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Special Points of Interest:

- April Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- April Birthdays and Anniversaries included with Calendar

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Administrative Assistant Hours are currently varied and subject to change. Please call ahead if you need to visit the office.



Celebration of Easter

Dear Ones,

Have you ever wondered why we don't celebrate Easter on a "fixed" date? We celebrate Christmas on December 25th every year. Why does the date we celebrate Easter change?

Easter Sunday is held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox, the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator from south to north. In other words, Easter Sunday is tied to the transitions of nature so that the date moves from year to year.

There are lots of reason why it was set up this way. Here are two I like. First, Easter is connected to a change in the seasons. Something new is happening. The world is on the brink of change and will look different soon. This is especially true this year as COVID restrictions begin to soften. Second, Easter does not have a specific date. That connects with the church's view that every Sunday is a celebration of Easter. It is not just once a year that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Easter is the way we live our faith, ask our questions, offer our prayers, gather as the body of Christ, serve in and through our shared ministry, mature as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Bible never says celebrate Easter on one specific day. Instead, it encourages disciples to live Easter's good news of new life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ every day. The greatest way we can do that is to do what the first disciples did. They gave testimony to how they saw the Lord.

Jesus appeared in all kinds of places — in locked rooms, along the road, amid fear and doubt, injustice and despair, to people who longed for meaning, purpose, wholeness and faith, and certainly in the joys of being found, healings, people being fed, the discovery of God's way and will.

Where do you see Jesus? How are you experiencing new life in this Easter season? The good news of Easter tells us that wherever we look, regardless of what day it is, Jesus is there, waiting to be seen, waiting for our eyes to open and see new life and new possibilities.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Blessings, Pastor Carolyn

Prayer Requests

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Colony Court: Joe Tollefson

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Foxdale: Elaine Westrum

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Liz Corchran, Leona Quast

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista

New Richland Care Center: Janice Kaupa

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, Janice Kaupa, Peggy Deno, Marlys & Ken Garness, Karen Ferch, Jeff Scholljegerdes, government officials, health care workers, first responders, and those who are most at risk and vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.



Bible Study

I am optimistically planning a bible study to start after Easter. Of course, like everything else this year, what this looks like will depend a lot on what happens with COVID restrictions. I have not decided on a specific study so if there is something you are particularly interested in please let me know.

Leading bible study is one of my favorite things to do. I learn so much from the study and from my fellow pilgrims who study with me. I also get to know my congregation much better as we spend time in fellowship. Be on the lookout for more information soon.

Pastor Carolyn

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Beginning Monday, April 12, Conversation, Bible & Friends will meet each Monday from 3:00 to 4:30 pm in the Lakeview Room. Please wear a mask.

News from Southern Prairie District UMW

Legislative Update

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) bill on maternal health and access to Medicaid data to improve out-comes has been included in the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act (HF 660 – Richardson). The bill was heard in the House Health Finance and Policy Committee and passed unanimously. Next stop is Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Law. The bill addresses the health inequity surrounding pregnancy and childbirth; Indigenous women in Minnesota are four times as likely to die in or as a result of childbirth as white women. For Black women, the likelihood is three times as high. The bill requires study of those cases which involved serious medical issues but the mother survived. It also authorizes expanded access to data to learn how to improve outcomes. Contact your legislators to encourage them to support HF #660.

“Urgent Maternal Warning Signs” posters

Did you know that the US has the highest maternal death rate in the developed world? Southern Prairie District UMW, with the help of the Conference UMW, is taking on a project to help change that dismal fact. We are distributing 250 posters of “Urgent Maternal Warning Signs”. The 9 x 12 posters will be put in restaurants and gas station restrooms and other areas where women frequent. The idea is to put the posters on the inside of toilet stall doors so while sitting on the stool, the poster can be read.

The Native American community has the highest death rate of mothers in the state of Minnesota. African American women are at a greater risk of death than white women. Also women of color are more likely to have serious complications during pregnancy, childbirth, and after the baby is born. White women are not immune to death and severe complications as a result of pregnancy either.

Our priority for this project is Native American women since these mothers are ten times more likely to have severe complications or death as a result of pregnancy. Therefore we have contacted the eleven Indian reservations in MN and the Indian Center in the Twin Cities as well as some Food Shelves to place these posters. The remaining posters will be distributed in the Southern Prairie District.

We know that pregnant women seek out restrooms, as do their female friends and family members. Hopefully everyone will be on the lookout for trouble in pregnancy. These posters may help ALL women know what signs to look for and when to seek help. If you would like some posters to put up, contact Sherry Scholljegerdes at or call 507-835-4304. If you would like to see the poster, go to <http://www.cpc.org>>Pregnancy-Corner>UrgentMaternalWarning Signs

Fireside Chat

Greetings – Hello dear ones, in the midst of all the uncertainty the coronavirus has brought us, I am coming to you to remind you that God is the same – yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In God we find our strength and courage.

These words from the prophet Isaiah are among the scripture that give me comfort.

Isaiah 40:31

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.

When I was 15, I had surgery to repair hip dysplasia in my left hip. The surgery required a bone graft and a body cast. We were living in Sioux Falls at the time and My surgeon was Dr. Vandermark, who now has a building named after him at the Sanford complex in Sioux Falls. The surgery was a success. After two weeks in the hospital, I was ready to go home. The problem was, my parents didn't understand at the onset that I would be in a body cast – they had to scramble to get me home and to set up a system to care for me. I know many of you are around my age and your parents grew up during the great depression as mine did. Because of this, my parents were resilient! They could adjust to almost any situation, and this was no different. So, they borrowed a station wagon from a friend and used a hospital gurney to carry me out and load me into the back. Once home, my older brother Allan got a piece of plywood from the basement and mom sort of pushed me onto it. Then Dad and Allan carried me into the house and placed me in my bed that had been assessable in our sun porch. For three months, life was very different. My parents continued with their full time jobs. My little brother Craig ran home from third grade every day to make us a lunch of Spaghettios. He made sure the TV was on the right channel so I could watch my shows that afternoon. Our neighbor was just a phone call away if I needed anything.

I was a sophomore in high school and three days a week a teacher would come in the late afternoon and collect my homework and give me some more. Craig would get home from school around 3:30 and mom and dad around 5:30. I spent my days mostly alone, doing homework, watching TV, crocheting, and reading my bible and praying. Such was life for three months.

I tell you this story because as I have reflected on this time in my life I know why I was not afraid. Yes, I had a good family that supported me, but more than that, even at the tender age of 15, I knew that that Holy Spirit was present with me. I was never truly alone.

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As we continue life amid COVID, know that God, always with you.

Remember the words of Isaiah,

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

you shall mount up with wings like eagles,

you shall run and not be weary,

you shall walk and not faint.

A prayer for today

Gracious ever present God. We come to you with praise and thanksgiving as we open ourselves to be renewed by your Spirit. We turn to you for courage and comfort. Bless those who are ill, alone, frightened this day. Bless and care for our front line responders, our doctors, nurses, grocery store employees, gas station attendants, all who are keeping our communities going and our people safe. We pray for our local, state and federal leaders, that they would make decisions based on the needs of your children. Help each one of us to be the light of Christ in this time of need. In the name of your sweet son Jesus, Amen.

A Bit of Humor to Lighten Your Day

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like" Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The secret to a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. -- *George Burns*

A Sunday school teacher asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping"

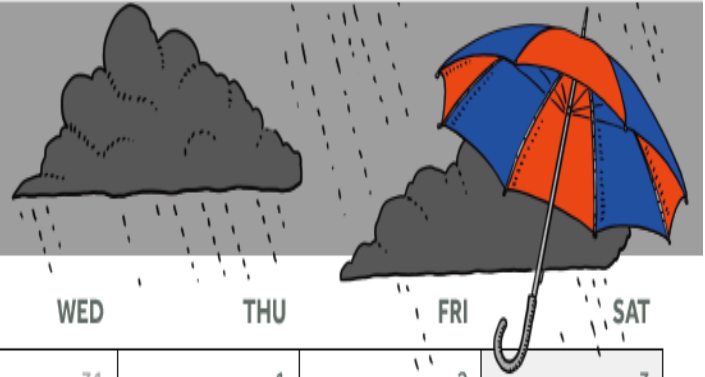
It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him. "Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."

Latest COVID Guidelines for Faith Based Organizations

Beginning March 15th, 2021 – Starting at 12:00PM – MN new restrictions for COVID for Faith-based Places of Worship and Music Activities & Performances during COVID:

- Minimum of 6' distancing between households
- Coordinated social gatherings, community or leisure purpose – even if social distancing can be maintained is not allowed at this time.
- No food or beverages can be served at any church functions or study group.
- Can have small church meetings but must maintain 6' social distancing and face masks must be worn at all times. Maximum number of individuals is 15.
- Singing is permitted as long as congregation wears face masks at all times while inside the four walls of the church.
- Hymnals in the pews are left up to the individual churches. Strong suggestion to use computer screen when possible.
- Strongly encourage services be held in a safe manner to those who attend, and if not feeling well stay at home until you are feeling better.
- For those who are not feeling well, provide alternate means to view the worship service like: video, You Tube, DVD's or view on line thru the TV.
- No community meetings inside the church at this time.
- Consider plexiglass barrier between performers and audiences where appropriate. Where there is more than one performer, need to keep 6' social distancing and a barrier between them when possible.
- Much attention must be given to risks of singing because of the "super spreaders" of voice droplets traveling in the air. That is where we need to maintain 6' social distancing and wear mask.

APRIL 2021



SUN		MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT	
MARCH		MAY		30		31		1		2		3	
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
28	1	2	3	4	5	6	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
EASTER	4		5		6		7	ZOO LOVER'S DAY	8		9	SIBLINGS DAY	10
Set positive intentions for the week.		Leave an inspiring book with a note to pass it on.		Reduce your carbon footprint! Walk or bike.		Gift a loved one a scrap book of shared memories.		Spend the afternoon going to the zoo with the children in your life.		FREE DAY! Find a way to show someone you care.		Call or text your siblings and let them know how much you love and appreciate them.	
NATIONAL PET DAY	11		12	RAMADAN BEGINS	13	INTERNATIONAL MOMENT OF LAUGHTER DAY	14		15		16		17
 Buy your pet a new toy or treat.		Become a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister".		Write a letter to your younger self and forgive past regrets.		Call a friend and make them laugh out loud.		Listen to an upbeat playlist while getting ready or during your commute.		Invite a neighbor over for dinner.		Learn something new..Take a dance or exercise class.	
	18		19	NATIONAL TEA DAY	20		21	EARTH DAY	22	LOVERS DAY	23		24
Get up early to appreciate the sunrise.		Send a friend a book or playlist you think they would enjoy.		Enjoy a pot of tea with a friend over a long chat.		Refrain from complaining today.		Participate in the cleanup of a local river, pond, or lake.		Arrange a romantic date night with your partner.		Treat yourself to a bubble bath surrounded by candles and relaxing music.	
	25		26		27		28		29	HONESTY DAY	30		1
Sell old items online and donate the profits to a good cause.		Become an organ donor.		Encourage someone to pursue their dreams and offer help to achieve their goals.		Thank a veteran by donating to a worthy veterans cause or lend a hand in a VA hospital.		 Babysit, dog sit, or cat sit for free.		Be honest with yourself and others today.			

Visit www.randomactsofkindness.org for more kindness ideas.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION*

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"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle meeting to be determined

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle meeting to be determined.