

# The Messenger

APRIL 2022



St. Paul United Methodist Church  
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Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
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## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

### LENTEN STUDY

This weekly study will continue on Monday nights, April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul UMC. We are discussing Adam Hamilton's study on the Lord's Prayer. Please contact Pastor Michelle if you are interested in attending.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

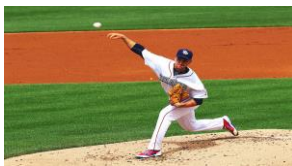
A special worship service will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Ebenezer United Methodist Church.

### GOOD FRIDAY

The Good Friday worship service will be held on Friday, April 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

### EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

On Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Sunrise Service will be held at Grandpa's Woods Golf Course at 6:30 a.m. in front of the clubhouse.



**UMYF NEWS**  
(UMYF is for all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders.)



UMYF will not meet in April as we will be going to a baseball game in the month of May as our last fun event for this year. More details will be coming later.

Our normal Wednesday night Bible Study will be at Murdock Church on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. so come join us for a meal, study the scriptures and fellowship.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, April 16, 2022, 9:00–11:00 a.m.  
Location: Old Village Town Hall Building  
113 West E Street, Elmwood

### Elmwood Community Center

The Center is open for meals at noon or the  
weekday lunches can be delivered upon request  
or can be picked up at the center. Call 402-994-  
2145 to make a request for lunch.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16, 2022, 1:00 p.m.  
Elmwood Park  
For Toddlers through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Sponsored by E/M FBLA

### Spring Came on Forever Plant Exchange/Purchase at Aldrich House and Gardens

Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 9:00-12:00

## UMW CORNER SCHEDULING CHANGES

Due to the scheduled Lenten Study on  
April 4th, Elmwood UMW will meet on  
Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at  
Laurel McReynolds' house.

Murdock UMW will meet on Wednesday,  
April 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. for our usual  
meal and meeting.

### SAVE THE DATE: Sat., April 2, 2022

For the Blue River District Spring Event at  
Hallam UMC from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with  
a salad luncheon. Attendees are asked to  
register at [volunteersignup.org/EEK8Y](http://volunteersignup.org/EEK8Y).  
Zoom presentation will be offered as well.

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY AT  
ST. PAUL UMC**  
Both inside and outside the church  
Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> after worship service  
Lunch will be provided.



### April Birthdays-Elmwood



Maureen Vogt – April 2  
Dennis Nielsen – April 3  
Sharon Kunz – April 4  
Alex Callaway – April 4  
Matthew Rorie – April 7  
Merle Backemeyer – April 10  
Alexis Bacon – April 15

Christian Brettmann – April 15  
Jeff Johnston – April 18  
Judy Hendrix – April 21  
Taylor Vogt – April 21  
Tyson Vogt – April 22  
Katie Bornemeier – April 24  
Andrew Pegler – April 24

Brandon Minch – April 26  
Linda Blunt – April 27  
Levi Offner – April 27  
Jenna Kollars – April 27  
Bailey Frahm – April 29  
Burke/Callan Vogt – April 28  
Bonnie Drake – April 30  
Madden Vogt – April 30



### April Birthdays-Murdock



Lindsay Backemeyer – April 4  
John Butler – April 7  
Harrison Koehn – April 11  
Lindsey Mills – April 11  
Stacey Murdoch – April 11  
Carter Hanson – April 11

Catherine Stock – April 11  
Mark Luetchens – April 13  
Lance Steffen – April 16  
Kate Zakaras – April 24  
Tom Lawrence – April 27  
Kaden Butler – April 29

# PASTOR'S PEN



Happy Easter!

It feels like we were just celebrating Christmas and here it is the Easter season. I have always loved Easter; it is similar in my mind to Thanksgiving, in that in my mind it is closely linked with huge family gatherings full of food and fun without the craziness that comes with Christmas. Plus it happens during spring which means the bright colors of new flowers and birds chirping.

Easter is a season that reminds us that there is hope, even in death. We often think of death as an end, which in many ways it is. It is the finality of our human lives, life as we know it, is over. But it also symbolizes a new beginning. Every Fall we put the ground to bed, plants that have grown throughout the Spring and Summer have faded, the leaves have changed colors and fallen off the trees and we are all preparing for the period of Winter where not just animals but we ourselves seek warm shelter. Then Easter comes, and to me it is like the official kick-off of Spring, of new life, of hope that what we thought was the end is really not.

As we take in the flowers and plants in the fields poking out of the ground, I can't help but think of the new life that is promised to us when we let go of our wants and start living the life that God wants for us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says this: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus is using the idea of the seed to talk about us as humans. If a seed remains a seed, it can't accomplish its true potential. It must shed its shell, must let go of what it has always known and trust that by shedding its shell something better is coming. We as humans are the same. We can remain how we are and stay safe inside our shell but what God calls us to do is shed our shell, and trust that when we have faith in what God is calling us to, something better is coming.

Easter calls us to remember that even if we don't fully understand what is happening, when we don't know what will come next, that we are to hold on to our hope in the Lord. That what might seem like an ending is really an opportunity to shed our shell and bear the fruit of the Lord. We cannot remain alone and accomplish anything. We need to rely on God to help us become something better than a single grain of wheat. For when that grain trusts in the soil and sprouts, it bears more fruit than it could ever imagine. When we trust God, what we are able to accomplish is unimaginable.

Easter is a time for hope. Hope that we are just getting started, and it is time to celebrate the gift of new life that we are granted through the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. This Easter season I pray that you are able to fully rely on God, shed your old shell that is holding you back and bear a bountiful harvest for God.

Until Next Time,  
Pastor Michelle

## **The Waking Earth by Helen Steiner Rice**

The waking earth in springtime  
Reminds us it is true  
That nothing really ever dies  
That is not born anew.  
So trust God's all-wise wisdom  
And doubt the Father never,  
For in His Heavenly Kingdom  
There is nothing lost forever.



“Celebrate Easter” at the 3B Homestead in a refreshing, fun, and meaningful way!

Enjoy the homestead animals as they help tell The Story. Witness some of the last events in the life of Jesus on earth and why we celebrate His crucifixion and resurrection!

Discover that Easter is not about the bunny, it’s about the Lamb!

**Brand new this year are two different options. Notice the times:**

Drive-through-the-homestead and listen to a podcast. *	Walk-through-the-barn and experience hands-on activities. **
Saturday, April 9 <sup>th</sup> 9am to noon	Saturday, April 9 <sup>th</sup> 4pm to 7pm
Sunday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> 9am to noon	Sunday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> 4pm to 7pm
Wednesday, April 13 <sup>th</sup> 9am to noon	Wednesday, April 13 <sup>th</sup> 4pm to 7pm
Saturday, April 16 <sup>th</sup> 9am to noon	Saturday, April 16 <sup>th</sup> 4pm to 7pm

\* Please bring your cell phone to listen to the podcast.

\*\*Wearing a mask is your personal choice.

In addition to the animals, stories, and activities, you are invited to bring a cross in remembrance of a loved one who has passed away. It will be placed in the “Field of Crosses” along Highway 1. Visit the website for more details.

This community outreach of the 3B Homestead, LLC is a free event. Donations are accepted. It is located between Murdock and Elmwood at 7603 298<sup>th</sup> Street, Murdock, NE 68407

Website: [www.3BHomestead.com](http://www.3BHomestead.com)

Mark and Sondra Buell | 402-867-1802



3B Homestead

# April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 April Fool's Day	2 9:00am Blue River UMW Spring Event
3 9:00am Worship Service – M  9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E 11:30am Lunch and Clean-up Day -E	4 7:00pm Lent Bible Study - E	5 6:30pm Bell Practice – E	6 5:30pm UMW – M  7:30pm Choir Practice - E	7	8	9 9:30am UMW – E at Laurel's
10 9:00am Worship Service – M  9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	11 7:00pm Lent Bible Study - E	12 7:00pm Church Council - M	13 6:30pm Bell Practice – E  7:30pm Choir Practice - E	14 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service - M	15 7:00pm Good Friday Service - E	16 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution  1:00pm Easter Egg Hunt – Elmwood Park
17 <b>Easter</b> 6:30am Sunrise Service  9:00am Worship Service – M  9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	18 7:00pm Church Council - E	19	20 1:30pm Sew 'N Sews – M  6:30pm Bell Practice – E  7:30pm Choir Practice - E	21	22 Earth Day	23
24 9:00am Worship Service – M  9:30am Sunday School – E 10:35am Worship Service – E	25	26	27 6:30pm Bell Practice – E  7:30pm Choir Practice - E	28	29	30

**St. Paul United Methodist Church  
P. O. Box 130  
400 West "G" Street  
Elmwood, NE 68349-0130**

**Address Service Requested**



**Sunday, April 17, 2022**