



# MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

APRIL 2013

## A VIEW FROM THE HILL

I've lost track of whether March came in like a lamb or a lion. And with a week to go (as I write this column) there is no telling whether it will go out ferociously or as docile as can be, either. After last year's mild winter, here on the northern prairie, this year the weather is reminding us it is the weather. We haven't had record snowfalls or depths. No record temperatures or wind chills. But we have canceled church three times-three!-and school has been delayed or canceled or dismissed early Monday after Monday.

Unpredictable. Just severe enough to push travel over into the unsafe zone. Endlessly icy so that driving, walking or attempting to stand seem unwise and even dangerous. All our Doppler radar, our smartphone weather apps, snow-tires, snow-plows, Trax, sub-zero rated jackets notwithstanding, winter has taken its toll. We know once again that we are no match for Mother Nature. With renewed humility about our human abilities we await spring.

And it is here, almost imperceptibly but undeniably. Willow branches turned green weeks ago already. More birdsong fills the air. Even without daylight savings time, the darkness would have receded by now. All this too is beyond our human control. Spring no less than winter humbles us-the miracles unfold without our intervention, beyond our desire, our ability, our agency. But this humility we can enjoy. After months of bracing ourselves to withstand nature's force, we can sit back and enjoy the show, day by day, week by week. Birth, bud, breeze.

"The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month," according to Henry van Dyke (and our own experience). We've had the former; the latter is soon to come. It always does. Even in Minnesota. Even this year.



Come join us here at Nora on April 28 to do some "sprucing" up inside and out. Let's get ready for those spring rains!!



## LUNCH BUNCH



On the 18th of April, Paul Revere made his famous midnight ride. To commemorate this historic event, the Lunch Bunch will hold its April meeting on that date, Thursday, April 18, 11:30 a.m., at the Martin Luther College cafeteria in New Ulm. Saddle up your steed and join us. The Norwegians are coming! The Norwegians are coming!

## THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the board this month goes to Pat Kunerth for serving on the Prairie Beacon Board.

## PRAIRIE BEACON

Prairie Beacon is the corporation that owns and operates the turbine at Nora Church. The church is the owner of the corporation. We have started posting monthly kwh production and monthly income from both Nora Church and Alliant Energy on the bulletin board. Nora Church pays Prairie Beacon for the church's electrical usage. The excess is sold to Alliant Energy.

Since starting nearly two years ago we have produced over 50,000 kwh of electricity. Monthly production in January, February, and March 2013 has ranged from 2,200 to 2,400 kwh. Monthly income for that period has averaged over \$200 per month. Fixed costs for insurance and interest are \$190. so it's nice for Prairie Beacon to be paying its own way.

On April 14, 2013 Prairie Beacon will have our third annual shareholder meeting with the Nora Church board. They have appointed Mark Wiger, Lee Droge-muller, Darrell Hinsman, and Glen Hokenson as officers of the corporation. This group meets monthly to take care of routine business. We are available for questions and appreciate the support of the congregation.

## BOOK EXCHANGE

It's time for another Nora Book Exchange! Each Sunday in April bring the books you no longer have use for to the back social hall. And while you're there, browse through everyone else's discards. Clear off your shelves and fill them up again with new treasures!

## COMING OF AGE UPDATE

So far this church year we have welcomed Courtney Schmitt, Eva Kunerth, Abby Safford, and Cole Spilde into the company of Nora Church adults. Each of these young adults impressed us with his/her articulate consideration of three questions: what does the Nora community mean to you? what does it mean to become an adult? what dreams are beginning to call you beyond this hill?

We'll take a break from Coming of Age in April and welcome a new adult in May.

## NEW ULM FOOD SHELF

May 2013 is the month that Nora Church along with UCC in New Ulm furnishes volunteers for the New Ulm Food Shelf. The work involves refilling orders as families come in. No special skill is needed and someone will explain what to do if you've not worked before. Our dates are Mondays May 1st, May 6th and 20th and Wednesdays May 8th and 15th. The hours are 11:45am to 3pm. In addition we have one Monday evening May 6th from 6:15 to 8:00 pm. We should furnish about 4 volunteers each time. We're a small group so we need all able bodied. Feel free to sign up for more than one slot. Volunteering for young and old is a good way to become more familiar with the needs in the community. Contact Darrell Hinsman 359-7494 or 276-6044 if you can help out.

**“You’re Not the Boss of Me!”**  
*10 Secrets to Stop Defiance & Motivate All Kids*  
Featuring America's Calm Coach, Kirk Martin, and his son Casey.  
*“Practical, life-changing and laugh-out-loud funny.”*

Kirk will show parents how to:

- ❖ Stop the yelling and power struggles.
- ❖ Eliminate defiance, disrespect, and sibling fights.
- ❖ Improve focus, attention, and behavior in school.
- ❖ Enjoy a respectful, motivated child who is confident.
- ❖ Create stress-free mornings, homework time and bedtime.



**Perfect for parents  
& teachers of  
toddlers, tweens  
and teens!**

**Tuesday, April 16 7:00pm-9:00pm**  
&  
**Wednesday, April 17 9:30am-11:30am**

**District Administrative Building Auditorium**  
15 North State Street, New Ulm, MN 56073

Questions Call: 507-359-8417 (NU ECFE)

**FREE – No Registration Required**

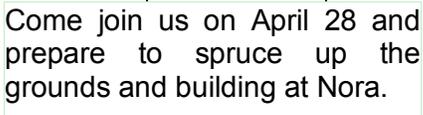
Approved training for Brown County Daycare and Foster Care providers. CEU's will be available.

**Sponsored by:**  
New Ulm ECFE, Families Together, Pro Kinship for Kids, Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth, Brown County Underage Substance Abuse Coalition, Kids Connection

# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## APRIL 2013

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service 11:30 AM Pot Luck Dinner	8	9	10	11 	12	13
14 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service	15	16	17	18 Lunch Bunch @ MLC cafe- teria	19	20 Newsletter articles due . <i>Thanks for being prompt</i>
21 10:00 AM Coffee Time 10:30 AM Service	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28 Clean up Sunday 	29 	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	SERVER/GREETER/USHER PARTNERS
7	POTLUCK
Sally Hanson	Colleen Hokenson-Ardis Wellman-Elroy Wellman-Christina Schmitt
14 Muffy Kaim	Kristine Paulson-Warren Paulson-Jerry Peterson
21 JoAnn Huss	Norma Breu-Roger Breu-Michelle Bethke
28	Cleanup



### 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

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Hanska, MN 56041



April 2013

EMAIL  
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

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

## Nora Church Sunday Services APRIL 2013

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

- April 7 Program Committee Sunday
- April 14 "Once Upon a Time"
- April 21 "Happily Ever After"
- April 28 Work Day

### EASTER BREAKFAST



Join Nora church members,  
friends and visiting family  
members for breakfast  
before the service on  
Easter morning.

Egg bakes, pastries, fruit,  
juice, and of course coffee will  
be serviced starting at 9:30  
on Sunday, March 31.