

Volume 40
Issue 11

November
2016

*Worship
the
Father
in
spirit
and
truth.*
John 4:23

WOOD RIVER & ALDA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

TIDINGS

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What are YOU Thankful For?



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CHURCH CONFERENCE

The Church Conference for the Wood River and Alda United Methodist Churches will be held on Friday, November 11 at 7:00 PM at the Cairo United Methodist Church. This will be a Cluster Church Conference that will include about a dozen different congregations from the Grand Island area. It should be an exciting and inspiring evening as we meet with our sister and brother United Methodists!

Please pray for our churches and our leaders as we engage in this important process!

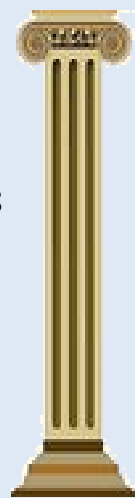


MEET & EAT DATES

Wood River is not holding Meet & Eat this month. Alda will hold their Meet & Eat on Nov 15th. It will start at noon! All are welcome!

GREEK NIGHT 2016

Come enjoy an authentic Greek meal! Everyone is invited to Greek Night at the Wood River Mennonite Church, 14988 W Husker Hwy on Nov 4, 5-8 PM. Please RSVP by calling 583-2087 and leaving a message or on their website woodrivermennonite.org or Facebook page. Free Will Offering! All money raised will benefit local food needs.



sincerely
GIVING THANKS
not only helps us
RECOGNIZE
OUR BLESSINGS,
but it also
UNLOCKS THE
DOORS OF
heaven.

BISHOP RUBEN SAENZ JR. PREACHES AT CELEBRATION SERVICE

A call to further the mission that already has been started by Jesus Christ highlighted the formal introduction of Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. to the Great Plains Conference on Oct. 15.

“We have a lot of unfinished work to do,” Saenz told several hundred clergy, laity, conference officials and guests at a service at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Lincoln.

Basing his sermon off John 21: 15-17, Saenz said the people of the church need to counter those walking away from the faith by giving them a “fresh encounter with Christ.”

The church, he said, should take a greater role in fighting poverty, hunger, violence and injustice.

“We cannot stop at advocacy and legislation,” Saenz said. “We need a fresh vision and a fresh encounter that calls us to that.”

Saenz called on those in the conference to “build – not burn or destroy – bridges.”

You may watch the bishop’s sermon online by going to the Great Plains Conference website. At the upper left side of the home page is a series of news briefs with pictures. Scroll through these till you find the one entitled: “Bishop calls for work to continue during celebration of assignment service.” Click on that one and you will bring up the complete article along with the link to the Vimeo archive recording of the service. The service is 90 minutes long and the bishop’s sermon begins at 33 minutes.



GIVING TREE

Our church will once again be reaching out to bless a local family this Christmas by sponsoring a Giving Tree. What’s that, you ask? We’ve approached a family who could use a helping hand and will be obtaining a list of items that they could use this Christmas. We’ll make a tag for each item, with enough detail that you could purchase that item and return it to the Giving Tree if you wish to participate. The tags will be available after church on November 13th so that you have plenty of time to shop for that item (and take advantage of Black Friday specials ☺). Wrapped gifts WITH the tag attached should be returned to the church and placed under the Christmas Tree in the Fellowship Hall before December 22nd.

We received a very lovely thank you note from the family we helped last year. Our church family provided some much needed necessities and made sure that each child had a present to open. Doesn’t that feel good? Let’s share some love this Christmas with a new family as well!

Questions? Just call the church office or Sara Arnett at 308-380-7030. Thank you!

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY



On Sunday, November 6 we will celebrate All Saints’ Sunday at the Wood River and Alda United Methodist Churches. During this service we will invite the families of those who have lost loved ones during the past year to join us as we remember them and give thanks for their lives.

We have been keeping track of those who have passed away but we may not be aware of some persons who need to be named. We invite you to contact us with the names of those you would like to have included. Call the Parish Office at 308-583-2716 or email us at office@woodriverumc.org.

Along with the Naming of the Honored Dead we will celebrate Holy Communion and offer Anointing with Oil and Prayers for Healing and Wholeness. Please be sure to join us for this powerful and meaningful worship.

RACHEL CIRCLE - Bonnie Schurer



Rachel Circle met October 6, 2016 with nine members present. We opened by singing “He Lives”. Sylvia McTavish read a joke about football. Catherine Miller took roll call. We answered with a thought to ponder on. Catherine read the minutes of our September meeting. Pray concerns and a joy were given. Followed with a prayer by Mary Ann Apfel. Pies were solicited for Election Day, November 9th. Sylvia read some, Di you knows? “You may be in a hurry but God is not” by Rich Warren was read Mary Ann. Sylvia read the closing, “What will we when we get to heaven?” from The Heaven Answer Book by Billy Graham. The meeting was adjourned. Lunch was served by Sue Jackson.



PARISH NURSE - Mary Bilsend

Once again the flu season is upon us and we are being urged to get a flu shot and if you have no adverse reactions to the flu shot, it is good to get one.

Sometimes it is hard to distinguish a cold from the flu. They are both viral infections but the cold affects the upper respiratory tract and generally not serious. Most people recover within a week or two. There are over 100 different viruses that can cause a cold. The flu is caused by the influenza virus and affects the entire respiratory system, including the lungs. These viruses constantly change so your body may react to a new strain from a prior time

With a cold, fevers are rare, fatigue is usually mild, chills are rare, headaches may be present and if so are slight. Stuffy noses are common, sore throats are common and a hacking cough that brings up mucus are frequent. Chest congestion may be mild to moderate. You are most contagious for the first 2 to 3 days after symptoms first appear. However, symptoms may continue to linger. Cold symptoms are generally less severe than with the flu and develop gradually.

With the flu, fevers are common, fatigue is moderate to severe, Chills are common, body aches are common and often severe. Headaches are common with stuffy noses and sore throats less common. Coughs are common and they usually get more wet with progression with chest congestion often severe. You are most contagious for the first 1-2 days before the symptoms first appear and 5-6 days after symptoms develop. For this reason, when you are around people who have been exposed to the flu, you are a prime candidate to get it even before the person who gives it to you even know that they have it. For this reason the flu shot is your only help. Flu symptoms develop quickly and can go from mild to severe and occasionally can lead to pneumonia, bronchitis and ear infections.

Some myths such as feed a cold and starve a fever or vice versa is wrong. Eat healthy to get healthy. Another myth is antibiotics cure colds and flu. The Cold and flu are viruses and antibiotics only work on bacterial infections. Another myth is cold weather causes a cold. Cold temperatures with low absolute humidity levels can increase transmissions of viruses so that is why colds may be more frequent in the cold weather. It is also a myth that drinking milk produces more mucus. It has no impact on mucus production but it is full of vitamins and minerals. It is also a myth that the flu vaccine can give you the flu. The virus in the vaccine is inactive and can't cause an infection. You have also heard sweat it out. This also is a myth. Dehydration can make you feel worse. Drink lots of fluids.

Remember: Get your flu shot, wash your hands and work surfaces frequently, cover your mouth with a cough, stay healthy by eating and drinking correctly and get plenty of rest. Have a healthy respect for the flu and a cold. Take precautions to prevent both and more precautions to prevent spreading them. As you can see, the flu can be spread long after you think you are over it.

PHIL AND TRACY WATTS FAMILY BENEFIT

Join us to Raise Up the Watts Family at a benefit on Saturday, November 5th. Start the day with a Road Rally and wrap it up with a Husker Tailgate Party.



In August, Phil Watts was injured in a forklift accident. As a result, the lower portion of his right leg was amputated. A group of family and friends are organizing a benefit to provide them with funding to assist with medical expenses and the cost of rehabilitation.

On Saturday, November 5th, a variety of activities will be held at the Wood River Golf Course and at Babel's Barn. The festivities kick off with a Road Rally at 11 am. Participants will line up at the Wood River Golf Course (11937 W Wood River Rd). A \$25 entry fee will be charged for each vehicle with all proceeds being donated to the family. Prizes will be awarded to the winners during the Tailgate Party before the kick-off of the Nebraska/Ohio State game. The Tailgate Party will follow at Babel's Barn with doors opening at 4:00 PM and food served at 5:00 PM. Cheer on the Huskers in the Nebraska/Ohio State game on the big screen. Silent and live auctions will be held as well as a raffle. Raffle tickets, for a Savage 17 HMR, Bolt Action Rifle with Bushnell Scope and 50 rounds of CCI Ammo, will be sold prior to and during the benefit. Raffle tickets can be purchased from a committee member or at Mead Industries for \$10.

For anyone wanting to help with the benefit, we have set up a Phil & Tracy Watts Family Benefit Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WattsFamilyBenefit/?fref=ts> Visit the page for a link to volunteer or go to SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/D3ucLx>. Monetary donations will be accepted at Bangs and Stewart, CPA, Wood River. Auction items can be left at Mead Industries, Wood River. Questions can be directed to Martha at Mead Industries (308-583-2875) or Eric Nielsen (308-380-5448).



Annual Wood River
United Methodist Women
Fall Bazaar

@ Wood River UMC

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Come join us for

Coffee & Rolls

Homemade Chili,

Chicken Noodle Soup & Pies

Serving from 11:00 am to 7 pm

Free Will Offering!

Don't forget to shop our

“New To You Tables”,

Grandma's Kitchen,

Beautiful Quilts,

Afghans and Crafts



MYF NEWS

Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) is open to all students grade 6th and up. The MYF group started the year with a road-side clean-up followed by a great potluck meal.



Donut Duty

We still have lots of dates open for donut duty! It works best if one or two families cover a whole month. If it works better to sign up for one or two Sundays, please do. Months available: November, December, January. Thanks to the Arnett family for covering October. Contact Christy Burnett at 308-391-1378 to choose your date.

MYF upcoming events

November 13, 10:30 am- Youth will create Christmas gift tags for the Giving Tree. A family has been identified to receive the gifts from our tree. The tags will be hung on evergreen garland in the church. Youth will then deliver door hangers for the Thanksgiving meal.

November 30, 6:30 pm- MYF will hold their monthly meeting. They will also set up the nativity scene and the giving tree at that time.

December- In the past, we have helped with the Christmas cookie delivery and Christmas Caroling. We will keep you updated on those events. If you have any fun ideas for Christmas break, let Jenny or Christy know.

January 14-15, 2017- The One Event will be hosted in Salina, KS. Contact Pastor, Jenny or Christy if you are interested in attending.

LECTIONARY READINGS

November 6—All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31

November 13—26th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

November 20—Christ the King/Thanksgiving Sunday

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100
Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

November 27—First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING MEAL



On Sunday, November 20 the First United Methodist Church will serve a Thanksgiving meal from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. The Fellowship Committee will prepare the turkey, potatoes and gravy. The rest of the church family is invited to contribute side dishes, salads or desserts. We'll have plenty so everyone is welcome, whether or not they are able to share something.

PASTOR'S PAGE

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”—Psalm 100 NRSV

A few weeks ago I was driving home from South Dakota and I was amazed by the beauty of God's creation! The colors of the trees along the road were stunning. Since we are more southerly, our foliage has been a little slower to change around here but it is happening.

Along with the beauty of Autumn, we have many other reasons to give thanks including how harvest is proceeding quickly. We also give thanks that we are God's people—that God has made us and blessed us and loves us with a deep and abiding love!

And even when life is challenging and we have cause for concern, don't stop giving thanks! Paul writes to the Philippians, “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” [Phil. 4:6] Thanksgiving is always appropriate as it reminds us that the Lord is God and his faithfulness endures to all generations.

Join us for worship during November and especially on November 20 as we will worship and praise God together, offering our thanks to God for all God's blessings to us!

God bless,

Pastor Phil

REFLECTIONS AND THANK YOU!

As I am finishing up my 25th year of service to this church (November of 91' I began working here). I have been reflecting back as to who and what brought me here to this point in my life. The first thing that comes to my mind is of a sweet little lady by the name of June Senseney that made herself known to my family and I when she brought us a gift of food (something sweet of course) after Bruce went totally blind from diabetic retinopathy. She involved us in her and Arts life and the life of this church and really made us feel loved and welcomed! What a gift from God she was! When the job of Custodian opened up at the church, she encouraged me to take it as she felt it would be good for me and mine as well as it would fill the need of her beloved church. Well I did and here I am after 25 years (that is half my lifetime). This job has been no easy task over the years, but has worked out well with my schedule! Not too many jobs allow for the work to be done at any hour of the day or night (and let me tell you that I have spent a lot of late nights and early mornings working to get it done as some weeks have been just crazy with things I need to do). God comes to us and shows us the way if we are open to what he presents to us. God is good!

Pastor Shane was our first pastor when I started here and made a point every Sunday morning to come down from the pulpit to greet us at church, something that really stands out in our minds since Bruce is totally blind and can't go around the church to tell everyone good morning. He also had the church involved in so many things (youth and adult choir, family ministries and the list goes on and on), he really believed in what he was called to do and therefore kept us excited and involved. He also made a point to let me know he appreciated me and the job I was doing. Pastor Theresa Mason also stands out in my mind as a pastor involved in sharing the love of God with all those around her. When I had surgery in 2011 and was suppose to take off work for 6 to 8 weeks and planned only to take off 2 weeks, she told me I needed to take off as least a month from the church and she would make sure it was covered (I still remember a time of having to work on crutches in 2001 and having my children help me clean the church after I had foot surgery). Pastor Theresa in 2011, talked to some ladies of our church about cleaning for me during my month off and they agreed. I don't know who all did the cleaning for me, but I want to say thank you again to those that covered for me during that time of healing! I was also touched when Pastor Theresa checked on me at the hospital and after I got home. She also made a point to see that I received flowers in the hospital from my church family, something I didn't expect, but was very touch by!

There are a number of people in our church that have touched our lives over the years with their kindness and love! Ray and MaryAnn Apfel, Bob and Norma Derr, Rita Earnest, Mona Luebs, Eldon and Marjorie Mays, Bernie McCumber, Wayne and Sylvia McTavish, Don and Catherine Miller, Bryan and Susie Powell, Paul and Minnie Quisenberry, Lylle and Gladys Rainforth, Ron and Esther Rickert, Jack and Lona Shafer, Rhonda Sidders and Neal and Rozella Sidders. About half of those I mentioned have since passed, but I do hope that we have showed them that we have truly appreciated them as well as all of you that are still with us today. You are all a gift from God and may you let your light continue to shine for others to see! Thank you to all of my church family for the last 25 years and hopefully to the next 25 years!

~Cindy Howe

PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS - What you need to know

Why a voting rights act? The 1965 Voting Rights Act is a cornerstone place of civil rights legislation meant to end racial discrimination in the voting process. Signed into law by President Jonson on August 6, 1965. Meant to enforce the voting rights provisions of the 13th and 14th amendments, which had only achieved modest implementation unit the VRA's passage. The murder of voting rights activists across the nation and the unprovoked attack on peaceful marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma Alabama, in March 1965 compelled the VRA's passage.



Highlights of the Act:

- Prohibited the denial or abridgment of the right to vote based on failure of literacy tests on a nationwide basis.
- Contained special enforcement provisions targeted at those areas of the country where Congress believed the potential for discrimination to be the greatest.
- Between 1965 and 1969, the Supreme Court also issued several key decisions upholding the VRA's constitutionality.
- Renewed and amended by Congress in 1970, 1975, 1982, and 2006 to expand voting protections.

Find more information at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00 Sewing Circle <i>Gloria McCoun</i>	2 9:30 Bible Study <i>Tom Babel</i>	3 1:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 Alda Solutions Group <i>Don Rohrich Dillion DeVore Carrie Powers Terri Palu</i>	4 Office Closed 10:00 Alda Tops Meeting 5-8 PM Greek Night at Mennonite Church <i>Michael Meguire Sandy Saladen</i>	5 Watts Family Benefit <i>Steve Wheeler</i>
6 9:30 WR Worship/ All Saint's Sunday 11:00 Alda Worship <i>Craig & Brenda Anderson (1982) Don & Catherine Miller (1999) Kim Thompson</i>	7 9:00 Sewing Circle 7:30 Ruth Circle <i>Brian Earnest Ronda McLamb Brad & Amy Earnest (1996)</i>	8 ELECTION DAY 12:30-7:00 UMW Fall Bazaar <i>Audrienne Earnest Brent Oster</i>	9 9:30 Bible Study 2:30 Bingo @ Good Sam's 3:30-5:45 After School Program <i>Jane Rickert</i>	10 NO Meet & Eat in WR 7:00 Alda Solutions Group <i>Phoenix Rivera Jordyn Ellison</i>	11 Office Closed 10:00 Alda Tops Meeting	12 9:00 UMW Program Planning <i>Larry & Peg Krause (1977) Marvin & Evonne Kubert (1991) Arthur Barg Nancy Jack</i>
13 9:30 WR Worship/ Birthday Bank 10:30 Youth Giving Tree Decorations & Hanging Door Knocker for Thanksgiving Dinner 11:00 Alda Worship <i>Brenda Codner</i>	14 <i>Doug Beilby</i>	15 12:00 Alda Meet & Eat <i>Logan Brown Charles & Ronda McLamb (1986) Brock Baxter Gillian Ogden Kady Davidson Austen Fedorchik</i>	16 9:30 Bible Study 3-45 Confirmation <i>Wilbur McCumber</i>	17 7:00 UMW Meeting 7:00 Alda Solutions Group <i>Jessica Price Clinton Palu</i>	18 Office Closed 10:00 Alda Tops Meeting Newsletter Deadline <i>Mark & Brenda Codner</i>	19 <i>Brad Desel</i>
20 9:30 WR Worship 11:30 Thanksgiving Dinner 11:00 Alda Worship <i>Chan & Mynette Komarek</i>	21 <i>Blake Earnest Trenton Urwiller Donna Duff Ron Miles</i>	22	23 9:30 Bible Study	24 THANKSGIVING <i>Molly Ogden</i>	25 Office Closed 10:00 Alda Tops Meeting <i>Gary Quisenberry Justin Paulk Allan Miller Allan & Joyce Miller</i>	26 <i>Dave & Rhonda Sidders (1977) Jersey Allan Jacob Morse</i>
27 9:30 WR Worship 11:00 Alda Worship <i>Briar Burr Vincent Escobar</i>	28	29 <i>Robin Stirn Preston Ammon</i>	30 9:30 Bible Study 3:45 Confirmation 6:30 MYF Meeting/ Nativity Scene <i>Ben Rickert Jake Rickert</i>			

TRUNK OR TREAT AT ALDA CHURCH

The folks from the Alda United Methodist Church will offer a special outreach to the children and families of the Alda community on Monday, October 31. They will host "Trunk or Treat" in front of the church from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to come by and visit and pick up a few treats! The church is located at the corner of Elm and Pine Streets just one block north of Highway 30

THANKS GIVING
GATHER FAMILY CELEBRATE
FRIENDS
TRADITIONS
GRATITUDE
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
HARVEST

PRAYERS

Ralph Zavala, Brad Schellpeper, Cindy Schellpeper, Mary Beth Loving, Mary Adersholt, Paul Graham, the Hall Family, Jeanne Whitefoot



THANK YOU

We would like to say thank you to everyone who sent sympathy cards, and memorials, for the phone calls, all the prayers, plants, and flowers, also to the ladies who served the nice lunch for us.



Special thanks to Derek Apfel for doing the services for Don Carter. Don got his wishes. To Dr. Erich Fruehling for his care the nurses at St. Francis. Also the doctors and nurses at the Heart Institute in Lincoln. We cannot forget the Lady Chaplin, she was great.

We had a memorial with no name and a beautiful plant, with no name on. We do Thank you. Also for our two granddaughters with their shared memories of their Grandpa. God's Blessings to you all.

~The family of Don Carter

