

Feed My Starving Children

April's mission focus will be Feed My Starving Children. It will be our pleasure to once again join Hosanna Lutheran Church in Forest Lake for the annual Mobile Pack for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) April 12 and 13. There are three signup sheets on the table in the entryway for anyone who would like to join us as we pack meals. Dates and times available: Friday, April 12, from 12:30-2:30 PM as well as a shift from 5-7 PM, and Saturday, April 13, from 9-11 AM.

Last year FMSC, over the course of 2023, hosted 1,162,560 people packing more than 4.5 million meals. The number of meals reaching their intended destination: 98.8 percent. Ninety percent of donations go directly to meal production. Children in 64 countries received 1,227,478 daily meals for a full year.

FMSC does an outstanding job of helping those who desperately need help! They are ranked in the top 1% of charities rated for financial integrity and transparency.

Please be generous as you consider an offering to FMSC. Mark your check or envelope with "FMSC" during the month of April. Thank you!



Wyoming United Methodist Church

Messenger



Worship Services in April

Our April celebrations begin with Holy Humor Sunday, or Bright Sunday, where we celebrate the Resurrection Laugh as we celebrate the triumph of life over death, of good over evil. For the rest of April, we'll share stories of resurrection and good news as Easter is not just a day, but a season that lasts until Pentecost (May 19th this year). Every Sunday of April is a celebration of the resurrection!

April 7

Holy Humor Sunday
Believing Thomas
John 20:19-31

April 14

Not Your Imagination
Luke 24:36b-48

April 21

God is Love
1 John 4:16b-21

April 28

Actively Waiting
Romans 8:18-25
Rev. Cullen Tanner,
guest preacher



A few pictures from last year's Holy Humor Sunday

Holy Humor Sunday

The Sunday after Easter—Sunday, April 7—we will once again celebrate the Resurrection Laugh by having Holy Humor Sunday. This year we're asking people, if they are able, to dress in the way that they would dress if going to work. If your work was in HVAC, come to church with your tool belt and coveralls! If you worked inside the home, come wearing your housedress (or holey sweatshirt and ripped up jeans)! If you work from home, come in your professional blouse, sweats and bunny slippers. As always, creative and fun clothing (something that will make people smile) is welcome. Come and see (and bring a friend)!

Jokes Needed

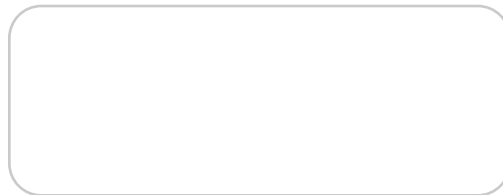
If you have a favorite joke that you would like to tell or that you'd like to submit for Pastor Holly to tell, please get your joke to Pastor Holly by Wednesday, April 3. We'd love to have a variety of joke tellers on that Sunday, or at least have some fresh jokes as Pastor Holly's barrel of jokes is running low...



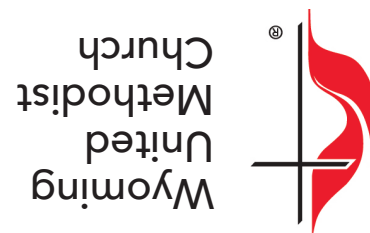
Our Guest Preacher

On Sunday, April 28, we will have the privilege of hearing the message from Rev. Cullen Tanner, who is the Technology and Ministry Specialist for the MN Annual Conference. In this role, he helps churches use technology to improve their ministries and also works in the area of leadership development. He uses his background as a pastor, church planter, youth director, and worship leader to inform his work in equipping churches for digital ministry. He and his wife, Jenni, also own and operate Inspire Academy of Music in Andover. Cullen lives in Andover with his wife and 4 children.

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From the Pastor...

I am often impressed with the way this congregation rallies to help those in need when they are made aware of the need. This last time was the need to provide food, hosting and overnight hosting for those who are currently unhoused and when we were asked to step up, many of you helped out even though you'd never done that before. You were an inspiration.

And when someone is in need and could use some financial help because of a medical need or accident that has laid them up for a time, you step in with help—financial, physical, and emotional.

"We are a group project," Kate Bowler is fond of saying. Those of us who have been following the Lenten devotional in March, "Good Enough" by Kate Bowler, know that it was a struggle for her to realize that she needed help. When she was diagnosed with colon cancer at age 35, she learned that she wasn't able to navigate her sickness alone. She felt a tremendous amount of embarrassment about not being able to perfect her own life. But she came to the realization that she was fragile and that enabled her to see the fragility of those around her. We are a going through struggles that make life hard.

But we are not alone. We belong to each other.

In this newsletter you'll see an appeal for our April Mission Focus, Feed My Starving Children, which enables the most vulnerable among us, the children of the world, to get adequate nutrition to enable them to survive another day in unbelievably difficult circumstances.

You'll also see a "thank you" for your rising to the occasion when we needed your help for our New Pathways hosting week at the beginning of March, where many of you stepped up to help in whatever way you were able. We were able to give 5 families, going through a season of being unhoused, a safe place to eat and sleep.

Also in this newsletter you'll see an appeal for memorabilia from our church's history, as we give thanks for the foresighted people who saw the need for a Methodist Church in our community 150 years ago and for all those who in the years since then have faithfully stewarded their resources of time and finance to enable multiple generations to build bridges to Christ's love in our community.

In this celebratory year, may we continue to build bridges to Christ's love and prepare for the next generations of United Methodists who will do the same after we are gone.

-Pastor Holly

April Celebrations

Birthdays

4-6	Darlene A.
4-7	Shurene E.
4-8	Nancy H.
4-9	Karen K. Elizabeth R.
4-10	Lisa I.
4-12	Heather S.
4-15	Pat R.
4-16	Ralph M.
4-19	Bea Z.
4-22	Barb L.
4-24	Cyndi T.
4-25	Craig R.
4-26	Alyssa K.
4-28	Lynne C. Paul S.



Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped with hosting those who are unhoused the first full week of March. Thirty-six of you helped host these families, working a total of over 272 hours. As we partner with New Pathways and the 14 churches who help with this way of showing those in need God's love, we are making a difference one person, one family at a time. Thank you for all who stepped up in big ways and small to make a difference for those families who have fallen on hard times. You shined!



Memorabilia Needed

By now, many of you know that we're hosting a celebration of 150 years of ministry in the Wyoming community this year by inviting people who have been associated with our congregation over the years to a worship service and ice cream social on Sunday, August 18. We also plan to have historical memorabilia available for viewing during our Fall Dinner for the community on Saturday, October 12.

Here's where you come in. We need your memorabilia! Pictures are what we would like the most—pictures of the inside of the church, the outside of the church, church people gathering—whatever you can find related to the church in the past. If you have pictures, we can safely scan them in the office with no damage to the picture, and give you back your valuable picture while the image will then be a part of our display. We ask that you start digging through your old boxes in the attic or basement and bring your pictures (and anniversary books) to have them scanned and returned to you so that we can celebrate with all who come to these celebrations. Thank you!

A Look at the Past...

What is now Wyoming United Methodist Church was the first church in the village of Wyoming and was originally a non-denominational gathering place with services in German.

Our founders, the Tepel and Batzel families, began meeting in 1854 to worship and host Sunday school

at the Tepel home. The group grew larger and a new space was needed. In 1864, thanks to Frederick and Frederica Tepel giving land to the congregation, the original log church was built.

By 1874, the log church was officially organized as the Methodist Episcopal church with services in English.

Did You Know...

As we have just come through the season of Lent and celebrated Holy Week, here are some tidbits from past Holy Week services:

Our church used to hold communion service on Maundy Thursday – This day is named after Jesus' commandment to his disciples to love one another. Maundy Thursday marks the night of the Last Supper and demonstrates the importance of humility and service by remembering Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

During the season of Lent, dime folders were distributed to members of the church for their Lenten offering.

In the 1970s & 1980s, Easter Sunday began with a sunrise youth service followed by Easter breakfast. Starting in the late 1980s, an Easter egg hunt was introduced.

In the late 1980s, the United Methodist Women began hosting an annual Good Friday bake sale at First State Bank of Wyoming.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Our Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is a vital part of the ministries of our church. They are charged with building a strong positive relationship between staff and congregation so that together they can make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. They must listen well to both staff and people of all ages in the congregation, while keeping a focus on the mission of the church. If there is a concern or celebration, their goal is to get the individuals to communicate directly with each other in the spirit of removing barriers to the mission of the church. Our SPRC members are: Tom W., Val V., Val S., Carol S., Linda R., Karyla P., Deb M., Karen K., Denny H., and Pastor Holly.