

MARCH CHURCHLETTER



Greetings to you all!!!

March...the beginning of spring(we hope), the beginning of high school basketball tournaments, NASCAR is under way, and the March madness college basketball games will soon be upon us. In other words, there is a lot going on in March...and that's mostly just sports! In the church, March signifies the continuation of Lent.

I must say that I like Advent and Christmas where we are reminded of the birth of our Savior. However, the season of Lent means a great deal more to me. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are all sinners. Lent reminds us to reflect on how we have fallen short in worshiping and following our Lord. Lent is a season of sacrifice. Lent is a season of asking for forgiveness. Lent leads up to Holy Week and Easter when we are reminded of that ultimate sacrifice that Jesus paid to all who believe...His death on the cross and His resurrection three days later!

So you may be asking "All that sounds pretty negative, Pastor Gary...except for the resurrection. Why do you like Lent so much?" Simply put, there is a cleansing in the season of Lent. When we reflect on and proclaim our sins to our Savior and realize that our sins are forgiven, it is so very cleansing. It's like starting all over again...starting fresh in our own eyes as well as His. As hard as Lent can be for us as we look at our lives and our souls, in the end we are forgiven by our Lord and hopefully have a deeper relationship with Him...and what joy there is in that!!!

May the love of Jesus surround us as we continue our journey through this season of Lent together!

Pastor Gary

The office phone number is 651-280-0150
You can also reach the churches by email
at: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com
or NerstrandUMC@gmail.com

Prayer Chain



Please direct all prayer chain requests to **Becky Tatge (507) 210-1214** or **Mary Kindseth 507-789-6879**. Messages can be left on either of the phones. If you want to make any changes on how you are contacted or add your name to the list, you can be on the email or phone list. Let's keep this available to our community.

Prayer chain and worship service link emails:

Becky Tatge has been regularly sending emails with the worship service link and/or prayer chain requests. If you have not been receiving them and would like to, please contact Becky at (507) 210-1214

Please send **bulletin (deadline-9am Thurs)** and **newsletter (deadline-20th of month)** information to: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com (Lynn Hirschey will be monitoring this email). Phone number 507-330-1831. Notes in the mail are also welcome if you prefer.

Loving Thoughts and Prayers Surround:

Faribault Senior Living

Gerry Erickson

Pleasant View Estates

Shirley Bauer

Norma Meyer

The Emeralds

Judy Smith

At Home

Doris Hildebrandt

Arlene Shaske

Arlene Bultman

Mill City Senior Living

Kaye Spike



Joys and Concerns

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and get well wishes. My knee surgery went well but am still working on therapy to get some muscles strengthened in my left leg that haven't been used in years. Thanks again. Craig Keller

The Lenten Bible study will be on Wednesdays at the Nerstrand UMC at 5pm, starting on Wednesday, March 4th

Palm Sunday evening, March 29th at 8 pm

The Last Supper Drama at St. John's will once again be presented as a meaningful start to Holy Week. Please join us for the annual drama featuring a live presentation of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper.

Our cast is being finalized - posters will be distributed soon.

For anyone wishing to participate in this annual event, please contact Gordie or Pauline Wiegrefe.

Cast and crew will hold rehearsal at 7 pm on Sunday, March 22.

Community Men's Choir

The Nerstrand Community Men's Choir will have rehearsals each Monday eve. At 7:00 p.m. at the church hosting the mid-week Lenten service. See Schedule in newsletter.

Sunday School at St. John's

St. John's Sunday School meets weekly from 9:30-10:20am. Students PreK through grade 8 are welcome, as are any adults interested in being a teacher or substitute. Please contact Carrie Hess with any questions: 651-775-5594 or littlehesshouse@gmail.com.

There will be NO Sunday School March 8, 2026

Wednesday Wear

Hours: Wed. 1-5 pm Sat. 9-noon

Remember that donations are welcome!

Any questions about being open or on donating, Call-Linda 507-789-5376

Or Marlene 507-334-2143

Church phone 507-332-4089

Mark Your Calendars:

St. John's annual Vacation Bible School will be held June 22-26. Registration form & more details will be coming at a later date.



No Council notes received.

Elders: Brian Bauer, Michelle Otte, Joan Schwake
Deacons: Gordie Wiegrefe, Sarah Miles, Deb Purfeerst
Trustees: Zach Hertle, Jay Kindseth, Matt Schwake
Cemetery Board: Al Meyer, Kyle Keller, Steve Becher

St. John's UCC Cleaning Committee



The St. John's UCC cleaning committee for the months of March/April is: Jay & Trudy Kindseth and Mark & Mary Kindseth

Nerstrand UMC Administrative Board

Chairman-Duane Bailey

Secretary -Debbie Kerr

The **Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVdP)** is a nonprofit and all volunteer organization that operates a food shelf and free clothing store for local families in need. SVdP is participating in the 2026 Minnesota Food Share March Campaign. All monetary and food donations received thru April 6 increase our FoodFund financial allocation amount from GMCC. Donations can be mailed to 617 3rd Ave NW, Faribault MN 55021-4219 or dropped off on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9 AM to 2:30 PM. Volunteers are welcome, call 507-334-2100 or visit our website for more information

<https://stvincentdepaulfaribault.com>. If you know a family who needs food or assistance, please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



Second Saturday Quilters

Second Saturday Quilters

Our next meeting is on Saturday March 14th at St.

John's from 9:00 -3:00.

Deb will teach Quilted Cards. Bring assorted scraps, sewing machine, and general sewing supplies. Bring your personal project for the afternoon.

Annette will bring snack.

SSQ is open to people from all churches and their friends. Contact Deb Wille

83159deb@gmail.com or 507-323-4813.

Wood Carving!

St John's carving group will meet March 21st at 10:00.

All are welcome to attend our sessions. No experience required



Steven Wille
507-323-481

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., March 2-Community Men's choir rehearsal at Gol-7pm

Wed., March 4- Lenten Bible study 5pm at the Nerstrand UMC

Sunday, March 8th --St. John's Council meeting at 11:30am.

Mon., March 9-Community Men's choir rehearsal at SJ-7pm

Wed., March 11th- Lenten Bible study 5pm at the Nerstrand UMC

Mon., March 16-Community Men's choir rehearsal at Grace-7pm

Wednesday, March 18th --Coffee and Conversation at 10am at the Nerstrand UMC. Lenten Bible study 5pm at the Nerstrand UMC

Mon., March 23-Community Men's choir rehearsal at Kenyon UMC-7pm

Wed., March 25th Lenten Bible study 5pm at the Nerstrand UMC

Wednesday, April 8th, --The Nerstrand UMC Ad. Board meeting, at 11am.

Sunday, March 22 Rehearsal for Last Supper Drama at St. John's-7pm

Sunday, March 29 Last Supper Drama at St. John's -8pm

Lenten Schedule

Wednesday, March 4th-GOL Lutheran Church, 7pm. meal before the service (6pm)
Lenten Bible study 5pm at the Nerstrand UMC

Wednesday, March 11th-St. John's UCC, 7pm, we will be serving a loaded baked potato bar with all your favorite toppings.
All are welcome (6:00)

Wednesday, March 18th-Grace Lutheran Church, 7pm. meal before the service (6pm)

Wednesday, March 25th -Kenyon UMC, 7pm. refreshments following the service

-- The Combined **Maundy Thursday Service** will be at the Nerstrand UMC on Thursday, April 2nd, at 7pm. The Combined **Good Friday Service** will be at St. John's UCC on Friday, April 3rd, at 7pm.

Sunday Church Service Schedule for 2025:

(Communion on first Sunday of month)

9:00 AM WORSHIP AT NERSTRAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

12 Maple Street, Nerstrand, MN 55053

E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website: <https://nerstrandumc.org>

Phone:507.332.4089



Like us on Facebook

10:30 AM WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

19086 Jacobs Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

E-mail: st.johnsuccwheeling@gmail.com

Website:<https://stjohnsunitychurchofchrist.info>

Phone: 651-280-0150 (Pastor Gary-personal).



Like us on Facebook

Pastor- Gary Liker

