

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LE SUEUR

730 South 6th Street, Le Sueur, MN 56058

Phone: (507) 665-2314

*We are a Christ-centered community, called to serve,
where you can come as you are,
share who you are,
and experience the power of God's love.*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

To Pew or Not to Pew

February 2017

To pew or not to pew, that is the question. This is the most pivotal question that American churches are facing today, seriously, we lose members over issues like this! But the greater question is this: Why are the pews in the front empty? District Superintendent, Fred Vanderwerf, visited us recently, pointing to the declining numbers in our pews all across our denominations, even in our own church. Then, he noted the empty pews— in the front. No one wants to sit there, not even church goers of 50 years! We clamor for the back pew taking up the ‘best seats in the church’ and mark our pew as our own.

Ever wonder why Jesus never built a building for his ministry? I’m wondering if it had anything to do with pews? Pews give permission to sit, stay put and become passive participants in what was designed to be an active church body, each person contributing their energy, voice, and gifts to the worship service and mission outside the wall of the building. Yet, we come early to get the back seats where we can be invisible, quiet, and withhold our singing voice except for a concert in the cities or shower back home. **Let me ask this: Would Jesus’ disciples take the back pews or grab one in the very front?** While Jesus was teaching, they grabbed the front seats, close to their teacher. Yet, when engaging a newcomer, they would find them in the back and bring them to Jesus. While the disciples hungered for Jesus and huddled close to him, they found those in the back and brought them forward—to meet Jesus and be saved.

The back pews are for the unsure, the newcomers, and those who are checking out Jesus. It is safe in the back for beginners to find their home place. Why would we steal that from them? It is **radical hospitality** for the church to save the best seats in the house for the guests—the ones in the back third of the church. It is there where we greet our guests, strike up a conversation and ultimately bring them to Jesus through friendship. It is **radical discipleship** to be engaged in the service, move right up to the front and be part of the worship and not an observer. Sing with your whole heart, mind and soul to God. OK, so this is where some say, “Pastor, you don’t want to me to sing!” Actually, it’s not what I want, but what God wants. God wants us to be a whole disciple, from our head to our toes and everywhere in between, even our voice and our seat up front. Let me ask this: How long has it been since you found Jesus in your life? And, how many years have you been sitting in the back with one foot out the door? It’s ok, you are not alone on this one. But, if not now, when will you ready to stand with Jesus?

Be radical. Sit up front (all the way) and save the best seats for the guests; and then participate with your whole heart and voice. Remember, it’s a pew, not a cross. If moving pews is uncomfortable, just look up at the cross. Radical hospitality hung on a real cross (not a pew) saved you and me from ourselves and the sins of the world. The best seats are ready just beneath that cross-up front.

Pastor Terri



2017 NOMINATIONS AND PERSONNEL

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

* required by Book of Discipline

*Council Chair Greg Schwarz
*Finance Lori King
*Lay Leader Darrel Coffelt
*SPPRC Darrell Kolden
*Trustees Chair MaryAnne Aufderhar
*Youth Allison Schwarz
*Young Adult Betsy Breaker
Evangelism Judy Johnson
At Large Cheryl Amundson
At Large Vicky Yahnke

STEWARDSHIP, FINANCE & MEMORIALS TEAM

*Team Leader Lori King
*Council Chair Greg Schwarz
*Finance Secretary Lynda Antonsen
*Treasurers Joan Schwarz
*UMW Treasurer MaryAnne Aufderhar
*Memorials Judy Dahn
At Large Linda Grack (2017)

OTHER OFFICES

Membership Secretary Vi Yahnke
UMW President
Historian Marlene Arndt
Lay Member to Conf. Lori King
Alt. to Conference Margo Bjork
Youth Leaders Wyatt & Sue Bienfang

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS TEAM

*Team Leader: Darrell Kolden *Lay Leader: Darrel Coffelt

2017 term	Nicole Krenik Dave Evans Jerry Aufderhar	2018 term	Ken Doebbeling Don Dickinson Cathie Bateman
2019 term	Vicky Yahnke Bob Dell Millie Overaas		

TRUSTEES

Team Leader: MaryAnne Aufderhar

2017 term	MaryAnne Aufderhar Steve Schwarz Phyllis Aufderhar	2018 term	Dale Sunderman Larry Hylarides (secretary) Blake Edmonson
2019 term	Sandy Dell Wes Schlegel Dan Heldberg		

MEMORIALS & GIFTS TEAM

Team Leader: Judy Dahn

2017 term	Lynda Antonsen Chris Hlad Agnes Milam	2018 term	Donna Kiewatt Marlene Arndt Mary Michaelson
2019 term	Joan M. Schwarz Roger Probst Judy Dahn		

LEADERSHIP/NOMINATIONS TEAM

Team Leader: Pastor Terri Horn

2017 term	Jane Kolden Chris Hlad Mark Amundson	2018 term	Vi Yahnke Peggy Sullivan Clarice Ulrich
2019 term	Margo Bjork Judy Dahn Nancy Hylarides		

EDUCATION

Superintendent: Peggy Sullivan

2017 term	Jeanne Doebbeling Sue Bienfang Laurie Heldberg	2018 term	Brandi Schilman John Pioske
2019 term	Lisa Reiter Jane King Kendra Miller	VBS: Jane King and Laurie Heldberg Christmas Program: Peggy Sullivan YUM: Wyatt & Sue Bienfang	

GO & GROW TEAM (formerly Evangelism)

Team Leader: Judy Johnson

2017 term	Loren Edberg	2018 term	Luke Krenik Bob Edgell
2019 term	Jane Kolden Nyla Probst Peg Edberg		

MISSIONS

Team Leader: Janet Dickinson

Food Shelf Reps: Don Dickinson and Dale Sunderman

2017 term	Andrea Karels Cathie Bateman Sue Jacobson	2018 term	Jerry Johnson Steve Wetzel Cheryl Wilke (Treasurer)
2019 term	Don Dickinson Janet Dickinson Bob Edgell		

WORSHIP DESIGN TEAM

Team Leader: Pastor Terri

Projectionist: Wendy Pedersen (staff)
Music: Cheryl Amundson, Margo Bjork, Betsy Breaker
Design: Lana Beck
Tech: Wendy Pedersen, Loren Edberg
Coordinator of Service and Fellowship: Jane Kolden
Assistants: Sandy Dell and Judy Dahn
Member at Large:



“Tailgating” If you just want a place to hang out and visit from 9-10am on Sunday, this is for you. Tailgaters will

be at the tall tables in the back of the sanctuary in the midst of the Sunday morning happenings.

J.A.M. Wednesdays



If you have not been to JAM yet it's not too late. Join us any Wednesday night at 6pm.

5:30pm – Casual Communion
 6pm - Family supper
 6:30-7pm- Youth and Family Worship
 7-7:30pm - Bible school for 3 yrs -12th grade.
 Register on-line at lesueurumc.org
Parents—need to wait? Hang-out in the Upper Room with Wi-Fi and comfy seats!

On Sunday's we have **Kid's Church** for those that are age 3 to 10. This is part of the regular Church service so come to 10:15am worship then send the kids for their own lesson after the Children's time



Camp Minnesota!

Summer Camp Brochures are here!! Camp is not just for kids, there are camps for adults only, family camps, and even grandparent /grandchild camps. There are day camp opportunities at all our camps, 2 or 3 day overnight camps for younger campers and weeklong camps for youth and adults. There are experiences for all! See Peggy Sullivan with questions or go to: www.campminnesota.org.

Lenten Season Schedule

March 1st 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service

Ecumenical Lenten Services will be on Wednesdays beginning March 8th at 7:30pm at the United Methodist Church of Le Sueur.



Emmaus – A Journey with Christ

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day faith walk in Christianity. Meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers. For more information about the Walk contact Pastor Terri or the Community Lay Director at (cld@mnummaus.org). Men's Walk is April 20-23; Women's Walk is April 27-30.



Breakthrough workshop: “Rediscovering Evangelism”

In the New Year, stretch your congregation to reach new people.

At this Feb. 11th workshop, District Superintendent and former missionary Fred Vanderwerf will discuss the "e-word" from a missionary mindset. Using the sending of Christ in the incarnation as the model for evangelism, attendees will consider the possibility that the best evangelists are learners and not teachers, sent and not stayed, converted and not converters. Bring a team, and you'll leave with practical ways to become a faith-sharing beacon of light to the world. Learn more and register at: www.minnesotaumc.org.

Supporting our missionaries

Sixty-five churches in our conference help support 17 missionaries in 10 countries on a regular basis through covenant relationships (if your church doesn't have a covenant relationship with a missionary, learn about and consider this opportunity). Missionaries are active in agriculture, aviation, Christian education, church planting, health ministries, and more.

Every three years, missionaries travel to their supporting churches to tell the story of their ministry. Most of the time, they come through Minnesota. But missionaries need encouragement and other kinds of support all through the year. Here are some ideas of what you can do to support a missionary:

1. Introduce your missionary to the whole church. Post a photograph and bio of him or her. Make a bulletin insert.

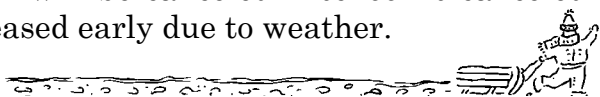
2. Distribute copies of the update letters your missionary sends out.
3. Host a prayer vigil for your missionary, based on the information you receive in their letter.
4. Write to your missionary and let them know you are praying for and thinking of them.
5. Develop a bulletin board with information about the area in which your missionary serves: history, culture, geography, food, music, symbols, climate, holidays, celebrations, and common sayings and phrases.
6. Host a potluck supper/fundraiser to raise awareness of the missionary's ministry.
7. Designate a "Missionary Sunday."
8. Support ministries that your missionary has started in his or her setting.
9. Participate locally in the type of ministry in which your missionary is involved in his or her setting (i.e. seeds to a local community garden for someone in agricultural ministry).
10. Visit your missionary! They all love company.

There are currently 360 United Methodist missionaries serving in 80 countries. They come from everywhere and go everywhere, but all have two things in common: They are serving Jesus and working on our behalf. They deserve our support.

Rev. Lyndy Zabel is director of missional impact for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Bad Weather Cancellation Procedure

In case of inclement weather, the decision to cancel worship will be decided by the pastor and council chair. Check our Facebook page, Website or listen to KCHK (1350 AM) in New Prague and KEYC channel 12 in Mankato. JAM will be canceled if school is canceled or released early due to weather.



A Note from Finance:
**2017 Giving Envelopes and 2016
 End of Year Statements** are
 available in the church office

Opportunities to Serve

Team meetings are usually held monthly unless otherwise notified. Contact the church office or a member of Nominations if you are interested in serving.

Education, Missions, Trustees, Go & Grow and Memorials & Gifts meet at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday. We meet in the Chapel for Devotions first then meetings which should last no more than 1hr.

Finance meets at 8pm on the 2nd Tuesday.

The Administrative Council meets at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday.

Worship Design meets monthly or as needed.

Staff/Pastor/Parrish Relations meets as needed.

Leadership (Nominations) meets 3-4 times/yr

This month we put the spotlight on:

Specialized ministry leaders

Lay leader: Member on SPPRC, Adm. Council, and Nominations. Serves as liaison between the local church and the pastor. Has a pulse on the local community, key issues affecting either the pastor or church, and offers recommendations to enhance the ministry of the church.

Church School Superintendent: Reports to Education team. Primary role to promote and implement church school programs under direction of the Education team.

Youth Leaders: Assist youth in deepening their faith. Works closely with pastor and other teams, especially Education, to reach and retain youth for Christ.

Membership Secretary: Keeps records of memberships, transfers, baptisms, and inactive members. Reports to the Charge Conference annually.

Historian: Maintains historical records and documents of historical value or interest. Reports to Charge Conference as needed.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE
THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS:
Monday, February 20th.

Church Office Phone #: 507-665-2314
Pastor's Phone#: 507-593-0006
Church Website: www.lesueurumc.org
Office e-mail address: lesueur.umc@q.com
Pastor's e-mail address: umcpastor@q.com
Pastor's office hours: W & Th 9am-12pm or
call the church office to make an appointment.
Secretary's office hours: M-F 8:30am-12:30pm



Find us on Facebook. You can watch
our worship services on YouTube.

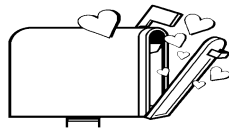
**We are converting our Newsletter to
electronic publishing.** To continue to
receive the Newsletter please send your e-
mail address to the church office. Paper
copies are available in the narthex. Church
services and other information can also be
found on our website: www.lesueurumc.org.

If you wish to schedule a meeting in our church
building please contact to office to check the
calendar. This is a courtesy to others and to our
custodian's cleaning schedule. Also please
remember to turn off the lights and lock all
doors after your activity.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations to:

Justin Wilke and Amber
Sunderman on the January 3rd
birth of a boy, Beckham. Proud Grandparents
are Rod & Cheryle Wilke.

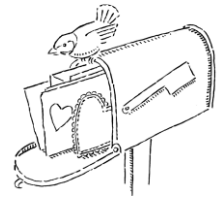


Reminder: We have telephone and e-mail
Prayer Chains for anyone wanting prayer
support. If you or a loved one is hospitalized
and wishes a visit from the pastor or would
like to be included in the prayer chain, call
Frances Schwarz (665-665-2873) or the church
office (665-2314)

Please check in the kitchen for
any pans or bowls you may have
left. Items not collected will be
donated to Treasures in Town.



Thank you



Thank you for helping orphans
and vulnerable children help
themselves with your donation
to the ZOE empowerment program.

Thank you to all who helped prepare and
serve the Salvation Army Meal in Mankato
on Jan. 21st. Our next time to serve will be,
Saturday, July 29th. Janet Dickinson

We are forever grateful for all the wonderful
ways you have been here for our family. The
flowers, the lunch and the sweet cards from
the JAM kids made this time a little less
burdensome. The family of Deb Smith



February Birthdays

- 1 - Ed Michaelson
Alliana Andresen
- 2 - Don Dickinson
- 4 - D.J. Antonsen
- 5 - Doreen Lehnert
Val Easterlund
- 6 - Loren Edberg
- 7 - JoAnn Jones
- 8 - Dan Aufderhar
- 10 - Jason Bateman
Krista Amundson
- 14 - Ralph King
- 15 - Wes Schlegel
- 16 - Gavin Schwarz
- 17 - Alyce Coffelt
- 21 - Cory Bienfang
Jason Sunderman
- 22 - Jody Sippo
- 23 - Chuck Yahnke
- 24 - Sarah King
- 25 - Jane Kolden
Frances Schwarz
- 26 - Wilbur Jones
Amanda Sullivan
- 28 Chet Gaugert
Gerald Wilson

Those serving in February

Greeters

February 5 Ivan & Doreen Lehnert
February 12 Chad & Danielle Andresen
February 19 LeRoy & Lynda Antonsen
February 26 Jerry & Phyllis Aufderhar

Worship Assistant

February 5 Larry Hylarides
February 12 Sue Bienfang
February 19 Margo Bjork
February 26 Blake Edmondson

Coffee Host

February 5 Lori King
February 12 Doreen Lehnert
February 19 Frances Schwarz and Donna Kiewatt
February 26 Bob & Sandy Dell

Nursery Attendant

February 5 Nicole Krenik
February 12 Joan Schwarz
February 19 Cheryl Tellijohn
February 26 Rachel Malkow

Volunteers are needed



Contact the church office if you can commit to serve your church for one Sunday as any of the following:

Greeters: If you enjoy meeting people, especially newcomers, consider serving as a Sunday Greeter.

Coffee Host: Coffee is provided by the UMW. After worship snacks can be home-baked or purchased.

Worship Assistant: Reading scriptures and assisting the Pastor with the worship service.

Worship Tech Team: Recording our services for CATV#7 is an important ministry to our homebound

Nursery Attendant: is available on a rotating basis during Sunday School and Worship as needed.

United Methodist Women



Rebekah Circle: Meeting on February 21st.

Ruth Circle: Our next meeting will be on Feb. 21st.

Serendipity Circle: we will meet on February 20th.

The UMW is still collecting labels and box tops for the Red Bird Mission. Collection baskets and a list of products are in the library.



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Polar Bear Plunge in St. Peter, February 4th. Come and cheer us on. Go to polarbearplunge@somn.org for information.

Girl Scout Cookies will be available beginning Feb. 11th. Cookie sales fund the activities of each girl's troop while teaching sociability, marketing and money management. Contact Sarah King.

The Well is hosting a women's conference on Feb 3rd called **The IF:Gathering** and invites all of the women of Le Sueur. The conference is held in Austin, TX and we will be streaming it at Word of Life. The heart of the IF:Gathering is to gather women worldwide to encourage, equip, and unleash them. Contact Joanna Ronningen at Word of Life with any questions.









Journey through Grief is an eight-week grief group for adults who have lost a loved one. Thursdays from 10am-noon, February 9 to March 30th at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 222 Pfau St. Mankato. There is no cost but pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-327-3721 ext. 2989.

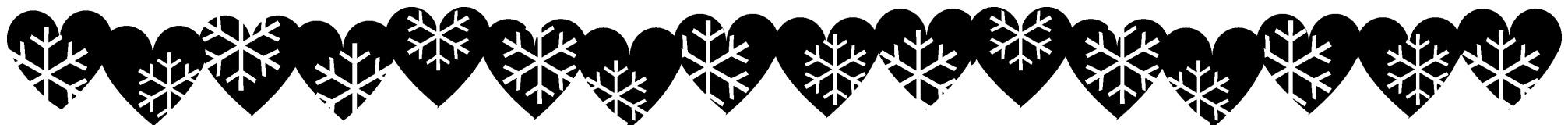
The **Senior Dinner** is 11:30am on Sunday, February 19th at St. Anne's School. It is open to senior citizens age 62 and older who live in the LSH school district. This free dinner is prepared by the Knights of Columbus, coordinated by LSH Community Education and funded by the United Fund. Register by calling 665-4620 before Feb. 17th. Indicate if transportation is needed.



February 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 Casual Communion 6pm JAM 7pm Choir practice <i>Groundhog Day</i>	2	3	4 Polar Plunge 
5 10:15am Worship with Communion	6	7	8 5:30 Casual Communion 6pm JAM 7pm Choir practice	9 	10	11
12 10:15 Worship	13 	14 7pm Church Meeting night <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15 5:30 Casual Communion 6pm JAM 7pm Choir practice	16	17	18 
19 10:15 Worship	20 7pm Serendipity cir. <i>President's Day</i>	21 2pm Ruth/Bingo at NH 7pm Rebekah cir. 7pm Adm. Council	22 5:30 Casual Communion 6pm JAM 7pm Choir practice	23	24 	25
26 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> 10:15 Worship/Missions	27	28 	March 1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6pm JAM 7:30pm Ash Wednesday service with Communion	March 2	March 3	March 4



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OF LE SUEUR
730 SOUTH 6TH STREET
LE SUEUR, MN 56058

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

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February 2017

Le Sueur United Methodist Church
Ash Wednesday Worship
7:30pm March 1st.

Ecumenical Lenten Services
Wednesdays at 7:30pm
March 8th, 15th, 22nd
29th and April 5th