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Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday

Sun. Aug. 2nd

New Hope Board Meeting

Sun. Aug. 2nd, 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Pole Board Meeting

Mon. Aug. 10th, 5:30 p.m.

Driftless Men's Group

Tue. Aug. 11th, 9 a.m.

@ VRQ Family Restaurant

Retreat Board Meeting

Tue. Aug. 11th, 6 p.m.

Food Pantry Open

Wednesdays: 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 – 11 a.m.

A Day of Worship & Fun!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our special joint worship service on July 19th! The service was wonderful with a great message delivered by Pastor Sandy. Afterwards, everyone headed downstairs to enjoy a fantastic meal prepared by many hands of the congregations. There was music, fellowship, and laughter all around!

The churches are planning on making the joint service and fellowship an annual event, so we hope you can join us for next year's gathering! Until then, we welcome everyone to join us for our regular Sunday worship services!



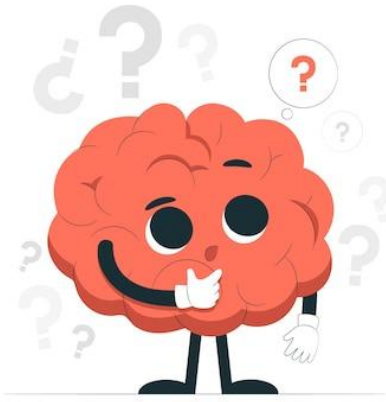
Upcoming Grilled Lunch Fundraiser!

Come out to Nelson's Agri-Center Ace Hardware in Viroqua on Friday, July 31st 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! We really do have a ton of fun with these grill outs, so come and join us!



Notes from Pastor Sandy

As I write this month, it is gray and polluted outside. We are working our way through the Canadian fire smoke. Yesterday, we had an amazing, combined service. I will smile at the joy of it for weeks to come. Over sixty people came and sang and worshiped together. The food was great, the band was wonderful, and the fellowship brought us together. I am incredibly proud to be your pastor, and I look forward to what we can do together over the next year.



Which brings me to the topic I was going to discuss for this issue. I am reading Bill Russell's book "The Russell Rules". For those of you who don't know, Bill Russell was an amazing basketball center and coach for the Celtics. He had eleven rings as both a player and a coach and two college basketball championships as well. He knows how to be successful.

One of the first of the Russell Rules is to Stay Curious. Curiosity is a natural human tendency, but as we grow older, we seem to override it. We need to be comfortable asking questions. What would happen if we did this new thing? I'm not saying that we have to do it. I'm saying that we need to ask the question and envision what the answer might be. How would worship look if we did this? We simply can't be afraid to ask questions and be curious about how we do things.

I was going to do another couple of paragraphs on that issue when another issue intruded. I am writing this article in a format with which I am not comfortable because my Windows 365 is no longer working. It should be, but it isn't. After I send this off to Jeff, I am headed to Best Buy to sit through hours of Geek Squad sleuthing to find why something that should be loaded and working is not. Then, this morning, I tried to make coffee. The Keurig spit out about three squirts of tepid water and quit. TWICE. The burners on the stove would not heat our eggs. And the microwave wouldn't either. BUT the electricity was on! Technology gives me a headache!

So, the word for today is to stay patient as well as to be curious. Any time there is new technology or ways to do things, sometimes it doesn't come out the way you would like!

Stay cool, breathe easy, and come to church! We look forward to seeing you!

Pastor Sandy & Ron



Raffle Tickets are Now Available!

Pictured to the right is the lovely quilt that is to be raffled off at 2026 Fall Turkey Bazaar in October. This beautiful quilt features 16 hand embroidered quilt blocks stitched by several ladies in the church, surrounded by an amazing patchwork of fabric. Many hours of love and labor went into creating this quilt. To finish it, the quilt was professionally machine quilted, ensuring a strong piece of artwork that will warmly wrap the lucky winner for many years to come!

Raffle tickets for a chance to win this quilt and other wonderful prizes are now available and can be purchased from the ladies of the Retreat church. Winners will be announced at the end of the Retreat Fall Turkey Bazaar on Saturday, October 24th. Don't miss this opportunity for a chance to win this beautiful quilt!



*Thank you to Forrest Herr
for taking this high-quality picture of our beautiful raffle quilt!*

Prayers for August

We encourage you to use the following simple prayers throughout this month to help supplement your prayer time!

Sunday

Lord, cleanse my heart and renew my spirit. Draw me close to you and restore the joy of your presence. Amen.

Monday

Father, help me remain steadfast when trials come. Strengthen my love for you and give me hope in your promises. Amen.

Tuesday

Lord, fill my heart with joy and peace as I trust in you today. Let your Spirit make me abound in hope. Amen.

Wednesday

Lord, when I am weary, lift me up. Help me wait on you with trust and renew my strength today. Amen.

Thursday

Father, heal the wounds I carry and restore what has been broken. Thank you that you care for what others may overlook. Amen.

Friday

Lord Jesus, fill my heart with your peace today. Help me not to be afraid but to rest in your presence. Amen.

Saturday

Father, help me trust your timing, even when I do not understand. Teach me to rest in your eternal goodness and plans. Amen.



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, August 2nd, 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Pole Church Board Meeting

Monday, August 10th, 5:30 p.m.

Retreat Church Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 11th, 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 **hamburger helper, hot dog/hamburger buns and men's 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

Welcome to Your New Church Family!



On Sunday, July 12th, the New Hope congregation had the honor of welcoming in a new member to their church family. A warm welcome to Rochelle Vallor to the New Hope church and the extended Driftless Ministries family! We pray that your time with your new church family is blessed and meaningful as you grow in faith with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

**Rochelle,
welcome to your new church family!**



Living a Joy-Filled Life August Online Bible Studies

Joy. It's one of the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. However, today's fast-paced world can often leave us feeling drained and even depressed. Thankfully, amid the pressures of life, God offers us something deeper than relief: joy that leads, strengthens and sustains. So, what does this joy look like and how can we experience it?

Let's discover a joy-filled life together! You are invited to join us in August for a series of studies focusing on joy. Each day, we will dive into the Book of Philippians to help us experience a deeper, steadier joy that remains strong even in difficult seasons. We'll explore how true joy grows through gratitude, humility, purpose, peace and contentment in Christ. And in the end, we will be guided toward the kind of joy that cannot be shaken!

Our August online studies focusing on Joy start on Saturday, August 1st and lasts the entire month. Join us at any time. All are welcome to participate. You can find the links to join our August Bible Studies on our website: driftlessministry.org.

- [A Life in Christ](#) (14 days) – starts August 1st
- [Life of Joy](#) (7 days) – starts August 15th
- [Unshakeable Joy](#) (10 days) – starts August 22nd



*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.*

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

Interested in Confirmation?



We are seeking any and all youth and adults who may be interested in participating in confirmation classes! The curriculum is already being compiled and classes are anticipated to begin in mid-September. Begin building a solid foundation in your faith and work your way to confirming your faith in the Lord! If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please reach out to Pastor Sandy today!



Helping Area Youth

The start of the school year is an exciting time, but for many families August and September can bring added financial stress that overshadows the joy of the season. Therefore, our churches are seeking to help out our area youth and their families by collecting school supplies for those that may need the help! We are asking everyone willing to contribute to donate either new supplies or funds to purchase the needed supplies to help us in this mission. Supplies or monetary donations can be dropped off at any of our churches during Sunday morning worship and will then be delivered to the schools for use. In addition to the normal school supplies, donations of sanitizing wipes and facial tissue would be greatly appreciated by our local schools!



**BACK TO
SCHOOL
SUPPLY
DRIVE**



Show Support for our Local Teachers



The Retreat Methodist Church welcomes you to join them in showing their support for our local teachers! At the end of August, the church once again plans to provide the teachers and staff at Prairie View Elementary School with a free lunch during one of their Inservice/prep days the week before school begins. This free meal has been very appreciated in the past and we are doing it again! If you would like to participate in this ministry, the church is seeking salads or desserts/bars to compliment the meal. If you are able and would like to help, please reach out to Colleen Inman (920) 323-6139 to learn more and get involved.



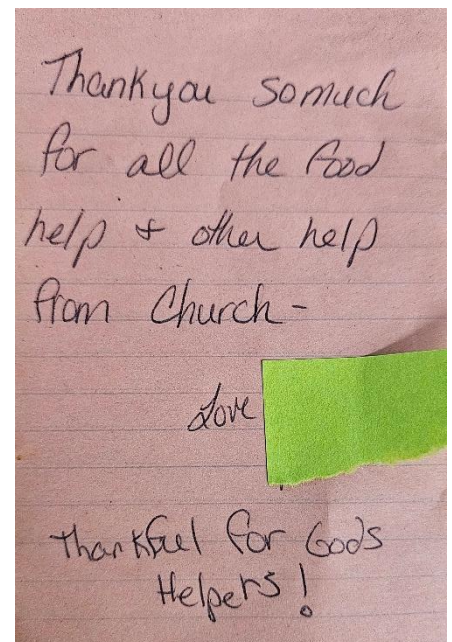
Thankful for God's Helpers

The New Hope Food Pantry serves many individuals and families in the greater De Soto area. All of the clients are extremely grateful for all that the pantry provides and how it helps them stretch their household budgets. Occasionally, the volunteers receive special little notes like this one, thanking them for all that the pantry provides. This note reads:

*"Thank you so much for all the food help and other help from church.
Love, (redacted). Thankful for God's Helpers!"*

Thank you so much to all who volunteer and donate to our food pantry! Your hard work and contributions truly make a difference in the lives of so many in our community! God bless you and thank you for your support!

THANKYOU!



Got MWT Email?

With Vernon Communications discontinuing all @mwt.net email services at the end of the year, we are encouraging you to take action NOW so that your digital connection with our churches is not lost! If you are reading this newsletter on a mwt.net email account AND have already set up a new email account elsewhere, please let us know your **new** email address. We will update our contact details for you so that you continue to receive our e-newsletter each month like you already do, but at your new email account! Simply reply to your newsletter email, let us know your new email address and we will take care of the rest!



And if you haven't signed up for the e-newsletter, now is a perfect time to do so! With the rising cost of postage and fuel, e-newsletters sure help us out a lot. To sign up, simply email retreatnews@yahoo.com with the word "Subscribe" and you will begin receiving our monthly newsletter in your inbox. Plus you'll get it faster and in color! Subscribe today!



Help Us Cut Costs!

For those that may be unaware, the United States Postal Service raised the postage rates in July. As of July 12th, it now cost us 82 cents to mail out *each* hard copy of our newsletter. And to think, when we started this newsletter back in 2009, stamps were just 44 cents. The price of mailing a simple letter has nearly doubled in the past 17 years!

So how can you help? For those that receive the **mailed** newsletters, we encourage you to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. It's the same newsletter you get every month only it arrives to your email inbox instead of your physical mailbox. Plus it's in color! To sign up for the e-newsletter, simply send an email to retreatnews@yahoo.com with "Subscribe" in the subject line and let us know who you are. That's all you have to do. We'll take care of the rest. You will then start receiving the newsletter each month right on your computer!

It is my hope to have all of our mail recipients receiving the e-newsletter by the end of the year! Not only will it cut costs, but it will also eliminate the page restrictions we have due to physical mailing! With your help, we can go "as digital as possible" and save our churches some funds that can be used for ministry elsewhere!



Retreat Quilters



The Retreat Quilters will be meeting at 9 a.m. on Mondays, August 10 and 24. We have a request for five denim quilts! We are in need of hands to help cut squares and perhaps cut up jeans. Rotary cutters will be provided to save the helpful hands! If you can help all day or even for just a short period, we welcome all! For more information, reach out to Lynnell Nummendor at (608) 642-1585.

Upcoming Cemetery Walk

The South West Prairie Lutheran Church and the Vernon County Historical Society will host a cemetery walk on Sunday, August 23, at 4PM, at the church and cemetery, S8466 Prairie Road, rural Viroqua. South West Prairie Lutheran Church is one of the oldest churches and cemeteries in Vernon County. Church services were held in the homes of early settlers until a log church was built in 1858. The current South West Prairie Church building, constructed in 1900, will be open for visitors to view the 170-year-old wooden altar and the unique stenciled walls. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per person to attend the cemetery walk. Baked goods made from traditional Norwegian recipes will also be available for sale.



With the U.S. 250th in mind, the theme of the cemetery walk will be “We the People”. Seven individuals will be featured, six with Norwegian ancestry and one with English ancestors. All were farmers and community leaders with interesting life stories.

- **Soren Jerman (1812-1874)** will be portrayed by his 4th great-grandson Craig Woodhouse. Soren was one of the first settlers in South West Prairie.
- **Nils Bringe (1818-1906)** will be portrayed by his 4th great-grandson Armand Bringe. Nils chose to come to the U.S. to provide for his 10 children.
- **Kenneth Hendrickson (1915-1989)** will be portrayed by his nephew Ralph Hendrickson. Kenneth was a plumber and electrician, and he designed the Hendrickson A-Frame Tobacco Shed.
- **Paul Ekern (1915-1975)** will be portrayed by his great-grandson Brooks Ekern. Paul was a farmer and inventor in Sag City. Clarence Jerman (1918-1999) will be portrayed by his grandson Seth McClurg. Clarence served in the army during WWII.
- **Genevieve Birkelo (1923-2024)** will be portrayed by her friend Lorna Crowley-Vento. Genevieve taught in rural schools and was the principal at Seneca.
- **Keith Bankes (1928-2015)** will be portrayed by his son Jody Bankes. Keith was a farmer and mechanic who built one of the first milking parlors in the area.



Thank You Retreat Methodist Community



The Retreat Methodist Church received the following note following the funeral for Marla Withey. The church wanted to share it with all who support and love our little country church.

“To the Retreat Methodist community: As dear friends of Marla and Kevin Withey and Marla’s parents, Cecil & Iva Lea, we have attended Retreat Methodist for all of their funeral services. Every time the services have been so meaningful and the love of them so evident. We have also been so welcome and embraced and remembered. What a special community! Thank you for all you do. In gratitude, Robin & Tom Fedie”



Thanks for the Photos!

Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures for our August newsletter! You help make this newsletter more personal and meaningful in so many ways! Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Thank you!



Shining Celebrations!

Birthdays

Lee Johnson – Aug. 2nd
 June Johnson – Aug. 2nd
 Morgan Kumlin – Aug. 4th
 Deb Deaver – Aug. 5th
 Jackie Abbott – Aug. 6th
 Angela Diehl – Aug. 6th
 Shawanna Haakenson – Aug. 7th
 Nicklas Thompson – Aug. 7th
 Courtney Stilwell – Aug. 8th

Jim Cocchiola – Aug. 13th
 Tamie Thompson – Aug. 13th
 Brad Thew – Aug. 14th
 Drake Kumlin – Aug. 16th
 Cleighton Clancy – Aug. 18th
 Alexander Clancy – Aug. 18th
 Bob Caley – Aug. 19th
 Baeyla Jones – Aug. 19th
 Reuben Hanson, Jr. – Aug. 21st

Maynard Cox – Aug. 22nd
 Crystal Nummerdor – Aug. 22nd
 Terry Inman – Aug. 23rd
 Tyden Lind – Aug. 26th
 Kimberly Eick – Aug. 27th
 Olivia Johnson – Aug. 30th
 Stacy Matson – Aug. 30th
 Dawn Hauge – Aug. 31st

Anniversaries

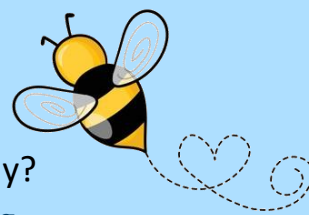
Matt & Nicole Johnson – Aug. 1st
 Loren & Jeanne Kunert – Aug. 6th
 Nicklas & Ashley Thompson – Aug. 7th
 Lloyd & Amy Hardy – Aug. 13th

Gary & Alma Robertson – Aug. 15th
 Norman & Dawn Hauge – Aug. 22nd
 Andy & Renae Diehl – Aug. 22nd
 David & Rita Stalsburg – Aug. 26th

Chad & Melissa Vikemyr – Aug. 26th
 Gary & Vicki Kumlin – Aug. 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, August 2nd** 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!



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



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Did you miss Sunday worship? Catch up by watching it online at https://driftlessministry.org/sermons/.</i> <i>New videos are uploaded every Sunday afternoon/evening!</i>						
2 Communion Sunday Fellowship Sunday (R) NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	3 Basement Quilters 9 a.m. @ Liberty Pole	4	5 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	6 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	7 Pastors Sabbath	8
9	10 Retreat Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat Liberty Pole Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.	11 Mens Group 9 a.m. @ Viroqua Fam. Restaurant Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.	12 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	13 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	14 Pastors Sabbath	15
16	17 Basement Quilters 9 a.m. @ Liberty Pole	18	19 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	20 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	21 Pastors Sabbath	22
23	24 Retreat Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat Newsletter Submission Deadline	25	26 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	27 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	28 Pastors Sabbath	29
30	31 Basement Quilters 9 a.m. @ Liberty Pole					

Shine

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

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COME AND ENJOY



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

FRIDAY, JULY 31
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