

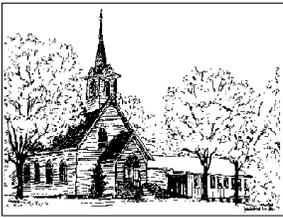


# MERE LYS newsletter

Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

October 2011

## VIEW FROM THE HILL



I'm thinking about harvests. Hard not to, this time of year, what with wagon-loads of pumpkins lumbering down the highway, friends dropping bags of tomatoes and peppers and herbs on my doorstep, farm stands dotting the landscape, and Smorg just days away.

Perhaps some of you remember the first episode of the television series, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, "Encounter at Farpoint". It was a busy episode. The crew of the new Enterprise-D came on board and began their mission. Q made an appearance. And anything the crew desired mysteriously appeared--an apple in a bowl of fruit, a bolt of fabric with a particular thread running through it, an energy source. As is often the case with sci-fi, especially on television, what seems too good to be was indeed too good to be true. A creature, held captive and exploited for its ability to create matter, was responsible for fulfilling the wishes. After Captain Picard and his crew discovered and freed the creature it moved off into

space to join its mate. No more apples at the merest hint of desire.

I think about that episode and that creature at this time of year, when abundance surrounds me. I've seen photographs of the devastation drought has visited upon Texas agriculture this year. I'm heartbreakingly aware of starvation in East Africa, and shameful levels of hunger across the United States. I hear anecdotally that apple trees around our local region are nearly empty this autumn.

Yet I am amazed that the earth feeds us. Not at our merest hint of desire. Unreliably sometimes. Interrupted by forces of nature or interference of humankind sometimes. Unevenly often. But over millennia, around the globe, season after season, the earth feeds us. It is the nature of, well, nature, to blossom and bear fruit and drop seeds and hibernate and bring forth fruit once again.

I don't have profound analysis to offer, no moral for this month's column. Just awe and gratitude. Perhaps they are enough.

-Lisa



"Remember to be gentle with yourself and others. We are all children of chance and none can say why some fields will blossom while others lay brown beneath the August sun. Care for those around you. Look past your differences. Their dreams are no less than yours, their choices no more easily made. And give, give in any way you can, of whatever you possess. To give is to love. To withhold is to wither. Care less for your harvest than for how it is shared and your life will have meaning and your heart will have peace."

## THANKS FROM THE BOARD

Thanks from the Board goes to the lefse crew, the rollers, fryers and packagers. We've had 3 sessions with both seasoned workers and novices taking part. It's fun work and for those who missed out, we'll schedule one more day before our Nov. bake sale.

Thanks to Karen Farrell who provided a delightful soup and salad lunch on the lefse Lunch Bunch day. It was a great end to a productive day.



After all the work involved in Smorgasbord, the Lunch Bunchers are going to relax with a gathering at Turner Hall in New Ulm on Thursday, Oct 13, at 11:30 a.m. Some German cuisine may be welcome after all the Norwegian delicacies consumed at Smorg. Remember, everyone is welcome to join the group.

## GOOD NEWS FOR PRAIRIE BEACON

This summer Prairie Beacon received the USDA Small Wind Grant that we had been approved for. We also applied for and received an IRS stimulus rebate. In addition private contributions have been made. Together these funds will help the turbine pay it's own way.

At present we are experiencing what we assume are slower seasonal wind patterns. The turbine has been operating since April and has been performing well overall.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE Association Sunday

On October 16 we'll participate in the Unitarian Universalist Association's fifth annual Association Sunday here at Nora Church. Association Sundays have a dual purpose. The first is to lift up and celebrate, in as many of our congregations as possible, one particular aspect of our association, and second, to raise funds to further the excellence of that particular aspect. The theme of this year's Association Sunday is Excellence in Ministries. The professional associations of UU religious educators and

UU musicians have already made generous donations to the Association Sunday fund. Those donations, and additional donations raised through this month's Association Sundays in individual congregations, will support scholarships, continuing education, and a comprehensive assessment of our ministries and their needs for the future. Grants from Association Sunday 2011 funds will help religious professionals get ongoing training to support thriving congregations. I hope you'll plan to be in church on October 16, ready to make a generous donation.

## RE NEWS

Thank you everyone for a great start to a wonderful new school year! In September we learned about the first Principle in our UUA by-laws, The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person. IN RE we translate this to say "that Each and Every Person is Important". Our lessons focused on the meaning of what is important to us as individuals as well as important to our community and society. September 11<sup>th</sup> we learned about King Midas as well as Kim Li. We also decorated our very own Chalice just for RE. September 18<sup>th</sup> we learned about Dorothea Dix, a Famous Unitarian who helped change the way our society treated the mentally ill for the better. We discussed what it was like to not be free and treated poorly. We also discussed what we can do to help make the world a better place for everyone. On September 25<sup>rd</sup> we will be making African masks and learning about Kumba, a boy who was unhappy about himself because he was different. In October we will be learning about the second Principle, "Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations" which correlates to "That all people should be treated fairly and kindly". Our October dates are the 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be no RE on Smorg, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, and I am taking a family break over the 9<sup>th</sup> to celebrate my daughter's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Also- if you have a plastic world globe (does not need to be current) We could really use one in RE, preferably a ball style. Thanks! - Jennie

## RE SCHEDULE

October 16th, 23rd, 30th  
November 6th, 13th, 20th;  
December 4th, 11th, 18th.

**After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.**

~Aldous Huxley, *Music at Night and Other Essays*

People seeking avenues for expressing the inexpressible often found their way through doors of churches. Here at Nora we have had through the years some amazing guides along that journey. Currently no one is more gifted in expressing the inexpressible through music than Gil and Sally Hanson. Sally's skilled and heartfelt accompaniment of our hymns invites our souls into voice. Gil's creative choice of anthems and inspired direction of the choir draw forth the yearning and wonder and praise of our hearts and set them free. Not a Sunday goes by that someone doesn't mention Gil's and Sally's seemingly inexhaustible dedication to bringing music alive at Nora. And it is clear to me that undergirding it all--the skill and the creativity and the energy and the effort--is the deep love for our church and our way in religion that Gil and Sally hold and offer back to us through their music. The Board has listened to all those voices of appreciation and decided to make manifest our love for Gil and Sally. The plaque that usually hangs at the back of the church, honoring those who have given exceptional service to Nora, is being engraved with the names *Sally Hanson* and *Gil Hanson*. And we are pleased to give Gil and Sally a gift certificate for a dinner at Papageorge as a mere token of our love and gratitude.

*Statement made on September 4, 2011*

From the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)  
the arrival of two **NEW** clay pendants!  
[www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org)  
Click on **CLF Shop**

**NEW!**  
**\$30**

**Hand Crafted  
Clay Pendants**  
various colors  
approx. 2.5" x 1.5"  
adjustable black cord



To reach a real person, contact  
The Church of the Larger Fellowship  
e-mail: [clfshop@clfuu.org](mailto:clfshop@clfuu.org)  
617-948-6150

Purchasing your UU gifts from the CLF is another way  
to support Unitarian Universalism throughout the world.  
All proceeds from CLF Shop sales sustain the many ministries  
of the Church of the Larger Fellowship.



**NEW ULM  
FOODSHELF NEEDS  
9/19/11**

SALTINE CRACKERS  
TOMATO/CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP  
CANNED FRUIT  
PORK AND BEANS  
BOXED POTATOES  
BATHROOM TISSUE  
CREAM SOUPS  
CANNED PEAS

**To Keep In Touch**

♥♥♥  
Please keep our military personnel in  
your thoughts and prayers.

♥♥♥  
If you know of anyone needing our  
assistance or attention...please call  
one of the committee members:

♥♥♥  
Georgine Tepley (chair)  
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)  
Shirley Olson - 354-1866  
Carol Chambard - 354-2242

**THANK YOU! Caring Committee**



NORWEGIAN SMORGASBORD & COUNTRY STORE  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011

10:00 a.m.  
Coffee, Country Store,

10:30 a.m.  
Church Service  
Dinner Served - 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

THE COUNTRY STORE will feature craft items, garden produce, baked goods, and various children's activities.

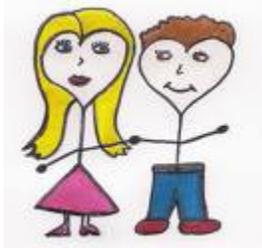
THE JORGENSON LOG CABIN MUSEUM will be open to the public that day with someone present to answer questions and discuss museum items.

**MENU**

appetizers  
tongue, deviled eggs, herring

dinner  
meatballs, ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, glazed carrots, sot suppe, rice pudding, rommegrot, lefse, flatbrod  
milk, coffee, lemonade

Norwegian Cookies  
rosettes, krumkake, sandbakkels, fattigmand, and more  
Take-outs available



Come join us &  
Bring a friend!!

**SMORG NOTES**

Smorgasbord is Sunday October 2nd. On Friday, September 30th at 9 AM we'll be making meatballs. The remainder of the preparations will be done on Saturday beginning at 9 AM. Many hands make light work!

Bring your items for the Country Store to the fellowship Hall on Saturday. Please have them in proper containers and mark the price on them that you think would be appropriate. Baked goods, flea market items, garden produce, etc., are all welcome. If you are not able to come Saturday, please come early Sunday morning with your items. Thank you. - The Committee

# NORA CHURCH CALENDAR

## October 2011



Parsonage: 507-439-6240

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>SEPTEMBER 30</b> Meat ball Making 9 AM	1 Meat Ball Making 9AM
2 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service 11:00 SMORGASBORD	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service	10	11	12	13 LUNCH BUNCH Turner Hall 11:30 AM	14	15
16 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service <b>RE</b>	17	18	19	20 	21	22
23 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service <b>RE</b>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 Coffee Time 10:30 Service <b>RE</b>	31 					

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**  
ARE DUE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

**WEEKLY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
ARE DUE BY THURSDAY NOON

cindymo@sleepyeyetel.net  
please be sure to include "NORA"  
in the subject line  
(507) 439-6380

20894 County Road 6, Hanska. MN 56041  
Thanks for your help in getting articles to me.  
Cindy Mosenden, Office Administrator

MUSICIAN	SERVERS	GREETERS/USHERS
2 Jordan Rathman	SMORGASBORD	Nancy Dickson
9 Muffy Rathman	Elroy & Ardis Wellman	Lee Drogemuller
16 JoAnn Huss	John & Julie Schmitt	Mimi Kamleiter
23 Mimi Kamleiter	Alon & Carol Chambard	Susan Evers
30 Jordan Rathman	Joy Rathman & Julie Sellner	Jerry Peterson



**PASTOR'S SCHEDULE**  
Pastor Lisa will have Mondays off.  
Friday will be sermon writing day.  
She can be reached on her cell when not in the office:  
763-656-7533



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

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# October 2011



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

WEB SITE  
<http://www.norauuchurch.org>

## Nora Church Sunday Services OCTOBER 2010

Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Worship Service 10:30 AM

October 2 "Still Hungry"

October 9 "One More Year"

October 16 "In This Together"

October 23 " Faith Worth Dying For; Freedom Worth Living For"

October 30 Guest: Nels Oas

