



Evergreen United Methodist Church

1120 Evergreen Court, Wahpeton, ND 58075

March, 2017

Journal Renewal

By Pastor Jen

After a full year of praying, studying, learning, listening, and discerning: we have come to a potentially life-changing place in our Journey Renewal process.

On February 11-12, a team of 4 visited Evergreen to listen, learn, and pray. During their time they heard stories of who we are at Evergreen: stories of our dreams alongside our hesitations, our hope alongside our fear.

Together, they prayerfully discerned with us where they **believe God is calling us in the next chapter of Evergreen's life. They offered us 4 "Prescriptions" — or recommendations — on ways forward as a community.** A complete copy of these Prescriptions is available from the church office.

These prescriptions are multi-faceted and outline ministry opportunities for us here at Evergreen as we seek to be a thriving, disciple-making, God-seeking, God-honoring church in our community. Best of all: they come with tools to help us effectively live into these hopes and dreams. Should we choose to accept these recommendations (we will hold a vote immediately following worship on Sunday, March 19), the Dakotas Conference will provide leadership training, coaching, and other tools as needed to help us excel in these areas.

To hear more about the specifics of these Prescriptions, you can receive a hard copy from the church. You should also plan to join us to hear more about them at one of our two Town Hall Meetings (Sunday, March 5 at 11:30am & Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30pm).

I am very excited about these possibilities and the direction they offer. Please join me in holding this process and these Prescriptions in prayer as we seek to follow where God is leading us!



Easter Activities: Just Around the Corner

March seems to have arrived quickly this year along with warmer-than-average spring weather. With the onset of the Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 1), Easter is also just around the corner on Sunday, April 16.

The Easter Season, also known as Eastertide or the Great Fifty Days, begins on Easter Day and ends on Pentecost. Focusing on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost), Eastertide is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year with the **good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, and all creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.**

As always, Evergreen will hold special events during Lent, beginning with our Ash Wednesday Worship (March 1) and our Lenten Soup Suppers Wednesday March 2 - April 5 (6 pm)

Church Soup Suppers during Lent

Please join us Wednesday evenings during Lent for soup, fellowship and devotions. We will start serving at 6 pm and close before 7 pm. A free will offering for the meal will be received for a mission project. Please join us as we use this time to prepare our hearts to welcome the coming of Easter.

- | <u>Date</u> | <u>Host</u> |
|-------------|-------------|
| March 8 - | Group 5 |
| March 15 - | Group 4 |
| March 22 - | Group 3 |
| March 29 - | Group 2 |
| April 5 - | Group 1 |



Youth and adults volunteered to pack backpacks in February at the Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry. This program sends food items home with grade school age children each Friday to supplement their diets on weekends.



Sunday School News

By Becky Dockter

Your help is needed for VBS!

Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School will be held July 24-27 from 5-8pm at Breckenridge UMC. We are in need of volunteers in several areas to make it run smoothly. Sign-up sheets are available at the church or give the office a call at 642-6202 to let us know you are available. Thank you in advance!

Remember Your Prayer Partner



UMW News—*Growing in Blessedness*

By Denise Eastin

World Day of Prayer will be observed in worship Friday, March 3rd, at 2pm at Bethel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton. The service is ecumenical and all people are invited to attend.

From the Internet I discovered: “The theme will be ‘Am I Being Unfair to You? The service has been written by the church women of the Philippines and is based on the Book of Matthew 20:1-16, about the laborers in the vineyard. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions, who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March. Men, women and children in more than 170 countries will celebrate and open the service for 2017 with a reminder that harmony as a people is rooted in peace and welcome. World Day of Prayer was founded on the idea that prayer and action are inseparable in the service of God’s Kingdom. World Day of Prayer will begin at the first sunrise on March 3rd in the Pacific region and follow the earth’s orbit, shining its light on the Philippines and the rest of the world.”

A portion of UMW’s 2016 Year End Giving (\$300) will be mailed to the Wilkin-Richland County Food Pantry this month. During the month of March monetary donations will be matched dollar for dollar by Minnesota Food Share. Side note: every pound of food will be matched by a \$1 donation from MN Food Share ... so this is definitely the month to donate HEAVY items to the Food Pantry! Support during this campaign will help to fill the shelves and ensure there is enough food for struggling children, seniors and families.

The next General Meeting of UMW will be held on Thursday, March 9th at 7 pm, hosted by Sunshine Circle.

UMW President, Fern Bailey, will present the program “Called to Serve Communities”.

Just a reminder: We’re continuing to collect pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Fargo. All aluminum pop tabs are collectible (pop cans, soup cans, pet food cans -- if the tab doesn’t stick to a magnet -- it’s aluminum!) The collection jar is in the church kitchen. There are also collection cans for Our Family UPC codes, Box tops for Education, and a can for used postage stamps (which will support an effort to provide milk to children in the Congo).



Special Mission Recipients
Jenny Schmitt, Kevin Hudson,
Marlene Metcalf Johnson and
Nancy Richels

Evergreen Celebrates March Birthdays and Anniversaries

*Denotes anniversaries

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1-Jim Schultz | | 18-Chelsey Rau |
| 2-Bernice Oliver | | 19-KrisCinda & Michael Erickson* |
| 2-Pam Nagel | | 22-Emerson Johnson |
| 2-Scott Schmitt | | 23-Alan Noss |
| 5-Konstantin Arutyunov | | 23-Renee Ehlers |
| 6-Tyson Stevens | | 24-Jadelyn Taylor |
| 7-Anna Busta | | 24-Breanne Gripentrog |
| 7-Justin & Tiana Bohn* | | 24-Cody Meyer |
| 8-Viva Lelm | | 26-Shirley McCann |
| 9-Brent Meyer | | 27-Maxine Leinen |
| 9-Carolyn Stone | | 28-Connie Metcalf |
| 11-Merle Rubish | | 29-George & Alinda Bassingthwaite* |
| 12-David & Pam Burrer* | | 30-Layne Levery |
| 12-Bryan & Sarah Lutgen* | | 31-Mark & Kristie Boyer* |
| 13-Jeanenne Thomas | | |
| 13-Alexis Stevens | | |
| 15-Mary Poppen | | |
| 18-Darren Johnson | | |
| 18-Denise Eastin | | |





One Thing Offering Collects 205 Items in February

By Janet Moore

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.

During the month of MARCH the “ONE THING” collection is: INDIVIDUAL PACKAGED PUDDING CUPS (ANY FLAVOR)



- Thank you to everyone who has helped with donations to the Back Pack Project, during the month of February, we collected 130 boxes of Mac & Cheese; **61 cans of “kid-friendly” soup**; **5 family-size boxes of Mac & Cheese**; 4 jars of peanut butter; 3 cans mini-pasta meals; 1 ramen noodle cup; and 1 microwaveable mac & cheese. Items that could not be used by the Backpack Program were donated to the Richland-Wilkin Food Pantry. Thank you for your support of this ministry!!
- A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped fill bags for the Backpack Program during the month of February. With the help of the Youth Group who headed up 1 week, we were able to pack the bags in record time each evening. (See pictures on page 2)
- The Richland-Wilkin Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at the Blikre Activity Center (noon - 8:00 pm). Evergreen will not have a formal team registered for the event. However, as many of our family members and friends have been affected by cancer, we encourage everyone to support and take part in the walk. The Mission Committee will be collecting

donations for the American Cancer Society before and after worship services on March 5, 12, and 19. Please note that suggested donations for the luminaries are \$10.00 for one and \$15.00 for two – all donations are greatly appreciated. There will also be a jar to donate loose change (paper currency is also accepted!) Thank you for your support in the fight against cancer.

“For it is in giving that we receive.”

~ Francis of Assisi

EUMC Youth News

By Alicia Blaufuss

Hello!

Youth group stayed busy this month by packing backpacks for the backpack program (wow, they were fast!), playing games, and attending the movie "Lego Batman" at the theater in Breckenridge.

Reflecting on this past month, my personal favorite part was when we spent 2 minutes in silent prayer asking for forgiveness and spending time focusing on our relationship with God. In our high-tech, fast-paced world, it is easy to spend more time on our phones and computers and less time building-up our relationship with God. Even 2 minutes of giving Him our undivided attention is better than none! I am excited for this upcoming month to spend more time practicing silent prayer with our youth, especially since it will be the season of Lent!

March 4th we will have a lock-in at Zion Chapel starting at 7pm. I have a feeling there won't be much sleep....BUT it will be fun!!!

Many blessings to you all.

Evergreen Staff

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March, 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:30 pm, NL Folding 6 pm. Praise Team 6:30 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group 7 pm, Ash Wednesday Service	2 9 am, Sewing	3 2 pm, World Day of Prayer service at Bethel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton	4 7 pm, Youth Group Lock-in at Zion Chapel
5 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship 11:30 am, Town Hall Meeting	6	7	8 6 pm. Praise Team 6 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm, Town Hall Meeting 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	9 9 am, Sewing 7 pm, UMW Meeting	10	11
12 Daylight Saving Begins 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship (noisy buckets)	13	14 7 pm, Joy Circle	15 6 pm Soup Supper 6 pm. Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	16 9 am, Sewing	17	18
19 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship 11 am, Journey Renewal Voting	20	21 9:30 am, Hope 1:30 pm, Sunshine Circle	22 6 pm, Soup Supper 6 pm. Praise Team 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	23 9 am, Sewing 6 pm, SPRC 7 pm, Administrative Council	24 <u>Newsletter article deadline</u>	25
26 9 am, Sunday School & Coffee 10 am, Worship	27	28	29 12:30 pm, NL Folding 6 pm. Praise Team 6 pm, Soup Supper 7 pm, Choir 7 pm, Youth Group	30 9 am, Sewing	31	April 1 Noon - 8 pm, Richland-Wilkin Relay for Life at Blikre Activity Center - NDSCS



Daylight Saving
Time Begins
Sunday, March 12

Spring Ahead!!

Adult Sunday School Schedule

By Jean Freden

The Adult Sunday School will meet in the Fireside Room.

The lessons for March will be:

- March 5 A Passion for Justice
- March 12 Fake News
- March 19 Martyrdom and Christian Faith
- March 26 Women's March

All adults are invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am.

Caring Circle Program

By Linda Bailey

“So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.”

~ I Thessalonians 2:8

With this scripture in mind, several members of our church family have expressed interest in, and the need for, embarking on a program for congregational care.

The mission would be to provide ongoing expressions of love, support and concern to the members of our Evergreen congregation in times of special need, crisis or transition.

Committee members/volunteers of the Caring Circle would work with Pastor Tyler to provide care for our church family.

This program is in its early states of planning and development. We ask for your prayers as we begin this journey.

If you would like to learn more or volunteer with this support ministry, please contact Linda Bailey at 701-642-4928.

Our Deepest Sympathy to:



Rick & Sharon Krueger on the death of Rick's brother, Doug Krueger, who passed away on January 27.

Mary Ann Harff on the death of her brother, Tony Kabella, who passed away on February 19.

Janice & Dale Deike on the death of Janice's sister, Jean Chartrand, who passed away on February 27.

Strength for Today; Hope for Tomorrow

By Wayne Millar

In 2016, Evergreen UMC made a commitment to support **“Thrive,” the Dakotas Conference's growth and development capital campaign.** Evergreen's financial commitment will be approximately \$20,000 spread over 5 years. By 2016 year-end \$3,815 had been received from members who supported this capital campaign. The remaining \$185 of the \$4,000 commitment was paid out of the church's general fund. We sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the successful effort in 2016.

We now must look forward to meeting the \$4,000 goal for 2017. On the back page of this newsletter is an annual commitment form. Please, prayerfully consider your part in contributing to this cause. It will benefit all the churches in the Dakotas Conference.

Flowering Plants Needed for Easter

By Sandy Olson

We'd love to make the church a flower garden for Easter again this year. If you would like to help, please bring any flowering plant to the church by Good Friday, April 14th. The more variety, the better. Think tulips, hyacinths, azaleas, crocuses, lily of the valley, lilacs, pussy willows, and lilies. Thanks in advance for your contributions.

Remember the Noisy Bucket Offering!

Second Sunday of each month. (\$110.06 in Feb.)

Proceeds support the Three Rivers Crisis Center - Kids Connection.



Can I get a Witness?

By the time you receive this, the season of Lent will be upon us. The season of the church that precedes Easter, Lent is a time for reflection, repentance (turning back toward God), and, for many, practicing new (or picking up anew) spiritual disciplines. As a part of these added disciplines, we will again be having weekly soup suppers and devotions on **Wednesday evenings at 6pm.**

At our first soup supper (March 8), we will spend time discussing our Journey Renewal Prescriptions (see the first page!). For the rest of the weeks, we will spend time practicing different forms of prayer together. I hope you will plan to join us for this time of fellowship, reflection, and prayer!

We will also be kicking off a new sermon series on Sunday mornings for the season of Lent. Starting March 5, our new series will be titled, **“Witness.”** Together, we will reflect on what it means to be a Witness — and to live our Witness.

Throughout this season, we will journey to the cross together in the form of witness stories: From all of the Marys in the gospel stories, to John and Joseph, to the countless witnesses Jesus met, including the thieves on the cross. What are some ways every day people gave witness to Jesus’ life and ministry? How are we called to live lives of Witness here in our community?

Throughout this series, we will have one memory verse I invite you to reflect on throughout this season. Acts 4:20 says: *“As for us, we can’t stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”*

What can you not stop thinking about? Have you seen or heard Jesus in your midst? Are you telling people about it? How can we embrace Jesus and all he has given to us in our lives, our church, our community?

Scary, isn’t it? For many of us, when we hear the word “Witness” — we think of the tired image of someone standing on a street corner telling everyone who passes by about Jesus. Certainly, that is one way to Witness. But it far from the only one. I hope you’ll join us as together we’re challenged beyond this language we think we know, and together seek to live our lives more fully for Christ.



Looking forward to exploring and living into the challenges together,

Pastor Jen

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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WAHPETON, ND 58075

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See Article on Page 6 for additional information.....



Strength for Today; Hope for Tomorrow

In addition to my annual tithe to Evergreen UMC, I commit to **supporting Evergreen's financial commitment to the Thrive program** through my gift of:

- \$250/quarter = [\$1,000/year]
- \$100/quarter = [\$400/year]
- \$25/quarter = [\$100/year]
- Other: \$_____ [one time/quarterly] (circle one)

Name: _____

Please return completed form to the church office or place in offering plate.