

# MERE LYS

## November 2016 Newsletter

### Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

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#### ***Services***

**Coffee 10:00 am**  
**Worship 10:30 am**



**November 6th**  
***“Vote Early and Often”***

**November 13th**  
***“Now? Later? Never?”***

**November 20th**  
***“Thankful, Anyway”***

**November 27th**  
***Service TBA***



#### **A View From the Hill**

I have had 27 children, babies, and 'temporary teens' in and out of the parsonage since becoming a licensed foster/respite care provider six years ago. Add to that my three Boston kids, my two Maple Grove boys, a good half dozen kids and teens I provided respite care for up in the Cities, the two little ones I babysat every Tuesday and Friday evening through much of junior high, the little girl I went to sit with in the middle of the night when her parents went off to the hospital for her brother's birth, her brother, and handful of other kids through the years—and that number reaches a quiver-full. My own progressive version of the families some conservative Christians model after a description in Psalm 127.

And soon, though I don't know just when yet, the number will become just one. One daughter. No modifiers. No time limits. My cup of blessings gushes forth.

I wonder, as Thanksgiving approaches here in the United States, if you, too, have a particular quiver full of blessings. Among your every day, though holy, blessings (whatever you know those to be), is there one particular, shining, pulsing, bumper-crop subset that defines your life right now? I'm sure there is. I see it shimmering in your faces and hear it vibrating in your actions.

And I know Nora Church is quiver full—each of us an every-day, holy blessing to the others, and all of us together a shining, pulsing, bumper-crop of blessings to Hanska, Brown County, and all our many communities. For which I offer daily thanks.

*-Lisa*

# Thank You!

## From the board...

... to the Nora Women's Society and all smorg workers and contributors.

### *Board Meeting*

The next Nora Board meeting will be on Sunday, November 13 after church.

### *Art with Attitude*

Art with Attitude will meet November 4 and 18, in the fellowship hall at 10:00 am. We will be working on finishing up quilts for NUMAS house, then we can work on some of our own projects. As always everyone is welcome.

*You may bring your own project to work on or just come to visit and spend the day. Bring a bag lunch.*

### *Lunch Bunch*

The adventurous Lunch Bunchers will be trying a new venue next month. We'll be trekking to Mankato to check out Pub 500 at 500 S. Front St. We hope you'll join us on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 11:30 a.m.

*Lunch Bunch is a monthly, social lunch gathering, open to any Nora members, friends or visitors.*

### *R. E. Saturday*

Join Lisa and others for Thanksgiving and harvest themed religious education activities on Saturday, November 19, from 10:00 to noon in the church hall.

Please let us know by noon, Friday, November 18, [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net) if you'll be participating.

### *Lisa on the Loose*

Lisa will hold "office hours" at area coffee houses. Join her for drop-in conversations in your community.

During November Lisa will meet at the following location:

Tuesday, November 22

Ridgeway on 23<sup>rd</sup>, New Ulm from 3:00-4:00



***Send your news, announcements, congratulations and events to us at  
[norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)  
or put hard copies in Brooke's mailbox!***

## *Christmas Elves Needed*

On Saturday, Dec. 3, all elves available will decorate the church for Christmas. Lots of hands make the work go quicker. We'll set up the tree but leave ornaments for the kiddos to put on during Sunday potluck. Please come for any time you are available; we'll start at 10:00 a.m.

### *Fair Trade Booth Coming to Nora*

New Ulm's Own, is a group of people planning to open a fair trade market and artisan gallery in summer of 2017. Proceeds from the business will support local charities, particularly NUMAS Haus.

A booth with Christmas ornaments, tree toppers, lanterns, nativity scenes, advent calendars, tea, coffee, chocolate and soap will be open at "Shopping Opener", Nov. 3, 4, 5 at Oakwood Methodist. Sundays from Nov. 12 thru Dec. 11 the booth will be visiting area churches. We will be at Nora Church on Sunday, Dec. 4. Fair trade markets products from artisans and craftspeople in developing countries helping them achieve self-sufficiency. We hope you will support the fair trade effort and local charity by purchasing a Christmas item or other fair trade item.

### ***A Note From the Treasurer*** **September Income and Expenses**

**Income:** \$5,973.00

**Expenses:** \$10,723.69

Pre-paid contract for 2,500 gallons of fuel.

**Note:** Please use envelopes in kitchen for coffee/potluck contributions and put in collections plate. No need to separate the money for coffee from potluck.

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

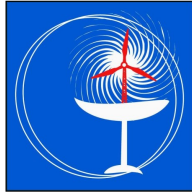
**Direct Deposit for Pledges** Some people have requested direct deposit for pledges. To initiate this, anyone interested would have to set this up with their bank, much like an automatic payment for a utility or credit card. If you would like to make electronic pledge payments, please contact Julie Peck for Nora Church account information.

### ***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.



Lisa will be out of town Monday, November 14 - Thursday, November 17, attending the annual gathering of her clergy study group in Ohio. She will be reachable via e-mail or cell phone during that time.

### ***Service Times***

At its August meeting, the Nora Board of Trustees decided to move Sunday service to 10:00 a.m., followed by coffee hour at 11:00, beginning January 8, 2017. The decision was made based on the discussion of an earlier start time at last June's annual meeting. The change will remain in effect through the remainder of this church year, at which point the board, with input from the congregation, will evaluate the experiment and make a decision regarding start times going forward.

### ***2015- 2017 Server/Greeter/Usher/ Partner List***

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

**If your name is on this list** and you are not able to help, please call someone on the list and try to arrange a switch, or contact Susan Allen. Contact information is in the Nora Directory. Please let Lisa or Brooke know any schedule changes so the order of service can be corrected – [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net).

**ATTENTION PARTNERS:** Please communicate with each other regarding food provision, as necessary. **Also, please remember that your job includes greeting.**

#### **NOVEMBER**

6—Potluck—Susan & Jerry Allen, Janet Rosenbloom  
13—Julie Sellner, Susan Evers, Jordan Kuelbs  
20—Edith Beckius, Beverly & Wally Wellman  
27—Louise Guggisburg, Nancy Bruderie, Scott Chambard

#### **DECEMBER**

4—Potluck—Norma & Roger Breu, Kristine & Wayne Paulson  
11—Colleen & Glenn Hokenson, Lee Drogemuller  
18—Diane Becken, Cindy Backman, Lara Fletcher  
24—Greeters: Karen Farrell & Dick Gurska  
25—Susan & Jerry Allen

### ***Energy Assistance Program***

Many local families and individuals find it difficult to pay their monthly energy bills. The Energy Assistance Program provides a grant for income-eligible households which can help defray some of these costs. This leaves more of the family resources available for other expenses. We can also assist households in crisis situations with disconnect notices or when they are almost out of heating fuel. Grants are paid directly to the vendor on their behalf.

Households can request an application by calling MVAC at 507-345-6822 or 800-767-7139 or by downloading it from their website [mnvac.org](http://mnvac.org). Applications are currently available, with funds becoming available later in the year, generally mid-late November. The program ends May 31st, 2017. Talk to Lisa for additional information.

### ***A Prayer to Share***

#### **A THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

Eternal God, source of all created things, we would give substance to our thankfulness by resolving to make right use of the gifts we have received from thy bounty.

With thy gift of the senses we would fashion and preserve a world of beauty for all. With thy gift of reason we would engage in a responsible search for truth. With thy gift of compassion we would build a world of justice and mercy. And with thy gift of being we would walk together in peace.

Thus, in gratitude, may we become faithful servants of thy glorious ongoing creation. Amen.

### ***Notes from the Nora Office...***

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

***Schedule:*** I will be out of the office November 21st-24th. Please send your newsletter content by the deadline, as I will have a little less time to dedicate to it this month. Thanks!

**Order Of Service ~ content due Thursdays**  
**December Mere Lys ~ content due before**  
**Thanksgiving**

Church Email: [norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:norachurch@sleepyeyetel.net)

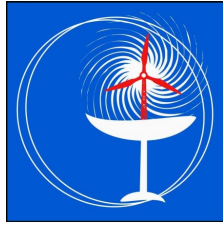
Phone: 507.439.6240

*Brooke Knisley, Office Assistant*  
*In the office Tuesdays and Fridays.*

## Nora Unitarian Universalist Church

12333 155th Avenue

Hanska, Minnesota 56041-4310



Phone: 507.439.6240

Website: [www.norauuchurch.org](http://www.norauuchurch.org)

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU](http://www.facebook.com/NoraChurchUU)

### *Give to the Max: NUMAS Haus*

Thank you for your on-going generosity to NUMAS Haus through the second Sunday offerings at Nora.

Each year, generous supporters like you celebrate Give to the Max Day by making your online donation on [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org). Your generosity on this day makes a difference far beyond the 24-hour giving event.

Please join NUMAS Haus on November 17, 2016, for Give to the Max Day and help us continue to change lives by providing shelter and services to mothers and children in the New Ulm area. Give to the Max Day this year falls right in the middle of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. What better time to make an additional gift to NUMAS Haus?

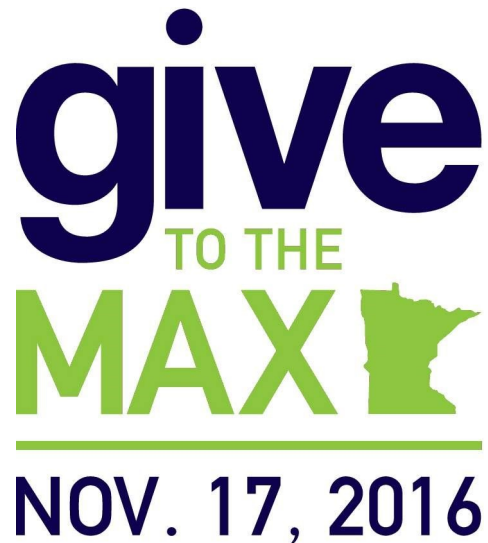
Your donation on Give to the Max Day also may help us receive an additional donation of \$1,000. How? On November 17, every gift made on [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) will be entered into an hourly drawing for a \$1,000 GiveMN Golden Ticket to be awarded to a nonprofit organization. Your gift of \$10 or more could instantly turn into an extra \$1,000!

Here's the really exciting part: Two donations made on [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) during the Give to the Max Day campaign will be randomly selected to receive a \$10,000 Super-Sized GiveMN Golden Ticket!

The more gifts we generate on [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) during Give to the Max Day, the more our chances increase to receive that additional \$10,000 donation. Imagine what we could do with \$10,000!

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 and you can help us reach it!

Please mark your calendar and make your gift on November 17 by visiting [GiveMN.org](http://GiveMN.org) and searching for NUMAS Haus.



### *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 cancellation 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 everyone 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!!

### **To ♥ Keep In Touch**

If you know of anyone needing our assistance or attention, please call one of the **Caring Committee** members:

Georgine Tepley (chair): 359-3060 (weekdays after 5 pm)

Shirley Olson: 354-1866

Carol Chambard: 354-2242