



# newsletter

Northwest Hills Church  
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Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor  
Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 54 No. 3  
February 24, 2026

Barb Renicker, Music Director  
Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

## March 2026

<p>March 1</p> 	<p>9:30 AM Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) "The Roman Road: Justified by Faith" Romans 4:15, 13-17</p>
<p>March 8</p> <p><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b></p>  <p><i>Daylight Savings Time Begins!</i></p>	<p>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "The Roman Road: Peace and Joy in Christ" Romans 5:1-11 10:30 Service of Healing and Hope—S 10:30 AM Church &amp; Ministry Mtg.—128</p> 
<p>March 15</p> <p><i>One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering</i></p> 	<p>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "The Roman Road: Guided by the Spirit" Romans 8:6-11</p>
<p>March 22</p> <p><i>Cookie orders due! Easter flower orders due!</i></p> 	<p>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "The Roman Road: The Power of Love: Romans 8:26-39</p>
<p>March 29</p> <p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b></p> <p><i>Cookie order pickup!</i></p> 	<p>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "Who Is This?" Matthew 21:1-11 10:30 Assemble Easter Baskets for Lydia House—C</p>

*Save the date!*

### HOPPIN' EASTER ADVENTURE

Saturday, April 4th  
9:45 AM Easter Story by Pastor Alex—FH  
10:00 AM Egg Hunt—back of church

*We've simplified for this year! We will be collecting candy and small trinkets (that will fit inside a plastic egg) in a basket down the hall in front of the CE Office. Watch for upcoming details!*

*Save the date:  
Maundy Thursday  
April 2nd, 7:00 PM*

### CANTATA

**"Shadows of Sacrifice"**  
by Purifoy

*Join the Choir for a  
Tenebrae (darkening)  
service of*

*betrayal  
suffering  
crucifixion*





Women's Association CANASTA CLUB is hosting the Canasta Club Salad Luncheon on Thursday, March 19th. Cost for lunch is \$8.00. Please arrive in time to start playing by 10:00 AM, and have a great time! If you have any questions, or would like to join, please contact Deb Shafer at 402-999-1052 or email [ddshafer@outlook.com](mailto:ddshafer@outlook.com) (please put CANASTA in the subject line of your email, so that I am sure to get it...thanks!) We still need subs (men or women). Please contact Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068.

**MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST:** We are "back in the saddle again!" and look forward to gathering on Saturday, March 7th 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 STUDIES:** we're back! Come join us for a great time of fellowship and gathering around the Word of God! We meet at 10 AM on Wednesday mornings starting March 4th in Rm. 128.

*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 3rd at 11:00 AM in the Commons. Refreshments by April Newhouse.



**WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** will meet Thursday, March 5th at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Devotions by Kathleen Hammond, and

a soup lunch will be provided.

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

## 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 29th. 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!



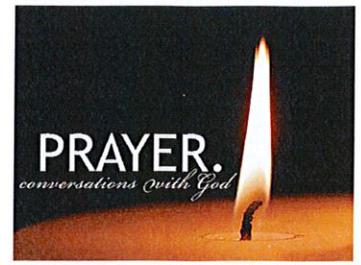
**EASTER FLOWER** order forms are available in the Commons. Watch for details: the due date to order spring/Easter plants will be Sunday, March 22nd.



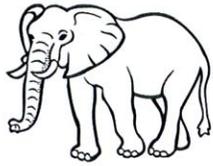
Also, mark your calendars for an **Easter Brunch** after the Easter morning service on April 5th in the Fellowship Hall! Sign up is in the Commons along with a display of past brunches. A wonderful time of great food and fellowship as we celebrate a most joyous event: Resurrection!



Our church family will continue to collect **non-perishable food donations** for the Holy Cross Church Food Pantry. Our faithful contributions are blessing those in need who experience food insecurity in our immediate neighborhoods and community. Your selfless acts of sharing food with our neighbors makes a lasting impact in ways we may never know on this side of heaven. The bin for collections is located in the Commons for this year-round support. Thank you for your generosity!



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



**REMINDER:** we are collecting "white elephants" throughout the year for our October sale! No clothes\*\* or broken items, please. There is a large green bin in the Board Room (down the hall

across from the main church office) for your items. Thank you for your contributions!

**CLOTHES\*\* are** being collected year-round for the Open Door Mission. New or clean, gently-used clothing can be deposited in the specially-marked bin in the Commons. Thank you for your kindness!



**CRAFTERS!** We get together every Wednesday from 1-3 PM in Room 128 to work on crafts for the October Craft Fair! No special skills needed, and we have plenty of crafts for you to choose from, or bring your own. Even if you can

come for just an hour or so, we would love to have you join our fun group! Any questions, please contact Leigh Powell.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** have their meeting on Thursday, March 12th at 7:00 PM in Room 128 (Community Room/Choir Room).

**INTERESTED** in Lay Ministry? Reaching out to our members who are homebound? Please contact either Jo Morton or Isobel Taylor to explore the opportunity to bless someone's day!

**YUMMY!** 2026 Sarah Circle Easter Cookie Orders are due March 22nd! For your convenience, an order form is included in this Newsletter, and extra



forms are available in the Commons until the deadline of March 22nd. Pick up date will be Sunday, March 29th.

*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, Cierra Ervin, Kyle Hurt & Jacoby, Marchelle Conrad, Steve Swift, Jerrie Wilcox, Nikki Heim, Elaine Jenkins, Cindy Key, Joanne Mears, Vicky (Nikki Heim's daughter); Linda Nelsen, Urban family, Benita Davis, Anusha Ganarajah, Knolan Murray, Artie Koterba

On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Gary Dutton, Ena Nolan, (Leigh Powell's niece), Bill Owens, Pat Mixan, Sharon (Judy Cratty's sister), Caroline Williams, Christine Burreight, Alyce Berk

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**"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.

The Lenten season is upon us once again. Whether you've been a part of the church for a long time or a short time, it's always good to get a refresher about the basics of Lent.

What is Lent? Lent is the 40-day period of self-reflection and fasting that leads up to the celebration of Easter. Sundays are not counted in those 40 days because each Sunday is like a mini-Easter on which we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Why is Lent 40 days? The 40 days reflect the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptations of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry (see Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13). The number 40 occurs in other biblical stories and symbolizes a period of testing or preparation, such as the rains falling in Noah's day for 40 days and nights (Genesis 7:4), the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for 40 years (Exodus 16:35), and Moses being with God on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights (Exodus 24:18).

When did Lent first start? The season of Lent is not commanded in the Bible, but it is one of the oldest observed seasons in the church. The foundations of Lent began in the 2nd century when Christians began fasting in preparation for their baptisms, which were usually conducted on Easter Sunday. During the next century, this practice of fasting before Easter became more and more common. Lent was officially practiced after the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325.

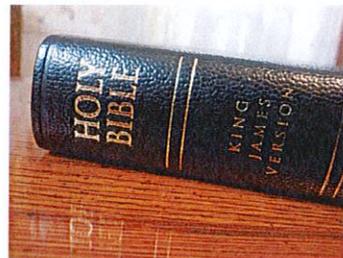
What should we fast from? Throughout the centuries, Christians have fasted from a wide variety of things. A popular example is how our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters abstain from eating meat on Fridays. Some fast from chocolate. When I was younger, I would give up second helpings during mealtime. Some Christians take up a practice like journaling. Whatever you do, it should be used to refocus your heart and mind on Christ.

Do we have to fast? No, self-denial practices are not necessary for Lent. However, I would encourage all of us to take time during this Lenten season to reflect how we can become more like Jesus.

As we take our yearly journey to the cross and the empty tomb, may God bless you in this season of reflection and renewal.

In Christ's Love,

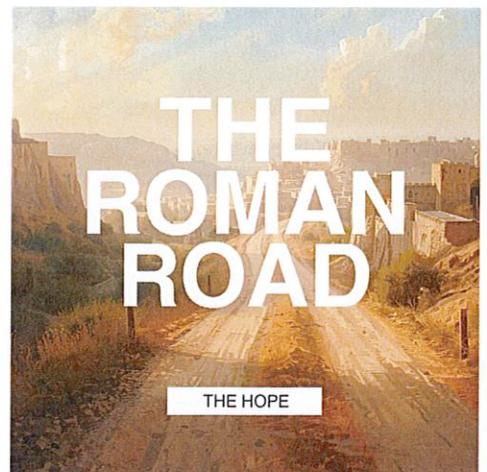
*Pastor Alex*



## Sermon Topics and Scriptures for March

### March 2026 Sermons

- March 1 – Romans 4:1-17, "The Roman Road: Justified by Faith"
- March 8 – Romans 5:1-11, "The Roman Road: Peace and Joy in Christ"
- March 15 – Romans 8:6-11, "The Roman Road: Guided by the Spirit"
- March 22 – Romans 8:26-39, "The Roman Road: The Power of Love"
- March 29 – (Palm Sunday) Matthew 21:1-11, "Who Is This?"



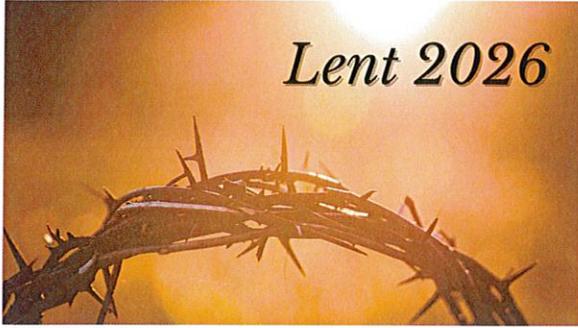


## From our Northwest Hills Preschool...

February was a quiet month at preschool. We are past the holiday rush but aren't quite to the point of preparing for the end of year festivities. In house registration started Feb 1st and open registration on March 1st. Hopefully we are filled to the brim next year! We spent a lot of time in February talking about love. We learned that God IS love and that our ability to love comes from Him. We also learned one way to love God is by showing love to others. Pastor Alex gave us all hearts to pass out at home to people we love! In March, spring will be the topic and our verse will be "God created everything in Heaven and earth. Colossians 1:16". We are definitely looking forward to spring and all the "newness" it brings!

from the preschool crew!

— Jacque, Lori, and Robin



Be watching for.....

### DR. WERNER P. JENSEN SCHOLARSHIPS:

Scholarships are available for those pursuing a certificate or diploma from an institution of higher learning. This scholarship will be paid directly to the institution of education.

Completed applications should be returned to the church. Hard copies are available in the Commons, or via email. There will be two different applications: one for new applicants and another for scholarship renewal.

### Criteria for Consideration:

- New applicants must have participated in church activities at Northwest Hills Church
- Exhibiting an active commitment of faith
- Application to an institution of higher learning
- Completed written application
- Completed recommendation letter(s) (see application form)
- Interview with committee
- 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.

### LENTEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICES

On Wednesday evenings during Lent (February 25th through March 25th), Pastor Alex will host a time of fellowship followed by a prayer service.

Fellowship (potluck style) will begin at 6:30 PM in the Commons area and the prayer service will begin at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

### Service of Healing and Hope

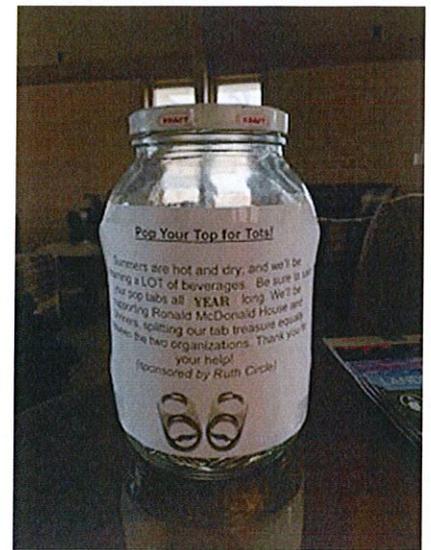
Are you in need of God's peace and restoration? Pastor Alex will hold a special time of prayer and anointing with oil on Sunday, March 8th following the worship service in the sanctuary. This service is a gentle space for prayer, quiet reflection, and inviting God's healing presence into our lives—whether for physical, emotional, or spiritual needs. All are welcome.



Community partner spotlight:



Why do we collect pop tabs and deliver to the Ronald McDonald House? These donations really make an impact in our community. Because of you, 559 families found a place to rest, regroup, and stay close to the care their child needed in 2025. That's the most families the Ronald McDonald House has EVER welcomed in a single year. It was a busy year, and, for many families, an extremely difficult one, with a bounty of challenges and heartaches. But there were also times to celebrate when seeing these kids thrive in the face of overwhelming adversity. Although it may seem like a small thing to do, collecting pop tabs is something in which most people can participate. Thank you for helping out !



## House Program 2025 Recap



**559**

Families Served

**1698**

Individuals Served

**8219**

Lodging Nights in 2025

### Hospitals

Nebraska Medicine	50.1%
Children's Nebraska	16.6%
Boys Town	14.3%
Methodist Women's Hospital	6.4%
Bergan Mercy	3.6%
Madonna	2.7%
Ambassador	2.5%
Munroe Meyer Institute	2.3%
CHI	.2%
Children's Square	.2%

### Diagnosis

Intestinal Disorder	27.2%
Other Illness	20.2%
Premature Birth, Other NICU	16.5%
Organ Transplant (Pre and Post)	12.9%
Surgery	6.8%
Behavioral Disorder	5%
Cancer/Oncology	2.7%
Feeding Clinic Therapy	2.7%
High-Risk Pregnancy	1.3%
Traumatic Injury	.5%

**18 Days**

Average Length of Stay

**58%**

Of Guests are from Nebraska and Iowa

**7 years old**

Average Patient Age

The need for our services isn't slowing down. Every week, more families arrive at our doors - scared, exhausted, and looking for a place to stay. We can only meet that need with your continued support.

**Your generosity has already changed lives. Together, we can change even more.**

**2026 Sarah Circle Easter Cookie Orders**

**Orders Due-March 22**

**Pickup Date-Sunday, March 29**

9:00-11am in Commons Area

**Checks Payable to Sarah Circle**

Can 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
Chocolate Chip Cookies			
Coconut Macaroon Cookies			
Cranberry Pistachio Sables			
Easter Peanut Butter Bonbons			
Frosted Easter Sugar Cookies			
Lemon Bars			
M & M Easter Cookies			
Molasses Crinkle Cookies			
Orange Cookies			
Peanut Butter Cookies			
Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies			
Scotcheroos (Rice Krispie Bars)			
Snickerdoodles Cookies			
White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Cookies			
Variety Pack(Our Pick)			

Peanut Brittle (1/4 lb.)-\$2.50			
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Total Owed			
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Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**

# MARCH 2026

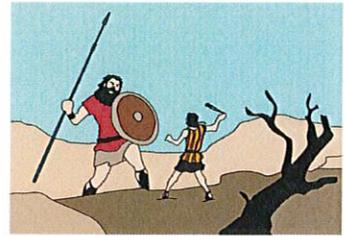


**KIDS QUEST!!**  
**EPIC Youth**  
**PK-High School**



**MARCH 1** No Kid's Quest: Enjoy the adult service with your families!

**MARCH 8** "A Giant Adventure"

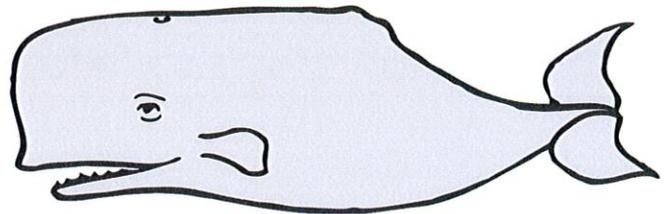


**MARCH 15** Kids Quest Mission Project

**MARCH 22** "Roar!"



**MARCH 29** "Jonah"



Hey, Kids...

Remember your offering for Kids Quest so we can achieve yet *another* goal to help Heifer International! Look at all we were able to purchase in 2025 to be a blessing to families and communities around the *WORLD*: a water buffalo, ducks, chicks, honeybees, rabbits, a goat, guinea pigs, worms and tree seedlings! Wow!

# MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 Worship/Communion (No Sunday School)	2 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	3 11 AM Ruth Circle—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	4 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafting—128 6:30 Lenten Potluck & Prayer—C&S 6:00 PM Choir	5 12 noon W/A—soup lunch and mtg. FH	6 9:00 AM Men's BYOB Fellowship—C 12-5 Urban Family-FH	7
8 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Service of Healing & Hope-S 10:30 Church & Ministry Mtg-128	9 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	10 7 PM Scouts-FH	11 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafting-128 6:30 Lenten Potluck & Prayer—C&S 6:00 PM Choir	12 Preschool Parent/ Teacher Conferences 7 PM Church Council Meeting—FH	13 Preschool Parent/ Teacher Conferences	14
<i>Daylight Savings Begins!</i> 15 9:30 Worship/Sunday School One Great Hour of Sharing	16 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>  7 PM Scouts-FH —preschool_spring	18 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafting-128 6:30 Lenten Potluck & Prayer—C&S 6:00 PM Choir break	19 10-2 Salad Lunch Card Party—FH 7-9 PM Venture Crew- FH	20 <i>First Day of Spring!</i>  6-10 PM Old Dominion Dancers—FH	21
22 9:30 Worship/Sunday School Cookie orders due! Easter flower orders due!	23 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	24 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	25 10 Bible Study-128 1-3 Crafting-128 6:30 Lenten Potluck & Prayer—C&S 6:00 PM Choir	26	27	28
29 9:30 Worship/Sunday School Palm Sunday 9-11 Cookie order pick up!-C 10:30 AM Assemble Easter Baskets for Lydia House—C	30 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	31 7 PM Scouts-FH	6:00 PM Choir			S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

<b>NON PROFIT ORG U S POSTAGE PAID OMAHA NE PERMIT NO 369</b>
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## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

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

## **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

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