

Alexandria United Methodist Church August 4, 2024 ~ Communion Sunday

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Year B, Gospel of Mark



Order of Service *stand as you are able, in body and/or spirit

Prayer and Invocation

Greeting, Welcome

Congregational Hymn TFWS # 2152 *Change My Heart, O God*

Psalms 78:23-29, read responsively

Lectio Divina, Isaiah 43:1

Scripture Lesson, Ephesians 4:1-16

Selah - a time to pause

Offering on Scripture

Service of Word and Table, follow along, pages 2-5

Blessing and Benediction

***Sending Hymn**, TFWS #2260 *Let Us Be Bread*

Postlude

Today's 'Sunday Ministry' Team ~ Thank you for your ministry!

Officiant: Pr. Amy VanValkenburg Liturgist: Heidi Ryan Lay Leaders: Scott Garvin and Chuck Holm
Greeter/Ushers: Arlana Langner and Sharon Slack Worship Team: Janet Eisele, pianist; Deb Parrott,
Guitar; Vocals: Scott Garvin, Sue Walker Tech: Ginger Mayer, Sawyer VanValkenburg, *YouTube*;
Thomas VanValkenburg, A/V Fellowship: Viva Lelm; Ron & Kathy Reiber Bulletin/Slides: Ginger
Mayer & Pr. Amy



A Service of Word and Table

All communion bread is gluten free.

Christ our Lord invites all to The Table.

Prayers of the People

Offering of Peace

Call to the Feast

Reader: We gather here from many communities of faith, from many different points on a faith journey.

People: **We come with a hunger for connection and a thirst for justice.**

Reader: Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. You who come to me, shall not hunger; you who listen to me and believe, shall not thirst."

People: **Together, with all who hunger and thirst, we come to this table to know Christ in the sharing of the bread and the cup. As we gather at Your table, as we listen to Your Word, help us know, Your Presence, let our hearts and minds be stirred.**

Reader: Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this Holy Banquet how to make Love's victory known.

People: **Turn our worship into witness in the Sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.**

Reader: Give us, Christ, Your Great Compassion to forgive as You forgave;

People: **May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

Reader: Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where Triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.

All: **There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

Time of Generosity (tithes and offering)

Doxology, #95 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow,*

Offertory Prayer

Pardon and Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: We have the assurance of the God of Hope that though we are unworthy, we are valued; though we have hurt people, we are forgiven; though we have violated our own integrity, we are accepted. There is nothing we can do or say or think or feel or remember that will alienate us from God's love through Jesus Christ, our Savior. So we may confess with openness and with courage:

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: In the fragile honesty of this hour,

All: we would open our hearts to You, O God,

Pastor: and also to ourselves,

All: to see things about ourselves that are hard to acknowledge.

Pastor: We have been obsessed with status in its many forms, and with the passion to be approved; we have closed our eyes to the impact of our behaviors –

All: things we have done, and especially things we have not done;

Pastor: We have not been true to ourselves or to You.

All: As You have forgiven and accepted us, we ask that the newness of life that is ours may flourish anew. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution, Pr. Amy

All: Holy and Gracious God, we give thanks for your Beloved Child, Jesus, and everything that He offered and taught. We give thanks that He refused to stay dead. We remember His brokenness when we feel broken and we remember His Resurrection when we feel healed...we remember and so we come together to celebrate love and our diversity in this meal.

One: O God, may Your Spirit come and hover over this table; may Your Grace and our faith dance here over these elements, these simple gifts, that are sacred of bread and cup.

All: Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again. Thank you God, for this meal, refresh us, as we continue to seek to do Your work in the world, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Reader: Pour out Your Spirit on us

People: Pour out Your Spirit on us

Reader: Pour out Your Spirit on these gifts

People: Pour out Your Spirit on these gifts

Reader: Make these gifts the Body and Blood of Christ

People: Make us, through them, Christ's body alive in the world.

Reader: Turn our worship into witness in the Sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve You, bringing peace where there is strife.

People: Be our daily bread.

Reader: Come, Holy Spirit!

People: Send us to the world.

Reader: And now, with confidence of beloved children of God, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, forever. Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Bread of Life

Cup of Life

United Methodists practice an ‘open table’, meaning all are welcome – any age, any person – **ALL ARE WELCOME!** The ushers release people in order to prevent congestion and then people make their way to the chancel to receive bread and juice. Feel free to receive Communion standing or kneeling and feel free to respond in the way that feels right to you...when you come to The Table, you may hear the pastor or Communion steward say the words above. Some people like to say “Amen” ~ any loving response, including silence, is a good one. In the Great Thanksgiving, we ask the Holy Spirit to be poured on us and on the gifts of bread and wine we offer. We ask for the Spirit's outpouring to make the bread and wine be for us the body and blood of Christ so we, who receive them, may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood. We believe God answers this prayer "Yes," and the Spirit does all these things. Christ is really present here, and Christ's presence really changes us.

Communion meditation: *Peaceful Piano #5, Peaceful Piano #2*

Acknowledgements

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Announcements

Celebration of Life for Rolly Kortlever Monday, August 5 at 2:00 p.m. with a visitation one hour prior at the Alexandria UMC. There will also be a visitation on Sunday, August 4 from 4:00-6:00 at the Anderson Funeral Home. Please hold Kay and the whole family in your hearts and prayers.

Wood Fire Oven, August 7, 2024, 4:30-7:00 p.m. Non-profits: Alex Boys/Girls Cross Country and UCANN Visit us online at <http://alexandriacommunitywoodfired.com/> or through the Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/UMCWoodFired>

Friends Gathering will be hosted by Pr. Amy on the patio at the parsonage on August 15, 9am, All are welcome!

Joy Circle: Our next gathering will be Sept 19, at 9:30 a.m.

Family Camp - August 20-25 - ALL AGES!!! Family Camp - Registration allows for all kinds of ways to enter into time together - come one day or come two, come for the week - what works for you? It's an incredible way to share fun and faith together! Grandkids & grandparents encouraged! Pr. Amy leads Family Camp with Pr. Christa Forsythe and Youth Leader,

Janelle Eisenbacher (Immanuel Lutheran, Atwater). Consider coming at least for a day! Complete the registration form and submit it to our office with payment no later than July 25. If you are considering Family Camp but funds are not available, scholarships available. We want every family to have this amazing opportunity!

Sermon Series beginning September 2024. Pr. Amy will begin a *never-been-done* at Alex UMC sermon series, “Enough”. With many opportunities for dialogue and beginning this September, we hope you will join us for this series that wraps up in early January. Together, we will endeavor to look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy!

Alexandria UMC VBS 2024 43:1 *Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.* One more Summer VBS Event: Wednesday, August 14, 6:00-7:30 at Brophy Park. Preschool – Grade 6 We will share a meal, a short Bible lesson, craft, game, and take time to enjoy all our location has to offer. If the weather is rainy, we will move Brophy Park gatherings to the church. Whether you can make it to one, two, or all events, we will be happy to see you there! All are welcome - no need to register. We ask that parents of preschoolers stay onsite to help supervise their child(ren).

Alex UMC Weekly Calendar, subject to change
updates at <http://www.alexumc.org/weekly-calendar>
Our address: 2210 Sixth Avenue E, Alexandria, MN 56308

Mon 8/5

Office hours 9a.m. – 1p.m.
10:30 a.m. Ecumenical Bible Study,
Windmill Ponds Chapel – all welcome
Pastor's office hours 1-4p.m.

Tues 8/6

Office hours 9a.m. – 1p.m.
Pastor's office hours 1-4p.m.
9:30 a.m. Brush & Palette
6:30 p.m. Ala-non, Lounge

Wed 8/7

Office hours 9a.m. – 1p.m.
4:30 p.m. to 7:00 pm Pizza Night
7pm Bricks to Bread prep

Thurs 8/8

Office hours 9a.m. – 1p.m.
Bricks to Bread bake & pick up

Fri 8/9

Offices are closed on Fridays.

Sat 8/10

5 pm Worship Team Practice

Sun 8/11

9 am Worship

Contact us:

Pr. Amy's office hours are subject to change. It works best to contact her directly for appts or visits: 320-309-5574, pastor@alexumc.org . No Friday appointments.

Main Office – Office Hours, M-Th, 9am – 1pm, Ginger, Phone: 320-763-4624, Email: office@alexumc.org

Treasurer, Cori Lecy, 1-507-829-6865, finance@alexumc.org.

For online giving opportunities, go to www.alexumc.org and select "visit the giving page" in the left-hand navigation or scan this QR code:



Let's stay connected! All, including members, are encouraged to sign the blue books in the pews; include your contact information and let us know if you have any requests or if you would like the pastor to contact you.