



# *The* Messenger

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
WOOD RIVER FIRST UMC & ALDA UMC  
AUGUST 2018

## Pastor's Pen

We have started our new sermon series *SHIFT: If Not Now...Then When*. We are moving from desire, to responsibility, to action. We are focusing on areas of ministry to increase vitality and invite people to actively participate in the ministry and mission that God is doing through the church. In Wood River, we are trying something new when it comes to how we do Sunday morning hospitality, PowerPoint, and

Communion. We are asking people to sign up for a full month to greet/usher, donut duty (prep for fellowship time), run PowerPoint and be Communion servers. So, starting in September when you sign-up for a month to serve, you will be responsible for the full month. Often what keeps us from signing up is the question, "What if I am gone or I know I can't be there, or I am sick?" That is why we work together to do ministry. Call someone to fill in for you that Sunday. We all know people that would be happy help. Our schedules are busy, and you know your schedule. You know when your busiest time of the

year is and when it would be difficult to arrive at church 20 minutes earlier. So sign-up on a month that works for you. Know there are people around you that you can call and will help when needed. And if you don't think you can do something by yourself, pair up with someone and work together. This is an invitation to extend the love you have received through Jesus Christ to others. Stop by and sign-up or give the church a call and we would be happy to put your name down. Thanks for serving!!!!

~Pastor Trudy



# Rachel Circle - Bonnie Schurer

Rachel Circle met July 5 with eight members present. Sylvia McTavish called the meeting to order. Catherine Miller took roll call. We answered by reading a Food for Thought. Catherine read the minutes of our June meeting. Nine dozen goodie bars were solicited for the garage sale August 4th. The bars will be cut and bagged at 1:00 pm, Friday the 3rd. Marilyn Webster gave the treasurer's report. Prayer concerns were given, followed with a prayer by Mary Ann Apfel. She also read "Your Greatest Spiritual Need" by David Jereman. Sylvia read "The Elephant in the Collection Plate" from The Upper Room. The meeting was adjourned. Lunch was served by Marilyn Webster. Sylvia accompanied us on the piano when we sang, "Thank You, Lord, for Your Blessings."

# Ruth News - Susie Powell

Ruth circle met Monday, July 2 in the fellowship hall with 4 members present. Prayers concerns were mentioned and lifted up by president, Susie Powell. The lesson was the rest of the story behind some of our favorite patriotic songs, some of which are in our Methodist hymnal.

Our next meeting will be Monday, August 6 at 7:30 pm. Renae Graham will present the lesson and Linda Thompson will hostess. All women are welcome to attend.

# Thank you

"Thank you!" to everyone for your phone calls, food, cards & hugs over the past few months. After back & hip surgery, I'm finally returning to "normal". We so appreciate our church family & your gestures of loving concern. May God bless you.

With sincere thanks,  
Georgene & Dale Smidt

# UMW - Linda Thompson

United Methodist Women met on Thurs evening, July 26th. President Mary Bilslend opened the meeting with prayer. Roll call was Rachel Circle: 1 and Ruth Circle : 4 a total of 5 present. Minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Susie Powell gave the treasure report. It was approved and filed for final audit.

Susie reported our Unit presented a check for \$2040.46 to the church from our Salad Supper! Mission U was held in Kearney on July 27-29th. Attending were Mary Bilslend, Renae Graham and Susie Powell.

Saturday, Aug 4 is the Annual Garage Sale . We will have rummage sale tables and will be serving lunch. Doors open at 8 am for shopping and coffee and a bar. Lunch starts at 11 am. All help is needed. If you only have a half hour, please come help!

The UMW Annual Meeting will be held on Fri. Sept 14 and Sat Sept 15 in Kansas City. Ladies that are attending, registration is due August 31st.

Our Unit is hosting the Fall District Meeting on Saturday, October 13. The theme is Come Join Us ! Members are furnishing rolls and muffins for morning coffee and pies for dessert. Lunch will be catered by MNO Grocers.

Mary Bilslend will set up the Bingo schedule with Good Sam for 2019. Susie Powell read the Prayer Calendar. Joys and Concerns were shared and lifted in prayer by Mary Bilslend. Susie Powell gave the lesson Sacred Space of Community. Mary Bilslend was hostess.

Our next meeting will be Thurs, Aug 26 at 7 pm. Susie Powell will have the lesson. Kay Bockstadter will be hostess.

## Calendar:

- Aug 2 1 pm. Rachel Circle
- 3 1 pm bag bars for Sat
- 4 8 am doors open for shopping and coffee
- 6 7:30 pm Ruth Circle
- 14 12 pm Bloodmobile
- 16 9am Sewing Circle
- 26 7 pm UMW unit meeting—Election of Officers

# August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 9:30 Bible Study  Travis Doane Karen Codner Sylvia McTavish	<b>2</b> 1:30 Rachel Circle 7:00 Alda Solutions Group  Sharon Camp	<b>3</b> Pastor Trudy's Sabbath 10:30 Alda Healthy Living Meeting  Rod Tiarks Dustin Reeder	<b>4</b> WR Garage Sales 8:00 Breakfast 11:00 Lunch Help is needed!  Bryce Baxter Coleton Schellpeper
<b>5</b> 9:30 WR Worship 11:00 Alda Worship  Brenda Anderson Mary Ann Apfel Cadin Summers	<b>6</b> 8:30-12:00 Pastor Trudy in Office 7:30 Ruth Circle	<b>7</b> 1:00 Alda Sewing Circle  Ron Rauert Khyran Soto	<b>8</b> 9:30 Bible Study 7:30 SPRC  Tyson McLamb Seth McLamb	<b>9</b> 7:00 Alda Solutions Group  Kyle Desel Marvin & Jane Rickert	<b>10</b> Pastor Trudy's Sabbath 10:30 Alda Healthy Living Meeting  Curt & Deb Rohrich Gary & Patty Camp	<b>11</b>   Tonya Morse
<b>12</b> 9:30 WR Worship 11:00 Alda Worship  Wyatt Allan Gary Frear Reid Beilby	<b>13</b> 8:30-12:00 Pastor Trudy in Office  Michael & Elizabeth Price Becky Allan	<b>14</b> 12:00-6:00 WR Blood Mobile 1:00 Alda Sewing Circle  Avery Palu	<b>15</b> 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 WR Ad Council	<b>16</b> 9:00 WR Sewing Circle 7:00 Alda Solutions Group  Camrie Franssen Lance & Shannon Ellison	<b>17</b> Pastor Trudy's Sabbath 10:30 Alda Healthy Living Meeting 5:30 Spanish Meal sponsored by the Spanish Club  Ray & Mary Ann	<b>18</b> WR Fun Fest   Dave & Joan Brown
<b>19</b> 11:00 Ecumenical Service WR High School 12:00 Lunch at the High School 5:00 Alda Evening Service	<b>20</b> 8:30-12:00 Pastor Trudy in Office  Peggy Racek Georgene Smidt Mynette Komarek	<b>21</b> 12:00 Alda Meet & Eat 1:00 Alda Sewing Circle 7:00 WR Outreach Team  Shari Williams	<b>22</b> 9:30 Bible Study  Sawyer Thompson Darlene Wheeler	<b>23</b> 7:00 Alda Solutions Group	<b>24</b> Pastor Trudy's Sabbath 10:30 Alda Healthy Living Meeting  Brooke Thompson Jennifer Beilby Letha Bartlett	<b>25</b>   Lynn Redding Ted & Sonya Schultz
<b>26</b> 9:30 WR Worship 11:00 Alda Worship	<b>27</b> 8:30-12:00 Pastor Trudy in Office	<b>28</b> 1:00 Alda Sewing Circle 7:00 WR Trustees  Greg Cramer Korbyn Urwiller	<b>29</b> 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 WR Nominations Committee	<b>30</b> 7:00 Alda Solutions Group  Kelly Allan Evonne Kubert Jimmey Riley	<b>31</b> Pastor Trudy's Sabbath 10:30 Alda Healthy Living Meeting  Michael Price Galen & Lorna Wescoatt	



## Alda News - Jackie Riley

Our bible School was a success. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen.

August 19 we will not have our AM service at 11 AM. We will have Church Service at 5 PM outside the Church in the Gazebo area with Praise Songs. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on. Food and beverage will be served after the service. If it rains, we will move inside the church. More details to come. Everyone is invited.

Church cleaning will be the last week of August. Plans are to have a list of cleaning projects that people may come and help with.

We are in the planning mode for fall and what activities we can do. We will have Meet and Eat on August 21 and enjoy Tacos on Tuesday at 12:00 noon. Call Letha for more information at 308-384-2619.

On Fridays, we continue to have a Healthy Living group and please note the meeting time will change to 10:30 AM. For more information call Lois at 384-5733 or Jackie at 384-5993.

Jackie and Carol are still meeting at the Church on Tuesdays to sew. So far we have sewed blankets, pillows, and table runners. We have reached out to children and adults to help provide comfort and love.

God has shown us many blessings at our small Church this past month.

At Alda First United Methodist, Our Mission: "A Beacon of Light and Hope in the Alda Community through our open Doors and outreached Arms."



## Save the Date

**BISHOP SAENZ**

**PRAIRIE RIVERS TOWN HALL MEETING**

**When: Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Where: Grand Island Trinity**

**Time: 3:30-5:30**

**What: Bishop Saenz Town Hall Meeting**

**Who: All Pastors and Laity**

Bishop will be bringing discussion about the Way Forward from the Council of Bishops as we prepare for the Special Session of the General Conference, Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis where the General Conference will make decisions to help the United Methodist Church move forward amid disagreements over human sexuality. Clergy and laity of the Prairie Rivers District are encouraged to attend, in order to gain a better understanding of how we can help our churches prepare to have healthy conversations as we discuss a way forward.

If you want to read the Commission On A Way Forward's Report that will be sent to General Conference the link is below.

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/videodetail/bishop-invites-all-to-read-commission-on-a-way-forward-report-11583221>



# Parish Nurse - Mary Bilsland

School is already about to begin and the about to be students have had a quick but good summer I hope.

I usually note some health care information for starting school but this time I want to start with the idea that to start school, I hope that the students and their parents have discussed how important it is for them to go to school with the right attitude and the right state of mind.

It is important that we remember to be the positive influence in each and every encounter we make and present ourselves as Jesus's disciple. We want every person we come in contact with to see us as an image of Jesus. This often means we turn the other cheek, we often close our mouths to what we would want to say and say what needs to be said as Jesus would have us speak.

Are you prepared to be bold and stand up to the bully and help the underdog? Are you ready to tell the person who is so popular that they are not treating someone right and that they are wrong to say hurtful things even if true to someone?

We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves - this

means everyone.... You cannot take back the feeling that the words your mouth says even if you apologize so if it is not kind, think again about saying it. Does it really need to be said and by you?

I saw these rules for healthy living and think they bear repeating:

Less soda, more water

Less alcohol, more tea

Less sugar, more fruit

Less meat, more vegetables

Less driving, more walking

Less worry, more sleep

Less anger, more laughter

Less words, more action

These come from Path of positivity.

I add to these, less negative, more Jesus ... Less doubts, more prayer. To have less fear, stay closer to Jesus.

This does not mean we don't need to be physically prepared for the coming school year but also let's prepare our hearts and minds for what is needed to live a life that is pleasing to Jesus. Have a great and successful school year.

## VBS Thank You - Melanie Frear

We had a very successful Shipwrecked VBS this year! Over the 4 days of VBS we were able to enrich the lives of 88 children through our ministry that..."Jesus Rescues!!" This would not have been possible without the support of you, the congregation, and all that chose to give of their time, talents, and donations. We had 40+ volunteers each night and a total of 60 volunteers during the week. This includes families or groups who provided the meal each night, those that helped with each of the stations, registration, decorating, clean up, and those that helped with the kitchen or bathroom areas. There were also individuals who brought in decorations or supplied other items including treats for the Shipwrecked Celebration on Thursday. I am so grateful for each of you and your commitment to our Children's Ministry. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help in making this another successful year! Now on to next year: ROAR!—Life is Wild God is Good!

# Winter Coat Drive

## *Give the Gift of Warmth*

Time to clean out your closet! New or gently used winter coats are needed for children in all sizes. Only laundered coats please! There will be bins in the church for donations. Or you can call Jocelyn Rauert at 308-389-1688 for pick up. Coat distribution will take place Sunday, October 7th at the church from 1-3 pm.

# UMMen Rally

## *with Bishop Saenz*

Monday, September 24th, 6:30-8:30 pm

First-Faith Methodist Church, Grand Island

\$5.00 each

What's included:

Meal, Entertainment, Main Speaker

RSVP to the Prairie Rivers District Office by September 1<sup>st</sup>

308.384.0603 or [prairierivers@greatplainsumc.org](mailto:prairierivers@greatplainsumc.org)

## Upcoming Events!

*Stay Tuned for Details!*

