



# Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church

**The Current Word**

**2017 1**

**Here is what is unfolding...**

## **SUMMER OF PLAYING & PRAYING**

Summer is just around the corner!

The worship team is excited about our summer plans. Since we have Saturday services in the (air-conditioned) Gathering Room or outside, we incorporate bible study, conversation, singing favorite songs, and activities for all ages. And summer gives us a great opportunity to focus on specific scriptures, series or goals.

This summer we are going to be learning different prayer practices. We will introduce them and practice them during our Saturday worship, and carry over into the following Sunday. Here's the tentative line-up:

### **Easter Season - Spring Schedule Concludes:**

May 21 9 am, Last Day of Adult Ed/Sunday school

June 4 10:30 am, Pentecost Sunday Worship, with BBQ afterwards

### **SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS**

**Prayer Practice: Spiritual Journaling – Imaginative & Reflective Prayer**

June 10 5:00 pm Worship, (Gathering Room)

June 18 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary), Food Shelf Sunday

**Prayer Practice: Doxasoma - Body Prayer (similar to yoga)**

June 24 5:00 pm Worship, (Prayer Chapel)

July 2 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary), with Communion

**Prayer Practice: Praying with Clay – Tactile Meditative Prayer**

July 8 4:00 PM Deep Breath Sabbath Workshop

5:00 pm Worship, (Gathering Room)

6:15 pm Dinner (Patio)

July 16 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary), Food Shelf Sunday

**Prayer Practice: Written Prayer – Structured Prayer (with formulas, like poetry)**

July 22 5:00 pm Worship, (Gathering Room)  
July 30 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Special event TBD)  
August 6 10:30 am Worship(Sanctuary), with Communion

**Prayer Practice: Musical Prayer – Sung Psalms & Breath Prayers**

August 12 5:00 pm Worship, (Gathering Room)  
August 20 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary), Food Shelf Sunday

**Prayer Practice: Prayer Beads – Tactile Guided Prayers**

August 26 5:00 pm Worship, (Gathering Room)  
September 3 10:30 am Worship(Sanctuary), with Communion

**Prayer Practice: Walking Prayer – Contextual Prayer & Intercession**

September 9 5:00 pm Worship, (Gathering Room)

**SUMMER SCHEDULE ENDS**

**BUT THE FUN JUST DOESN'T STOP! Summer Day Camp: June 19-23**

This summer LNPC is once again hosting Westminster Presbyterian Church's amazing summer Day Camp!

**Discover | June 19-23, 2017**

This arts-filled camp includes music, storytelling and games in and around the church in the morning. Each afternoon a special 'field trip' is planned with swimming and games, and exploring some of the exceptional park areas of the metro. Lunch is provided at the church every day.

For the optional Wednesday overnight offering (*for 2nd-5th graders*), campers enjoy an evening excursion and games around the church. If the weather's nice, we'll share a campfire in the courtyard, roast marshmallows, make s'mores, and sing our hearts out! Hot dinner and breakfast included.



**All-Day Camp | 8:30 am – 5 pm | Children who have finished kindergarten through 5th grade**  
\$185 (with overnight \$200) | Sibling Day Camp \$155 (with overnight \$170)

T-shirt, activities and lunches included.

*Optional Wednesday overnight for those who have completed 2nd – 5th grades.*

**Half-Day Starter Camp | 8:30 – Noon | Children entering kindergarten**

\$60

Activities, lunch included.

**All are welcome - scholarships are available.**

Questions? Contact Brennan Blue at Westminster: [bblue@wpc-mpls.org](mailto:bblue@wpc-mpls.org).

## EXHUBERANT IMAGINATION !

### **We applied for a grant – and we're starting to dream...**

August 2018 Kara will have been with us for ten years, and it will be time for another sabbatical! We normally wouldn't be thinking this far out, except that we've had the opportunity to apply for a good-sized grant, that could fund travel for Kara's family and some exciting possibilities for us as a congregation. The National Clergy Renewal Program provides sabbatical grants for pastors and congregations for, "times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing."

Session put together a "Sabbatical Dream Team" comprised of: Joyce Tesarek, Amy Leafblad, Lisa Larges, Diane Hansen, Sue Goodspeed and Susan Hensel, who worked hard on the extensive paperwork to apply for the grant, and had fun starting to think about the intriguing question to pose for the whole congregation, "What would make your heart sing?"

We shared that we begin looking ahead to the 2018 sabbatical with the principle of Sabbath keeping as a core belief that shapes our life together. We believe that modeling this way of being together – drawing from the rest, renewal, and free-flowing joy that are the gifts of Sabbath – is a critically necessary witness in these times of uncertainty, polarization, and brashness.

*This sabbatical, we want to live secure enough in God's unfailing grace that we can take three months to live by a different rhythm, and that living in this way will not only change us as a congregation, but will also be a guidepost out of the way of fear to those in our community, and any who would find our witness.*

### **The Congregation**

We will take what we learned from our last sabbatical time, five years ago, into this one. We can now see more clearly the areas where the smallness of anxiety beguiled us away from more fully seeking after the Spirit through the discipline of rest. We tended, for instance, to be more preoccupied with questions of maintenance, and less on noticing the places of growth and renewal. Because of this, the burden of maintenance fell more heavily on some than others. We relied more heavily than was necessary, for instance, on the Jeanne's tremendous gifts, depriving her of a deeper experience of sabbatical. Knowing that we might be tempted back into the anxiety known as "keeping everything going," we are approaching this sabbatical time with the spiritual discipline of curiosity.

*This time we're framing questions, planning, and budgeting in a way that promotes joy and a sense of adventure. Here are a few ways we are laying the groundwork now: We are asking Jeanne, Krysta and each other, "What would make your heart sing?" and "If you let go of your assumptions about what needs to happen in the three months that Kara is away, how could we use this time in a way that would bring you both ease and joy?" We are also seeking what might be supportive to our staff, (eg, a vacation beforehand and afterward, time off or a conference or workshop during sabbatical, a weekly Sabbath day, etc).*

How might this sabbatical shape our congregation?

*Nothing kills creativity like stress and fear. We hope that a focus on ease, joy, and this being God's ministry we all share in, will reinforce the trust that we belong to God. And in our busy lives with not as much time together as we would like, we are excited about the opportunity for the sabbatical to emphasize belonging to each other, so we are posing this challenge to the congregation: "What activity/adventure could we share in together that would bring your heart joy (eg, baseball game, movie night, boat trip, book discussion, campfire, meal)? Our planning team will draw from these responses to shape our sabbatical time so that joy, fun, and belonging to each other are built in.*

*We are enthusiastic about turning the dreams that arise into specific plans, activities, and worship services together as the sabbatical nears.*

We are really intrigued and excited about the renewal we believe this sabbatical will bring! This grant would provide generous funds to help us with our scheming and dreaming, but even if we don't get the grant, we will maintain this theme for our sabbatical time, so, *What would make YOUR heart sing?*

### **The Pastor**

For the application, the Roots also spent time asking, "What would make our hearts sing?" This sabbatical for Kara (3 months/ 5 years), will overlap with Andy's academic sabbatical (1 year/ 7 years), a once every 35 years event! That means for likely the only time in their careers they will be able to do something big as a whole family while both parents are on sabbatical. Their dream is to go to Paris for two months. Kara shared in the application that if our church is awarded the money,

*Our family will live in another culture, with 2 hours of language tutoring 5 mornings a week, and the rest of the time falling into Parisian rhythms of life, with sightseeing, exploring museums, and visiting nearby towns and countryside. I am fascinated by contrasts between French and American cultures, and the French commitment to joie de vivre, 'the exuberant enjoyment of life.' I am a recovering multi-tasker, great at it, groomed for it, and learning now to let it go. Walter Brueggemann calls multitasking, "The drive to be more than we are, to control more than we do, to extend our power and our effectiveness." The French are famous for uni-tasking, seeking to be present in each task and moment. Paris-based author Matthew Fraser reports, "...I now appreciate with epicurean relish the pleasures of each moment. Life in France places you happily in the present tense, unlike in anglo-Protestant countries where everything is driving madly towards the future. In Paris, when you are enjoying a bottle of claret in a restaurant with friends, or walking your dogs along the Seine, that moment suffices in itself." I want to learn from this mindset, to immerse myself in the present tense, and see what it might reveal to me about myself, Sabbath, and connecting deeply with God and others.*

While in Paris, they also want to take three short trips: museums and a cooking class in Tuscany, a short hiking trip in Switzerland, and a few day visit to worship in Taize. After the trip, Kara would spend a few weeks at home seeking to take the lessons learned into her life and doing mosaic (like she did the first time around!). She would end the sabbatical with a week-long silent retreat with her pastor group (that has been meeting for five years).

How might this sabbatical shape Kara?

*Immersing myself in another culture has been a lifelong wellspring of meaning and joy, ever since my first trip out of the country (as the first one in my family to do so) at the age of fourteen, to Haiti. That trip set the tone for my college years studying theological anthropology and cross-cultural psychology, and I eagerly found ways to travel and learn as much as I could. After seminary graduation, when Andy and I were first married, we traveled for six months, solidifying our relationship and setting the trajectory for our lives and ministry. Disillusioned and disconnected from what my life and faith had previously been and not yet clear what the future would hold, it was on that trip, in Australia, that I felt the call to be a pastor, and returned to begin pursuing ordination. It was on a short trip to England eight years later that I began to ponder the "What if?" questions that led our congregation into nearly nine years of practicing Sabbath together.*

*The little tastes of travel I have had along the way have fed a hunger for this in extended form. When I am out of my comfort zone and familiar routines, in an environment with other unspoken beliefs, routines and customs, I feel alert, attentive, introspective. Observing others in their context*

*makes me acutely aware of my own; watching problem solving from other perspectives stimulates my ability to see problems differently and try new approaches. Mostly, I feel grateful. Connected. Awake. The experiences of frustration and vulnerability as an outsider and a beginner strip me down and build me up stronger, more open, more willing to try, fail, and learn. I know it makes me a better pastor, because it makes me trust very deeply that we all belong to God and we all belong to each other. It makes me brave, and calls me to be present with my congregation, alongside each other as children of God, seeking to follow Christ by being present in our own lives, families and communities, and watching for God's activity and invitation in each moment.*

*Travel of any kind with my family – watching my children experience themselves as part of God's big picture, being explorers of God's world together – is the very greatest joy I know. Thomas Merton wrote, "We are invited to forget ourselves on purpose, cast our awful solemnity to the winds and join the general dance." I long to forget myself on purpose and join the dance, with my husband and children, alone and with my friends, far from home and back again, to notice and embrace how I belong to God and we all belong to each other.*

On April 30, we're talking about this grant with the congregation, inviting feedback, and introducing the question for us all to begin pondering, **"What would make our hearts sing?"** We hope to get the juices flowing, so that down the road we will have rich and interesting conversations, when we begin to get into the specifics of dreaming, brainstorming, and making plans for our sabbatical time.

In August we will hear back about the grant. But as we look toward our 2018 Sabbatical time, whether we get the grant or not, we trust that through our own intentional practices of trust and joy this sabbatical, we all - the congregation, leadership, and our pastor - will become more deeply rooted and grounded in love, growing in the faith that we belong to God and we belong to each other, and more attentively listening together to what the Spirit may be leading us into next.



### **DID YOU KNOW....???**

- ...that a line of us have waited our turn to contribute to Marty's housecleaning? And some of us regularly swing by and drop off food to him without warning?
- ...that we've been the topic of a Luther Seminary student's paper this semester?
- ...that a team from a church in Chaska visited a prayer service of ours during Lent, and then rented our labyrinth and prayer map for Maundy Thursday?
- ...that Ben Masters is graduating from Austin Seminary in a few weeks (May 21!!)? His address: 100 E 27<sup>th</sup> St, Austin, TX 78705.
- ...that Ben Valdez graduates from Rippon College May 14?
- ...that Maggie Cochrane will begin a Master's program in Sport & Exercise Psychology at Minnesota State University this fall?
- ...that Will Valdez begins a two-year special program called "Learning Works" this summer?
- ...that Eva Webb has turned 90? And so has Bobbe Larson?

As a congregation, we are committed to providing a nurturing, welcoming, and safe environment for all little ones in our presence.

### **LAKE NOKOMIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHILD SAFETY POLICY SUMMARY**

The purpose of our Child Safety Policy is to be active and caring people to our most vulnerable members: children and youth. The LNPC community is charged with the responsibility to protect children and youth from abuse and neglect, both from within our congregation and outside, as well.

LNPC provides a safe and healthy environment for our children and youth by educating all people in appropriate ways of relating to one another, and by implementing screening, supervisory, and reporting procedures to reinforce our educational efforts.

#### **THE CHILD SAFETY POLICY CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:**

- **BACKGROUND CHECK:** All those who work with the kids will be background checked. Teachers and volunteers will have an application and references on file. We encourage lots of the congregation to have a background check on file!
- **TWO ADULTS OR OPEN DOOR:** Two unrelated adults will be present when supervising kids. In classes with just one teacher, the door remains open.
- **KIDS WONT BE ALONE WITH AN ADULT WHO IS NOT RELATED** in our activities or on our premises.
- **ABUSE SHOULD BE REPORTED.** Any abuse or suspected abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, whether physical, sexual, emotional or neglect, should be reported to a pastor for further action, including reporting to authorities. See the Child Safety policy for steps that will be taken.
- **TEENAGE WORKERS & KID HELPERS:**
  - **Teen volunteers will be 13 or older** with application on file, and work with at least one adult.
  - **Young people under the age of 13 will be allowed to be helpers** with approval of pastor or Sunday School Teacher and **with adult supervision.**
- **MEDICATION POLICY: LNPC DOES NOT DISPENSE MEDICATION, PRESCRIPTION OR NON-PRESCRIPTION.** In specific emergency circumstances (eg, epipen or seizure meds) arrangements can be made in advance with the pastor and teachers involved.
- **DISCIPLINE POLICY: NO PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT IS PERMITTED.** If teachers need guidance for classroom discipline they should consult a pastor.
- **RESTROOM POLICY:**
  - **KIDS UNDER 5 SHOULD USE RESTROOM WITH FAMILY MEMBERS.** We encourage kids to use the restroom before activities begin.
  - **WORKERS ARE NEVER IN RESTROOM WITH KIDS WITH THE DOOR CLOSED OR IN A STALL WITH THE DOOR CLOSED.**
- **ACCIDENTAL INJURIES:** If minor, first aid will be administered and guardians will be notified at the time of pick-up. If serious, parents will be contacted immediately and 911 called. For situations requiring medical attention, an incident report will be filled out.
- **TRAINING: ALL WORKERS WILL RECEIVE TRAINING ON THE CHILD SAFETY POLICY.**

*We all help enforce these boundaries to keep our space safe and fun for everyone!*

Copies of the complete Child Safety Policy can be found in the Church Office and the Nursery.

## **CROWDFUNDING – IT’S NOT JUST FOR OTHERS!!**

Adam Copeland, from the Center for Stewardship Leaders at Luther Seminary, is in a doctoral dissertation process, looking at effective Stewardship tools for today’s congregations. We are grateful to be a part of his research. He met in April with a few LNPC folks, and got us thinking about crowdfunding. The team talked about building on ‘sabbath,’ expanding our reach (through conferences, workshops, podcast, etc), things “both wonderful and concrete.” So the next step is narrowing down an idea, and then creating a creative budget. Watch for ways you can help lead, or participate, in this adventure!



### **MONEY & US**

#### **How does money work at LNPC?**

We are the church – each of us here and all of us together. So everything we do happens by our hands, prayer, excitement, funding, creativity and cooperation. In addition to tithes and offerings, we get revenue by sharing our space, and seek out other creative funding options like grants, and for many years, we’ve relied on the faithful giving of those gone before (the Endowment Fund) to help sustain us. But mostly, it’s us.

#### **Why do we use the Endowment Fund?**

Since almost the beginning, but substantially since about 2004, we have supported the ministry of LNPC with disbursements from our Endowment Fund. At that time it was around \$157,000.

Scripture has lots of stories and guidance about not stockpiling resources, but trusting God, and sharing and investing time, talents and resources for God to use in the world. We realized that a mentality of scarcity, fear and self-protection would have us guard the fund, and we purposely shifted to a mentality of abundance, participation and trust. Those who gave money to the fund were trusting God would use it to build the church, and so God has. We are God's church, called to serve God here in this place for as long as God is calling us to do so. And we've sensed God calling us each year to continue doing so.

For many years the Endowment Fund has been an abundant blessing to the ministry God is doing now. It has seen us through lean times and times of transition and change. We are so thankful that those who've gone before believed in what God was going to do in this community beyond them.

#### **How much do we take out?**

After all these years, we've repeatedly heard, "Two more years and it will be gone." Miraculously, the fund is still there! The highest its balance has ever been is \$159,000, but we've taken over \$240,000 out over the past 13 years (and \$363,000 in total since its inception) - and it hasn't yet disappeared. Bequests, stock market fluctuation, and other factors have allowed the endowment to remain a well from which to draw, and we are grateful.

We do not trust in the money for our existence, we trust in God. So whenever we feel fear creeping up, and the urge to hunker, hoard or guard, the leadership team talks about that, and purposely shifts (repent!) to trust, abundance. And we've found that generosity is a sure shifter back to grace and gratitude.

Two years ago, we felt fear about the endowment and our finances, so we began tithing (giving 10% of) our income to the ministry God is doing outside our community - in other little expressions of love and healing in the world. And we found that while we felt more connected, less afraid, more generous and joyful, we also took less money out of the endowment than we had in a decade, and gave away almost twice as much money than we had in a decade. We're living God's Kingdom economy.

#### **What about now?**

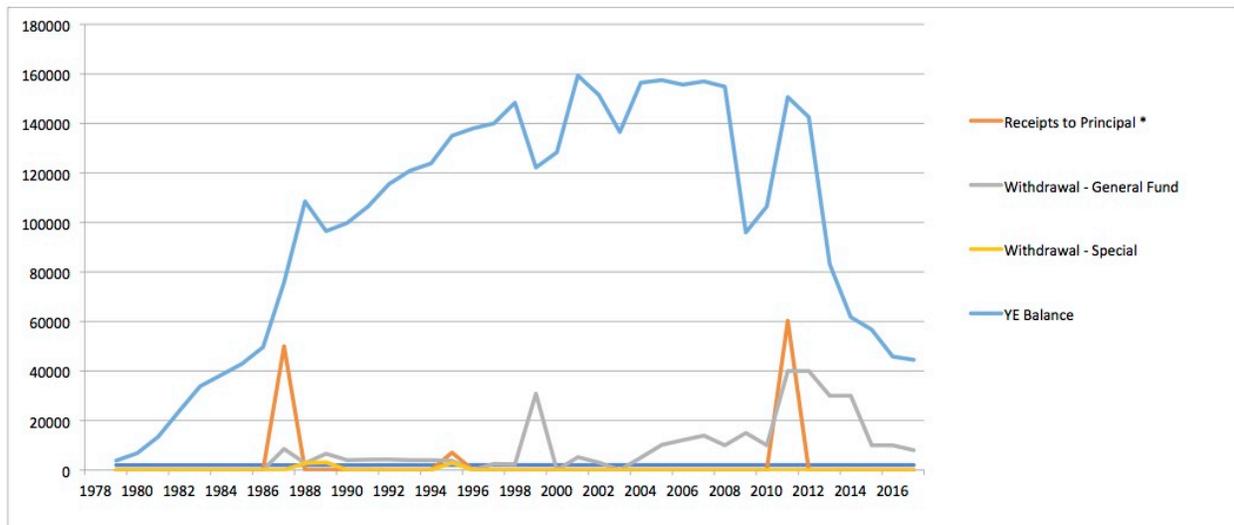
We think we are getting stronger, and more able to support the ministry God is doing in and through us now than we have been in a long time. We'd like to continue decreasing our dependence on Endowment funds, perhaps this year taking out only the \$6,000 recently withdrawn. The fund currently stands at \$36,600. We are called to empower each other in ministry, to join in God's work through this congregation with our own tithes and offerings.

#### **How does drawing from the endowment work?**

The treasurer tells us funds are getting low, and the session prays and approves a withdrawal from the endowment. We are at that point in the year where it is time to make a withdrawal – and we did. We do so with a deep breath and the choice to trust, that we exist by the grace of God, to share the grace of God, and we will not fear, but rejoice.

LNPC ENDOWMENT FUND

Year	Receipts to Principal *	Withdrawal - General Fund	Withdrawal - Special	YE Balance	Notes	Pastor
1978	-	-	-	3,818.70	Funds in savings & CDs	Robt Collins
1979	-	-	-	6,769.96		
1980	-	-	-	13,426.12		
1981	-	-	-	23,780.72		
1982	-	-	-	33,802.59		
1983	-	-	-	38,380.20		
1984	-	-	-	42,960.99		
1985	-	-	-	49,645.82		
1986	50,000.00	8,500.00	-	75,764.98	* Sale of Manse, (Pastoral moving expenses)	Angus Watkins
1987	-	2,750.00	2,796.00	108,506.87	* (stained glass window), **interest earned withdrawn per congrega	
1988	-	6,600.00	3,115.00	96,507.80	* (stained glass window), (sanctuary fans & lighting), **	
1989	-	4,030.00	-	99,796.84	split out Memorial Fund, **	
1990	-	4,222.00	-	106,423.51	**	
1991	-	4,267.81	-	115,549.71	**	Jean Greenwood (?date)
1992	-	4,031.88	-	120,917.10	**	
1993	-	4,020.00	-	123,856.99	**	
1994	7,055.00	3,724.44	2,930.00	135,015.73	* Estate gift, (sound system & lighting), **	
1995	-	-	-	137,983.66		
1996	-	2,459.00	-	140,013.75	**	Lou Bender
1997	-	2,315.00	-	148,377.08	**	
1998	-	30,862.37	-	122,205.60	* (furnace, water main break) Moved to New Covenant	
1999	-	-	-	128,361.73		
2000	-	5,200.87	-	159,343.40	**	
2001	-	3,000.00	-	151,478.82	**	
2002	-	-	-	136,520.87		
2003	-	5,000.00	-	156,445.60		
2004	-	10,158.00	-	157,489.61		
2005	-	12,087.00	-	155,651.22		
2006	-	13,902.00	-	156,997.22		
2007	-	10,000.00	-	154,829.14		
2008	-	15,000.00	-	95,962.22	Hmmm - 2008	Kara Root
2009	-	10,000.00	-	106,472.94		
2010	60,276.09	40,000.00	-	150,633.76	* Two Estate gifts, (30K Endowment withdrawal, 10K of gift retained	
2011	-	40,000.00	-	142,547.57		
2012	-	30,000.00	-	83,070.92		
2013	-	30,000.00	-	61,789.06		
2014	-	10,000.00	-	56,681.09		
2015	-	10,000.00	-	45,831.56		
2016	-	8,000.00	-	44,530.68		
2017	-	6,000.00	-	36,564.52	Balance after withdrawal 4/26	
Total Withdrawals		336,130.37	8,841.00			
Current balance				36,632.43		





## 2017 tithes have been shared with:

**January – Immigrant Law Center of MN**, a nonprofit agency that provides immigration legal assistance to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota.

**February – The Council on American-Islamic Relations**. CAIR's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding, encourage dialogue and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

**March - Central Church**. To share with those they know who are in need, and directly support the ministry Central is doing in the community.

**April – International Institute of Minnesota** The Institute welcomes refugees to the Twin Cities and assists in the transition process to their new community.

### What if I tithed?

Some of us already tithe, others of us have never thought about it. Here is a chart of what tithing might look like for you:

### Giving and Sharing

Giving, no matter how much, is always a way of living in gratitude. Sharing what we have with others reminds us we are God's beloved children, and that we all belong to each other. And it feels great. Every time we practice generosity, we are reminded again *who* and *whose* we are.

Monthly Giving		
Annual Income	10%	5%
\$ 20,000	\$ 167	\$ 84
40,000	333	167
60,000	500	250
80,000	667	333
100,000	840	417
150,000	1,250	625
200,000	1,667	840



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*"IN LIFE AND IN DEATH, WE BELONG TO GOD..." We are called to share life with each other, so on a Wednesday evening one year and three days after we laid hands on Marty and commissioned him to a ministry of dying, we anointed Marty once again, and told him his baptism will soon be complete.*

The sanctuary gradually filled up with church members, Marty's family and his "bar friends," most of whom sat together on one side of the sanctuary, like it was a wedding. I told the crowd we were here to tell stories, to celebrate Marty's life and assert our presence with him as he moved closer to his death, and to affirm that in life and in death, he belongs to God.

And then service opened with his favorite song, "What a wonderful world," and as Jeanne sang out in a clear, sweet voice, I felt the lump in my chest work its way up to my face and I began to cry. I looked at the rows of bar friends across from me also crying - these strangers, church members and me, this whole room full of people, brought together by our love for Marty and our fear that we were maybe not going to make it through this thing. But I've learned that something incredible happens in these experiences of confronting life and death and sticking with the discomfort. It's excruciating, but it only lasts a moment. Once we go through the death moment together we come out the other side a little bit invincible, a little bit able to face whatever all this is with joy and gratitude and sadness and love and most astounding of all, without fear. So we all stuck with it and stayed put, crying into our kleenex and not leaving. And just as it has each time in a moment like this (like in Joanne's service years ago), we made it through to the other side.

I rose to walk to the podium. I pointed out table near the door with the pile of markers and signs that said, "Marty is..." and the clothesline strung across the front of the sanctuary, reaching from one side of the room to the other, and I said, "As Marty prepares to join the cloud of witnesses, we here today get to witness to him his impact on our lives. Each one of us who wishes to share, will take turns holding up our sign and answering the question, "Marty is..." and then sharing whatever story or memory of Marty that we wish."

And I went first, "Marty is... surprising." I told people one of my favorite moments of the whole year was hearing Marty's life story, and then I invited people to raise their hands if they had: Scuba-dived the wrecks in the great lakes? Been a well-known astrologer? Been Buddhist? (I got a couple hands there), Wikkin? Been a private detective? Trained as an acupuncturist? Lived for a couple of years in Columbia? Every time, Marty's hand went up, and I watched people laugh in delight as this man we all love claimed his wild and wonderful life, his mystery and hidden depth, before our eyes.

Then person after person stood and came to the center and shared. And I watched his bar friends, some of whom were decidedly *not* church people, and his church friends, some of whom were decidedly *not* bar people, bound together in our love for Marty, opened up in our view of him, deepened in our gratitude for him, and witnessing to the incredible impact of a single life that ripples through us and beyond.

Marty is... Kind. Brave. Gentle. A gift. A friend. Hopeful. Loving. Welcoming. Children shared. Friends from kindergarten shared. We glimpsed into seasons of his life before we knew him - Marty the hippy, Marty the one they were sure was an FBI agent, Marty who loves espresso martinis and holds the bartender accountable to making a good one. Marty who told me long ago that he believes we are here to take care of each other, and who is teaching us in this moment how to do that by letting us take care of him.

I preached to this group, but mostly to Marty. A short message. *Do not be afraid. Life and love are where you come from and they are where you are going. We will walk with you to the point where you go on alone. And you go on with Christ. You have shaped us all so much; our lives, our world, has forever been altered by your presence. You have embodied your life message well. We love you.*

And we gathered around him - those of us who are praying people - and laid our hands on him and prayed for him. And then we all left the sanctuary and filled the Gathering Room where Marty's favorite foods awaited us: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread from Buca, with dozens of cherry pies and apple cobblers made by friends lining the counter. The room was filled with laughter and ease, warmth and care, and many of his friends came up to me to thank me and to tell me they were pondering other stories, they had ideas for ways to bless him, the subtext was, *We are his people and we're in this together now.*

- Pastor Kara



### Every Friday morning...

we hold a 30 minute service of prayer for our nation. Sometimes there are several of us gathered. Sometimes it's just one. But every week we hold the space. With scripture, meditation, silence and intercession, we move from tension to trust, from worry to hope, in grief, gratitude and grace.

And we gradually pray through our country, a few people and groups each time, as we feel led. We are not rushed. We are in this for the long haul. It's an abundant God with love for all, and there's enough need that we can see a bit of it each week and hold these in love for now. For now.

And when we blow out the candles, we leave in peace.



*"O Sun behind all suns,  
O Soul between all souls,  
grant me the grace of the dawn's glory  
grant me the strength of the sun's rays  
that I may be well in my own soul  
and part of the world's healing this day.  
that I may be well in my own soul,  
and part of the world's healing this day."*

**At its most simple, church means  
living that we belong to God and we belong to each other.**

*“The paradox of hospitality is that it wants to create emptiness, not a fearful emptiness, but a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free; free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances; free also to leave and follow their own vocations. Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adopt the life style of the host, but the gift of a chance for the guest to find his own.”*  
Henry Nouwen: Reaching Out

Kara Root – Pastor and Moderator of Session

Class of 2017:

Andy Cochrane [Andy.Cochrane@MapleGroveHospital.org](mailto:Andy.Cochrane@MapleGroveHospital.org)

Andrea Domaskin [andrea.domaskin@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.domaskin@gmail.com)

Diane Hansen [dianecope2002@yahoo.com](mailto:dianecope2002@yahoo.com)

Class of 2018:

Amy Leafblad [leaf2be@yahoo.com](mailto:leaf2be@yahoo.com)

Bill Fischer [rbbt6@hotmail.com](mailto:rbbt6@hotmail.com)

Class of 2019:

Joyce Tesarek [joycedvm@aol.com](mailto:joycedvm@aol.com)

Presbytery Commissioners (3):

Sue Goodspeed, Norm Petrik, and the LNPC Session

Clerk of Session:

Lisa Phillips Johnson

Treasurer:

Sue Goodspeed

Staff:

Krysta Niznick

Office Manager | Bookkeeper

Jeanne Rylander

Director of Music Ministries

Kathy Johnson

Custodian

RE-VISION STATEMENT  
(as approved following the reVision  
process, October 2007)

LNPC seeks to

- become a beacon of hope and a place of sanctuary
- reach out to the needs of neighbors, sharing our selves and our resources.

**Session:** Session has responsibility for administration/building, worship, education, life of the community and personnel. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, interests or anything you'd like to share, please talk with a Session member!

**Board of Deacons:** The Deacons function as a unit, sharing responsibility for visitation and ministries of presence with those in transition. Please call the office if you have a need that can be supported by Deacons.

### Upcoming and Inside:

- o Summer Schedule
- o Summer Day Camp with Westminster
- o Financial updates
- o 2018 is in our sightlines!

[www.lakenokomispc.org](http://www.lakenokomispc.org)

<http://www.kara-root.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/LakeNokomisChurch>

"True hospitality is welcoming the stranger on her own terms. This kind of hospitality can only be offered by those who've found the center of their lives in their own hearts."

– *Henri Nouwen*

Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church  
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Minneapolis, MN 55407

TO: