



# GRACE COURIER

[lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org)

## Mission Focus for January is A Brush with Kindness

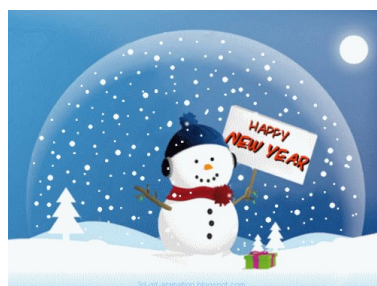
*East Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity A Brush With Kindness* is a Christian home preservation service that offers exterior as well as minor interior repair services for homeowners in need.

ABWK helps low income homeowners impacted by age, disability and family circumstances, who struggle to maintain their homes. Work ranges from yard clean-up to painting, from building access ramps to installing new siding. Homeowner selection is based on income, need and willingness to partner with ABWK. Volunteer labor and donated materials, when available, are used to keep costs low.

Homeowners work alongside volunteers if able.

Learn more at <http://www.ecmabwk.org/>, or visit them on Facebook.

There are mission envelopes in each pew if you'd like to donate anytime during the month. Mission Sunday is January 20.



## "Puzzles, Pie and Potato Soup"

**First United Methodist Church  
Third & Irene Sts, Lindstrom**

Friday, January 25; 6-9 PM

To join in the fun:

Enter a team of 4 in the jigsaw puzzle contest.  
\$20 entry fee and fabulous prizes for the winners.

Deadline to enter is Sunday January 13.  
Call the church office to sign up,  
257-4306

AND

Enjoy a bowl of homemade potato soup and pie

Admission fee: \$2 per person at the door for soup and pie

Middle School Youth (grades 6-8) meet at 5:30p the first and third Friday of each month during the school year for supper, games, crafts, Bible study and worship.

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### Dates to remember:

Jan. 1  
Office Closed

Jan. 4 and 18  
Club Rock (youth)

Jan. 13  
Coffee Fellowship for  
Vernon Fredrickson's  
100 birthday

Jan. 20  
Mission Sunday

Jan. 25  
Puzzles, Pie and Potato  
Soup

## From the pastor...

Dear Friends,

I witnessed my first Living Nativity at First United Methodist - along with nearly 700 other witnesses! What an incredible gift it was to so many and me as we sought to focus our attention on the newborn Savior.

What helped focus our attention - was Pete on the top of the tall ladder in the back running the spot-light! When I spoke to Pete after the performances, he of course, down-played his role. However, among all the key and critical roles in that holy cast, including Mary, Joseph, the Magi, the Shepherds, Gabriel the Holy Angel and the multitude of angels, and the baby Himself - was the spot light! Yes, you read correctly. The Spot Light.

As the crowds huddled together in the darkness of the mild evening, the spot light shone from side to side, highlighting the different scenes as they emerged, in sync with Tom Ervasti's powerful narration of the sacred story. What struck me the most, however, was when it was completely dark and one powerful and single light shone from above onto Joseph, Mary, and the Baby. One powerful and single light shone in the darkness. That was the scene that stood out for me as a first-time witness to this Live Nativity.

In the Church we are called week after week, as we gather for worship, prayer, and praise, to proclaim that powerful light to the world. We have just celebrated it at Christmas and throughout Advent. Now, with January 6, the Day of Epiphany, we enter into an entire season of light.

While so many other gods claim to be the light of life, there is really only one light that makes a difference in our lives. Even as the heavens were opened at Jesus' baptism, so the heavens have opened for us. Only recently have we celebrated the Son come down from heaven - for us. In a few months we will celebrate the Spirit, coming from the heavens in wind and fire (light).

In our own baptisms, the heavens figuratively opened as God has welcomed us as his children and promised to be the light of our life, the lamp unto our path.

While the light is returning to our half of the world, The Light from heaven has never left. While Pete needed a spot light to simulate the light shining from

the heavens, and did so effectively, Jesus needs no spotlight, for He is The Light Himself, and effectively with it, draws our attention to Him.

In His Light,

Pr. Dale



Thank you all for your contributions for Operation Christmas Child! We raised \$477.75!

Operation Christmas Child Celebrates 25 Years of Sending Shoebox Gifts to Children in Need.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, has delivered 157 million shoeboxes to boys and girls around the world. We praise God for so many children whose lives have been transformed because of a simple gift.

Operation Christmas Child Celebrates 25 Years of Sending Shoebox Gifts to Children in Need.

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has partnered with local churches around the world to deliver 157 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children in need in 160 countries. Each one—packed full of fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items by a family or individual—is sent with prayer that the child who receives it will experience God's love through their simple gifts.

These shoebox gifts are an opportunity to share the Gospel and “declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples” (Psalm 96:3).

**Kari Caldwell**



## In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug;  
Brian Elshaug; Rusty Johnson; George Hultman;  
Olga Determan

## Blessings

Congratulations to Patty Olson and Kevin Rogalla  
who were married December 1 at our pavilion with  
Pastor Dale officiating.



## Vernon Fredrickson turns 100!

Please join in celebrating Vernon  
Fredrickson's 100th birthday during  
coffee time after church on Sunday,  
January 13.

## Pastoral Care

Hospitals no longer telephone churches, because of  
the privacy act, to let us know that one of our mem-  
bers have been admitted.

Please notify the church office, 257-4306, if you  
desire pastoral care for illness, hospitalizations, or  
surgeries.

## Purchased something for the church?

To get an accurate count of giving to the church,  
please let us know if you have purchased something  
for the church but have not asked for reimbursement.  
We will list that purchase on your giving statement as  
a "gift-in-kind" so it will show on your contribution  
statement and the church knows how much is being  
given. If you have any questions, please contact  
**Linda Ploog** 651-257-3323.

## Nursery

We are pleased to be able to provide  
a Nursery during the worship service. It is  
designed for infants through 2 years.

Children are always welcome in the  
worship service.

## Birthdays!



Zach Caldwell.....January 1  
Rob Sandgren.....January 6  
Andy Wilkerson.....January 9  
Vernon Fredrickson.....January 15  
Pete Olson.....January 18  
Roy Brohaugh.....January 20  
Kay Oien.....January 21  
Peter Leadholm.....January 22  
Tim Hess.....January 23  
Kari Caldwell.....January 24  
Bruce Heilig.....January 25  
Carol Schmidt.....January 26  
Roger Dorenbusch.....January 30  
Lila Leadholm.....January 31



## Online Bill Pay

Do you use your computer to pay your bills on-line? If  
you do, you may want to send your church offering/  
pledge through the same on-line bill pay service. You  
can set up an automatic payment plan or a one time  
contribution.

It's easy:

- \* First, login to your bill pay account
- \* Select *Add a Bill*
- \* Select *Create an account without an account number*  
(use the address and phone number below)  
First United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 688  
Lindstrom, MN 55045  
651-257-4306

Please see **Greg Oien** or **Scott Lecy** if you have any  
questions.

## Unidos en Cristo weekends Experience New Testament Christianity

Unidos en Cristo (formally Cursillo) is a 3-day learning, sharing and inspirational experience of living in a Christian community. During the three days of a week-end, a person experiences authentic Christian fellowship and the joy of being part of a genuine Christian community.

### 2019

#295 Men: February 7-10  
#296 Women: February 14-17  
Held at Main Street Church, North Branch

If you would like to participate in an Unidos en Cristo weekend or would like more information, please contact **Scott or Cheryl Lecy**, 651-462-5725.

**Prison Ministry**...if you're interested in Charis Prison Ministry, please contact **Jim or Connie Buelow**, 651-465-3024.

## Monthly Giving update

Our General Fund Budget for 2018 is \$185,145. which becomes \$15,429 per month.

General Fund giving for November was \$13,596.95.

*Thank you for your support of our ministries!*

## Worship Attendance in December

Dec. 2—93

Dec. 9—98

Dec. 16—128

Dec. 23—131

Dec. 24~Christmas Eve—220



## Our Ministry Team 2019

Church Council.....Terry Keesee  
Lay Leader.....Craig Stockel  
Lay Member to Annual Conference.....Kay Oien  
Church Council Secretary.....Bob Determan  
Youth Coordinator.....TBD  
Children's Ministries.....Erin Thorvaldson  
Mission Chairperson.....TBD  
Staff/Parish Relations Chair....Jim Caldwell  
Trustees Chairperson.....Lloyd Jones  
Finance Chairperson.....Scott Lecy  
Financial Secretary.....Linda Ploog  
Treasurer.....Carol Schmidt  
Communications Chairperson....Erin Thorvaldson  
Foundation Chairperson.....Donn Arnold  
Council Member-at-Large.....Juanita Morgan  
Sarah White-Clark  
Peter Leadholm  
Finance-at-Large.....Greg Oien

## Confirmation Schedule - January

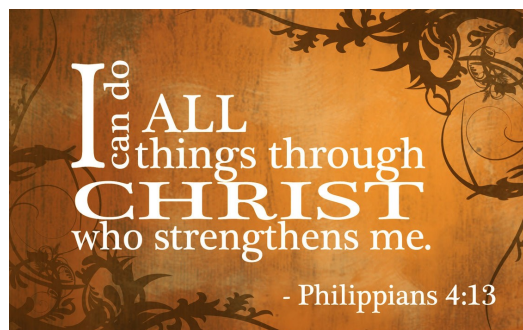
Wednesday, January 9 –  
The Sacraments – Holy Communion

Friday, January 11 – Saturday, January 12 –  
Winter Retreat, Camp Wapogasset, Amery, WI

Wednesday, January 16 –  
Fellowship Event

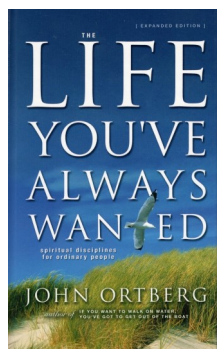
Wednesday, January 23 –  
The Sacraments – Holy Baptism

Wednesday, January 30 –  
Service Event





## Wednesday Adult Bible Study in January



Join us on Wednesday evenings, beginning on January 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the church lounge for a new six-week study of John Ortberg's book, *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. The study will be co-led by Pastor Dale and First UMC member and pastor, Tom Ervasti.

Participants are encouraged to purchase the book, but is not necessary in order to participate. Some copies of the book will be available in the church office for purchase. Contact Pr. Dale or Carol Schmidt if interested in purchasing one.

A brief description of the book study:

*You can live a deeper, more spiritual life right where you are.*

*The heart of Christianity is transformation—a relationship with God that impacts not just our “spiritual lives,” but every aspect of living. John Ortberg calls readers back to the dynamic heartbeat of Christianity—God’s power to bring change and growth—and reveals both the how and why of transformation.*

*The book offers modern perspectives on the ancient path of the spiritual disciplines. But this is more than just a book about things to do to be a good Christian. It’s a road map toward true transformation that starts not with the individual but with the object of the journey—Jesus Christ.*

*As with a marathon runner, the secret to winning the race lies not in trying harder, but in training consistently—training with the spiritual disciplines. The disciplines are neither taskmasters nor an end in themselves. Rather they are exercises that build strength and endurance for the road of growth. The fruit of the Spirit—joy, peace, kindness, etc.—are the signposts along the way.*

*Paved with humor and sparkling anecdotes, the book is an encouraging and challenging approach to a Christian life that’s worth living—a life on the edge that fills an ordinary world with new meaning, hope, change, and joy.*

## Schedule:

Wednesday, January 9 -  
It's Morphing Time - The Hope of Transformation

Wednesday, January 16 -  
The Unhurried Life - Slowing Down and Celebrating

Wednesday, January 23 -  
Life Beyond Regret - Praying and Confessing

Wednesday, January 30 -  
The Undivided & Guided Life - Meditating on Scripture & Seeking Guidance

Wednesday, February 6 -  
Appropriate Smallness - Practicing Servanthood & Finding Freedom

Wednesday, February 13 -  
Our Rule of Life - Going the Distance with a Well-Ordered Heart

## On Vacation

Pastor Dale will be gone on Sunday, January 6. Pastor Tom Lundberg will be preaching and leading worship.



## THANK YOU

A HUGE Thank you to all that helped make the Nativity possible. We had 693 visitors that we got to share the CHRISTmas story with. Some traveled as far as Rochester and many saw the show for the first time. Without the dedication of some very special individuals the Nativity would not be possible. THANK YOU again!!



## 2018 -2019 Sunday School Schedule

December 23<sup>rd</sup> – No Sunday School  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service  
 December 30<sup>th</sup> – No Sunday School  
 January 6<sup>th</sup> –No Sunday School – Communion Sunday

January 6<sup>th</sup> – Family Fun Day at Thorvaldson's  
 February 3<sup>rd</sup>—Super Bowl Sunday—Youth Lead Service  
 March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Family Fun Day – Location TBD  
 March 10<sup>th</sup> – No Sunday School  
 April 13<sup>th</sup> - Easter Carnival  
 April 14<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday  
 April 21<sup>st</sup> - Easter Sunday –  
     Breakfast Served by Youth  
     (fundraiser for camp and mission trip)

May 12<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day  
 May 19<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of Sunday School

Some events subject to change, some events might be added as well. Be sure to complete registration for Sunday school, if you haven't done so.

Sunday School Available for ages:  
 3 year old to Pre K  
 Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

WOW!!! WE THE YEAR IS FLYING BY!!! WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A BLAST AT SUNDAY SCHOOL - SOME OF THE KIDS WILL BE SINGING DURING CHRISTMAS EVE, THANK YOU KAY FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS. MANY OF THE KIDS TOOK PART IN THE LIVING NATIVITY AND WE HAD OUR ANNUAL POLAR EXPRESS AND PJ PARTY. WE ARE CONTINUING TO LEARN AND SHARE OUR FAITH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL. BE SURE TO WATCH FOR FUN ACTIVITIES COMING UP.

YOUTH SUPER BOWL SUNDAY SERVICE - FAMILY FUN DAY - FUNDRAISERS - EASTER CARNIVAL - EASTER BREAKFAST - YOUTH PRAISE BAND -

## THIS 'N' THAT By Juanita Morgan, Dec. 2018

Where has 2018 gone? The year has been one of contradictions: love and hate, inclusion and exclusion, sympathy and disdain, suffering and care, kindness and cruelty.....So much divisiveness in the world! And yet our church, just a mite in the universe, has held fast to Christ's wishes that we love God and are kind to one another. Hospitality is evident: as simple as welcoming a "new face", a visitor, on a Sunday morning; or providing events such as Living Nativity or Praise Fest that draw people from the community to share God's magnificence with us.

**Servants in our church**—Let me just highlight a few:

**Communion** servers in 2018 included:

**Shirley Knopf, Phyllis Perry, Sue Hernick, Sue Hanvey, Tom & Rebecca Ervasti, Tim & Linda Ploog, Beth & Duane Lunsford, Dan & Laurie Doughty, Pastor Dale & Carrie Stiles, Irv & Dorothy Lecy, Marna Gerke, Pauline Heilig, Annica Stiles, Terry & Cyndi Keesee.**

**Name tags**—Each Communion Sunday is also "Name Tag" Sunday. We began providing name tags the first Sunday Pastor Dale preached, and also served Communion. Name Tag helpers were **Dari Ferguson, Judy Green, Rebecca Ervasti, and Susan Hernick** this fall.

**Ushers**—Many thanks to **Paul Prokosch** for rounding up Sunday morning ushers. Some of the regulars have included **LeRoy Johnson, Irv Lecy, Gary Gerke, Mark Vanderwerf, Dick & Patsy Berglund**, and others. Not only do the ushers hand out Sunday bulletins, they welcome those who enter the church, and serve as **greeters** as well.

The list of **servants** is long! Virtually everyone has contributed to the well-being of our building and our congregation in some way. Think snow removal, grass mowing, landscaping, cleaning, music, decorating, etc. The list goes on. Each action contributes to the welcoming hospitality of our church.

**Doris Brand**—We can't leave 2018 without acknowledging the death of this special woman who died at Ecumen Parmlly on Oct.29 at the venerable age of 103. Hope Circle, of which she had long been a member, was honored to prepare and serve a luncheon after the funeral service at church. We have wonderful memories; her graciousness, her quick wit, happy smile and laugh, and her acceptance of life,

whatever it brings. She has become part of the rich history of 1<sup>st</sup> UMC.

**Hope Circle**—The December meeting of Hope Circle was a joyous gathering of eleven. Members and 'friends' of the Circle had contributed to purchase items for a Mom and four children. **Phyllis Perry** had acquired information about the family from Pathways. The Hope Circle room looked like Santa's Workshop! Conversation and laughter filled the room as we wrapped and labeled each gift, thankful and happy that we could share a little of our 'bounty' with others.

The next meeting of Hope Circle will be January 10. We would love new members!! Join us at 9:30 a.m. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**Changes**—Change can be difficult, but it is always inevitable whether in infinitesimal or immense ways. Our world is a creation of living matter that changes from one cell to a complex of cells. Change can be social as well as physical...This year we had a pastoral change. A passing of the Torch so to speak. June concluded **Pastor Dan's** ten years with us, and July began **Pastor Dale's** ministry with us. Blessings to both.

**Juanita Morgan**

## HELP Health Equipment Lending Program

Do you or someone you know need temporary medical equipment?

HELP began in 2010 with the idea of three men from the community (two from Trinity Lutheran Church and one from First UMC) who saw the need for health equipment to be available to all who may have need of it.

HELP offers used medical equipment to anyone with a temporary need. The equipment can be "borrowed" for up to six months, but can be extended with a phone call for another six months – for a total borrow time of one year. The equipment is housed at First UMC.

The equipment is donated by individuals and health care providers. It is cleaned and sanitized before being issued for use.

Call the church office, 257-4306, for information on what equipment is available for your use or to donate used equipment.



## Meals on Wheels Deliverers

Jan. 1—HOLIDAY

Jan. 2—Marvin Hultquist

Jan. 3—Donn & Sharlene Arnold

Jan. 4—Greg McCarthy

Jan. 7—Michelle Gillespie

Jan. 8—Ron & Juanita Morgan

Jan. 9—Gary & Marna Gerke

Jan. 10—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

Jan. 11—Jim & Joyce Stafki

Jan. 14—Marvin Hultquist

Jan. 15—Cindy Kopp

Jan. 16—Larry & Shirley Knopf

Jan. 17—Jon Glader

Jan. 18—Harold & Jan Lovaas

Jan. 21—Donn & Sharlene Arnold

Jan. 22—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

Jan. 23—Lois Anderson & Judy Pierre

Jan. 24—Ron & Juanita Morgan

Jan. 25—Bonnie Vasatka

Jan. 28—Georgia Burg

Jan. 29—Jan Gravelle & Diana Westrum

Jan. 30—Jim & Joyce Stafki

Jan. 31—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

**Juanita Morgan, 257-9268**

## Tech Ministries Schedule

Jan. 6 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

Jan. 13 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

Jan. 20 – Sound: Bruce Larsen

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

Jan. 27 – Sound: Bruce Larsen

Accompanist: Kay Oien

## Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will be meeting Thursday, January 10 at 9:30 a.m. All women of the church are invited!



## Prayer Chain

If you would like a request for prayer to go out on our Prayer Chain, please call **Connie Buelow**, 651-465-3024, or **Lois Anderson**, 651-213-1036, or the church office, 257-4306.

Would you like to be a part of the Prayer Chain? Please call the church office for more information.

## Can we be of help?

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday,

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Pastor Dale** is available to help you with your spiritual journey and the door is open most mornings. Please give us a call at 257-4306 if we can be of help to you in any way.

Church email address:

[office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)

**Pastor Dale's** email address:

[dale@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:dale@lindstrommethodist.org)

## Sunday Messages available online

Pastor Dale's Sunday messages are posted to our website: [www.lindstrommethodist.org](http://www.lindstrommethodist.org) the week following the service.

Pastor Dale writes a blog on the website and posts it on Tuesdays.

**Weekly Electronic News (eNews)** from First UMC delivered to your computer or smartphone every Monday morning. Subscribe on our church website today!



# JANUARY 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p		1 New Year's Day Office closed 	2	3	4 Pastor's Day Off  5:30p Club Rock	5 8a-3:30p Charis Prison Ministry meeting
6 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship	7 6p Bell Choir	8 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church	9 5p Family Dinner 5:30p Youth Bells 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team	10 9:30a Hope Circle	11 Pastor's Day Off	12
13 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship	14 6p Bell Choir	15 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church  No Meetings <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	16 5p Family Dinner 5:30p Youth Bells 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team	17	18 Pastor's Day Off  5:30p Club Rock	19 8a-3:30p Charis Prison Ministry meeting
20 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship  <b>Mission Sunday</b>	21 6p Bell Choir	22 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church	23 5p Family Dinner 5:30p Youth Bells 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team	24	25 Pastor's Day Off  6p Puzzles, Pie and Potato Soup	26
27 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School  10:15a Fellowship	28 6p Bell Choir	29 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church	30 5p Family Dinner 5:30p Youth Bells 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Choir 8p Worship Team	31 		

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First United Methodist Church  
30828 Irene Ave.  
P.O. Box 688  
Lindstrom, MN 55045  
(651) 257\*4306  
Fax (651) 257\*8039

[lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org)

Address Service Requested  
Contains dated material

*Sent with a prayer to:*

January 2019



## First United Methodist Church Pastor Dale Stiles

### Practicing Grace Until We Are Perfected In Love

The *Grace Courier* is a monthly publication of First United Methodist Church.

**Deadline: the third Tuesday of each month for inclusion in the next month's publication.**

Articles received after this date will not be printed. Place articles in the secretary's mailbox, on the desk in the office or email them to the church. The editor reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication.

#### **We welcome you to worship with us!**

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Children leave for Sunday School during Worship

Coffee fellowship 10:15 a.m.

#### **Wednesday Evening Activities:**

5:00p Family Dinner

6:00p Adult Bible Study

7:00p Confirmation

7:00p Choir

#### **Our Ministry Team:**

Pastor...

Administrative Secretary / Treasurer...

Children's Coordinator...

Choir Director...

Church Council Chairperson...

Custodian...

Finance Chairperson...

Financial Secretary...

Foundation Chairperson...

Lay Leader...

Lay Member to Annual Conference...

Mission Chairperson...

Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson...

Trustees Chairperson...

Worship Team Leader...

Youth Coordinator...

Dale Stiles

Carol Schmidt

Erin Thorvaldson

Kay Oien

Terry Keesee

Cheryl Hultquist

Scott Lecy

Linda Ploog

Donn Arnold

Craig Stockel

Kay Oien

Sandy Gaudette

Jim Caldwell

Lloyd Jones

Beth Lunsford

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Pastor's email: [dale@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:dale@lindstrommethodist.org)

Web site: [lindstrommethodist.org](http://lindstrommethodist.org)