

This past Sunday we started our Lenten series “There and Back Again,” based upon the Babylonian Captivity. The series is about change and how we react to it. We’ve already had some wonderful discussions on change and I’m excited to see where God leads us on this Lenten journey together.

After service, it was pointed out to me that “There and Back Again” is also the title of a novel. See, the book we call “The Hobbit” is actually entitled “The Hobbit, or There and Back Again, a Hobbit’s Tale.” I was asked if I knew that when I named the Lenten series. Friends, let me be honest I... Totally borrowed that name on purpose. I came up with the Lenten series after doing a reread of that amazing fantasy story. Like I’ve said before, I’m a huge nerd.

I love “The Hobbit”, because I can totally identify with the protagonist, Bilbo Baggins. I want to stay in my cozy home, surrounded by the things I like, and eating second breakfast. If I had my way, then I’d never go on an adventure or any nonsense like that. Bilbo only left his home, changed his life, because a wizard showed up with some homeless dwarves. He was forced on to change, just as change is so often forced upon us.

If you don’t have the time or the inclination to read “The Hobbit”, then maybe you can watch the movie trilogy. I don’t personally recommend it (the book is always better than the movie), but there is one scene that I think Tolkien would approve of. Gandalf the Grey, powerful and mighty wizard, is asked why he chose a hobbit, a small, tiny person who would rather stay at home, to be part of a daring adventure to defeat evil. Gandalf responds, “Some believe it is only great power that can hold evil in check. But that is not what I have found. I have found that it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love.”

Friends, I love that moment. We Christians read Scripture and see the mighty acts of Christ, the miracles performed by the Disciples and the Prophets, and the Holy Spirit light the early Church on fire. It is inspiring, but also can make it feel insignificant. It can make us feel that if we are to follow Christ and change the world and make disciples, we need to be powerful and great. We need to be miraculous healers or doers of mighty signs.

And when we can’t. When we can’t calm a storm or heal the sick, then it can make us feel unneeded. It’s not up to us to grow the Kingdom. It can’t be our job to change lives. We can’t do anything.

But friends, that’s not true. Each of us is needed. For each of us part of the Body of Christ. Everyone has been called to Christ. No one is worthless or weak. It is the same Holy Spirit that empowers us all, after all.

Paul writes to us throughout his epistles that we Christians are people that love agape. We are people of faith. We are people of joy and hope, in a world that proclaims that foolishness. We show people the forgiveness that Christ brought us not by giant miracles, but by constant love. By being caring. By being gentle and patient. We change the world by listening to the teachings of Christ: Loving God with everything we have, and loving our neighbors as ourselves, and everyone is our neighbor.

Friends, we are called to follow Christ. If we do that, then we will go on a grand adventure. We will see lives changed and the Kingdom grow. We will be part of something amazing. And one of the best ways we can be part of the change is by the little things. The little things that help beat back hate and injustice. We can do that by showing love and forgiveness. By acting grace filled. By caring.

I pray the start of your Lenten journey has been a good one. Less than forty days till we celebrate that glorious Easter morning! May you have a chance to grow in faith and closer to Christ!

God bless! Pastor Ed

Easter candy is needed for our Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring individually wrapped candy to the bin in the welcome area. Thank You

**Fifth Sunday - March 30 10:30 AM Worship then stay for the Turkey Biscuit Brunch
Please bring a dish to share.**

Enrollment for the 2025-26 preschool year is open to LUMC church families and current preschool families now.

Looking Ahead

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, Mar. 18, 7 PM
Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Mar. 22, 4 PM
Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, Mar. 26, 10 AM – Here
Fifth Sunday–10:30 AM Worship & Turkey Biscuit Brunch
Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, Apr. 8,
6:30 PM Clean the kitchen
Fill Easter Eggs – Thursday, Apr. 10, 6:30 PM Pizza & Pop
Preschool/Palm Sunday – 9:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 AM Brunch
Bring Rummage – Monday, Apr. 7 To the stage
Holy Thursday Service – Thursday, Apr. 17, 7 PM
Good Friday Service – Friday, Apr. 18, 7 PM
Rummage Sale Work Day – Wednesday, Apr. 23, 8 AM
Rummage/Bake Sale – Saturday, Apr. 26, 8:30 AM – 1 PM
Euchre/Game Night – Saturday, Apr. 26 at 4 PM

Food Pantry

Food Pantry Need: Shelf Stable Milk, jelly, dish soap, frosting, salt, toilet paper
The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM

TOPS Club meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206,
use north east door. Start 2025 with us!

Thank You

Thanking God for you. Yes, thanking God for the wonderful friends and family of the United Methodist Church of Lakeville for your prayers, cards and calls on my behalf. God does place his helping angels where they are needed. I have felt their works! May God continue to bless Pastor Ed and our church in our ministry to the community. With prayer and Christian love and thanks. Nancy Shirley

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

Mar 16 Dixie Mar 23 Chris L. Mar 30 Turkey Biscuit Lunch

Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Sunday Kids Church Schedule

Mar 16 _____ Mar 23 _____ Mar 30 _____

Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Ready to make a splash this summer? **Camp registration is officially open for 2025!**

For a complete event calendar with dates and locations, click [here](#). If you have questions, contact registrar@impact2818.org or (888) 628-2818.

Don't forget: [scholarships](#) are available. No kid in your life needs to miss out on camp!

Ready to dive in? Click [here](#) to register now!