



Evergreen United Methodist Church

1120 Evergreen Court, Wahpeton, ND 58075

January, 2016

2015 Christmas Season was Full of Activities at Evergreen

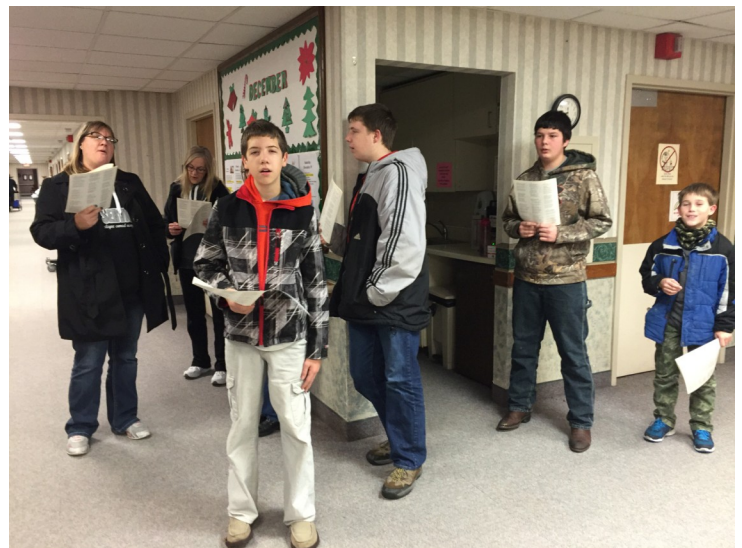


Above left: The Sunday School class performs their Christmas program about the birth of Jesus during Sunday morning worship on December 13. Sunday school classes are taught by Alinda Bassingthwaite with assistance from Emily Parnell (pictured above as the narrator);

Above right: The youth group prepares for Christmas by making their own Santa beards (Griffin Mahoney, Xander Bohn);

Below left: Santa Claus makes a surprise visit to the Christmas Eve service in order to pray with children during the Children's Time;

Below right, Church carolers perform Christmas music for residents at St. Catherine's Living Center on December 16. (Tiana Bohn, Jan Moore, Aaron Bohn, Xander Bohn, Rylan Harty, Griffin Mahoney)



UMW News

By Denise Eastin, Communications

Although there was no general meeting of UMW in December, Circles celebrated the season by gathering for potluck luncheons, at which we reminisced about the past and then turned our attentions forward to the new year.

January is a time to think about New Year's resolutions. Individually, resolutions can be tough to carry out over a year. Collectively though, we can resolve to make our world a better place by adding, *"Here's What I Want To Do Through UMW This Year"* to your list. Things like:

1. Participating in the UMW reading program (education),
2. Attending UMW meetings (fellowship),
3. Participating in the Fall Bazaar (raising money for Mission),
4. Encouraging all the women at Evergreen UMC to join UMW (... a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God ...),
5. Collecting your own personal Thank Offerings throughout the year to be offered to UMW through your Circle in November (sacrifice) and
6. Joining a small group within the church.

We're very blessed to have opportunities in our church to serve God and touch the lives of many people in many lands. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good

(Continued on page 4, UMW News)

UMW Elects New Officers

President:	Fern Bailey
Vice President:	Mary Schradick
Secretary:	Janice Walter
Treasurer:	Dianne Millar
Spiritual Growth:	LaRae Gripentrog
Program Resources:	Lois Berndt
Social Action:	Marjo Johnson
Education & Interpretation:	Annetta Nies
Membership Nurture & Outreach:	Lenora Harrison
Communications:	Denise Eastin
Nominations:	(2016) Linda Bailey
	(2017) Jeanette Plummer
	(2018) Jean Freden
Kitchen Responsibility:	Janice Deike
Serving Group Co-Chair:	Jean Freden & Alinda Bassingthwaite

Sunday School Starts a New Year!

By Alinda Bassingthwaite

Happy New Year! It is a time to start thinking about new things. In Sunday School, we will begin learning about the New Testament and exploring all the amazing things Jesus did when he came to live on earth. We are also starting a new mission project. All children between age 3 and 6th grade are welcome to join Sunday School. Sunday school meets in the chapel at 9 AM on Sunday morning. Parents are also welcome to attend anytime. Thanks to everyone that helped with the Christmas Program and for the great meal after the program. You are all appreciated.

December Offerings:

\$27,624.79

Christmas Offering:

\$1,283.56

Noisy Bucket Offering:

\$114



Worship Services

9am Sunday School (all ages) and Coffee Hour

10am Sunday Worship Service



Evergreen UMC would like to say "thank you" to all our silent servants, all of those individuals who



help out behind the scenes with various needs and functions of the church. This includes greeters, ushers, children's ministry teachers, building project volunteers, PowerPoint helpers, newsletter folders, article writers and editors, office help, and serving group workers. And this just names a few. Your dedication to Evergreen UMC is truly appreciated!

****A big thank you to all who helped with our Christmas Kids Project. To those who shopped for clothing for children in need and to everyone who bought the toys on their wish list.**

****Thanks to everyone that planned and all of those that took part in our activities during the Christmas Season. It was a wonderful month! All the way from the Sunday School program & meal, caroling, our church choir, beautiful poinsettia plants, to all the special music on Christmas Eve.**



Gabriel William Erickson, son of Michael & KrisCinda Erickson, was baptized by Pastor Jen on Sunday, December 27.

Visit our Church Web Site:
www.evergreenumc.com



Finance Committee Preparing for 2016

The 2016 offering envelopes are available to be picked up at the Church. You have a choice as to whether or not you would like to receive 52 (weekly/box) envelopes, 12 (monthly) envelopes or just be assigned a number (no need for envelopes as long as offering is paid by check for the proper credit). Apportioned members and other donors have been assigned a number to record their giving. For these individuals, the use of envelopes is optional. If anyone would like to make a change, please contact the church office.

2015 year-end giving statements will be ready soon.

Throughout 2016, the Finance Committee asks that you prayerfully consider your financial gifts to the church. Your gifts of time and talent are also needed. Also, If you have not yet completed an estimate of giving card for 2016, you are still encouraged to do so.

Evergreen Celebrates January Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Denotes anniversaries

1—Jane Miller
2—Hannah Schradick
3—Chris Mohs
5—Izabel Clem
5—Matt Dockter
6—Connie Johnson
6—Tysen Jorgensen
8—David Burrer
8—Richard Johnson
8—Judy Nelson
9—Jean Freden
10—Renee Rohman
11—Norbert Brady
12—Charlene Speidel
12—Ed & Sandy Olson*
13—Ryan Johnson
16—Delaura Gripentrog
18—Lorraine Langseth



19—Charlotte Harris
20—Harris Bailey
22—Linda McDougall
22—Nancy West
22—Alice Sand
24—Tyler Morin
26—Adam Faul
26—Ron and Grace Ehlers*
27—Bryan Lutgen
28—Margaret Burrer
28—Tyler Gripentrog
28—Brody Sand
29—Brenden Clem
30—Tom Wynn
31—Ronda Gripentrog
31—Gene Plummer
31—Fay Woy



More Christmas Season Activity Photos



Above left: The Church Choir performs an anthem entitled *Some Children See Him* during Sunday morning worship on December 13; Above right: Members and guests line up for a meal in the Fellowship Hall; Below right; the Praise Team performs special music during the Christmas Eve service.

(UMW News, continued from page 2)

works, and give glory to your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

Our new UMW Program Book for 2016 is entitled *Growing in Blessedness*. The title alone suggests all sorts of ideas ... growing in faith, growing in empathy, growing in confidence, growing out of poverty, growing in love with our Lord. We all need blessings from God in whatever we aspire to do! The book's synopsis states, "Journey through the Beatitudes together in this next program year. Explore what it means to not only live in blessedness, but also to practice and work towards extending blessedness to all. In each program you will have the opportunity to determine how you can best reach out to meet all kinds of needs within your church, community and world." The Program Book is in the church library and is there to use for inspiration for UMW General Meetings as well as Circle meetings.

This month, the UMW will meet on Thursday, January 14th, at 10am with Jean Freden presenting the lesson, *Call to Prayer and Self Denial*. Joy Circle will be providing refreshments.



Evergreen Staff

Pastor:	Reverend Jen Tyler
Administrative Asst:	Julie McGovern
Children's Ministry:	Alinda Bassingthwaite
Choir Director:	Sandy Olson
Choir Accompanist:	Roberta Whitehead
Newsletter:	Dr. Philip Parnell

January 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					¹ HAPPY NEW YEAR	²
³ 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship 11 am, Take down decora- tions	⁴	⁵	⁶ 6 pm, Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group @ Zion Chapel	⁷ 9 am, Sewing Day 7 pm, Staff Parish Committee Mtg.	⁸	⁹
¹⁰ 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship	¹¹ 7 pm, Christian Education Committee	¹² 7 pm, Joy Circle	¹³ 6 pm, Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group @ Zion Chapel	¹⁴ 9 am, Sewing Day 9 am, UMW Exec. Committee Mtg. 10 am, UMW Meeting	¹⁵	¹⁶
¹⁷ 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship	¹⁸	¹⁹ 9:30 am, Hope Circle 1:30 pm, Sun- shine Circle	²⁰ 6 pm, Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group @ Zion Chapel	²¹ 9 am, Sewing Day	²² <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Article</u> <u>Deadline</u>	²³
²⁴ 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship	²⁵	²⁶	²⁷ 12:30 pm, Newslet- ter Folding 6 pm, Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group @ Zion Chapel	²⁸ 9 am, Sewing Day	²⁹	³⁰
³¹ UMW Sunday 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship						

Sign Up for Prayer Partners in January

We will once again be encouraging individuals to sign up for a Prayer Partner this year. Prayer Partner Sundays will be held January. You will be able to sign up and also draw for your Prayer Partners' name before and after the Sunday morning worship services. If you will be out or town or otherwise not able to attend services and wish to have a prayer partner, please contact the church office.

We will also be updating the prayer chain during the month of January. The prayer chain is a telephone/email calling system that passes along prayer requests to those who have indicated an interest in praying for those with special needs. If you are not already part of this chain and would like to be included in this prayer ministry, please sign up or contact the church office.

Youth Happenings

The youth have had a fantastic month full of volunteer opportunities, Christmas trivia and games, and an evening of caroling! It has also been great to have some of our youth get more involved in helping to lead worship through opportunities such as scripture reading and helping with our Time for Young Disciples.

As we look to the new year, I am looking forward to more opportunities to grow together as we begin new practices of rotating leadership, and actively looking for more service opportunities. We took a break from meeting over Christmas, but look forward to starting up again on Wednesday, January 6th.



Back Pack Project Collects Nearly 600 Items in the Month of December

By Jan Moore

Thank you to everyone who has helped with donations to the Back Pack Project, during the month of December.

We collected 464 packets of oatmeal; 88 cereal bars; 4 pudding cups; 33 jars of peanut butter; and 9 mac & cheese servings. Several donations were also received in the totes and taken to the Richland-Wilkin Food Pantry.

For the Back Pack project during the month of February, Evergreen has volunteered to pack the bags once each week. If your group or committee is interested in volunteering for about 1 hour, please contact the church office.

During the month of January the "ONE THING" collection is:



INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED
PEANUT BUTTER OR
CHEESE CRACKER SANDWICHES

The Back Pack Project is always in need of donations. In August 2013, the Missions Committee embraced the idea of "One Thing" which represents the collection of one designated item each month for a worthwhile cause. Our main goal since the conception of the idea has been to collect food items that are used during the school year in the Back Pack Project. This program sends easy to fix food items home with grade school age children each Friday to supplement their diets for the weekends when they do not receive school meals. Look for the totes in the Fellowship Hall for your donation.

Remember the Noisy Bucket Offering!

The second Sunday of each month.

Proceeds support the Three Rivers Crisis Center - Kids Connection.



The next **General Meeting of UMW** will be **January 14th at 10am** with Joy

Circle hosting. **Jean Freden** will present a program on **"Call to Prayer and Self Denial"**.



Pastor's Piece

New Beginnings. New Goals. New time for reflection. This is how every year begins, isn't it? Like you, as the new year rolls around each year, I like to take time out to reflect on the past year, as well as dream about what will be in the new one to come.

As I do so, looking back on 2015 has left me amazed with all that has been. So much so, that I have thought to myself, "I should have been dreaming bigger dreams as 2014 ended!" Which is really to say, that in countless ways, 2015 was an amazing year here at Evergreen! We have celebrated, worshipped, grown, and lived into our lives and faith together. We have also shared in some incredibly difficult moments, facing change, loss and even taking some risks. Through all of these, we have emerged stronger, more faithful, and more vulnerable: a combination that I believe really opens us up to what God is doing — and will do — in our midst.

As we look to 2016, I can only begin to imagine what is yet to come. We will begin the year by continuing our "Living the Questions" sermon series we started in the fall, as together we focus on questions you have submitted about life, faith, and God. Beginning on January 3, we will consider:

Where did God come from?

Why do we sin?

Why do we pray?

Is there a limit to God's forgiveness?

While these are not questions I promise to give complete, black-and-white answers to, I do believe they are a great springboard for starting a new year. Hopefully, they will serve as a reminder that our God is so great, and so beyond our comprehension, that there are no questions or doubts too big or too scary to talk about in community. For Jesus himself was a man of many questions, most of which were intended to guide us along in our own journey.

With that in mind, I wonder: what questions might you have as we enter in this new year? Have you set any goals that will help you draw closer to God in 2016?

Drawing nearer to God is a goal I strive toward each day, and am only able to do successfully when I have intentionally created ways of doing so. Thus in 2016 one of my goals is to continue wondering and living into the question we asked during Advent: If God sent Christ at Christmas, and Christ sends us, then what might God be calling me to do *today*?

I could probably answer that for myself, but I continue to ponder how God may be calling us to work and live together as a faith community. As we journey into the new year that is pregnant with possibilities, my prayer is that 2016 will bring more joy, growth, and opportunities than ever before. Further, my prayer is not just that we would be *presented* with such opportunities, but that God would help us to open our hearts, minds, and doors as together, we seek to live into them.



Because who knows: *anything* is possible with God. Are we dreaming big enough?

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jen Tyler

Evergreen United Methodist Church
1120 Evergreen Court
Wahpeton, ND 58075

Non-Profit Organization

US Postage Paid

Permit No. 89

Wahpeton, ND 58075

Return Service Requested

See how much fun these guys are having? (Bryan Metcalf, Guy Whitehead, Tom Wynn)

You can, too. Volunteer to be an usher.

Sign up on the bulletin board.



Praise Team Practice

Wednesday Nights, 6:00 PM

All are welcome!



The Missions Committee is considering a mission trip in 2017 and needs feedback on the potential of this project. We are only trying to gauge interested in the project. Completing and submitting this comment card does not imply a commitment.

If you might be interested in taking part in a mission trip, would you be prefer _____ winter or _____ summer

Where would you be most interested in going? _____ First Choice;
_____ Second Choice; _____ Third Choice

Name(s) _____

please complete, cut along the perforations and return the survey to church office