



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

Mission Focus for July is our Cemetery—Crescent Beach

From *Emigrants at Worship: 125 Years of Chisago Lake Methodism* by Robert Porter

“By 1870, the congregation of Methodist Episcopal Church in Center City had grown large enough so that the members wanted a burial ground of their own. Up to this time burials were made at the Swedish Lutheran Cemetery just east of the Center City Lutheran Church and at Glader Cemetery, south of the lake.

“John Dedon and S.M. Linman, acting as trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Chisago Lake, purchased 82/100 of an acre from Andrew & Catharina Swenson for the nominal sum of \$1.00 on

November 1, 1870. This land was located in Center City just south of present Highway 8 and was to be used for cemetery purposes. Later, the cemetery was named Crescent Beach, as it is situated atop a pleasant knoll, once a peninsula extending into the lake. An Indian burial ground is nearby.”

Our cemetery is in need of funds to maintain the grounds—mowing, flowers, etc.

If you would like to donate towards the maintenance of our cemetery, please make your check out to First UMC, marking “cemetery” in the memo.
Thank you!

Inside this issue:

From the pastor...	2
Prayers & Birthdays	3
Unidos en Cristo	3
Giving Update	3
Meals on Wheels	4

Dates to remember:

July 4
Office Closed

July 6-14
Denver Mission Trip—
Pastor Dale gone

July 15-19
Our Secretary, Carol
Schmidt on vacation

July 21
Mission Sunday—
Crescent Beach
Cemetery



From the pastor...

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this article, I do so on the evening of the final day of the annual three-day conference gathering of the MN Annual Conference in St. Cloud. As always the conference was filled with uplifting worship, inspiring speakers, challenging preachers, and a strong connective network of United Methodists clergy and laity from throughout our state. Video highlights of the conference are posted on our church Facebook page. The joy of Minnesota Methodists being together stood out for me, once again, this year.

However, what set this annual conference apart from previous ones was that it was the first one following the Special General Conference gathering that was held last February in St. Louis. It was in St. Louis that the UMC as a whole voted to continue its ban on LGBTQIA+ marriages and ordinations, as well as voting to strengthen disciplinary procedures, tighten restrictions, and increase the enforcement of any who choose not to abide by this ruling. So among the joy of being together at this annual conference, there was also an increased tension and level of anxiety among clergy and delegates in attendance.

Since the rulings of St. Louis in February, through broadcast, social, and print media, it has become widely evident that the majority of American UMC congregations and members are not in agreement with the St. Louis ruling and many have chosen to begin the process of visioning what God might have in store for a more inclusive UMC. The conversations and debates at this year's annual conference in St. Cloud made it abundantly clear that the shape of the United Methodist Church will change considerably in the next couple of years. What was also made clear is that nobody knows exactly how that will look. Change will happen, for sure.

This is why, after spending much time this week discussing our denomination's changing landscape and engaging in respectful conversations, MN Annual Conference members voted 491 (85%) - 86 (14%) to adopt a vision for Minnesota that names a commitment to the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in the life of our denomination. Ours is not the first or the only conference within the denomination to take such a stand. Most United States Annual Conferences have been passing similar statements.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Movement, had three simple rules that he lived by. 1.) Do no harm, 2.) Do good, 3.) Stay in love with God. Nearly 300 years later these are still good rules to live by. Note number one, however - "Do no harm."

What this commitment that was adopted this week at the conference gathering says is that we, as the MN Annual Conference, acknowledge the harm and the pain the

decisions in St. Louis have caused among our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ throughout the world. It acknowledges that too often our silence has contributed to their pain and their harm. This commitment says to our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ that we acknowledge them also as beloved Children of God and that they are beloved by us. It says that we celebrate the many gifts they bring to society and to the Church. It says we are committed to being and (re) creating the kind of inclusive church that God (and Wesley) intended us to be and that we will engage in the hard work of undoing any harm caused by any exclusion and discrimination they have experienced from us. This is a big task, but one that our annual conference is committed to take on.

While an overwhelming task, it is encouraging to know that some very gifted and faithful Minnesota Conference leaders are already preparing for whatever might happen within our denomination. Our conference's five district superintendents are staying in close conversation with the clergy and congregations in their districts, and encouraging them to enter into thoughtful conversation with one another about how they will continue to be the church God has called them to be in their communities now and into the future. Our own district superintendent, Susan Neinaber, has already committed to join me in facilitating such a conversation with you in the near future. When a date and time is determined for this meeting you will be notified. Until then, I urge you, do not become discouraged. Remain hopeful. Remain faithful. Be patient as the Holy Spirit continues to reveal to us what is next for the United Methodist Church as a whole and for First United Methodist Church in Lindstrom.

I am encouraged that, in the midst of such levels of uncertainty, our denomination is still strongly rooted in Jesus, is grounded in the love and grace and inclusivity of Wesleyan theology, and remains engaged in the work of justice and reconciliation both on the local and global level. I am hopeful that within our congregation we will remain united by hearts of love, grace, forgiveness, and a passion for inviting others into the abundant life of Jesus that we each have experienced here.

As always, I am thankful for you and your commitment to Jesus and His Word. I appreciate hearing from many of you, but I again, extend the invitation to any of you who would like to talk with me about Jesus and His Word and how your understanding informs your faith. Wesley called this "Holy Conferencing." Luther called this the "Mutual Conversation of the Saints." Sharing the joys and pains of our hearts is important and holy work.

Let's talk soon. Peace.

Pr. Dale

In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug;
Brian Elshaug; Olga Determan; Lois Anderson

Pastoral Care

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

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

Monthly Giving update

Our General Fund Budget for 2019 is \$192,053, which becomes \$16,004 per month.

General Fund giving for May was \$18,782.

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

Worship Attendance in June

June 2—85

June 9—88

June 16—70

June 23—89

Newsletter sent before June 30...



Nursery

During the summer months, there is no Nursery Attendant, but you are welcome to use the room, if needed.

Children are always welcome in the worship service.

Birthdays!



Pat McDermott.....July 1
Jessie Johnson.....July 1
Maddy Sandgren.....July 1
Wayne Vanek.....July 1
Allen Kask.....July 3
Weston Stegmeir.....July 6
Tim Clark.....July 9
Irene Orton.....July 11
Beth Lunsford.....July 15
Jackie Stegmeir.....July 16
Linda Ploog.....July 18
Glenn Polzine.....July 18
George Hultman.....July 19
Nora Hess.....July 22
Phyllis Perry.....July 23
Vicki Palmer.....July 23
Kristin Anderson.....July 28
Verna Hultman.....July 28
Jack Danielson.....July 28



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

Our next weekend will be October 31-Nov. 3. It's our first Co-ed Weekend and will be held at Faith Presbyterian. Our Rectora is Cathy Johnson Colman. This weekend is Co-ed, with men's tables and women's tables. It is not a couples weekend but couples are welcome. The experience will focus on the individual and their walk with the Lord. Sleeping rooms will also be by gender. This is also a Co-ed team. We are leveraging experienced leadership for this first Co-ed weekend.

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 **Scott Lecy**, 612-805-2524.



Meals on Wheels Deliverers

July 1—Marvin Hultquist

July 2—Ron & Juanita Morgan

July 3—Gary & Marna Gerke

July 4—HOLIDAY

July 5—Greg McCarthy

July 8—Michelle Gillespie

July 9—Cindy Kopp

July 10—Larry & Shirley Knopf

July 11—Donn & Sharlene Arnold

July 12—Bonnie Vasatka

July 15—Phil & Joan DeMunck

July 16—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

July 17—Lois Anderson & Judy Pierre

July 18—Jon Glader

July 19—Jim & Joyce Stafki

July 22—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

July 23—Jan Gravelle & Diana Westrum

July 24—Bonnie Bielicki

July 25—Fred Prindle

July 26—Harold & Jan Lovaas

July 29—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

July 30—Ron & Juanita Morgan

July 31—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

Tech Ministries Schedule

July 7 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

July 14 – Sound: Bruce Larsen

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

July 21 – Sound: NEEDED

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

July 28 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will NOT meet in July.



Prayer Chain

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

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

Pastor Dale's email address:

dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Sunday Messages available online

Pastor Dale's Sunday messages are posted to our website: www.lindstrommethodist.org the week following the service.

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

JULY 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p	1	2	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	6 ***Mission
7 9:00a Worship/ Paul Prokosch 10:15a Fellowship trip	8 to	9 NO Trustees Denver—	10 Pastor	11 NO Hope Circle Dale	12 Pastor's Day Off gone	13 ***
14 9:00a Worship/ Tom Ervasti Communion 10:15a Fellowship *** /	15 ***Our	16 7p Finance NO Church Council Newsletter deadline Secretary	17 Carol Schmidt	18 on	19 Pastor's Day Off vacation***	20
21 9:00a Worship 10:15a Fellowship Mission Sunday~ Crescent Beach Cemetery	22 	23 	24 	25 	26 Pastor's Day Off 	27
28 9:00a Worship 10:15a Fellowship	29 	30 	31 			

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

lindstrommethodist.org

Address Service Requested
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

July 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.

Coffee fellowship 10:15 a.m.

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
Adrienne Stegmeir
Juanita Morgan
Lloyd Jones
Beth Lunsford
Erin Thorvaldson

Office email: office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor's email: dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Web site: lindstrommethodist.org