



MARCH CHURCHLETTER



March...the beginning of spring (we hope), the beginning of high school basketball tournaments, NASCAR is under way, and the March madness college basketball games will soon be upon us. In other words, there is a lot going on in March...and that's mostly just sports!

For us in the church, March signifies the season of Lent. To kick off the season of Lent, we had our rescheduled Ash Wednesday Service on Sunday, February 26th due to the snowstorm. Along with that, we are having our Community Lenten Services on the Wednesdays in Lent at 7pm. They will be in this order: March 1st at the Nerstrand UMC (with a spaghetti supper at 5:30pm); March 8th at the Grace Lutheran Church in Nerstrand; March 15th at the GOL Church in Kenyon; March 22nd at the St. John's UCC (with a chili, soup, and sandwich supper at 5:30pm); and on March 29th at the Grace Lutheran Church in Nerstrand. You are invited to attend any or all of these community services on the Wednesdays in March at 7pm.

I am also leading a Lenten study during the month of March. The study is Pastor Adam Hamilton's "24 Hours That Changed The World", based on Jesus' last 24 hours. The class sessions will be the Wednesdays and Thursdays of March...5pm on Wednesdays at the Nerstrand UMC (starting on March 8th) and at 7pm on Thursdays at the St. John's Church (starting on March 2nd).

I must say that I like Advent and Christmas where we are reminded of the birth of our Savior. However, the season of Lent means a great deal more to me. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are all sinners. Lent reminds us to reflect on how we have fallen short in worshiping and following our Lord. Lent is a season of sacrifice. Lent is a season of asking for forgiveness. Lent leads up to Holy Week and Easter when we are reminded of that ultimate sacrifice that Jesus gave to all who believe...His death on the cross and His resurrection three days later!

So, you may be asking "All that sounds pretty negative, Pastor Gary...except for the resurrection. Why do you like Lent so much?" Simply put, there is a renewal and a cleansing in the season of Lent. When we reflect on and proclaim our sins to our Savior and realize that our sins are forgiven, it is so very refreshing. It's like starting all over again...starting fresh in our own eyes as well as His. As hard as Lent can be for us as we look at our lives and in our souls, in the end we are forgiven by our Lord and hopefully we will then have a deeper relationship with Him...and what joy there is in that!!!

Welcome to the season of Lent. May the love of Jesus surround us as we journey together! Pastor Gary

The office phone number is 651-280-0150 You can also reach the churches by email at: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com or NerstrandUMC@gmail.com

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20th of month)** information to: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com (Lynn Hirschey will be monitoring this email). Phone number 507-330-1831. Notes in the mail are also welcome if you prefer.

Prayer Chain



Please direct all prayer chain requests to **Becky Tatge (507) 210-1214** or **Mary Kindseth 507-789-6879**. Messages can be left on either of the phones. If you want to make any changes on how you are contacted or add your name to the list, you can be on the email or phone list. Let's keep this available to our community.

Prayer chain and worship service link emails:

Becky Tatge has been regularly sending emails with the worship service link and/or prayer chain requests. If you have not been receiving them and would like to, please contact Becky at (507) 210-1214

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

New Perspective

Joan Schwake

Pleasant View Estates

Shirley Bauer

Lois Bauer

Judy Smith

Traditions I- Owatonna

Jean Pederson

At Home

Doris Hildebrandt

Arlene Shaske

Arlene Bultman

Kaye Spike

Dorothy Lang

Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Gary!

Join the pastor for a nice visit at Boots & Lu's on March 15th at 10:00 am





Joys and Concerns

Our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Marjean Smith. Marjean, age 87, passed away at the Emerald's in Faribault on Feb. 3rd. Funeral services were held at the Boldt funeral home on Feb. 21st, with burial at Meadow Ridge Cemetery in Faribault.

All are invited to worship during Lent at our Wed. eve. Services at 7:00pm. Schedule is as follows: March 1-NUMC; March 8-Grace Lutheran; March 15-Gol Lutheran; March 22- St. John's; and March 29-Grace Lutheran.

A big "THANK YOU" to those who have volunteered their time & talents to sing in the choir at St. John's. The choir has been providing special music at worship services since Sept. With Lent beginning, the choir's last Sun. was Feb. 19. Thanks again.

The Nerstrand Community Male Chorus will again provide Special Music at our combined Mid-week Lenten services. Any interested Male singers are welcome to join us. We practice the Monday evening at 7:00 at the church hosting the Lenten service. Schedule for rehearsals is as follows: Feb. 27-NUMC; March 6-Grace Lutheran; March 13-Gol Lutheran; March 20-St. John's; and March 27-Grace Lutheran.

Pastor Gary will be leading a study during the Lenten season. Lenten study starts in March. The study is based on the book "24 Hours That Changed the World" by Pastor Adam Hamilton. The lessons will be on Wednesdays at 5pm at the Nerstrand Church(March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) and on Thursdays at 7pm at St. John's Church(March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30). The lessons will be the same each week at both churches so people can attend either session. We will start and finish the study in March so that we are done before Holy Week. Please let him know if you are interested so he can order books. You may contact him in person, via email, or by text.

Wednesday Wear at Nerstrand UMC

Hours: Wed. 1-5 pm Sat. 9-noon
Remember that donations are welcome!

Because of all the snow we have, we decided that if there is NO school, there will be NO Wednesday wear! If NO school on Friday, because of weather, we will be closed on Saturday.

Any questions about being open or on donating, Call-Linda 507-789-5376
Or Marlene 507-334-2143
Church phone 507-332-4089



St. John's UCC and Nerstrand UMC are doing an outreach program to help the Nerstrand Elementary school.

Cash donations are welcome. Donations can be left at each of the churches over the next several months. Let's help support the Nerstrand Charter Elementary School.

St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee

The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the months of March /April is Gloria K. & John C., Mark & Mary Kindseth, and Jay & Trudy Kindseth



Sunday School at St. John's

Children age 4 through 8th grade are welcome to join us for Sunday School each week, 9:30-10:20am. If you know of a child or family who may be interested, please feel free to invite them! Thanks to a Christmas donation from the council, the Sunday School will host pizza and bowling on Sunday, March 5, from noon to 2pm, for all St. John's Sunday School families AND youth. Questions can be addressed to Carrie Hess (littlehesshouse@gmail.com or 651-775-5594).



St John's UCC council

February 13, 2023

The February meeting of St. John's U.C.C. council was called to order by Todd Lein at 7:30 pm.

Pastor Liker opened with devotions from Psalms chapter 5 v. 7.

Reports:

S.P.R.C.: no report

Secretary: read and approved

Treasurer: read and approved

Trustee: The replacement of the electric pole, meter, wiring on the northeast side of the church has been completed and inspected. It was also motioned to proceed with repair of lamps on the north side parking area of the church. In the event of unforeseen problems should arise the subject will return to council for further review.

The 2023 Cleaning Schedule is complete and posted.

So concluded the Trustee report.

Old Business: Clarification on how and where the Benevolent monies can be dispersed will be discussed so all members have a clearer understanding how this fund operates.

Gloria Karl will continue to give the council updates on the Mano a Mano Rehab Equipment business.

New Business: It was discussed by council to have a Soup Dinner on Wed. March 22, 5:30-6:30 prior to our Lenten service. A FREE WILL offering with proceeds going to the Nerstrand Charter School.

Council will continue with informative updates. Further discussion will take place regarding hosting the 29:11 singing group. Gloria Karl is checking into this.

The Last Supper Drama will be held this year. Palm Sunday evening April 2nd. Chairpersons are Pauline & Gordie Weigrefe

Pastor's comments: Conference dates are June 9 & 10.

Pastor's vacation dates Sept. 8 – 18th

Church reservation requests, Sept 9th 2023 AND Sept. 21st 2024

Next council date Sun. March 12th 11:45

With no further business meeting was adjourned at 9:05

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Joan L. Schwake secretary

Elders:, Todd Lein, Barb Kleve, Gloria Karl

Deacons: Gordie Wiegrefe, Keith Keller, Joan Schwake

Trustees: Paul Meyer, Dennis Tatge, Al Meyer

Cemetery Board: Al Meyer, Kyle Keller, Brian Bauer

Nerstrand UMC Administrative Board

The next Administrative Board meeting at the Nerstrand UMC will be on Wednesday, April 5th, at 5pm.

Chairman-Duane Bailey

Secretary -Debbie Kerr

Second Saturday Quilters

We will meet on Saturday March 11th at St. John's from 9:00 - Noon for our meeting, break for lunch, then continue through the afternoon on our projects.



Vicki P. will be teaching us an Angel Ornament. You will need 2 - 10" pieces of coordinating fabric, 2 buttons, white wool or felt for wings, sewing machine and general sewing supplies. Linda J. will bring snacks. History Bits and Tool of the month are open.

Looking ahead, our April meeting will be on the 3rd Saturday, April 15th.

SSQ is open to people from all churches and their friends. For more info contact Deb Wille 507-323-4813 or 83159deb@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

--**Wednesday, March 1st**—Nerstrand UMC, service at 7pm.

--**Wednesday, March 8th**—Grace Lutheran Church, Nerstrand, service at 7pm. I believe they are having a meal before the service

--**Wednesday, March 15th**—GOL Church in Kenyon, service at 7pm.

--**Wednesday, March 22nd**—St. John's UCC, service at 7pm. There will be a chili, soup, and sandwich meal before the service(5:30-6:30pm) with the free-will donation proceeds going to the Nerstrand Elementary School.

--**Wednesday, March 29th**—Grace Lutheran Church, Nerstrand, service at 7pm.

April 2nd, The Last Supper Drama—Palm Sunday, at 8pm at St. John's Church.

April 6th Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm-SJ

April 7th Good Friday Service at 7pm-NUMC

April 9 Easter Sunday Breakfast at 8am followed by their Easter Sunday Worship Service at 9am

April 9 St. John's Church will have their Easter Sunday Worship Service at 10:30am.

Support these Organizations:

Ruth's House

When you're out doing your holiday shopping, consider picking up a gift card to donate to Ruth's House. Your support gives us the opportunity to buy needed supplies for our shelter and offer hope to our residents. We appreciate giftcards from:

Ace Hardware

Aldi

Amazon

Cub foods

Fareway

Hyvee

Kwik trip

Menards

Target

Walmart

Mail to: PO Box 593, Faribault, MN 55021

Habitat For Humanity

Your gift to Rice county Habitat for Humanity will go directly to support home ownership opportunities for local families who are vital to our community. They are factory workers, day care providers, care givers to our seniors. They want what we all want, a place to call home. A place where dreams can be inspired and lives can be transformed.

Donations can be mailed to: 204 7th Street West, PMB 128, Northfield, MN 55057

Need Help Paying Your Energy Bills?

Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. would like to remind residential homeowners or renters of the Energy Assistance Program. This federally funded

program helps pay for home heating costs, may assist with furnace repairs and could offer energy efficiency home upgrades for income qualified customers. Please call 1-800-657-3710 for assistance.

Service Schedule for 2023: Sundays

(Communion on first Sunday of month)

9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website: <https://nerstrandumc.org>

Phone: 507.332.4089



10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website:

<https://stjohnsunitedchurchofchrist.info>

Phone: (507) 330-0025 alternate...651-280-0150 (Pastor Gary-personal).



Pastor- Gary Liker



