



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

Mission Focus this month is Charis Prison Ministry



The mission of the month is Charis of Minnesota. The purpose of this ministry is to present God's reconciling love in Jesus Christ to inmates in correctional institutions.

Charis is a non-denominational Christian ministry, made up of teams of laity and clergy who have experienced a Cursillo-type retreat (Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Via de Cristo, Tres Dias, Unidos en Cristo or similar weekend). Team members are selected and trained under the guidance of Charis leadership and approved by correctional institutions.

Through a systematic, structured, Christ-centered program, the residents of correctional institutions are given the opportunity to experience spiritual renewal and to accept God's call to live a life of Christian witness and service to one another during their stay in the institution and beyond.

Do you hear God calling you?

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:35, 36, 40

How you can get involved:

* Support Charis of Minnesota with your prayers and financial giving

* Donate personal care products at First UMC during the month of January to support Charis Connects, a division of Charis of Minnesota that provides aftercare for women recently released from prison

* Participate in a Prison Ministry Weekend. A volunteer must have participated in a three-day Charis- or Cursillo-type weekend, either in prison or on the outside.

The next Unidos en Cristo retreat will be at Main Street Church in North Branch in February. We would love to sponsor you!

Volunteers must also submit a Charis team application form to Charis President, Karen Troyer. Pick up your application on the missions table in the foyer or email Karen Troyer directly from the website <https://www.charismn.com/application.php>. Team members are selected by the Lay Director.

You must also attend a 3 hour training once a year. In 2020 this training will be held January 11 from 9am-noon in Woodbury. Carpooling may be an option. Please speak with **Scott Lecy** or **Gerry Gaudette**.

For more information visit <https://www.charismn.com/> or talk to **Scott Lecy** or **Gerry Gaudette**.

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Dates to remember:

Jan. 1
Happy New Year!
Office Closed

Jan. 19
Mission Sunday

Jan. 21
Newsletter Deadline



From the pastor...

Dear Friends,

Recently, while driving, I saw a billboard advertising a new church. In big bold letters that stretched across the entire billboard it read, **"A Great Church for a Fresh Start!"**

In light of 2019 and a decade coming to an end, I've been thinking recently about the fresh start for all of us that has arrived as we enter a new year and a new decade. We all desire fresh starts or "do-overs" in life from time to time, don't we?

The church promoted on this billboard understands this and seeks to attract people who have either had negative experiences in their previous churches or who perhaps are unchurched and have never had a church home. Maybe they are trying to appeal to those who feel as if their church has let them down. Or, that their church is no longer meeting their needs. They want to send the message that *"if you come to our church you can start fresh"*, or *"this isn't like your old church"*, or *"this church will give you what you're looking for!"* It's a great marketing strategy, to tap into the hearts of those seeking renewal.

But as I began to think deeply about that slogan I realized how misleading it seems to be. Any church that faithfully and truthfully preaches and lives out the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a great church for a fresh start, is it not? Every Sunday that you sit in your pew and worship the Lord with gladness and open hearts and minds, I pray you leave that experience renewed, energized, filled, and having been given a fresh start!

Haven't you ever felt like if you miss church on Sunday that something is missing from your week? Haven't you ever felt that void that comes with missing church and the fellowship that exists in that place? Haven't you ever looked forward to Sunday morning because you know that in that place you are going to be renewed by the Word, the music, the community, and the sacraments that surround you with warmth, love, and acceptance? We feel these things often, don't we?

Our congregation is an exceptionally warm and friendly congregation. Some of you have shared with me how much you miss not being here on a Sunday because of what you receive here. So I would agree with the slogan, *"First UMC Lindstrom...A Great*

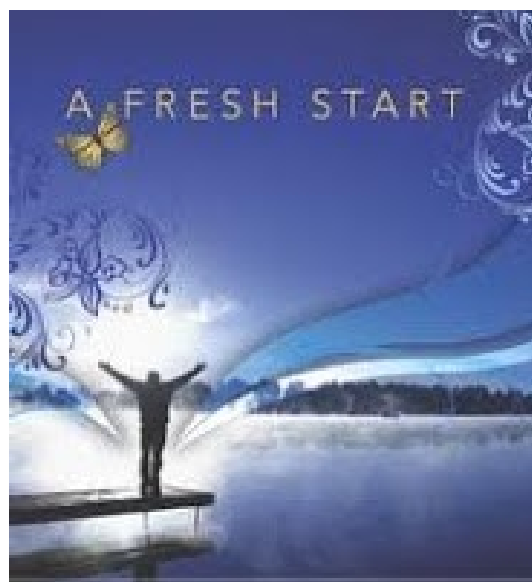
Church for a Fresh Start!" I encourage you to invite others to worship or other church events so that they can see for themselves how this might be a place for them to start fresh.

But I still wonder, what church that faithfully follows Jesus Christ and His commands to love God and each other above all else is not a great church for a fresh start?! Aren't they all? Shouldn't they all be? The Church of Jesus Christ provides us all with the ability to live our broken lives as forgiven, loved, and blessed children of God - not to judge one another in our brokenness but to love and accept one another where they're at and to worship and serve together as brothers and sisters in Christ in search of a fresh start. Thanks be to God for that!

2020 has arrived. A new decade is upon us. A fresh start is available - in Christ - day after day, week after week, year after year. So come. Come to worship the Lord on Sunday. Come to be renewed on Sunday. Come to be loved. Come to be accepted. Come to praise God. Come to celebrate our community. Come to give thanks. Come to witness the glory of the Lord. Come and receive new life. ***Come for a fresh start!***

See you in church!

Pastor Dale



In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug;
Brian Elshaug; Olga Determan; Nate Clark;
Baby Lilly; Ed Oswald; Donn Arnold

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.

Community Meal January 13

Our church will be serving the Community meal on Monday, January 13, 4—6pm.

You can help in the following ways:

1. Help serve at the meal. There are sit down jobs, standing jobs, dishing up hot food, serving beverages and busing dishes.
2. Making a 9 X 13 pan of bars or cake or 3 dozen cookies.
3. Buying a large container of pink lemonade.
4. Cash donation to help defray cost of meal.

The time commitment is approximately 3:30p—6:30p as we help clean up also.

There will be a poster and sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall on January 5th and January 12.

Thank you for helping with this mission!

Dorothy Lecy and Nancy Thalacker

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
Pete Olson.....January 18
Roy Brohaugh.....January 20
Peter Leadholm.....January 22
Kari Caldwell.....January 24
Bruce Heilig.....January 25
Carol Schmidt.....January 26
Roger Dorenbusch.....January 30
Lila Leadholm.....January 31

Happy Birthday!!!

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..

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 **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.

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 November was \$16,113.09.

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

Worship Attendance in December

Dec. 1—62

Dec. 8—73

Dec. 15—65

Dec. 22—67

Newsletter sent before Dec. 29...



Our Ministry Team 2020

Church Council Chair.....Wendy Vanderwerf
Lay Leader.....Andy Wilkerson
Lay Member to Annual Conference.....
Church Council Secretary.....Emily Honerbrink
Youth Coordinator.....Erin Thorvaldson
Children's Ministries.....Erin Thorvaldson
Mission Chairperson.....Adrienne Stegmeir
Staff/Parish Relations Chair....Juanita Morgan
Trustees Chairperson.....Lloyd Jones
Finance Chairperson.....Scott Lecy
Financial Secretary.....Lloyd Jones
Treasurer.....Carol Schmidt
Communications Chairperson....Erin Thorvaldson
Foundation Chairperson.....Donn Arnold
Council Member-at-Large.....Cheryl Lecy
Tom Ervasti

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Juanita Morgan	Lois Anderson
Gerry Gaudette	Peter Leadholm
Dorothy Lecy	Donn Arnold
Emily Honerbrink	Andy Wilkerson (Lay Leader)
Pastor Dale	

Trustees

Cindy Kopp	Lloyd Jones
Mark Vanderwerf	John Thorvaldson
Gary Gerke	Sue Meinholz
Irv Lecy	Andy Wilkerson (Lay Leader)
Wendy Vanderwerf (Council Chair)	
Pastor Dale	



THIS 'N' THAT, JANUARY 2020

By Juanita Morgan

The end of the year requires acknowledging some of the worshippers who attend 1st UMC, who have contributed to the loving atmosphere of this church:

1. The Sunday morning Praise Team of musicians provide music to lift our spirits, or prepare us for meditative thoughts. Thank you **Beth & Duane Lunsford, Pete Olson, Cheryl Lecy, Gerry Gaudette, Bret RempelEwert, and our faithful pianist, Sue Hanvey.** Thank you to others who join the group when able.
2. How sorry we were when **Kay Oien** left!! However, how happy we are that **Nancy Thalacker**, who is a 'new' member, is sharing her musical talents playing piano on alternate Sundays.
3. Thank you to **Tina Forcier and Adrienne Stegmeir** for preparing "The Angel Tree." It was our church's first experience to purchase items and/or donate money to this very special cause. We hope this mission becomes an annual event.
4. Our sanctuary is always especially beautiful in December. **Cindy Kopp & Kay Oien** were always responsible in the past. However, thanks to the decorating skills of **Sharlene Arnold & Dorothy Lecy**, our 'new' Visual Arts Coordinators, our church sanctuary again glitters and glows with lights, evergreens, and poinsettias. Figurines of the manger scene, and the Wise Men, remind us of the Peace and Joy we all seek at Christmas.
5. The candle-lighting ceremony is always a special tradition. Each week one of four families gathers around the Advent Candles. A Christmas Message is read, and each week another candle is lighted, until by Christmas Eve all are lit. It is a beautiful tradition. Thank you to the **Leadholm, Stegmeir, Thorvaldson, and Vanderwerf families.**
6. A special thank you is extended to **Craig Stockel** for the many years he served as Lay Leader. He is kind, conscientious, and thoughtful and displayed all those traits as he represented our church here and in the community. Would our annual Christmas Dinner have continued without him? Craig is also a great cook and shares homemade soup, and baked goods with many in church and the community.
7. The position of Lay Leader will now be filled by **Andy Wilkerson.** Andy does the Memorial Day Service every May, reminding us of patriots, past and present, who love and protect this country. Now Andy will use his skills to lead us into a productive, positive New Year.
8. Hope Circle held its December meeting at 11:00 a.m. instead of the usual 9:30 time. We feasted on a pot-luck brunch, set in the fellowship Hall. **Sharlene Arnold** sang a blessing prayer; **Pat McDermott** read "Twelve Days of Christmas" and what each referred to in the Bible Story.
9. Hope Circle will begin a "Senior Friend" Mission in January. Hope Circle members will become a Senior Friend to one or more children (with parental permission). The "Seniors" will pray for the young friends, send cards on birthdays, and acknowledge special events, etc. We HOPE this proves to be a pleasant activity for our two generations.
10. Blessings to all of you who participated in the production of The Nativity. The weather was cold but many hearts were 'warmed' thanks to **Erin Thorvaldson and Katie Leadholm**, and everybody else!

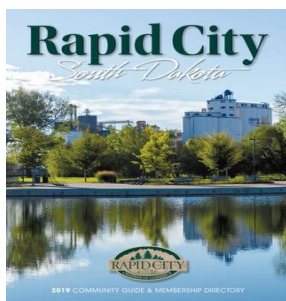
Here is a little poem a friend shared with me.
I searched for an author, but no luck.

"Some people we meet in life are like burlap
A little irritating and rub us the wrong way.
Other people are like fleece, soft and gentle.
Remember the Golden Rule, and try to be kind
To both kinds of people,
No matter how they treat you.
BE THE FLEECE!"

God Bless Us, Everyone!! Happy New Year!



A Service and Learning Opportunity for All Ages



Intergenerational Mission Trip Rapid City, South Dakota



Saturday, June 27 - Thursday, July 3

(option for families to return July 2 if desired)

Where? Rapid City, South Dakota is settled into the Black Hills and in the shadow of Mount Rushmore. It also shares a border with the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Why? Faced with nearly impossible economic circumstances, many of the Lakota have moved to Rapid City in search of work. And while some have found a glimmer of hope, they are still in dire need of shelter and other basic resources. In Rapid City, many local missionaries and Christian ministries have answered the call. They have helped to paint and repair homes, and perhaps more importantly, they have worked to build relationships with adults and children alike. This mission trip will provide the opportunity to support this effort that many have already begun as together, we strive to bring light and hope to these struggling communities.

What Will We Do? We will be spending three days learning about and serving alongside people who make the Rapid City and Lakota communities their home. Particularly we will have the opportunity to visit with and learn from local elderly residents of these communities, learn about the need for low-income housing improvements, and partner with other local ministries and non-profit organizations, yet to be determined. Some learning sites may include the Red Cloud Indian School, Wounded Knee, Lakota College, a Pow Wow, and a buffalo ranch to feed buffalo and learn and hear the story of the White Buffalo Calf Woman.

Other Local Attractions To Be Seen - Throughout our three days of service and learning we will end each evening with a group activity and closing worship and devotion. Activities will include visits to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park, and other local fun activities.

Transportation and Housing - Families will travel in their own vehicles. Two church vans will also be available for youth in grades 6 or older who plan to participate without their families. We will be staying at a church in Rapid City in designated spaces for families and separate genders. Air mattresses, cots, and/or sleeping pads will be needed. As needed, depending on physical needs of some participants, local hotels are also an option.

Cost - \$125/participant or \$400 max/family. An additional \$150/participant if using church van transportation. Please contact Pr. Dale to find out more or if you have questions. 763-245-4006 | dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Participating Churches

*First United Methodist, Lindstrom | Chisago Lakes Lutheran, Center City | Glen Cary Lutheran, Ham Lake
(While these congregations are planning and coordinating the trip, anyone interested is welcome to participate.)*



Meals on Wheels Deliverers

Jan. 1—HOLIDAY

Jan. 2—Greg McCarthy

Jan. 3—Greg McCarthy

Jan. 6—Marvin Hultquist

Jan. 7—Ron & Juanita Morgan

Jan. 8—Larry & Shirley Knopf

Jan. 9—Marvin Hultquist

Jan. 10—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

Jan. 13—Phil & Joan DeMunck

Jan. 14—Cindy Kopp

Jan. 15—Lois Anderson & Judy Pierre

Jan. 16—Marvin Hultquist

Jan. 17—Jim & Joyce Stafki

Jan. 20—Michelle Gillespie

Jan. 21—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

Jan. 22—Bonnie Bielicki

Jan. 23—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Jan. 24—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Jan. 27—Jon Glader

Jan. 28—Jon Glader

Jan. 29—Jan Gravelle

Jan. 30—Fred Prindle

Jan. 31—Fred Prindle

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

Tech Ministries Schedule

Jan. 5 – Sound:

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

Jan. 12 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

Jan. 19 – Sound: Bruce Larsen

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

Jan. 26 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Nancy Thalacker

Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will be meeting Thursday, Jan. 9 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 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. 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.

January 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p		1 Office Closed 	2 Pastor Dale	3 on vacation	4
5 Epiphany Sunday 9:00a Worship/ NO Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship	6	7	8	9 9:30a Hope Circle	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 10:30a Children's, Youth & Family Mtg.	13 6p Bell Choir	14 NO Trustees	15 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Worship Team	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship Mission Sunday~ Charis Prison Ministry	20 6p Bell Choir	21 7p Finance 7p Church Council Newsletter Deadline	22 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Worship Team	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 10:30a Foundation	27 6p Bell Choir	28	29 6p Adult Bible Study 7p Confirmation 7p Worship Team	30	31 Pastor's Day Off	

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Lindstrom, MN 55045
(651) 257*4306
Fax (651) 257*8039

lindstrommethodist.org

Address Service Requested
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

January 2020



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...	Dale Stiles
Administrative Secretary / Treasurer...	Carol Schmidt
Children's Coordinator...	Erin Thorvaldson
Choir Director...	
Church Council Chairperson...	Wendy Vanderwerf
Custodian...	Cheryl Hultquist
Finance Chairperson...	Scott Lecy
Financial Secretary...	Lloyd Jones
Foundation Chairperson...	Donn Arnold
Lay Leader...	Andy Wilkerson
Lay Member to Annual Conference...	
Mission Chairperson...	Adrienne Stegmeir
Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson...	Juanita Morgan
Trustees Chairperson...	Lloyd Jones
Worship Team Leader...	Beth Lunsford
Youth Coordinator...	Erin Thorvaldson

Office email: office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor's email: dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Web site: lindstrommethodist.org