

welcome
April

APRIL 2019

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
322 SOUTH LINCOLN ROAD
ESCANABA, MI 49829
REV. ELISE LOW EDWARDSON/PASTOR

CHURCH PHONE: (906) 786-0643

EMAIL: churchoffice@escanabacentral.org

WEBSITE: www.EscanabaCentralUMC.org

OFFICE HOURS

M, W, Th, F - 9:00 - Noon

Tuesday - Closed

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 A.M.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE 8:30 A.M.
(Ludington Park Beach House area)

COFFEE TIME: 10:00 A.M.

(no Coffee Social in June-July-August)

WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.

EDITOR: Bonnie Cowell

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Well, my friends, as I write this note to you, I am keenly aware that this is the last newsletter article I write to you before our baby arrives. The last nine months have been a season of joy, anticipation, worry, wondering, and all the other feelings that come along with becoming parents for the first time. Ryan and I feel so grateful for all the ways you have supported us in this unique season of life, and we feel so blessed to be bringing a new little one into such a loving and faithful community. *Thank you* for the ways you have already supported and blessed our growing family!



In every Lenten season, we prepare ourselves to follow Jesus all the way to the cross, the grave, and the resurrection. It is a season that is pregnant with possibility – we follow Jesus, trusting that the difficult road is worth it. We long for and anticipate resurrection, but the season of Lent reminds us that new life does not come without trial, suffering, and the cross. The Spirit of God is doing a work within us – a work that is not easy, that will be marked with immense challenges, but is also full of hope. As Paul put it in the book of Romans,

That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

Romans 8:22-25, The Message

How is God enlarging you in this season of waiting? Our faith allows us to have hope beyond our present experience. Perhaps the challenges, the discomforts, the trials we face are spaces for God to birth something new – something greater than what we could ever dare to dream of, ask for, or imagine.

Grateful to be along the journey with you. Take heart in all that God is doing!

Let's be the Church,

Pastor Elise



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 10:45 a.m. Children's Church

NURSERY CARE

Children ages 4 and younger are invited to join Erin Linderoth any time on Sunday mornings from 9:00 thru the 10:30 worship service.

ELEMENTARY

(Readiness Kindergarten - 5th grade)
 Sunday school teachers Pat & Pat Rogers will lead students in Bible Study along with playing games, creating crafts, or making a treat. Students will meet in Room 7.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP

Wendy DeRouin and Lee Anderson will guide these students through their transition from child to teen with games, discussions and mission projects. This class meets in Room 8 at 9:15 every Sunday morning and is for students grades 6 - 8.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Holly Hamilton invites those of you in grades 9 thru 12 for a fun morning of Christian education and an open discussion about teen topics every Sunday morning at 9:15 in Room 8.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join the Women's Group in Room #9 on Sunday mornings at 9:15.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Each Tuesday morning a Bible Study Group meets in the Lounge from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Come and add to this lively morning group. You can join in at any time.

LOVING FINGERS QUILTERS

The Loving Fingers Quilters continue to meet in Room #9 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They make quilts for Escanaba and Marquette Hospice and members of our church or anyone we know who would find a little comfort in a quilt. Our group is made up of young and old, sewers and non-sewers. Please join us for a day, a morning, or an afternoon.



SUNRISE SERVICE

Join us Easter morning, April 21st, for our Sunrise Service at 8:30am on Aronson Island (Ludington Park Beach House area). This will be the only Sunrise Service for this year due to the birth of baby Low Edwardson.



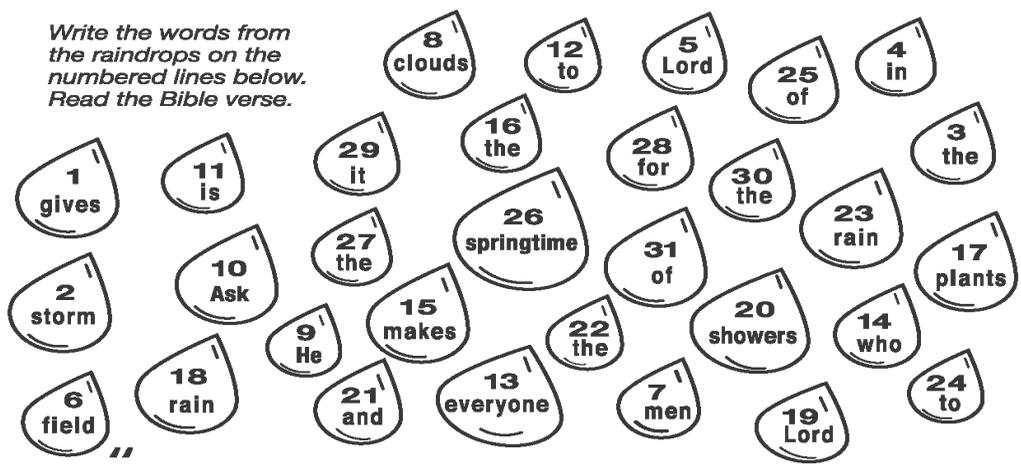
All our welcome after the service to an Easter Brunch in the church Fellowship Hall served by the Central men. Always delicious and a fun celebration of our Lord's rising!



Thank God for Rain

Each spring the Lord sends April showers to water the earth. Without rain to nourish our trees, plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables, there would be a poor growing season and very little to harvest. Thank God for rainy weather!

Write the words from the raindrops on the numbered lines below. Read the Bible verse.



	10	16	5	28	18
	4	22		26	;
29	11	3	19	14	15
	27	2	8		.
9	1	20	31	23	
	12	7	21	17	25
	30	6	24	13	.

Zechariah 10:1 (NIV)

Answer: "Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone." Zechariah 10:1

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

Tuesday, **April 2nd**, is the last Lunch with the Pastor for this school year. This is a free lunch for high school students in grades 10-12. Pastor Elise and the crew want them to know they are cared about here at Central and that this is a safe place whatever the need.

COFFEE TIME

Each Sunday members of Central serve coffee and provide a treat from 10:00-10:30am. It's a time to talk and share with friends. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Thanks to Janet Snowden, Gregg/Mimi Bruff, Larry/Arleen Martin, Wendy DeRouin and the Madalinskis for treats in March.



CAMP SUNDAY

Camp Sunday is **April 28th** - a day to celebrate Camp Michigamme, the impact of camping ministry, and support our kids wanting to attend this summer! Camp Director Erica Thomas will be preaching, and will surely keep us on our toes - you won't want to miss it! Camp Michigamme offers programs for kids as young as four, and even has programs for adults looking for an awesome spiritual renewal and relaxation! Central is committed to providing financial support for all who would like to attend camp. For more information email campmichigamme.org, and don't miss this special Sunday!

FOOD PANTRY

Prayerfully consider bringing weekly food donations to help supply our food pantry. All the donations will help supply the Salvation Army food bank. Monetary donations can be brought to the office. Think Easter dinner: canned veggies, canned fruit, scalloped potato mix, canned ham, French's onions.

TRUSTEE NEWS

The new Trustees have been busy since the first of the year, especially dealing with heating problems. The blower unit was replaced in the #3 boiler; the heat was adjusted and the pipes thawed in the furnace room after the outside door was left open one subzero night. Pasty funds were used to purchase and install an automatic closing door to prevent it from happening again.

Heating issues in the chapel and two daycare rooms are currently being worked on as is the replacement of the faulty thermostat in Room 9. Ice dams were removed on the Sanctuary roof to prevent more leaking and faulty outlets in the kitchen were replaced as was a gfci circuit model in the furnace room.

Light fixtures and light bulbs are continuing to be replaced throughout the plant. Using LED bulbs will positively affect our energy bills.

A design for colorful vinyl stained glass with inspirational phrases is being looked into for the upper windows in the gathering space.

Thanks Trustees for all your hard work!

PASTOR'S MATERNITY LEAVE

Pastor Elise will be on maternity leave for approximately 10 weeks after baby arrives as she and Ryan adjust to life as a family of three. During this time, we will have the opportunity to hear from some wonderful guest preachers, both clergy and lay, including Rev. Scott Harmon, Erica Thomas from Camp Michigamme, and Rev. Peggy Paige, retired pastor and former DS of the Port Huron district. You'll also get to hear some voices from our own congregation, which is always a gift. Pastor Tim Wright from Gladstone Memorial UMC and Pastor Christine Bergquist of Bark River UMC will be available for any pastoral emergencies that arise during Pastor Elise's leave. Please contact Kittie Bone, SPRC chair, with any questions you may have.

Thank you for helping the Low Edwardsons have the gift of this time to heal, bond, and begin to establish their new rhythms of life together during this unique and irreplaceable season. We look forward to welcoming baby Low Edwardson into the church family when Pastor Elise returns!

Christ's Peace,

The Staff Parish Relations Committee

APRIL MINISTRY MEETINGS

Our next meeting night is Monday, **April 22nd** with the Committees meeting at 6:00pm followed by the Council at 7:15pm.

The Council meeting is open to all Central members. Check out what's happening in our church.



PASTY NEWS

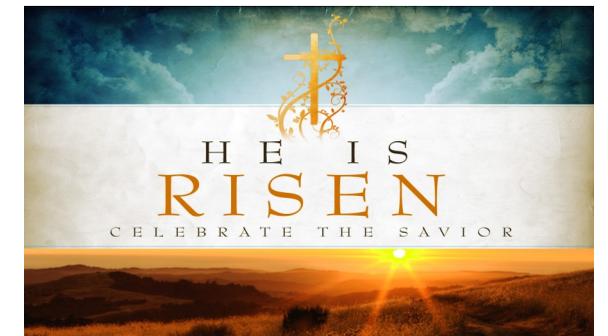
The pasty crew made about 700 pasties in their January and February sales. We did not meet in

March and won't be making pasties in April due to a shortage of workers. We still plan on making pasties on **May 17th** and **your help is needed!** Please talk to Lois Lavelle or Arleen Martin if interested.

With pasty funds we purchased a new paper shredder for the office and paid for an automatic door closure for the outside furnace room door to prevent it from being left open. Thanks to everyone on the pasty crew and to all who order pasties.

RESPONSES TO GOD'S LOVE COMMAND

A pastor was speaking to a Sunday school class about the things money can't buy. He told them, "It can't buy laughter and it can't buy love." Driving his point home, he asked the kids, "What would you do if I offered you \$1000 not to love your mother and father?" The kids were stunned into silence. Finally, a young boy spoke up and inquired, "How much would you give me not to love my big sister?"





PRAYER LIST

Please remember all of Central's shut-ins and those in nursing homes as they are in need of your prayers for healing, gaining strength, and courage during an illness or injury. May God bless them and keep them in His loving care during this time of illness and concern and may they know that our thoughts and prayers are with each of them.

RADIO BROADCAST

WDBC Radio 680 am airs the 10:30AM worship service each Sunday. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast, there is a clipboard to sign in on the date you prefer in the Narthex. Cost for this service is \$100 per week. You can donate the \$100 or any part of it.



HELPING HANDS

Please remember our Helping Hands Fund during this difficult economic time. The funds are for Central members who are facing urgent financial challenges and in need of assistance. All help is strictly confidential.

ROSES & THORNS

If you have a concern or compliment to pass along to the SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee), please fill out a card and let us know your thoughts. Cards can be found in the church pews. Your opinions are important to us and we will address each and every concern and or compliment.

ALIVE!

What a glorious, bountiful, sunshiny day
With a sky washed in bright azure blue.
There's a wisp of a cloud that is lulling about,
Just relaxing, with nothing to do.

See the oak trees' new buds, still a yellowish green,
Inching out to achieve their full size.
And the breeze-stirring pine holds a nest
in its arms
Filled with three little chirping young cries.

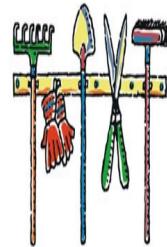
Feel the warmth of the sun flooding comfort
and health
To a world that's alive with rebirth.
And now pause to absorb what we share with all
life:
Being alive! On God's beautiful earth.
-Peggy Ferrell



APRIL USHERS

- 07 Richard Blixt, Pat Rogers
- Arleen Martin, Melissa Kressin
- 14 Lee/Verna Anderson
- Bob Hamlin, Wendy DeRouin
- 21 Anna Morse, Harry Badge
- Erik Barnhart, Bev Ladin
- 28 Gregg Bruff/Mimi Klotz
- Laura Kluka, Volunteer

SPRING CLEAN-UP



Keep your eyes open for the date for our annual spring clean-up. Bring rakes, shovels, brooms and gloves as we give our church grounds some spit and polish. Watch future bulletins for the date.

APRIL FINANCE STEWARDS

- 07 Lois Lavelle, Sue Gaudette
- 14 Janet Snowden, Bev Ladin
- 21 Lois Lavelle, Sue Gaudette
- 28 Laura Kluka, Arleen Martin

APRIL GREETERS

- 07 Sue Gaudette, Katy Bunch
- 14 Janet Snowden, Arleen Martin
- 21 Deanna Robinette, Volunteer
- 28 Bev Ladin, Volunteer

APRIL LITURGISTS

- 07 Jamie Peterson
- 14 Kristine Franzen-Paulsen
- 21 Melissa Kressin
- 28 Bob Hamlin



PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

The Palm Sunday Service will be Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at Central. Palms and celebrations will begin Holy Week.

HOLY WEEK

10:30 A.M. Palm Sunday Service
April 14, 2019

7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service
First United Methodist
April 18, 2019

12:00 P.M. Good Friday Service
Bay de Noc College
April 19, 2019

8:30 A.M. Sunrise Service
(Aronson Island)
April 21, 2019

9:30 A.M. Easter Sunday Breakfast
Central UMC Fellowship Hall

10:30 A.M. Easter Sunday Worship

