

# NEWS

## ***A Lenten Prayer***

*How easily we leave Your side,  
Lord God,  
for a place far away.  
We are blind in our darkness,  
so open our eyes to our sins.*

*Unless You strengthen our spirits  
and create our hearts anew,  
we cannot make the journey home.*

*Guide us to Your welcoming arms;  
to the music and the dancing,  
for we are easily lost,  
and only You, our Father,  
can find us.*

## **Welcome Steve Kennedy**

It is a privilege to be able to be a part of North's music ministry in these coming weeks. The opportunity to provide musical support for worship during the seasons of Lent and Easter is just one way that God is enhancing my spiritual journey this year. The first conversations with Karen and Pastor James came the very same week my best friend and I began a weekly conversation that involves holding one another accountable through prayer, Bible study and reflection, and sharing about our lives. The taking on of both these faith-based situations feels almost like the start of my Lenten discipline this year.

After working some 20 years in the church with youth and family ministry, I have spent the past couple of years focusing on composing and writing. I am the author of a little devotional book, *Responding with Joy* that comes from several adult Bible Studies I led as well as my training in spiritual direction. Last year, I had a work premiered with the Woodbury Chamber Orchestra and chorus in which I am a bassoonist and provide orchestral arrangements as needed. The Century College Chamber Orchestra commissioned and premiered a larger work last November which you can hear on YouTube--if you are feeling adventurous. Currently, I am in the midst of preparing a demo and orchestrating a musical theater piece that hopefully will be produced in the coming year.

Throughout the year, I teach music on-line for the University of Phoenix while also subbing as a pianist/organist when needed or helping out in interim ministry opportunities. Part of my writing life also occurs as a film and classical music reviewer. My reviews appear in Film Score Monthly On-Line and the American Music Preservation webpage's "Film Music Review." I maintain a music blog at: [maestrosteve.xanga.com](http://maestrosteve.xanga.com) which gets updated regularly as well.

All of these things are examples of how God calls our talents out of us at different times of our lives. Sometimes these are wonderful new challenges to reaffirm and even remind us that there are many signs of God's presence in the world and people around us. May you too discover or re-discover, talents, relationships, and gifts that God is blessing you with in this season of Lent.

Steve Kennedy

## Upcoming Events

### ***March 2: Saturday Worship***

March 6: 6:00pm Agape Meal

March 23: 9:30-11am Children's Easter Party

March 24: Confirmation Sunday

March 27: No Wednesday Ministries

March 28: Maundy Thursday

6:00pm Meal

6:45pm Worship

March 31: Easter Sunday

No Sunday School

April 24: Last Wednesday Ministries until Fall

May 12: Teacher Appreciation

May 19: Sunday School Celebration/Last Day of SS

June 2: High School Senior Sunday

June 21-29: Workcamp

July 16-20: Presbyterian Youth Triennium

July 28-Aug1: VBS

## **Lent 2013**

"Through the Wilderness to the Promised Land of Resurrection"

Every Sunday in Lent we will explore a different facet of God's redeeming love that is shepherding us on our journey. All ages are invited to come together to celebrate the Agape meal on Wednesday, March 6 at 6:00. We celebrate Confirmation and Commissioning on Palm Sunday March 24. On Maundy Thursday, March 28, we will have dinner at 6:00 pm followed by worship at 6:45. We celebrate the glory of resurrection on Easter on March 31.

## **Summer Camps At Presbyterian Clearwater Forest**

Clearwater offers exceptional camps year round for all ages, individuals and families, at great facilities in the beauty of God's creation. Summer week long Discovery Camp (grades 3-6), Adventure Camp (grades 7-9), Retreats, and Adult Camp have been favorites of several members of our congregation for years. This summer we will again have several children and youth attending a week long camp. The camps are offered throughout the summer. Information and registration can be found at [www.clearwaterforest.org](http://www.clearwaterforest.org). Talk to Pastor James if you would like to carpool and attend with others from our church this summer.

## **Financial Assistance for Clearwater or Workcamp**

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 Bruce Beck of the Endowment Committee if your child wants to attend camp but you are short on the funds for the camp.

## **Synod School 2013**

The Yorks will attend their eighth Synod School. The worship is inspiring, the classes are spiritually nourishing, the fellowship is exceptional, and there are many fun activities and crafts, all on a beautiful campus. Over fifty classes are offered for adults. Children and youth have their own special classes, worship, and fellowship. Spencer and Abigail are eager to attend again. Please consider joining the York family this summer for Synod School July 21-26 at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa. More information can be found at <http://www.lakesandprairies.org/school.html>.

# AGAPE Celebration

The Lord's Supper at the Table of Christian Fellowship  
Wednesday, March 6 at 6:00pm  
Meisenheimer Hall  
Bring: 1 Tray of Finger Foods

This Lent we will celebrate an ancient Christian custom. All are welcome to gather together for music, fellowship, worship, and a light supper. Hosted by Faith Commission, elders, and deacons the evening promises to be a fun and inspiring gathering!

In the first years of Christianity Christians gathered to worship God, to praise Jesus Christ, to enjoy their fellowship, and share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. They called their gatherings "Agape Meals" from the Greek word for supreme, perfect love.

Dress comfortably and bring a tray of "finger food" to share. Our elders and deacons will circulate around the room as they did long ago making sure everyone has enough to eat. Table service and beverage will be provided.

We will glorify God through our singing, listening to special music, reading scripture, sharing prayers and the Lord's Supper at our dinner tables, just like the early Christians did long ago in Jerusalem. It will be an evening to remember!

## Hot Dish Cook-Off

Coming, April 7, after the second service...

## Membership Inquirer's Gathering

Do you know of anyone who is interested in joining our family of faith? Please invite them to the Membership Inquirer's Gathering on Saturday, April 13 from 8:45-11:00 led by Pastor James. The gathering is an invitation to faith exploration and is the way a guest becomes a member of North Presbyterian Church. Guests will enjoy refreshments as they discuss faith and our beliefs. Child care is available upon request. Please contact Pastor James if you know of anyone interested in attending.

## VBS

Mark your Calendar! We are beginning to plan our *Kingdom Rock* Vacation Bible School where kids discover how to stand strong for God! *Kingdom Rock* is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Scency-Fun gizmos, team-building games, and cool Bible songs are just a few of the royally rockin' activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life. So mark July 28th – August 1st on your calendar for this life-changing adventure.

# Easter Party

*North Presbyterian Church  
March 23rd  
9:30 - 11:00*

All children up through the 6th grade are invited to our Annual Easter Party. Join us for an egg hunt, crafts, face painting, and more! Everyone is invited, so bring your friends!

## Contributions to North Church from IRA's from Mandatory Distributions

With the passage of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, the provision for Qualified Charitable Contributions (QCD) from an IRA has been extended to the end of calendar year 2013.

The QCD provisions is limited to taxpayers who are over the age 70 1/2, and thus subject to Required Minimum Distributions. In addition, the QCD must normally be sent directly from your IRA custodian to the qualified charity - it can't be taken in cash and then sent to the charity. If you qualify and you do the distribution correctly, you will not have to include the distribution on your tax return as income. You also would not count the charitable contribution as an itemized deduction.

This is a "win-win" situation both for North Church and those making contributions.

## Ladies Tea May 11, 12pm

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

**“Sharing Brings Joy.....To Others, to God, and to Us.”**

*Catastrophic Storms and Wildfires throughout the U.S., War and Political Uprising in the Middle East  
Malnutrition and Starvation, Extreme Poverty and Urban Squalor*

Stories of disaster, hunger, poverty and other tragedies fill our newspapers and TV screens. With such stories, it is easy to become disheartened and experience compassion fatigue. In the midst of these times, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that we are called to be “the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in” (Isa. 58:12). We are called to make God’s community livable for all.

Through abundant and generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Presbyterians have for many years faithfully heeded God’s call to serve people seeking to reclaim and restore their lives.

Your gift to this offering allows Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to restore communities around the world affected by disaster, including those now recovering from Hurricane Sandy. It helps the Presbyterian Hunger Program work with Presbyterians and other partners to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in this country and internationally and makes it possible for Self-Development of

# Look What's Happening in Niger Because of Your Gifts To One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program is investing in rural villages across Niger. Through the NAGAR-TA water project, a supported partner of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, the women, children, and men of 35 rural villages now have, or soon will have, access to clean drinking water made through newly drilled wells. In addition, each village has 15 to 20 smaller wells specifically designed to provide irrigation sufficient for up to 7 months of off-season gardening. These new sources of water will intensify and diversify the agriculture grown by these villages, directly improving nutrition for all and leading to a more sustainable way of life.

The programs supported by OGHS depend on continued and increased support from congregations like ours. Let us give generously and from the heart! Whether you can afford to give \$1 or \$100, by sharing you will Bring Joy to Others, to God and to All of Us!

## Thank You

Dear Members of North Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your donation of 12 pounds of food items in January to the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf. We were able to serve 271 families and distributed almost 27,000 pounds of food.

Sincerely, Linda and Dave Zick

Dear North,

Thank you for allowing us to have our annual Blue and Gold banquet at your church. We really appreciate it.

Thanks, Cub Scout Pack #188

## Innovator and Bulletin Deadlines

*Please be aware that the Innovator deadline has changed. To make it more convenient for all of you, we have moved it to the **last Monday of each month**. The deadline for that day will be **9am** to have the information into the office.*

*The deadline for the **bulletin** is every **Wednesday at 12 noon**.*

***When submitting articles, please do not take time to format and design them. (Unless you are making a graphic specifically for an event.) Using Arial or Times New Roman is preferred. We need to format each announcement and article differently to fit into the bulletin, Innovator, web site, and/or graphic.***

*Thank you for all of the articles and announcements that are turned in! It is always great to see a church family that is thriving and active.*

# Birthday Time for March

Jennifer	Lewandowski	02-Mar
Matthew	Knapp	03-Mar
Roy	Brogren	04-Mar
Cindy	Clark	07-Mar
Evan	Willar	07-Mar
Dale	Piepho	08-Mar
Renee	Kristensen	08-Mar
David	Peaslee	09-Mar
Delphin	Nelson	09-Mar
Colton	Smit	10-Mar
Linda	Stegmeir	10-Mar
Shirley	Amundsen	10-Mar
Lisa	Sellie	11-Mar
Sherry	Tiffany	11-Mar
Dorothy	Gense	13-Mar
Shelley	Ross	13-Mar
Donna	Ammermann	15-Mar
Gerald	Hilliard	18-Mar
Glenn	Wetz	20-Mar
Nancy	Glasenapp	20-Mar
Ellen	Davis	21-Mar
James	York	21-Mar
Patricia	Christensen	21-Mar
Betty	Hoklas	22-Mar
Melissa	Olson	22-Mar
Cassidy	Rangel	23-Mar
Kathryn	Hill	23-Mar
Aaron	Hill	24-Mar
Gladys	Larson	24-Mar
Mary Alice	Carlson	24-Mar
Dorothy	Kane	26-Mar
Geoff	Lowe	27-Mar
Dean	Willar	29-Mar
Dorothy	Hobbick	29-Mar
Elizabeth	Hummel	29-Mar
Jeanie	Snell	30-Mar
Lonnie	Rangel	30-Mar
Nancy	Gerhardson	30-Mar
Neva	Savchuk	30-Mar
Jerry	Parrott	31-Mar

## Friday, March 1

4:00pm Girl Scout Troop

## Saturday, March 2

5:00pm Worship Service

## Sunday, March 3

9:15am Sunday School

9:15am Trad. Worship

10:10am Refreshments

10:45am Kerygma

10:45am Praise Worship

## Monday, March 4

7:00pm Boy Scouts Court of Honor

## Tuesday, March 5

9:00am Quilters/Crafters

1:00pm Rachel Circle

4:00pm Girl Scout Troop

6:15pm Girl Scout Troop

7:00pm Northern Bells

## Wednesday, March 6

10:00am Choral Bells

5:30pm Dance

6:00pm Agape Meal

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, March 7

10:30am Tai Chi

6:30pm Faith Commission

6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band

7:00pm Praise Band Practice

7:00pm Life, Outreach, Nurture Commissions

## Saturday, March 9

8:00am Sew In

1:00pm Girl Scouts

## Sunday, March 10

### Daylight Savings Time Begins

9:15am Sunday School

9:15am Trad. Worship

10:10am Refreshments

10:45am Kerygma

10:45am Praise Worship

## Monday, March 11

8:00am ARM Breakfast

9:30am Ruth Circle

7:00pm Boy Scouts

## Tuesday, March 12

9:00am Quilters/Crafters

7:00pm Northern Bells

7:00pm WOW

## Wednesday, March 13

10:00am Choral Bells

5:30pm Dance

5:45pm Youth Group Supper

6:00pm Sarah Circle

6:00pm Youth Fellowship

6:00pm Childrens Gathering Time

6:15pm Childrens Choir

6:35pm Children's Fellowship Time

7:00pm Youth Band

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 14**

10:30am Tai Chi  
 6:30pm Cub Scouts  
 6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band  
 7:00pm Praise Band Practice  
 7:00pm Life Commission

**Sunday, March 17**

One Great Hour of Sharing  
 9:15am Sunday School  
 9:15am Trad. Worship  
 10:10am Refreshments  
 10:45am Kerygma  
 10:45am Praise Worship  
 5:30pm Confirmation

**Monday, March 18**

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

**Tuesday, March 19**

9:00am Quilters/Crafters  
 4:00pm Girl Scout Troop  
 6:15pm Girl Scout Troop  
 7:00pm Deacons  
 7:00pm Northern Bells

**Wednesday, March 20**

10:00am Choral Bells  
 5:30pm Dance  
 5:45pm Youth Group Supper  
 6:00pm Youth Fellowship  
 6:00pm Childrens Gathering Time  
 6:15pm Childrens Choir  
 6:35pm Children's Fellowship Time  
 7:00pm Youth Band  
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 21**

10:30am Tai Chi  
 6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band  
 7:00pm Praise Band Practice  
 7:00pm Session  
 7:30pm Confirmation Examination with mentors

**Saturday, March 23**

9:30am Easter Party

**Sunday, March 24**

Confirmation Sunday  
 9:15am Sunday School  
 9:15am Trad. Worship  
 10:10am Refreshments  
 10:45am Kerygma  
 10:45am Praise Worship

**Monday, March 25**

Innovator Articles Due  
 9:30am PW CT Meeting  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, March 26**

9:00am Quilters/Crafters  
 7:00pm Northern Bells

**Wednesday, March 27**

No Wed Ministries  
 10:00am Choral Bells  
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 28**

Maundy Thursday  
 10:30am Tai Chi  
 6:00pm Girl Scouts  
 6:00pm Meal  
 6:30pm Boy Scouts  
 6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band  
 6:45pm Worship  
 7:00pm Praise Band Practice

**Sunday, March 31**

Easter  
 9:15am Sunday School  
 9:15am Trad. Worship  
 10:10am Refreshments  
 10:45am Kerygma  
 10:45am Praise Worship