

# *The Messenger*

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

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June 2011

Editor: Colleen Schutte

Dear Friends,

If you are reading this then it didn't happen as was predicted – again. Once again, Jesus' return has been pinpointed on the calendar. It was, according to the dire warnings, to have been last Saturday. I am writing this on Final Friday, so I don't actually know how it all turned out. But I am a bit unsure as to what I should do.

Should I contact the couple getting married tomorrow and tell them not to bother, that there's no sense in expending all this effort and spending all the money they are? I mean there's never any guarantee that a marriage will last, but it sounds like theirs might not even make it through the wedding ceremony itself! (But then there is that parable about the wedding feast and being ready for the bridegroom to show up at any time...hmm....)

Should I fight with Sunday's sermon, and try to hammer it into some kind of serviceable, deliverable, meaningful shape? Those of us, or should I say, you, who are still here on Sunday probably won't be in any frame of mind to listen anyway! And, who's going to preach it? (Sorry, wickedness like that probably guarantees that I will be!)

I've been a bit concerned that the Block Party might get rained out. Turns out rain is the least of our worries. Should we take the food back, cancel the band, put out an announcement that folks should just stay home and try to figure out why they are still at home – here? Or, maybe we just go ahead with it anyway. It might help take people's minds off their left-behind plight, at least for a little while, sort of like the string quartet playing on the deck of the Titanic after it hit the iceberg.

Have you noticed the raised garden beds southwest of the church building? What an impressive effort and project that has become. And people are planting stuff! Some of you! And some beyond-our-own-church people are coming too! It's fun to see the activity over there (though our dog Ozzie is not so sure). And I was looking forward to watching the green explosion slowly rise from those wooden frames. Too bad.

We just had our first session digging into the book [The Wisdom Jesus](#), by Cynthia Bourgeault, and it was delightful. It's sort of hard to believe that a truly wise Jesus would want to destroy such a promising start. And, with the brilliantly inquiring mind he had, wouldn't you think he'd want to encourage other inquiry, especially into his life and way and – truth?

And, after attending the training session last Sunday on the Imagine No Malaria campaign that the United Methodist Church is launching, I really was hoping we could engage as a church and make a difference, particularly for some children in sub-Saharan Africa who would actually have a chance to have a life, and themselves make a difference in this world, instead of barely getting a start and then dying because of a mosquito bite – a mosquito bite! It would've been a truly blessed endeavor, and a wonderful cause.

But, alas, none of it was or is to be... unless you are reading this.

Shalom, Jeff

## Parish News

### Hospitalized Recently. . .

Diane Strehlow—Douglas County

### Congratulations to. . .

Jim & Luverne Adams who will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary on June 3rd.

Jim and Cleo Carpenter who will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary on June 4th.

### Happy Birthday to. . .

Pauline Yff who will celebrate her 90th Birthday on June 11th.

Jim Adams who will celebrate his 90th Birthday on June 29th.



In your prayers, remember LaVonne Ahlstedt, Luella Beto, Lowell Gess, Barb Glanville, Marilyn Graczyk, Edith Laird, Tami Noding, Dan Olson

and Diane Strehlow.

The Northstar District Prayer Connection:

June 1-7 Peace UMC of Long Prairie

June 8-14 McGregor UMC

June 15-21 Menahga UMC

June 22-28 Mobile Ministry

June 29-July 5 Grace UMC of Moorhead

## Worship Attendance

	2011		2010	
	8:00	10:30	8:00	10:30
Apr. 24	192	194	74	114
May 1	56	92	77	107
May 8	89	115	95	144
May 15	85	115	70	111
May 22	79	125	52	97

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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

Michelle – Tue and Thu – 9:00-4:00

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 may be times when someone is in the office later than 1:00 p.m.

## Publication Date for the next *Messenger*:

is the last week of June. Articles submitted for the July issue need to be in the office by NOON on Monday, June 20th.

## **JUNE VOLUNTEERS**

### **Liturgists:**

8:00 June 5 & 12—Scott Cummins June 19 & 26—Jeanne Reed  
9:30 June 5 & 12—Bob Ritlinger June 19 & 26—Bob Swenson

### **Ushers:**

8:00 – Scott and Sheila Cummins, Rod Tabor  
9:30—Helen Glade, Chris Springman, Chuck Bollen, Phyllis Freier

### **Greeters:**

June 5 8:00—Linda Cole 9:30—Gerry & Betty Olson  
June 12 8:00—Carol Meyer 9:30—Sue Walker  
June 19 8:00—Ron & Kathy Reiber 9:30—Phil & Lois Zimmerschied  
June 26 8:00—Jerry & Jeanne Miller 9:30—Margaret Anderson

### **Coffee Servers:**

June 5—Graduate Reception  
June 12—Dave & Holly Blume, Duff & Paula DeReamer  
June 19—Blair & Sunny Wassengeso, Jim & Kathy Bridenstine  
June 26—Ron & Colleen Schutte, Chad & Kim Stender

### **Organists:**

June 5—Kirk Landman  
June 12—Gale Maxwell  
June 19—Kirk Landman  
June 26—

### **Nursery Workers:**

June 5—Amber Krienke  
June 12—Amber Krienke  
June 19—Amanda Winther  
June 26—Amber Krienke

The June issue of *The Messenger* is sponsored by  
Chuck and Brenda Bollen. Thank you!



Thank you to our 2011 Lawn Mowers/Grounds Crew:

Dennis Cin, Jerry Wilkens, Jerry Miller, Gary Carlson, Wes Smith  
Ron Schutte, Chad Stender, Brian Hastings, Tom Roos, Bruce Pohlig  
Greg Dropik, Ron Reiber, Mike Bartell, Ron Larson, Chuck Bollen  
Keith Nelson, Jeremy Scribner, Dave Nelson, Gary Becker  
John Heydt, Dennis Brede, Dave Nomsen, Tom DeWitt, Rick Glade

These guys have done a tremendous job this spring—trimming trees, loading brush, cleaning the winter accumulation of sand from the drive up area, filling and seeding the ruts along the sidewalk, and a general clean up of the grounds. . . and they have more projects they are going to be working on in the upcoming weeks.

Please let these people know how much they are appreciated—besides doing such a great job they are also saving Alex UMC about \$2,000 by mowing the church grounds. Our church property has never looked so good!!



U.M.W. Information. . .

**Unit Meeting**—Thursday,  
June 2nd, 7:30 pm.  
Program: Quilters in Prison.  
Hostess: Joy Circle (see  
related article elsewhere in  
the newsletter.)

**Circles:**

**Friends**—June 9th, Program: Speak-  
er from Someplace Safe.

**Joy**—June 16th, 9:30 AM at Donna  
Skalisky's home (1307 Ridgeview Terr.  
NE)

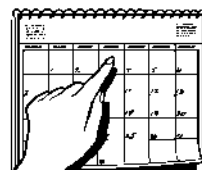
**Peace**—June 16th, 1:30 PM



Thank you for all the prayers for  
Lynne Sax. She has finished  
treatment and is doing well.

- Curt and Betty Sax

On Sunday, June 19th, we will receive a special offering for Peace With Justice Sunday. When you give for this special offering, you support ministries around the world to remove unjust systems and equip the victimized to live more fulfilled lives. Offering envelopes will be included in the bulletin, or you may mail your contribution to the church office with "Peace With Justice" noted in the memo section of your check.



Reminder. . .the monthly calendar is now part of the web page: [www.alexumc.org](http://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)
\$3,850	Parsonage roof

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

Thank you to the Brede family for sponsoring the April 14th bulletin and the Bollen family for sponsoring the June newsletter.

## UMC Safe Sanctuary

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church, in April 1996, first adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of child sexual abuse in the church.

**Purpose:** Our Alexandria United Methodist Church congregation's purpose for establishing this Safe Sanctuary Policy and accompanying procedures is to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all our parishioners.

**Statement of Covenant:** Therefore, as a Christian community of faith and a United Methodist congregation, we pledge to conduct the ministry of the gospel in ways that assure the safety and spiritual growth of all our parishioners; especially all children, youth and workers with children and youth.

We will follow reasonable safety measures (including a background check) in the selection and recruitment of paid and volunteer workers; we will implement prudent operational procedures in all programs and events; we will educate all of our workers with children and youth regarding the use of all appropriate policies and methods (including first aid and methods of discipline); we will ensure all paid staff having contact with and working with the congregation, children, and/or the public will be trained in personal boundaries and appropriate interactive behavior. We will have a clearly defined procedure for reporting a suspected incident of abuse that conforms to the requirements of state law; and we will be prepared to respond to media inquiries if any incident occurs.

**Conclusion:** In all of our ministries with our parishioners and especially with children and youth, this congregation is committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ so each parishioner, child and/or youth will be surrounded by steadfast love, established in faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. (Baptismal Covenant II, *United Methodist Hymnal*, p. 44)

Respectfully submitted,  
UMC Trustees

## Another Way To Support Alex UMC: Elden's Gift Card Program

Alexandria United Methodist Church is purchasing Elden's Gift Cards in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 at a 5% discount. You buy the cards at face value. By purchasing cards at 5% discount, Alex UMC will earn \$5 for every \$100 worth of cards purchased. The cards are the same as cash and have no expiration date.

Why do it? It costs you nothing and yet you are generating \$5 of income for Alex UMC with each \$100 you spend at Elden's. Cards are available at the church office during regular office hours (9:00-1:00) and most Sunday mornings between worship services.

NOTE: This purchase DOES NOT count as giving and will not appear on your contribution statement.

In the first two weeks of this program, \$82.50 of income was generated for Alex UMC!



### UMC New Parsonage Shingles:

Many thanks to Susan Brede for her excellent work managing the replacement of the UMC Parsonage roof. The new shingles were installed by David Koepp Roofing and have a 30-year limited guarantee, which exceeded the original specification of a 25-year limited guarantee. The cost of \$3,850 came in under the budget of \$5,000.

Respectfully submitted,  
UMC Trustees



Alex UMC served 42 guests at the May Community Breakfast. Thank you to those who donated their time and talent: Lisa Bowen, Brynne & Caris Pass, Bruce Pohlig, Shawn, Christine, Emma, Colin and Olivia Reilly, Alex Schmidt, Ken & Heidi Ryan, and Aaron, Brenda, Zach & Davyn Thomson. Thank you also to the families who donated: Pass/Bowen, Reilly, Ryan, Schutte and Springman. Please see the sign up sheets for the summer breakfasts scheduled for June 11, July 9 and August 13.

## All are invited to hear the Restorative Justice Program at UMW Meeting on June 2nd

The United Methodist Women will meet in the church fellowship hall on Thursday, June 2nd at 7:30 pm. Karol Bruggeman from Sauk Centre will present the program on Restorative Justice. She and several other women have been going to the St. Cloud State Prison twice a month for several years to teach quilt-making to inmates. Boyd Hupert from KARE 11 Television produced an 8-minute documentary about the women and their work with the prisoners and it will be shown as part of Karol's presentation. She plans to bring photos of some of the men and their projects and a finished quilt if possible.

The inmates take great pride in the quilts they produce and are pleased to be able to donate finished quilts to women's shelters, juvenile programs or for fundraising events sponsored by non-profit groups. Anyone interested is most welcome to attend — it will be a message well worth hearing. Karol will be pleased to accept donations of good quality cotton fabrics for quilting (yardage, not scraps please) or money that can be used to purchase needed batting and backing fabrics.



1 David Beck  
Jean Bristow  
Myrtle McKay  
Doris Thompson

2 Bob Swenson

3 Audra Bartell  
Bill Skalisky

4 Helen Glade  
Robert Mohawk

5 Katelin Roos  
Jerry Wilkens

6 Bonnie Anderson  
Dan McGinn  
Linda Mills

9 Virginia Ketter  
Ethan Melia  
Kyle Runnoe

10 Paul Gerdes  
Dillon Ruter  
Barb Venekamp

11 Roy Good, Sr.  
Pauline Yff

12 Elias Hanson  
Connie Springman  
Mary Wilkens

13 Mike Jost  
Roger Parks

14 Hannah Nelson

15 Ken Ferris  
Marlene Ritlinger  
Max Townsend

17 Adam Becker  
Evelyn Hertel  
Paul Peterson

19 Dave Nomsen

20 Tim Swanson

21 Sarah Nelson  
Bruce Pohlig

22 Chayce Meyer

23 Mary Glade  
Austin Mogler

24 Caris Pass

25 Holly Blume  
Janet Decko

26 Kayle Ruter

28 Michelle Jahnke  
Mike Merten

29 Jim Adams  
Nancy Carroll  
Trystan Hansen

30 Tim Christopherson  
Rachel Cummins  
Colin Ryan  
Bev Vikander



## ***Community Events***

**June 5** – An evening honoring all Douglas County cancer survivors and their caregivers— featuring guest speakers, a delicious dinner and an opportunity to meet other cancer survivors and their caregivers. Hosted by the Douglas County Relay for Life Committee at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center —5:00-5:30 pm is registration and social hour—5:30 is dinner and program. Dinner is free for survivors and \$10 for guest. Please RSVP by Wednesday, June 1st. Questions and RSVP can be directed to Tara Gimbel at 320-491-2530.

**June 5**—Merry Schmidt Medical Benefit Waffle Feed—sponsored by the Alexandria Evening and Carlos Lions Clubs— Carlos Town Hall from 9:00-1:00—Adults are \$7, children 6-12 are \$3.50, 5 and under are free.

**June 23**—”Living Life To The Fullest” presented by Douglas County TRIAD (consisting of law enforcement, public health, senior citizens and other service providers to educate seniors about fraud, assist with problem solving, and identify senior community needs) at St. Mary’s Education Center beginning at 9:00 AM with Registration/Coffee/Visit Vendors. Free and open to the public. Pre-register on or before June 10th to be eligible for a special prize drawing. To pre-register contact Kathy Krueger at 320-762-3047, email at [mary.krueger@mail.co.douglas.mn.us](mailto:mary.krueger@mail.co.douglas.mn.us); or email Kathy Fischer at [kfischer@stmaryalexandria.org](mailto:kfischer@stmaryalexandria.org). If leaving a message or sending an email, please provide name(s), telephone number and say you are planning to attend the Living Life to the Fullest workshop. For a list of topics to be discussed, see the flyer on the bulletin board across from the furnace room. Lunch will be provided free for ages 55+. Free blood pressure screenings will be available during registration and breaks.

**July 4th Weekend**—Lake Koronis Camp grounds is offering special camping packages—they include comfortable lodging, delicious and abundant meals, access to all of their amenities and the Jon Vezner Concert that will be taking place on the camp grounds. The weekend can be as action packed or as laid back as you’d like it to be. For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board across from the furnace room.

**July 2-8**—Key Ministries Annual Educational/Historical Tour of Washington, D.C. (Including Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks). All ages welcome! Some of the tour sites included: WWII Memorial, Viet Nam Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, NASA Museum, National Art Gallery, Smithsonian Museums of Natural and American History, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Holocaust Museum, Arlington Cemetery, Capitol, White House, Library of Congress, National Archives, Botanical Gardens, American Indian Museum, Union Station, and more! Cost is \$295 (includes motorcoach transportation, lodging including motel stay en route each way, sightseeing and most meals). Special rates for couples and families. To register, send name, address and phone number with \$50 per person deposit to: Key Ministries, PO Box 152, Glenwood, MN 56334. Questions? Call 320-634-3698 or 320-241-7620.