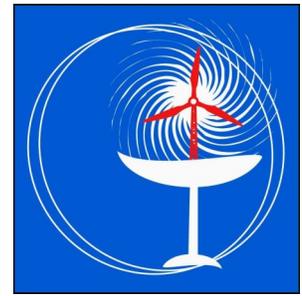


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Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

Hanska, MN

January 2015 Newsletter



A VIEW FROM THE HILL

It's time for a do-over. The calendar's automatic reset button is about to appear and with it our annual chance to start again. Wipe the slate clean. Reboot. Turn over a new leaf. Burn our bridges—wait! That one's not quite right.

Whichever metaphor you prefer, January 1, 2015 beckons from the horizon. 365 fresh new days. Clean, crisp, empty calendar pages (somehow digital calendars and datebook apps don't have the same magic). And the temptation to say to ourselves and perhaps the world, "This year I'll..."

- go to church every Sunday
- run a marathon
- finish college
- repaint the upstairs bedroom
- stop smoking
- lose 30 pounds
- start a blog
- visit every Minnesota State Park

You know I'm not big on resolutions—mostly because I hate, hate, hate not winning and I know that resolutions are a set-up for losing. Yet the whole idea of a new year seems to demand something. I suppose lowering expectation is one way to attempt to escape the inevitable: *this year I resolve to go to church—every Sunday that I'm not too tired and there isn't a big game and there's nothing better to do and it's a nice day for a drive.*

But what if we thwart the New Year's resolution set-up for failure by **raising** the stakes instead?

For 2015 I resolve, with abandon and joy and gratitude, even on the bad days and mad days and sad days, to be me. I invite you to do the same. Only you be you. I've got me covered.

Happy New Year!

-Lisa

Services

Coffee 10:00 am
Worship 10:30 am

~

**No Potluck
in January**

**January 4th
No Service,
Winter Break**

**January 11th
"Housekeeping"**

**January 18th
"Our Assignment:
Show Up and Shut
Up"**

**January 25th
"One Month Check-
Up"**

A Note From the Treasurer

Monthly Income and Expenses

At the suggestion of the Nora Church Board of Trustees, Sunday plate collections and total monthly expenses are listed for the full month prior to the publication of the newsletter. Totals indicated do not include special collections or memorial gifts.

November:

Income: \$ 5,976.58
(not including memorials and gifts)

Expenses: \$ 7,771.32

Important Note: Coffee and potluck collections should be combined and placed in an envelope (located in the kitchen by the phone) and then turned into the collection plate. There are also envelopes available in the church foyer for pledge credit for cash pledges.

THANKS!

Thanks from the board...

- ...Lisa's party planners and decorators.
- ...the parade participants.
- ...the tree decorators.
- ...and to Brooke for a great half year with us.

Rowdy Bunch

Can you believe that it's time to practice writing a new year (2015, 2015, 2015)! And it's also time to have another Lunch Bunch gathering.

It's January (2015) so it must be another birthday for Jerry Allen, and we all know his favorite eatery...

The first Lunch Bunch of 2015 will be Tuesday, January 13, 11:30 a.m. at Plaza Garibaldi—if they'll let this rowdy bunch back. Hope you all can make it!

Discussion and Delectibles

Adult RE resumes on January 18th. Bring a dish to share and gather in the social hall following the service for a discussion of the morning's sermon, or whatever else may be on our minds.

January Religious Education

Greetings from Sunday School/Religious Education!

We are having a great time downstairs during Sunday RE! A special shout out to Ms. Karen for helping us learn about Judaism and taking over a couple of Sundays in November! You are awesome and we love you!

We are continuing our exploration of religious symbolism in Christianity, focusing on both icons as well as transcendent themes. Early December we started with Miracles and what it was like to have a newborn as well as raise a child 2,000 years ago. We then moved on to Prayer and Meditation as well as Gifts. In January we will explore the symbolism behind the Cross (without getting too morbid) as well as the trinity/holy family.

Looking ahead to February we will explore Islam and connect on the major themes, such as the five pillars and the Haj. Then Matthew will join us in March to help us look at Hinduism.

The students are very astute and make interesting connections between the symbolisms of each faith and then applying it to our seven principles. It is amazing and a total joy for me to see them grow and learn each week! Thank you for sharing your students with me! I am truly blessed to have them!

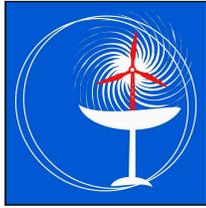
There is no RE on January 4th and Feb. 15th. We will continue to meet every week, weather permitting.

As always, Love and Peace—
Ms. Jennie

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.



• • •

I'll be in the Twin Cities December 25 through
the 28th and then mostly back in the parsonage
for the remainder of our winter break—though
there may be a day or two I'm away again.

If you need to reach me, try the parsonage
phone first (507-439-6240), since I seldom pay
attention to my cell phone when I'm at home,
and then, in case of urgent need, call or text me
at 507-766-7822. See you January 11!

It's Cold Outside!

But doesn't need to be inside! At their December
meeting the board authorized the Building and
Grounds Committee to replace the furnace for the
social hall *before* it completely gives up.

The total cost will be just over \$3000. We have
\$1000 in the budget for capital improvements. The
NWS (Nora Women's Society) has committed an-
other \$1000 toward the new furnace.

Your year-end tax-deductible donation can help
with the last \$1000 and keep our gatherings
toasty. Checks may be made out to Nora UU
Church, with 'furnace' on the memo line, and
mailed to the church.

If you know of anyone needing our assistance

**To ♥
Keep
In
Touch** Or attention...please call one of the **Caring
Committee** members: Georgine Tepley (chair)
359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm), Shirley Olson -
354-1866, or Carol Chambard - 354-2242

Nora Church Board Meeting

The next Nora Board meeting will be Sunday,
January 11th, following the service.

2015 Musician List: January-June

1/11 Jordan Kuelbs
1/18 JoAnn Huss
1/25 Muffy Kaim
2/1 Sally Hanson
2/8 Mimi Kamleiter
2/15 JoAnn Huss
2/22 Sally Hanson
3/1 Jordan Kuelbs
3/8 Muffy Kaim
3/15 JoAnn Huss
3/22 Mimi Kamleiter
3/29 Sally Hanson
4/5 Jordan Kuelbs
4/12 Muffy Kaim
4/19 JoAnn Huss
4/26 Sally Hanson
5/3 Mimi Kamleiter
5/10 Jordan Kuelbs
5/17 JoAnn Huss (in Hanska Park)
5/24 Muffy Kaim
5/31 Sally Hanson
6/7 Mimi Kamleiter
6/14 Jordan Kuelbs
6/21 Muffy Kaim (at Lake Hanska Park)

Notes from the Nora Office...

Thank you so very much to Gil for helping
work out the kinks getting this new computer
set up—I am very grateful.

I will print the newsletter deadline here each
month, as some months the date may come ear-
lier than the 20th. Please continue to work to
get information submitted by these deadlines,
so I may make the best use of my time when I
am here! You may always send me content
early as well, for both bulletins or Mere Lys.

**February Newsletter Articles and
Information are due by January 20th.**

**Weekly Order of Service Content is due
Thursdays at noon.**

Church Email: norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net

Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant

In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.

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January Mere Lys

With the new year brings new routines—electronic delivery of the Mere Lys, for example. Snail mail delivery will still occur, for those who elected so. If you need to make changes to your delivery style at any point you may do so by either (1) emailing the office directly, or (2) filling out a contact/directory information change form, which you can find in the church foyer; a monetary donation for snail mail postage is appreciated.

Thank you for helping us to make this change!

Inclement Weather

In case of Sunday morning inclement weather the decision to cancel church service will be made no later than 8:00 a.m. At that time a Grapevine will be sent out, an announcement will be posted on the Nora website and Nora Facebook page, and the cancelation notice will be sent to KNUJ and KTOE.

When church is not cancelled, you are responsible for your own safety. We love to see everyone at church but we would rather know every one is safe. Please do not drive to church when road conditions, high winds or frigid temperature feel ***unsafe to you***. We'll see you the next Sunday, or the next month or in April!!



<i>Date</i>	<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Greeters, Servers and Ushers</i>
Jan. 4		No Service, Winter Break No Potluck in January
Jan. 11	Jordan Kuelbs	Susan & Jerry Allen, Diane Becken, Colleen Hokenson
Jan. 18	JoAnn Huss	Mimi Kamleiter, Scott & Tracey Schmiesing
Jan. 25	Muffy Kaim	Shirley Olson, Louise Guggisberg, Janet Rosenbloom