

Inside this issue:

From the
Pastor's Desk

1

Prayer
Requests /
Announcements

2 - 3

Ordinary Time,
Extraordinary
Possibilities

4 - 5

Emma Norton
News

5

Will a Man Rob
God?

6 - 7

Special Points of Interest:

- August Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- August Birthdays and Anniversaries included with Calendar

Administrative
Assistant

Office Hours:

Administrative
Assistant Hours are
currently varied and
subject to change.
Please call ahead if
you need to visit the
office.



Faith Messenger

AUGUST

Faith United Methodist Church
"Engage, Equip, and Empower!"

**Volume 2021.
Issue 7**

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Ones,

As you know, because I talk about my kids a lot, our son Jesse and his family live in the country in South Dakota. They have a small doorless shed (the wind blows strong on the prairie) and a pair of barn swallows have a nest of three hatchlings right inside the door. Now, if you have never had the pleasure of life with barn swallows, it is like having miniature airplanes dive bombing your head whenever you are in what they perceive as their territory. This can be quite disconcerting. You don't always see them until they are right above your ear and they veer off before coming into contact. They may also fly directly into your face before veering off. This has become an issue for Jesse and the family – except for Jinx the cat. The barn swallows dive bomb him too, but he completely ignores them. The humans can expect an attack every time they venture outside. According to Jesse, the fact that they eat a lot of insects is their only redeeming quality.

I, on the other hand, find them fascinating. They are totally committed to protecting their young and they don't stop at attacking cats and humans. We have watched them fly at other birds, even a large hawk in their quest to keep their offspring safe. I love to watch them fly, I think they are beautiful.

When the hatchlings that are currently nesting in the doorless shed are off on their own, I have no doubt that the doorless shed will receive a door. Jesse and Mia have been reading about how to entice barn swallows to nest in desirable areas, so they can still benefit from the barn swallow diet of insects, but won't have to wear a hard hat when they go outside.

The barn swallows protecting their young remind me of the protection we receive from our Lord. I feel like God is always trying to protect me from bad things that might hurt me, but I don't always appreciate that protection – they are many places in scripture that remind us of God's protection, here are two:

Psalm 5:11

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. ...

Like the barn swallows in Jesse's yard, who are very protective of their young, our Lord is very protective of us. God wants to save us from bad and hurtful times, but we don't always respond. I pray that we will all recognize the saving grace of God and feel God's protection each and every day

Blessings, Pastor Carolyn

Prayer Requests

Remember our church members & friends who are less mobile and are unable to join us as often as they would like, including:

Colony Court: Joe Tollefson, Janice Kaupa

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Foxdale: Elaine Westrum

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Leona Quast

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Marlys & Ken Garness, Stacy True and her family, Leona Quast, government officials, health care workers, first responders, and those who are most at risk and vulnerable to Covid-19, those who battle chronic illness and pain.



Administrative Update

Stacy True, Administrative Assistant, will be having surgery on July 30. She will likely be out of the office for the month of August and plans to return after Labor Day. Samantha True will be helping out in the office until mid August when she leaves for school.

Thank you for your prayers, patience and understanding!



Choir Returns!

Attention: Choir Members



Let's get together and sing August 22. We will meet at 9:00 am to rehearse "We're Gonna Have Church". See you then! — Barb

Our regular practices will begin after Labor Day, Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00 pm. We will sing weekly beginning Sunday, September 12.

Rock Painting Party

Seventeen people were at the Rock painting party that was held Monday, July 12th. There were five young people painting but do think the basketball hoop was drawing them outside for part of the afternoon. People always appeared to enjoy themselves and the fellowship during the meal was great.

Over one hundred rocks were painted and some people took finished rocks home to hide. It will be interesting to see if anyone who finds them puts their 'find' on the Facebook page (Waseca MN Faith Rocks).

The next rock party will be **Monday, August 9th** from **4:00 - 7:00**. A light meal will be served at 5:30. Hope to see you there.

Hospitality Meeting

A Hospitality meeting will be scheduled in August. Please watch the bulletins for the date.. Please think about coming and see what we do. We would like your input on ways for Faith to continue to be a welcoming church.

Ruth Circle

Ruth circle met Tuesday, July 13th. The program and devotion was on 'Spoons'. The red, white and blue refreshments were tasty and beautifully displayed.

Ruth circle will not be meeting in August. The women will be hosting the United Methodist Women (UMW) unit meeting which will be held on August 16th.

Coming Soon: M&M Night (Meal and Movie Night)

The movie for M&M night will be shown on September 12th. The meal will be served at 5:30 with the movie following.

The movie will be 'The Quiet Man' starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara.

Ordinary Time, Extraordinary Possibilities

BY MARY ANN STEUTERMANN JULY 20, 2020

If I was to ask anyone at my school what season of the year it is, I'd hear the same loud, joyful response: "It's summer!" Students, faculty, and staff alike long for a break from the intensity of the school year's demands, the opportunity to spend more time with friends and family, and the warm sunshine throughout the long days and firefly decorated evenings. But as Catholics, we know that it's more than just summertime. It's also the season of "Ordinary Time" in the liturgical year.

Ordinary Time for the Church is actually one season that has two parts. The first part runs from the day after we celebrate Jesus' Baptism to the day before Ash Wednesday. The second part, the time period we are celebrating now, runs from the day after Pentecost until the day before the first Sunday of Advent. And despite all the wonderful things about the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, I have to say that Ordinary Time is my favorite of all.

One thing I love about it is how sneaky and clever it is. The term itself can be misleading. Usually, we think something is *ordinary* if it's dull, mundane, not terribly special. Unfortunately, we often apply this faulty logic to the Church calendar by reasoning that since this season doesn't commemorate the big-time events like Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, then it must be "ordinary" in the sense that it's a time when we just need to patiently wait for the good stuff.

Boy, did we get that wrong! The term *ordinary*, in the Church sense, refers to following a numbered sequence, not a time that's uninteresting or non-descript. The Latin word *ordinalis* means items in a series. *Ordinal numbers* are the numerals we use to organize things in a sequence: first, second, third. So, Ordinary Time in the Church year doesn't mean the ho-hum weeks in between the exciting events of our faith. Instead, it's the time when we celebrate the *ordered passage of time*. It's when we can deepen our faith in the midst of everyday life. At moments when we experience chaos and confusion, life at its essence is somehow still rooted in meaning and order and wisdom, even if we don't completely get it. Put another way, it's when we remember that the Incarnation wasn't just something that happened between God the Father and Jesus of Nazareth more than 2,000 years ago; it's the continual invitation to share in God's love and creativity day after day, week after week, season after season.

One way that this "ordered passage of time" has deepened my own faith is through the Gospel readings each Sunday. During Ordinary Time, they focus on the heart and soul of Jesus' message. We hear him describe the Kingdom of God in concrete terms that people of his time would understand — a mustard seed, some yeast — which invites me to examine my own images of God. We see him heal countless people from all walks of life, which calls me to examine those relationships in my own life that need healing. We watch him perform incredible miracles, which encourages me to find the parts of myself in need of transformation. In this way, Jesus' day-to-day life during his ministry affects my own everyday experiences.

And I have to admit that my favorite Masses are those during Ordinary Time when the focus is simply on the Word and the Eucharist — no extra pomp and circumstance. For me, truth is often clearest in its simplest forms.

(Continued on next page)

Ordinary Time, Extraordinary Possibilities

(Continued from previous page)

It's no accident that the longest period of Ordinary Time occurs during the summer months, which are a time of energy, renewal, and growth. The green liturgical vestments worn by priests during this time echo the vibrant green bursting forth in all of nature. Without a doubt, Ordinary Time is really quite extraordinary.

Originally published June 6, 2018

Emma Norton News

The new playground has been built at Emma's Place (a residence in Maplewood for one parent with three or more children) this summer where there was an extremely minimal playground before. Thanks to the hard work of staff and a dedicated group of volunteers who refused to be discouraged by multiple reschedules and a scorching forecast! We wanted to give an enormous thank you to the two volunteer groups, Hamline Church and Haunted Basement, along with several other community volunteers and staff, for helping us complete this project!

Emma Norton Residence is a busy place these days, with vaccinated staff returning to work in person, and lots of new residents moving in. With so many new intakes, we're in urgent need of Move-In Tote and Welcome Baskets! There are lots of ways you can help with this.

One way is to fund a Welcome Basket by donating \$100 or you can donate an item from the list below.

To donate a welcome basket from your church, individuals could purchase one of each item from the list below:

Laundry Basket

Twin printed microfiber sheet set
Pillow (extra firm 100% polyester)
Fleece Blanket – 90 x 60
Two light weight hand towels
Cotton Bath towel – 2
Tooth brush – 2
Toothpaste with flouride
Shampoo/conditioner
Bar of Soap
Deodorant
Coffee mugs – 2
Journal to write in

Will we be able to donate a welcome basket? If not, any donation you will be able to give (we need \$100 for one Welcome Basket) will be so appreciated.

Please contact Shirley Hansen (Southern Prairie UMW District Representative) at 507 645-5844 if you are able to help in any way! Thank you!

Will a Man Rob God?

Following is another essay written by Leona Rosenberg, Roberta Walker's mother.

As stated before these essays were written in the 1950's and the wording reflects common usage for that period. I hope you enjoyed reading the essays. I enjoyed sharing them with you and it brought back many memories of my mother.

Will a Man Rob God?

"Will a man rob God?" is the question that is asked of us. At first thought, one is horrified at the very suggestion. We look at one another and say, "Rob our Lord, but that would be a sin because our commandment says 'Thou shalt not steal' and none of us would knowingly break the commandments."

Still, when we sit down and really give some time and deep serious thinking to this question, we will be amazed to what conclusions we will come.

This modern swift moving world of today is claiming so much of our time, talents and possessions that it isn't very difficult for men to forget their obligations to God in order to meet the claims of the world. When we do this it is then that it can be said of us, "Yes, we are robbing God."

We find in the Bible that God created the heavens and the earth and all that it contains; that he sustains all things and that, through Jesus Christ, he purchased and redeemed all men. From this we can readily see that everything on this earth, including our time, talents and possession, belong to God. We owe everything to God. We have nothing that we can really call our own with which we can barter or trade to the Lord for all these blessing that he has bestowed on us. God gives these blessings to us as a trust and as his stewards we are to use them for him for the benefit of all mankind. If we were to keep an account of these blessings and what we have done with them, how many times would our account book show that we have misappropriated God's blessings?

We are a greedy people seeking to fill our own lives with worldly pleasures and more wealth. We are never satisfied and the reason we give is that we have to look out for ourselves if we ever want to get ahead or amount to anything.

Consequently we forget about the things that are due our Lord and concentrate on our own selves. Greediness makes men hoard the world's possessions for themselves without any regard for our neighbors. Whenever we take God's blessings for ourselves alone, we are forgetting that these blessings are God's and unless we use them as he would have us do, we will be robbing him.

Do we use our money to satisfy our own personal desires or do we invest it in God's kingdom? When we sit down to a sumptuous meal, are we like the rich man in the Bible who ignored Lazarus? Do we forget and ignore our needy brethren in war torn countries who have little or nothing to eat? What do we do about the poor and needy right in our own communities? Forgetting and ignoring them is robbing them of the very things that God created for all of us. And when we are robbing our poor and needy brothers we are robbing God because He says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

(Continued on Next Page)

Will a Man Rob God?

(Continued from previous page)

Do we remember the war orphans in rags, the widows and aged, when we spent so much for our own new clothes? Do we remember all the homes that were destroyed in the bombed areas of foreign countries, the homes in our own slum districts with their leaky roofs, inadequate sewage and heating facilities? Do we remember these when we plan the redecorating of our own already modern, comfortable home?

When we spend enormous amounts for the production of war machinery, do we think of the ways in which this money could aid in helping our neighbor and the kingdom of God instead of destroying them and his property?

Let us think it over. Does our account show that we have remembered our needy brother, the ragged orphans, the sick and aged, the widows and others who are in need? If we have, then we are giving to God that which is God's.

God says, "Lay up for yourselves treasure in Heaven." And which is the better, for us to invest our possessions in a place where they will eventually vanish and decay, or to invest them in God's Kingdom where they will be everlasting?

How many times when we are asked to help teach Sunday School, to take part in church work, to help with public welfare and charitable work or to help with some other phase of church work do we say "I would be glad to help, but I just don't have time. My time is all taken up." With what is it taken up? Is it unimportant social activities and personal pleasures that are causing you and me to rob God of his time? We must remember that it is not our time. It is God's and much of the time we spend so readily on unimportant things could be used for God's Kingdom. We can spend hours at the movies or listening to the radio and yet why is it that we can find only minutes to give to prayer and thanksgiving? Yes, man will even spend his time working on Sundays if it means personal gain. Would our account show that we have given the time that was due our Lord or do we fall short?

Instead of continually taking blessings, let us give more generously of our time, talents and possessions than ever before, even if it means giving up something for ourselves. Let us be determined that from now on we will give more of our time, talents and possessions to carry on God's work.

Not to do this is to rob God.



Faith United Methodist Church

"Engage, Equip, and Empower"

**801 Fourth Ave. NE
Waseca, MN 56093**

Phone: 507-835-3167

Fax: 507-835-5400

E-mail: faithwaseca@gmail.com

www.faithwasecaumc.com

Non-profit Org
Postage Paid
Permit 30
Waseca, MN
56093

Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle will not meet in August.

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will not meet in August.

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible & Friends will **not** meet on Monday, August 16.