

## Jesus, the Storyteller

Call to mind your own stories and the people who tell them. Stories are a history carried by ordinary people, and even if humorous they initiate honor and worth. Perhaps there is an image of a welcoming lap, a patient voice and the invitational wonder of the story unfolding between a familiar tone and the love of the teller. What's your favorite story? Is it simple, complex, dramatic, romantic, humorous or historical? It's a fact: People of any age love a story. I am betting that you have significant people who are forever written into the pages of your life. Whether they are a friend, a partner or a parent, their story gives us honor.

Jesus stood on mounds, echoed across meadows and walked clay roads delivering stories. In fact, one-third of His teachings are parables. I wonder what made people listen? Most certainly the ancient culture brimmed with tasks and to-dos that sustained a mere living; nevertheless, they listened, and so do we.

Jesus was once asked why He spoke in parables. He replied "so the kingdom of heaven might be given..." Centuries later we tilt our heads to listen longer, to discover a resemblance of a more heaven-like world. Historians believe a portion of why Jesus carved out parables was to elicit divergent points of view and memory. Parables grab us because as soon as we assume we understand the themes of the story, there is more to imagine. Parables have a simple and yet complex pattern. For instance, is the Seed and Sower describing how to become "fertile ground," or is it about our Creator who abundantly and recklessly sows seed our way even when we overlook growing? Or maybe the Sower is about how we might continue to earnestly sow and lean toward others who stand in rockier places.

The Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep and the Woman Baking with Leaven question our capacity to notice what is small and ponder how we foster growth. The Good Samaritan asks if

we hold our lives open to helping yet challenges us and pries us open if we might be thinking of ourselves or others as not worthy of this comfort. Mother Teresa pondered: "We sometimes think that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty."

We might assume we have leaped over mountains in terms of communicating with one another when we recount the time and place Jesus lived. Even so, a story is ageless. Princeton neuroscientist Uri Hasson has learned that when we listen, our brains are actually wired to couple with one another. Magnetic resonance images reveal similar brain patterns as we each relate to the same experience within a story. When your neocortex lights for a story, mine does too. When your insula activates, mine does too. Stories help us simultaneously experience joy, devotion, pain and ambition. Line by spoken line, our waves actually sync with one another. Stories can escort us to not merely be moved, but to be moved together or, as Hassan describes, "to be greater than all of our parts."

Jesus the storyteller not only has the most patient of voices, He carves out an eternal invitation within the threads of a parable. The greatest thing about these stories is that you, and your Creator, your counselor, your friend and your Abba or Mom are central to every single story. A parable is an invitation almost as great as a lap to be immersed in. Tell a story, turn a page and write a fresh sentence in a new day. You are wired to be a part of a whole, touching this world for good.

**Happy Mother's Day** to all of you storytellers! You rest within the lines of our lives and give us plenty of new pages!

— J.Jacot

**Prayer at WBLUMC:** One of the ways our church helps to nourish and support the hungers of life is through prayer. If you have a special need or celebration that could use extra care, we invite you to partake in one of these prayer avenues. If your spirit has the need to support others through prayer, we invite you to join in one of the teams.

**The Prayer Team:** If you would like to request a prayer of this team, please write it on a prayer request card, or contact Julie Jacot at 651-777-3728, [ljacot@q.com](mailto:ljacot@q.com). **The Email Prayer Chain** accepts email requests via a call or email to a pastor or the email prayer chain lead, Ronda Nelson, at [rondalauva2@msn.com](mailto:rondalauva2@msn.com). **The Phone Prayer Chain** is organized through the UMW. Call Eva Shipley if you would like to request a prayer at 651-429-3570.

### STAFF

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**Brooke Heerwald Steiner**, Associate Pastor

**John McBride**, Associate Pastor

**Joan Hartman**, Director of Children  
& Family Ministries

**Amy McGrew**, Director of Youth Ministries

**Peteria Cochran Routt**, Director of  
Traditional Music

**John Koziol, Jr.** Director of Music

**Matthew Goinz**, Chancel Choir Director

**Patricia Kytola**, Director of Operations

**Lauri Hopple**, Administrative Assistant

**Lori Hughes**, Website & Social Media

**Tom Leiser**, Treasurer

**Harry Jones**, Financial Secretary

**Ron Houde**, Housekeeper



9:30am Worship, May 14, 2017 Communion Sunday

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE; PLEASE SEE USHERS

• PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

### WORDS FOR MEDITATION

"All that you touch, you change. All that you change, changes you. The only lasting truth is change. God is change." ~ Octavia E. Butler

### PRELUDE

"Ode to Joy"

arr. Peteria Cochran Routt

Jubilation Bells with Leilani Lewis

### WELCOME

+OPENING WORDS (responsively)

And Jesus said, "Come!"

**To all mothers and all children: he said, "Come!"**

**to the motherless and the childless: he said, "Come!"**

**to all who long to be mothered: he said, "Come!"**

Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls. Amen**

+OPENING HYMN

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

No.2103

### UNISON PRAYER

**O Lord, save us from hardness of heart,  
where your word cannot take root.**

**O Lord, save us from shallowness of mind,  
where your word withers away.**

**O Lord, save us from the deceitfulness of riches,  
where your word is choked by everyday cares.**

**But Lord, grant that our hearts may be fertile soil,  
where your word flourishes and yields a harvest,  
bringing salvation to ourselves and those about us. Amen.**

### ANTHEM

"I Have the Joy" and "I Love Mother"  
Cherub Choir



White Bear Lake  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

1851 BIRCH STREET, WBL, MN 55110 | 651-429-9026 | WBLUMC.ORG

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *After the message, students preschool through 8th grade may leave for Sunday school.*

MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 8:4-8,11-15

Reader: Karen Halsey

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*Leader:* For the word of God in Scripture,  
for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

The Parable of the Sower

Pastor David Doppenberg

+HYMN

"The Servant Song"

No. 2222

CONNECTION CARDS

*Please take time now to fill out your green connection cards. After the prayer of dedication, place them in the offering plates.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

"Now the Green Blade Rises"  
Jubilation Bells, Sheryl W flute, Singers

arr. Shirley W. McRae

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (join in on the bold print)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...

.... And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name

and join their unending hymn: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

.... We offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*We will receive communion by intinction—dipping the bread into the cup so as to take them together. Individual and gluten-free servings are available at the table. We serve communion at an open table—you are welcome to participate as you choose.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

"Toccatta Festivea"

Dennis Janzer

ALTAR FLOWERS

This week's altar flowers are provided by David and Dawn Kittleson  
in loving memory of David Perbix.

**Please note:**

**Summer worship starts in two weeks!**

One service at 10am begins Sunday, May 28.

**Sunday, May 14**

9:30am — Worship/Sunday school/nursery  
10:30am — **ASP Silent Auction starts!** Coffee/tea, doughnuts, fellowship  
10:30am — Individual prayer, prayer room  
11:15am — Band-led worship/nursery

**Monday, May 15**

10am—Hang Loose Women’s Al-Anon, room 206  
6-7:30pm—Bell Trio rehearsal, sanctuary  
7-8:30pm—Hearts and Hands Knitting group, library

**Tuesday, May 16**

10:30am-noon—Staff meeting  
12:30-1:45pm—Faith In Action  
6pm—Yogadevotion class, Fellowship Hall  
6-8pm—Board of Directors, room 200

**Wednesday, May 17**

1-2:30pm—Prayer Team, library  
6-6:30pm—Children’s Choir, room 2015  
6:30-8pm—Confirmation Banquet, Fellowship Hall  
7:30-9pm—Chancel Choir rehearsal, music room

**Thursday, May 18**

7:10am—Men’s Breakfast Group, library  
10am—Pages of Wisdom, room 107

**Friday, May 19**

Office open 9am-noon

**Saturday, May 20**

7:30am — Men’s Prayer Group, room 107  
10am — Women’s Breakfast group, room 200

**Sunday, May 21**

9:30am — Worship/nursery; **no Sunday School**  
10:30am — **ASP Silent Auction ends!** Coffee/tea, doughnuts, fellowship  
10:30am — Individual prayer, prayer room  
11:15am — Band-led worship/nursery

Welcome to

WHITE BEAR LAKE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Visit [wblumc.org](http://wblumc.org) for weekly sermon podcasts, the church calendar and programming details.

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

**Sunday:** 9am to 12pm  
**Monday:** 9am to 3pm  
**Tuesday:** 9am to 3pm  
**Wednesday:** 9am to 3pm  
**Thursday:** 9am to 3pm  
**Friday:** 9am to 12pm  
**Saturday:** **CLOSED**

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Please email information to [office@wblumc.org](mailto:office@wblumc.org) by **noon on Tuesdays**. Most events require a two-week lead time, but the earlier you get us the information, the more time we have to get the word out. Thank you!

WEEKLY E-BLAST

To receive our weekly email update, call 651-429-9026 or email [office@wblumc.org](mailto:office@wblumc.org). Please submit church-related events or announcements by **3pm Wednesdays**. All e-blast and bulletin information is subject to staff approval.

LIFESOURCE

**We’re making some changes to the LifeSource newsletter. It will be a quarterly publication that focuses on upcoming events, big or small. We’d like to look ahead several months, and we need your help.**

If you’re on a team that plans events for the church, we’d love to hear about them. New or annual events, please send dates, times, and any plans you’re able to share so we can get the word out early to help boost interest, engagement and attendance. Photos from past years would also be great!

The next issue will be available in early June, looking forward into summer events. **DEADLINE: Tuesday, May 23.** Please email copy and photos to Lauri at [office@wblumc.org](mailto:office@wblumc.org). Thank you.



**Summer worship starts May 28: one service at 10am!**

**ASP SILENT AUCTION  
STARTS TODAY**

**All this week, YOU CAN HELP RAISE MONEY** for high school students going on ASP this summer.



In Fellowship Hall, bid on auction items like Saints tickets, gift cards and baskets, wall art, Brevna moisturizers, handmade wooden serving pieces, etc. The highest bidders will be called/texted at 11:30am on **Sunday, May 21**, so they can pick up their item(s) before they leave worship that morning.

**Today’s “Bee Friends” lesson**

One of our church’s beekeeping families, Amanda and David Graetzer, will be here to give a hands-on presentation to the kids about pollinators and honey production. For Mother’s Day, moms will receive a handmade beeswax candle. Before kids are dismissed to Sunday School at 9:30, we’ll celebrate the end of our bee unit as John Koziol plays the Flight of the Bumblebee.



**Bee-autiful Art in the Narthex:** On May 7, kids decorated and sold bees as a fundraiser for The Xerces Society. Thank you for your donations. **Please note: No Sunday school May 21 & 28!**



# PRECIOUS WATER

## UNDERSTANDING MINNESOTA'S WATER & MINING CONNECTION

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

Wednesday, May 24, 6:45 to 8:30pm

The Up All Night? social justice action group invites you to join us for a presentation by Kevin Lee, staff attorney for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA). You'll hear about:

- The sulfide and ore mining proposals for the areas near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Lake Superior
- What MCEA is doing to help protect our water from the environmental impact of the proposed mines
- How to become stewards of our state's precious water
- How to engage local legislators on key issues.

Refreshments at 6:45pm in the Narthex, program starts at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Contact Margie Grilley for more information: mgrilley@q.com or 651-324-2025

Find out how you can get involved.

All are welcome! Invite your neighbors and friends.



### Understanding the Refugee Experience

A few more facts learned from our event sponsored by the Up All Night? social justice action group:

1. Minnesota resettles approximately 3,000 refugees a year.
2. Currently, the largest numbers of refugees who settle in Minnesota are Karen and Somali.
3. Refugees have 30 to 90 days of case management by resettlement groups like the Council of Churches. At 90 days they are expected to have a job.



### June Baking with a Purpose

June selections are country whole wheat with raisins and French bread. Sign up in the narthex or online at [wblumc.org/events/event](http://wblumc.org/events/event) registration by **Thursday, June 1**. Pick up noon-1pm Saturday, June 3, or between services Sunday, June 4.

**Volunteers also needed!** Sign up in the narthex or contact Bob Knutson or Glenn Oliphant if you can help out on Saturday, June 3.

### Community garden sign-ups

Please stop by the office or contact Larry or Denise Kerr at 651-484-6092 to get your Garden Agreement and Application for the 2017 growing season. Plots are still only \$20 each.

### D.C./Ohio mission trip

Senior high and older youth and adults from across the conference are invited on a nine-day mission to our nation's capitol and the Ohio River Valley, **July 22 -July 30**.

Travel by coach-style bus to Washington, D.C. for two days of seminars on immigration and racism by General Board of Church and Society, plus visits to museums, and other important D.C. sites.

Then we'll travel to Steubenville, Ohio, for three days of urban mission with the JOSHUA Project, an ecumenical Christian social service agency founded by the United Methodist Church in 1959. JOSHUA stands for Journeys of Service Helping Upper Appalachia.

Cost is \$400 per person (scholarships are available) and lodging will be hostel-style.

For more information, talk to Pastor John or Lori McBride at [lorijomcbride@gmail.com](mailto:lorijomcbride@gmail.com)



### Let's play ball!

We've scheduled our summer Saints game: See the St. Paul Saints take on the Sioux Falls Canaries at CHS Field in downtown St. Paul on **Sunday, Aug. 13**. Families, friends, singles, couples — all are welcome! Tickets are \$15 for adults (18+) and \$10 for children (2-17). Kids under 2 are free. Game starts at 5pm.

Contact Jeremy Steiner with questions. Online payment preferred at [wblumc.org/events/event](http://wblumc.org/events/event) registration. Payments are due by **July 10**.

### Food shelf needs gluten-free donations

If you or a loved one has food sensitivities, then you know how challenging it can be to find appropriate foods. Now imagine how much more difficult that might be if you or your loved one were relying on food aid. **For the month of May**, we're requesting gluten-free items for donation to the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf. You may leave your donations in the collection bin in the Fellowship Hall, and a volunteer with the food shelf will deliver them at the end of the month. Thank you for your generosity!

### Women's Casual Golf Group

Do you like to golf? Women of all ages interested in playing a social round of golf are invited to join. We'll play 9 holes every Wednesday afternoon at a different course. Primary contact is Mary Cripe, [suzary006@comcast.net](mailto:suzary006@comcast.net); alternate contact is Carol Effertz, 651-429-6023. Let us know if you have any questions or would like to play so we can add you to the e-mail list for the complete schedule.

**May 24:** Gem Lake Golf Course; 4039 Scheuneman Road; 651-429-8715.