

GOTHENBURG FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
1401 LAKE AVENUE  
GOTHENBURG, NE 69138  
REV. JAMIE NORWICH MCLENNON



January 2018– Volume 29– Issue 1



## Look What We've Been Up To!! 2017 was great, but 2018...Here We Come!!



Christmas Cards to Stone Hearth



Making slime



Trunk or Treat



Spring Planting



Kayaks for "K"amp "K"omeca



Day Camp (formerly known as Vacation Bible School)



Confirmation



Loving Jesus at the Lake



Operation Christmas Child



Welcomed a new Pastor



We did all of this and so much  
MORE!!! What will we do in  
2018?!? Let's find out together...



## Sunday School in the New Year

Thank you to the following teachers for leading a class during December: Jami Brundage, Lisa Jorgenson, Carmen Ackerman, Kristi Connolley, and Kim Bartruff. Thank you to Lindsey Tederman for writing and directing the Christmas Program. She led the students in singing each Sunday.

New teachers for January 14, 21, and 28 will be Wendy Ristine with the wee ones. Helen Mak with the 2nd– 3rd grades, and Jami Brundage with the 4th– 6th grades. They will be studying the story called The Four Friends. Lisa Jorgenson will continue her studies with the 7th thru 12th grade students.

## Gifts from the Heart

Gifts from the Heart was held December 2nd and what a beautiful way to not only do Outreach into our communities but to help those folks who need a little extra help during the holiday season and help out our ministerial fund. We had 33 tables full of merchandise for our community members to choose from with free gift wrapping available along with cookies and coffee.

A wonderful outpouring of donations helped us raise \$867 for a community ministerial fund. Thank you to all those who volunteered not only with their time, but brought items for donation. We greatly appreciate you and hope to make this an even bigger fundraising event in 2018!!

## January Birthday's

### Happy Birthday

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1— Shelby Loostrom                         | 31— Loree Thomsen, Madison Weaver |
| 5— Ty Hotz                                 |                                   |
| 6— Josee Hotz                              |                                   |
| 8— Devlon Blauvelt                         |                                   |
| 9— Ava Weyers                              |                                   |
| 10— Joan Anderson, Brady Harrison          |                                   |
| 12— Margaret Vance                         |                                   |
| 13— Gary Anderson                          |                                   |
| 14— Shannon Sell                           |                                   |
| 19— Eton Stebbins, Judy Jensen             |                                   |
| 21— Glenn Schlichenmaier, Jordan France    |                                   |
| 23— Jamie Weyers, Sonya Gugelman           |                                   |
| 25— Steve Ostergard                        |                                   |
| 27— Merril Jane McMichael, Arissa Ackerman |                                   |
| 28— Keela Leichleitner                     |                                   |
| 29— Adam Davenport                         |                                   |
| 30— John Olmsted                           |                                   |





## Pastor's Perspective

A social media friend of mine posted the following statement today: “I hate when the holiday season ends; seems like most everyone goes back to their miserable ways.” Sadly, most of the other responses that followed her statement were in agreement with her analysis of our society. Our kindness, generosity and compassion seem to be very short-lived, and put away when we eat our Christmas dinner and turn out the lights on the Christmas tree.

Perhaps that is why I like Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” so much. The story ends like this: “Scrooge was better than his word...He became as good a friend, as good a man as the good old city knew...Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh...for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter at the outset...and it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge.” There is such hope in that statement!

This is our hope and the promise of the Christmas season; it is to be a time of transformation, not of minor adaptation and change, but a complete life transforming experience. I think that it is why God chose to come as an infant. Nothing transforms a home as much as the birth of a child—especially a first-born child. Everything becomes new, seen with eyes that notice things they have not yet perceived. And the eyes of a new-born child, of course, sees the whole world as new, something to be discovered with each new moment.

But my friend’s statement reminds me that we must be ever-vigilant that we don’t get too caught up in the ways of our world, for when we do there is less transformation and more decoration. It is easy to make Christmas about the trappings of the holiday season and less about lives being changed for good. As a society, we tend to emphasize that kind of change with the new year and resolutions that we tend to not keep. As Christians, we are invited into this kind of transformation moment by moment through the grace and love of God. And to that end, we happily proclaim with Tiny Tim: “God Bless Us, Every One!”

May you enter into this new year with the delight of a child...and the wisdom of a transformed soul. And may God bless us, everyone! Pastor Jamie







## “Christmas in Paradise”

“Christmas in Paradise” is coming to the stage on Sunday, Jan. 7th at the 10:30 am service. This program will involve students in grades pre-school through 6th grade. We will have practice at 3:30 to 5:30 pm on Friday Jan. 5th after school, a snack will be provided. Final practice will be during Sunday School hour on Sunday Jan. 7th at 9:30 am. Linda Loostrom is providing and serving a meal following service. We are asking parents to bring 2 dozen cookies each for dessert.

**COSTUMES:** Please let your child dress in anything tropical, floral, pink, turquoise, hula skirts, surfer clothes, etc. They will also need a black shirt to go over their outfit, one that will be taken off after the first part of the play. Any questions, contact Lindsey Tederman at 529-2361 or [lindseyatederman@hotmail.com](mailto:lindseyatederman@hotmail.com)



“A Child of Hope” was the Cantata that was performed on Sunday December 17th during our 10:30 am worship hour. As always, it was a beautiful performance!

Pictured are: back from l to r: Barry McDiarmid, Dick Ristine, Dennis Kirkpatrick and Lorri Weiss. Middle: l to r: Anne Anderson, Robin Stevens, and Cedric Bryant. Front from l to r: Rev. Jamie Norwich McLennan, Susan Kirkpatrick, Linda Loostrom, and choir director Karla Bartruff.

## Music Minute

A very special thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Cantata..to the choir for all the time you have spent practicing and practicing some more..to Devin for making us sound so good..and to Wendy for running the power point. It was a wonderful presentation.

Thanks to all those who have presented special music throughout the year..to Barry for all the wonderful songs you sing at early service..to the band for so faithfully leading the songs every Sunday..to those who run the sound and power points..to Becky who is always willing to help me out..and to the choir for your generous gift. I am so blessed to be able to work with such a talented group of people. Happy New Year to all of you!

~Karla





## Figures and Finances



Mission Shares	Percent of Budget	100%
	Paid to date	\$19,036
YTD General Expenses	(through Dec 24)	\$174,433
YTD Budgeted Expenses	(through Dec 24)	\$188,370
% of Budget		92.6%
YTD General Giving	(through Dec 24)	\$172,814
YTD Budgeted Giving	(through Dec 24)	\$188,370
% of Budget		91.7%



2017 GIVING AND ATTENDANCE REPORT						
	3-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec	24-Dec	31-Dec	TOTAL
Early Worship	36	32	34	65		167
Late Worship	49	53	75	232		409
Sunday School	23	32	22			77
BUDGET						
Undesignated	\$ 4,690.00	\$ 3,314.00	\$ 3,528.00	\$ 7,171.15		\$18,703.15
"Local Only"			\$ 58.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,058.00
"Apportion"		\$ 50.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,650.00		\$ 2,100.00
GENERAL TOTALS	\$ 4,690.00	\$ 3,364.00	\$ 3,986.00	\$ 9,821.15		\$21,861.15
Budget + or -	\$ 1,065.00	\$ (261.00)	\$ 361.00	\$ 6,196.15		
NEEDED PER WEEK IN 2017 TO MEET OUR BUDGET - \$3625						
IN & OUT						
Bible Sticks	\$ 10.00					\$ 10.00
Camp Comeca	\$ 100.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 130.00
Endowment		\$ 41.92		\$ 1,859.78		\$ 1,901.70
Ministerial Assoc				\$ 90.00		\$ 90.00
SS Mission		\$ 21.15	\$ 2.00			\$ 23.15
Youth Projects		\$ 65.00				\$ 65.00
IN & OUT TOTALS	\$ 110.00	\$ 138.07	\$ 12.00	\$ 1,959.78		\$ 2,219.85
Memorials				\$ 30.00		\$ 30.00
MEMORIAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30.00		\$ 30.00
ADA Restroom	\$ 50.00			\$ 700.00		\$ 750.00
BLDG/MAIN. TO-	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700.00		\$ 750.00
TOTAL GIVING	\$ 4,850.00	\$ 3,502.07	\$ 3,998.00	\$12,510.93		\$ 24,831.00



## Mark your Calendars!

### **Retired Persons Lunch Bunch**

January 3, 2018 the Lunch Bunch Retirement Group will be gathering to begin the new year. We would so enjoy having you become a part of this wonderful group of seniors. We are exciting, fantastic cooks, and enjoy life. Come join us at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall on the first Wednesday of each month. Just bring your favorite dish to share, you will not be disappointed.



### *Stewardship Sunday*

Every Sunday during the year, we pass the offering plate around during church. We put in our monetary gifts in order to keep the church operational. From maintenance and up keep, to cleaning and office supplies, utilities, and payroll, to fulfilling committee goals, each one of these things is important. We also send some of our money away to do God's work in other parts of the United States and the world.

We have many stewards that also not only give of their treasure, but they give generously of their time and talents. From teaching Sunday school and Vacation Bible School, singing in choir and praise band, running sound and power points, volunteering for various events, to serving on committees, the operation of the church also relies heavily on these gifts as well.

The Finance Committee would like to say "Thank you" to the members of the church for all their gifts they have given throughout the 2017 year. Please join us for an appreciation dinner on January 14th following late service. All you need to bring, is yourself!

**"God looks at the heart, not the hand—the giver, not the gift."**

### **FAMILY BINGO**

"B-15!" "N-9!" Join us on Sunday Jan. 21st at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall for lunch followed by BINGO! Let the kids call the numbers, get competitive with various games like parents vs. kids, boys vs. girls, pastor vs. congregation. See you and BINGO!! This event sponsored by the UMC Education Committee.



### **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT**

The MOE Committee will be continuing the Family Movie Nights into the New Year!! The next one will be in February and we will have a meal and show the film "The Resurrection of Gavin Stone". Date and time are yet to be determined so watch for more information soon!

