



# MERE LYS

## November 2015 Newsletter

### Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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#### *Services*

Coffee 10:00 am  
Worship 10:30 am



November 1st

*“Time and the Veil”*

November 8th

*“Awesome”*

November 15th

*“Nothing New”*

November 22nd

*“Enough”*

November 29th

*“Hymn Sing Service”*



#### *A View From the Hill*

A new roof is going up on the parsonage as I write. For as long as I’ve lived here we’ve shed a few shingles with each significant wind—and as you know, we get lots of significant winds up here on the hill! So, when the roof leaked on a rainy night this past summer we didn’t waste any time. The Buildings and Ground Committee got a couple bids and the board decided to put on 50 year shingles. We put 30 year shingles on the church a couple years ago. The Building and Grounds Committee, board, and congregation of the future will have several more years breathing room between the next roof jobs.

I’m grateful, on behalf of those future church members and leaders, for the vision of our current leaders, for the responsible way they maintain our buildings and property, and for their foresight in providing for the spacing out of major investments next time around. And I’m grateful on my own behalf, that I’ll have a warm, dry and cozy home this winter, and that our leaders responded to this parsonage maintenance issue as promptly and generously as they do whenever the inevitable happens.

One hears stories, you know. About church leaders making short-sighted decisions, kicking the hard ones on down the line to the next board or the next generation. About congregations (far, far away in other denominations, of course) begrudging their ministers every dime spent on parsonage upkeep or improvements. I’m grateful we do things differently here.

As Thanksgiving approaches one more time I’m counting all the familiar blessings: health, family, friends, education, meaningful work that supports me financially and spiritually, abundant food, the ability to save towards retirement, constitutional freedoms, the right to vote, the privilege of participating in improving my neighborhood of this vast world. And I’m counting—once again—the blessing of serving Nora Unitarian Universalist Church. The current, living embodiment of a generous, faithful, spirit filled congregation with a 134 year history and a future stretching toward infinity.

*-Lisa*

# Thank You!

## Thanks from the board...

... to the Schmiesings for the new tent and to all the people who worked for Smorg.

### *Board Meeting*

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, November 8th after church.

### *November Lunch Bunch*

Attention loyal Lunch Bunchers! There's been a change in the November meeting date. Due to a scheduling conflict, the date has been moved to Thursday, Nov. 12 (from Nov. 19). The time remains 11:30 am. The location is the same: Hahn's Dining and Lounge, 206 N. Main St, Winthrop. Carpooling would be a good idea.

Lunch Bunch is a monthly, social lunch gathering, open to any Nora members or friends.

### *Adult Religious Education*

We'll meet for brown bag lunch and session three of Building Your Own Theology after the service on November 15. Join the discussion whether you've participated in previous sessions or not! Reading hand-outs will be available at church on November 8.

Adult RE, a casual discussion group, is open to all Nora members, friends or visitors

### *Religious Education for Children and Youth*

Religious Education for children ages 3 and above takes place on a Sunday by Sunday basis. On the weeks a teacher is available children will be dismissed from the service after the Story for All Ages, to gather in the Iverson Room (basement of the social hall) for a story, discussion and craft.

### *A Prayer to Share*

Give me everything mangled and bruised, and I will make a light of it to make you weep, and we will have rain and we will have begun again.

-Deena Metzger

### *Minister's Discretionary Fund*

In recent years monies from the Minister's Discretionary Fund have been used to pay for prescription medications, utility bills, and computers for our partner congregation in Transylvania. The Fund exists outside the annual operating budget of the church and is now nearly depleted. Donation may be made payable to Nora Church with Minister's Discretionary Fund written on the memo line.

### *Lisa on the Loose!*

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses. Join her for drop-in conversations in your community.



Wednesdays this month!

November 4 Encore Coffee St. James, 10:30-Noon

November 11 Coffee Hag, Mankato, 10:30-Noon

November 18 Ridgeway on 23rd, Time TBA

### *Thanksgiving Eve Service*

This year's community Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 25th, at Grace Evangelical Free Church in New Ulm, located in the Community Center. Pastors from First United Methodist, Oakwood United Methodist, Grace Evangelical Free Church, First United Methodist Church and Nora Unitarian Universalist Church will lead the service. All are welcome.

### *A Note From the Treasurer*

#### **September Income and Expenses**

Income, Pledges: \$ 7,087.00

Expenses: \$17,636.98

Two CDs for a total of \$12,043.67 were redeemed to cover the financing of the parsonage roof project.

Total CD savings remaining at Citizens Bank - \$81,277.37

*Income and expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter, not including special collections or memorial gifts.*

**Note:** Tree removal project not completed/paid.

## Caring Corner

Long time Nora Church friend **Marilyn Hromatko** (wife of Wes, and force behind the re-continuation of the Tri-State Gathering), suffered a fall in September. The resulting tests revealed tumors on her brain. She has received radiation treatments to reduce pain from the tumors.

She is at Avera Morningside Heights Care Center in Marshall and will shortly move into the hospice unit. Notes and cards may be send in care of Wesley Hromatko 752 121st Street, Lake Wilson, MN 56151.



**Larry and Vickie Bakken** send word that Larry's lymphoma has returned. He is receiving outpatient treatment. Larry was in the clinic on Thursday Oct. 22, for Bendamustine and Rituxan, on Friday, Oct 23 for Bendamustine and on Monday, Oct 26 for a Neulasta shot to help grow the white blood cells.

He appears to have no reactions to this chemo combination at least for this time. They gave him some steroids so he had a flushed face on Friday morning but nothing to worry about and it went away quickly.

He put the first chemo off one week so it would not interfere with his deer hunting Nov. 6-15.

He remains positive that he can beat the lymphoma again this time and send it back into remission. He will have lab tests on the next 3 Thursdays to see how his blood counts are. If his blood counts are OK, the next chemo treatment will be Nov 19. He is looking forward to baby boy Bakken (Justin and Molly) arriving about the same time.

Thanks for your emails, cards and phone calls. They are all appreciated! Please do NOT send flowers. If you want to send cards, letters, etc., please send them to our home at 11900 175th St. W., Lakeville, MN 55044. Feel free to send emails to [LBakken@frontiernet.net](mailto:LBakken@frontiernet.net) or just reply to this email. Larry would love hearing from you!

### 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

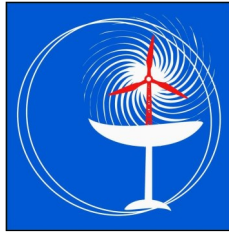
Carol Chambard: 354-2242

### 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.



### Ofrenda/Day of the Dead Altar

On Sunday, November 1, All Saint's Day, we'll celebrate our continuing relationship with loved ones who have died. Please bring a photograph, favorite food item or other memento to place on the ofrenda, in remembrance of your deceased family members and friends. Here is a link to site with pictures, explanations and ideas about what you might bring. <http://www.celebrate-day-of-the-dead.com/day-of-the-dead-altars.html>. (Our altar will be both family-friendly and church-friendly, so let's avoid alcoholic contributions.)

### To Smorg, or not to Smorg—That is the Question Special Congregational Meeting on Smorg

There will be a general meeting/discussion on the future of Smorg on the first Sunday in November during/after the potluck. Recently there have been several small discussions as to whether or not we should continue to have Smorg. This is too important a decision to not involve all members of the congregation, so it has been decided to have this meeting for open discussion and to get a sense of what the congregation would like to do.

Karen Farrell, Board President

*Please read the Smorg sermon, if you were not able to be in attendance. Thank you!*

### **Beyond Waste Not, Want Not** Smorg Sermon

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sbBrhFks9OLU6nIUicKNDPSNdgWJ3dg9iCFQ2Vc-OPg/edit?usp=sharing>

### ***Preliminary Smorg Information***

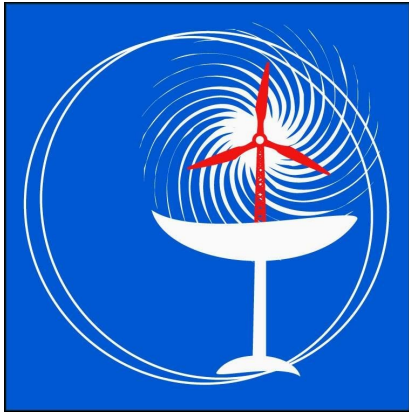
Tickets Sold: 278 (take out & workers not included)

Income: \$8,079.80

Profit: \$6,301.78

## Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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Phone: 507.439.6240

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Email: [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU](http://www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU)

### *Nora Moments: Remember the Time*

There are many moments in Nora Church History that should be preserved. They are captured on film, on tape, or in personal memory banks in the form of stories. Please share these.

Bring them to church in a bin, a folder or a manila envelope. If you prefer to keep the original, bring a copy of it. Phil Hahn has agreed to be coordinator of the project. We are looking for “remember the time stories”, and also readings, writings, newspaper articles, sermons, prayers. Whatever has meaning to you and helps to define us as the church we are.

### *Notes from the Nora Office...*

Please send announcements, events and content of any kind, for the newsletter or order of service to the Nora email. Announcements will generally run for two weeks.

**Order Of Service ~ content due Thursdays**

**December Mere Lys ~ content due Nov. 20th**

Church Email: [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

### *Thanksgiving Blessing*

*Give us thankful hearts ... in this the season of Thy Thanksgiving. May we be thankful for health and strength, for sun and rain and peace. Let us seize the day and the opportunity and strive for that greatness of spirit that measures life not by its disappointments but by its possibilities, and let us ever remember that true gratitude and appreciation shows itself neither in independence nor satisfaction, but passes the gift joyfully on in larger and better form.*

*-W.E.B. Du Bois*

“The story about the reeds and the oak is an ancient one. It is a common fable with many different versions, but it has its origins in the ancient Persian wisdom literature. The Greek fabulist Aesop tells this story too, dating to around 600 BCE. English poet Geoffrey Chaucer refers to it in the fourteenth century. This story about nonsense, about surrender, about resilience, is old. Just like grief is old, just like storytelling is old, just like that human urge to search for truth and meaning, to try to make sense of the mess of our lives, is an old, old thing. And look around you: We’re still here. We’re still doing it. We are still searching.

It is nonsense, after all, that the mighty oak was ripped from its roots, and the reeds survived the storm. It is nonsense, sometimes, to risk loving each other and this world which could so easily slip into the sea. And yet, somehow, we do. And when it all goes wrong, we encounter our own resilience. It is the deep well we cannot know until precisely the moment we dig down and find at the root of it all something to hold, something we didn’t buy or make or practice. But there it is. There is mystery in resilience.”

-UU World *To bow and to bend*, Sept. 14, 2015