

"Let the light of Jesus shine through you!"

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Upcoming Events

Good Friday Service

Fri., Apr. 3rd, 7 p.m.
@ NW Prairie Lutheran

Easter Community Breakfast

Sat. Apr. 4th, 8 – 10:30 a.m.

Retreat Ladies Group

Sat. Apr. 11th, 10 a.m.

Communion Sunday

Sun. Apr. 12th

New Hope Board Meeting

Sun. Apr. 12th, 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Pole Board Meeting

Mon. Apr. 13th, 5:30 p.m.

Driftless Men's Group

Tue. Apr. 14th, 9 a.m.
@ VRQ Family Restaurant

Retreat Board Meeting

Tue. Apr. 14th, 6 p.m.

Chili Cookoff

Sun. Apr. 19th, Noon – 2 p.m.
@ New Hope

Food Pantry Open

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

Wednesday Warriors

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

Finding Hope AND Light

Economic hardship. Numerous wars around the world. Physical and mental illnesses. Natural disasters. Divided people. The list goes on and on. The world around us certainly can feel very heavy and dark at times. People are looking for hope. They are looking for THE Light.

The first Easter was very similar. One of the Jesus' disciples, Judas Iscariot, had betrayed the group, leading the authorities to arrest his teacher. Jesus had just been put on trial, mocked, convicted, and put to death on a Roman cross. His body had been hastily buried. Peter had denied knowing Jesus. The disciples were in hiding, fearing persecution and death. To say Jesus' disciples were longing for a glimmer of light and good news is putting it lightly. Yet in an early morning encounter, a few women have an encounter that would signal the start of something extraordinary... a moment that would bring hope and light to the entire world for countless generations!

We welcome you to join us as we revisit the events of Holy Week, unlocking and reigniting the hope and light of Christ's resurrection for our lives today! We will start the week off on Palm Sunday (March 29th) recounting Jesus' prophetic and celebratory parade into the City of David. Come and worship with us, waving a palm branch as we revisit the spectacular event.

Our attention then turns to the events that followed immediately afterward, leading us to the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jesus' trial and crucifixion. Everyone is invited to join us for two special community Good Friday services on Friday, April 3rd. First, the South West Prairie Lutheran Church will host a 10 a.m. Good Friday Service featuring the final words of Christ from the Cross. Pastor Sandy will be sharing one of these final words, so don't miss this wonderful service. Later in the day at 7 p.m. at the North West Prairie Lutheran Church will host our joint Community Good Friday service. Please note the time change to 7 p.m. We will be led in worship by both Pastor Tim of North West Prairie and our own Pastor Sandy, along with the West Prairie Singers. All are welcome as we reflect on the events and circumstances of that Good Friday.



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We will then enter "Silent Saturday" with a celebration that will be anything but silent! All are welcome to join us at Retreat for a special community breakfast. You can find more details on that event on page 3 in this newsletter.

Our cups will then overflow on Easter as we are filled with the hope, light, and good news that Christ's resurrection brings! Everyone is welcome to join us during our regular Sunday worship times as we celebrate the Good News that our entire world so badly needs to hear!

Notes from Pastor Sandy

Hopefully we have survived our last snowstorm of the season. I cannot tell you how hard it is to decide whether or not to cancel church. We posted the sermon online this last time so please check out our website and Facebook page. It starts with 'Liberty Pole'. Let your church councils know if you have comments or concerns.

One important change is that the Good Friday Service at North West Prairie will start at **SEVEN p.m.** and not six. There will be a time of fellowship before.

These days, we are working our way through Luke, and we come to Luke 7:18=35. Just to set the stage, John the Baptist has been languishing in Herod Antipas's prison for months while Jesus' ministry moves on—but without any plans to free John or lead a military revolt. John's disciples come to Jesus with questions. "Are you the one or do we look for another?" John's place in the narrative of Jesus has been stamped with angelic approval and foretold by prophets and yet he wondered what was going on. Jesus is not bothered by doubt. He tells the messengers, "The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are being raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them." And Jesus adds an additional beatitude/blessing. "Blessed are those who do not take offense at me". A better translation of that is "do NOT lose your faith or your salvation because you don't understand what is happening". Good advice for us as well. We are in the midst of concerning times—economically and nationally. Everything costs more. Gas prices will likely go through the roof. And I don't want to touch on the war or the national debt, but they are concerning as well.



Don't 'take offense' at Jesus. The Messiah is still working. Judgment will come and peace will be restored. Jesus is right on target for what He came to do. Please join us for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services. God is still in charge. We can celebrate amid hard times because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead—FOR US.

Pastor Sandy & Ron



Welcoming a New Member!



On Sunday, March 1st, the New Hope Methodist Church had the joy of welcoming a new member: Ram Balderaz. Ram took a big step on his faith journey by becoming a member of his new church family. His smile during the service truly lit up the room! Everyone at the church is excited to grow in faith together with him. A special thanks to Jeanne Kunert for sharing a picture of this special moment in Ram's faith journey!

Being a member of your church is a visible commitment to Christ and his people and a powerful statement in our low-commitment culture! Together, members of the church grow in faith as they work in mission in spreading God's love, grace, and mercy to those in our communities. If you are interested in becoming a member of one of our churches, please ask us when you come for Sunday morning worship! We'd be happy to help you in the process of becoming a member!

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. Please note that if you do wish to make a monetary donation, all donations will be given to the Prairie View Elementary School to help provide lunches and snacks for our youth facing food insecurity.



There will also be a special bake sale happening 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!



These Guys are a Blast!



The Driftless Men's Group has been having a blast connecting with one another during their gatherings! It has been tons of fun sharing stories and building bonds over hot cups of coffee and a delicious breakfast. If you would like to join the group, all are welcome! The group is very informal, and the setting is very relaxed. Their next meeting is coming up on Tuesday, April 7th at 9 a.m. at the Viroqua Family Restaurant so put it on your calendar and make plans to join in the fun! If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out to Ron Conrad at (608) 881-4277 or darnocnor@comcast.net.



Special thanks to Pete Amrhein for sharing pictures of the Men's group gathering from February!



Who Makes the Best Chili?

The Driftless Men's Group is planning to host a Chili Cookoff on Sunday, April 19th from Noon to 2 p.m. at the New Hope Methodist Church. Come and taste some fantastic chili, vote for your favorite, and discover who makes the best chili in the area! All area men are welcome to submit a large pot of chili for this fun competition. A freewill donation will be collected for the meal with proceeds going to a yet-to-be determined mission (this will be finalized before the event). So mark your calendars, prepare your taste buds, and get ready for a spicy meal!



Retreat Ladies Group

Hey ladies! The Retreat Ladies' group will be meeting on Saturday, April 11th at 10 a.m. at the Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing some new ideas and also setting dates for making more Lasagna Love! And don't worry, it's not *all* business. We have lots of fun too!

One of the projects the ladies group will tackle is a fun one and will give people an opportunity to enjoy some homemade Easter goodies! Just before Easter, the group is planning to bake Easter cutout cookies, decorate them together in the church hall on April 2nd (9 a.m.), and then sell them at the Community Breakfast on April 4th! They will be seeking volunteers to help bake cookies and also to come and decorate them. All are invited to participate in this project, so come for a good time of fun and fellowship!



For more information, reach out to Lynn Nelson or Lynnell Nummerdor!



Stitching Into Spring!

With the warmer weather (ok, so maybe *nicer* weather), the Retreat church is starting up their quilters group. YAY!!!! We will have sessions on Monday, April 13th and 27th at 9 a.m. in the Retreat Fellowship Hall. If you're not into quilting, you can still bring a craft of your choice and join us for some conversation and laughter. The coffee pot will be on or you can bring your favorite beverage. So bring along your show and tell! We love to see you and hear your stories.



Bible-in-a-Year Plan

April Scriptures

- 1 – 2 Chron. 30; Ps. 86; John 13:1-20
- 2 – 2 Chron. 31; Ps. 87; John 13:21-38
- 3 – 2 Chron. 32; Ps. 88; John 14:1-14
- 4 – 2 Chron. 33; Ps. 89:1-18; John 14:15-31
- 5 – 2 Chron. 34; Ps. 89:19-37; John 15:16-4
- 6 – 2 Chron. 35; Ps. 89:38-52; John 16:5-33
- 7 – 2 Chron. 36; Ps. 90; John 17
- 8 – Ezra 1-2; Ps. 91; John 18:1-18
- 9 – Ezra 3-4; Ps. 92; John 18:19-38
- 10 – Ezra 5-6; Ps. 93; John 18:39-19:16
- 11 – Ezra 7-8; Ps. 94; John 19:17-42
- 12 – Ezra 9-10; Ps. 95; John 20:1-18
- 13 – Neh. 1-2; Ps. 96; John 20:19-31
- 14 – Neh. 3; Ps. 97; 1 John 1
- 15 – Neh. 4; Ps. 98; 1 John 2
- 16 – Neh. 5-7:4; Ps. 99; 1 John 3
- 17 – Neh. 7:5-8:12; Ps. 100; 1 John 4
- 18 – Neh. 8:13-9:37; Ps. 101; 1 John 5
- 19 – Neh. 9:38-10:39; Ps. 102; 2 John 1
- 20 – Neh. 11; Ps. 103; 3 John 1
- 21 – Neh. 12; Ps. 104:1-23; Jude 1
- 22 – Neh. 13; Ps. 104:24-35; Rev. 1
- 23 – Est. 1; Ps. 105:1-25; Rev. 2
- 24 – Est. 2; Ps. 105:26-45; Rev. 3
- 25 – Est. 3-4; Ps. 106:1-23; Rev. 4
- 26 – Est. 5-6:13; Ps. 106:24-48; Rev. 5
- 27 – Est. 6:14-8:17; Ps. 107:1-22; Rev. 6
- 28 – Est. 9-10; Ps. 107:23-43; Rev. 7
- 29 – Isa. 1-2; Ps. 108; Rev. 8
- 30 – Isa. 3-4; Ps. 109:1-19; Rev. 9



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

Hoping and Listening April Online Bible Study Series

Easter is a season of hope. The grass is greening up. Flowers are preparing to bloom. Animals are waking up from their winter hibernations. New life is springing up around us. Meanwhile, as we gather on Easter, we celebrate the hope of new life that Jesus brings into each of our lives, and even more, into the entire world. The earth-shattering events of that first Easter changed everything and continues to impact our lives and world today!

As we wrap up Holy Week, we invite you to join us for a quick four-day study as we consider the life-changing hope of Easter by diving into John’s account of Jesus’ death and resurrection. It’s a great study that will help to spark the hope of Easter in your life!

Easter Hope – begins Wednesday, April 1st



For the remainder of April, we will be focusing on recognizing and listening to God’s voice in our lives. Hearing God’s voice is far simpler than many believers imagine. Truth is, you may have heard Him yourself but didn’t even realize it. In a world of chaotic and never-ending noise, God’s voice is often overshadowed by fear, ignorance, self-condemnation, busyness, and self-dependence. We invite you to join us as we work to rise above the distractions, identify His voice in our lives, and learn to listen intently to Him. It’s one of the most important parts of our relationship with Him, so let’s become better listeners of God’s wonderful words!

- **How to Recognize God’s Voice Effortlessly** – begins Monday, April 6th
- **Being Attentive to God’s Voice** – begins Monday, April 13th
- **Listening to God’s Voice** – begins Monday, April 20th

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 no longer supports Plans with Friends. You will need to open the Bible App on your mobile device to continue to use this feature.



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 at the New Hope Methodist church. The training will take approximately 4 hours to complete and will equip you with the knowledge you need to remain calm and act effectively. We are currently hoping to have enough people for a morning class AND an afternoon class. However, we need an accurate headcount so that necessary equipment can be acquired! So, if you are already interested, please sign up on Sunday morning at worship. There is a sign up sheet at each of our churches. For more information, please reach out to Pastor Sandy!

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.



Thanks for Springing Ahead with Us!

The Retreat Methodist Church wants to thank everyone who came out to join us for brunch and lunch on Sunday, March 8th as we celebrated the coming of spring and longer, warmer days! It was wonderful seeing you all and your bright, smiling faces. There was plenty of food and fellowship with lots of fun all around. We hope to see you again soon at our upcoming Community Breakfasts through the rest of the year and the many other wonderful functions and events we have planned!

Thank you to Colleen Inman for sharing pictures from the event!



Community Family Game Night

Everyone is invited to join our friends at the South West Prairie Lutheran Church for their monthly game nights! Held on the third Friday of each month, the church offers family-friendly games to bring our community together for fun and fellowship. Bring your family, bring your friends. The fun starts at 5 p.m.!



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
 Adrion Clancy – Apr. 10th

Jean Roach – Apr. 11th
 Wesley Funk – Apr. 14th
 Alice Long – Apr. 16th
 Kevin Robson – Apr. 16th
 Phyllis Skarda – Apr. 17th
 Janet Thompson – Apr. 17th
 Kevin Nelson – Apr. 18th

Robbin Henchen – Apr. 20th
 Sheri Hammond – Apr. 24th
 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

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, April 12th and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. Our hosts for this fellowship Sunday are **Terry & Donna Inman**. 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 Henchen: (608) 804-0314



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Did you miss Sunday worship? Catch up by watching it online at https://driftlessministry.org/sermons/.</i></p> <p><i>New videos are uploaded every Sunday afternoon/evening!</i></p>			<p>1</p> <p>Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p> <p>Cookie Decorating 9 a.m. @ Retreat</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Good Friday Services</i> 10 a. @ SW Prairie Luth. 7 p. @ NW Prairie Luth.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Easter Community Breakfast 8 – 10:30 a.m. Retreat Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Happy Easter</p> 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Executive Comm. Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Pastors Sabbath</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Retreat Ladies Group 10 a.m. @ Retreat</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Communion Sunday Fellowship Sunday (R)</p> <p>NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Retreat Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat</p> <p>Liberty Pole Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Mens Group 9 a.m. @ Viroqua Fam. Restaurant</p> <p>Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Pastors Sabbath</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>CPR Training Class @ New Hope</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Chili Cookoff Noon – 2 p.m. @ New Hope</p> 	<p>20</p>  <p>Newsletter Submission Deadline</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Pastors Sabbath</i></p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Retreat Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p>		<p>LP: Liberty Pole NH: New Hope R: Retreat</p>

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

Community Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4

8 - 10:30 a.m.

Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall

(E3426 County Road N, De Soto)



Easter Egg Hunt @ 10 a.m.
Bake Sale
featuring **Easter Cookies!**

Free & Open to all!

*If you wish to make a donation,
note that all donations will be sent to
the Prairie View Elementary School
to help provide lunches for our area youth!



A ministry of the Retreat Methodist Church
www.driftlessministry.org



Driftless Ministries

Chili

COOK OFF

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
NOON - 2:00 P.M.

NEW HOPE METHODIST CHURCH
E2286 STATE HIGHWAY 82,
DE SOTO, WI 54624

FREEWILL DONATION

Come and taste some wonderful chili and help us crown the chili champion!