

Northern Voice Newsletter
2025 Spring Edition - February, March April



Being Salt and Light

Rev. Dr. Brian McClaren, Dean of Core Faculty at the Center for Action and Contemplation, talks about what it means to be Salt and Light, - a transformative presence – in our lives and communities. He references Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

The Sermon begins with a set of sayings that begin with, "*Blessed are...*" "Most people, he says, "interpret these statements as a way of saying that God blesses these people – to the exclusion of others, but I've come to understand the Beatitudes as a way of saying something very, very different."

The Beatitudes say that we, in this new movement, bless the very people who are usually excluded. So, Jesus says, *in this movement, we bless the poor and the poor in spirit. We bless those who mourn, we bless the meek or gentle. We bless those who hunger and thirst for justice. We bless the merciful and the pure in heart. We bless the peacemakers and those who are persecuted for standing up for justice.*

Then Jesus continues by saying, *because we bless people who are usually forgotten or despised or excluded, we see the world differently. And that different way of seeing the world leads to a different way of being in the world.*

And here are his exact words to describe this:

Salt and Light

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. ~Matthew 5:13-16 (NRSVue)

In January we spent time with the theme, Radical Resilience. We considered how we can bounce back from setbacks and remain strong in difficult times. Going forward, we would like to go beyond surviving difficult times and focus on being a presence in this world that radiates and flavors the world with divine love. A warm and healing presence to a world that seems often, as a world on fire, so that we can stand in solidarity with the world without burning up or burning out.

Being Salt and Light calls us to live in the flow of action and contemplation. A contemplative way of seeing the world leads to an active way of being in the world as a warm and loving presence, radiant with the light of love and truth, justice and compassion - flavorful as salt, preserving and enhancing all that is good in the world.

As we respond to the worlds ongoing struggles with justice and compassion, we're also invited into a deep stillness that refines our loving presence, empowering us to embody light and hope amid life's uncertainties.

Friends, as we move forward into 2025, may I just say: Welcome to being Salt and Light.

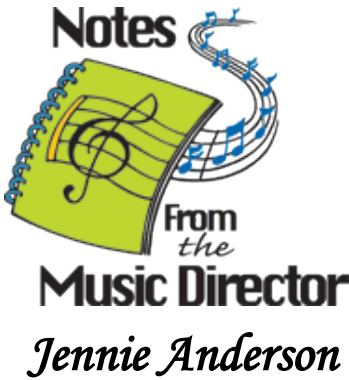
Pastor Lauren



March 5	Ash Wednesday Service at Calvary Lutheran	4:30 & 6:00 pm
March 12	Soup Supper and Lent practice	5:30 pm
March 19	Soup Supper and Lent practice	5:30 pm
March 26	Soup Supper and Lent practice	5:30 pm
April 2	Soup Supper and Lent practice	5:30 pm
April 9	Soup Supper and Lent practice	5:30 pm
April 13	Palm Sunday Service	
April 17	Maundy Thursday Service at Hubbard UMC	7:00 pm
April 18	Good Friday Service at Riverside UMC	6:30pm
April 20	Easter Sunday	

Please check the Bulletin and Friday Announcements for details as these dates get closer!





Anyone is welcome to join us,
no experience needed!

Wednesday rehearsals at 7 pm:

February 12 and 26;
March 12; April 2,9,16, and 30

Sundays we sing

with rehearsal at 8 am:
February 2 and 16; March 2 and 16;
April 6, 13, 20; and May 4



Happy New Year! After a short break, choir is back in full force! We are working on some wonderful Rutter anthems for February which we hope you will enjoy!

I hope you enjoyed the very special music selection, "Plowshare Prayer" on Sunday, January 26 to complement Pastor Lauren's sermon.

Choir continues to sing the first and third Sundays of each month with a rehearsal the Wednesday prior and at 8am the Sunday we sing. An exception will be at Easter when choir will sing for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

We welcome anyone who would like to sing in choir to please join us!

In Him, with a song in our hearts,

Jennie



Please consider **VOLUNTEERING** for any of the following volunteer opportunities.

- ⇒ Greeters and Ushers - Contact Shari Perrine
- ⇒ Scripture Readers - Contact Diane Thoele
or sign-up in Welcome Area
- ⇒ Fellowship servers - Contact Janell Saunders
or sign-up in Welcome Area
- ⇒ Tech people - Contact Jeff Hauger
- ⇒ Communion set-up and servers - Contact Joy Derr



Memorial Garden Team

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SERVE?

Joanne Torfin's moving leaves a vacancy on the Memorial Garden Team. Contact Sandee at the office or Rich Perrine for more information.



MISSIONS Offerings

OCTOBER MISSION GIVING

11/10/2024

MISSION COMMITTEE

UMCOR - cleaning/hygiene \$ 1,049.32

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$ 759.05

UMCOR \$ 8,525.00

World Vision - Wellspring \$ 2,000.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING - OCTOBER \$12,333.37



NOVEMBER MISSION GIVING

12/13/2024

MISSION COMMITTEE

Global Ministries - Belinda Forbes \$ 2,000.00

RUMC Thaks Meal \$ 1,500.00

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$ 408.18

UMCOR \$ 550.00

World Vision - Wellspring \$ 200.00

Meals on Wheels \$ 284.00

Toys for Boys and Girls \$ 100.00

RUMC Thanks Meal \$ 85.00

UWF Thank Offering \$ 20.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING - November \$ 5,147.18

DECEMBER MISSION GIVING

1/7/2025

MISSION COMMITTEE

Toys for Boys and Girls \$ 1,000.00

DESIGNATED MISSION GIVING

Pastor's Discretionary Fund \$ 000.00

UMCOR \$ 860.00

Toys for Boys and Girls \$ 175.00

Meals on Wheels \$ 100.00

UWF \$ 25.00

TOTAL MISSION GIVING - DECEMBER \$ 2,185.00



MISSIONS



Volunteers from HUMC deliver **Meals on Wheels** to Park Rapids residents once every 5 weeks. If you are interested in becoming a delivery person for this rewarding activity, please contact Arnie Kuhn at 701-730-3667.

"Thank You" to our many dedicated volunteers!

HUMC MOW Dates:

February 24 - 28, 2025

March 31 - April 4, 2025

May 5 - 9, 2025

**Please Consider Giving to the
Pastor Discretionary Fund Today!
The needs are great!**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As we step into this season after the Epiphany, our lectionary quickly moves us from the journey of the magi to the baptism of Jesus. We would be remiss, however, were we to not note the journey of the Holy Family that speaks powerfully to our shared calling as followers of Christ. We must remember how Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus fled to Egypt, seeking refuge from violence and persecution. We must pay attention to how they became strangers in a foreign land, reliant on the hospitality and compassion of others.

You are invited to take a moment to reflect upon how when the time came and it was safe for them to return, the Holy Family settled in Nazareth, where Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, preparing for the moment he would step into the Jordan River to be baptized. Recall how in his baptism, Jesus identified with the vulnerable, the weary, and the displaced, claiming his identity as God's beloved and beginning his mission to proclaim good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom for the oppressed.

Reflecting on Jesus' story through this lens brings us to a place of application—seeing how the plight of migrants, immigrants, and refugees in our midst today calls us to live out this same mission with urgency and love. As a church, we are called to welcome the stranger, remembering that in doing so, we welcome Christ himself (Matthew 25:35).

Recently, the Council of Bishops shared a letter that included the following reflection, "For decades, a broken immigration system in the U.S. has kept migrants, immigrants, and refugees in this country living in the shadows of society in a state of perpetual fear. They have come to the U.S. under forced circumstances—fleeing extreme poverty, hunger, political and religious persecution, war, cartel and gang violence, and the severe impact of climate change. Some are actively recruited by large U.S. companies who need their labor. Yet migrants, immigrants, and refugees help to sustain the U.S. economy, serve our families, care for our children and our elderly, clean our homes, landscape our properties, build our roads and the houses we live in, and cultivate and pick the crops that feed our families. They are our neighbors, our friends, and members and pastors of our churches."

In this moment in history, we are called to remember the part of the Jesus story that tells when he and his family fled in fear, became refugees, and made home in a foreign land. We are called to note that there are times then and now where it is not safe to be a stranger in a foreign land—even if the land of which we speak is where we call home.

As we build beloved community with the migrants, immigrants, and refugees in our midst, we must be reminded of our baptismal vows and to embody the light of Christ in a world darkened by division, hatred, and fear—paying particular attention to the "Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith":

1. *Renunciation of Sin*

"Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?" (Response: "I do.")

2. *Acceptance of God's Grace*

"Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?" (Response: "I do.")

3. *Profession of Christ as Savior*

"Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?" (Response: "I do.")

Dear ones, The Council of Bishops has called us to live out our baptismal vows and live into the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church. These principles include:

- Affirming the dignity, worth, and rights of migrants, immigrants, and refugees.
- Recognizing that displaced people are particularly vulnerable as their in-between status often provides them with few protections and benefits, leaving them open to exploitation, violence, and abuse.
- Urging one another to welcome migrants, refugees, and immigrants into our congregations, providing concrete support to them, including help navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment, and other kinds of support.
- Opposing all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize, or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants, or refugees.
- Decrying attempts to detain displaced people and hold them in inhumane and unsanitary conditions.
- Challenging policies that call for the separation of families, especially parents and minor children.
- Opposing the existence of for-profit detention centers that are used for the purpose of detaining migrants, immigrants, and refugees, including minor children.

Across the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area, let us join the invitation of the Council of Bishops who have called upon the people of The United Methodist Church "to pray for migrants, immigrants, and refugees among us and to welcome them with the fullness of Christian love, remembering that as we welcome these, our brothers and sisters, we welcome Jesus our Lord."

In grace and peace,

Bishop Lanette Plambeck

Resident Bishop, Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area
The United Methodist Church

HAPPY Birthday

February

Lynne Boulden	1
Ed Poitras	1
Pat Tanner	2
Brent Selander	2
Day-Ana Fietek	3
Cecilia Taggart	4
Renee Manlove	6
Tom Good	7
Boo Groth	7
Tonya Bolton	8
Terry Greenawalt	9
Avryl Thornton	13
William Brunsdale	17
Jenny Seaton	19
Jim Vogt	20
Donald Saunders	23
Eileen Bolton	28



March

Tom Stetzler	1
Hank Hallstrom	2
Shirley Green	5
Jackie Lundstrom	9
Mary Claire Hansen	11
Bob Roman	12
Ken Manlove	12
Jill Eisele	17
Jack Derr	18
Oliver Manlove	18
Joanne Torfin	23
Andrea Otto	25
Jeff Hauger	30
Dick Lundstrom	31

April

Nancy Seaberg	1
Karen Odegard	3
Tom Harmon	4
Katherine Zander	4
Sue Heggen	5
Deb Haagenson	6
Evalt Laine	6
Richard Perrine	6
Larry Odegard	9
Russ Takle	10
Barb Boyd	11
Richard Anderson	11
Juliann Kjenaas	17
Genelle Forsberg	22
Patrick Kimball	23



February

John & Evelyn Davis	5
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March

Tack & Martha Tacker	18
Randy & Robyn Wimmer	10

April

Jim & Janet Pieper	30
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*Upcoming
Sermon Series*

February 3 - 16
God and the Cosmos

March 9 - April 20
Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places

April 27 - June 1
Creed



Sunday -- March 9, 2025
Daylight Savings begins



Camperships Needed

Camp Minnesota is committed to allowing anyone who wants to attend camp to do so, and that no camper will be turned away because they can't afford to pay. Currently, we at HUMC are seeking to provide scholarship funds, or camperships", to campers who need them most, based on individual and family needs. Our hope is that HUMC can help support camp costs associated with our HUMC family interested in attending, or volunteering, at camp can do so. If you would like to donate, please make your check to Hubbard UMC and write "Camperships" in the Memo Line.

Thank you for your support!

A Note from the Trustees

Church Painting

Repainting the church interior requires a major effort. A big “thank you” goes to all those who made this happen.

**Big
Thank
You!**

During its November meeting, the Ad Council selected a special committee to guide the process. Members chosen were: Marvel Haynes, Linda Larson, Bobbi Zigmant, and Mark Larsen.

While many others assisted them, they made serious time commitments to: identify potential painters, recommend the ones to hire, choose paint colors, prepare each area for painting, identify essential items and remove outdated materials to create more useful space.

To provide more hands, when needed, a list of movers/helpers was built. For those who signed up but were not called, it’s only because when the need arose, sufficient hands were already on sight.

Thanks to ALL who signed up. We never had a crisis for lack of workers.

HUMC Trustees



*Let us be a
praying church!*

**Remember those on our Weekly Prayer Guide
in your daily prayers.**

Please have all joys and prayer requests into the church office by Friday morning - 9:00 am. You may also fill out a “Prayer Request” form, found on the back of the sanctuary pews, and place in the offertory collection or leave in the church office. If desired, we will add your request to the prayer chain and the weekly prayer guide.

**Please notify the office if/when you would like your
name removed from the prayer list.**



United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith meet the
1st Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm
All are welcome!

Upcoming Events:

- **March 7: World Day of Prayer** event at Summerfield Apartment. Hosted by Riverside, Calvary and HUMC.
- **Lenten meal:** Please join us at 5:30pm each Wednesday of Lent beginning March 12-April 9. Closer to the event, a sign up for Soup and Dessert will be in the Welcome area.
- **Headwaters District Spring Gathering** at Northern Pines on May 3rd. Watch for brochure and registration.

UWFaith Parking Lot Sale: We will be monitoring the Hwy 87 construction to see if we can hold this event in 2025 but keep us in mind if you have items to share/would like to participate.

The Hubbard UMC Untied Women in Faith group doesn't meet in January or February; however, that doesn't mean "we are idle". This is a great time to check out a new book from our reading program. Check out the display in the Welcome Area to check out a book.

If you would like to add a book to the display, please contact Marion Hansen.

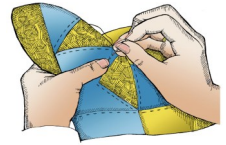
Please, join us at our March 5 meeting!

Marion Hansen
UWF President





Care And Comfort



Threads of Love

Quilters Invite You to “Strip, Crumb, Exploding and Iced Dyeing” Days

The Threads of Love Quilters encourage the women of HUMC to join them for four upcoming special events. You do not need to be a quilter to participate; just come for the fun and fellowship. They are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| February 4 | Let's Strip (our scraps, of course!) |
| February 18 | Crumb Block Crazy |
| March 4 | Exploding Strip Blocks |
| March 11 (tentative) | Iced Dyeing |

“When we cleaned out the storage room for the painters in January, we sorted fabric and decided to use the smaller pieces of fabric in new and innovative ways,” explained Mary Takle, coordinator for the group, whose mission is to make quilts that will “bring care and comfort to those in need.”

For the February 4 event, participants are invited to bring their fabric scraps and join in the fun.

“We will learn how to use stripology rulers to quickly create blocks and strips for future quilts,” said Mary. “We will also sort our smaller scraps by color in order to prepare for making crumb blocks on February 18 and strip blocks on March 4.”

On March 11, Beth Holland will demonstrate “Iced Dyeing” techniques, a process using ice cubes and powdered dye to color fabric, which will then be used to make more quilts.

The Threads of Love Quilters meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall, breaking at noon for lunch (BYO), and devotions. Please join them for part of the day or all day. Everyone is welcome!



Happy 135th Anniversary HUMC! January 18, 1890

Bible Verse: *“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am also.”* Matthew 18:20

In 1879, exhausted from their long journey, a small group of homesteaders arrived on the Hubbard prairie, looked at the fertile land, and said, “Here we are.”

These hard-working pioneers struggled to survive, yet they found time to worship in each other’s homes. On January 18, 1890, a group of 57 men and women gathered to pray, write and sign a charter for what is now known as Hubbard United Methodist Church.

In May 1890, with the ground finally frost free, building began. By July, the framework of the first Methodist church to be built in Hubbard County stood proudly silhouetted against the summer sky. Work continued throughout the fall and one year to the day from when the charter was signed, the church was dedicated.

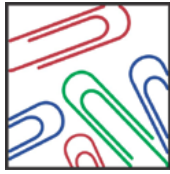
Let’s fast forward 100 years—times were changing! When the congregation reviewed its mission, they realized they were most successful in their outreach to those 55 and older, those who vacationed on our lakes or retired “Up North.” In increasing numbers, these retirees came to HUMC and said, “Here I am, what can I do.” They served as ushers and greeters, joined the choir, quilted, biked, supported mission projects, and gave generously of their time and resources.

In 2003, with the church bursting at its seams, the congregation voted to build a new church. The first worship service was held in this church on August 14, 2005. The original church was moved several blocks and is now part of the Hubbard Long Lake Theater complex.

Our pastor, Lauren Hauger, the 55th minister to serve this congregation, began her ministry just as the pandemic changed our lives forever. Under her leadership the church moved quickly into the technological age, establishing and expanding a vital on-line ministry to hundreds of women and men throughout the local community and beyond.

One thing has not changed—we continue to be a welcoming, inclusive, Christ-centered community, focused on the gospel, mission and music.





FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

Northern Voice- Newsletter Deadline

The Northern Voice newsletter is published quarterly. Our next Northern Voice will be **SUMMER 2025**, for the months of May, June and July.

The article submission deadline is **April 15th**.

Save the Date

2025 Women's Retreat is June 18

Circles Around Us:

An exploration of self and influence

Join us for a thoughtful and fun-filled day as we engage in simple activities for knowing oneself and how to self-assess and grow to fully become the person God intended.

Then learn and consider “the ripple effect,” and how simple acts of kindness may grow and grow to touch those close to us as well as those we may never know.

**GAME
TIME!**

**Game Time
is Back!!**

*Join us Sunday - February 16
1:00 - 3:00 pm*