

GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

November's Mission Focus - Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is an outreach of FUMC 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 during the Christmas season in previous years.

If you know of a family that would benefit from The Angel Tree program, please share the gift request sign up sheet with them or direct them to the church office. Any family who feels they need assistance is welcome to submit a request, regardless of income requirements. Request forms are available on the missions table in the foyer as well as the church Facebook page and website. Forms are due back to the church by **November 23, 2020**.

November 1-30th, church attendees will be offered the opportunity to sponsor a child or family with a gift of any amount. Last year we were blessed with many generous donations and the families expressed sincere gratitude to the members of our congregation. This year for the safety of all during the Covid19 pandemic, we will only be collecting monetary donations for the ministry and designated shoppers will purchase the gifts for families. If you would like to help with shopping or distribution please contact Tina Forcier. Distribution will be drive up style on the morning of **Saturday, December 19th, from 9-11am**.

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!



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Thanksgiving Eve Worship

We are currently planning to hold an in-person Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on **Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m.** Depending on MN State Health Department guidelines and restrictions at that time, **we may need to do virtual only.**

An email will be sent to the congregation with any updated changes. Thank you.



Covid-19 Congregational Preparedness Plan

Safety Procedures and Expectations for Returning to In-Person Worship on November 1, 2020

After careful conversation, prayer, and planning, our C.A.R.E. Team has established the following procedures and expectations for resuming In-Person worship beginning on November 1, 2020. The decisions were based on guidelines and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control, the MN Department of Health, and the MN Annual Conference of the FUMC. With the understanding that we must remain safe as we open our church building once again, there will be the following expectations of all who choose to attend In-Person worship. (cont. on pg. 3)

Dates to remember:

- Nov. 1** - Daylight Savings Ends
- Nov. 25** - Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Nov. 26** - Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 27** -Office Closed



From the pastor...



Dear Friends,

St. Paul writes: "I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." –Romans 1:11

These words of Paul's in his letter to the Church in Rome reminds us that this is not the first time Christians have had to encourage each other from a distance. In fact, we would not have any of Paul's letters – which make up almost a third of the New Testament – were it not for the fact that Paul was regularly separated from the congregations to which he ministered. This separation was not easy. And yet his powerful ministry to and with these early congregations continued, and their endurance witnessed to the power of the Holy Spirit. All of which helps me answer an understandable question as, from time to time, well-intentioned members will ask, "When will our church open again?"

Inspired by Paul and the early Christian communities to whom we are indebted, my immediate reply is, "We never closed!" Of course, I know these inquiries are about indoor, in-person Sunday worship, but it's important to remind each other that we're called to be God's Church seven days a week, not just on Sundays. I affirm you all, as I have witnessed you being the church, in many and various ways, throughout the pandemic. Yet, despite your ongoing expressions of care, compassion, and concern for one another, not being able to gather on Sundays, inside and in-person, has been hard. Very hard. On all of us.

This absence as a community of faith has been unexpectedly difficult with challenges both personal and communal while forcing us to be apart from each other for a longer period of time than any of us imagined. But, as with the Apostle Paul and Christians throughout history, and strengthened and supported by the Holy Spirit, we continue to be a place of hope, help, and healing. While extremely thankful for this, I can promise you that no one wants to look out over the sanctuary and see your smiling faces more than I do.

And we're preparing for that opportunity, soon. After thirty-two weeks of encouraging one another from a

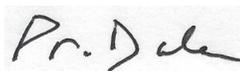
distance, our C.A.R.E. Team, on October 5, has recommended the resumption of indoor, in-person worship beginning Sunday, November 1. Our Church Council has added to the much careful and prayerful thought, consideration, and conversation that has gone into this decision. As a result, the decision has been made to re-open, even in light of increasing statewide positive Covid-19 cases and fatalities related to Covid-19. We will need to resume cautiously. We believe we can do so.

As Scripture reminds us again and again, we do not exist for ourselves, but for the world, and as our Lord taught us, the most important commandment is to love God by loving our neighbor. Our Covid-19 Congregational Preparedness Plan has been created for the purpose of carefully guiding us in our efforts to resume indoor, in-person worship. Out of the scriptural imperative to love our neighbor, all who choose to worship in-person will need to abide by the expectations in the Preparedness Plan. We expect all will do so. Thank you.

I want to acknowledge also, that we realize there will be members who continue to choose to stay home and worship. That choice is understood and respected. Even though some will choose to worship in-person, all Sunday services will continue to be livestreamed on our Church Facebook page, in order to worship at the same time, virtually. All recorded live videos will continue to be uploaded to our church website every Monday morning to be viewed at your leisure.

Please contact a member of our C.A.R.E. Team or me directly, if you have questions or concerns about this decision and how it may affect you or your family.

In God's Ongoing Grace and Mercy,



Pr. Dale



Preparedness Plan cont.

First and foremost, if you are not feeling well or have a temperature, please remain at home.

1. All participants will be asked to wear a facial covering which includes the nose and mouth. If you do not have one with you there will be some available at the church door.
2. We ask that your facial covering remains on throughout the church service.
3. We ask you to use the hand sanitizer stations that will be provided and located at all entrances into the church and sanctuary.
4. We will enter only through the main east upper and north side parking lot doors.
5. Upon entry all will be asked to use sanitizer by the ushers at the door.
6. In order to contract trace, an usher will record your name and phone number.
7. Ushers will ask and advise those entering church to maintain a safe 6-ft distance and will advise all to enter and go directly to a seat location that is a safe distance from other church attendees.
8. The pews that will be in use will be clearly indicated.
9. Do not be offended if you are asked to relocate.
10. Immediate family members may sit next to one another if this is their regular persons of exposure.
11. No hymnals, bibles, or bulletins will be available. Service order and hymns will be projected on the front wall. If you are having trouble seeing the service order or hymn please relocate yourself in a safe location that makes this possible.
12. You may choose to sing (or hum) with the hymns, only while maintaining your facial covering.
13. Communion will continue to be provided by use of individually wrapped cups and wafers that will be distributed when you arrive.
14. No formal fellowship (coffee/treats) will occur at the end of the service. The fellowship hall will not be available for use. Any informal fellowship after worship will still require adequate physical distancing.
15. Sunday school classes and nursery services will be suspended until it is determined to be safe practice.
16. Restrooms will be available if necessary, however, the exterior doors are to remain open when the restroom is not in use. Only one person should use the restroom at any time. If the door is closed, the restroom is in use. Please remember to open and prop the door as you leave.

Once again, it is advised that any persons who have underlying health issues, have a temperature or in a poor state of health, have been exposed to any persons with or is suspected of having the Covid-19 virus, or is placed in quarantine are asked to remain at home. Worship will continue to be streamed live on our church Facebook page and posted on our church website for viewing the following week.

Happy Birthday!



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
Emma Tomczak.....November 19
Emelie Caldwell.....November 22
Libby Keefe.....November 22
Ella Leadholm.....November 28
Marilee Fredrickson.....November 29

Confirmation Update

Pastor Dale will be meeting weekly with any 6th-8th graders interested, for this year's confirmation program. Due to Covid-19 concerns some of our families have chosen to not be involved this year. Please contact Pr. Dale directly if you would like your child to be involved in these weekly faith conversations with Pr. Dale. Thank you.

Cradle Rocking

If you know of a baby that was born in the last year that you would like to have cradle rocked. Please let the church office or Erin Thorvalson know.

Drive-thru Living Nativity

Our hope is to offer a Drive Through style Living Nativity on Saturday December 19th; with a tentative cold weather date of Wednesday December 23rd. We had our first planning meeting in October and are planning another planning on November 12 at 7pm. Any questions or if you would like to be part of this event, email the church office or contact Erin Thorvaldson. johnanderint@gmail.com or 651-470-7694.



Monthly Giving update

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

General Fund giving for September was: \$8,656

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support FUMC every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will **donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to FUMC!**

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app). On your browser, you may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. When you're using the app, always check for the "AmazonSmile" logo to ensure you're activated for AmazonSmile.

You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. Using amazonsmile is an easy way to support the ministries of FUMC.

Counters Needed

If you are looking for a position in the church that doesn't take a lot of time, then a role as an offering counter may be what you are looking for! Two more people are needed that would be willing to spend 30-45 minutes every 3-4 weeks right after the church service. There are always two people scheduled to count each week. We will train! If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Linda Ploog 612-616-5657.



New Worship Coordinator

We would like to officially acknowledge Bret RempelEwert as our new Worship Coordinator, beginning November 1. After Beth Lunsford resigned from this position last Spring, Bret has unofficially stepped up to resume the duties of the position. He did so skillfully and faithfully throughout the Summer months and now into the Fall. Bret has agreed to formally serve in this role moving forward. His main duties will be to schedule worship leaders for each Sunday of the month and to select music and schedule rehearsals for the praise team. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee, Pastor Dale, and our whole congregation is grateful. Thank you, Bret!



Our Highway Clean up crew!

A big THANK YOU to the few who showed up to help with our portion of adopt a highway. Pictured are Jack Danielson and Gary Gerke. Not pictured; Marv Hultquist.



Church Council Minutes

October 20, 2020

Present: Pastor Dale, Andy Wilkerson, Wendy Vanderwerf, Scott Lecy, Erin Thorvaldson, Tom Ervasti, Donn Arnold

Meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Dale.

C.A.R.E. Team

Indoor/In-Person Worship - Resumes Sunday, Nov. 1st. Council reviewed preparedness plan from the C.A.R.E. Team. The entire Preparedness plan can be found on the church website. Sarah Sandgren has purchased supplies needed for the opening, such as masks and sanitizer. There is an ample supply on hand.

Upcoming Charge Conference Meeting

Date set for November 17th. Dale will invite an elder from another Methodist church to facilitate the meeting. New committee members will be appointed. Dale will email out a list of vacancies. Agenda also includes; approve pastoral compensation, approve 2021 annual operating budget. The removal of inactive members will not be reviewed this year.

Finance Report

Giving is down significantly this year. The monthly average for 2020 is \$11,000, compared to 2019, where the monthly average was \$16,000. Expenses have been lower due to the church being closed, but we expect an increase with the church opening. We can expect an increase of approximately \$1000 per month for heat and electricity.

Church Missions Report

YWAM is the mission for October, The "Angel Tree" will be the mission for November. There will be more information to come on how this will work to avoid contact.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Report

Events normally held in October, will be scheduled for November such as cradle rocking and giving of 3rd grade bibles. Sunday school will resume for families with interest. Erin will ensure there is proper social distancing for this. The church will be providing a Live Nativity "Drive-thru" for the community. An information meeting was held on October 22nd. Erin Thorvaldson is organizing the nativity again this year. There are only two students getting confirmation this year. Dale will meet weekly with the students this year and he has flexible meeting times.

Trustees Report

There will be a shoveling schedule coming out for the winter months.

Foundation Report

Donn Arnold wants to encourage people to apply for adult education funds through the foundation. Donn will

send something to Sarah to put in upcoming newsletters or on the website.

Hope Circle Report

No new information.

SPRC Report

The annual meeting with the District Superintendent will be held via zoom on November 15. There will not be any staff increases for this year. Bret RempelEwert has accepted the position of Worship Coordinator. He wishes to do this as a volunteer, and not accept the monthly stipend previously allotted for the position. Juanita's term of SPRC Chair will end this year.

Worship Report

Sue Hanvey is moving to Illinois and will no longer be an accompanist, moving forward, Pastor Dale, Bret, Tom, Nancy, Sharlene, Dorothy and Patsy will meet to plan worship.

Pastor's Report

General Pastoral Care continues to be challenging as it is still not safe or advised to meet with people in their homes. Much of my ongoing pastoral care has been over the phone, occasional in-person at the church, calling on members to check-in, or briefly in person on Sunday mornings before/after drive-in/outdoor worship. I ask any members wishing to talk to me or pray with me to call me at any time. I have ongoing Zoom meetings with area clergy for advice, support, and encouragement. Despite how we have all had to adjust to the Covid-19 restrictions, as a Community of Faith, I have been so pleased to see how our congregation has stepped up and cared for one another. Thank you!

Meeting was adjourned by a closing prayer.

Minutes recorded by Wendy Vanderwerf



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Thank You!

A big "Thank You" to the following volunteers who fertilized and mowed the church lawn this summer, maintained the shrubs and mulched the leaves this fall: Dick Berglund, Gary Gerke, Dorothy and Irve Lecy and Russell Oehme.

thank you!



MEALS on WHEELS AMERICA

Drivers for November 2020

November 2- Greg McCarthy
 November 3- Greg McCarthy
 November 4- Fred Prindle
 November 5- Jim & Joyce Stafki
 November 6- Jim & Joyce Stafki

November 9- Phil & Joan DeMunck
 November 10- Cindy Kopp
 November 11- Gary Gerke
 November 12- Donn & Sharlene Arnold
 November 13- Jim & Joyce Stafki

November 16- Michelle Gillespie
 November 17- Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
 November 18- Bonnie Bielicki
 November 19- Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
 November 20- Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

November 23- Jon Glader
 November 24- Irv & Dorothy Lecy
 November 25- Fred Prindle
 November 26- HOLIDAY
 November 27- Wendy Braski

November 30- Jon Glader

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:
Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

Foundation Board

The foundation committee would like to remind you that we grant funds not only for post high school educational needs. If you're planning on attending any Christ Centered event that requires an admittance fee, please pick up a fund application form in the Foundation PO Box or from Sarah in the Church Office. Upon completing the form, return it to Donn Arnold or Sarah in the Church Office. The Foundation Committee will look over your request and notify you in a timely manner as to their decision about your fund request.

Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle has a tentative date for **November 12th at 10am**. They will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Come for some much needed fellowship and to discuss the upcoming year's plans. Any changes of date or time will be communicated.

Sunday Worship Available Online

Complete worship services are live-streamed weekly on our church Facebook page. They are also posted weekly following the service on our website. Orders of Worship are available to view on our website as well to follow along with the service. Visit our website: www.lindstrommethodist.org.



[Weekly Sunday School Resources for Families](#)

[Order of Worship for September 13, 2020](#)

[Click Here for Electronic Online Giving](#)

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

How Can We Help? Contact Us!

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
 9am - 1pm

Church email address:

office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor Dale's email address:

dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Church Office Phone Number:

651-257-4306

lindstrommethodist.org



November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Ends - Turn Clocks Back! 9:00a Worship All Saints Day	2	3	4	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	7
8 9:00a Worship	9	10 6:30p Trustees	11	12 10a Hope Circle 7p Nativity Meeting	13 Pastor's Day Off	14
15 9:00a Worship Mission Sunday	16	17 6p Finance 7p Church Council Newsletter deadline	18	19	20 Pastor's Day Off	21
22 9:00a Worship	23	24	25 7p Thanksgiving worship service	26 Office Closed 	27 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed	28
29 9:00a Worship 1st Sunday of Advent	30					

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Address Service Requested
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

November 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!

In-person Worship 9:00 a.m.
Steaming online on our Facebook page

Our Ministry Team:

Pastor...	Dale Stiles
Office Administrator...	Sarah Sandgren
Children's Coordinator...	Erin Thorvaldson
Choir Director...	Tom Ervasti
Church Council Chairperson...	Wendy Vanderwerf
Custodian...	Cheryl Hultquist
Finance Chairperson...	Linda Ploog
Financial Secretary...	Donn Arnold
Foundation Chairperson...	Andy Wilkerson
Lay Leader...	
Lay Member to Annual Conference...	
Mission Chairperson...	Adrienne Stegmeir
Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson...	Juanita Morgan
Treasurer...	Lloyd Jones
Trustees Chairperson...	Lloyd Jones
Worship Coordinator...	Bret RempelEwert
Youth Coordinator...	Erin Thorvaldson

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