

NEWSLETTER

BUILD. SERVE. STAND.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
Sundays at 10am

SHORELINES
Sept. - Nov. 2024

PASTORAL UPDATE



This summer, our family had a fun adventure as we took a roadtrip out west to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Twelve days of bonding over driving, camping, hiking, and exploring. It was so incredible to be able to see the diversity and beauty of God's creation in different places. One highlight for all of our kids was seeing Old Faithful erupt multiple times and being able to hear it out our hotel window. We also got to measure the temperature of the hot springs, dip our toes in Lake Jenny, and hike to numerous waterfalls. We encountered bears, moose, elk, bison, and my favorite, the marmots.

One day, to take a respite from the hot temps, we lingered in the visitor center near Old Faithful. There we watched a short, twenty-minute film all about the connection between white bark pine trees and Clark's Nutcracker birds. Before this film, I had never heard of these birds or thought much about what made trees grow so high. A few minutes in though, I was fascinated by the relationship between these two. White bark pine trees grow very high up, past the point where most trees are even able to grow. But the trees can't plant their seeds on their own. Along comes the Clark Nutcracker who takes the seeds and disperses them all over, planting more and more trees. If something happens to those birds, the white bark pine trees will stop growing.

There are so many connections in nature that can teach us a lot about our lives. How fragile and how strong creation is at the same time. How we should be invested in the well-being of every resource and every creature on our planet. How the health of one species impacts the health of others.

Over the next several weeks, we'll be looking at different national parks and gleaning wisdom from them. Our faith has a lot to learn from the wisdom of the trees of the fields and the birds of the air. Psalm 104 begins by talking about how fantastic God is, and then specifically talks about the glory found in creation.

*You put gushing springs into dry riverbeds....providing water for every wild animal.
Overhead, the birds in the sky make their home, chirping loudly in the trees.
From your lofty house, you water the mountains.
The earth is filled full by the fruit of what you've done.
The Lord's trees are well watered—
the cedars of Lebanon, which God planted,
where the birds make their nests,
where the stork has a home in the cypresses.*

Where have you seen the glory of God in nature? What has it taught you? Gifted to you?
May your faith be strengthened through your experience and immersion in God's creation.

With gratitude,
Pastor Brooke

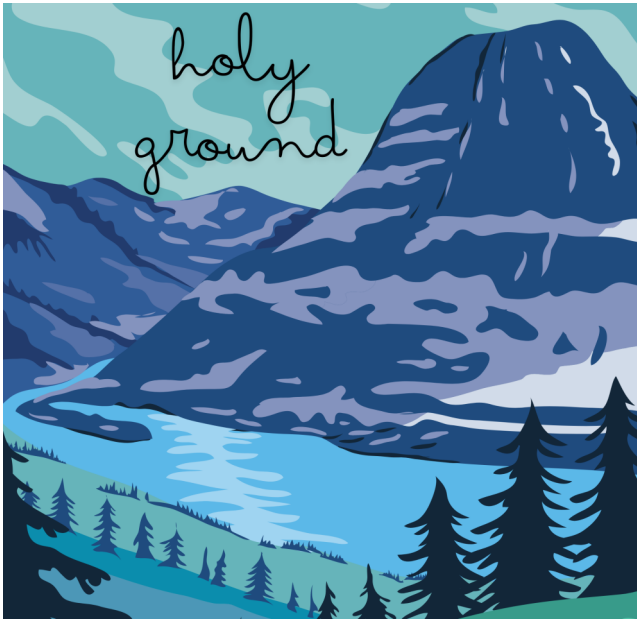
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BUILD. SERVE. STAND.



CURRENT SERMON SERIES



Holy Ground: Wisdom From the National Parks

Our national parks are jewels of natural beauty and unmatched diversity. They can also speak to our faith as we reflect on God's creation and marvel with wonder and awe at God's work. Each week, we'll look at a different national park and explore the holiness and wisdom that it gives us. From Yellowstone to Voyageurs, each place will offer a glimmer into the goodness and glory of God's world.

September 1: Rocky Mountain & Perspective
September 8: Grand Tetons & Companionship
September 15: Badlands & Wisdom
September 22: Yellowstone & Faithfulness
September 29: Voyageurs & Teamwork

Holiday Building Hours

The building and office are closed
Thursday, November 28.



Blessing of the Backpacks and Kickoff Sunday on September 8

Join us Sunday, September 8 for a celebration to kick off the beginning of the school year! All students are invited to bring their backpacks for a special blessing during worship and a backpack zipper token.

After worship, all ages are invited to stay for fellowship, food, and fun - including an inflatable obstacle course!



BUILD. COMMUNITY



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Our EUMC children, youth, and families had an active summer! Some of our summer highlights included a Big Stone mini golf outing, middle school Summer Festival camp at Gustavus, Stellar Vacation Bible School, and our annual young families camping weekend at Baker Campground.



Fall Kick-Off on Sunday, September 8 at 10am

Our 2024-2025 children's ministry programming kicks off with a Blessing of the Backpacks in worship, our first day of fall Sunday School, and fellowship, food, and fun following worship. Our children's ministry is continuing to grow! We are excited to be able to provide age-specific activities for our children. We are asking all parents to volunteer at Sunday School once a month to make this possible. As always, non-parent volunteers are also welcome!

Bible Sunday, October 6

We are excited to present an age-appropriate Bible to children who are entering kindergarten this fall and those in 4th and 5th grade on October 6 in worship. Our prayer is that this gift will help our students grow deeper in their relationship with God.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming fall family events!

- October 6: Degler Farm at 1pm
- October 26: Trunk or Treat at 2pm





YOUTH MINISTRY

Programming for 6-12th graders

Youth Group

We are excited for Youth Group this school year! We will be meeting the first three Wednesday evenings of each month at EUMC from 6-8pm. We will start by sharing a meal in the café, then gather in the Youth Room downstairs to catch up on what's going on at school and in our lives, things we're grateful for and concerns to hold in prayer. After meaningful conversations we have joy with game time.

The first Wednesday of each month will be a service night. We'll be partnering with organizations like ICA and Resource West for drives and service opportunities.

Confirmation

Pastor Brooke will be leading a Confirmation class this school year on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month for fun, education and exploration, which will include some special outings. Confirmation is open to all students in grades 7-12 who want to explore more deeply what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Confirmation students will be receiving Bibles in worship on Sunday, September 15. At the end of the confirmation year, students can decide for themselves if they would like to become official members of the church.

Youth not participating in Confirmation will continue meeting with Sarah for Youth Group on the 2nd Wednesdays of each month.

Ecumenical Youth Ministries Fellowship

We have more exciting EYMF events again this year!

Friday-Saturday, November 1-2: Youth Lock-In @ Trinity Episcopal

Monday, January 20: Day Retreat @ Mount Calvary Lutheran

Wednesday, March 12: Prayer Stations @ Excelsior United Methodist

Wednesday, June 4: Youth Group Pride Party @ St. David's Episcopal



Adult Groups at EUMC

As we begin a new season, are you looking to get more connected with other adults at EUMC? Below is a list of our current adult social groups that meet weekly, monthly or a couple times a year. Please see EUMC website for most updated information.

Contemplative Practices Group

3rd Sunday, 11:15am-1pm, monthly

Led by a trained spiritual director. Each month focuses on a new contemplative prayer practice. Contact Pastor Brooke.

Men's Bible Study

Monday, 7:30-9am, weekly

A group of men who meet to support each other, share the ups and downs of life, and study the Bible. Currently reading *The Good Book* by Peter Gomes. Contact Lynn Hughes.

Pastor's Bible Study

Monday, 9:30-10:30am, weekly

Pastor Brooke leads a discussion of the upcoming week's scripture. Meets at Basecamp Coffee in Minnetonka. Contact Pastor Brooke.

Brown Bag Discussion Group

Monday, 11am-noon, weekly

A women's group who meet to discuss progressive theology studies and current events. Contact Kay Thompson.

Cover Girls Book Club

4th Monday, 1pm

Books and discussion leaders are chosen at a get together in June, followed by lively discussions each month. Contact Sue Judd.

Yoga

Tuesday, 2pm

A beginner's gentle yoga class. We use chairs for seated exercises, if desired. There is no charge, but attendees are encouraged to bring donations for our Little Free Pantry each week. Contact Tiffany Frazier.

Sarah/Lydia Circle

2nd Thursday, 1 pm, monthly

A women's group who meet for connection, service and learning. Contact Joyceln Hughes.

Men's Support Group

Saturday, 8-10am, weekly

A group of men who meet to share updates on their lives and support one another. Contact Jeffrey Johnson.

Prime Timers

Adults (primarily age 60 and up), meet for fellowship, prayer, and various social events, including a weekend get-away, throughout the year. Contact Kristie Lester or Susan Dragsten.



LEADERSHIP

This summer, leadership had the joy of meeting offsite two times to enjoy this wonderful summer. July's meeting was at Chanhassen Brewing and August's meeting was at the home of Bill and Kristie Lester.

The Leadership Team at EUMC celebrates the excitement of successful summer programs including the anti-racism summer reading list, Vacation Bible School and family camping weekend. Jennifer and Beth with Church Ministries, encourage all the groups to take advantage of the "Ministry Moment" on Sunday mornings as a great opportunity to share with the congregation; Staff Parish Committee is discussing upcoming plans for music during worship and the open music director position as well as preparing for another year of a growing children's Sunday school program.

Our church home recently underwent a roof-leak fix and Jill and Jim with Trustees are working toward a long-term solution. In more exciting news, keep your eyes peeled for new EUMC signs (and a more permanent park sign) coming soon!

Pastor Brooke and the stewardship team continue to meet with individuals and groups to talk through our financial goals and challenges. If you'd like to meet to talk about your giving with them, please reach out. They are more than happy to have a conversation and hear from you! Our yearly stewardship campaign will take place in October and we will celebrate the generosity and momentum of this year with an all church brunch on Sunday, October 27 following worship. Our goal is to have as many people present in person as possible.

As always, we are here for you.

Your Leadership Team:

Julie Newell (Chair)
Sarah Nelson (Communications)
Tyler Cronk (Finance)

Bill Lester & Phil Pulitzer (SPRC)
Jennifer Brady Johnson & Beth Firkins (Ministry Teams)
Jim Stromberg & Jill Jewell (Trustees)

SERVE. OTHERS



OUR COMMUNITY

Food Ministry Highlights

Outreach continues to hold our ICA Food Shelf on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. It's a well-oiled machine with an average of 40 families each time.

Our annual backpack and school supply give away was held on August 14 during the food shelf. We gave away 69 backpacks and many school supplies! As always, the joy on the kids faces is priceless! The parents and children are so very thankful and appreciate what we do! Thanks so much to everyone that donated money and/or time! Especially our very own, Cherrie Blackford, who takes the lead on this special ministry.



Community Meal

Everyone is invited to join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, September 11 from 5 to 6pm. We plan to grill and eat outside, weather permitting. There will be a fun craft for the kids!

Simpson Shelter Update

September means our return to providing meals once a month at Simpson Housing Services (SHS). Our first meal service is Tuesday, September 24. Cooks, servers and clean-up crews are always needed. If you are interested please contact Jim Gagnon, Jane Pole, or Jill Jewell.

On June 24, Simpson Housing Services and Project for Pride in Living broke ground on a new shelter in Minneapolis' Whittier neighborhood at 2740 1st Avenue South, site of the former Simpson United Methodist Church building.



SHS is building a reimagined shelter with improved services, which will increase and expedite permanent housing placements and reduce the number of chronically homeless adults. The space will include 72 shelter beds and 42 units of permanent supportive housing. Extended hours and accommodations for service partners will increase access to resources that support guests' physical, mental, and chemical health needs. This modern, dignified shelter is designed to meet the short-term housing needs of people experiencing homelessness and to prevent and break the cycle of chronic homelessness.

STAND. FOR JUSTICE

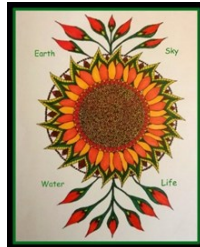


FIGHT TODAY
FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Summer Reading Challenge

Our Summer Reading Challenge goes through the end of September. Over the summer, adults, youth and children have been reading stories of Native Americans and learning the complicated and often alarming history of our fellow Americans.



If you'd like to participate, reading lists are on the Ministry table outside the sanctuary.

Save the Date!

Please join us for worship on **Sunday, November 17** as we honor Native Americans through education, music, and prayer. Dawn Houser will be joining us and preaching.

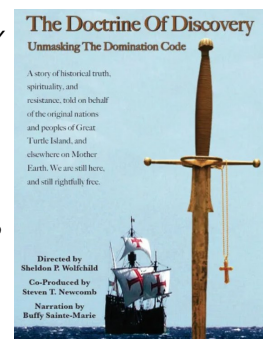


Dawn is the chair of the UM Conference on Native American Ministries and the pastor at Akin UMC in northern Minnesota.

Movie Night – September 30, 6:30 to 8:30pm

Have you heard of The Doctrine of Discovery? It's a set of legal principles that governed the European colonizing powers. This Doctrine which supports the "civilized white man" continues to effect Native Americans and our national life today. Join the Anti-Racism team for a movie night to *unveil the truth*.

The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code is a high-quality documentary that accurately captures the religious doctrine that led to the destruction and dehumanization of the first nations communities. Audiences move smoothly from the examination of the doctrine to its ultimate impact on the natives. Much of the film incorporates archival sources such as original illustrations of the rulers, maps, and catastrophic events of the time, as well as exact wording from historical documents. The domination of the Original Nations began long ago in the name of Christianity, and inspired the United States law system that continues to uphold the same code/doctrine today. - IMDB



The members of our Anti Racism team who previewed this film were shocked to discover their lack of knowledge of the Doctrine of Discovery and are moved to present this to our congregation as we continue to explore racism of Native Americans this fall.

This 1-hour documentary will be followed by a reflective time with Pastor Brooke.



CALENDAR

Calendar subject to change. Check website calendar for current schedule.

Sundays in September

10am- Worship and Sunday school
 Sept. 1- Communion
 Sept. 8- Kick-Off Sunday
 Sept. 15- Confirmation Bible Sunday

Mondays in September

7:30am- Men's Bible Breakfast
 9:30am- Bible Study with Pastor Brooke
 Sept. 9, 16, 30
 11am- Brown Bag discussion group

Tuesdays in September

2pm- Yoga with Tiffany

Saturdays in September

8am- Men's Support Group

Thursday, September 5

6:30pm- Anti-Racism Team meeting

Wednesday, September 11

3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf
 5 to 6pm- Community Meal
 6pm- Youth Group Kick-Off and
 Confirmation Parent meeting

Thursday, September 12

1pm- Sarah/Lydia Circle

Sunday, September 15

11:15am- Contemplative Practice

Tuesday, September 17

12pm- EUMC Blood Drive

Wednesday, September 18

6pm- Youth Group

Monday, September 23

1pm- Cover Girls book group

Tuesday, September 24

5pm- Simpson meal service

Wednesday, September 25

3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf
 6pm- Confirmation

Saturday, September 28

10am- Youth EYMF walk

Sunday, September 29

11:15am- Social Justice Team meeting

Monday, September 30

5:30pm- Anti-Racism Movie Night

Sundays in October

10am- Worship and Sunday school
 Oct. 6- Communion, Family worship,
 Bible Sunday, no SS

Mondays in October

7:30am- Men's Bible Breakfast
 9:30am- Bible Study with Pastor Brooke
 Oct. 7, 21, 28
 11am- Brown Bag discussion group

Tuesdays in October

2pm- Yoga with Tiffany

Wednesdays, October 2, 9 & 16

6pm- Youth Group

Wednesdays, October 9 & 23

3pm- ICA Food Shelf
 6pm- Confirmation

Saturdays in October

8am- Men's Support Group

Tuesday, October 3

6:30pm- Anti-Racism Team meeting

Thursday, October 10

1pm- Sarah/Lydia Circle

Sunday, October 6

1pm- Degler Farms family event

Sunday, October 20

11:15am- Contemplative Practice

Tuesday, October 22

5pm- Simpson meal service

Saturday, October 26

2pm- Trunk or Treat

Monday, October 28

1pm- Cover Girls book group

Sundays in November

10am- Worship and Sunday school
 Nov. 3- Communion, All Saints Sun.
 Nov. 10- Family worship, no SS

Mondays in November

7:30am- Men's Bible Breakfast
 9:30am- Bible Study with Pastor Brooke
 11am- Brown Bag discussion group

Tuesdays in November

2pm- Yoga with Tiffany

Wednesdays, November 6, 13 & 20

6pm- Youth Group

Wednesdays, November 13 & 27

3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf
 6pm- Confirmation (Nov. 13 only)

Saturdays in November

8am- Men's Support Group

Tuesday, November 7

6:30pm- Anti-Racism Team meeting

Thursday, October 10

1pm- Sarah/Lydia Circle

Monday, November 18

5pm- Simpson meal service

Monday, November 25

1pm- Cover Girls book group

Wednesday, November 27

6:30pm- Thanksgiving worship

FINANCE TEAM REPORT

Operating Budget Update: Contributions are slightly ahead of our budget through the first 6 months of the year, with expenses trending in line with expectations. We are still projecting to run a deficit this year, and as such, are utilizing dedicated funds donated in previous years where the budget needs align with the gift giver's dedication focus. We are continuing to exercise prudence with regard to our financial decisions, but also continuing to invest in what makes EUMC a vibrant place to worship.

Capital Campaign Update: We have now utilized all gifts received to date and any funds received going forward will be used to pay down our loan, reducing our financing costs. We cannot thank you enough for your amazing generosity!

At our March all-church meeting, we approved a deficit budget. At that time, we were predicting a \$90,000 deficit. Thanks to your generous contributions, we have reduced that to an expected \$50,000 deficit. We are still hoping to increase giving and income to balance the budget for 2024.

Thanks to the ecumenical worship service, we combined our offering with our partner churches to send over \$1,700 to NAMI. NAMI works to advocate and support those facing mental health issues.

Tyler Cronk and Beverly Eckhardt



PURPOSE

Loving Beyond Ourselves

VISION

To be known as a nurturing, inclusive and courageous Christian community.

MISSION

Sharing God's love by building community, serving others, and standing for justice.

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