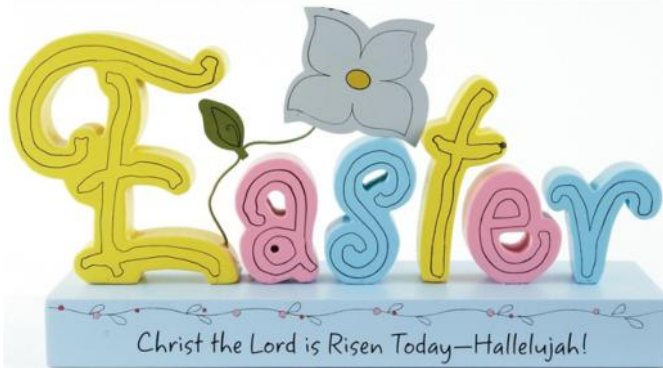


From the PASTOR'S DESK



It's Easter...

God is the creator of comedy, according to the Rev. Jerry Herships, pastor of After Hours Church in Denver, Colorado, and former stand-up comedian. "God has to have a sense of humor when you think about it. Just look at the hippos, the giraffes, or the avocado!"

"Add to that the fact that Easter sometimes falls on April Fool's Day (we just missed it this year). It almost makes it twice as funny; like the resurrection wasn't already hard enough to accept. But seriously, I think Jesus came back saying, 'No, guys. I'm not kidding. It's me. I'm back. I have overcome death.'"

Easter always falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox, so while the day of the week, Sunday, stays the same, the date can vary by almost six weeks.

Within the United Methodist Church, the focus is always to be on the Christian observance rather than the secular holiday when the two coincide. But that doesn't mean there can't be some humor. Just look at the irony.

The origin of April Fool's Day is unclear. One theory is that it came into being when the Julian calendar, which placed the new year around the March equinox, was replaced with the Gregorian calendar, which placed the new year January 1. People who didn't know about the change or refused to accept it and continued to celebrate the new year in the spring were called April fools.

The Rev. Taylor Burton-Edwards, a specialist in United Methodist worship, said the resurrection really was a joke on those in power at the time of the crucifixion. "They thought once Jesus was dead, he would be out of their way, things would go back to normal and they would continue to reign forever. The joke was on them. They may have been used as the instrument of death for Jesus, but they couldn't make him stay dead!"

Continued on page 2...



...Continued from Page 1

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 address the paradox of the cross as the symbol of God's power: "Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." (CEB).

Imagine the disbelief and astonishment the disciples surely felt when confronted by the absurdity of the resurrection. The women, who have encountered the risen Jesus, rush into the room where the disciples are in grief and mourning and shout out the good news, "He's alive!" The disciples, in disbelief, say, "Yeah, yeah, April Fool!" but are soon convinced.

Rev. Hershops reminds us that with Jesus' resurrection, God has the last laugh over death and suffering: "Every Easter really is April Fool's Day. For three days, the whole world, all of humanity, thought that hope and love were dead. But God came back to say, 'Surprise!'"

And our lives have never been the same. Because of Jesus' sacrificial action – our sins are forgiven and we are promised eternal life.

Easter Blessings and see you in church!
Pastor Joyce Slostad



April Worship

WORSHIP
with **US**

4/2 Maundy Thursday – No Livestream, service is at Dent Hymns: Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley; Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love vs 1; Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love vs. 4-5; Let Us Break Bread Together; Were You There

4/5 Easter Sunday No Communion today
"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today: Christus Victor Theory of Atonement"
Hymns: Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Up From the Grave He Arose; He Lives; Christ is Alive

4/12 Rick Nelson Preaching "From Doubt to Faith" John 20:19-31
Hymns: Because He Lives; Beneath the Cross of Jesus; To God Be The Glory; God Be With You

4/19 "Traveling Companion" Luke 24:13-35 Communion
Cleopas and his friend are surprised by a stranger on the road. They have no idea how their journey is about to change. Hymns: Thine Be the Glory ; Open My Eyes, That I May See; O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread

4/26 "The Shepherd's Voice" John 10:1-10
The Shepherd is calling. Are we listening? Hymns: I Am Thine, O Lord; Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us; Jesus Calls Us

VERGAS, MN

MAPLE SYRUP

FESTIVAL
Saturday, April 12, 2025

PANCAKE FEED
7:30 am - 11:30 am • Vergas Event Center
Pancakes with Local Maple Syrup, Sausages & Beverages
Adults \$10 • Kids 10 & Under \$5 • Cash Only • Take Out Available

“The Sap is Running in Vergas” 5K Fun Run/Walk

Registration 8-8:30 am @ Summers Design Center
Race Start Time 9 am
Registration \$30 - Pre-Register by April 1
Registration includes Breakfast & Maple Syrup Coupon
Medals Awarded to Top 5 Runners

HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES BY FARM 41
9:00 am - Noon @ Vergas Methodist Church

KIDS ACTIVITIES @ SUMMERS DESIGN CENTER
FREE Cookie Decorating 9 am - 11 am
by GROW Frazee Vergas Coalition and MW Pastry
Face Painting and Magic Color Pages 8 am - Noon

MAPLE SYRUP DEMOS
10 am - 2 pm @ Maplewood State Park
by Friends of Maplewood State Park



SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS FROM

central market

Each church is asking everyone to save their receipts from Central Market in Perham & Detroit Lakes (be sure the cashier stamps them with the red **“we care”** stamp). These are turned in for rebates and the money has been used for mission work as well as helping to pay for things around the church. Place your receipts and codes in the labeled box – that’s all you have to do. We have earned many dollars



We have a meaningful worship opportunity each week, sharing our God Moments. These are not necessarily our stories about how we became a Christian – some of us have been one all our lives, and they aren’t just big event stories – most of us will never experience talking to a burning bush. These are stories of how we have seen or experienced God during the past week



The Vergas Church Ladies

We continue to work on new ideas to raise money for charity. We will try to work with the community events in Vergas.

All ideas and new members are always welcome!



Our next meeting will be
April 16th,
12:30pm
at the church.



Dent Breakfast Club



Meets at The Doug Out
9am on the first
Wednesday of the month



AD COUNCIL MEETING

Wed. Apr 15th

Dent 3pm

Vergas
6:30pm



BOOK CLUB



Next Meeting

Tues, **May 5th** 12:30pm
Being hosted by Faye Courneya
50072 E Lake Seven Rd

Book 1: "The Correspondent"
by Virginia Evans

and

Book 2: "Some Bright Nowhere"
By Ann Packer

Keep Reading

It's one of the most
marvelous adventures
anyone can have.



MARCH VOLUNTEERS

April Ushers	
Lyndon & Peggy M.	
Apr. Liturgist	
Lyndon M.	
Apr	Fellowship
05	Easter Sunday
12	Gretchen & Roger D.
19	Toni & Lowell L.
26	Nancy & Doug H.

Apr	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
	19th	Communion Setup ~	Donna Strawhorn
05			Easter Sunday
12	Bev F.	David & Carla R.	Donna S.
19	Tonya J.	Faye & Tonya	
26	Bryan G.	Bryan & Eileen	

If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!



April 10th

Rob & Joy Mickelson



Vergas Birthdays			
April	2nd	Jody Schoenberger	
April	2nd	Carla Reiten	
April	8th	Loren Menz	
April	20th	Rick Nelson	

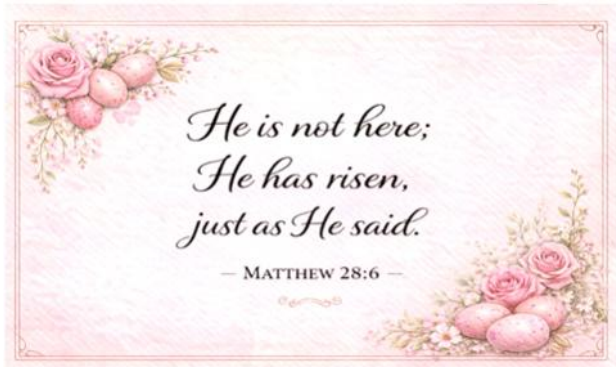
Dent Birthdays			
April	19th	Michelle Salathe	
April	29th	Doug Hovey	

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(See John 20:1-18) 03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"



Church Missions April / May / June

Vergas Mission of the Quarter - Relay for Life

Relay for Life is a charity and organization close to many of our hearts. Very few families have not been touched by cancer in one way or another! The Vergas Looneys are very proud of the dollars we have been able to raise to fight cancer. Our team always does extremely well as part of Ottertail County usually placing first or second in donations! You can donate dollars or purchase Luminarias in honor of someone with cancer. Just get in touch with Bev Flateland. Thank you for your past generosity.

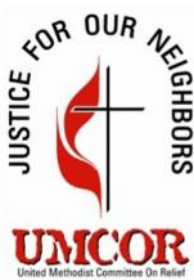
Vergas Local Outreach

The local mission for April is to be determined at the next Ad Council meeting.

Remember that the budget allows \$200 a month for the quarterly mission and \$300 a month for local missions. Mission dollars added by the congregation goes toward the quarterly mission. Please let the Ad Council know of any local needs. Thank you for your continued support of missions.



Dent Mission of the Quarter ~ UMCOR



The Mission of the Quarter is UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief/ UMCOR works all over the world but does significant work in the United States. U.S. Disaster Response (UMCOR USDR) seeks to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the United States and its territories.

With a "communities own their recoveries" philosophy, UMCOR supports local efforts to accomplish immediate relief and long-term recovery while providing for volunteers to offer compassionate ministry in the aftermath of disasters.



**Thank you for your
continued support**

A Thought for The Day



“Worship Times”

Dent UMC

8:30am Pre Fellowship
9am Worship Service

Vergas UMC

9:30am Adult Sunday School (Sep thru May)
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am Coffee Fellowship



Livestream Service begins at 10:30am on the [Vergas Facebook page](#)



Recorded Service will be posted on YouTube and [dentvergasumc.org](#)

Click on the icon or link to go to the site

Are there things you would like to see each month in your newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Submit photographs? Share a recipe? Please let us know and we will do our best to include it here. Also, If you want your Newsletter delivered by email. Please let Sheri Schoenberger know at sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for May is April 26, 2026.**

We will be sending out the newsletter on the first or second Sunday of each month, if possible. To defray costs the newsletter will be offered in the following formats:

Email - Website - In person pick up at church - 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month.

US Mail - Remaining newsletters will be mailed on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month.

Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

Sheri Schoenberger

Phone or text: 218-329-7465

email: sheri.lschoenberger@gmail.com

April / May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9am Dent Breakfast Club The Doug Out 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	2 Jody S. (V) Carla R. (V) Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday	6 12:30pm Book Club	7 Loren M. (V)	8	9 Rob & Ivy M. (D)	10 Maple Syrup Fest	11
12	13	14 Ad Council 3pm Dent 6:30pm Vergas	15	16 12:30 pm Church Ladies	17	18
19 Michelle S. (D)	20 Rick N. (V)	21 Earth Day	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Doug H. (D)	29	30	1	3
4	5 12:30pm Book Club	6 9am Dent Breakfast Club	7	8	9	10