

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

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Epworth Events

Living, Sharing, and Growing in God's Love

May 2024

From the Pastor's Pen

May is perhaps my favorite month. Spring is in full swing in May. The flowers and trees are blooming, the days are lengthening, and the temperatures are rising. Newborn calves and lambs are beginning to eat the fresh sprigs of quickly growing new green grass. It seems as though the whole world is blooming with possibility in May. No wonder there are many songs and poems about this month.

May is also a month of rites of passage. It is the month in which our high school and college seniors receive the diplomas and degrees for which they have spent the past several years working. The students themselves are looking forward to the bright futures these accomplishments promise. The rest of us join their families in congratulating them. For those seniors we will recognize on May 5, we take pride in the part we played in their success as their community of faith.

Similarly, we celebrate those confirmation students who will confirm what was said at their baptisms with personal and public professions of faith on May 19. When these students were baptized, either in this church or elsewhere, the church promised to pray for them and support them and their parents. We all promised to raise these children in the faith until they could accept this faith for themselves. Since mid-February, these students have been preparing to do that. In addition to confirming their faith, many of these confirmands will also take solemn vows of membership in Epworth and The United Methodist Church. Doing so, they will be seen as adults in the eyes of the church and join the rest of us in accomplishing our disciple-making, world-transforming mission together. Some may decide they are not yet ready for this step, but all have grown in some knowledge of our faith and had an opportunity to engage the rich tradition of Christianity.

That same day we get to celebrate Pentecost (I invite you to wear red), which is the birthday of the Christian church. On that day in AD 33, about 3,000 people were baptized and became believers. What a perfect day on which to add more professing members to our ranks at Epworth.

All of this happens just after the finish of the 2020 General Conference (which is obviously meeting in 2024). That conference holds the potential for making sweeping changes in the history of our denomination in terms of how we connect, how persons become clergy, who may become clergy, what rituals our clergy may perform in our churches, how we provide retirement benefits for clergy, and how we fund a worldwide ministry with fewer members.

May is a month blooming with possibilities that are represented by rites of passage, a liturgical remembrance (Pentecost), and a denominational event eight years in the making (General Conference). I hope to greet you in worship as we walk together through this month plump with possibilities.

With you in the newness of creation,
 Pastor Duane Coates



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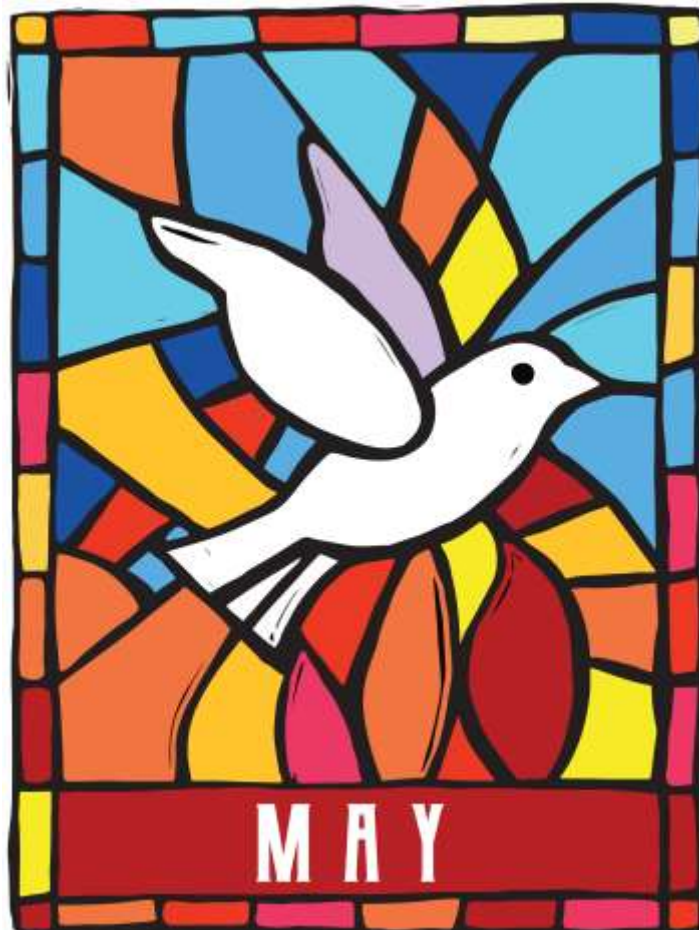
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OPEN: Monday– Friday
 6 am-6 pm
Saturday
 8 am-4 pm



May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm Confirmation 7pm Youth	2 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	3	4
5 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:30 Hayley & Lints Appreciation Taco Bar	6 5:15pm SLT Task Meeting	7 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study @ Bridgeview 1:45pm SPR Meeting	8 12pm UWF 6pm Confirmation	9 10am Pastor's Bible Study 7pm Cub Scouts	10	11
12 Mother's Day 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship with Communion	13 Pastor's Day Off 7pm Troubadours	14 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study @ Bridgeview	15 5:15pm SLT	16 10am Pastor's Bible Study 3pm Staff Meeting	17	18
19 9am Sunday School 10am Coffee Fellowship 10:30am Worship and Confirmation	20 Pastor's Day Off 6:30pm Piano Recital 7pm Troubadours	21 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study @ Bridgeview	22	23 10am Pastor's Bible Study	24	25
26 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Fellowship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28 1:30pm Tuesday Bible Study @ Bridgeview	29 5:30pm Safer Sanctuaries Meeting	30 10am Pastor's Bible Study	31	



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Erin Woehl
Lori Jury
Shelley Vareberg
Lori Glaser
Julie Munkeby
Josh Hegdahl
Ashley Enger
Patsy Winkler
Courtney Bruns
Fred Schroeder
Matt Miller
Cindy Zahn
Rosalie Knutson
Jerry Noeske
Barb Young
Mary Lee Nielson
Jennifer Miklas
Joseph Cummings
Robert Hansen
Bonnie Ranum



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

3rd Jeanne & Todd Burchill
23rd Glenn & Shirley Haugen
25th Rhonda & Rob Marshall
27th Bev & Don Enger
31st VirLyn & Gordon Hoff



Your serving group provides fellowship for Sunday mornings and the comforting presence that all need following a funeral or memorial service. These are important ministries that we provide for one another within the community. It is a way to reach out to those who have not found that gift of the Holy Spirit as being real in their own lives. If the month is not a fit for you, please contact VirLyn Hoff, or leave a note in the office.

The next funeral will be served by the October serving group.

Kitchen Care—Please refer to the poster in the kitchen for care and cleanup after kitchen use.

Serving Groups

Serving for May
CO-CHAIRS—
Michelle & Joe DeMasi
Judy Elston
Linda & Tim Haak
Deb & Jim Hegdahl
Kathy & John Kracht
Pat & Richard North
Abby & Kevin Rohrbeck
Patsy & Wayne Winkler

Serving for June
CO-CHAIRS—
Bev & Don Enger
Bill Bertram
Sandy Goeller
Marie & Jim Leadbetter
Jan & George McCarthy
Heather & Nate Kvilvang

Epworth's 2024 Leadership Team

Class of 2024
Holly Neuberger—Trustees
Bill Bertram—Staff-Parish
Phil Mueller—Finance
Class of 2025
Bruce Larson—Trustees
Jan McCarthy—Trustees
Bev Enger—Staff-Parish
Katy Van Dyke—Finance
Class of 2026
Justin Horsager— Finance
Alyssa Thomsen— Staff-Parish
Gail Pederson—Staff-Parish

Pastor Duane Coates
Barb Owen—Lay Leader
Anita Tulp—Lay Member to AC
Avis Richter—Treasurer
Recording Secretary—Randi Watterson

Ministry in Review

Lay Leader Notes

Psalm 143:8
 Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you.

When my friend texted me last week, unhappy and in distress about her work, saying that she didn't know who she was without her career, I had to remind her:

You are a ----- mother, grandmother, wife, daughter, sister, friend, Child of God, BELOVED.

We can get so caught up in our day-to-day existence and all the worries and concerns that we can forget from where our identity truly comes. We take our identity and our worth from our culture, our careers, our homes, cars, and things we own, when none of these things really makes a difference in who we are. We are first and foremost a child of God, loved and held in His arms. We are loved beyond our ability to even comprehend how wide, how deep, and how long is God's love for us. If we put our trust in God and rest in His loving embrace, many of our cares and concerns would melt away. It is then that God is able to reveal to you all that you are – strong, independent, loving, compassionate, worthy. How can our outlook not change when we begin to see ourselves as God sees us. You are worthy just as you are in the eyes of God. Trust that He sees you and knows you and your concerns; rest in that.

Life is not easy and there are times when you may simply want a listening ear and some encouragement. As your Lay Leader, I am willing to confidentially listen to you and talk over any concerns you may have in your life or your spiritual journey. We are called by God to love one another and help each other. If you would like to visit over a cup of coffee or go for a walk, I would love to spend that time with you and offer prayer and support. Please reach out to me at: 701-388-1253.

Barb Owen

March 24, 2024—April 20, 2024

General Fund Giving	\$15,805.60
Glory of God's House Campaign	\$1,575.00
Ministerial Association	\$322.00
Building & Maintenance	\$200.00
Memorial	\$200.00
Matthew 25	\$200.00
Study Books	\$120.00
UMCOR	\$50.00
Parking Lot	\$50.00
Native American Sunday	\$50.00
Sunday School	\$9.48

Sunday Worship Attendance

March 24— 39	Online— 20
March 31 8:00— 43	Online— 9
10:30— 77	Online— 13
April 7— 62	Online— 28
April 14— 77	Online— 17

Youth Attendance

March 27— 13
April 3— 16
April 10— 13
April 17— 16



Seeking Christian Education Director and Youth Director

The Servant Leadership Team (SLT), through the Staff-Parish Work Group and in consultation with Pastor Duane plan to hire for two openings on the church staff: Director of Christian Education (at 12-15 hours/week) and Youth Director (at 10 hours per week). If interested, please contact Pastor Duane or the church office.

Hayley Winkler is leaving her position as Christian education director on June 14 to pursue music education and student teaching in that field. Brenda Lint is leaving the youth director position to follow her husband, the Rev. Paul Lint, who has been appointed pastor of Spearfish United Methodist Church in South Dakota. These two positions could be held by the same or different persons.

Generally, the Christian education director works 12-15 hours a week to help provide a positive learning environment in the church so that all can experience God's love and grow closer and deeper in commitment to the Lord. Among the qualifications are a strong belief in Jesus Christ and respect for United Methodist theology and practice, strong organizational, administrative, and leadership skills. A degree in some type of education or some experience in the field is preferred, but not required.

The youth director works 10 hours per week building young disciples for Christ by developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to youth ministry. That person will also serve as a spiritual leader and role model in the areas of group building, worship, discipleship, mission, and outreach.

Qualifications for that position include embracing Christian discipleship and United Methodist doctrine and theology. We are also looking for someone with an ability to work effectively with youth, diverse individuals, and teams of volunteers. Skills in communication and computers are helpful.

For full job descriptions, see the church office. The positions report to the pastor and are evaluated by the Servant Leadership Team through the Staff-Parish Work Group in consultation with the pastor.

Volunteers needed for Hi-Liner Food Pantry

Again, this summer, the Bridges Backpack Program will host a food distribution at Valley City High School on Wednesday nights in June through early August.

The distribution will allow families to gather food items they need for a week. It takes place from 5-7 p.m. in the first room south (to the right) from door W6 on the northwest corner of the high school.

Volunteers are requested to help the families, to weigh the food, record the number of adults and children served by that amount of food, and to help carry it to their vehicles. Volunteers would be requested to come at 4:45 pm and stay until about 7:15 pm. Here are the dates on which volunteers are needed:

June 12, June 19, June 26, July 10, July 17, July 24, and July 31. If interested, please see Pastor Duane.





Christian Education, Hayley Winkler, Director

Hello everyone

Well we are coming to the end of our Sunday School season before summer. A couple quick reminders:

- VBS is June 10-14. If you would like to assist in some way with VBS this year, please reach out to me.
- Camp registration is still open, so if any of your kids would like to go to camp this year, please sign them up! The camp code is 332301CA.
- We will be making Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts to go home this next month, so be on the lookout for those coming home.
- Our last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 19th
- Senior Sunday is May 5th along with Camp Sunday

I am looking forward to this next month as we have lots of things going on, and I can't wait to see everyone at VBS this summer.

Enjoy your last month before summer break!



Blessings,

Hayley Winkler
 Director of Christian Education
christianed@epworthvalleycity.com

Servant Leadership Team (SLT)

The SLT met on April 8, 2024. Once again, a short synopsis will be given to allow the congregation to become more involved by reading the minutes and contributing your thoughts and suggestions to an SLT member.

Members: Katy Van Dyke Chairperson (Finance), Bruce Larson Vice Chairperson (Chair Trustees), Jan McCarthy (Trustees), Holly Neuberger (Trustees), Justin Horsager (Finance), Phil Mueller (Chair Finance), Bev Enger (Chair Staff Parish), Gail Pederson (Staff Parish), Bill Bertram (Staff Parish), Alyssa Thomsen (Staff Parish), Pastor Duane Coates, Barb Owen (Lay Leader), Anita Tulp (Lay Member to AC), Avis Richter (Treasurer), Randi Watterson (Recording Secretary)

April 8, 2024

OLD BUSINESS

-SLT discussed the time change of summer church service. A motion was given to change to 9:30 service with coffee fellowship following. This motion was passed.

SLT will plan to have a potluck on May 5th honoring Paul and Brenda Lint for their services given to both Wesley Acres Camp and Epworth.

-Epworth graduating class will be honored on May 5th.

-Some of the current SLT members will meet May 6 at 5:30 to discuss the SLT structure.

NEW BUSINESS

-Cindy Heidelberger presented information about Green Teams.

-Dawn Thomsen will be using a room for the summer to store concession supplies.

-Capital Campaign

REPORTS

The Pastor's report: Camp Sunday is May 5th with the Lints doing service. Confirmation will be May 19th.

Trustees: Electrical work and changing locks.

Finance: Finances will be looked over and building loans discussed.

Staff Parish: Job descriptions.

Please read through the minutes and respond with any questions or concerns. At this time the church will be needing help with financials as there is refinancing taking place, job openings that need to be filled, and issues with the church electrical boxes. Go to www.epworthvalleycity.com under communication to find the SLT minutes.

God Bless,
 SLT Team

Annual Conference Miracle Offering Collected During May

Dakotas-Minnesota Bishop Lanette Plambeck has requested a miracle offering be received at the 31st session of our Dakotas Annual Conference taking place in Bismarck June 5-8. This year, the Miracle Offering will be divided among these recipients: the 31:8 Project, Abbott House's Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care, recovery ministry grant, and the Clergy Sustentation Fund.

In a letter to each local church Bishop Plambeck said: "We are blessed to be a blessing to others – and that is precisely what our annual Miracle Offering is all about: Expressing our gratitude for God's provisions in our lives and sharing God's redeeming love with a broken world." She said this is one of the tangible ways we can act out of love for our neighbors, letting them know they are worthy and beloved.

The 31:8 Project's mission is to equip and challenge society to address issues regarding human trafficking proactively. Based in Bismarck, North Dakota, 31:8 offers informative seminars, conducts research, and creates curricula applicable to all levels of education and forms of human trafficking. Your donations support activities such as the Bakken Human Trafficking Summit, mentorships for survivors of human trafficking, and the Demand Reduction Program—an education partnership designed to reduce recidivism.

In addition to giving financially to the Miracle Offering, congregations are invited to collect supplies and backpacks for the Bravery Backpacks program through the 31:8 Project. These comfort backpacks are delivered by service providers, law enforcement, medical professionals, schools, and foster care parents to North Dakota children ages 2-17 experiencing trauma when they are forcibly removed from their parents or guardians due to an unsafe environment, violence in the household, or drug and alcohol issues.

Abbott House's Bridges Therapeutic Foster Care: Ten foster homes in the South Dakota communities of Mitchell, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls provide homes for boys and girls. These children have special need for therapeutic foster care, but do not require residential treatment. Many of these students are graduates of the Abbott House residential program and need to practice the skills they learned there in a healthy family system as they transition to independent adult living.

Recovery Ministry: Funds will be granted to Dakotas United Methodist churches engaged in helping people build relationships with Jesus Christ as they recover from various addictions or dependencies.

The Clergy Sustentation Fund grants emergency and hardship assistance for active and retired Dakotas United Methodist clergy and families, including surviving spouses and surviving dependent children. Any such persons may request funds, which are approved by the Bishop and Cabinet.



In memory of **Tom, Hans, & Laura Vagle and Clayton & Beatrice Baasch**
—Diana Vagle, Memorial
In memory of **Maynard & Shirley Devitt**
—Craig Ranum, Memorial



The youth group got to plan our final month together. We revisited fun activities and service projects. Game night, making tie blankets, baking goodies for VCSU students encouraging them to finish strong, and Bible trivia night were a few of the highlights. We are excited about a fun overnight at Wesley Acres followed by a work day. Our year will end May 1st with an evening of fun and a send off for those graduating and moving.

It has been a privilege working with the youth of Epworth. We feel blessed to be a part of their lives and pray that they know their worth.

A prayer from Pastor Paul:

God, you promised that people of all ages would experience your power and love moving through them. Just as you have inspired and empowered the youth of Epworth UMC throughout our history, change Epworth, Valley City, and the world through these amazing people. Surround them with your protection and your comfort that they may know your presence in this journey called life. May their stories tell your story of love for all people.

Amen

Appreciation Lunch for Paul & Brenda Lint and Hayley Winkler
On Sunday, May 5, we will be honoring Brenda & Paul Lint, our Youth directors, and Hayley Winkler, our Christian Education director, who will be leaving their positions soon. Please join us in the dining room after worship on Sunday the fifth as we thank them for all they have done for Epworth. Since this will fall on the day of Cinco de Mayo, we will be serving tacos. There will be baskets for any cards, etc. that you would like to leave for the Lints and Hayley. This is also senior recognition Sunday, so we will honor them as well. Remember Sunday, May 5th after church! Hope to see you there!



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith – VirLyn Hoff, Unit President

Our Epworth Unit hosted area United Women in Faith on Saturday April 13 – a Soul Care Saturday! We were good hosts. We had great guests. We ate. We studied. We worshiped. We laughed. Food, Faith and Fellowship at the Table!

Our unit received Mission recognition for 2023 for both our service and giving. Bev Enger is serving as NW District Mission Team president. See Photo.

We will have a Unit Meeting **Wednesday May 8 at noon**. We will do a potluck for noon and follow with a program and some business. One item is hosting a salad luncheon. Give me some opinions about that event. Last year we focused on the produce and bake sale with the men's corn supper.

We want to be sure we support the camping programs. We are planning to support the camping program now at 1/3 of the cost.

Calendar **July 18, 19, 20** for Mission u which is held at Jamestown University. We drive daily. Our unit covers the cost of registration and meals. Join us. Three days of food, faith and fellowship!!!

Jesus said "I am the bread of life." For Asians that would be rice. The combination of 'rice' and 'mouth' in some Asian cultures means "Harmony" or "Peace." When we eat together - bread or rice – with all the children of God, peace and harmony are with us.

United Women in Faith support food programs locally and worldwide. Some of those programs are micro-loans to make a living. We join together at the Table.

May is Mother's Day. Thank a woman who is important in your life and offer prayers for Maternal Health and Wellness. When women are well, the children are well. Plus, communities are well.

"... give us this day our daily bread or rice along with insight ..." (Matthew 6: 11 adapted)

Bev Enger,
NW District
President &
VirLyn Hoff,
Unit
President



Certificate of
Mission recognition



Congregational Care

There will be no official church family supper in May. However, I would encourage everyone to come and join in on the appreciation lunch in honor of Hayley and the Lint's on May 5. Consider bringing a thank-you gift for them before they leave Epworth and embark on their new journeys.

VirLyn Hoff,
Congregational Care Coordinator



New Summer Service Time— The Servant Leadership Team has decided to move the Sunday service time to 9:30 am for the summer, with coffee fellowship to follow at 10:30 am. This schedule will begin on May 26 and continue until September 8.



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.

New Members Join on Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, March 31, we welcomed new members Gail and Peder Gjovik. Gail is a retired registered nurse, who has experience as a director of nursing at a long-term care facility in Powell, Wyoming. Peder, who holds an earned doctorate, is a retired professor and former chair of the technology department at Valley City State University. He also has experience as a newspaper press operator. They joined by transfer of membership from First Lutheran Church in Fessenden, North Dakota.

Peace with Justice Special Offering May 19

On May 19, we will receive a special offering for Peace with Justice Sunday. This special observance enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. There will be special offering envelopes and an insert in your worship guide about this special Sunday. This is one of eight conference-wide financial appeals throughout each year.

The annual conference retains half of receipts for peace and justice ministries in the Dakotas. The remaining half goes to peace and justice ministries of the general church. In the past, your donations have provided funds for ethnic/minority local church ministries and programs related to ministries that educate, equip, and mobilize actions in support of identified economic, health, and gender-justice priorities.

You are invited to donate electronically at any time or bring a special offering with you to worship on May 19.