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**Upcoming Events**

**Communion Sunday**

Sun. May 3<sup>rd</sup>

**New Hope Board Meeting**

Sun. May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 a.m.

**Community Breakfast**

Sat. May 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 – 10:30 a.m.

**Liberty Pole Board Meeting**

Mon. May 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.

**Driftless Men's Group**

Tue. May 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m.

@ VRQ Family Restaurant

**Retreat Board Meeting**

Tue. May 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.

**Retreat Ladies Group**

Sat. May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 a.m.

**Grilled Lunch Fundraiser**

Fri. May 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

@ Nelson's Agri-Center, VRQ

**Food Pantry Open**

Wednesdays: 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 – 11 a.m.

**Wednesday Warriors**

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

**Celebrating Holy Week and Easter**

During Holy Week and Easter, the Driftless Ministry churches were a hub of activity! We started off the week with Palm Sunday worship after which members of the Retreat congregation came together to stuff over 1100 plastic Easter eggs with candy for a special Easter egg hunt. We had a few quiet days but Thursday brought the Retreat group together to decorate Easter sugar cookies to sell at their Community Breakfast. Good Friday then brought us two opportunities for worship. Despite the wet weather, the services were very meaningful for all who attended. The wet weather continued into the next morning, but it could not put a damper on the Easter spirits in Retreat. Saturday brought Retreat's Easter Community Breakfast featuring their classic breakfast, sweet Easter treats at their bake sale and a fun Easter egg hunt for the kids! Everyone had a great time and the fellowship was fantastic!

Easter then brought the Good News of our risen Savior! We celebrated in all three of our churches. Liberty Pole even "dressed" for the occasion with a wide array of beautiful flowers inside and a flower-decorated cross welcoming those who attended the service.

All in all, the week was fantastic filled with meaningful messages, fellowship, and tons of bright spirits and laughter!



# Notes from Pastor Sandy

Wow!! Is it May Already??

You all may have noticed that we had a LOT going on in April! What a joy to have active, fun-filled, Christ following churches to enjoy! We've had Easter breakfasts and Easter Egg Hunts (in sloppy conditions!). We've cleared branches and shared Good Friday worship with North and South West Prairie Lutheran churches. Easter at the Driftless churches was fantastic and I was blessed by all the people and families that came to worship with us. One of the questions that I was asked at the end of the service was who Joseph of Arimathea was. So, here's a summary of who he was with a little Internet conjecture thrown in. Passages to enjoy Elijah and Nicodemus are at the end. The power of the Resurrection does not end on Easter. It should last throughout a lifetime. Jesus has conquered all. Hallelujah!!

This Joseph was not from Nazareth but from Arimathea—about twenty miles northwest of Jerusalem. We know he was rich because he had a new tomb available. Matthew 27:57 and John 19:38 tell us he was a disciple of Jesus. Mark 15:23 and Luke 23:50 both tell us that he was a 'respected member of the Council. That was the Sanhedrin, the main religious ruling body of the Jews. They also were responsible for civilian and criminal order in the region around Jerusalem. It was members of the Sanhedrin that had presided at the early trials of Jesus—but not all the members were present. Joseph and Nicodemus were not. It was Joseph who went to Pontius Pilate to ask for the body of Jesus. That was his moment of fame in the Bible. We have no Biblical mention of him before or after.



He is remembered with great respect because he took care of the body of Jesus after His death. Our Lord was not left to hang dead on the cross (which was usual for criminals) nor was He to be thrown in a pauper's grave. Joseph and Nicodemus violated Jewish laws about touching a dead body. Not only did they gently lower the body from the cross, but they wrapped it in long strips of clean linen treated with a mixture of spices. They were unable to do the complete job because of the Sabbath but they did what they could.

Now, if you ask the question, "Whatever happened to...?" there are a host of legends that have grown up around Joseph of Arimathea. These must be taken as legends only. Interesting but not Biblically based. The first tradition to consider is that Joseph may have been Mary of Nazareth's brother. It required a senior male relative of a crucified person to deal with the body, so this would have given Joseph access. It was not some random guy coming in and taking the body. The legend goes on to say that he went to England after the crucifixion. The area of Cornwall claims this legend. It would explain why there is no record of the Jews ever retaliating against one of their own caring for the body of the man they had just crucified. And it would also explain why his name does not show up in Acts.

Joseph of Arimathea stands as a perfect example of how anyone living a Godly and righteous life can make a difference by a single act of kindness. Giving the body of Jesus as proper tomb secured Joseph's place in history.

Nicodemus was also a Pharisee and a respected teacher of Israel. He was a big deal in the study and interpretation of the Old Testament. All his Biblical appearances are in the Gospel of John. We first meet him in John 3:1. This is the famous "Nic at Night" passage that we studied in The Call series. He next appears in John 7:50-51. Here he defends Jesus' right to a fair hearing before the Sanhedrin. His last appearance was in John 19:39-42 where he assists in the burial of Jesus.

Nicodemus doesn't have a large part in the New Testament, but he makes the best use of the opportunities he has! It is because of Nicodemus that we have the foundational teachings on being born again of the Spirit. In this same passage is Jesus' wonderful saying, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16-17). He shares the spotlight with Joseph of Arimathea at the tomb as well. And then he disappears from the Biblical narrative. There isn't even a legend about what happened to him. But I would suggest that he hung around the apostle John at some point, because John was able to record Nicodemus' role in the life of Jesus.

So, that's Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. Keep asking questions and have a wonderful May!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Sandy & Ron



### Take Mom Out for a Community Breakfast!

Make your Mother’s Day weekend extra fun by heading up to Retreat for a delicious breakfast and wonderful fellowship with your friends and neighbors! The Retreat Methodist Church is planning their next Community Breakfast of the year for **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 10:30 a.m.** in the Retreat Church Fellowship Hall (E3426 County Rd. N, De Soto, WI). A delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits & gravy, and beverages will be available for all who come. There will also be a bake sale at the breakfast so that you can take added sweetness home with you (or for your mother!). Proceeds from the bake sale will go for future renovations of the church’s fellowship hall!



These community breakfasts were started as a way to bring the community together to reconnect with one another over a simple meal. The breakfast is always free and open to everyone who wish to attend. However, if you do wish to make a donation, please note that any donations received from this breakfast will go to the **Wheatland First Responders** to help them in assisting our friends and neighbors during their time of need. We hope to see you soon at the upcoming Community Breakfast!



### Upcoming Grilled Lunch Fundraiser!



Come out to Nelson’s Agri-Center Ace Hardware in Viroqua on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> for a delicious grilled lunch! The Retreat Methodist Church will be serving up a mouth-watering grilled meal from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. You will have your choice of brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, soda, and water. There will also be a bake sale so you can take a delicious treat home too! All funds raised from the meal will be used to continue our ministry in the community and funds raised from the bake sale will go towards future renovations of Retreat’s fellowship hall! And if you’re interested in helping out for an hour or two (or more), they won’t deny you a couple of hours of fun and maybe some entertainment!



### God’s Purpose May Online Bible Studies

During the past several months of these online studies, we’ve investigated waiting for God’s answers and listening for God’s answers/directions. Now that we’ve learned more about waiting and listening, we’re going to delve into God’s purpose for us and living for the purpose God has for each of us.

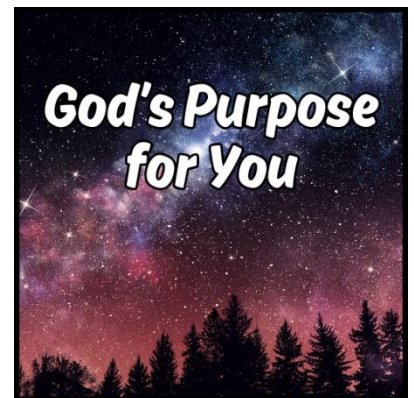
You can find links to join our May studies on our website: [driftlessministry.org](http://driftlessministry.org). Our studies on God’s Purpose are:

**Created on Purpose for Purpose (14 days)** – starts on May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Understanding Your Purpose (7 days)** – start on May 15<sup>th</sup>

**Living with Purpose on Purpose (8 days)** – start on May 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Please note that the Bible.com website does not support Plans with Friends. You will need to open the Bible App on your mobile device to use the links to these plans. The Bible App is available in your app store on your mobile device.*



### Join Us for Fun & Quilting!

By the time people read this newsletter, the Church Basement Quilters will have finished their second "sleep in your own bed retreat". Three consecutive days were spent sewing, drinking coffee, solving a multitude of problems and spending time with our Christian lady friends who all love to sew!

While we make items for personal use, we also make a significant number of charity quilted projects. All are made with love, and given to a variety of people. The group meets on the first, third, and fifth (if there is one) Monday of each month in the Liberty Pole church basement. We have so much fun together as we create our individual works of art! Maybe we can develop a show to share the talents of this group! If you are interested, stop in and check us out! You might become as excited as we are!



~ Barb Robson



### Retreat Ladies Group



*Retreat Ladies Group*

Hey ladies! The Retreat Ladies' group will be meeting on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing upcoming events and other ideas, but don't worry, it's not *all* business. We have lots of fun too!

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



### A Stitching Good Time!

The Retreat quilters and stitchers will only be meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>, due to upcoming Memorial Day weekend! I would like to take this opportunity to remember all of our brave men and women who gave their lives, so we can worship and live in this great country we call the United States!

~ Lynnell Nummerdor



### Bible-in-a-Year Plan

#### May Scriptures

- 1 – Isa. 5-6; Ps. 109:20-31; Rev. 10
- 2 – Isa. 7-8; Ps. 110; Rev. 11
- 3 – Isa. 9-10; Ps. 111; Rev. 12
- 4 – Isa. 11-13; Ps. 112; Rev. 13
- 5 – Isa. 14-16; Ps. 113; Rev. 14
- 6 – Isa. 17-19; Ps. 114; Rev. 15
- 7 – Isa. 20-22; Ps. 115; Rev. 16
- 8 – Isa. 23-24; Ps. 116; Rev. 17
- 9 – Isa. 25-26; Ps. 117; Rev. 18
- 10 – Isa. 27-28; Ps. 118; Rev. 19
- 11 – Isa. 29-30; Ps. 119:1-32; Rev. 20
- 12 – Isa. 31-33; Ps. 119:33-64; Rev. 21-22
- 13 – Isa. 34-35; Ps. 119:65-96; 1 Thess. 1
- 14 – Isa. 33-37; Ps. 119:97-120; 1 Thess. 2:1-16
- 15 – Isa. 38-39; Ps. 119:121-144; 1 Thess. 2:17-3:13
- 16 – Jer. 1-2; Ps. 119:145-176; 1 Thess. 4
- 17 – Jer. 3-4; Ps. 120; 1 Thess. 5
- 18 – Jer. 5-6; Ps. 121; 2 Thess. 1
- 19 – Jer. 7-8; Ps. 122; 2 Thess. 2
- 20 – Jer. 9-10; Ps. 123; 2 Thess. 3
- 21 – Jer. 11-12; Ps. 124; 1 Tim. 1
- 22 – Jer. 13-14; Ps. 125; 1 Tim. 2
- 23 – Jer. 15-16; Ps. 126; 1 Tim. 3
- 24 – Jer. 17-18; Ps. 127; 1 Tim. 4
- 25 – Jer. 19-20; Ps. 128; 1 Tim. 5:1-22
- 26 – Jer. 21-22; Ps. 129; 1 Tim. 5:23-6:1
- 27 – Jer. 23-24; Ps. 130; 2 Tim. 1
- 28 – Jer. 25-26; Ps. 131; 2 Tim. 2
- 29 – Jer. 27-28; Ps. 132; 2 Tim. 3
- 30 – Jer. 29-30; Ps. 133; 2 Tim. 4
- 31 – Jer. 31-32; Ps. 134; Titus 1



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

### Preparing to Save a Life!

On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, several members of the Driftless Ministry congregations gathered in the basement of the Liberty Pole Methodist Church to be trained in properly doing CPR and using Automated External Defibrillators (AED). Organized and led by Pete Amrhein and Annie Rinzel, attendees learned the basics of CPR to protect their family members, friends, and co-workers should the need arise in a cardiac emergency. They also learned the proper use of automated external defibrillation! Everyone who attended earned CPR certification and are now ready and willing to jump into action should the need arise. Thank you to Pete and Annie for coordinating this event and helping us and our communities be better prepared for whatever may come our way!



### A Perfect Day for a Bowl of Chili!

As the weather turned cooler following a warm, humid and stormy week, a spicy bowl of chili is just what people needed to brighten their day! The Driftless Men’s Group came together to create several pots of chili for people to partake in on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the New Hope Methodist Church. Ladies of the church graciously brought in some sweet treats to offset the spicy chili and root beer floats were available to all who attended. On top of that, live music was provided by members of the men’s group, adding to the atmosphere and leading to some people getting up and dancing along! It was a great day of food, fellowship, fun, and music! Thank you to all who attended and to all of those who contributed to the meal and music!



### The Meaning of Community

A recent Saturday was one of those heartwarming, God-given days in Retreat, WI. The location more specifically was the Walnut Mound Cemetery and the Retreat Methodist Church. Since 1866, the cemetery has been a “place of rest” and the Retreat community takes great pride in Walnut Mound to this day, Saturday, April 11, 2026.

A recent wind and ice storm had turned the ten plus acres of the cemetery into what looked like a war zone or as some people said, “it looked like a tornado went through.” The damage of split trees, limbs and branches being downed was widespread.

Community members began asking, “What can we do to help?” The cemetery association spread the word that Saturday the 11th would be a clean-up day at Walnut Mound Cemetery.

The community of Retreat did not disappoint! Men and women, young and old, children and grandchildren, families, neighbors near and far all showed up with trucks, tractors, trailers, chainsaws and rakes to work together to clean up the mess.

An earlier crew had come in to clean up some of the larger trees and to clear a path on the roadway through the cemetery. Weather had delayed continued efforts but now the chain saws were cutting, rakes were raking, and trailers were being loaded with the branches and twigs to be hauled away. Neighbors to the cemetery had offered a field as a place to pile the debris later to become a huge bonfire.

Rain arrived later in the morning trying to dampen the spirits of the workers but to no avail. The crew kept working! Meanwhile, another “crew” of the community was preparing a hot cooked meal for the Walnut Mound crew at the Retreat Methodist Church fellowship hall. The community of Retreat came together and shared fellowship over food, drink and conversation and ended the work day together feeling grateful for each other and work done together.

P.S. While the women were preparing this delicious meal, they also put together a basket of items for a new baby in the community. Plus, before the day was over, nine pans of Shepherd’s Pie were made ready for the freezer and available for a “time of need” for community members.

In this rural area, we are a community!

Definition: community is a group of people with diverse characteristics who are linked by social ties, share common perspectives and engage in joint action in geographic locations or settings.

Thank God for the community of Retreat, WI!

~ Donna Inman



### Get Your Newsletter Faster!



Are you noticing delays in receiving their mail through the U.S. Postal Service? It’s 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 it in your email inbox the *SAME DAY* that the hard copies get placed in the mailbox. 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!

## Shining Celebrations!

### Birthdays

Brynn Deaver – May 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Bill Marohl – May 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Clayton Thompson – May 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Doug Caley – May 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Brian Funk – May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Joy Hubbard – May 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Deanna Lohr – May 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Loann Beach – May 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Bailey Gianoli – May 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Pete Amrhein – May 28<sup>th</sup>

Tavin Hagen – May 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Britany Deaver – May 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Rachel Diehl – May 30<sup>th</sup>



### Anniversaries

Eric & Renee Baker – May 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Brent & Casey Johnson – May 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Ron & Sandy Conrad – May 31<sup>st</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)

### Fellowship Sunday

The next Fellowship Sunday at the Retreat Methodist Church is coming up on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and everyone is welcome to stick around after worship and join in the wonderful fellowship. 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!



### Thank you for your submissions!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who submitted information for this month's newsletter. Your help makes our newsletter possible! And another huge thank you to everyone who took and submitted pictures from our various church events. Real life pictures are so much better than any stock photo or clip art as they show our churches are alive and active! Thank you for all of your help! You are all greatly appreciated!

### 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



## May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<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 style="text-align: center;"><i>New videos are uploaded every Sunday afternoon/evening!</i></p>						
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Communion Sunday Fellowship Sunday (R)</p> <p>NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Basement Quilters 9 a.m. @ Liberty Pole</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Pastors Sabbath</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Community Breakfast 8 – 10:30 a.m. Retreat Fellowship Hall</p>
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>HAPPY Mother's DAY </p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Retreat Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat</p> <p>Liberty Pole Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Mens Group 9 a.m. @ Viroqua Fam. Restaurant</p> <p>Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Pastors Sabbath</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Basement Quilters 9 a.m. @ Liberty Pole</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. @ New Hope</p> <p>Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Pastors Sabbath</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Retreat Ladies Group 10 a.m. @ Retreat</p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Newsletter Submission Deadline</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p></p>		<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Pastors Sabbath</p> <p>Burger/Brat Fry 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Nelson's Agri-Center</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>
<p><b>31</b></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

Saturday, May 9  
8 - 10:30 a.m.

Retreat Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
(E3426 County Road N, De Soto)

**Free & Open to All!**

If you wish to make a donation, please note that all donations  
will be sent to the Wheatland First Responders!



A Ministry of the Retreat Methodist Church  
[www.driftlessministry.org](http://www.driftlessministry.org)

RETREAT METHODIST CHURCH

COME AND ENJOY



## GRILLED LUNCH

BRATS • HOT DOGS • BURGERS  
CHIPS • TREATS • BEVERAGES  
BAKE SALE

**FRIDAY, MAY 29**  
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

@ NELSON'S AGRI-CENTER

FREE DELIVERY AVAILABLE TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS CONTINUING THE  
CHURCH'S MINISTRY IN THE DRIFTLESS REGION