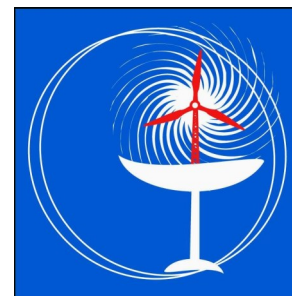


NORA LYS

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Hanska, MN

May 2015 Newsletter



A VIEW FROM THE HILL

May Day in my family, for I won't tell you exactly how many years, has been the celebration of my mother's birth. And because Mom loves flowers and the tradition of May Baskets, ours have always been the posy gathering, door-bell ringing, basket delivering sorts of May Days. One year we even danced around a flowered and beribboned May Pole!

There are other May Days, of course. There is Beltane, the Pagan observance of the half-way point between the vernal equinox and the summer solstice (to which the May Day of flowers and baskets is related). There is Labor Day, observed on May 1 by much of the world beyond the borders of the United States with parades and displays of union solidarity. There is "mayday, mayday, mayday."

That last—*mayday, mayday, mayday*—was adopted by the International Radiotelegraph Convention of Washington in 1927, to replace SOS, the Morse code distress signal that was no longer optimal, as communications shifted to voice. It is the anglicized spelling of the French pronunciation of "m'aider", which means "help me." It is repeated three times so that distress calls are clearly distinguished from communications *about* distress calls.

Phew! Language is tough, complex, confusing. And powerful, beautiful, playful. Transmitting meaning and shaping meaning. And we are in the midst of another transformative shift in our use of language—this time from voice to text. The classic, easily grasped illustration of potential linguistic pitfalls is **LOL**. Folks of a certain generation might think it stands for *Lots of Love*, yet it is now the widely accepted short-hand for *Laughing Out Loud*. Two sentiments that are far from interchangeable in most situations. Opportunities for miscommunication abound; so do opportunities for connection.

However we say them, our world and our individual lives need *lots of love* and frequent bouts of *laughing out loud*, too. And Nora Church is a great source of both. We strive to communicate our intent and our meaning clearly. We laugh when we get it wrong. We drop everything and respond promptly to calls of *mayday, mayday, mayday!* And we love one another—through May Day. And May Day. And May Day. And all the other days of the years.

-Lisa

Services

Coffee 10:00 am

Worship 10:30 am



May 3rd

*"Generosity as a
Punchline"*

May 10th

*"Going Home to
Mom"*

May 17th

*Bring-A-Friend Sunday
"Alliances and
Independence"*

May 24th

*"Granting Them Their
Immortality"*

May 31st

"To Be Announced"

A Note From the Treasurer

Monthly Income and Expenses

At the suggestion of the Nora Church Board of Trustees, Sunday plate collections and total monthly expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter. Totals indicated do not include special collections or memorial gifts.

March

Income: \$10,013.87

Expenses: \$11,326.08

Note: March expenses include quarterly payments to the UUA, MidAmerica, and quarterly tax payments. The tree removal project has not been completed or paid. New envelopes for cash pledges and memorials are now available. They will have several categories for givers to indicate choice of gift recipient.

THANKS!

Thanks from the board...

...to all of the workers who helped with Easter brunch!

Nominating Committee Report

Julie Peck's and Susan Allen's first term on the Board of Trustees expire on July 1st. Julie and Susan have both agreed to serve a second term.

Darrell Hinsman's second term expires on July 1st. The committee nominates Jeremy Schmitt to serve a three year term.

Respectfully submitted,

Nita Gilbert and Edith Beckius

2015/2016 Church Budget & Pledge Drive

The proposed budget for the 2015/2016 church year will be presented at a very brief congregational meeting following the service on Sunday, May 3rd, 2015. Pledge cards will distributed at the same time.

Graduation Announcements!

Elliott Kunerth is graduating and you are invited to celebrate Sunday, May 31st, from 1-4 p.m. at 119 Tile Street, Mankato, MN. Please RSVP to (507) 766-3886.

Alex Guggisberg is graduating from Minnesota New Country School (public project-based high school in Henderson). Celebration will be on Saturday, June 13, 5-10 pm at Hermann Heights park. He will be attending college at UMD in the fall. All are very invited to the celebration.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will take place at approximately 11:35 a.m. on Sunday, June 7th, 2015.

At that time the congregation will vote to approve a budget for the 2015/2016 church year, elect members to the Board of Trustees, and undertake other business as set forth in the agenda or proposed from the floor.

Syttende Mai at Nora & Bring-A-Friend Sunday Sunday, May 17th

- 10:00 Coffee and Social Time
- 10:30 Worship "Alliances and Independence"
- 11:30 Potluck
- 12:30 Dessert
- 1:00 Music and More

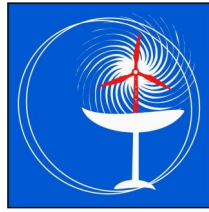
Please bring a friend to Nora with you this Sunday! Invite others to join us for any one, two, three or more of the events of the day.

The choir will sing in the service. Members and friends of all ages and abilities will play, sing, recite, perhaps dance after our special Syttende Mai potluck and dessert extravaganza. Nita Gilbert is lining up the entertainment.

Susan Allen will gratefully accept volunteers to service and clean up at this mid-month, unregularly scheduled potluck.

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.



Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be on a Tuesday, May 12th at 5:30.

May Lunch Bunch

Join the Lunch Bunch crew to relax after the Sytende Mai madness. We'll have a quiet gathering at Turner Hall in New Ulm on Thursday, May 21, at 11:30 a.m. to appreciate our various heritages. Even Swedes will be welcome. See you there.

Lisa on the Loose!

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses once a week in May. If her appearance in your community fits your schedule, grab coffee, tea or snack and join her for a mid-week check-in.

Tuesday, May 5, 10:30—12:00 at River City Eatery, in Windom.

Tuesday, May 12, 10:30—12:00 at Encore Coffee, in St. James.

Tuesday, May 19, 12:00—1:30 at Coffee Hag, in Mankato.

Tuesday, May 26, New Ulm, location and time to be announced.



Church Night

- **Wednesdays in May: 6, 13, 20 and 27 ***

A group for Nora youth (in grades 7-12 or the equivalent) on Wednesday evenings, led by Rev. Lisa. Meet in the church social hall from 7-8:30 for opening ritual, conversation, guided discussions, snacks and games. Nora youth who have not yet Come of Age will have the opportunity to be recognized this year.

Helping Hands Needed at Nora!

As the weather gets nice it gives us opportunity to do a little up-keep on necessary items. There are a few projects around Nora that we need *your* help with! Maintenance and repairs are needed for the parsonage railing, the women's bathroom ceiling, as well as the Nora Church sign and continued work on the gazebo.

Please contact Darrell Hinsman for details at dhinsman@newulmtel.net or 507-276-6044.

Adult RE

Adult RE will resume on May 24th. Please bring a dish to share and join us in the social hall following the service, as we continue to Build Our Own Theology.

We are working with an established curriculum—Building Your Own Theology—with the understanding that as current events dictate we might break for open discussion any given month. No registration or advanced preparation necessary.



Notes from the Nora Office...

Hello everyone! As I move into a full, fast-paced farming season my time in the Nora office becomes all that more valuable, as I am only here two partial days per week.

Please make sure to submit OOS and Mere Lys content by the deadlines to help me make the most of my time here. Thank you in advance for your timeliness and support in this matter!

Respectfully, Brooke

May 22nd ~ June Newsletter Deadline

May 22nd ~ Annual Report Deadline

Thursday ~ Order of Service Deadline @ Noon

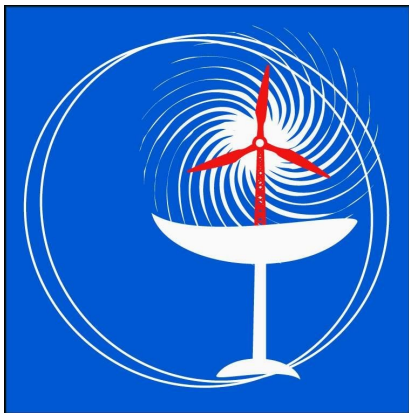
Most announcements will only appear in the order of service two times, to remain timely, and give room for all announcements.

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.

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



Phone: 507.439.6240
Website: www.norauuchurch.org
Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU

Pillow Cleaning

Monday, May 4 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 5 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 320 East Main Street, Mankato (Corner of 4th & Main). Feather and Down pillows are cleaned, disinfected, deodorized and ticking is replaced new. Crushed foam pillows can be cleaned, and polyester pillows can be recovered.

Costs are per pillow - Standard [19x26] \$11.95; Queen [20x30] \$13.95; King [20x36] \$14.95. Additional feathers for firmness and goose down for softness may be added if desired for an additional charge. Pillows of any size also for sale. *Carlson's Pillow Cleaning Service*, Willmar, MN, 320-212-5811, CarlsonPillow@charter.net.

Boy Scout Recruitment

The Cub Scouts in our area are running a spring recruitment event in New Ulm:

What: Archery shoot open house

When: Friday, May 1st from 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Where: Runnings in New Ulm

Who: Contact Blake Litzau at (507)-387-3123 ext. 33 or blake.litzau@scouting.org

Boys who are currently in K-5th grade can learn how to shoot a bow and arrow, while learning how much fun it is to be a Cub Scout. Anyone who signs up to be a Cub Scout this Spring will receive a free Introduction to Cub Scouting Event and a \$5.00 gift certificate to the Scout Shop.

"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." ~Mark Twain

Date	Pianist	Greeters, Servers & Ushers
May 3	Sally Hanson	Susan & Jerry Allen, Diane Becken, Pat Kunerth
May 10	Jordan Kuelbs	Edith Beckius, Shirley Olson, Louise Guggisberg
May 17	JoAnn Huss	Wayne Johnson, Nancy Brudellie, Kristy Paulson
May 24	Muffy Kaim	Peter & Katy Hemberger, Nita Gilbert
May 31	Sally Hanson	Ardis & Elroy Wellman, Jordan Kuelbs

ECFE On the Go Program

ECFE On the Go is a new outreach program for public, private and homeschool families residing in ISD #88. If you have a child between the ages of birth to 5 and if your family is unable to attend a traditional center-based ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) class in New Ulm, then ECFE On the Go will come to you at your convenience!

ECFE On the Go focuses on early childhood literacy and is FREE for participating families. At each of two visits, your child will receive age-appropriate books and educational toys. Please call the New Ulm ECFE office at 359-8417 or email Wendy at wbertrang@newulm.k12.mn.us for more information.

MidAmerica Region Young Adult Spring/Summer Conference

Registration is open for the conference happening June 12-14 in Chicago. Registration is sliding scale \$25-75 and scholarships are available. The event is open to individuals aged 18-35. Meals are provided. Participants may sleep at the church, or make other arrangements. More information is available on their facebook event page "CONatus: Living Your Values" or on the YASC: Young Adult Steering Committee website midamericauuya.org.

<http://midamericauuya.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/447274045428953/>

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