay away!** Please come for lunch and a tour to learn more. \$100 for lunch, tour & golf; \$50 for lunch and the tour. Please reserve by August 15, by sending payment and reservation to PO Box 158 Isanti, MN 55040-0158 or call 612-961-4373. Spirit River is located at 1321 Heritage Blvd. NE Isanti, MN. For more information see our community bulletin board at Wyoming Church.

Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger

August 2018

Discovery Time Continues in August

Don't forget to bring your children to Discovery Time in August. Children stay in worship until right after Teaching Time (a children's sermon about 10 minutes into the service) and then are dismissed to go experience Discovery Time where the kids and a teacher join together in crafts, fellowship, games and even some outside time if the weather is nice! Bring your children and grandchildren!



Life is Better With Friends

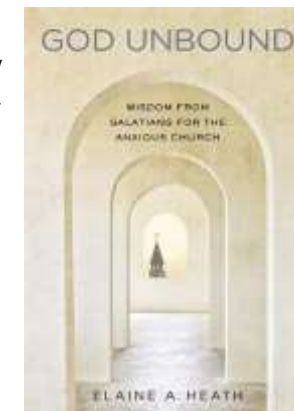
Attention all women! You are invited to a gathering on Thursday, August 23 at 7pm to meet new friends. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall, share coffee, tea, and treats and spend some time getting to know each other better. Please come and make some new friends! If you need a ride, please call the church office at 651-462-5276.

Become a Reading Buddy

You are invited to consider becoming a Reading Buddy at the Wyoming Elementary School this fall! All those who have participated (Holly A., Jane D., Donna K., Joyce M., Karyla P., Ann S., Lois S., and Carol S.) would love to talk with you about their experience and answer any questions you might have. Being a Reading Buddy is a commitment to visit the school weekly (most weeks during the school year) for an hour to an hour and a half and listen to young children read to you, while you help them with some of the bigger words. You will gain so much more than you give. If you talk to any one of the Reading Buddies, you will hear stories of the joy of helping a child get more proficient at reading. As one of the Reading Buddies said after her first Reading Buddy day: "After my first time with them I had a smile on my face for a week." If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Holly.

All-Church Book Read

Starting the first full week of September, you are invited to join in a congregation-wide book read of the book *God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church* by Elaine Heath. We will be having several small groups at church and in people's homes to study the book together. Sunday morning's sermons will also follow along with the themes in the book. Starting mid-August look in the nook for the small group sign up sheet and the opportunity to purchase a copy of the book (approximately \$10). Even if you're unable to attend a small group, you are encouraged to pick up and read this book!



Whoever dwells in the
Shelter of the Most High
will rest in the
shadow of the Almighty.
—Psalm 91:1—

Worship Services in August

In August we conclude our series on 'Life's Essential Lessons' where we're looking at what are the most important components of our lives as we follow God. Based on the book *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life* by Harold Kushner, each week we examine what it means to hold on to faith even when we're angry, even when we're frustrated, even when we don't know where to turn.

August 5:
Life's Essential Lessons:
Getting Angry with God
Psalm 22:1-5 14-15, 17-19

August 12:
Life's Essential Lessons:
Help Yourself by Helping
Ruth 1:1-17

August 19:
Life's Essential Lessons:
Believe God is Good
Genesis 15:1-8

August 26:
Don't Worry, Be Happy:
Your Treasure
Matthew 6: 19-34



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