



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

“It Happened On a Star-Filled Night”

Our December 11 Christmas Program was a “star-filled” event. **It takes a village to prepare and present a Children’s Christmas Program!**

A HUGE thank you to:

- The teachers and helpers who helped craft the program, ordered costumes and props, practiced with the children, helped them dress for their parts and who faithfully give their time, energy and love throughout the year teaching them about God, Jesus and their faith.



- Ruby Slenes who chooses and teaches the songs – and always encourages them to sing like angels.

- Duane and Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi for donating the hanging stars and to Steve Kokotovich, Tom and Debbie Houle for helping us hang them.

- Phyllis Kruell and Denny Elder for the stable, the lighted stars, the hay, and always saying, “sure, we can figure that out.”

- Debbie Merrick who helped with the sound system.

- Parents and grandparents who bring and share their children/youth with our community of faith.

- And **THANK YOU** to our children and youth for their work on this program and for continually teaching us about God’s love and grace.



— Pastor Cindy

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Cindy's Corner

It is the day after Christmas and the sanctuary is quiet. Much like our homes, the decorations will soon be stored away for the year and our lives will “get back to normal.” However as most people know, after the birth of a baby we are challenged to figure out what the “new” normal is. I wonder what that will mean for us this year? Here are some thoughts from my Christmas Eve meditation:

All year long we wait, sometimes without knowing it, for moments when we sense that God actually cares enough about us, and this world that God would chose to be among us. We wait, sometimes without even knowing it, for a moment when we will feel touched by the Spirit of God, the Spirit of God-With-Us.

Throughout life and its myriad of experiences, we become aware of our own humanity, our own weaknesses, and our very real dependence on God. And I believe, it is the moments of love and grace that save us, those times when God comes to stand close to God’s people and remind us that when all is said and done, what remains is God’s unfailing, unconditional, and complete LOVE.

Moments of Grace.

On a cold, blustery day, a small child runs to you with her jacket flapping in the wind. She wraps her little arms around your legs as she says, “I’m cold. Hold me tight.”

In the beginning was the Word.

A parent, whose role has now become the one to receive care rather than give, says, “I cannot do it myself, stand close and help me.”

And the Word was Love.

A friend struggling with depression and addiction invites you to sit and talk over a cup of coffee and says, “It is difficult, I am afraid, stand beside me.”

And the Word was with God.

A group of people show up on Christmas Eve and sit surrounded by stars and stories, songs and silence, and somewhere amidst the chaos and quiet there is a moment when their heart is strangely warmed and God’s love is felt deep and strong.

And the Word was God.

A woman gives birth to a baby, and God says to the world, “Come, stand close and see this new dawn of hope.”

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Our lives, our world is not free from trouble or sorrow but hope is found with the possibility of LOVE ~ the promise of LOVE.

As one of my friends wrote so eloquently, the truth of Christmas is this:

When we are stripped down, bare to our core, what remains is our ability to initiate and to receive love. In the beginning there is Love. In the end there is Love. And the Word is Love.

“And the Word... that is LOVE... becomes flesh and dwells among us, full of grace and truth.”

Peace and 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



The Asbury UMC Finance Committee's responsibility is to manage and direct the financial affairs of the church and provide leadership for the Fall Financial Stewardship Drive. The committee meets quarterly to review the budget, both income and expenses, and more often in the fall during our stewardship drive.

The final totals are in for our Financial Stewardship Drive – with a total of \$130,978 from 66 pledge units. **Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the ministries and programs at Asbury UMC!**

The Finance Committee will be meeting in early January to prepare a budget including projected income and expenses for 2017 that will be recommended to the Charge Conference for approval in mid-January. We will have copies of that budget available if you are interested in reviewing it.

As always, we are grateful for the many ways you support Asbury United Methodist Church!
— The Finance Team

Thank You!

Dear Asbury United Methodist Church Members:

Thank you for your donation to the Crisis Nursery. We are able to help so many families in need in our community with diapers, wipes, clothes and emergency childcare because of generous donors like you. Thank you very much for supporting our program.
— LSS Crisis Nursery

Dear Asbury Outreach Volunteers:

A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who have participated in Asbury's Outreach activities during 2016. We have had great response from congregation members for: Second Harvest NAP food distribution, the Damiano Center, Toys for Tots and several others.
— Barbara Little and the Outreach Team

Dear Asbury Members and Friends:

Thank you to everyone who donated toys to the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Your generosity will make Christmas a bit happier for many children.
— Dennie and Sharon Parendo

Outreach Volunteer Opportunity — January 28

We will be serving a Damiano Center meal on January 28 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. We need six people to volunteer. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet will be at the back of the Narthex.

Offering Envelopes Now Available to Pick-Up

Offering envelopes are in alphabetical order according to your name. If you don't see your name, or if you don't have an envelope number assignment but would like one, please let Shirley know.

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like your contributions to be reflected on your quarterly/annual giving statements, all checks should be made out to Asbury United Methodist Church, instead of the individual charity, etc.

For tax purposes, all 2016 year-end giving must be in the church office no later than January 2, 2017. Thank you!

Charge Conference — January 17

There will be a charge conference at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 17 to approve the 2017 Budget, Pastor's Salary and Membership Report.

Outreach/ Communion Offering . . .

December's offering of \$149.00 went to Asbury's Discretionary Fund. January's offering will go to AEOA Heating/Energy Assistance.

Attendance . . .

December 4	103
December 11	148
December 18	72
December 24 (4:00 & 10:00)	158
December 25	36

Scripture Readers . . .

Jan. 1	Dale Thorpe
Jan. 8	Jan Akervik
Jan. 15	Dave Stromgren
Jan. 22	Jim or Phyllis Faue
Jan. 29	Leo Lambert



- 4 Jacob Gutowski
Justin Gutowski
- 9 Debbie Merrick
Dave Stromgren
- 10 Eli Kokotovich
- 17 Jim Gimpel
- 18 Ron Brosdal
Sue Opferkew
- 20 Mike Akervik
Phyllis Mullen
- 22 Tim Kokotovich
- 23 Angie Thibault
Audrey Johnson
- 25 Queneth Youngren
- 26 Kaylee Randa
Cathy Strunk
- 27 Aidan Thibault
- 28 Kathy Downs
- 31 Alice Brenny
Nicholas Kirkman

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

Calendar

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EPIPHANY SUNDAY NEW YEAR'S DAY 9:15 Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship,	2 6:30 pm Praise Team	3 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	4 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UMW Board Meeting & Lunch, WR 3:00 pm, SPR, WR 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm, Adult Choir	5 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 10:00 to 11:00 am, 2nd Harvest Food Dist	6 Office Closed Dumpster Pick Up	7
8 10:00 am, Worship/B'day/ Children's Church 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 11:30 am, Confirmation, WR	9 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	10 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR 5:30 pm Finance, WR	11 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:00 am, Pastor Cindy @ West Duluth 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm, Adult Choir	12 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	13 Office Closed	14
15 10:00 am, Worship/Praise/SS 11:00 am Faith Circle, FH 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	16 Martin Luther King, Jr, Day 9:30 am, Green Door Book Club, WR 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	17 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle, WR 7:00 pm Charge Conference, Ad Council, WR	18 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 8:30 am, Pastor Cindy @ CHUM 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm, Adult Choir 7:00 pm, Worship, GR PASTY WEEK	19 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 5:00 pm Outreach, WR	20 Office Closed Dumpster Pick Up	21 PASTY SALE
22 10:00 am, Worship/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 11:30 am Membership Orientation, WR 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	23 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team MESSENGER DEADLINE	24 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 2:00 pm, Knitting Klub, WR	25 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation, GR 6:30 pm, Adult Choir	26 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	27 Office Closed	28 8:30 am—1:30 pm Damiano Volunteers
29 EASTER VIGIL PLAY MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY 10:00 am, Worship/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 3:00 pm TPUMMs 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	30 6:00 pm, CS Pack 3116, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	31 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR MESSENGER EMAILS/MAILS	Youth choir meets each Wednesday at 6:00 pm Adult choir meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:40 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. 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.			

Asbury News

Men's Ministry Retreat — February 10-11

Join with other United Methodist men (can include senior high youth and/or friends of yours) at Camp Amnicon (25 miles from Duluth near South Range, WI.) on Friday, February 10 at 5:30 pm until Saturday, February at 4:00 pm for a time of RETREAT-ing.

Grow in your faith life. The main study focus is around the DVD and optional book reading of John Ortberg's, *"The Me I Want to Be"* focusing on Spiritual Growth crafting each of us into the person we were meant to be — and how to cross the gap between who you are now and who you want to be. There will be worship and prayer time, fun, fellowship, games, conversation and laughter, etc. The food is delicious!

Registration deadline is Sunday, January 29.

Cost is \$35 per person which includes 3 meals, over-night lodging and group activities (extra to obtain study book).

Specific flyers/registration forms for this shared experience will be available on the back table. Questions or more information? Contact Pastor Cindy.

"We Love Our Dogs, Even In the Winter!"

Yes, even in the winter dogs want/need to be walked! A handicapped man from West Duluth (Denfeld district) has a dog that needs to be walked daily. He has difficulty doing this in the winter and has asked if there is someone who would like to help.

If you are interested, or have any questions on this, please call Steve Kokotovich

— Outreach Committee



at 722-4340. Thanks.

Membership Sunday — January 29

On Sunday, January 29, Asbury UMC will be receiving new members into the church. Our 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, January 22, there will be having an orientation meeting after worship. Please meet us in the Wesley Room 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 Membership Sunday or the orientation meeting, please contact Pastor Cindy, or Clark and Patty Bennett, 626-3412.

2016 Christmas Poinsettias

In Celebration of

My Family
Jan Akervik

In Memory of

Our son Mike Cherne
Bob & Carol Cherne

In Memory of

Bakken & Patzer Families
Don & Mary DeMars

In Memory of

Ronald & Alphonse Carlson
Frank & Clara Faue

In Celebration of

Jesus' Birth
Phyllis & Jim Faue

In Memory of

Don Youngdahl
Dave & Dawn Jones
Dean, Stephanie,
Logan & Brendyn Peterson

In Memory of

Loved Ones
Steve & Barb Kokotovich

In Memory of

Leo L. Lambert, Sr
In Honor of
My wife, Cheryl
Leo L. Lambert, Jr
In Honor of

Our Living Lord Jesus Christ
Asbury Church Family
Don and Marilyn Lutz
Donette Bushman
Pastor Cindy
The Lambert Family

In Memory of

Our Parents
Bill & Sue Majewski

In Memory of

Dick Simmons,
Rod, Eliee & Sam Fedo
& Operkew Family
Susan Operkew

In Celebration of

Our Loved Ones
Duane & Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi

In Memory of

My husband Charles Park

In Celebration of

Family
Joyce Park

In Memory of

Loved Ones

In Honor of

Children and Youth at Asbury!
Cindy Rasmussen

In Memory of

Roy Stromgren, Ruth & Oscar
Bjerke

In Celebration of

Eric, Matt, Zak & Max
Lois Stromgren

In Memory of

Loved Ones

In Honor of

Jesus' Birth
Dale & Ruth Thorpe

In Memory of

Our Parents and Grandparents

In Celebration of

Our Daughter Lisa Greene
Gary & Sandy Winklesky



Our Advent and Christmas bulletins were provided by
Jan Akervik in memory of her husband, Mike.

TREASURER'S REPORT: 11/30/16

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Cash Balance, 10/31/16	\$ 9,599.41
Deposits	\$ 20,289.87
Total to account for	\$ 29,889.28
Checks Written	<\$ 20,799.83>
Balance on Hand, 11/30/16	\$ 9,089.45
Unpaid Bills through 11/30/16 (includes apportionments)	<\$ 3,707.38>
Net Ending Balance at 11/30/16	\$ 5,382.07

Asbury News

Super Saturday of Serving 2017!

This TPUMM's Youth Event will be held February 4 for Grades 5-12 plus friends.

Tentative plans:

- 9:30-10:00 am: Check-in at Hillside UMC
(1801 Piedmont Ave., Duluth)
- 10 am: Kickoff Service
- 10:30 am: Travel to sites/take part in shared meal at Steve O'Neil Apartments
- 3 pm: Return to Hillside UMC for sharing time
- 3:30/4:00 pm: Day finished
- We are really excited about this event, and

will send out more information as plans solidify. We are looking to grow this fun service opportunity from last year, so the more participation the better. Questions? Contact Pastor Cindy.

Please note: a Senior High Youth Retreat (March 10-11) is being planned at Camp Amnicon for Grades 8-12 and friends. More information to come.

Karen Widmark's New Address

Karen has landed in Cook, MN. Here is her new address: 2495 Vermilion Lake Road, Cook, MN 55723.

United Methodist Women



The UMW Faith Circle will be serving its "Soup"er Bowl luncheon following services on Sunday, February 5. More details in the upcoming February Messenger.

UMW Meetings

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, January 4. Lunch will be served.
- Love/Hope Circle will meet at 1:00 pm on January 17 in the Wesley Room.
- Faith Circle will hold its next meeting on Sunday, January 15, in the Fellowship Hall following services. Get your coffee and join circle members at a designated table. We will start to collect our 2017 pledges and make plans for "Souper Bowl" Sunday in February. We will be working the winter pasty sale January 20-21.
- 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.



Pasty Sale

Saturday, January 21

Cost: \$4.00 each Gravy: 60¢ each

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! —

Contact Bernice Seehus at 624-5122

Many volunteer opportunities available — sign-up sheet on the stand in the Narthex.

Pre-order/sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Please be sure to place your order for pasties before our quota is filled.

NOTE: Pasty orders not picked up by NOON on January 21 will be sold.

Work Schedule For Pasties

Thursday, January 19

- 8:00 am Mix crust.
9:00 am Men and women peel veggies.

Friday, January 20

- 6:00 am Preparation and baking of pasties.
10:00 am **2-3 people** needed for clean up.

Saturday, January 21

- 6:00 am Pasty baking
10:00 am **4-5 people** needed for clean up.

COME AND WORK WHEN YOU CAN AND STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN

BROWN PAPER BAGS NEEDED — PLEASE DROP OFF IN KITCHEN.

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
OrganistPhyllis Kruell
Praise Team Leader
Nursery Attendant Sue Opferkew
Custodian:Dan Mokros
Admin. Council Chair: Rob Karwath
Treasurer:Pat Anscomb
Lay Leader: Steve Kokotovich
Trustees:Terry Olson/Donna Mickelson
UMW President.....Jan Akervik
SPRC ChairPhyllis Faue
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: January 23 for February 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.*