



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

GOTHENBURG FIRST UNITED
METHODIST
1401 LAKE AVENUE
GOTHENBURG, NE 69138
PASTOR JOEL PLISEK



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Summer time is the best time to get away with your families and take a vacation. Don't let your giving take vacation as well, consider signing up to have your weekly or monthly giving done automatically...even when your gone. Contact the Church Office to find out how!!

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." ~ Winston Churchill

Sunday School Scoop

A big THANK YOU to Lindsey Tederman and her crew of moms and students! These “green thumbs” brightened up the planters on the south side of the sanctuary with geraniums and petunias. Watch them grow more beautiful each day. (see photos on the back of this newsletter)

The Sunday School classrooms, teachers and students will be resting for the next three months. Sunday School will gear up again in late August when the school bells ring.

Our Sunday School family would like to thank Joel and Mary and his family for being an integral part of Sunday School for the past three years. Joel and Mary spent time teaching in the various classrooms, teaching the third graders about their Bibles, and leading the Confirmation classes. Gabe and Christopher spent Sunday mornings with their peers participating in the lessons and learning. We will miss their kindness and their contributions!

June Birthday's

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 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 | |

happy
birthDay
to you!





From the

Pastor's Desk

God Takes The Summer Off

We are sorry to inform you that God will not be available during the summer beginning June 1st. He feels He deserves some time off, so He has canceled His normal duties for the summer. He has agreed to send the sun and rain occasionally when He happens to be in town, but so far as answering prayers for the needs of your family, please don't count on Him.

God has let church leaders know that they should not plan any outreach efforts of mission trips during the summer-or at least if they do, they will have to do it without Him because He plans to be gone a lot to see relatives, baseball games and the lake.

Then we reminded Him of His promise, "Surely I will be with you always," but He said He didn't realize when He said it that it meant going 2 or 3 years without a break. He expressed His sincere regret and hopes that it will not cause anyone any inconvenience.

God may be contacted anytime after September 1st at which time He hopes to get back into the routine. "Please defer all requests until then," He requested.

Aren't you glad God doesn't take the summer off? As we approach summer, make it your determination to bring yourself and your family to God's house on Sunday's. He'll be waiting for us to worship Him.



Source: Bradwhitt.com (May 29, 2013)

Day Camp Reminder

A reminder to turn in your Day Camp Forms to the Lutheran Church before June 4. They need to be turned in in a timely manner so the camp organizers know concrete numbers. They can be picked up on the back table.

The camp counselors are looking for jr. high and high school helpers. If you enjoy helping younger kids, please sign up to be a student leader as well.

There is also a list of food to be donated for the lunches and snacks. Grab a tag with a food item at the Bible School tent in the narthex. Any questions, call or text Lindsey Tederman at 308-529-2361.



Kayaks for "Kamp Comeca"

For those of you attending Camp Comeca this summer, you will be able to use these new red kayaks!! The Sunday School offering from the pre-school to adults was earmarked this year to purchase the kayaks. Thanks to all you the generous givers.

Music Minute

Once again I would like to thank each one of you who are a part of our worship services, you are greatly appreciated! We are in the process of figuring out our summer schedule, and I don't know what our mix of traditional, blended and contemporary will be so at this point we will play it by ear as to the availability of band members and to what those who are giving the message suggest. Also with the change of minister, we will consult with her.

My final thought on this is it really doesn't matter what kind of music we have for a particular service, we come to worship God and music just enhances the experience so, "Open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds" to the various styles of music we are fortunate to have at our church.

~Karla



Figures and Finances



Mission Shares	Percent of Budget	100%
	Paid to date	\$7,932
YTD General Expenses	(through May 22)	\$73,571
YTD Budgeted Expenses	(through May 22)	\$70,989
% of Budget		103.6%
YTD General Giving	(through May 22)	\$68,318
YTD Budgeted Giving	(through May 22)	\$74,882
% of Budget		91.2%



2017 GIVING AND ATTENDANCE REPORT					
	31-Apr	7-May	14-May	21-May	TOTAL
ATTENDANCE					
Early Worship	37	37	28	55 @ Lake	102
Late Worship	48	79	113		395
TOTAL	85	116	141	55	497
Sunday School	32	37	40		109
BUDGET					
Undesignated	\$ 2,124.50	\$ 3,961.05	\$ 2,451.00	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 9,916.55
'Local Only"		\$ 3.85			\$ 3.85
Apportion"	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 200.00
GEN'L TOTALS	\$ 2,174.50	\$ 4,064.90	\$ 2,501.00	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 10,120.40
Budget + or -	\$ (1,450.50)	\$ 439.90	\$ (1,124.00)	\$ (2,245.00)	\$ (4,379.60)
NEEDED PER WEEK IN 2017 TO MEET OUR BUDGET - \$3625					
IN & OUT					
Camp Comeca	\$ 294.00		\$ 10.00		\$ 304.00
Camp Fund			\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
Cont Brkfst	\$ 58.00				\$ 58.00
Endowment	\$ 65.46		\$ 85.19		\$ 150.65
Native Amer. Ministries	\$ 208.00				\$ 208.00
Other		\$ 42.97		\$ 50.00	\$ 92.97
Planters	\$ 50.00				\$ 50.00
SS Mission Project	\$ 22.25		\$ 20.75		\$ 43.00
VBS		\$ 125.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 95.00	\$ 245.00
IN & OUT TOTALS	\$ 697.71	\$ 167.97	\$ 240.94	\$ 145.00	\$ 1,251.62
ADA Restroom	\$ 100.00			\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00
BLDG/MAIN. TOTALS	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00
TOTAL GIVING	\$ 2,972.21	\$ 4,232.87	\$ 2,741.94	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 11,522.02



From the Pastor's Perspective:

I struggle with the task of introducing myself, never wanting to limit who I am with what I do. First of all, I believe that I am a beloved child of God, created in the image of God and invited to participate as a co-creator with God—but I believe that to be true of all of us and saying so at the beginning of conversation tends to end it before it begins! So, while I was serving as an intern during seminary, I responded to the question of “What do you do?” by saying that “I am a bard.” I like that term for what I do, a description taken from the Gaelic and British culture (my heritage), a shorthand way of saying that I am a professional story teller, singer, keeper and creator of traditions.

I never want to limit my introduction by saying “I am a Pastor,” because that introduction does some strange things to conversations. When I am on an airplane, for example, and use that answer to respond to a seat-mate's inquiry, I will hear the story of their broken family system...an upcoming surgery...or why they used to go to church but don't anymore. If I am seated at the bar in an Applebee's restaurant, the conversation around me usually stops for a moment and I can watch people review their language and topics of conversation while in my presence; the tone and tenor change and people speak far more carefully around me. The term “Bard”, on the other hand, opens up the conversation and I can share a great deal more about the kind of stories I tell and why I think that this is an important job.

So I tell stories for a living. I often tell my stories in churches on Sunday morning, but you can find me telling stories in other places as well. I do so as a follower of Jesus the Christ and I love to tell his stories, as well as other stories that have been shaped by Jesus' teachings. But I also tell stories in writing, in poetry, in art, and as many different ways as I can so that the word of God can reach out and touch the lives of people who find themselves in church—and those who cannot bring themselves to enter our doors.

I also believe in the power of listening to other's stories about their lives and the ways in which God has been active in them. In today's language, we often call that practice “Spiritual Direction;” in the Celtic tradition that is my heritage, we call such a companion an “Anam Cara” or “Soul Friend.” I have training in this practice and tradition as well and am excited about listening to your stories and coming to know you and this community. In learning to tell and hear our stories, I believe that we come closer to understanding the many ways in which God is working in our world.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you soon...of hearing your stories...sharing the stories of Jesus... sharing my own stories...and together shaping the Kin_dom of God in our very midst! When I get to town, we will be creating opportunities where we can do this sharing at the very beginning, and then with God's blessing, we will be able to create new stories together for a number of years!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Jamie

Meet our newest members!



Sunday, May 14, 2017 during our 10:30 am hour, we welcomed 4 new members into our Church family. These youth were confirmed with the help of their parents, grand parents and church members, and of course Pastor Joel!! Congratulations to them, we look forward to walking with you in your journey.

Pictured are from left to right; Pastor Joel, Ty Bartels, Arissa Ackerman, Chesney Bartlett, and Carsten Graves. Photo credit: Wendy Ristine

Loving Jesus at the Lake

Church at the lake was held Sunday May 21st and was enjoyed by a multitude of people. God provided beautiful weather for us and fun was had by all, approximately 65 attendees. We enjoyed beautiful music, an amazing sermon and fellowship together with our church family. Delicious grilled hot dogs and s'mores came off the grill along with chips, cookies and lemonade. A fun time was had by many canoeing and fishing all afternoon.

A huge SHOUT OUT to thank so many amazing people for all the wonderful work and beautiful service! Thanks to the praise band for the music, the readers, Pastor Joel for his sermon and the MOE committee for putting on this event. Scott Bartels for grilling the hot dogs, Todd Larson for the canoeing, Randy Burge for helping the fishers, everyone who brought yummy cookies and anyone I forgot to mention. What a wonderful feeling to be part of a fabulous church to put on a beautiful event to worship God in His surroundings.



Photo credit: Jodi Hinds

See more pictures from this event on our Facebook Page!!



Mark your Calendars!

Retired Persons Lunch Bunch

It's Lunch Bunch time again!! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am on Wednesday June 7th. We will be honoring Father's this month. If you are 55 or older, or retired, just bring a covered dish to share and join in some GREAT food, AWESOME fellowship, and WONDERFUL laughs!! You might even learn something with our "Trivia Time". See you at lunch!!



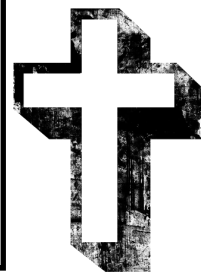
LET'S GO CAMPING!!

The first camp at Comeca will begin on Thursday June 7th. Please contact Lynnette Stevens if you are interested in attending. Scholarships are available for all who attend!!



A Great Book of Hope

Starting the first Sunday in September at 4:00 pm in the Church Library, there will be a new Bible Study starting. It will be over the Book of Ephesians. We'd be glad to have you join us!!



We need Your Help

Please!! Please!! Please!! Consider becoming a Sunday School Teacher this fall. The Education Committee would like to campaign to the non-traditional, the men, the retired, the quirky, the newbies to come and try your hand at teaching our youngsters. They would love to see some new faces besides their mothers!! It is only a 4-week commitment and that commitment can be done one time or several times during the year. The curriculum is fun and easy to learn. **WE PROMISE!** Don't be intimidated by not knowing..we will help you get started, but the supplies and show you the curriculum. **IT IS JUST SO EASY!!**

Fifth Sunday Fellowship

The Fifth Sunday Fellowship met April 30th for a carry in lunch. The generous offering of \$294.00 went to Camp Comeca. Following the delicious food and great fellowship, we had a short return of winter with snow and a bit of wind. The next Fifth Sunday Fellowship will be Sunday, July 30th. The offering will go the Backpack Program. Thank you!!

