

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church  
Sarah Oelberg, Minister  
12333 155th Avenue  
Hanska, Minnesota 56041-4310

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit Number 2  
Hanska, MN 56041

## Mere Lys (More Light)

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<http://www.nora-uu-church.org>

Address Service Requested



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### Sunday Services

October, 2003

**Social Hour: 10:00 A.M.      Worship Service: 10:30 A.M.**

**October 5 - "The Story of Jonah."** What does this ancient story have to teach us about forgiveness, and why is it read at every Yom Kippur service?

**Servers: Everybody! Today is SMORGASBORD.**

Musician: Ryann Rathman

No Adult Discussion Group

Coffee and Country Store at 10 am

Smorgasbord from 11:00 - 1:30. Cost: \$10 for adults; children 5 - 10, \$3; preschoolers free.

**October 12 - "Deception, Deceit, and Dishonesty."** One of the Ten Commandments is: "Thou shall not lie." Does this commandment still have meaning to those who claim to be Christians?

Servers: Doug Anderson and Nancy Dickson

Musician: Ardelle Becken

9:00 - Adult Discussion Group

Board of Trustees Meeting

**October 19 - Rev. Nels Oas will speak about Dietrich Bonhoffer**, related to the new film about him. Nora will sponsor this film at the New Ulm library on November 7.

Servers: Tarrie Swenstad and Michelle Bethke

Musician: Ben Marti

9:00 - Adult Discussion Group

**October 26 - "Two Unitarian Martyrs."** This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of two famous Unitarians, about 200 years apart. We will look at their lives.

Servers: Darrell and Jeannie Hinsman

Musician: Ben Marti

9:00 - Adult Discussion Group

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### TO KEEP IN TOUCH

On September 28, Toby Jonathon Weiss, son of Shannon Schmitt Weiss and Kevin Weiss, was dedicated at Nora church. Toby joins his brother, Thor, in making four generations of the Schmitt family in church.

### NORA WOMEN'S SOCIETY

The October meeting of the NWS will be held at noon on Friday, October 17. We will try to give ourselves a special treat as a reward for all the work we will have done for smorgasbord!

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Energy assistance for the winter of 2003-4 is available for households meeting income guidelines, depending on the number of people living in the home. This will be a difficult winter for many, so it is advisable to apply early if you think you might need assistance. Application forms are available in the church office.

## SARAH'S CORNER

As I look forward to retirement and moving, my mind is very occupied with change. In that mood, I would like to share two poems from colleagues with you this month.

just yesterday the leaves  
were green and secure  
now as the sap descends in the ash tree  
the Virginia creeper  
climbs the tree toward fall  
and pulls the red ladder up after her  
leaf by leaf.

the season turns and we turn with it  
and we are within sight, ready or not,  
of one more river to cross.  
one more river:  
not the Jordan  
not the view to Canaan  
we look ahead to no milk  
and honey dripped promised land  
but we see our lives,  
the promises kept and broken  
our relationships, kept and broken  
our harvest of life's work, abundance  
the ordinary turn of days  
in which we have been wise, and foolish  
and hurried too fast,  
and lingering not long enough.

In the silence, let us remove all impediments  
put down our baggage  
and stand in the sacred quiet  
of the season's turning.

- Rev. Barbara Pescan

## TO THE PARENTS OF A CHILD ABOUT TO BE CHRISTENED

The acorns dropped from the oak tree neither know  
nor care where they fall.  
But the oak, with the wisdom of nature, from her  
out-stretched twigs drops them all  
So that sprouting, each may have sunlight, not  
shade from the green leaves above;  
And her trunk still can shield and protect them,  
as though she had conscious love.

This child, like the seed from the oak tree,  
neither knows nor cares where he grows.  
Of the sun and the shadow, he knows not,  
there is nothing of life that he knows.  
And you who would watch and protect him must  
consecrate yourselves anew  
To a life that surrounds him with beauty  
with all that is fine and true.

Then be like the oak in your courage, like the  
oak so straight and so strong,  
And shield this new life's beginnings from that  
which is harsh and wrong,  
And give him the best companions; -  
contentment and courage and truth  
And all that is best in you,  
and all that is sweet in youth.

- Olivia Chamberlain Johnson

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## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Nora church is sending a contingent of four people to a district workshop on Planning for Growth for Small Congregations. The workshop will be held in St. Cloud October 10-12, and will feature a multi-faceted approach to help congregations identify current strengths and determine some strategic directions for further growth and vitality. There is room for another person to attend. If you are interested, contact Carol Chambard.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Prairie Senior Cottages, an assisted living community for those with Alzheimer's Disease or other related dementias, is hosting a public educational presentation on Thursday, October 9th from 7:00 - 8:30 PM.

There is also a support group meeting held on the second Thursday of each month from 6 - 7:00 PM. Anyone with friends or family members suffering from Alzheimer's is welcome to attend.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In September, the religious education program discussed the first of our seven UU Principles. We learned we are all important and passed out special fortunes to other members at the potluck. We created signs for smorgasbord, designing and decorating them.

Come and see our Fish Pond and pick-a-pop games at the Smorgasbord. The money we earn will go toward purchasing presents for Santa's closet.

Thank you to Brenda Wiger for inviting us to their cabin on the Cottonwood river on September 21. We had fun catching frogs. The last Sunday in September we learned about our symbol, the flaming chalice.

In October we will be helping with Smorgasbord, and learning about the second Principle. REMINDER: There will be no Sunday School on October 19th.

**The Lunch Bunch** will meet on Tuesday, October 14, at noon at the 20<sup>th</sup> Street Grill in New Ulm.