

From the Pastor...

What a whirlwind of activity these last few weeks have been! Multiple people in my life are scheduling meetings and meals and events as if they can't wait to see people again. In the last month alone I have been to a training for Staff/Parish Relations (with our congregation's Staff/Parish Relations Committee), a daylong gathering with our new Bishop Lanette Plambeck at Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds, an overnight retreat with my weekly clergy small group (also at Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds), a lunch with the local United Methodist pastors from the area, a daylong meeting on Zoom with pastors going through the Shmita (required boundary and ethics training) program this year, and a morning of the clergywomen from across the state meeting with Bishop Plambeck on Zoom. It's all so very wonderful, but it's also a lot!

I think April is going to be slightly less busy, but I haven't taken a close look yet.

I'm so glad to be reconnecting with people I haven't seen for a long time and meeting new people that I have never met. One benefit of all this busyness is that I'm relearning how to do small talk (a skill I didn't realize I had lost). This kind of busy-ness hasn't been a part of my life for years. I imagine I was this busy before 2020, but it's hard to remember back that far.

I hope your time with significant others is being resurrected in your life, too. As the snow melts and the flowers bloom and the snowbirds come back to Minnesota, I hope you feel a sense of spring, of resurrection, of renewed hope.

The Holy Week celebrations and remembrances have always been a meaningful and holy time. I hope that you consider yourself invited to all three services that week—Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter—and that you consider inviting others to come with you to these important remembrances marking all that Jesus went through during his last week on earth.

What a great gift of Jesus' love for us! What a great time to reconnect and renew connections with friends.

May your lives be filled with Easter joy and may you have the opportunities to reconnect with friends, both old and new!

~ Pastor Holly

April Celebrations

Birthdays

- 4-6 Darlene A.
- 4-7 Shurene E.
- 4-8 Nancy H.
- 4-9 Karen K.
- Elizabeth R.
- 4-10 Lisa I.
- 4-12 Heather S.
- 4-15 Pat R.
- 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.



Please Notify the Pastor

Please notify Pastor Holly if you hear of anyone from our congregation being in the hospital or in hospice care. Call or email the office or pastor and let them know of the need. Thank you!



Backpacks for Children

One of the programs our Minnesota FoodShare supports is the backpacks program for children. Called *Rangers Supporting Rangers*, the food program is intended to assist families who have a financial need by supplementing meals on weekends and during extended school breaks. Every week Jane packs a weekend meal bag containing 2 light breakfasts, lunches, and snacks to be quietly distributed to the children at Wyoming Elementary School whose families have applied for assistance. This enables those children, who depend on school food during the week, to have enough food to make it through the weekend and not come hungry to school on Monday morning. Our backpacks for children program is making a difference in our community.



Holy Humor Sunday

Holy Humor Sunday is back! The Sunday that we celebrate the Resurrection Laugh is back on Sunday, April 16, the Sunday following Easter. You're encouraged to wear something on that Sunday that will make somebody smile. The service will be an interesting experiment in spontaneity as we cut up the bulletin order of worship and pull out of the hat what part of worship comes next! Come and see (and bring a friend)!



Fish Friends

It's too cold for our fish friends to go out into the outdoor pond, so Pat cares for them daily and Ed and Pat make sure that their tank is well cared for and cleaned on occasion. Thanks Ed and Pat for taking care of our fish friends!



Feed My Starving Children

Wyoming UMC Church has once again declared interest in joining Hosanna Lutheran Church in Forest Lake for its Mobile Pack for Feed My Starving Children on April 22, 2023 at 9:00 - 11:00am. We have reserved 8 openings for people to pack manna meals which will be shipped to those in dire need of daily food. FMSC has partnered with Ukraine to provide food since the beginning of the war, providing 89 shipments of 24 million meals, enough to feed 65,798 kids a daily meal for a full year.



Along with helpers to pack the food, Hosanna is collecting funds to pay for the meals we pack. Last year we collected \$1140. Please be generous once again this April and mark your check or envelope with FMSC so your donation will go where intended. Thank you, loving and generous church!

Turkey has received 544,320 meals. The latest shipment was sent March 15, 2023.



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Wyoming United Methodist Church

Messenger

April 2023

Easter Flowers

If you haven't gotten in your order for flowers for our Easter Garden, you have until Sunday, April 2 to get in your order. 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 spring flowers that they can find. You are invited to take your plants home following Easter Sunday worship.

Holy Week

Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2 at our 10AM service, where we will remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. On Good (or Holy) Friday, April 7 at our 7PM service, we will share in communion as we remember Christ's Last Supper with his disciples, then go into a service of descending darkness called Tenebrae as we remember the events of Jesus' last night here on earth. On Easter morning's 10AM service 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.

Easter Egg Hunt

We will have the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning beginning at 9:30AM. Come to the narthex area just outside the worship space and from there we'll go and hunt Easter Eggs! See you there!

Worship Services in April

Our April celebrations begin with Holy Week, during which we celebrate the Palm Sunday procession of Jesus into Jerusalem, followed by the pain and agony of Good Friday followed by the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. On Sunday the 16th we'll celebrate Holy Humor Sunday in a way we've never celebrated before. Following Denny's guest preaching on the 23rd we'll launch into a series called *Soul Reset: Breakdown, Breakthrough, and the Journey to Wholeness* based on a book by the same name by Junius Dotson.

April 2 Palm Sunday

For Thine is the Kingdom
Matthew 21:1-11;
Matthew 6:9-13

April 9 Easter Sunday

Take a Breath
Matthew 28:1-10

April 16 Holy Humor Sunday

The Importance of Order
John 20:19-31

April 23

Denny Hebrink,
guest preacher

April 30

Soul Reset: How is it with
Your Soul?
Matthew 11:28-30; Psalm 23



Holy Week Schedule

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP: April 2 at 10 a.m.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: April 7 at 7 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION: April 9

8 a.m. Easter Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

10 a.m. Easter Worship



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