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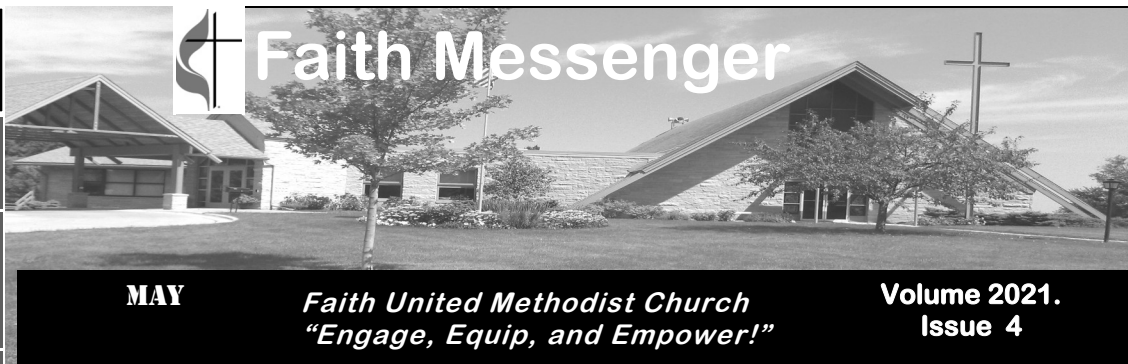
Special Points of Interest:

- May Monthly Meetings, Back Page
- May 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.



From the Pastor's Desk

Our son Zach is a dog lover. His love for dogs started early in life and when he was in third grade, we let him pick out a puppy from a litter at our local shelter.

It took Zach about a week to name his puppy. He just couldn't decide between Frisky Doering or Terminator Doering. His younger brother Jesse was in favor of Terminator Doering and Zach was leaning that way too. Kirk and I were leaning toward Frisky Doering and after much persuasion, Frisky Doering it was. I asked Zach if Frisky really needed a last name and Zach replied "Of course he does Mom! People need to know Frisky is part of our family." Frisky had a habit of climbing the fence and exploring the neighborhood. Everyone within a five block radius knew Frisky Doering by name and knew where he lived, who he belonged to, because after all, his name proclaimed that he was a part of the Doering family.

We are all a part of a family. Our last name proclaim the family we belong to. Families are important. They identify us -They say something about who we are and who we belong to.

In Romans 8:15-16 (CEB) Paul tells the church,
¹⁵ You didn't receive a spirit of slavery to lead you back again into fear, but you received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God's children.

A Part of the family of God. That is who we are in Christ. It is important that we remember who we are and who we belong to. It's important that our neighbors can identify us as being children of God. When others see the God's Kingdom through us we can help them become Children of God as well. So, when you are out and about, exploring your neighborhood, remember who you are and who you belong to. Invite others into God's family so they can experience the unconditional love of God and look forward to the greatest family reunion ever.

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

Janesville Nursing Home: Nina Youngberg

Traditions Assisted Living Owatonna: Ardella Draheim

Foxdale: Elaine Westrum

Koda Living Community: Chuck Youngberg

Lakeshore Inn: Liz Corchran, Leona Quast

Latham Place: Lucille Kubista

New Richland Care Center: Janice Kaupa

Prayer Requests from Sunday Worship: Michael Schumacher, Janice Kaupa, Marlys & Ken Garness, Karen Ferch, Barb Friedl and the family of Roy Osmundson, Stacy True and her family,, 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.



Thank You

My sincere thanks to our Faith Church family for your cards, prayers, and concern in recent weeks. As I dealt with several falls and the resulting health issues, it was a comfort and blessing to know we were being supported in prayer and love.

Sincerely,

Karen & Vern Ferch

Conversation, Bible & Friends

Conversation, Bible & Friends will meet each Monday from 3:00 to 4:30 pm in the Lakeview Room. Please wear a mask. Conversation, Bible & Friends will **not** meet on Monday, May 31 (Memorial Day).

UMW 2021

- ✦ 2. Southern Prairie District Day Apart is Tuesday, June 15 in person at Oakwood UMW in New Ulm beginning at 10:00 am.

Our Spiritual Leader will be Kim Harris, Deaconess. She will base the day on Acts 17: Anchored in Faith, Adrift in Fear, Ashore in Hope. The District Day Apart will help us deepen our connection to the work and community of UMW. Cost is \$12.00. Register by June 8 with Renee Ubl, 905 North Broadway, New Ulm, MN 56073; email rubl@comcast.net or call 507-354-2233. (Info on page 7 of Spring Outreach.)

- ✦ 3. Mission u 2021 will offer three studies this summer via Zoom.

See information and register online at www.mnconfumw.com under Mission u. Cost is \$25 per study, or \$60 for all three studies. You may take a course online by yourself or in a group, but everyone needs to be registered. Scholarships are available for registration/books.

- June 11 – 13 Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. Study Leaders: Emily Jones (UMW Executive for Racial Justice) and Dr. Lorraine Mayfield-Brown from Seminole, FL.
- July 16-18 Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom. Study Leader: Amanda Meisenheimer
- August 6- 8 Finding Peace in an Anxious World. Study Leader: Marion Hansen, North Star Dist Pres.

- ✦ 4. "Urgent Maternal Warning Signs" Posters are available for each UMW unit to distribute in their area. Let Sherry Scholljegerdes know how many posters you want, where you want them sent, or if you'll pick them up at Day Apart. Reach Sherry at sgscholl2@yahoo.com or 507-835-4304.

Because I Have Been Given Much

Following is an essay written by Leona Rosenberg, mother of Roberta (Berts) Walker. It was written in the mid 1950s. The wording reflects common usage for that period. Leona wrote three essays. The other two will be presented in upcoming newsletters. These essays were entered into a stewardship contest of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. She was given the title of the essay each time and then was to express the meaning to her of stewardship related to the title. She placed second in the nation twice.

Because I Have Been Given Much

The words, “because I have been given much,” act as a challenge to me. They make me ask myself many questions. One of these question which I must answer is “because I have been given much, what must I do or what is required of me? Finding an answer to this question may seem like a difficult task, but when I sit down and just give a little thought to this problem, I find there are many things that I can do to shoe God the gratitude which I feel inside of me, for all the blessings which he has bestowed on me.

At one time or another, I am sure most of us have felt or acted like a little old lady I once knew. She had a birthday party, and her friends, who knew she was very fond of lace doilies, gave her many of them. She was delighted and after thanking her guests she exclaimed, “Oh, I have been given so much. How can I ever thank you?” After her guests were gone, she took the doilies and put them in a box in her cedar chest. Years later, when she was getting something out of her cedar chest, she noticed the box and took it out of the chest to look at the doilies. Some of the doilies, which were once crisp and white, were not flimsy and yellow with age. The little lady had not used them and yet, they had lost their beauty. In her own way she had been very selfish. Sharing the beauty of the doilies, while using them, would have brought happiness to both her and her friends. Instead, no one, not even the little old lady, received any pleasure from the gifts.

I, too, can say, “I have been given much.” Do I have to be careful lest I keep the treasure and blessings God has given me locked up for myself?

I think, perhaps, the story of a soap maker who was an unbeliever, and a Christian man will help to illustrate one of the ways in which I might get the most out of my gifts. The two men were walking together one day and were discussing various topics. Among these topics was religion. The soap maker maintained that the gospel of Jesus Christ wasn't doing much good, considering all the war, suffering and disease which were still found so abundantly in the world. He plainly stated that he did not believe in the Christian's religion. About this time, they came to a mud puddle in which a small boy was playing. His face, hands, and clothes were covered with mud. He was a filthy sight. The two men paused and looked at the boy. The Christian said to the soapmaker, “You know, I don't think I believe in your soap any more. It doesn't seem to be doing much good in this world considering the looks of that boy.” “Oh,” replied the soap maker, “soap is all right, but you must use it if it is to do any good.” “Well, that's how it is with the gospel of Jesus,” said the Christian, “we must use it also, in order for it to do any good.”

So it is with my blessings. In order for them to do any good, I too, must use them.

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The men and women of the past generations have given me much. God gave them the knowledge, strength, and courage to see the needs of the coming years and to do something for the benefit of mankind. Do I too readily forget the debt I owe to those who have given me so much of their time, talents, and possessions, and who, through their devotion and service to mankind, have contributed so much to my comfort, pleasure and well being? The freedoms and privileges I have, the modern conveniences I enjoy and the medical science that is available to me are all a heritage for which I am indebted to God.

The people of past generations have kindled a torch for helping humanity. Because I have been given so much, do I just sit back and keep on expecting others to do things for mankind? Do I assume responsibilities so I might help provide for a better future for mankind? If I assume this responsibility, then it can be said that I am keeping my ancestors' kindled torch burning.

God has given me much. His only son was given for me. My time, my talents, and my possessions are all gifts from God.

I may say to myself, "I have been given no special talents. I am just an average person so how can I show my gratitude to God by using my talents?" If I check over my gifts, I find that God has given me talents, not great ones perhaps, but they are talents and God expects me to do the best with what I have. I once read a poem which gave me some good advice and I think it can tell me how to make use of my talents so that they can become important. The poem is as follows:

So what you can with what you have

Shine like a glow worm, if you cannot be a star

Work like a pulley, if you cannot be a crane

Be a wheel greaser, if you cannot drive the train.

My hands are not the hands of a famous surgeon, performing a difficult operation or easing the suffering of a patient, but I still can use them. When a small child comes to me with tears in her eyes and broken toy in her hand, I can take my hands, and with a comforting word, wipe away her tears and perhaps mend her broken toy. In this small way I can use my hands to ease some of this child's hurt.

My hands cannot paint beautiful pictures, but they can be used to place a bouquet of flowers on the altar of my church, and in so doing help to make a beautiful picture.

My hands are not the hands of a great writer who can compose beautiful poetry, but they can be used to write a cheerful note to a sick friend.

I don't have the ability to be a missionary or a teacher who brings the gospel of Jesus Christ to the farthest corners of the earth, but by praying and asking God to protect and help these men and women in their work and by my contributions to missions, I, too, can know the joy of sharing and serving with them.

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Each day I am given twenty-four hours of time. I must live each day to its fullness. I cannot purchase or heard time, because once a day is spent, it never returns. In order to use my time wisely, I must eliminate many of the non-essential thins that require so much of my time. When I am asked to serve God or his kingdom, may I not say, "I don't have time," God freely gave me all my time so may I just as freely give it to him? Some of my time must be used so that I might grow spiritually, and one way I might do this is to read God's gift, the Bible. This is a book that must be used, too, if it is to do any good. Leaving the Bible on a desk or in a bookcase collecting dust will do no one any good.

My possessions, too, I must use if they are to benefit mankind, I must try to remember that God gives me food and clothing as a blessing, and I in return should use my possessions to quiet the hungering cries of my starving brothers and to clothe the bodies of all who are in need.

My earthly blessing can give me no pleasure or do me no good when I leave this earth, so why should I hoard them for myself? They will give me pleasure only as long as I use them for the benefit of all mankind. I shall find that this is what is required of me because I have been given mush.



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.

Devotion

I am an animal lover, which is mostly a blessing – but on occasion has felt like a curse. I seem to have a special radar system which is tuned to find homeless animals and my husband Kirk has told me many times that we cannot save every animal I find on the roadside.

Several years ago I stopped on my lunch hour at a strip mall to shop at one of my favorite flea markets. The parking lot was full so I drove around to the side of the building to find a spot for my car. When I got out, I saw a cat, he seemed to be asleep beside the dumpster. Keep walking I told myself, don't look back-you have three cats already. Kirk will not be happy if you bring that cat home. All the while I was shopping that cat was on my mind. There were no houses close by, so where did that cat come from? Did someone abandon it by the dumpster? Was he lost? Was he lonely? Was he hungry? Finally, I gave up hope of finding a treasure and went back outside. Please be gone I pleaded as I headed around the corner of the building, but there he was. In the same spot. I approached him slowly, he looked up at me but did not move. I put my hand out and touched his head he started to purr. "What am I going to do now?" I asked the cat. I don't have anything to put you in and where am I going to take you anyway. Kirk may send us both back here to sleep beside the dumpster if I bring you home. So, telling myself that the cat was fine, I left. The rest of the day that cat was on my mind. When I got home from work, that cat was on my mind. All through dinner and helping my sons with their homework that cat was on my mind. So, finally, at about 10:00, I said to Kirk, I'm worried about that cat. He looked at me and said, "do what you have to do". I got my cat carrier and went back to the flea market and sure enough, there was that cat, laying by the dumpster lit by a security light. I gathered him up, put him in the carrier and took him home. I named him Zeus. The next day I took him to our vet who told me that Zeus was a very old cat and was nearing the end of his life. I didn't know what Zeus' life had been like before I rescued him, but he lived with us, safe, warm and content until he crossed the rainbow bridge a few months later.

I still think about Zeus now and then and I am reminded of God's great love for me and for you. I am reminded that God will find us in our loneliness, and our pain, gather us up and provide us safety, warmth and contentment.

The Apostle Paul knew this as well, He wrote to the Philippians,

¹²I know the experience of being in need and of having more than enough; I have learned the secret to being content in any and every circumstance, whether full or hungry or whether having plenty or being poor. ¹³I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength. Philippians 4:12-13

May our Lord find you this day, and no matter your circumstance, give you strength.



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Change Service Requested

Come Worship with Us
We have room.

MONTHLY MEET-UPS:

Elizabeth Circle

UMW Elizabeth Circle meeting to be determined

Ruth Circle

UMW Ruth Circle will meet **Tuesday, May 11 at 10:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own coffee and treat. Hope to see you there!