



*West Denmark Lutheran Church Luck, Wisconsin*

### UPCOMING EVENTS at WEST DENMARK

- April 2nd:** Maundy Thursday: Middle Eastern Supper at 6, Worship with Communion at 7.  
Please sign up for the meal and for bringing a food item needed.
- April 3rd:** Good Friday: Fish soup supper 6, Tenebrae Service with the choir at 7.
- April 5th:** Easter Sunday: Worship at 8 am, Children's Egg hunt follows worship, followed by breakfast in the hall.  
Please sign up to bring something to the breakfast. Food can be dropped off at the hall before church.
- April 18th:** Heritage Concert: PonyFolk 7 pm at the Hall (see poster for details)
- May 9th:** Æbleskiver dinner 3:30-7 at the Hall



### THANKS TO OUR YOUNG SOUP SERVERS

Once again we've had a delicious and enjoyable series of Lenten soup suppers. Special thanks to our youth who graciously and cheerfully served the soup, sandwiches, and desserts: Elliot Erikson, Astrid Sommerfeld, Johanna, Oskar, Lucy and Gussie Tretsven, Mercy and Abe Wetzig.



#### ◇ April Birthdays ◇ & Anniversaries

##### Birthdays

*Best wishes for the coming year!*

- 3 Dave Moe
- 6 Harry Johansen
- 18 Abel Wetzig
- 20 Milda Anderson  
Linda Rozumalski
- 27 Caitlin Petersen
- 30 Monte Tretsven

##### Anniversaries

*Congratulations!*

- 20 Tasha & Todd Johnson
- 21 Beth & Ronnie Petersen

## THE MINISTRY OF PIE

“This year’s Pie Day was all about strengthening our ministries and community and taking a literal taste of that community to homebound members.”

On March 14, 2026 (or 3.14 pi day) the West Denmark Lutheran Church fellowship hall was transformed into a beautiful expanse of 24 different kinds of pies, sliced and ready to be served with coffee to the wider community. Thank you to all those hands and hearts that created those pies! A special shout out to Nancy Moe, Maggie Petersen, Pam Petersen, Mary Jensen, Brenda Johnson, Laura Jensen, Christy Wetzig, Steve and Margaret Gehret, and Kristen Marten.

When I arrived, I immediately thought of the homebound folks who would not be able to enjoy this culinary sweet feast. Along with the wonderful caregivers at West Denmark, I have the privilege of holding relationships with those we don’t see as often as we used to.

Over the next several hours I traversed across the Polk County countryside to surprise our homebound folk with a piece of pie. I tried several different ways to pair the right kind of pie with each person’s favorite. A text to a son, phone calls from family members, and consultation with the bakers helped get the right pie to its best home.

In spiritual care, the concept of “a third thing” refers to an additional element that can mediate and enhance the relationship between a caregiver and the person receiving care. In this case, “the third thing” was a piece of pie. There couldn’t have been a better “third element” to bring into my visits that morning and to facilitate storytelling and joy.

I delivered a piece of pie to a member at Pioneer Home (who welcomed me with a BIG smile and warm conversation) and then to several members of our monthly hymn sing group that Brenda Johnson, Kris Johnson, and I lead. It was just the right infusion of warmth into an otherwise quiet weekend at the home.

Pie day was also about strengthening our many ministries at West Denmark through financial support (\$5.00 per slice). Over \$ 600 was raised and was earmarked for our general fund. That fund helps us pay for a variety of ministries both to our congregation, to the community, and the wider world. These include “Mothers in Recovery”, Loaves and Fishes, Peanut Butter for the Salvation Army backback program at the Luck Schools, and the Woodland School.

I delivered those pieces of pie on your behalf--the people of West Denmark Lutheran Church. They were a tangible extension of this beloved community we share together--a community where we serve up love and care one slice at a time. Yummy!

Blessings,  
Pastor Shawn Mai

## **APRIL WORSHIP NOTES**

### **SUNDAYS AT WEST DENMARK:**

#### **8:30 MEDITATION GROUP**

You are invited to join our 8:30 Meditation Group, which meets in the balcony of the church. In a world that can often feel chaotic, this gathering has become a grounding and connected time for all participants. We start with a short reflective reading, follow it with 15 to 20 minutes of silence, and wrap up with a discussion about our experiences. It's a beautiful way to center ourselves and find peace together.

#### **10 AM WORSHIP**

Join us for our thriving 10 AM worship service, filled with inspiring music, engaging lay participation, and thoughtful reflections on lectionary texts. Invite neighbors who may be looking for community to experience our eagerness to welcome. Stay afterward for coffee, delicious treats, and meaningful conversations at 11 AM!

### **PREACHERS IN APRIL**

**April 5** Christy Wetzig

**April 19** Christy Wetzig

**April 12** Henrik Strandskov

**April 26** Len Halvorson

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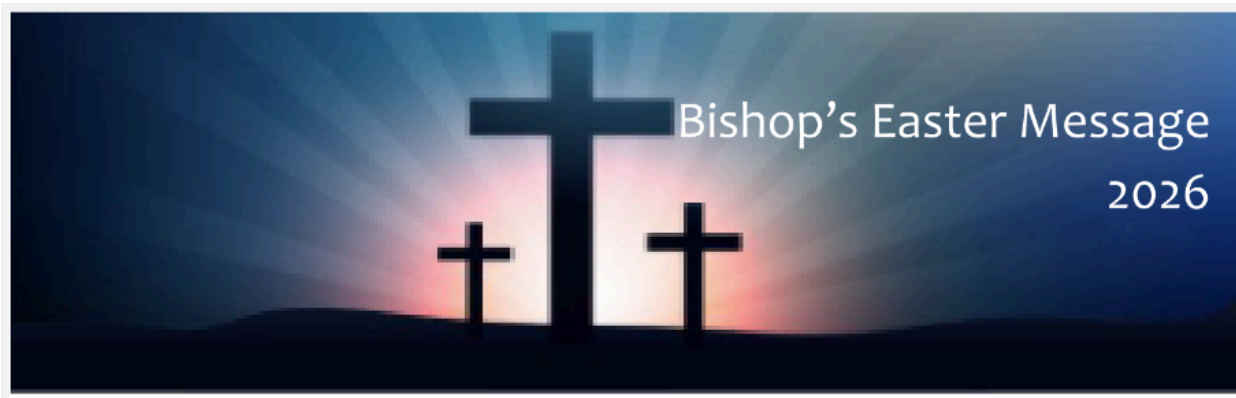
**No Sunday School: April 5, April 12**  
**Last day of Sunday School for spring is May 17**  
**Easter is April 5, there will be an Easter Egg hunt after the early service**

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### **GREETINGS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE**

For those of you who might be wondering what the Call Committee is up to, we have undergone training with Pastor Randy Olson about the process and what next steps look like. The committee has had an organizational meeting with a detailed conversation about the Ministry Site Profile. Currently, we are developing questions and parameters to discuss with candidates once we receive their names and profiles from the Synod. We have been notified that we are unlikely to have candidates to interview before early Summer. Look for additional updates in the future.

Laura Jensen and Chris Johansen, co-chairs  
Paul Petersen, Mike Miles, and Jennifer Tretsven



To the beloved of the NWSWI,

Happy Easter to you as we celebrate the most sacred day of the year when Jesus squarely looked death in the face and overcame the grave! When I think about what that says about our God, I am continually overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude because of the sheer depth of God's love. To think about what Jesus went through in those final days, it is simply the best illustration of what God's grace looks like – a gift to us as individuals and as a family of faith – all without merit.

While on a Civil Rights pilgrimage last month, I found myself quite perplexed when listening to the central message of many civil rights leaders, including many that I met in person. While visiting Birmingham, I worshiped at the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church, which was bombed on a Sunday morning just before worship on Sept. 15, 1963. Four young women (all teens) died in the blast as they were preparing to serve in the youth led service. As our group heard about the story in the tour the day before our worship, this central message was proclaimed – love. Later that day we spent time with another black leader in the city whose ancestors were also victims of white supremacy. She too acknowledged the central message that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught over and over in his messages – a message of love, even for your enemies.

That struck me. When victims of oppression look at their oppressors and can maintain a posture of love in hopes that the hatred they've experienced would someday be extinguished, I could only think about the depths of God's love. While most of us would at minimum defend ourselves from the oppressive actions taken against them, if not fight back and seek retribution, they instead turned to love and forgiveness. It is their faith in God that could give them the strength to practice love.

We still live in a world where hatred and prejudice exist. But the story of Easter is rooted in love. Jesus went to the cross after praying in the garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Your will be done. This is true sacrifice rooted in love for humankind. This is love revealed to broken and sinful people. This is a love for us all – no exception.

As we celebrate the day Christ rose from the dead, offering forgiveness to all humankind, let us rejoice in acts of love. Let us respond to God's gift of grace through acts of love!

*Bishop Martin Habon*

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We welcomed Steve Gehret to the committee. Steve has a background in financial operations in corporate, healthcare, education and church settings.

Our January and February contributions are ahead of last year. Some of this is due to Required Minimum Distributions from retirement funds that are given to the church early in the year due to tax implications. Some is due to households giving on an annual basis vs. weekly or monthly. This may lead to variances in the actual income vs. the budgeted income. We may need to explain this during our financial presentations.

Liz has closed the 2025 books and will be updating the budget for 2026. There may be some items to be brought forward to the Council that need adjustments, either due to an error or omission in the budgeting process or in income/expense trending.

The finance committee was asked to look at updating rental costs and establishing guidelines for rentals. The committee recommends that a small group of people meet and work on this project and bring to Finance for further consideration. Names suggested: Nancy Moe, Terry Speiker, Connie Wicklund. Other people may be interested as well.

Steve recommended that we engage the services of a small accounting firm to assist with payroll taxes. We have met with McClain Accounting in Taylors Falls and recommend continuing with them. This is the same firm that provides Luck Lutheran with oversight. Liz will follow up and request a bid.

West Denmark has a fund established in memory of Matt Nick. Matt was a young boy who attended West Denmark with his family when he passed away. The family clarified that the memorial fund was intended to be used by the church as it sees fit. We will be using the funds to help our Capital Improvement fund get started. We are so very grateful to the Nick family for this generous donation. In addition, the Park Dane account has been inactive for some time and needs to be closed out. This money will also be moved to the Matt Nick Capital Improvement Fund, which will be held at Mission Investment Fund as an interest earning checking account.

The Safety Deposit Box was opened on March 18th , with Harry Johansen, Mike Miles and Liz Dodge observing. It was empty. We have canceled our lease and will be sure to find a way to keep our key from getting lost if we decide we need another box in the future.

Liz Dodge, Terry Speiker, Dave Moe, Steve Gehret

Ongoing Activities at West Denmark...

## West Denmark Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1pm

In the fellowship area in the church. We finished 1st Peter and are on to the book of James. This is an excellent time to join an engaging, relevant, low stress study led by Christy Wetzig. No prep necessary! Our motto is: *Not all who wander are lost!* All are welcome!



## Encore: Conversations About Aging

Thursday April 23rd

10:30- noon in the fellowship area in the church. Topic: Vetting the news and what are the pod casts people like. May's date and topic will be determined at the April meeting. Contact WD if interested.

## West Denmark Book Club

Wednesday April 22 11am-12:30.

This month's book is Thoreau's God by Richard Higgins. The WDLC book discussion group meets via zoom at 11 AM on the FOURTH Wednesday of every other month. Join us for a lively, insightful discussion. For the Zoom link contact: Mark Hulsether <[mhulseth@gmail.com](mailto:mhulseth@gmail.com)>.

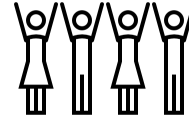
## Choir Practice

Wednesdays April 1st and 29th at 7 pm.

## Men's Breakfast

Mondays 7:30am

Meets at the Tin Shed in Frederic



## Women's Breakfast

Monday's 10 am

Mondays 10 am at the Tin Shed in Frederic except the last week of the month when they meet on Tuesday at Cafe Wren at 11:40am.

## Peanut Butter

is always needed for the backpack program at Luck school! Thanks for the great response! I drop off jars every week! Either purchase peanut butter and leave at church, or earmark a donation, put it in the offering and I will purchase. *Thank you!! Barb Kass*

## Quilters!

After a long winter's break, we will be starting to piece quilts with the pieces already cut and accepting fabric for more. Call the church for meeting times. (We often meet on Mondays at 11:30 after the women's breakfast.) All skill levels are welcome!!!

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## IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE:

### ÆBLESKIVER SUPPER IS MAY 9th

Due to the Luck Prom on May 2nd and involvement of several West Denmark youth and families, we are moving Aebleskiver to the 2nd Saturday of May. Please let others know as it is pretty set in stone that it is always the first Saturday. Sign up sheets will be on the info table right after Easter.

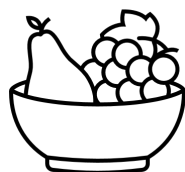


**From the Editor: Astute readers of the March Newsletter may have noticed that the Loaves and Fishes Report was a reprint from January. Apologies for the mix up - Here is February's report!**

## **LOAVES & FISHES MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2026**

Open Tues. & Thurs. 11 – 1:00  
Lions Hall, 300 S. 1 st Street Luck, WI  
P.O. Box 554 Luck, WI 54853

# Households served: 47  
Luck: 30; Unity: 17  
Adults: 69; Children: 24  
New families: 1  
Total people: 93  
Donations: Money: \$7,493



(Below includes TEFAP, purchased food, donations)

Weight of food coming in: # 2,785  
Weight of food going out: # 2,292  
Volunteer hours: 61.25 hours.

*The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federally funded USDA food program, which is administered through the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Loaves & Fishes is a recipient agency.*

Needs for next month: bread, fresh fruit (food other than canned vegetables or fruit).

We can always use more volunteer workers. If interested, please contact:

Pam Girtz 320-232-7541  
email: [girtzp@gmail.com](mailto:girtzp@gmail.com);  
or Gena Bugno: [nobug115@yahoo.com](mailto:nobug115@yahoo.com)



### **SHOUT HOSANNA!**

West Denmark Children waved their palms and lifted their voices for Palm Sunday!

## FUND RAISING TITHE GOES TO LOAVES AND FISHES

Every year we pledge 10% of church fund raising income to a local non-profit organization. We have given to Woodland School, Interfaith Caregivers, Kinship of Polk County, Northwoods Homeless Shelter, Community Referral Agency and Polk County Mental Health Task Force in previous years. We regularly support all these agencies with volunteers and funds, as well as the Salvation Army Backpack program, and Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.

In 2025 we raised \$6340 through our æbleskiver Dinner, Pi Day, Fish Boil, Harvest Fest and Cookie Walk. We left the Youth garage sale and the Youth Group Dessert Theater dedicated to their Mission trip.

The Council elected to give the \$634 to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Pam Girtz, Co-coordinator for the pantry spoke eloquently in church recently about the need for additional resources. She advised that governmental subsidies of the Emergency Food program were significantly reduced, which has resulted in a greater dependency on donations. We hope these funds will help in some way.



### EASTER BRUNCH



Brunch at WD is always a little awkward. We don't have a basement kitchen and dining area, we have a totally different building, 500 feet away from the church. "When does brunch start?" Is a common question without a specific answer. Hopefully this article will get us all more comfortable with a timeline and process to enjoying brunch together.

Brunch food items need to be dropped off at the Hall before church, between 7:15-8:00am. There will be a couple of people ready to receive your food. It will be put in the oven to keep warm or the refrigerator to keep cool. To make their job easier please write any instructions down. With many people dropping off food the kitchen helpers will need reminders or they may not even get to talk to you. Indicate if the food is vegetarian, gluten free, or has nuts, we will find a way to indicate that in the serving line. If your food doesn't need refrigeration or the oven please bring it plated. If you don't have a plate big enough at home then come early and find a plate from the kitchen.

After church there will be no coffee in the fellowship area. Instead please come to the Hall for coffee. Before you leave church, look around for anyone new or visiting and encourage them to join you at the Hall. We'll have chairs and coffee ( not coffee in the Danish sense, with treats) on the first floor. While people are gathering, the kids will start their egg hunt, and kitchen people will be getting the food on the serving tables. Getting the food out shouldn't take that long, about 30 minutes. When it is announced that all is ready we can start going through the buffet line, even if the kids are not finished with their egg hunt.

Last year the dining area was completely full. We'll be making additional space available on the first floor in case we have 120 people enjoying brunch with us.

The next time you're at church please check the sign up table  
to make sure there aren't any lines blank.



## JUST A CLOSER WALK

Any interest in a walk on the Gandy and a talk about God?

Motivated by a number of factors, I'd like to propose an activity:

- 1.) Since a number of church activities happen during the weekday, it is hard for people who work to attend. This would provide an alternative for folks who can't attend weekday events.
- 2.) Would provide opportunities for personal connection, and an opportunity to discuss theological ideas and beliefs
- 3.) Would supplement Bible study nicely to bring a deeper understanding to Christian life/community.
- 4.) Health benefit of a good walk at the end of the day!

I propose the second Wednesday of the Month, 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Meet at the Gandy behind the Wren.

Questions to consider:

- What is something you believed about God when you were a kid, but question now?
- What is your favorite church season, and why?
- What are you called to, as a Christian?
- What is your favorite spiritual practice?
- When do you feel closest to God?

Since April has 5 Wednesdays, I'd like to start April 15. Please reach out if you are interested. Teens welcome!

Terra Lumley  
612-328-4213  
lterrablu@aol.com

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## IN LOVING MEMORY

Dear West Denmark Church Members,

Please accept this donation in memory of my maternal aunt, Marie (Kirk) Peterson, who passed away at the age of one hundred and one years in October 2025. Until the end, she was in good health and often shared her fond memories of the Luck area community and the W.D church where she was married to Donald Peterson. Their family lived in Luck for several years and when they moved to the Twin Cities, they visited Luck on weekends to spend time with their extended families of Leon and Margaret Kirk, and Roy and Jennie Peterson.

Marie was at one time a friend of the West Denmark Lutheran Church, and she will be laid to rest in the West Denmark cemetery near family. She was preceded in death by her husband and daughter Mary, and survived by her son Grant and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Marie was an accomplished seamstress and baker and loved tending her beautiful flower gardens. She was a very generous, caring woman with a positive outlook and lively sense of humor.

Thank you,  
Margaret Johansen



Now Accepting  
Donations!

# REDWOOD RECOVERY PROJECT GARAGE SALE

FREE  
WILL  
DONATION!



MAY 1, 2-6PM

MAY 2, 8-2PM

**West Denmark Parish Hall  
2492 170<sup>th</sup> Street Luck, WI**

Contact Emily with questions or for  
donation drop-off!

[emily@redwoodrecovery.org](mailto:emily@redwoodrecovery.org)

# West Denmark Heritage Council

Presents:



## West Denmark Lutheran Church

Saturday, April 18, 2026 @ 7:00pm

**Tickets: Reserved \$20-Open Seating \$15**

No fee for k-12 students with purchase of ticket by parent.

**Artist Information: [ponyfolk.com](http://ponyfolk.com)**

**Information about purchasing tickets and  
other concerts can be found at:**

**[www.westdenmark.net](http://www.westdenmark.net)**



**West Denmark Lutheran Church  
2478 170th Street      Luck, WI 54853**

*The Carnegie Hall for folk music in northwest Wisconsin!*

*Ponyfolk Bio on following page!*



## PONYFOLK BIO

Ponyfolk was formed in 2014 by Clifton Nesseth (vocals, strings, guitar, synth/keys) and Paul Sauey (vocals, strings, guitar, bass). Based out of Duluth and Minneapolis, MN, the pair's multi-instrumentalist abilities and vocal harmonies have carved them out a reputation of creating maximalist soundscapes that are defined by droning layers of guitars, strings, and synth textures - undergirding emotionally evocative lyrical imagery. Over the last few years, the band has expanded to include Aaron Hays (drums), Alex Nelson (keyboards), Mikey Marget (cello), and Lewis Franti (percussion). The band will be releasing their debut LP on February 22nd, a celebration of traditional Americana and Nordic folk music. Performing in various configurations and styles, Ponyfolk's music always keeps a foot planted firmly in the ethos of the folk traditions while stepping forward into new sounds and musical terrains.

Originally crossing paths at Shell Lake Arts Center's summer camp as jazz students in 2004, Clif and Paul bonded over their mutual interest in bassist Jaco Pastorius and the English rock band, Cream. Several years later, they happened upon each other while auditioning for St. Olaf College's music program in Northfield, MN. During their tenure in St. Olaf's music major program (2006-2010), Paul Sauey played cello with the St. Olaf Orchestra and Clifton played flute in The St. Olaf Band.

After college, Clifton and Paul formed Ponyfolk (originally Pony), borrowing from the more acoustic side of their common musical tastes and exploring their growing interest in multiple folk music traditions. Focusing heavily on their vocal harmony work and building their songs around intricate finger-picking textures and Scandinavian-inspired modalities, they released EP I in 2015. A remix of this EP will be reissued in early 2025. In subsequent years, they began to add synthesizers and a more modern aesthetics to their sound while simultaneously becoming more serious students of various styles of Americana and Nordic instrumental music., the latter being inspired by their time at Nisswa-stämman: Nordic Music & Dance Festival in North Central Minnesota. Over the last few years, the band has played a key role in moving the stämman to Duluth, MN, where it will undergo its 3rd iteration on June 13th & 14th, 2025. Clif and Paul both received fellowship grants from American Scandinavian Foundation (ASF), which will allow them to study music in Southwestern Sweden in July of 2025.

The band has also been working on a folk rock LP since 2021, which will also finally be released sometime in 2025. Ponyfolk's music has been described as "the dark side of Simon & Garfunkel" and "early Pink Floyd mixed with the Lord of the Rings soundtrack."



Thanks to Pam and Carl Hanson for leading two sessions in of Ukrainian Egg Decorating (Pysanky)  
Here is a small selection of the art created!

## **SAVE THE DATES FOR FAMILY CAMP 2026**

### **JULY 1, 2 AND 3, 2026**

BONUS: Come early for June 30 pre-Camp ice cream social plus singing and craft introductions, 6 p.m.  
Watch the April Newsletter for information on registration!

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## **DANEBOD FOLK MEETING AUGUST 19-23**

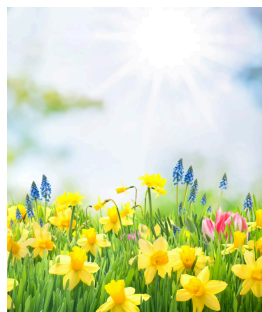
One of the foundational tenets of the Danish folk school tradition and the annual Danebod Folk Meeting is that teachers and students learn from each other. At the 2026 Folk Meeting, professionals and participants will come together for three and a half days of mutual learning. You will hear from experts on topics like campaigning American style, literacy and Legos, unpacking a chamber music work, and translations of Louis Jensen's "Square Stories," and you will have the opportunity to let your voice, questions, and perspectives be heard! All events, from lectures to leisure, are designed for active participation and engagement.

Also in the spirit of Grundtvig's goals for life-long learning, we are offering two afternoons of experiential activity for small groups. Attendees will be able to choose to:

- Join a team of Danebod pastry chefs to make almond, cherry, and apricot pastries to serve to all the Folk Meeting participants on Friday after your class.
- Hike at Camden State Park, exploring the history of the park with a park ranger or hike with a local park enthusiast.
- Explore your inner artist in a drawing class. Learn the principles in basic drawing of the human figure; drawing from life with a human model to develop a sense of proportion and feel of movement.
- Experience the joy of folk dancing for the body and soul.
- Explore the hidden depth of your daily life by turning everyday objects, old memories, and forgotten experiences into rich, vivid poetry.
- Try your hand at basic wood carving and learn the Scandinavian figure carving style.
- Participate in the Danish art of paper-cutting, making intricate designs for Christmas and other seasons.
- Hone your skills in chess, from the basics of setting up the board and moving the pieces to playing the Larsen Opening, the Scandinavian Defense, and the Danish Gambit.

Join us on the Danebod campus in Tyler for three days of lively discussions and hands-on learning! Learn more at [danebodfolkmeeting.org](http://danebodfolkmeeting.org).

# West Denmark Lutheran Church



2478 170th Street  
Luck, WI 54853  
www.westdenmark.org

Return Service Requested

## April Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAYS

Contemplative Meditation	8:30am
Worship	10am
Fellowship time	11am

### MONDAYS

Men's Breakfast -  
Tin Shed, Frederic 7:30am

Women's Coffee  
Tin Shed, Frederic 10am

last week of month:  
MONDAY, 11:40am, usually Cafe Wren

### WEDNESDAY

Choir Rehearsal April 1st & 29th 7pm

### THURSDAY

Every Other week:  
ENCORE 10:30am

### SATURDAYS

AA - 9-10:30 am

## Mark Your Calendars! Upcoming Events

4/1-4/5	Holy Week Services
4/18	Ponyfolk Concert
5/1-2	Redwood Garage Sale
*5/9 <i>New Date!</i>	Æbleskiver Supper

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*And lots more!*

West Denmark is a safe place  
to worship, study,  
and build relationships with God  
and others,  
regardless of race, creed, sexual  
orientation, gender identity, or cultural  
background.