



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

The Angel Tree is the mission focus this month

The Angel Tree is an outreach of the Lindstrom United Methodist Church to local families who need help providing Christmas gifts for their children. This project was developed in response to several phone calls from families looking for assistance last year during the Christmas season.

If you know of a family that would benefit from The Angel Tree program, please share the gift request sign up sheet with them. Any family who feels they need assistance is welcome to submit a request, regardless of income requirements. These are available on the missions table in the foyer as well as the church Facebook page and website. We will also have the forms available at the Children's Shop Day on November 2.

Forms are due back to the church by Friday, November 15th.

Family Pathways Thanksgiving Food Drive

The holidays are approaching rapidly and the annual Food & Fund Drive to give all families a Thanksgiving meal is underway. Please join them in the effort to distribute 120 Thanksgiving meals to our neighbors in need this season.

Each church is invited to concentrate on collecting one food item. First UMC has been given the invitation to help by donating **Cooking Oil** for the holiday meal.

There is a cart in the foyer for your donations. In order to distribute meals in time for Thanksgiving, all items must be collected by November 11.

Thank you for your consideration and Happy Holidays!

Beginning November 24th church attendees will be offered the opportunity to sponsor a child. Each child will have a paper angel with his or her clothing size information and 3 wish list ideas hanging on a Christmas tree near the missions board. Simply purchase the gifts and return them to the church in a bag with the paper angel attached by Sunday, December 8th. Monetary donations, gift cards, and rolls of wrapping paper are also appreciated!

Distribution will be the morning of Saturday, December 14th, and families will have the opportunity to wrap their own gifts using the donated rolls of gift wrap.

Thank you for your help spreading the word about this exciting new opportunity as well as participating in spreading the joy by sharing your gifts!

Adrienne Stegmeir/Tina Forcier

Living Nativity Meeting

As October is flying by, December 14th will be here in no time. I would like to have a meeting for those interested in being part of the Nativity this year.

Meeting will be November 3rd after church at 10:30 am in the lounge.

This has become a HUGE event for our church and our community, we would LOVE to keep this going, but we definitely need all of you to keep it up. Thank you for making this successful each year and looking forward to it this year.

Thank you,
Erin Thorvaldson
651-470-7694

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Dates to remember:

| | |
|---------|--|
| Nov. 2 | Children's Shop Day |
| Nov. 3 | Daylight Saving Time ends |
| Nov. 17 | Mission Sunday |
| Nov. 19 | Newsletter Deadline |
| Nov. 26 | Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service @ Trinity Lutheran, 6:30p |

From the pastor...

Dear Friends,

I recently preached about the healing of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19). In the story, all ten are healed of their leprosy but only one (a Samaritan) returns to thank Jesus. I spoke in that sermon about how all of us have been healed from our own disease - *amartia* (greek word for sin). And how, because Jesus died for our sin - to heal us from our *amartia* - we too have much to be grateful for, and worshipping God is one way to express such gratitude.

I remember during the time of 9/11 that church worship attendance increased for several weeks. We were all grateful to have a place and a community to go to at that time. We were grateful knowing that we could find hope and comfort in Jesus. However, when additional national threats to our country did not materialize, worship attendance declined back to normal numbers.

Why did this happen? It's probably not unusual. Don't we all flock to God in time of trouble, asking for release from our fear, sickness, or any crisis that we find ourselves in? This is good. This is expected. In fact, Psalm 46:1 says so! *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*

But, human as we are, we often return to our own devices when the crisis has passed. Our deep gratitude to God and desire to express it in worship almost, at times, becomes an afterthought. Why? Why don't we continue to lean on God in deep gratitude for continued comfort and guidance, every day or every week? Why do we allow our attitudes of gratitude to decline when life is good?

This reminds me of my own childhood, when I ran to my mom or dad during the night for comfort from the "boogie man", from the "something" hiding under my bed or in my closet, or from a loud crash of thunder. My own children, when they were young, also sought refuge under the covers of Carrie's and my bed when fear, illness, sadness, or uncertainty set in! We were, and are, always grateful for such refuge - when needed. But then, always, in the morning, the sun rose again, and it was back to good old daylight and safety. Now I was fine "on my own" again and my children had forgotten why they woke up in our bed - until bedtime, or another crisis. Another Psalm (30:5) says it this way: *"Though sorrow may last through the night, my joy comes in the morning!"*

When we're worried or sick, when we lose our income, home or loved ones, our minds and hearts are so busy sending out prayers to God and reaching out to caring friends and family - as it should be. We reach out and pray despite our weakness. As we should. We feel God's power because we know that God cares. We know that God listens, holds us, calms us, walks with us, and comforts us. God is our refuge in times of trouble and we trust that He offers such refuge, hope and comfort of daylight to the world. God's power and promises encourage us to rejoice in this hope and to share it with others. Knowing we can trust in and count on Jesus to be with us helps us to stand steadfast in times of hardship, sickness or any disaster that comes our way. Jesus proclaims that, while life will not be easy, he has overcome the world with the morning light. In this we trust.

So in this season of thankfulness and gratitude, as we gather with friends and family to celebrate and rejoice God's provision and blessings, let's remember to return to Jesus and put God first in our thoughts, hearts, minds, and souls, thanking Him always for the hope and healing we have every day.

In Gratitude,

Pastor Dale



In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug;
Brian Elshaug; Olga Determan; Nate Clark;
Baby Lilly

Celebrating Babe Anderson's birthday

Babe Anderson will be 100 on Nov. 1st!

To our wonderful church family,

You are invited to an Open House birthday party to celebrate the gift of 100 years the Lord has watched over Babe. The Open House will be held at Lake View Apts. (next to Parmly) from 2 to 4 p.m on Saturday, Nov. 2nd The gathering will be in the dining room. No gifts please. If you would like, bring a card of congratulations that would serve to warm her heart.

Cradle Rocking #97

Blessings to **Edwardo Peter Perez**, born Sept. 16, 2019 to **Kelsey (Olson) & Eddie Perez**.

Grandparents are **Pete & Kirsten Olson**;
Sherrie Olson and Edwardo & Lineth Perez.

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.

On vacation:

Pastor Dale will be on vacation Sunday, Nov. 3 & Monday, Nov. 4. Pastor Tom Ervasti will be preaching Sunday.

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!



Babe Anderson.....November 1
Caleb Anderson.....November 2
Laura Tomczak.....November 2
Taylor Thorvaldson.....November 8
Paige Leadholm.....November 10
Jim Buelow.....November 11
Amelia Anderson.....November 13
Ralph Bates.....November 16
Roslyn Hess.....November 19
Emelie Caldwell.....November 22
Libby Keefe.....November 22
Ella Leadholm.....November 28
Marilee Fredrickson.....November 29



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 **Lloyd Jones**, 651-213-3110.

Bible Journaling

Come to an evening of listening prayer art using the Bible, God's word. **Carrie Stiles and Beth Lunsford** will be leading a meditation on "Into Darkness Came A Great Light!" No experience needed. We will listen, doodle, create a piece of art in a Bible or on a piece of paper. All supplies provided; bring your Bible. Experience art, prayer and the word of God as a conversation with God. All ages welcome!

November 14th, 2019
7:30-9 PM

First United Methodist Church fellowship hall.
Please contact **Beth Lunsford** if you have any questions and to sign up. 651-338-9513.

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.

2020

#299 Men: February 20—23

#300 Women: February 27—March 1

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

Monthly Giving update

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

General Fund giving for September was \$14,874.

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

Worship Attendance in October

October 6—67

October 13—81

October 20—65

October 27—91



Wednesday Adult Bible Study

Adult Study on Wednesday evenings (6:00p) will begin a new study of the book of Ephesians on Wednesday, November 6.

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-Up

Thank you to those who helped clean "our" highway!



Left to right:

Ellie Stegmeir, Adrienne Stegmeir, Erik Stegmeir, Jackie Stegmeir, Weston Stegmeir, Gary Gerke, Irve Lecy, Linda Ploog, Dick Berglund

Not pictured: Marvin Hultquist,
Lois Anderson (took pic)

Thank you for helping!

Choir Director/Accompanist

We are seeking a Choir Director/Accompanist to begin as soon as possible. This is stipended position (\$2,400/annually).

If interested in this position please contact **Pastor Dale** directly.

Joint Thanksgiving Worship Service

Thanksgiving Worship will be a joint worship service between First United Methodist, Chisago Lakes Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran.

It will be held at Trinity Lutheran on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Children's Shop Day!

Saturday, Nov. 2

10:00a—1:00p



Church Council Minutes

October 22, 2019

Present: Pastor Dale, Lloyd Jones, Adrienne Stegmeir, Erin Thorvaldson, Juanita Morgan, Emily Honerbrink, Donn Arnold, Tom Ervasti. Absent: Scott Lecy, Cheryl Lecy, Sarah White-Clark.

Opening Devotion – “Where have you seen God at work in your life recently?”

Trustees: Heating Unit: Boilers have been cleaned/serviced. Office entry unit repaired. Continuing to get quotes for Fellowship hall flooring; plan to start project after January 1. Concrete has been poured for new parking lot light; pole is currently being painted (Mark V. will install soon).

Foundation: Final meeting of the year was October 29th; 3 people on board have terms that are up but all are anticipated to return.

Missions: October Mission Youth With A Mission (YWAM) – Erik & Ele Brohaugh. November will be the Angel Tree; no children have applied yet. Applications are in the Hall. Forms will be out during Children’s Shop Day. December will be Gideons. Christmas Eve collection with split between Family Pathways & the Pastor’s discretionary fund. Suggestion was made by Lloyd to post the monthly mission money raised.

Publicity & Social Media: Event Facebook posts for Shop Day & Living Nativity are performing well; 120 interested people for Shop Day. Posts were boosted. Barb Prindle’s posts are continuing to generate good responses.

Lay Leader: no report

Staff/Parish Relations Committee: Met with District Superintendent, had good conversation about holding healthy and productive conversations with one another. Looking at potentially having a “Rule of Christ” meeting facilitated by trained facilitators provided by the Conference. Could lead to being part of a Healthy Congregation initiative.

Finance: Offering totals year to date is nearly \$6,000 ahead of this time last year but expense totals are just over \$7,000 more than last year so those items cancel each other out. Income exceeded expenses in September and there was no spending (expense accounts) that were excessive. Stewardship Sunday was October 27th, pledge cards were handed out on October 20th so members can take them home and pray over them to determine what God is leading them to do for this year’s Stewardship campaign.

Children, Youth & Family Ministry: Shop Day November 2nd, 10-1pm. Set up is Friday afternoon. Continuing to have 2 classes for Sunday School. Still would like some sort of Middle School and High School program. A meeting for the Living Nativity is Sunday November 3rd.

Hope Circle: 11 members attended the most recent meeting. Looked at paint samples for Kitchen/Fellowship hall.

Hospitality: no report

New Business: Consider doing a Church apportionment audit through the conference; we may be paying more to conference than we should be based on membership. Pew worship attendance booklets – concerned about waste of paper. Considering alternatives.

Upcoming events: Joint Thanksgiving worship Tuesday, November 26th at 6:30 p.m. (FUMC, TLC, CLLC) hosted by Trinity. Children’s Shop Day November 2nd. Living Nativity December 14. Tom can narrate; meeting November 3rd after Church.

Pastor Dale’s Report:

Terry Keesee - resigned as Council Chairperson in a letter addressed to Juanita M. (SPRC Chair) and Pastor Dale, effective Friday, October 11, 2019. Terry stated “I have cherished the positions that I have held over the past 20 years at Lindstrom FUMC and wish the very best to those that lead on from here”

We will not need to appoint an interim Chairperson for only the remaining two months of 2019. A new Chairperson will need to be nominated and elected at our November Charge Conference and will begin to serve in January 2020.

Craig Stockel - resigned as Lay Leader in a letter addressed to Pastor Dale on October 15, effective immediately. Craig stated “I have held this title for 7 or 8 years and I believe it’s time for somebody else to have the opportunity to serve in this role”. Currently looking for new nominee.

Wednesday evening meals have ended due to declining and low attendance. Thank you **Mark & Wendy** for coordinating this!

Pastor Dale continues to hear member concerns about congregation regarding low energy in worship, declining member involvement/engagement, declining worship attendance, and what direction the Church is heading in regard to LGBT matters. This is a stressful time for many in our congregation. Pastor Dale encouraged much prayer, contemplation, devotion with God, and conversations with one another. More focus needs to be on what unites us than on what divides us. He will continue to do this and to encourage others to do this.

Other ongoing pastoral care concerns - homebound visits, office/lunch visits, phone visits, monthly worship leading at Point Pleasant.

Completed “Claimed: Wildly Loved by God” preaching series.

Completed “Making Sense of the Bible” book study
Considering theme of next Bible study series

Pastor Dale’s upcoming Vacation: Sunday November 3 - Monday November 4.

Next meeting will be our annual Charge Conference on Tuesday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, **Emily Honebrink, Secretary**

THIS 'N' THAT

By Juanita Morgan

1. OLD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS—On Sunday, November 17th, 1968, First United Methodist Church of Lindstrom observed its Consecration Day. The service was at 3:00 p.m. Bishop Paul A. Washburn of Minnesota UM Conference led, and Dr. Paul Metzger, Supt. of the St. Paul District, and other pastors assisted. Special music was furnished by the Senior Choir, a ladies' sextet, and a brass sextet. Tours were given during the social time that followed.

Excerpts from the November 1968 newsletter:

"With our new Church, we as members have much to be thankful for. God has provided much for us – let us not be forgetful of his goodness. Thank Him all year, not just one day of the year." Editor, Mary Anne Martin.

"Lois Anderson concluded several years as Cradle Roll Superintendent by presiding on Cradle Rocking Sunday in September. She is succeeded by Janeth Bierbaum."

"First baby born after opening of our new church—a boy to **Mr. And Mrs. Robert D. Perry**. (A rose was placed on the baptismal font on October 20th)"

"First meal; served in the Fellowship Hall—To the St. Paul District Conference on Sunday evening, October 20th. About 140 were served..."

"**Trevor Oehme** is home from Viet Nam, and is a civilian again. He and his family are living near Shafer. Welcome Home!"

2. Current Events: So many events and people to acknowledge this fall!:

-----Don't forget the Rally Day Sunday, Sept. 8. Tables were set up with displays of various activities at church; Sunday School, Trustees, Hope Circle, Missions, etc. **Adrienne Stegmeir** signed up people to help. **Vanderwerfs** and **Thorvaldsons** prepared an 'indoor' picnic---Hoagies, potato salad, chips, etc. Sunday, Sept. 15, we celebrated Pastor Dale's birthday with a rousing Happy Birthday and clapping at the beginning of the worship service. On Wednesday, the 18th (officially his 50th birthday) the Bible Study group shared a birthday cake.

OCTOBER FEST---Sunday, October 13 turned into a fun event in spite of inclement weather. Games for grown-ups and kids were set up in the church hallway, while **Scott & Wendy Braski** prepared the delicious "German Cuisine" meal served at suppertime. **Ed & Shirley Oswald** came dressed in German style, and a few others had European style hats and clothes too. Fun and fellowship warmed the cool evening. Thank you to Vanderwerfs for promoting this event and for everybody who helped make it a success. Next year—October Fest II ?

3. HOPE CIRCLE—Twelve women met on October 10. Welcome to **Patsy Berglund** and **Nancy Thalakker** for joining the group. Treats were provided by **Jan Gravelle**, **Pat McDermott** (who also did devotions), and **Diana Westrum**. **Jeff Meinholz**, professional painter as well as a member, visited the group to share information about painting the Fellowship Hall and the kitchen. He left a paint 'chart' with us to peruse and suggest paint choices. First, however, comes the flooring in both areas. Work expected to be done after the New Year. The group spent time talking about future projects, and will try to put together a calendar for 2020.

4. VOLUNTEER SERVICE AT CHURCH—Thank you to all our attendees who contribute to the operation of our church. Sunday helpers include ushers, greeters, name tag providers, Communion preparers, Communion servers with **Pastor Dale**, Sound Board operators, musicians, Church School teachers, offering counters, general maintenance, and 'treats' after service. Quite a number if you add them up. Volunteers mowing grass and shoveling, plowing snow keep the grounds looking cared for. If you read this and you are a worshipper who is also a volunteer you are much appreciated. If you are a worshipper and would like to volunteer in some way please let us know. There are always ways to help!

Thanks to **Erin Thorvaldson**, **Pastor Dale**, and others who contribute, operate and maintain Facebook and our website. Thank you also to our secretary, **Carol Schmidt**, for producing the monthly newsletter, and to all of you who contribute information and/or thoughts about our church. Think about submitting something you wrote!!



Meals on Wheels Deliverers

Nov. 1—Greg McCarthy

Nov. 4—Marvin Hultquist

Nov. 5—Ron & Juanita Morgan

Nov. 6—Gary Gerke

Nov. 7—Donn & Sharlene Arnold

Nov. 8—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Nov. 11—Michelle Gillespie

Nov. 12—Cindy Kopp

Nov. 13—Larry & Shirley Knopf

Nov. 14—Fred Prindle

Nov. 15—Jim & Joyce Stafki

Nov. 18—Phil & Joan DeMunck

Nov. 19—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

Nov. 20—Lois Anderson & Judy Pierre

Nov. 21—Jon Glader

Nov. 22—Harold & Jan Lovaas

Nov. 25—Irve & Dorothy Lecy

Nov. 26—Jan Gravelle & Diana Westrum

Nov. 27—Bonnie Bielicki

Nov. 28—HOLIDAY

Nov. 29—Ron & Juanita Morgan

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

Tech Ministries Schedule

Nov. 3 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

Nov. 10 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

Nov. 17 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

Nov. 24 – Sound: Bruce Larsen

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will be meeting Thursday, Nov. 14 at 9:30 a.m. Hostesses: **Dorothy Lecy and Marilee Fredrickson**. 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 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.

November 2019



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | <p>Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p</p> | <p>1 Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>**Unidos en</p> | <p>2 10a – 1p Children's Shop Day</p> <p>Cristo</p> |
| <p>3 9:00a Worship/ 10:15a Fellowship 10:30a Living Nativity Meeting</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends</p> <p>Weekend***</p> | <p>4 6p Bell Choir</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Worship Team</p> | <p>7 9:30a Hope Circle</p> | <p>8 Pastor's Day Off</p> | <p>9</p> |
| <p>10 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School</p> <p>10:15a Fellowship</p> | <p>11 6p Bell Choir</p> | <p>12 6:30p Trustees</p> | <p>13 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Worship Team</p> | <p>14 7:30p Bible Journaling Art Class</p> | <p>15 Pastor's Day Off</p> | <p>16</p> |
| <p>17 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School</p> <p>10:15a Fellowship</p> <p>Mission Sunday~ Angel Tree</p> | <p>18 6p Bell Choir</p> | <p>19 7p Finance 7p Church Council</p> <p>Newsletter deadline</p> | <p>20 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Worship Team</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22 Pastor's Day Off</p> | <p>23</p> |
| <p>24 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School</p> <p>10:15a Fellowship</p> | <p>25 6p Bell Choir</p> | <p>26 6:30p Joint Thanksgiving Worship Service @ Trinity Lutheran Church</p> | <p>27 No Activities</p> | <p>28 Thanksgiving!</p> <p>Office Closed</p> | <p>29 Pastor's Day Off</p> <p>Office Closed</p> | <p>30</p> |

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:

November 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:

6:00p Adult Bible Study

7:00p Confirmation

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

Cheryl Hultquist

Scott Lecy

Lloyd Jones

Donn Arnold

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