

"Let the light of Jesus shine through you!"

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Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday

Sun. Mar. 1st

New Hope Board Meeting

Sun. Mar. 1st, 11:30 a.m.

Spring Ahead Brunch & Lunch

Sun. Mar. 8th, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

@ Retreat

Liberty Pole Board Meeting

Mon. Mar. 9th, 5:30 p.m.

Retreat Board Meeting

Tue. Mar. 10th, 6 p.m.

Soup & Salad Meal

Sun. Mar. 15th, Noon

@ New Hope

Ash Wednesday Service

Wed. Feb. 18th, 6 p.m.

@ Liberty Pole

Food Pantry Open

Wednesdays: 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 – 11 a.m.

Wednesday Warriors

Wed., 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope

Preparing for the Lenten Journey

Easter and Holy Week are fast approaching and with them come a frenzy of activities and special services to help prepare your heart and mind for Easter and to help center your spirit on the true meaning of the season.

This year, we have several opportunities for you to join us during Holy Week: Holy Week kicks off on Sunday, March 29th with special Palm Sunday services at all of our churches. Come and join us as we mark and examine Jesus' celebratory entrance into the city of Jerusalem!

On Good Friday (April 3rd), you will have a few opportunities to join us in worship. The first is at the Community Good Friday service from 10 a.m. at the South West Prairie Lutheran Church. We'll hear a message from various clergy from around the area (including Pastor Sandy) as they share the final words of Christ from the cross. This will then be followed by a freewill dinner.

Your second opportunity for Good Friday worship will then come in the evening. Please make plans to join us at the North West Prairie Lutheran Church at 6 p.m. as we come together as a community for a very meaningful Tenebrae service. The West Prairie Singers will be sharing their musical talents, so you won't want to miss this!

You will then get another chance to come together as a community on Saturday, April 4th with a Community Breakfast! Details can be found on page 3 of this newsletter but make plans now to join us as we come together as a community for fellowship and to celebrate the resurrection!

And finally, the big day! Easter – April 5th! You, your family and friends are invited to celebrate the glory and miracle of Easter morning with our church family during our normal worship times (8 a.m. Retreat, 9:15 a.m. Liberty Pole, 10:30 a.m. New Hope). Come and join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!



***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

~ Romans 5:8 ~

Notes from Pastor Sandy

As I write this, we are finishing a lovely warm spell that has melted most of the ice and turned my thoughts to spring. Unfortunately, it won't last, but spring's coming for sure! March means that we are working our way through Lent. We will be studying the apostles of Jesus—who they were, what they did, and how they died. Then we will move on to the Sermon on the Plain—Luke's reprise of the Sermon on the Mount—which tells us HOW to be a disciple. Put simply, a disciple is more than a simple student. It is more like a dedicated learner and follower—Like Pastor Sandy and Alastair Begg and Chuck Swindoll. I study and learn from other teachers, but those are the ones I follow with fanatical dedication. To be an apostle means more than that. It means that we were witnesses to the Resurrection. To be an apostle is a closed group by now! But we can ALL move from casual learner to devoted disciple.

William Barclay writes, "It is possible to be a follower of Jesus without being a disciple, to be a camp follower without being a soldier of the king to be a hanger-on in some great work without pulling one's weight. Once someone was talking to a great scholar about a younger man. He said, "So and so tells me that he was one of your students." The teacher answered devastatingly, "He may have attended my lectures, but he was not one of my students." There is a world of difference between listening to sermons and being a disciple. It is one of the supreme handicaps of the Church that there are so many distant followers of Jesus and so few true disciples."



As we approach Easter, we'll begin to focus on the family of Jesus and how they moved from angelic calls to Golgotha and beyond. As we work through Luke to learn more about Jesus, may we be transformed by the Holy Spirit to look like Him. To become true disciples in the highest sense of the word. Only in the power of the mighty name of Jesus, may it be so!

Blessings to all. Great things are in store as we head into spring!

Pastor Sandy & Ron



Preparing for a "Grand" Easter!



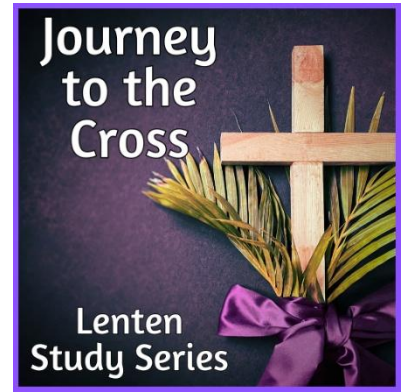
As in year's past, the Retreat Methodist Church is once again planning to host a Community Breakfast on the day before Easter. Along with the breakfast, the church is also planning to host an Easter egg hunt for area youth. That said, we're in need of treats to stuff into the eggs... and we need quite 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!

Lent Online Study Series

This month, we'll continue and finish the Lenten studies which we started reading in February. We'll be reading weeks 3 through 6 to finish this 6-week series. Hopefully, these studies will continue to help you to pause, reflect and draw closer to God during the remainder of Lent, in preparation for Easter. The studies for the remainder of this series includes:

- **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/>.



Welcome Spring with Soup & Salad!



Spring is right around the corner and what better way to welcome it in than with a delicious meal! The New Hope Methodist church will be hosting another Soup & Salad Luncheon on Sunday, March 15th. From Noon until 2 p.m., they will be serving up some delicious, hearty soups and wonderful salads that are sure to fill you up and warm your heart and soul. There is no set cost for the meal, but instead a freewill offering will be collected so give as your heart desires. All funds raised during this meal will be used to help pay for their new HVAC system! All are welcome. We hope to see you there!



Easter Community Breakfast

What's a better way to celebrate the Easter season than spending time with your family, friends, and neighbors? We invite you to join us on **Saturday, April 4th** for a special Community Breakfast with an Easter twist! Breakfast will be served from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall and will feature plenty of fantastic food and great fellowship. The meal is **free and open to all**, so please come and enjoy a hot breakfast while catching up on the latest with your family and friends.

There will also be a special bake sale during the breakfast. Make your Easter celebration extra sweet by purchasing special Easter treats to take home and enjoy with your family!

In addition to our traditional Community Breakfast, we will also be hosting a fun Easter Egg Hunt for the children! This event is always a ton of fun! The egg hunt will start around 10:00 a.m. and will feature one thousand goody-filled eggs for the kids to find!

Don't miss this special opportunity to spend time with your friends and neighbors, enjoy a hot breakfast, and have a little Easter fun!



**For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.**

~ Song of Solomon 2:11-12 ~

Prayers for March

With the coming of spring, it feels like we are all taking a collective breath of fresh air. Let's use those breaths to pause and pray to God! We encourage you to use the following simple breath prayers throughout this month to help supplement your prayer time!

Sunday

*Inhale: God with us.
Exhale: Still, always.*

Monday

*Inhale: Friend of my soul,
Exhale: come rest with me.*

Tuesday

*Inhale: I choose love over fear.
Exhale: God, you are steady in every struggle.*

Wednesday

*Inhale: I release my worry and what-ifs,
Exhale: and I welcome Your prevailing peace.*

Thursday

*Inhale: May I know You, Jesus,
Exhale: In ordinary love and quiet faithfulness.*

Friday

*Inhale: I release my need for control,
Exhale: I trust Your goodness and purpose will prevail.*

Saturday

*Inhale: You never withhold Your love from me,
Exhale: Help me to receive Your love with open hands.*



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 1st, 11:30 a.m.

[Worship Committee Meeting](#)

Monday, March 2nd, 5:30 p.m.

[Liberty Pole Church Board Meeting](#)

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

[Retreat Church Board Meeting](#)

Tuesday, March 10th, 6 p.m.



**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 ~

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 **tomato soup, scalloped potatoes, ketchup, and deodorant.** 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**



Many Thanks!

The New Hope Food Pantry recently received a thank you that they wanted to share with all who support them.

“I would like to express my gratitude for the support and kindness I have received from your food pantry. Your generosity has been a lifeline for me and my family, providing much needed assistance. Your distribution is always well organized, and your volunteers are friendly, compassionate, and welcoming. The variety and quality of the food items have eased our worries of having enough to eat. Thank you once again for your support to helping those in need. Your kindness has made a huge difference in our lives, and we are truly grateful.”

Words of gratitude like this show just how important this ministry is to those struggling with food insecurity in our area. A HUGE thank you to all who continue to support our food pantry with your donations, contributions, time, and energy! You are making a difference in the lives of people right here in our community!



**“This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.”**
~ John 15:12 ~

Bible-in-a-Year Plan

March Scriptures

- 1 – 1 Chron. 15:1-16:6; Zech. 4; 2 Cor. 10
- 2 – 1 Chron. 16:7-43; Zech. 5; 2 Cor. 11
- 3 – 1 Chron. 17; Zech. 6; 2 Cor. 12
- 4 – 1 Chron. 18-19; Zech. 7; 2 Cor. 13
- 5 – 1 Chron. 20-22:1; Zech. 8; John 1:1-18
- 6 – 1 Chron. 22:2-23:32; Zech. 9; John 1:19-34
- 7 – 1 Chron. 24; Zech. 10; John 1:35-51
- 8 – 1 Chron. 25-26; Zech. 11; John 2
- 9 – 1 Chron. 27-28; Zech. 12; John 3:1-21
- 10 – 1 Chron. 29; Zech. 13; John 3:22-36
- 11 – 2 Chron. 1-2:16; Zech. 14; John 4:1-26
- 12 – 2 Chron. 2:17-5:1; Mal.1-2:9; John 4:27-42
- 13 – 2 Chron. 5:2-14; Mal. 2:10-16; John 4:43-54
- 14 – 2 Chron. 6; Mal. 2:17-3:18; John 5:1-18
- 15 – 2 Chron. 7; Mal. 4; John 5:19-47
- 16 – 2 Chron. 8; Ps. 73; John 6:1-21
- 17 – 2 Chron. 9; Ps. 74; John 6:22-59
- 18 – 2 Chron. 10-11; Ps. 75; John 6:60-71
- 19 – 2 Chron. 12-13; Ps. 76; John 7:1-24
- 20 – 2 Chron. 14-15; Ps. 77; John 7:25-52
- 21 – 2 Chron. 16-17; Ps. 78:1-20; John 8:1-20
- 22 – 2 Chron. 18; Ps. 78:21-37; John 8:21-47
- 23 – 2 Chron. 19; Ps. 78:38-55; John 8:48-59
- 24 – 2 Chron. 20-21:1; Ps. 78:56-72; John 9:1-23
- 25 – 2 Chron. 21:2-22:12; Ps. 79; John 9:24-41
- 26 – 2 Chron. 23; Ps. 80; John 10:1-21
- 27 – 2 Chron. 24; Ps. 81; John 10:22-42
- 28 – 2 Chron. 25; Ps. 82; John 11:1-27
- 29 – 2 Chron. 26; Ps. 83; John 11:28-57
- 30 – 2 Chron. 27-28; Ps. 84; John 12:1-26
- 31 – 2 Chron. 29; Ps. 85; John 12:27-50



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

The Puzzle Swap Continues!

As we are all well aware of, the weather of March in Wisconsin can be a bit unpredictable. But you can still find some fun things to do inside while the weather becomes a bit more stable! One thing you can do is challenge yourself with a fun puzzle from Retreat’s puzzle library! Our puzzles are available to all and are located just inside the front door to the sanctuary. 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 as we yearn for the warmer days of spring to arrive!



Interested in Learning CPR?

Could you save a life? When a cardiac emergency strikes, every second counts. More than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of hospitals each year in the United States, and unfortunately, only about 10% of victims survive. However, immediate CPR can double or triple a victim’s chance of survival! Most of these emergencies happen at home, meaning the life you could save is most likely to be a loved one, friend, or neighbor.



In order to better prepare our communities for these types of emergencies, the Driftless Ministry churches are planning to host a CPR training on Saturday, April 18th. The training will take approximately 4 hours to complete and will equip you with the knowledge you need to remain calm and act effectively. Details for the training are still being ironed out, but mark your calendar and plan on joining us! More information will be coming soon and will be announced during worship and in our next newsletter. If you are already interested, please reach out to Pastor Sandy and let her know!



Seeking Music Talents!

The Retreat and New Hope Methodist Churches are seeking those who are willing to share their musical talents to supplement our weekly Sunday morning worship services (8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.). We already have the wonderful Tom Baker sharing his beautiful music with us, and we would like to add your musical melody to the mix! Plus, it would give us more flexibility on Sundays when Tom is unable to join us! So whether you can play piano, organ, guitar, or some other type of instrument, we would be interested in talking with you and discussing what you can do! Compensation may be available pending church board approval. If you are interested and would like to share your music talent with our churches, please reach out to Pastor Sandy at (608) 881-4276 or san356@comcast.net or Ron at (608) 881-4277 or darnocnor@comcast.net.



Don’t Miss Worship!

Avoid being late for worship on Sunday, March 8th! Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8th. Remember to “spring forward” your clocks before going to bed *the evening before* so you won’t miss out on worship, fellowship, and more!



Support Retreat While You Shop!

Do you purchase books or other faith-based items off of Christianbook.com? If so, now you can support the Retreat Methodist Church as you shop! The Christianbook Giveback program is a simple and automatic way for you to support our church every time you shop the store, at NO cost to you. It's quick and easy, simply link your account with the Christianbook Giveback program! Just follow the QR code here or visit <https://www.christianbook.com/apps/giveback> and enter our organization Giveback ID: **XWNEFO**. After this one-time signup, we are eligible to receive 4% cashback on your purchases! It's not much, but every little bit adds up and helps support our church!



Give back every time you shop at Christianbook



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Link your Christianbook account to benefit your local church or favorite charitable organization.

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*New to GiveBack? **Churches, schools, and other ministries can register their organizations here!***

Enter your organization's GiveBack ID

Enter code **XWNEFO** here and then click "Link to Account" to link the giveback program your account!

LINK TO ACCOUNT



Another Great Church Dinner!



Everyone is invited to join our neighbors and friends at the De Soto Lutheran Church for their upcoming Sweet BBQ Meatball Supper on Thursday, March 5th from 4 to 6:30 p.m. This dinner includes: Sweet BBQ Meatballs, Baked Potato, Vegetable, Coleslaw, French Bread, Desserts, and Beverage. The cost of the dinner is \$15 per meal. Takeouts will also be available for those wishing to dine in the comfort of their home. All proceeds from the dinner will go to the local food pantry and the church's Good Samaritan Fund.



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!



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

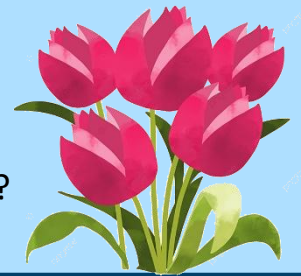
Wyatt Newsome – Mar. 9th
 Lena Isbell – Mar. 11th
 Bianca Hauge – Mar. 12th
 Arthur Mendoza – Mar. 12th
 Cole Springborn – Mar. 12th
 Carl Bargabos – Mar. 16th
 Mitch Holliday – Mar. 17th
 Gracie Isbell – Mar. 17th
 Tammy Frank – Mar. 19th

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



Fellowship Sunday

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

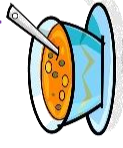



Pastor – Rev. Sandy Conrad
 (608) 881-4276
pastor@driftlessministry.org

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



March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday Fellowship Sunday (R) NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	2 Worship Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m.	3	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 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.	13 Pastors Sabbath	14
15 Soup & Salad Meal Noon – 2 p.m. @ New Hope 	16	17	18 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	19 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	20 Pastors Sabbath 	21
22	23  Newsletter Submission Deadline	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
29 	30	31		Did you miss Sunday worship? Catch up by watching it online at https://driftlessministry.org/sermons/ .		LP: Liberty Pole NH: New Hope R: Retreat
						New videos are uploaded every Sunday afternoon/evening!

Shine

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

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