

United Methodist Church

February 2007 Monthly Newsletter

www.lcmnumc.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

The scripture says ...“They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles.” (Isaiah 40:31)

We live in this beautiful area where we can see with our own eyes the majestic eagles as they soar overhead. They are reminders to us of God’s promise that we, too, can rise up in beauty and strength as we put our trust in God.

At the January Council meeting, Paul Moechnig reported that fifty three families pledged \$81,607 during the fall stewardship emphasis. Total pledges were up \$9500 and the average pledge was up almost 50%.

Every act of your giving is an act of trust. You trust that God will use your gift through other people. And you trust that you can live a quality of life without the gift. God promises in many ways that he blesses those who put their trust in Him in a practical way. It is a proof of growing faith, when a person makes a meaningful sacrifice to God.

My prayer is that God will show you His favor in response to your gifts of faith to the church and elsewhere. I pray that you will soar to new heights of God’s glory in your personal lives through your prayerful and faithful giving in 2007. This is because scripture makes a clear connection between **God-devotion and Material prosperity**.

Here are a few examples of the connection with God’s favor toward those whose faith is evident in their willingness to share their material goods with others and the Body of Christ:

Do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16 (*God’s pleasure includes His blessing on our entire life, including our prosperity.*)

For the poor will never cease *to be* in the land; therefore I command you, saying, “You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land ... for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings. Deuteronomy 15:11, 10 *(Clearly, God wants to bless our labors and our personal projects, when we give.)*

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 1 Tim. 6:17 *(God is the giver to those who fix their hope on Him and not material riches.)*

These are just a few of God’s promises to those who put Him and His will first. This is the main, spiritual result of giving: Focus! When we are giving something significant to our lives away to others, we are surpassing a casual, non-intrusive faith in Christ. We are no longer observers in the plan of salvation, we are participants! We are committed. Once we do that, we look at faith and God in an entirely different way. We are focused on His will! We have a stake in it! Let’s soar like eagles!

Rev. Don



United Methodist Worship Schedule To Be Viewed On Cable Channel 18 Schedule	
<u>Sunday</u> 6:45 - 8:00pm Traditional Service 8:00 - 9:15pm Live Alive Service	<u>Thursday</u> 8:30 - 9:45pm Traditional Service 10:30 - 11:45pm Live Alive Service
<u>Monday</u> 9:00 - 10:15am Traditional Service	<u>Friday</u> 4:00 - 5:15pm Live Alive Service
<u>Tuesday</u> 12:00 - 1:15am Live Alive Service	<u>Saturday</u> 1:00 - 2:15pm Live Alive Service

Youth Activities

Seems like the youth are always busy doing something...

We are working on plans for our annual Spaghetti Feed. Watch for “all you can eat” spaghetti to raise money for STORM camp tuition. At STORM the youth spend a full week serving Jesus by serving others. They paint, do yard work, build things, and worship every night! We will again take the maximum number of youth the camp will allow and many of them will be experiencing STORM for the first time. This is the camp that we model STORM in Lake City after. Please start praying for the youth for safety and a great experience

30 hour famine is fast approaching. The youth go 30 hours without food to raise money and awareness for poverty and hunger around the world. The great thing about World Vision is that not only do they feed people, but they also teach them how to provide for themselves in the future. The youth will be seeking pledges, please give generously to this cause.

We are serving at the Simpson Shelter in Minneapolis on March 24th. In past years, we have served at the Men’s shelter. This year we will be serving at the Women’s. This is a fantastic opportunity for the youth to understand poverty and how it can directly affect their lives.

We have several youth (Grades 10-12) that have taken on a sixteen week commitment to become Peer Ministers. This training will help them become aware of the hurts and needs of those around them, living out the Good Samaritan story. They are caring listeners, guiding healthy and purposeful decisions, assisting others to learn social skills and referring to appropriate resources when needed. It is our belief that they will be able to effect change in their schools, communities and even the world.

Every Wednesday night we meet to praise God, share joys & concerns, and discuss topics that relate to living a Christian life. Any teen in Grades 7-12 are welcome to join us. Food starts at 6:30 and we are done by 8:15p.m.

Spring Chickens Event

Sunday, February 18th @ 3:00 we will be meeting at church & then going to Red Wing for some bowling at Nybos. For more information you may call Rachel Foss @ 345-4114

Women of Faith Seminar

October 19 - 20, 2007 @ the St. Paul Xcel Energy Center

Please sign up with Mary Kay Paine by March 1st

Young In Spirit Events Schedule

Thursday, May 17th @ 11:00 am Welcome Back Snowbirds lunch at
Beth's Café in Nelson, Wisconsin

Susanna Circle

Monday, February 12th

@ 7:30 pm

Betty Jean Burnham's Home

Priscilla Circle

Monday, February 19th

@ 9:15 am

Betty Albright's Home

Knitting Group

Volunteers meeting every Monday in Rogers Hall @ 10:00 am.
Everyone is welcome to come anytime!

SPPR Committee

There will be a 15 minute "Open Listening" time at the beginning of
every meeting for anyone to come in and talk blessings and/or concerns
regarding our church.

United Methodist Men's TLC Club

**Would like to welcome you to breakfast the first
Saturday of every month at 7:30 am**

Lake City Food Shelf

Please continue helping the Food Shelf with your generous donations. It
is so appreciated! In February, ***Canned Dinners is our primary request.***
Such as Stew, Ravioli, Spaghettios, etc.
Of course all other items are always welcome! And money is always a
great donation! Thanks again for any contributions you can make.
And for the ones you have made in the past!

Giving envelopes for 2007...

are ready to be picked up in the Narthex. They are bundled in packets of 12, 26, or 52 for monthly, bi-weekly, or weekly giving. There will always be more available in the church office during the year, if needed.

Stewardship drive for 2007...

In October we had 67 people attend our group stewardship gatherings. This represented 44 giving units and about 68% of these people returned a pledge card. The first week of November we mailed a pledge card and a copy of the 2007 budget to those that didn't attend the meetings. About 40% of this group returned a pledge card. The total amount pledged is \$84,207.00. Thank you to everyone that has made a commitment to financially support our church. The amount pledged last year was \$72,049.00.

~ Paul Moechnig
Finance & Stewardship Committee

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2006 Year-end Financial Statements are ready for pick-up.

Statements will be filed in alphabetical order on the table in the Narthex.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your statement, please contact Paul Moechnig or Gay Thompson

Diamonds In The Rough

Women's Group

Meeting for Bible Study and Fellowship

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 6th @ 7:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome!

For more information contact Dianna Flater @ 651-345-5297

**New Information from the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation
A NEW TAX-SAVING OPPORTUNITY**

How You Can Benefit

In August, the Pension Protection Act (PPA 2006) was signed into law. It allows people to avoid the tax bite that normally applies on IRA withdrawals. However, it is only in effect for 2006 and 2007, so you need to respond promptly.

For 2006 and 2007, you may transfer funds directly from an IRA to your church, the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation, or another public charity. You must be 70 and a half years or older. You can benefit if the following applies to you:

- you do or do not itemize
- you give to charity at your 50% deduction limit
- you want to keep your tax rate lower

Benefits include being forgiven the tax that otherwise would be due on your Required Minimum distribution and having less of your Social Security benefits taxed. For more information, contact your legal adviser or Val Walker at the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation (val.walker@mnumcfoundation.org or 612- 230-3337). Read more about this at the foundation's web site (www.mnumcfoundation.org/ppa.html).

UMC Sunday School Items

Much of our budget in the past and present is funded through donations from teachers and others helping out with Sunday School: i.e. curriculum materials, art supplies, crayons, markers, glue, scissors, paper, games, first & sixth graders Bibles, attendance certificates, certificates of appreciation, metal cabinets to store supplies, CD's, etc. There should be funds available for the Lenten Program and dry erase boards as needed since we have never drawn upon the amount we have budgeted.

Raised \$200 for a Lake City Family for Christmas Presents

Christmas Program December 17th - good attendance. Thanks to all who helped out.

January 30th is a meeting for those interested in helping with the Lenten Program this year. Cathy Briggs & Sandy Mayfield are in charge this year. Dates: Feb. 28th, March 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th

February 11th after the children's sermon we are going to the Lake City Nursing Home to carol for the residents, deliver Valentines & treats & then return to church for our 1st Valentines Party. Permission slips have been sent out to all Sunday School Families.

We are working with the youth on musical opportunities in Sunday School. Some of the band members have agreed to play and sing with us Sunday mornings along with Vonnie. The Sunday school students are looking forward to having the youth share their talents with us and sing some of the songs they use in their Wednesday evening services.

There is a Sunday School News Bulletin Board out in Meyers Hall with a schedule of events & pictures of events we have attended.

Continued on next page...

Discuss moving the bulletin board over in the preschool – kindergarten room as the pop machine is blocking the one currently on the wall. On this bulletin board we have the 10 Commandments poster, Lord’s Prayer, & scripture chart, along with other posters we have been asked to display. Second option is to move the pop machine somewhere else.

Deepest Sympathy To...

Father Michael & Karen Schulenberg on the death of his father, Willard, of Red Wing. He died on January 20th at the Fairview Seminary Home. A memorial service was held January 27th at Christ Episcopal Church in red Wing with burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

Congratulations To...

John Anderson on being selected Kiwanis Student of the Month.

Zach Loppnow on earning a 1st place metal at the Lake City Invitational Wrestling meet.

Louise Rainey on the birth of a great granddaughter, Dempsey Grace Nessler, born January 8th in Portland, OR. Proud parents are Heather & Bo.

Sonya & Tom Reckmann on the birth of a daughter, Cora Marie, born January 3rd at Rochester Methodist Hospital. Also, to sisters Kennedy & Hailey and grandmother, Joyce Moechnig.

Joyce Moechnig on the birth of Wyatt Louis Birr, born on January 10th at St. Joseph Hospital in Mankato. The proud parents are Jodi & Ben and sister Annabelle.

Jenn & Kermit Bottke on the birth of a daughter, Olivia, who was born in January in Rochester. Also to her sister Luci and grandmother Jacky Larkin.

God’s Blessings To... Pat Bailey who recently joined First Congregational UCC in Lake City.

COMMUNITY GROUP

We will be meeting every other Thursday of the month @ Gloria Feigal’s home. The study theme is “A Life Worth Living”.
A study of Philippians.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 8th

***New Years Resolution...
Help those in need!***

A group in our church is helping out a local family in need. If you would like to make a donation to assist this effort the following are immediate needs they have...

- Cold cereals, sugar, flour, canned vegetables, soups, meat, macaroni and cheese, juices, milk (2%), paper towels, floor cleaner, toilet paper, kleenex
- Card Table
- Gift Cards (Gas Station, Grocery Store, Restaurants, Hair Salon, etc.)
- Baseball Cards
- Football Cards
- Toy Cars, Trucks, Motorcycle
- 2 - 12" Bouncing Balls

If you would like to supply any of these items or make a cash donation, please contact Gail Cole or Al Thompson (651-380-5365). Non perishable items may be left at the church.

Let's give this family a New Year they deserve and will never forget!

A local lady had a fire in her apartment and needs assistance. Disciples in Action is helping with relocation and temporary furnishings but she needs financial assistance to get furniture cleaned to eliminate smoke odors. She is also in need of pots and a coffee maker. If you would like to help please contact Al Thompson @ 651-380-5365.



Breakfast Club

Wednesdays, 7-8a.m. at the Matrix! Come enjoy a hot breakfast before school!



Study and Snack

The Matrix is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30-5p.m. for study time. Bring your friends.



The Matrix has a new look!

Thank you to all who donated paint for the Matrix's face lift and to those who helped paint. Feel free to stop down during any activities and check out the great job everyone did!



The Matrix!

Open every Saturday Night from 7-10p.m. All youth in grades 7-12 are invited. We can always use adult volunteers, come check it out!



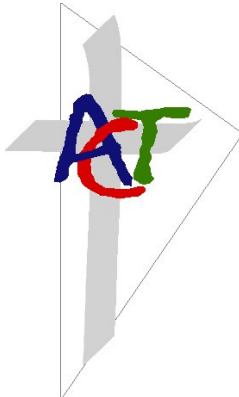
Supernight!

Friday, February 2nd to Saturday, Feb 3rd, an all night party in Rochester. You will be able to do all kinds of activities, broomball, swim, ice skate, basketball, bowling and much more! We will leave at 9p.m. and arrive home at about 7a.m. Cost is \$30.



"Night on the Slopes".

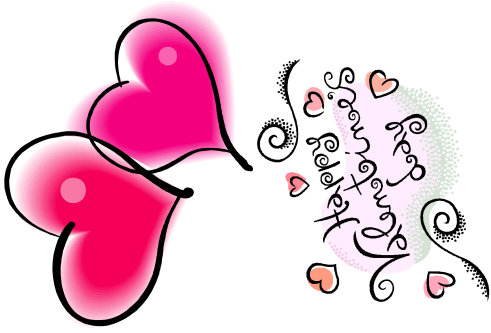
Saturday, Feb 10th, Steeple chase will be open from 10p.m.-3a.m. You will be able to ski, snowboard, snow tube and there will be Christian music throughout the evening! The cost is \$20 for lift/tubing pass or \$30 for lift/tubing pass and rental. The Matrix will be open that evening also, so we will leave at about 9p.m. from the Matrix and will come back with breakfast and a movie until 6a.m.



If you are interested in any of these activities please contact Amy Bly or stop in at the Matrix during any of the above weekly activities.

youthdirtoramy@yahoo.com

507-696-0838 cell



Lake City
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