

From the Pastor...

I have a friend who is, as a part of her Lenten discipline, contemplating a word a day. I saw her post recently and she simply remarked that her word for the day was Wonder. The word for the previous day was Silence.

It has been a long, hard, snowy winter. We had 39 inches of snow in February, when our average is 7 inches. More than once, my husband had to shovel off the tops of the snowbanks, to make room to put the shovelfuls of snow once the next snow storm hit, or carry shovelfuls of snow 10-20 paces to toss it on a snowbank that wasn't too high.

Those of us who have been in Minnesota for the duration of this winter, have by and large tolerated the snowy season in silence. There's not a lot we can do about it, so we simply wait and wait, in silence.

But silence will be replaced by wonder, as the crocuses emerge and the tulips bloom and the daffodils share their delightful fragrance. Spring is a time of joy and laughter and new birth as the earth awakens from its long winter slumber.

On my morning walk in late March, while there was still snow on the ground all around me, I saw a bright red oak leaf, lying on the sidewalk, as if it had freshly fallen from a tree, as if we were in the middle of Fall, not working our way into Spring. Where has that leaf been all winter? I wonder.

Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then the great silence of Holy Saturday. I imagine Jesus' friends finding that Sabbath day, that Saturday, to be one of the most bleak and lonely Saturdays they have ever experienced. Their leader has been killed, hastily put into a tomb before sunset, and then they are supposed to worship God? I'm hoping that they stayed together and supported one another in their grief, but I wouldn't be surprised if one or two of them wandered off to dwell in their own sorrow.

I wonder if they slept well that Saturday night. I wonder if they slept at all.

And then when the women went to the tomb to properly prepare the body, and found that Jesus had risen, their wonder turned to joy! Christ is risen! What joyful news!

As we anticipate the darkness and silence of Good Friday, turning into the wonder and joy of Easter; as we file out single file from the Good Friday service and come back with whole families on Easter; as we share with a glad shout, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" we celebrate the new life we have as Christians, we remember and bring together again the understanding that we have not been abandoned. No matter how bleak the winter has been, there is joyous spring! No matter how dark the burial chamber, the light of eternal life shines bright. No matter how much we feel like we are living in the darkness of Good Friday, Sunday is coming!

-Pastor Holly



Ashes to Go

Wyoming's second annual Ashes to Go event at The Nesting Grounds Coffee Shop was a pleasure to share with the community. Eleven people stopped by between 7:30 and 9:30 am, four of them members of our church, the rest were people from the community. In the evening, we had 21 come to a contemplative service. (Last year we had 17 at Nesting Grounds and 12 at church.)



Baby Nora Grace steals the show during Jeremy's farewell speech.

Best Wishes Jeremy!

Sunday, March 24 was Jeremy's last Sunday with us as Worship Leader. His company, Thomson Reuters, is moving his family to Connecticut. All the best in your new adventures, Jeremy!



S.T.O.R.M. Camp

S.T.O.R.M. Camp: students who have completed grades 7-12 and adults partner with local churches and communities to serve families in need during the day, and then share fellowship and worship in the evening. You can attend S.T.O.R.M. Camp at Stewartville UMC on July 14-20 or at Elk River UMC on July 21-27. It's time to let Jane Rylander know you want to attend camp this summer! Please email or call her ASAP with your camp preference at jane21475@aol.com or 612-772-6868. We've sent students to this camp for about 10 years and it can be a life changing experience. Please consider helping our neighbors with home repairs, gardening, or whatever is needed.



Tom Sausen and Ed Kramer heatedly debate which wire to cut: red or black.

April Celebrations



Birthdays

4/1	Mary Jo B.
4/4	Nora Grace S.
4/7	Shurene E.
4/8	Nancy H.
4/9	Brian B. Karen K. Elizabeth R.
4/10	Lisa I.
4/11	Molly B.
4/12	Heather S.
4/15	Pat R.
4/17	John H.
4/19	Bea Z.
4/22	Barb L.
4/24	Cyndi T.
4/25	Craig R.
4/26	Alyssa K.
4/28	Lynne C. Paul S.
4/29	Max H. Makenna H.

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

Behind the Scenes -Pastor Holly

When I first came to Wyoming Church, Ed and Tom were there every Wednesday to mow the grass all around the church. One would manage the push mower, the other the rider mower and they would get the grounds looking beautiful.

One time I looked out my window to see Ed and Tom up on a lift, replacing the outdoor light for the main parking lot. These guys get around.

Ed knows where every pipe and cord and switch is in the building. He can even adjust some of the heat remotely by using his phone. Tom is a master at fixing and cleaning and buffing. When you take time to admire the cleanliness and polish of the Fellowship Hall, remember to thank Tom and Ed. When you notice how clean all the dishes are after coffee hour or a potluck, you can thank Tom and Ed (well, mostly Tom).

They do some things on their own, of course. Ed creates the modern stained glass windows in the narthex. Tom is the head shepherd in the Christmas Pageant with his live 'sheep.'

Evidence of the work of Team Tom and Ed can be seen throughout the property from the new carpet in the worship space to the crèche outside the front door. Their teamwork even extends to their work at the Linwood Township Recycling Center. Thanks to Tom S. and Ed K. for all you do!



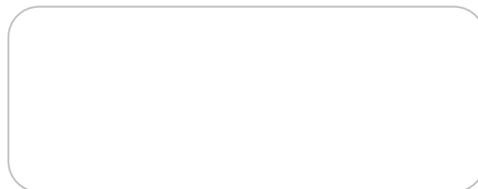
Feed My Starving Children Mobilepack -Jane Rylander

We have signed up to be a silver level sponsor for the event to be held at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Forest Lake on April 27 at from 9am to 11am. I have reserved 20 spaces for us but I need to know NOW if you plan to pack as our reservations will be given away if we don't put a name to each spot! Please email me at jane21475@aol.com or call me at 612-772-6868 ASAP to put your name on your spot to pack nourishing mannapack meals for the starving children around the world. We've helped this charity many, many times but if you would like more information about them, please see me or any member of the missions/outreach team.

Feed My Starving Children consistently receives the highest awards for integrity and trustworthiness. \$80 can feed a child for a year. \$365 can feed an entire family for a year. We'll be accepting financial contributions beginning April 1 if you would like to make a financial contribution. Make your check out to WUMC and mark it "CHILDREN" or mark your cash envelope "CHILDREN."

*By his power God raised the Lord from the dead,
and he will raise us also. – 1 Corinthians 6:14*

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Messenger



Easter Garden

Our Easter Garden is counting on you! Please sign up no later than Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14, for your spring flowers. There's a signup sheet in the nook (a counter in the narthex/lobby of the church). When our flower team goes shopping, they'll buy the most beautiful azaleas, hydrangeas, tulips, daffodils and other spring flowers that they can find. You are invited to take your plants home following Easter Sunday worship.

Holy Humor Sunday

Holy Humor Sunday, the Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection Laugh, is Sunday, April 28. On this second Sunday of the Easter season, people are invited to wear something that will make someone smile. If you are so inclined, we are encouraging people to dress as twins (by coordinating outfits with someone or by wearing baseball gear in honor of the home team). We're also inviting people to submit jokes or stories they think would be appropriate during worship on Holy Humor Sunday. Please get your jokes/stories to the church office (via email, mail or hand delivery) no later than Easter, April 21.

Holy Week

Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14, where we will remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the subsequent events of Jesus' last week on earth. On Good (or Holy) Friday, April 19, we will share in communion as we remember Christ's Last Supper with his disciples, then go into a contemplative service of remembering the events of Jesus' last night here on earth. On Easter morning we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead! You are invited to this Holiest of Weeks as we remember the depth and the height of God's great love for us.

Palm/Passion Sunday
April 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Good Friday Service
April 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Celebration April 21
8:30-9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for the children
10:00 a.m. Easter Worship & Flowering of the Cross



Worship Services in April

We continue our series on Finding Balance, centering ourselves and our lives on what matters most. On Easter we'll celebrate Balance Restored, where death and fear no longer hold sway in our lives, but resurrection and new life have the final word.

April 7

Finding Balance: Let Go
John 12:1-8

April 14

Palm/Passion Sunday

Finding Balance:
In Outreach
Luke 19:28-40; 23:32-47

April 21

Easter
Balance Restored
Luke 24:1-12

April 28

Holy Humor Sunday
Off Balance
John 20:19-31