

Northern Voice Newsletter

Summer (May-June-July 2023)



No Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

As I write this, Easter has passed, and we are in the season known as Eastertide. We celebrate this season for the 50 days following Christ's resurrection until the day of Pentecost on May 28th.

Pentecost is from the Greek word for "fiftieth day." It was the Greek name for the Hebrew Feast of Weeks, which fell 50 days after Passover. The Feast of Weeks celebrated the calling of the Hebrews into a covenant relationship with God at Mt. Sinai.

Following Pentecost, we enter into our summer season, and the liturgical season of "Ordinary Time." The word "ordinary" here does not mean "common, normal, or unimportant." The word is originated from the Latin word "ordinalis," meaning "ordered" or "number in a series." That means the Ordinary Time represents the ordered life of the Church – to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during the Easter Season and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost.

You might know the liturgical color for Ordinary Time. It's Green! Green is not just an ordinary color. It tells us that it is time to spread seeds. It speaks that it's time to grow, and it shows us various lives and fruits! The summer season of Ordinary Time is time to grow in faith, accept diverse gifts from God, and share and spread fruit – the good news to one another.

Do you remember what happened on the night of Pentecost? Acts 2 describes that when Jesus' followers gathered in one place in Jerusalem, a powerful wind, and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages that they hadn't learned before. At that time, people from all around the world came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. The tourists were amazed at the people who speak other languages. Because they heard Jesus' followers speaking in the native language of each. What a miracle!

But the miracle has more meaning in it. At the time, their official language was Greek, which was the language of the Romans, who ruled over Israel. The language also meant majority and privilege. But the Holy Spirit let them speak in other languages. And people heard it clearly not only with their ears but also with their hearts. It was the moment that the majority's hierarchical and exclusive nature broke down. It was the moment of creating welcoming space for all.

It was the moment that the holy conversation began.

The 2023 Minnesota Annual Conference will be held in St. Cloud on May 31 - June 1. The theme of this year's conference is "Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience" It is based on Luke 24:13-35 and ties in perfectly with our entire Lenten and Easter series as we heard how Jesus lifts up the lowly and opens our hearts to how we can continue Christ's work in this world as the beloved community.

As the beloved community, we celebrate our diversity and unique gifts from one another; and we lament some parts of our denominational body that may choose to leave because of the different theological perspectives over the next year as we ready ourselves for the upcoming General Conference next Spring.

As the beloved community, we face that our siblings have been harmed on the basis of their sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, and color and we challenge ourselves to confront discrimination and harm.

Envisioning a beloved community is not an easy task. For that, we *should* speak in other languages – languages of people who are minorities, who have been misunderstood, mistreated, and harmed because of their uniqueness. When we speak in their languages, we can hear from each other, reach to the bottom of our hearts, and finally share our hearts.

At annual conference this May, Bishop Lanette Plambeck, no doubt, will emphasize that our gathering together is considered holy conferencing. At each meeting with churches and districts, our bishops and district superintendents encourage us to have holy conversation. To consider all who are gathered as a precious child of God no matter what, and to give up our own assumptions and experiences in order to open our hearts to listen to others' voices carefully, and invite the Holy Spirit to lead one's way of speaking and thinking.

It must be truly a way of speaking in other languages that each one may hear the good news of God from one another. Then, we may enjoy our richness together – the diverse gift that we are given by God as we look ahead to Ordinary Time.

I look forward to sharing with you what we have learned at this year's annual conference. Please keep our Lay Delegate, John Kisser, our Lay Leader, Marion Hansen, and your Pastor in your prayers as we travel to St. Cloud this coming May.

May your Spring and Summer be blessed as we welcome back our beloved snowbirds!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Lauren Hauger

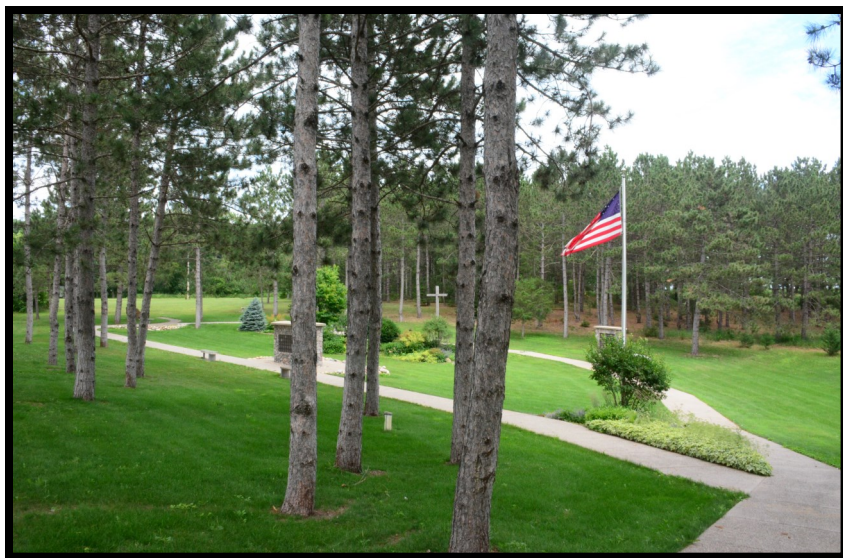
Memorial Garden a Blessing for All

*"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose.
All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."* Helen Keller

With the melting of the snow and the promise of spring, it is time once again to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the Hubbard Pines Memorial Garden.

This Memorial Day, as we remember those we have lost but who are a part of us forever, why not take a moment to visit this beautifully landscaped garden, set amidst towering pines and with the American flag flying high. It is open 24/7!

The dream of the late Audrey and Bud Schlong, members of HUMC, the garden is designed to be used and maintained for the interment of cremated human remains. It is a peaceful setting to meditate on the past and future and to remember loved ones. Perhaps you might be interested in serving on the Memorial Garden Committee? If so, please contact the church office.





Choir: Welcome Back Snowbirds!!

Choir continues in 2023
with the same schedule.

Choir sings:
1st & 3rd Sundays with
rehearsals the Wed. before at
7:00 **pm** and **Sun. morning** at
8am.

Upcoming rehearsal dates, Wednesdays at 7pm:
May 3, 17 & 31; June 14 & 28; July 12 & 26

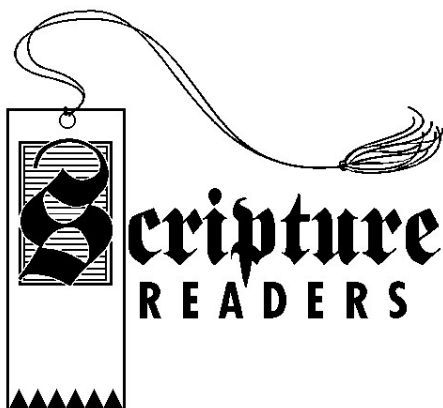
Sundays we sing with rehearsal at 8am: May 7 & 21;
June 4 & 18; July 2 & 16

Watch for emails from Jennie with details. Anyone is
welcome to join us, no experience needed! When the
Hilltop opens we typically go there for a beverage and
popcorn after rehearsal- we're a fun group!



Welcome Back!

Photo Directories are here. Please pick them up
in the office and check your
name off the list.



Scripture Readers

Please consider volunteering for this important part of our Sunday Worship. Sign up sheet is available by the nametags or call

Diane Thoelke at

218-255-5557

We Need You!

Please consider volunteering. We are always looking for Ushers & Greeters & Tech people- whatever gifts you have or are willing to learn!

Thank you to all of our many faithful volunteers!

Fellowship VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up on meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage each other....

Fellowship is important, for encouraging each other, for sharing our joys and sorrows, for getting to know our church family a little better. Janelle and Kaylyn are very grateful for all who have served the treats for Sunday morning fellowship.

THANK YOU! We appreciate you!

If anyone would like to serve, there is a sign up sheet under the nametags.



JANUARY Mission Giving

2-3-23

MISSION COMMITTEE

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary

\$499.94

TOTAL MISSION GIVING

\$499.94

FEBRUARY Mission Giving

3-6-23

MISSION COMMITTEE

School Kits

\$532.31

Total Mission Committee

\$532.31

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

UMCOR- Turkey

\$400.00

Pastor's Discretionary

\$250.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING

\$1,182.31

Volunteers from HUMC deliver
Meals on Wheels to Park Rapids
 residents once every 5 weeks.
 If you are interested in becoming a
 delivery person for this
 rewarding activity,
 please contact
 Arnie Kuhn at 701-730-3667.
"Thank You" to our many
 dedicated volunteers.



Hubbard MOW Dates:

May 1-5
 June 5-9
 July 10-14

MARCH Mission Giving	4-5-23
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MISSION COMMITTEE
Total Mission Committee

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary	\$375.00
Hubbard County Food Shelf	\$2380.00
Wellspring	\$200.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING	\$2,995.00
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Monthly Mission News

A special guest speaker will be with us at HUMC on May 7th. at 9:00am. This service will not be streamed so mark your calendar and let's all join together in person for worship!

Pastor Discretionary Funds

This was printed in the Calvary Lutheran Annual Report: "Pastor Norby (and volunteers) want to express appreciation and gratitude to the Calvary congregation (along with generous donations from Hubbard United Methodist Church) for making it possible to donate \$39,752 in 2022, to people in need for food, gas and clothing vouchers and on rare and critical occasions, paid directly to utility companies or landlords."

We, at Hubbard, say thanks to Calvary for including us in this report, and extend our gratitude as well to everyone who has made this possible!

**Funds are being depleted
quickly due to the great need.**

***Please Consider Giving to
the Pastor Discretionary
Fund Today!***



*If you would like to have a prayer request printed in the bulletin or given to our telephone prayer chain, please inform the office. **Remember, due to patient privacy, please get permission from the person needing prayers to have their name printed.***



Special dates May

- National Day of Prayer,
May 4, 2023
- Mother's Day,
May 14, 2023
- Ascension Day,
May 18, 2023
- Armed Forces Day,
May 20, 2023
- Pentecost, *May 28, 2023*
- Memorial Day, *May 29, 2023*
- MN Methodist Annual Conference- *May 31-June 1*

Special dates June

- Flag Day, *June 14, 2023*
- Father's Day,
June 18, 2023
- First day of summer,
June, 21, 2023

Special dates July

- *U.S. Independence Day,*
July 4, 2023



It's Time for the Hubbard Bike Group!

Dust off your bike, fill the tires and join us on Mondays and Fridays beginning sometime in May and into the fall. The schedule will be sent out via email. If you are not on the list, call Betty McCabe at 218-732-1038 or the church office at 218-732-0224





Northern Voice *Newsletter Deadline*

The Northern Voice newsletter is now published quarterly. The deadline for submitting articles is the 15th of the month, so mark your calendar: the **Fall 2023 Issue deadline is July 15th**. Thank you!!



Thank you to those that attended the Lenten study on-line. If you have further ideas for on-line studies or programming, please route them to Marion Hansen, Digital Campus Coordinator

Office Hours will return to:
Tuesday- Friday, 8:30-1:00pm on May 30th.

The Office will be closed on
Tuesday, July 4th.



BIRTHDAYS

May

Terry Kimball	1
Denny Boulden	7
Noel Fedje	7
Rob Hallstrom	9
Steve Christenson	11
Jim Cook	12
Betty Davis	13
Gail Hamilton	16
MaryAnn Kjenaas	21
Jim Wheeler	22
Nancy Knowles	24
Ed Bolton	24
Tack Tacker	24
Emily Kjenaas	25
Daniel Sanson	25
Rose Christenson	25
Jacob Riggs	25
Rod Nordberg	26
Marcus Knowles	27
Mark Larsen	27
Marilyn Wilson	27
John Strom	28
Betty Porter	29

July

Meghan Johnson	3
Stu Hamilton	6
Sally Wizik Wills	6
Linda Larson	7
Dale Captain	8
Merrie Ellen Bergeth	9
Jack Alwin	10
Bill Skelton	14
Bob Wills	14
Terry Seter	15
Lois Captain	17
Glynn Davis	17
Bob Smith	19
Pat Peterson	20
Jan Pieper	20
Ken Stellmacher	23
Jean Aronson	24
Alice Strom	25
Pat Beaumont	26
Diane Balk	29
Evelyn Davis	29
Marie Nordberg	30
Bonnie Williams	31

June

Nancy Jordheim	1
Pat Gordon	4
Avaunne Hed	8
Judy Fedje	9
Sue Kuhn	10
Liz Merrick	13
Mary Hutchins	13
Laura Spolum	14
Neal Aronson	15
Steve Hill	17
Janell Saunders	21
Jean Aronson	24
Alan Fietek	24
Diane Thoeke	25
Kay Schultz	26
Jim Pieper	27
Kaylyn Anderson	27
Jeff Lund	28

ANNIVERSARIES

May

Jeff & Linda Lund	3
Hank & Dolly Hallstrom	19
Dick & Jane Boehmer	20
Steve & Betsy Hill	20
Jim & Nadine Wheeler	20

June

Arnie & Sue Kuhn	2
Bob & Sue Heggen	10
Doug & Avaunne Hed	11
Bob & Andrea Otto	11
Don & Diane Balk	13
Roger & Maggie Jorgenson	15
Noel & Judy Fedje	23
Bob & Sally Wizik Wills	26
Stu & Gail Hamilton	26

July

Bob & Betsy Roman	10
Ken & Renee Manlove	11
Bret DeGeer & Pat Peterson	12
Dave & Diane Thoeke	12
Ken Stellmacher & Mary Claire Hansen	13
Carl & Carol Wall	18



United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith meet
the 1st Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm
All are welcome!

Kudo's to those that explored the books offered January-March for the Reading Program event coordinated by UWF. We would love to have someone put together a short book report based on one or more of the books for the Hubbard Church Newsletter next time.

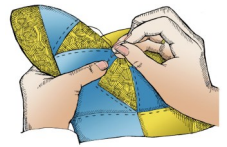
Please submit them to Marion Hansen,
United Women in Faith President



***Have a
Happy Father's Day,
Sunday, June 18!***



Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

Blessing of Quilts May 21

“Beautiful things come together one stitch at a time.”

The Threads of Love Quilters annual “Blessing of the Quilts” will be held during the morning worship service on Sunday, June 4th, with colorful quilts and fleece blankets on display in the sanctuary.

“This mission project—making quilts for those in need of care and comfort—is an important part of HUMC’s outreach to the congregation and to our local community,” explained Sue Harmon, coordinator of the quilting group. Following the service, the quilts and fleece blankets will be bundled for distribution to local schools and organizations, with some held in reserve for distribution during the summer months.

“We would like to thank those who have so generously supported the quilters with financial gifts during the past year,” said Diane Thoeke, treasurer. “These gifts have made it possible for us to purchase the material and fleece (always on sale!), necessary in the making of this year’s more than 100 quilts and blankets.”

Currently, the quilters are cutting and sandwiching a number of fleece blankets, in hopes that members of the congregation will take one home to tie the fringe (very simple!) and then return the finished blanket to the church. These blankets will be distributed to two area schools in October.

The Hubbard quilting group has been invited to participate in a Quilt Show & Demonstration, sponsored by the Hubbard County Historical Museum and scheduled to be held at Riverside United Methodist Church, on July 22.

The quilters’ end-of-the year-end luncheon will be held Tuesday, June 6. All quilters, past and present, and those interested in joining this group, are invited to attend. Stay tuned for further details.

The quilters meet every Tuesday beginning at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. New members are always welcome.

*Our lives are like quilts –
bits and pieces, joy and sorrow, stitched with love.*

Did you know???

Hubbard Church has various sources in which we reach others through our in-person worship as well as through our online sources. We would like to highlight some of these statistics for you from the past **90 days**:

Who are we reaching as we worship each week?

We reach others in person and online:

Our **IN PERSON** average weekly attendance has been: **46**

Our **ONLINE** average weekly attendance has been: **151**

Our **TOTAL** average weekly attendance from January - Easter has been: **197**

How do we reach them?

We reach others through our Website:

189 Users have utilized our Website to watch our Worship Services via the Livestream, Worship and Online Video pages.

59% are watching through their computer, 39% from their mobile phone, and 2% from a tablet.

40% are organically searching, 14% arrive through Facebook, 44% are a direct search for HUMC, and 2% are referred to us by others.

We reach others through our YouTube Channel

There are 188 subscribers to our YouTube Channel. (*in Sept. 2019 there were only 15!*)

82% are new viewers vs. return visitors.

78% watch the live stream vs. uploaded videos.

74% of the people who watch are not subscribed!

The average retention rate varies from 11 minutes to 58 minutes.
(Depending on the service)

20% of the viewers use closed captioning

We reach others through our Facebook page

We have 273 Followers on our Facebook page.

We have had 1150 Visits to our Page in the last 90 days, reaching 3108 people. (up 245% from the past 90 days!)

75% of our followers are women.

76% are age 55+ and of that 76%, 55% are 65+

We are being watched from: the US, South Africa, Ghana, India,

Liberia, Mexico, Thailand, Philippines, and Tanzania... to name a few!

Continued on back page...

What does this mean going forward?

Just to name a few:

We will continue to focus our attention on both in-person and online worship

We will work to create more ways to engage people and encourage them to grow in their faith journey.

We will try different programming ideas. Worship styles, Bible studies, gatherings, videos, messages, classes, etc., both in person and online.

We have launched an uploaded shorter version of the service on our YouTube page within the last month called **The HubWord** which includes a scripture and message (the Word portion of the service) as well as choir anthem during weeks the choir sings (This is still being developed but has been gaining visitors as well!)

We will work to retain subscribers, retention rates, and overall viewership online.

We will invite, invite, invite others to join us both in person and online.

We will encourage you to share our posts! Share our website! Share our Message!

We will continue to invite volunteers to help with our online messaging as well as to work in our Tech booth.

Thank you for all your patience, support, encouragement, resources, and your prayers as we continue to be an "Invitational Community where Love Dwells, Faith Grows and Mission Leads!"



Enjoy Mother's Day Sunday, May 14!