

MERE LYS

August 2019 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am



August 11

***Tri-State Gathering
Worthington, MN
“Countering White
Supremacy Culture,
Heteronormative
Privilege, and Other
Things That Make Us
Defensive: What’s In It
for Us?”***

Rev. Lisa Doege

**September 8
Regular services
resume at Nora
Church, potluck
Sunday**



A View From the Hill

At our annual meeting in June we voted in a couple of significant changes to the familiar course of our worshiping schedule. The first will take effect this month. We’ll participate as usual in the Tri-State Gathering on August 11, but then we will return to lazy Sunday mornings for three more weeks instead of resuming regular services. Three more weeks to sleep in or venture far afield or putter around.

We’ll resume our regular weekly church services on the Sunday after Labor Day, September 8. We will have a potluck lunch following that service, because even though that’s the second Sunday in September, it is our first Sunday of the new year. It will be especially good to be back together after a few extra weeks apart.

Change (such as delaying the start of services, and substituting a Wednesday evening service for one Sunday morning service each month—more about that in the September *Mere Lys*) invigorates some of us and sends some of us into tailspins of uncertainty and fear. We’ll do what we can to help minimize the uncertainty. We’ll communicate a lot, here in the newsletter, through *Grapevines*, and in casual conversation. We’ll have potluck servers in place for September 8, and musicians and greeters recruited for Wednesday evening services when those start. And, most importantly, we’ll enter into these changes together and with a sense of possibility born of our memories of even greater changes that brought us and our church not only no harm but new life.

Lucia and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Tri-State, at our new location, the Dayton House, on August 11. Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter.

[On a personal note, my surgery was postponed until August 14. This means the last few weeks of August are somewhat up in the air, in terms of whether Lucia and I will be in the parsonage or still in the Cities. I’ll keep you updated via the *Grapevine*. And you can be sure that we’ll be back in residence on the hill by Labor Day because Lucia will be starting 8th grade in New Ulm two days later. As always, we are grateful beyond words for your support over the past year.]

-Lisa

Actions at the Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Nora Church took place June 2nd, following worship service. A quorum was present. Several significant votes took place. A full copy of the minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the church entry. Here's a brief summary. Speak to any board member if you have questions or comments.

Reduction in size of board of trustees

The number of members on Nora's church board was reduced from seven to five. The change was made to make it easier to rotate volunteers through the three year tenure. Since Nita Gilbert's position was finished, she was not replaced. Scott Chamberd was completing the term previously held by Alicia Bayer. That three year position was also expired so as Scott has not served three years he is eligible to serve again in 2020.

Church calendar

The decision was made to start the church year the Sunday after Labor, rather than the third week of August. Our first service for the coming year will be September 8.

Wednesday night monthly service

A trial run offering a monthly Wednesday evening service will begin in September. Sunday attendance has been dwindling. A midweek "soft service" something a bit different from our Sunday programming might provide an appealing alternative for those who are not drawn to Sunday mornings. The Wednesday alternative will provide more quiet time for reflection and meditation. There will be no service on the Sunday following the second Wednesday. This means for September regular Sunday service and potluck will be September 8. The second Wednesday service will be September 11. There will be no Sunday service on September 15.

New calendars will be printed and available in September so you can keep track of all these changes. It was suggested that we do carpooling for the Wednesday evening service for those who do not like to drive in the evening. Please consider the needs of our aging community as you plan your trips to church.

Ministerial time

Due to financial concern and the reduction in

membership, the board recommended action of reducing the ministerial contract for the 2020-2021 church year. This was defeated by a vote of 13 to 12.

As always, the board is looking for ways to meet the needs of our present church community while reaching out with new ideas to fill unmet needs in the larger community surrounding Nora. If you have ideas or suggestions, please share your thoughts with any board member.

Summer solstice

After days of stormy predictions, the sky cleared just in time for our first summer solstice event. Crafts were set up at 7:30. Children enjoyed making fairy wands and God's eyes. At 8:00, with music provided by Josh Norman and the Musikmeisters, we did a grand march followed by a Maypole. Dave Benson constructed a very stable, fourteen foot pole to which we attached colorful streamers. Lucia put a video on Facebook for us. If you haven't seen it, check out the Nora site. Lisa led thoughtful poems and meditation about how we carry the energy of the sun within us and how we choose to share our energy. Thanks to Julie Peck, Georgine, and Shirley for delicious rhubarb desserts and to Sally Anne for delicious homemade lemonade. Setup and cleanup help were provided by Nita and Brett. There were more than thirty in attendance. Several campers joined in with the children especially joyful with the fun activities. Thank you all for your help and participation.

A Note From the Treasurer **June Income and Expenses**

Income: \$ 4,074.68

Expenses: \$ 14,448.13

CHURCH YEAR TOTAL INCOME

PLEDGES: \$ 81,025.00

ALL OTHER: \$ 6,373.89

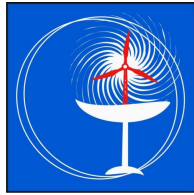
CHURCH YEAR EXPENSES:
\$106,692.50

DIFFERENCE: -\$ 19,293.61

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

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 & Buildings & Grounds

The next church board meeting is Tuesday, August 20 at 5:45. The Building and Grounds committee will meet that same day at 4:00 p.m. to do a five year assessment of the church property. This will help us in future planning for roof work, tree work, electrical, plumbing, siding, etc. so we have a better sense of the cost of future maintenance work. Materials for this assessment were provided by The Sacred Places grant for belfry repair.

Treats from the Nora Church Kitchen Community Ed Class

For many years we have been fortunate to have the skills of the fine bakers, cooks, and culinary artists that produce goodies for smorgasbord and other special events throughout the year. It's time to pass these skills to the younger women and men who have long wanted to try their hands at lefse making, krumkake and other goodies. "Treats from Nora Church Kitchen" is the title for our community ed class through District 88 (New Ulm). Our teachers will be Norma Breu for rosettes, Georgine Tepley for krumkake, Edith Beckius for lefse, and Susan Evers for sandbakkels. Classes will be Monday nights, October 14, 21, 28 and November 4. If you are interested or know someone who might be but are not a resident of District 88 and do not receive the community ed catalog, please speak to Jeanie Hinsman for info on how to register.

Cemetery and Church Grounds Work

A big thank you to Warren, and helper Darrell, for all the tree trimming done on cemetery and church grounds, and to Warren, Scott and Carol for some stopgap improvements to the driveway!

Supper Club

Supper Club will meet again Wednesday, August 21 at 6:30 pm. Location TBA. Supper Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month.

Lunch Bunch

The intrepid Lunch Bunch gang never takes a vacation (well, hardly ever), so in August we are descending on Chubbies Bar and Grill, 101 Broadway, Hanska, on Tuesday, August 13, at 11:30 a.m. Word on the street is that the place is under new management, redecorated, with a new chef, so join us in checking it out.

Lunch Bunch is a monthly social gathering open to all.

Kjelshus Memorial Service

Reverend Lisa Doege will conduct a memorial service for Bjarne "Ben" O. Kjelshus at Nora Church at 11:00 on Tuesday, August 13. Lunch in the social hall will follow interment of cremains in Mount Pisqua cemetery.

Pastoral Care

Please be aware that privacy laws prevent hospitals from calling churches and pastors when members are admitted—unless specifically asked to do so by the patient. If you or a loved one is hospitalized, and you would like a call or visit from Lisa, please call/text her at 507-766-7822, leave a message on the parsonage voice mail (507-439-6240), or ask a family member to do so on your behalf. You can also let us know (via any of those ways) if you'd like the church membership to be notified by Grapevine.

Notes from the Nora Office...

September Mere Lys ~ content due

Thursday, August 22

Order Of Service: Content due Thursdays

Hey folks! I'm now in the office MOST Tuesdays and Fridays. I am doing more work at home these days, with baby, as I got a new computer I can work on Nora stuff with. This means I may be able to respond to emails more often. Let me know if you have any questions!

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

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Phone: 507.439.6240

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office most Tuesdays and Fridays.

2019-2020 Server/ Volunteer List

Volunteers are needed for all Sundays that are not a potluck. Sign up in kitchen or when the sign up sheet is passed around in church.

If potluck assignments don't fit your schedule please call someone on the list to take your place. Contact information is in the Nora Directory.

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

PARTNERS: Please communicate with each other regarding food provision, as necessary.

SEPTEMBER 8—
Potluck—Susan Allen, Carol Chambard, Vicki Sieve

OCTOBER 6—Smorg—Gil & Sally Hanson

NOVEMBER 3—Potluck—
Julie & Ron Peck, Georgine Tepley

DECEMBER 1—Potluck—
Edith Beckius, Lee Drogemuller, Colleen & Glenn Hokenson
Christmas Eve—Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska

JANUARY 5—Potluck—
Kristine & Warren Paulson,
Kristy Paulson

FEBRUARY 2—Potluck—
Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman, Norma & Roger Breu

MARCH 1—Potluck—Julie Sellner, Susan Evers, Shannon Hoechst, Lee Schmitt

APRIL 5—Potluck—Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska, Bev & Wally Wellmann

MAY 3—Potluck—Sally Anne & Dave Benson
Louise Guggisberg Brett Lehman

JUNE 7—Potluck—Shirley Olson, Nita Gilbert,
Jeremy & Candi Schmitt



2019 Tri-State Gathering

Sunday, August 11

Dayton House, Worthington, MN

Time: * 10:30 Gather
11:00 Service
12:00 Potluck

Service "*Countering White Supremacy Culture, Heteronormative Privilege and Other Things That Make Us Defensive: What's In It for Us?*"

Reverend, Lisa Doege, preaching

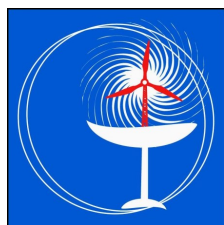
Potluck: Please bring a dish to share, and your own place settings.

Broaden the circle of our UU family. Join UUs from Southern Minnesota, Eastern South Dakota and Northwestern Iowa.

Location: Historic Dayton House, 1311 4th Avenue, Worthington, MN 56187

For More Information: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Organized with assistance from David and Sally Anne Benson and Reverend Lisa Doege, Nora UU Church (Hanska, MN).



Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU