

Notes from Pastor Sandy

It's the middle of January. That brings good news and bad news. It is ten degrees with a windchill of 0 degrees this morning. Bad news. Driving to Viroqua from Wednesday Warriors, we had sunlight virtually the entire way. Very Good News. The new furnaces are in at New Hope and are working so well that we are having to re-learn how to set our thermostats! Good News. The Men's Group has had their first meetings, and they went very well. Good conversations with good folks over good food. That can never be bad news. In fact, Jesus did a lot of His ministry coming and going or sitting at the table! In February, we'll be talking about two episodes — He healed Simon's mother-in-law and she immediately got up and served Him. And He called Levi (Matthew) and, in response, Matthew threw a Big Party. "Why do you eat with sinners?" Well, Jesus came to confront evil, heal the sick, forgive sins, and demonstrate compassion. The Pharisees and their buddies would never have admitted that they needed any of those things. But the tax collectors were thrilled.



Our study of Ruth is called 'God of the Ordinary' (by Alistair Begg—go figure!). We have studied Ruth before but as I go through Luke and Ruth now, I am seeing how our Lord is a God of the Ordinary. Tired fishermen are mending their nets and a few moments later, they are willing to become Jesus' disciples. Matthew is grinding his way through another day of collecting tolls and dirty looks and Jesus calls him to "Follow me!" and he drops everything to do it. Walking through villages, teaching from the deck of a boat or in a crowded room, going away to pray. It's all so very ordinary. And yet these are stories that we have cherished. They are the Capernaum Ministry of Jesus—our God who stands ready to meet us in our everyday struggles and failures and successes. I hope you will join us for worship in February as we "Follow Him!"

Blessings to all,

Pastor Sandy & Ron



Men Being Men

During our first gatherings in January, our new Men's Group had a nice turnout as several men met at the Viroqua Family Restaurant to encourage one another and discuss life over a delicious meal. It was a wonderful time filled with great conversation! Our group plans to continue to offer two times a month for area men to meet up. If you are interested in join us for our next gathering, our Men's Group will meet again on Tuesday, February 10th at 9 a.m. and Thursday, February 12th at 5 p.m. Both gatherings will be held at the Viroqua Family Restaurant. Just pick the gathering that works best for your schedule! If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Ron Conrad at (608) 881-4277 or darnocnor@comcast.net.



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!

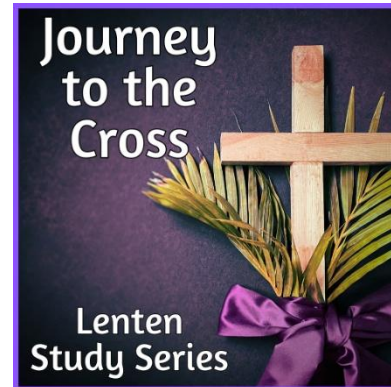
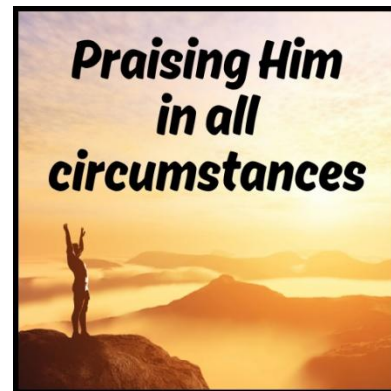
February Online Studies – Praise, Positivity, and Lent

Since Valentine’s Day is in February, we usually think about love during this month. What could be a better way to show our love to God than to praise Him. Our first study for this month will help us focus on praise and being positive. We’ll see how to take negative situations and find something to smile about, while praising God no matter what the circumstances.

This first study, **14 Days of Praise & Positivity**, will begin on February 1st. To join this study, follow the link on our website: <https://driftlessministry.org/online-bible-study/>.

The season of Lent begins on February 18th, so the studies for the last part of February will focus on Lent. For our Lenten studies, we’ll be reading a 6-part series, which has a new study each week. Hopefully, these studies will help you to pause, reflect and draw closer to God during Lent. The studies for this series includes:

- **Lent Week 1: Turning Back to God** – begins on Feb. 18th
- **Lent Week 2: Trusting God for What You Need** – begins on Feb. 25th
- **Lent Week 3: Living Out What Jesus Taught** – begins on Mar. 4th
- **Lent Week 4: Jesus’ Journey to the Cross** – begins on Mar. 11th
- **Lent Week 5: What Jesus Did for You** – begins on Mar. 18th
- **Lent Week 6: A New Beginning** – begins on Mar. 25th



Links to join our series of studies can be found on our website: <https://driftlessministry.org/online-bible-study/>.



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.



Winter Fun Day!

Snow or no snow, it’s a go! Everyone, young and young-at-heart, is welcome to come and enjoy a Winter Fun Day at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. The Winter Fun Day will be held on Sunday, February 8th 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@sgrcreek.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!



Prayers for February

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

Sunday

Thank You, Lord, that You are the light of the world. There is darkness all around us. Keep us in Your light so the darkness will not consume us.

Monday

Lord, give me patience in the moments of anger and frustration. Keep me from losing it. Grant me wisdom to respond with grace and understanding.

Tuesday

Heavenly Father, thank you for being my refuge and my unshakable God. You never leave me when I am paralyzed by fear and doubt. Help me to trust in this and your very capable, loving hands.

Wednesday

Good Shepherd, thank you for leading me to still waters. Help me to tune out the worldly noisy, be still and listen for Your still small voice.

Thursday

Lord, renew my mind with the truth of Your word. May I follow none other than Yours. For it is only Your words that breathe life into me and gives me the way to go.

Friday

Jesus, give me new perspectives. Open my eyes so that I see the hope, joy, and peace that I have with You as my Savior. Help me to see Your wondrous works all around me.

Saturday

God, forgive me when I worry and am striving. Help me to rest and fully believe You are my Shepherd that provides green pastures: a place of peace and rest.



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, February 1st, 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Pole Church Board Meeting

Monday, February 9th, 5:30 p.m.

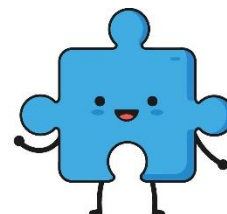
Retreat Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 10th, 6 p.m.



Time for a Puzzle Swap!

Help fight the winter blues by keeping your mind active with a fun puzzle! Puzzles are available at the Retreat Methodist Church puzzle lending library, located just inside the front door. Grab a puzzle to take home and keep yourself busy or bring a puzzle to share with others! 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!



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

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 **pork 'n beans, tuna, dish soap, and paper products**. In addition to these items, the food pantry also greatly appreciates your monetary donations!

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.

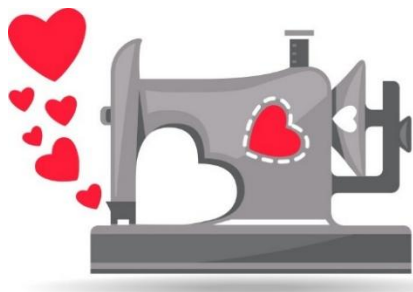


**The New Hope Food Pantry is located at
 E2286 State Highway 82, De Soto, WI 54624**



All You Need is Love

After a few months away, the West Retreat Prairie Quilters are planning to meet up again! Everyone is invite to their upcoming gatherings on Mondays, February 9th and 23rd (weather permitting) at 9 a.m. Come and bring a project to work on, or just come and visit and see what we are doing! Love, laughter, and tons of fun are sure to be had. The coffee will be on and fellowship is sure to be wonderful! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us!



Quilting from Home!

There will be no Basement Quilters sewing days in February. We will be taking our “winter break” to stay home and sew on our projects without going out in to the cold, or risking a fall or injury to any of the “sewists”!! We will again be making a variety of projects that we will donate to various organizations throughout the year. If you are aware of any family that has a quilting need, please notify one of the women who sew regularly. If you are interested in



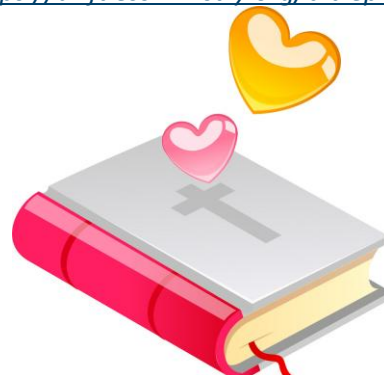
quilting or crafting, please feel free to join us when we resume in March. We do have a wonderful time together on the first and third Mondays of the month.

Bible-in-a-Year Plan

February Scriptures

- 1 – 2 Kings 1-2; Amos 7; 1 Cor. 1:1-17
- 2 – 2 Kings 3; Amos 8; 1 Cor. 1:18-31
- 3 – 2 Kings 4; Amos 9; 1 Cor. 2
- 4 – 2 Kings 5; Obadiah 1; 1 Cor. 3
- 5 – 2 Kings 6-7:2; Jonah 1; 1 Cor. 4
- 6 – 2 Kings 7:3-20; Jonah 2; 1 Cor. 5
- 7 – 2 Kings 8; Jonah 3; 1 Cor. 6
- 8 – 2 Kings 9; Jonah 4; 1 Cor. 7:1-24
- 9 – 2Kings 10; Micah 1; 1 Cor. 7:25-40
- 10 – 2 Kings 11; Micah 2; 1 Cor. 8
- 11 – 2 Kings 12-13; Micah 3; 1 Cor. 9
- 12 – 2 Kings 14; Micah 4-5:1; 1 Cor. 10
- 13 – 2 Kings 15-16; Micah 5:2-15; 1 Cor. 11:1-16
- 14 – 2 Kings 17; Mich 6; 1 Cor. 11:17-34
- 15 – 2 Kings 18; Micah 7; 1 Cor. 12
- 16 – 2 Kings 19; Nah. 1; 1 Cor. 13
- 17 – 2 Kings 20-21; Nah. 2; 1 Cor. 14:1-25
- 18 – 2 Kings 22-23:35; Nah. 3; 1 Cor. 14:26-40
- 19 – 2 Kings 23:36-24:20; Hab. 1; 1 Cor. 15:1-34
- 20 – 2 Kings 25; Hab. 2; 1 Cor. 15:35-58
- 21 – 1 Chron. 1-2; Hab. 3; 1 Cor. 16
- 22 – 1 Chron. 3-4; Zeph. 1; 2 Cor. 1-2:4
- 23 – 1 Chron. 5-6; Zeph. 2; 2 Cor. 2:5-3:18
- 24 – 1 Chron. 7-8; Zeph. 3; 2 Cor. 4-5:10
- 25 – 1 Chron. 9; Hag. 1; 2 Cor. 5:11-6:13
- 26 – 1 Chron. 10-11; Zech. 1; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:16
- 27 – 1 Chron. 12; Zech. 2; 2 Cor. 8
- 28 – 1 Chron. 13-14; Zech. 3; 2 Cor. 9

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



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LINK TO ACCOUNT



There's More Happening Around the Driftless...

Snowflake Ski Jumping Tournament – Fri. Feb 6th, 6:30 p.m. & Sat. Feb. 7th, 11 a.m. @ Westby Ski Club, E7940 County Road P, Westby. *Button prices: \$20 presale, \$25 at the gate, children 12 and under are free. Food and beverage available on the grounds.*

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner – Sat. Feb. 7th, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. @ Our Savior's Lutheran, 306 S. Main St., Westby. *Serving: lutefisk, lefse, meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, rutabagas, carrots, cranberries, pickled herring, and Norwegian pastries. Cost: \$22 per adult; \$8 for kids age 7 – 12; kids 6 and under eat free.*

Sweetheart Pancake Breakfast – Sat. Feb. 14th, 8 – 11 a.m. @ Ferryville Village Hall.

Soup Lunch & Auction – Sat. Feb. 14th, 11 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. lunch, 1 p.m. auction @ Faith UMC, rural La Farge. *Serving: Three soups, crackers, bread, cheese & sausage, desserts, and beverages. Free-will donation for soup lunch.*

Meatball & Lefse Dinner – Wed. Feb. 11th, 4:30 – 7 p.m. @ Viroqua UMC. *Serving: Meatballs, Homemade Lefse, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Coleslaw, & Homemade Pie. Cost: \$15 per meal. Carry-outs are available.*

Winter Walk & Bonfire – Sat. Feb. 21st, 3 – 5:30 p.m. @ Lower Duck Egg County Forest, rural Chaseburg
Walkers are to meet in the park parking lot. All walks will begin promptly at 3pm and will be approximately 1 hour long, with a bonfire and beverages to immediately follow.



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

Shining Celebrations!

Birthdays

Elaine Lambert – 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



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



Fellowship Sunday

The next Fellowship Sunday at the Retreat Methodist Church is coming up on Sunday, February 1st and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. Our hosts for this fellowship Sunday are **Carol Gilman** and **Robbin Hennen**. 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

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 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 Communion Sunday Fellowship Sunday (R) NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	2 West Retreat Prairie Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat Liberty Pole Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.	3 Mens Group 9 a.m. @ Viroqua Fam. Restaurant Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.	4 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	5 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	6 Pastors Sabbath	7	
8	9 West Retreat Prairie Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat Liberty Pole Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.	10 Mens Group 9 a.m. @ Viroqua Fam. Restaurant Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.	11 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	12 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m. Mens Group 5 p.m. @ Viroqua Fam. Restaurant	13 Pastors Sabbath	14 	
15 Warm Up Soup & Salad Meal Noon @ New Hope 	16  Newsletter Submission Deadline	17	18 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m. Ash Wed. Service 6 p.m. @ Liberty Pole	19 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	20 Pastors Sabbath	21	
22	23 West Retreat Prairie Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat	24	25 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	26 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	27 Pastors Sabbath	28	
				Did you miss Sunday worship? Catch up by watching it online at https://driftlessministry.org/sermons/ . New videos are uploaded every Sunday afternoon/evening!			LP: Liberty Pole NH: New Hope R: Retreat

Shine

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



*Warm Up
Soup & Salad
Meal*

**Sunday,
February 15
at Noon**

**@ New Hope
Methodist Church**



**COMMUNITY
ASH WEDNESDAY
SERIVCE**

**WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 18**

6 p.m.

**@ Liberty Pole
Methodist Church**

ALL ARE WELCOME!