

Dear Friends:

No matter who you are or where you come from you are welcome here. This is our opening statement in our worship and in our community. Most, if not all, people in this church believe that should apply to our County and Country as well. Our church helped to start the Pride March as it began in our parking lot before traveling downtown. Now that Sue Hennessey, after a long stretch of organizing the event, stepped aside, there is a group of young people who are taking it up. They are expanding the weekend of March and working to help our community be open and welcoming year-round with places and times for gatherings for those of any age.

I am on the Board of Trustees for the Library who is helping to support that Community Celebration and Fundraiser this Saturday at the Log Cabin. They are funding a Drag Queen Story Hour with a performer from the Virginia, MN area. Our church is 'sponsoring' the movie, "Bird Cage" which means we are supplying the video and sound equipment for the movie.

I got a call from the Director of our Library on Wednesday saying there has been some 'negative' feedback from some in the community. The Library, Parks and Rec, and the mayor have been contacted about using 'tax' dollars to support such an event. There has also been some negative chatter on social media. The Director has held fast that their mission is to promote diversity and understanding in our community and this falls into their mission and budget.

We don't know if there will be detractors showing up or protestors. The Pride Committee is developing a response team to handle any potentially disruptive situations. Even though we are the 'bluest' county in the state, there is still lots of fear and discrimination in our county (and in our schools) against those who identify as LGBTQ+. I make it more important that we loudly proclaim:

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU COME FROM YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Peace
Pastor Enno