



November 2023 Volume 15.11

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### **Upcoming Events**

Liberty Pole Methodist Women Wed. Nov. 1, 5:30 p.m.

> Communion Sunday Sunday, November 5

New Hope Board Meeting Sun. Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Pole Board Meeting Mon. Nov. 13, 6 p.m.

Retreat Christmas Decorating Sun. Nov. 19, after worship

> Retreat Board Meeting Mon. Nov. 20, 6 p.m.

Sunday Bible Study Sun. Nov. 5 & 19, 8:30 a.m. @ Liberty Pole

Church Basement Quilters Mon. Nov. 13 & 27, 9:30 a.m. @ Liberty Pole

Wednesday Warriors Each Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope

### Thanks for Coming for Supper!

On a rainy Thursday night in October, people from around the area gathered at the New Hope Methodist Church for a delicious meal at the church's Meatball and Lefse Supper. It was wonderful seeing so many smiling faces! Thank you to all who attended and helped support the mission of our church! And a big thanks to the many volunteers who put in countless hours of work to lead to a successful event! *Photo credit: Robert Sandy* 





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### And the Winners Are... Not Known Yet!

The Fall Turkey Bazaar at the Retreat Methodist Church was held on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. At the time of writing this newsletter, the event has yet to happen... and thus the winners of the big raffle are not yet known! So to let you know who won in a timely fashion, we will announce the winners on the church Facebook page! We will also be sure to announce them in the next newsletter for those who do not follow up on social media.



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### Changing it up for Christmas!

Christmas is coming and the Liberty Pole church is planning on changing their Christmas tree theme. We will be retiring the angel ornaments, and changing over to red, silver, and white balls. The plan will be to place all the angels on tables in the basement and allow members to select the ones they may have given in honor or memory of someone. They will be there for the first 3 Sundays in November. Those not taken by Thanksgiving will be donated to Bethel Butik. There may be other decorations on the tables as well that will be available for your own use.



### It's All About the Fall

Pumpkin spiced drinks. Apple cider. Fresh donuts from the cider mill. Cool evenings. Hoodies. Beautiful colors. Change. These are just a few things that I think about when it comes to this time of year. I mean, those and the salmon going into the rivers that feed the Great Lakes to spawn. And I am sure there are things you think about when it comes to fall.

I love this time of year. We return from the crazy chaos of the summer schedule and begin to have a routine with our friends and family. We know which night we will have a particular event for ourselves or our children. Many people have already taken a vacation, and our work schedules have become a little more predictable. Summer can feel like a series of rapids on a river. They are a lot of fun, but you come to appreciate, even more, the calm flat parts of the river, having gone through the rapids.

As I come into the fall, I often think about what our



routine will entail. What things will get our attention, and what things will we have to put aside for a while? In our family, we have entered our sports seasons. Our oldest has traded goalie gear for climbing shoes and chalk, and our youngest has gotten out her swim cap and goggles again. And I become a chauffeur. They don't tip well but I love this part of tour routine so much.

With our kids in their respective sports, we told them that if they want to do this sport, they may need to give something else up or miss out on a few other things. There are only so many hours in a day. That is true for us all. We only have so much time in a day.

Early in the Gospel of Mark, we find Jesus healing and teaching. He is going from place to place and gaining some renown. As he healed people, the crowds grew larger. And the night before this passage, we find Jesus healing people into the wee hours of the night. Then the author records this, "*Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, 'Everyone is looking for you!' He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'" (Mark 1:35-38)* 

Jesus was saying "no" so that he could say "yes" to what he was called to do. He knew he wasn't called to stay in one place for a long time. His purpose was to share his message with people all over the region. He found a routine that led him toward his purpose and calling. He spent time in prayer or meditation and then went into the world to do what he was called to do.

The comedian and singer, Mark Lowery, once said, "If God called you to be a ditch digger, you would have to take a step down to be president." I heard this sentence when I was a little kid, and it has stuck with me. There is something in finding our purpose, our calling, and then living it out each day. This purpose doesn't have to get you on TV or make the headlines. It is where your abilities, interests, and passions meet the needs of the world. When we find and can do what we are called to do at this time, we will find great joy and fulfillment, and the world will be blessed because of it.

As we enter the fall season, let us remember that as our routines and lives will change, so might our callings and purposes, and that is okay. As we smell the pumpkin spice and put on a hoodie, may we remember that it is okay to say "no" to certain things so that we can say "yes" to the essential things in our lives.

Today, I encourage you to be like Jesus. Take time to meditate or pray about your primary calling and purpose, then head out to the world to do it. As the beautiful colors and weather change around us, let us dive deep into our purposes so that we can bless our community, state, and world. Grace and Peace,

Pastor Drew

### Shine! - November 2023 - Volume 15.11

### Get a Spiritual Boost and Dive into the Bible with Us!



We invite you to renew your spirit as we jump into God's Word, grow in our faith, and discover how it applies to our lives today! Everyone is invited to join us for our Sunday Bible study at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at the Liberty Pole church. This Bible study is open to everyone, so come as you are and be ready to dive into the Living Word!

## Sunday Morning Bible Study Sundays, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 a.m. at Liberty Pole

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### Liberty Pole Methodist Women

The Liberty Pole Methodist Women group will be gathering on **Wednesday, November 1**<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the basement of the Liberty Pole Methodist Church. All area women are invited to come and participate in our meeting and fellowship!



### **Church Basement Quilters**

Liberty Pole's Church Basement Quilters is made up of a small group of women who are sisters in Christ. Our common thread—(pun intended)!!—is a love of making quilts. They are for friends, family and others. *This month, we are meeting on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>!* We start about 9:30 a.m. and quit when we want to! A brown bag lunch is needed. You will need to bring your own sewing machine and extension cord. We have a cutting and an ironing station set up. Come join us and make a quilt or six! We are having a great time and invite you to be a part of it!

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### Many Thanks to Our Volunteers

A HUGE THANK YOU to the many wonderful volunteers who helped to make the Chicken & Noodle and Chili Meal a success. Your hard work is greatly appreciated and we could not have done this without your generous help and support! *Thanks to Bill Marohl for taking pictures during the event!* 



Liberty Pole, New Hope & Retreat Methodist Churches – Visit us online at: <u>www.driftlessministry.org</u>

### **Prayers for November**

Each day of the week, use this simple prayer starter as part of your conversation with God.

### Sunday

Dear Heavenly Father, As the sun rises and a new day begins, I come before you with a heart full of gratitude. Thank you, O Lord, for the precious gift of life that you have bestowed upon me.

### Monday

God, you know my heart. Thank you for hearing my suffering. Help me thank you in all circumstances.

### Tuesday

God, thank you for the people in my life. Give them your blessing. Help me say "thank you" for the ways they bless me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Wednesday

Lord, help me to see the beauty in the simplest of things - the warmth of the sun, the gentle rustling of leaves, and the laughter of loved ones. May I never take these blessings for granted.

### Thursday

Guide my steps today, dear Lord, and grant me the wisdom to make the most of each moment.

### Friday

God, thank you for the good you have put in my life today. Reveal yourself to me through your goodness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Saturday

God, thank you for all that you've given me. Please give me a grateful heart and a deeper relationship with you. Grant me peace today. Amen.

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### Make a Difference! Attending Upcoming Church Meetings!

Being an active part of your church is *vital* to the life of your church! We encourage everyone to come and participate in the discussions at your respective church board/council meeting. All church members have a vote, and all ideas are welcome. Join us at your next church meeting and make a difference!

> **New Hope Church Board Meeting** Sun. Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 a.m.

**Liberty Pole Church Board Meeting** Mon. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m.

**Retreat Church Board Meeting** Mon. Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m.



### Help us save time, money, and the environment!

If you have an e-mail address, we can send you our monthly newsletter directly to your inbox! If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, just send us an e-mail to retreat@driftlessministry.org with "Subscribe" in the subject line. Or sign up at our website at www.driftlessministry.org/shine. It's that easy!







### Supporting our Local Food Pantries

Over the next few months, we will have a joint mission project on supporting our local food pantries. Thanks to Liberty Pole for taking the lead on the project, the staff at the New Hope and Living Faith Food Pantries will be contacted to learn what their particular needs are. The lists will then be shared with all three congregations. Currently, it is known that there are increasing requests for hygiene products. Therefore, for the month of November, we will be focusing on feminie hygiene products. You may bring these items to church with you and they will be distributed to the pantries. Next month we will focus on a different item, so stay tuned for more information!

### **Developing a Heart of Thankfulness November Online Study**

God's Word encourages us to have an attitude of gratitude every day, not just at Thanksgiving time, as it states in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

> <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Sometimes, it's not very easy to try and find things to be thankful for, depending on the circumstances we're facing. It takes time and practice to develop a heart of thankfulness.

This month, we'll be doing several shorter studies to help us work towards developing a heart of thankfulness. Please join us as we learn how to find things to be thankful for no matter what circumstances we're dealing with. If you're not able to join us for all the studies, please participate as you're able.

Here is the list of the online studies we'll be doing this month:

- A Thankful Heart Devotional (5 days) begins on Nov. 1 •
  - <u>https://bible.com/p/61770380/682d33b3fe21b05f00b6219db3746b77</u>
    Benefits of a Thankful Heart (5 days) begins on Nov. 6
    <u>https://bible.com/p/61770435/14b695f9e92110b8b941953735ee8450</u>
  - The Benefits of a Thankful Heart (5 days) begins on Nov. 6
  - Gratitude: Being Thankful Changes Everything (5 days) begins on Nov. 12 o https://bible.com/p/61770457/c9bce462a11d3e54d4b132efeb8fc24f
- Thankful Living (5 days) begins on Nov. 17 ٠ o https://bible.com/p/61770472/58d8022efc7f0a9144a126a1eef97471
- Power of Thankful Heart (7 days) begins on Nov. 22
  - https://bible.com/p/61770484/d37ea8e94c8e9ae6709df19a8698c85f

These online studies and more can be accessed through the Bible App or *bible.com* website, which are free resources. In addition to wonderful devotional and reading plans, they provide a verse of the day, and you will be able to read the Bible in a wide variety of versions. The Bible App is available in your app store on your mobile device, or accessible online at www.bible.com.

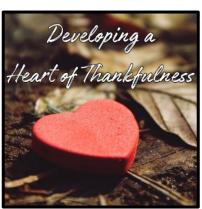
Please note that as of Oct. 31, 2023, Bible.com will no longer support Plans with Friends. You will need to open the Bible App on your mobile device to continue to use this feature.

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### 2023-24 Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Class is being offered to area youth in grades 7 through 11. Through the classes provided by the church, students reflect on their faith and relationship with Christ. Students generally meet weekly during the school year. Contact Pastor Drew, pastor@driftlessministries.org for more information.





**Food Pantry** 

Living Faith

### Working Together to Serve the People!

Many people come together to prepare the many dinners our churches host. While Retreat's Fall Bazaar has yet to happen at the time of publication of this newsletter, the work in preparing the meal is well underway! A special thank you to all of the people who came and helped make approximately 40 pies for the big dinner! Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated!

And even though the event is not over, a HUGE thank you goes out to all of the many wonderful volunteers who came together to host the Fall Bazaar. We cannot thank you enough! A big thank you also goes out to all of those who donated items for the bake sale and the raffle. Your generosity never ceases to amaze us!

And last but certainly not least, THANK YOU to everyone who came out to enjoy the meal that our many volunteers worked together on! We enjoy hosting this event each year, but we truly love serving each of you even more! Thank you



for your continued love and support for our church and it's ministries!

Photo Credit: Terrah Mendoza



### **Deck the Halls!**

The Retreat Methodist Church invites you to come and help decorate the church and fellowship hall for the Advent and Christmas Season! We will be putting up the Christmas tree and getting out the decorations following worship on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. While Advent doesn't start until December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the church wants to get a jump start on the season. So come to worship and then stick around and help us get festive!

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### **Christmas Cookie Walk**

Start your Christmas baking early without having to use any recipes or dirty any dishes. Come to Westby UMC's annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Sat. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. to Noon. There will be a wide variety of Christmas cookies, homemade candies, and other baked goods available. The cookie walk is like having a salad bar, where you get to choose your own salad toppings, but with cookies in place of the salad items. The cost is \$7 per pound, with some items priced separately. Coffee and hot chocolate will be available. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards Westby UMC's outreach projects. Remember to come early for the best selection of cookies.



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"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." ~ Colossians 3:15 ~

### Around the Driftless...

Check out these other upcoming local church functions and community events!

- Free-Will Rummage Sale Fri. Nov. 3, 8 a.m. 7 p.m. & Sat. Nov. 4, 8 a.m. 1 p.m. @ La Farge UMC
- *Meatball Dinner & Bake Sale* Sat. Nov. 4, 11 a.m. gone @ Middle Coon Valley Lutheran Church \$13 per meal. Dine-in, carry-out, or drive-through.
- **Bethel Butikk Soup for Support** Thu. Nov. 9, 11 a.m. 7 p.m. @ Westby VFW (205 N Main St., Westby) Serving all-you-can-eat soup, salad, breadsticks, and homemade pie. Cost is \$10/person. Dine-in or carry-out.
- Drive-Thru Spaghetti Dinner Fri. Nov. 10, 5 7 p.m. @ De Soto High School (615 Main St., De Soto) Serving spaghetti, garlic bread, vegetables, and dessert. Free-will donation benefitting Freedom Honor Flight.
- Soup & Salad Wed. Nov. 15, 5 7 p.m. @ De Soto Community Center. Serving Homemade Soups, Salads, and Desserts. Proceeds to the De Soto Lions.
- **The Road to Bethlehem** Sat. Dec. 2, 2 5 p.m. @ Sugar Creek Bible Camp A drive-through Advent Experience!

### **Thankful Heart Recipe**

Here are eight ingredients to stir up a T-H-A-N-K-F-U-L heart.

- T Taste and see that the Lord is good. (Psalm 34:8)
  The first bite of pie always reminds us of its goodness. Similarly, God reminds us over and over that He's a good, good Father. God alone is reason enough to give thanks.
- H Help others. (Philippians 2:4, Matthew 25:42-44)

Kingdom principles rarely make sense to our limited minds. When we look to the interests and needs of others; and when we help the *least of these*, it grows a thankful heart.

- A Accelerate praise and giving thanks to the Lord. (*Psalm 7:17, Psalm 69:30*)
  As our voice sings praises and gives thanks, and raises *Hallelujahs!*, our heart naturally overflows with thankfulness. Praise + giving thanks = a thankful heart.
- N Nourish our soul. (Isaiah 55:1-3, John 6:35)

Holidays and special occasions find most of us nourishing our body with nutrients and vitamins (and other stuff we won't mention here). But replenishing our soul with spiritual nourishment brings spiritual vitality and life! We go to the bread of life, Jesus, to satisfy our hunger and thirst.

K – Keep the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7)

Like straying from a recipe botches the dish, straying from the foundations of our faith leaves us open to worldly perspectives and a less than whole heart devoted to God.

F – Form an attitude of gratitude. (1 Timothy 4:4, Hebrews 12:28)

An attitude makes all the difference. Forming a specific one doesn't happen overnight. Hebrews 12:28 encourages us to "be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken." (ESV) And 1 Timothy 4:4 says, "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving." (ESV) **Attitudes of gratitude connect thanksgiving to our heart.** 

U – Understand God's blessings. (Ephesians 1:3)

We've heard it said to count our blessings. And we know we are blessed with every spiritual blessing. While it's not an exhaustive list, these include: amazing grace, never-ending mercy, unconditional and undying love, unsurpassed peace, real hope, authentic faith, unwavering truth, overflowing joy and God's fullness for our emptiness.

L – Lay-up treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-21)

Many of us lost earthly treasures this year. Perhaps income, home, retirement, investments, insurance, or other. **One sure-fire way to cook up a thankful heart? Lay-up treasures in heaven.** A place treasure is never destroyed or stolen.



# Shining Celebrations! 🖈 🖕 📌 📌

### Hunter Isbell – Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> Garrett Schiffler – Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> Isabella Thompson – Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> Melissa Vikemyr – Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> Dylan Johnson – Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> Kim Robson – Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> Joyce Krueger – Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Jeanne Kunert – Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Desirae Steiber – Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Pamela Harkema – Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Brent Deaver – Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> Milan Gilman – Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>

### <u>Birthdays</u>

Loren Kuner – Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> Duanne Stalsberg – Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> Cora Gianoli – Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Nummerdor – Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> Edith Stalsberg – Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Janna Thew – Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Ethan Ellefson – Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Neil Funk – Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> Lucy Foley – Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> Mary Marx – Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> David Baker – Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Mark Haakenson – Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Jeff Nelson – Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Jeff Warmuth – Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Roxanna Haakenson – Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> Kevin Taylor – Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> Willis Jaxon Newsome – Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> Abagail Diehl – Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> Chandlor Volden – Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> Patty Stilwell – Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> Hailey Thompson – Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> Joan Seymour – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Loren Springborn – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Anniversaries**

Gary & Lynnell Nummerdor – Nov. 4th

Carol & Milan Gilman – Nov. 11th

Did we miss your birthday, anniversary, or other special day? Let us know! E-mail us at <u>newsletter@driftlessministry.org</u>.

### Join Us for Fellowship Sundays!

The next Fellowship Sunday at the Retreat Methodist Church is coming up on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. This month's host at Retreat are **Angie & Sue Isbell.** We hope you can join us after worship on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for some wonderful fellowship time!

These Fellowship Sundays are a great way to catch up with your faith family. Be sure to check them out and enjoy some quality time with your family and friends at the church!

# ETHOWSHIP

# Church Contacts

Interim Pastor: Rev. Drew Filkins (517) 899-3408 <u>pastor@driftlessministry.org</u>

SPRC Chair – Barb Robson: (608) 606-5809

Lay Leaders – Debbie Groves: (608) 648-3684 Barb Robson: (608) 606-5809 Jeffery Nelson: (608) 379-2933

Food Pantry – Debbie Groves: (608) 648-3684 Robbin Henchen: (608) 804-0314



### FALL BACK

REMEMBER TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LP: Liberty Pole NH: New Hope R: Retreat	Driftless Ministries Rev. Drew Filkins (517) 899-3408 pastor@driftlessministry.org	<b>Ministries</b> w Filkins 19-3408 ssministry.org	1 LP Women – 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	<b>2</b> Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	m	4
5 LP Bible Study: 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Sunday (R) Communion Sunday	ω	T * * * * * * * *	8 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	9 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	9	11
12 VH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	<b>13</b> LP Church Basement Quilters 9:30 a.m. LP Board Meeting 6 p.m.	14	15 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	16 Food Pantry Open 9 - 11 a.m.	17	18
<b>19</b> LP Bible Study: 8:30 a.m.	20 Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.	21 Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>22</b> Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	33	24	25
26	<b>27</b> LP Church Basement Quilters 9:30 a.m.	58	29	õ	-	2



### **Return Service Requested**

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