

July 2017 Innovator

News



9:30am Worship in the Air-Conditioned Hall
Beginning July 9th

Summer Office Hours will be 9am – 12pm on Mondays and 9am – 2:30pm
Tuesday through Thursday until September 5.



All Church Picnic
Sunday July 16, 2017

Break out your picnic baskets and lawn games and join us for a picnic following the VBS worship service and Hands-On Mission on Sunday, July 16th, in our front yard! Our friends from El Shadai will join us for this fun event!

Life Commission will serve hot dogs, burgers, chips and salads. Water and root beer will be available. Please bring a dessert to share!

See you there!



VBS ~ July 9-13 ~ 6:00-8:00pm

At *Maker Fun Factory* VBS, kids discover not only that God made them the way they are but for a purpose too. *Maker Fun Factory* is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! A hands-on mission project, science experiments, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats help faith flow into real life. Please join us July 9-13 from 6 – 8pm! Registration forms can be found on the VBS bulletin board in the entryway or you can register at the door. The cost is \$10 per child or \$20 per family. Our Kick-Off Dinner is at 5:30pm on July 9th. We hope you can come!

VBS Volunteers Needed

Please read the following job descriptions and prayerfully consider whether you can volunteer at least one evening during July 9-13. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Kristensen at 651-777-4044 or north@northchurch-mn.org.

Bible Expeditions Leader: Perform simple roles as Bible characters along with other volunteers.

KidVid Cinema Leader: Present a DVD segment followed by a short discussion.

Crew Leaders: Participate in fun activities while shepherding a group of 3-5 children.

VBS Wish List

Our VBS Wish List is posted in the Narthex. This board lists supplies that are needed for a successful VBS. If you are able to make a donation, please remove the post-it note and drop off the item in Room 11 by July 2. Please label all perishable items with "VBS" and place them in the refrigerator or freezer. These gifts are greatly appreciated and help offset our costs. Thank you to everyone for your support!



HANDS-ON MISSION

Our first couple of months went very well with our new 3rd Sunday of the Month Hands-On Mission Sunday! In May we were able to put together 140 care packages for veterans, and in June we put together 120 healthy snack bags for children in homeless shelters. We have had wonderful participation and support from all of you. You can read the thank you letter that came from the Veteran's Home in this newsletter as well.

In July, we will be making birthday cards for an organization that helps find people jobs and homes. Their caseworker brings them birthday cards made by people as many do not have family in the area. This Sunday is also our VBS picnic, so we are looking to have a project that works well with kids and adults.

In August, we will have an offsite option as well as an onsite option. Thank you for your continued work serving as the hands and feet of Christ. If you have ideas or thoughts about a service project that you would like to share, please contact our Missions Coordinator, Lisa Diez at 651-808-4226 or diezlisa@gmail.com.



Child care is available in Rooms 15 & 17 on Sunday mornings **for infants up to 5 years**. We have Childcare Providers on staff who enjoy rocking, playing with, and telling stories to the youngest members of God's family. This is a place where children can grow spiritually through wonderful learning experiences and loving relationships.

Pastor James and our congregation love having children be a part of our worship services. However, we understand that children's attention spans are much shorter than adults, so we provide "Kid's Stuff Bags" and children's bulletins to occupy restless children. We encourage all ages to attend our **Christ Connection Service** held in the Hall. God loves to see His children make a joyful noise unto the Lord and praise the Lord through dance. That is why we welcome our children to sing and dance during the praise songs.

Due to safety concerns, all children over the age of five in the education wing who are without an adult, will be shepherded back to the service to join their families in worship. Our congregation genuinely cares about children and are passionate about providing a safe and enjoyable environment for them.

Make a Joyful Noise! The Summertime Singers is for anyone who wants to sing 3 or 4 part harmony songs for one service each month. This summer the remaining dates are: July 30 & August 27. We'll meet at 8:45 to warm up and learn the anthem for the day. All are welcome. Even if you've never sung in a choir - take this opportunity to see what it's like. If you have questions, contact Mary at 651-331-1089 or livingstonmusic@q.com.



Summertime Singers



P.W. NEWS

By Pat McKisson, Moderator

“North St. Paul Area Food Shelf”

Support this mission at the Bake Sale on August 13, 2017

The North St. Paul Food Shelf has had an active life. Over 35 years ago they were organized and served North St. Paul residents. Then about 20 years ago the boundaries were expanded to include Maplewood and Oakdale residents. After many years because of the difficulty in servicing this large an area, not to say an ever-growing need by families for food, the decision was made in June 2012 to only serve North St. Paul and Oakdale residents. Here is how they served our community in 2016:

NUMBERS:

- 2,575 families (7,875 individuals) and 583 different families were served.

DISTRIBUTIONS:

- 268,056 pounds of food and gave out gift certificates totaling \$12,875;
- A Christmas bag to each family with appointments in December which included a ham, turkey, or turkey roast plus other treats.

OTHER SERVICES:

- For several months, depending on weather conditions, a table was stocked outside with food, miscellaneous items, extras bread, etc. between 12:00 and 1:00.
- Had drawings with donated items that included afghans, hair clippers, vaporizers, and electric toothbrushes.

JOIN US AUGUST 13, 2017 for a BAKE SALE to SUPPORT the NORTH ST. PAUL FOOD SHELF

MISSION MATTERS

By Pat McKisson
“The Bible and Belhar”
Facing Racism

The Confession of Belhar was adopted into the *Book of Confession* by the 222nd General Assembly in 2016. Because of the racial violence that is happening at home and across the world, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has developed resources based on this confession to help us engage people in conversation about its applicability to contemporary racism in the U.S. and the role of the church. Here is a very limited explanation of the Belhar Confession:

First, the Belhar affirms what the Bible teaches: that all humanity is created in the image of God, and therefore each person possesses dignity and worth granted by the Creator.

Second, Belhar affirms God’s desire that all humankind live in unity-in right relationship-with God and with one another.

Third, Belhar focuses squarely on the church as the central focus of God’s activity during this time while we await the full expression of Christ’s reign. God’s vision for the church was born in Acts 2. The book of Acts is the story of the Holy Spirit calling, empowering, and sending all who follow Jesus (the church) across every ethnic and cultural barrier. God’s plan for reconciliation and unity of all things in Christ is perhaps the greatest theme of the Scriptures and is to be the central focus of the mission of the church as well.

Fourth, Belhar recognizes that in this interim time, before the “age to come” is fully realized, the whole world lives under the shroud of sin. Alienation, deprivation, and oppression are the nature of things. In the final section of Belhar, the confession calls the church to respond to the voice of both the Old Testament prophets and the ministry of Jesus in caring for all who are under the burden of sin, especially those who are the most powerless within our cultures, including the weak, the sick, the hungry, the outcast, the stranger, the widow, the orphan, and the imprisoned.

You can download the entire document “The Bible and Belhar” at facing-racism.pcusa.org website and clicking on DOWNLOAD RESOURCES.



Prayer Labyrinth

We invite you to walk our Prayer Labyrinth. It is located on the east lawn of the church, behind the sanctuary. On your journey to the center of the labyrinth, let go. Once in the center, center with God. On your journey out of the labyrinth, allow yourself to feel how to lovingly serve.



We want to thank Pastor James and the North Church family for all the loving support and prayers throughout mom's illness. She especially liked her visits with her deacons. Thank you, Dixie Hatcher, Ila Basch, and Rod Collins. She was also grateful for Mary Livingston and the Music Ministry. ~ The Lillian Hanna Family

My thanks go to our North Church family for their prayers, cards and concerns after my knee replacement surgery. A special thanks to Ila as our caring deacon and to Mary Livingston for the beautiful harp music. (Music Therapy is much more relaxing than the physical therapy!) I continue to improve daily. Miss all of you. Hope to see you soon.
~ Susanne Meyer

The Deacons would like to express their appreciation and gratitude to all those who helped with the Lillian Hanna funeral luncheon by serving, cleaning up and/or furnishing a salad or dessert. It is indeed a joy to experience how this congregation so graciously supports each other as the need arises. We are a blessed congregation of servants!

I want to take the time to thank you so very much for the wonderful Memorial Day gifts that you donated to our veterans. It was so fun to see their faces as they picked them up after our flag ceremony. There are many who talk about helping our veterans. You have done far more than talk. You have acted as the Savior would have. May His blessing be upon you as you continue in your ministry. ~ Sue Register, Hastings Veterans Home

Thank you for donating 42 pounds of food items in May to the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf. Right now we are preparing for summer by filling treat bags to distribute to families with children. We want to provide something extra since these children will not be participating in the free lunch program as they do during the school year. Thank you again for your gift and God bless you. ~ Linda and Dave Zick, North St. Paul Area Food Shelf.

<p>In the absence of the pastor or when contact with the session is desired, the elder on call for the month of July is Terrie Arfi, 651-429-4081.</p>
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Saturday, July 1

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, July 2

8:00am Praise Band

9:30am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, July 3 ~ Office Closed

Tuesday, July 4 ~ Office Closed

Wednesday, July 5

10:00am Choral Bells

7:00pm Praise Band

Thursday, July 6

6:00pm El Shadai

6:30pm Faith Commission

6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band

7:00pm Stewardship Commissions

Friday, July 7

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, July 8

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, July 9 ~ Workcamp Sunday

8:00am Praise Band

9:30am Worship in the Hall

1:30pm El Shadai

5:30pm VBS Dinner

6:00pm VBS

Monday, July 10

8:00am ARM Breakfast

6:00pm VBS

Tuesday, July 11

9:00am Comforters

6:00pm VBS

7:00pm 12-Step Program

Wednesday, July 12

10:00am Choral Bells

6:00pm VBS

Thursday, July 13

5:30pm Great Rivers District Meeting

6:00pm VBS

6:30pm Cub Scouts

6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band

7:00pm Endowment Committee

Friday, July 14

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, July 15

9:30am El Shadai

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, July 16 ~ VBS Sunday

9:30am Worship in the Hall

11:30am Picnic with El Shadai

1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, July 17

3:00pm Guild Meeting

6:00pm Quilt Guild

7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, July 18

9:00am Comforters

7:00pm 12-Step Program

Wednesday, July 19

10:00am Choral Bells

7:00am Praise Band

Thursday, July 20

3:00pm El Shadai Wedding

6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band

Friday, July 21

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, July 22

3:00pm El Shadai

6:00pm El Shadai Pastor Appreciation Service

Sunday, July 23

8:00am Praise Band

9:30am Worship in the Hall

1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, July 24

7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, July 25

9:00am Comforters

7:00pm 12-Step Program

Wednesday, July 26

10:00am Choral Bells

7:00pm Praise Band

Thursday, July 27

6:00pm El Shadai

6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band

Friday, July 28

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, July 29

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, July 30

8:00am Praise Band

9:30am Worship in the Hall

1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, July 31

Innovator Articles Due

7:00pm Boy Scouts



JULY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Roderick Oji	July 2
Bill Paddock	July 3
Cassie Javner	July 3
Marlene Ramey	July 4
Sue Holweger	July 4
Jean Peters	July 5
Dick Ferrazzo	July 8
Beryle Zimanski	July 9
Nick Hicks	July 10
LuJean Swanlund	July 12
Garrett Colton	July 12
Derick Ngu	July 13
Mike Etter	July 14
Rachael Marah	July 15
Paul Hansen	July 17
Ivy Smith	July 17
Lavina Zimmerman	July 18
Mike Gerhardson	July 18
Jamison Stahnke	July 19
Abigail York	July 19
Juanita Zoya	July 20
Coleen Colton	July 21
Leah Holle	July 21
Karen Lewandowski	July 23
Stephanie Olson	July 23
Sophie Glaser	July 23
J.J. Roth	July 24
Evie Hill	July 24
Joan Ruppel	July 25
Brady Ross	July 25
Ivan Skoog	July 26
Loveline Ndelle	July 28
Paul Nelson	July 29
Christian Sellie	July 29
Mary Livingston	July 29
Oliver Smith	July 30
Zach Carlson	July 31