

HMC The Witness

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE
HOLDREGE METHODIST CHURCH

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – Noon, 12:30-2:30 pm

Fridays – 9:00 am - Noon

Office phone #: 308-995-8691

Email: holdregemethodistchurch@gmail.com



AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

How are you doing with your challenge of reading through the Bible in a year? I have read through Genesis, Exodus and now I have moved into Leviticus . In the book of Genesis are stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Then the story of Moses leading three million Hebrews out of Egypt into the Promised Land.

It was a few days after the Israelites passed through the Red Sea , that the grumbling and discontent began to surface as the people marched into the wilderness. The food and water were soon gone. The nation that God had delivered by faith and they must learn by faith.

Israel learned the hard way that blessings bring on responsibility. God provided quail, manna and water for the basic needs of the people. The manna that was provided by God had to be prepared and eaten in a special way. God's presence in the pillar of fire and cloud was comforting but it wasn't obedience. Then the pillar over Israel moved.

Make a list of God's blessing that you have received since the first of the year. Then give thanks to God for those blessings and for His love for you , Valentine's Day is an opportunity for you to share your love and blessings for those in your life . Continue to discover God's love as you read your Bible.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Pastor George

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



*Happy Birthday!
May the Lord continue to protect you
and bring peace and joy to your life.*

- 1 Brad Ludeke
Charles Johnson
- 2 Joe Marquardt
Griffin Wiser
- 3 Brad Rademaker
Kelly Bernt
Gavin Norris
- 4 Tracie Ludeke
Laura Sanders
Sunder Schemper
- 5 Donna Schrock
- 8 Mona Peterson
Braden Walker
- 9 Rhonda Johnson
- 12 Scott Marquardt
Tim Malm
- 13 Mark Kassing
- 14 Zachary Marquardt
- 15 Richard Loar
Andrea Silver
- 16 Zeigh Booe
Jayme Schroeder
Trish David
Allan Hohlfeld
- 18 Sandy Beachler
JJ Bell
Betty Lindsay
Jackie Reiss
- 21 Travis Dahlin
Alex Helms
- 22 Karen Upthagrove
- 23 Bruce Raddatz
Ed Harris
- 24 Donielle Gange
- 27 Cecilia Schrock
Sage Schemper
Sue Cromer



"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." Psalm 20:4

If you have not been attending church in person, WE MISS YOU! Please come see us, we would like to see you again!

JANUARY ATTENDANCE:		
	8:30 am	10:00 am
January 7	30	53
January 14	NO CHURCH DUE TO WEATHER	
January 21	29	36
January 28	30	38



**How are we doing financially?
MONTHLY BUDGET: \$25,000.00**

JANUARY OFFERINGS:	
January 7	\$ 6,244.00
January 14	NO CHURCH
January 21	\$ 4,835.25
January 28	\$ 1,640.00
TOTAL TO DATE	\$12,719.25

Food Pantry items needed:


Breakfast items: oatmeal, pancake syrup, juices.
Meal items: Soups, crackers, Hamburger Helper dinners, etc.
Toiletries: tissues, toilet paper, hygiene products (soaps, deodorant, lotions).
Thank you for supporting our local food pantry and help fill our baskets!



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February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 am Holdrege Women in Faith Executive monthly meeting	2 National Wear RED Day	3 
4 GEORGE PROBASCO COMMUNION 8:30 am Praise Café in Fellowship Hall 10:00 am Traditional service in Sanctuary	5 1:30 pm HMMH communion	6 7:30 am Methodist Men's Breakfast @ Cozy Inn 1:30 pm Happy Hookers crochet group meet 1:30 pm Christian Homes communion	7 10:00 am Prayer Group 4 – 5 pm Kids Rock 7 – 8:30 pm Youth Group	8 9:30 am Naomi/Rebecca Group	9 	10
11 GEORGE PROBASCO 8:30 am Praise Café in Fellowship Hall 10:00 am Traditional service in Sanctuary	12	13 7:30 am Methodist Men's Breakfast @ Cozy Inn 1:30 pm Happy Hookers crochet group meet 6:30 pm-9:30pm Quilt Guild to meet in FH	14 9:30 am Elisabeth Group 9:30 am Ruth Group 4 – 5 pm Kids Rock 6-7 pm Ash Wednesday service, open house w/Jean Clayton 7 – 8:30 pm Youth Group	15 	16	17 
18 JEAN CLAYTON 8:30 am Praise Café in Fellowship Hall 10:00 am Traditional service in Sanctuary	19 President's Day  6:30 pm Church Committee Meetings 7:30 pm Ad Council Mtg.	20 7:30 am Methodist Men's Breakfast @ Cozy Inn 1:30 pm Happy Hookers crochet group meet	21 9:30 am Hannah Group 10:00 am Prayer Group 4 – 5 pm Kids Rock 7 – 8:30 pm Youth Group	22 	23 	24
25 JOSEPH MARVIN 8:30 am Praise Café in Fellowship Hall 10:00 am Traditional service in Sanctuary	26	27 7:30 am Methodist Men's Breakfast @ Cozy Inn 1:30 pm Happy Hookers crochet group meet	28 5:00 - 6:30 pm Family Fun Night (Pre-K-6 th do NOT meet) 7:00-8:30pm Youth Group	29 IT'S A LEAD YEAR!		



Join the church youth group and see what they have to offer in a safe environment.

Meeting Dates:

Feb. 7, 14 21

Feb. 28 Family Fun Night

(5:00 – 6:30 pm-Pre-K – 6 do not meet these nights)

4 – 5:00 pm Pre-K – 6th

7 - 8:30 pm Grades 7-12

Our church's Happy Hooker crochet group meets on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall to work on crochet projects and build relationships. All are welcome!



The Quilter's Guild will be meeting February 13th in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

The 2024 Church Directory will be available very soon. Additional information was gathered at the January Ad Council meeting and due to the staffing shortage and our disaffiliation decision, it has been a long and tedious mission to collect as much correct information as we were able to. Upon receiving your copy of the directory, please check your information carefully, and if there is a correction needed regarding your entry, please contact the church office, 995-8691, so the correct information can be available for next year's copy. Thank you for your patience and assistance with getting the correct information captured in our church's directory.



CHURCH COMMITTEE AND AD COUNCIL MEETINGS
February 19, 2024
 6:30 pm – Committee Meetings
 7:30 pm – Ad Council Meeting
ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!

Jean Clayton will be having our Ash Wednesday service on February 14 from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. This will be an open house where you will be able to come and go as you need. She will be giving a handout, going through a short itinerary and then you will be able to depart. This time will be honoring the events of Ash Wednesday. Hope all of you can attend.

*Giving reports have been mailed. If you have NOT received your letter with your giving report, and you believe you should have received one, please contact the church office at 308-995-8691. Thank you!

Meals on Wheels is still looking for new volunteers. If you would be able to help out in this worthwhile project, please contact Jeanne Bergsten at 308-991-1462 or email her at gjbergsten@gmail.com

Serving the church:

8:30 am Praise Café in Fellowship Hall		
	Café Hosts	Greeters
Feb. 4	JoAnn E & Sandy M	Shirley Messersmith
Feb. 11	Wes & Tari Rademaker	Owen Harden
Feb. 18	Bob & Cathy Wolley	Linda DiGiovanni
Feb. 25	Russ & Nancy Cruise	Marilyn Burkholder

10:00 am service in Sanctuary	
USHERS	
Feb. 4	Team 1
Feb. 11	Team 2
Feb. 18	Team 3
Feb. 25	Team 4

*New Members Received into our congregation
on October 29, 2023*



Shown in the picture at left are those who joined the Holdrege Methodist Church at the 10:00 service:

Left to right:

*Emily (Harold) Johnson
Pauline Bogart
Madison Bowers
Sheila Bogart
Abby Kinnaman
Kelly Bernt &
Haley Bernt w/son, Bo*

Please make these new members feel welcome, loved and a part of our congregation.



Shown above is Sue Cromer, who also joined the Holdrege Methodist Church on October 29, 2023 at the 8:30 service.



Hi there, I'm **Emily (Harold) Johnson**. I am from West Branch, Iowa and recently graduated from Iowa State University. My parents are Scot and Carolyn Harold, and I have a younger brother, Kyle, who is a freshman at Southeast Community College. We grew up showing livestock and were very active in 4-H and FFA. I was a member of the West Branch United Methodist Church until moving to Holdrege, where I taught children's church, was in the Praise Band and helped in many other capacities. I am excited to serve God through the Holdrege Methodist Church alongside my husband, Grady. I just began my new job at Kaapa Ethanol in Kearney, and am looking forward to learning more about Nebraska agriculture.

Hi! My name is **Pauline Bogart**. I was born in Oregon and raised on the west coast of Washington. When I was 16, I married a boy from Colorado and so started my travels ending in Holdrege, NE. I have 5 children, three of which are in Holdrege. Two are still in Colorado. Eleven grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren and another one of the way.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



Hello Church! I am **Sue Cromer**, and Jean Wells is my sister. She is the greatest person I know; she helps me with anything. I grew up in Axtell, went to school there, from the first grade to 12th. I was baptized, confirmed, graduated and got married-all at the Trinity Lutheran Church. I went to Cosmetology school in Kearney and married Jerry Cromer from Kearney who had joined the Navy, so we travelled a lot. We had two sons, Daniel and Jason. Jerry retired from the Navy in Washington State where I worked for the Sheriff's department until I moved to Holdrege after Jerry's passing. I worked at the Holdrege Police Department until I moved to Bowling Green, Kentucky and started working at the Western Kentucky University in their police department. My Army son, Daniel and family were transferred to the University of Bowling Green, so I was close to the grandsons too. Daniel became the father of five boys. The oldest is married and lives in Ft. Campbell, KY. Daniel passed away December 2021 after retiring from the Army in 2019. He got to be a grandpa to a little girl, Adrianna, before he passed away. Finally got his girl! I retired from Western KY University in June of 2018, and took a vacation to Italy where my son's last duty station was before retirement. What a beautiful country. All seven of us traveled throughout Europe-even drove on the Autobahn-SCARY! A month before Daniel died, I had been tossing the idea around of moving back here but didn't know about finding a house. But the good Lord made it easy to decide what to do. While back here visiting and checking out housing possibilities, I walked into Bruce Furniture and asked Mike if he would ever want to sell his house (it had been my home prior to my selling it to Mike and moving to Kentucky). He said he didn't think he would be able to get his wife out of it. Well three months later, Barb Malm called me in Bowling Green and asked if I wanted my old house back. Well, that clinched it for me-I WAS MOVING and the rest is history, and I guess it will also be my future. I really enjoy living here, the people are the best, the church family has been the warmest and most welcoming I have ever encountered. Thank you, Church, for the warm welcome and I hope I can be a benefit to the church. God Bless each and every one of you.

Kelly and Haley Bernt live in Loomis. We have two sons, Bo, 4 and Barrett, 6 months. Kelly is an agronomist and a farmer, and I am the Digital Media Coordinator at Phelps Memorial Health Center. Bo is in pre-school at Loomis and his favorite things are going to work with his Dad, monster trucks, and participating in all the sports he can! Barrett is counting down the days until he can keep up with his big brother. Together they enjoy family movie dates, bowling trips, and spending as much time outdoors as they can, and spending time with their extended family.

Welcome our new administrative assistant!



Hello! I am **Rylee Freeland** and I am the new administrative assistant! I live outside of Atlanta with my husband, Kyle, and our three kids: Karter (11), Jennica (9), and Tucker (7). Plus some dogs, cats, chickens, ducks, pigs, and cows. My kids keep me busy with all their sporting events, but I also stay busy with baking and reading. I am excited to be here and I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone. Stop in and say "Hi!" anytime!

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ASH WEDNESDAY IN 2024?

In 2024, like every year, Ash Wednesday is the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. It always falls six and a half weeks before Easter, beginning the Lenten season of preparation for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and finally celebration.

Ash Wednesday dates back to the 11th century. Yet, the tradition of receiving ashes has even earlier roots—to the ancient Hebrew custom of clothing oneself in sackcloth and dusting oneself with ashes as a sign of penance. The forty-day period represents Christ’s time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ’s life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. The Lenten season concludes with Holy Week, which includes Palm Sunday and joyous celebration of Easter.

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. It symbolizes Christ’s return to Jerusalem after spending 40 days in the desert. The leftover palms from Palm Sunday are then burned and saved for the next Lenten season. So, this year’s ashes are from the palms of Palm Sunday of 2023. On Palm Sunday, churches bless and hand out palm branches to attendees, referencing the Gospels’ account of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when onlookers laid palm branches on his path.

The ashes of this holiday symbolize two things: death and repentance. “Ashes are equivalent to dust, and human flesh is composed of dust or clay (Genesis 2:7), and when a human corpse decomposes, it returns to dust or ash.

The cross of ashes on our foreheads means that we are making a commitment—that we are undertaking Lent as a season of prayer and penitence, of dying to ourselves. It also describes our human condition: it says that we are broken and need repair; that we are sinners and need redemption. Most importantly, it tells us that, as followers of Jesus Christ, we are to carry our crosses. When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.

The ashes symbolize our mortality. They are a physical reminder that our bodies will decay, but our souls will live on in eternal life. With the focus on our own mortality and sinfulness, Christians can enter into the Lent season solemnly while also looking forward in greater anticipation and joy to the message of Easter and Christ’s ultimate victory over sin and death.

(taken from the Christianity.com website)

Just a reminder for those doing flower ministry these are your months for taking care of the flowers.

January – Connie Nelson
 April – Marilyn Thompson
 July - ???
 October – Helen Wells

February – Sharon Nelson
 May – Gayla Hunt
 August – Heather Miller
 November – Judy S

March – Amanda Olson
 June – Jean Wells
 September – Marilyn T.
 December – Shirley M.

As you can see we still need someone to take care of July. Please contact Judy Shrock (991-1036) if you would be interested in volunteering for that month.

AD COUNCIL MONTHLY UPDATE-1-22-2024

MEMBERSHIP CARE	Crocheted lap blankets done by Cathy Woolley are available to be gifted to members of our church and friends that are in need of prayers and caring thoughts. Please contact either a member of Membership Care or Cathy Woolley if someone you know is in need of this thoughtful gift. Thank you Cathy! The committee will be contacting their "Care Bears" for Valentine's Day and making them feel the church's love for them. Communion at each of our nursing homes is a popular event, and due to respiratory illnesses, a monthly decision is made by the homes and our church to decide if we are able to have communion that month. Holdrege Memorial is the first Monday of each month at 1:30 pm in the chapel; Christian Homes is the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm in their chapel. Please feel free to join us at these gatherings for social time with these special residents. They love the experience. If communion is cancelled, notification will be given on Facebook.
Judy Schrock & Marilyn Layton	
Finance	The committee decided to increase the giving to Christian Charities from \$200 to \$1000. This was decided by the huge need of our county and the financial need of this organization. They have helped so many, and their expenditures are unbelievable, our church's Finance Committee wants to ease their burden. They also wish to thank the congregants for their giving and tithes. The giving has been steady, dependable, and gracious. They thank each and every one of you who show such strong support of your church! Date of the church's annual auction is November 17.
Kathy Wilkins	
Trustees	New co-chairpersons will be Brad Johnson and Larry Marvin for 2024. They are working on improving the kitchen in the parsonage and will be working with Mead Lumber of Kearney to get pricing for this project and then determine if it will be done. The church's insurance carrier has dropped us and they are working with Matt Mueller and he has said he has found someone else, so they are working on getting that in place. Also, Shane Stabenow will be contacting Seth at Nelson-Bauer to determine if funeral assistance is needed for funerals at our church. This would include the functions that the church greeters had been doing in the past and whether that needs to continue. The church had no water on Sunday January 21 due to frozen pipes, but within hours the water was flowing again. With the church being vacant so much currently, the lack of water movement was the probable cause.
Brad Johnson & Larry Marvin	
Memorials	Expenses were-November, the Global flag and banner. December, memorial money was spent for new Christmas décor for the sanctuary and sending out Thank You notes.
Linda DiGiovanni	
Worship	Working on the Easter schedule as Ash Wednesday will be here soon; they will be ordering Palm leaves again for Palm Sunday.
Karen Philips	
Missions	New Co-chairpersons are Sandy Dahlgren and Sharon Nelson. This is new territory for them, and they are in the process of learning what their committee does, what is expected of them, and how they can serve the church and others in the coming year. Their work will be focused on local, state and projects within the United States. Stay tuned for their efforts to come together.
Sandy Dahlgren & Sharon Nelson	
SPRC	It has been one year since we disaffiliated and many of the lay persons and available pastors have graced our church with their service for us. We will be following up with one person regarding the secretary position still open. We have spoken with our Elder, Shanon Williams, and there are possibilities in the pastor search, and we will be reaching out to other states and other areas of interest in our ramping up the search for pastoral candidates. Each of the committee members have duties that will assist with this search and will be meeting again next week to go over their results. The youth will be going on a ski trip to Snowy Range, Wyoming from March 7-10. There will be fund-raising opportunities to help them out with the costs of the trip, and they will be needing adult/parent sponsorship while on the trip. There are currently around 20 youth participating in the weekly meetings at the church, and the older youth are being mentored by Lexie Ludeke, Kameron Murray, and Shelby Schmidt. They are enjoying it and so are the kids, if you see them, give them a big Thank You!. We believe we will share Good Friday services with the Baptist Church as we have done in the past, and Pastor George Probasco will be doing our Palm Sunday and Easter services.
Brenda Johnson	
Endowment	Wes Nelson reported that we are getting very close to the amount of money we had before the stock market took a hit, so hopefully we will be seeing profits in the endowment fund. The Trustees have a CD that will be used for some of the improvements for the parsonage and Memorial Chairperson, Linda DiGiovanni, reported that she still had \$8600 from a specific memorial gift that could be used for this project.
New Business	It was voted and approved to move the committee and Ad Council meetings to the third Monday of the month to assist in getting information compiled and submitted for next month's newsletter. The February meeting will now be on February 19.
Tracie Ludeke	

Upper Midwest Conference

Of the Global Methodist Church

The Upper Midwest Provisional Conference consists of 170 churches in the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

All Conferences in the Global Methodist Church are provisional until the convening General Conference which will be held September 20-26, 2024, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

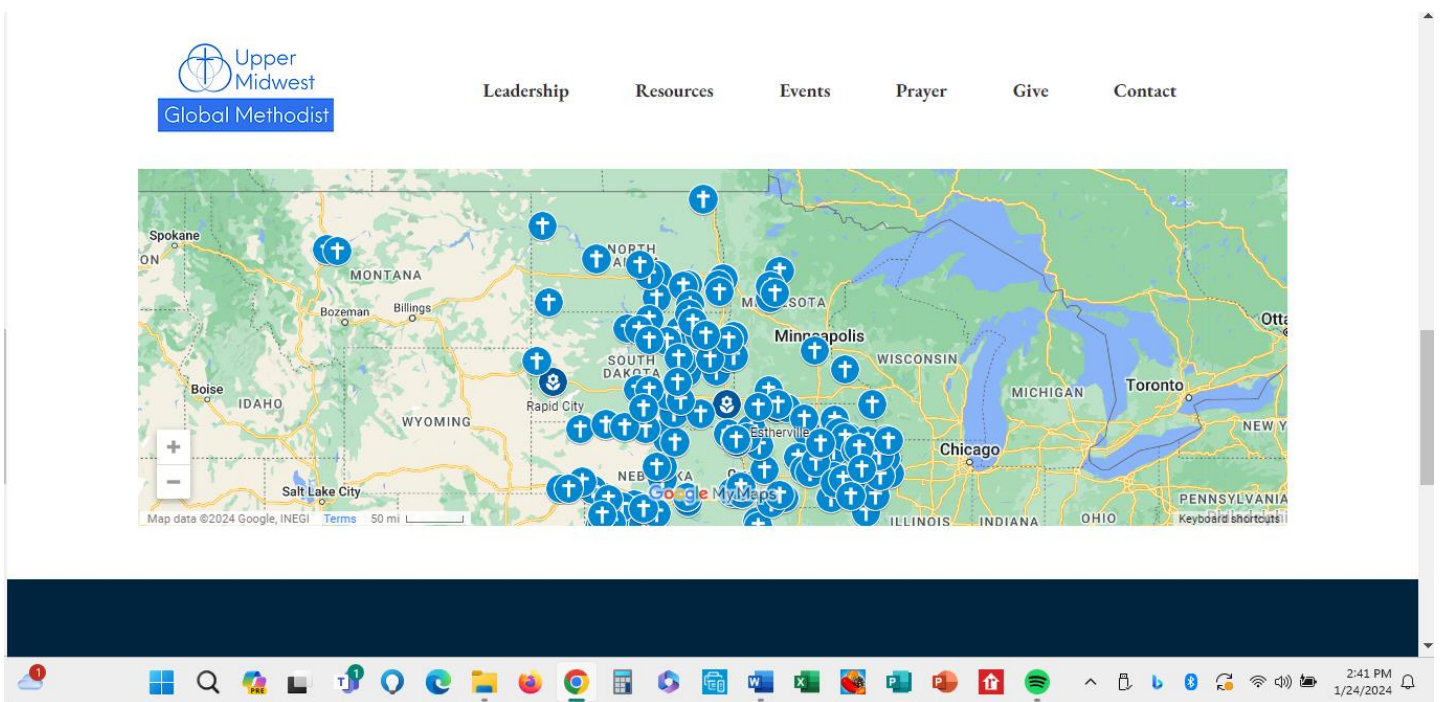
Mission

To lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

Vision

Every church is instrumental, and every leader is effective in sharing the saving and transforming Good News of Jesus Christ.

Churches in the Upper Midwest Conference



DATES TO REMEMBER: May 1, second anniversary of birth of Global Methodist Church

Upper Midwest Annual Conference June 13-15 Sioux City, IA

September 20-26, 2024 Convening General Conference will be in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Holdrege Methodist Church
604 West Ave. PO Box 30
Holdrege, NE 68949



To become better acquainted with our denomination and conference, please check out the following areas:

NE GMC WEBSITE: Nebraskagmc.org In the upper left-hand corner, click on the three lines. Click on 'Events'. Then at the top, click on "Upper Midwest Conference New Beginnings" slide presentation.

NE GMC Facebook page: Friends of the Global Methodist Church movement in Nebraska.