

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.*



January 2017

Heroes Wanted

I'm mad at the world and I want to fix it with a clever meme, but can't find one!

Carrie Fisher just died. The original Princess Leia is gone; her death was breaking news on FOX, CNN and the Washington Post. Carrie Fisher succumbed to an unexpected and way too early heart attack taking a Star Wars heroine along with her because no one can play Princess Leia like Carrie Fisher; her inner spunk captured in Leia.



Yet, she died an un-heroic death leaving fans stunned and heart-broken, more so because she was Princess Leia than Carrie Fisher, which is an even greater tragedy. Princess Leia fought evil, stood up to injustice, and put her life on the line to save entire planets. The cause was greater than herself. Carrie Fisher, however, struggled to overcome personal brokenness, like ill-conceived relationships, substance abuse, mental illness and a Hollywood that exploits the beautiful only to dump them when they outlive their youthfulness. Princess Leia fought the dark side in the universe while Carrie Fisher fought the darkness within. Both fought to save the innocent, including the homeless and the hungry. Both were heroes in their own courageous ways.

Ironically, children dying in Aleppo took a back seat to our hero's death. Children shooting children in Minneapolis never broke the headlines. And, refugee families begging for a camp to take them were too depressing even for the news.

What did make the headlines? Political leaders fought to gain control of bathrooms. Britney Spears really didn't die. Amazon sold more televisions this year than the height of Mount Everest. Meanwhile, Christmas Day saw some churches closed for lack of interest while most were poorly attended, giving the dark side a burst of energy. Yet, US citizens pressed on and slammed one another in malls across America trying to grab the best after-Christmas sale. Score another for the dark side.

People! What happened? When did we stop playing for the good guys, more explicitly—the Good Guy, Jesus, the hero of the Light? When did we forget that the smallest of these was worth the whole cause? When did the 'poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free' represent mall shoppers crushing each other? And, why were churches even asked if they would be open on Sunday for Christmas and New Year's Day? People—it's Sunday, the Sabbath! God doesn't take holidays!

We loved Princess Leia. She was the rich fighting for the poor; defending truth, justice, and light for the lost and displaced, not only in this world, but for all facing the same injustice—anywhere. Still, we don't get it! Princess Leia is a story. The Prince of Peace is real. Jesus the Christ came to fight the dark forces with a sword of light and charged us to do the same. Yet, we know more about Princess Leia than the Prince of Peace!

People, it's time to crawl out of the movie theaters and into the churches, pick up your lightsaber and fight the real forces of darkness! It's time to learn the ways of Jesus, meet in churches across America to strengthen our collective resolve to fight evil, and stop our world from blowing itself up faster than any 'death star.' The immigrants, refugees and children of our world cannot wait for a story tale Princess to save them! You are it! Be a hero and be courageous. Follow the teachings of Jesus; pitting love of neighbor against evil and GO! May the Light of Christ go with you. Peace, Pastor Terri

Mission Report

The 4th Sunday Mission

Offerings provide funds for various local and national needs. The following are the totals received for the second half of 2016. Many thanks for your generosity!



July	<u>Food For Friends</u>	\$ 175
	<u>Zion Baptist Summer Camp (Bruce's Kids)</u>	\$2,000
August	<u>Operation Classroom</u>	\$ 289
	(matched to \$3,000 by missions)	
September	<u>Black College and African University</u>	\$ 549
	(matched to \$550 by missions)	
October	<u>Food for Friends</u>	\$ 290
November	<u>Christmas Boxes</u>	\$ 331
TOTAL		\$3,634

Food for Friends



Food For Friends is an organization that serves a noon meal on Saturdays and Holidays when the staff of the Salvation Army is off. They have been doing this service project

since 1985. There are about 20 groups (churches, families, and other volunteer organizations) take their turn to serve the meals and visit with the guests. There are usually 80 to 100 people women, men, and children that are served. The Salvation Army Center is located on Riverfront Street in Mankato. Most groups also bring basic needs or gifts for the guests. Toiletries, socks, caps, scarves, gloves, gift cards, etc.

UMC serves 3 Saturdays per year. We need between 10 - 15 people to volunteer to greet the guests, cook, serve and clean up. It is a feel good experience. We will be serving the Salvation Army Meal in Mankato on Sat. Jan. 21st. Sign up at the table in the narthex or call Sue Bienfang (507-995-4108). Adult size socks, caps, mittens and full size personal care items are needed.

Education News



“Tailgating” When you bring your kids to Sunday School and just want a place to hang out and visit from 9-10am 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 and choir practice. For those who wish, there is an adult Bible Study class down the hall.

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

This Christmas, consider giving the gift of summer camp with Camp Minnesota! Gift certificates are available by calling the camp office at [855-622-1973](tel:855-622-1973). Registration for 2017 camps opens January 1st!

Join us for Bring Your Child to Serve Day!

Each year, millions of people across the country come together on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to serve their neighbors and communities in honor of Dr. King's legacy. As part of this movement, we're hosting the fifth annual Bring Your Child to Serve Day on **Monday, January 16, 2017**. We're excited to offer parents and children an opportunity to volunteer together and generate awareness around the issue of hunger! Volunteers will work in shifts sorting and packing food for those in need of hunger relief in our community.

"Volunteer Services, Second Harvest Heartland"
[<volunteer@2harvest.org>](mailto:volunteer@2harvest.org)



Opportunities to Serve

Meetings are usually held monthly unless otherwise notified. Contact the church office or a member of Nominations if you are interested in serving. We meet in the Chapel for Devotions first then meetings which should last no more than 1hr. Chairman are reminded that minutes from all meetings need to be turned in to the church office in a timely manner.

7pm Second Tuesday: Education, Missions, Trustees, Go & Grow and Memorials & Gifts.

8pm Second Tuesday: Finance meets.

7pm Third Tuesday: Administrative Council.

As Needed: Worship Design, Staff/Pastor/Parrish Relations and Leadership (Nominations)

This month we put the spotlight on:

WORSHIP DESIGN: Assists the Pastor in planning and executing Sunday morning and other worship services, including technology, music, and visual ministries within the worship experience.

SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP: Reports to worship design team in identifying and selecting volunteers to serve as worship assistants, greeters, ushers, communion stewards.

TECHNOLOGY: Reports to Worship Design. Provides the video/audio technology during worship and other occasions.

Bad Weather Cancellation Procedure



In case of inclement weather, the decision to cancel worship will begin with the pastor and council chair making the initial decision. They will then call council members, who will be assigned a page in the church directory to call the people on that page. Also, check our facebook page or listen to KCHK in New Prague and KEYC channel 12 in Mankato.

Mustard Seed Groups resume in February

We are converting our Newsletter to electronic publishing.

To continue to receive the Newsletter please send your e-mail address to the church office. Church services and other information can also be found on our website: www.lesueurumc.org.



THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS: Monday, January 23rd

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.

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 (665-2873) or the church office (665-2314).



2017 Giving Envelopes:

are in the narthex. This year they are not numbered so please be sure put your name on the envelope when you use it.

Lost & Found

Please check the lost and found box in the cloakroom off the narthex. Also look in the kitchen for any dishes you may have left.



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



Our Sympathy to
the family of Grayce Kirkpatrick
who passed away on Dec. 6th.

the family of Deb Smith who
passed away on December 26th.

Congratulations to:

Zack & Jenny Trimbo on the Dec. 6th birth of
a girl, Pieper Lynn. Proud grandparents are
Mike & Linda Sunderman.

Karl & Rose Kolden on the Dec. 22nd of a boy,
Joseph Patrick. Grandparents are Darrell and
Jane Kolden.

Taylor Edbger & Jack DeSousa on their
December 17th wedding here at the church.

Thank you for the wonderful
lunch following the funeral
service for R. Glenn Hague.

*Thank
You*

The Missions committee would like to thank
everyone for their donations of gifts, money
and time to assemble and deliver 19
Christmas Food Boxes. Janet Dickinson

Thank you to everyone who contributed a
memorial Poinsettia and to Lana Beck for
arranging the altar display. Doreen

Thank you for helping vulnerable children
discover peace, hope, comfort and joy this
Christmas. Know that your support is truly
saving and transforming lives. ZOE

To the UMW: Thanks so much for your
donation to the St. Peter Regional Treatment
Center. The patients really appreciate your
gifts. SPRTC Christmas Cheer staff.

To the UMW: Thank you for your caring
support of the Ronald McDonald house.

Thank you to the UMW for the gift bag.
Norma Eikenberry

To the Methodist Youth: Thank you so much
for your donation of groceries and funds to the
Le Sueur Food Shelf.

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 bought

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. If you notice someone with small children
who might need the nursery, please connect them
with the scheduled attendant.

Those serving in January

Greeters

January 1
January 8 Agnes Milam and Don Bauleke
January 15
January 22
January 29 YUM

Worship Assistant

January 1 Sue Bienfang
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29 YUM

Coffee Host

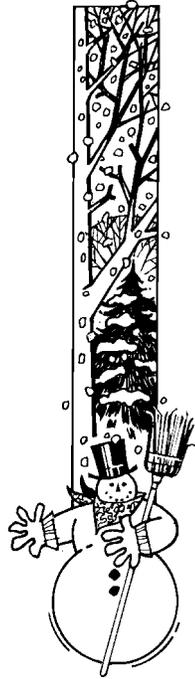
January 1
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29 YUM

Nursery Attendant

January 1 Nicole Krenik
January 8 Joan Schwarz
January 15 Cheryl Tellijohn
January 22 Rachel Malkow
January 29 Jeanne Doebbeling

January Birthdays

- 5 – Scott Wiese
6 – Dale Sunderman
Allison Schwarz
Donna Manser
8 – Kyleen Brandt
9 – Emily Barnard
Laurie Heldberg
Elysia Krenik
10 – Kendra Miller
13 – Sally Gaugert
Cheryl Edmondson
15 – David Brandt
16 – Cody Wiese
18 – Nicole Krenik
20 – Larry Baringer
21 – Tom Schwarz
24 – Leigha Beck
25 – Deb Priem
27 – Darrel Coffelt
Beth Smith



United Methodist Women



Rebekah Circle: No meeting in January.

Ruth Circle: Our next meeting will be on January 17th.

Serendipity Circle: we meet on January 16th.

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

Wanted



Person(s) that would do the arrangements for the 2 pots outside of the North door of the church for holidays and the spring, summer, fall and winter seasons Contact Judy Dahn (665-2139)

Emmaus – A Journey with Christ

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers. For more information about Walk contact the Community Lay Director (cld@mnemmaus.org).

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon, St. Paul UCC, Henderson. Sunday, January 15th 11am-1pm. Adults \$7, kids \$5.



Polar Bear Plunge Each year, the Polar Plunge challenges thousands of brave jumpers at numerous locations around the state. It's a great way for everyone—individuals, organizations and businesses—to get involved in supporting Special Olympics Minnesota. All funds raised go towards programming and events for more than 8,000 athletes statewide.

Think you have what it takes? The concept is simple: participants raise a minimum of \$75 and take a dip into one of Minnesota's frozen lakes. But the Plunges are so much more than that: They're the kind of fun and thrilling events that you really have to experience to understand. Join us in **St. Peter on February 4th**. Go to polarbearplunge@somn.org for information.

Habitat for Humanity of South Central Minnesota is a non-profit, Christian housing ministry dedicated to building simple, decent and affordable housing with and for families in need. Habitat for Humanity is accepting applications for all families interested in Homeownership for the 2016-2017 build season and currently has a home available in this area for a family in need. If you are renting, have low to moderate income, need permanent housing and are willing to partner with Habitat, HFHSCMN may be your long-term solution. For more information and an application - please call the Habitat office 507-388-2081 ext. 3 for more information go to: hfhsouthcentral.net.



January 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> 10:15 Worship with Communion <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3 	4 5:30 Casual Communion 6pm JAM 7pm Choir	5	6 	7
8 9am Tailgaiting/Adult Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 undecorate church	9	10 7pm Trustees, Missions & Education meetings 8pm Finance	11 5:30 Casual Communion 6pm JAM 7pm Choir	12 	13	14
15 9am Tailgaiting/Adult Sunday School 10:15 Worship	16 7pm Serendipity <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	17 2pm Ruth Circle 7pm Adm. Council	18 5:30 Casual Communion 6pm JAM 7pm Choir	19	20	21 Food for Friends at Mankato Salvation Army 9am-2:30pm
22 9am Tailgaiting/Adult Sunday School 10:15 Worship/Missions	23 	24	25 5:30 Casual Communion 6pm JAM 7pm Choir	26 	27	28
29 9am Tailgaiting/Adult Sunday School 10:15 Worship	30	31 	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4 Polar Plunge

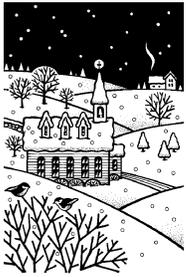


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