Driftless Ministries
Liberty Pole, New Hope, & Retreat Methodist Churches

Shine

"Let the light of Jesus shine through you!"

November 2026
Volume 18.11

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Upcoming Events

Communion Sunday
Sun. Nov. 1st

New Hope Board Meeting
Sun. Nov. 1st, 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Pole Board Meeting
Mon. Nov. 9th, 5:30 p.m.

Driftless Men's Group
Tue. Nov. 10th, 9 a.m.
@ VRQ Family Restaurant

Retreat Board Meeting
Tue. Nov. 10th, 6 p.m.

Community Breakfast
Sat. Nov. 14th, 8 – 10:30 a.m.
@ Retreat

Liberty Pole Advent Decorating
Wed. Nov. 18th, 5:30 p.m.

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

Wednesday Warriors
Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.
@ New Hope

Build Connections Over Breakfast!



The leaves and temperatures are falling and the days are getting shorter, which means the cold, snowy days of winter will soon be here. Before the snow starts to fly, we want to invite you up to Retreat for one more opportunity to connect with your friends and neighbors of a delicious, warm breakfast! The Retreat Methodist Church will be hosting its final Community Breakfast of the year on Saturday, November 14th from 8 to 10:30 a.m. in their fellowship hall. There will be plenty of fantastic food and great fellowship for you to enjoy. ***As always, 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, friends and neighbors.

Please note that if you do wish to make a monetary donation, all donations from this breakfast will be given to the De Soto Future Farmers of America (FFA) Program to support the agricultural education of our area youth!

In addition to the breakfast, there will also be a delicious bake sale where you can purchase some sweet homemade treats that you can enjoy at home (or on the way home). All proceeds from the bake sale will be used for future renovations to Retreat's fellowship hall, which will officially be 100 years old next year! The renovations are needed and your support is greatly appreciated!

We look forward to seeing you and helping you reconnect with your community before the cold settles in for the season. Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship!

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Mom & Kids Group

Attention area mothers! Bring your kids for a special social event for families. The New Hope Methodist Church will be hosting a Mom & Kids Group on the second Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to Noon. They have plenty of toys and snacks. So, bring your kids and come and enjoy the coffee and fellowship. ALL caregivers are welcome!



Notes from Pastor Sandy

Thanks to Sarah Meyer who was cleaning out some papers from Gloria Warmuth and found the booklet celebrating this event. I thought it might jog some memories and, perhaps, make some new ones.

Red Mound Methodist Church: From the 100th Anniversary 1875-1975



It was first called the Central Methodist Church—located in the township of Wheatland, Vernon County. The first preacher came in 1875. The original founders came from both De Soto and Retreat. Notice that all our churches got their starts about the same time. The Civil War was over, and the soldiers had returned and were ready to settle down. I'm sure that Faith was a big part of their lives. So, Liberty Pole, Retreat, and Red Mound all had churches started around the same time (De Soto too, I suppose). That original church was called the Central Methodist until 1910 (perhaps 'Central' because it was the center between Retreat and De Soto).

It was a country church. It sponsored the 4th of July celebration with a big party in Tenny Grove (across from the Red Mound store). They had the Epworth League for High School and Junior High School students. I never attended Epworth Leagues but, if you ask around, I'll bet a few of your older family members met the person they married at an Epworth League!

It was in the 1950's that saw carpet, pews, and an organ purchased. Another war had ended, and church meant something to everyone. A few decades later, the United Methodist Church pressured De Soto and Red Mound churches to consolidate. With great faith and a TON of work, they not only became one congregation, but they built a new church which included parts of both churches that had gone before. The stained-glass windows on either side of the front of New Hope Methodist are the windows from Red Mound Methodist. The altar, its dressings and cross all appear to be from Red Mound as well. The memory of that church fades with each passing year. But when you serve the Lord, the *work* that you do and the legacy that you leave will last forever.

I'll leave you with a poem by Janice Phillips Denu from that booklet:

Oh, little church you have stood here for a hundred years.
You have seen our joy, and you have known our tears.
As children small we came to you to learn of God's great love
We learned about creation and Christ in heaven abo e.
How we squirmed in Sunday School as the teacher taught the Golden Rule.
Within your walls we stood one day side by side as we were married,
And later sat with saddened hearts as dear loved one were buried.
When I come home to visit and enter in your door,
I find many beloved faces are with us here no more.
We have precious memories of those with whom we worshiped long ago,
And recalling all those old friends sets our hearts aglow.
Little church, you are not in a bustling city and have no soaring pointed steeple.
Your congregation is made up of farming people.
But, for quiet contemplation, to give a sagging spirit rest,
A simple, unpretentious, quiet country church is best.

I couldn't have said it better. Over November, as we give thanks for our blessings, don't forget your churches and those who have gone before—and those who will come after. Church is a place of lives lived, and futures secured. Thanks be to God for our churches.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sandy & Ron

Prayers for November

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



Sunday

Heavenly Father, I'm grateful for who You are. Help me to live today with awareness of Your presence and appreciation for Your kindness. Amen.

Monday

Dear Lord, I want to pause and say thank You—not just in the big moments, but in the ordinary ones, too. Thank You for the food I eat, the air I breathe, and the quiet moments of joy that make up my day. Teach me to recognize Your work in the small things and to respond with genuine thanks. Amen.

Tuesday

Holy Provider, You care for my every need, even when I feel anxious. Thank You for meeting my daily needs, like food, shelter, and care. Strengthen my faith to trust You with tomorrow's uncertainties. Amen.

Wednesday

Heavenly Father, thank You for placing people in my life like friends, family, and mentors. Even in times of tension, I trust You're shaping me through these relationships. Open my heart to love and be loved well today. Amen.

Thursday

Creator God, thank You for the beauty of creation—in sunsets, animals, forests, and flowers. These glimpses of Your handiwork remind me of Your presence. Open my eyes to notice Your gifts today. Amen.

Friday

Dear Lord, as I begin this day, I offer it to you. Thank you for the gift of life, for the air I breathe, and for the strength you give me each day. Guide my steps, fill me with your love, and help me to shine your light in the world. Amen.

Saturday

Dear God, thank you for your love and your grace. Your goodness and kindness humbles me. You've brought so many beautiful gifts into my life. I know You are working in my life today for my good and Your glory. Amen.

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

Liberty Pole Church Board Meeting
Monday, November 9th, 5:30 p.m.

Retreat Church Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 10th, 6 p.m.

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Rooted in Faith, Branches Full of Joy

The Liberty Pole women will be decorating the church Christmas tree on Wednesday, November 18th at 5:30 p.m. Please be aware that the tree, while fully decorated, will not be lit until the first Sunday in Advent. If you are interested in helping, please come and join us as we prepare for Christmas. It is a fun time for everyone!

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."
~ Luke 2:14 ~

Food Pantry Needs

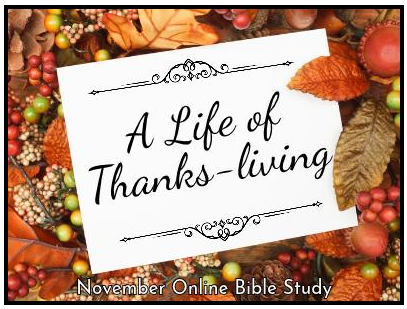


The New Hope Food Pantry welcomes your generous donations to help those in need in our communities. This month the pantry is seeking donations of **peaches, au gratin and scalloped potatoes, and scouring pads**. In addition to these items, the food pantry also greatly appreciates your monetary donations! 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

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Thirty Days of Thanksgiving & Worship

November Online Bible Study



Do you need some help and encouragement on how to give daily admiration to God? Join us this month on a journey of adoration that will position us into God's power and presence. Along the way, we'll learn more about living a life of thanks-living to expand our daily worship of our Lord.

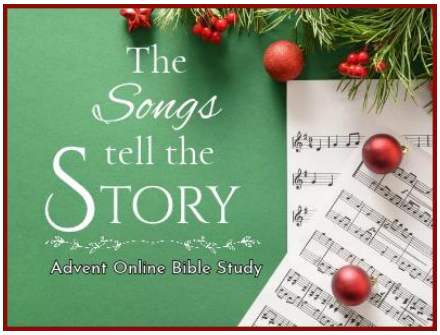
This 30-day plan will begin on November 1st. You are welcome to join us at any time. All are welcome to participate. You can find the link to join our November Online Bible Study on our website: **driftlessministry.org**.

- **Thirty Days of Thanksgiving and Worship** – starts November 1st

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The Songs Tell the Story: A 25-Day Advent Devotional

Advent Online Bible Study



When you think of Christmas, what other things in addition to the birth of Jesus come to mind? Many of us would probably include Christmas carols on our list of things about Christmas. This Advent study will give us more insight into many of our favorite Christmas carols so we can sing them with new life and more enthusiasm.

This 25-day study will begin on November 29th. You are welcome to join us at any time. All are welcome to participate. You can find the link to join our Advent Online Bible Study on our website: **driftlessministry.org**.

- **The Songs Tell the Story: A 25-Day Advent Devotional** – starts November 29th

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.

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You'll *Fall* for Our Patchwork!



The Retreat Quilters will be meeting at 9 a.m. on Mondays, November 9th and 23rd. Great progress is being made on the requested denim quilts! You should stop by and see the works in progress! As always, everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun and fellowship. There is always plenty of laughter going on. If anyone would like to help with the quilts, even for just a short period, your contributions will be greatly appreciated! For more information, reach out to Lynnell Nummerdor at (608) 642-1585.

Getting Ready for Winter



In mid-October, Tom Baker received an unexpected blessing! To thank him for his dedication and beautiful music during worship services, the Retreat church had a big load of firewood delivered to Tom's house. Life situations this past summer really cut into Tom's firewood cutting time, so the wood was greatly appreciated! Another load of firewood will soon be delivered courtesy of the New Hope church (if it hasn't been delivered already by the time this goes to print), helping to ensure that both Tom and Chris remain warm and comfortable during the coming winter months. Thank you to Tom for sharing his wonderful talents every week. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated by all!

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Striking a Chord for Student Success

On September 26th, the Retreat Methodist Church hosted its latest community breakfast. There was plenty of fellowship shared over the warm meal, helping to build the bonds that make a community strong.

As in the past, while the meal was free, community members still wished to donate. This time, any funds donated were designated to be given to the De Soto Schools Music Department to help fund the musical education of our area youth. A total of $313 was donated at the community breakfast. Shianne Hauge proudly presented the donation to Nathan Randall, head of the De Soto Music Department in mid-October.

Thank you to all who donated to help support the musical education of our area youth!

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Wrapping Them in Love, Prayers & Warmth

Pastor Carter (pastor at our churches between 2021 and 2023) wishes to express his gratitude to the ladies at the Retreat church for sending two blankets to Carter, Alyssa, Kaycen, and Kinley. It was very thoughtful and they greatly appreciated your thoughts and prayers in addition to the blankets. God bless you all!







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Stitched with Love

A Quilt of Valor Presentation

During Retreat's Turkey Bazaar, those present had the honor of witnessing Cindy Noel present Jack La Haie with a Quilt of Valor. Quilts of Valor are created to cover service members and veterans touched by war in comfort, healing, and love. The quilt says unequivocally, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice in serving our nation."

Baptized & Blessed



On Sunday, October 11th, the New Hope Methodist Church had the profound joy and honor of witnessing the baptism of Beau Ronald Schumacher, son of Byron & Katie Schumacher. Baptism is a sacred moment where we witness God's unconditional love poured out on a little one before they are even old enough to understand it. Surrounded by family, friends, and our congregation, Beau was washed in the waters of baptism, marked as Christ's own forever, and officially welcomed into the body of Christ.

As a congregation, we didn't just watch this beautiful sacrament—we made a promise. Together, we vowed to love, support, and nurture Beau as he grows. We committed to helping Byron and Katie guide him in the faith, so that one day he will know just how deeply he is loved by God and by this community.

Welcome to the family, little one! We cannot wait to watch you grow in faith and love.

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Thank You for Your Support & Congratulations to Our Winners!

The Retreat Methodist Church thanks everyone who came out to support the church during our Fall Turkey Bazaar. It was wonderful to see everyone gathering around the table again to share a delicious meal with family, friends, and neighbors. We greatly appreciate your continued support of our ministry here in the community. A huge thank you also goes out to all our amazing, hard-working volunteers! This event is a big undertaking, and it would not have been possible without you! Thank you so much!

And now for the fun part! As in years past, the Bazaar also featured a raffle filled with many wonderful prizes. And with so many prizes, that means that there were plenty of winners! Congratulations to the following winners from the Bazaar raffle and thank you for your continued support!

Quilt: Pastor Sandy Conrad
Tool & Jam Basket: Mary Hallett
Cozy Autumn Basket: Sandra Gillespie
Breakfast Basket: Mary Klum
Ratchet Set: Kirk Layla
Portable Air Compressor: "Butch" Norman Hauge
Relaxation Basket: Crystal Nummerdor
Christmas Scene Lantern: Lynnell Nummerdor
Welcome Home Table Runner: Jamie Ovadal
Autumn Arrangement: Sandra Gillespie
Autumn Wind Spinner: Janna Seefeldt
Quilt Wall Hanging & Scrubbers: Linda Olson
$50 Kwik Trip Gift Card: Parker Bankes



Jeff Nelson presenting Pastor Sandy with the 2026 Bazaar Quilt. *Pastor Sandy was surprised when we re-announced the quilt winner during worship the next morning!*

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Put a Stitch in the 2028 Bazaar Quilt!

Plans are in the works to create the *2028* Bazaar Quilt! And if you know how to embroider, you can be a part of the fun! Starting in January, anyone who likes to do embroidery is invited to join us in the Retreat Fellowship Hall. More details will come in December newsletter, so stay tuned! For more information, contact Mary Hallett at (608) 792-1919.

Rooted in Faith, Built on Love, Working with Purpose!

The past month has certainly been busy across the Driftless Ministries and there certainly hasn't been a dull moment! A HUGE thank you goes out to everyone who volunteered or donated for the various church dinners that were served in October. Between the Meatball & Lefse Supper, the Chicken & Noodle and Chili Meal, and the Fall Turkey Bazaar, numerous hands blessed our churches with love and support. Your hard work, faithfulness and dedication are greatly appreciated by everyone in our church and by those who attended these wonderful meals.





Images above: Meatball making at New Hope







Images left and above from the quilt show during Liberty Pole's Chicken & Noodle and Chili Meal











Images from Retreat's Fall Turkey Bazaar
Left: Lynnell & Crystal Nummerdor hard at work in the kitchen
Center: Lynn, Terry, & Jeff Nelson keeping an eye on the food and replenishing the serving tables.
Upper Right: Cindy Noel & Sara Hanson tending to the tables.
Lower Right: Mary Hallett, Michael Amrhein, and Gary Nummerdor staffing the serving line.

Shining Celebrations!

Birthdays

Hunter Isbell – Nov. 1st
Garrett Schiffler – Nov. 1st
Isabella Thompson – Nov. 1st
Melissa Vikemyr – Nov. 1st
Dylan Johnson – Nov. 2nd
Kim Robson – Nov. 4th
Joyce Krueger – Nov. 6th
Jeanne Kunert – Nov. 6th
Desirae Steiber – Nov. 7th
Pamela Harkema – Nov. 9th
Brent Deaver – Nov. 11th
Loren Kunert – Nov. 12th

Duanne Stalsberg – Nov. 13th
Cora Gianoli – Nov. 15th
Carolyn Nummerdor – Nov. 16th
Edith Stalsberg – Nov. 17th
Janna Thew – Nov. 17th
Ethan Ellefson – Nov. 19th
Neil Funk – Nov. 19th
Lucy Foley – Nov. 20th
Mary Marx – Nov. 20th
David Baker – Nov. 23rd
Mark Haakenson – Nov. 23rd
Jeff Nelson – Nov. 23rd

Jeff Warmuth – Nov. 23rd
Roxanna Haakenson – Nov. 24th
Kevin Taylor – Nov. 24th
Jaxon Newsome – Nov. 25th
Abagail Diehl – Nov. 27th
Katie Elbert – Nov. 27th
Chandlor Volden – Nov. 28th
Patty Stilwell – Nov. 29th
Hailey Thompson – Nov. 29th
Joan Seymour – Nov. 30th
Loren Springborn – Nov. 30th

Anniversaries

Gary & Lynnell Nummerdor – Nov. 4th

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, November 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 Jeff Nelson***. 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

Driftless Ministries
Liberty Pole, New Hope, & Retreat Methodist Churches

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday Fellowship Sunday (R) NH Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.	2	3	4 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	5 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	6 *Pastors Sabbath*	7 Small Group Study 10 a.m. @ Retreat
8	9 Retreat Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat LP Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.	10 Mens Group 9 a.m. @ Viroqua Fam. Restaurant Mom & Kid' s Group 10 a. – Noon @ NH Retreat Board Meeting 6 p.m.	11 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	12 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	13 *Pastors Sabbath*	14 Community Breakfast 8 – 10:30 a.m. Retreat Methodist Fellowship Hall Small Group Study 10 a.m. @ Retreat
15	16	17	18 Wednesday Warriors 3:30 p.m. Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m. Christmas Decorating 5:30 p.m. @ Liberty Pole	19 Food Pantry Open 9 – 11 a.m.	20 *Pastors Sabbath*	11 Small Group Study 10 a.m. @ Retreat
22	23 Retreat Quilters 9 a.m. @ Retreat *Newsletter Submission Deadline*	24	25 Food Pantry Open 5 – 6:30 p.m.	26 	27 *Pastors Sabbath*	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent 	30	*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

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