

Great start to the Season of Giving

Today, I give freely without expectations, unaware that as I give, I receive beyond measure from a benevolent universe. Today, I open to receive what is being offered, aware of my gratitude and the love which radiates from my heart back into the circle of life.

A “Thanksgiving in August” dinner was held, funds were raised, boxes gathered, shopping trips made, and finally the food was put into the boxes and the boxes were put into the hands of Gothenburg residents who needed some extra help making sure their family had a Thanksgiving Dinner. Thirty two boxes were distributed to families that ranged in size from seven all the way down to two. The largest picture below shows what all went into each box, including a First United Methodist Church of Gothenburg brochure (updated version). The larger families (of five, six, and seven people) received “extra” veggies, fruit, a bigger box of stuffing, etc. to ensure that everyone had enough to eat.

The reactions of the recipients was anything from surprised to relief, and even some tears were shed. Mostly, it was thankfulness. One person told us we had to be in the wrong place because “we haven’t ordered anything.” The gift of food is always appreciated and most likely, always the right size.

BIG thanks to this church for getting behind this idea and supporting it. Thank you to all of the helpers, whether it was monetary donations, donations of desserts, or helping to serve, clean up, etc. Thank you to the community of Gothenburg, the other church members who came out and ate and gave, the Interact Group from the School who volunteered during the meal and also donated the proceeds from their concession stand to this project. Thank you to the Women’s Fellowship who gave their years worth of change, and also the Retired Persons Lunch Bunch who gave their pot as well!! ALL of this was possible because YOU GAVE...

We will be ready for 2019!! Will you help?



The Beat

December 2018– Volume 29– Issue 12

Gothenburg First United Methodist Church

Mary and Martha Circle

The ladies in this circle finished reading and discussing the book, *It's Good to be Queen* by Liz Curtis Higgs. In December they will visit the Women's Resource Center in North Platte to tour and donate to the organization. The book they have chosen for 2019 is *The Girl's Still Got It: Take a Walk with Ruth and the God Who Rocked Her World*.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ~Isaiah 9:6

December Birthday's

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1– Sharron Mathieu | 26– Harry Brown |
| 2– Kay Olmsted, Noah Gugelman | 30– Bodey Tederman |
| 6– Susan Lunkwitz, Taci Bartlett, Lorri Weiss | 31– Cliff Bartlett |
| 7– Uriah Blauvelt | |
| 8– Terri Moore, Brodee Gugelman | |
| 9– Luke Edson | |
| 12– Duane Sukraw, Zane Fecht | |
| 15– Megan Edson, Javan Ristine | |
| 17– Melissa Sabin | |
| 18– Ava Foster | |
| 19– Mary Ostergard | |
| 20– Sam Advey | |
| 21– Evan Peterson | |
| 22– Richard Ristine | |
| 23– Phylis Garner, Stacy Jefferies | |
| 24– Virjean Foster, Robin Stevens, Lynn Taylor, Penny Holm | |



Sunday School Scoop

Thanks to Ann Foster, Jami Brundage, Lisa Jorgenson, Sue Kirkpatrick, Lindsey Tederman and Lynnette Stevens for teaching the youth during the month of November. The students learned about the Women of the Bible quilt, made Thanksgiving placemats for the senior center, and sang in church.

The Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Jan. 6, 2019. The after Christmas program went well last year so we are trying it again this year. A combined service will be held that morning at 9:30 am so that everyone can enjoy the children's program. Lindsey Tederman will direct once again! Practices will be on Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 30th during Sunday School time.





Pastor's Perspective

...the most wonderful time of the year...

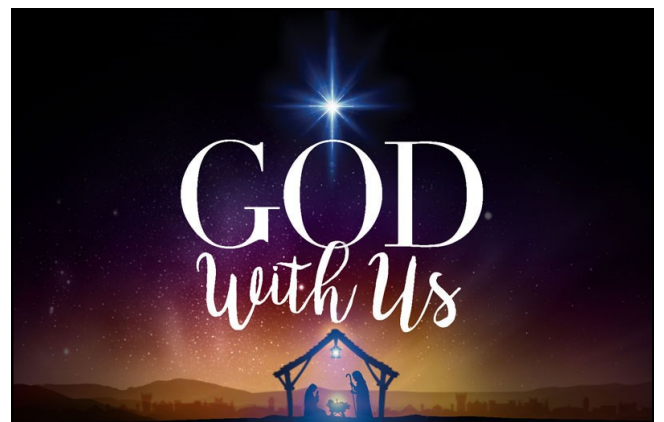
...or so the old song goes. Yet it doesn't always feel that way. Sometimes it is marked with loneliness or missing a loved one who has passed away. And the often-hectic nature of the season can pile on more challenges and stresses. Family gatherings...travel...additional expenses...office/work parties and additional community obligations/opportunities can just take so much time and energy! The good news is—there is hope!

Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace, to be exact. We are entering into the season of Advent, the beginning of the Christian new year. This Advent we will be setting aside time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ with a worship series called "God With Us". This four-week series will help us place our focus on the greatest gift ever given, and to experience God's presence in our lives today. If you are interested, there will be a small devotional booklet available for your family with readings and ideas about ways you might practice living God With Us (Emmanuel) every day.

I invite you to let the story of the birth of Jesus as the focus of this next month. Join us in worship and bring a friend along with you. This is the good news that we proclaim all year long. God comes and dwells with us...God loves us, and the world is different because of it.

May God richly bless us in this holy season...and may we share that blessing with all whom we meet. Amen.

~Pastor Jamie



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Do you see what I see?

375 boxes from Gothenburg go
To share God's love. Did you know?

Do you hear what I hear?

The girls and boys may a gift receive
Yes, in Jesus they can believe.

Do you know what I know?

God sent his Son for you and me
To offer salvation, a gift so free.

Thank you to all who played a part
Who shared a gift or prayed from the
start.

'Tis the season

And Jesus is the reason!



Pictured from left to right: Laron Peters, Mike Anderson, Marlene Jorgenson, Alice Peters, and Mark Boson. Poem by Alice Peters

MOE UPDATE

Time for a quick update on the outreach we are doing and a HUGE thank you for praying for the outreach of our church, donating and participating.

We had around 200 people come to Trunk or Treat, almost 100 children which was our goal. Everyone had a wonderful time eating, playing and getting treats. Our goal is to continue to grow this event. The children played games, ate hot dogs, chips, and cookies, drank apple cider, did rock and pumpkin painting and left with loads of candy. A great time was had by all.

The Rise Against Hunger soup luncheon was a big success. It was so wonderful to see our church family there eating. We served over 200 people and raised over \$4000!! Thank you so much to those who came to eat and donated soup and desserts. We have raised enough money to fill the bags which happens in January.

Our next event is Gifts From the Heart on Dec. 1st. We are looking for lots of donations and volunteers to help that day. We would take any donations (except for clothes). We especially need gift wrap and gift bags.

Thank you again for your continued prayers for outreach and mission of our church.

Music Minute

'Tis the season...Thanks to all of you who provided special music for our worship services throughout the year. Those in November were: Barry McDiarmid, Axel Jorgenson, and the Choir. Many thanks to the band, and to those who run the sound and power points. I do appreciate all of you and all you do. I've said it several times, but I am blessed to work with such a wonderful group of people.

'Tis the season for music...the sound of the season fill the air. The choir will present our annual Christmas cantata on December 16th at the late service. Please join us for this Christmas celebrated.

'Tis the season.. For hope, love, joy and peace. Like you, I get caught up in the busyness of Christmas– the decorating, shopping and baking– when I look at my 'to do' list, I have to stop and remind myself that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus and all that's really important is to enjoy spending time with family and friends.

Merry Christmas

~Karla

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Figures and Finances



Mission Shares	Percent of Budget	100%
	Paid to date	\$18,343
YTD General Expenses	(through Nov 30)	\$171,118
YTD Budgeted Expenses	(through Nov 30)	\$172,960
% of Budget		93.5%
YTD General Giving	(through Nov 30)	\$148,215
YTD Budgeted Giving	(through Nov 30)	\$172,960
% of Budget		85.7%



2018 GIVING AND ATTENDANCE REPORT						
	28-Oct	4-Nov	11-Nov	18-Nov	25-Nov	TOTAL
Early Worship	30	35	29	23	16	133
Late Worship	44	65	46	60	44	259
Sunday School	37	34	20	26	8	125
BUDGET						
Undesignated	\$ 1,455.00	\$ 6,683.40	\$ 2,351.06	\$ 973.35	\$ 2,292.00	\$ 13,754.81
"Local Only"		\$ 595.60		\$ 140.00		\$ 735.60
"Apportion"	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 600.00
GEN'L TOTALS	\$ 1,505.00	\$ 7,279.00	\$ 2,701.06	\$ 1,163.35	\$ 2,442.00	\$ 12,648.41
Budget + or -	\$ (2,120.00)	\$ 3,584.00	\$ (993.94)	\$ (2,531.65)	\$ (1,253.00)	\$ (2,061.59)
NEEDED PER WEEK IN 2018 TO MEET OUR BUDGET - \$3695						
IN & OUT						
Bible Sticks	\$ 25.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 565.00			\$ 890.00
Camp Comeca	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00			\$ 20.00
Epworth Village		\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00
Sunday School		\$ 7.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 7.00	\$ 101.00
Thanksgiving Boxes	\$ 20.00		\$ 368.00	\$ 241.50		\$ 629.50
Oper Christmas			\$ 18.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 28.00
Student Day					\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Youth Projects	\$ 146.00	\$ 104.00	\$ 303.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 684.00
IN & OUT TOTALS	\$ 201.00	\$ 511.00	\$ 1,329.00	\$ 299.50	\$ 122.00	\$ 2,340.50
MEMORIALS						
Memorials	\$ 150.00	\$ 925.00		\$ 30.00		\$ 1,105.00
MEMORIAL TOTAL	\$ 150.00	\$ 925.00	\$ -	\$ 30.00		\$ 1,105.00
ENDOWMENT FUND						
Endowment		\$ 66.72				\$ 66.72
ENDOWMENT TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 66.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66.72
TOTAL \$	1,856.00	\$ 8,781.72	\$ 4,030.06	\$ 1,492.85	\$ 2,564.00	\$ 16,170.63
GIVING						

Mark your Calendars!

Don't FORGET!



Retired Persons Lunch Bunch

“Soon it will be Christmas Day”, but until then all seniors are welcome to celebrate the season on Wednesday December 5th. Senior Lunch Bunch will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am. Christmas food and apparel are welcome. We guarantee fun and fellowship. “In the air there will be the feeling of Christmas.” See you then!

13th Annual Endure the Cure Co-ed Volleyball Tournament



December 2nd, 2018
Gothenburg Jr. & Sr. High School Gym
1322 Avenue I

Volleyball starts @ 8:00 a.m.-???

Fundraiser for Briony Aden

Briony was treated for a Wilms Tumor a rare form of pediatric kidney cancer
She is the daughter of Andrew and Megan Aden

*Raffle Tickets Being Sold-Call DEE MILLER @ 308-529-0684
A lot of great prizes!!*

Call Henry Kirk Vogt@ 308-529-0705 or Jim Macias@ 308-746-3100
To sign up your team.....40 team limit
Cost per team will be \$70.00. Deadline will be November 30th, 2018

LUNCH SERVED-11:00-???
Free Will Donation
ALL PROCEEDS go to the Family!!!
EVERYONE WELCOME!!!!



Gifts from the Heart... Mission Outreach Project

Location:  Gothenburg United Methodist Church

What: We are asking for donated “New” or “Gently Used” items in the following categories:

- ♥ Toys/Puzzles/Games/Books
- ♥ Winter Children’s Outerwear (Coats, Hats, Gloves, Boots)
- ♥ Winter Adult Outerwear (Coats, Hats, Gloves, Boots)
- ♥ Home Items (kitchen, bath, cleaning supplies)
- ♥ Home Décor/Decorations

When: Drop Off Items: Friday, November 30th - 4 pm - 8 pm

Shopping Time: Saturday, December 1st: 8 am - noon

Where: Gothenburg United Methodist Church—1401 Lake Avenue

Why: To spread a little Christmas cheer & help with shopping needs



Shopping: Saturday, December 1st - 8 am - Noon

FREE WILL DONATION—ALL items

Proceeds will go to the Gothenburg Ministerial Assoc.
Gift Wrapping available!



An Acapella & Away In the Manger Christmas

The Sunday School Students will be performing their Christmas Program on Sunday January 6, 2019. Please mark your calendars special for this day– we will have one service on this day at 9:30 am so that everyone can come and enjoy the program!