



# The Messenger

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

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June 2019

Editor: Ginger Juneer

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christ has risen! Christ has risen, indeed!

As you read this, we are in the season of Easter and looking forward to Pentecost. As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, we should also remember Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. When Jesus shared the bread and cup on Maundy Thursday with his disciples, he said that whenever we eat the bread and drink the cup, we should remember him. I think Jesus wanted us to remember not only the God/human who is Jesus but also remember what happened that night and the next day, the day of his crucifixion.

As you think about the Holy Supper, the day of crucifixion, and the day of resurrection, have you ever asked yourself, “Why? Why did this have to happen?” A simplistic answer would say, “to save people so they can go to heaven.” A better answer might be “to save us from sin and death (satan?) and to set us right with God.” The last part of that answer is often called “atonement”? Which leads to the next question, “How does atonement work?” Christianity has been discussing that answer for nearly 2,000 years. It’s called “Atonement Theory” There are several and they are all based on scripture. Here are the major ideas about Atonement.

The oldest theory, the one most of our Church’s forebearers ascribed to, is called **Christus Victor, or Victory of Christ**. There is a cosmic battle between good and evil, God’s forces against the forces of Satan. God’s Son, Jesus Christ, is killed in this battle, a victory for Satan and evil. In a stunning reversal, God raises Jesus from the dead, defeating death and evil. This frees humans from the power and oppression of sin and Satan. Hebrews 2:14-15 and 1 Peter 3:18-20 emphasize this model of atonement.

A variation of Christus Victor theory is called **Ransom (or Redemption) Theory**. In the battle of good versus evil, Satan has captured humanity and enslaved us in sin and death. God paid a ransom in the death of Jesus to free, or redeem, humanity. Jesus then escapes the power of Satan in his resurrection on Easter, thus leaving Satan with nothing but defeat. There are many scriptures: Luke 1:68, 77; 2:38; 21:28; 24:19-21; Acts 7:35; Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45; 1 Timothy 2:6; Titus 2:14; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 8:23; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23; Revelation 5:9; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 2 Peter 2:1; and Ephesians 1:7.

Both these theories fit their Roman times. The Roman Government ruled (enslaved) the known world and either the forces of good would be needed to defeat them or a ransom would need to be paid to free the people.

By about 1000 AD, these theories had fallen out of favor and two new ones were proposed. The second of these two is called **Moral Influence** and was proposed by Peter Abelard (1079-1142). Abelard rejected the idea that Jesus’ death as a ransom owed to the devil (and also rejected the idea that Jesus’ death was a debt paid to assuage God’s honor. See below.) The problem is not to change God’s anger but to change humanity’s rebellion. For Abelard, Jesus died to demonstrate God’s love for humanity, who, in perceiving that death, repent and cease their rebellion against God and turn toward God. Adherents to this model point to John 3:14-16 and John 15:12-13.

The first of the two theories, **Satisfaction**, was developed by Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109). It has had the most influence on modern preaching and is what you will most likely hear when you watch preachers on TV. Anselm saw humanity’s sin and rebellion as an assault against God’s holy honor. Since we have grievously offended God, we owe God our life as a debt of repayment. Since God’s honor is holy, only one who has not sinned is pure enough to offer their life as payment: Jesus Christ. Jesus’ death pays the debt and satisfies God’s judgment against humanity and the universe. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and 1 Peter 2:21-25 emphasize this model of atonement. The modern and popular variation on this theme is called **Penal Satisfaction**. It basically says that we have broken God’s Law for which the penalty is death, but only the death of one who is sinless. Jesus’ death satisfies the “sentence of death” and frees us for service to God. Anselm’s theory originates in a time when feudal lords would exact penalties from anyone who offended their honor and the modern version reflects our preoccupation with “justice” and “fairness”. Opponent of this theory often call it “Cosmic Child Abuse”.

My (Pastor Gary) preference is **Christus Victor** with a little bit of **Moral Influence** thrown in. God and Jesus (Love and Life) are victorious over our sin and death, revealing our scapegoating, sacrificial, and violent system of culture. When we realize our involvement in the world’s system of death, our lives are changed and we begin to live more and more like Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit.



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

**Published by Alexandria  
United Methodist Church  
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Custodian: Denise Dropik

Nursery: Karen Murphy

### **Office Hours**

**Pastor Gary**—Tue-Friday

Admin. Assist. Ginger Juneer

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

Mon-Tue-Wed-Thurs-Fri

**Brenda**—Aug thru June Wed & Thursdays (5:30—8:30) July only Wednesdays (530-8:30)

### **Publication Date for the next *Messenger*:**

the last week of June  
Articles for the June issue  
need to be in the office by  
NOON on Monday July 22nd

### **Worship Attendance**

Service	2019		2018	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
May 5	63	98	73	132
May 12	68	82	61	65
May 19	53	62	61	66
May 26			52	37



*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*

# June 2019 Youth Ministry Newsletter

Bring the whole family for a night of Wood Fired Oven pizza, music and fun. Pizza will be served from 5-8 pm. Make sure to mention you are there to help support the Youth Group when ordering your pizza!! All funds raised will go to our mission trip this summer!!



The Youth Group is having a Car Wash on Sunday, July 7th. Watch for more details to come!!



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
*our graduating*  
**SENIORS!**



Sunday, May 19th was Senior Recognition Sunday. We were able to recognize our two graduating high school seniors, Shaunah Stanbra and Nicole Witt.



# Children's MINISTRY

ALEXANDRIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Well, dear friends, the time has come... Though I've known this day was coming it still arrives with great emotion and wondering, "How does one say 'goodbye' and why does it have to be so hard?" Saying goodbye is never easy when you have developed such a love and concern for the people to whom you are saying goodbye. Goodbyes are important and if we avoid them we miss out on something powerful. Winnie the Pooh once told his friends, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." I agree with Winnie the Pooh.

Brad and I came to Alexandria UMC in January 2008. I believe it was God's plan for us to be a part of this

wonderful church family. He gave me the desire to serve as your Director of Children's Ministries for the last 3 ½ year and a love for each and every one of you. The blessings of God have been abundant and you have made this journey and time so wonderful. That is why this 'goodbye' is so difficult.

It is still my desire to continue to see children, youth and families come to Christ and be discipled to walk with Him for a lifetime. God has given me a new challenge in doing that and I have the honor to say yes to His call. I have recently been approved to attend licensing school and it is the intent of Bishop Bruce Ough to appointment me as pastor of the Grey Eagle and Sauk Centre United Methodist Churches effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

God directs our steps and promises not to leave us nor forsake us. I'm confident that if God is leading me on to something new and wonderful then the same is true for all of you. God will not take from one at the expense of another. If God is preparing to bless me with a new work, then He's preparing to bless all of you with a new Director of Children's Ministries. I really believe that your best days are yet ahead, and though my relationship as your Director of Children's Ministries will change, my love for all of you will not. I will never forget the memories and experiences that He has blessed me with during my time here at Alexandria UMC. I am grateful and say thank you from the depths of my heart.

But, I'm still left with the question, "How do you say 'goodbye'?" I've found that the Apostle Paul had a very good way to say "goodbye" to his friends and fellow servants in Christ. He remembered them in prayer. Paul had a way with words and so his goodbyes were often powerful and well-expressed. With this said, Paul's words to the people of Philippi are my words to you. "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:3-6, NRSV).

Paul wanted each of them to know how thankful he was for them. They were a blessing to him. I feel the same way Paul does. I know that every time I have a moment and think back about my time here at Alexandria UMC, I will say, "I thank my God every time I remember you."

With love in Christ,

Kayla

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## June Volunteers

### Liturgists:

June 2 & 9	8:00	Tom DeWitt	June 2 & 9	9:30	Marsha Haugen
June 16,23,30	8:00	Carol Meyer	June 16,	9:30	Marsha haugen
			June 23,30	9:30	

### Ushers:

June 2 & 9	8:00	Aaron , Brenda, Zach & Davyn Thompson			
June 16,23,30	9;30	Kim Tryggeseth, Julie Schmidt, Dave Nelson, Chris Springman			

### Greeters:

June 2	8:00—	Chuck Bollen	9:30—	Duane & Lois Bonde	
June 9	8:00—	Darren & Tess Evink	9:30—	Rick & Nancy Christenson	
June 16	8:00—	Ron & Kathy Reiber	9:30—	Dennis & Arlyn Cin	
June 23	8:00—	Bernie & Betty Vanzomeren	9:30—	Bruce Jordan	
June 30	8:00—	Ted & Geri Zabrosky	9:30—	Eric & Mary Carpenter	

### Coffee Servers:

June 2	Aaron & Kelly Bumgarner/Roy & Connie Good				
June 9	Ron & Colleen Schutte/Chad & Kim Stender				
June 16	Mike & Aurda Bartell				
June 23	Darren & Tess Evink/Yaun & Kelli Stember-Tung				
June 30	Brad & Kayla Brunkow/Duane & Lois Bonde				

### Organists/Pianists:

Janet Eisele

### Nursery Workers:

June 2	Karen Murphy	June 9	Grace Evink
June 16	Karen Murphy	June 23	Grace Evink
June 30	Karen Murphy		

# June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>8:00 AM Worship Service</u> <u>9:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship</u> <u>9:30 AM Worship</u>	3	4 <u>9:30 AM Brush &amp; Palette Art Club</u> <u>11:30 AM Staff Meeting</u> <u>2:00 PM Prayer Group</u>	5 <u>5:00 PM Wood Fired Oven Event</u> <u>7:30 PM Youth Ministry Team Meeting</u>	6 <u>1:00 PM CARE Team</u> <u>6:00 PM Worship Team</u>	7	8
9 Pentecost Sunday <u>8:00 AM Worship Service</u> <u>9:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship</u> <u>9:30 AM Worship Service</u>	10	11 <u>9:30 AM Brush &amp; Palette Art Club</u> <u>9:30 AM Coffee Group</u> <u>11:30 AM Staff Meeting</u> <u>2:00 PM Prayer Group</u> <u>6:30 PM</u> Children's Ministry	12 <u>5:00 PM Wood Fired Oven Event</u> <u>5:30 PM Trustees Meeting</u>	13 <u>6:30 PM Church Council</u>	14	15
16 <u>Peace with Justice Sunday</u> <u>8:00 AM Worship Service</u> <u>9:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship</u> <u>9:30 AM Worship</u>	17	18 <u>9:00 AM Brush &amp; Palette workshop in Fellowship Hall</u> <u>11:30 AM Staff Meeting</u> <u>2:00 PM Prayer Group</u>	19 <u>5:00 PM Wood Fired Oven Event</u>	20 <u>9:30 AM Joy Circle</u>	21	22
23 <u>8:00 AM Worship Service</u> <u>9:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship</u> <u>9:30 AM Worship Service</u>	24 <u>Brush &amp; palette Set up for workshop in Fellowship Hall</u>	25 <u>9:00AM Brush &amp; Palette Art Club Workshop</u> <u>11:30 AM Staff Meeting</u> <u>2:00 PM Prayer Group</u>	26 <u>5:00 PM Wood Fired Oven Event</u>	27	28	29
30 <u>8:00 AM Worship Service</u> <u>9:00 AM Coffee/Fellowship</u> <u>9:30 AM Worship Service</u>						

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & FAMILY CAMP

Family VBS will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. July 29th - August 1st at Alexandria UMC. A meal will be provided at 5:30 p.m. followed by a time of worship/storytelling, crafts, and games. This year's theme is



*ROAR!* This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At *ROAR!*, we will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers us through this wild life. We will conclude this week of fun with Family Camp at Lake Carlos State Park August 2nd-4th.

**Join Us For Some Summer Fun!**

## KIDS FIGHTING HUNGER

The Sunday School children collected over \$123.00 for offering during the last few weeks of Sunday School. This, combined with money raised from the youth group, will be sent to Kids Fighting Hunger. They will receive a check for \$158.16. This provides 1,055 meals which is enough to feed one person three times a day for almost a full year.



- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Jean Bristow<br>Gene Rose<br>Doris Thompson                      | 14 Hannah Nelson                     |
| 2 Bob Swenson  | 15 Tom Herr                          |
| 3 Audra Bartell  | 19 Dave Nomsen                       |
| 4 Helen Glade  | 21 Bruce Pohlig<br>Sarah Schoeberl   |
| 6 Linda Mills  | 22 Chayce Meyer                      |
| 8 Mary Carpenter   | 23 Kevin Brizina<br>Mary Glade       |
| 9 Virginia Ketter  | 24 Caris Pass                        |
| 10 Leigh Brede<br>Jennifer Cummins<br>Paul Gerdes<br>Barb Venekamp | 28 Michelle Jahnke<br>Michael Merten |
| 11 Roy Good  | 29 Nancy Carroll                     |
| 12 Connie Springman  | 30 Rachel Cummings<br>Bev Vikander   |
| 13 Roger Parks   |                                      |

# June

## Birthdays



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** This year's annual conference will be on June 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's conference is "Dare to Reach: Love Boldly". Again this year a Love Offering will be received as an expression of God's boundless blessings and to advance our mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." This year's Love Offering is two-fold: 1) a monetary offering to be shared with three mission projects that extend our commitment to "love boldly" and 2) an offering of prayer for individuals for whom God has given a heart to "dare to reach." Information on this year's Love Offering is available in the narthex and posted on the Missions bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations to Vicki Johnston, John Heydt, and Keven Jansen. They have received special recognition by UMW for their work with the brick oven pizza fundraisers and their efforts to "develop a creative, supportive fellowship" within our church community and the Alexandria area.

**Volunteer Schedules**

It's that time of year again! We need to put together schedules for the second half (July through December) of 2019. If you wish to be added to the list as an usher, liturgist and/or greeter, please complete the below and submit to the office as soon as possible. Please mark all that you wish to be included on the schedule:

- Usher (8:00)                       Usher (10:30-9:30 in summer)
- Substitute Usher (8:00)                       Substitute Usher (10:30-9:30 in summer)
- Liturgist (8:00)                       Liturgist (10:30-9:30 in summer)
- Substitute Liturgist (8:00)                       Substitute Liturgist (10:30-9:30 in summer)
- Greeter (8:00)                       Greeter (10:30-9:30 in summer)
- Substitute Greeter (8:00)                       Substitute Greeter (10:30-9:30 in summer)

If there are times of the year you know you will not be available to serve (i.e., you go south during certain months, etc.) please indicate on the lines below, or include any comments that will help me in scheduling. **If possible, we ask that you not request a specific month/date as that limits our scheduling if more than one request is made for the same time.**

**Please return this letter to the church office by June 3**, so that we may begin to work on scheduling for July through December. Schedules will be emailed/mailed out mid-June, and we will continue to use email to send reminders the week of your scheduled time. We hope you can continue to serve and wish to thank you for volunteering to serve your church family in this way.

Ginger Mayer  
Administrative Assistant

Scheduling restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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Alexandria, MN 56308

**Return Service Requested**