



newsletter





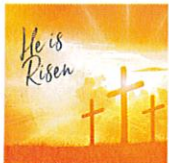
Northwest Hills Church
 9334 Fort Street, Omaha NE 68134
 Phone: 402 572-8392
 Fax: 402 572-8394
 www.northwesthills.com

Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor
 Suzy Parsons, CE Director
 Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 52 No. 3
 February 27 2024

Barb Renicker, Music Director
 Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

March 2024

March 3 	9:30 AM Worship/Communion/No Sunday School John 2:13-22 "Say No to Transactionalism" 10:30 AM Church & Ministry Cmte. Mtg.—Rm. 128 7-9 PM Square Dancing—FH
March 10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS!	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School John 3:14-21 "Say No to Condemnation" 7-9 PM Square Dancing—FH <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i>
March 17 <i>Easter Basket donations, Cookie & Easter Flower Orders due!</i> 	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School John 12:20-33 "Say No to Single Grains" 7-9 PM Square Dancing—FH
March 24 Palm Sunday 	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School John 12:12-16 "Say No to Fear" 10:30 C&M Fellowship—C 10:30 Assemble Easter Baskets—TBD 7-9 PM Square Dancing—FH
March 28 —Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM Cantata: "It Is Finished"
March 29 — Good Friday	11:00 AM—1:00 PM Sanctuary Open for Prayer 7:00 PM Good Friday Service
March 31 Easter Sunday 	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School Mark 16:1-8 "Now What?" 10:30 Easter Brunch—FH 7-9 PM Square Dancing—FH



HOPPIN' EASTER ADVENTURE

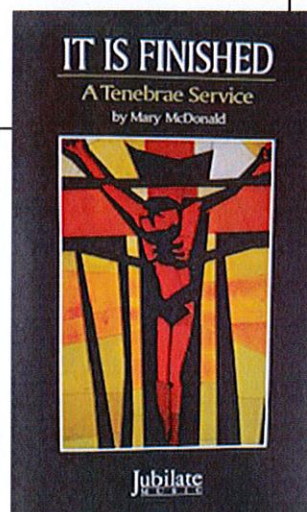
(Annual Easter Egg Hunt)
 Saturday, March 30th, 9:30 AM

*We will begin collecting candy and small trinkets on
 March 3rd. (more details inside)*

"It Is Finished"

7:00 PM, March 28th

*As we near the end of Holy
 Week, the Choir will again
 inspire us to reflect on these
 meaningful days in words
 and music.*



Deadline for articles/information for the monthly newsletter is usually the second Sunday for the next month's newsletter. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

REMEMBER: SUNDAY March 10th!



Hannah Circle invites our Northwest Hills Church family to continue to donate to the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Food Pantry (our community partner that we support year round). Rohn Collins, our contact at Holy Cross (and the gentleman who so kindly comes to pick up our frequent donations) shared that their greatest need this month is pasta and canned vegetables. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity in helping provide non-perishables to those in need and experiencing food insecurity in our immediate community. A bin is located in the Commons for this year round support.



OTHER COLLECTIONS: we continue to collect Family Fare receipts for Project Hope, old eyeglasses to recycle for the Lions Club International, and floral arrangement bases for HyVee to recycle for their beautiful creations!

CRAFTERS! We so enjoy getting together on Weds.

afternoons at 1:00 PM year round. All are welcome! You can bring your own crafts, or we have several to choose from. No "super talent" needed: we will help you! Thank you for joining us as we build up our "inventory" for the big Craft Fair in October. Many hands make the work light. Come for an enjoyable time of creativity and fellowship! Questions? Please contact Leigh Powell.



WHITE ELEPHANTS: Don't forget we are collecting white elephants year-round for the October sale. There is a bin just inside the door of the Board Room (offices hallway) for your donations. Thank you!



Yay! Spring is (almost) here! We are "coming alive" at Northwest Hills Church, as all of our groups are starting to meet up again. It will be so good to see everyone!

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, March 5th at 11:00 AM in the Commons. Refreshments by April Newhouse.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION will meet Thursday, March 7th at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Devotions by Kathleen Hammond, and a soup lunch provided by Jo Morton & Isobel Taylor.

HANNA CIRCLE will Tuesday, March 19th at 1:00 PM in the Commons. Devotions by Isobel Taylor; dessert by Molly McCoy.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet as needed. For any questions, call Terri Burright, 402-659-6913.

YUMMY! 2024 Sarah Circle Easter Cookie Orders are due March 17th! For your convenience, an order form is included in this Newsletter, and extra forms are available in the Commons until the deadline of March 17th.

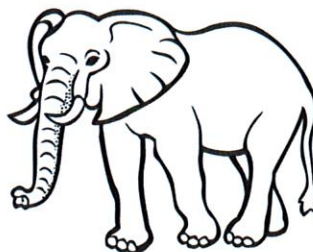


Also, **EASTER FLOWER** order forms are available in the Commons. Due date is also March 17th.

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST: We look forward to getting together on Saturday, March 2nd at 9:00 AM in the Commons. It is a BYOB: "Bring Your Own Breakfast." All men of the church are invited for this great time of fellowship!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: We are excited to resume the Wednesday Bible Studies starting again March 6th at 10:00 AM in Room 128! We've missed you, and look forward to our special time of fellowship around the Word!

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Thursday, March 14th at 7:00 PM in Room 128.



MARCH MISSION & SERVICE PROJECT

We will once again be blessing the Lydia House with infant/toddler baskets for Easter! We will assemble the baskets on Sunday, March 24th. We have a display set up in the Commons for your donations. Items we are collecting:

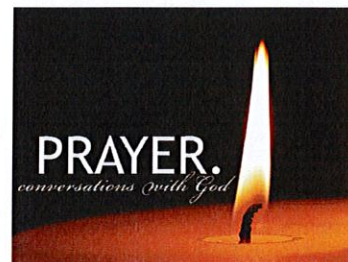
For babies: SMALL stuffed animals, bibs, new (not opened) pacifiers, rattles, soft (cloth or vinyl) books, puffs (treats)

For toddlers: chocolate bunnies, small toddler-appropriate toys (play-doh, soft, squishy balls), simple coloring books, large toddler crayons, cardboard books, small stuffed animals

We will also be collecting new or gently-used Easter baskets, grass, and ribbon. There is a sign-up to help assemble the baskets in the display in the Commons. For those of our family at Northwest Hills Church that cannot get out to shop, there will be a jar for donations, so that if we are short on any items, we can go purchase them on your behalf. Look for updates and further details in the bulletins, and the Midweek Email. Thank you in advance for participating in this fun community outreach that will impact the youngest members of our community in need!



Also, mark your calendars for an **Easter Brunch** after the Easter morning service on March 31st in the Fellowship Hall! Sign ups for casseroles, baked goods, fruits, juices, etc. are located in the Commons. A wonderful time of great food and fellowship as we celebrate a most joyous event: Resurrection!



Prayer chain requests can be called to Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.

Thank you for your kind responses regarding updating our prayer list. We are always encouraged to hear when our loved ones are much improved. Please continue to let us know of any changes so that we can update our list and assure that the prayers going out weekly are the most current and urgent needs expressed. Thank you in advance. The ongoing list is below:

Continued Prayer Requests: Sandy Christopherson, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Jeff Walton, Susie Ryan, Cierra Ervin, Kyle Hurt & Jacoby, Marchelle Conrad, Peg Hawkins (friend of Annie Kuti), Steve Swift, Jerrie Wilcox

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Patricia Gename (Mary Hinman's daughter), Gail Schroeder, Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Robert Baker, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Judy Intlekofer, Gail Formanack (friend of Bev Ambrosius), Gary Dutton, David Arthur (friend of the Vincents), Vicki Nolan, (Leigh Powell's sister), Ena Nolan, (Leigh Powell's niece)

"He sent His Word, and healed them"

— Psalm 107:20

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

— Isaiah 53:5

**HE HEALED THE ONE
WHO ARRESTED HIM,
SERVED THE ONE WHO
BETRAYED HIM, AND
LOVED THE WORLD
WHO CRUCIFIED HIM
THAT'S MY JESUS**



FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

With Easter being early this year, the calendar seemed like it flipped from December to March in the blink of an eye. We went from singing about Jesus' birth to singing about his resurrection very quickly! It feels like a bit of seasonal whiplash. But I love singing the "Alleluias," smelling the spring flowers in the sanctuary, and greeting one another with "He is risen!" and receiving back a "He is risen, indeed!"

One thing I've noticed is how quickly the church moves on from Easter. Yes, the season of Easter lasts 50 days, but pastors usually move on to preaching on other topics, we go back to the "regular" hymns and praise songs, and the Easter flowers move to new homes. Once something is over, we tend to move on.

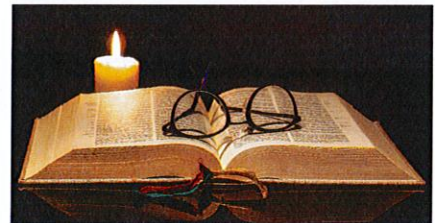
But the resurrection of Jesus is one of the pillars of our faith. Christ's death and resurrection are the foundation of Christianity. If they were somehow removed, our faith would be completely different. The resurrection is so important that it's the reason we gather every Sunday. The early Christians began meeting on the first day of the week (Sunday) to remember and celebrate when Jesus' rose from the dead which he did on the first day of the week. We continue that tradition 2,000 years later.

Each and every Sunday is a mini-Easter celebration. This is because we are Easter people; we are resurrection people. As followers of the risen Jesus, we are to share resurrection life wherever we go. If someone is hungry, we share the resurrection with them through a meal. If someone is hurt, we share the resurrection with them through helping them heal. If someone is lonely, we share the resurrection with them through our friendly presence.

We don't just celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday only; we live the resurrection every day! Whatever we do, whatever we say, may we always live as resurrection people. May we proclaim at all times, through our voices as well as our hands and feet, "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!"

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Alex



Sermon Topics and Scriptures for March

Say No!

Lent 2024 Sermon Series

During the season of Lent, Christians have historically practiced spiritual disciplines such as reflection, repentance, and fasting. Those who elect to take on a new spiritual practice usually let go of something else. May this season be a time of discerning what in our lives needs to be discarded to make space for what we gain as followers of Jesus. In this season of Lent, let's commit to saying "no."

March 3: John 2:13-22, "Say No to Transactionalism"

March 10: John 3:14-21, "Say No to Condemnation"

March 17: John 12:20-33, "Say No to Single Grains"

March 24 (Palm Sunday): John 12:12-16, "Say No to Fear"

March 31 (Easter Sunday): Mark 16:1-8, "Now What?"



BAD WEATHER

Should very severe weather (dangerous travel and/or frigid temperatures) cause Northwest Hills to cancel a Sunday service, there will be three sources used to communicate a closure to you by 8:00 AM that morning: 1) The three major local television channels (WOWT NBC-6, KMTV-CBS-3, and KETV ABC-7) will have a continually updating scroll of closures at the bottom of the screen. Look for Northwest Hills under "church closures" 2) Facebook post and 3) Email.

Although we would love to see you and fellowship with you at church, please always choose caution and personal safety regarding attendance, even if services are NOT cancelled. If there is a concern regarding walking and driving in the white stuff and frozen patches, we'd rather you be safe and snuggled up at home rather than taking a chance of a fall or accident. We love you and care about you!



DID YOU KNOW....

You can watch the Sunday Sermon on YouTube? If you ever have to miss a Sunday due to illness or being out of town, you can still watch/listen the message!

Also, Northwest Hills Church has its own Facebook Page as an electronic outreach to the community! Spread the word and "like" our Page!



Lenten Evening Study

Join us on Wednesday evenings in Lent as Pastor Alex leads a study through the book *Jesus' Most Challenging Parables* by Kenny Beck, during which we will look at five of Jesus' parables that will challenge our thinking. This study began Wednesday, February 28th and will go through Wednesday, March 27th. A light supper will be served at 6:30 PM and the study will begin at 7:00 PM. Please let Pastor Alex know if you plan on attending.



HOPPIN' EASTER ADVENTURE

(Annual Easter Egg Hunt)

Saturday, March 30th
9:30 AM

We are collecting candy and small trinkets (that will fit inside a plastic egg) in a basket down the hall in front of the CE Office.

DR. WERNER P. JENSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships are available for active participants of Northwest Hills Church who are pursuing a certificate or diploma from an institution of higher learning. The scholarship will be paid directly to the institution of education. Completed applications should be returned to the church. Hard copies of the application and recommendation forms will be made available in the Commons or via email.

Criteria for Consideration:

Applicant must:

- Have an established personal affiliation with Northwest Hills Church (attend or assist with Sunday School or other church activities)
- Exhibiting an active commitment of faith
- Have applied to an institution of higher learning
- Complete the written application as described (see application form)
- Return recommendation letter(s) as described (see application form)
- Interview with committee, upon request

Priority will be given to applicant not previously awarded this scholarship.

DEADLINE: The **application** deadline is April 30th. **Recommendation forms** are also due April 30th. All documents must be returned to Northwest Hills Church, 9334 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134, Attn: Scholarship Committee.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING SUNDAY, MARCH 10

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ received during the Lenten season. This offering helps us share God's love by supporting the ministries of health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and disaster response. We will collect this offering on Sunday, March 10th.

POP TABS: Our pop tab collection was so successful that we've decided to make this a year-round project! Now you can bring your pop tabs to church at your convenience so they don't accumulate in a pile at your home! Look for the big jar in the Commons. Thank you for your participation as we look forward to blessing our community partners – Ronald McDonald House and the Shriners – with our collective accumulation. (Ruth Circle)



Having some troubles hearing clearly in the sanctuary? Don't forget we have a half-dozen "receivers" that can be borrowed during services so you don't miss a thing! Try it out!



SALAD LUNCH CARD PARTY!

Thursday, March 21st, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We need VOLUNTEERS for kitchen and to make salads. The cost for lunch is \$8.00. There will also be raffles and door prizes. Plan to arrive in time to start playing by 10:00 AM. If you have any questions, or would like to join, please contact Deb Shafer at [402-392-0418](tel:402-392-0418) or [402-999-1052](tel:402-999-1052).

We still need subs (men or women).

Please contact Ardell Reuter at [1-918-703-1068](tel:1-918-703-1068).

Did you know that a swarm of Ladybugs is called a "Loveliness," or a "Loveliness Of Ladybugs?" With a name like that, no wonder ladybugs are believed to bring good luck....and when one spies one, it is a reminder to count your blessings!

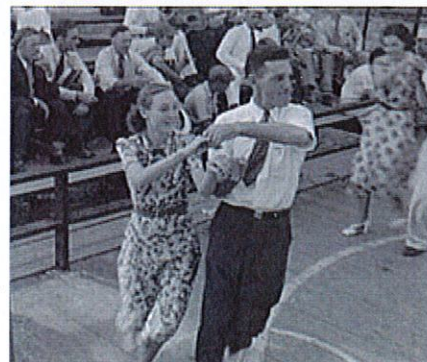


SINGLES & FRIENDS

SINGLES & FRIENDS will not have a group activity in March. Please look forward to voting on future group activities in 2024. Information will be posted in the Commons soon. Thank you for your loyal commitment to Singles & Friends. Any questions, please contact Ginger Broyles at [402-312-5126](tel:402-312-5126).

SQUARE DANCING from 7:00-9 :00 PM in the

Fellowship Hall every Sunday (except Easter Sunday and April 14th) through the end of April. If you would like to get involved or have questions, please call Darwin Barker at [402-210-6228](tel:402-210-6228).



2024 Sarah Circle Easter Cookie Orders**Orders Due-March 17****Pickup Date-Sunday, March 24**

9:00-11am in Commons Area

Checks Payable to Sarah CircleCan be submitted by email to trumpetvinecraft@aol.com

Questions/orders - Call Terri Burright (402)659-6913

or Jan Jacobsen (402)660-4718

13505 N. 108th St.

Omaha, NE 68142

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Price \$6.50 per dozen, \$3.25 per 1/2 dozen

	Dozen	Half Dozen	Total
Almond Bark Oreos (Spring Colors)			
Chocolate Chip Cookies			
Coconut Macaroon Cookies			
Cranberry Pistachio Sables			
Cutout Easter Sugar Cookies			
Lemon Bars			
M & M Easter Cookies			
Orange Cookies			
Peanut Butter Cookies			
Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies			
Scotcheroos (Rice Krispie Bars)			
Snickerdoodle Cookies			
Spring Spritz Cookies			
Spring Thumbprint Cookies			
Sugar Cookies			
Varitety Pack (Our Pick)			

Peanut Brittle (1/4 lb.)-\$2.50		
---------------------------------	--	--

Total Owed		
------------	--	--

Special Requests: _____

Thank You!

March 2024



KIDS QUEST!! EPIC Youth PK-High School



March 3, 2024
March 10, 2024
March 17, 2024
March 24, 2024
March 30, 2024

No Sunday School: attend church service with family
“The Last Supper” (video series)
Mission Project: Fill Easter Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt!
“He is Risen!” (video series)
Saturday: Join us at 9:30 AM for the Hoppin’ Easter Adventure!

March 31, 2024

No Sunday School: join your family for Easter Service at 9:30 AM



Hoppin’ Easter Adventure!

Saturday, March 30, 2024
(back of church)

- ◇ 9:30 AM crafts, snacks, and Easter activities
- ◇ 10:00 AM Egg Hunt (toddlers-6th Grade)

Invite your family members, friends, and neighbors!

We will be collecting individually-wrapped candy and small trinkets and toys to fill the eggs. Please remember items must be small enough to fit inside a plastic egg. A bin is placed outside the Christian Education Office for your donations. Thank you in advance for your help!



MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 Worship/Communion/ No Sunday School 10:30 C&M Mtg.—128 7-9 PM Square Dancing—FH	4 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	5 11 AM Ruth Circle Mtg—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	6 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafters—128 6:30 Bell Choir/ Choir Practice 6:30 Lenten Study-FH	7 12 noon Women's Assoc. Mtg/Soup Lunch—FH	8 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D	9 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
10 9:30 Worship/Sunday School <i>Daylight Saving Time begins One Great Hours of Sharing Offering</i> 7-9 PM Square Dancing-FH	11 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	12 7 PM Scouts-FH	13 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafters—128 6:30 Bell Choir/ Choir Practice 6:30 Lenten Study-FH	14 7 PM Church Council Mtg.—128	15 6-10 Old Dominion Dancers—FH	16 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D 12-5 Urbans-FH
17 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 7-9 PM Square Dancing-FH St. Patrick's Day! <i>Cookie Orders Due Easter Flower Orders Due Easter Basket Donations Due</i>	18 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	19 1:00 PM Hannah Circle Mtg.—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	20 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafters—128 6:30 Bell Choir/ Choir Practice 6:30 Lenten Study-FH	21 10-2 Salad Luncheon Canasta Card Party Fellowship Hall 6:30 Sarah Circle Mtg.—Rm. 128	22 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D	23 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
24 9-11 Pick up cookie orders-C 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 C&M Fellowship—C 10:30 Assemble Easter Baskets (location TBD) 7-9 PM Square Dancing-FH	25 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	26 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	27 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafters—128 6:30 Bell Choir/ Choir Practice 6:30 Lenten Study-FH	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7 PM CANTATA	29 <i>Good Friday</i> 11-1 Sanctuary Open for prayer 7 PM Good Friday Service	30 9:30 Hoppin' Easter Adventure! 10A-3P Lambert Prayer Group-19D
31 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Easter Brunch—FH EASTER SUNDAY						S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall

**NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH
9334 FORT STREET
OMAHA NE 68134**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON PROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA NE
PERMIT NO 369**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Chloe Marxsen	10	Mark Cupps	20	Troy Beal	27	Bruce Fields
2	Jay Johnson	10	Andrew Urban	21	Zoe Jacobsen	27	Kailynn Jackson
3	Lisa Burnham	12	Patrick Higginson	22	Max Mehlenbacher	28	Colt Marxsen
5	Sarah Jewell	12	Anthony Infante	23	Sarah May	28	Gunnar Marxsen
7	Paloma Vincent	16	Kathy Caito	24	Jim Hultman	29	Jan Jacobsen
9	Crystal Granados	16	Will Scofield	24	Robert Marxsen	29	Tiffany Stricker
9	Carol Olsen	17	Weylon White	24	Willard Miller	30	Seth Tracy
9	Andrew Truckenbrod	19	Tyler Miller	24	Jerrie Wilcox		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

10	Bruce & Diane Fields	19	Bruce & Judy Cratty
12	Marcus and Angela Myers	19	Duane & Laurie Salonen
14	Doug & Marlene Roberts		