 Epworth United Methodist Church  
680 8th Avenue SW  
Valley City, ND 58072  
www.epworthvalleycity.com

Non Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Valley City, ND  
Permit #40  
Presorted  
Standard Rate

# Epworth Events

*Living, Sharing, and Growing in God's Love*

November 2023

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



680 8th Ave. SW  
Valley City, ND 58072  
Ph. 701-845-0340  
Fax: 701-845-0347  
www.epworthvalleycity.com

Duane Coates  
Pastor  
pastor@epworthvalleycity.com  
Office: 701-845-0340  
Home: 701-845-0156  
Cell: 605-695-5561

Cassidy Fraedrich  
Office Administrator  
Newsletter Editor  
office@epworthvalleycity.com  
Office: 701-845-0340

Hayley Winkler  
Director of Christian Education  
christianed@epworthvalleycity.com  
Office: 701-845-0340  
Cell: 701-840-7073

Paul & Brenda Lint  
Directors of Youth Ministries  
youth@epworthvalleycity.com  
Office: 701-845-0340  
Cell: 701-880-8388

VirLyn Hoff  
Congregational Care Coordinator  
virlynhoff@yahoo.com  
Office: 701-845-0340  
Cell: 701-840-9285

Thanksgiving is, for me, the quintessential fall holiday. In fact, giving thanks is appropriate at any time of year.

Some might say, "for what is there to give thanks?" The Congress is shutdown. The government might be shut down soon. There is war in Gaza and Ukraine, threats to Taiwan, the months'-long street project in front of my home is messy and delayed, and winter is coming.

And yet, back in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln established the national tradition of an annual Thanksgiving Day, things were arguably worse. President Lincoln acknowledged that in the proclamation itself. He described the Civil War as a conflict of "unequaled magnitude and severity." Despite all of that, he called Americans to give thanks to God for all of our many blessings. In the midst of a brutal war, the president was urging thanksgiving.


What Lincoln suggested has proven to be effective in the lives of so many who are troubled and tempted to complain. Experts say it is difficult to be grateful and judge others harshly at the same time. Many counselors, pastors, and even hymn writers suggest that people should count their blessings, even naming them one by one in a gratitude journal or notebook. Showing gratitude is not only a popular activity before food and football in the fall of each year, but also good for our mental and spiritual health!

I suggest giving thanks is also good for our souls because it helps us realize that everything we have is a gift from God, and God is worthy of our thanksgiving and praise. So, this fall I am thankful that in the midst of all of this world conflict and turmoil, God is still with us. We can still depend on divine love, grace, mercy, and justice to show up and do what is right, to improve the world. God does this not for self-glorification but because God loves us and wants what is best for us.


So, I depend on God's presence, God's gifts, and especially God's grace. I can't imagine life without it. So, in spite of all of the challenges this life and world present, I am giving thanks this fall for God, for gifts, for grace and for the second chances that the presence, love, and grace of God give to us over and over, regardless of the time of year.

I invite you to join me in giving thanks, regardless of your attitude or circumstance. Amen.

Pastor Duane Coates




**OPEN: Monday– Friday**  
6 am-6 pm  
**Saturday**  
8 am-4 pm



**HAPPY**  
*Thanksgiving!*

"We give thanks to you,  
Lord God Almighty,  
who is and who was,  
for you have taken  
your great power  
and begun to reign."  
Revelation 11:17







# Ministry in Review

## September 26, 2023—October 27, 2023

Daily Expenses	\$18,596.30
Glory of God's House Campaign	\$1,355.00
Endowment	\$500.00
Building & Maintenance	\$230.00
World Communion	\$145.00
Christian Ed	\$50.00
Parking Lot	\$50.00



### Sunday Worship Attendance

October 1— 75	Online—15
October 8— 97	Online—10
October 15—62	Online— 2

### Sunday School Attendance

October 1— 8	Adults— 11
October 8— 10	Adults— 9
October 15— 13	Adults— 5

### Membership Class Set for Nov. 15

A class for adults interested in becoming new members is scheduled at Epworth for Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 4:30 p.m. The class will cover the history and organization of Epworth. Participants may then choose a Sunday in which they take membership vows during worship.

There is no requirement to join the church after taking the class. Please inform Pastor Duane of your interest so he knows how many for whom to plan.

If persons are interested in transferring membership from an existing Protestant church, please inform Pastor Duane so that he may write to that church for an official transfer of membership.

For Catholics, others who are joining by profession of faith, and those who wish to go deeper into the doctrine, history, and polity of The United Methodist Church, please go to the following link to view a free online course designed to familiarize people with United Methodism. developed by our general church

<https://rise.articulate.com/share/JukDw93Rw5Qh9h7wVRffuw4nqR1MBNOT#/>

### Bazaar 2023 Recap

Thanks to all that worked at the Bazaar and provided goods to sell! It is a joyous occasion to be able to work together while making money to take care of those in need. Extra thanks to all who helped tear down and washed the last dish- we finished getting the church in order in record time! It was another excellent Bazaar- start thinking of how we can improve it for 2024!

— The Bazaar Committee

### Fall Builders' Club Call to Benefit Hettinger UMC

The fall call to the Dakotas Conference Builders Club is for the Hettinger United Methodist Church, which previously was served by both Pastor Duane Coates and Pastor Paul Lint, in serial.

Hettinger UMC loves its community, and to continue community ministries, the church needs to repair the roof over the Sunday School rooms. To address safety and insurability concerns and prevent future issues, the roof must be repaired, some rafters need mending or replacement, and new shingles must be installed to complete the project. These resources will aid the caring people of Hettinger to continue growing their many ministries as they reach new people in Christ's name.

"Financial assistance from the Builders Club demonstrates the connectional systems across the Dakotas Annual Conference. It's overwhelming to know the support of our neighbors and friends as United Methodists," said Pastor Laurie Kidd

To give \$25 or more to the Builder's Club, click on the following link: [https://www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/donate?blm\\_aid=25432](https://www.dakotasumc.org/foundation/donate?blm_aid=25432) or send a check to Builders Club, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301.

The gifts for this call will be received until December 31, 2023.



### Charge Conference Set for Nov. 12

Our annual Church/Charge Conference is set for Sunday, Nov. 12 at 6 pm here at Epworth. A 5 p.m. potluck meal will precede the meeting. Our Northwest District Superintendent, the Rev. Joel Winckler, will be here to preside at this the annual meeting of our corporation.

At this meeting, we will set the clergy compensation package for 2024, adopt the 2024 annual church budget, elect leaders to Servant Leadership Team, and discuss other matters important to the life of our church that may come up.

I expect the superintendent to open the meeting so that every person in attendance will have voice and each full member will have voice and vote. If you have questions about the charge conference, please ask Pastor Duane.



Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello again everyone

We've been having a lot of fun in our Sunday School this past month. We have a new teacher who has joined us this past month. One of our youth has joined our teachers and they will continue to help out with Sunday School this school year. The kids really enjoy having her.

Looking ahead we are looking at our Christmas program! Yes, it is already that time of year. Can you believe it! Our Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 10th during worship. I will need to know if your child/ren will not be there so we can start getting parts handed out. Also, we are looking for some youth help! This year's program is a musical like two years ago and with having a smaller Sunday School group this year we'd love to have some of our youth help us out with parts and singing with our Sunday School kids.

Pastor Duane has found an Advent series to use for our Library Sunday School group this year so I will have him discuss it with our Library group.

Vacation Bible School: We've been playing with VBS this year and trying to find something that works for families, so I am asking for everyone's input on this! We've looked and changing the dates and doing a full five day week instead of the 4 days; it worked in the past but has been difficult to work around the past two years. We've also debated on doing a one day VBS where we would start at 9:00am and go till 5:00pm with one meal provided and one snack provided. This would be a Saturday. I want parents' input on what would work better for VBS since the four-day week the end of May just does not work anymore. Please contact me with your thoughts and ideas.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please feel free to contact me!

Blessings,

Hayley Winkler

Director of Christian Ed

[christianed@epworthvalleycity.com](mailto:christianed@epworthvalleycity.com)



### Hunger the Focus of Conference's Thanksgiving Offering

Bishop Lanette Plambeck has named hunger as the cause for the 2023 Thanksgiving offering to be taken through the episcopal area that comprises the Dakotas and Minnesota annual conferences. In this area one out of every 10 adults is food-insecure.

Bishop Plambeck is basing her call for offerings on the John 6 version of the feeding of the 5,000, which started with five loaves and two fish. So, calling the campaign "Five and two," Bishop Plambeck is inviting every United Methodist in the area to give \$5 to two food ministries this Thanksgiving season, or \$52 to a food ministry of your choice.

"I encourage each faith community across our area to choose a local organization that reaches individuals and families facing food insecurity—and to explore how to partner to meet local needs," Bishop Plambeck wrote in a letter to local churches.

Since Epworth's Servant Leadership Team has already decided to raise funds for the local Bridges Backpack Program (BBP), we will collect this special offering throughout November with a special "noisy" offering received on Nov. 19. We are also seeking volunteers to deliver this food to the schools each week in November.

One of the components of the BBP is to provide weekend food in the backpacks of school children in need. Each week, volunteers distribute food to the schools in Valley City. The food is then given discretely to children who are food insecure and who probably wouldn't receive adequate nutrition over the weekend if it weren't for this program. Studies have shown that good nutrition is vital to learning.

The largest funding source for this program ended last year, and so BBP, a local non-profit, has been running on reserves and donations. Therefore, BBP is asking churches to make a difference not only in the learning of food-insecure students, but in their lives as well. We are invited to be generous with food. So, I hope you will come to worship prepared to give generously to this needed program. Checks may be made out to Bridges Backpack Program.

Also, our church is responsible for delivering these meals to the schools on Nov. 2, Nov. 8, Nov. 16, Nov. 21, and Nov. 30. This happens once each week, typically on a Thursday (but on a different day the week of Thanksgiving.) So, ideally, we are looking for a different family each of the five weeks in November, but it's possible to sign up for more than one week. If you are interested in this ministry, please see Pastor Duane.



### Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Set for Nov. 19

Christians in Valley City are invited to come together in worship and thanksgiving on the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 19. The service will be held at the Congregational Church, starting at 4 p.m. Several pastors from Valley City churches are planning and participating in the service. Our own Pastor Duane will be the preacher of the day. An offering will be taken for the ecumenical assistance the Barnes County Ministerial Association gives to people in need throughout the year.



**Volunteers Assist in Distributing Food**

The Great Plains Food Bank distributed food Oct. 19 to 252 families in 116 vehicles in the Epworth parking lot. This compares to 214 families in 122 cars on July 18 and 251 families helped in 120 cars on April 18. Thank you to those 11 volunteers with Epworth connections who assisted other community volunteers in distributing tons of food in about 90 minutes.



Started 40 years ago, GPFB is North Dakota's only food bank that recovers food that otherwise would go to waste from a range of food-industry partners.

Through its programs and services, GPFB distributes food to those in need throughout North Dakota and Clay County, Minn.

**All Saints Sunday to be Observed on Nov. 5**

On Nov. 5, we will observe All Saints Sunday at Epworth. This is the holy memorial day of the church in which we recognize those saints who have died in the past year. This includes Epworth members who have died and all who were memorialized in services conducted by Pastor Duane in the past year.

During the service, the names will be recited during a short ritual recognizing our loss and honoring their memories.

In United Methodism, the word "saint" is a descriptor for those who have been faithful in their belief of Jesus Christ. You are invited to attend the worship either in the building or on livestream and invite your friends.

Here is the list of those who were either members of the church or had funeral services at Epworth, in order of their deaths: Mary Lou Weber, Herb Triebold, Neil Buck, Pat Malec, Donald Triebold, Jacob Retterath, Bonnie Burchill, Tom Vagle, Gary Triebold, Betty Thompson, Dave Zeller, and Mari Kay Wieser.

**United Methodist Student Day Nov. 26**

On Nov. 26, we will observe United Methodist Student Day and take the last of this year's eight special offerings set by the connectional structure of the broader United Methodist Church. This offering funds the scholarships and loans that the general church gives for higher education, both undergraduate and graduate levels.

For more than 100 years, United Methodists have been supporting our students' educational needs through a special offering. Right now, there are United Methodist young people who might not have the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all. But because of people like you, they will be sent into the world God loves with gifts made through United Methodist Student Day. Your contribution is an acknowledgment that the church has confidence in them and in their abilities. Supporting this ministry allows us to invest in future missionaries, engineers, teachers, pastors, film producers, and so many other careers. If you are a college student, or have one in your family, go to [www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships/scholarships](http://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships/scholarships) for more information about United Methodist scholarships and loans.



Thank you for your support. This was the message the youth shared on Oct 25, 2023, as they presented to those gathered the benefits and experiences gained from attending a national youth gathering. Leadership opportunities, building relationships, embracing inclusion and diversity were themes that several of the youth lifted up as important parts of the mission trip. Dessert was eaten; thanks were given; photos accompanied stories; and all of this was done through the planning and vision of the youth.

The gratitude continues to flow as we ALL recognize the support has not stopped just because we returned home from the trip. All of your prayers for our safety and growth were felt and realized. Our gratitude is the focus of the next month of youth group. We will be thankful and serve others in the upcoming month. Shining God's light in our community and beyond as we do service projects and attend DakYouth. The excess funds raised for the mission trip will be used to send 11 youth and 3 adults to our conference youth gathering in Aberdeen Veteran's Day weekend. This event brings in nationally known speakers and a great worship band.



**Wednesdays  
@ 7pm**







# United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith – VirLyn Hoff, Unit President

**Susan Larson, Congratulations!** Susan is our Epworth’s 2023 Jewel of a Woman. Finally, we can celebrate her.

For 36 years, since 1987, our Epworth unit of women organized for mission has recognized a Jewel of a Woman. A named special mission gift is given in her

name to bestow honor and to place finances into active mission work for women, children and youth. Susan faithfully serves in the church and the women’s activities. She is a gem, a jewel, a special possession of the Lord.

The bazaar was an awesome event. Lots of work! Preparation - cooking - serving - the stowing away. Set up. Clean up. Mary Lee Nielson, chair of Bazaar, and husband Steve moved furniture for a week. We had a fine crowd for both shopping and the meal. Thank you all – women and men and youth! Once again we are blessed to be a blessing.

Mission grants will be made in November / December. We will review budget and set goals for 2024.

Meeting **Wednesday, Nov. 15 for noon luncheon.** Program will be World Thank Offering. We have much for which to be thankful that others do not. This offering is one of the five channels of giving for which we get recognized by our Northwest District.

Bev Enger was installed as the new NW District President on September 16 at the Devils Lake meeting. Congratulations to her. She needs our support and prayers. Bev represented our unit at the Dakotas Conference annual meeting in Bismarck during the time of our bazaar October 7.

The Christmas program is tentatively set for Wed. Dec. 6. Plans will be made for making Christmas trays and visitations. Watch for dates and times.

“...those who fear the Lord and meditate on this Name shall be jewels of the Lord...” (Malachi 3: King James Version )



Susan Larson and her family



Susan receiving the Jewel of a Woman pin

## Congregational Care

The November Church Family Supper will be a **potluck Sunday Nov. 12 at 5 pm.** This evening is Epworth’s Charge Conference with the District Superintendent. Meeting with the DS will begin at 6pm. Please join in for food and fellowship and hear some of the business of the church.

This date will end the evening suppers for the winter months. We will have some Sunday potlucks as we did last winter. There is always a need for set-up and clean-up.

All are invited to these times of food and fellowship. Please join us.

VirLyn Hoff,  
Congregational Care Coordinator



### Address Change?

If your address has changed, please notify the church office @ 845-0340 or e-mail: office@epworthvalleycity.com

Please help us keep our postage costs down by notifying the church of your address change.

## Christmas Shoeboxes

It’s time to start collecting for your Shoebox Christmas gifts. Spirit Lake Ministry Center annually coordinates Shoebox Christmas gifts to more than 6,000 children across the reservations of North Dakota, South Dakota, and into Minnesota.

Empty shoeboxes, both wrapped and unwrapped, will be available at Epworth. We ask that you add your purchased gifts to the boxes. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, ask them what they would like for Christmas. Add that to the box along with a few additional smaller gifts, some candy, a winter hat, mittens or gloves, and place a rubber band around the box, to keep the lid on. Please label the box top with the age group and gender of the child, using the following age groups for the label: Infant, toddler, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13 and up. Please do not place in the box used toys or clothing other than hats, gloves, or mittens.

Please return filled shoeboxes by **Sunday, November 5th, 2023.** Thank you for being a part of this wonderful ministry!

