



The Messenger

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

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Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Vision: To Grow and Live in the Spirit of Christ

June 2018

Editor: Kali Kaeter

A Note from Pastor Craig

As most of you probably know I am moving from Alexandria to Ely at the end of July to become the pastor at Ely United Methodist Church. While I will still be your pastor for another two full months, my time with you as your interim pastor is swiftly drawing to a close.

This means what you are now reading is my second to the last The Messenger “pastor’s page.” Several months ago, as I started thinking about what I wanted to say during these last two opportunities to write, I rather quickly decided I would return to my two favorite themes. Next month I will say “thank you” (and goodbye). Here I will mention once again the joy and possibility of people coming together as a group to be part of something that matters (unity for a shared purpose).

I was going to mention in some detail the extraordinary example of nine American men who came together as a team to win the 1936 Olympic Gold Medal in rowing, a story told in the remarkable book *The Boys in the Boat*. This is an inspiring saga of the thrill of accomplishing something difficult in an endeavor where teamwork is everything. Rather than mention a historical example, which occurred before many of you were born, I want to highlight three moving stories happening in 2018 that include Minnesotans.

- This week the Minnesota Lynx season began their 2018 season in defense of their 2017 WNBA championship. The most successful women’s professional basketball team during the past decade, they will be pursuing their fifth championship in the last eight years. The signature of the team under coach Cheryl Reeve is high quality stars setting aside individual aspirations for the good of the team. The theme of Jim Souhan’s May 18, 2018 column in the Star Tribune entitled *Selfless Lynx are Talent Magnets* is how high-quality players throughout the league desire to come to Minnesota to play for the Lynx in order to be on a team that works together to excel.
- Minnesota’s Jesse Diggins was one of two women on a gold-medal cross-country skiing relay team at the recent Winter Olympics in South Korea. As she began to blossom as a world-class athlete she chose to visit a sports psychologist to gain assurance that entering individual events rather than her preferred relay races wasn’t being selfish. For Diggins accomplishing something as a team brings her a greater sense of accomplishment than does winning as an individual.
- I attended Cook High School from 1966 to 1972, during which our fiercest athletic rival was Orr High School. This meant a losing season in basketball was considered a success if we defeated the Orr Braves. My family spent eight and one-half years in Orr from 1993 to 2001, with both boys graduating there. Orr’s biggest rival? You guessed it, the Cook Little Gophers! The two schools merged about ten years ago. Both buildings were abandoned and a new school, Northwoods School, was built between Cook and Orr. The two schools and communities have come together with the Grizzlies sporting powerhouse athletic teams in both girl’s and boy’s sports. The boys’ basketball team was the runner-up the past two years at the class A Minnesota state boys championship. The former Braves and Little Gophers athletes and fans found how supremely fulfilling it is to come together to win as the Grizzlies.

The reason I'm mentioning this is because what is becoming increasingly apparent to me is how much each of you love and care for our church. We've moved here from different areas of Minnesota and beyond and have varying educational and work histories. Some of us vote primarily for Democratic candidates, others primarily for Republicans. We have a variety of personal temperaments when it comes to the nature and pace of social change. We have diverse understandings of Christian faith. Yet we all love our church.

Many of our differences have to do with our personal view of the world. For the past fifteen or twenty years "worldview" has become a popular topic in both conservative and liberal seminaries. The theory is each of us have a "worldview," formed by our experience and the groups/"tribes" we've been a part of.

Sometimes what emerges is individuals seeking to establish how/why their worldview (whether liberal or conservative) is superior to others and why their personal convictions/commitments are more valid. This generally leads to acrimony.

My view is few people's worldviews (conservative or liberal) change through persuasion. Further, if I understand Jonathan Haidt's argument in *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*, people with different worldviews are gifts to each other. Barry Johnson makes the same point in *Polarity Management: Identifying and Managing Unsolvable Problems*.

I've gone on far, far longer here than I intended. As with Sunday sermons! I wanted to provide some theoretical background to my personal observations.

The long and short of it: Our church is made up of members with a stunning level and variety of gifts and a high capacity for getting things done. We've had our moments where worldviews have clashed, feelings have been bruised, and anxiety has gone up. It sure seems to me the "needle has moved" in our church, not so much in a "live and let live because differences don't matter" direction, but to a "let's see how we can work together because we all love our church and there is so much opportunity here/we individually have so much to offer."

This cooperation and energy I've seen here during the past year has been my greatest joy as your pastor and is also my greatest hope for our future.

I hope you have a blessed and joyous month of June!

Pastor Craig

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Custodian: Denise Dropik

Organists/Pianists: Alli Prestby

Nursery: Karen Murphy and Emma Reilly

Worship Attendance

Service	2018		2017	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
April 29	68	66	68	103
May 6	73	132	55	77
May 13	61	65	62	172
May 20	61	66	55	83

Office Hours

Pastor Craig — M-W-F
(9:00-1:00)

T-Thurs (9:00-1:00)

Kali — Mon-Tue-Wed-Thurs-Fri
Office is open (9:00-1:00)
Kayla — Tuesday (9:00-3:00)
Wednesday (11:00-5:00)
Thursday (9:30-2:30)
Brenda — Wed (5:30—8:30)
Thurs (12:00-4:00)

Reminder that we are following our Safe Sanctuary 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 before 9:00 a.m. and later than 1:00 p.m.

Parish News

Happy Birthday to:

Janet Decko, who will be celebrating her 85th birthday on June 25th!

Caryl White has moved! New address: 1220 Nokomis St. #143, Alexandria, MN 56308. Phone Number 759-3450.



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.



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.

Publication Date for the next Messenger:

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

CARE TEAM VISITORS are available to provide personal support to church members in times of special need.

These may include hospitalization, rehabilitation, family crisis, or senior home visitation. The CARE TEAM is a compassionate, volunteer ministry of our congregation. Call the church office to request a visit (763-4624).

Road/Ditch Clean Up: The spring road/ditch clean up was done on April 28th. Thank you to Ken & Joan Voigt, Rick Christensen, Dave Nelson, Steve Vincent, Eric, Mary & Jack Carpenter and Sharon Holm. A special thank you to Pastor Craig for providing the cookies and bars.

—Missions & Social Concerns Team.



The Missions Team has decided to suspend the Mission Collection Center in the Narthex. In the past this box has collected Campbell's Soup Labels, Box Tops for Education, pop tabs, eye glasses and more. Some of these programs have changed or been discontinued. The Missions Team has removed the box while they work on their vision for updating the program. We appreciate all those who faithfully saved and donated items!

Community Wood Fired Oven Events: Visit our website for more information. www.alexumc.org

May 30, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Musician: Greg, Jim & Tad Trio

Sponsored: Alexandria Youth Hockey

June 27, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Musician: Kevin Klimek Group

Sponsored: United Way

July 25, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Musician: Anthony Miltich Music

Sponsored: Youth Baseball

August 22, 2018 at 5:00 Musician: TBD

June 13, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Musician: Michael Shynes Music

Sponsored: Food Shelf & Girls Summer Basketball

July 11, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Musician: Todd Wahl Music

Sponsored: Alexandria Soccer

August 8, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Musician: Jackson Burns Music

Sponsored: Habitat for Humanity

Sponsored: Alexandria High School Football Team

FAMILY VBS

Family VBS is returning to Alexandria UMC this summer! It will be held from 5:30PM to approximately 7:30PM on June 24th & 25th and July 1st & 2nd.

This year's theme is Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus.

Families will go on an imaginary island adventure where they will discover how Jesus rescues them through life's storms. We will have incredible Bible-learning experiences through storytelling, cool Bible songs, fun games, and exciting crafts. Parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors are invited to join us Family VBS! It is open to the community and free to everyone.



There are several opportunities for youth and adults to get involved with Family VBS.

These opportunities are posted in the Narthex. You can sign-up to serve one, two, three, or all four nights! We need help with games, crafts, and meal preparation.

Please contact Kayla Brunkow, Director of Children's Ministries, if you have any questions.



Dr Gess's Latest Books: Lowell has been writing books again publishing two more in 2018.

Free copies of his new companion books, "Tender Moments in Ministry", stories from his long life of ministry, and a devotional, "Tender Moments in Scripture" are available in the narthex.

He invites you to take complimentary copies as a thank you for the support the Kissy Eye Hospital in Sierra Leone has received from the Alexandria United Methodist Church.

Note: Please indicate on the clipboard by the books that you received copies. The books are free, but donations to the eye hospital are appreciated.



Kitchen Cupboards: Have you made your kitchen "fresher" in the last 48 years? If so, many of you can understand the need for us to freshen up the kitchen here at the Alexandria UMC. Many years of opening the doors and carts bumping have lead to areas that need resurfacing. We have found a person that will accomplish this. He will sand and refinish the doors and the surrounding areas. The cost should be less than \$400 but it is not in the budget. If you would like to help pay for this update, please put "cupboards" in the memo portion of the check. We will begin the project when funds are raised. Thank you!

Alexandria Senior Center: is in urgent need of drivers for their Meals on Wheels. If interested, please call 762-4280.



Graduation
Please join us on Sunday, June 3rd as we congratulate our graduates.



TRUST FUND DONATIONS

Save taxes and benefit
Alexandria United Methodist Church

Support Alexandria United Methodist Church with an IRA Charitable Rollover.

If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to Alexandria United Methodist Church.

Here are the benefits:

1. Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.
2. Avoid taxes by making a direct distribution to Alexandria United Methodist Church Trust Fund.
3. Support Alexandria United Methodist Church.



Koronis Ministries, located just outside Paynesville, is one of two United Methodist campgrounds in the Minnesota Annual Conference. This camp ministry is in the process of replacing the original Tabernacle, which was the focal point of the camp for many years. This was where people committed or recommitted their lives to Christ and made decisions for Christian service.

Koronis Ministries hopes to have the new Tabernacle completed for the 2019 camping season. They have 1.5 million dollars committed to the project and will begin construction when gifts and pledges near the two million dollar mark. They now come to churches and individuals in our Annual Conference asking for support to complete the project.

If you are interested in contributing to this project please contact the church office. You can find more information by visiting www.koronisministries.org, scrolling down, and clicking on the "Continuing the Vision" tab on the right hand side of the page. There is also a five minute testimonial video ("Continuing the Vision"), where Dr. Lowell Gess from our congregation is one of the persons featured. The video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/260791177>.

Rummage Sale Results: The spring rummage sale cleared \$949 which will go to support United Methodist Women's mission projects locally, state and world wide.
Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible.
The next sale in the fall will be Saturday, September 15.



Thank You: Alden Mattocks would like to thank everyone for their contribution and help towards Eleanor's memorial service.



Children's MINISTRY

Alexandria UMC

As I reflect on the passing school year, I am deeply grateful for the many people (in addition to our teachers) who give so consistently to the Children's Ministry program. There are so many individuals sharing their gifts to help plant spiritual seeds, share the Gospel, and deepen children's faith. None of this would be possible without your support as members of the congregation or without our faithful Children's Ministry Team members (Audra Bartell, Abby Bray, Tess Evink, Maria Schlapkohl, and Kim Tryggeseth). Thank you! Truly, I am grateful for each one of you! Your efforts matter. Your prayers matter. Your faithfulness to Children's Ministry matters.



We had a great year filled with new learnings, new opportunities, hearty laughter, and many memorable moments. We kicked off the year with our 150th Celebration, Bible presentation, and Blessing of the Backpacks. In Sunday school we went on weekly adventures to hear about Hannah, Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon. Then we heard the stories Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and finally the transformation of the Apostle Paul. We also started our regular Wednesday evening program by digging right into our Learning to Use My Bible class. We talked about every book of the Bible, learned how to look up scripture references, and how the Bible is divided into different literature groups such has History, Poetry, and Letters. We had our Annual Pie Auction Fundraiser

and first ever Family Thanksgiving Potluck where we had various projects for families. These were followed by Advent activities for the entire family and

heard about *Songs of the Christmas Stories*.

The first of the year brought new topics on respect and friendship to Wednesday evenings, deeper connections among the kids and our Annual Soup'r Sundae Lunch on Camp Sunday. We have 12 children and youth who have received camperships to attend various Christian camps this summer. We had churchwide Lent activities where children explored the stories of Holy Week and created vibrant banners for sanctuary. We also held our Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt where we welcomed almost 100 kids from the church and community.

Lastly, our Sunday school offering brought in more than \$700 for organizations including Heifer International, our own Angel Tree, The Shelf at Discovery Middle School, and Kids Fighting Hunger. In March, a group of 31 adults and children went and packed more than 4,000 meals that were sent to Sierra Leone.

Thank you again for all you do to support our Children's Ministry program here at Alexandria UMC, but also for serving in the numerous other ministries of the church that enable the success of our services, fellowship and outreach! I hope and pray all of you have a wonderful, safe and blessed summer! May you take time to embrace the moment in front of you gracefully and surrender the rest.

Kayla Brunkow
Director of Children's Ministries

Our Sunday school year has officially come to an end. We had a wonderful year together! A huge "Thank You" to all the Sunday school teachers: Audra Bartell, Aaron & Kelly Bumgarner, Mary Carpenter, Kari Erlandson, Tess Evink, Grace Evink, Julie Schmidt, Kim Tryggeseth, and Kelli Stember-Tung. God has blessed us with Sunday school teachers who love the kids and are passionate about helping them understand who He is. I appreciate all your hard work.





June 2018 Youth Ministry Newsletter



Last day of Youth Group will be May 30th. We will meet at Pizza Ranch at 6:30 with activities at Fillmore Park afterwards.

Congratulations to the seven Youth who
were Confirmed on May 6th!



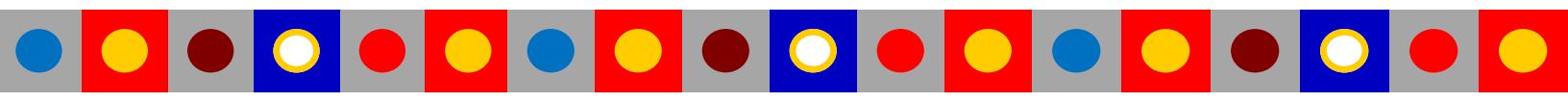
Save the Date for the Youth Mission Trip to the Twin Cities. It is July 31-August 1st. Registration forms are due June 1st. Make sure to turn them in.

Thank you to everyone who helped support the Youth Bake Sale. We had another great sale!! The money raised will go towards the summer mission trip.



Senior Recognition Sunday will be June 3rd. There will be a reception to congratulate the Seniors that morning. Congratulations to the six Youth that will be graduating from High School this year.

They are: Justin Balcome, Robb Erlandson, Hannah Nelson, Brynne Pass, Emma Reilly, Ethan Scribner



JUNE VOLUNTEERS

Liturgists:	8:00 June 3 & 10 —Sue Walker	June 17 & 24—Scott Johnston
	9:30 June 3 & 10 —Kim Tryggeseth	June 17 & 24—Kay Kortlever
Ushers:	8:00 June 3 & 10—Pat Vickerman; Dave Morgan; Karen Morgan	
	June 17 & 24—Ron Schutte; Colleen Schutte; Arlana Langner	
	9:30 Tami Miller; John Helgeson; Sue Helgeson; Dave Nelson	
Greeters:	June 3 8:00—Ron & Kathy Reiber	9:30—Duane & Lois Bonde
	June 10 8:00—Mike & Audra Bartell	9:30—Greg & Denise Dropik
	June 17 8:00—Brad & Kayla Brunkow	9:30—Rolly & Kay Kortlever
	June 24 8:00—Sue Walker	9:30—Shawn & Christine Reilly
Coffee Servers:		Organists/Pianists:
June 3	Pat Vickerman; Ken & Heidi Ryan	June 3 — Virginia Hegre
June 10	Dennis & Arlyn Cin; Dennis & Susan Brede	June 10—Gale Maxwell
June 17	Gary & Sherrie Brink; Paul & Judy Florell	June 17—Kirk Landman
June 24	Dave & Lucie Battey; Otto & Phyllis Freier	June 24—Alli Prestby
Nursery Workers:	June 3, 10, 17 — Karen Murphy	
	June 24—Kayla Brunkow	



1 Jean Bristow
Gene Rose
Doris Thompson

2 Bob Swenson

3 Audra Bartell

4 Helen Glade

5 Katelin Roos

6 Linda Mills
Dan McGinn

8 Mary Carpenter

9 Virginia Ketter
Trevor Kunkel
Kyle Runnoe
Ethan Melia

10 Jennifer Cummins
Paul Gerdes
Barb Venekamp
Leigh Brede

11 Roy Good, Sr.

12 Connie Springman

13 Roger Parks

14 Hannah Nelson

15 Tom Herr

17 Adam Becker

19 Avery Pring
Dave Nomsen

20 Tim Swanson

21 Sarah Nelson
Bruce Pohlig

22 Chayce Meyer

23 Kevin Brezina
Mary Glade
Austin Mogler

24 Caris Pass

25 Janet Decko

28 Michele Jahnke
Mike Merten

29 Nancy Carroll

30 Rachel Cummins
Colin Ryan
Bev Vikander



June 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 Graduation Sunday 8:00 Baptism	4	5 9:30 B&P 2:00 Prayer Group	6	7	8 12:00 Staff Meeting	9 Pastor Gone June 9-16
10	11	12 9:30 B&P 9:30 Coffee Group 2:00 Prayer Group 5:30 Missions Team 6:30 SPRC	13 5:00 Community Wood Fired Oven Event 5:30 Trustees	14 5:00 VBS Set Build 6:30 Children's Ministry Team Meeting	15 12:00 Staff Meeting	16 9:00 Baby Shower 
Pastor gone June 9-16						
17	18	19 9:30 B&P 2:00 Prayer Group 5:30 New Horizon Pizza Event 6:30 Church Council	20 5:30 Friend's Circle	21 9:30 Joy Circle	22 12:00 Staff Meeting	23 9:00 Baby Shower 
24 5:30 Family VBS 	25 5:30 Family VBS	26 9:30 B&P 2:00 Prayer Group	27 5:00 Community Wood Fired Oven Event	28	29 12:00 Staff Meeting International Mud Day	30