



THE CROSS & THE FLAME

VIROQUA AND LIBERTY POLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES



July 2010

P.O. Box 127, Viroqua , WI 54665

FROM THE PASTOR
HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY
By Pastor Ethan Larson



Pastor Larson

July has always seemed like the most American of months to me. It is after all the month that we celebrate July 4th, not that other countries don't have a July 4th, but they don't have the reason to celebrate it as we do. This July 4th, what will you be doing? Having a picnic? Going to a parade and maybe watching some fireworks? As Americans, we seem to enjoy a good party. I remember being in Roras and Trondheim, Norway last year on Syttende Mai and being surprised by their celebrations; they were rather small and poorly attended compared to what I have witnessed in Westby and other Norwegian communities in the Midwest; just a short parade in the morning and then back to the regular routine. Maybe because it was on a Sunday, things were low key that day, but the people I spoke with didn't think it was that big a deal.

I remember reading in American history how some of the early religious groups that came to settle the colonies that became the United States actually banned most celebrations. They thought that the partying was too worldly and detracted from people focusing on and worshipping God, the Creator of all that is.

Yet, if you look at the instructions that God gave to the people of Israel they included several occasions during the year when the Israelites were to gather as families or as a whole, and to celebrate and have a party. Last year, I mentioned that July was one of my favorite months because it always reminded me of family celebrations and birthdays. Well, this year will be no different in that way, but I hope that for you, this will be a month not only to celebrate our Day of Independence but also a day, and even a month, to celebrate what God has done for you as an individual, as a family, and for us all as a Church, a community and as a nation.

There are many lessons that we can learn from our past, not the least is keeping God involved in the important decisions and discussions of our lives and our church.

It is very easy for us to forget the words of our Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Not only did they declare that their (and our) rights are not endowed, and not given to us by a King or by a Parliament, but were given to us and all people by our Creator; further they call on "The Supreme Judge of the world" and they entrusted themselves to "reliance on the protection of Divine Providence." How often do we as a nation or individuals call upon God for our protection?

There are many lessons that we can learn from our past, not the least is keeping God involved in the important decisions and discussions of our lives and our Church.

Let's celebrate this July, remembering that we have been blessed with freedom and that freedoms are not granted to us by powers of our Government, but are given to us, and all people, by our Creator, the God who loves us and, in Jesus, chose to die for us and our salvation.

Pastor Ethan

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Bethel Home and Services Foundation Annual Golf Outing



Viroqua Hills Golf Course

Monday August 16, 2010

Shotgun start at 1pm

You are invited to participate in the "Church Challenge"

Not only is the golf outing an enjoyable day with good fellowship, golf and food, it raises funds for resident needs. With the help of last year's participants and sponsors we raised over \$14,000 to purchase equipment for the residents at Bethel Home and Maplewood Terrace Assisted Living Apartments. Last year, eight teams took the challenge and Immanuel Lutheran in Viroqua landed the winning score of 66. In addition to adding their name to the trophy, Bethel donated \$100 to the Bethel Buttik Food Pantry in honor of Immanuel Lutheran.

Now it is time to challenge Immanuel for the 2010 title. We encourage each congregation to come up with one or more teams consisting of four golfers which will include at least two congregation members per team. Each team takes the best ball to come up with one score for the team.

Please form your teams and return the registration form (available at your church office) to the Bethel Home and Services Foundation office by August 7.

If you have any questions, contact Betty Schoenemann at 637-6323 or fdn@bethelhome.org

Birth Announcement for the Viroqua United Methodist Church

A son was born at St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan WI to Andrew and Emily Gilbertson of Kiel WI on Friday, May 21 2010.

He arrived at 11:18pm and was 4 pounds 8 ounces, 18 1/2 inches in length. He has been named Samuel Andrew Maynard Gilbertson.

Grandparents for the first time are Gary and Judy Gilbertson of Viroqua and John and Betsy Rogers of Sheboygan.

Emily was a member of the Viroqua Methodist Church when they lived in Viroqua and helped with the Youth Group

Judy Gilbertson

Vernon County Historical Society Annual Ice Cream Social

By Marcia Andrew

The Annual Strawberry Shortcake Ice Cream Social will be held on July 4 on the lawn of the Sherry-Butt House. Serving time is from 1-6pm. There will be a concert by the Viroqua Community Band at 2:00pm followed by the Viroqua Area Men's Chorus. This event is sponsored by the Vernon County Historical Society and all proceeds will go to the continued restoration of the house as well as projects underway at the Vernon County Museum. In case of inclement weather the Social and concert will be held at the Vernon County Fairgrounds adjacent to the Sherry-Butt House

The Cross & The Flame is published monthly by the Viroqua and Liberty Pole United Methodist Churches for our congregation and friends. We welcome you with open hearts, open arms and open doors.

VIROQUA UMC/OFFICE

221 S. Center Ave.

Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone: 608-637-3551

Fax: 608-637-8193

Email: info@ViroquaUMC.org

www.ViroquaUMC.org

OFFICE HOURS

8:30-11:30 a.m.

Monday-Friday

LIBERTY POLE UMC

S6759 St. Hwy. 27

Viroqua, WI 54665

Phone: 608-675-3630

STAFF

Ethan Larson, *Pastor*

Cell Phone: 608-606-4637

Parsonage Phone: 608-637-7614

Email: pastor@ViroquaUMC.org

Ruth Hapanionek, *Secretary*

Office Phone: 608-637-3551

Email: info@ViroquaUMC.org

INGATHERING TOTALS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Churches participated: 204
Health Kits: 2660
School Kits: 1388
School Bags: 121

Harbor House Kits
78 women's
115 men's
206 children's
TOTAL: 399

Preemie caps: 779
Sweaters: 159
Layettes: 149

Cleaning Buckets: 50
Tools: 8 boxes
Prayer Shawls: 2
Blankets: 103
Misc: 72 Boxes

Seafarers: 8
Birth Kits: 10

Shipping: \$6,240.73
Pennies for Angola: \$5,232.25

IG-NITE YOUR SUMMER WITH A NIGHT OF MUSIC!

IG-Nite returns on Wednesday July 28 for a night of great food and great music. This will be an outdoor event held in the parking lot of the Viroqua UMC. The evening will begin at 5:30pm with a sing-a-long geared for kids from ages 1-101! Join us in singing some of those great songs you might not have sung for a while. At 6:00pm, a Barbershop Quartet will entertain you with that unique style you don't get to hear very often. The meal will be served at 6:30 pm and the menu will include grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, water melon and dessert. How can you beat an old-fashioned picnic in July? After the meal, there will be two Christian Rock bands beginning at 7:30pm. The energy from these groups is sure to get your blood pumping and your feet moving. We are very excited to host this night of festivities and truly hope you can find room in your busy schedule to enjoy this evening with us. As always, there is no admission charge to the IG-Nite events, so have supper and dancing on us July 28th.

SEE YOU THERE!!

VIROQUA AND LIBERTY POLE UMC RAISE \$1324 FOR RELAY FOR LIFE

BY RUTH HAPANIONEK



The Viroqua area Relay For Life was held at the Viroqua Fairgrounds on June 11-

12. A total of 31 teams registered for this year's walk including the Viroqua/Liberty Pole UMC team.

Following the opening ceremony, and the celebratory "Survivor's Lap," participants joined together in a carnival like atmosphere complete with music, food and live entertainment. The weather was kind after a stormy start to the day which allowed the Relay to proceed unhindered.

Church members and supporters who either walked or raised money for the event included team captain, *Barb Robson* and the following:

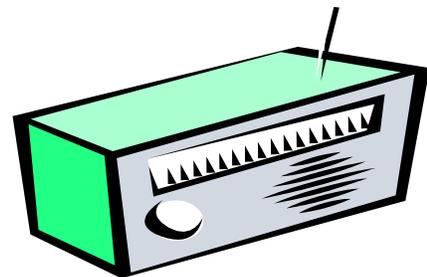
Pat Matz, Betty Ross, the Mulvaney-Kemp Family, Kristin Parrott and Cavan Fang, Ruth Hapanionek, Steve & Tamie Thompson, Carter Thompson, Lee & Alice Diehl, Andy, Renae, Abby & Rachel Diehl.

The team would also like to give a special thank you to United Auto Supply for their sponsorship.

A combined total of \$85,700.00 was raised by the 31 teams in the Viroqua area event this year.

Many thanks to those who participated or supported our team.

THERE ARE OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE RADIO BROADCAST AND THE VIROQUA AND LIBERTY POLE WORSHIP BULLETINS. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR INFORMATION.



CALENDAR

Sunday, July 4

9:00 am LP UMC Worship Service
10:30am Viroqua UMC Worship Service

Wednesday, July 7

1:15pm Prayer Meeting at Viroqua UMC Chapel

Sunday, July 11

9:00 am LP UMC Worship Service
10:30 am Viroqua UMC Worship Service

Monday, July 12

School of Christian Mission - Stevens Point (All week)

Tuesday, July 13

Noon Day Care Board Meeting (Viroqua)
6:30pm Viroqua Trustees

Wednesday, July 14

1:15pm Prayer Meeting at Viroqua UMC Chapel

Thursday, July 15

1:00pm Finance Committee - Viroqua

Sunday, July 18

9:00am LP UMC Worship Service
10:30am Viroqua UMC Worship Service
5:00pm LP serves meal at the Fortney Hotel

Monday, July 19

4:00pm Viroqua Missions Committee

Friday July 23

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER

Sunday, July 25

9:00am LP UMC Worship Service
10:30am Viroqua UMC Worship Service

Wednesday July 28

5:30pm IG-NITE Program—Viroqua

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday, August 1

On Sunday August 1, the *Dischords* will lead us in music and praise at our annual *Outdoor Worship & Picnic*. Both congregations will gather at 10:30am for worship at the Bigley Park shelter on West South St in Viroqua. Doc Starr has kindly offered his golf cart to help people get from the parking area to the shelter building. In case of bad weather we will move to the Viroqua Church. Bring a lawn chair for the service and bring tableware and a dish to share for the potluck afterwards. We'll see you outside at Church!

Five Day Club Bible School

Viroqua and Liberty Pole kids are invited and encouraged to attend our Five Day Club presented again this year by Child Evangelism Fellowship. It will be held in Eckhart Park on July 26-30 from 3:00-5:00pm each day.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! - INVITE A FRIEND!!

Viroqua UMC Service Assistants

Ushers

July 4: Betty Ross & Joanne Hornby

July 11: Phyllis Kalnins & Pat Matz

July 18: Paul & Sonja Bjerkos

July 25: Layne & Janette Hanson

Greeters

July 4: Annabel McGarry

July 11: Shirley Gilman

July 18: Hester Nelson

July 25: Minie Hirschfield

Liturgist

Greg Cheever

Nursery Attendants

July 4: Melissa Weilnau

July 11: Heather Larson

July 18: To be arranged

July 25: Kathy Hanson

Liberty Pole UMC Service Assistants

Ushers/Greeters

July 4 & 11: Leon & Marlene Mellem

July 18 & 25: Alex & Chase Hornby

Liturgist

July 4,11,18: Cyndy Hubbard

July 25: Ramona Thompson

SUNBEAM DAYCARE NEWS

By KATHY HANSON, DIRECTOR

July Themes

- 7th: Red, white & blue
 8th: Ocean
 9th: Fun in the Sun
 15th: Sand & Beach

Special Days

- 7th: Wear red
 8th; Wear blue
 9th: Wear white
 15th: SACK LUNCH DAY
 23rd: Sprinkler Fun
 29th: SACK LUNCH DAY
 30th: Beach Day (wear swimsuit)

Birthdays

- 10th: Kathy

Notes

- Keep saving those MILK MOOLA bottle tops.
 They help!
 Donation containers are found in the hallway by the daycare or upstairs near the chapel
- Be sure your child has a change of clothes at the daycare. Sometimes we need cooler or warmer clothes depending on the weather. Sometimes we get dirty or wet.
- Mondays & Thursdays will be park days during the summer—weather permitting.

Sunbeam Daycare Welcomes Donations:

- Food
- Toys
- Garbage Bags
- Paper towels
- Craft supplies

*For updates please check our website,
www.viroquaumc.org/daycare/index.html*

LIBERTY POLE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

By TAMIE THOMPSON

Minutes of the meeting 5-25-10

Present: Ramona, Steve & Tamie Thompson, Fred, Joyce & Brian Funk, Odean Robson, Bill & Sandy Marohl, Pastor Ethan Larson.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Ethan. Secretary's report was read and approved. Treasurer's report was read and approved. Ramona stated we are currently behind on our bills. Ramona stated we need to take in \$3500.00 per month to meet our monthly expenses. This does not include bills we pay only a few times a year like LP gas.

Old Business: Discussed Mildred Hanson Estate money. This money is currently divided between WCCU, Citizen's Bank and State Bank. It was suggested we invest some of this money. Joyce nominated Steve & Gary Thompson and Bill Marohl to look into investment options. Brian suggested we invest a majority of the money but keep some in an account that we can easily access for emergencies. Motion seconded by Odean and carried.

New Business: Pastor Ethan will be gone June 6th. We will have a service of songs and readings. Wayne Goplin will be the guest speaker on June 20th. Brian discussed a lift quote from Jameson Medical Inc. The lift would cost \$1995.00 delivered and \$450.00 for installation. It was decided we could install it ourselves. We would also replace the flooring in the entry before installing the lift. Motion by Tamie seconded by Joyce to order the lift and look into flooring options. Motion carried.

Servers for May at the Fortney Hotel were Bill & Sandy Marohl, Tom & Marti Zitzner and Connie & Ike Zitzner families. The next meeting will be August 3rd. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

LIBERTY POLE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting 6/13/10

Meeting after church to discuss issues that need attention before the next Board meeting.

1. Janet Thompson was asked to clean the church for the month of June. She agreed to do this. The two circles will clean in July and August.
2. A suggestion was made to have a salad luncheon after church to raise money for the Websters. Odean made a motion, seconded by Tamie to have the luncheon on August 15th. Motion carried.
3. Janet Thompson made a motion to install two new windows in the entry. The existing ones leak and are rotting. Odean seconded the motion which was carried. Brian will check prices and will do the windows, flooring and lift at the same time.

Motion by Fae, seconded by Barb to adjourn. Meeting adjourned

VIROQUA UMC FINANCE COMMITTEE JUNE 10 2010

BY CHUCK STELZNER

The VUMC Finance Committee will meet on Thursday July 15 at 1:00pm, everyone is invited to attend. Copies of all financial committee notes/forms can be requested from any committee member.

Our ending balance in our checking account for May was \$10,245.75. In addition to this we have a reserve of \$5,003.56 in our money market savings account. Our May income was \$17,658.57 and expenses were \$14,413.70. The Finance Committee will hold a **2011 BUDGET MEETING on September 28th at 6:00pm** at the church. All committee chairs are asked to be present on this date.

The Wills/Memorials Committee reports that the Trustees and Endowment funds have been repaid utilizing the Vic Schaefer Estate funds. There is a need for a new safe as the old one cannot be repaired. The cost to replace the safe is \$1,150.00 which includes removal of the old safe and will be completed shortly. Bids for repairing of the organ have been received. The estimated costs are approximately \$70,000.00. An organ committee will be working with vendors on bids this summer. The trustees have completed some of the plumbing and electrical repairs. They are currently soliciting bids on a new parsonage roof as well as boiler repairs to the parsonage. These repairs are estimated to exceed \$6,000. Have a blessed and safe summer.

God is with you in all that you do. Genesis 21:22

Thank you for your continuing support.
God bless you all,
Chuck Stelzner, Finance Chairperson

LIBERTY POLE NEWS

There will be no Administrative Board meeting in July.

UMW Meeting will be on Wednesday July 14th at 5:30pm.

Program will be Naomi Circle with hostesses Amy Hardy & Janet Thompson.

Paying in, Naomi Fanta, Donna Gardner and Angie Karwoski.

VERNON MANOR DEVOTION—WEDS JULY 28 AT 2:00PM—NAOMI CIRCLE

There will be a **GRILL OUT** held at the Nelson Ag-Center on the following dates:

JULY 24—MEN

AUGUST 7—WOMEN

Help is always needed and appreciated.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY—MAY 2010	Viroqua UMC	Liberty Pole UMC
Monthly Income	\$17,658.57	\$6,399.83
Monthly Expenses	\$14,413.70	\$3,536.67
Year-to-Date Income	\$84,678.64	\$22,434.71
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$86,164.42	\$26,533.82
Beginning Balance (checkbook)	\$7,000.88	
Ending Balance (checkbook)	\$10,245.75	\$1,597.92
Liberty Pole shared expense	\$623.08	
Conference Apportionment Paid to Date	\$6,515.00	\$800.00
Missions and Special Gifts Paid to Date	\$6,377.85	\$765.00
Savings	\$5,003.56	

VIROQUA ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

DR. BOB STARR

June 16, 2010 Viroqua UMC Administrative Council Meeting

The meeting was opened by Kathy Hanson at 7:00pm with a Christian reading and prayer. Members present: Kathy Hanson, Greg Cheever, Veryl Gerdl, Orvis Primmer, Cavan Fang, Gerald Schroeder, Hazel Dach-Hendricksen and Robert Starr.

The minutes of the May 18 meeting were reviewed and approved by consensus.

Worship Committee: Cavan stated that this committee had not met this month. The organ committee had met and reviewed the six bids. Some of the bids were eliminated and a decision was made to employ Mr. Jeff Daehn of Rochester MN to provide guidance in the bid process and establish just what measures of repair and improvement our organ requires. It is hoped that bids can be offered after due consideration by early August. Our church needs to know what repairs beyond the organ repairs will be required, and what the cost will be. It is anticipated that a Fund Drive for the organ repair will be established. Kathy reported that the next IG-Nite program will be on July 28. It will begin at 5:30pm in the church parking lot. The meal will be a cookout. There will be a sing-a-long and a Barbershop group before the meal. The meal will be followed by two Christian rock bands. The plan is to invite all area youth groups to participate in this entire program.

Mission Committee: The committee met May 17 at 4:00pm. A bake sale had been held on May 9. The proceeds of the sale were for support of our missionary, Paul Webster. The sale raised \$186.75. We have now raised \$706.75 for Paul. Our annual pledge is \$1045 each year. We should be proud of this wonderful, productive covenant relationship.

A basket has been placed in the narthex for produce that members may wish to offer. The free will offering received in the purchase of produce will be given toward our Paul Webster project.

The Annual Conference this year is raising pennies for the Angola Mission. Those pennies will provide school books for the East Angola orphanage. The In-gathering this year is for school bags and health kits from our church, and donations by our membership came to \$207.75. These bags and kits plus the cost of shipping, were submitted at the In-gathering this past weekend. Pat Matz made the school bags.* The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the Pie & Ice Cream Social which will be held on June 27. The monies raised will be used for World Hunger.

Care & Nurture Committee: This committee has not met this month.

Education Committee: Kathy reported that the summer Bible School will be the last week of July and will be at Eckhart Park.

UMW: A report will be in the newsletter.

History Committee: No meeting this month.

Trustee Report: Orvis reported that two new toilet fixtures had been placed in the downstairs ladies restroom. The skylight in the sanctuary has been repaired. Repair of the parsonage roof is pending.

Finance Committee: Chuck reported that a summary of the committee meeting will be in the newsletter.

Wills, Memorials & Gifts: Veryl reported that a summary of the meeting will be in the newsletter. He reported that the safe in the church office has worn out and will be replaced with a new one very soon using funds from undesignated memorials.

Greg Cheever was asked to expand on the STEWARDSHIP IDEAS he submitted to the Finance Committee at its last meeting.

There will not be an Administrative Council meeting in July.

The Administrative Council Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

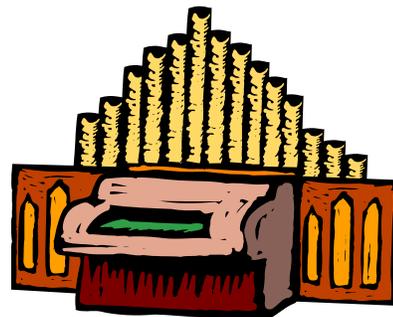
Respectfully submitted by Robert A. Starr

**Missions donated 5 school bags, 11 health kits and \$25.10 to the Angola Mission.*

VIROQUA ORGAN UPDATE

BY KATHY HANSON

Six individuals/companies have presented proposals to repair and update the organ. A committee made up of Barb Casper, Kathy Hanson, Lynn Whitney, Ethan Larson, Bob Starr, Cavan Fang and Sue Walby is studying the proposals and seeking input about who is the best choice to do our work. The committee aims to make a decision in August. If you have any questions, please talk to a committee member.



Viroqua and Liberty Pole United Methodist Churches
Post Office Box 127
Viroqua, WI 54665

PHONE: 608-637-3551
FAX: 608-637-8193
E-mail: info@ViroquaUMC.org
Website: www.ViroquaUMC.org
info@ViroquaUMC.org

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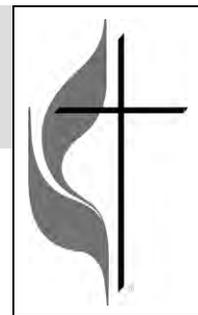
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THE CROSS & THE FLAME

LIBERTY POLE & VIROQUA UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES (UMC)



JULY 2010 EVENTS

Sunday, July 4

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, July 11

Sunday Worship

Sunday, July 18

Sunday Worship

Sunday, July 25

Sunday Worship

CALL 608-637-3551 FOR DETAILS.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Liberty Pole United Methodist Church— 9:00 A.M.

Viroqua United Methodist Church— 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Liberty Pole UMC— Resumes in the Fall.

Viroqua UMC— Resumes in the Fall.