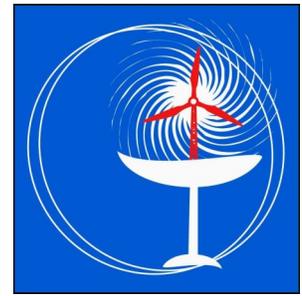


NORA LYS

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Hanska, MN

August 2014 Newsletter



A VIEW FROM THE HILL

Do you have a bucket list?

I don't. Mostly because I hate that label. *Bucket list*. Things a person wants to do, see, accomplish before "kicking the bucket". It's crude and casual. Most people use the phrase without thinking about it much—it's simply become a "thing" since the movie a few years back. I suspect those who use it more thoughtfully do so with the intent of appearing (perhaps feeling) courageously accepting of their own mortality. "Nothing to be squeamish about here, folks. We're all gonna die. No *passing* or *passing away* or *passing on*." But isn't "kicking the bucket" just a brasher way of avoiding the words "death", "dying", "dead" and "died"? I think it is, but that's all sort of beside the point.

Do you have a bucket list? A list written down somewhere or carried in your head, a list of the things you want to do, see, accomplish (the *before dying* part can be assumed, because if not before death than when?)? Perhaps visit all fifty states or all seven continents. Maybe trace your family roots and visit the town in the old country from which your ancestors emigrated. Or write the great American novel. Or drive a racecar, skydive, raise a prizewinning rose, die in your own home.

As I said I don't have a list. The label gets in my way. And maybe I've got too many interests to even begin to narrow them down to a single list, or conversely, maybe I'm just blessedly content with life. Or perhaps I'm trying to avoid considering my own mortality. But there is also this: while it is certainly true that knowing what we want is perhaps the best way to improve our chances of getting what we want, it is also true that life is what happens while we are making other plans.

So if I had a list of fifteen or even five must-do experiences I felt I *had* to cross off (or even just really, really *wanted* to cross off) before I die, and I arranged my time and my priorities and my finances and perhaps my relationships to ensure that I accomplish every single item on my list, what might I miss along the way? Rigid adherence or single-minded devotion to a bucket list seems a bit like setting the GPS for the fastest, most direct route to a destination when often the enjoyment of travel is found off the beaten path, the lasting memories are formed on the detours and by-ways.

Of course I may have it all wrong. Folks with bucket lists might just keep adding to them, rather than picking and choosing a manageable number. One item crossed off might be replaced immediately with three more—because there is just so much life to be encountered! And perhaps they have the wisdom to alter their lists from time to time when some items no longer feel necessary.

When my mom makes a to-do list on a busy day full of chores and errands and projects, and later finds herself having completed a task that wasn't on the list, she'll add it to the list and then cross it off. It creates a satisfying sense of progress and a more accurate picture at the end of the day of all she has accomplished. If I were to create a bucket list I think I'd do it sort of like that. I'd start with a blank sheet of paper or empty notebook (labeled something other than *bucket list*, of course!) and whenever I had a conversation or a meal or an adventure or an experience that caught hold of me and shook me up and made me say *wow* or *amen* or *glory be to God* or *thank you thank you thank*, I'd write it on the list and then cross it off immediately. And so it would be that at the end of my life every single item on my not-bucket-list would be crossed off.

-Lisa

Services

Coffee 10am

Worship 10:30am

~

August 10th

*Tri-State Gathering
"Pioneers, Still"*

August 17th

*"Our Minister Went
to the Beach and All
She Brought Us Was
This (Lousy)
Sermon"*

August 24th

*"Under the First
Amendment"*

August 31st

TBA

Server-Greeter-Usher Partner List

If your name is not on this list and you would like to participate, please call Susan Allen 359-2856.

If your name is on this list and you are not able to help, please call someone on the list and try to arrange a switch.

ATTENTION PARTNERS: Please communicate with each other regarding food provision.

AUGUST

- 10 • Tri-State Gathering: Carol & Alon Chambard
- 17 • Vickie Sieve, Julie & Ron Peck
- 24 • Nancy Brudelie, Cael Roettger & Raquel Heiderscheidt
- 31 • Nita Gilbert, Ardis & Elroy Wellman

SEPTEMBER

- 7 • POTLUCK
Jeanie & Darrell Hinsman, Peter & Katy Hemberger
- 14 • Louise Guggisberg, Lee Drogemuller, Shannon Weiss
- 21 • Shirley Olson, Jennie Gazdik, Matthew Hellendrung
- 28 • Clean-up Day

OCTOBER

- 5 • SMORGASBORD
Greeters will be listed on the Smorg work sheet list.
- 12 • Georgine & Gene Tepley, Karen Farrell
- 19 • Julie & John Schmitt, Susan Evers
- 26 • Wendy Tuttle, Carol & Alon Chambard

NOVEMBER

- 2 • POTLUCK
Norma & Roger Breu, Michele Bethke, Wayne Johnson
- 9 • Edith Beckius, Vickie Sieve, Christopher Olson
- 16 • Lee Drogemuller, Jeanie & Darrell Hinsman
- 23 • Lynn & Lee Schmitt, Jeremy Schmitt
- 30 • Alicia Bayer & Daryl Hrdlicka

DECEMBER

- 7 • POTLUCK
Karen Farrell, Julie & Ron Peck, Christopher Olson
- 14 • Beverly & Wallace Wellman, Joy Rathman
- 21 • Susan & Jerry Allen, Vicki Sieve
- 24 • Christmas Eve Greeters: Kristine & Warren Paulson

JANUARY

- 11 • POTLUCK
Susan & Jerry Allen, Diane Becken, Colleen Hokenson
- 18 • Mimi Kamleiter, Scott & Tracey Schmiesing
- 25 • Shirley Olson, Louise Guggisberg, Janet Rosenbloom

Nora Church Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be Sunday, August 17th, following the service.

Thanks Wayne!

The Board would like to thank Wayne for dragging the driveway, after we received 3 inches of rain. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Thank you!

Thanks to all my family, relatives and friends who helped me celebrate my 90th birthday. Thank you especially to my family for hosting the party. Thanks also for all the phone calls, cards and gifts. It was so great to see so many.

I truly enjoyed the day. *Alon Chambard*

Congratulations Victoria!

Victoria Bayer has been accepted into Perpich Center for Arts Education for her junior and senior year of high school. Her focus will be on media arts (photography and filmmaking). She will live in school housing in the Twin Cities but said she hopes to make it home to church as much as possible. We wish her well though we'll miss her...

Music & Pie, Lefsa & Meatballs

Wednesday August 6th is the annual Music and Pie Night at 7:00. If you are interested in performing, please contact Julie Sellner at 375-8737. Pies and some help in the kitchen are needed. Free will donations will benefit an area charity.

Lefsa dates are at 9:00 on August 12, 26, and September 9. Meatball Friday is October 4th.

Make sure to mark you calendar for these dates!

New Arrival

Isaac is now a big brother! Jason and Kate Monnens welcomed Olivia Rose into the world on July 23rd, weighing 7 lbs 2 oz. Congratulations!

Sending Well Wishes

Our thoughts go out to two of our members—Gil Hanson and Matthew Hellendrung—as they recover from their respective surgeries.

Gil is recovering from surgery for a severed tendon on top of his foot.

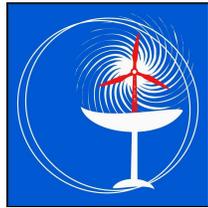
Matthew was kicked in the leg by a horse, and has now been able to return home to continue recovery.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Greeters, Servers and Ushers</i>
August 17	JoAnn Huss	Vickie Sieve, Julie & Ron Peck
August 24	Jordan Kuelbs	Nancy Brudelie, Cael Roettger & Raquel Heiderscheidt
August 31	Mimi Kamleiter	Nita Gilbert, Ardis & Elroy Wellman

Pastor Lisa's Schedule

Pastor Lisa has Mondays off.
Friday is sermon writing day.

She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:
507-766-7822.



Thank you to our Helping Hands!

A BIG "thank you!" to the crew of people who did a massive amount of work at NORA Saturday, July 19th. The sanctuary was cleared out, scaffolding erected, sticks picked up, lawn mowed, gutters cleaned, and - as usual - food of many types was provided.

The people involved were: "He who must not be thanked" and wife, Jeanie Hinsman, Nancy Brudellie, Karen Farrell and Dick Gurska, Pat Kunerth, Christopher Olson, Warren Paulson, John Masengarb, Roger Breu, Larry Bakken, Lee Drogemuller, Julie Peck, and Mike Huss.

Here We Go Again!

The August assembly of Lunch Bunchers will hold a gathering at the Home Town Cafe in St. James on Thursday, August 21st at 11:30 a.m. As usual, we hope to see you there. Enjoy your summer!

Musician Schedule for August-December

AUGUST

17 • JoAnn Huss
24 • Jordan Kuelbs
31 • Mimi Kamleiter

SEPTEMBER

7 • Muffy Kaim
14 • Sally Hanson
21 • JoAnn Huss

OCTOBER

5 • Sally Hanson
12 • Jordan Kuelbs
19 • JoAnn Huss
26 • Mimi Kamleiter

NOVEMBER

2 • Muffy Kaim
9 • Jordan Kuelbs
16 • JoAnn Huss
23 • Sally Hanson
30 • Mimi Kamleiter

DECEMBER

7 • Jordan Kuelbs
14 • Sally Hanson
21 • JoAnn Huss
24 • Muffy Kaim

"We are often called to do the difficult, if not the seemingly impossible, and it is vital to our spiritual growth that we not ignore these challenges."

Janice Marie Johnson (Unitarian Universalist) from Bless the Imperfect: Meditations for Congregational Leaders

**To ♥
Keep
In
Touch**

If you know of anyone needing our assistance Or attention...please call one of the **Caring Committee** members: Georgine Tepley (chair) 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm), Shirley Olson - 354-1866, or Carol Chambard - 354-2242

Newsletter Preference Form

Many of you have received this form all ready, and some of you have turned it in. Receiving more of these forms back from recipients will really help us out! Please fill it out, tear it off and send it in, or email Brooke with the appropriate information. Thank you!

We will phase out bulk mailing of the *Mere Lys* no later than the January 2015 issue. Please indicate your preferred method of receiving the church newsletter and return this form with your completed and signed pledge card. If we do not hear back from you [by January] we will assume that you are reading the *Mere Lys* on our website.

- Please send the newsletter to this e-mail address _____, beginning with the (circle month) June/August/September/October/November/December/January issue.
- Please discontinue postal delivery after the (circle month) June/August/September/October/November/December issue. I will access the newsletter on line at norauchurch.org.
- Please send the newsletter first class after the discontinuation of bulk service. Enclosed is my voluntary contribution to cover the cost of postage.
- I already receive the *Mere Lys* electronically. Thanks!

Name: _____

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

Address Service Requested



Website: www.norauuchurch.org
Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

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Pillow Cleaning Service

Grace Lutheran Church Women will host Carlson Pillow Cleaning Service this August.

Monday, Aug. 25 (6–8 p.m.)

Tuesday, Aug. 26 (7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Pillows cleaned, deodorized, sanitized and new ticking (cover): feather, feather/down, crushed foam and polyester. *Takes only 15 minutes to clean a pillow!* Pillows will also be available for purchase. For information on services and rates visit carlsonpillow.com or call (320) 212-5811.

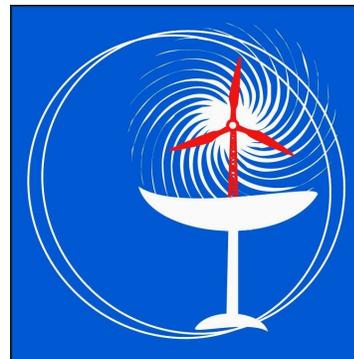
Standard size [19x26] \$11.95

Queen size [20x30] \$13.95

King size [20x36] \$14.95

Also cleans travel pillows and comforters

Grace Lutheran Church is located on the corner of Fourth and Main Street in downtown Mankato (320 E. Main Street), and is handicap accessible. Visit us online at www.gracemankato.org or call the church office at 345-4248.



Notes from the Nora Office

Newsletter Articles and Information

Are due by the 20th of each month.

Weekly Order of Service Announcements

Are due Thursdays at noon.

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.