

United Methodist Church

January 2007 Monthly Newsletter

www.lcmnumc.org

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

We adopted two families this year for Christmas. One came through the church and one came from one of the Social Service workers at the High School. We spent a night of wrapping and fellowshiping. Hopefully the families got as much joy from the gifts as the youth did preparing and giving them!

Treat bags were given to the Sunday School children following their Christmas Program. Thanks again to Joann Loppnow for making the popcorn balls.

The youth band "Forgiven" performed at the Lake City Federal Bank's "Home for the Holidays" open house. The bank made a donation to the Kiwanis toy drive in their name. Thanks Lake City Federal! They have also performed twice at the St. Croix Valley UMC for their Saturday evening contemporary service. Way to go band!

On December 29th, we had a dance at the church. All the music was performed by Christian artists and included hip hop, rap, rock and slower ballad style music. Fun was had by all that attended and we wish to thank all the chaperones that helped with this event. Special thanks to "Sound and Lights by Logan" for providing the music & lights.

After many years of use and enjoyment, the stereo in the youth room finally gave out. Thanks to another loving couple, a new boom box and DVD player have been donated.

As this year ends and another begins, the Wednesday night youth group would like to thank everyone who has supported us as we try to maintain and strengthen our relationship with Christ. Like the adults that face adversity in their workplace, the school is where our faith gets tested every week. Wednesday nights let us re-focus and affirm our belief. Your support, no matter how small helps. Thank you!

Upcoming Youth Events

January 10th - Deadline for STORM in Park Rapids sign up.
Including a \$75 deposit

March 24th - Serving at the Simpson Women's Shelter

Dear friends at church,

Jesus appeared to proclaim that God's salvation is available to us. One of His early triumphs was the wonderful "Sermon on the Mount." In it Jesus said, "*Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*" Also, "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*" Another of the Beatitudes is, "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*"

These are wonderful promises, and they all carry a condition. We can never earn God's grace, but we have to accept it, and accepting often means a lifestyle or attitude change. This wonderful year, 2007, can be the year that we all respond to God's grace and find ourselves transformed by the end of the year. If you're like me, in past years, we have tried many projects and set many goals. We may have achieved our desires, but the result was hollow.

I have come to realize that only a deeper experience of Christ can really satisfy and energize my life. Only Christ gives the sense that I am making progress and getting in harmony with myself, others, and my surroundings. Only Christ makes us whole.

It takes the attitude Jesus mentioned, "poor in spirit", to admit certain things about ourselves. To be poor in spirit is to let go of an independent attitude. None of us is complete by ourselves. When we accept our inherent incompleteness, we feel our need for Christ in us. Then, we can experience the riches of God's kingdom.

Paul writes in Ephesians 5:18-20: *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father...*

God wants us to be so happy in 2007! God wants us to be so filled with His grace that we have a "melody" in our hearts. We may not be able to sing. But we can have joy inside us, even if our circumstances are not good. Some of the poorest people are the most joyous. Being economically poor tends to beat the pride right out of a person. Then, with God's help, they also become "poor in spirit", and they find unexpected joy.

So, the path to joy in life tends to be narrow. We have to have our pride broken and look for the joy outside ourselves. That leads to the second Beatitude, "hunger and thirst for righteousness." After we give up on self, we look to Christ for our happiness. "*O taste, and see that the Lord is good!*" says Psalm 34. Once we have tasted Christ, we hunger for more, because it gives us a inner joy that we lack. That discovery leads to the third Beatitude, "pure in heart." The closer we get to Christ, the more we want to be like Him, purely. By seeking Him and becoming like him in our limited way we find the happiness we might have looked for in drugs and alcohol.

Instead, we seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit as Ephesians mentions above. Then, we are filled with song on the inside, being full of thanksgiving. Have a Happy New Year!

Rev. Don

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).

Young In Spirit Events Schedule

Thursday, January 25th @ 1:00 pm Pop Corn and a movie
"March of the Penguins".

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

Susanna Circle
Monday, January 8th
@ 7:30 pm
Clean Church Nursery

Priscilla Circle
Monday, November 15th
@ 9:15 am
Hostess: Betty Albright

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.

New Addresses...

Katherine Wooding
317 N. High St. Apt.#4
Lake City

Muriel Case
4449 Cady St.
Red Wing, MN 55066
651-388-6076

Tom & Sonya Reckmann
69738 Cty. Rd. 9
Lake City
507-251-4094

Katherine Mancilman
1109 N. High St. #104
Lake City
345-2346

Arlone Crowson
283 Tuttle Drive
Hastings, MN 55033

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

Caring Ministry Team

- ◆ Pat Bremer - 345-3423
- ◆ Arlone Crowson - 345-4113
- ◆ Gordo Anderson - 345-3143
- ◆ Anne Olson - 345-4866
- ◆ Deb Pederson - 345-3989
- ◆ Kris Anderson - 345-3143

Knitting Group

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

Diamonds In The Rough

Women's Group

Meeting for Bible Study and Fellowship

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 2nd @ 7:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome!

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

December Flowers

Thank you for the beautiful Poinsettias during the Advent Season!

- ~ Loren Howe in memory of his wife, Ann
- ~ Susanna Circle
- ~ Priscilla Circle
- ~ Sandy Mayfield in memory of her sister and loved ones
- ~ Joyce Moechnig & family in memory of loved ones
- ~ Gladys Linder in memory of loved ones
- ~ Marilyn Chant, her brother, Alan, & sister, Phyllis, gave a bouquet with 2 dozen red roses & lilies in memory of their parents, Hazel & John Oliver

Lake City Food Shelf

A new year, a new start, new resolutions! Please make a resolution to keep helping the Food Shelf with your generous donations. It is so appreciated! In *January, Cereal* is our primary request. 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!

New Couples Group...

This group will meet on an evening during the week at a members home with the purpose of supporting growth in Christian discipleship, mutual support and fellowship for its members. If you are interested contact Al Thompson @ 651-380-5365

United Methodist Men's TLC Club

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

THE MATRIX

The Matrix continues to be open every Saturday evening from 7-10 pm through March. Stop down and check it out. Bring a parent or guardian with you and get your paperwork completed. Its just that easy! Besides, what else is there to do in Lake City on a weekend?

**United Methodist Worship Schedule To Be Viewed On
Cable Channel 18Schedule**

<u>Sunday</u> 6:45 - 8:00pm Traditional Service 8:00 - 9:00pm Live Alive Service	<u>Thursday</u> 8:30 - 9:45pm Traditional Service 10:30 - 11:30pm Live Alive Service
<u>Monday</u> 9:00 - 10:15am Traditional Service	<u>Friday</u> 4:00 - 5:00pm Live Alive Service
<u>Tuesday</u> 12:00 - 1:00am Live Alive Service	<u>Saturday</u> 1:00 - 2:00pm Live Alive Service

**Thank you to all my church family for your prayers, cards, memorials
and words of sympathy at the time of my grandson's death. May God
continue to bless you.**

~ **John Moechnig**

Deepest Sympathy To...

Barb Pratt & family on the death of her mother who died in Winona on November 7th. The funeral was in Minot, ND.

Jerry & Arlene Fick & family on the death of his uncle, Peter Fick, who died at the Lake City Nursing Home on November 30th. His funeral was December 5th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lake City with burial in the church cemetery.

LaBelle Froyd & family on the death of her nephew, John Froyd, who died at the Lake City Hospital on December 10th. His memorial service was December 13th at the Mahn Funeral Home.

Chad & Cathy Briggs & family on the death of his uncle, Gerald Briggs, who died at the Stewartville Care Center on December 9th. His funeral was December 13th at the Griffin-Gray Funeral Home in Stewartville with burial in the Spring Valley Cemetery.

Arlone Crowson & family on the death of her brother-in-law, Eugene Passe, who died in his rural Rochester home on December 24th. His funeral was December 27th at St. Felix Catholic Church in Wabasha with burial in the church cemetery.

Congratulations To...

1st Quarter Honor Roll = Carley Siewert, Katie Loppnow, John Anderson, Zach Loppnow, Amanda Hilsman, Jenny Martin, Christa Jones, Cassandra Gentry.

Sarah Flater received Hiawatha Valley All-Conference honorable mention in volleyball.

Sarah Flater & Zach Loppnow on being inducted into the W.A. Andrews Chapter of the National Honor Society on November 9th.

Zach Loppnow on receiving Hiawatha Valley All-Conference honorable mention in football.

Zach Loppnow on winning his second career varsity wrestling tournament championship at the Kenyon/Wanamingo Invitational.

Carol & Bob Hanson on the birth of a grandson on December 8th at Olmsted Medical Center in Rochester. His parents are Lori & Andy Anderson of Rochester.

Alex Martin on signing a contract for Motor Cross Racing with Honda.

Welcome To... Brad & Vonnie Levenick who transferred from the LaCrescent UMC.

God's Blessings To... Kent & Bonnie Roberson and to Jim & Betty Albright on their new spiritual journeys.

UMW Meeting December 7, 2006 Lake City United Methodist

Sixteen members met for the scheduled UMW meeting. President, Betty Albright, greeted everyone present. Betty introduced Pat Bailey who gave the devotions and program as outlined in our UMW Guide Book on Advent and Christmas.

Betty called the business meeting to order. The UMW Purpose was recited by all present. Pat Bailey read the minutes of the November 2, 2006 meeting. The minutes were approved as read. There was no correspondence to be read. Joyce Moechnig gave the treasurer's report. The report was filed for audit. Vice President, Ginny Ruggles, said our next meeting will be on January 4, 2007. Betty Jean Burnham will speak at this meeting. The UMW booklets will be compiled after the election of officers and committee chairs.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Spiritual Growth - Betty Jean Burnham thanked Pat for devotions today.
2. Social Action - Sandy Grettenberg reported that the Christmas party at the LC Nursing Home was attended by several members, guests and "reindeer". Cookies from the Cookie Sale were enjoyed by all.
3. Education and Interpretation - Joann Loppnow said that December is a month to support global missionaries. Prayers for all are welcome and encouraged.
4. Secretary of Program Resources - Jean Templeton was ill today. Betty pointed out the several books available for "sign-out". The new books are available as well as our library of past book purchases.
5. Nominations - Patti Bremer reported that "no one is eager to serve". She and Marilyn Thoe have contacted the active members of UMW and have not found anyone willing to serve. Six of the ten offices are not filled. This report will be addressed later in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cookie Sale report by Sandy. At present, we have \$1681.85. We do not have the bill for advertising so the income is approximately \$1600.00 with about \$800.00 going to the church and \$800.00 going to the UMW budget.
2. The Circle Christmas party will be held at Gloria Feigal's on December 13th at 7 pm. All women of the church are invited.
3. The Young in Spirit group will go to the RCTC Christmas program tonight. Sandy says she has three extra tickets from people who are not able to attend.
4. Kathy Sanders at Post-Net suggested that we put pictures of both of our churches on a placemat to commemorate our 150th anniversary. Joyce said the Board recommended that we purchase these paper placemats in a large quantity to be used for any celebration that might be planned in 2007 and to be used at other events where appropriate. Pat Bremer moved and Sandy 2nd the motion to purchase 5,000 placemats for \$279.00 from Post-Net. Motion carried.
5. Ginny Ruggles said she had no report on the table cloths.
6. Pat Bremer said the fleece blankets will be displayed along with the stockings presented by the Priscilla Circle at the 8:00 & 9:30 services on Sunday. The stockings and blankets will be delivered by Pat Bremer & Louise Rainey on Monday to the Women's Shelter.
8. The "Thank Offering Cans" and donations were collected and will be given to the SE District Board of Global Ministries. The knitting group said they raised \$184.00 from the "dishcloth" effort and they still have some left!

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Love Boxes and Christmas Cards: Pat Bremer & Mary Kay are in charge of mailing cards and compiling the boxes. They will meet on December 14th. If you have any requests, please contact Joyce or Mary Kay.
2. Discussion was held on the distribution of funds for 2006 as recommended by the Executive Committee. The distribution was presented. Louise Rainey moved that the distribution be accepted. Motion seconded by Gloria Feigal. Motion carried. A copy of the UMW treasury distribution is attached to these minutes.

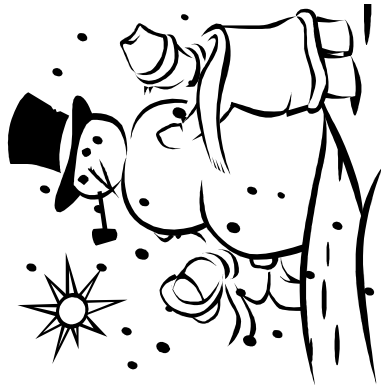
It is accepted that no one is willing to fill the vacant UMW offices for 2007. It is also acknowledged that there are Methodist Churches who do not have an active United Methodist Women group. There was much discussion among the members present on how to go forward from this impasse. It was decided that some members will contact our District Offices to learn the appropriate way to dissolve our group. Discussion was held on who might take up the projects for fund raising for the church and what would happen to the committers such as the funerals, weddings, and altar flowers. Mary Kay moved that this group meet on February 1st at 1:30 pm. She hoped that Circles will have time to decide their roll after this dissolution. The meeting date was seconded by Joyce. Motion carried. Betty Jean Burnham offered prayer for an appropriate solution. Katie Schmidt, Gloria Feigal and Mary Kay Paine will serve lunch. Betty Albright has accepted to lead this meeting.

Betty thanked those who helped with the LC Nursing Home party, those who helped with the cookie sale, Pat Bailey for the program today, Joann Lopppnow and Ginny Ruggles for serving lunch today and all who supported UMW the last two years while she has been president.

The meeting adjourned with prayer and grace. Respectfully submitted, Pat Bailey







Lake City
United Methodist Church
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