



MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

MAY 2012

A VIEW FROM THE HILL

With clean-up day at the end of April and the arrival of May we're headed toward the end of the church year. Not too many more weeks and we'll close up shop for the summer.

Or maybe not. The social justice committee, after taking turning the wind tower project over to the Prairie Beacon board and taking a bit of a breather, is gearing up again. See Jeanie's article elsewhere in this newsletter. The Program committee and I are already looking at next year's calendar of Sundays. A summertime Nora outing to watch the Twins at Target Field is in the works. There's talk of reviving the late August tri-state UU gathering. And Jenny's trying to pull together a picnic, putt-putt golf and environmental education at the Putting Green. I haven't heard anything yet about a music and pie evening-but that doesn't mean we won't have one. And before we know it, lefse-making time will roll around again.

I love the thought of all those possible times and ways for us to gather in the coming months, to do the work of church and to enjoy being in church. Still, I bet one or two of you read that list and start feeling anxious. Who is going to do all the work? What if I'm on vacation? That's too much for our little group! All the way over there?

In a church as small as ours it is easy to think that everyone should show up for every program. Everyone should help with every project. Everyone should agree with every decision. But you know what they say about Unitarian Universalists: ask 100 of us about God or prayer or Jesus or coffee and you'll get *at least* a 100 different answers! Why should it be any other way with social activities, sporting events, Sunday services or picnic venues?

I say, the more the better. If you're not interested, or feeling a bit lazy, or off on a family adventure, we'll miss you but those of us who do gather will have a great time. And you might miss me when I'm on vacation or feeling a bit lazy myself, but you'll have a great time with whoever else shows up.

Of course, I'm getting ahead of things here. We still have a month and a half of church left. Budget meeting, annual meeting, flower ceremony and regular Sunday service. And we'll worship with the Lutherans this month, too, under the tent in town-time to practice something almost as good as being a church: being a community! I can't think of a way I'd rather go through these coming weeks and months! See you in church-and all around!



LUNCH BUNCH



The Lunch Bunch crew regrets keeping Lola waiting a month, but we'll visit her at our May meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 11:30 a.m. The address is: Lola's Larkspur Market, 16 N. Minnesota St., New Ulm. Hope to see you all there.

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the board this month will go to all the people who provided the donations of flowers to beautify the church for our Easter service. Thanks also to all the folks who provided the wonderful food for our Brunch and all of you who helped serve and clean up. It was indeed a community effort! Everyone was so generous, we need to recruit bigger eaters. Last, but not least, thanks to Nita for her special music on March 25th.

WELL UPDATE

Darrel sent in the application for the Minnesota Dept. of Health grant for the new well. We won't know if we will receive a grant until the first part of May. The grant, if received, will cover 50% of the total cost of the project. The total cost is \$9742.50. We want to raise the money that is needed through voluntary contributions, as opposed to taking it out of the reserves. Your donation would be over and above your church pledge. The project will begin as soon as we receive news about the grant. Grant or not this is something that has to be done. We do not need the money until the project is completed, but want to make sure we can cover it then. We will let you know about the status of the grant when we are notified.



Any questions call Darrel or myself. Anyone willing to donate to the well fund call me at 507-439-6316 or 507-276-8869. - Warren Paulson

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.

REINVENTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

Fair trade purchasing, local food supplies, domestic abuse, supporting families of service men and women, recycling, homeless shelters, and more....., and more. These are just a few thoughts that come to mind when thinking of the many, many needs in our world. For me, a big part of my UU identity is entwined with the belief that our actions matter and we can make a difference. I believe our previous social justice work: helping Food for All, taking our turn at the New Ulm Food Shelf in August, the wind turbine, bringing Krisztina Pall here, the Martin Luther King events, the cultural sensitivity training-- these activities over a span of years did make a difference to the culture of Nora Church. It's time to reinvent social justice work at Nora. Do you have an issue that nags at your conscience, that tugs at your soul, that makes you want to act out? Act together with others? Act in the name of UUs on the prairie? If you're interested in participating in discussion and planning and consciousness raising, let me know. A few hours a month, a few hours every other month, whatever commitment you choose, let's start! Let me know, and thanks!

-Jeanie Hinsman

BOOK EXCHANGE

Too Many Books? Too Few Books?

Announcing
Nora Church's First Ever Book Exchange!

Each Sunday in May bring in the books you can bear parting with. Leave them on the tables in the Coffee Stua. And select a few treasures from among those left by others.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.

NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2012

Parsonage: 507-439-6240

Lisa's Cell: 507-766-5682

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 	14	15	16 	17	<p>To Keep In Touch</p> <p>♥♥♥ Tom Herman's sister Judy passed away on April 1st after a long battle with cancer.</p> <p>♥♥♥ Arline Schmiesing, following her recent heart surgery is a resident at Oak Hills, Room 313. (she is in the rehab area and plans on coming home!!) .</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>THANK YOU! Caring Committee</p>	
20 10 AM service in the Big Tent in Hanska - Syttende Mai Celebration	21	22	23	24		
27 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	28	29	30	31		

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
6	Jordan Rathman	POTLUCK	
		Lee & Lynn Schmitt	Jeremy Schmitt
13	JoAnn Huss	John & Julie Schmitt	Nancy Dickson
20		Syttende Mai	
27	Muffy Kaim	Noah & Janet Rosenbloom	Algot Blomquist



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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
United States Postage Paid
Permit No. 2
Hanska, MN 56041

May 2012

Happy Syttende Mai



May 17

Nora Church Sunday Services MAY 2012

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

- May 6 From Ethical Eating to a Spoonful of Soil
- May 13 Thinking Outside the Candy Box
- May 20 Syttende Mai service in the park
- May 27 guest day



CLEAN UP DAY



Don't forget clean up day
is Sunday, April 29.
We'll have a fun time while
getting the work done!