



GOTHENBURG FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
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GOTHENBURG, NE 69138
REV. JAMIE NORWICH MCLENNAN



April 2019– Volume 30– Issue 4

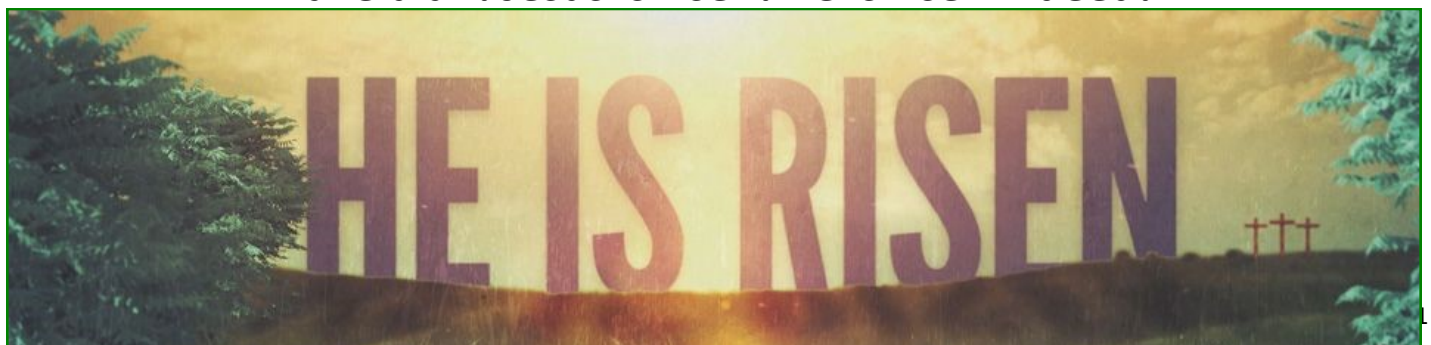
YOU TOOK MY PLACE

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached his and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" This visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place..."

As we get closer to Easter, let us remember *For God so loved the world the he gave is only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* ~ John 3:16, and let us never forget, "Who took our place."

Halleluiah! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! May this declaration resound not only in these walls but touch the lives of all we meet and forever be the truth of which we speak. Your love, once sown within a garden, tended for your own people, neglected and rejected, now spreads its sweet perfume in this place and wherever it is shown.

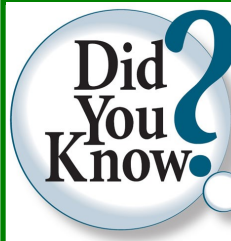
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SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

A big thank you goes out to Sarah Anderson, Lisa Jorgenson, Jami Brundage, and Lynnette Stevens for teaching the youth during the month of March. Joan Windrum, and Laron and Alice Peters are also thanked for their dedication in leading the adult classes.

Matt and Lorri Weiss will lead the pre-school through fifth graders during April preparing them for Easter. They have some unique and fun activities planned, so bring your young ones to Sunday School.



Here's an interesting fact:

The livestream on Facebook of our March 24th contemporary service, as of March 27th, has had 130

views and has reached 240 people

since it has been posted. During the livestream we had 6 people watching the sermon with us...that's the most we've had to date!! Pretty amazing isn't it?!

CAMP COMECA NEWS

Camp Comeca brochures are now available at the church for camps this summer. A very easy way to take a closer look at Camp Comeca and its camps is online, either their Facebook page or their website. No matter your age, there is a camp for you! Camp scholarships are available for more than 1/2 of the cost of the camp. Contact Lynnette Stevens for the scholarship money.

April Birthday's

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1- Sheila Jobman | 25- Robin Hiatt |
| 2- Brad Jorgenson, | 28- Mark Boson, Axel Jorgenson |
| 3- Marvin McMichael | 30- Gerald Jobman |
| 4- Ann Foster | |
| 5- Roger Kennicutt, Ted Haney | |
| 6- Page Peterson | |
| 7- Joan Windrum | |
| 8- Alvin Geiken | |
| 9- Doug Ostendorf | |
| 10- Craig Bartruff, Kai Jorgenson, Parker Graves | |
| 11- Brody Stienike, Kimberly Bartruff | |
| 12- Austin Macek | |
| 14- Kay Grove | |
| 15- Lyndsey Anderson, Dwight Edson | |
| 17- Reed Weyers | |
| 18- Dakota Macek | |
| 22- Delmer Brass | |
| 23- Shane Kruse, Cody Larson | |





Pastor's Perspective

Holy Week, Easter and Confirmation are very much on my mind as we enter into April this year. Yes, I hope that the snows/rains of March bring new growth (rather than just muddy fields), but my hope is more with the new life options of growing disciples of Jesus. That is the mission and focus of local church life and the purpose behind the implementation of Lenten practice is to help deepen the spiritual life of those who follow in the footsteps of the risen Christ.

Personally, I have been blessed by walking with our Confirmands during this year. Particularly during Lent we have been focusing on statements of faith and the growing recognition of what it means to be growing into your own expression of faith. We have explored John Wesley's understanding of grace, which infuses all the experience of being a United Methodist disciple, and how that has shaped the ways that we worship, read scripture and choose to live our lives.

Part of the blessing of Confirmation is the opportunity to get to know some of our youth better. Thank you, Parents, for entrusting me with your children-growing-into-young-adults. I have appreciated being able to listen to their jokes...and their questions...and to watch the changes that happen in a year. It has been an opportunity to see them grow taller, try on a couple of new personalities and new friendships, and to wrestle with the tough questions of faith.

Whether or not your child/young adult chooses to join the church on Easter (or later if the family is not able to be present on Easter), they have taken a look at the United Methodist Church, the Christian traditions and practices, and the invitation to intentionally follow Jesus. And yes, some of our youth may choose to not join our church at the end of Confirmation. I have assured them that this is their choice. If it is not their choice, then we have failed in the purpose of Confirmation, which is for the young people to affirm the promises made by their parents at their baptism (for those baptized as infants/children), or to make their public profession of faith in Jesus the Christ.

This is a big step of growing up in the faith. Youth are looking at making their faith their own—not just something inherited from parents and grandparents. And, as I have shared with the youth, this is a life-long journey of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Leading Confirmation this year has been a reminder to me that, especially as United Methodist Disciples, we believe that we are called to explore our faith every day. God has given us free will (a complicated gift, to be sure!), and our responsibility is to regularly look at what that means in our lives. So...especially during the season of Lent, we take a closer look at our faith and the way we are living our lives, and more consistently turn back to God.

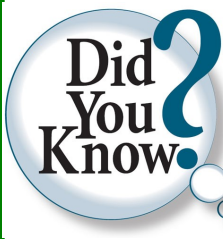
Thankfully grace undergirds all of this, for all of us fall short of the love of God on a regular basis. The good news is that every morning is a new beginning and a new opportunity to turn Godward. As we walk the last weeks of Lent...face the sorrow and death of Holy Week...and the joy of Easter and Confirmation Sunday... may we remember to look to the example of Jesus. May we take seriously his description of a good walk with God as "Loving God with all your heart, your mind, your soul and your strength, and love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Blessing to all of us this holy season! Pastor Jamie

The Beat

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Gothenburg First United Methodist Church



Did you know that some very notable people are Methodists?? Among them are former President George W. Bush, Actor Christopher Walken, Actor James Arness, who made Dodge City famous by playing Marshall

Matthew Dillion, Actress Rue McClanahan, made famous for her role as Blanch Deveraux on the TV series "The Golden Girls", Author Steven King, Baseball player Jackie Robinson, and Actor William Christopher, but you probably know him better as Father Francis John Patrick Mulcahy on the hit series M*A*S*H.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION DONATION

A donation of \$300 was sent to the Central Nebraska Disaster Relief fund from the Sunday School Mission fund of our church. This money will be sent to the communities affected by the flooding in Central Nebraska. Offerings from the Sunday School students and various personal donations throughout the year make up the Sunday School Mission Fund. The fund will also be donating a Wish List gift to Camp Comeca at the end of the Sunday School year.

"FUN" DRAISING TIME

We are bringing back on old favorite fundraiser! Everyone is invited to put a basket together and bring it to the church to be auctioned off in a silent auction. Baskets are to be at the church on or before Sunday April 14 and the bidding will go through late service on Sunday April 28. Some fun themes of our pasts baskets have been, "Movie Night", "Car Wash", "Tea for Two", "Gardening Basket", "BBQ Basket" etc. What will you come up with??

If you have any questions or want to bring your basket early, contact any member of the Finance Committee or Becky in the office. Bid sheets will be pulled on Sunday April 28 following late church and if you win the bid, Becky will call you on Monday morning. We can't have a Fundraiser without "U".

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Kevin and Jodi Hinds would like to ask for your prayers for Kevin as he will be undergoing open heart surgery to have an aorta replaced. His surgery is set for Friday April 19th in Lincoln. We believe in the power of prayer and we thank you.

Music Minute

The Choir will present our annual Easter Cantata "Calvary's Love" by Lloyd Larson and Jay Rouse on Palm Sunday April 14th during late service. It has been a bit of a challenge this year with the weather making it difficult for people to get here and just the fact that people have busy lives.

"The Cross of Calvary shows just how far God was willing to go to reach the work with His love. Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. As you journey to the cross through this work, we pray that you will be inspired and encouraged by the timeless message of God's sacrifice and love through Jesus." Lloyd Larson and Jay Rouse.

A big thanks to Barry, the band, the choir, and the crew behind the scenes for all you do.

Have a blessed Easter. ~Karla





“Use your God-given talents to serve others”

~1 Peter 4:10

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

March Highlights

Budgeted items

Mission Shares: UMCOR– The United Methodist Committee on Relief is involved in helping where disaster occurs. Our Mission Share dollars provide for administrative expenses so that donated dollars go 100% to disaster relief. Current relief efforts include the aid to flood victims of the Midwest, including Nebraska; the wildfires in California; 2018 Hurricanes Michael and Florence; 2017 Hurricanes Maria, Harvey and Irma; earthquakes and tsunami in Indonesia; typhoon in Mangkhut; and other areas wherever needed. More information may be found at <https://www.umcor.org>.

Heat- Many ministry activities occur within the walls of our building– worship, Sunday school, small group studies, daycare and preschool to name a few. The cold winter required extra to keep the building heated for these activities and therefore put some strain on our budget.

These are only a few highlights of highlights of the many ministry activities we are involved in.

April Opportunities:

Lent: Adults and youth are meeting together in a small group study during Lent to look at how God equips us to do the work he calls us to.

Worship: Each week we are taking time to Listen to hear God speak. What is He saying? What guidance is He giving us?

Easter: A time to celebrate the resurrected Christ and the ministries He calls us to.

More Finance information is available in the church office.

Don't forget to check out eh E-Giving App: *Givelify*

March General bank balance: **-\$9,618.58**

Mark your Calendars!

**Don't
FORGET!**



RETIRED PERSONS LUNCH BUNCH

Happy Easter. Lunch Bunch Retirement Group will be doing just that as we welcome Easter this month. On Wednesday April 3rd we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am. We welcome each and every one of you, age 55 or older, to come dine with us and enjoy the festivities and great food. We look forward to seeing you. If you have any questions, contact Dennis or Carol VanOverbeke.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: Sunday April 14 Chancel Choir will be performing their Easter Cantata

Maundy Thursday: Thursday April 18 Maundy Thursday Communion Service will be held at 7:00 pm

Good Friday: Friday April 19 A community Good Friday Service will be held at 12:30 pm at the Gothenburg Senior Center. We will host a Good Friday Service at our church that evening in partnership with the American Lutheran Church at 7:30 pm.

Easter Sunday: Sunday April 21 We will have Easter services at 8:30 am for Traditional and 10:30 am for Contemporary.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

The Education Committee will honor the confirmation students and their parents on April 10th at 6:00 pm.

The evening will start with a combined meal with the youth group and then Lenten Study group. After the meal you will be honored and celebrated before you continue your class with Pastor Jamie. The members of the Education Committee are proud of you.

**Did
You
Know?**

Did you know that John Wesley coined the term, “Agree to disagree”? Over the years, Wesley had serious theological differences with another popular pastor named George Whitefield. Though they both argued passionately,

Wesley reflected on these differences in a memorial sermon for Whitefield by saying: “There are many doctrines of a less essential nature...In these, we may think and let think, we may “agree to disagree.” But, meantime, let us hold fast the essentials...” This appears to be the first recorded use of the term. It was a hallmark of Wesley’s way of holding to his convictions while remaining in connection with those with whom he disagreed.

