



June 2019– Volume 30– Issue 6

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

A renewed beginning

Confirmation combines three aspects, a). God confirms the divine promise to those who were too young to grasp what God was doing in their baptism, b). They respond by professing their own acceptance of the grace they have received and their own faith in Christ, c). The Church, as represented by this congregation, confirms the commitments they make. Confirmation is not a destination. It is more of a way station, a place where we renew our commitment to the journey we have been traveling under the care of others. “It is the first time that persons declare their intention to live out the vows of the baptismal covenant”, Burton Edwards teaches. “It is not to be the last time. It’s just that confirmation is the label we put on the first time.”

It is also a time for a congregation to celebrate their young people’s commitment to “live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,” and to renew their commitment to do the same. Congratulations to these 10 young people and their families, this is definitely a special accomplishment in all of your lives.



Pictured (back row) l to r: Jackson Nelson, Parker Graves, Jacob Burge, Kai Jorgenson, Ava Weyers. Front row l to r: Ian Ackerman, Adi Bartels, Taylor Burge, Andrea Bassett and Abbi Bassett.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP

Thank yous go out to Jami Brundage and Lisa Jorgenson for their leadership in the sixth grade through senior Sunday School class during the month of May. For senior graduates and their families were honored with a brunch on Sunday, May 5th. Thanks to Ann Foster, Kristy Connolley, Sarah Anderson, and Judy Jensen for their help preparing the cinnamon rolls and egg casseroles. Thanks also to some of the Sunday School students for serving the brunch.

Please check out the planters on the south wall of the church. Kristy Connolley and Danette Anderson led the “Green Thumb” kids on May 12th as they planted colorful flowers in the planters (pictured to the right).



CAMPING AT COMECA

This is as easy as 1-2-3. 1– Choose your camp. 2– Register online. 3– Contact Lynnette Stevens for a camp scholarship. (Please check the discounts available on the Camp Comeca brochure...one for siblings...one for first time campers...one for a returning camper bringing a first time camper).

June Birthday's

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1– Susan Advey | 26– Wanda Geiken |
| 2– Jack Holm | 27– Gerald Phillips |
| 4– Kimberly Weyers, Aaron Abramson | |
| 5– June Blauvelt | |
| 6– Abigail Johnson | |
| 8– Connie Larson | |
| 12– Mary Ristine, Neil Davis, Esther Nelms, Ken Edson | |
| 14– Linda Loostrom, Shirley Schlichenmaier | |
| 15– Jodi Hinds | |
| 16– Kaitlyn Harrison | |
| 17– Alexandra Boson, Savannah Peterson, Sidnee Ostendorf | |
| 18– Linda Houborg | |
| 19– Isaiah Edson | |
| 20– Anne Ostendorf | |
| 21– Linda Block, Debra Haynes | |
| 23– Sheri Lamb, Tami Johnson | |
| 25– Mark Foster | |





Pastor's Perspective

One of my favorite poets, Mary Oliver, wrote the following:

Instructions for Living Life:

Pay attention

Be astonished

Tell about it

And we thought living was complicated! Instead, Mary Oliver has taken and simplified things to very basic elements. While these may not be the exact words that you would choose to talk about life, perhaps they remind you to slow down and “smell the roses” as we come to the summer months.

Back last fall, we tried to do something similar with the practices and goals for our church. In worship during September and early October, we simplified things by using the word “BELLS (Bless, Eat, Listen, Learn, Send)” to remind us to practice living our faith on a daily basis—not just in church on Sundays. In November, we named the goals of our church to be: “Love—Tell Our Story—Share”. Obviously, like Mary Oliver’s poem, there is much more to talk about than just those words. The words stand as simple reminders to go deeper in living our lives in the Love proclaimed by Christ; to practice telling our story of faith, salvation and freedom to one another; and then going out into the world to share both our story and the love of God with others, often in action as well as with words. I hope that perhaps this sounds familiar to many of us as we pause and reflect during the summer.

There seems to be little question that life rhythms, practices and habits shift during May, June, July and early August. Families with children obviously have huge changes in schedules without the direct impact of school, but others of us also seem to do things a little differently as well, often decreasing the amount of time we spend in activities like meetings and other work-related endeavors. It is the time of year for travel, exploration, adventure! Summer is a welcome change of pace that brings about renewal and creativity and a chance to try new and different things.

As has been the practice in this congregation for the last couple of years, we will be moving to one Sunday worship service over the Memorial Day Weekend. The primary reason for this—at least from what I have been able to discern as I listen to the conversations around me—is so that we can be in relationship with one another. Having only one Sunday service allows for people to gather before the service at 9:00 am to drink coffee, have a bite to eat and to visit and catch up with one another from the past week. At 9:30, everyone moves into the sanctuary for worship—either a service with more traditional hymns or one with the Praise Band. The choice of music style is most dependent on which musicians are available on any given Sunday, but the one service in this way allows us all to learn a little bit more about the worship music of both styles. Following worship at 10:30ish is another time for food and fellowship. People stick around for a good deal of talking and nibbling, allowing everyone to get to know one another better.

This may be a different understanding of Church for you. But the early Christian Church made it clear that our faith is meant to be lived in community. It is all about relationship: relationship with God and relationship with one another. The gift of our one service and the extended opportunity for fellowship helps us practice being a loving Christian Community. And...is a pretty fun way to spend Sunday mornings! Join us for our combined worship service and fellowship—and bring along a friend or two—it is a great way to practice loving God and loving one another. I am looking forward to time spent with you in fellowship—as well as worship—this summer! Blessings...safe travels for those who are traveling...and a welcome place at our tables for all who are in town. Pastor Jamie

The Beat

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Gothenburg First United Methodist Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DAY CAMP

Our youth have the opportunity to attend Day Camp at the American Lutheran Church June 3rd through June 6th. Pre-school through 6th grade students may attend. If you did not receive a registration and health form, please contact Lynnette Stevens. Scholarships are available for all who attend, contact Lynnette when you register your kids for Day Camp. The staff at ALC is looking for kitchen help or classroom aides for these days. Our church family will also be asked to donate food items when the list becomes available.



*It is well
with my soul*

CAMP COMECA CONNECTION

Eight youth are planning on attending Camp Comeca this summer. Three campers are attending Faith and Fun for 3 days. Five campers will attend the week-long Faith and Fun. Half of their registration cost was paid for by our Camp Comeca Scholarship fund. This fund has helped to aide over 120 campers to attend church camp over the past 30 years. Will you be the next camper to sign up to attend Camp Comeca? Anyone can donate money to the Camp Comeca Scholarship Fund by designating this fund on your offering check.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION FUND

The Sunday School Mission Fund designates a project each Sunday School year. The fund has provided money to Meals on Wheels, the Food Pantry, the Backpack Program, and kayaks to Camp Comeca. Money in this fund is garnered from weekly Sunday School offerings and other generous donations by individuals in our church family. This year the money was designated to purchase items from the Camp Comeca Wish List. This Wish List is found on the Camp Comeca website and items are purchased through Amazon. A Pickle Ball Set, a Spike Ball Set, and a 5-piece drum set will be donated this year. Anyone can donate money to the Sunday School Mission Fund by designating this fund on your offering check.

Music Minute

As our school children head into summer vacation and all the various activities, our church family starts one service for the summer. Many have asked about what kind of service we will be having and my best answer is that we will try and mix it up for you, some traditional and some contemporary. It also depends on how many of our band members are available for a particular Sunday. I am not a fan of having blended service, so we will keep it simple. I can't tell you what Sunday will be what so just come and be surprised. The main point is we will be worshipping God and that's what we come for, it really doesn't matter what type of service we have. I truly thank each one of you who participate in our services, our musicians and sound/power point crew.

Thanks!





“Use your God-given talents to serve others”

~1 Peter 4:10

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

May Highlights

Special Offerings: Native American Ministries. This provides funds for urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries and for annual conference ministries associated with Native Americans. More information may be found at:

nativeamericanministries.org

Combined Church: At the end of May we will combine Sunday morning worship into one service. It will be followed by a time of fellowship. Fellowship is an important part of who we are as Christians.

These are only a few highlights of highlights of the many ministry activities we are involved in.

June Opportunities:

Mission Shares: Mercy and justice. Several ministries fall under Mercy and Justice. Among these are Volunteers in Mission, Mission Partnerships and Poverty Initiative.

Fresh Expressions: Celebrate Recovery— A new ministry will begin in June called Celebrate Recovery. This is a Christ-centered 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. More information may be found at celebraterecovery.com.

Thank you for your time and talents that make all the ministries of this church possible. It is your generosity that shows through action the love of Christ to the world.

More Finance information is available in the church office.

Don't forget to check out eh E-Giving App: *Givelify*

April General bank balance:



Mark your Calendars!

**Don't
FORGET!**



RETIRED PERSONS LUNCH BUNCH

Pop on in to the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday June 5th at 11:30 am. We will be celebrating and honoring Fathers this month at Lunch Bunch. We invite you to come and join us for fun, food, and fellowship. All 55 years or age or older and/or retired are welcome to come and enjoy the meal and festivities. Rumor has it that it will be a popping good time.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY



New Hope is a Celebrate Recovery program based on a 12-step faith first program. If you have a Hurt, that you don't understand a Habit that controls you, or a Hang-up that you can't let go of this might be the place for you.

Come to the First United Methodist Church at 1401 Lake Avenue Gothenburg Ne on Saturday nights from 7 to 9. I promise it will be fun, healing, and spiritual.

This is a new program with great opportunities to help others and will also include a jail ministry in the Dawson County Jail for those that would like to join me. I am looking for Christians with past addiction issues or other hurts, habits, and hang-ups to help.

If you have any questions, please call me...

Kevin L Hinds (308)-529-8557

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

BEGINNING SUNDAY MAY 26TH:

**9:00 AM—
CONTINENTAL
BREAKFAST**

**9:30 AM— COMBINED
WORSHIP SERV.**

**10:30 AM—
FELLOWSHIP TIME W/
REFRESHMENTS**

THANK YOU!!

Kevin and Jodi would like to thank everyone for their loving prayers, kind words, delicious food and wonderful thoughts as Kevin had open heart surgery. Kevin said he could feel the prayers surrounding him when he was in the hospital. God is good all the time. Thank you so very much. We are blessed to be part of a wonderful family.