



The Good News letter

United Methodist Church of Madison, South Dakota
"Growing Together as Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Ryan's Reflections....

As we enter the month of December, it is not uncommon to do so with mixed emotions. On the one hand we look forward with anticipation and excitement to all of the joy of Advent and Christmas! We'll celebrate through children's music programs at church and school, community celebrations, downtown shopping, gathering with family and friends, and candlelight services proclaiming the birth of Jesus Christ!

Yet on the other hand, many face this time of the year with sadness, fear and stress. We encounter the stress of preparing our homes for visitors, extra Christmas responsibilities, trying to get along with family, expectations of buying gifts with limited resources and the sadness of remembering family and friends who are not around to celebrate with us this year.

Whether you are feeling really excited this season of Advent or if you are experiencing grief or emotional stress, remember the words of the angel Gabriel as he spoke to Mary: *"Do not be afraid for*

you have found favor with God." (Luke 1:30)

As we journey together this Advent & Christmas season, let us not fear the

emotions of the coming of Christ into our lives! Let us open our hands, open our hearts and receive him! The Christ-child walks with all of us in these times of great joy and celebration! The Christ-child walks

with all of us in times of stress, grief and pain. May your Advent journey be without fear as God leads all of us to the manger this Christmas!

See you Sunday! Pastor Ryan



Christmas Program & Practice!

Our Sunday School children will be practicing for their Christmas program on Saturday, December 7th from 9am-11am. We hope everyone can make it! This year's Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 18th at 9:30am! Invite all of your family, friends and neighbors to join us for the sharing of the birth of Jesus!

Christmas Eve Worship

Celebrate Christmas Eve with family and friends! We hope you and your family and friends will join us for our 4:30pm or 7pm candle light services, as we read the scriptures, sing favorite hymns and celebrate the Light of the World, the birth of Jesus Christ!



"Bless the Toys" on Christmas Day!

All the children and "all children at heart" are invited to bring a toy with you to Christmas Day worship at 9:30am! We'll have a special "Blessing of the Toys" during the children's time! May this be a time to celebrate all of the gifts God has given us!



A Christmas Gift for Your Church

During this season of Advent, we begin to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth and his triumphant return. As our hearts focus in on the traditions of the Church, we also begin to prepare our families and our homes for this celebration. Some of us use this time to share an extra gift with our families, thus braving the crowded stores to purchase a gift. As you think about gifts for your family or friends, I invite you to think about an extra gift for your Church.

We have been blessed in many ways this past year, yet we still have end-of-the-year financial responsibilities. The Finance Committee and our Pastors invite all of us to think about giving an extra gift, above and beyond our regular giving to the Church this month. May God continue to bless all of us as we finish 2011 strong!

24th Annual Community Memorial Service

Ellsworth Funeral Home will be hosting its 24th Annual Community Holiday Memorial Service on Sunday, December 11th at 1:30pm. Rev. Kris Mutzenberger will be leading the service with special music provided by Gary Randall. The service is open to all families who have experienced the death of a loved one, regardless of funeral home preference. If you plan to attend, please call Ellsworth Funeral Home at 256-2221 so your loved one can be included in the service bulletin. Refreshments and homemade holiday treats will follow the service.

Men Serving the Gathering Meal - December 5th

All men of the church are invited to help with the setup, serving and cleanup for The Gathering Meal on Monday, December 4th. The meal is from 5-6:30pm. We'll need some men to help with setup on Monday afternoon and then we need everyone to help serve and assist with cleanup. If you know of a man who loves serving others, invite them to join us as we serve The Gathering Meal.

The Gathering Meal Schedule

The following will be serving The Gathering Meal:
December 5th - United Methodist Men
December 12th - Gehl & Winfred Church
December 19th - Dena's UMC Team
December 26th - No Gathering Meal
January 2nd - No Gathering Meal
Help will be needed on December 19th.



Madison MasterSingers Christmas Concerts

The Madison MasterSingers will present Christmas Concerts on Friday, December 2 at 7:30pm at St. John Lutheran Church, Howard, and on Sunday, December 4 at 4:30pm at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Madison. The concerts feature sacred choral music for the Christmas season. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$1 for students; children age six and under are free.

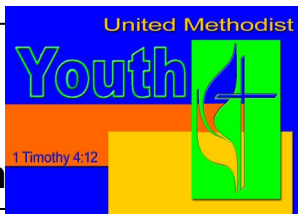
Thank You!

Thank you so very much for your prayers and encouragement as I navigate through this cancer journey! Thank you for the meals and treats, the visits, calls and cards! Your love and faith keep me going!

May God bless each of you!

- Lisa Baasch

Youth News
Senior High and
Middle School Youth



Every Wednesday 6:30-8:00pm

Youth Group meals: Each year we ask that each youth group family provide one meal (or more if you want) for the group each semester. A sign up sheet and instructions will be located in the youth room right by the light switch.

December 7: Gross Family serving

December 14: Uthe Family serving

December 21: Welbon Family serving

December 28: No Youth Group

Thank You!!

Thank you to everyone who helped and participated in the One Meal - One Day program. The youth gave up one meal for one-day and gave the money to feed hungry children through the Compassion International program. A total of \$585.40 was raised.

Thank you for joining us in saving lives!

- Youth Group

SKIP A MEAL, (CHANGE YOUR WORLD.)

S.N.O.W. Camp!

(Someone Needs Our Witness)

Wesley Acres Camp & Retreat Center
First Annual S.N.O.W. Camp!

Grades 6-12

Tuesday, December 27 (3pm) -

Friday, December 30 (3pm)

Join us for sledding, tubing, broomball, snowfence volleyball, campfires, and discipleship training! Camp, it's not just for summers anymore!

Space is limited so register online today:

<http://www.wesleyacrescamp.org>

and click on the snowcamp! link.



2012 United Methodist Women Reading Program

The new Reading Program List will not be out until last part of December. I am in the process of looking to add new books by January.

Right now we only have 40 books to start the 2012 program. Since for the last three years our women have been the Largest reading group in the state we will need new books to maintain that Goal for the coming years.

This year a new section has been added "Leadership" and we have one book. Along with the list of books that we have in our church library I want to have a list of books we can find other places that count for the Reading Program.

I would like to tell you about one of the new books that I haven't read, so I will give you a blurb from the catalog about our one leadership book. It's a Bible Study called: "Old Testament Prophets for Today". (112 pages)

Prophets can be mediators who connect us to the holiness of God. They can be idealists whose desires for humanity call us to new heights of God's desire, and they can be companions for us in the confusing journey through our complicated world. In this book the author offers a lay-friendly introduction to some of the Old Testament's most interesting – and often overlooked – prophets.



It's a Girl

Laynie Anne Wire was born October 26, 2011

Parents: Jerae & Kendra Wire

Brother: Nolan Wire

Grandparents: Scott & Pam Finck

Great Grandparents:

Ray & Gloria Gile
and
Leland & Carol
White



December 2011



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:00pm Advent Study @ Callies'	2 11:30am UMW Luncheon	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School/ Confirmation/ Advent Study	5 5:00pm Gathering Meal	6 10:30am Staff Meeting Noon Advent Study 6:00-8:00pm Committee Meetings (pg 5)	7 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:30pm Advent Study 8:15pm Praise Team	8 8:00pm Advent Study @ Callies'	9	10 7:30am UM Men's Breakfast
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School/ Confirmation/ Advent Study 1:30pm Memorial Serv. 5:00pm Emmaus	12 5:00pm Gathering Meal	13 10:30am Staff Meeting Noon Advent Study	14 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:30pm Advent Study 8:15pm Praise Team	15 8:00pm Advent Study @ Callies'	16	17 9-11am Kid's Christmas Program Practice
18 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30am Choir Practice 9:30am Worship - Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30am Birthday Cake 10:45am Sunday School/ Confirmation/ Advent Study	19 5:00pm Gathering Meal	20 10:3am Staff Meeting Noon Advent Study	21 5:30pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Youth 6:30pm Advent Study 8:15pm Praise Team	22 <i>Newsletter Info Due</i> 8:00pm Advent Study @ Callies'	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 4:30pm & 7:00pm
25 Christmas Day 9:30am Worship	26 <i>Church Office Closed</i> No Gathering Meal	27 10:3am Staff Meeting	28	29	30	31

Church Family News



December Birthdays



12/01 George Lee	12/15 Teresa Johnson
12/01 Tyler Olfert	12/15 Lyndsey Kessler
12/01 Emily Johnson	12/16 Greg Smith
12/02 Clara Frye	12/17 Patrick Olfert
12/02 Michael Downs	12/17 Cassandra Taylor
12/02 Jordan Heim	12/18 Delilah Maxwell
12/03 Donna Lee	12/19 Janna Olson
12/03 Mitchell Poppens	12/20 Rev. Gene Kroger
12/04 Jeni Appelwick	12/21 Janice Leighton
12/04 Evan Appelwick	12/23 LeAnn Johnson
12/05 Holly Stubbs	12/23 Kris Mutzenberger
12/05 Donald Gross	12/25 John Gross
12/06 Eugene Boer	12/26 Maurice Poppen
12/06 Karen Eastman	12/28 Shiela Sutton Schmidt
12/06 Josh VanDuyn	12/28 Dolly Uthe
12/07 Jeff Anderson	12/28 Gary VanDuyn
12/07 Gail Wilkens	12/29 Donald Erickson
12/07 Hannah Downs	12/29 Carolyn Rudebusch
12/08 Jay Niedert	12/29 Scott White
12/08 Tyler DenHoed	12/29 Christopher Brozik
12/08 Taner DenHoed	12/30 Donna Shoenrock
12/12 Cody Wegleitner	12/30 Renae Prostrollo
12/14 Kim Sheppard	12/31 Marcia Wenk

If your birthday is not listed or incorrectly listed, please call the church office.

Prayer Requests

Sympathy: Sandy Anderson & Family following the death of her brother Jon, Jerae & Kendra Wire Family following the death of Jerae's father Mark Wire.

Health concerns: Lisa Baasch, Ben Zimmerman, Deanna Mutzenberger, Diane Daniel, Lucille Rush (Lora Milne's mother), Ron Warns (Marty Warns' dad), David Byrd (Marie Hanson's nephew), Gloria Pitts (Gary Pitts' mother), Deb Peterson (Marilyn Hanson's daughter), Wanda Harford (Barb McDowell's sister), Wendy Beukelman (Red & Irma's daughter-in-law)

Willy - prayers for long-term legal residency
Our Armed Forces serving overseas and their families.
Michelle Kelley (Sue & Marty Warns' niece)
Colin Nelson (Sue & Marty Warns' nephew)

Missions



The December Mission of the month:
Union Gospel Mission

December Worship Facilitators

Ushers:

Gary Pitts, Chrys Daniel,
Doug Aus, and various Youth

Acolytes:

December 4: Shania Schwebach & Ally Gross
December 11: Erica Wegleitner & Victoria Olson
December 18: Joey Poppens & Dillon Gross
December 25: Ryley Uthe & Emily Warns

Good Samaritan Team - James

Gary & Julie Bahr
Dave & LeNora Busk
Terry & Christie Finck
Phyllis Fuller & JuliGreen
John & Millie Gross
Henry & Shirley Hauck
LeAnn Johnson
John & Sharon Knapp
Art & Betty Mauf
Mitch & JoAnn Poppens
Prostrollo, Dorothy
Scott & Kathy Spotanske
Holly Stubbs & Diane Thomas
Mary Jane Todd & Barb Wegleitner

**Kid's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 18th**

The Gathering Meal

The Gathering meal for **December**
on **Mondays, December 5, 12, & 19 @ 5pm**

United Methodist Women

December 2: 11:30am UMW Luncheon
- White Envelope Offering
All Circles - Christmas Party
Program: Faith Circle
Hostesses: Peace Circle

Committee Meetings

December 6 - the Committees will meet at these times:

Trustees 6:00 pm
Worship 6:00 pm
Education 6:30 pm
Finance 7:00 pm
Church Council 8:00 pm



United Methodist Men Breakfast

Men of the Church...you are invited for breakfast on **Saturday, December 10th** from **7:30am - 8:30am**. Come and enjoy food, fellowship and devotion. Hope to see you there!



United Methodist Church

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Rev. Ryan Mutzenberger, Pastor
Rev. Kris Mutzenberger, Associate Pastor

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