



*Asbury*

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6822 Grand Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55807

The Reverend  
Cindy M. Rasmussen

Sunday Worship — 10:00 am

Office Hours  
Mon-Thurs 9:00 am—2:00 pm

# Messenger

## Asbury Fall Pantry — October 14

**D**on't miss out! The Asbury Fall Pantry will soon be here with delicious donuts, homemade apple pies (frozen to take-and-bake), pickles, jams, jellies, scrumptious cookies on the cookie table, breads, baked goods and craft/knit items. Saturday, October 14 from 9:00 to 11:00 am.



### Are You Signed Up To Help?

We need help with pie making, donut making or share your special talent in baking, knitting or crafting. Cash donations are also welcome! All contributions should be brought to the Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 13 from 8:00 to 11:00 am as this is set-up day! Saturday workers will be needed by 8:00 am and should park in the upper lot to allow easy parking in the lower lot for Pantry guests. If you are bringing baked goods in on Saturday, please bring them in by 8:00 am. It would be helpful to have bars, cupcakes, in packages of 6 or 12.

### Schedules, Sign-up Sheets and Order Forms!

We will be making our scrumptious apple pies on October 5 and 6 starting at 7:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a sign-up sheet to help and also an order form on the table at the back of the church. Pies are \$9.00 each. Donut making for our delicious donuts will take place October 13-14. We will start at 8:30 am on October 13 to make the dough, roll and cut out donuts. On October 14 we start at 6:00 am (come when you can) to fry and wrap. Please call Bev LeClair, 628-2680, if you can help with donuts. Donuts are \$4:00/dozen. Order forms are on the back table.

Our Asbury Fall Pantry is UMW's major fundraiser for the 2018 budget. Thank you all for your participation in this event as it helps us do many good ministries throughout the year. Please spread the word, bring your friends and get a jump start on the upcoming holiday season!

### Table of Contents

Cindy's Corner	2
Pastoral Care	
Asbury News	3-6
October Birthdays	
Worship Notes	
Warner Benefit	
Sunday School News	
Outreach Opportunity	
Calendar	
Ad Council Minutes	
Treasurer's Report	
Meatball Supper	
Backpack Collection	
Membership Info Meeting	
CHUM Church Schedule	
UM Women	7
Funeral Help Wanted	
"Ringing In Advent"	
Meetings	
Project Changes	
Meet the Staff	8



## Fall Festival Change of Venue — October 22

**F**all Festival this year will be on Sunday, October 22 during church. The children will go down after Children's Church to make crafts and play games. There will be a potluck in the Fellowship Hall following worship. **Everyone is invited!** A sign-up sheet for the potluck will be on the table in the Narthex soon. As in year's past, please do not have the children wear scary costumes. We hope everyone can attend this fun event!

— Christian Ed. Team

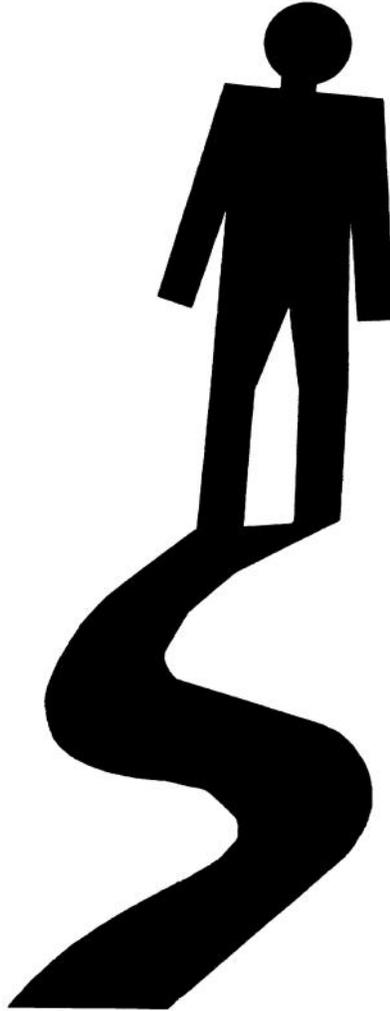
# Cindy's Corner

---

**W**e are journeying people. From the time we enter into the world until the moment we take our final breath, we make our way as life unfolds before us. So it is with our faith. It too is a lifelong journey

In the United Methodist Church, confirmation is one of the first significant moments in which we affirm the faith into which we were baptized. It brings into focus the life of discipleship, recognizes a new level of maturity in Christian faith and affirms participation in a community of faith. It is a time when we learn about who we are as God's people and how that affects our lives. It is a time to learn how God has worked in the lives and faith of others. It is a time to learn about who we are as Christians, as United Methodists and as human beings. It is a time to think about who we want to become.

This past year I have been working with six amazing youth: Chris DeSantell, Ben Nylund, Emily Rager, Mallorie Schwartz, Emma Jo Vanneste and Lily Ann Vanneste. We have talked about and studied beliefs and faith, which included God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, the Bible,



Communion and Baptism. We explored the history and heritage of our faith, and the practices that support and strengthen it. This year Asbury UMC celebrated 25 years of ministry here on Grand Avenue and we talked about the history of this church and the people.

As we learned and shared this year, it became obvious once again that confirmation is not something "accomplished" but rather another important step and another new beginning to lifelong learning and deeper growth in our faith.

## **Sunday, October 29, is Confirmation Sunday.**

We will celebrate Lily, Emma, Mallorie, Emily, Ben and Chris as they affirm the faith into which they were baptized.

I hope you will be present as a sign of the support and love of our community of faith.

It has been such a joy for me to get to know these young adults. They bring so much hope and promise for the future!

*Peace & Joy,*

*Cindy*

**Pastoral Care:** Because of the privacy act, hospitals no longer telephone churches to let us know that one of our members have been admitted. Please notify the church office (218-624-0061) if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care for illness, hospitalization or surgeries. In the case of an emergency and there is no answer at the church, call Pastor Cindy at 218-464-0304.

# Asbury News



## Benefit for Chris Warner and Family

Chris Warner, son of Linda and Dick Warner, was diagnosed with MS in 2014. As a result of this diagnosis, Chris, who is an industrial painter by trade and a member of the local Painter's Union, worked until physical and safety concerns due to the advancement of the MS caused him to discontinue his trade and work



in retail on a limited basis. His neurosurgeon and doctors urged Chris to apply for Social Security Disability. Social Security denied benefits in July of 2017. As a result, Chris and his family were unable to meet monthly expenses forcing them to sell their home.

There will be a benefit for Chris and his family on October 20 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at Mr. D's Bar & Grill at

5622 Grand Avenue. A Spaghetti Feed will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and costs \$10. There will also be a Silent Auction and Bar Olympics for raffle prizes. You do not need to be present to win.

Asbury members who would like to bring baked goods for the benefit, may bring them to church on October 22 between 10 am to noon. They will be delivered from the church to Mr. D's. Silent Auction donations can be left at Mr. D's in care of Mary or Opie, 218-624-4178, or given to Linda or Dick Warner.

Thank you to everyone for the tremendous show of support!



Sunday School has gotten off to a great start! Attendance has averaged 14 to 17 children!

### Upcoming events:

Children's Sabbath has been moved from October 8 to October 15 as Pastor Cindy will be out of town on October 8. Third graders will be receiving their bibles on Children's Sabbath. Parents, please let Cheryl Parendo, Sandy Winklesky or the church office know if your child, third grade and up, has not yet received a bible.

We also are looking for children interested in lighting the candles prior to worship. There is a height and age requirement. **On October 1, there will be a short candle lighting instruction class held after worship.** Parents, if your child is interested, please let Cheryl or Sandy know or call the church office, 624-0061.

## Outreach Opportunity!

Asbury volunteers will be helping prepare, serve and clean up a Saturday meal at the **Damiano Soup Kitchen on Saturday, November 11 from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm.** There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the Narthex.



The Soup Kitchen was the Damiano Center's founding program, beginning in March 1982 and is currently the largest on-site meal program in Northeastern Minnesota.

Eight hot meals are served each week, plus a continental breakfast five days a week. Volunteers need to be able to stand for long periods of time, work the entire 5-hour shift, be at least 16 years old and have a heart for serving others.

## Outreach/

### Communion Offering . . .

September's offering of \$331 went to UMCOR for Hurricane Harvey Relief. October's offering will go to World Communion.

### Attendance . . .

September 3	49
September 10	113
September 17	124
September 24	118

### Scripture Readers . . .

October 1	Barbara Little
October 8	Dale Thorpe
October 15	Jim Faue
October 22	Carrie Sutherland
October 29	Dave Stromgren



3	Tom Houle
	Debra Schwartz
4	Carl Larson
	Sue Newberry
	Ray Peters
	Michael Smisek
5	Melissa Abbett
	Gloria Schultz
6	Lorraine Erickson
	Jakob White
7	Larry Sampson
10	Stan Johnson
12	Carol Johnson
	Logan Peterson
15	Sheri Scanlon
17	Gene Kubis
21	Jordan Nickila
22	Pat Anscorb
23	Julien Melgarejo
24	Linda Warner
25	Judi VanDell

*Not included?  
Please contact the  
church office at 624-0061.*

# Calendar

## October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>WORLD COMMUNION</b> 9:15 am, Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion/ Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	<b>2</b> 6:00 pm CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  <b>Pastor Cindy            on vacation            10/3 to 10/10</b> 	<b>4</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UMW Board Meeting, WR <b>10:30 am, Adult Ed.,            Hillside UMC</b> 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm, Adult Choir	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  <b>10:00 to 11:00 am,            2nd Harvest Food Dist</b>  	<b>6</b>  Office Closed	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:00 am, Worship//Birthday/ Sunday School <b>Rev. John Strunk preaching</b> 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH  9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  2:00 pm, Knitting Klub, WR	<b>11</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:00 am, Pastor Cindy <b>@ West Duluth</b> <b>10:30 am, Adult Ed.,            Hillside UMC</b> 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:00 pm, Education, GR DUMPSTER PU	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	<b>13</b>  Office Closed	<b>14</b>  <b>9:00 to            11:00 am            FALL            PANTRY</b>  
<b>15</b> <b>CHILDREN'S SABBATH</b> 10:00 am, Worship/Praise/ Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 3:00 pm, TPUMMs at First UMC	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Green Door Book Club, WR 6:00 pm CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am, BB, WR 7:00 Ad Council, WR	<b>18</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 8:30 am Pastor Cindy @ CHUM <b>10:30 am, Adult Ed.,            Hillside UMC</b> 5:00 pm, Finance, WR 6:00 pm, SPRC, GR 6:00 pm, Youth Choir	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	<b>20</b>  Office Closed	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>FALL FEST</b> 9:15 am, Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/ Sunday School <b>CHUM Director, Lee Stuart            preaching</b> 11:00 am POTLUCK, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	<b>23</b> 4:30 pm, SPRC & District Supt., WR 6:00 pm CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team  <b>MESSENGER            DEADLINE</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR <b>4:30 to 6:30 pm            Meatball Supper</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH  6:00 pm, Youth Choir  7:00 pm, Worship, WR  DUMPSTER PU	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	<b>27</b>  Office Closed	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>CONFIRMATION SUNDAY</b> 10:00 am, Worship/ Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	<b>30</b> 6:00 pm CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>31</b>  9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am, BB, WR <b>MESENGER            EMAILS/MAILS</b>	Youth choir meets each Wednesday at 6:00 pm Adult choir meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm and again on the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month at 9:15 am Praise Team practice is every Monday at 6:30 pm.  <b>YOGA classes are held Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Asbury's Fellowship            hall. Contact Cheryl Zupec, 218.343.4478 or czupec@hotmail.com for            more information.</b>			

# Asbury News

## AUMC Administrative Council Meeting Highlights — September 19, 2017 — 7:00 pm

### Opening

Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi, Administrative Council facilitator, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Cindy offered a prayer.

### Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the August 15, 2017, Administrative Council was reviewed. Steve Kokotovich made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

### Lay Leader's Report – Steve Kokotovich

Steve reported that it has been a busy fall. The UMW and the men have met to discuss fundraisers. Conversations about reorganizing fundraisers will continue.

### Treasurer's Report – Pat Anscomb

The August monthly summary was given. Balance on Hand, 8/31/17 is \$11,686.75. This September we paid \$3,880.26 in Apportionment payments, bringing our total to \$13,580.91 for our 2017 Apportionments so far this year.

### Staff Parish Relations Committee – Cathy Sampson

The committee met on August 24<sup>th</sup>, and reviewed job descriptions. They have slightly changed the process of the annual staff reviews. Most of the staff reviews will be completed by October 15<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, is the date of our annual meeting with Susan Neinaber, our district superintendent.

### Trustee's Report – Terry Olson

JP Trucking will be doing our plowing again this year. The parking lot has been resurfaced. Pasty money was used to pay for it. The fire department just completed an inspection that is done every three years. Some minor changes were made. The front door bids are starting to come in. We are assessing the roof to prepare for the winter months. The Trustees will help in the search for a new sound system.

### United Methodist Women – Jan Akervik

We made 2,540 pasties last week. The UMW is working on a plan to divide up the labor and have more people involved in the planning process. Pantry, pies, donuts and meatball dinner are in October. The UMW Board met with the men's group to see how we can cut back on our fundraisers. Many good ideas came forth. The UMW is looking for help in the kitchen for funerals. An article in the Messenger will inform people how they can help. Pastor Cindy said she is looking into the possibility of having a funeral coordinator who could help families with funeral details.

### Outreach and Missions Team – Steve Kokotovich

The committee met August 14<sup>th</sup>. Our church will host the CHUM Fall Assembly on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8 pm. Will need volunteers to greet and help

## TREASURER'S REPORT

8/31/17

### GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Cash Balance, 7/31/17	\$ 9,563.78
Deposits	\$ 13,629.56
Total to account for	\$ 23,193.34
Checks Written	<\$ 11,506.59>
Balance on Hand, 8/31/17	\$ 11,686.75
Unpaid Bills through 8/31/17 (includes apportionments)	\$ 6,741.39
Net Ending Balance at 8/31/17	\$ 4,945.36

serve refreshments.

An *Age Well* presenter will hold a meeting after next Sunday's church service.

There will be a meeting about Mission work at First United Methodist on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Serving a meal at the Damiano Center will begin in November.

Our church will participate in the Christmas Toy Drive for the Salvation Army.

We have Second Harvest the first Thursday of every month.

### Education Team – Cheryl Parendo and Sandy Winklesky

Rally Sunday and the first day of Sunday School went very well. The Sunday School had 17 children on the first day.

Fall Fest will be held during Sunday School on October 22. There will be a potluck meal after the worship service. Everyone is invited.

The next meeting will be tomorrow, at 6:00.

Cheryl Parendo reported that the Advent Tea will be held on November 28. Cheryl, Pat Anscomb & Donna Mickelson are chairing it.

### Worship Team – Ruth Thorpe

Ruth put out a plea for Sunday song leaders.

### Nurture/Congregational Care Team – Sandy Winklesky

No Visitation Committee or Scholarship Committee report.

Patty Bennett reported that the Membership Committee is meeting tomorrow at 3:00 pm. We have people who are interested in joining the church.

### Pastor's Report – Cindy Rasmussen

We will have two Sundays with baptisms in September.

Pastor Cindy will be on vacation October 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup>.

Conference has formed a committee called *This Way Forward* to examine inclusiveness of all individuals in the United Methodist Church.

The Bishop has planned meetings at several churches throughout the conference to discuss this topic. It was mentioned that it would have been helpful to have had one of those meetings in Duluth.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Lee Stuart, Director of CHUM will be preaching.

### Old Business - none

### New Business – none

### Closing

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

Jan Akervik made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Bennett, Recording Secretary

# Asbury News



**TAKEOUT  
ORDERS  
Available!**

## It's Meatball Dinner Time!



**Do You Have Your Tickets?**

**Tuesday, October 24  
4:30 — 6:30 pm**

### TICKETS

Adults — \$10.00  
Youth (5-12) — \$5.00  
4 & Under — FREE

### MENU

Meatballs  
Homemade Mashed Potatoes  
Gravy  
Green Beans Almondine  
Coleslaw  
Homemade Bread  
Dessert  
Beverage

Proceeds will go to MN Annual  
Conference Apportionments

### Help Needed!

Our popular meatball dinner requires a lot of workers and Asbury UMC has the best workers and supporters. Please say you will help. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of the church soon.

And, don't forget to buy your tickets and get a few extra tickets for friends. Only \$10.00 for a great meal!

### Congratulations!

Congratulations Asbury members and friends. This was a record-breaking year for backpack donations! We collected 44 backpacks to bring to our area schools! Having a backpack is essential for all school children and because of your generosity, 44 area children will have a more successful year. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

### Membership Informational Meeting

Asbury UMC's Mission Statement declares that "Asbury United Methodist Church is a caring, Christian community which welcomes all persons as God's children. We will strive to grow in spirit and seek God's vision of hope, love and peace in the community and world."



On Sunday, November 12, we will be having an orientation meeting for individuals interested in becoming members of Asbury UMC. Please meet us in the Wesley Room after the worship service to find out more about Asbury UMC and ask questions about membership. Anyone interested in joining the church is welcome to attend.

If you have questions about the orientation meeting, or if you would like to become a member but are unable to attend the informational meeting, please contact Pastor Cindy, or Clark and Patty Bennett, 626-3412.



### CHUM Church Fall Schedule

CHUM Church welcomes you to join us in worship and fellowship on Sunday, October 8, Sunday, November 12 and Sunday, December 10 (annual Christmas pageant) at Peace UCC, 1111 11th Ave. East, Duluth. CHUM Church is a welcoming, faith-based community that includes everyone, regardless of ability.

Join us from 4:00 to 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall (lower level) for a pre-worship gathering, from 4:30 to 5:15 pm for the worship service and from 5:15 to 6:00 pm for a light supper. Host congregations for October are Family of God Lutheran and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

For more information contact: CHUM Church Coordinator Sue Anderson at 740-2498 or sanderson@chumduluth.org.



## Funeral Reception Help Needed

Being able to support a family during one of their most difficult times is one of the services we can provide. We are currently in need of more volunteers

## FUNERAL



## RECEPTION

to help with the preparation, serving and cleaning up at the reception following a funeral service. Would you be willing to help in one or all of those areas?

A sheet is on the table in the Narthex which you may sign to help set up the Fellowship Hall, bake a cake or bars, serve

on the day of the service, and then help to clean up following the coffee or luncheon. Please consider signing up to help. You will not have to work at every funeral service, but we are in need of more volunteers to help and support.

If you wish to talk to our funeral chairperson, see or call Phyllis Wolden, 624-5042.

## “Ringing in Advent” — November 28

Just a reminder that our annual Advent Tea is almost just around the corner! The date is Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 pm.

We will be entertained by the Northern Bell

Chimes bell choir from Our Saviors Lutheran Church. **The Advent Tea program will start in the Sanctuary, so please enter through the doors upstairs. Guests will join their hostesses downstairs following the program.** However, hostesses and guests may go downstairs after 6:30 pm on November 28 and wander the

Fellowship Hall to see the beautifully set tables that have been prepared by the hostesses for their guests.

Please consider hosting a table. Each hostess invites seven guests, decorates her table and provides a dessert for her guests to enjoy following the program. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex at the end of October.

This is a wonderful evening of fellowship and a lovely preparation for the Advent season. Questions? Contact, Cheryl Parendo, Pat Ancomb or Donna Mickelson.



## UMW Meetings

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, October 4
- Love/Hope Circle will not meet in October as members will be busy with donuts, apple pies, the Fall Pantry and the Meatball Supper.
- Faith Circle will not meet in October as members will be busy with donuts, apple pies, the Fall Pantry and the Meatball Supper.
- Knitting Klub members meet at 2:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Wesley Room. Come join us!
- Green Door Book Club members meet at 9:30 am on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Wesley Room. Our next meeting is October 16.

## Fundraising Project Changes

Following a meeting of the UMW Board and the Men's Coffee Group, the decision was made to try a new approach to many of our fundraising projects.

The first change involves our rummage sales. We will have our Annual Spring Rummage Sale in April of 2018, but then we will not have another sale until the spring of 2020. We hope to continue with an every other year timeline for the future.

There will be **NO** clothing rummage sale in 2018 and we **will not accept** clothing items until a new date for the clothing sale is announced. **Please DO NOT bring clothing items to be stored in the garage.** We recommend you donate your clothing items to Savers, Salvation Army, Goodwill, Bethany Crisis Shelter, Union Gospel, Damiano Center, Kid's Closet or the charity of your choice.

Proposed changes to all of our fundraising projects are being explored for the future. An evaluation of how the proposed changes to the rummage sales are working will be discussed. Final decisions on how to best proceed also will be discussed.

We value your input. We invite you to share your thoughts and concerns so they may be included for discussion in upcoming meetings. Please contact Jan Akervik, 626-1539 or Steve Kokotovich, 722-4340 .



## CHUM Executive Director to Preach

Lee Stuart, CHUM Executive Director, will be preaching at Asbury UMC on, Sunday, October 22.

Asbury United Methodist  
PO Box 7135  
Duluth MN 55807

Return service requested

## Meet Our Staff



Pastor:.....Cindy M. Rasmussen  
Administrative Asst.: .....Shirley Brandt  
Choir Director: .....Ruby Slennes  
Organist .....Phyllis Kruell  
Praise Team Leader .....  
Custodian: .....Dan Mokros  
Ad. Council Chair: .Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi  
Treasurer: .....Pat Anscorn  
Lay Leader:..... Steve Kokotovich  
Trustees: ..... Terry Olson  
UMW President.....Jan Akervik  
SPRC Chair .....Cathy Sampson  
Worship Chair ..... Ruth Thorpe  
Christian Education:..... Cheryl Parendo  
Christian Education:.....Sandy Winklesky

This newsletter is e-mailed/mailed monthly by Asbury UMC, Duluth MN.

**EDITORS:** The Rev. Cindy M. Rasmussen; Shirley Brandt, Admin. Asst.

**CHURCH OFFICE:**

218-624-0061 ~ asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com ~ www.asburyduluth.org

**NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: October 23 for September 2017 Messenger.**

Please submit all articles of interest to Shirley in the church office by the deadline listed above.  
Items may be dropped off, e-mailed or mailed. Thank you.

### **Worship With Us**

**Every Sunday at 10:00 am.**

**NOTE:**

1st Sunday of each month we share Holy Communion,  
2nd Sunday we recognize those celebrating birthdays.  
3rd Sunday our music is led by our Praise Team.  
***Every Sunday we give thanks and celebrate  
God's great gifts and presence in our lives.***



#### **Asbury's Mission Statement**

*Asbury United Methodist is a caring, Christian community which welcomes all persons as God's children.  
We will strive to grow in spirit and seek God's vision of hope, love and peace in the community and world.*