

CONGO COMMENTS

The Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, United Church of Christ

March, 2019

MARCH HAPPENINGS!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 2nd, at
8:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 9th, at
9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn.

More happenings on page 5

**Springtime is the
land awakening. The
March winds are the
morning yawn.**

Lewis Grizzard



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REMARKS

On Wednesday, February 27, I'll be taking this year's Confirmation Class to the Funeral Home. We'll be joined by family members along with this year's Mentors. We'll eat and talk and laugh and take a tour. This might strike you as an unusual field trip – so scary and mysterious. I've been asked "Why?" on more than one occasion. I understand the hesitation some people express when they learn I do this. I think there are many good reasons for us to have this experience together as a class.

In our society death seems to be a taboo subject. Although we all know we're going to die someday, we don't want to be reminded of this fact. Often, the dying are hidden away in hospitals or nursing homes, brought out for viewing only after this mysterious process is over. Worse yet, death has become the stuff of entertainment, exploited for its power to shock and scare us. Researchers estimate that the average teenager has seen more than 13,000 deaths on televisions, other personal screens and in theatres. This makes me think we're not only afraid of death, but also fixated on it.

Fear of death has the power to motivate and shape our behavior. We eat right, wear seatbelts, exercise, and visit our doctors (if we have insurance). We convince ourselves we're altering our behavior in order to prolong life, but what we're really trying to do is avoid death. This reaches into our elementary schools: A third grader came home and proudly announced to his parents that he wasn't going to die. When asked how he was going to manage that, he said he wasn't going to smoke. While a wise choice, he's likely to be disappointed in the end result. From the very beginning Christianity has been about death – what it means and how we face it. Death has always frightened people, but the empty tomb tells a different story. Jesus conquered death by rising again to new life, offering us the promise of life eternal. This doesn't mean we won't die; it simply means death is not the last word, and therefore death has lost its sting. Death is just the end of life in this world – nothing scary or mysterious about it.

In addition, remember that in the first three Gospels, when the disciples discovered the tomb was empty, they were told to go back to their lives, this time filled with the knowledge that Jesus Christ was risen. As the angel asked them, why do you look for the living among the dead? Christ was not dead, but alive. And, though we will die, too, so too shall we live. Free from the fear of

death, we're able to live in faith with courage and love, hope and compassion. This is why we're going to the Funeral Home.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Mark

MARCH GREETERS

03 – Collene & Bill Bares
10 – Collene & Bill Bares
17 – Lori & Andy Nustad
24 – Lori & Andy Nustad
31 – Mary & Walt Kulberg

MARCH USHERS

03 – Paul Bursik & Matt Casey
10 – Paul Bursik & Matt Casey
17 – Judy & Marv Enslin
24 – Judy & Marv Enslin

MARCH FRIENDSHIP TIME

03 – Lynn Anderson & Carol Moore
10 – Lois Gould & Dave Perlmutter
17 – Anne Anderson & Kuether Family
24 – Lynn Anderson & Brook Christensen
31 – Patti Kay VonWillard & Mitsy & Matt Casey

MARCH ALTAR FLOWERS

03 – Lynn Anderson
10 – Lent
17 – Lent
24 – Jean McDonald – Lent
31 – Lent

COURTESY GROUPS

Leaders for **January, February, and March:**

Lynn Anderson

Guidelines for Courtesy Group members

1. Every local church member and family is assigned to a Courtesy Group.
2. Your Group serves Friendship Time three consecutive months of the year and you will be asked to take a turn serving Sunday Friendship Time. Assignments will be sent to you prior to the month you serve.
3. Your Group Leaders may contact you to provide food or service in case of a funeral or special event, if your Group comes up in rotation.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 to 12:00 noon on Mon., Tues.,
Wed. Call ahead if you need to enter the
church at another time.

CHURCH OFFICE: 218-847-4609

David Moen, Moderator
Lynn Anderson, Vice Moderator
Karen Rosby, Clerk
Gini Kleingartner, Financial Administrator

Renee Holm, Music Director
Joy Herbst, Custodian
Carlene Hisgun, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Mark Kuether, Minister

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Friendship Time

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

01	Dianne Bailey
08	Jesten Hayle
09	Emily Strom
11	Linda Hennings
12	Patti Kay VonWillard
16	Donna Bursik
17	Don Blanding
18	Sally Oja
19	Nancy Hayle
19	Jonathan Rogstad
20	Lauren Lokken
22	Dana Casey
23	Brook Christensen
24	Dave Perlmutter
26	Vicki Johnson
27	Miranda Tubridy
28	Maxine Nelson

FACEBOOK



As several of you already know, the Congregational Church now has an official Facebook page. You can find it by typing in ***Congregational Church of Detroit Lakes*** in the search bar. If you are really tech savvy you can also use @uccdl to tag or search for us. This link, www.facebook.com/uccdl, will take you directly to our Facebook page. Please feel free to like, share and comment on any photos and posts we share.

Carlene Hisgun and Joe Craig are currently administrators of the account. We are looking for one more person to join their team to help cover events and notices. If you are interested, stop in and visit with Carlene to get further information.

UPDATED WEBSITE

We have a new look on our website! Carlene has been busy updating our website and transferring everything from our previous web host to a new one. Check it out at www.detroitlakesucc.org.

Although there a new look, Carlene is still working on making adjustments to better suit our online presence.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

If you are a member of the congregation and do not have family in the area, we'd like to help. The church is compiling a list of contact information of who should be informed in the event of an emergency. Please contact Carlene in the church office, or leave a note on her desk with your name, contact name(s), phone number and email address.

BECKER COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

We collected **13 dish soap, 4 shampoo/conditioner bottles, 3 toothpaste, 4 toothbrushes and 2 body washes** for the month of February.

In March we are encouraging people to donate **cash and checks** because March is Minnesota Food Share Month. Thank you for your generosity!

~ Sue and Mark Geihl

LOCKED OUT OF THE INN

On Saturday, March 30th at 5 pm, we will be hosting a community forum called *Locked out of the Inn*. It's about the struggles people face after they get out of prison. Speakers will include people from the Crossing Home reentry program and the Otter Tail County Jail Chaplain. Soup will be served. You're warmly invited to join us on March 30 in our Fellowship Hall.

WHAT'S THE FINANCIAL TEMPERATURE?

	January, 2019	YTD
GENERAL OFFERING	\$13,195.00	\$13,195.00
LOOSE OFFERING	\$30.00	\$30.00
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$0.00	\$0.00
WE CARE	\$0.00	\$0.00
MNKOTA RECYCLING	\$18.14	\$18.14
BUILDING USE REVENUE	\$25.00	\$25.00
INTEREST INCOME	\$0.26	\$0.26
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,268.40	\$13,268.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,102.70	\$14,102.70

Commentary:

We have begun review of 2019. While we have a negative cash flow, we could identify that "snow removal" could be a probable cause but not entirely! Some added costs of the remodel and carpet expenses together have caused a deficit. These are not recurring expenses; thus our task going forward is that which we continue to keep conscience about. We need to maintain discipline to move forward. And, we can do it!

"What Shall We Bring?" STEWARDSHIP, 2019

Marv Enslin, Board for Stewardship

THANK YOU – HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Dear Friends at Detroit Lakes Congregational Church:

I can barely begin to thank you enough for the gift ark your congregation raised in honor of Mary Kulberg!

I am inspired by Mary's story and deeply moved by how she has spread Heifer's work and message amongst your community!

Your gifts will provide training, livestock, empowerment and more to families around the world. Your generosity and compassion will help those women, men and children to raise themselves above poverty and towards health, dignity and resilience. Thank you for your partnership!

In Peace,
Liz Ellis

JULIA'S MISSION TRIP TO COSTA RICA

Dear Church Family,

As some of you have heard, I was on a Mission trip to Costa Rica with the Methodist Church. Strong Missions San Isidro de Grecia Alajuela, Costa Rica. It was my first Mission trip. I am so glad I went! The timing was right because of the freezing weather here in Minnesota (110 degree difference) from leaving Fargo and arriving in San Jose, Costa Rica.

There were thirteen people on our team, most from Detroit Lakes. The first day (lots to do) I volunteered to be part of a six person team. We restored a very large garden back to a productive fertile garden. I also worked on painting at Strong Missions, the school, and helped sort clothing.

Others worked on hanging sheetrock, more painting, mudding, taping, welding, pouring concrete, etc. Some spent one afternoon with the children making God's eyes, singing and coloring.

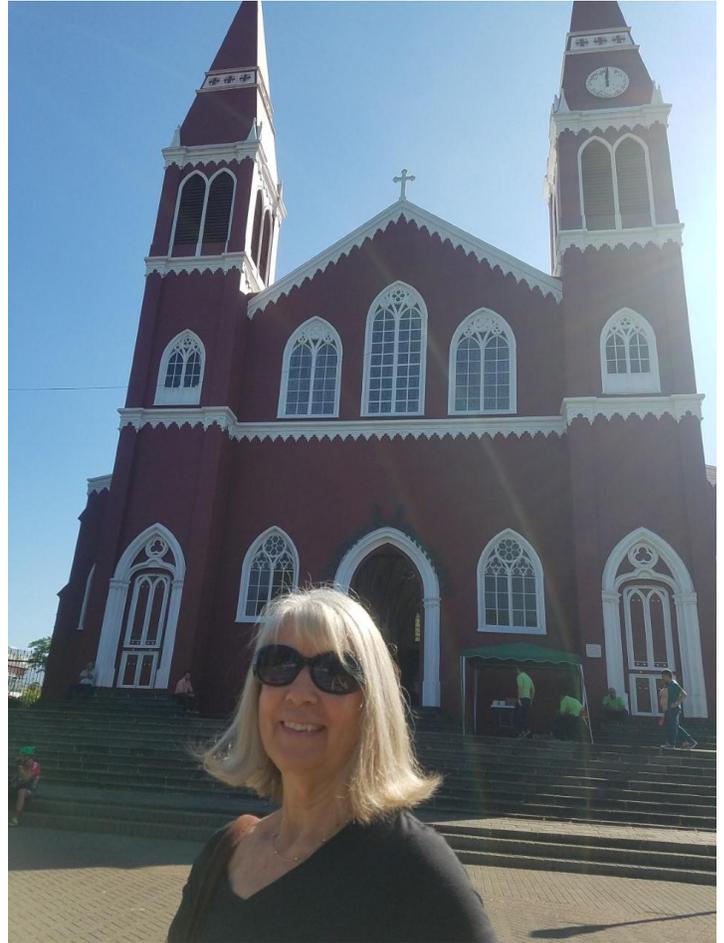
The Mission has beautiful grasses. People were up at 5:00 am to start preparing three meals for us each day. Plus rich Costa Rican coffee!

I learned something about myself on this trip. That is I am still teachable, hard work is joyful, and I see a little of myself in everyone. So that tells me we are all cherished children of God. The country and the people are beautiful. I would do it again. Plus we did have an afternoon to take a bus ride to see the original Ox Carts and where they were made and are still being made today.

On Sunday, on our way to the beach, we attended mass at the Catholic Church in Grecia. The church was disassembled (tin church) and brought to Grecia from Belgium in the 1800's. We had two relaxing days on the Pacific Ocean (Manuel Antonio Beach), along with a guided tour through the rain forest.

I would do it all again in a heartbeat!

Peace and Love,
Julia Held



We extend our sincere appreciation to, and our ongoing prayers for, the following people, who will serve with and among us in these capacities in 2019:

MODERATOR
VICE MODERATOR
CLERK
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

David Moen
Lynn Anderson
Karen Rosby
Gini Kleingartner

BOARD FOR
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nancy Palubicki
Sonja Kolnes
Joe Craig
Brook Christensen

BOARD FOR
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Vicki Johnson
Judy Dey
Diane Pederson
Nancy Hayle
Sue Geihl

DIACONATE

Niki Strom
Sherlene Williams
Patti Kay VonWillard
Lynn Anderson

BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

Dick Wilson
Julia Held
Miriam Moen
Marv Enslin

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Duane Palubicki
Don Blanding
Pete Johnson
Richard Hennings

PASTORAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE

Paul Bursik
Andy Nustad
Cookie Welder
Susan Nicks

FOUNDATION BOARD
OF DIRECTORS

Shar Legenhausen
Linda Hennings
Jim Sinclair
Sally Oja
Don Blanding
Gordon Rosby
Terry McGillivray

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



We remember the family of **Janet Whitcomb**. Janet passed away on January 4th. Her memorial service was January 11th at Oak Crossing Chapel in Detroit Lakes.

We also remember the family of **Calvin "Cal" Skogen**. Cal passed away peacefully on February 17th at the Broen Nursing Home in Fergus Falls, MN. A private family service will be held at a later date.

May they both forever rest in the palm of God's hands.

FOOD PANTRY

As most of us know, we actively support the Becker County Food Pantry in a variety of ways. Among other things we provide workers during the month of January each year. Special thanks to the following people who volunteered and helped out at the Food Pantry in January: Mike Nustad, Paul Bursik, Sharon Sinclair, Gary Kleingartner and Rev. Mark. A much bigger thank you goes out to Dick Wilson for not only coordinating this endeavor, making sure we had people in place every Tuesday and Thursday, but also personally working several days during the month. A warm thank you to all of you!

SHORT STORIES BY JESUS

Biblically speaking, Jesus told 46 parables. That's according to one scholar, anyway. Do you have a favorite? Why that one? If you enjoy/are intrigued by/are troubled by/are not sure what to make of some of Jesus' more familiar stories, this year's Lenten series is for you. We'll gather on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6. We'll begin by eating a wonderful meal while enjoying some great conversation around our tables in Fellowship Hall. At around 6:15 we'll watch a 10-12 minute video segment about one of Jesus' parables. The series is called **Short Stories by Jesus**. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School, will be our guide as we explore six parables -- one each Wednesday night: Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son; The Good Samaritan; The Pearl of Great Price; The Mustard Seed; The Laborers in the Vineyard; and The Widow and the Judge. Is your favorite on this list? If not, you might have a new favorite before the end of Lent. How can we re-read Jesus' provocative parables? How might original audiences have understood these stories? How might we today? These promise to be rich, interesting conversations. I do hope you'll join us.

~ Rev. Mark

If you have something you would like to share in the Congo Comments, you can drop it off in the office or email it to dlcongo@msn.com.

Information for April's Issue must be received by Sunday, March 24th.

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

March 2 –

Men's Breakfast 8:00

March 3 –

Asset Mapping 11:15

March 5 –

Bible Study Noon

March 6 – Ash Wednesday

Supper 5:30, Worship 6:15

Choir 7:00

March 9 –

Women's Breakfast 9:00

March 12 –

Bible Study Noon

March 13 –

Boards 4:30, Supper 5:30

Worship 6:15, Choir 7:00

March 19 –

Bible Study Noon

March 20 –

Council 4:30, Supper 5:30

Worship 6:15, Choir 7:00

March 22 –

Youth Lock-in

March 24 –

Congo Comments Info Due

March 26 –

Bible Study Noon

March 27 –

Supper 5:30, Worship 6:15,

Choir 7:00

March 30 –

Locked Out of the Inn 5:00 7