



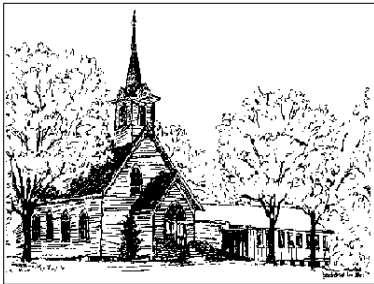
MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

November 2009

VIEW FROM THE HILL

We gather together/we sing now together...



Thus begins one of the beloved hymns of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving, as much as it is about grati-

tude and counting blessings and giving thanks, is about gathering. It's not a solitary holiday. Not a time for going off on retreat or engaging in private meditation. Families gather, and friends, and communities. Charities and social service agencies host Thanksgiving dinners for the homeless, the widowed, the lost and the alone--not only so that they may eat, but also so that they might eat together. All the year through many of us offer daily thanks, grace before meals, or prayers of thanks upon rising or before sleep. But on Thanksgiving our nation pauses and we gather together to give thanks.

Giving thanks in the presence of others blesses us in many ways. When we hear others giving thanks forgotten thanks might be wakened within us. "Oh, yeah! Me, too. I'm thankful for public television, too!" Hearing another give thanks for the memory of loved one now gone can deepen our own thanks for loved ones still among us. Listening to those of another age, much younger or much older, offer thanks for things we take for granted or seldom notice broadens

our perspective and strengthens our understanding. And in general, being together, sharing the cooking and the clean-up, the laughter and the stories, the games on tv and touch football in yard--the simply being together is another reason for thanksgiving.

We'll celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday on November 22 here at church, with songs and readings of the season, and everyone in attendance will have the chance to name one or two of the blessings in their lives.

Also this year, as in years past, Nora Church will have the opportunity to gather with other church communities from the New Ulm area for a service of Thanksgiving. I am honored to be the preacher for the service which will be held at First United Methodist Church in New Ulm, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 25. Other area clergy will participate in the service and the entire community is invited. I hope I'll see many of you there.

-Lisa



THANKS FROM THE BOARD

A big thanks to Joy Rathman and Julie Sellner for coordinating the workers for Smorgasbord as well as everyone who worked at the event or helped with cleaning and meatball and lefse making.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

A few notes on what the board has been up to lately: we will be replacing the north doors of the kitchen-basement entry to make it energy efficient. The Alter project is moving ahead. I think people will be satisfied with the end result.

Our committees are active and moving ahead with their agendas and are always looking for other ideas. Please contact the Chair if you have any.

Lisa is a great addition to Nora and is settling well.

Has anyone seen the sunshine?

- Scott

ADULT RE

A spirituality group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesday in New Ulm at approximately 6:30 p.m. The location of the gathering varies from meeting to meeting. We'll try to keep you updated in the Sunday service program about our topics and meeting locations. If you have questions or would like to meet with us, please feel free to talk with Anne Rieke, Colleen Tasto, Vicki Sieve, Nancy Brudelie, Kristine Paulson or Nancy Dickson and we will give the most current information.

FALL BAKE SALE



The annual fall bake sale will be held on Saturday November 7th at the Rhein River Room in New Ulm from 8:30 to 12:30. Please have your baked goods there at 8:00. You may also drop off your baked goods at Nora by 7:30. We are also inviting any crafters to sell their crafts at the bake sale, keeping your profits for yourself. We also need people to work at the bake sale, there are 2 shifts from 8:30 to 10:30 and 10:30 to 12:30. Please contact Julie Sellner with questions at 375-8737 or jdsellner@hotmail.com.

LUNCH BUNCH



Here's your chance to feel like Joe College and Betty Coed for a bit when the Lunch Bunch gathers at the Martin Luther College cafeteria for its monthly meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 11:30 a.m. No pop quizzes are involved, so there's no reason not to come. Hope to see you there.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Reverend Lisa and several interested members of Nora Church met on October 18 to plan religious education for the current church year. We reviewed the number and ages of children in the congregation and determined that two groups will be offered--one for junior high/middle school aged youth and one for younger, elementary aged children. We also brainstormed about goals for religious education--agreeing that we want Nora's young people to receive a strong grounding in Unitarian Universalist history, practices and beliefs, and conversant understanding of their own developing sense of themselves as religious beings, as well as introducing them to the practices and beliefs of a wide range of religions found in the great community.

Parents of junior high - middle school youth are invited and encouraged to attend a second meeting during the potluck on November 1. At that time we will outline a series of field and a program of coming of age type content designed to meet both of the stated goals. If you can not be at the meeting on November 1 and have strong ideas, opinions or concerns about religious education, please speak with Lisa before that date.

Watch and listen for announcements in the order of service and in church on Sundays for news about when classes will begin meeting.

CHOIR NEWS



It's time to exercise your vocal chords! Anyone interested in singing in the choir, please join us for our first practice on November 1st at 9 am. Practices will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Come join us and raise a joyful sound!

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

"Guest at Your Table" will begin on November 22nd. Guest at Your Table is an outreach program of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The funds received go towards promoting projects for clean water, food, and equality in third world countries.

Participants may earn UUSC membership with membership-level contributions during Guest at Your Table. UUSC membership rates are:

- \$40 - Individual
- \$75 - Dual (2 adults)
- \$20 - Senior (65 and over)
- \$10 - Youth/Student

Any amount is appreciated. If you choose to write a check, please make it payable to UUSC. Boxes or envelopes will be available beginning November 22nd and will be due mid-January. Please keep an eye on the newsletter and order of service for final due date.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

The Social Justice Committee has been exploring whether a renewable form of energy is feasible at Nora Church. In June the congregation voted to have an assessment report done by Energy Concepts of Hudson, WI. The report has been completed and along with a supplement report providing further background information.

A recommendation from the committee will take more time and study. According to the report an effective wind or solar set-up could be sited on our property. A wind turbine located at either site 1 or 2 would require a Brown County permit and variance since we would not have the required setback (1-1/2 times the height of the tower.) The financing of this project would be the most challenging task. Perhaps an investor group could be formed to take advantage of a 30% federal tax credit available for renewable energy.

Although the committee does not have a recommendation at this time we would like church members to study this report with us and offer comments. Committee members are Mark and Brenda Wiger, Scott Kudelka and Angie Becker, Lee Drogemuller, Ruth Sorenson, Warren Paulsen, Wally Wellman and Jeanie and Darrell Hinsman.

Hard copies are available at the church but paperless ones are also available on the church web site www.norauuchurch.org under the news letter section. Happy reading.

SMORGASBORD

Smorgasbord 2009, proved to be a huge success in spite of the cool, threatening weather. Our numbers served were up considerably from 2008, probably helped by the damp weather that kept the farmers from being in the fields.

In the weeks leading up to the "Big Day", many people could be found almost daily on the grounds doing the things they knew had to be done beforehand. Various lefse bakers worked together on different occasions and their hard work was appreciated by all. Many individuals would show up by themselves to clean the church facilities and tidy up the grounds as their time would permit. On the Wednesday night prior to October 4th no less than 30 people arrived at 5:00 pm for a more general cleaning of the church facilities, dining halls, kitchens, the Iverson room, museum and gazebo and to put up the tent. Everyone present enjoyed pizza, bars, cakes and lots of good fellowship together.

Friday and Saturday many gathered again to make meatballs, deviled eggs, etc. and to arrange all the serving and dining tables in the buildings and the tent. The various items for the Country Store were organized and priced and ready to put in the tent on Sunday morning.

Sunday came and no less than 75 members arrived at their scheduled times to help in their various assigned areas. Our new minister, Pastor Lisa Doege, held services in the church. These services held prior to dinner are appreciated very much by many of our past members and friends who return each year for this special day. Many of Lisa's family members from the Twin Cities area came to help Lisa celebrate her first Smorgasbord at Nora Church.

Special thanks to the members of the Nora Women's Society for coordinating another successful smorgasbord. -Algot



LENDING WEBSITE

Kiva is a micro lending website empowering individuals to lend directly to entrepreneurs in the developing world. The loans are made in \$25 increments. As loans are repaid others are made. Donations are tax deductible. UUFM (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato) participates in this program and donations can be sent to them at 937 Charles Ave, Mankato, MN 56001, with Kiva on the memo line. The Social Justice Committee encourages you to check it out at www.kiva.org.

CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is a UU church via mail, email, and internet. Our mission is to provide a UU ministry to isolated religious liberals. Did you know that we have over 3,000 members all over the world?

If you're buying merchandise online of the sort sold through Amazon.com, please consider going to the CLF homepage, www.clfuu.org, and click on the **Amazon.com** button that you'll find on the right hand side. Whenever you buy a book or snow blower or banjo or *Bon Appetit* subscription or carabiners or marshmallow shooter or gluten free brownie mix or Alvin and the Chipmunks video or hoop earrings or microscope or Kindle--or whatever else--please go through the CLF site to Amazon. The CLF will get some money by virtue of your purchase.

Please forward this information to your friends, family, neighbors, colleagues, and anyone else you can think of. It's definitely the gift that keeps on giving!

Beth Murray, CLF 617-948-6150

KNUT HAMSUN DOCUMENTARY

Tuesday morning, October 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., I received a phone call from Ter Olson from Tromso, Norway. Mr. Olson was one of four young men from Norway National Television who came to Nora Church about three years ago to film some footage of the Nora Church setting as they were in America making a documentary on the life and travels of Knut Hamsun. Knut Hamsun was a famous, although controversial, writer in Norway and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1920. Mr. Hamsun was a good friend of our first minister,

Kristoffer Janson, and worked for Rev. Janson and spent much time here at Nora Free Christian Church (Unitarian) in the 1880's. He also worked and spent time in Madelia, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Wisconsin during his visits to America.

The reason behind the phone call on October 13th was to inform me that the documentary will be shown on Norway national Television on November 19th and then again on December 6th. The documentary will have footage of Alicia Helling, Hanska's #1 promoter of our Syttende Mai celebrations these past 25 years, singing Norwegian songs with the church in the back ground.

Mr. Olson, (laughingly) also said there will be footage of myself trying to sing a Norwegian song. He also remarked that for a Swede I do a pretty good job of acting like a Norwegian. He said there would be several minutes of the crew interviewing Alicia, Bonita and myself as well as them talking about our rosemaled water tower and our Stabbur located in Hanska.

During our conversation with the four person TV crew, we told them about the many friends we had made in Norway while taking our Syttende Mai Shows across the sea to Norway several times. They wanted to be sure we had ample time to inform our friends and relatives in Norway that Nora Church and Hanska proper will be featured in the Hamsun documentary. -Algot

To Keep In Touch



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

Georgine Tepley (chair)
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)
Shirley Olson - 354-1866
Carol Chambard - 354-2242



THANK YOU! - Caring Committee

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2009

Parsonage: 507-439-6240



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 11:30 Pot Luck	2	3	4	5	6	7 8:30-12:30 Fall Bake Sale Rhein River Room
8 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	9	10	11	12 Spirituality Group	13	14
15 9:00 Choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	16	17	18 11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ Martin Luther College	19	20 	21
22 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	30					

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

	MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS - USHERS
1	Ryann Rathman	POTLUCK Wayne & Janet Johnson Michele Bethke	Kevin & Shannon Weiss
8	Jordan Rathman	Ron & Julie Peck	Mimi Kamleiter, Chris Bodick
15	JoAnn Huss	Lee & Lynn Schmitt	Edith Beckius, Christina Schmitt
22	Sally Hanson	Vicki Sieve, Colleen Tasto	Sheldon & Anne Rieke
29	Mimi Kamleiter	Jason & Kate Monnens	Pat & Laurie Kunerth



PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Lisa will have Mondays off.

Friday will be sermon writing day.

She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:

507-766-5682



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

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NOVEMBER 2009



EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

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

Nora Church Sunday Services **NOVEMBER 2009**

Coffee Time 10:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

- **Nov. 1** "And the Dead in Sacred Memory"
- **Nov. 8** "Answering the Call to Service"
- **Nov. 15** "At Home in the Universe" guest speaker: Phil Hahn
- **Nov. 22** "Filling the Horn of Plenty"
- **Nov. 29** "Actively Waiting"



THANKSGIVING SERVICE: Wednesday, Nov. 25, 7:00 pm at First United Methodist Church in New Ulm.