



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

September's Mission Focus—NOMADS

Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service



NOMADS provide volunteer labor for United Methodist organizations, mostly in the United States. NOMADS demonstrate God's love through their work and by listening to the people with whom they work.

NOMADS

Mission Volunteers

They do new construction, remodeling, and repairs for churches, children's homes, camps, colleges, outreach missions and disaster rebuilding. Team members do maintenance, cleaning, painting, electrical, drywall, sewing, flooring.

With God's help, NOMADS pretty much do it all.

You can support this important work by designating a portion of your financial gift to "missions" during the month of September.

Sundays in September

We will be continuing our Outdoor/Drive-In worship in September. Please join us at the pavilion either in your lawn chair or in your car Sundays in September at 9:00a.m. **All services will continue to be livestreamed on our church facebook page and posted on our church website Sunday afternoon.**



Fall Bible Study Options

A weekly, limited, In-Person Bible Study with a maximum of TEN participants starting Sept. 9th. This in-person Bible Study will be held on **Wednesday** evenings from 6pm to 7pm in the church fellowship hall in order to allow for plenty of physical distancing. We will be studying the book of James. Participants must contact Sarah in the Church Office by Wednesday

morning to sign up to attend. The first 10 to sign up each week can attend. If interest exceeds the limited number of participants for the 6pm study, a second identical study will be offered from 7:15-8:15p. **NO Bible Study on September 16.**

Online Bible Study—**Beginning Sept. 28.**

This online option will be unlimited in number of participants. It will meet on **Monday** evenings from 7pm to 8pm **beginning Sept. 28.** This option will also be studying the book of James. If interest in this option is too great, Zoom allows for participants to be put in "break out rooms" for a portion of the study to allow for



more intimate and engaging participation by all. Contact Pastor Dale or Sarah in the Church Office to have the Zoom link sent to you.

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Dates to remember:

Sept. 7
Labor Day/Office Closed

Sept. 20
Mission Sunday



A Word from Pastor Dale

Dear Friends,

A question I hear frequently, most often asked with great appreciation for all we as a congregation are doing, is when life at our church will return to “normal.” That is a tough question to answer. When I think of “normal,” I think back to Sunday, March 15 - the last worship service we shared in person. When I think of “normal,” I think back to when our Sunday School children, Confirmation youth, and adults were meeting weekly for spiritual learning and fellowship. However, the question I usually ask in return is, *“When will it be safe to gather people back inside, knowing that all of us are vulnerable to obtaining and transmitting the virus?”*



This too, is the question our C.A.R.E. Team keeps at the forefront of our conversations when we meet. And from all of the current scientific data, MN Dept. of Health Covid-19 infection/death rates in our state and county, and virus infection projections, the clear answer to my question of when it will be safe to return to in-person worship in our sanctuary is unfortunately, *“No time soon.”*

Our C.A.R.E. Team and I are keenly aware, as perhaps you are also, that some of the states that opened most quickly are now seeing infections and hospitalizations surge, placing new stresses on their health care systems. We are observing now how restaurants, schools, colleges and universities, and houses of worship are among those places where the virus is spreading most quickly. We do not want that to be our congregation's story. For this reason, our C.A.R.E. Team has decided to continue to operate with an abundance of caution and not plan on in-person/indoor worship for the month of September. Weekly drive-in/outdoor services will continue to be held in-person and streamed online at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Unless there is a sudden decline in infection/death rates for our state and county and a dramatic change in virus transmission projections, this decision will likely apply to our October and November worship and activity schedule as well. We'll keep you posted.

In the meantime, we appreciate the honest and constructive feedback we have solicited and received from some of our members about how we might continue to adapt in order to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of our congregation. As a result we will provide these new and additional opportunities for members interested, in September.

- **A weekly, limited, In-Person Bible Study with a maximum of TEN participants.** This in-person Bible Study will be held on **Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., beginning on September 9**, in the church fellowship hall in order to allow for plenty

of physical distancing. We will be studying the book of James. Participants must contact Sarah in the Church Office by Wednesday morning to sign up to attend. The first 10 to sign up each week can attend. If interest exceeds the limited number of participants for the 6:00 p.m. study, a second identical study will be offered from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. **THERE WILL BE NO BIBLE STUDY ON SEPTEMBER 16.**

- **A weekly online Bible Study using Zoom.** This online option of course, will be unlimited in number of participants. It will meet on **Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. beginning on September 28.** This option will also be studying the book of James. If interest in this option is too great, Zoom allows for participants to be put in “break out rooms” for a portion of the study to allow for more intimate and engaging participation by all. Contact Pr. Dale or Sarah in the Church Office to have the Zoom link sent to you.
- **At-Home Spiritual Learning Resources will be provided for our Sunday School and Confirmation age children and youth.** These resources will be available beginning on September 13 on the homepage of our church website: www.lindstrommethodist.org Monthly in-person (Covid-19 Safe) confirmation gatherings will be scheduled at a later date.
- **On-Going Weekly Virtual Coffee Hour – Every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. (Beginning September 13) –** As we've been offering throughout the Summer we will continue to offer an online, virtual coffee hour option on Zoom. The time will be at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday to allow for members who attend the drive-in/outdoor worship option to get home in time. Contact the Church Office to have the Zoom link sent to you.

We pray that these new options will nourish our member's spirit in ways that are both safe and meaningful. In these and other ways we can begin to create a “new normal” that will feed our spirit and help us protect the gains that Minnesotans have made in combatting the pandemic.

Please know that, while these are times of trial and testing for all of us, I am committed to continue supporting you in your walk of faith and that I am grateful for your prayers and support. As we continue to face the historic challenges before us, we will do so focused on what unites us in the Gospel, reliant on God's promises, and confident that we will get through this, we will get through it together and, by God's grace, we will come through stronger on the other side.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dale



In Our Prayers...

Prayers of healing for Keith Green, Bob Johnson, and Tari Eng. Prayers of comfort for Jim Buelow and family as well as Elsa Anderson and family.



Pastoral Care

Please notify the church office (651-257-4306) or Pastor Dale directly (763-245-4006) if you desire pastoral care for illness, hospitalizations, or surgeries.

A Greeting From Our New Office Administrator, Sarah Sandgren!

I would like to start by saying that I am overwhelmed with the support and encouraging words I have received since starting this new position. I am so blessed to be part of this church community!

I started attending First United Methodist when I was a little girl with my family. I went through confirmation here, was married by Pastor Dan, and had both my girls baptized in this church. This church has been a huge part of my life and I am grateful for it.

I live in Lindstrom with my husband, Rob and my two daughters; Maddy (7) and Tess (2). We moved back to the area five years ago to build a house and be closer to family. Most of our time is spent on the lake waterskiing and swimming.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this church. I am looking forward to seeing you all again. Please reach out if there is anything I can help with.



Birthdays!

Lois Anderson.....September 2
Russell Oehme.....September 6
Sophia Anderson.....September 15
Jeremy Tomczak.....September 16
Cristian Arnold.....September 17
Donn Arnold.....September 17
John Jindra.....September 17
Pastor Dale.....September 18
Jared Clark.....September 19
Dari Ferguson.....September 19
Wilma Smith.....September 20
Alan Hultman.....September 21
Sharon Loeffelholz.....September 21
Angel RempelEwert.....September 25
LeRoy Johnson.....September 28
Bev Graves.....September 29
Sandy Gaudette.....September 30



Children's Ministries

Beginning September 13, At-Home spiritual learning resources will be provided for our Sunday School and Confirmation age children and youth. These resources will be available on the homepage of our church website: www.lindstrommethodist.org

Monthly in-person (Covid-19 safe) gatherings will be scheduled at a later date.

Fall Adopt-A-Highway Roadside Clean-Up

All families, couples, or individual members are invited to participate in our annual roadside clean-up on **Sunday, October 4, at 1:00 p.m.** All volunteers will meet at church.

If you have questions please contact the Church Office or Lois Anderson, directly.

Pastor Dale Will Be On Vacation September 14—September 22

Pastor David Werner from Forest Hills UMC in Forest Lake, will be on-call for any emergency pastoral care needs. You can reach Pr. Werner directly at 651-280-5379

Monthly Giving Update

Our General Fund Budget for 2020 is \$174,321 which becomes \$14,527 per month.

General Fund giving for July was: \$11,693

Thank you for your financial support of our ministries!



An Update from Missionaries, Erik & Eleanor Brohaugh

Dear Friends,

We did not expect to still be in the States as we write this email to you!

Thank you very much to all who prayed and shared your thoughts and impressions with us regarding the timing of our return to The Gambia. Your feedback confirmed our draw towards 'option number 2'! The American Embassy in The Gambia doesn't know when they will start up their passport services again, so even if everything else had gone well, we still could have been in the country, and yet without a passport for an unspecified length of time, and that really didn't seem sensible! The Gambia is continuing to see a steady climb in covid cases (including the vice president), so we are uncertain when travel restrictions will ease up.

So, we sent off Erik's passport last Monday. When we receive the new passport, then we can try and get back home!! In the meantime, we continue to be blessed with health, friends, fun, beautiful weather and countryside, and a great church body whom we've grown to love over the last 16 years, since they took us in and had us park up our bus right here by the parking lot!! We have many years of great memories here.

Our church's pastoral search has finally come to an end - Bob Hepokoski and his wife Giselle were voted in unanimously by the church, board and elders! We are so happy about this, and appreciate that we can be a part of this important transition, and get to know them ourselves before heading back.

There are several options which have been presented to us, and we ask you to pray for the right place(s) for us to stay. We will need to figure out a place to go by Saturday.

Ele and the kids are continuing with a somewhat 'flexible' homeschool schedule which allows for spending time with friends and family as opportunities arise. We went with some friends and Mpa to the local zoo for a field trip and they are starting up some new curriculum along with having a substitute teacher (Erik) a day or two a week. Erik is also working three days a week at North States Crane and Hoist, fixing up our house which is being rented out, and getting out for lots of exploring and exercise on the amazing mountain bike that he was given three weeks ago (and has already ridden over 300 miles on)! We are still enjoying spending a lot of time with Mpa who is living with us (except this week he has gone to Ohio to celebrate Tobaski with a friend from a neighboring village) and even went on a quick road trip together to Madison to visit friends who were Peace Corps volunteers in our village a few years back.

One of our favorite parts of being here in Duluth so far has been our leading the mid-week Bible studies on the Holy Spirit. We have led 6 weeks so far as we look at the manifestations of the Spirit listen in 1 Corinthians 12. This last week was on words of knowledge and healing, and as we gathered around one of the church elders who was in pain from sciatica, he experienced God's touch and his pain went from a level 4/10 to almost non-existent!! It is such a privilege to press in to more of God together in a way that we've never done before in our home church!

Thanks again so much for praying for us and please let us know how we can pray for you. We're so blessed to be part of the body of Christ with you all!

With love,

Ele and Erik and Asaph and Anna and Khara



August Church Council Minutes

Church Council Meeting | August 18, 2020

Council Members Present: Pastor Dale, Wendy Vanderwerf, Erin Thorvaldson, Emily Honerbrink, Scott Lecy, Andy Wilkerson, Adrienne Stegmeir

Our meeting was conducted via Zoom and opened with a prayer led by Pastor Dale.

SPRC – Pr. Dale: Hired Sarah Sandgren to replace Carol; she was able to train with Carol for one week. She's really doing great and learning quickly, has been learning to update and maintain website, create newsletter. Up next for SPRC: goal setting and meeting with District Superintendent in November.

C.A.R.E. Team – Pr. Dale: Met 8/12 to debrief and catch up on latest information data. Nothing has changed much. As far as trends/data/projection everything still showing that we need to keep doing what we're doing into September. Will watch weather, may need to return to online format. Looking at providing Sunday School packets for children, looking at options for confirmation group. Adult bible study - two options: Wednesday night (starting September 9) will be in person, 6pm, limited to 10 people. If more than 10 want to participate will offer 2nd one immediately following first group. 2nd option is a Monday night (starting September 28) Zoom bible study, same topic. Will continue online coffee hour but will push back to 11am so that outdoor worshippers have time to get home. Not getting a lot of feedback from congregation. Council discussed sending out a survey (through Survey Gizmo) to gauge interest in coming back in person, multiple sermons per Sunday, etc.

Finance – Scott: July finances are similar to June (lower giving totals, offset by lower expenses). July: \$15,200 expenses, approx. \$11,700 incoming. Year to date giving is just under \$80,000. Last year we were at \$103,000 - so just under \$23,000 less. Good news: expenses are down \$18,600 for the year, which helps bridge the gap. Members are encouraged to increase their giving, if possible.

Trustees – Wendy: Long story short: Company hired to install kitchen floor installed it upside-down. To fix, they are putting a thin overlay over the floor, which isn't back in stock yet. The company will come in and fix as soon as stock is available.

Foundation: No Report

Missions: Mission of the Month for August is; Feed My Starving Children, they, cannot have volunteers on site (financial giving only). NOMADS is September's mission, looking for financial giving and awareness of program. Information going out in Newsletter

Publicity/Social Media – Erin, Pr. Dale: Will continue live stream, had some phone over-heating issues last Sunday (Erin to the rescue!) but overall working. May need to upgrade equipment if this continues. Large sign is now on Highway 8, ended up ordering extra letters (current ones are still missing). Sarah being trained to update the website and potentially may look into other features that could help maximize the web package we currently have (we are not yet utilizing all components).

New Business: Pastor Dale trying to stay on top of Pastoral Care, hard to see members in person but making the best of it - visiting on decks, outdoors, and through windows. Thankful for members of the congregation who are looking out for and keeping tabs on one another. Need to be looking ahead to Christmas and Living Nativity, and what that might look like this year. Three new beautiful banners hanging in Church are a Memorial Gift (honoring Babe Anderson).

Huge thanks to everyone who has been helping with the outdoor worship - running sound, handing out bulletins/collecting offerings, running parking, helping with logistics. We couldn't do it without you!

Looking forward to September, and the new opportunities it brings!

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Honerbrink





MEALS on WHEELS

TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER.

September Deliverer Schedule

Sept 1– Phil & Joan DeMunck
Sept 2– Marvin Hultquist
Sept 3– Greg McCarthy
Sept 4– Greg McCarthy

Sept 7– Phil & Joan DeMunck
Sept 8– Cindy Kopf
Sept 9– Larry & Shirley Knopf
Sept 10– Gary Gerke
Sept 11– Jim & Joyce Stafki

Sept 14– Michelle Gillespie
Sept 15– Grace Schmidt
Sept 16– Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
Sept 17– Donn & Sharlene Arnold
Sept 18– Fred Prindle

Sept 21– Jon Glader
Sept 22– Irv & Dorothy Lecy
Sept 23– Gary Gerke
Sept 24– Fred Prindle
Sept 25– Fred Prindle

Sept 28– Jon Glader
Sept 29– Jim & Joyce Stafki
Sept 30– Jim & Joyce Stafki

Meals on Wheels Coordinator: **Juanita Morgan**



Online Coffee Hour Resumes Sept. 13

Beginning September 13, every Sunday at 11 a.m. there will be a virtual coffee hour on Zoom. We have been offering this option throughout the summer and will continue in to the fall. Note the time change to allow members who attend outdoor service to get home in time. Contact the Church Office to have the Zoom link sent to you.

Hope Circle

Hope Circle has tentative plans to meet Thursday, Sept. 10 at 1:30 p.m. Plan for an outdoor picnic. All women of the church are invited! Final plans will be sent out at a future date.

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.

We're Here to Help. Contact Us If Needed.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Church email address

office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor Dale's email address

dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Sunday Worship Available Online

Complete worship services are live-streamed weekly on our church Facebook page and videos of them and weekly. Orders of Worship are available to view on our website: www.lindstrommethodist.org



[How to talk with your children about Race and Racism](#)

[Order of Worship for August 23, 2020](#)

[Click Here for Electronic Online Giving](#)

[Drive-In/Outdoor Worship Safety Guidelines](#)

September 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Pastor's Day Off	5
6 9a Drive-In Worship 11a Virtual Fellowship Hour	7 Labor Day! Office Closed	8 6:30p Trustees	9 6p In Person Bible Study		11 Pastor's Day Off	12
13 9a Drive-In Worship 11a Virtual Fellowship Hour	14	15 6p Finance 7p Church Council Newsletter deadline	16 NO In-Person Bible Study THIS NIGHT ONLY	17	18 Pastor's Day Off	19
	Pastor Dale on Vacation 9/14—9/22					
20 9a Drive-In Worship 11a Virtual Fellowship Hour Mission Sunday NOMADS	21	22	23 6p In Person Bible Study	24	25 Pastor's Day Off	26
Pastor Dale on Vacation 9/14—9/22						
27 9a Drive-In Worship 11a Virtual Fellowship Hour	28 7p Online Bible Study	29	30 6p In Person Bible Study			

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Address Service Requested
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

September 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, Lindstrom,
MN.

Newsletter Deadline

Third Tuesday of each month
for inclusion in the next month's publication.

We welcome you to worship with us!

Drive-In/Outdoor Worship
in September. Also Live-Streamed at
www.facebook.com/lindstrommethodist

Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

Our Ministry Team:

Pastor...
Office Administrator...
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...
Treasurer...
Trustees Chairperson...
Worship Team Leader...
Youth Coordinator...

Dale Stiles
Sarah Sandgren
Erin Thorvaldson
Tom Ervasti
Wendy Vanderwerf
Cheryl Hultquist

Linda Ploog
Donn Arnold
Andy Wilkerson

Adrienne Stegmeir
Juanita Morgan
Lloyd Jones
Lloyd Jones

Erin Thorvaldson

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