



March 15, 2018

Greetings friends,

I spotted a FLOCK of robins on Sunday afternoon. First we had a beautiful early Sunday morning snow shower that blanketed everything, followed shortly by this iconic sign of spring as that morning snow mercifully melted away.

Trixie and I have been picking up sticks in the yard during our daily "walkabouts". One of these next days I may do some raking to get rid of the dead leaves and other debris that drifted into the yard after our raking last fall.

In two weeks we hope the weather is nice enough to allow for an outside Easter egg hunt for Cora and her cousins. It would be nicer for everyone, I think, if we didn't have to wade through damp, smelly leaves or winter doggie residue in our quest for brightly colored eggs.

It certainly isn't glamourous living in Iowa in the early spring, but I sure do love it! Have a wonderful week!

This Week at Grace –Pastor Fred's message, *This Seed Will Rise* is inspired by John 12:20-33. The Chancel Choir will sing, *Down By the Riverside*. Greeters this week are Cindy Spurlock and Chuck & Ruby Matheason. Those serving as ushers include David, Becky, Ross & John Barclay. Cathy Hermanson will serve as liturgist. Worship begins at 9:15 with our monthly brunch at 10:15. Remember this month proceeds of our free-will meal (sausage gravy and biscuits) will benefit the Heifer Project. Sunday school meets at 10:30. Please join us!

With all of our work to retire apportionment debt last year, we have just under \$11,000 remaining due from 2014. Our Finance Committee has completed the paperwork to have that debt forgiven by the Conference. In order to expedite the process, a Charge Conference must be called to get congregational approval to submit the request. **On Monday, April 2nd, you are invited to A Cavalcade of Casseroles supper at 6:00 p.m. and a special Charge Conference at 6:30 p.m.** to vote on our application for apportionment debt forgiveness.

Look for the shopping cart in the narthex. It has been placed there to collect food, paper and personal hygiene items you might like to donate to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry this year. A list of items that are always in shorter supply is posted on the cart. Thank you for your generosity to our local food pantry.

Please note the mental health flyer on page 3 this week. Roland-Story is hosting an informative evening on March 22nd in the high school auditorium to educate us on a variety of current mental health topics impacting youth and adults.

SAVE THE DATE!

On Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018 from 10 AM until 2 PM, Bethany Life will be holding their annual Palm Sunday Brunch and Bake Sale/Craft Sale, in support of their Chaplaincy program. Chef Chris Hansen will be making omelets and serving streusel coffee cake. Enjoy a great meal for a free will donation. Bethany Volunteers will be selling baked goods. Please plan to bring the entire family, your neighbors and friends to the **Story City Senior Center at 503 Elm Ave.** for the Bethany Life Palm Sunday Brunch. See you there!

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
Caleb Michel; Vena Mae Larson; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); George Mackey; Tim (Becky Barclay's brother); Denny Michel; Julie Jacobson; Sara Dappen; Norman Patti; Pam Hillis; Lois Johnson; Cooper Leeman, Taylors in Africa

News You Can Use

Sunday, March 18

- 9:15 AM Worship – choir
- 10:15 AM Sunday Brunch – Biscuits & gravy, Heifer Project
- 10:30 AM Sunday school

Tuesday, March 20

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Wednesday, March 21

- 7:00 PM Choir
- 8:00 PM Bells

Friday-Saturday, March 23-24

5:00 PM to 9:00 AM Overnight Venture scouting at Grace

Sunday, March 25 – PALM SUNDAY

- 9:15 AM Worship – children's quartet
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school and Confirmation class
- Noon – Family Gathering in Fellowship Hall
- 12:30 PM Venture Scouts in Youth Room

Faithfully,
Cathy



Lilies for Remembrance

Let's fill our sanctuary with beautiful Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday. You are invited to bring in a lily plant during Holy Week or on Easter morning. Story City Floral & Garden is selling the plants for \$20 and will deliver them to the church if you ask them. (Deadline for ordering lilies is Monday, March 19) *We will not be placing orders through the church office.* If you'd prefer, you may bring a lily of your own. If you want to pay tribute to loved ones either as a memorial for those who have passed or in honor for those who are still with us, simply fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate by Palm Sunday (March 25). *NOTE: Do NOT include money with this form. If ordering your plant through the local florist, please call (515)733-2760 and work with them directly.*

My name _____

of plants _____

In honor/memory of

Be Kind to Your Mind

Thursday
MARCH 22, 2018
6:00-8:40 p.m.

Roland-Story High School Auditorium

Booths open at 6:00 p.m.

Keynote: 6:20-6:50 p.m.

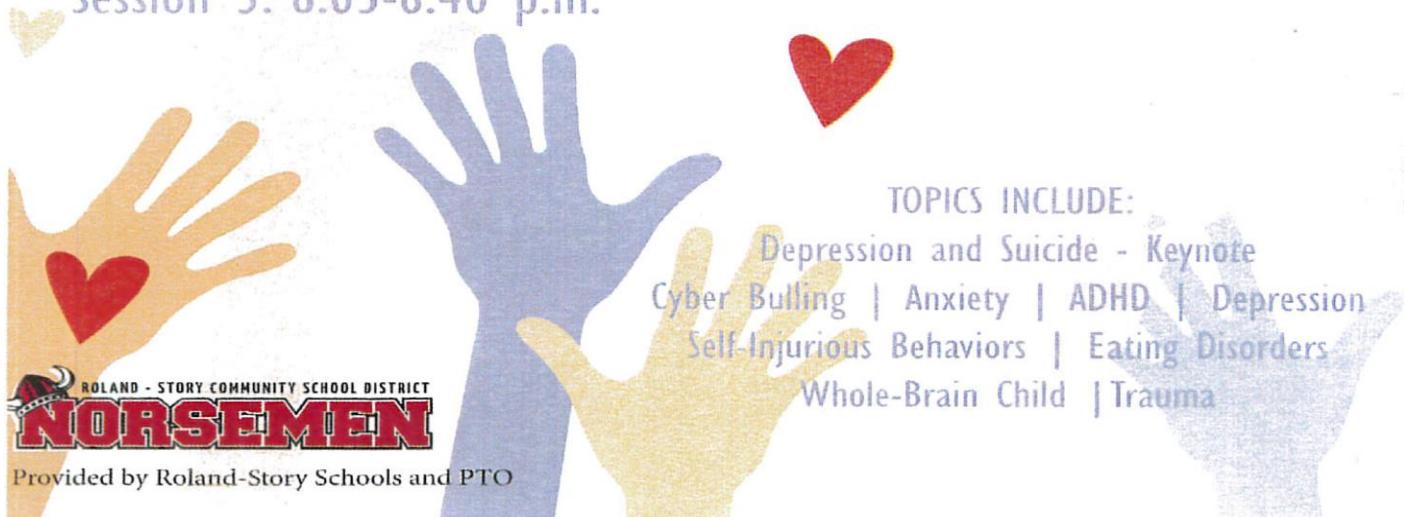
Session 1: 6:55-7:25 p.m.

Session 2: 7:30-8:00 p.m.

Session 3: 8:05-8:40 p.m.



JOIN US for an informative evening on a variety of current mental health topics impacting youth and adults. BRIAN CARICO, a passionate supporter of students who struggle both academically and emotionally, will be our keynote speaker and a breakout presenter.



TOPICS INCLUDE:

Depression and Suicide - Keynote
Cyber Bullying | Anxiety | ADHD | Depression
Self-Injurious Behaviors | Eating Disorders
Whole-Brain Child | Trauma

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ROLAND - STORY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Provided by Roland-Story Schools and PTO