

The Messenger

United Methodist Church – 2210 Sixth Avenue East, Alexandria, MN 56308

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August 2011

Editor: Colleen Schutte

Community Garden Report

This morning I was tending my little 4x8 foot garden bed, picking some peas and cutting what is likely the last of the lettuce for a while. Son Will was with me, his garden has been excellent this year, and together we thinned out some of his carrots and tried to tie up his ever-growing peas that seem to have a mind of their own. While we were there, it occurred to me just how much these garden beds, from their origins through our harvests, can reflect so many things related to our church life and our relationship with God.

This is by all means a community garden. Over half of those growing produce in the beds are not members of this congregation. Many of them do not have space for a garden and find our hospitality the only means for them to enjoy gardening and the fruits of their labors. What a great outreach! There have been many hands involved in building the beds, placing the dirt, mowing around the beds, teaching basic gardening skills, and helping haul water from the rain barrels. Just like our plants that spring from the rich soil, so do ideas on how to make things work better, not only for our selves, but also for all of those who are gardening.

Some may say that gardening is a metaphor for our spiritual lives, our relationship with God. While I agree, I would also contend it is also a spiritual practice in itself. Gardening teaches one humility (one good storm teaches you that you really aren't in control after all) and patience (oh, those peas could be ok, but they'll be much better in two more days!). In our context it also teaches us what it means to work as a community. Gardening reminds us that our spiritual lives, just like those 4x8 beds, need attention. We need to do a little weeding at times, some tending of the roots and soil, and some watering. If we neglect these things our harvest isn't as great. Similarly, if we neglect our relationship with God, our lives are not as abundantly filled as they could be.

Plans and hopes are to keep the gardens growing, both in terms of the amount of produce that we harvest as well as the number of people that are involved in the process. We hope to have a storage shed up soon and composting bins available shortly, too. More beds are possible as well.

Humbly yours, Jeff Reed—for those tending the soil and reaping the harvest.

Parish News

Our sympathy to . . .

Ray and Wendy Watts and family on the death of Ray's father, Ivan Watts.

The family of Pauline Yff, who died on July 11th.

Happy Birthday to . . .

Sylvia Lindstrom, who will celebrate her 85th birthday on August 11th.

Les Lybeck, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on August 17th.

Congratulations to . . .

Nick and Jen Heydt, Will, Ella and Mac, on the birth of their son/brother on July 12th (and to grandparents, John and Ann Heydt!)

Jeremy and Ashley Scribner, Ethan, Christian Brookelyn, on the birth of their son/brother on July 3rd.

Hospitalized recently. . .

Shirley Bruckner—now home
Bruce Jordan—now home

New Address. . .

Edith Laird—70 Big Oak Lane, Wildwood, Fl
34785

Baptisms on July 24th. . .

Alexandra Lillian Lybeck, daughter of Jason and Jackie Lybeck. Alexandra was born on Oct. 14, 2010.

Madeline Kayren Pring, daughter of Nathan and Amanda Pring. Madeline was born on Jan. 11, 2011.

Brinkley Marlene Schmid, daughter of G.J. Schmid and Megan Burkhammer. Brinkley was born on March 23, 2011.

Fiona Davi Schmid, daughter of Patrick and Kristin Schmidt. Fiona was born on May 30, 2004.

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of Alexandria

Telephone (320) 763-4624

Pastor: Jeffrey Hansen

Parish Worker: Jocelyn Olson

Secretary/Treasurer: Colleen Schutte

Director of Youth & Children's

Ministries: Michelle Ferris

Custodian: Denise Dropik

Organists: Kay Hoffland, Kirk Landman,
Gale Maxwell

Choir Director: Kirk Anderson

Nursery: Amanda Winther & Amber Krienke

Office Hours

Jeff – Tuesday (3-5 pm)

Thursdays (10-12 noon, 3-5 p.m.)

by appointment at other times

Monday through Friday 9:00-1:00

Colleen – Mon-Tue-Wed-Thu-Fri

Jocelyn – Mon-Tue-Wed

Shelly – Mon-Tue-Wed: 9:00-4:00

Thu: 9:00-4:30

Sun: 8:30-1:00

Please call ahead if you wish to come in to the office. There are times when we are not in the building, even though we are working. We recommend that you call to see if the person you wish to meet with is in. There also are many days when someone is in the office later than 1:00 p.m.

Publication Date for the next Messenger:

is the last week of August. Articles submitted for the September issue need to be in the office by NOON on Friday, August 19th.

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Liturgists:

8:00 August 7 & 14—Tom DeWitt August 21 & 28—Julie Hansen
9:30 August 7 & 14—Bob Swenson August 21 & 28—Jean Bristow

Ushers:

8:00—Barb Venekamp, Deloris Venekamp, John & Mary Halvorson
9:30—Margaret Anderson, Helen Glade, Chuck Holm, Scott Schlapkohl

Greeters:

August 7 8:00—Don & Pat Baustian 9:30—Kipp & Chris Hayes
August 14 8:00—Linda Cole 9:30—Marge Jensen
August 21 8:00—Aaron & Brenda Thomson family 9:30—Gerry & Betty Olson
August 28 8:00—Scott and Vicki Johnston 9:30—Arlue Beheng

Coffee Servers:

August 7—Nick & Jen Heydt, John & Mary Halvorson
August 14—Shelly Ferris, Carolyn Randall, Sue Walker
August 21—Bob & Lonnie Kriel, Jim Bovre & Linda Saari
August 28—Dave & Marsha Campbell, Gary Carlson & Arlene Janes-Carlson

Organists:

August 7—Kirk Landman
August 14—Gale Maxwell
August 21—Gale Maxwell
August 28—Kirk Landman

Nursery Workers:

August 7 & 21—Amber Krienke August 14 & 28—Amanda Winther

This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion

Communion or Eucharist is foundational to Christian life. Many of us come from different traditions, each with their own understanding of what Eucharist means or is about. Even “cradle Methodists” might not know what the United Methodist understanding of Eucharist is. You are invited to join us in a presentation and discussion on this important aspect of our faith. We will meet for two consecutive Wednesdays, September 21st & 28th at 6:45 pm. The first session will explore the origins and understanding of the Eucharist from the earliest Christians through John Wesley. The second session will explore a deeper understanding of our Methodist Communion, practice, and the ethics involved. If you are new to the UMC, have been around the UMC for a while, are interested in assisting with Communion, or are just interested in sacramental history, there should be something of interest in this discussion for you. Young people and their parents seeking information and support for “first communion” are also encouraged to attend. We will conclude the second session with Eucharist.

Jeff Reed, who is studying sacramental theology and liturgy at Saint John’s, will lead the discussion.



Zachary and Davyn Thomson will be doing a Boy Scout Leadership project at the church on August 7th from 1-4 with a rain date of August 14th from 1-4. The project is inventorying the contents of the sheds on the church property as well as scraping and painting the sheds. We are looking for volunteers to help us with this project. Please contact us to let us know if you are able to help us or if you are interested in more information. Zachary’s cell 320-760-0083; Davyn’s cell 320-760-0212. Thank you. Zachary and Davyn Thomson



In your prayers, remember LaVonne Ahlstedt, Luella Beto, Shirley Bruckner, Lowell Gess, Barb Glanville, Marilyn Graczyk, Bruce Jordan, Edith Laird, Tami Noding, Dan Olson, Carolyn Randall, Ray and Wendy Watts and family, the family of Pauline Yff.

The Northstar District Prayer Connection:

- July 27-Aug. 2—First UMC of Ortonville
- August 3-9—Osakis UMC
- August 10-16—Ottertail UMC
- August 17-23—Palisade UMC
- August 24-30—Riverside UMC of Park Rapids



FOOD FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES.

A committee is being formed to assist in coordinating food fundraising activities at our church. This group came from trustees and finance originally and welcomes assistance. We will help coordinate any activities planned. We will offer planning assistance, schedules for workers and food, and one member of our committee to be present at the function. The funds raised will be split between the church and the sub group within the church sponsoring the event. See related article on Belgian Waffle Feed. Current members of committee: Susan Brede, Sharon Holm, Carol Meyer, Julie Shaughnessy and Betty Van Zomeren.

Worship Attendance

	2011		2010	
	8:00	9:30	8:00	9:30
June 26	60	74	66	90
July 3	48	59	44	64
July 10	54	65	61	67
July 17	58	75	50	61
July 24	54	84	84	45

Back to School "Angel Tree". . .Over the last two years, the Missions and Social Concerns Committee has sponsored an Angel Tree at Christmas for local, at-risk high school students. The response each year has been tremendous! So tremendous in fact that many of those contributing have asked if there was more they could do to help. With that in mind, Missions and Social Concerns have worked with Chris Kragenbring at Jefferson High School to develop a similar program to help with back to school needs. There will be a list of needs available on August 14th. We are asking that the items be returned to church in the bags provided by the 28th. For more information, please contact a member of the Missions/Social Concerns Committee or Jeanne Reed (491-7011).



The question was raised as to why we added a television to the narthex and plan to paint the sprinkler pipes when we have unpaid bills that could be paid with this money. Thanks for asking! The television was donated by a member that is downsizing—thus no out of pocket cost for the church. The pipe painting, like numerous projects in the past, is a special project sponsored by friends and members over and above their regular giving. Please continue to ask questions of the Finance and Stewardship Committees.



Reminder. . .the monthly calendar is now part of the web page: www.alexumc.org. On the left hand side, click on "calendar"...you will be able to choose which month you wish to view and/or print. We have the whole year on there (as much as we have right now). Be sure to check the calendar frequently as things may be added or changed.

GRATITUDE - HONOR - MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

\$25.00	Weekly bulletin sponsorship
\$60.00	Mailing monthly Messenger
\$15.00	Biodegradable paper cups (200)
\$500.00	Shrubs for around church building
\$? ? ?	Security System (securing quotes)
\$1,320	Sanctuary air conditioner repair
\$780.00	Water heater replacement in parsonage

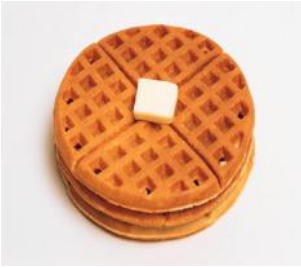
The above are special giving opportunities for those who wish to contribute toward a specific project. Contributions in any amount are appreciated.



Trust Fund Report

What is the Alexandria United Methodist Church Trust Fund?

- ◆ The Fund was legally created by the Church Conference in December of 1997. A full copy of the By-Laws is on file at the church office for review.
- ◆ The purpose of the Fund as stated in the By-Laws is to provide a permanent source of special funds for worthy programs and projects in the church, the community, and the world, including but not limited to the support of special ministries, special projects, and special capital improvements or repairs to the church properties, when such things are outside of the normal operating budget of the church.
- ◆ The Fund is to provide a secure and financially stable vehicle to receive and invest funds derived from gifts and devises to the church and apply those funds in accordance with the stated intentions of the donor, and to encourage and promote special giving to the church.
- ◆ The Fund is managed by a Board of Trustees. Current members on the Board of Trustees are: Chuck Bollen, Scott Johnston, Mike Jost, Jim Jensen, Bernie Van Zomeren and Lisa Bowen.
- ◆ The Fund is fairly restrictive, and it was specifically designed in that manner to create an income stream to fund the special projects envisioned by the founders. The principal of the fund is to remain intact. There shall be no distribution of income from the Trust Fund until the total funds have reached the sum of \$300,000. Once that level is attained, 1/2 of the previous year's income may be distributed (but is not required to be distributed). When the principal has reached the sum of one million dollars, all of the income from the Trust Fund may be distributed.
- ◆ The Fund consists of gifts made to the Church Trust Fund. Many current and past members and friends of the church have contributed to this fund for the purpose of creating an endowed fund to perpetually benefit the church. We hope that the Fund will continue to grow consistent with the vision of the founding contributors and with ongoing support.
- ◆ The assets of the Fund are managed by State Bank and Trust through it's Trust Department. As of June 1, 2011, the Trust Fund Portfolio has a value of \$193,500.44.



BELGIAN WAFFLE FEEDS AS FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

The Alexandria Evening Lions Club has purchased waffle irons and are offering fund raising opportunities to non-profit groups in the Alexandria area. **THEY PROVIDE** the irons, electrical board to support, waffle ingredients, sausage and five members to cook the waffles. **WE PROVIDE** the facility, coffee, orange juice and milk, dishes, promotion and enough people to sell tickets, serve and clean up. We agree to sell tickets for \$7.00 and to offer the waffles free to children 12 and younger. **PROCEEDS:** 20% to the Lions to pay for ingredients. The remaining funds are split evenly between the Lions and the sponsoring group.

BELGIAN WAFFLE FEED AT ALEXANDRIA UMC ON JULY 31ST. . .a group of members is taking advantage of this new program offered by the Alexandria Evening Lions Club by hosting a Belgian waffle feed on July 31st from 9 am to 1 pm. The program is new to both groups so we are working our way through. Our goal is to serve 200 paying customers and 100 children 12 and under. This would generate 2/3 of the money remaining to be raised for the painting of the sprinkler pipes in the sanctuary. There is still time for you to volunteer to work at the event or to make a financial gift if you are unable to attend and enjoy the waffles! We can smell the wonderful aroma already.



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|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 Don Cogger
Dennis Menk | 12 Kari Erlandson
Colton Ferris
Carol Meyer
David Nelson | 20 Margaret Anderson
Megan Burkhammer |
| 2 Brion Golde
Haroldine Peck | 13 Debby Abers
Richard Decko
Christian Scribner | 23 Marc Anderson |
| 5 Beverly Steffen | 14 Logan Haburn
Lynn Nelson
Barb Stefanski
Sally Vano | 24 Jason Koehn
Brandon Runnoe |
| 6 Kendyll Mogler | 15 Kelly Bumgarner | 25 Rick Glade |
| 7 Jakob Stender | 16 Lonnie Kriel | 26 Scott Johnston
Lorene Pitcher |
| 9 Nathan Nelson | 17 Vicki Johnston
Les Lybeck | 28 Paula DeReamer
Tom Hergott
Jason Nomsen
Scott Schlapkohl |
| 10 Susan Brede
Travis DeGier | 18 Beth Kakac
Karen Winger | 29 Tara Gimbel |
| 11 Jack Greengo
Sylvia Lindstrom | 19 Linda Caron
Dave Morgan
Al Schoening | 31 Will Bartell
Zachary Mogler |



ONE MILLION DOLLARS is a lot of money! This is the approximate amount our church members spend EACH year on items from the supermarket! **ROCKET SCIENCE** tells us that 5% of that amount is \$50,000. SO. . .why not buy, use or give away some Elden's gift cards—YOU can help Alex UMC during this financial crisis. Can you be counted on to help?? If not, why not? Alex UMC needs your Help!

John Schroeder



Alexandria UMC served 49 guests at the July Community Breakfast. Thank you Alex UMC Community for offering up the church. Thank you to those who gave their time and talent: LaDonna Anderson, Chuck and Brenda Bollen, Megan Burkhammer, Linda DeWitt, Mel Nomsen, Bruce Pohlig and Amy Roering. Thank you to the Bollen, DeWitt and Helgeson families for their donations. Everyone is welcome to attend the breakfast. If you are interested in donating or volunteering for the August 13th breakfast, please sign up in the narthex. Thank you!

**UMW
Information:**



The UMW Picnic will be held on the church lawn (or fellowship hall if weather is a consideration) on Thursday, August 4th at 5:30 pm. Beverages will be provided.



Alex UMC will host four of the five Festival of the Lakes Concerts in August. Please look for details in Sunday bulletins, on posters, or at www.alexfest.org. Dates are August 10, 14, 17, 19 and 21. August 10th concert will be at Bethesda Lutheran Church. Tickets are on sale now at Cherry Street Books. Y'all come!

Thank you from the Trustees and the congregation to these volunteers and contributors:

- ♥ Thank you to the family that responded to our request to repair the air handler. Thanks to their generosity, we will be comfortable and save money at the same time.
- ♥ Thank you to the grounds crew—team #3—for their help in cleaning up tree limbs around the parsonage from storm damage earlier this month—and to Jeff, Julie and Noah Hansen and Dennis & Susan Brede for their help! Greg Dropik also brought his man hoist in and they straightened one of the parsonage gutters that was bent and took out some dead tree branches at the same time.
- ♥ Our grounds crew for their continued work mowing the church grounds.

Please take a moment to thank these people for their hard work. There are many more jobs that we are recruiting volunteers for—see the TV screen in the narthex on Sunday morning, or check out the “Trustees Job Jar” list on the bulletin board in the workroom! Feel free to sign your name on the list if there is a job on there you would like to work on—or contact a trustee. **There are many ways you can help out your church family other than financial gifts** — giving of your time and talents to complete some of these projects saves the church money! If you see things that need to be done on the building or church grounds, please write it on this list, or contact one of the trustees.

Elden's Gift Card Program

Alexandra UMC has now purchased \$12,000 in Elden's Gift Cards for resale to our members/friends as a fundraiser. Through July 17th, we have sold \$9,925 in gift cards for a total of \$496.25 income generated for our general fund. Please consider purchasing a gift card(s) for use at Elden's Foods—we have \$25, \$50 and \$100 cards—and using them when you shop at Elden's. **They make great gifts, too!!!** Cards are available on Sunday mornings between worship services—or at the church office Mon-Fri from 9 am to 1 pm. What an easy way to generate some income for our church!

Caring and Sharing Room Semi-Annual Report—June 30, 2011

Dear People of United Methodist Church,

The Caring and Sharing Room continues to be a busy place! During the first half of 2011, our 153 volunteers have served 113 families in Douglas County providing 627 pieces of furniture, in addition to many other household items. Many, many generous people in the community have donated items which have made it possible for us to share 81 beds, 45 sofas, 61 arm chairs, 29 dining tables with 110 dining chairs, 38 dressers, 55 lamps, 64 end tables and 15 microwaves in the past six months. In addition, we have provided 26 full kitchen set ups and numerous sets of bedding. We believe God is truly present in this ministry and meets the needs as they arise.

Our location at 700 Cedar Street is often full to the brim yet it does empty out occasionally. We are grateful to the following area churches who have contributed to our rental costs this year: The Church of St. Mary, Calvary Lutheran, First Lutheran, Bethesda Lutheran and United Methodist. In addition, these churches provide access to their church bulletins and newsletters to bring the message of needs to the community. We truly appreciate your partnership with us. With your help we can meet the increased needs in Douglas County as we continue to serve the poor among us. Now, more than ever, we ask for your continued financial support to carry on the ministry of the Caring and Sharing Room.

Sincerely, Melinda Megel & Julie Boyle—Caring & Sharing Room Coordinators

The congregation of Hamline United Methodist Church invites you to visit their Dining Hall if you go to the Minnesota State Fair this year. They serve great food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Bring in your bulletin and receive \$3.00 off the dinner special (one "special" per bulletin, please).

Community Events

August 14—Nate House will be giving a concert at Faith Lutheran Church in Miltona at 6:30 pm. Nate tours nationally playing in churches, colleges and homes sharing his songs and stories with a healthy dose of hope, humor and honesty. He will be highlighting songs from his latest CD, *Reform Follows Function*, a folk rock album that ditches cynicism and holds tight to the reality of grace. This free concert is open to everybody—all are welcome!