

The Messenger November 2011

Mizpah United Church of Christ - 412 5th Ave. N. Hopkins, MN 55343
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A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

On the church calendar we conclude "Pentecost" and enter "Advent." This transition is marked by some very strange Bible passages, highlighting the arcane theme of apocalypse. On the common calendar we celebrate our great national holiday of Thanksgiving and begin thinking about the joyful celebration we share with secular culture: Christmas.

Sunday, November 6 is Our Saints' Day (see brief article, below). Our guest speaker will be Kristin Zoellner, Resource Coordinator, Minnesota Council of Churches. Lord's Supper – pew. **NB: Daylight Saving Time ends this day!** Friday, November 11 is Veteran's (Armistice) Day. Key passage – Matthew 25:1-13.

Sunday, November 13 is Stewardship Sunday (see "I've Been Thinking"). We host a "neutral pulpit" sermon as part of our covenantal relationship with another congregation and Minnesota Conference UCC. Key passage – Matthew 25:14-30.

Sunday, November 20 is Thanksgiving Sunday. By God's grace we will add new members to our family of faith this day. Key passage – Matthew 25:31-46. Thursday, November 24 is Thanksgiving Day.

Our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at Bet Shalom Congregation at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, November 23.

Sunday, November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent. Key passages – Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37.

OUR SAINTS

On Sunday, November 6 we remember and celebrate the saints of Mizpah who have joined the Church Triumphant during the past twelve months, including Gwen Bennett, Bev Gibbs, Aggie Plautz, Charlotte Nelson and Dorothy Pearson. *Blessed are the dead who die in Christ; may their memory be a blessing to us all!*

NEW MEMBERS

If you intend to join Mizpah Church on Sunday, November 20, please contact Pastor Steve by Sunday, November 13. No new member gathering will be held at this time; rather, I

will speak with new members individually and conduct a new member class at a later date.

Pastor Steve

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Fund is depleted. I use it for benevolences and for small projects around the church. Recent recipients include Nadia a. Z., who is our Palestinian school child from East Jerusalem; Resource West; and, Pilgrim Point. Your monetary gifts to the Fund are welcome and are tax deductible, as gifts to the church. Thank you, *Pastor Steve*

I'VE BEEN THINKING ... about the Top Ten Reasons to give to Mizpah.

Here they are, in reverse order, for 2012:

10. Your gifts of money, securities and real or vehicles to Mizpah are tax deductible. See your financial advisor for details.
9. Unlike with some other recipients of your charitable donations, you can "track" your money here. We practice total financial transparency. You can even vote on how your money is used!
8. Mizpah is very good at "leveraging" your donation, through our covenantal, ecumenical, interfaith and community partnerships.
7. Financial giving, like giving of time and talent, helps build the relationships that are at the heart of our vital Christian fellowship.
6. Your financial giving sets a positive example of generosity for others, including your children and grandchildren. Significantly, America runs on charitable giving.
5. Our ministries of worship, education, fellowship and mission, all financed by our annual Stewardship Campaign, make our church a vital player in Hopkins, the region and beyond.
4. Giving of treasure, talent and time to and through the church fulfills the biblical mandate to love neighbor as self.
3. By giving to our three Endowment Funds, in addition to your annual gift, you can assure the financial health our church into the future.
2. Financial giving to our church is one of the few activities that provides not only long-term but immediate benefit, both to the recipient and to the giver.
1. "Count yourself blessed," the theme of our annual Stewardship Campaign, reminds us that, as God has blessed us, so we can be a blessing to others. Financial giving to and through the church is our joyful response to God's amazing love!

In Christian generosity,

Pastor Steve

Stewardship Note:

Through August, year-to-date income was \$137,134, which is about \$16,000 below the year-to-date budget of \$153,256. Year-to-date expenses were \$148,791, about \$4,000 below budget. Therefore, for the Operating Budget through August, Expenses have exceeded Income by \$11,657.

LADIES,LADIES

The ongoing ICA Birthday Bag project includes Cake Mix, Frosting, Candles and small gift for girl or boy. Pat Prudlo is the contact.

We met on October 11th to discuss ongoing projects and possible new pursuits.

The Ladies **annual bake sale** will be held on November 19th (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) from 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Pastries can be brought to the church (Fellowship Hall) on Friday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 for pricing. Sign-up sheet is in the Upper Narthex beneath the Bake Sale poster. This is always a wonderful Fall get-together - please save the date!!

The next **Soup and Sandwich**, November 1, offers Chicken Gumbo Soup, Egg Salad Sandwich, Cookie, Coffee - ALL for \$5.00 adults, \$2.50 children.

JOIN US!!!!!!!

Diane Pobuda

Mizpah Fellowship presents **HONDURAS**

Wednesday, November 9th Dinner 5:30 presentation to follow. \$9 members \$12 guests Cheryl Schrader organizes medical and dental help with "Helping Hands For Children". She will share her experiences working with the people of Honduras including many photographs. Please make reservations at church or from your caller.



Bake Sale and Attic Treasures

Saturday, November 19

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ladies, Ladies will accept donations to the sale at Mizpah Friday, November 18 from 7-9

Handbells are back! The Handbell Rehearsals are Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7, 21. Come hear them at the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you to my Mizpah family for all the cards, prayers and well wishes for my successful recovery. I am truly blessed. *Mary Sundby*

Nancy's Notes

I have just returned from the "ConNext Summit" held at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN. It was a wonderful 3 days of connecting with others in a progressive vision for children and family ministry. This summit was attended by Christian Educators from ELCA, United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, United Church of Christ, The Resource Center for Churches, one member of Episcopal Church, and one from Church of the Brethren.

Churches in all these denominations are moving towards using inclusive language, relevant faith formation, practices for nurturing children's spiritual lives and welcoming children in worship. Who knew?!

I have a book in my 'library' dating back to 1991 entitled *Including Children in Worship, A planning Guide for Congregations*. This is not a new concept by any means. A few families in our congregation practice this and have for many years.

...But children wiggle! Yes, and they talk out loud sometimes. And who among us doesn't? Sometimes they don't appear to listen and they color or look at pictures, and the adults write grocery lists or think about all the things they need to do after Church...and sometimes we listen and all the time we pray for each other and sing and celebrate together!



Jesus blessed the children and taught the adults. In the congregations of today, we have reversed that process. We teach our children about worship from the basement as the adults are having the hands on learning. We need to give them the opportunity to experience worship in the meaningful ways that adults do. The truth is clear parents and grandparents are the primary faith formers of their children. We need to *hear* about Jesus together. The children need to see you worship. They need to *feel* the love of community. Our children need to participate in all aspects of worship and adults need to let them. If they want to hand out the bulletins or greet people entering the Sanctuary stand with them and honor this need to be part of something bigger. Simple.

I am not suggesting we do away with Church School. A lot of great things happen in Church School for the children and the people that teach them. There are important stories they need to know and we have more regular attendees then we have in years. I just want to point out that it is not about the numbers that make an experience worthwhile for the children, it is a combination of their own family sharing an important part of their lives and the Mizpah family taking the mystery out of Worship. Mizpah does a whole lot of things right. The music is beautiful, the many people it takes to put on a Sunday morning service is inspiring including our fellowship time. It may appear the reason the teenagers that are still involved after confirmation is the mission trip, but the reality is, it is the family. Their family and the Mizpah family showing interest in the kids and providing a nice worshipful place to be! Sometimes Church School has to be cancelled or sometimes the kids just want to stay in Church... welcome them. The love we give and receive at Mizpah is for all ages.

Peace,

Nancy

NOVEMBER, 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 FIX IT 9 LUNCH 11-1 COUNCIL 7 MCS 6-10	2 BIBLE STUDY 10a CHOIR 7P	3 LOAVES & FISHES	4	5 aa INTERGROUP 9-11 FELLOWSHIP 
6 9a COFFEE W/SGT 10 WORSHIP CHURCH SCHOOL RESETTLE REFUGEE KRISTIN ZOELLNER	7	8 VOTE FIX IT 9 MCS 6-10	9 BIBLE STUDY 10 CLERGY CLUSTER 12 MIZPAH FELLOWSHIP 5:30 HANDBELLS 6-7 CHOIR 7P	10	11	12 aa INTERGROUP 9-3 FELLOWSHIP
13 9a COFFEE W/SGT 10 WORSHIP CHURCH SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY CONFIRMATION 11:10-12:30	14	15 FIX IT 9 MCS 6-10	16 BIBLE STUDY 10 HANDBELLS 6-7 CHOIR 7P	17	18 7-9P Bake Sale DONATIONS EXCEPTED	19 aa INTERGROUP 9-11 SANCTUARY Bake Sale 11-3
20 9a COFFEE W/SGT 10 WORSHIP CHURCH SCHOOL 7P @ TWILIGHT	21 COMBINED BOARDS 7P	22 FIX IT 9 MCS 6-10 STEWARDSHIP 7P	23 BIBLE STUDY 10 THANKSGIVING eve service 7:30	24 	25	26 aa INTERGROUP 9-11 FELLOWSHIP
27 9a COFFEE W/SGT 10 WORSHIP CHURCH SCHOOL	28	29 FIX IT 9 MCS 6-10	30 BIBLE STUDY 10 HANDBELLS 6-7 CHOIR 7P			

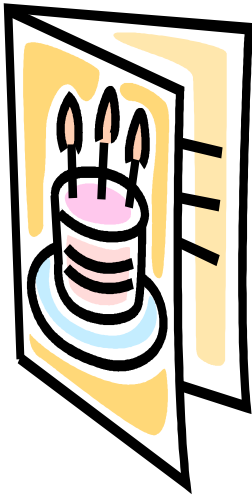
SERVING IN NOVEMBER:

FELLOWSHIP	6: MIZPAH FELLOWSHIP	13: STEWARDSHIP	20: CHRIS AND BETSY TOWER	27: _____
TODDLER T/M	6: JEANNINE CONWAY JAN BLACKSTAD	13: JOSIE PETTYGROVE STEVEN MAINE	20: CINDY OR PATRICK CLINT BONNIE KUERGELEIS	27: HEATHER BABULA KAREN HUEY
CHURCH SCHOOL	6: REBECCA MAKI	13: KAREN HUEY	20: LYNNE DAY	27: NANCY JOHNSEN
WELCOMERS	6: STEVE & SHARON	13: AL FIENE	20: KOTAR'S FAMILY	27: BINK SEMMER

November Birthdays



- 3 Paul Lohmann
- 4 Estelle Clint
- 5 Elton Jacobson & Janice Yager
- 6 Delores Skibness
- 7 Megan Patterson
- 10 Larry Currier
- 12 Dick Niemann
- 13 Briana Beatty
- 14 Ruth Ewald
- 15 Norb Ewald & Riley Cleveland
- 16 Ann Jenny
- 21 Cheryl Currier & Clara Bergen
- 24 Marla Nelson
- 25 Mary Leonardson
- 26 Joel Nelson
- 27 Linda Williams
- 28 Craig Hedberg & Nicole Leonardson
- 29 Steven Maine



Behind the Scenes

or

How Mizpah Gets Things Done.

Each week ministries of all kinds take place in and around Mizpah; the obvious ones we see weekly and a lot we don't see including:

Lawn mowers, weed pullers, tree trimmer, Fellowship -even when no one signs up, urn planter, maintenance of the courtyard, collection donations delivered, offering money counted, fix it crew that attends to projects of all sizes, sanctuary de-cluttering between services, birthday cards sent to the 12 and under and 80 and over group, 2 toddler room staff every week, church school teacher every week, rides for those in need, visits to homebound, Messenger folders and mailers, phone participants on prayer chain, office volunteers, sanctuary decorations, window washers...and more.