

MERE LYS

October 2019 Newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Services

Sundays

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am

Wednesdays

Worship 7:00 pm



October 6

“Spirits Grazing”

October 9

***“May Your Name Be
Inscribed”***

Wednesday 7:00 pm

October 13

No Service

October 20

***“Keep Telling
the Story(s)”***

October 27

***“People Rescue Each
Other”***



A View From the Hill

I'm in awe.

As I write this late September morning a small crew of church folks are next getting dirty, knocking items off the pre-Smorg work list, and deepening decades-long relationships with laughter and common purpose. I was in awe in 2009 as I watched my first Nora Smorgasbord approach and unfold. I've been in awe each fall since then. And I'm in awe again. But the awe has changed.

In my early years here, I was amazed that a group of fewer than a hundred people could put on such an extravaganza, seemingly effortlessly (I know that's not the reality), everyone knowing and doing their part, providing hospitality to hundreds of people and raising thousands of dollars, all with few mishaps or glitches. It took away my breath, and I sought to understand and fulfill my role in the dance that is Smorg.

Now I hold in awe the faithful remnant.

So many of our members have died or moved on since my first Smorg. And, as is the case in churches across the country, our numbers have dwindled dramatically. Smorg is a tremendous time- and labor-intensive undertaking for such a small group. Understandably, for at least the past five years, along with the hot yet festive hours of lefse making and the long yet satisfying hours of trimming bushes and dusting cobwebs and the frustrating yet social hours of peeling hard boiled eggs, each fall has brought discussion of the possibility that the time might have come to say good-bye to the beloved (and lucrative) tradition.

And each fall, each Smorg Sunday, even as the daunting work of washing the last dishes and dismantling the buffet and returning the rectangular tables to storage and the round tables to the social hall, even as daunting work still lies ahead, the tide of sentiment turns amidst the glow of doing the task of your parents and grandparents so well once again, of feeding the hundreds who wait all year for this meal, of making it through in style despite the very real effort intensified by small number of workers. The tide of sentiment turns once again to, “We have to do it again. The guests still come, and we make so much money.”

Will the tide turn again this year? We'll know in about ten days. Maybe this will be the year the lure of those Smorg dollars and the very real loving pride of inviting scores of friends and neighbors and strangers to Nora's table and feeding them well, just can't outweigh the physical and emotional weariness of doing too much with too few. And maybe not.

Either way, I'll be in awe. In awe of the tradition, in awe of the labor, in awe of the love, and in awe of the courage of making a difficult decision—whichever decision is made.

-Lisa

News From the Board Meeting

The Nora Church Board met on Sept. 23 with all members present! There was much good news to discuss including completion of the belfry restoration and the driveway reshaping. It was also reported that a few members were able to make early contributions on their pledges putting us in shape to meet September obligations.

The Buildings & Grounds committee met Aug. 24 and Sept. 5 and did a substantially complete assessment of maintenance needs on buildings and grounds. They have compiled several pages of comments. Next step is to prioritize and schedule out projects and costs for the years ahead. Thank you to Warren, Scott, Karen, Darrell and Lee for all their effort.

Our first Wednesday night service was deemed a success. Fifteen attendees appreciated the format. As we met on Sept. 11, Lisa's readings, reflections and meditation focused on the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy. We contemplated the unpredictability of the human condition and the resilience required of us living in anticipation of the sky falling and reshaping our lives after tragedy.

Coming Events: Help Needed

Winter Solstice: We're thinking ahead to our second winter solstice event. We will again plan for Flandrau Park beach house. Anyone wishing to participate in the planning and carrying out of the event, Saturday, Dec. 21, please let Jeanie know.

Adult Education Planning/Common Read: We're starting to plan Nora's 2019/2020 adult education series—End of Life—to be offered in partnership with New Ulm Community Ed. Our topic is broad, and our four Saturday session (once monthly, January thru April) may include speakers and material on a variety of subjects such as health care directives, palliative care, death doula, hospice, types of burial, facilitation of family discussion, facing our mortality. If you're interested in helping narrow and shape the series, please join Jeanie Hinsman and Lisa Doege at a planning session on October 22 at 10:00 at Lola in New Ulm.

To inform and enrich our adult education discussion, we've chosen *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande as the Nora Church Common Read for 2019/2020. We'll hold discussions on the book on the Sunday following each Saturday session. (If you're looking

for lots of reading suggestions, the UUA Common Read for this year is *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (Beacon Press, 2015) and *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People* adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese (Beacon Press, 2019).

Reminder

Work lists are posted on tables in the Fellowship Hall for anyone able to come out to church to help with cleaning projects before Smorg. Warren, Darrell, Lee, Jeanie, Colleen, Glenn, Diane, Susan, Norma, Roger, Lee and Sandy have already begun some tasks. Many hands make light work!

Too many items in your kitchen drawers? Got a small kitchen appliance you've not used in years?

Millions of folks worldwide marched and protested for action on global warming on Sept. 20. Lisa's message on the 22nd reminded us of the significance to reduce, reuse, recycle. So.....on potluck Sundays we will experiment with a Donation Rotation. Swap something you would like to declutter for something new you'd like to try. Each month we'll pick a specific category of item and see what finds you bring to church. Nov. 3 will be kitchen items. Dec. 1 will be holiday decorations. Got too many potato mashers, a garlic press you never use? Pass it on to someone who sees it as new. One rule about the swap-----what doesn't find a new home, goes back with you. We don't want to create work for someone to dispose of unclaimed items (unless someone volunteers to take leftovers to a thrift shop??).

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Saturday, October 19 at

A Note From the Treasurer **July/August Income and Expenses**

Income: \$ 6,484.00

Includes \$5,000 from Nora Women's Society.

Income: \$12,502.69

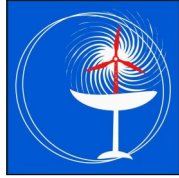
Income and expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter, not including special collections or memorial gifts.

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.



8:30 a.m.

Norwegian Treats from the Nora Church Kitchen

At Here's the lineup:

Oct. 14—Rosettes/ Norma Breu

Oct. 21—Krumake/ Georgine Tepley

Oct. 28—Sandbakkels/ Susan Evers

Nov. 4—Lefse/ Edith Beckius

Other recipes will be shared and samples of meatballs, sweet soup, rommegrot, flatbread, will be provided. It'll be fun! Register through community ed or talk to Jeanie Hinsman. Class minimum is five and maximum is ten.

Supper Club

Supper Club will be Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30. For our first official Fall supper we're headed to Searles Bar and Grill. Hope to see you there! *Supper Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30, at alternating locations.*

Lunch Bunch

Another Smorgasbord is over so it's time to relax and treat the Lunch Bunch crew for a job well done. It was decided at the last gathering to meet at the Searles Bar and Grill, 13014 Main St. in (you guessed it) Searles, on Wednesday, October 9, 11:30 a.m. Join us and share the fun memories of lefse making, etc. *Lunch Bunch is a monthly social gathering open to all.*

Smorgasbord Work List

We've eliminated the Clean Up folks, please help during Clean Up Week!

Country Store: Mimi Kamleiter, Shirley Olson

Museum: Lee Schmitt, Algot Blomquist

Parking: Jeremy Schmitt, John Schmitt

Tickets: Warren Paulson, Kristine Paulson, Wendy Tuttle (caller)

Hosts: Jeanie Hinsman (Kaffe Stua), Julie Peck (Fellowship Hall)

Buffet Table: Julie Sellner, Shannon Hoechst

Coffee: Scott Chambard

Beverages: Susan Allen

Meat & Carrot Server: Christina Schmitt

Meat Slicers: (Saturday @ 12pm) Roger Breu, Lee Schmitt, Wally Wellmann, Tony Erickson, Carson Erickson

Potatoes: Edith Beckius, Kate Monnens

Cookie Trays: Kate Becken, Diane Becken

Appetizers: Susan Evers, Vicki Sieve, Bev Wellmann, Jordan Kuelbs

Wait Staff-Kaffe Stua: Colleen Tasto, Courtney Schmitt, Toby Weiss, Thor Weiss, Kadence Hesse

Wait Staff-Fellowship Hall: Nora Peck, Nita Gilbert, Kristi Paulson

Wait Staff-Iverson Room: *Karen Farrell, Lucia Reyes

Take Outs: Norma Breu, Georgine Tepley

Publicity: Georgine Tepley, Jeannie Hinsman

Dishes-Kaffe Stua: Scott Schmiesing, Lee Drogemuller, Pat Roberts

Dishes-Fellowship: Daryl Hinsman, Ron Peck, Dick Gurska

Greeters: Gil & Sally Hanson

Floater: Joy Rathman, Carol Chambard, Louise Guggisberg

Donations

Bread: Kate Monnens (2 of each)

Carrots and Celery: Janet Rosenbloom

Coffee: Ryann Kaim

Scrollers: Susan Evers, Georgine Tepley

Cookies-Fancy: Julie Peck, Shannon Hoechst, Colleen Tasto, Karen Farrell, Susan Allen, Vicki Sieve, Louise Guggisberg, Nita Gilbert, Jordan Kuelbs

Romme Grot: Edith Beckius, Janet Rosenbloom, Carol Chambard, Vicki Sieve, Georgine Tepley

Flat Bread: Shirley Olson, Carol Chambard

Rice: Jeannie Hinsman, Julie Sellner, Jordan Kuelbs

Sot Suppe: Kristine Paulson (1/2 of what she made)

Cottage Cheese (3#): Lisa Doege, Gil & Sally Hanson

Berliner Kranser: Diane Becken

Sandbakkels: Chrissie Schmitt, Edith Beckius

Milk (1 Gal): Scott Chambard, Jeremy Schmitt, Mimi Kamleiter, Lee Drogemuller, Ross Chambard, Nita Gilbert, John Schmitt

Fattigmand: Susan Evers

Rosettes: Bev Wellmann, Norma Breu

Kringla: Julie Sellner, Joy Rathman

Belfry Repairs & Driveway Reshaping Complete

Thank you to the following donors whose generosity (along with the Historic Nordic Churches grant) made the repairs to the belfry and the reshaping of the driveway possible.

Elaine L. Shiang, in memory of Fred Li
Jerald & Suzanne Guggisberg, in memory of Ezra & Clarice Sandmann
Stephanie Kolbe, in honor of Arline & Virgil Schmiesing
Henry & Barbara Lokke, in memory of Hans Jorgensen
Carol Kjelshus (Karen Hinkle), in memory of Ben Kjelshus
Don Rollins, in honor of Algot Blomquist
George L. Glotzbach, in honor of Algot Blomquist
Kathy Doege & Chuck Cooke
Nan Rosenbloom & Alan Bol
Betty Fischer Carma Doege
Arline Schmiesing Darlene Wolf
Joel Botten, Jr. Doug & Kari Haler
Kathleen Holden Gil & Sally Hanson
Cole Spelde Warren & Kristine Paulson
Michael & Judy Strom Gerald & Julie Grathwohl
Lloyd Matthiesen Joyce Krenz
Charles Broste Kenneth & Luella Chambard
Wendy Tuttle Scott Witt
Sarah & Jerry Oelberg Janet Rosenbloom
Shirley Olson Ronda Rolstad
Algot Blomquist Rev Lisa Doege
Lee Drogemueller Yvonne Weber
Edith Beckius Daniel & Patricia Amborn
Zachory Beckius Brad & Linda Blomquist
David Rosenbloom Jonathan Beckius
Brett Lehman John & Roselyn Fischer
Kent Chambard Ronald Peck
Randall E. Paulson Vicki Sieve
James Penrod Ken & Suanne Hallberg
Carol Chambard Pamela Masters

Patrick Kunerth Darrell & Jeanie Hinsman
Duane & Susan LeskeNoel R. Frederickson
Oren Asleson Naomi & Earl Bakken
Ralph Bovard Gene & Georgine Tepley
Gil & Sally Hanson, Driveway
Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska, Driveway
Bev & Wally Wellmann, Driveway

Minister's Discretionary Fund

Lisa has a small fund available to disburse to help meet unexpected, emergency or otherwise unbudgeted expenses of church members or members of the community. Please contact Lisa if you or someone you know is in need. Donations to the discretionary fund may be made by writing a check to Nora UU Church with 'discretionary fund' written on the memo line.

SPAM Emails

Some emails I have sent from the Nora outlook email aren't going through. This may be why you missed something, if you feel you did. Please make sure the Nora Church email address is in your "Address Book" to avoid it going to spam. Thank you!

2019-2020 Server/Volunteer List

Volunteers are needed for all Sundays that are not a potluck. Sign up in kitchen or when the

Notes from the Nora Office...

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Thank you!

November Mere Lys ~ content due Mon, Oct. 21

Order Of Service: Content due Thursdays

Please send content of any kind, for the newsletter or order of service to the Nora email.

*Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant
In the office most Tuesdays & Fridays*



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