

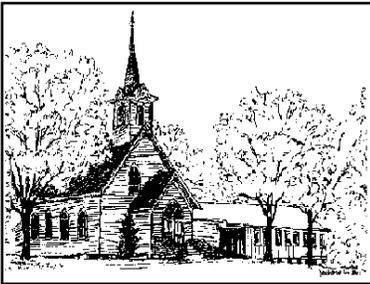


MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

March 2014

A VIEW FROM THE HILL



I inherited the column title "View from the Hill" from my predecessors, when I became minister here at Nora Church. I've never given it much thought. This late afternoon, however, I'm looking around at the view from our hill.

The heat wave of the past two days uncovered large patches of wet, brown grass, but plenty of snow remains--mostly in dirty drifts. The church is solid, white, empty. The tower supporting the wind turbine looks stark against western sky, in front of the setting sun. So do the bare trees to the west and the south. The trees and marsh to the east glow in the lovely light of that same setting sun. It looks, I suppose, like mid- to late-March in southern Minnesota, though it is still late February as I write. It's beautiful; the view from the hill is always beautiful.

Most people look west to enjoy the fiery colors of a sunset. All this past summer and fall, until the snow fell, I made a point of watching the sun set from the southwest corner of the church grounds whenever possible, up there, just past the wind tower, where John and Ingrid Bode's farm meets the cemetery on two sides. But I turn east as the sun sinks low in the sky. For me, the beauty lies in the way the setting sun's lengthening rays illuminate the scenes they fall upon before the sun sinks below the horizon. It never fails to fill me with peace and joy and longing all mixed up together.

That's the thing about views. So much depends on which way we're looking and where we're looking from, on our perspective on any given day or hour or moment. Like those super close-up and closely cropped photos in the *Hanska Herald* from time to time, familiar places and objects can be unrecognizable when viewed from a new angle or a different distance. Like opening and closing arguments delivered by the prosecution and the defense or the testimony of five witnesses (or three arguing children), the same event or series of events can be seen and interpreted in different ways, depending on our mood, our history, our education, our culture, even the language we speak.

The view from the hill changes every day—the sheep arrive for a season or two and then go away. The trees and bushes bud and then leaf. My tulips come up and blossom and then the garden looks scraggly for the rest of the year. Once a week the drive and sidewalk fill up with cars and people. The scene shifts as I walk from window to window or turn a complete circle out on the lawn. And come sunset I look east. Reminding myself that there is always another way of looking at things.

-Lisa

LUNCH BUNCH



Since it's been such an old-fashioned, blustery winter, we deserve a spring break. Sorry, we're not going to Florida, but in honor of the first day of Spring, Thursday, March 20, we thought it appropriate to get together to celebrate the vernal equinox and hope for the return of warm weather. The place: Main Jiang, 400 N. Minnesota, New Ulm. Time: 11:30 a.m. Don't forget your suntan lotion!

THANKS FROM THE BOARD

- To Louise and Alex Guggisberg for computer consultation.
- To Scott Schmiesing for gift of contribution to cover computer costs.
- To Jeanie Hinsman for Pot Luck Discussion and Summary.



March is a particularly good time to donate to Minnesota food shelves. Minnesota Food Share does a match on contributions received during the month. Cash donations are needed to take advantage of specials at local grocery stores.

Local food shelves are the New Ulm Food Shelf at 1107 South Valley in New Ulm 56073 and the Watonwan County Food Shelf at 108 South 8th St. in St. James 56081. A box for food is located in the entryway. Thanks in advance.

APRIL IS NORA'S MONTH

April 2014 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 April 14, and 28 and Wednesdays April 2, 16, and 30. The hours are 11:45am to 3pm. We should have about three volunteers each time. We're a small group so we need all who can help. 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.

I'll put a sign up sheet in the entry or feel free to contact Darrell Hinsman 359-7494 or 276-6044. Thanks.

DISCUSSION POTLUCK ROUND TWO

Our February discussion format at potluck was very engaging. Lots of good ideas were brought up (an official Nora Fishing Team, summer campouts, additional summer services, more use of social media, and more).

The timing and format seemed to work quite well. Most tables didn't start discussion til after their meal but the short time frame encouraged productive use of time. We finished by 1:15.

Thanks to all who participated. Consensus is to follow-up with a second discussion at the March potluck. The intent will be to look at the variety of suggestions and narrow to a few do-able concepts.

Join in the March conversation whether or not you were part of the first round. Looking forward to moving forward!

DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Remember to turn your clocks ahead before you go to bed on Saturday March 8th.



IRISH - NORWEGIAN HUMOR

We celebrate March 17th in commemoration of St. Patrick's great and noble deed in driving the Norwegians out of Ireland.

It seems that centuries ago many Norwegians came to Ireland to escape the bitterness of the Norwegian winter. Ireland was having a famine at the time and food was scarce.

The Norwegians were eating almost all of the fish caught in the ocean, leaving the Irish with nothing but potatoes.

St. Patrick, taking matters into onto his own hands, like most Irishman, decided all the Norwegians had to go. Secretly he organized the IRATION (Irish Republican Army to Rid Ireland of Norwegians). Irish members of the IRATION sabotaged all the power plants in hopes the fish in Norwegian refrigerators would spoil, forcing the Norwegians to a cooler climate where their fish would keep. The fish spoiled all right, but the Norwegians, as everyone knows to this day, thrive on spoiled fish. Faced with failure, the Irishmen sneaked into the Norwegian fish storage caves in the dead of the night and sprinkled the rotten fish with lye, hoping to poison the Norwegian intruders, but as everybody knows, this is how lute-fisk was introduced to the Norwegians, and how they thrived on the lye soaked smelly fish.

Matters became even worse for the Irish when the Norwegians started taking over the Irish potato crop to make lefse.

Poor St. Patrick was at his wits end. Finally, on March 17, he blew his top and told the Norwegians to "Leave Ireland NOW!!! -- and it worked, because all the Norwegians left Ireland and went to Minnesota.



May love and laughter light your days
 And warm your heart and home.
 May good and faithful friends be yours,
 Wherever you may roam.
 May peace and plenty bless your world
 With joy that long endures.
 May all life's passing seasons
 Bring the best to you and yours!



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

cindymo@cccinternet.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

Mar MUSICIAN

- 2 Jordan Kuelbs
- 9 Sally Hanson
- 16 JoAnn Huss
- 23 Jordan kuelbs
- 30 Muffy Kaim

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- John Schmitt- Julie Schmitt- Susan Evers
- Lynn Schmitt- Lee Schmitt- Jeremy Schmitt
- Tracey & Scott Schmiesing- Julie Sellner
- Norma Breu- Roger Breu- Michelle Bethke



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



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March 2014

EMAIL
norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

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

Nora Church Sunday Services MARCH 2014

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

March 2 "Fat Before Fast"

March 9 "Giving (Up) and Receiving"

March 16 "Those Two Guys in the Entry"

March 23 "Growing Up in Nora Church"

March 30 "Code Switch"

To Keep In Touch

♥
The family of Juel Grothem who passed away on February 9th. His funeral was February 13th at Nora.

♥
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