



# Balaton United Methodist Church April 2019

## Words from PL~

APRIL ..... You know the saying "April Showers Bring May Flowers"? I'm not sure they ever experienced sucking water out of a basement ... or stared out at their soybean field covered in water ... or their whole town for that matter. I can't imagine what all the folks to the South of us are going through with the flooding, can you? That isn't a very positive way to start out our newsletter either huh? But .... Wowza! My Prayers have been with them as well as all of us in our area too.

Here we are ... just a couple weeks away from Easter .... But our hearts are stuck in Lent ... it's ok ... because we aren't to the empty tomb quite yet along with the Lilies White, the Easter clothes, the Ham Dinner and Basket Hunts .... Not yet ... not quite yet .... But soon.

Our recent texts from Matthew have had us smack dab in the middle of "Wedding Imagery" - The Wedding Banquet, The Bridesmaids and their Lamps, Last Things (Sheep & Goats). It's interesting, because while Jesus is teaching all of these things to His Disciples, He is already in Jerusalem for Passover. It's about Tuesday of Holy Week and He is preparing for the Cross. He really wasn't thinking so much about "April Showers Bring May Flowers" either, do you suppose?

We'll back up a bit on Palm Sunday .... And retrace His steps as He rides into Jerusalem. He clears out the Temple and curses the "No Good Fig Tree" for not bearing fruit. That really sounds like a "Horrible, No good VERY bad day". He tangles with the Religious Leaders and then .... Begins to teach all of these stories we've been looking at the past few weeks.

If you take a look in your Bibles .... It's all RED LETTER Jesus words. I don't know about you but as I read them .. I think Jesus was feeling pretty "Flooded Out" ... like His basement was full of water and His sump-pump quit working ... Sigh.

In Matthew's Gospel, in this final week of Jesus life, His RED LETTERS are mainly directed at the Religious Leaders. Jesus doesn't have time to sugar coat words. He's calling them as He sees them .... FAKE. He's saying to His Disciples ... "As my followers ... don't be THAT guy". Instead .... Be like this .... "The Kingdom of Heaven is Like" .....



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My Prayer list has been long as of late .... Yours too. So ... how do we find the JOY as to not miss out on the FLOWERS? Well .... One way is to STOP and smell them. To not let the flood waters consume us. To seek out the SON in unexpected ways. Simple things, that are huge in the scheme of things. When you feel the waters of life rising .... Seek out a friend, go for a walk, take a nap, drink some water, eat a good meal, just start giggling, listen to some music, read your Bible ... focus on the SUN/SON.

RED LETTERS .... Free us. RED LETTERS .... Transform us. RED LETTERS .... Are a Promise kept. RED LETTERS .... Give us Hope to carry on.

"RED LETTERS ... Bring May Flowers" .... And Flowers for the rest of the year too.

Aren't they beautiful?

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN .... INDEED!

Waiting On the SONrise With You ...

*Pastor Lori (PL)*



## **April Calendar from PL~**

**Wednesday April 3rd:** 9am Hospice/Slayton

5:30pm Lenten Worship @ UMC/JAM UMC

**Thursday April 4th:** PL to Windom UMC for "Prepare and Enrich" Premarital Training

**Friday April 5th:** Murray County Hospice Spring Banquet/Hadley in the Evening

**Sunday April 7th:** Communion at the rail

**Wednesday April 10th:** JAM at UMC beginning with 5:30pm Worship

**Saturday April 13th:** UMW Spring Gathering in Slayton

**Sunday April 14th:** (Palm Sunday) Kids wave palms /Buck-A-Chick Offering/Live Chicks

PL in Luverne in Evening for Dax's 2nd Birthday Party

**Wednesday April 17th:** 9am Hospice Meeting/Slayton

JAM at UMC beginning with 5:30pm worship

**Thursday April 18th:** Maundy Thursday Supper (6pm) and Worship after in Fellowship Hall

**Friday April 19th:** Good Friday 9am Worship & Communion at Colonial Manor with Pastor Lori and Pastor Steve. 7pm Balaton Community Churches Worship (Location TBA)

**Saturday April 20th:** 7am-Noon Prayer Vigil. Church will be open for a quiet place to pray Noon-1pm SONrise Service Practice with Youth

**Sunday April 21st:** EASTER 7am SONRISE Service with Youth, Breakfast in between, 9am Traditional Easter Service with Communion.

**Wednesday April 24th:** LAST JAM of Year 9! Beginning with 5:30pm Worship at UMC

**Friday-Saturday April 26th -27th:** 7th and 8th grade Confirmation Retreat at Lake Shetek

**Sunday April 28th:** Confirmation at Trinity/Sillerud (NO UMCers this year)



## UPCOMING FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- ❖ **Sunday May 19th:** Senior Recognition for Kalley Hoek, Ellie Crumrine and Nick Mitchell during Worship
- ❖ **Annual Conference June 17th (leave) - June 18th-20th**
- ❖ **RISEFEST/Sheldon, IA June 21-22**
- ❖ **PL gone to Course of Study (Leave July 7th ) July 8-12th ... and July 17-19th for Graduation**



## PASTOR LORI'S WEDDING OFFICIANT SCHEDULE

**June 8th** Miranda Edmundson and Devin Miranowski /Lake Shetek

**August 3rd** Brandon Kirk and Karly Ruppert

**August 31st** Mariah Schelhaas and Wes Jennings/Sioux Falls

# Have questions about Medicare?

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There are many important decisions that need to be made when you become eligible for Medicare. Making the wrong decision can lead to not having any or enough health coverage and financial penalties. Participants will learn the basics of Medicare and their coverage options in Minnesota.

Class size is kept small in order to allow plenty of time for personal attention. Sign up early in order to get a spot by calling 1-800-333-2433.

**Monday, May 13, 2019**

**BALATON BAY GOLF COURSE**

**1001 Lake Yankton Ave, Balaton, MN 56115**

**Welcome to Medicare Class: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

or by appointment by calling the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433



The Senior LinkAge Line® is a service of Minnesota Board on Aging and Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®

## A Note From Your Lay Leader

And just like that here we are halfway through Lent with March coming to a close. I picked up a Lenten book called "A 40-day Prayer-Revealing Christ" that I'm working through each day and it is so rewarding as the author reminds us how precious we are to the Father. During Lent we are welcome and invited to journey with Jesus. We learn about who Jesus is, we hear about his miracles, his life, death and resurrection. Ephesians 3:11-12 reminds us that because of Christ's sacrifice we can come fearlessly before God and be WELCOME! I love that so much. I invite you to find that quiet place to spend a few minutes of your day with God. Thank Him for all that you have and ask Him to walk next to you. Remember to pray for one another, pray for Pastor Lori, pray for J.A.M. and for the future of churches everywhere.



Be blessed, spread the Good News and know how much the Father loves you.

**Sue Skramstad**

## A Special Thank You!

Phil and I would like to thank Pastor Lori for being with us on the day of my thyroid surgery and we also want to thank our church family for your prayers, cards and kind words. It was a bit of a rollercoaster ride but I'm home and getting stronger every day. Illness and surgery brings true awareness of just how lucky and blessed we are when we wake up feeling refreshed and anew each day.

God is good. In faith and love,

**Sue Skramstad**

## Notes from the Board Chairperson

First of all I would like to congratulate Julie and Paul for being recognized by the UMW ladies for all the work they do for the church. Anytime you need some help they are always there willing to help. We are so fortunate to have a wonderful church family. Thanks also to Craig Gifford, Greg Taveirne, Sam Tutt, Jayme Chandler, Brandon Kirk, Dale Wieme, and Paul Bernardy for helping to take out the carpet and the tile out of the basement. Julie Weime and I have been working on getting the floor cleaned to try and get the smell out. I am going to scrub it one more time and then hopefully it will smell better. Hoping we will be able to have JAM there this next month. Greg has several names of people to come and look at the floor to see what is the best way to go. We met with one person Wednesday morning. Greg has worked really hard getting this all put together. Once we have some bids, it will have to come before the board to decide what we want to do. Once you start a project like this there is always more to do.

JAM will over the end of April, sounds like we'll have pizza the last week, and not sure what they are going to do for the party.



With it being so wet, hard to do anything outside unless it dries out fast. The snow is slowly disappearing. Good thing it is going slow or we would have a lot more flooding. I have only had a small amount of water in our basement, so far, let's hope it stays that way.

Thanks also to all who put the newsletter together you do a wonderful job. Thanks to all the JAM servers who put together a meal for us each week. You never know how many people to expect one time there will be 75 people and the next time 125 so it makes it difficult to plan.

If you have not signed up for flowers for Easter Sunday please call me and I can give you the information we have to have our order into VIP by the 5th of April. My cell number is 507-829-4375.

I have to get up for work tomorrow so I am going to bed.

**Lois**

## **UMW Communications~**

Are you thinking Spring? Spring is a time of growth and renewal. We see it and smell it all around us. Just as the UMW reflects and participates in God's work and world.

March was a very busy month for us. World Day of Prayer was postponed from Friday March 1st to Friday March 8th. Our study was on Slovenia, a very interesting lesson. The turn out was about 25. Always harder when one reschedules. We met at the Lakeview Senior Housing and enjoyed everyone that joined us. Our offering taken was \$48.00 Assorted quick breads were served for lunch. Beverly Swift played the piano.

On March 14th we celebrated UMW's 100th birthday. Our meeting was held at the church and the lesson was given by Verlane Ross on call to prayer and self denial. An offering was taken and mailed into missions. June Terhark provided the delicious lunch. After lunch we signed many cards. We hope that prayers and cards will lessen the pain and need of so many.

Sunday, March 17th we celebrated UMW Sunday. During the service we recognized two people with a mission pin. They were Julie Wieme and Paul Bernardy. We served lunch after the service and we received a very generous offering of \$105.00. "Thank you all for being so good to us."



We are at the last week of March and we feel like we had a very busy month.

On Wednesday, April 10th, Phyllis Swanson will be hosting the UMW Meeting with Rose Wheeler giving the lesson.

On Saturday, April 13th, we are invited to a Spring gathering at the UM Church in Slayton. These are always so interesting.

Easter will soon be here. A time to celebrate when Jesus arose from the dead. Hallelujah!

Wishing you all the best!

**Betty Leversedge, President**

**April Coffee Servers:**

- April 7: Betty Chandler
- April 14: UMW
- April 21: Easter-no coffee
- April 28: Lois & Stella



**April Readers:**

- Apr. 7: Keith Scherbart
- Apr. 14: June Terhark
- Apr. 21: Stella Swanson
- Apr. 28: Nancy Iversen

**J.A.M. + SHETEK LUTHERAN MINISTRIES C+ RETREAT PICTURES**

**THANK YOU!**  
Balaton United Methodist Church/JAM - Jesus And Me's 2019 Collection  
raised:  
**43 food items**

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

**SUPER BOWL OF CARING**  
superbowl.org

February 3, 2019

**J.A.M. Supper Servers for April:**

- April 3:** Julie Wieme-Chair  
Stacy Chandler  
Ruth Sanderson  
Ashley Hunt
- April 17:** Denise Hoek-Chair  
Dorie Krumm  
Mandy Mathews  
Kim Fedde

- April 10:** Lois Swanson-Chair  
Bev Swift  
Christie Sutherland  
Donna Miller  
Chantel Paczkowski
- April 24:** Last JAM for Year  
PIZZA

**J.A.M. YEAR NINE'S LAST GATHERING IS WED. APRIL 24TH -  
BE WATCHING FOR SUMMER PARADE DATES!  
YEAR 10 WILL BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER!**



**New Church Directory Pictures - please note pictures will be taken at the  
Balaton Community Center**

**Sign up for April 26th - 2:00-8:40 pm or  
April 27th 10:00 am - 4:40 pm - go to link below or sign up at church on  
Sundays - we will be calling if we don't hear from you!**

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



**Be included in our directory!**

**Lifetouch.**



**LOOKING FOR TALENT  
ENTRIES FOR THE  
VARIETY SHOW AT  
THIS YEAR'S FUN FEST  
- BE SURE TO SPREAD  
THE WORD AND LET  
THEM KNOW HOW TO  
ENTER - MAYBE THE  
ENTRY IS YOU!**

**THANK YOU!**

## RECIPE CORNER: COOL WHIP MARBLED EGGS

### Ingredients:

Hard-boiled eggs, 2-8 oz. tubs of cool whip, Large glass casserole dish, Food coloring, Distilled white vinegar, bamboo skewers, Spoon and Large Bowl

### Directions:

Soak hard-boiled eggs in vinegar for two minutes, then drain, Spoon Cool Whip into casserole dish, and spread evenly with a spatula, Mix food coloring with a few drops of vinegar, then drip mixture randomly over the surface of the Cool Whip, Lightly swirl food coloring into the Cool Whip using a bamboo skewer, Place hard-boiled eggs into the dish, spaced evenly apart, Coat each egg with the Cool Whip and food coloring mixture, using a spoon to ensure even coverage—one good roll is best!, Let eggs sit for about 20 minutes, Remove each egg and rinse in a bowl of cool water, Let dry on a paper towel.



# April

## 2019 Balaton United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Delton Sanderson B-day</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9 am Hospice/Slayton JAM @ UMC 5:30 Worship 6:00 meal 6:30 Worship 7:00 Sm. Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>PL to Windom Premarital Training  Hadley Ohme B-day Joey McMath B-day</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Murray Co Hospice Spring Banquet  Josh Bruns B-day</p>	<p>6</p> 	
<p>7</p> <p>9 am Worship Communion at rail Phyllis Rasmussen B-day</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Dale Wieme B-day Don &amp; Bonnie Ewing Anniv.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>JAM @ UMC 5:30 Worship 6:00 meal 6:30 Worship 7:00 Sm. Group</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>UMW Spring Gathering Slayton  Dax VonHoltum B-day Gary Lokken B-day</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9 am Worship Palm Sunday--Palms Buck-a-Chick </p>	<p>15</p> <p>Gina Yearous B-day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Aaron Cusher B-day Michelle Hastings B-day</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9 am Hospice/Slayton JAM @ UMC 5:30 Worship 6:00 meal 6:30 Worship 7:00 Sm. Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Maundy Thursday Supper 6pm Worship after Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Good Friday 9am Colonial Manor 7 pm Balaton Community Service Location TBA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7am-Noon Prayer Vigil Noon-1pm SONRise Service Practice</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Easter Sunday 7am SONRise Service w/Youth 9am Traditional Worship w/Communion Brandon Kirk B-day</p> 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>LAST JAM Year 9 5:30 Worship 6:00 meal 6:30 Worship 7:00 Sm. Group</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7th &amp; 8th Confirmation Retreat @ Shetek </p>	<p>27</p> <p>7th &amp; 8th Confirmation Retreat @ Shetek</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9 am Worship Pam Ray B-day Dave &amp; Gayle Kaup Anniv.</p>	<p>29</p>					
	<p>30</p>					

Balaton United Methodist Church

**Lori VonHoltum, Pastor**

220 2nd Street West

Balaton MN 56115

**Remember our Nursing Home Residents: Colonial Manor: Mert Holm and Neva Manguson.**

Remembering & praying for Brandon Swanson..... missing from his family since May 2008