



# The Edge

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH

### *From the Pastor's Perspective* Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

"Set up road signs; put up guideposts. Take note of the highway, the road that you take...." -Jeremiah 31:21a

#### Signs for Life: Learning to Navigate Spiritual Living

On Sundays, we've been following the Israelites on their journey from slavery in Egypt to their home in the Promised Land. We've stayed with them at Mt. Sinai, where God, out of love and a desire for His people to thrive, gave them the path of abundant life. We have found that the journey that God's people were on at Mt. Sinai is also our journey!

Life is a journey. We are all trying to find our way, seeking fulfillment, true joy, inner peace and eternal life. God has laid out the path of life for us. It is the narrow road through the small gate (Matt. 7:14). Jesus is not only our destination, but also our path, our Way (John 14:6).

In Proverbs 4:11 God promises, "I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths."

Lent is a journey. It is a journey to Easter, where we mourn Christ's death for our sin and celebrate His victory in the resurrection. Yet Holy Week and Easter is a long way off. We are not there yet. And so, we journey.

Lent is a good time to be intentional about aligning (realigning?) our life's journey along the path of life God has laid out for us. Jeremiah 31:21 is our theme verse for Lent. Glance up and read it again.

Road signs help us identify where we are, orient ourselves and find our ways. God places spiritual road signs along our life's journey as well.

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Mar 1	HOLY COMMUNION 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship
Mar 2	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Mar 4	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr., Echo, Confirmation, and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Mar 5	12:00 pm Sarah's Circle
Mar 6	7:00 am Grow group - It Came from Within
Mar 7	9:00 am United Methodist Men
Mar 8	ST ANDREW SHELTER WEEK 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship
Mar 9	ST ANDREW SHELTER WEEK 8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Mar 10	ST ANDREW SHELTER WEEK
Mar 11	ST ANDREW SHELTER WEEK 5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo, Confirmation, Youth Group and Grow Groups 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Mar 12	ST ANDREW SHELTER WEEK
Mar 13	ST ANDREW SHELTER WEEK 7:00 am Grow group - It Came from Within
Mar 14	ST ANDREW SHELTER WEEK 5:45 pm Adult Fellowship

## Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

In our worship time together this Lent, we will be using some common road signs to remind us of the signs God gives us for our journeys. In fact, thanks to the City of Forest Lake Public Works, our sanctuary will be full of actual road signs!

Here are some road signs that help us navigate our spiritual journeys:

- "Stop" - Stop your life's journey to evaluate, reflect and see God's blessings. Stop sinning!
- "No Outlet" - Avoid the wrong paths of life that lead to dead ends!
- "Speed Limit" - Don't speed. God is working on you at the pace He sees fit.
- "Do Not Enter" - Avoid those things that can derail your journey.
- "Yield" - Slow down and pay attention. God protects us as we operate in this world.
- "One Way" - We can be so focused on the path we have planned that we miss the way God wants us to go.
- "Curves Ahead" - Life is full of struggles and hardships. Yet God will see you through.
- "Begin One Way" - Jesus shows us the path of new life and a new future.

Lent also calls us to observe Christ's journey to the cross and tomb for our salvation. It is a time to journey with Him, to take up our crosses and live out the love, self-sacrifice and self-denial He demonstrates (Mark 8:34).

So, we travel. We journey. We realign our own life's journeys to that of Christ. We heed Jesus, who calls out, "Follow me!" (Mark 1:17)

Pastor David

## Calendar Cont....

Mar 15	8:30 am Prayer 9:45 am Hymn Sing 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David 6:30 pm Lifeline at Pastor Andrew's
Mar 16	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Mar 17	ST PATRICK'S DAY 10:00 am Rebecca Circle
Mar 18	11:00 am Romeos & Juliets 5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr., Echo, Confirmation, and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Mar 20	7:00 am Grow group - It Came from Within 5:00pm Unload Food Truck
Mar 21	6:00 am Set up for Community Care 8:00 am Community Care
Mar 22	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor Andrew
Mar 23	OFFICE CLOSED - SPRING BREAK 8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Mar 25	No Activities - Spring Break
Mar 27	7:00 am Grow group - It Came from Within
Mar 29	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Cassi Betker
Mar 30	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters





## Spring 2020 Grow Groups

Our spring Sunday and Wednesday grow groups will all offer the same study. This parallels our winter and spring Sunday message series on the Ten Commandments. We will adapt Mary Evans' The Ten Commandments: Living God's Way, adding ice breakers, video clips, discussion starters and personal application. Come and learn how the Ten Commandments were not demands from a distance, but were linked to the people's covenant relationship with a loving God. You'll be surprised how relevant this study will be to your daily life!

**Days: Sunday after Worship**, 9 Sessions: March 8 thru May 17 (No classes April 12)

Time: 11:15am – 12:45pm      Location: Fellowship Hall    Child Care Available on request

Hosts: Joyce Ann Betz & Rozanne Foster

**Days: Wednesday Evening**, 9 sessions: March 11 thru May 20 (No classes March 25 and April 8)

Time: 6:15pm – 7:30pm      Location: Education Wing Classroom    Child Care Available

Hosts: Julie Hovey & Andrea Hendrickson, Paulette Johnson, Pat Rosenbaum

**Getting to Know Our Covenant God    Host: Rev. Dan Hair**

**Days: Sunday before Worship**, 9 Sessions: March 8 thru May 17 (No classes April 12)

Time: 8:45am – 9:45am    Location: Fellowship Hall

Description: This class explores our covenant relationship with God, focusing on Exodus 19 and 20. It will Parallel our winter and spring Sunday message series on the Ten Commandments. Portions may adapt portions

of Mary Evans' The Ten Commandments: Living God's Way for discussion starters and personal application.

No child care provided

**"Three Shadows of the Passion: Exploring 3 characters who cast their shadows on the greatest story. "**

**Days: Friday Mornings** , March – May, OK to join anytime.

Time: From 7 AM - 8:15 AM    Location: Fellowship Hall

Host: Brad Blocher

**Sign up for any of the time slots, schedule posted in the lobby.**

**Upcoming Wednesday meals:**

2/26: Soup Buffet (Ash Wednesday Service following)

3/4: Chili & Corn Bread

3/11: Pancakes (UMM)

3/18: Nancy's Choice

3/25: No Wednesday Meal or Activities (Spring Break)



## ***A Word from Worship***

*“Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth. Make my heart focused only on honoring your name.” Psalm 86:11*

If you have read the lead article, you will know that we are moving into Lent by following Signs for Life: Learning to Navigate Spiritual Living. Road signs are crucial when trying to find the right route. Can anyone even remember what life was like before we had GPS in our pockets? Finding our way around on the road is easier than ever. New drivers do not even have to be aware of north or south...the smartphone handles all those details.

Though we can navigate our roadways with ease, our spiritual lives still stump us. We often end up in dead-ends, or veering off into ditches. We feel disconnected from God and are left wandering around trying to find any sign that can point out the way.

By way of a help and a reminder, we have introduced a new song into our Sunday morning repertoire. Like many worship songs, it is a simple prayer that asks God to “Show Me How to Live”.

Please take a moment to read the lyrics. Sit with them. Pray through them. Like the psalms in the Old Testament written thousands of years ago, this song is a timeless prayer that we can use in our own spiritual lives.

*“Day after day  
I know You’re talking to me  
Your Word speaks louder than this world  
And when I pray Your Spirit overwhelms me  
Reveals the things that I must know  
Show me how to live  
Teach me how to pray  
Let all I think and say please You Lord  
Show me how to live  
Teach me in Your Ways  
So I can walk with You all my days”*



## Happy 95 Birthday Harris Miller!!

The Monday Morning Men through Harris a birthday party in February. Here is a few pictures from their shenanigans.



**Want to continue celebrating birthdays?** Richard McCargar's 80th birthday party will be on Saturday March 7th from 1:00-3:30 at the Chisago County Community Center/Senior Center at 38790 6th Ave in North Branch. (no gifts please)

## March Birthdays

May your special day be blessed and filled with joy! If your birthday isn't listed, please call the office and let us know so we can add you to the list!

Vicky Keintz 3/5

Kurt Charter 3/8

Dan Hair 3/9

Patty Phillips 3/10

Duane Dittberner 3/13

Diane Geving 3/18

Sue Dougdale 3/19

Lily Betker 3/25

John Hendrickson 3/29

## Cultivating Kindness: A Lenten Journey

Lent can be a time of repentance, introspection, self-denial, cultivating the fruits of the Spirit in a special way or some combination of these things. Consider doing one small, kind thing for a different person each of the six full weeks of Lent. Kindness is one of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Gal. 5:22-23.

Week 1 - for someone important in your life

Week 3 - for a neighbor

Week 5 - for someone in need

Week 2 - for yourself

Week 4 - for your environment

Week 6 - for someone you need to forgive

For someone important in your life you could bring them flowers, give them a back scratch or surprise them with a little note. Something for yourself could be taking a long walk or a soothing bath or having a chat with a friend. For a neighbor perhaps call to say hello, help them shovel snow or ask if they have any prayer requests. Something for your environment could be as simple as cleaning the kitchen floor extra well or dusting the top of the refrigerator to beautify your environment or picking up some garbage in the neighborhood. To do something for someone in need might be to donate food or cash at the grocery store if your store does that or give into a love offering at church or help someone change a tire. For someone you need to forgive you could pray for them, pay them a compliment "behind their back," or write them a note of apology for your part of the disagreement. I am indebted to a Benedictine pamphlet for the core of this idea.

## Youth Group

*"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." - 1 Corinthians 15:14*

We are starting our next series "Death and Resurrection" on March 11th. Christ's death and resurrection are the most important factors when it comes to following Jesus. As important and familiar as the story is to many, what often gets overlooked is the way the four accounts that we have at times differ from one another. Some include content that the others don't. Why? Some of the authors contradict the others in some of the details. Why? For some, these differences have led them to discredit the entire event of Christ's death and resurrection. However, if we take the time to understand what the God-inspired authors are trying to communicate with the way they tell the story, it can lead to greater depth. Here is what we'll be discussing:

3/4: All Church Game Night

3/11: Mark's Account

3/18 : Matthew's Account

3/25: No Class

4/1: Luke's Account

4/8: No Class

4/9: Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

4/15: John's Account



## Summer 2020 Mission Trip & Fundraiser

*"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can as long as ever you can." – John Wesley*

Please help financially support our teens as they head out this summer to serve those in the Minneapolis area. Our goal is to raise \$3000, so far we have \$1130. These funds will help cover half the cost of the teens to go on the trip and two chaperones. For each \$50 we raise we will add a van to our board, help us reach 60 vans! If you haven't signed up to go there is still time!! Everyone over the age of 13 is welcome to come with.

Join us this summer for our Inter-generational mission trip! We are serving the poor and marginalized in Minneapolis and the surrounding urban communities. Our primary partner will be [Good in the Hood](#). We will be working with their shoe sales and food distributions. Stay tuned for a shoe drive in late spring.

The trip will cost \$400 per person. This will cover transportation, food, lodging and supplies. For those adults who would like to come but will not be spending the night, the cost is \$295. Sign-up sheet for the mission trip is on the clipboard in the lobby.

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Director of Youth Ministries