



# Shine

"Let the light of Jesus shine through you!"

November 2025

Volume 17.11

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### Upcoming Events

#### Communion Sunday

Sun. Nov. 2

#### New Hope Board Meeting

Sun. Nov. 2, 11:30 a.m.

#### Liberty Pole Board Meeting

Mon. Nov. 10, 4:30 p.m.

#### Retreat Board Meeting

Tue. Nov. 11, 6 p.m.

#### Retreat Ladies Group

Sat. Nov. 15, 10 a.m.

#### Food Pantry Open

Wednesdays: 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 – 11 a.m.

#### Wednesday Warriors

Wednesdays

3:30 p.m. @ New Hope

### Thank You for Your Support & Congratulations to Our Winners!

The Retreat Methodist Church thanks everyone who came out to support the church during our Fall Turkey Bazaar. It was wonderful to see everyone gathering around the table again to share a delicious meal with family, friends, and neighbors. We greatly appreciate your continued support of our ministry here in the community. A huge thank you also goes out to all our amazing, hard-working volunteers! This event is a big undertaking, and it would not have been possible without you! Thank you so much!



Some of our 2025 Bazaar volunteers. Thank you to all who helped to make the event a success!  
(Photo courtesy of Terry Inman)

And now for the fun part! As in years past, the Bazaar also featured a raffle filled with many wonderful prizes. And with so many prizes, that means that there were plenty of winners! Congratulations to the following winners from the Bazaar raffle and thank you for your continued support!

**Quilt** – Holly Moser

**Thankful Goodie Basket** – Margie Crotzer

**Happy Harvest Basket** – Linda Townsend

**Tool Gift Basket** – Cindy Clements

**Beauty Basket** – Donna Bolstad

**Coffee Basket** – Denise Thompson

**Craftsman Ratch Kit** – Keith Gilman

**Ceramic Christmas Tree** – \*Name illegible, but winner will be contacted.\*

**Kwik Trip Gift Card** – Lynn Westphal

**Doily** – Linda Olson



Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
and his courts with praise!  
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

~ Psalm 100:4 ~

# Notes from Pastor Sandy

What a wonderful month October was! Meatballs and lefse, chicken and noodles and chili, and a turkey dinner and crafts! And with each event, Ron and I got to fellowship both with our churches and with others in the community. Congratulations to all the churches on a wonderful month of ministry. I was blessed to make meatballs, clean tables, and assist in pie making, and to watch our members come together to work for Jesus. Fellowship was the real blessing.



During November, we will continue through our series on prayer. We'll talk about the importance of praying for your pastor, praying for your congregations and churches, and praying for our world. If you have ideas on Scripture passages to pray as part of this series, please let me know and I'll try to include them.

Then we have several projects coming up after the first of the year.

1. Is there any interest in an adult confirmation class? This could be done over a weekend or over four sessions. ANYONE who wants to know more about the Bible and about Jesus is welcome.
2. We will also be starting Alistair Begg's Bible study on the Book of Ruth. If you are interested, please let either Debbie Groves or I know.
3. The men's group will be starting. Look for us to be asking for information from those who might be interested. This is an informal group of men supporting men. Times and locations will fluctuate to allow all to have access.
4. Finally, we will be launching a Praise and Prayer service which would be more informal and give us an opportunity to learn and sing praise songs, gospel songs, and country songs with a Christian viewpoint. Again, we'll be asking about interest—we could do this during a weeknight or on the weekend. We would rotate the church location. Let me know if you have songs that you think should be included as well.

My personal email is [San356@comcast.net](mailto:San356@comcast.net) and that's the best way to give me your interest, ideas, and feedback. Ron's email is [darnocnor@comcast.net](mailto:darnocnor@comcast.net). (it's Ron Conrad spelled backwards!).

Christmas services are being planned. Retreat and New Hope will have services at New Hope this year at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Liberty Pole will have their service at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you all there!

November is a time to give thanks and to plan. I thank God for all of you and for all that God is doing in our churches. May we feast together on love, and fellowship, and the joy of serving Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sandy & Ron



## Retreat Ladies Group



Hey ladies! The Retreat Ladies' group will be meeting on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall. We'll be reviewing the Fall Turkey Bazaar and looking ahead to possible mission projects! 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!

Liberty Pole, New Hope & Retreat Methodist Churches – Visit us online at: [www.driftlessministry.org](http://www.driftlessministry.org)

### Practice Gratitude Daily November Online Studies



Our culture today leaves many of us feeling frustrated, anxious, and overwhelmed. We feel like we are constantly in need of more. But it doesn't have to be like this. We don't have to live this way! New habits can be formed and fresh hope can be found. Joy truly is right around the corner!

So how do we get there? Through the transformative nature of gratitude in our lives! As Christians, we are well aware that prayer changes things... both within and around our loved ones. But it also changes us! So while you've got God's ear, why not express your gratitude and thanksgiving for all He's done for YOU!

We invite you to join us as we discover how cultivating a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving can bring joy, peace, and a deeper connection with God. Throughout the month of November, we will dive into God's Word through a series of online studies designed to help you unlock the power of gratitude! Links to join our series of studies can be found on our website at <https://driftlessministry.org/online-bible-study/>.

- **Choosing Gratitude** – begins Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>
- **Gratitude That Glorifies God** – begins Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- **5 Prayers of Gratitude** – begins Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Thanksgiving and Gratitude** – begins Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>



### Time for a Puzzle Swap!

With the long, cold winter months approaching, there is interest in setting up a puzzle lending library at the Retreat Methodist Church. You can bring your puzzles in, set them on a table, and pick up one you find interesting to put together at your home! Many of us have puzzles that we've already done, but don't want to throw them away. Give those old puzzles new life and share them with your neighbors and friends, providing our community hours of entertainment during some of the most reclusive months of the year!



### What a Busy Month!

The past month has certainly been busy across the Driftless Ministries! There certainly hasn't been a dull moment! A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has been involved with the ministries of the church:



- To everyone who helped operate our hospitality tent and/or ride on the parade float during the Retreat World's Fair. Your help and participation were greatly appreciated!
- For all who helped with or donated for the church dinners: New Hope's Meatball & Lefse Supper, Liberty Pole's Chicken & Noodle and Chili Meal, and Retreat's Fall Turkey Bazaar – a huge thank you goes out! These functions would not be possible without the hard work and generosity of wonderful people like you! Thank you so much for your continued dedication to the ministry of the church.
- To everyone who attended the church dinners, thank you for your continued support! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thanks to wonderful people like you, small rural churches like ours continue to serve the communities in which we live and build up the kingdom of God!

November should be a bit quieter, giving us all a rest before the busy time of Advent and Christmas arrive. Enjoy the month ahead and we look forward to seeing you again soon!

### Prayers for November

Use the following prayers throughout this month to help supplement your prayer time!

#### Sunday

Gracious Lord, let gratitude flow from my lips daily. Help me to see Your goodness even in small things and to rejoice always, no matter the circumstances. May my life be a living testimony of thanksgiving throughout this week.

#### Monday

Lord, I surrender my plans for today into Your hands. Direct my steps, guide my decisions, and lead me in the right path. I trust that as I yield to You, You will make my paths straight and fruitful.

#### Tuesday

Heavenly Father, I place myself, my family, and my loved ones under Your covering. Shield our going out and our coming in. Place Your angels around us and let no weapon formed against us prosper. In every situation, be our refuge and fortress, keeping us safe in Your loving arms.

#### Wednesday

Lord, I ask for Your strength today. When I feel weak, renew me. When I face difficulties, remind me that You are my helper. Give me endurance in trials and perseverance in responsibilities. Strengthen me physically, emotionally, and spiritually so that I may stand firm in faith and accomplish all that You have set before me this day.

#### Thursday

Father, fill my heart with joy. Let it not depend on external things but flow from the presence of Your Spirit within me. Let joy be my strength in hard times and my song in moments of gladness. May I radiate Your joy to everyone around me, turning every environment into a place of encouragement and hope.

#### Friday

Lord, I ask for Your peace to reign in my life. Guard my mind from anxiety and fear. Let Your calm surround me. May Your peace guide me in making decisions and reassure me that You are in control, no matter what today may bring.

#### Saturday

Father, draw me closer to You. Increase my hunger for prayer, worship, and Your Word. Help me to grow deeper in understanding and stronger in faith. Remove distractions that hinder my spiritual walk and let me become more like Christ each day. May this be a season of true spiritual growth in my life.



### 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, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30 a.m.

[Liberty Pole Church Board Meeting](#)  
Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m.

[Retreat Church Board Meeting](#)  
Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.



### 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 **saltine crackers, snack crackers, pork ‘n beans, toothpaste, and dish soap.**

In addition to these items, the food pantry greatly appreciates all of your donations, either food or monetary. With the current government shut down, food banks and pantries around the nation are expected to be heavily utilized. Pantries will likely be stretching their resources thin to help fill the need. Please consider how you can assist either the New Hope Food Pantry or your local food pantry during this time.

If you wish to donate items or funds to the New Hope Food Pantry, 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**



### Interested in Joining a Men’s Group?

Our three churches, in conjunction with Northwest Prairie Lutheran, are looking into starting a men’s group! All men in the area (regardless of age) are welcome and encouraged to participate, whether they are connected with our churches or not. Participants will meet to talk about everyday life and offer support, encouragement, and advice to one another – something everyone needs in life!

This group is currently anticipated to meet at least once a month in various locations around the region, mixing it up each time to keep things fresh and convenient for all. The men’s group is anticipated to begin meeting after the start of the new year in January. If you or someone you know is interested, please reach out to Ron Conrad for more information on how to participate!

**Driftless Ministries**

## MEN’S GROUP



**Liberty Pole, New Hope & Retreat Methodist Churches – Visit us online at: [www.driftlessministry.org](http://www.driftlessministry.org)**

### Bible-in-a-Year Plan

#### November Scriptures

- 1 – Deut. 33-34; Job 21; Acts 2:14-47
- 2 – Josh. 1-2; Job 22; Acts 3
- 3 – Josh. 3-5:1; Job 23; Acts 4:1-22
- 4 – Josh. 5:2-6:27; Job 24; Acts 4:23-37
- 5 – Josh. 7-8; Job 25; Acts 5:1-16
- 6 – Josh. 9-10; Job 26; Acts 5:17-42
- 7 – Josh. 11-12; Job 27; Acts 6
- 8 – Josh. 13-14; Job 28; Acts 7:1-22
- 9 – Josh. 15-17; Job 29; Acts 7:23-8:1
- 10 – Josh. 18-19; Job 30; Acts 8:2-25
- 11 – Josh. 20-21; Job 31; Acts 8:26-40
- 12 – Josh. 22; Job 32; Acts 9:1-25
- 13 – Josh. 23-24; Job 33; Acts 9:26-43
- 14 – Judg. 1; Job 34; Acts 10:1-33
- 15 – Judg. 2-3; Job 35; Acts 10:34-48
- 16 – Judg. 4-5; Job 36; Acts 11:1-8
- 17 – Judg. 6; Job 37; Acts 11:19-30
- 18 – Judg. 7-8; Job 38; Acts 12
- 19 – Judg. 9; Job 39; Acts 13:1-25
- 20 – Judg. 10:1-11:33; Job 40; Acts 13:26-52
- 21 – Judg. 11:34-12:15; Job 41; Acts 14
- 22 – Judg. 13; Job 42; Acts 15:1-21
- 23 – Judg. 14-15; Psalm 42; Acts 15:22-41
- 24 – Judg. 16; Psalm 43; Acts 16:1-15
- 25 – Judg. 17-18; Psalm 44; Acts 16:16-40
- 26 – Judg. 19; Psalm 45; Acts 17:1-15
- 27 – Judg. 20; Psalm 46; Acts 17:16-34
- 28 – Judg. 21; Psalm 47; Acts 18
- 29 – Ruth 1-2; Psalm 48; Acts 19:1-20
- 30 – Ruth 3-4; Psalm 49; Acts 19:21-41



Find the full plan and more online at:  
<https://driftlessministry.org/bibleplans/>

### Thanks for Stopping by at the Fair!

During the Retreat World’s Fair at the end of September, the Retreat church hosted a hospitality tent for people to rest and refresh themselves during the festivities of the day. While visitors were slow to stop by before the parade, afterwards we welcomed many smiling faces! Those who stopped by enjoyed some cold bottles of water, a place to sit in the shade, and some conversation. The tent was greatly appreciated by all who stopped by and was mentioned by many people around the grounds throughout the day!

In addition to the tent, the church had a float in the parade to welcome those in attendance to our services and upcoming events in all of our churches. Thank you to those who rode on the float and tossed out the candy! Next year we hope to have more people from all three churches participate to make it a team project!



### Westby UMC Christmas Cookie Walk



Start your Christmas baking the easy way, without having to find recipes or dirty any dishes. Come to the Westby UMC Annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.. 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, but with cookies in place of the salad items. The cost is \$8 per pound, with some items priced separately. Coffee and hot chocolate will be available. Remember to come early for the best selection of cookies.



### Get Your Newsletter Faster!

Some people have noticed a significant delay in receiving their mail through the U.S. Postal Service. This is likely due to operation challenges and network transformations by the USPS, including worker shortages, transportation disruptions, and new processing centers. However, if you want to get your monthly newsletter faster, you can act now and skip the wait for the next newsletter! Simply sign up for our e-newsletter and receive your newsletter in your email inbox the *SAME DAY* that the hard copies get placed in the mail box. Plus it’ll be in color! WOO! To sign up, simply email [retreatnews@yahoo.com](mailto:retreatnews@yahoo.com) with the word “Subscribe”. It’s that easy!



### Let's Be Thankful Together!

Several years ago, I gave Retreat and New Hope a challenge for the month of November. It's been a while, so let's do it again, this time with all three of our churches!

About ten years ago, a friend of mine had a wonderful idea. Each day during the month of November, she would post one thing that she was thankful for on her Facebook page. It was always wonderful to see what she would mention from day to day. She also enjoyed it because it made her truly appreciate everyone and everything in her life. She liked this experience so much that she continued it for an entire year... that's 365 different things that she found to be thankful for.

My friend picked November for this project because we all tend to think of being thankful during this month. We even have an entire day set aside on the fourth Thursday to be thankful for what we have. The problem is that more often than not we tend to take everything and everyone in our lives for granted the other 364 days of the year. What if we showed our thankfulness... our gratitude every day of the year? What would that look like? I believe that we would all be happier with a brighter outlook on life. We would also treat those around us more lovingly as we see every day how they bless our lives. Isn't that wonderful?

So, my challenge for you this month is this: do what my friend did. Be thankful for something each day this month. Write it on a post-it note or in a notebook. Post it on social media to share it with others. Just find some way to write it down so you can look back on it later. You may be surprised at how it affects you (and those around you) by the end of the month. You may just want to continue it for a whole year like my friend did!



### Join us this Christmas!

Even though November is just starting, Christmas is right around the corner. This Christmas Eve, we invite you to join us for a heartwarming night filled with peace, hope and joy! Come and experience an evening filled with beautiful carols, inspiring messages, and the gentle glow of candlelight that symbolizes peace and hope. It will be a perfect opportunity to reflect, celebrate, and create lasting memories with your loved ones!

This year, we will have two services: 4 p.m. at New Hope and 6:30 p.m. at Liberty Pole. Pick the one that works best for you and help us spread the word! Everyone in our community is invited and we welcome them to join us as we celebrate the season and fill our hearts with the light of Christ.



### Worship Committee Meeting



# Worship Committee

A reminder to our worship committee that we will have our quarterly meeting on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. We will again do a combination of Zoom and in-person. If you wish to meet in person, please come to the New Hope church. The Zoom link will be sent out in mid to late November.

## Shining Celebrations!

### Birthdays

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>



Loren Kunert – 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>  
 Jaxon Newsome – Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Abigail Diehl – Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Katie Elbert – 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. 4<sup>th</sup>

Milan & Carol Gilman – Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>

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

### Join Us for Fellowship Sundays!

The next Fellowship Sunday at the Retreat Methodist Church is coming up on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. Our host for this fellowship Sunday is **Lynnell Nummerdor**. We hope you can join us after worship 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!



### Church Contacts


**Pastor –** Rev. Sandy Conrad  
 (608) 881-4276  
[pastor@driftlessministry.org](mailto: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



## November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>LP: Liberty Pole</b> <b>NH: New Hope</b> <b>R: Retreat</b>	<p><i>Did you miss Sunday worship? Catch up by watching it online at <a href="https://driftlessministry.org/sermons/">https://driftlessministry.org/sermons/</a>.</i></p> <p><i>New videos are uploaded every Sunday afternoon/evening!</i></p>					1
<b>2</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> <b>Fellowship Sunday (R)</b> NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	<b>6</b> Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	<b>7</b> Pastors Sabbath	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Liberty Pole Board Meeting 4:30 p.m.	<b>11</b>  <b>HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY</b> Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.	<b>12</b> Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	<b>13</b> Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	<b>14</b> Pastors Sabbath	<b>15</b> Retreat Ladies Group 10 a.m.
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	<b>20</b> Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	<b>21</b> Pastors Sabbath	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Newsletter Submission Deadline	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	<b>27</b>  HAPPY Thanksgiving	<b>28</b> Pastors Sabbath	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> First Sunday of Advent						

*Shine*

Liberty Pole, New Hope & Retreat Methodist Churches  
c/o Jeff Nelson  
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