

## From the Pastor...

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you for the blessing of a month-long renewal leave for my husband and me as we ventured off to Tanzania and Kenya in East Africa this last month. It was a long-awaited trip of a lifetime for me that many of you helped me achieve as three years ago you helped me write a grant request for the Lilly Foundation for Clergy Renewal Grant available to all ordained clergy.

It was a blessing to have close (but safe) views of some of God's most magnificent creatures. It was also rather wild to be in a safari vehicle each day, traveling over bumpy washboard gravel roads in search of the next elusive animals.

It is also a blessing to have more opportunities to share in the festivities of this season.

Thanks to the worship committee who organized our decorating of the Christmas trees in our Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary on the last Sunday of November, where many people stayed to enjoy the decorating, fellowship, hot cider and cookies. Thanks also for their reaching out to musicians in our community as we look forward to having special music every Sunday in December. Come and see!

Thanks to Jane R. and the Nurture and Discipleship Team who are helping bring back the Christmas Pageant after a three-year hiatus. We look forward to celebrating the Christmas story with our children leading the way during our Sunday morning worship on December 18.

Thanks to all of you for your faithfulness to God through this congregation. Your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness are all powerful ways that we, together, bring God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

I'm in the process of planning a sermon series talking about some of my learnings in the wilderness and how that relates to our faith walk even now in the midst of civilization. I hope you can join us as I share pictures and stories and insights gained from that time away.

~Pastor Holly

## December Celebrations

### Birthdays

12-2	Carly K.
12-8	Dolly A.
12-9	Derek I.
12-12	Nathan M.
12-13	Everyn S.
12-18	Derek S.
12-20	Brett H.
12-22	Lucas P.
12-23	Savannah F.
12-27	Buck B. Chevelle F.
12-28	Jane R. April L.
12-31	Dave F. Al J.



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

## Nativity at the Capitol

Through Wednesday, December 7, a nativity is on display on the east front lawn of the Minnesota State Capitol. The nativity will be lit with flood lights from dusk to dawn every night. Thanks to Jeff Dixon and a team from Northfield, MN who brought and set up the nativity.



## Thank You from Lakes Center for Youth and Families

Thank you for your donation to Lakes Center through the free will offering at the Turkey Dinner. What a generous gift from all who attended. And, what a generous gift your congregation gave to the community – a wonderful meal and a chance to gather together. I had such a delightful time talking to so many.

Thank you!  
Linda M. Madsen, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Lakes Center for Youth & Families

## Joy Bells

Thanks to all who have been sending or bringing in your donations for Joy Bells. Please bring your Target or Walmart \$25 or \$50 gift cards (brought in person, we don't want "cash" going through the mail) or your donations (marked "Joy Bells," checks written to the church) to the church no later than December 5. Thank you for helping make this a Merry Christmas for all!

## Thank You for Turning in Your Estimate of Giving Cards

To those who turned in Estimate of Giving Cards for 2023, thank you! Your giving to God through the church will help fulfill our mission of *Building Bridges to Christ's Love* in our church, in our community and in our world. If you haven't turned in an estimate of giving card yet, you can email the church office (office.wyomingumc@gmail.com) with your commitment for the coming year, send your card to the church in the mail (PO Box 247, Wyoming, MN 55092) or bring it to church and put it in the offering plate.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to the ministry of God through this church!

## Thank You from Pastor Melanie

Dear Wyoming UMC community, Thank you for your warm welcome and kind hospitality during my time worshipping with you in November. I enjoyed our exploration of the psalms together in worship, and getting to know you before and after worship. A HUGE thank you for the beautiful quilt you gifted me in worship on my last Sunday. I know how much work goes into sewing something of such beauty, and I am grateful for your generosity. Given the turn our weather has taken, it will be put into use right away!

I hope you all have a wonderful season of Advent and God's peace be with all of you.

- Pastor Melanie

2023

## Welcome the New Year

Sunday, January 1, 2023, we will welcome the new year together in our Sunday 10AM worship. The message that day will be "Ask the Pastor" where you can write down a question you've always wanted to ask about the church, the bible, our denomination or any other religious question that comes to mind. We'll collect the questions from the congregation present that day and answer them on the spot. At the end of the service, we'll have some time for Christmas Carols by request.

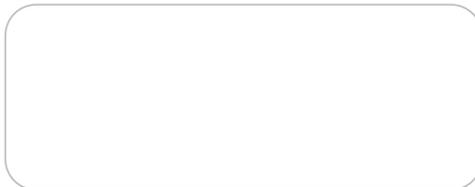
"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" – 2 Corinthians 9:15

## Special Music in December

The Worship Team has invited various musical groups to come and offer special music during worship. At the time of this writing, we have plans for the Montzka family to grace us with their beautiful piano/organ/vocal gifts the first Sunday of December and a small ensemble of Unexpected Company singing for us on the 18th. Amanda Johnson will be playing her flute on Christmas Eve and we have an invitation out to a soloist to sing for us on the 11th. Keep your eye on the weekly announcements to see what musical gifts are in store for our congregation.



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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)



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## Wyoming United Methodist Church Messenger



### Christmas Pageant Returns! An Invitation from Jane R.

For the first time in three years, on Sunday, December 18, we will have a "no-rehearsal" Christmas Pageant for children, youth, and adults who would like to participate. We ask those who are participating to come between 9:15-9:30 a.m. that day to choose a costume to become Mary & Joseph, an angel, a shepherd, or a wise one. If anyone knows of a baby to play Jesus that would be spectacular! All participants will gather around the manger to hear the Christmas story and sing some traditional songs of Christmas. We then will adjourn to the fellowship hall for Jesus' birthday party. All kids, grandkids, and adults are invited!

### Christmas Offering This Year to Benefit Costa Rica

Costa Rica - here we come. Once again, I will be joining a team (along with Deb) on a 12-day mission trip, January 12 - 24, 2023. The projects we will be working on varies each year, but all deserve attention. One thing in common is the need for resources, both volunteers and materials. Please consider financial support for this effort.

If you have questions, give me a call or catch me at church. -Dave F.

### Christmas Eve Worship Service

We are having our Christmas Eve service at 4PM again this year as Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday. Please make note of the time as our Christmas Eve services have traditionally been an hour later in the day. Our Christmas Eve 4pm worship service will be a traditional service of Lessons and Carols as together we welcome the Christ Child into our hearts. This is a perfect time to invite friends and family to join you online and access our worship service on our YouTube channel or come with you in person. Come, sing the well-known songs of Christmas and celebrate the one who brought light into the darkness.

Celebrate  
**Christmas**  
at Wyoming United Methodist Church

Saturday, December 24  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 25  
Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 AM

(5459 E. Viking Blvd., Wyoming, MN.55092 | 651-462-5276)



### Worship Services in December

In the month of December, we continue on our sermon series *Songs of the Season* as we explore themes related to our journey towards Christmas. Paralleling our lighting of the candles on the Advent/Christmas Wreath, we will talk about the virtues of peace, joy and love and how they inform our walk with God in this season.

#### December 4

Songs of the Season:  
Path of Peace  
Isaiah 2:2-5

#### December 11

Songs of the Season:  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Isaiah 35

#### December 18

Songs of the Season:  
Lift Up Your Heads  
Psalm 24

#### December 25

Songs of the Season:  
Go Tell It  
Luke 2:8-20