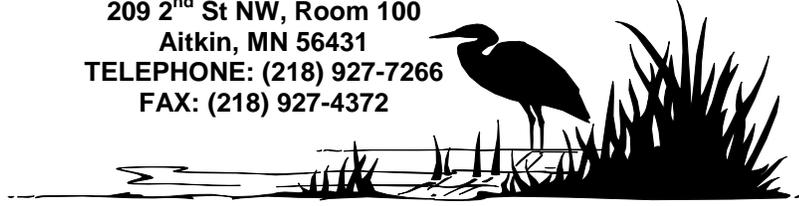


AITKIN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
209 2nd St NW, Room 100
Aitkin, MN 56431
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November 26, 2012

To: Faith Based Organizations in Aitkin County

On August 1, 2011, Minnesota Legislation approved a revision to Minnesota Chapter 115.22, exempting churches from obtaining a food license. Subpart three (3) exempts weddings, funerals or fellowship meals conducted by a faith based organization when held in the structure primarily used for worship or education.

Subpart 12 of Minnesota Chapter 115.22 requires a volunteer to be trained in food safety when food is served at fund raisers or community events conducted in the building or on the grounds of a faith based organization.

If your faith based organization is serving meals to the public for community events or fund raisers, a minimum of one trained volunteer must be present during these types of events.

Aitkin County is planning to offer a free 3 hour training course that would meet this new requirement. A course will be offered in February 2013.

If volunteers from your organization are interested in registering for this type of free training course, please contact me by December 30, 2012. Once I have a better idea of the number of people that are interested, I will set up a time and location.

I will be looking for a location to hold this training session. If your organization has a space that could be used for this event, please let me know.

Here is the link from the Minnesota Department of Health on this new law:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/food/pwdu/fsp/cookcrowd/index.html>

If your organization would prefer to self-train, that is another option. Please see the details in the link provided above.

Sincerely,

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