

# March 2017 Innovator

## News

- 9:15 Traditional Worship
- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:10 Refreshments and Fellowship in the Hall
- 10:45 Christ Connection Praise Worship



### March 1st

6:00pm Supper & 6:45pm Worship

Please join us for a light supper and reflective evening service which invites us to examine our lives and prepare for Easter.

### March 22nd at 6pm

During Lent, we will celebrate a favorite yet unique service recreating the earliest Christian gatherings according to the book of Acts. We gather in the Hall where everyone shares platters of finger food distributed around the room by our elders & deacons as we sing, pray, and celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



Pastor James will be teaching a class for children who feel they are ready to understand the meaning of the sacrament of Holy Communion and are eager to partake with reverence. The class will be Wednesday, **March 15th** at 6:00. It is for children who will soon be partaking of The Lord's Supper for the first time and for children who want a refresher on the meaning of the sacrament. Parents are welcome to attend as well. We will recognize our children who will celebrate their first communion at the March 22nd Agape Meal. Please register for this class by calling the church office at 651-777-4044 or by emailing Pastor James at [pastorjames@northchurch-mn.org](mailto:pastorjames@northchurch-mn.org).

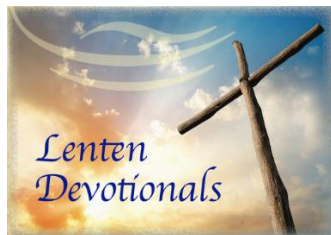


Confirmation Sunday will be **March 26th** at both services. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers as they discern what it means to proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior and how to live as a faithful disciple.

### Confirmands

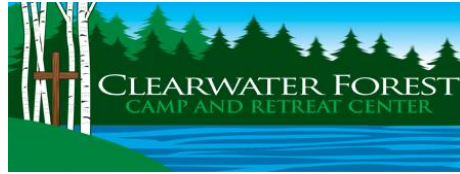
Tanner Behr	Zach Carlson
Mikey Gerhardson	Amy Helgeson
John Helgeson	Peter Helgeson
Morgan Langer	Delyne Ngu
Cassidy Rangel	Christian Sellie
Abigail York	

### LIVING LET AS PEOPLE OF THE RESURRECTION



These daily devotions remind us that Lent is a time to ponder and proclaim the fact that after every Good Friday in our lives, there is always an Easter, because Christ has risen. As people of the Resurrection, we already know how it all turns out, so that makes "Living Lent" a different experience for us as we retrace Christ's steps to the cross during this holy season, fully aware that Easter has already come to pass. Our children's devotional, **40 Days 40 Nights**, keeps children focused on the Easter prize throughout 40 days and nights of Lenten waiting, watching and wonder.

Both devotionals can be picked-up in the Gathering Space.



Registration for Clearwater Forest summer programs 2017 is going strong! Go to [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org) today to check out the 2017 lineup and register online! The theme this summer is “Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ,” where campers will explore the many ways that our relationship with Christ can connect us with individuals and communities for the rest of our lives. Clearwater Forest offers programs for anyone grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through recent graduates, and with all of the fantastic options available this summer there is sure to be something for everyone!

Campfires, kayaking, high ropes, sailing, worship, hiking, archery, swimming, giant games on the Playfield, and s’mores are only part of what Clearwater Forest is all about. Living in community, learning independence and cooperation simultaneously, developing new friendships in a safe environment, experiencing outdoor ministry, and developing a deeper relationship with Christ makes a week at Clearwater Forest a truly life-changing experience. For more information please call the office at 218-678-2325 or check out [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org).

#### **Financial Assistance for Clearwater**

The endowment committee and/ or a few members of our congregation are eager to offer financial assistance to any member in need so they can attend camp. They are glad to invest in the blessings that abound from the camp experience. Talk to Pastor James or Cathy Hickman of the Endowment Committee if your child wants to attend camp but you are short on the funds for the camp.

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

VBS will be held July 9 – 13 from 6:00pm – 8:30pm. More details to follow.



If you are a parent of a child under the age of 5, we invite you to enjoy a Parents' Night Out on **March 8**. You can feel comfortable knowing that your children are being watched by your church family as you enjoy an evening of adult time. Parents' Night Out will be held from 5:30pm – 7:00pm in Room 21.

The Deacons appreciate and want to thank all who have volunteered to help at funerals. If you would like to be added to the list, we need volunteers to help set-up/serve, clean-up, donate bars or donate a salad. Please fill out the form and place it in the basket on the ledge in the Narthex.

Thank you! We really appreciate your help!!!



### **P.W. SPRING - SUMMER CLOTHING DRIVE**

March 26 – April 2, 2017

Bring in your clean, gently-used spring and summer clothing as well as newer, gently-used bedding and towels. Items will be packed up on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and taken to Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church Clothing Center in St. Paul. The Clothing Center was started over 30 years ago and has served the community well. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Nowak at 651-756-7887.

### **THERAPEUTIC MUSIC**

#### **What is it?**



North Church is happy to announce that the Therapeutic Music Ministry will continue! This service - facilitated by the Deacons and carried out by Mary Livingston, a Certified Music Practitioner - brings healing, soothing, therapeutic music to people who are ailing, in pain, in rehab from surgery or injury, in memory care, in palliative care, as well as other health-related situations. If you would like to experience what a therapeutic music session might be like, join Mary in the Fireside Room between services on Sunday, **March 26** for 20 minutes of harp music and meditation. For more information about the ministry, contact one of the Deacons, identified at the "Welcome Wall" near the church entrance.



## NEWS

By Pat McKisson, Moderator

### 2017 P.W. MISSION OF THE YEAR

This year the women of North Church are supporting Solid Ground. Mary Morrisette and I had the privilege of visiting with Hannah Parish, Volunteer Program Manager in February and came away with a very positive impression of work being done through this organization.

Per their website, *Solid Ground is an award winning nonprofit organization whose proven, holistic approach helps families build the strong foundations they need to emerge from homelessness into a brighter future. Through safe, affordable housing and innovative supportive programming, Solid Ground helps families transition to a higher-level of self-sufficiency and break the cycle of homelessness and poverty for the next generation.*

Solid Ground currently runs four programs in suburban Ramsey and Washington Counties housing over 350 women, men and children annually.

Housing: At the heart of Solid Ground is the belief that housing stability is fundamental to the healthy development of children and to a family's ability to be contributing members of the community. Solid Ground helps homeless families achieve and maintain housing stability, and to secure permanent housing when they leave our program. Their housing programs are:

- **East Metro Place** with 20 units in White Bear Lake near Century College,
- **East Metro Place II** with 14 units at the same location,
- **Home Again** which provides rental assistance and supportive services to families in Washington County,
- **Home Safe** which provides rental assistance and supportive services to families in suburban Ramsey and Washington Counties, and
- **HomeFront** a new program serving long-term homeless veterans and their families. The new facility is in Maplewood.

Support for Parents includes goal planning for the individual focusing on housing stability, economic stability, educational advancement, strengthened families and living skills, improved health and community connections. Other services include, behavioral therapy, parenting classes, employment and education services, referral to community resources and transition planning and aftercare, and household and gift donations. Support for Kids includes learning and enrichment programs, Boys Club and Girls Club, family and children's activities, back-to-school supplies, and childcare and early learning. As you can see, Solid Ground has a lot to offer the homeless with the end product being a productive member of their community.

#### EVENTS COMING UP IN 2017:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>March 26 – April 2:</b> | Clothing Drive   |
| <b>April 22:</b>           | Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, MN. |
| <b>May 7:</b>              | Mother's Day Bake Sale to benefit Healthy Women/Healthy Children |
| <b>May 20:</b>             | P.W. Spring Brunch and Birthday Offering Celebration             |

## **World Day of Prayer Friday, March 3, 2017**

*“AM I BEING UNFAIR TO YOU?”*

World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. Let's all celebrate in symbolic solidarity with women around the world! The host country for this year is the Philippines. The women of the Philippines have focused on Matthew 20:1–16, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. They call us to explore concepts of economic justice in both the Philippines' context and around the world, and our response in light of God's generosity. Here is the litany for this day of worship:

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Oh what a beautiful day to gather in the house of God! We feel the presence of the Lord! In the midst of suffering and troubles, we experience the presence of the Holy Spirit! In all things, give thanks! Thanks for the perfect gift, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Our God, the stories of our sisters remind us that we have fallen short of your glory. We have used the excuse that we are only one voice amid many.

You, God, have heard your people's cry for peace, but we have used the excuse that we need a strong military to protect our interests.

God, you have heard your people's cry for protecting the earth, while we have used the excuse that science will find a way to save the planet.

You have heard your people's cry for reconciliation, but we have used the excuse that we do not know those of other races or cultures.

God, you have told us to help the poor and homeless, but we have used the excuse that the help will be misused.

Lord, we have run out of simple excuses and now must face our own sinfulness. We are responsible for not acting on behalf of your people's cries. We need to respond to your call for justice. Forgive us, O God, and set us free. Inspire and move us into action. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

I am a child. I need health care. God of Hope and Reconciliation, move us to care for our children, to alleviate their suffering.

I am an Overseas Filipino Worker. I need just laws. God of Justice and Liberation, we dedicate ourselves to eradicating the causes of injustice that threaten human dignity.

I am young. I need education. I want to be in school. God, our Teacher and Guide, ensure that all persons have the opportunity to develop their full potential and become all you have created them to be.

I am an indigenous person. I want to preserve the legacy of my people and the dignity bestowed on us by God, our Creator. God, our Creator, we dedicate ourselves to building a global community of love, justice, and service.

I am a farmer. I am a laborer. We want to know you more fully and fulfill your call to action, so that we may be agents of change.

God of Love, Justice, and Service, help us to be the seeds of change and to be your instruments, to realize your Kingdom of Shalom.

## **SENDING FORTH**

*We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection*

Jesus, the Bread of Life, sends you out to feed others. We will share our lives with our brothers and sisters. The God of Justice sends you to plant the seeds of hope, to harvest the fruits of liberation and love. We will offer our hands to plant, nurture, and harvest them. The Holy Spirit sends you to be instruments of fairness and joy. Use us to your will and glory. Amen.

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## **MISSION HIGHLIGHTS**

**FAITH COMMISSION**

By Pat McKisson

### **MISSION MATTERS CORNER**

There is something new in the Gathering Area ~ A Mission Matters Corner. Check it out to see mission work at North and in the PC(USA). Interested in more information on a specific mission of North Church, see the Mission Matters binder located at the corner.

## **FOOD SHELF DONATIONS**

You may have noticed the cart for donations is now just around the corner from where it used to be because the Mission Matters Corner took over its space. Continue to place your food items in the cart as usual. If you are going to give a monetary donation, there are special envelopes which you can use. They are available at the food shelf area.

## **UPCOMING MISSION MATTERS**

### **MARCH 3 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice on every first Friday of March.

### **MARCH 5 CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN**

This is a special day to celebrate all women with deep affection and gratitude, particularly for their faithfulness, love, grace, sacrifices and their witness. Celebrate that special woman/women in your life by saying 'thank you' for all you do.

### **MARCH 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. In 2017, women are asked to 'Be Bold for Change'. How will you 'Be Bold for Change?' Will you:

- Challenge bias and inequality
- Campaign against violence
- Forge women's advancement
- Celebrate women's achievements
- Champion women's education

### **MARCH 19 HANDS-ON MISSION SUNDAY**

Watch for more information in the Sunday Bulletin



**Wednesday, March 1~ Ash Wednesday**

10:00am Choral Bells  
 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Meal  
 6:45pm Ash Wednesday Service  
 7:30pm Praise Band

**Thursday, March 2**

6:00pm El Shadai  
 6:30pm Faith Commission  
 6:30pm Music Sense Band  
 7:00pm Life, Stewardship & Nurture

**Friday, March 3**

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

**Saturday, March 4**

2:00pm El Shadai

**Sunday, March 5**

9:15am Sunday School  
 9:15am Traditional Worship  
 10:10am Refreshments  
 10:30am Kerygma  
 10:45am Praise Worship  
 12:45pm El Shadai Leadership Meeting  
 1:30pm El Shadai  
 5:30pm Confirmation

**Monday, March 6**

9:30am PW Coordinating Team  
 6:00pm Boy Scouts Court of Honor

**Tuesday, March 7**

9:00am Comforters  
 12:00pm RPR  
 6:30pm Girl Scouts  
 7:00pm 12-Step Program  
 7:00pm Northern Bells

**Wednesday, March 8**

10:00am Choral Bells  
 1:00pm El Shadai/Staff Meeting  
 5:30pm Parents' Night Out  
 5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship  
 6:00pm Children's Fellowship  
 6:00pm Wednesday Women  
 7:00pm Choir Practice  
 7:00pm Youth Band  
 7:30pm Praise Band

**Thursday, March 9**

5:30pm Great Rivers District Meeting  
 6:00pm El Shadai  
 6:30pm Cub Scouts  
 6:30pm Music Sense Band

**Friday, March 10**

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

**Saturday, March 11**

2:00pm El Shadai

**Sunday, March 12**

9:15am Sunday School  
 9:15am Traditional Worship  
 10:10am Refreshments  
 10:30am Kerygma  
 10:45am Praise Worship  
 12:45pm El Shadai Leadership Meeting  
 1:30pm El Shadai

**Monday, March 13**

8:00am ARM Breakfast  
 9:30am Ruth Circle  
 1:00pm Rachel Circle  
 7:00pm Personnel  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, March 14**

9:00am Comforters  
 12:00pm RPR  
 7:00pm 12-Step Program  
 7:00pm Northern Bells  
 7:00pm WOW

**Wednesday, March 15**

10:00am Choral Bells  
 5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship  
 6:00pm Children's Fellowship  
 6:00pm Lord's Supper Instruction  
 7:00pm Choir Practice  
 7:00pm Youth Band  
 7:30pm Praise Band

**Thursday, March 16**

6:00pm El Shadai  
 6:30pm Music Sense Band  
 7:00pm Session with Confirmands

**Friday, March 17**

5:45pm Confirmation Retreat Depart  
 7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

**Saturday, March 18**

9:30am El Shadai  
 2:00pm El Shadai

**Sunday, March 19**

9:15am Sunday School  
 9:15am Traditional Worship  
 10:10am Refreshments  
 10:30am Kerygma  
 10:45am Praise Worship  
 12:45pm El Shadai Leadership Meeting  
 1:00pm Confirmation Retreat Return  
 1:30pm El Shadai



**Monday, March 20**

3:00pm Guild Meeting  
 6:00pm Quilt Guild  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, March 21**

9:00am Comforters  
 12:00pm RPR  
 7:00pm 12-Step Program  
 7:00pm Northern Bells

**Wednesday, March 22**

10:00am Choral Bells  
 6:00pm Agape Meal  
 7:00pm Choir Practice  
 7:30pm Praise Band

**Thursday, March 23**

6:00pm El Shadai  
 6:30pm Music Sense Band

**Friday, March 24**

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

**Saturday, March 25**

9:00am NMG  
 2:00pm El Shadai

**Sunday, March 26 ~ Confirmation Sunday**

9:15am Sunday School  
 9:15am Traditional Worship  
 10:10am Refreshments  
 10:20am Meditation with Mary

10:30am Kerygma  
 10:45am Praise Worship  
 12:45pm El Shadai Leadership Meeting  
 1:30pm El Shadai

**Monday, March 27****Innovator Articles Due**

7:00pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, March 28**

9:00am Comforters  
 12:00pm RPR  
 6:30pm Girl Scouts  
 7:00pm 12-Step Program  
 7:00pm Northern Bells

**Wednesday, March 29**

10:00am Choral Bells  
 5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship  
 6:00pm Children's Fellowship  
 7:00pm Choir Practice  
 7:00pm Youth Band  
 7:30pm Praise Band

**Thursday, March 30**

6:00pm El Shadai  
 6:30pm Music Sense Band

**Friday, March 31**

5:00pm Girl Scout Derby Weigh-In  
 7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study



Thank you for your donation of 8 pounds of food items in January to the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf. It is through the generosity of such contributions that we are able to provide the ongoing needs to so many in our area. God bless you. ~ Linda and Dave Zick, North St. Paul Area Food Shelf

In the absence of the pastor or when contact with the session is desired, the elder on call for the month of March is Scott Zoya, 651-748-9784.



Harold Hagen	March 1
Jenny Lewandowski	March 2
Roy Brogren	March 4
Mila Fager	March 4
June Pepin	March 5
Cindy Clark	March 7
Evan Willar	March 7
Dale Piepho	March 8
Renee Kristensen	March 8
Delphin Nelson	March 9
David Peaslee	March 9
Linda Stegmeir	March 10
Shirley Amundsen	March 10
Lisa Sellie	March 11
Sherry Tiffany	March 11
Shelley Ross	March 13
Donna Ammermann	March 15
Bryan Miller	March 15
Joel Kalle	March 16
Gerald Hilliard	March 18
Nancy Glasenapp	March 20
Glenn Wetz	March 20
Ellen Davis	March 21
Patricia Christensen	March 21
James York	March 21
Darrell Atud	March 21
Melissa Olson	March 22
Kathryn Hill	March 23
Cassidy Rangel	March 23
Mary Alice Carlson	March 24
Parris Ngu	March 24
Aaron Hill	March 24
Gladys Larson	March 24
Dorothy Kane	March 26
Geoff Lowe	March 27
Dean Willar	March 29
Dorothy Hobbick	March 29
Elizabeth Hummel	March 29
Jeanie Snell	March 30
Lonnie Rangel	March 30
Nancy Gerhardson	March 30
Gabriella Atud	March 30
Jerry Parrott	March 31



