

"Let the light of Jesus shine through you!"

Inside this issue:

*Familiar but New	2
*Sunday Bible Study	
*Taking Time to Reflect	3
*Food Pantry Needs	
*April Prayers	4
*April Meetings	
*Celebrating Milestones	5
*Make It Sew	
*Seder Meal Lesson	6
*Thinking of Your Safety	
*Be a Good Steward	7
*Blessing Basket Smiles	
*Upcoming Projects	8
*Shining Celebrations	
*Fellowship Sunday	9
*Events calendar	

Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday

Sun. Apr. 7th

Liberty Pole Board Meeting

Mon. Apr. 8th, 6 p.m.

Retreat Board Meeting

Mon. Apr. 9th, 6 p.m.

New Hope Board Meeting

Sun. Apr. 14th, 11:30 a.m.

Grilled Pork Chop Dinner

Sat. Apr. 13th, 4 – 7 p.m.
@ Retreat Fellowship Hall

Church Basement Quilters

Mon. Apr. 1st, 15th, & 29th
9 a.m. @ Liberty Pole

Sunday Bible Study

Sun. Apr. 14th & 28th
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.

Grilled Pork Chop Dinner

Are you craving that first taste of grilled meat for the year? If so, we have an excellent opportunity coming up for you to enjoy mouth-watering grilled pork chops and plenty of sides! The Retreat Methodist Church will be hosting a Grilled Pork Chop Dinner on Saturday, April 13th from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall (E3426 County Road N, De Soto). They will be serving delicious grilled pork chops, au gratin potatoes, baked beans, salad, and dessert! The cost for the meal is \$15 per plate for adults and \$8.00 per plate for children aged 10 and under. Carry-outs will also be available for \$15.50 each and may be ordered in person or you can place your order in advance by calling (608) 648-3435 the day of the event. There will also be a bake sale during the evening giving you the opportunity to take home a sweet homemade treat! So don't miss this great opportunity to treat yourself and your family to a taste of summer while enjoying fellowship with family, friends, and neighbors!



An Evening of Soup, Salads, Sandwiches and Community Support!

On the evening of Wednesday, March 20th, the De Soto Area Lions hosted a special soup, salad, and sandwich meal. The proceeds from the meal, which was freewill donation, were generously designated for the New Hope Wednesday Warriors afterschool program in honor of Debbie & Charlie Groves. The ladies of the club provided all of the food for the meal. By the end of the night, nearly \$500 in donations were collected for the Wednesday Warriors.

A huge thank you to the De Soto Area Lions for selecting and supporting our Wednesday Warriors youth ministry! And a big thank you to all of the community members who came out to support as well! Your kindness is greatly appreciated!



Familiar but New

On Thursday, March 23, 2023, I saw the Aurora Borealis up close and personal for the first time. I had seen them from a distance. I saw a little green on the horizon but nothing like what I experienced that evening. After a disappointing college basketball game—it is March, after all—Holly told me that it was a prime evening to see the northern lights and we should run up the hill.

As we walked out of our house, the world looked like it usually does. Our neighborhood's house lights and streetlights made the sky look similar to what we see every cloudless night. But as we left the well-lit neighborhood and headed up the hill into the more remote places around Duluth, we saw more greens and reds appear in the sky. We went to an area about a mile from our house that we know well. We go there to take pictures of the lake or freshly fallen snow.

As our eyes adjusted to low light, the sky came alive. Greens, reds, purples, and colors I can't even put into words danced around the sky and us. We took it in and took a few pictures. We knew this place well, but never had seen it like this before. We have come here at all hours of the day but never had it looked like this. It was familiar, but that night it was also new.

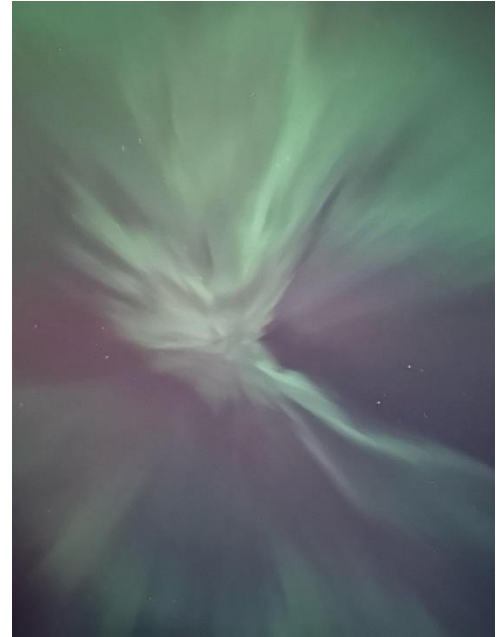
We have made our way through Lent and Holy Week—the week between the triumphal entry and resurrection Sunday. Many of us have made this journey before. We have attended these services, sung the songs, prayed the prayers, and become somewhat familiar with the whole story. And as a pastor, I have to tell you the story doesn't change much from year to year.

However, as we walk this journey from Palm Sunday to the resurrection, as we have dinner in the upper room with Jesus and the disciples, as we wait for Jesus in the garden on the night he is arrested, as we grieve the loss of our friend, and as we go to the garden confused on Easter morning, may we look around to see if there is a new word for us in these familiar stories. May we come to the same place we have been to many times and see something we never expected. And then, after we have witnessed the resurrection, may we bask in the glory of Eastertide—knowing that death has no power and new life is springing forth everywhere.

My prayer for us during Holy Week, Easter, and Eastertide is that we know we are on familiar ground, but something new is happening around us. What does God have for you? And what is God doing through the Driftless Ministries? Can we be open to seeing the world in new ways? Throughout it all, may we know that we are surrounded by the love of God just as the beautiful creation surrounds us each day.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Drew

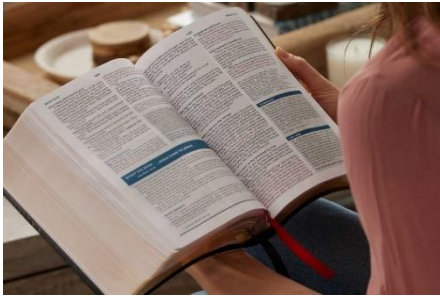


Give to Your Church Anywhere, Anytime

It is easier than ever to financially support the ministries of your church! Safe and secure online giving is available for the Liberty Pole, New Hope, and Retreat Methodist Churches on our website: <https://www.driftlessministry.org>! Simply click on the "Giving" tab in the main menu or head directly to <https://driftlessministry.org/giving/> and discover just how easy it is to give from the comfort of wherever you may be. I think you'll be surprised!



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, April 14th & 28th 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, April 14th & 28th @ 8:30 a.m. at Liberty Pole



Taking Time to Reflect

April Online Studies

Periodically, it is good to take some time to reflect and think about what is important to us and examine our behaviors to help us determine if we’re on the right track or if we need to make some adjustments. The two online studies we are doing this month will help us with doing this reflection and examination so we can experience God’s grace, mercy and peacefulness more fully.

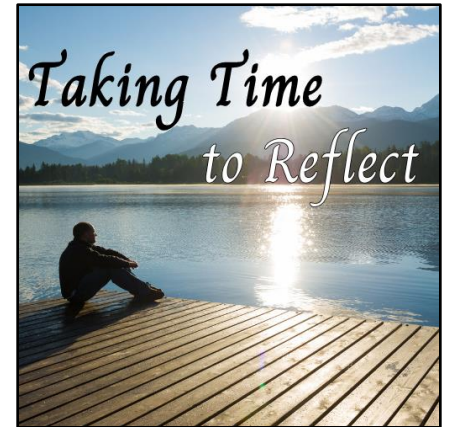
Please join us for the online studies this month:

Reflections – begins on April 1st

- <https://bible.com/p/65511207/135401e26c7edb9f1b7cd680a42f5c38>

Sweet Tea for the Soul – begins on April 19th

- <https://bible.com/p/65511346/858ae9b361b40d4b9388981354fc3328>



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 Bible.com online 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.



Food Pantry Needs

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 **spaghetti, mixed vegetables, pork & beans, and mac & cheese**. 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.

*The New Hope Food Pantry is located at
E2286 State Highway 82, De Soto, WI 54624*



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

~ Romans 15:13 ~

Celebrating Milestones!

In February and March, three wonderful people celebrated big milestones in their lives! On February 3rd, Gloria Warmuth and Elaine Lambert celebrated their 80th birthday at the De Soto Community Center. Surrounded by family and friends, these two wonderful ladies were honored with many birthday wishes, hugs, fellowship, delicious food, and of course a round of "Happy Birthday" sung by all who were present.

On March 2nd, Pastor Alice Richards, former pastor of New Hope and Retreat during the late 1980's and 1990's, celebrated her 90th birthday at the Willow Valley UMC in Ithaca. Several individuals from the Retreat area traveled down to Ithaca to honor and celebrate this big milestone with their former pastor. And Alice was sure surprised to see those that made the journey! It was a great day filled with wonderful memories and friends!



Gloria Warmuth (left) and Elaine Lampert (right) on their 80th birthday.



Pastor Alice Richards on her 90th Birthday!



From Left to Right: Joan Seymour, Jeff Nelson, Pastor Alice Richards (seated), Jean Walleser, Mary Ruth Marx, and Cheryl Johnson.



Make It Sew!

The creatively fun ladies known as the church basement quilters are back in action. The group will be meeting on Monday, April 1st, 15th, and 29th at 9 a.m. So pack up your sewing machine, quilting projects and lunch and head over to Liberty Pole to join in on the fun. Also be sure to bring your energy and your sense of humor! You are sure to have a "laughing" good time!



Learning About the Seder Meal

A few weeks ago, the Wednesday Warriors were given the opportunity to learn and experience a Seder Meal. The Seder Meal is the traditional Passover Meal that the Jewish people usually share during the Passover. As such, the Seder Meal is likely what Jesus shared with his disciples on the night he was betrayed and handed over to the Romans.

As part of the Wednesday Warriors' Seder Meal, they enjoyed a light snack of hard-boiled egg, raisins, unleavened bread, and lettuce. While the traditional Seder has several more elements, these kid-friendly options were enjoyed by the kids as they learned about the significance of the meal.



Would you like to join in the fun at Wednesday Warriors?

We meet every Wednesday evening after school at 3:30 p.m. (during the school year) at the New Hope Methodist Church. For more information, please contact Christine Harrington (608) 648-2254 or Gloria Warmuth (608) 648-2122.



Thinking of Your Safety!



In March, the Retreat Methodist Church acquired a new life-saving tool that can be utilized in the event of a choking emergency! The church's fellowship hall is now home to a new LifeVac Anti-Choking Kit. The LifeVac is a non-powered, non-invasive airway clearance device developed for resuscitating a victim with an airway obstruction when current choking protocols have been followed without success. The church is excited to offer this life-saving tool to its visitors to better protect them and their loved ones.

After acquiring the device, the church became inspired to provide this tool to both the Liberty Pole and New Hope churches as well! So as part of their first quarter mission, Retreat will be donating a tool to each church so that they too can be prepared to protect their members, friends, and visitors. The LifeVac kits will be distributed to the other churches in the coming days.



Let's Be Good Stewards of Our Home!



We are called to be stewards of all God has given us – and that includes the planet on which we live! To make our community more beautiful, the Retreat & New Hope Methodist Churches are seeking YOUR help with their spring roadside cleanup. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated to help out on **Saturday, May 4th** when the churches will be cleaning the HWY 82 roadside between Retreat and Red Mound.

As in years past, we will work in two groups. One group will meet at New Hope, and another group will meet at Prairie View Elementary School to make a game plan and distribute the supplies. Both groups will then begin cleaning up the roadside, meeting in the middle around Worman Road. Currently, the group starting at Prairie View is planning to meet and begin the cleanup work at 9 a.m. that day.

If you would like more information on this community ministry and learn how to get involved, please reach out to Jeff Nelson today! 😊

Blessing Baskets Bringing Smiles

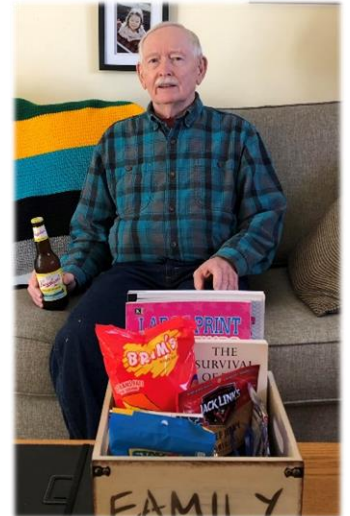
In the past few weeks, the Retreat Methodist Church has brought smiles to families through the giving of Blessing Baskets. In February, the church brought together items to lift the spirits of Rich Noel who recently went through surgery and a hospital stay. Rich was extremely grateful for this blessing and really enjoyed all of the items with the basket! He also says "Thanks to all of you for the well wishes!"



Abby Parr with a Blessing Basket for her new daughter Bethany.

In March, a blessing basket was created to welcome a new baby to the community! On February 20th, Abby and Mason Parr welcomed baby Bethany into the world. After the family had settled in with their newborn, the basket was delivered in early March. Special thanks to Crystal and Shianne for delivering the basket!

If you are aware of any new neighbor or family welcoming a baby in the area, please let us know so we can bless them with a basket of blessings! Help us bring smiles to faces around the community and make families feel welcome to the Retreat area! Share your new neighbor / baby news with Lynn Nelson or Lynnell Nummerdor!



Rich Noel with his Blessing Basket.



Upcoming Projects!

You may notice some facility updates at the Retreat Methodist Church in the coming weeks and months! During the month of April, it is planned to have the sanctuary repainted, giving a refreshed look to our worship space. The front entrance of the church is also planned to be remodeled in April. During these two projects, we pray for your understanding as some areas, in particular the front entrance, may look a bit rough for a little while. A work in progress is just that, progress! The outcome will be well worth the wait!

The church also has other projects that they want to tackle in the coming months and years! The front deck is anticipated to be refreshed sometime this spring. The restrooms are planned for a facelift. And in the coming year(s), we are hoping to undergo a complete remodel of the fellowship hall! In fact, you may see a few more fundraisers in the coming months/year to help cover the cost for the big remodel of the hall. If you are interested in helping with any upcoming project, we welcome you to join us as we prep and plan during our monthly board meetings!



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! Not only does it save us time and money with printing and mailing, you benefit too! You'll get the monthly newsletter days earlier than you would through the mail *PLUS* you get it in color (and it really is much better in color, trust me!). If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, just send 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!



Shining Celebrations!

Birthdays

Lloyd Dalton Hardy – Apr. 1st
 Cindy Noel – Apr. 2nd
 Carrie Brinkman – Apr. 4th
 Elizabeth Hammond – Apr. 5th
 Hannah Hammond – Apr. 5th
 Ryan Isbell – Apr. 7th
 Jeffrey Matson – Apr. 8th
 Jean Roach – Apr. 11th



Alyssa Jorgensen – Apr. 12th
 Wesley Funk – Apr. 14th
 Alice Long – Apr. 16th
 Kevin Robson – Apr. 16th
 Phyllis Skarda – Apr. 17th
 Janet Thompson – Apr. 17th
 Kevin Nelson – Apr. 18th
 Barb Bargabos – Apr. 20th



Robbin Henchen – Apr. 20th
 Sheri Hammond – Apr. 24th
 Larry Stegall – Apr. 26th
 Rick Inman – Apr. 27th
 Brock Taylor – Apr. 28th
 Matt Johnson – Apr. 30th
 Jason Nelson – Apr. 30th

Anniversaries

William & Sandra Marohl – Apr. 7th
 Gary & Shirley Haakenson – Apr. 12th
 Richard & Deb Solverson – Apr. 12th

Ben & Lauren Hanson – Apr. 17th
 Ryan & Angie Isbell – Apr. 17th
 John & Rita Burckhardt – Apr. 21st

Rueben & Sara Hanson – Apr. 21st
 Carl & Barb Bargabos – Apr. 22nd
 Dale & Alice Long – Apr. 24th

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, April 7th and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. This month's hosts at Retreat are **Angie Isbell & Lucy Foley**. We hope you can join us after worship on Sunday, April 7th for some wonderful fellowship time!

This month's Fellowship Sunday at the Liberty Pole Methodist Church will be held on Sunday, April 21st. 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 Henchen: (608) 804-0314



April 2024

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

Shine

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

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