

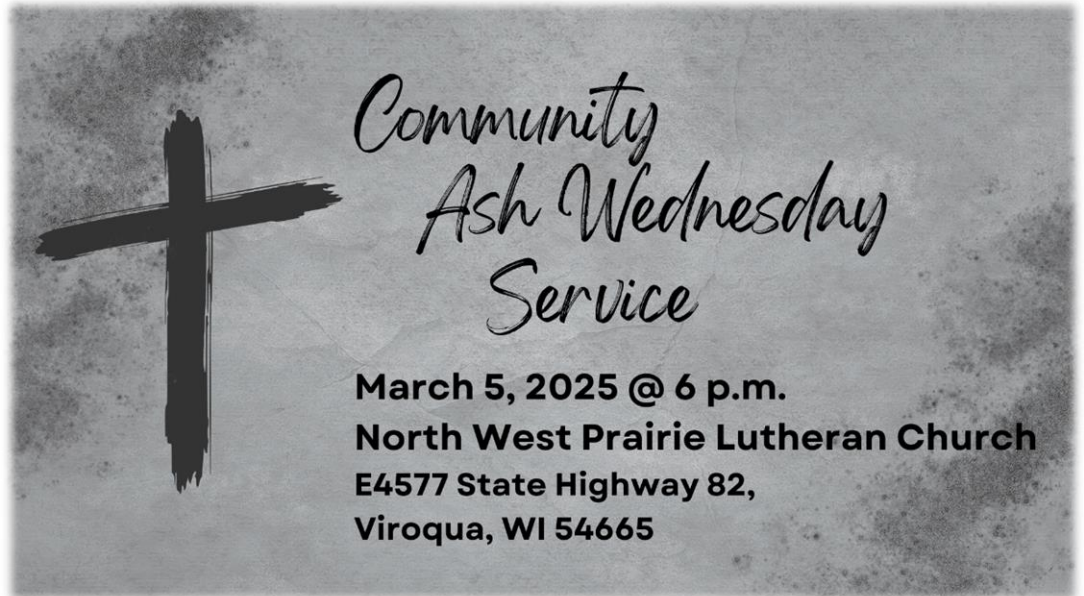
"Let the light of Jesus shine through you!"

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Community Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten journey to the empty Easter tomb. This year, our three churches will be observing Ash Wednesday with a special community service with another local congregation – our friends of North West Prairie Lutheran! Everyone is invited to join us for this special service at the North West Prairie Lutheran Church at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5th. Our own Pastor Sandy will be leading us in worship along side Pastor Tim Dunham of North West Prairie. Together, we will reflect on our need for a Savior, confess our sins, receive ashes, and experience forgiveness through Christ’s death and resurrection. We pray that you will consider joining us for this moving service and kick start your Lenten journey!



Preparing for a “Grand” Easter!

As in year’s past, the Retreat Methodist Church is once again planning to host a Community Breakfast on the day before Easter. Along with the breakfast, the church is also planning to host an Easter egg hunt for area youth. That said, we’re in need of treats to stuff into the eggs... and we need quite a bit! We’re planning to stuff at least 1000 eggs with treats and goodies for the kids! We’ve done it before, we can do it again! If you would like to contribute individually wrapped candy/treats or funds to purchase said treats, we welcome your contribution! Simply bring them to worship with you or hand them to another church member or Pastor Sandy.

And if you would like to help stuff the eggs, opportunities after worship will be coming as the event draws near! Stay tuned!



Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday
Sun., Mar. 2

Retreat Ladies Group
Sat. Mar. 8, 10 a.m.

New Hope Board Meeting
Sun. Mar. 9, 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Pole Board Meeting
Mon. Mar. 10, 4:30 p.m.

Retreat Board Meeting
Tue. Mar. 11, 6 p.m.

Liberty Pole Methodist Women
Wed. Mar. 12, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Bible Study
Mon. Mar. 2 & 23, 8:30 a.m.

Confirmation Class
Sun. Mar. 9 & 23, 3 – 5 p.m.
@ New Hope

Wednesday Warriors
Every Wednesday, 3:30 p.m.

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

Notes from Pastor Sandy

Hello Friends! As I write this, February is about half done, the fields are covered with snow and the temperature is minus 2! Winter is in full swing! But our churches continue to do the Lord's work and things are about to heat up.

We are working our way through Deuteronomy and will finish the Ten Commandments and then uncover the passages from Deuteronomy that Jesus used in His teachings over the month of March. Confirmation continues as well. We will have two sessions in March and two in April before the Confirmation Service. That's March 9 and March 23, and then April 6 and **April 13. Note the change.** No confirmation on Easter Sunday! The two sessions in March will still be at New Hope. The two in April will be at Retreat. Starting time will remain the same. That Palm Sunday session will only be about an hour, 3 – 4 p.m. We'll want to go over the service itself and discuss what parts the individual confirmands will play in the service. Please talk this over with your students. They can greet, ring the bell, usher, or read Scripture. If you have other ideas, let me know!



North West Prairie Church will be hosting the Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at 6 p.m. I will be preaching so I'd love to see you there.

The Second Pulpit opportunities for prayers and scripture will be starting soon. Let me know if you are interested and I'll start a list.

It will be spring before we know it and the activities of the area will take off! Stay safe and well.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Sandy



Retreat Ladies Group



Retreat Ladies Group

Hey ladies! The Retreat Ladies' group will be meeting on Saturday, March 8th at 10 a.m. at the Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing upcoming ministry opportunities and thinking about ahead to what lies ahead for 2025! And don't worry, it's not *all* business. We have lots of fun too! Bring a light lunch and if you are working on a craft project, bring it along and show it off! We hope to see you there!



We're Sew Close to Spring!

The Church Basement Quitters are continuing to sew from home. We are working on items for both personal as well as donations to charitable causes. We are hoping and praying that the weather gets better *sew* we can gather again for fun, fellowship, and project work. We recognize that we all *needle* a little warmth in our lives, *sew*, wrap yourself up in a snugly quilt and read some scripture!

Until April!

Barb Robson



Prayers for March

With Lent beginning March 5th, let's use some Lenten Breath prayers on our personal Lenten journey!
Use the following prayers during Lent to help supplement your prayer time!
We invite you to create and share your own breath prayers with those around you on your journey.

Sunday

(Inhale) It is good to be here. (Exhale) It is good to seek You.

Monday

(Inhale) When I feel like I lack (Exhale) let me know You are near.

Tuesday

(Inhale) Help me give what I can. (Exhale) Show Your face to my heart.

Wednesday

(Inhale) Turn my heart toward You. (Exhale) Let me listen when You call.

Thursday

(Inhale) In the midst of my days (Exhale) I will praise Your name.

Friday

(Inhale) Help me let go. (Exhale) Let me find You.

Saturday

(Inhale) Whatever we have (Exhale) is given to share.



Working Together in Ministry

It's easy to sit on the sidelines and watch the church do its ministry. But it is much more fun and gratifying to be a part of the action! You are invited to be a part of the work of the church! We encourage everyone to come and participate in the discussions at your respective church meeting. Your ideas are vital to our ministry!

New Hope Church Board Meeting

Sunday, March 9th, 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Pole Church Board Meeting

Monday, March 10th, 4:30 p.m.

Retreat Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 11th, 6 p.m.



Find New Life in Our Sunday Bible Study!

Just as life springs forth from the winter ground, new life emerges in your life when you study God's Word! We invite you to join us in discovering this new life as we grow in our faith and discover how the scriptures apply to our lives today! Everyone is invited to join us for our Sunday Bible study at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 2nd and 23rd 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, March 2nd & 23rd @ 8:30 a.m.
at Liberty Pole



On Purpose Online Lenten Journey

Day in and day out, we go through our lives performing tasks, interacting with others, and doing things we enjoy. But what is the purpose behind everything that we do? This Lent, we invite you to join us on a journey to discover the God-given purpose in everything that we do in our lives. Through this 40-day journey, you will begin to think differently about your whole life – your family, friendships, work, interests, and neighborhoods/communities. Together, we will begin to understand the Bible’s view of purpose as we read scripture and true stories of how that purpose is worked out in all kinds of Christians’ lives today.



This online study begins on Ash Wednesday – March 5th. Join us by using the link below!

✠ **On Purpose: A Lent Devotional Journey** – begins March 5th.

<https://bible.com/p/72275107/049d2b890ca2bb50d05de9f51ee49bb9>

This online study 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 **hamburger helper, mac & cheese, snack crackers, and paper products**. 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***



Get Involved with Worship!

We are seeking volunteers in all three of our churches to step up during worship and participate as liturgists! These individuals will get to take a more active role in worship through the reading of prayers, Scripture, and the benediction. Through this work, you will enable Pastor Sandy and Ron more time to travel between services (*always handy for the winter months*) and also grant them more time to interact with members at each of our churches on Sunday mornings. This extra time is vital for them to build relationships and address any concerns or issues that may arise in our communities, churches, or personal lives.



The work will be easy, but vital to the life of our churches. If you are interested in volunteering as a liturgist or have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Pastor Sandy and let her know! We welcome everyone to participate – no matter your age or ability! The Holy Spirit will be with you, guiding you through the process.

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
~ Mark 10:45 ~

Liberty Pole Methodist Women

The Liberty Pole Methodist Women group will be meeting in March, and all area women are invited to attend. They will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12th in the basement of the Liberty Pole Methodist Church. Come and join our ministry and have fun at the same time!



Reserve Your Spot Today!



Applications are being sent out, so reserve your spot today for the Christmas in July Craft Show at the Viroqua Eagles Club (216 S Rock Ave., Viroqua, WI) on Saturday, July 12th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The show will feature handmade items only, no vendors. And crafters are wanted to fill the spaces! Each space will be 10 feet wide and cost \$25.00 per space.

If you would like to reserve a space (or two) or if you would like more information, please contact Crystal Nummerdor at (608) 606-9082.



Exploring Faith at Wednesday Warriors

Recently, our Wednesday Warriors were busy exploring their faith and studying how God made us all – big and small. They practiced looking at some small things through a microscope and then determined their own size by working together to draw their outlines on paper. It’s been a blast learning about all God has done!

All area youth are welcome to participate in our Wednesday Warriors program. Every Wednesday during the school year from 3:30 – 5 p.m., we meet at the New Hope Methodist Church for a time of learning, faith exploration, and fun! If you would like more information about Wednesday Warriors or to discover how you can participate, reach out to Christine Harrington at mypermission.net@gmail.com.



Helping Those in Need



Recently, the Retreat Methodist Church became aware of a specific need at the New Hope Food Pantry. The pantry was wanting to purchase half a hog to increase their stock of pork for those coming and utilizing the pantry. During their February meeting, the church decided to make the New Hope Food Pantry their first quarter mission and designated \$250 to go to the pantry to aid in the purchase of the meat package. If you would like to support the New Hope Food Pantry in their mission to combat food insecurity in our area, you can bring any food or monetary donations to church OR reach out to the pantry to discover other ways you can help!



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!



Mark Your Calendars

2025 is already shaping up to be a busy year for our churches! Event dates are starting to trickle in and we want to share them with you so that you can get them on your calendar and make plans to join us on these dates. More event dates will likely be announced in upcoming newsletters, so stay tuned!



- Sat., April 19th – Easter Community Breakfast, 8 – 10:30 a.m. @ Retreat Methodist Church
- Sun., April 20th – Easter Sunday at all 3 churches
- Sun., April 27th - Confirmation Sunday at all 3 churches
- Fri., June 20th – Grilled Lunch Fundraiser, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. @ Nelson’s Agri-Center
- Sat., July 12th – Christmas in July Craft Show, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. @ Viroqua Eagle’s
- Fri., July 18th – Grilled Lunch Fundraiser, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. @ Nelson’s Agri-Center



Growing a Lenten Prayer Tree

During the Lenten season, folks at the Retreat Methodist Church will get to help “grow” a Lenten Prayer Tree! What is a Lenten Prayer Tree? A Lenten Prayer Tree utilizes a tree or bunch of branches from which slips of paper are hung. Upon each piece of paper is a different prayer focus – either someone or something that you are praying about/for. As you head through Lent, the tree becomes more and more “full”, representing not only your prayer life but also the new life that a right relationship with Jesus can bring!



As we head through Lent, slips of paper will be available during worship at Retreat. Simply write your prayer focus on the slip of paper and then drop the paper in the basket after worship. The prayers will be added to our prayer tree for the next week, helping it grow as we head toward Easter Sunday. Everyone is invited to add to the prayer tree, even if you don’t worship at Retreat! You can simply send your prayer focus(es) to Jeff Nelson at jefferynelson04@yahoo.com and he will add them to the tree! Let’s put our prayer life on display, encouraging one another and lifting up our prayers to God!



Don’t Miss Worship!



Avoid being late for worship on Sunday, March 9th! Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9th. Remember to “spring forward” your clocks before going to bed the evening before so you won’t miss out on worship, fellowship, and more!



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!



Upcoming Project!

The Retreat Methodist Church has another exciting project coming up! After much talk and planning, the church is planning to remodel its restrooms thanks to contributions made to the church through its Capital Campaign. This refresh to the restrooms is badly needed as they haven't seen much for updates since they were constructed back in 1990! The project will begin soon, so please be patient as the renovation occurs.



A HUGE and special thanks to everyone who contributed to the church's Capital Campaign for making all of the improvements to the church possible. We couldn't have done it without you! There is still much we long to do to update and improve our historic facility, so continued contributions are welcome and greatly appreciated. If you would like more information about the Capital Campaign or on how you can help, please reach out to Lynn Nelson at (608) 648-2255 or at lnelson@mwt.net.



Happening Around the Driftless...

Look at some of the other events happening around the Driftless area during the month of March! And this is just the tip of the iceberg! Plan a fun outing with the family!

- **Eagle Day:** Saturday, March 1st, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. @ Ferryville Village Hall. *Family friendly activities and programs focusing on the American Bald Eagle and the beautiful Mississippi River. Middle school eagle art and science display, kid's crafts, live eagle program, hooting contest, refreshments. Kid's can even adopt a wood duck box for free! Free admission all day!*
- **Saturday Storytime:** Saturday, March 1st, 10 – 11 a.m. @ De Soto Public Library. *Families are invited for stories, crafts, & snacks.*
- **3rd Annual Chili Challenge:** Saturday, March 8th, 1 – 4 p.m. @ Viroqua Eagles Club. *\$20 per entry, \$10 per taster. Baked goods auction at 3 p.m. Proceeds go to benefit the Amara Rose Foundation.*
- **Seed Swap / Gardening Event:** Saturday, March 15th, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. @ De Soto Public Library. *Spring into Spring and come and join fellow gardening enthusiasts. Bring your stash and share some seeds! Donations are not required! Seed packets and light refreshments will be provided.*
- **Meatball Dinner:** Saturday, March 15th, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. @ Middle Coon Valley Lutheran Church, Chaseburg. *Home-made meatball dinner & bake sale. Cost: \$13 per plate. Dine in, Carry out, or Drive Through.*
- **Soup & Salad Dinner:** Thursday, March 20th, 5 – 7 p.m. @ De Soto Community Center. *Connect with neighbors and friends over a delicious meal. Funds raised used to support area groups and programs. Hosted by De Soto Area Lions.*
- **Sugar Bush Day:** Sunday, March 23rd, 1 – 4 p.m. @ Living Waters Bible Camp. *Taste and see the sap to syrup production of delicious maple syrup. Marvel over God's wonderful creation and the blessings we experience when we understand how to care for it. See how the sap is processed and what a difference the weather has on the process. Hear about the pioneers who discovered this sweet treat and how they used it. And much more! Cost: \$7 per person, includes a pancake meal and programs.*



And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

~ Mark 16:15 ~

Shining Celebrations!

Birthdays

Ryan Kehr – Mar. 2nd
 Russell Marks – Mar. 2nd
 Alice Richards – Mar. 2nd
 Mike Springborn – Mar. 2nd
 Carole Funk – Mar. 3rd
 Forrest Herr – Mar. 6th
 Angie Isbell – Mar. 6th
 Judy Christianson – Mar. 8th
 Carol Hanson – Mar. 8th

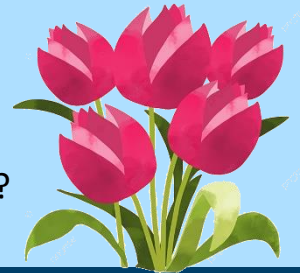
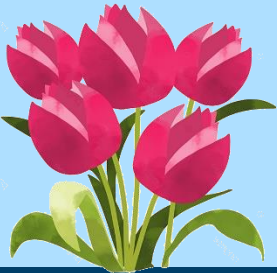
Wyatt Newsome – Mar. 9th
 Lena Isbell – Mar. 11th
 Bianca Hauge – Mar. 12th
 Arthur Mendoza – Mar. 12th
 Cole Springborn – Mar. 12th
 Carl Bargabos – Mar. 16th
 Mitch Holliday – Mar. 17th
 Gracie Isbell – Mar. 17th
 Tammy Frank – Mar. 19th

Tolla Lepke – Mar. 21st
 Lukas Baker – Mar. 22nd
 Paul Gianoli – Mar. 24th
 Ryan Stalsberg – Mar. 25th
 Colleen Inman – Mar. 27th
 Christine Harrington – Mar. 29th
 Marla Withey – Mar. 30th

Anniversaries

Jim & Nancy Cocchiola – Mar. 2nd
 Paul & Judy Erickson – Mar. 29th

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

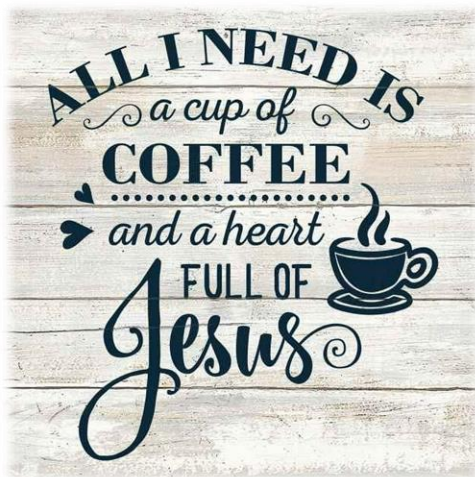


Join Us for Fellowship Sundays!

The next Fellowship Sunday at the Retreat Methodist Church is coming up on Sunday, March 2nd and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. We hope you can join us after worship on Sunday, March 2nd for some wonderful fellowship time!

This month's Fellowship Sunday at the Liberty Pole Methodist Church will be held on Sunday, March 16th. 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

Pastor – Rev. Sandy Conrad
 (608) 881-4276
pastor@driftlessministry.org

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



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 LP: Liberty Pole NH: New Hope R: Retreat				Did you miss Sunday worship? Catch up by watching it online at https://driftlessministry.org/sermons/ . New videos are upload every Sunday afternoon/evening!		1
2 Communion Sunday Bible Study 8:30 a.m. @ LP Fellowship Sunday (R) 	3	4	5 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ NH Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m. Ash Wed. Service 6 p.m. @ NW Prairie Lutheran Church	6 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	7 Pastors Sabbath	8 Retreat Ladies Group 10 a.m.
9 NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 3 – 4:30 p.m. @ NH	10 Liberty Pole Board Meeting 4:30 p.m.	11 Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.	12 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ NH Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m. LP Methodist Women 5:30 p.m.	13 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	14 Pastors Sabbath	15
16 Fellowship Sunday (LP)	17 HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY 	18	19 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ NH Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	20 Hello Spring Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m. 	21 Pastors Sabbath	22
23 Bible Study 8:30 a.m. @ LP Confirmation Class 3 – 4:30 p.m. @ NH	24  Newsletter Submission Deadline	25	26 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ NH Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	27 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	28 Pastors Sabbath	29
30	31					Rev. Sandy Conrad Mobile: (608) 881-4276 Parsonage: (608) 648-2528 pastor@driftlessministry.org

Shine

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

Return Service Requested

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**COMMUNITY
ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICES**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

**6 p.m.
@ North West Prairie
Lutheran Church**

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Join us for worship!

Every Sunday

8 a.m. @ Retreat

9:15 a.m. @ Liberty Pole

10:30 a.m. @ New Hope