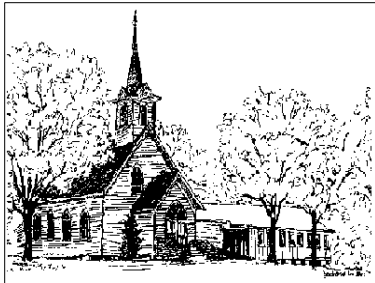




# MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

October 2007



## VIEW FROM THE HILL

The fellow on the other end of the line wanted to know if I was "the one who was trying to get the school levy passed." All it took was my "Yes" for him to launch into a diatribe about "you people" that just want to raise taxes without thinking about the impact for those who live on a fixed income. When I asked to whom I was speaking, he gave me his name, then continued to berate me until I wished him a good day and hung up.

Not one to be deterred by a severed phone connection, the man called back. I didn't pick up. So he left a message suggesting that if I can't take the heat I should get out of the kitchen. His final advice: "In other words, keep your nose in your own church!"

Public education is a lightning rod in these parts, even in our own congregation. After some initial thoughts about asking permission to list Nora Church among the supporting institutions for the upcoming JSD 88 referendum, it became clear that many were not comfortable with such an endorsement. Understood.

Stepping back from what is for me a critical local issue (public education), the more important question has to do with our engagement with our greater "parish": How are we to interface with the various communities around us? Put differently, for what do we want to be known?

Some of our more orthodox friends tell us that we're a bunch of agnostics with a Sunday morning habit. Not true. I've heard us referred to as heretics. Probably so. And, in an age in which the word liberal has become code for something approaching the Antichrist, I've met some folks who fairly spit when describing us with the "L Word".

We know better than to let others define us, but that doesn't answer the question about how we, ourselves, choose to be known. Are we the church that insists on reason in religion? Are we the church that respects other traditions, yet respectfully disagrees when religious freedom is at stake? Are we the church rich in history, yet grounded in the present and risking for the future?

Call it blinded by passion or emboldened by the long history of UU involvement in public education (see Horace Mann and John Dewey), I wouldn't have minded if we were to become known as the church that led the way on this issue; in an area rife with private religious schools, I suppose I think of the public schools as *our* schools. But my biases and my passions need not become yours.

So, what say we keep talking about how it is that this swell little church is to be known today and tomorrow? Let's keep working on our souls, supporting one another through trouble and just enjoying life together. But please keep thinking about the face of Nora Church in your corner of our "parish". For what would you like us to be known?

Blessings,  
Don

## GROWTH ON THE PRAIRIE

On Saturday, September 22, the Board and the Committee on Ministry met jointly with Lyn Burton (a UU church consultant) to look at the future of Nora and begin strategic planning for that future. We discussed a number of issues.

First we looked at the numbers; how many or how few in various age groups, what communities we live in, and other demographics. We looked at the positive and negative aspects of Nora, focusing on our mission.

After much discussion, we agreed that if we are to grow (or even survive) we must attract more people from the closest sizable population in the area, New Ulm.

As a result of our first joint meeting with Lyn, this proposition was put forward and unanimously approved: "We will meet again to formulate a plan and budget for a service in New Ulm as a means of growing the Nora Congregation."

There was also consensus around three features of a possible New Ulm presence: 1) Two Saturday evening services each month in New Ulm, 2) We would continue to take steps to grow from our present location, Nora Church, and, 3) The Board, COM and Don will seek congregational approval for any such plans.

Four years ago we decided to grow Nora by going back to full-time ministry. While a lot of good has come of that step, more is needed from us. Now it is time for that next step. Are there concerns with trying this? Yes, of course, but to do nothing would leave us at the mercy of too many factors we can't control: sparse population, decline of Hanska and the loss of its school, religiously conservative culture of much of the area, etc. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to me, other members of the Board or Committee on Ministry or Don.

One final item mentioned on Saturday was our awareness that we are the current stewards of Nora. Those before us worked to give us this wonderful place and it's our job to see that it is there for those in the future who have a need for our "Liberal Light on the Prairie."

Sheldon Rieke,  
Board Chair

## FOOD SHELF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

November is Nora's month to volunteer at the Food Shelf in New Ulm. Helping out involves packing orders on Nov. 12, 14, 26, and 28th. I'll help get you started for the three hour shifts. Two volunteers are needed each of the afternoons. If you can help, please let me know. Thanks, Darrell

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## MVAC *Energy Assistance*

### WHAT IS ENERGY ASSISTANCE?

Funds to help pay heating / energy bills.

### WHO IS ENERGY ASSISTANCE FOR?

Wage earners

Self-employed people

Seniors

Other low income households

### WHO CAN APPLY FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE?

Home owners

Renters who pay heating costs

Renters with heat included in rent, but pay electricity

### WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

You must be income eligible

#in Household	Gross 3 Month Income
1	\$5,030 (1,676 / mo)
2	\$6,578 (2,192 / mo)
3	\$8,126 (2,708 / mo)
4	\$9,674 (3,224 / mo)
5	\$11,222 (3,740 / mo)
6	\$12,770 (4,256 / mo)

CALL

MINNESOTA VALLEY ACTION COUNCIL  
1-800-767-7139 Ext. 433





# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## October Sunday School Schedule

**7th: SMORGASBOARD** - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**14th: COA:** What Do You Stand For? (WDYSF ?)  
– Imagination. Teacher: Anne Makepeace

**JWEENERS:** In Our Hands – Unit 2 – Exploring One’s Own Experience. Teachers: Warren and Kristine Paulson

**21st:** MEA WEEKEND - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**28th:** Meet with other churches - 4th to 9th grade children. I’m not sure if we are having a web discussion or if we are visiting Rochester. I’ll let you know as soon as I know.

Preschool to 3rd grade children will do Halloween activities. **Teacher:** Julie Peck

If we don’t go to Rochester, we will have **Children’s Chapel** - learning more about UNICEF.

**HELP NEEDED:** People have been good about volunteering to teach with Sunday School. Thank you. The curriculums that we are using this year are very easy to follow. It would help me tremendously if people could look through the curriculum unit they will be teaching and select the activities from that unit that they would like to teach that Sunday, rather than me preparing weekly lesson plans. There are extra curriculums in the RE closet in the basement for people to borrow to use for planning. I can order more if needed to help with your planning. There will be a basic class outline in the Sunday School notebooks that you can follow. You would insert your chosen activities into the basic outline. I am feeling overwhelmed by family and work obligations at this time, and it would help me if the teachers will look through the curriculums and plan their own class activities. Thank you for your understanding and support.

**Service Project:** Please join us on the Nora UU Church Team for the **Brown County Day of Carving** on Saturday, October 13th. We will be doing projects in the Hanska area. You can join us for breakfast at the Brown County Fairgrounds at 7:30 a.m. that morning, or meet us at 8:30 in Hanska to begin our projects. Please let Anne Rieke know if you are interested in participating.

As always, I’m looking for people to volunteer to teach Sunday School. Three people are needed

each weekend. The RE Committee is hoping that people will consider volunteering two Sundays (especially the first two Sundays) in a row to help with continuity for the children. If you teach two Sundays in a row, then you could take a month or two off from teaching and then teach another two Sundays a few months down the road. Of course, you may certainly volunteer for one Sunday too. Thank you for your generosity with your time and talents.

We are looking for more people to join the Youth RE Committee. We generally meet three to four times a year to plan Sunday School and other youth events throughout the year. So if you would like to have a say in the youth programming, we would love to have you join us. And if you thought teaching Sunday School was easy, this is even easier. **We really are looking for some parents to be on the committee. Please talk with Anne if you are interested.**

## Adult RE & Growth

The Spirituality Study Group is still in the process of forming, and will probably begin meeting in November. This will be an open group with no requirement that you attend every session. Initially, the group will be looking at various meditation traditions and techniques. In addition to the study group, there will be an hour-long open meditation scheduled to follow the study group. You need not attend the study group to participate in the meditation. Both the study group and the open meditation are open to members and non-members of Nora Church. Anyone interested in joining, or in getting more information about either of these offerings, can do so by contacting Christopher Olson via e-mail at [Kitakis@aol.com](mailto:Kitakis@aol.com), or by phone at 507-995-7059.

### IMMIGRATION FORUM

Sunday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.  
United Church of Christ, UCC  
301 S Minnesota, St., New Ulm  
FEATURED SPEAKER:

Attorney John Keller  
of the Immigrant Law Center of MN.  
John is currently a presenter throughout the state on the issues surrounding immigration and immigration reform.  
The public is encouraged to attend.  
Refreshments provided

**REBECCA AADLAND & FRIENDS**  
to perform at  
**WOMEN & SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, October 13, 2007, 10 am & 8 pm**  
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

Rebecca Aadland & Friends will perform two concerts at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Women & Spirituality Conference at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Tickets (\$5.00) may be purchased for each event, at the door. The conference is open to men as well as women.

The group's first performance constitutes the Opening Ceremony from 10 am to 10:30 am, kicking off the conference in the Student Union Ballroom. The keynote speaker for the morning gathering is famed poet & author, Marge Piercy. Her presentation, "Dreaming in Female" begins after the opening celebration. Attendees for the morning session may either register for the entire two-day conference, or for "keynote only" at the registration table outside the ballroom, beginning at 8:30 am. You may view the entire program online: <http://sbs.mnsu.edu/women/>.

The seven member musical group, Rebecca Aadland & Friends will perform a full concert, ***Celebrating Women Through Song***, Saturday evening at 8:00 pm, in the Student Union Ostrander Auditorium. Many of Rebecca's original songs will be performed plus a variety of other favorites. Seats for this concert will be on a first come, first serve basis. Ticket cost is \$5.00 at the door, no advanced sales.

**YOUR HELP NEEDED**

The Membership Committee needs your copy of the *UU World* when you've finished reading it. (We're including a recent copy in each of our visitors' packets.) Please see Joy Rathman, Julie Sellner, Norma Breu or Don if you'd like to help us welcome our visitors. Thanks!

**Faith in Action**  
**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

3rd Tuesday of each month @ 2 PM

If you are caring for an elderly relative or friend who is living with aging issues, chronic illness or disabilities, be a part of our Caregiver Support Group.

\*Caregiver Training \*Education

\*Guest Speakers \*Support

Call Julie Terrell - FIABC 507-354-5370

**OPEN HOUSE with REBECCA & FRIENDS**

On Sunday, October 14, all are invited to celebrate with Rebecca & Friends on the completion and release of her album at an open house event at the Lind House Mansion in New Ulm, from 4:30 to 8:00 pm. Rebecca's CD will be available for purchase at the Lind House. Recorded music from her CD will be playing, refreshments will be served, and the ensemble will again, be performing live, intermittently throughout the celebration.

**To Keep In Touch**



Larry Bakken was diagnosed in August with stage 4 Mantle Cell Lymphoma. He has had two rounds of chemotherapy. Cards and notes can be sent to Larry at his home: 11900 W. 175th St., Lakeville, MN, 55044, or email him at [LBakken@Frontiernet.net](mailto:LBakken@Frontiernet.net). Larry would appreciate hearing from you.



If you know of anyone needing our assistance of attention...please call one of the committee members:

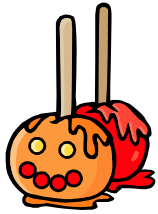
Georgine Tepley (chair)  
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)  
Shirley Olson - 439-6879  
Carol Chambard - 354-2242

**THANK YOU! - Caring Committee**

**Faith in Action**  
**CAREGIVER & SENIOR EXPO**

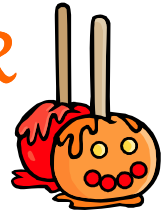
Monday, October 29, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Check-in at 9:00 am

At the New Ulm Community Center  
Cost, including lunch: \$5 for caregivers and seniors (over age 60) \$10 for professionals  
Pre-registration required by Oct. 18: 507-354-5370 or toll free 866-899-0662



# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## OCTOBER 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>7 SMORGASBORD</b>  10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 11 - 1:30 Dinner	8	9	10	11	12	13 Women & Spirituality Conference
14 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 4:30 Open House for Rebecca & Friends	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service  6:30 pm Immigration Forum	22	23 Caregiver support group	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	29 Caregiver & Senior Expo	30	31			



MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS - USHERS
7 Muffy	SMORGASBORD	Gil & Sally Hanson
14 Sally	Vicki Sieve, Mimi Kamleiter	Dinae Becken, Doug Anderson
21 Mimi	John & Anne Makepeace	Edith Beckius, Kristi Bodick
28 Jordan	Sheldon & Anne Rieke	Roger & Norma Breu

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net

please be sure to include "NORA"

in the subject line

(507) 439-6380

20894 County Road 6, Hanska. MN 56041  
 Thanks for your help in getting articles to me.  
 Cindy Mosenden, Office Administrator



DON'S SCHEDULE

Monday is his day-off and Fridays are reserved for sermon writing. While he continues to have other set commitments, don't hesitate to call to schedule an appointment.



## NORWEGIAN SMORGASBORD & COUNTRY STORE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

### NOTES ON THE SMORG

Smorgasbord is Sunday October 7th. On Saturday, October 6th at 9:00 am we'll begin making meatballs, if the thought of making meatballs disgusts you, there are lots of other things that need to be done. We are usually there until early afternoon, so for those of you that like to sleep in, you can come later.

Don't forget in your spare time to be baking and crafting for the country store.

**THE COUNTRY STORE** will feature craft items, garden produce, baked goods, and various children's activities.

**THE JORGENSEN LOG CABIN MUSEUM** will be open to the public that day with someone present to answer questions and discuss museum items.

Coffee, Country Store,  
Children's Activities - 10:00 a.m.  
Church Service - 10:30 a.m.

Dinner Served - 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Adults: \$11.50 ~ Children 10 & under: \$4.00  
6 and under—free

### MENU

#### appetizers

tongue, deviled eggs, herring

#### dinner

meatballs, ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, glazed carrots, sot suppe, rice pudding, rommegrot, lefse, flatbrod  
milk, coffee, lemonade

#### Norwegian Cookies

rosettes, krumkake, sandbakkels, fattigmand, and more

#### Take-outs available

Nora Church is handicap accessible  
located one mile east of Hanska, just off Highway 257

Nora musicians Jordan and Muffy Rathman, Don Rollins and Rebecca Aadland will provide music while diners wait to be seated.

### SMORG REMINDERS

Bring your items for the Country Store to the fellowship Hall on Saturday. Please have them in proper containers and mark the price on them that you think would be appropriate. Baked good, flea market items, garden produce, etc., all are welcome. If you are not able to come Saturday, please come early Sunday morning with your items. Thank you. - The Committee

## NORA SMORGASBORD ~ SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

### FOOD LIST

#### Bread

Edith Beckius

#### Rye Bread

Edith Beckius

#### Carrots and Celery

Janet Rosenbloom

#### Cookies

Kate Monnens

Julie Peck

Julie Schmitt

Chrissie Schmitt

Shannon Weiss

Ann Rieke

Laurie Kunerth

Jeannie Hinsman

Susan Allen

Joy Rathman

Anne Makepeace

#### Berliner Kranser

Michelle Bethke

Muriel Fredrickson

Diane Becken

#### Fattigmand

Susan Evers

#### Rosettes

Ben Wellmann

Norma Breu

#### Kringla

Julie Sellner

Joy Rathman

#### Sandbakkels

Chrissie Schmitt

Edith Beckius

Carol Chambard

#### Scrullers

Susan Evers

Georgine Tepley

#### Romme Grot

Edith Beckius

Janet Rosenbloom

Brenda Wiger

Vicki Sieve

Georgine Tepley

Carol Chambard

#### Rice

Janet Johnson

Muriel Fredrickson

Kristine Paulson

Julie Sellner

Ardis Wellmann

#### Flat Bread

Shirley and Clayton Olson

#### Sot Suppe

Bonita Blomquist

#### Cottage Cheese (3#)

Nancy Dickson

Lorraine Becken

Ardelle Becken

Tracy Schmiesing

#### Milk (1 gal)

Rieke's

Kunerth's

Bodick's

Makepeace's

Scott Chambard

Jeremy Schmitt

Christopher Olson

Mimi Kamleiter

Doug Anderson

#### Country Store

Jerry Allen

Sandi Bengé

Bonita Blomquist

Mimi Kamleiter

Shirley Olson

Ardis Wellmann

#### Museum

Algot Blomquist

Lee Schmitt

#### Parking

Clayton Olson

John Schmitt

Elroy Wellman

#### Tickets

Kristine Paulson

Warren Paulson

Wendy Tuttle (caller)

#### Coffee Hour

Ellen Byro

Janet Johnson

Laurie Lilleodden

#### Hosts

Jeannie Hinsman (Kaffe Stua)

Noah Rosenbloom (Steps)

Mark Wiger (Fellowship Hall)

#### Buffet Table

Julie Sellner

Shannon Weiss

#### Coffee

Christopher Olson

#### Beverages

Susan Allen

#### Appetizers

Vicki Sieve

Bev Wellmann

Brenda Wiger

### JOB LIST

#### Meat Server

Chrissie Schmitt

#### Meat Slicers

Roger Breu

Tony Erickson

Wally Wellmann

#### Potatoes

Edith Beckius

Kate Monnens

Jason Monnens

#### Carrots

Diane Becken

#### Cookie Trays

Michelle Bethke

Julie Schmitt

#### Take-Outs

Alyssa Bethke

Norma Breu

Ann Rieke

#### Wait Staff-Kaffe Stua

\*Nancy Dickson

Tessa Makepeace

Reggie Peck

Janney Rieke

Courtney Schmitt

#### Wait Staff-Fellowship Hall

\*Julie Peck

Kate Makepeace

Nora Peck

Laurie Kunerth

Angie

#### Wait Staff-Iverson Room

\*Diane Becken's Daughter

Tracy Schmiesing

Fritz Rieke

Jennifer Bethke

#### Back Kitchen-Misc

Georgine Tepley

#### Dishes-Back Kitchen

Eric Byro

Wayne Johnson

Gene Tepley

Kevin Weiss

#### Dishes-Front Kitchen

Daryl Hinsman

John Makepeace

Sheldon Rieke

Chris Bodick

#### Fish Pond

Jack Bodick

Nick Bodick

Sydney Byro

Eva Kunerth

Ben Rieke-Raffle

#### Clean-up

Ross Chambard

Scott Chambard

Lee Drogemuller

Kristy Paulson

Dave Wenk

Jean Wenk

Doug Anderson

#### Substitutes

Pat Kunerth

Ron Peck

Ann Makepeace

Janet Rosenbloom

Susan Evers

Kay Steffl

Jeremy Schmitt

Joy Rathman

Scott Schmiesing

#### Music

Don Rollins

Ryann Rathman

Jordan Rathman

Rebecca Aadland

*\*\*In the past some members of Nora Church had been asked to donate money to help defray the costs of the meal. This year Nora Women's Society has decided to ask for a free-will donation from all members. Your contributions help make Smorgasbord a successful fundraising event year after year. Thank you in advance for your donation!!*



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church  
12333 155th Avenue  
Hanska Minnesota 56041-4310

Address Service Requested

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Hanska, MN 56041

# October 2007



EMAIL  
Nora church @ sleepyeyetel.net

WEB SITE  
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

## Nora Church Sunday Services OCTOBER 2007

**Social Hour 10:00 AM**

**Worship Service 10:30 AM**

**October 7** "The Great Curtain Controversy" – We be welcoming at the 10:30 a.m. service the many visitors who'll be joining us for "Smorg". Perhaps one of the best ways to describe our religion is to tell the story of how our "sanctuary Jesus" came by the curtains that sometimes hide him from view.

**October 14** "Energy at the Roots: Buckshot Solutions" - Guest Presenter: Duane Ninneman. In the world of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation, one size does not fit all. Many individual and community initiatives to do better with energy might be the fastest route to a clean energy future.

**October 21** "Association Sunday" – As we become more proactive about growing Nora Church, our denomination is likewise giving more attention to growth. As part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's national campaign, Don will lead this service on the UUA and its various roles. *A second offering will be lifted in support of the UUA. Please give generously.*

**October 28** "Post 9/11 God-Talk: "From Atheism to Pantheism" - Religious liberals and others are reading from Christopher Hitchens and Sam Harris about the negative side of religion in our world. What are they trying to tell us?