The Messenger

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

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July 2019 Editor: Ginger Mayer

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and Peace from God be with you!

I am writing this letter a week before Annual Conference, the yearly gathering of clergy and lay delegates within the Minnesota Annual Conference. In this month's letter, I will write about two petitions before the Annual Conference that respond to the 2019 Special General Conference. I will also give a preview of a sermon series I will be doing in July and August.

The first petition, #100 "Moving Forward – A Vision", asks the Conference to adopt a policy that is inclusive of ALL people. The petition is long and I cannot quote much, but there is one small section that embodies the essence of it. "As a diverse body of Christ, we are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus' ministry to and with all persons. Consequently, we are committed to inclusiveness in all aspects of the life of the Church, regardless of sexual orientation, race, physical or mental disability, national origin, marital status, gender identity, ethnicity, economic status, or age." If things go according to plan, this petition will be discussed under a rule called "Holy Conferencing". The session will set aside 40 minutes for discussion. People will be allowed to speak for or against it for 2 minutes. There will be no amendments, no calls for votes, no Robert's Rules of Order. After 40 minutes clergy and delegates will vote via paper ballot. I fully expect the speeches to be passionate and that the petition will pass.

The second petition, #102 "Statement Regarding the Traditional Plan", asks the Conference to affirm its resistance to the penalties enacted at the 2019 Special General Conference. It asks us to trust the Board of Ordained Ministries to raise up ministerial leaders. Implied in the language is that the Board will do so without regard for sexual orientation or whether the person is same-gender married. It also asks the body to commit to the avoidance of "clergy trials" as related to sexual orientation or the officiating same-gender weddings. Finally, it asks the Conference to speak up for the full inclusion of our brothers and sisters who happen to be LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, intersex, affirming, and others). "We commit ourselves to creating the inclusive church God intends us to be. We seek to undo the harm caused by exclusion and discrimination through systemic forms of oppression against all marginalized people both inside the church and in our greater society. We recommit to working for the full inclusion of all people." This petition will be debated under Robert's Rules of Order and I expect the debate to be passionate. I also expect the petition to pass.

All petitions, including one I wrote, #400, can be read at: https://www.minnesotaumc.org/2019ACconferencematerials then click on "2019 legislation with 2020 proposed budget".

Beginning on July 14, after I return from vacation, and going until August 25, I will be preaching a sermon series titled "Grace, Grace, God's Grace". (If you think this is a hymn, it is! It is the refrain of #365.) We Methodists often tout our nuanced meanings of the word "Grace". What exactly is Grace? How did our founder, Rev. John Wesley, understand it? How does it work in our lives today? We will spend two weeks on "prevenient grace", two weeks on "justifying grace", two weeks on "sanctifying grace", and the final week on "Living in Perfect Love". Are you intrigued? Are there people you know who may want to hear about God's grace? Invite them to join you in worship at Alexandria UMC.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Gary

Nursery is available on Sunday morning during worship services and coffee fellowship time. Nursery is for children 5 and younger. If you have an older child and need a place to go with them during worship time, the Youth Room is available. There is a speaker in the room to listen to the sermon. Toys are available in Cart Two.

Reminder that we are following our Building Use Policy—the church entrance doors will remain locked unless there are two people present in the building. Please call ahead before you come to church, as there are times when we are not in the building, even though we are working. Also, most days

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Nursery: Karen Murphy and Grace Evink

Office Hours

Pastor Gary—Tue-Friday

Admin. Assist. Ginger Mayer

Office is open (9:00-1:00)

Mon-Tue-Wed-Thurs-Fri

Brenda—Aug thru July Wed & Thurs-days (5:30—8:30) July only Wednesdays (530-8:30)

Publication Date for the next *Messenger:*

the last week of July Articles for the July issue need to be in the office by NOON on Monday Aug 26th

Worship Attendance

	2019		2018	
Service	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
July 2	45	64	67	84
July 9	50	61	52	52
July 16	40	56	48	64
July 23			53	65
July 30			61	64

In your prayers, *please remember all in positions of leadership, people serving in dangerous and difficult settings, returned and returning service people and their families, all who seek and await*

July Volunteers

Liturgists:

July 7 & 14	8:00	Darlene Lunemann	July 7 & 14	9:30	Marsha Haugen
July 21 & 28	8:00	Susan Brede	July 21 & 28	9:30	RosAnn Flenner

Ushers:

8:00	July 7 & 14 —Carol Meyer, Chuck Holm
	July 21 & 28 —Scott & Vicki Johnston, & Chuck Bollen
9:30	July 7 & 14—Kim Tryggeseth, Julie Schmidt, & Marsha Haugen
	July 21 & 28—John & Sue Helgeson, & Chuck Holm

Greeters:

July 7	8:00—Ted & Geri Zabrosky	9:30—Rick & Nancy Christenson
July 14	8:00—Darlene Lunneman/Jessica N.	9:30—Dennis & Arlyn Cin
July 21	8:00—Sue Brede	9:30—Jim & Marge Jensen
July 28	8:00— Bernie & Betty VanZomeren	9:30—Helen Glade

Coffee Servers:

July 7	Pat Vickerman / Matt & Abby Bray
July 14	Dennis & Susan Brede/ Oaul & Judy Florell
July 21	Glen & Wendy Haburn/Tom & Linda DeWitt
July 28	Dennis & Arlyn Cin/ Jim & Kathy Bridenstine

Organists/Pianists:

Janet Eisele

Nursery Workers:

July 7	Grace Evink	July 14	Karen Murphy
July 21	Grace Evink	July 28	Karen Murphy

July 2019 Youth Ministry Newsletter

The Youth Group Car Wash that was scheduled on Sunday, July 7th is being cancelled.

The 2019 Youth Group Mission Trip is July 14-19. Please keep the youth (and adults) who are attending in your prayers as we go to Milwaukee to do God's work.

Thank you to everyone who came out on June 12th to help support the Youth Group at the Wood Fired Oven pizza event. All funds raised will go to our mission trip this summer!!

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ~Matthew 24:32

July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:30 AM Brush & Palette Art Club 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study	3 4:00 PM Wood Fired Oven Event	4 Office Closed	5	6
7 7:30 AM Youth Car wash 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Coffee/ Fellowship 9:30 AM Worship Service	8	9 9:30 AM Brush & Palette Art Club 9:30 AM Coffee Group 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Prayer Group 3:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Missions 6:30 PM Worship Team	10 4:00 PM Wood Fired Oven Event 5:30 PM Trustees Meeting	11 9:00 to 4:00 clergy meeting. 6:30 PM Church Council	12	13
14 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Coffee/ Fellowship 9:30 AM Worship Service	15 Youth Mission Trip	16 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study Youth Mission Trip	17 4:00 PM Wood Fired Oven Event Youth Mission Trip	18 9:30 AM Joy Circle Youth Mission Trip	19 Youth Mission Trip	20
21 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Coffee/ Fellowship 9:30 AM Worship Service	22 Brush & palette Set up for workshop in Fellowship Hall	23 9:00AM Brush & Palette Art Club Workshop 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Prayer Group	24 4:00 PM Wood Fired Oven Event	25	26	27
28 8:00 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Coffee/ Fellowship 9:30 AM Worship Service	29 5:30 VBS	30 9:30 AM Brush & Palette Art Club 11:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study 5:30 VBS Festival Of the Lakes (FOL) Practice	31 4:30 PM Adult Discipleship 5:30 VBS FOL Practice			

Thank You!! Join us June 30th as we thank Kayla Brunkow for her years of service as Director of Children's Ministries and celebrate her appointment to Grey Eagle UMC and Sauk Centre UMC as their next pastor. She will be recognized at both the 8am and 9:30 services, with a reception at 9am between services. We appreciate Kayla's numerous contributions to our church and look forward to this time of celebration.

Community Wood Fired Oven Events: Visit our website at alexumc.org/Community Outreach tab

Pizza starts at 4PM. Music starts at 5 PM Rain or Shine. If lightning event will be canceled.

July 3 Partnered with: Alexandria Area Hockey Association
Music by Blonde and the Bohunk

July 10 Partnered with: Habitat women and Cardinal Dance Team
Music by Neon Gypsy

July 17 Partnered with: Girls Hockey
Music by: Michael Shynes

July 24 Partnered with: Habitat with Humanity
Music by: Anthony Miltich

July 31 Partnered with : Alexandria Education Foundation
Music by: Cathy Wiesner & Kevin Klimek

1 Megan Bristow
Alicia Marvin
Gavin Olson
Wes Smith

2 Wyatt Cavers

3 Arlyn Cin
Glen Haburn
Bryson Scribner

4 Kara Gerdes
Nick Hyedt
Rosemary O'Brien

6 Wendy Watts

7 Desiree Galbraith

9 Mark Pitcher

10 Shannon Determan
Amanda Ford
Kaitlyn Gimbel

11 Jack Nelson

12 Carol Windels

13 Lowell Gess
Griffin Heydt

14 Mark Jahnke

15 Chris Schuldt

16 KoleBert Feda
Sue Rishavy

17 Sara Swanson

18 Chuck Holm
Maria Schlapkohl
Nicolas Watts

19 Andy Vano

20 Brian Denke
Spencer Olson

21 Jacob Balcome
Marsha Campbell
Pat Fearing
Amelia Golde
Aubrey Meyer

22 Bob Olson

25 Rick Christensen

27 Don Baustian
Bruce Jordan
Chloe Loch
Bernie VanZomeren

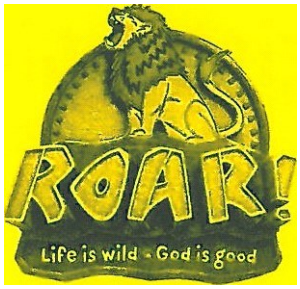
28 Betty Olson

29 Charlene Schroeder

30 Heidi Becker
Arlue Beheng
Michael Helgeson
Samuel Helgeson
DeeAnn Kraemer

31 Connie Gratias
Karen Morgan

JULY BIRTHDAYS



Dear PareNts:

We're so glad you've signed up your child for an exciting week at Roar VBS. You'll notice that things at Roar are...well, a little different from what you might be used to. Elementary kids will be in mixed-age groups with other children who have finished kindergarten through grade 5. These small groups, called Crews, are led by adults or teenagers who love children and love the Lord. Crews are an important part of Roar! Here's why.

Kids develop new friendships. While it's true that your child might not get to be with his or her very best friend, your child will have wonderful opportunities to make new friends and interact with a new group of children. Most of us assume that age-graded classes are the best way to go, simply because that has been our only experience. However, studies show that children learn as much—or more— when they're linked with kids of different ages. And studies indicate that children often choose to play with children of other ages. Encourage your child to try something different—he or she might be surprised!

Older kids shine! Parents are continually surprised that after a few days of VBS, their older children love this newfound role! Suddenly, they're the "cool" big kids with younger children looking up to them. And while your child is helping younger kids with simple tasks like reading and writing, he or she is having the chance to serve and demonstrate Christ's love! It's a meaningful way to discover—and practice—the joy of service.

Younger kids are cared for. Roar is carefully designed for multi-age groups of children. That means games are team-building activities (brilliantly disguised as wildly fun games) in which your child's abilities will shine. It's likely that your younger child will be loved, affirmed, and doted upon by his or her older Crew mates.

Bible lessons are more memorable. Since Roar doesn't rely on more traditional teaching methods (like fill-in-the-blank puzzles or word searches), kids experience Bible stories in powerful, life-changing ways. And that's something kids of all ages will enjoy...and remember. Then Crew Leaders gather with kids for small-group discussions including questions that apply to every child but may touch each child at a different level.

Millions of children have experienced success with this multi-age "family" approach at Croup's VBS. However, the most important factor in making this program a success is your attitude. If your child has doubts, reassure him or her that this is a wonderful opportunity to try something new. Your support will speak volumes to the children we're serving.

Roar VBS Director

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Roar into the fun at VBS!

Monday, July 29th - Thursday, August 1st
5:30-7:30 p.m.

You can make an impact in a child's life!

Volunteer with your time. We are looking for Station Leaders (teachers), Crew Leaders (helpers…got a teenager that needs something to do?), builders/ decorators (if that is your talent) or make a monetary or supply contribution. You can also contribute by partnering with me in prayer; that God would have an impact on the lives of our children…that they would grow in faith and in their personal journey as they grow closer to God. Do you know children that would love to attend our VBS? Let them know they are welcome! All through July our children's sermons will focus on what they will be learning in VBS.

If this sounds like the opportunity you have been looking for, you may contact Cheryl Taylor (VBS Director) at 218-738-2912 (text or call), or call the office at 320-763-4624 and talk with Ginger. Or look for sign-up sheets at church

Registration and additional information is included in this newsletter.

See you there!!

Registration Form

(One Per Child)

Child's name: _____ Child's gender: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address:

_____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

Parent/caregiver's cellphone: (_____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

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