

# THE VALLEY BRIDGE



May 26, 2015

## MAY 31: TRINITY SUNDAY

Isaiah 6:1-8; *Psalm* 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

### **Fellowship of Prayer: Emmanuel Presbyterian Church of Rushmore**

Pastor: Rev. Paul Snyder

Church Secretary: Darcey Groen

Clerk of Session: Randy Jacobs

Treasurer: Janet Smid

Ruling Elders: Amber Luinenburg, Burdell Bents, Gayle Larson, Janet Smid, Randy Jacobs, Ron Wiertsema, Shirley Heidebrink, Vernetta Wiertsema

### Prayer concerns:

- Pray for members of our church that are healing from various conditions.
- Pray for our church family as we discern where the Spirit is leading us in this new chapter as we have called our new pastor, Rev. Paul Snyder.
- Pray for our VBS later this summer.
- Pray for our sister congregation, Zion Presbyterian Church of Ellsworth.



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Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

4055 Abbott Drive  
Willmar MN 56201

320-235-7910

[minnesotavalleys.org](http://minnesotavalleys.org)

Monday-Friday:  
8:00-4:30

We're on Facebook, too!

## THE WORD FROM RICK:

## “THOSE LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER”



*“Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer*

*Those days of soda and pretzels and beer*

*Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer*

*Dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer . . .”*

So sang Nat King Cole, back when I was a lad, during the summer of 1963.

With the passing of the Memorial Day weekend, the summer season is now upon us, even though the first true day of summer is still over three weeks down the road, folks across the presbytery are gearing up for the summer ahead.

For weeks now, our friends up at Clearwater Forest and down at the Lakeshore Center at Okoboji have been making plans for a summer full of activity. Soon, these two sites will be filled with the sounds of campers gathering to experience Christ’s presence in a unique outdoor setting. In the communities of our presbytery, congregations are making plans for Vacation Bible Schools, “Camp in a Van,” and short-term “go and serve” (mission) trips to sites both near and far. Our pastors and church musicians are fine-tuning summer schedules – figuring out who’s preaching when and who will provide weekly special music.

Down along the border, our Ellsworth Zion and Rushmore Emmanuel congregations are preparing to launch into summer by installing their new pastor, while the saints at Iona are getting ready to have a full scale celebration of their congregation’s Centennial. My hunch is that a number of our congregations are planning outdoor worship celebrations and picnics in celebration of God’s gift of warmer weather. In many ways, it does not sound like summer in Minnesota Valleys will be all that lazy or hazy; in fact, in some places it sounds a little bit crazy, as in crazy busy.

I hope there will be some calmer moments along the way!

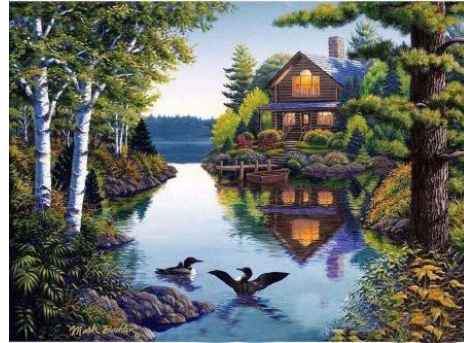
We always talk about summer being a time to kick back and relax ... a time to enjoy the backyard and grill up a few burgers ... a time for boating, fishing, and camping ... and a time for travelling, taking a well-deserved vacation with family and friends. Summer provides a great opportunity for us to step away from the busy-ness that can easily tend to overwhelm life, and to do those things that will recharge us in body, mind, emotion, and spirit. I hope that each one of us will be able to do just that – step back and re-energize our lives.

## THE WORD FROM RICK, CONTINUED

I pray that you might have a warm and wonderful summer, and with the certainty that somewhere along the line, your summer will involve a lake, I offer these words that I saw on a plaque in a gift shop this past weekend in Grand Marais:

*“Advice from a Lake ...*

- *Be clear*
- *Make positive ripples*
- *Look beneath the surface*
- *Stay calm*
- *Shore up friendships*
- *Take time to reflect*
- *Be full of life!”*



Have a blessed week and a blessed summer. If you travel; travel safe ... and return to us energized and renewed!

Grace and Peace,

*Rick*

## A COUPLE OF LINKS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

National 1001 New Worshiping Communities Conference

“Pursued by Grace”

Tradewinds Island Grand, St. Pete Beach, Florida

August 10-13

[http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/evangelism-church-growth/pursued-grace/?utm\\_source=SilverpopMailing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=ecg-conference-may-2015-V2%20\(1\)&utm\\_content=](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/evangelism-church-growth/pursued-grace/?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ecg-conference-may-2015-V2%20(1)&utm_content=)

The National Gathering of The Fellowship Community

“A Waiting World ... A Willing Church?”

First Presbyterian Church, San Diego, California

August 18-20

<http://www.fellowship.community/2015-national-gathering/>

## SESSION RECORD REVIEWS

It's annual sessions records review time. As you know, the Book of Order states that each session will keep a full and accurate record of its proceedings which shall be submitted at least once each year to the presbytery for its general review (G-3.0108). The Session Record reviews this year are as follows:

Wednesday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Osakis church

Contact person: Lynne Osteraas ° 320-251-6667 ° [slynn3@cloudnet.com](mailto:slynn3@cloudnet.com)

Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Crystal church

Contact person: Randy Lubbers ° 507-317-9814 ° [lubbers85@gmail.com](mailto:lubbers85@gmail.com)

Wednesday, July 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Redwood Falls church

Contact person: Patricia Rosa ° 507-336-2433 ° [ripafarm@hotmail.com](mailto:ripafarm@hotmail.com)

Wednesday, July 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Iona church

Contact person: Jim Krapf ° 507-350-1662 ° [jwkrapf@knology.net](mailto:jwkrapf@knology.net)

You can choose the most convenient time for you; snacks will be provided. Each church is responsible to get its books and a peer reviewer (generally the Clerk of Session) to this meeting. If the Clerk or moderator cannot attend you may send someone else from your church to be a peer reviewer. If someone from your church cannot attend at all; you **must** contact the Session Records Committee Chair Randy Lubbers at 507-317-9814 or Stated Clerk Pam Prouty at 507-627-5486.

## HELP WANTED AT THE SYNOD

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is seeking applications for three positions: stated clerk, director of financial services, and director of leadership development. The searches are underway to fill the void left by the upcoming retirement of two longtime synod employees: Diana Barber, associate executive for leadership development, and Jay Wilkinson, stated clerk and treasurer. The two director positions will be full time while the stated clerk position is part time.

Complete position descriptions, along with information regarding application procedures, can be found on the synod's website at <http://lakesandprairies.org/ServiceOpportunities>.



**Synod of Lakes and Prairies  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

## PW IN MINNESOTA VALLEYS SPRING GATHERING

First Presbyterian Church, 302 E. Prince St, Lake Crystal, MN  
Tuesday, June 2—Coffee begins at 8:00, Meeting at 9:30

Come to the annual Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Minnesota Valleys. Our featured speaker is Julie Hawker, who will talk about her work with the immigrant community in Mankato. We'll also have the business meeting of PW with election of officers, learn more about the Horizons Bible *Study Come to the Waters*, dedicate the Birthday Offering, network with our sisters in PW, shop with SERRV, and have an all-around good day.

Remember that registrations for Churchwide Gathering are still open. If you have not registered yet, the “how tos” will be discussed at the Spring Gathering. For those who will not be going to the Churchwide Gathering in Minneapolis, June 18-21, but who would like to participate in that event, you may bring one or more \$10 Target Gift cards to our Spring Gathering. These will be collected at the Churchwide Gathering and donated to the American Indian Family Center in St. Paul.

The PW Coordinating Team thanks the PW of Lake Crystal for hosting the event, serving morning coffee and serving the catered lunch, and the Cambria PW for serving the afternoon coffee.



To register for the PW Minnesota Valleys Spring Gathering, contact Janice Frederickson of Lake Crystal PW, letting her know which church you represent, and how many women will be coming.

By mail: PO Box 218, Lake Crystal, MN 56055

By phone: 507-726-2791

By e-mail: [janicefuzzy@gmail.com](mailto:janicefuzzy@gmail.com)

HURRY: Registration closes on Tuesday, May 26!



## CHURCH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT XIII

By Stan Menning

Way back in January, I attended a workshop on Evangelism at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji. It was led by Rev. Robert Houser. Bob is a retired pastor and Presbytery Executive, most recently the EP at Central Nebraska Presbytery. Our conversation for the day included the different phases of evangelism, activating and assimilating new members, hospitality and inactive members. This will be the first article in a series about inactive members. While inactive membership is no longer a category in the Book of Order, each of our churches has those members we refer to as inactive.

### ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. Have made a profession of faith
2. Are baptized
3. Were received by the session into membership
4. Participate in the work and worship of the church

### INACTIVE MEMBERS

1. Have made a profession of faith
2. Are baptized
3. Were received by the session into membership

30 to 35% in most churches are inactive

**The Session is responsible for working to reactivate inactive members.**

### MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT INACTIVE MEMBERS

1. They are lazy.
2. They have lost their faith.
3. They are apathetic.
4. They don't want to come back.
5. They want to be left alone.
6. They will come back on their own.
7. They only need to be reminded of their duty.
8. Will come back after a brief phone call.
9. Need to be told what to do.
10. We don't have to deal with their feelings.
11. It's their responsibility, not ours.

When the church received people into membership, we assumed a Christian responsibility in doing so. It was a mutual commitment; and even though inactives might appear to be renegeing on their side of the commitment, that is no excuse for the church to renege on our responsibility.



## PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY NEWS

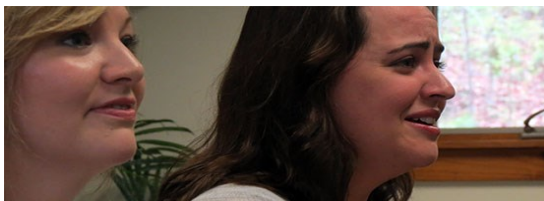
Our ministries in Evangelism continue to find their common thread in disciple making. We continue to drill down into the question, “What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?”

We believe the sweep of scripture reveals that God is on a loving, redemptive mission to heal what is broken in our lives, and world. The same call that Abraham and Sarah received to be a blessing to all nations is ours through Christ.

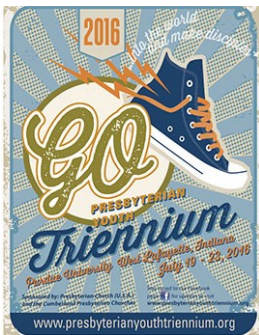
As we follow Jesus we actually learn how to participate in God’s mission, of bringing the fullness of life, into our neighborhoods and world.

Below are stories of Presbyterians living into this—and resources for your faith journey.

Grace,  
Ray Jones  
Evangelism Coordinator



**‘You saved our lives.’** Survivors of school shootings heal, come out of their “dark, horrible caves” thanks to Camp’s healing ministry. [MORE...](#)



**“GO” is focus** for 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. To prepare 5,000+ young people to take next steps of faith when they [GO home](#).

**Taking care of God’s creation.** Eco Center at Ferncliff wins [Cool Congregations Challenge](#)—while [new PC\(USA\) camp](#) announces plans for environmental education ministry.

**From ‘making good church people,’ to ‘becoming good disciples.’** Church sells building, making way for affordable housing. [MORE...](#)

More at: <http://links.presbyterianchurch.mkt6217.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MjI2NzY0NzUS1&r=Nzg2MjM0MTU3MzIS1&j=NTYxODQ2NzMyS0&mt=1&rt=0>

## CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 26: Pam in the office

Wednesday, May 27: 6:30 p.m. Records Review at First Presbyterian Church of Osakis

Sunday, May 31: Rick visits Pejuhutazizi Church in Granite Falls; 3:00 Rev. Paul Snyder installation at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church of Rushmore



## JOHN 3:1-17

## Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him,



'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.