



Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church * ELCA

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

Pastor Ponderings



March

MARCH 2026
Volume 7,
Issue 3

Lent, a time of Spring Cleaning for the Soul!

When I invited people to consider Lent as a season of Spring Cleaning for the Soul, one person thought of their cancer treatments going to work to clean up the cancer! That is an encouraging thought. When I talked about leaving behind the things that separate us from God and others this Lent, another person thought of the baggage of broken relationships they are carrying around. Wouldn't it be amazing if the spiritual work that we are called to do this Lenten season would bring us feeling lighter with a clean heart and relationships mended by Easter?



The book of Genesis tells the story of how from the beginning human families have struggled. Esau hated his brother Jacob, because Jacob had cheated him out of his father's blessing. He wanted to kill him. (Genesis 27.41) Joseph's brothers didn't like how Joseph seemed to be their father's favorite, or the dreams he had, revealing him to be greater than them. They were going to kill him, but instead sold him to traders en route for Egypt, and told their father that he had been devoured by wild animals! (Genesis 37.19-20)

All human families experience conflict, the source of which can be traced back years if not decades and even generations. It's not something you like to live with, or worse yet carry to the grave, so how can we address these conflicts and make peace?

First, let us think of what God has done for us in Jesus: *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! 2 Corinthians 5.17* We are made new by the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Jesus, we are forgiven and put into right relationship with God. Here is how the Apostle Paul talks about it:

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 2 Corinthians 5.18-21

When we experience God's grace – that we've received from God more than we have coming – our hearts are made new! The next thing is to extend that grace to others, even if you feel you have been wronged, or know that you've been hurt. Work on extending forgiveness in your own heart. Then, offer that forgiveness in person, as Jesus taught us to do: "...as we forgive those who sin against us." Ask God to help you.

After years of separation, Jacob and Esau were reunited: *"But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him and they wept."* Genesis 33.4 Know that new life is possible!

Blessings, dear people of God, for *spring cleaning* this Lent, for your own heart and your relationships. Pastor Sarah

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Bible Study



BIBLE STUDY will resume "40 Days Through the Bible" via Zoom on March 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.

**MARCH
ASSIGNMENTS:**

Leader:

- 1 Pastor Sarah Tade
- 4 Gwen Arneson
- 8 Pastor Sarah Tade
- 11 Gwen Arneson
- 15 Gwen Arneson
- 18 Gwen Arneson
- 22 Pastor Sarah Tade
- 25 Gwen Arneson
- 29 Pastor Sarah Tade

Accompanists:

- 1 Emma Gregoire
- 4 Colleen Hewitt
- 8 Colleen Hewitt
- 11 Augusta Volstad
- 15 Emma Gregoire
- 18 Augusta Volstad
- 22 Augusta Volstad
- 25 TBD
- 29 Augusta Volstad

Ushers:

- 1 Gary Enger
- 4 Gary Enger
- 8 Jon Thostenson
- 11 Jon Thostenson
- 15 Justin Torke
- 18 Justin Torke
- 22 Brooks Torke
- 25 Brooks Torke
- 29 Kevin Eye

Lay Readers

- 1 Pastor Sarah Tade
- 4 Augusta Volstad
- 8 Kris Nygaard
- 11 Ayla Volstad Hughes
- 15 Tessa Lundin
- 18 Augusta Volstad
- 22 Julie Volstad
- 25 Ayla Volstad Hughes
- 29 Augusta Volstad

Technology

- 1 Kevin Eye
- 4 Kevin Eye
- 8 Paige Lehrkamp
- 11 Paige Lehrkamp
- 15 Julie Volstad
- 18 Julie Volstad
- 22 Paige Lehrkamp
- 25 Paige Lehrkamp
- 29 Julie Volstad

Acolyte:

- 1 Brynn Lundin
- 15 Tessa Lundin

Altar Guild:

Carol Tusberg

Communion Assistant

Daryl Gregoire

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS NEEDED: If you would like to help with the Altar Guild in the coming years, please talk to Angie Thostenson at 507-766-0909.

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.

**March
Birthdays!**

- 5 Austin Eckstrom
Nancy Sharkey
- 6 Aaron Bakkelund
- 7 Julie Oftedahl
Wayne Oftedahl
- 9 Adeline Dunker
Cora Dunker
- 12 Vernon Ellingson
- 13 Ashley Jorgenson
- 16 Del Bresson
Wendy Reisner
Carol Tusberg
- 18 Ebba Gregoire
Arlan Gustafson
- 19 Liam Eckstrom
- 21 Brianna Oftedahl
Morgan Thorkelson
- 22 Carol Martin
Sandy Sharkey
- 23 Oskar Gregoire
- 24 Tim Velde
- 30 Rhett Picard
- 31 Kevin Eye

**YMLC
Stewardship Offerings
4 weeks beginning
Sunday, February 1, 2026
and ending
Sunday, February 22, 2026**

General Fund	\$	4,760.00
Cemetery Fund		0
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$	4,760.00

Budgeted each week: \$1,566

YTD Budgeted Offering	\$	12,528.00
YTD Actual Offering		8,453.00
BEHIND BUDGET	\$	4,075.00



Funeral Chairs:

Service Team #4 will be in charge of the next funeral. Co-chairs are: Patty Savoie 507-768-3625 or 507-530-5825 and Julie Oftedahl 507-768-3635



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!

LENTEN WORSHIP - 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:

Wednesday, March 4-Cross

Wednesday, March 11-Coins

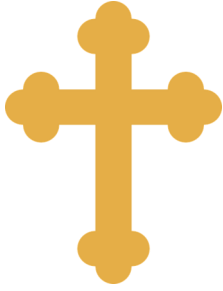
Wednesday, March 18-Shoes

Wednesday, March 25-Coats, Towels, and

The Stewardship Committee will be serving suppers during Lent. Suppers begin on Ash Wednesday and serving starts at 6:15 pm. Anyone willing to bring dessert for the Lenten suppers, contact Cindy Eye or Judy Enger.



Ministerial Acts:



TRANSFER OUT: Sharon Stevens transferred her membership to Christ Lutheran Church, Cottonwood MN on February 2st, 2026

TRANSFER OUT: Robert & Donna Ricke transferred their membership to Christ Lutheran Church, Cottonwood MN on February 2st, 2026



**You are invited to the
2026 SW MN Synodical
Women's Organization Convention**



Saturday, May 2, 2026
Calvary Lutheran Church
302 Olena Avenue SE, Willmar, Minnesota

“Rising in Faith, Leading with Courage”
Honoring Women in Ministry in our Synod



Theme Verse:
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Psalm 139:14 NRSVue

Registration Fee: \$40 - includes lunch and concert

- Opening Worship with Holy Communion: Bishop Dee Pederson and Synod Minister Heather Culuris
- Keynote Speaker: TBA
- Special Performance by Sweetwater Revival

In-Kind Offerings for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries will be collected in the parking lot.
 • Convention Offerings: 50% to Churchwide Women, 25% to Hope for Our City, 25% to LWR for shipping
 • In-Kind Donations of canned goods will be collected for Hope for Our City in Willmar.
 • Katie's Cans will be on the tables at lunch. Bring your loose change for Katie's Fund.

- 7:30 a.m. Registration and service projects begin. Coffee and treats will be served
- In-Kind Offering Drop-off begins in church parking lot.**
- 9:00 a.m. Convention Opens, In-Kind Drop-off ends, Opening Worship
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Service opportunities, recognition of women in ministry, short business meeting and election of SWO Board members, guest speakers, lunch, commissioning of Triennial Voting Members, and Sweetwater Revival concert.

The Lutheran Men in Mission Convention will be held simultaneously.
Please encourage the men in your congregation to attend.

2026 Mission In Action Quilters



“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

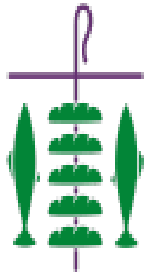
Hebrews 13:16

EASTER LILY MEMORIALS will be received again this year. If you would like to remember a loved one in this way, please mail or place in the offering plate the attached tear off slip and your check for \$15.00 per lily payable to Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church. We would like to know how many to order NO LATER THAN Sunday, March 8th. If you plan on bringing your own lily, leave a note or call to let us know who it is in memory or honor of. Thanks!



Lily given in memory of/honor of (circle one):

Given by: _____



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, or Colleen.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday Services start at 11:00 am., Lent Wednesday Services at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 1 – Worship in the Sanctuary, Baptism of Nova Torke

Wednesday, March 4—Worship at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 8 – Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 11—Worship at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 15 – Worship in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 18—Worship at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 22— Worship in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 25—Worship at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 29— Worship in the Sanctuary



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 March 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 – Family of Connie Velde, Tim Velde, Doug Anderson,
Carol Engel, Elmo Volstad, Les Reisner, Ruth Sharkey, Lola
Hoseck, Bonnie Gustafson

In the Community – Jeanette Kruger, 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 - Jan 2026

1/1/2026 through 1/31/2026

2/13/2026

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Category	1/1/2026- 1/31/2026
INFLOWS	
RECEIPTS	
General Expense Offerings	3,755.59
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3,755.59
TOTAL INFLOWS	3,755.59
 OUTFLOWS	
LOCAL MINISTRY	
Federal & State Withholding	-40.00
FICA-Medicare (lay employees)	192.46
MN Paid Family Medical Leave	-0.61
Pastor's Salary	2,871.34
Staff Salaries	1,315.83
Travel Expense (Pastor)	93.80
TOTAL LOCAL MINISTRY	4,432.82
OUR CHURCH BUILDING	
New Equipment & Maintenance	150.00
Property Insurance	4,071.00
Property Upkeep - Church Building	92.25
Utilities & Fuel	1,780.15
TOTAL OUR CHURCH BUILDING	6,093.40
WORSHIP & EDUCATION	
e-Giving Transaction Fees	15.00
Office Supplies & Repairs	651.79
TOTAL WORSHIP & EDUCATION	666.79
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	11,193.01
OVERALL TOTAL	-7,437.42

SAVINGS

Parsonage Sale	\$ 30,755.89
Food Stand Profits	9,158.17
Other savings	104,351.46
TOTAL SAVINGS	\$ 144,265.52

CHECKING

CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 12/31/25	\$ 9,368.39
CHECKING BALANCE AS OF 1/31/26	1,930.97
	\$ 7,437.42

TOTAL SAVINGS & CHECKING: **\$ 146,196.49**

Dear Church *family,*
It's time for a New Directory!



*Celebrating faith.
Connecting families.
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

**New YMLC Picture Church Directory
Picture Day—April 28th, 2026**

More info to come!!

If you are a member and unable to attend you can send a picture of yourself or family to Angie at yellow-medicinelutheranchurch@gmail.com. There is a \$15 fee for pictures that are sent in. These pictures will be part of the directory.

• **Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church!** You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!



*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook. Baptism for Nova Torke, daughter of Justin & Britanna Torke	2	3 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am	4 Bible Study via Zoom at 9:30 am Lent Worship at 7:00 pm, meal at 6:15 pm	5	6	7
8 COMMUNION 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live. YMLC Council meets prior to worship at 10:00 pm in the Care Center Easter Lily Order Due	9	10 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am	11 Lent Worship at 7:00 pm, meal at 6:15 pm	12	13	14
15 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live.	16	17 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am	18 Bible Study via Zoom at 9:30 am Lent 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.	23	24 WIA Quilting at 9:00 am	25 Lent Worship at 7:00 pm, meal at 6:15 pm	26	27	28
29 11:00 am Worship in person or via Facebook live.	30	31				