



February 2024
Volume 16.2

Ash Wednesday: The Beginning of Lent!

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. This special day, which falls on February 14th this year, emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. Generally, special services are held that focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



This year, a special ecumenical Ash Wednesday service has been planned for you! **Everyone is invited to the Liberty Pole Methodist Church on Wednesday, February 14th for a 6 p.m. service.** As mentioned, this service will be ecumenical, as our friends and neighbors from North West Prairie and South West Prairie Lutheran Churches will be joining our faith family for this time of worship and reflection. Pastor Tim Duncan from the Lutheran churches will be preaching.



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, February 4th and 18th 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, February 4th & 18th @ 8:30 a.m. at Liberty Pole



Liberty Pole Methodist Women

The Liberty Pole Methodist Women invite all area women to join the group for a quick meeting at the church on Sunday, February 4th at 10:15 a.m. (following the 9:15 a.m. worship service). Come and help us plan for our 2024 ministry!



Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

~ Mark 1:14-15 ESV ~

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Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday

Sun, Feb. 4th

LP Methodist Women

Sun. Feb. 4th, 10:15 a.m.

New Hope Board Meeting

Sun. Feb. 11th, 11:30 a.m.

Retreat Board Meeting

Tue. Feb. 13th, 6 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wed. Feb. 14th

Liberty Pole @ 6 p.m.

Liberty Pole Board Meeting

Mon. Feb. 19th, 6 p.m.

Sunday Bible Study

Sun. Feb. 4th & 18th

8:30 a.m. @ Liberty Pole

Wednesday Warriors

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

Food Pantry Open

Wednesdays: 5 – 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: 9 – 11 a.m.

Don't Rush the Journey

In the last few years, I have driven a lot of miles. Between moving from Lansing, MI, to Duluth, MN, and my interim jobs, I have driven over 60,000 miles. Now, don't get me wrong, I love a good road trip. I love the highway. I love the adventure. I love finding new places to see and new places to eat. I enjoy listening to music, books, podcasts, and moments of sitting in silence—only the rumble of the road to keep me company. I love the journey often as much as the destination.

As we enter the Lenten season, it is an invitation to join Jesus on the journey from the mountain where he transfigured before his disciples to the cross and grave, and finally to Easter morning and the excitement of the resurrection. This season has sometimes been used to either fast from something or take on a spiritual practice. But this is not just a time for a second chance at a New Year's Resolution; it is a time to walk the path with Jesus to the cross and beyond.

I have a terrible habit when coming home from a trip; I usually just want to get there. I don't want to stop along the way. I don't want to take extra time to see the beautiful scenery around me. I just want to get home. And far too often, I also want to do this with the Lenten season. I want to skip the journey and just head to the destination. I want to skip all of it and go to the cross and then the resurrection.

My challenge to all of us as we join Jesus on this journey to Jerusalem is that we stay with him along the way. Don't rush ahead. Don't miss the small adventures and teachings along the way. Let us stay with Jesus as he teaches his final lessons to his disciples. Let us stay with him as he goes from the joys and shouts of, "Hosana!" on Palm Sunday to the quiet meal with his closest friends on Maundy Thursday, to the horrific cries of "Crucify him!" on Good Friday, to the stony silence of Holy Saturday and finally onto the surprise and wonder of Easter morning.

This journey has many highs and lows. There are moments of laughter and tears. There are moments of triumph and defeat. But what I trust most is that Jesus will journey with us this Lenten season. That Jesus will accompany us on the journey and any journey to guide, to direct, to comfort, and to offer hope. No matter where you are journeying this Lent, take Jesus with you. Journey with him so that his love, compassion, mercy, and grace might flow through you and into the world.

To this end, I am challenging you to join me in reading through the Gospels of Mark and John this Lenten season. To the right is a schedule of what to read on the forty days of Lent and there are bookmarks available to anyone who wants one. This journey will allow us not only to see the final week of Jesus' life here on earth but also what he did and taught throughout his ministry.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Drew



Lenten Journey

1 ~ John 1:1-18	21 ~ John 10
2 ~ John 1:19-51	22 ~ John 11
3 ~ Mark 1	23 ~ Mark 10
4 ~ Mark 2	24 ~ Mark 11
5 ~ Mark 3	25 ~ John 12
6 ~ John 2	26 ~ Mark 12
7 ~ John 3	27 ~ Mark 13
8 ~ John 4	28 ~ Mark 14:1-42
9 ~ John 5	29 ~ John 13
10 ~ Mark 4	30 ~ John 14
11 ~ Mark 5	31 ~ John 15
12 ~ Mark 6	32 ~ John 16
13 ~ Mark 7	33 ~ John 17
14 ~ John 6:1-40	34 ~ Mark 14:43-72
15 ~ John 6:41-71	35 ~ John 18
16 ~ Mark 8	36 ~ Mark 15
17 ~ Mark 9	37 ~ John 19
18 ~ John 7	38 ~ Mark 16
19 ~ John 8	39 ~ John 20
20 ~ John 9	40 ~ John 21



In addition to the wonderful donation of cheese, the New Hope Food Pantry also received generous donations of canned and boxed food items from the River Banks in De Soto and Ferryville along with monetary donations from the Vernon Communications and Vernon Electric Cooperatives. A HUGE thank you goes out to everyone for these wonderful donations and continued support!



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

Good morning, Lord! Today's a new day, a chance for a new start. Yesterday is gone, and with it, any regrets, mistakes, or failures I may have experienced. It's a good day to be glad and give thanks, and I do, Lord. Thank you for today, a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that you want me to be.

Lord, grant me courage as I go through this day. When I am tempted to give up, help me to keep going. Grant me a cheerful spirit when things don't go my way. And give me the strength and courage to do whatever needs to be done.

Lord, may nothing separate me from You today. Teach me how to choose only Your way today so each step will lead me closer to You. Help me walk by the Word and not my feelings. Help me to keep my heart pure and undivided.

Holy Lord, Thank You for never-ending grace. Please help me move beyond the hurdles that trip me up and give me the strength and wisdom to look up and see the hope I run toward in Christ.

Lord, help me not to lean on my own understanding but in everything acknowledge You so that You can direct my words, thoughts, and actions. Guide my footsteps and lead me where I need to go.

Dear Lord, as I rise to meet each new day, please let me be filled with Your Spirit. Wherever I go, let me spread love, joy, peace, goodness and faithfulness. Let me desire to become more like You and to worship You in all I do.

Lord, Jesus, today is Your day, and I want Your will to be done. So, whatever happens, hold my hand, and let's face it together.



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!

Sun. Feb. 11th @ 11:30 a.m.

Tues. Feb. 13th @ 6 p.m.

Mon. Feb. 19th @ 6 p.m.



CHURCH MEETING



The Basement Quilters at Liberty Pole are taking a winter break. Everyone is encouraged to continue working on their own projects in the comfort, warmth, and safety of their own homes. The group will meet again in March, and we welcome you to come then and show off what you've been working on during the cold, snowy winter months. Keep an eye out in future newsletters for the date of the next gathering!



This month, Liberty Pole Methodist Church is issuing a special challenge to each family to start saving coins. Each family chooses a coin denomination—penny, nickel, dime, or quarter – with a goal of collecting a total of 150 coins reflecting the church’s 150 years of ministry! All coins collected should then be turned in to the fundraising committee by June 15th as a special offering for the 150th celebration. Everyone from the Retreat and New Hope churches are also welcome to participate in the coin challenge! There will also be more fundraising information in the coming months, so be looking forward to that news coming soon.



As the date of 150th celebration approaches, more committees and volunteers will be needed. Currently, Deb Deaver is working hard on writing the church history. Steve & Tamie Thompson, Amy Hardy and Bill Marohl are working on gathering names and contacts of former pastors and members. Brad Thew and Barb Robson have been working on how the special service might look like. Very soon, the church will need to consider how and where to advertise, and what the special memento will be. And then there's food! A menu will need to be developed and helpers will be needed! Many volunteer opportunities are on the horizon, so be sure to look for how you can help!

Please note that the church can use ideas and help from each of you! Please feel free to contact Barb Robson, Pastor Drew, or Tamie Thompson if you have ideas or are willing to help.

Until next month— start collecting those coins!

Barb Robson

***Liberty Pole Methodist Church's 150th Anniversary Celebration
will be held on Sunday June 30th, 2024.***



Volunteering is fun!
Image of some of the volunteers from the
Liberty Pole Chicken & Noodle/Chili Meal in October 2023.



Through the month of December, the people of the Retreat Methodist Church collected new and gently used mittens, gloves, and hats for the children at Prairie View Elementary School. In January, Robbin Henchen dropped off the donation which will be used to help keep the kids warm during the cold winter months in the event a child does not have the proper articles to be safe and warm. A huge thank you to all who donated towards this mission! Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Pictured are Matt Rice, Prairie View Elementary Principal and Robbin Henchen with a donation of mittens, gloves and hats from the Retreat Methodist Church.

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

Are you looking for a fun family friendly event for you and your children this winter? Get outside and enjoy this winter wonderland that God has given to us at Living Waters Bible Camp's Snow Day on Sunday, February 11th! This is your opportunity to discover what the camp is all about while having fun at the same time. Enjoy an afternoon of tubing, cross country skiing, and ice skating with lunch and hot chocolate included! The fun begins at 1 p.m. with lunch being served between 1 and 3 p.m. The cost for the whole day is \$7 per person (kids 3 years and younger are FREE). Each ticket includes the use of ice rink, tube hill, ice skates, cross-country skiing, and lunch. Find out more at www.lwbc.org. So come on out to Living Waters for an afternoon of fun in God's great outdoors!



Snow or no snow, it's a go! Everyone, young and young-at-heart, are welcome to come and enjoy a Winter Fun Day at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. The Winter Fun Day will be held on Sunday, February 4th between 1 and 4 p.m. Sledding, tubing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and all sorts of outdoor winter fun will be available. The equipment is provided or you can bring your own. A lunch of hot dogs and chili will be provided along with cozy drinks. RSVPs are appreciated and can be made by calling (608) 734-3113 or emailing the camp office at office@sfrcreek.org. The cost of the day is \$10 per person; children age 4 and under are free. Head down to Sugar Creek with the family for an afternoon of winter fun!

If you have an e-mail address, we can send you our monthly newsletter directly to your inbox! When you subscribe to the digital version of the newsletter, not only do you get the newsletter faster and *in* color, you also help us by saving us time and precious resources! 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!



The New Hope Food Pantry continues to receive expressions of gratitude from those who utilize the many blessings the pantry offers. Here are a few of the many thanks they've received:

"Thank you so much. The food pantry really helps us out."

"I thank the food pantry very much. It really helps when times get tough."

***“Thank you very much for your help in these very trying times.
You are a great help.”***

And the pantry volunteers know your donations are making a difference when these expressions also came with one GREAT BIG HUG! Thank you from all of the volunteers and those who utilize the pantry for your continued support of this vital community ministry!

a big
thank
you



The New Hope Food Pantry welcomes your generous donations to help those in need in our communities. This month the pantry is seeking donations of **mixed vegetables, peaches, scalloped potatoes, and shampoo**. If you wish to donate items or funds, feel free to drop them off at any of our three churches. You may also drop them off during the pantry's open hours: Wednesdays, 5 – 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 9 – 11 a.m.



- ✓ Mixed Vegetables
- ✓ Peaches
- ✓ Scalloped Potatoes
- ✓ Shampoo



A major celebration of love, like Valentine's Day, can be bittersweet for those missing their mate. No matter how much time has passed, February 14 can trigger memories of a lost love. Thorson-Popp supports those without a surviving spouse by hosting a complimentary Valentine's Day Luncheon at Old Towne Inn in Westby. A free meal for those attending begins at noon with a program to follow. This light-hearted and entertaining program is a celebration of love and includes a touching rose presentation ceremony to honor the spouses missed on that special day. This event is an expression of their care at Thorson-Popp because they know that whether it was many years together or just a few, it's the memories that keep love alive. Please call (608) 637-7041 to RSVP with your meal choice (meatless and seafood options are available for those observing Ash Wednesday).



Snowflake Ski Jumping Tournament – Fri. Feb. 2nd & Sat. Feb. 3rd @
Snowflake Ski Club, rural Westby.

Old Fashioned Lutefisk Dinner – Sat. Feb. 3rd, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. or gone
@ Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Westby.
Serving Lutefisk, lefse, meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, rutabagas, carrots, coffee, milk, & pastries. Family style dining or carryout. Cost: Adults \$20, Ages 7 – 12 \$8, Ages under 6 Free.

Kids Ice Fishing Day – Sat. Feb. 3rd, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. @ Genoa National Fish Hatchery, HWY 35 south of Genoa.
Open ice fishing for kids. Bait & poles are provided. Snowshoeing available. For more info, call (608) 689-2605.

Pancake Breakfast – Sun. Feb. 4th, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. @ Coon Valley American Legion Post 116.
Serving pancakes, sausage links, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, and beverages. Proceeds towards Main Street Flags.

Soup Supper & Auction – Sat. Feb. 10th, 4 – 5:45 p.m. supper, 7 p.m. auction @ Faith UMC, rural La Farge
Serving: Three soups, crackers, bread, cheese & sausage, desserts, and beverages. Free-will donation for soup supper.

Candlelight Hike, Ski, and Snowshoe – Sat. Feb. 10th, 5 – 9 p.m. @ Wildcat Mountain State Park, Ontario
Hike, snowshoe, or ski a 1.5 mile torchlit trail, warm up around a roaring campfire, and gaze up at the stars. Refreshments will be available courtesy of the Ontario Community Club. A park pass is required and available at time of entry.

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

Shining Celebrations!

Birthdays

Elaine Lambert – Feb. 3rd
 Gloria Warmuth – Feb. 3rd
 Jackie Schiffler – Feb. 4th
 Dale Torke – Feb. 4th
 Mary Fox – Feb. 6th
 Shianne Nummerdor – Feb. 6th
 Vanessa Lohr – Feb. 7th
 Trista Diehl – Feb. 8th

Shirley Haakenson – Feb. 8th
 Serena Baker – Feb. 10th
 Andy Hanson – Feb. 11th
 Sue Isbell – Feb. 11th
 Shelby Knutson – Feb. 13th
 Axell Lepke – Feb. 15th
 Kirk Holliday – Feb. 16th
 Alan Christianson – Feb. 17th

Renae Diehl – Feb. 17th
 James Vikemyr – Feb. 17th
 Gary Nummerdor – Feb. 18th
 Maddie Stillwell – Feb. 19th
 Terry Nelson – Feb. 23rd
 Cathy Gruneth – Feb. 24th
 David Stalsberg – Feb. 25th
 Sara Hanson – Feb. 28th

Anniversaries

Fred & Vicki Zitzner – Feb. 17th

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



Join Us for Fellowship Sundays!

The next Fellowship Sunday at the Retreat Methodist Church is coming up on Sunday, February 4th and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. This month's hosts at Retreat are **Robbin Hennen and John Hanson**. We hope you can join us after worship on Sunday, January 7th for some wonderful fellowship time!

This month's Fellowship Sunday at the Liberty Pole Methodist Church will be held on Sunday, February 18th. Be sure to join us following worship as we enjoy some snacks and have great fellowship together.

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!



Church Contacts

Interim Pastor: Rev. Drew Filkins
 (517) 899-3408

pastor@driftlessministry.org

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 Hennen: (608) 804-0314



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LP: Liberty Pole NH: New Hope R: Retreat				1	2	3
4 LP Bible Study: 8:30 a.m. LP M. Women, 10:15 a. Fellowship Sunday (R) Communion Sunday 	5	6	7 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	9	10
11 NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	12	13 Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.	14 Wed. Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m. Ash Wed. Service 6 p.m. @ Liberty Pole	15 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	16	17
18 LP Bible Study: 8:30 a.m. Fellowship Sunday (LP)	19 LP Board Meeting 6 p.m.	20  Submission Deadline	21 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	22 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	23	24
25	26	27	28 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 – 5 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	29	Driftless Ministries Rev. Drew Filkins (517) 899-3408 pastor@driftlessministry.org	



Liberty Pole, New Hope & Retreat Methodist Churches
c/o Jeff Nelson
120 Rosewood Ln N
West Salem, WI 54669

Return Service Requested

Address Label Here



**ECUMENICAL
ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICES**

FEBRUARY 14

6 p.m. @ Liberty Pole

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Driftless Ministries
Liberty Pole, New Hope, & Retreat Methodist Churches

**OUR CHURCH PROFILE
IS AVAILABLE!**

Do you know someone who might be
an excellent pastor for our churches?

Direct them to our church profile and
encourage them to apply!

**FIND OUR CHURCH PROFILE ONLINE AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.DRIFTLESSMINISTRY.ORG](https://www.driftlessministry.org)**