



THE MESSENGER

First Wausau United Methodist Church
Downtown Wausau Wisconsin



From the Pastor

By Pastor Rebecca Borke

Dear First Wausau Family of Faith,

What an exciting time of growth and transformation for our congregation! Over the past several years, we have been prayerfully considering how to be better stewards of our building and property. While some plans have come to fruition and others remain in God's timing, I'm thrilled to share that a wonderful opportunity has emerged that will enhance both our ministry capacity and our welcoming presence.

We have been blessed to receive a \$5,050 grant from United Way specifically to expand the capacity of our Personal Needs Closet. After careful consideration and prayer, the Trustees and Ministry Council have developed an exciting plan that will transform the parking lot side of our building—making it more functional, accessible, and welcoming for all who enter. This renovation will accomplish several important goals: expanding space for both the Personal Needs Closet and Claire's Critter Closet to better serve our community's needs, and relocating our staff offices closer to the parking lot entrances, where we can offer a more welcoming first impression and work more efficiently.

We are grateful for the leadership of Erik Anderson, Ray Nowaczyk, and Tom Bogumill, who have volunteered to oversee the construction and moving process. We welcome additional volunteers for various tasks as the project unfolds. We will begin by building a dedicated space within the nursery for our Handbell Choir. Building codes require an exterior window for the nursery, which will create an "L-shaped" space with distinct zones for both play and elementary learning activities.

Once the handbells are relocated, both the Personal Needs Closet and Claire's Critter Closet will move into the current handbell room. We will install a 30-foot wall of locking closet doors, incorporating both fixed and rolling shelving systems. This flexible design allows the space to serve dual purposes: organized storage for PNC and CCC items during distribution times, and a versatile meeting room with tables and chairs (relocated from Room 101) throughout the rest of the month. The BK Smith room will not be changed.

Continued on Page 2

WUMF Monthly Stewardship News

September 2025

It's Not Nothing

"Jesus said, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.'" – Matthew 14:16

In the familiar story of the feeding of the 5,000, the disciples come to Jesus with a reasonable concern: it's getting late, the people are hungry, and they need to go somewhere to buy food. But Jesus turns the problem back on them: "You give them something to eat."

Their response? "We have nothing... except five loaves and two fish." It's a statement of limitation. And maybe also embarrassment. This is all we've got? It's not enough.

But Jesus sees it differently. He takes the "not enough," gives thanks for it, and it becomes more than enough.

We do this too, don't we? We say things like:

- "I don't have much time to offer."
- "I'm not sure I have any real skills to share."
- "We're just a small church."
- We don't have the money for that."

We minimize what we have. We measure our gifts against the size of the need, and we come up short. But Jesus doesn't measure the way we do. He isn't asking us to be miracle workers - just to be willing to offer what we have.

What you bring matters. Whether it's five loaves and two fish, one visit to a homebound member, an extra \$25 in the offering, or one prayer offered in love - it's not nothing.

In fact, in the hands of Jesus, it may be the beginning of something bigger than we can imagine.

~Rev. Jason Mahnke, WUMF

Pastor Message Cont.

The staff will then move to offices near the Main Entrance. Julie's Discipleship Office will be the first door on the right as you enter. The Communication/ Finance Office will be positioned at the end of the hall with a desk facing the corridor for optimal visibility. We will also add a security door to an existing frame in the hallway. My office will be located in the corner space, and Andy will consolidate his office materials to the basement and second-floor rooms he already utilizes. *See the floor plan on Page 7.*

This reorganization creates another exciting possibility—our current office wing may soon house a new nonprofit partner. While approval is still pending, we are in discussions with an excellent organization that hopes to utilize our office wing, conference room 101, and the former puppet room downstairs beginning next summer. Throughout this process, we have been reminded that while our plans may change, God's guidance and provision remain constant. We are grateful for how the Lord has opened these doors and provided the resources needed for this expansion of ministry. I ask for your continued prayers as we move forward, that we may be faithful stewards of the space and generous in sharing God's grace with our community.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Pastor Rebecca



Savvy Seniors will be meeting on **Monday, September 8th at 11:30am** at Arrow Bar in Weston.

This is a social group open to singles & couples over 55. We would love to have you join us! Questions? Call Vicki 715-571-3009.



Starting September 7th, we will return to our school year worship schedule:

- 8:00am—Worship, Chapel
- 9:00am—Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
- 10:00am—Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:30am—Swahili/French Worship, Chapel
- 11:00am—Coffee Hour, Parlor

All groups will also begin again in September. Continue participating or feel free to join any of the following groups held by our church members:

- **4th Tuesdays, 10am** - Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)
- **2nd Wednesdays, 1pm** - UWF Meeting (Parlor)
- **Wednesdays, 4:30pm** - Evening Adult Bible Study (BK Smith Rm)

Contact Julie Mieke at the church office for additional information.



Chancel Choir - Led by Rob Perkins

Rehearsals - Wednesdays 7:15pm, beginning 9/10

Jubilate Bell Choir - Led by Jessica Wenzel

Rehearsals - Wednesdays 6:30pm, beginning 9/17

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are available to the congregation both in the narthex and parlor of the church. Please avail yourselves of this ministry for comfort in cases of illness, grief, loss, or for celebrations such as: baptisms, confirmations, graduations, and marriage.

The next meeting is **Tuesday, September 23rd at 10:00am** in the church parlor.

Let Us Pray

- Jami Orcutt (Goertz) passed on 8-11-25.
- Rev. Charlie Strong passed on 8-21-25.

A grief counseling group is available for those in need of support during difficult times of grieving. Contact the church office or Julie Mieke to inquire.

Weekly grief meditations are available on our website.

Discipleship Report

Sunday School

Classes for Sunday School will begin on September 7th at 9:00 AM. The youth will be meeting upstairs. Collette Brown and Carrie Hockerman will lead the group in the youth lessons associated with the lectionary (Bible verses for church year) for the day/week. It gives the kids the opportunity to see if what they discussed is approached in a different way by the pastor or lay speaker doing the sermon for the day.

The Adult Sunday School class will be meeting in the BK Smith room and begin the study of the book "Context" by Josh Scott. As advent begins a new study will be done that was written by Max Lucado. Jen Johnson will be leading this class and will look for support from the people attending.

Adult Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, September 10, a Bible Study will meet at 4:30 PM in the BK Smith room to study the book "Looking Inward Living Outward: The Spiritual Practice of Social Transformation" by Daniel Wolpert. We will be meeting early so that those attending music practices or WNF sessions will have the opportunity to enjoy each other's company and participate in all the possibilities available. Julie Mieke will lead this study and will have books available for purchase at \$15ea. This class will also be available to join by the Zoom link below if you are unable to attend in person.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86041114075pwd=IOBHOsuuOq4f9u40pb4juNA3DMxOWy.1>

-Julie Mieke, Director of Discipleship



First Wausau UMC is hosting Lay Servant Ministry (LSM) classes for laity in central and northern Wisconsin on **October 4 and 11, from 8:30am - 3:45pm**. We encourage our congregation to sign up for a class and be spiritually strengthened as we learn, connect, and grow together with other United Methodists.

The BASIC class (taught by Julie Mieke) is foundational.

If you have completed the BASIC class, you can then take any of the advanced classes. On October 4 and 11, we are offering:

PREACHING class (taught by Pastor Rebecca Borke)

ACCOUNTABLE DISCIPLESHIP class (taught by Pastor Tim Gurlea)

Registration is open at <https://wisconsin-reg.brtapp.com/LaityTrainingWausau>

More information about Lay Servant Ministries can be found at:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/lay-servant-ministries-catalog>.

Talk to Julie Mieke or Pastor Rebecca if you have questions.



2025
Lay Servant Ministries
Course Descriptions and Equipping Resources



Transform Your Church with the **Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations REVISITED**

Coming to Wisconsin!



Join Us for an Engaging In-Person Ecumenical Training Experience Led by Bishop Robert Schnase



Robert Schnase, United Methodist pastor, Bishop and best-selling author of the original *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, *Five Practices of Fruitful Living* and *Just Say Yes! Unleashing People for Ministry*.

What You'll Gain:

- Practical insights on **Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity**
- Actionable tools to address the challenging realities churches face today; tailored to today's evolving ministry landscape
- Meaningful discussions and hands-on activities to strengthen your congregation's ministry
- A supportive network of like-minded church leaders

Why This Training:

- Grounded in **proven principles** that have transformed churches worldwide
- **Interactive sessions** that move beyond theory to real-world application
- Opportunities to **connect and collaborate** with fellow church leaders
- **Exclusive opportunity to learn from Bishop Schnase** in person

REGISTER TODAY!

Saturday, Sept. 20, & Sunday Afternoon, Sept. 21, 2025
First Congregational UCC, Plymouth, WI

To Register: <https://wisconsin-reg.brtapp.com/FivePracticesofFruitfulCongregations>

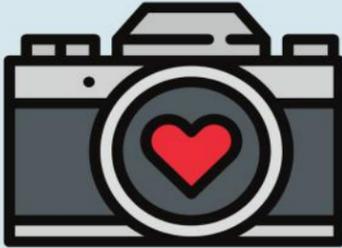
EARLY-BIRD AND GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

Co - Sponsored by:



Empower your congregation to **grow in faith, service, and generosity!**

CAPTURING OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Join us for one of our photoshoot sessions for our new photo directory

Sunday, Sept. 14
8am-1pm

Wednesday, Sept. 24
3-6pm

Sunday, Sept. 28
8am-1pm

No appointment needed, visit church during a session and bring the whole family!

CALL THE CHURCH FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS
715-842-2201

For this year's directory update, we have decided to put together a photo directory upon popular demand.

Please visit the church on one of the dates listed above to participate and bring the whole family!

We will be offering individual photos (for our online directory) and family photos (for the printed directory). We will also take this time to update any personal information with the church (i.e. phone numbers, address, interests, etc.)

If you can not attend one of these dates but still wish to be included, please contact Georgia Reynolds at the church office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



- **AV/PowerPoint**—During Sanctuary services Visit the balcony on Sunday mornings for training
- **Nursery** — Sunday Mornings
- **Ushers** - Specifically for 2nd and 5th Sundays
- **Coffee Hour**

Please contact Pastor Rebecca to help. Thank you!

September Mission



This ministry in the mountains of Guatemala offers medical care, food, child care, and education to the Mayan people. Our church participates in trips to assist in construction projects and to be educated in the Mayan culture. We also donate funds to keep these projects underway. Throughout September, donate loose change, put cash in the small brown envelopes, memo a check, or donate online.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY!

Are you interested in going on a mission adventure where you will grow in your faith while ministering to others? Consider joining the 2026 team for the Mission Guatemala service project November 21-28, 2026 and "do all the good you can"!

Our team can accommodate 10-20 people with hearts for mission and willing hands. Mission Guatemala offers help to people in the San Andres Semetabaj community and neighboring towns. They provide medical care at their clinic, child nutrition programs and scholarships for young people who want to complete their secondary education. Previous teams have helped construct classrooms, an athletic field, painted and made upgrades to the medical clinic compound.

The team will stay at the River House just outside of Panajachel, where the food is tasty and the coffee is excellent. At the worksite, Mission Guatemala provides translators and local experts to guide and teach the volunteers. Purified water is provided at the worksite and in the River House. Life is good!

Cost for 7 nights lodging and meals is \$675. Airfare TBD. Travelers will need a valid passport. If you would like to join or have questions, talk to Wes E. or Margaret G.



The Messenger

For our October Messenger, please submit any news or announcements to georgia@firstwausau.org by Sept. 24th.



United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith Executive team met last month and scheduled the programs for our monthly Wednesday meetings. We meet in the church parlor at 1:00 pm, unless otherwise noted.

- **Sept. 10** - "Hope" Julie Mische shares from Mission u
- **Oct. 8** - All about Open Door in Marathon County (presentation by Open Door Director Anne Drow)
- **Nov. 12** - World Thank Offering program with Georgia Reynolds
- **Dec. 10** - Bring your memories of Advent and Christmas traditions to share.

OTHER EVENTS:

- Saturday, Sept. 20 - Northeast District Annual Day of Celebration, Berlin UMC
- Sunday, Sept. 21 - UWF Sunday (will be hosting coffee hour after church service)
- Saturday, Oct. 11 - Conference UWF Fall Gathering, Wisconsin Rapids UMC.

Registration forms for district and conference events can be found in the parlor.

The annual **Fall Pre-owned Sale** will return to Fellowship Hall on **October 2 and 3**, under the direction of Sara Koss. Anyone is welcome to contribute items to this sale right up to that week. It is a great opportunity to clean out closets/basements/attics, rid yourselves of holiday and household items you no longer need or use, and help out some very worthy mission causes. Please put those donated items on the stage in Fellowship Hall during office hours.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Join us in the Parlor one day each month to share with each other what books you have read recently and find a new one to dive into! This is a new group that is getting itself established and hope to eventually start a book together. Stay tuned for the September meeting date to be announced soon!



United Women in Faith
ASSEMBLY 2026
May 15-17, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana
uwfaith.org/assembly

Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!

The Assembly, themed "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!" will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 15-17, 2026. Registration for the event will open on Sept. 1, 2025. Visit <http://uwfaith.org/assembly>



The WMC Shelter is located in our church basement through 2025. Open seven days a week 6pm-8am, the shelter can house up to 60 people and a small meal is provided each evening. This shelter provides

separation for women and men. For more info:

wmcshelter@wausauwi.gov
(715) 261-7824

[WMC Shelter Facebook Page](#)

Online Giving

Online giving is available for regular offerings or other missions you wish to support. Account is not required.

www.onrealm.org/FirstUnitedMeth91919/give/now



Connect Online!

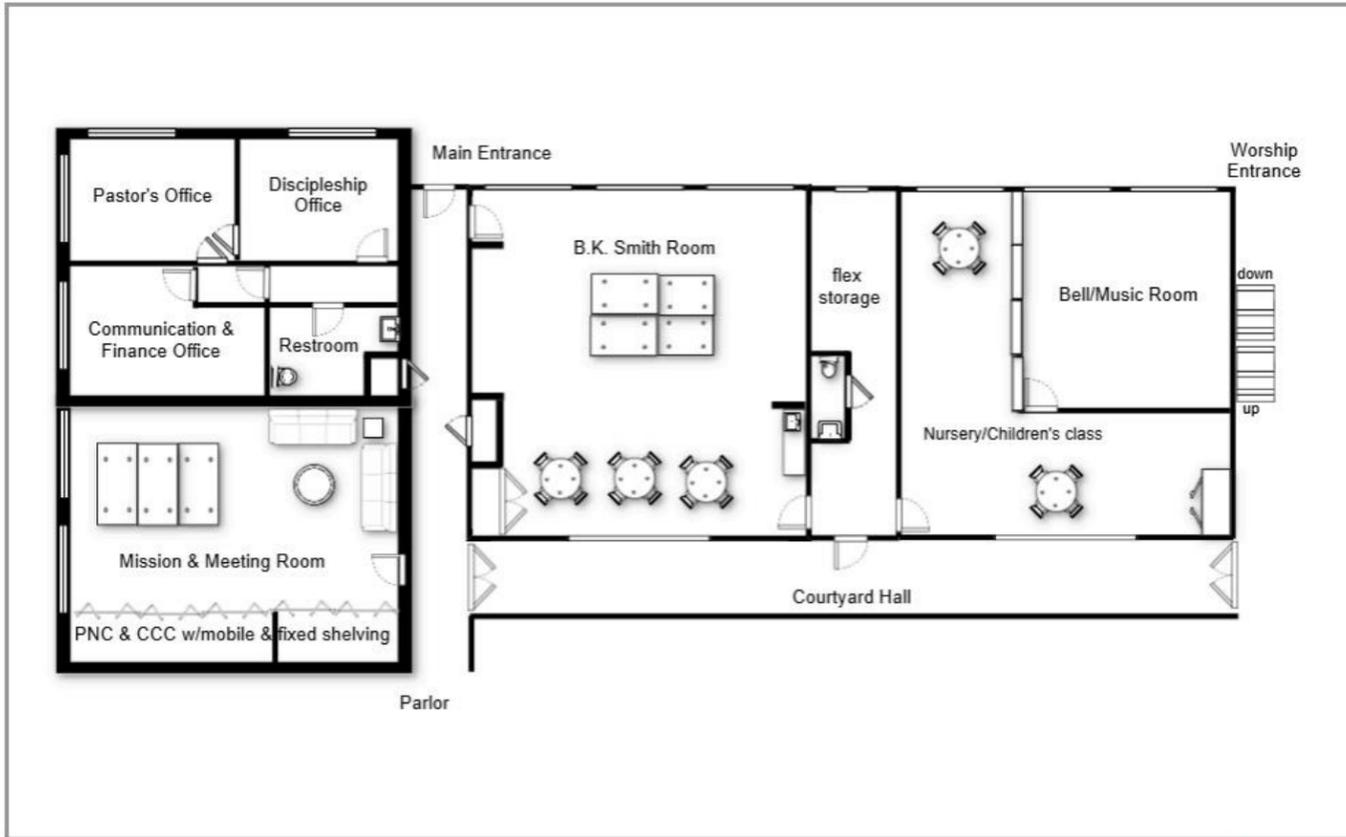
Website:
firstwausau.org

Facebook:
facebook.com/WausauFUMC

YouTube:
youtube.com/@FirstWausauUMC

WiFi Network:
FUMC Guest
password: [fumcpublic](#)

Phone: 715.842.2201



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North remodel Phase 1

THE MESSENGER

First United Methodist Church of Wausau
 903 Third Street
 Wausau, WI 54403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTSED

Our Mission:

Living as a community where
 God is forming deeply committed
 followers of Christ

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

Sunday Worship Times: 8:00AM Chapel | 10:00AM Sanctuary

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
HOLY COMMUNION
God Knows My Name
 Philemon 10-22; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
UWF SUNDAY
For the Glory
 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Psalm 79:1-9

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Our Hope is in the Lord
 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Psalm 14

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Safety in the Shadow of the Lord
 1 Timothy 6:9-19; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

CULTIVATING CONNECTION:
 REACHING YOUNG FAMILIES

20TH SEPTEMBER
 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

REGISTRATION COST: \$20

PRESENTER:
Kellen Roggenbuck
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 NEXTGEN MINISTRIES

Learn how to engage young families in your community by exploring the emerging generations and the family dynamics as they intersect with your church.

This training is for clergy and laity. To register, follow the QR code below or visit: wisconsin-reg.brtapp.com/Cultivatingconnection2025

St. Paul's UMC
 600 Wilshire Blvd
 Stevens Point, WI 54481

STAFF

Pastor	Rebecca Borke	rebecca@firstwausau.org
Director of Comm./Finance	Georgia Reynolds	georgia@firstwausau.org
Director of Discipleship	Julie Miede	julie@firstwausau.org
Building Engineer	Andy White	

903 N. Third Street, Wausau, WI 54403
 Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday-Thursday
 (715) 842-2201
www.firstwausau.org

SEPTEMBER 2025



Birthdays and anniversaries can be found on calendar below.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Office Closed LABOR DAY Janet Wyrick (B) Terry & Nancy Fiath (A) Brian & Beth Rohland (A)	Chloe Larson (B) 6pm Mission Team (BK Smith Room) UWF 2026 Assembly Registration Opens	Morgan Stamp (B)	Dawn Decker (B) 8am AA (BK Smith Room)	Office Closed	Will Wyrick (B)
7 Ray Nowaczyk (B) 8am Worship w/Communion (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship w/Communion (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour Potluck 4pm Community Meal	8 Rob Rybarczyk (B) 11:30am Savvy Seniors (Arrow Bar—Weston)	9 Tracie Bissonnette (B) 1-3pm PNC/CCC 5:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Worship Design Team	10 1pm UWF Meeting 4:30pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir Practice	11 Randy & Janet Wyrick (A) 8am AA (BK Smith Room) 7pm Scouts	12 Office Closed Barbara Day (B)	13
14 8am Worship (Chapel) 8:30a-1p Directory Photoshoot Session 1 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship w/Child Baptism (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 2pm Funeral Service - Rev. Charlie Strong 4pm Community Meal	15 10am Prayer Team (Parlor)	16 7pm Finance Committee	17 Steve Loftus (B) Dave & Dawn Decker (A) WNE: 4:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	18 Ann Harmon (B) 8am AA (BK Smith Room) 7pm Scouts	19 Office Closed MaDonna McMahan (B) Curt Day (B) Jessica Wenzel (B)	20 9a-3p UWF NE District Annual Day of Celebration (Berlin UMC)
21 UWF SUNDAY Mary Borchardt (B) Martie Pahrts (B) 8am Worship (Chapel) 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	22 Catherine Koss (B) 7pm Ministries Council	23 Lawrence Muelver (B) 10am Prayer Shawl Group (Parlor)	24 Cathy Hamblin (B) 3-6pm Directory Photoshoot Session 2 4:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Handbell Practice 7:15pm Choir Practice	25 8am AA (BK Smith Room) 7pm Scouts	26 Office Closed Betsy Larson (B) Russ & Rita Bennett (A)	27 Dennis Sauer (B) 9-11am PNC/CCC
28 8am Worship (Chapel) 8:30a-1p Directory Photoshoot Final Session 9am Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10am Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30am African Worship (Chapel) 11am Coffee Hour 4pm Community Meal	29	30				

How to Respond to Immigration Agents on Church Property

This guide is to protect people from civil immigration enforcement actions on church property. Specifically, the 1st, 4th, and 5th Constitutional Amendments protect us and the people we serve.

1. Key Principles

All church property is considered private and accessible only to people participating in services offered by our congregation and approved partners.

Only a judicial warrant signed by a judge allows forced entry.

ICE administrative warrants (I-200/I-205) are not judicial warrants.

Do not consent to ICE entry unless shown a judge-signed warrant.

2. How to Respond

If ICE agents arrive, staff/volunteers may say: "This is private property. We do not permit you to be on our property without a warrant signed by a judge. Please wait on a public street/sidewalk while we verify any legal authorization.

If a warrant is shown, determine whether it is administrative (not valid on church property) or judicial (admissible on church property). Refuse entry if invalid.

Record (video/verbal/written) and share all attempted enforcement actions

Keep calm, respectful, and clear in communications.

Know the Difference: ICE (Administrative) vs. Judicial Warrant

ICE Administrative Warrant - NOT REQUIRED to open door

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Customs Enforcement **Warrant of Removal/Deportation**

File No: _____
Date: _____

To any officer of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

_____ (Full name of alien)

Who entered the United States at _____ on _____ (Date of entry)
(Place of entry) (Date of entry)

Is subject to removal/deportation from the United States, based upon a final order by:

An immigration judge in exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings
 A district director or district director's designated official
 The Board of Immigration Appeals
 A United States District or Magistrate Court Judge

And pursuant to the following provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act:
Section 241 (a) (5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Ace), as amended.

I, the undersigned officer of the United States, by virtue of the power and authority vested in the Attorney General under the laws of the United States and by his or her direction command you to take into custody and remove from the United States the above-named alien, pursuant to law at the expense of the appropriation. "Salaries and Expenses Immigration and Customs Enforcement" including the expense of an attendant if necessary.

(Signature of ICE Official)

(Title of ICE Official)

(Date and Office Location)

Warrant Signed by Judge- REQUIRED to open door

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

United States of America,
Plaintiff,
v.
The Premises Known As,
Swift & Company, located at 1700
Highway 49 SE, Worthington,
Minnesota, and all its
appurtenances, parking area
and outdoor working areas
Defendant.

CIVIL NO. 06emj457 JSM

ORDER
FOR WARRANT FOR
ENTRY ON PREMISES TO
SEARCH FOR ALIENS
WHO ARE IN THE UNITED
STATES WITHOUT LEGAL
AUTHORITY

**Name &
Address**

The United States of America, having filed an application to authorize officers of United States Immigration and Customs without legal authority and, if any such persons are found on the premises, to exercise their authority pursuant to section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1357, to question them to determine whether they are such aliens and, if there is probable cause to believe they are such aliens, to arrest them.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall conduct the entry and search during daylight hours with ten (10) days of the issuance of this warrant, and make its return to this Court with ten (10) days of the date the entry and search have been completed.

Dated: December 8, 2006

Jamie S. Mayerson
JAMIE S. MAYERSON
United States Magistrate Judge

DATE **JUDGE**