



Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church * ELCA

P. O. Box 119 * 101 Main Street * Hanley Falls, MN 56245



FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 2026
Volume 7,
Issue 2

Pastor Ponderings



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 18th. I love this time of the year! Worship is so rich! A free standing cross gets set up, and our hearts are led to think on Jesus. Think about who he was - what he suffered - and how he is with us in our suffering. We think about the fact that he knows us, but still loves us, *enough to give his own life!!!*

It's easy to see that Lent is the holiest season of our church calendar as we prepare to mark Jesus' death and Resurrection. So I hope you will set aside these 40 days (not counting Sundays) to take notice, and take part. Think of it as *spring training* for modern day disciples!

Gwen Arneson will be leading the Lenten worship services with Tim Velde taking the baton during Holy Week. Pastor Sarah will be with you on Sundays!

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Services—2026 “Lent In Plain Sight”

God works through the ordinary. Ordinary people and everyday objects. In these days of Lent as we gather for Wednesday evening services, we will be invited to open ourselves to the kingdom of God, which is close at hand and in our midst. Each week we will focus on an ordinary object, something we likely encounter in our daily living, and consider through those objects the possibility and the promise that God is present and speaking, inviting us into closer relationship.

Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on February 18. It will include Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. There will be a light meal at 6:15 pm.

On February 25, our Wednesday evenings will begin with a light meal together in the fellowship hall at 6:15 p.m. followed at 7:00 p.m. by informal worship and reflection, concluding with Holden Evening Prayer.

Our focus for each week will be as follows:

Ash Wednesday, February 18—Dust

Wednesday, February 25—Bread

Wednesday, March 4—Cross

Wednesday, March 11—Coins

Wednesday, March 18—Shoes

Wednesday, March 25—Coats, Towels, and Thorns

I love Lent because we are together more. We *eat together* at Lenten Suppers. Then we *worship together*. Life together is so central to being a Christian! We are not alone. We're part of a community that shares a faith, hope, and a passion for serving, like Christ served. Above all, we share love! How can we grow as a community this Lenten season? Expect to stretch and grow in faith these 40 days!

“I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights”. Genesis 7.4

O God, our beginning and our end, you provide us a time to feast and a time to fast, a time to embark and a time to return home. Give us companions for our journey as we navigate toward you. May it be so: Amen.
from 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS Pocket Evotions for Lent, Gail Ramshaw.

Pastor Sarah

“Prayer is like a muscle. The more we exercise it, the stronger we become in prayer!”

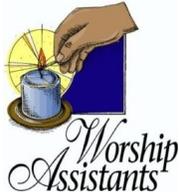
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Bible Study



BIBLE STUDY will resume “40 Days Through the Bible” via Zoom on February 4th and 18th at 9:30 am. Everyone is invited to join us via Zoom in the comfort of your home. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Cindy Velde at 507-828-7593. 1



ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS NEEDED: If you would like to help with the Altar Guild in the coming years, please talk to Connie Velde at 507-828-4227.

NEW COOKBOOKS AVAILABLE: Is your church cookbook worn out, splattered with various ingredients, missing a cover or pages? You are in luck, for the newly reprinted Favorite Recipes of Yellow Medicine Lutheran cookbook is now available. This is a joint fundraiser between the Yellow Medicine Lutheran and WELCA. Cookbooks are \$10.00. They are for sale at First Independent Bank or please contact Cindy Eye if you would like to purchase one. (507) 768-3547 or ceye@mvtvwireless.com.

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM: To receive emergency warnings within Yellow Medicine County, click on the CodeRED logo at the website www.co.ym.mn.gov. You can register to receive community notifications of severe thunderstorms, flash floods, & tornadoes and other emergency information.

FEBRUARY ASSIGNMENTS:

Leader:

- 1 Pastor Sarah Tadé
- 8 Pastor Sarah Tadé
- 15 Gwen Arneson
- 18 Gwen Arneson
- 22 Pastor Sarah Tadé
- 25 Gwen Arneson

Accompanists:

- 1 Emma Gregoire
- 8 Augusta Volstad
- 15 Augusta Volstad
- 18 TBD
- 22 Emma Gregoire
- 25 TBD

Ushers:

- 1 Jon Thostenson
- 8 Justin Torke
- 15 Brooks Torke
- 18 Brooks Torke
- 22 Kevin Eye
- 25 Kevin Eye

Lay Readers

- 1 Julie Volstad
- 8 Augusta Volstad
- 15 Ayla Volstad Hughes
- 18 Ayla Volstad Hughes
- 22 Cindy Eye
- 25 Cindy Eye

Technology

- 1 Paige Lehrkamp
- 8 Julie Volstad
- 15 Julie Volstad
- 18 Julie Volstad
- 22 Paige Lehrkamp
- 25 Paige Lehrkamp

Altar Guild:

Carol Tusberg

Communion Assistant

Gary Enger

Funeral Chairs:

Service Team #3 will be in charge of the next funeral.

Co-chairs are:

Cindy Lundy at 507-423-5633 and Jill Fry at 507-828-0574



February Birthdays!

- 3 Bruce Lundin
- K. D. Segale
- 7 Kenneth Rikke
- 12 Holly Oftedahl
- Mark Oftedahl
- 14 Darlene Erickson
- 15 Mary Jane Harris
- 19 Donna Ricke
- 22 Alison Bakkellund
- Barb Bresson
- Beckett Hagen
- 23 Rick Hewitt



YMLC
Stewardship Offerings
4 weeks beginning
Sunday, January 4, 2026
and ending
Sunday, January 25, 2026

General Fund	\$	3,693.00
Cemetery Fund		0
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$	3,693.00

Budgeted each week: \$1,566

YTD Budgeted Offering	\$	6,264.00
YTD Actual Offering		3,693.00
BEHIND BUDGET	\$	2,571.00

Potlucks after Worship services in the Fellowship Hall will resume on the first Sundays of each month during the Fall and Winter months through February.





Effective January 1, 2026, cemetery lot prices will increase.

Member: One (1) 4' x 16' grave lot will increase to \$200.00

Non-Member: One (1) 4' x 16' grave lot will increase to \$400.00

Thanks,
YMLC Cemetery Board

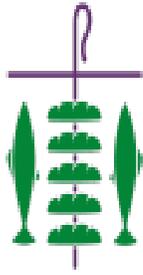
Quilting every Tuesday at 9:00 am, with a potluck lunch at 10:00. All are welcome! If you have any questions please get in touch with Connie Velde.

PRAIRIE CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY will be held at First Lutheran Church (Marshall) on Sunday, February 22nd. We are strongly encouraged to attend. There will be a rolling start lunch at 12:30pm, time for fellowship, and business at 2pm, intending to finish by 3pm.

*Let all that you do
be done in*
LOVE
Corinthians 16:14

SOUTH AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP TRIP PLANNING will continue on Tuesday, February 3rd at 11:30am at Brau Brothers in Marshall. The Prairie Conference aims to send a delegation to the Mfolozi Circuit the first two weeks of August 2026. If you are interested in going, or simply want to support our companionship ministry, please do come!





THE BANQUET

NEEDED:

The Banquet, a feeding ministry in Sioux Falls where people in need can gather, receive nourishment and experience love in action, requests any donations of empty containers, such as Cool Whip containers, larger yogurt containers, cottage cheese, etc... for leftover food.

A box has been placed in the church entry for any donations. A very sincere THANK YOU for your generosity!

SPECIAL MUSIC

If anyone would like to provide special music, or know of someone who would be willing to provide special music—PLEASE contact one of the worship committee members: Augusta, Emma, Julie, Connie or Colleen.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday Services start at 11:00 am., Lent Wednesday Services at 6:30 pm

Sunday, February 1 – Worship in the Sanctuary followed by a potluck

Sunday, February 8 – Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary, Installation of Officers

Sunday, February 15 – Worship in the Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday, February 18—Worship at 6:30 pm

Sunday, February 22—Worship in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 25—Worship at 6:30 pm



YMLC NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The newsletter deadline is set for the 20th of the month. Please let Angie know of any additions or changes to the newsletter you would like to make.

Next newsletter deadline is February 20th.

Email Angie at: yellowmedicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com. **If you would prefer to read the newsletter online** (and save printing and mailing costs), please email yellowmedicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com.

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 119
101 Main Street
Hanley Falls, MN 56245
www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

E-mail:
Yellowmedicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com
Phone Angie at 507-766-0909

Pastor Sarah Tadé—507-589-9308
pastorsarah@granitefallslutheran.com

Tim Velde, Synodically Authorized Minister—
tcvfarm@yahoo.com, 507-828-5343
Gwen Arneson, Synodically Authorized
Minister— gwenarneson@yahoo.com,
612-280-5987



You can find us at
[www.facebook.com/
yellowmedicinelutheran](http://www.facebook.com/yellowmedicinelutheran).

Please notify us when:

There is a birth or
adoption of a child

There is a death in
your family

There is a
hospitalization in
your family

Someone becomes
home bound

Someone becomes
unemployed

You move or get a new
phone number

A child moves out of
the house or
attends college, or
whenever there is a
cause for sorrow or
a cause for joy.

PRAYER LIST:

At YMLC – Doug Anderson, Carol Engel, Elmo Volstad, Les Reisner,
Ruth Sharkey, Lola Hoseck, Bonnie Gustafson
In the Community – Jeff Mertens, Rudy Espinoza, Morgan Dale,
Pastor Larry Olson

(If you know of any changes to the prayer list, please let Angie know. We will have people on the prayer list for a month and then remove them unless we receive an additional request or are given details for longer.)

YMLC EAST & WEST CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS

- **NO SHRUBBERY SHALL BE ALLOWED.**
 - **ALL FAMILY DECORATIONS ARE AT THE FAMILY'S OWN RISK AND WILL BE REMOVED AT THE NEXT MOWING.**
 - **ALL FOOT MARKERS ARE TO BE SET AT GRASS LEVEL TO PRECLUDE EQUIPMENT DAMAGE.**
 - **IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE SEXTONS TO ENTER UPON ANY LOT OR GRAVE TO PROHIBIT, MODIFY, OR REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF ANY STRUCTURE OR OBJECT WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN PLACED THERE IN VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SUBMITTED, OR WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED IN THEIR JUDGMENT TO BE UNSIGHTLY, DANGEROUS, OBJECTIONABLE, OR INTERFERING WITH THE CEMETERY OPERATIONS.**
 - **FAMILY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF SNOW REMOVAL IN THE CASE OF WINTER BURIALS.**
- THE CEMETERY BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THESE RULES OR TO MAKE SUCH OTHER RULES AS THEY DEEM NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CEMETERY. NO NOTICE OF SUCH INTENDED CHANGES SHALL BE REQUIRED.

We're on the web!
www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

Contributions



If you are in need of a new box of contribution envelopes, please contact Angie and she will get you one. But please use the old box until it is empty.

The tithes and donations you make to Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church make a difference to our church and our community. There are various ways you can donate:

- We pass a collection plate during services
- You can send a check to YMLC, P. O. Box 119, Hanley Falls, MN 56245
- Electronic giving is available for 24/7 donations. Just visit www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org under GIVING and press the "DONATE NOW" button.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."
Proverbs 3:9

Monthly Treasurer's Report - Dec 2025

12/1/2025 through 12/31/2025

1/13/2026

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Category	12/1/2025- 12/31/2025
INFLOWS	
RECEIPTS	
General Expense Offerings	9,852.31
Harvest Dinner	-886.35
Poinsettias	15.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	8,980.96
TOTAL INFLOWS	8,980.96
OUTFLOWS	
LOCAL MINISTRY	
Federal & State Withholding	0.00
FICA-Medicare (lay employees)	222.15
Pastor's Salary	2,871.34
Staff Salaries	2,904.17
Travel Expense (Pastor)	84.00
TOTAL LOCAL MINISTRY	6,081.66
OUR CHURCH BUILDING	
New Equipment & Maintenance	250.00
Property Upkeep - Church Building	122.19
Utilities & Fuel	771.60
TOTAL OUR CHURCH BUILDING	1,143.79
OUR MISSION	
ELCA-SWMN Synod	2,500.00
Prairie Conference, SWMN Synod, ELCA	49.00
SMSU Campus Ministries	196.00
TOTAL OUR MISSION	2,745.00
WORSHIP & EDUCATION	
e-Giving Transaction Fees	15.00
Office Supplies & Repairs	526.80
Worship Supplies	290.96
TOTAL WORSHIP & EDUCATION	832.76
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	10,803.21
OVERALL TOTAL	-1,822.25

SAVINGS

Parsor age Sale	\$ 30,755.89
Food Stand Profits	9,158.17
Other savings	102,576.65
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$ 142,490.71

CHECKING

CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 11/30/25	\$ 11,190.64
CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 12/31/25	9,368.39
	\$ 1,822.25

TOTAL SAVINGS & CHECKING: **\$ 151,859.10**

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 14th, 2026, at 6:30pm - Care Center

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 at 6:30pm - Care Center

Present: Kevin Eye, Megan McPhail, Daryl Gregoire, Augusta Volstad, Vonnie Severson, Teresa Ofstedahl, Rich Hagen
Absent: Gary Enger

Present: Megan McPhail, Vonnie Severson, Rich Hagen, Kevin Eye, Daryl Gregoire
Absent: Augusta Volstad, Gary Enger, Teresa Ofstedahl, Pastor Sarah Toad

1. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kevin.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kevin.

2. Devotions were led by Daryl - Isaiah 55.

2. Devotions led by Kevin.

3. Agenda was approved.

3. Agenda was approved.

4. Secretary's Minutes were approved.

4. Secretary's Minutes were approved.

5. Treasurer's Report was approved.

5. Treasurer's Report was approved.

6. Committee Reports: P&M have been replacing fluorescent lights downstairs in the Fellowship Hall as they burn out. Bisbee's came to service the boiler heater.

6. No Committee Reports.

7. Pastor Sarah's Report was reviewed.

7. Pastor Sarah's Report was reviewed.

8. Old Business

8. Old Business

- Nominating committee – update (report to Angie). Searching for one more council member. Letter will be sent encouraging people to come forward.
- Finalized 2026 budget.
- YMLC Church Pictorial update.
 - Angie is working on this project. April 21-25 at GFLC (YMLC members can go there; or one day the following week at YMLC)
- YMLC Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 25th, following Worship services. We need 30 for a quorum. Meeting is available to attend via Zoom.
 - Following the annual meeting, council meets in Care Center to determine YMLC officers: Congregational President, Vice-President, Secretary.

- Children's Christmas Play at YMLC will be Sunday, December 14th.
- Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, December 21st at 11 AM at YMLC.
- 2026 Nominating Committee – Reviewed which positions need to be filled: Kevin's term expiring (will have done 6 years – three 2-year terms). Vonnie may run for another term (currently ending 2nd term = 4th year). Rich is in the beginning of his 3rd term (5th year). Tom Ofstedahl's term will be up for Cemetery Board. Kevin plans to replace Al Torke's position there. Carol Engel's Memorial committee term will be up (needs to be replaced). Julie Volstad's Worship committee term is up (may be re-elected). Connie Velde term up on Parish ed committee. Judy Enger & Britanna Torke terms will be up on Stewardship committee and will need to be re-elected (no limit). Currently 5 ushers (Kevin to contact).

9. New Business

9. New Business

- Sunday bulletin: proposal to add the order of service & hymns, liturgy, readings, and psalms information. Approved.

- Work on the 2026 YMLC Budget – We will look at this next month and finalize in January.
- YMLC Annual Meeting – January 25th after Worship.
- Church Pictorial Directory – Angie will work on this project with GFLC.

10. Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 11th at 6:30p. At that meeting, determine who is on what committee, what month giving council devotions & monthly communion assistance.

10. Next meeting will be on 6:30pm Wednesday, January 14th.

11. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

11. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Augusta Volstad, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,
Augusta Volstad, Secretary

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live with a potluck following worship.	2	3 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am South African Partnership Trip Planning at 11:30 am at Brau Brothers	4 Bible Study via Zoom at 9:30 am	5	6	7
8 COMMUNION 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live. Installation of Officers	9	10 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am	11 YMLC Council meets at 6:30 pm in the Care Center	12	13	14
15 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live. YMLC Council meets prior to worship at 10:00 pm in the Care Center	16	17 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am	18 Ash Wednesday Bible Study via Zoom at 9:30 am Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:00 pm, meal at 6:15 pm	19	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21
22 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live. Prairie Conference Assembly at First Lutheran Church (Marshall) at 12:30 pm	23	24 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am	25 Lent Worship at 7:00 pm, meal at 6:15 pm	26	27	28