

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



September 2018– Volume 29– Issue 9

THANKSGIVING IN AUGUST



Church goers were welcomed to church on Sunday, August 19th by the smell of home-made chicken noodles and fresh baked bread. After worship, we opened our doors to the entire community to enjoy the home cooking and to help raise funds so that local families in need can enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Approximately 185 people came to eat lunch with us, fellowship with us, and supported a worthy cause.

Thank you to the helpers, to our custodians for setting up and tearing down the tables and chairs, to everyone who donated desserts, to the folks who helped in the kitchen with prep, serving, and clean up. Your help was such a blessing, and thank you to everyone who donated money. Your donations will go far in making someone's Thanksgiving Holiday special.

NOTE: The purchase of groceries for the boxes will not be made until November, so if anyone still would like to donate to this cause, there is still time to do so. If you are out of town, you may mail your check to the church and if you are local and would like to place your check in the collection plate during worship, please do so and remember to put "Thanksgiving box" on the memo line of your check.



"Generosity is doing something for someone else and expecting nothing in return." ~Simon Sinek

GENEROSITY IS ABUNDANT

Thanks to members of the congregation for donating so many school supplies for Dudley Elementary students! Bodey Tederman, with the help of her grandma, sorted, counted, and packed 94 glue sticks, 38 notebooks, 37 rulers, 32 erasers, 30 boxes of crayons, 30 packages of pencils, 19 pencil boxes, 17 packages

of colored pencils, 16 scissors, 16 bottles of sanitizer, 16 packages of pens, 16 boxes of Kleenex, 14 containers of disinfectant wipes, 12 boxes of markers, 11 boxes of highlighters, 9 bottles of glue, 5 pencil sharpeners, 2 packages of pencil top erasers, and A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE!! The school community is blessed by our congregation.



Welcome Back to Sunday School

September 9th from 9:30-10:20 am will be the first Sunday of Sunday School. ALL of the students and parents (if you wish) will meet together in the upstairs youth room. We will start the morning off with refreshments, sing some songs, play some games, and visit about what Sunday School will look like for the rest of the year. It will be great to see you there!!

Sunday School Scoop

Two adult classes will meet again beginning on September 9. One taught by Joan Windrum, and the other is taught by Laron and Alice Peters. The youth classes are as follows: 9-12 graders will be led by Lisa Jorgenson, 6th-7th graders (these students will also be in confirmation) will be led by Jami Brundage, 3rd-4th-5th graders will be learning about the 66 books of the Bible and how to use their Bibles. (The 3rd graders will be receiving their Bibles on Sept.9). Lynnette Stevens and other teachers will be leading this class. Kgn-1st graders will be studying different stories and people of the Bible. Teachers are needed for this class. Pre-schoolers— this class could have four students in it as some of the kiddos have not yet turned 3. Teachers are needed for this class also. Contact Lynnette Stevens about volunteering to lead a class!!

September Birthday's

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 2— Madeline Jorgenson, Donna Morris | 29— Lois Bellinger |
| 3— Jennifer Nelson | 30— Patricia Andrist |
| 5— Lunden Groene, Michelle Stienike, Kendrick Connolley | |
| 6— Sandy Widholm, Carole Brass | |
| 7— Noah Larson, Merle Block | |
| 8— Matthew Shea, Reagan Jeffries | |
| 9— Levi Peters, Dennis Davenport | |
| 12— Sally Trimble | |
| 13— Bettie Haney | |
| 16— Joe Humphrey, Kalli Koubek, Lisa Jorgenson | |
| 17— Leah Loostrom, Eric VanOverbeke, Holli Koubek | |
| 18— Wyatt Stebbins | |
| 19— Chesney Bartlett | |
| 20— Janet Williams | |
| 21— Ed Foster, Cathy Kennicutt, Kendrick Connolley | |
| 22— Aliyah O'Keefe | |
| 25— Deric Lunkwitz, Connie Klemm | |



Pastor's Perspective

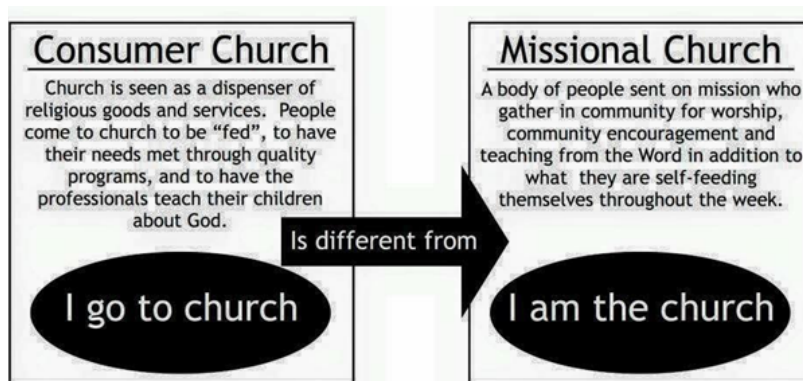
For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
 a time to be born, and a time to die;
 a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
 ...a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
 a time to mourn, and a time to dance...Ecclesiastes 3

This iconic passage of scripture comes frequently to my mind when I am looking at the change of seasons. And even though I no longer teach in either the public school system or the private University system, September always triggers memories of school and the different energies associated with this time. And, of course, there is also the business and energy of the harvest—but I am still counting on you folks to teach me more about that!

I have learned here that both of these seasons affect how people interact with one another and with the church. But there are other forces out there that shape our interactions as well: sports, music, drama, life events like births and weddings, divorce and death, illness and graduations! As we increasingly live in a world where our relationships are far-flung, we travel more. And as we travel, we are often away from the local church.

Much of the reading that I am doing in church leadership these days talk about how these forces—and changing attitudes toward institutions in general—are affecting our local churches. I am reminded over and over again that we are invited to engage with one another on a deep level as we live and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. In changing times (and when aren't the times changing!) we are invited to find new ways to meet with one another, to support and encourage each other in the challenges we face living as Christians.

This past Sunday, we worshiped outside by Lake Helen. We worshiped together...we ate together...we played together. There was a different energy in our singing and our praying as we connected in new ways. We continue to explore other ways of gathering in small groups to nurture one another and to grow our faith. As the changing seasons encourage us to explore new endeavors, I invite you to look for new ways that you can help grow disciples for Jesus Christ. What can you offer to others to share the amazing gift of God's love in your life?



Blessed to be a blessing to the world—that's us! Pastor Jamie

Harvest Festival Dinner

at the Methodist Church

Saturday, September 15, 2018

Immediately Following Parade

1401 Lake Avenue

JOIN US FOR SLOPPY JOES, CHIPS & PIE

Helpers Needed

It's Harvest Festival time again and we need pie makers, servers, and cleaners uppers. The dinner will be immediately following the Parade on Saturday September 15th. There are sign up sheets on the desk in the Narthex so please check them out and see where you can help. This is the church's biggest fundraiser of the year and we can't have successful fundraiser without "U".

Thank you!!

Rise Against Hunger would like to thank everyone for the generous donations to help buy walking taco supplies for Living Out Loud. We surpassed last years proceeds, collecting \$2300, and are on our way to buy supplies for the meals we send overseas. We had a long line but were complimented on how quickly it moved. We sold water, cotton candy and walking tacos. Thank you and bless you from the bottom of our hearts.

Also, the Living Out Loud Board would like to thank the United Methodist Church for the \$1000 donation they so graciously gave for the event. We appreciate everything you do for this community and for helping us grow this opportunity to touch peoples lives.

Music Minute

"You don't get harmony when everyone sings the same note."

~ Unknown

Thanks to those who have provided special music for us Barry McDiarmid, Axel Jorgenson, and Emma & Madeline Jorgenson. I know we have a lot of talent in our church and I would like to hear from more of our young people. Thanks to the band, we are adding some new songs to our repertoire so hope you enjoy them. Thanks to Grant for being our drummer for 6+ years and we wish him well at college.

We have started choir for the year, and there has been concern that if we don't get some more people to sing with us, we might not have a choir, so I am urging you to consider joining our group.





Figures and Finances



Mission Shares	Percent of Budget	100%
	Paid to date	\$13,341
YTD General Expenses	(through Aug 31)	\$123,098
YTD Budgeted Expenses	(through Aug 31)	\$125,120
% of Budget		96.3%
YTD General Giving	(through Aug 31)	\$105,613
YTD Budgeted Giving	(through Aug 31)	\$125,120
% of Budget		84.4%



2018 GIVING AND ATTENDANCE REPORT							
	29-Jul	5-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug	TOTAL	
Summer Worship Attendance	58	82	82	61	69	352	
BUDGET							
Undesignated	\$ 2,448.00	\$ 5,810.00	\$ 1,932.75	\$ 1,076.00	\$ 623.62	\$ 11,890.37	
Local Only		\$ 150.00		\$ 700.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 1,070.00	
Apportion	\$ 200.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ 300.00	
GENERAL TOTALS	\$ 2,648.00	\$ 5,960.00	\$ 1,982.75	\$ 1,826.00	\$ 843.62	\$ 13,260.37	
Budget + or -	\$ (977.00)	\$ 2,265.00	\$ (1,712.25)	\$ (1,869.00)	\$ (2,851.38)	\$ (5,144.63)	
NEEDED PER WEEK IN 2018 TO MEET OUR BUDGET - \$3695							
IN & OUT							
Camp Comeca	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00	
Camp Fund	\$ 100.00					\$ 100.00	
Endowment Fund		\$ 66.08				\$ 66.08	
Epworth Village		\$ 100.00				\$ 100.00	
Livin'Out Loud		\$ 200.00	\$ 785.00			\$ 985.00	
Rise Against Hunger	\$ 165.00	\$ 16.00		\$ 32.00		\$ 213.00	
School Supplies	\$ 50.00			\$ 25.00		\$ 75.00	
Sunday School		\$ 50.00				\$ 50.00	
Thanksgiving Dinner		\$ 40.00		\$ 25.00	\$ 1,770.00	\$ 1,835.00	
Youth Projects				\$ 65.00		\$ 65.00	
IN & OUT TOTALS	\$ 325.00	\$ 482.08	\$ 795.00	\$ 157.00	\$ 1,780.00	\$ 3,539.08	
MEMORIALS							
Memorials					\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	
MEMORIAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	
BUILDING & MAINTENANCE							
Stove Fund						\$ -	
BLDG/MAIN. TOTALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL GIVING	\$ 2,973.00	\$ 6,442.08	\$ 2,777.75	\$ 1,983.00	\$ 2,643.62	\$ 16,819.45	



Mark your Calendars!

**Don't
FORGET!**



Retired Persons Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch Retirement Group will be gathering on Wednesday, September 5th to celebrate the arrival of fall. Autumn leaves will start to fall in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am. 55 years or older or retired are welcome to bring their favorite dish to share, good food, fellowship and FUN. We look forward to seeing you at lunch!!

Small Group Bible Study

This group will be starting up again this month with a new study!! We will again be meeting on the first and third Sunday's at 4:00 pm in the Church Library. Please join us!!

Cornerstone Sunday School Class

We invite you to come join us. We will be studying the book of Romans beginning in September during the Sunday School hour. We will look at the Roman Road to Salvation. Bring your coffee, hot tea, or Coke Zero. Wake up to the word of God!

"The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." ~**Hebrews 4:12**

Women's Fellowship

It's time to start up again!! We will meet on Thursday Sept. 20th at 2:00 pm in the Church Library. We will be having a special guest speaker, Julie Czochara (YMCA Director), and she will share her story. All women high school age and older are invited to come!

PRAYING TOGETHER:

Bishop Saenz has invited us to join United Methodists worldwide in praying for our Church and particularly for our specially-called General Conference. The model our Bishop has suggested is that we set an alarm for 2:23 p.m. every day and pray the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm. The time is as a reminder that the special session is set to begin on February 23rd (2/23/19). The special session of General Conference will be voting on the proposal for organizing our Church. I invite you to join in this daily time of prayer, and to take part in educational forums to learn more about our work together. If you stop by at 2:23 p.m. I will be praying!

~Pastor Jamie



Operation Christmas Child 2018

The dates for this year are Monday November 12 -Monday November 19th.

Christmas gifts packed in shoeboxes for children, Happy gifts full of good stuff send far and wide.

It goes with prayers and send the Love of Jesus.

Delivery to 11 million children in more than 100 countries is possible in 2018!!