



MILACA UNITED METHODIST



February 2015 Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Our church neighbors enjoying food & fellowship around the table before sharing in worship & song. Thanks to Jere, Dayna & Pastor Joyce for the worship & music content and The Outreach group & other volunteers for the delicious food every month.



**Reverend
Joyce Slostad**



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- Sunday Morning Service
9:30 am
- Coffee & Fellowship
Following Service
- Bible Studies
- Youth Group
- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School



February From the Pastor:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34-35

We celebrate Valentines Day this month, a day when we're told that to show our love for our significant others means flowers and a mushy, romantic card. When Christian love and compassion for others takes root in us, it is expressed not on one day, but throughout the year and in actions, not just in words or feelings. You cannot gradually and cautiously feel your way toward Christian love. Love is action. Grace is God's unconditional love for us. Christian love trusts God and goes for it without hesitating or pondering "what's in it for me?"

Jesus' new commandment to his disciples was simply this: Show your love. Love one another. By your loving actions, people will know more about you than by anything else you could do. Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus didn't love us by simply feeling loving toward us. Jesus lived a life that embodied love. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He comforted the confused. He taught the ignorant. He hugged the little children. Jesus' love was so great that he went to the cross, suffered torture and death as his greatest demonstration of action--packed love. The love Jesus wants his disciples to enter into -- not just to "feel" but to do -- is action-packed. And love in action is sometimes embodied by the simplest of compassionate responses.

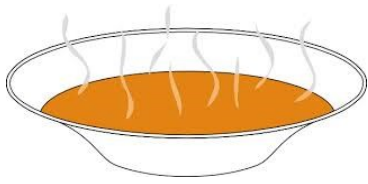
Jesus urged his disciples to have love for one another so that "everyone will know that you are my disciples." The ability to love everyone -- even the most unlovable of sorts, has always been the test of the discipleship of love. After the crowds had stoned him, mocked him, spit upon him, screamed "crucify him," Jesus could still cry out in love, "Forgive them, they know not what they do." How can we seek to imitate this love in our own lives? Certainly it comes through our words, but our actions speak so much louder. An action-packed faith is the power of love in action, it is the power of Christ within each one of us shining forth through the actions of our lives.

Blessings and see you in church!

Pastor Joyce <><

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Feb 1st – "Who Is My Neighbor?", Communion, Souperbowl meal follows worship
- Feb 8th – "Welcoming the guest", Gideon representative
- Feb 15th – UMW Sunday,
- Feb 18th – Ash Wednesday, 5:30 stew supper, 7:00 worship, communion & ashes
- Feb 22nd – "The Mission of the Church", SS kids sing, Charge Conference



Souper Bowl Lunch

February 1st following worship

Come join with your church family for a delicious meal and do something good for the community at the same time! All are asked to bring cans of soup to donate to the food pantry and enjoy a piping hot bowl of homemade soup and a tasty dessert. There will be a basket for financial donations for the meal.

Family Matinee Movie - Saturday February 14th 2-4 pm



The Outreach Committee will host an afternoon of family fun which is open to the entire community of Milaca. They will serve snacks in the fellowship hall and show a family friendly movie shown in the sanctuary using our projector system. Tell your friends and

neighbors so they will know about this outreach event. Better yet, invite them to attend with you!

Ash Wednesday Stew Supper – Feb 18 @ 5:30 - Tickets \$5

Tickets for the Hamburger Stew meal sponsored by our youth and their families will be available at the table in the gathering space. The proceeds of this meal go to the Milaca UMC Youth Group. Join us for dinner @ 5:30, stay for worship @ 7. Call and reserve your tickets today to help us know how many to cook for!



Church Conference – Sunday Feb 22nd following worship

The purpose of the Church Conference and forms are a time to name and claim those ways the Spirit has broken through and unleashed new life into our church, our community and into our own spirits. We will share our story of how Milaca UMC is living out the Wesleyan Heritage of personal and social holiness as well as being a vital witness to the world. All are invited to attend this gathering in fellowship hall at 11 am.



Youth Group Schedule for February

Feb 4th – 5:30 supper, 6:00 Class

Feb 11th – 5:30 supper 6:00 upcoming missions

Feb 18th - 5:30 all-church supper, 7:00 worship

Feb 25th – 5:30 supper 6:00 fun activities for all

United Methodist Camping Brochures

They are on the table in the gathering space. Find out about the many opportunities of camping for various interests for all ages and even families! Employment for those 18+ is also available through our camping program visit the web site www.campminnesota.org and click on summer employment if you're interested.



Community Lenten Lunches



Throughout the **Wednesdays** of Lent you are invited to gather with others from neighboring churches **at 11:30** for a simple soup lunch, fellowship and a brief service. This year's Community Lenten Lunches theme will be "**The Parable of Lent**" In this series we will learn that within each parable's plot is woven a unique message about what we receive through the crucified Christ.

Feb. 25	Trinity Lutheran	The Sower and the Seed
Mar. 4	St. Mary's Catholic	The Hidden Treasure
Mar. 11	Zion Lutheran	The Good Samaritan
Mar. 18	Milaca United Methodist	The Workers in the Vineyard
Mar. 25	St. Louis Catholic	The Prodigal Son

It's Coming!!!



The first official meeting of the 2015 VBS program - Hometown Nazareth (Where Jesus was a Kid) will be on Saturday, February 28th at 9:00 a.m. This meeting is very important because we will be viewing a DVD previewing this new VBS program, which is different from all of the previous programs. If you are interested in assisting with VBS this coming year (June 8th-12th) PLEASE attend this meeting.



It's hard to believe that one month of the New Year is almost over. The weather has been pretty good but wonder how long it will last before we get more snow.

January started out by serving lunch for the family and friends of Lorraine Johnson following her memorial service January 6th. Our sympathy and prayers go out to her family. We will miss her at circle.

We served the Christian Women on Tuesday, January 13th. There were 58 ladies here and the enjoyed a hash brown and cheese bake, peaches and cinnamon bread.

Monday, January 19th we had our yearly Prayer and Self Denial meeting at 9:30. We started by having brunch followed by our program and then our meeting. Mary Martha Circle served the brunch and Grace Sarah will serve the March UMW meeting.

Secretary and Treasurer's report were read and approved. Betty A. gave a report on the cards she has sent and also that her and Sue Olson had delivered the poinsettias to the elderly and in the Elim Home. Peggy and Caroline delivered the poinsettias to the bar businesses with Christmas Eve service on the card with them.

Jeanette reported that the fellow from St Cloud Fire Equipment Co met with her, Joyce S and myself to check the exhaust fan over the oven and stove to see about having it cleaned. It hasn't been cleaned since it was installed so he is going to make an estimate for the cost. He will be sending it to Pastor Joyce's email. It will cost between \$350 to \$500 to do and it has to be at least 20 degrees above zero before they can do it. The UMW will be paying for it from last years Salad Luncheon proceeds.

Jeanette called Bryan at Jenson Anderson to come over to check on putting a booster heater on the dishwasher. He is going to give us a cost soon. We have run out of really hot water the last several times we have used it.

The stove oven has been repaired and it is working fine now thanks to Dale Gilbert for all of his searching for the part. Thanks!!

We will be serving the Circle of Hope at Zion Lutheran Church on Thursday, February 5th. It is the month we signed up for to serve them a meal at 6:00pm. We usually plan on serving about 50 children and adults.

Sunday, February 15th is UMW Sunday so we planned the day as to who was going to do the service. We will also have the coffee for fellowship after. Marilyn Anderson will be doing the special music. We will be doing a little different service with more hymns so if you have a favorite hymn you would like to sing, tell Joyce Stobb by Sunday, February 8th.

The dates for the year were set up and they will be put on the church calendar which hangs on the office door. All UMW dates and District and Annual meeting dates are all on it.

The Lenten Soup Luncheon will be at our church Wednesday, March 18th @ 11:30am.

Have a blessed month and Happy Valentines Day.

- Feb. 1st Souper Bowl Sunday
- 2nd Grace Sarah
- 5th Circle of Hope 6:00pm Zion Church
- 10th Christian Women 9:30am
- 15th UMW Sunday
- 19th Mary Martha Circle & Dining Site
- March 18th Lenten Soup Luncheon 11:30am

Audrey Bowe, UMW President

You're Never Alone

By Emma Wilson - November 2014

Don't ever think less of yourself, don't try to be cool

Don't try to do what everyone else is doing

Be Unique, be yourself, Don't be afraid to ask for help

And don't care what other people think.

When you need someone, someone's always there to pull you out

Of that deep hole you've fallen in to, of that deep hole you've fallen in to

Never feel alone, cause there's always someone there, to pull you out,

To pull you out, to pull you out.

You don't have to look forward, and you don't have to look back

Just look in your heart and you'll find me.

Be amazing, be different, and I will be your friend

It doesn't matter what other people think.



High Rise Meal for Thursday, Feb 19th Price \$4.00

Roast turkey, potatoes & gravy, country trio vegetables,

wheat bead and carrot cake.

Volunteer Opportunities at Hometown Nazareth VBS

Welcome to Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid!

In just a few short months, our church will be filled with the aromas, sights, and sounds of kids participating in fun discovery activities at a special Holy Land Adventure—in Nazareth! Kids will worship God with songs and prayer, create unique craft projects, and discover God’s powerful love in exciting and memorable ways. They will experience what it was like to live in a town where many people didn’t believe that Jesus was really God’s Son!

To have the best adventure possible, we need lots of volunteers who can share time, energy, and love with the kids who attend. Below are some great ways you can help make this program a success. Will you please check out the following list...then pray about where God might use you? Together, we can step back in time—and bring Jesus’ hometown Nazareth to life at Milaca UMC.

Celebration Leader: Help kids and adults transition from “modern day” to “Bible times” as you lead everyone in songs at Hometown Nazareth. You’ll have a blast learning—and teaching—the music and motions of these Holy Land Adventure songs!

Fun & Games Leader: Lead fun activities as you help kids and adults discover games that kids like Jesus might have played in ancient Nazareth.

Shopkeepers: In the Marketplace Shops, you’ll guide Tribes in making unique, hands-on craft projects. Take care of animals in the Barnyard. Or be a food shop proprietor and send the smells of figs, dates, and warm flatbread wafting throughout the Marketplace! In your role as a merchant, you’ll listen to kids and adults talk about Jesus, God’s Son.

Tribe Leaders: An easy-to-follow leader manual and Hometown Huddle Teaching Kit help you lead a Tribe of approximately 10 people. You’ll share in meaningful traditions and rituals—and build relationships! Together you and your Tribe will experience...

- Celebration worship
- Hometown Huddle (small group time)
- Marketplace shops (crafts, food, and a special mission project)
- visits with Mary
- Fun & Games
- outreach
- storytelling
- ...and lots of celebrating!

Other Positions: Still don’t see something that interests you? We’re also looking for a...

- Registration Team,
- Decorating Team,
- Photographer,
- Publicity Coordinator

Our first meeting will be held Saturday, February 28th at 9:00 am. In the Sanctuary. This meeting is important because we will be watching a video about the program.

Whatever your gifts, interest, and time commitment...we have a place for you!

We believe that God will use this incredible program to reach many children with the message of his love. So please prayerfully consider your role in bringing Nazareth to life!

Feel free to contact me by e-mail, phone, or in person if you have any questions.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Myla Tolmie

651-955-3877

Jeff Foxworthy on Minnesota

If you consider it a sport to gather your food by drilling through 28 inches of ice and sitting there all day hoping that the food will swim by,

You might live in Minnesota

If you're proud that your state makes the national news 96 nights each year because International Falls is the coldest spot in the nation,

You might live in Minnesota

If you have ever refused to buy something because it's "too spendy",

You might live in Minnesota

If your local Dairy Queen is closed from November through March,

You might live in Minnesota

If someone in a store offers you assistance, and they don't work there,

You might live in Minnesota

If your dad's suntan stops at a line curving around the middle of his forehead,

You might live in Minnesota

If you have worn shorts and a parka at the same time,

You might live in Minnesota

If your town has an equal number of bars and churches,

You might live in Minnesota

If you know how to say...Wayzata. ..Mahtomedi. .Cloquet. Edina ..and Shakopee,

You might live in Minnesota

If you think that ketchup is a little too spicy,

You might live in Minnesota

Men's Group Saturday, February 7th at 9:00am

Men's Annual Fish Fry will be Saturday, April 25th

Please save your fish for our upcoming fish fry!!



February Calendar Items:

February 1st – Souper Bowl Sunday

February 1st – Jail Ministry 1:00pm
February 1st – Dog Bowl 3:30-5:00pm in Fireside Room
February 2nd – Grace Sarah Circle meeting 1:00pm
February 3rd – Elim Home Worship w/ Pastor Joyce 6:15
February 3rd – A Disciples Path 7:00pm
February 4th – Scripture Study @ MUMC 10:30am
February 4th – Youth Meal 5:30pm & Group Activity 6:00pm
February 4th – Disciple II Bible Study 7:00pm
February 5th – Ministerial meeting 8:30am
February 5th – Disciples Path 10:30am
February 5th – Missional Journey Coaching 3:30pm
February 5th – Circle of Hope 6:00pm
February 7th – Men's Group 9:00am
February 8th – Pastor Leading Onamia UMC's Charge Conf
February 8th – Java & Jesus 6:00pm
February 8th – Dog Bowl 3:30-5:00pm in Fireside Room
February 10th – Christian Women
February 10th – A Disciples Path 6:00pm
February 11th – Scriptures Study MUMC 10:30am
February 11th – Youth Meal 5:30pm & Group Activity 6:00pm
February 11th – Disciple II Bible Study 7:00pm
February 12th – A Disciples Path 10:30am

February 12th – Delivery of Heggies pizza from Choir 3:00pm
February 12th – Church Council 6:30pm
February 14th – Family Movie Day 2:00-4:00pm
February 15th – UMW Sunday
February 15th – Dog Bowl 3:30-5:00pm Fireside Room
February 17th – A Disciples Path 6:00pm
February 18th – Scripture Study @ MUMC 10:30am
February 18th – All Church Stew Supper 5:30pm
February 18th – Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:00pm
February 18th – No Disciple II Bible Study
February 19th – A Disciples Path 10:30am
February 19th – High Rise Meal
February 19th – Mary Martha Circle
February 22nd – Sunday School Sings
February 22nd – Dog Bowl 3:30-5:00pm Fireside Room
February 22nd – March Newsletter Items Due
February 24th – A Disciples Path 6:00pm
February 25th – Scripture Study @ MUMC 10:30am
February 25th – Lenten Lunch Trinity Church 11:30am
February 25th – Youth Meal 5:30pm Group Activity 6:00pm
February 25th – Disciple II Bible Study 7:00pm
February 26th – A Disciples Path 10:30am
February 28th—VBS 9:00am



17– AJ Coughlin
20– Joyce Stobb
26 – Vern Quam
26– Deb Cochran

Birthdays:

1- Bill Nelsen
1- Donna Johnson
8- Randy Walbridge
10- Judy Stewart
13- Pearl Jacobson

Don't forget to pick up your delicious Heggies pizzas Thursday, February 12th at 3:00pm!



Anniversaries:

6—Jere & Linda Day
11—Bill & Penny Nelsen
13—Don & Carolyn Fox
19—Brad & Christi Barnes
28—Phil & Joyce Anderson