

NEWSLETTER

BUILD. SERVE. STAND.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
Sundays at 10am

SHORELINES
Sept. - Nov. 2023

PASTORAL UPDATE



We have a very exciting opportunity beginning in our faith community this fall. Our congregation will be participating in a Contemplative Practices Program for the next two years. This program is run by St. Catherine's University, funded by a Lily Grant. We have been matched with a spiritual director, Peter Watkins, who will meet monthly with those who want to participate in this program. Each month, we'll explore a different contemplative practice. As a participating faith community in the program, we also receive a small stipend to help nourish our spiritual practices in ways that fit who we are. Churches have been quite creative with how they used this money—it will be fun to see what we decide to do. This program was recommended to me by another United Methodist Church who just completed their two years and found it really meaningful for their congregation.

For the first year, we'll focus on inward spiritual practices that will help us to explore and discover what ways of prayer speak best to us. Some examples of this are lectio divina, silence, journaling, deep listening, the examen prayer, and praying through a labyrinth. The second year will be focused on outward expressions of prayer and practice. This might look like volunteering, vigils, pilgrimages to places of social importance, storytelling, or retreats.

The hope behind these contemplative practices is that we will be able to ground ourselves in being, rather than doing. We will be better equipped to serve God's creation. We go inward, filled with God's love and mercy, so that we can go outward in faith, wisdom, courage and resilience to help heal God's creation. Rev. Karen Wight-Hoogheem is one of the co-directors of the program. She states that this program

"gives people concrete tools they can use with their hearts and heads and bodies so they can figure out and engage in the contemplative practices that work for them to support their relationship with God and discern who they are called to be and how they are called to live and serve."

We will be meeting after worship the 3rd Sunday of each month. September 17, October 15, November 19 from around 11:15–1pm, with lunch included. The hope is that people commit to being in the group for at least the first year. We know life happens, but consistency is important to the growth of this group and sharing with one another.

I am looking forward to participating in the group, and learning alongside all of you. Exploring practices that resonate with us, as well as ones that don't, is an important aspect of living out our faith. This fall is a great opportunity to join together and grow deeper, individually and communally, as we connect to God in nourishing and sustainable ways. If you're interested in the group, let me know or sign up in the lobby.

With gratitude,
Pastor Brooke

BROOKE HEERWALD STEINER
LEAD PASTOR

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BUILD. SERVE. STAND.





Blessing of the Backpacks and Fall Kick-Off Sunday, September 10 @10am

All students are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a special blessing during worship and a token they can put on their zipper. Then stick around for our Fall Kick-Off event following worship. All ages are invited to stop by the ice cream truck for a treat, go through the inflatable obstacle course, and play lawn games with your EUMC friends as we look forward to an exciting year!



Pastors Brooke, Kyle and Jonathan welcome everyone.



EUMC musicians Eric Larson, Jeannie Shubitz, Lisa Pallen, and Mark Gleason.

Better Together Ecumenical Service

Our Ecumenical Service on August 6 was a wonderful community gathering of our Excelsior Churches! It rained so rather than being at the Excelsior Commons we were at Mount Calvary which didn't stop the momentum of this community. Each pastor led a section of the service, the ecumenical choir sang 2 songs, and we had EUMC worship leaders for song and prayer. Members said, "We shot positivity into each church and the wider community!" and "I was so inspired by the beautiful community energy in the room!"

CURRENT SERMON SERIES



There are several classic tales of the faith taught in every Sunday school classroom around the world. We'll spend the month of September looking at four of these epic tales and how they can shape our faith, young and old alike. Together we'll experience Noah's Ark, Joseph's Dream, David & Goliath, and the Burning Bush with new eyes.



Excelsior
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

BUILD. COMMUNITY



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

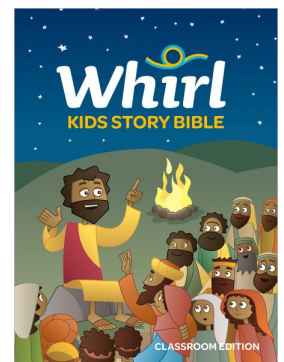
Sunday School

As fall approaches, we are getting ready to begin another year of Sunday School. We will continue using the Whirl curriculum and our lessons this fall will focus on Old Testament stories. Our mornings will include a short video, Bible story and group discussion, along with a craft, game, or group activity. One change you will see at Sunday School this year is that, following our video and Bible story, we will split into two groups (4-year-olds through 1st grade, and 2nd-5th grade) for the rest of our activities. The reason for this change is that our Sunday School has grown! We have welcomed several new families over the past year. We are excited to be able to provide age-specific activities for our children. We are asking all parents to volunteer at Sunday School once a month to make this possible. As always, non-parent volunteers are also welcome!



Presentation of Bibles Sunday, October 1

Studying scripture is one of the most important ways we learn about God. In worship on Sunday, October 1, we will be presenting Bibles to students who are new or have not already received a bible from EUMC. As your faith family, we are excited to provide an age-appropriate Bible to your children, and our prayer is that this gift will help them grow deeper in their relationship with God.





YOUTH MINISTRY

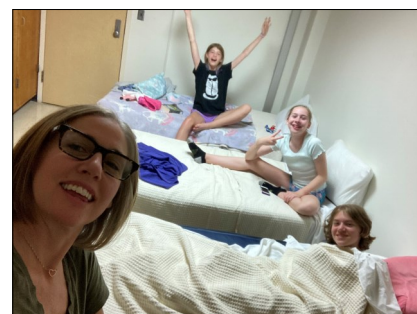
Wednesday Night Youth Group

Join us and connect over a meal, a fun activity/game and meaningful conversation!

This fall, we will be going through a curriculum from Peer Ministry called “Every Day Samaritans for Early Teens” where we’ll talk about different aspects of Friendship – Making a Friend, Welcoming a Friend, Understanding a Friend, Helping a Friend, and Walking Beside A Friend. There are four lenses we’ll learn

- Head (Intellectual Content)
- Heart (Relational Interactions)
- Hand (Skills and Service)
- Holiness (Awareness of God)

Join Sarah on the first, second and third Wednesdays of each month for Wednesday Night Youth Group from 6-8pm here at EUMC! Our first meeting is September 20.



Ecumenical Youth Ministries Fellowship

Our EYMF leaders have created this year’s exciting EYMF events –

- Saturday, September 23 – Nature Walk @ Rice Marsh Lake Park in Chanhassen
- Wednesday, December 6 – Prayer Stations @ EUMC
- Wednesday, April 10 – Karaoke/Coffee House Music Night @ Trinity Episcopal
- Wednesday, May 8 – Baking @ St. David’s Episcopal
- Saturday, May 11 – Smokes & Sweets @ Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

More details to come!

Welcome New Members



Theresa Benedett-Farmer is a retired Methodist pastor from the Mountain Sky Conference which includes Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah and one church in Idaho. She enjoys gardening, spiritual formation, singing, reading, walking and caring for her grand-daughters Elle and Sophia (see Lisa Pallen). **Larry Farmer** loves to be outdoors with his dogs, golfing, playing tennis, or skiing. He also enjoys a good read. He comes to us, as did Theresa, as a grandparent of Elle and Sophia. Before retirement, Larry taught in prisons for over 20 years in Colorado.



Eric Larson and Karen Massey live in Victoria. They have both completed some serious treks: Eric walked from Oslo to Trondheim Norway for a total of 400 miles! And Karen walked the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Eric is a mental health coach supervisor, and his hobbies include walking, tennis, songwriting, guitar, and singing. Karen is a professional musician and teaches music. She enjoys hiking, writing poetry, hanging out with dogs and cats, and traveling.



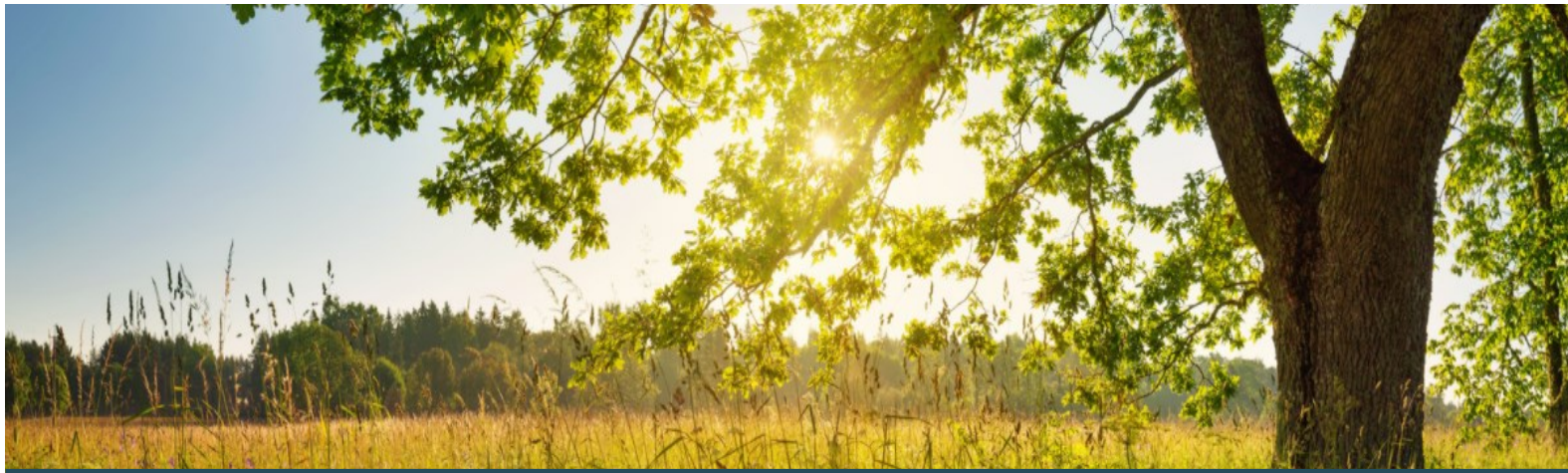
Lisa Pallen has been a vocalist for 35 years for bands, in theater and recording. Since she came to us at the invitation of Jeff Fawbush, she has been sharing her wonderful voice during Sunday services. In addition to her music career, she has been a pharmacy tech and elementary school paraprofessional. She lives in Mound with her 8-year-old twin daughters Elle and Sophia Richter. She also enjoys running, likes to keep things fun, and tries to teach her daughters empathy and compassion.



Jan and Randy Warren are new to the area and join us from Anoka United Methodist Church. Randy is a retired pediatrician and Physician administrator who enjoys woodworking, carpentry and reading. Jan enjoys reading, sewing, travel and spending time with her family and her books. Randy and Jan live in Eden Prairie and will soon celebrate their 49th wedding



Jeff and Glenna Whitmill live in Chaska and come to us from St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Plymouth. Glenna has been a librarian in several settings including the Navajo Reservation, and loves reading, cooking, gardening and needlework. Jeff's family have been Methodists for several generations. Jeff has worked on 60 theatrical productions and enjoys nature photography, botany, geology, and cooking.



LEADERSHIP

Isn't it funny how fall can seem like a new beginning when it's the end of the calendar year. As schools start up for our teachers and students, it's another opportunity for all of us to start something new! But before we do that, let's look back on the past three months at EUMC:

This summer we celebrated

- ...the delivery of our chairs in the sanctuary. If you haven't seen them yet, stop in or join us for a worship service!
- ...a successful Vacation Bible School session for our youngest congregants! Kids and volunteers enjoyed getting "Shipwrecked and Rescued by Jesus."
- ...Steve Colby's retirement as EUMC's property manager. We're thankful for his many years of hard work and look forward to seeing him around as a member of the congregation.
- ...hiring of new staff with James LeVoir in the AV booth on Sunday mornings and Joshua Knowles as our building custodian.
- ...our ability to make a difference in our community through community lunches, backpack giveaways, and being able to offer free safe parking in our annex to our partner, His House, for their ministry's food truck.
- ...a successful Ecumenical service in partnership with other congregations in Excelsior. Even with the transition indoors due to rain, it was well attended and enjoyed by all.

And looking forward

Our team continues to watch the finances of the church. With the remodel expenses coming in over budget and some 2024 parking lot and roof maintenance needs on the horizon, please consider an additional financial gift in 2023 and/or increasing your 2024 pledge to the operating budget.

We are pursuing a new vendor to provide updated altar furniture as the initial vendor is facing significant delays. More to come on this!

Why not try something new this fall? Here are just a few ideas on ways to connect:

- A once-a-month book discussion starting in September with *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- A once-a-month contemplative practices group after church on the third Sunday of the month from 11:15 - 1pm
- ICA Food Shelf events the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month
- Serve or donate food items for our monthly suppers at Simpson Homeless Shelter

Check out the church website for additional ideas and detailed information or call the church office.

Your Leadership Team:

Jill Jewell (Communications)

Tyler Cronk (Finance)

John Fischer & Jim Stromberg (Trustees)

Julie Newell (Chair)

Bill Lester & Phil Pulitzer (SPRC)

Jennifer Brady Johnson (Ministry Teams)

SERVE. OTHERS



OUR COMMUNITY

Dinnertime Again at Simpson Homeless Shelter

September's arrival means it is time for EUMC to return to providing dinners once a month at the Simpson Homeless Shelter. As per MN Health Department requirements, meals must be prepared onsite at the Shelter. This year we will be asking for the ingredients needed to prepare the dishes we make onsite. In the past we have made main dishes ranging from chili to enchiladas with salads, vegetables, breads, and desserts. EUMC is popular at Simpson for the delicious and filling meals we offer.

Simpson Housing Services is in the final phase of a \$45 million fundraising campaign to rebuild the old shelter. Temporary housing is at Zion Lutheran Church, 128 W. 33rd Street in Minneapolis. Our group cooks and serves meals at this temporary facility.

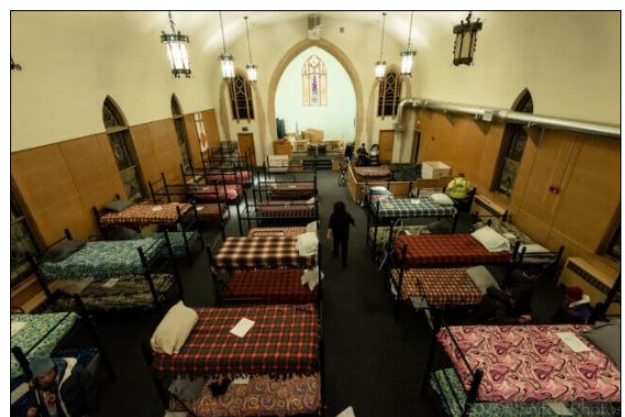
Cooks, servers and clean-up crew are always needed. Fall service dates are September 18, October 10 and November 14. If you're interested in joining this important mission, contact Jane Pole or Jill Jewell. Watch for information in the Thursday emails or mark your interest on a connection card, available in bulletins Sunday mornings. Space is limited so sign up early.

We thank you for your long time support of this important ministry that has been a part of this church's work for at least 25 years.

If you would like to know more about Simpson, visit their website (simpsonhousing.org) to see items they need and the programs they offer to their clients. It will also give you more information about the building project and ways to contribute.



EUMC serving meals at Simpson Housing.



Temporary housing at Zion Lutheran Church.

STAND. FOR JUSTICE



FIGHT TODAY
FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Wacipi - Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Powwow

“Extraordinary, colorful, engaging, meaningful” describes Kay Erickson of the Anti-Racism team who attended the SMSC powwow on August 19. “You could feel the drums in your body. The singing was riveting,”

The Grand Entry was led by a Native American veteran color guard carrying flags and the eagle staff, and there were thousands of dancers in elaborate, magnificent regalia moving to the beating and singing of the drum groups.

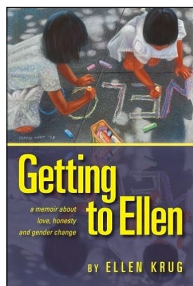
Powwows today are dance contests, but they also have a sacred aspect. While the powwow is a public event, it is also a time for Native American families to gather and welcome participants from all over the country.

The SMSC invites the public to “experience our culture and the history of a strong group of people by immersing yourself in the SMSC Wacipi experience.”

The Anti-Racism Team is looking to bring immersive experiences like this to the EUMC congregation. Stay tuned!



October Book Study



All congregation members are invited to join the Social Justice team this fall for a book study of “Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change” by Ellen Krug. Ellen is an inspiring transgender woman and resident in Victoria, MN. She was elected to the Eastern Carver County School Board for a four-year term in November 2022. Ellen has received awards and been acknowledged for her writing and activism. Ellen is also a weekly radio and podcast host; her show, “Ellie 2.0 Radio,” on AM950 in the Twin Cities, with more than 250 episodes, highlights idealism and how each of us can play a role in fostering positive change in the world.

Her book in summary:

“Getting to Ellen” details the “gender journey” taken by Ellen Krug. As a man, “Ed” Krug had everything anyone could ever want: a soul mate’s love, two beautiful daughters, a house in the best neighborhood, a successful trial lawyer’s career. But there was a problem: “Ed” was a woman born into a male body. Finding inner peace meant Ed would have to become Ellen. It also meant losing that picture-perfect life.

This is a perfect read for anyone dealing with a key personal decision or crisis or the question of whether to be true to oneself. This story also details what it means to be transgender, and it will help anyone wrestling with gender identity issues or loved ones trying to understand another’s “gender journey.” In short, “Getting to Ellen” is an unforgettable true story of love, honesty, and the rewards of living authentically.



CALENDAR

Calendar subject to change. Check website calendar for current schedule.

Sundays in September

10am-Worship and Sunday school

September 3- Communion
No Sunday school

September 10- Sunday School Fall Kick-Off

Wednesdays starting September 6

6:15pm-Joyful Noise rehearsals
7pm- Four Plus More rehearsals

Thursday, September 7

6:30pm- Anti-Racism Team meeting

Saturdays in September

8am- Men's Support Group
10am-Women Who Sing rehearsal

Mondays, Sept. 11, 18, 25

7:30am- Men's Bible Breakfast
9am- Pastor Brooke's Bible Study

Wednesdays, September 13 & 27

3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf

Thursday, September 14

1pm- Sarah/Lydia Circle

Saturday, September 16

9am- Common Hope Fun Run

Sunday, September 17

11:15am- Contemplative Practice Group

Monday, September 18

5pm- Simpson Housing meal service

Wednesday, September 20

6pm- Wednesday Night Youth Group

Thursday, September 21

6:30pm- Fall Book Group

Sunday, September 24

11am- Social Justice Team meeting

Monday, September 25

1pm- Cover Girls

Thursday, September 28

5pm- Unmapped Brewery gathering

Sundays in October

10am-Worship and Sunday school

October 1- World Communion,
Bible Sunday, no Sunday school

Mondays in October

7:30am- Men's Bible Breakfast
9am- Pastor Brooke's Bible Study

Tuesdays in October starting Oct. 3

2pm- Yoga with Tiffany

Wednesdays in October

6:15pm- Joyful Noise rehearsals
7pm- Four Plus More rehearsals

Saturdays in October

8am- Men's Support Group
10am- Women Who Sing rehearsal

Monday, October 1

1pm- Degler Farm family event

Wednesdays, October 4, 11 & 18

6pm- Wednesday Night Youth Group

Thursday, October 5

6:30pm- Anti-Racism Team meeting

Tuesday, October 10

5pm- Simpson Housing meal service

Wednesdays, October 11 & 25

3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf

Thursday, October 12

1pm- Sarah/Lydia Circle

Sunday, October 15

11:15am- Contemplative Practice Group

Thursday, October 19

6:30pm- Fall Book Group

Monday, October 23

1pm- Cover Girls

Thursday, October 26

5pm- Unmapped Brewery gathering

Saturday, October 28

2pm- Trunk or Treat

Sundays in November

10am-Worship and Sunday school

November 19- Family-Friendly
worship, no Sunday school

Mondays in November

7:30am- Men's Bible Breakfast
9am- Pastor Brooke's Bible Study

Tuesdays in November

2pm- Yoga with Tiffany

Wednesdays in November

6:15pm-Joyful Noise rehearsals
7pm- Four Plus More rehearsals

Saturdays in November

8am- Men's Support Group
10am-Women Who Sing rehearsal

Wednesdays, November 1, 8 & 15

6pm- Wednesday Night Youth Group

Thursday, November 2

6:30pm- Anti-Racism meeting

Wednesdays, November 8 & 22

3 to 5pm- ICA Food Shelf

Thursday, November 9

1pm- Sarah/Lydia Circle

Tuesday, November 14

5pm- Simpson Housing meal service

Thursday, November 16

6:30pm- Fall Book Group

Sunday, November 19

11:15am- Contemplative Practice Group

Thursday, November 23

Thanksgiving Day- church building closed

Monday, November 27

1pm- Cover Girls

Thursday, November 30

5pm- Unmapped Brewery gathering

FINANCE TEAM REPORT

Thank you for your continued financial support of EUMC! All gifts as well as progress on commitments (Operating and Capital) can be seen on your quarterly statement.

Operating Budget Update: We are happy to report contributions continue to be in line with our budget through the first 7 months of the year, with expenses trending slightly better than budget; we passed a 2023 budget with a deficit of (\$78K). We are continuing to exercise prudence with regard to our financial decisions, but also continuing to invest in what makes EUMC an exciting and vibrant place to worship. We will be starting our strategic financial planning for 2024 soon. Our stewardship goal is to increase annual income 15-18% in 2024.

Capital Campaign Update: We have now utilized all gifts received to date and have drawn on our credit facility. Any funds received going forward will be used to pay the final expenses and pay down our loan, reducing our financing costs and are greatly appreciated. We cannot thank you enough for your amazing generosity!

Tyler Cronk and Beverly Eckhardt



PURPOSE

Loving Beyond Ourselves

VISION

To be known as a nurturing, inclusive and courageous Christian community.

MISSION

Sharing God's love by building community, serving others, and standing for justice.

CONTACT US

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DIANE BAYSINGER

Nursery Childcare

KATY GLICK

Nursery Childcare



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