

---

---

# The Joyful Noise

ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
302 SOUTH CARROLL STREET ~ ROCK RAPIDS, IOWA 51246

PASTOR KATHY SIDES

[kathysides@hotmail.com](mailto:kathysides@hotmail.com)

H: 712-472-2770

C: 515-201-3634

Administrative Assistant, Amber Kooiker

[rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net](mailto:rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net)

712-472-2324

[www.rockrapidsumc.org](http://www.rockrapidsumc.org)

Volume 43 Issue 4

April, 2020

---

It occurred to me today as I was going into the grocery store to get just the few things we really needed, that Easter is **this** Sunday. Of course I knew that, I had just come from finishing up everything I needed to do for our Good Friday service, just told myself that as soon as I finished writing this very article, I needed to get Sunday's Easter service finalized. So, of course, I *knew* Easter was coming. But, somehow everything that's going on these days with the COVID-19 pandemic pushed a lot of what I *normally* do to prepare for Easter out of my mind. Because, let's face it, there is nothing *normal* about these days.

Once the reality of how close we were to Easter hit me, I had a short debate with myself – do I get stuff to make our usual Easter dinner, like ham and such, or is there something about the times we are in that makes it so we should just skip that this year? After all, Ben and Sam won't be here. That reality hit me pretty hard: this is the first time I won't see my boys on Easter. And I haven't seen them since Christmas. Ultimately I decided that no, I'm not giving up on Easter dinner, even if there are only four of us to eat it. And so my few things I had planned to get became many more as I gathered what I needed for dinner on Sunday. Carrying the groceries into the house I was glad I was prepared to fix Easter dinner; something normal, something traditional, in this time when we desperately need *something* to be normal. And – I cried, because two people I love will be absent, and that doesn't feel "normal" at all!

We are in the midst of a crazy, stressful, frightening, frustrating, nothing-is-normal time; a time when we might find ourselves thinking we are coping with it all very well one minute, and crying over something we have lost or are missing the next. We who are used to scheduling our lives, sometimes finding ourselves too busy with too many things, are suddenly faced with nothing going on. Ever. We who were looking forward to important milestones like Confirmation and Graduation suddenly find ourselves with no idea when we will be able to celebrate them. Where there used to be some certainty, some reasonable expectation about what would happen when, we're now left with nothing but a big question mark. It's unsettling, to say the least.

However, in the midst of this time, in spite of the fears, frustrations, and all the cancellations, the truth of the matter is; Easter has not been canceled. We may not be able to gather together to celebrate it as we would like to, but Easter will come. Just as Dr. Seuss's Grinch couldn't stop Christmas from coming by stealing all the presents from the Whos, the COVID-19 pandemic will not stop Easter from coming by stealing the normalcy from our lives. Because Easter is about more than gathering at church or having a family dinner, it's about the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. It's about the triumph of life over death and hope over despair.

If ever there was a time when it was important for us to claim Easter and the empty tomb, it's now. The traditional Christian greeting on Easter is "The Lord *is* risen!" Which, although it may not sound like it, is much different than "The Lord *was* raised" or "The Lord *has* risen." Because *was* and *has* are past tense words. But, "The Lord *is* risen" is present tense. It's affirming that even though the resurrection of Jesus happened long ago, he rose from the grave not for a little while, to die again later, but forever; raised to eternal life to walk with us always. The traditional response to "The Lord is risen!" is "The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!" an affirmation of the truth that Christ is alive and in that, we rejoice.

Easter is the assurance that Jesus lives. Not only that he lives, but that he is with us in all things. And, if Jesus had the power to conquer death itself, we can know that he has the power to conquer anything we face in life – our fears, our frustrations, our worries and our woes. Jesus lives, and in that truth lies our hope for all our tomorrows; sure or uncertain.

So, just as I'm not giving up on Easter dinner this year, I'm not giving up on Easter and the hope it holds. My savior lives! In the words of Bill and Gloria Gaither:

God sent his son, they called him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives.

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;  
Because he lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know he holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because he lives!

The Lord *is* risen! The Lord is risen Indeed! Alleluia!

*Pastor Kathy*

### **PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED**

If you have recently moved, changed your mailing address, your **email address**, phone number, **or are only using cell phones**, please contact the church office with the current information. **Thank you!**



If you would like to be included in the **Weekly Prayer Partner EMAIL** which includes scripture readings, prayer requests, birthdays, and weekly reminders, please email or call the church; especially if you have not received these lately. If you have email, but do not receive information from the church this way, please give your email address to the office. We may not have it, and it's important that we do going forward so you can stay updated. Thank you.

### **HOSPITALIZED**

Please contact the church office or Pastor Kathy if you know a member has been admitted to the hospital. With the new privacy laws being strictly enforced there are many times we are unaware of hospitalizations. We would rather get ten calls than none at all. Thank you. **Prayer concerns** can be called into the office (472-2324) or emailed to the office at [rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net](mailto:rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net) or Pastor Kathy at [kathysides@hotmail.com](mailto:kathysides@hotmail.com) and they will be sent out.



### *Praise God~*

- ☺ Birth of Josh & Kristin Rockhill's baby boy
- ☺ Char's negative test results
- ☺ Marriage of Stephanie Slack and Brice Farley
- ☺ Lou Braun moved to Premier Estates
- ☺ God's love to shine brightly so the world sees his abundant LOVE



### *Prayers~*

- ✚ Daxton DeGroot
- ✚ Mary Peterson
- ✚ COVID-19 and all those affected by it
- ✚ Those experiencing job loss/economic issues
- ✚ Residents of care facilities
- ✚ Heather Heimensen's sister-double mastectomy



## April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |                       |                          |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 01~ Kim DeJongh       | 08~ Amylie Hamilton      | 18~ Sam Sides      |
| 04~ Barb Grimes       | 09~ Jackie Austin        | 21~ Connor Maxwell |
| Mark & Sonya Peterson | 12~ Kaylee McIntire      | 24~ Helen Schol    |
| 05~ Lainn Menning     | 14~ Veronica Waagmeester | 25~ Kelli Hamilton |
| 06~ Char DeGooyer     | 16~ Jim & Char DeGooyer  | 26~ Erica Rice     |
| 07~ Mary Holland      | 17~ David Krahling       | 29~ Sydney Wells   |
|                       | Kathy Van Berkum         |                    |
|                       | Tate Vande Weerd         |                    |

\*We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information. Please contact the office with the correct/missing information. Thank you!

## Reminders and Announcements

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. to Help with heating bills.**

The Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP) offered through Mid-Sioux Opportunity, Inc. may be able to help you pay your winter heating bill. This program is funded through the Iowa Department of Human Rights and has been established to help qualify low-income Iowa homeowners and renters for a portion of their primary heating costs. Your local Mid-Sioux office will be taking applications through April 30, 2020. Each applicant will need to furnish a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill, original Social Security or I-94 card for each household member, and proof of the household's income for the past month (30 days), the past (12) months, or the most recent calendar year (tax return: 18 or 19). Eligibility for participation is established according to the federal income guidelines listed below. Applicants eligible for an award will be paid on a first come, first serve basis, and all payments are subject to availability of funds.

#### Maximum Gross Income

Household Size	Annual income
1	\$21,858
2	\$29,593
3	\$37,328
4	\$45,063
5	\$52,798

For families with more than five members, add \$7,735 for each additional member.

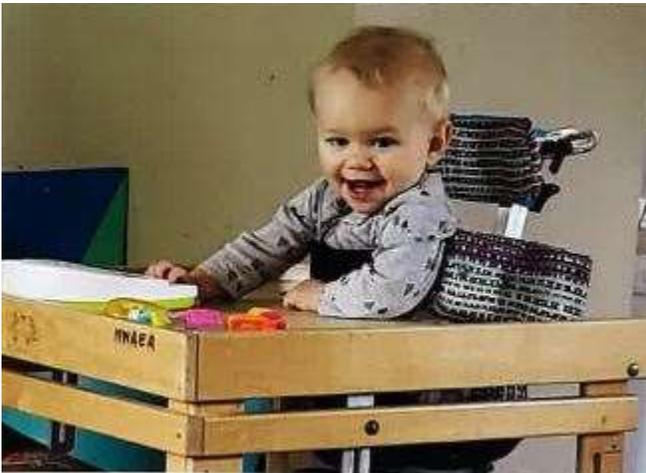
Please call your local outreach office for an appointment to apply for LiHEAP

Lyon County  
712-472-3746  
Or 712-722-3611  
Wednesday  
9:00-4:00



Thankfully, Meals on Wheels is still able to continue in the midst of other COVID-19 closures and cancelations. Our church is responsible for April 20<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>, so we are in need of volunteers. Since people won't be coming to the church to worship and Amber is working primarily from home, instead of a sign-up sheet at church, volunteers are asked to call or text Mary Fields. Here are the details:

Meals are to be picked up at Shari's Kitchen at 11:00 each morning Volunteer by calling Mary's home phone at 472-2717 or calling or texting her cell phone at 712-578-1314. **We are in need of Volunteers for the following dates: Thursday, April 23, Monday, April 27, Wednesday, April 29 and Friday, May 1.**  
Thanks to all our volunteers!



**To all of the beautiful people at Rock Rapids UMC,  
Thank you so very much for the love gift of money! Words cannot say how we feel for this kindness which will never be forgotten.  
Much love,  
Terry & Kathy; Abbey, Derek , Daxton, Emersyn, Karver**

\*\*\*\*\*

**2020 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
ROCK RAPIDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
February 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

Members of Ad. Council: (Names of Absentees underlined)  
Vicki Slack – chairperson/UMW President; Sonya Peterson - Communications; Marceia Techen - Treasurer; Rhonda Menning- Evangelism/Missions; Evelyn Baldwin- Financial Secretary & Stewardship/Financial; Sue Vinson- Lay Leader to Annual Conference; Judy Griesse- Memorial Committee; Dave Ackerman – Lay Leader/SPRC; Kelli Docker – Christian Education; Sheila Maxwell – Worship; Lainn Menning- Trustees; Heather Heimensen- Youth; Kathy Sides – Pastor; Randy Waagmeester – At Large Representative; Elaine Birkey – Recording Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER / PRAYER/**

Vicki called the meeting to order and Evelyn Baldwin opened with prayer.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Motion to approve: Rhonda Menning  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Lainn Menning

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION/Kelli:**

- February 2 – Youth Sunday at Immanuel Lutheran
- February 9 – Youth Sunday at UMC
- March 1 – French Toast Breakfast (No Sunday School)
- April 12 – Easter (No Sunday School)
- April 19 – Confirmation
- April 26 – Camp Sunday (No Sunday School)

**THIRD AVENUE YOUTH UPDATE/Heather:**

The soup and pie supper and pie auction was a success! The French Toast fundraiser is scheduled for the first Sunday in March (3/1/20). Youth Sunday will be held at UMC on February 9. Youth Sunday at Immanuel Lutheran was held on February 2.

Youth are registering for Urban Plunge. Seventeen youth will be going March 27-29 in Omaha.

**THIRD AVENUE SQUARED UPDATE/Sheila & Kathy:** The Superbowl of Caring offering was done at Immanuel Lutheran and UMC and received \$505 in offerings. This money will be used for the Central Lyon Backpack Program. They will be doing another collection for this project. Gifts of money are preferred to get supplies needed. The youth will be going to Premier Estates next Wednesday, February 12 to play games with residents there.

**EVANGELISM & MISSIONS/Rhonda:** The meal ministry is keeping us busy! We continue to receive many good comments from recipients of the meals.

**TREASURER/Marceia:** The January 1-February 7 Profit & Loss YTD Comparison for the general budget was distributed. Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss for all accounts were also distributed; accounts were broken down on the balance sheet to clearly identify current balances in each account. Also distributed was the Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual through January.

A letter requesting after prom party donations was received. Sue stated that UMW would be taking care of that. Vicki will take it to the UMW to respond to.

Marceia inquired how the donations to the family of Dax DeGroot should be handled. Hannah circle is planning a fundraiser, so will defer disbursement of those funds until after that time.

Marceia stated more definition of expenses would be helpful. Lainn stated bills will be signed as "Trustees" to indicate a building related expense going forward. Marceia may change the trustee bank/expense piece a bit as she becomes more familiar with Quickbooks.

Apportionments have been paid up through 2019. We will continue to re-evaluate apportionments on a quarterly basis.

**FINANCE SEC/Evelyn:** Statements of giving for 2019 have been sent out. Corey Heimensen will be conducting the annual audit of our church treasury and all church groups that have bank accounts.

**MEMORIAL/Judy:** No report.

**SPRC/Dave:** Will be meeting with Ron Carlson on Wednesday, February 12.

**TRUSTEES/Lainn:** The renovation of the upstairs bathrooms has been completed! Lainn thanked Dave Ackerman, Mark Peterson, and Rhonda Menning for their help on that project. Jim DeGooyer contacted Tony who will be putting up the old arch in the spring.

**PASTOR/KATHY/AMBER:** Pastor Kathy was ill so submitted her report via email. Since multiple people will be busy with dress rehearsal for The Music Man on Ash Wednesday (Feb 26), Pastor Kathy offered several alternatives for that service.

- *Option 1:* Have a service at the regular time (6:30 or 7:00 pm) that is lay-led. It could be as simple as sharing a brief devotion, a time of prayer, an offering of ashes in the sign of a cross on each other's foreheads.
- *Option 2:* Pastor could offer a brief 15-20 minute service at noon.
- *Option 3:* Pastor could offer a service at 5:30 approximately 30 minutes in length.
- *Option 4:* No service.

After discussion it was decided a brief service at 5:30 would be the best option. Pastor was notified of this.

Looking ahead to future Sundays:

Feb 9 – Youth Sunday

March 29 – Baptism of Thaddeus Engleman

April 5 – Palm Sunday or April 12 Easter Sunday – Choir Cantata

April 19 – Confirmation Sunday with 13 confirmands – a banner will go up in place of the quilt out in the Narthex

April 26 – Camp Sunday

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE/Sonya:** No report.

**UMW/Vicki:** Next meeting is on Sunday, February 9. World Day of Prayer will be Friday, March 6.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Kathy Van Berkum inquired about a sign-up list for nursery duty. The kids who currently have responsibility for this don't always communicate when they won't be there. It was noted that some

parents prefer to keep their children in the church services with them. Kathy will speak to parents to see what their preference is to determine if there is a need for nursery monitors.

Sheila made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm and was seconded by Evelyn.

**Next Meeting** – February 16 following the church service (10:30). The March Ad Council meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Birkey  
Ad Council Secretary