

United Redeemer Lutheran Church The January Voice



January 2021

ELCA SE MN Synod
560 West 3rd St

Zumbrota, MN 55992
507-732-7303

A Note From Marggi

Happy New Year 2021

Dear United Redeemer family,

Can you believe it?! 2020 has come to an end...the year that no one was expecting...ever. The year 2020 though, for some brought really great joy. I think of those who had babies, is there a more hopeful sign of tomorrow? I do not think so. There were several couples who were married and there was delight and joy! Couples were engaged. There were graduations, although so different than in the past, but people graduated and completed studies! That is an accomplishment whether there is a pandemic or not...and there have been many other joys along the way, right?! Light and love squeezes its way through, that is the way of light and love. I have felt so much light and love in our congregation over the last year...so much!! You as a congregation have found reasons to celebrate, share, rejoice, improvise, sacrifice, laugh, cry, and above all, believe that this will end and there will be better days ahead. I cannot begin to tell you the number of times I was feeling despondent, sad, or worried and one of you showed up, texted me, called me, emailed me. You have been the face of God for me and I am so ever grateful. As a community you have continued to support URLC through your monetary gifts and your prayers! Thank you again seems inadequate, but it is heartfelt. How lovely and terrific this congregation, you are!

But this year, as we know, has brought the most challenging and difficult times for many of us too. Our health care providers are shining examples of servant hearts and bravery. You, each one of you, have my deepest respect and admiration. This pandemic is not over yet and all you will do ahead in the months to come remains unknown. But you show up. Thank you is not enough but it is said with all my heart. And you as school staff...I think about you so often and I wonder how do you do it? What do you do when you are exhausted and struggling and wondering how long you can continue to do what you do? Again, thank you is only the beginning of my admiration, deepest honor, and respect. And you children, who are living through this and trying to learn...my heart wraps around you and wishes and prays for such bright tomorrows for you! Your resiliency and strong spirits for life, lift my spirit! And I am amazed at you parents, what you are going through now balancing careers, family, and sanity and yet you are such beautiful people and the children you are raising are truly reflections of your love, care, and tenaciousness. The list of all of you deeply and profoundly affected by this pandemic is long and to each one hearts different worries and struggles. There have been those whose loved ones have died because of COVID-19, and my heart breaks as does the community around you.

But here we are...you and me, our church community. We are heading into a new year, 2021. I have learned a lot about myself...some things I needed to work on and change, some things I have learned to appreciate so much more, some things I have learned I can live without, others I realize are the most important. I have thought of those passions in my life I had forgotten about and through this time have reignited. I miss my kids and the ache runs to my very soul. Quite possibly these same things are true for you as well. As they say we are all in this together and we share many of the same hurts, disappointments, and longings. My hope is for us as a community, that we will grow ever committed to URLC, even more so, our faith. That we can let go of past divisions and see the good and commonality in one another. I do not know when we will gather again together, but I do know when we do, we will gather united and passionate and ever so more grateful!!! Until then my generous, most lovely people of URLC God bless and bless again.

Marggi - your pastor...walking the journey with you and sometimes stumbling along the way,
thank goodness I always jump right back up!

Happy New Year to all of you!

I pray that our new year brings new beginnings for a new year of:

*Connecting with New & Old Friends *New Memories *Strong Faith *Many Smiles
*Group Gatherings *Youth Get-togethers *Sunday School *Easter Breakfast
*Mother's Day Brunch *Confirmation Picnic *Sr. Recognition *Confirmation Camp
*Youth Summer Field Trips.....These are my hopes and prayers for the new year,
that we can be together again soon. With the unknown future of the new year, I
know that we are together for now with our streaming on-line services &
Confirmation zoom with Pastor Marggi.

*As for Sunday school starting possibly in January or February, I will let everyone know
as soon as I hear from the Covid group / Church Council that we are safe to resume
class again. We will be looking for teachers when this is scheduled to begin
again. Please email Cindy if you are interested in helping in any way.*

Youth@urlchurch.org

Please listen to this song that has inspired me.

Happy New Year! Your Youth Director, Cindy Wilson

"Made New" by Lincoln Brewster

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!” ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).**

We can't go back in time and make better decisions from last year. However, we can
allow ourselves to be stretched in our faith to explore new and deeper depths of God.

He makes us new people in Christ as we know Him better through quiet times of
prayer and meditation.





We want to thank the congregation for the ongoing support through activities, on-line participation, and financial contributions during this difficult time. The URLC community has demonstrated its commitment and strength during the pandemic. I would like to provide an update of the Council work.

We understand that our technology for living streaming and recording services needs improvement. We are continuing to look at the need for equipment and personnel to provide quality services on-line as we know this is the future. There have been many improvements to the website and Facebook so make sure to check those out. Numbers accessing the pages and services are nearing 500 people which is more than were attending service, so we are happy with that improvement.

Financially, we remain strong. Some work has been completed at the church including a heater at the east entrance and emergency lighting in the sanctuary. We worked on the budget for 2021 with much uncertainty. We kept the budget the same as 2020 with the exception of an addition of \$2,500 for technology improvements. Salaries and other components were kept flat as we know a number of members are challenged financially during this time. Please contact a council member if you have questions. More information will be coming with the annual report.

Please see the announcement regarding the annual meeting plans. We know these are challenging times and want to include as many members as possible in the decisions at the annual meeting. Please let us know if you have concerns or suggestions. Lastly, we would like to thank the staff, Pastor Marggi, and an endless number of members who have contributed to the Advent and Christmas services and activities.

Linda Herrick
President, URLC Council
507-250-4567 (cell)

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes are in. Please call the office (507-732-7303) if you would like to stop by and pick yours up. Those that are not picked up by January 11th will be mailed out.

Council Members Needed

We are looking for replacements for three council members whose terms will be completed in January. The term is for three years. There are monthly Council meetings which have been on the third Monday evenings from 6-7:30 pm though times are negotiated each year with the members. Additionally, each member is assigned as liaison to one of the church committees that have varying meetings times and frequencies. Nominees are placed on the ballot and voted on at the annual meeting. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Marggi at or Linda Herrick at 507-732-5564.

Nominating Committee Members Needed

We will be looking for 3 members to serve on the Nominating Committee next year. The commitment is primarily November to January with the purpose of finding individuals to run for the council positions. There is usually no more than one or two short meetings and phone calls / contacts to members to see if they are interested in serving.

Annual Meeting Information

The pandemic has changed the way we worship and conduct business. We will be having an informational pre-meeting on January 24th during which we will answer any questions. The annual meeting will be held January 31. Both meetings will be held by Zoom and in the parking lot. There will also be a way to call in by phone. We know this will be a bit different than the in-person meeting, but we want everyone to be safe. The annual report, an information sheet with explanations of the budget, etc. and ballots will be mailed prior to the January 24th meeting with option of mailing the ballots with a postmark of no later than February 3, 2021. We have reviewed the constitution and bylaws which do not say that we need to meet in person and the ELCA leadership has provided some flexibility. We will be revising the constitution and bylaws and will be bringing the changes to a vote of the congregation at a later date. Please contact Linda Herrick at 507-732-5564 if you would like some more information.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



A Walk in Newness

Beginning January 1, 2021 Marggi will be posting a daily devotion to our URLC Facebook Page. Start your mornings with a little devotion and walk with her in newness, this New Year!

Our Church Services will continue to be inside at 9:30 am and streamed live on Facebook, every Sunday. You can view the service later at your convenience on Facebook, our URLC website, and YouTube. You can also tune into FM 99.1 radio station and listen from your home if you live within about a mile radius of the church. We tested the limits to the radio station and the areas reached are near or around The Covered Bridge Park, The ZM Theater, The Nursing Home and as far as The Funeral Home. You are more than welcome to still park in our church parking lot and listen from your car there as well. The bulletin for the Sunday services will be posted to our Facebook page every Sunday morning before the service. If you are interested in being a reader or providing special music, please contact the church office, (732-7303), to sign up. Thank you for sticking with us and tuning in!



Zumbrota Food Shelf Needs You

During our "usual" church year, we have special times to give generous support to our food shelf. Because this is not a usual year, our support has been somewhat short!! This is the plan:

1. A tub is placed in the east entry of the church with a sign on it "Food Shelf".
2. The food will be picked up every Tuesday by Roger Hinz. He will deliver it to food shelf.
3. The entry door will open Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm
4. If you choose to give money, a box will just outside of the office.
Make check to Zumbrota Food Shelf (not united Redeemer).
The Food Shelf can then purchase things needed.

All will be greatly appreciated by those in need. Thank you!!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Quilt and prayer shawl ministry continues! Where there's a will, there's a way! Despite the challenges that 2020 has given all of us, members of URLC have found ways to continue important ministries. For many years, the making and giving warm and useful quilts has been a ministry of United Redeemer. The prayer shawl ministry is another example of how the congregation has reached out to others. Whereas several women would gather together monthly to complete quilts to be given to people locally, they have found ways to complete quilts in their homes. As in the past, a few very dedicated women have continued to piece and sew the beautiful quilt tops. Recently, "quilt in a bag" has begun - with women picking up quilts, yarn, needle, and directions in a bag to tie the quilt. After returning it to church, another person picks up the quilts to serge/complete the edges at home, making them ready to be distributed.

In recent years, the focus had been to give the quilts in the area to people in need: Hope Coalition in Red Wing; Ronald McDonald House in Rochester; Impatient Psychiatric Center in Rochester; and Zumbrota Area Food Shelf. Persons suffering losses from fires and other hardships may also receive the gift of a quilt. Smaller quilts are presented at baptisms at URLC. Other members have been using their knitting and crocheting skills to make beautiful prayer shawls. As a result, there is a nice supply of these on hand at the church. They are given out on request to family and friends who are in need of one. The shawls are intended to comfort anyone who might be experiencing illness, a loss, or any type of hard times. The church office can be contacted for you to pick one up for you to give to someone you feel would need or appreciate it. Donations to either the quilting or prayer shawls ministries are always appreciated!



HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Announcements

2021

THANKYOU!

Thank you to ALL the people that helped make the Advent season special this year. Though many traditions could not take place as in other years, URLC rallied to bring joy and smiles to others in new ways. The outdoor lighting displays, live nativity, mitten tree, luminaries, delivery of treat bags to members in care centers and individual homes to name a few. On top of that, we were able to raise over 300 pounds of food and over \$2,200 for our local food shelf and God's Global barnyard, in just one month! We also received so many generous donations to the Goodhue County Christmas Project Thank you to each of you that assisted in making these activities a success, including those who contributed financially and to Thrivent for their financial assistance as well. Thank you for continuing to support not only URLC but all the other charities that need it so much! You all have been a true blessing in such a difficult year! The light of the New Year is upon us, may it shine brightly on each and every one of you!



Thanks
for Your
Support!

CHURCH OFFERING

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT GATHERING IN PERSON, PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND IN YOUR OFFERING, AS YOU SO WONDERFULLY HAVE BEEN, TO THE CHURCH AT 560 W. 3RD ST. ZUMBROTA, MN 55992, OR YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR VANCO, OUR DIRECT DEPOSIT OPTION. THERE IS ALSO OUR ONLINE GIVING ON OUR WEBSITE. IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT (507) 732-7303. IT IS WITH OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION AND THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO GIVE SO GENEROUSLY! THANK YOU ALL

The Prayer Shawl Ministry shawls have been made for centuries. They are universal and embracing; they comfort and enfold, wrap and warm. Those who make and receive shawls are loved and blessed. If you know of someone in need of comfort, please feel free to give them one. Monetary and yarn donations are always welcome. Keep knitting and crocheting!



Ruby's
PANTRY

In need of a little extra food this month? Ruby's Pantry distributes food at Pop-Up Pantry locations across MN & WI. There are no income or residency requirement and for a \$20/ bundle donation you will receive an abundance of groceries. Food distribution will be the first Saturday of every month at Our Saviors Lutheran Church. You can find additional information from the Ruby's Pantry Facebook page. This months distribution date is January 2nd from 9am to 10:45am.

Please say a prayer for:

Irene Swenson, Larry Olson, Pat Lawler, Cork Falk, Sue Quam, Addie Schliep, Charlotte DeVries, (Sister of Bernice Ratgen), Karen Hanemann, (sister in law of Julie and Dennis Baumberger). Susan Walker, (sister of Peggy Kennedy and Harlan Redfield). Please call the

office to update this list.

507-732-7303



COAT CLOSET UPDATE

We are still accepting donations of children's winter jackets. Particularly needed are children sizes M, L, XL and all youth sizes. We can wash and repair jackets, if necessary. Thank you for contributing to this local effort to help children in our community.



The deadline for the VOICE is the 23rd of the month. Please contact the office at 732-7303 if you would like to have something put in. Thank You!