



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

MAY 2011

A VIEW FROM THE HILL

Thank you.

We had a full and fruitful candidating week, you and I, culminating in your decision to call me as your minister and my joyful acceptance of your call. Some of you no doubt breathed a sigh of relief after the vote on April 3, thinking, now life at church can get back to normal. Others of you, I know, are asking what's next?

Some of what's next will unfold in a fashion that is very much like getting back to normal. Sunday services (including our turn to give the service in the park for Syttende Mai), clean up Sunday, annual meeting, summer recess. And some of what's next will happen deliberately, with an eye to the future and attention to making the most of our new covenant as congregation and settled minister.

At a special meeting during candidating week the Nora board and I agree on three goals to focus our work for the next 18 months or so. First, to revamp and restart religious education. Second, to review the church by-laws and revise as necessary, with special attention paid to provisions for the endowment fund. And third, to revitalize Nora Church's partner church relationship with the Benced congregation. Initial steps have been taken already on each of these goals. In the coming weeks the board will appoint three task forces and charge them with the responsibility of carrying forward and accomplishing the goals. The task forces will dissolve when their work is finished. The board and I anticipate much of the work of the church shifting away from standing committees toward this goal centered, task force driven approach over the coming years.

At its regular meeting on April 10, the board put together a budget for the 2011-2012 church year, working hard to bring the figures more closely in line with what will actually be needed to meet the church's needs for the coming year--in some instances cutting projected spending and in some instances raising it. The board also discussed several significant changes in the way church finances are handled from a book keeping perspective and also the way some individual funds might be managed to allow them to accrue over the course of more than one fiscal year. These changes will be announced as soon as the details are finalized.

A service of installation - the ceremonial recognition of our new relationship to one another - is planned for Sunday, August 21, 2011, as part of our day long celebration of Nora Church's 130th anniversary. Put it on your calendar now. Guest speakers and dignitaries and neighbors and friends will join us for the joyous occasion.

Soon after the installation we'll be back at work. As is routine with the call of a new minister (even one who has been around for a couple of years), the district will send an experienced minister to work with the board, other leadership, and me for a start-up weekend. At that time we'll clarify roles and expectations and the way forward.

As I said on April 3, at the end of the rainbow lies the gold and the work of spending it. Our work has begun. Labors of love--for one another and for our shared church.

LUNCH BUNCH



The Lunch Bunch crowd will take a break after Syttende Mai to enjoy lunch at the Sisters Coffee House, 112 E. Second St., Winthrop, on Thursday, May 19, at 11:30 a.m. As always, everyone is welcome. We hope to see you there.

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board goes to the Committee on Ministry; Bev Wellman, Jeannie Hinsman, Vickie Sieve and Cristopher Olsen for all the work they put in for a successful candidating week. Thanks also to the hosts of the evenings, Edith Beckius, Gene and Georgine Tepley, Norma and Roger Breu and Jeannie and Darrell Hinsman for the wonderful treats. Lastly, thanks to all who participated and to those who worked behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly.

CLEAN UP DAY



Come join us on May 1st and prepare to spruce up the grounds and building at Nora.

WIND TURBINE NEWS

Want to know more about our wind turbine?
Speaker Scheduled May 1st.



Chad Palmer, manager at Wind Industries Technologies Incorporated (WITC) of Prior Lake, will visit at Nora Church to briefly explain the mechanics and operation of the turbine. He will be available to answer any questions. The Jacobs 21-30 generator, the 120' tower and electrical power inverter were purchased from WITC.

Chad will arrive at 11:30. While May 1 is clean up Sunday, we can take a break for lunch and have the opportunity to learn more from Chad's expertise.

SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

Loose change on the 2nd Sunday of each month will go to "Food For All."

ANNUAL REPORTS

With Annual Meeting time approaching (June), committee chairs should be preparing year-end reports for the Annual Report booklet. Turn them in to office administrator Cindy Mosenden as soon as they're complete. Thanks.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

The newly created New Ulm Kids Against Hunger organization will hold its Grand Opening Event on Saturday, May 7th at 301 20th South Street. The event starts at 12:30 with a short program at 1:30 explaining the philosophy and mission of the organization. Tours of the fabulous new facility will be given and food packing will also occur. Volunteers who would like to try packing food that day in short sessions can do so. Any questions can be emailed to www.newulmkah@gmail.com or telephone (507) 354-5437.

HOST FAMILIES SOUGHT

Pacific Intercultural Exchange, a nonprofit agency, is currently searching for open minded host families for high school foreign exchange students arriving in August. Students come from countries such as Venezuela, Brazil, Germany, Norway, China, Thailand, South Korea and more. Students are 15-18 years old, they speak English, have medical insurance, and their own spending money. Volunteer host families provide a room, meals, and a caring environment. Students attend the local public high school for an academic school year, participate in family activities, and are treated as a member of the family. For more information about the program, please contact Mary Armstrong at 1-866-601-1933 or 952-236-0745 or website: www.pieusa.org Email: maryarmstrong@pieusa.org.

GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE

Family & friends are honoring Kristen A. Wellmann for graduating from the University of Kentucky, Lexington with a P.H.D. in Experimental Psychology.



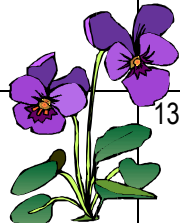

An open house will be held at Nora Church,
on May 28, 1 to 4 PM.

Kristen is the daughter of Elroy & Ardis Wellmann. She is a graduate of New Ulm High School & Winona State University with a B.A. in Psychology.

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2011

Parsonage: 507-439-6240
Lisa's Cell: 507-766-5682

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 No choir 10:00 Coffee Tir 10:30 Service 	9	10	11	12 	13	14
15 Syttende Mai 10 AM service in the Big Tent in Hanska Choir sings	16	17	18	19 Lunch Bunch	20 Newsletter articles due . Thanks for be- ing prompt!	21 Multigenerational RE May 21 from 1 to 4 Social Hall Topic: Memories
22 9:00 Choir rehearsal & performance with Mkto Fellowship at Nora 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 No choir 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	30 	31	<p style="text-align: center;">To Keep In Touch</p> <p>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</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THANK YOU! Caring Committee</p>			

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	CLEAN UP SUNDAY	
8	Mimi Kamleiter	Nancy Dickson
15	JoAnn Huss	service @ Hanska Park
22	Sally Hanson	Jerry Peterson
29	Muffy Rathman	Christina Schmitt



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



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

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Hanska, MN 56041

May 2011

Happy Syttende Mai



May 17

Nora Church Sunday Services MAY 2011

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

May 1: "clean-up" Sunday - no service

May 8: "I Will Not Have That . . . I Will Not"

May 15: "Immigrants and Independence"

May 22: "The Butterfly Effect" by the Program Committee

May 29: "Truth? Mystery? "



Remember to send an e-mail to norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net with "add me to the grapevine" in the subject line.