



The Messenger

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

Gary Taylor – email: pastorgary@alexumc.org

Office: 320-763-4624 – email: office@alexumc.org

Website: www.alexumc.org

February 2019

Editor: Ginger Mayer

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Grace and Peace be with you.

“All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 2:27-28 CEB) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.” (Galatians 5:22-23 CEB)

Nearly 51 years ago Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. He was at the pinnacle of his prophetic work of calling the United States of America learn and grow into a country where ALL people are created equal, where ALL can live and pursue life, liberty and justice. 51 years have passed and the USA has made progress but can we honestly say ALL are truly free? Over the last 5 to 10 years, movements like Black Lives Matter, the Occupy Movement, LGBTQ/marriage equality movement, and, just this weekend, the Womxn Marches teach us that we still have a way to go. The injustices that still occur in our society and around the world are numerous and too many to list here.

As I write this, I remind myself that I am one of the privileged ones in our society. I am, as I sometimes refer to myself, “an old, white, (relatively) wealthy man”. I was born a white male with all of the privilege that comes with it. I don’t know what it is like to be a woman, or African-American, or Native-American, or poor. It sometimes takes me a while to realize and understand what others have to go through in our society that I take for granted. I pray that God’s Spirit will teach me what I need to learn and unlearn.

In Acts 2:42-47 we read about the earliest community of followers of Jesus. Luke, the writer of Acts, tells us that the believers devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to the community they formed, to sharing meals together, and to their prayers. These believers shared everything. We are told that those who had plenty sold what they had to give to those in need so that no one lacked.

In his letter to the churches in Galatia, Paul says that we are all one in Christ and the things that divide us, these human constructs (yes, there are biological gender differences but the social norms around gender are human generated), are not God’s will. Paul also says that there are numerous benefits to that unity (see above) and those benefits should extend to the way we treat each other and those we often see as “other”.

Jesus, when asked what the greatest commandment was, said, “The most important one is ‘Listen, Israel! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You will love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31 CEB)

I guess what I am trying to say is that as followers of Jesus, those of us who have privilege in society need to do all we can, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to understand that privilege, realize our instinct to hold on to that privilege, let it go, and become one with ALL our sisters and brothers in Christ. In an email I received today, Rev. Lee Ann M. Pomrenke writes, “We are indeed all meant to be one in Christ but let us not lie about the fact that we do not yet live like it. We must notice difference in order to stand against discrimination or oppression based on race, sexuality, gender, disabilities or other characteristics.”

Justice for ALL is not only important for our society, it is important to the Reign of God. I am not sure that this article has properly stated what I feel about this and I am afraid I have only scratched the surface.

May the Spirit of God work in us, change us, and reveal to us the true nature of life in Christ for ALL.

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 someone is in the office earlier than 9:00 a.m. and later than 1:00 p.m.

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Telephone (320) 763-4624**

www.alexumc.org

Pastor: Gary Taylor

email: pastorgary@alexumc.org

Administrative Assistant: Ginger Mayer

email: office@alexumc.org

Director of Children’s Ministries: Kayla
Brunkow

email: kayla@alexumc.org

Director of Youth Ministries: Brenda
Thomson

email: brenda@alexumc.org

Office Hours

Pastor Gary—Tue-Friday

Admin. Assist. Ginger Mayer— Mon-Tue-
Wed-Thurs-Fri

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

Kayla—Tue (8:00-2:00)

Wed (11:00-5:00), Thurs (9:00-12:00)

Brenda—Wed (5:30—8:30)

Publication Date for the next *Messenger*:

is the last week of March
Articles for the March issue
need to be in the office by
NOON on Friday February 18th.

Worship Attendance

Service	2019		2018	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Jan 6	49	65	49	76
Jan 13	44	78	70	67
Jan 20	48	37	51	63
Jan 27	51	55	48	57



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 peace.

FEBRUARY 2019 YOUTH MINISTRY NEWSLETTER



Our re-scheduled date for the Lock-In will be February 22nd from 7 pm to 7 am. We will also be going bowling!! There will be food, games and other activities.

Let Brenda know if you are interested!!

February 10th at 11:30 is our annual Soup'r Sundae fundraiser. Anyone is welcome to bring a soup to share or simply attend and enjoy. Ice cream is provided. All proceeds go to camperships for our children and youth. Camperships are open to children and youth that attend a Christian camp. They are awarded on a first come, first serve basis.



Come and join our monthly group in the lounge called *Stuff N' Things – Middle School & Beyond*. We meet the 1st Sunday of the month from 9:15-10:15. Food will be available! The dates left for this school year are: February 3, March 3, April 7, & May 5. Stop in and check it out!!

It's Back with a **!!** The Youth are hosting a **FREE Parent's MORNING Out** on Saturday, Feb. 16th from 9:00-11:00!! Snack, games and crafts will be provided. Youth are needed to help with the event!! Let Brenda know if you are available!!



We will continue to use Remind for our notifications. I encourage you to sign up for the free app if you have not already instead of the texting option, especially if you are a Verizon customer. Information is on the bulletin board or contact Brenda with questions.

We are looking for volunteers to sign up to provide meals for Wednesday night meals. The new meal sign up sheet and suggestion cards are in the Narthex!!





Children's MINISTRY

Camp Sunday



Mark your calendars for February 10th! We will kickoff the camping registration season with children singing during the 10:30 a.m. worship service followed by our annual Soup'r Sundae Lunch fundraiser. Please see page 5 for more details.

All children and youth attending a Christian camp this summer are eligible to receive a campership. Camperships are awarded on a first come, first serve basis. Children and youth are eligible to receive funds equal to half the cost of their camp registration, up to \$125. Camp Minnesota brochures and Campership Applications will be available beginning on Camp Sunday.

Super Bowl Event

On February 3rd, during Sunday School, we will have a special lesson on Teamwork and hear about how we all have a part to play in the body of Christ. We will then have cookie decorating and several Football Minute To Win It games. The WHOLE family is invited to attend!



Family Game Night



Join us on Friday, February 8th for Family Game Night! Supper will be provided at 5:30 p.m. We will then play a variety of games together. Bring your favorite board

Sunday School

In February we start our final unit of our winter curriculum, *Family Wisdom*. We will explore family wisdom and seek to appreciate what we can learn from our families and our family of faith.



Schedule:

- Feb. 3rd - *Family Supper Bowl Event*
- Feb. 10th - Family Traditions
- Feb. 17th - A Family's Faith
- Feb. 24th - Family Proverbs

Bible Verse:

"Love the Lord you God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength."

Deuteronomy 6:5

Offering:

We will be collecting supplies to assemble Birthday Bags for students in need at Woodland Elementary. Children may bring in a monetary offering that will go towards purchasing these supplies. Or, they may bring in cake mixes, frosting, candles, various



Wednesday Nights

Our 3rd - 5th grade students will continue to GRAPPLE with some big questions on Wednesday evenings. A meal is provided at 5:30 p.m. followed by worship and small group activities that wrap up at 7:30 p.m.

- Feb. 6th *Where Did God Come From?*
- Feb. 13th *How Can God Be Everywhere?*
- Feb. 20th *Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen?*



Camp Sunday is February 10th!



Join us on February 10th as we kickoff the camping registration season. Leslie Hobson, Director at Northern Pines Camp & Retreat Center, will be here with information from Camp Minnesota. She will have brochures and be able to share with you what the Minnesota Annual Conference has to offer for camping opportunities... and they're not just for kids! Leslie will share with the children during Children's Time at both worship services and also share her message, *The Power of Camp*, with the congregation. Following the second worship service (at approximately 11:30 a.m.) we will have our annual Soup'r Sundae Lunch fundraiser. There will be a variety of soups, bread, ice cream and sundae toppings with a free will offering. All proceeds will go towards camperships for our children and youth who attend Christian camps during the summer of 2019. Your generosity on Camp Sunday has helped so many children and youth attend these camps! In 2018, we had 12 children and youth attend camp and we were able to award them \$1400 in camperships. Even if you can't attend the Soup'r Sundae Lunch there are still ways you can help support Camp Sunday. Prayerfully consider providing a soup for the lunch that can be dropped off at church ahead of time. Or, place a check in the offering plate with "Camperships" marked in the memo line.

THANK YOU

Thank You: The last week of December we delivered the winter clothing you donated to United Way.—31 adult coats, 3 pairs of kids boots, 11 pairs of gloves, and 17 hats. We will never know those that now have a warm coat to wear, gloves to warm their hands, and will never know the individual who provided them. As you read this; say a short prayer asking that God bless and keep them safe and warm as they snuggle into the clothing you provided .

February Volunteers

Liturgists:

8:00 Feb. 3 & 10 Tom DeWitt

8:00 Feb. 17 & 24 Scott Johnston

10:30 Feb. 3 & 10 Bruce Jordan

10:30 Feb. 17 & 24 Marsha Haugen

Ushers:

8:00 Carol Meyer, Scott & Vicki Johnston

10:30 Greg & Lars Dropik, Rolly & Kay Kortlever

Greeters:

Feb 3 8:00—Keith & Karen Nelson

10:30—Mike & Jean Bristow

Feb. 10 8:00—Ron & Kathy Reiber

10:30—Chuck & Sharon Holm

Feb. 17 8:00—Tom & Lind DeWitt

10:30—Dennis & Arlyn Cin

Feb. 24 8:00—Brad & Kayla Brunkow

10:30—Jim & Marge Jensen

Coffee Servers:

Feb 3 John & Sue Helgeson, Beth & Kevin Jansen

Feb 10 Scott & Cindy Schlapkohl, Viva Lelm

Feb. 17 Tom & Linda DeWitt, Dave & Mel Nomsen

Feb 24 Kevin & Kristie Brezina, Eric & Mary Carpenter

Organists/Pianists:

Feb 3. Gale Maxwell

Feb 17. Kirk Landman

Feb 10. Kristen Wilson

Feb 24. Lonnie Kriel

Nursery Workers:

Feb 3 TBD

Feb. 10 Karen Murphy

Feb 17 TBD

Feb. 24 Karen Murphy

Acolytes:

Feb 3 8:00—Desiree Galbraith & Kole Bert Feda 10:30—Brookelyn Scriber & Dari Meyer

Feb 10 8:00—Rachel Kor & Abby Kor 10:30—Lars Dropik

Feb 17 8:00—Olivia & Izzy Bartell 10:30—Lars Dropik

Feb 24 8:00—Nathan Brunkow 10:30—Izabella, Kaylee & Bryce Vogt

THANK YOU

What a smashing success!!! Thanks to all of you that have saved punch cards from Elden's we have secured, to date, 17 sets of flatware which are being donated to the Caring and Sharing Room. This means that as 17 families enter into new housing and are in need of kitchen items, they will get a high quality set for four of flatware. The volunteers at Caring and Sharing are very appreciate and express the thanks of all their recipients. If you would like more information on the Caring and Sharing Room, feel free to contact Carol Meyer. Thanks again for your support.

2 Preston Kunkel

Dan Olson

Aaron Thomson

4 Mitch Hruby

5 Madalyn Gimbel

Deb Vikander

6 Amy Balcome

7 Jackson Cavers

Brian Koehn

8 Adam Pitcher

9 Ryan DeReamer

Betty Sax

10 Maurine Hamelau

February

12 Chris Springman

Eliett Cummins

13 Eden Phillips

14 Alice Emmert

15 John Heydt

16 Chuck Bollen

Ron Larson

17 Gary Seiler

18 Otto Freier

19 Adam Cummins

Alden Mattocks



20 Jennifer Heydt

Lee Moench

22 Aubree Miller

23 Nicole Witt

24 Deb Parrot

27 Allea Balcome

28 G. J. Schmid

Pat Sherman

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:15 Christian Education & Adult Discipleship 9:15 Sunday School Family Super bowl event	4 5:30 AV meeting in Sanctuary	5 9:30 B & P 11:30 Staff Meeting 2:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study 4:30 Book Study	6 5:30 Supper and Praise 6:20 3rd-5th Activities 6:20 Youth Group 7:30 Youth Team	7 4:30 Adult Discipleship	8	9
10 Camp Sunday 8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:15 Christian Education & Discipleship 9:15 Suff n things	11	12 9:30 B & P 9:30 Coffee Group 11:30 Staff Meeting 2:00 Prayer Group	13 5:30 Missions 5:30 Trustees 5:30 Supper and Praise 6:20 3rd-5th Activities 6:20 Confirmation	14 6:30 Church Council	15	16 9:00 Parents Morning Out
17 8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:15 Preschool-5th Grade Sunday School &	18	19 9:30 B & P 11:30 Staff Meeting 2:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study	20 5:30 Supper and Praise 6:20—3rd-5th Activities 6:20 Youth Group	21	22 7pm-7am Lock-In	23
24 8:00 Worship 9:00 Coffee Fellowship 9:15 Preschool—5th Grade Sunday School & Adult Discipleship	25	26 9:30 B & P 11:30 Staff Meeting 2:00 Prayer Group 3:00 Bible Study 4:30 Book Study	27 5:30 Supper and Praise 6:20 3rd-5th Activities 6:20 Youth	28		