

Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2021

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PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

Mission Focus: Feed My Starving Children

First United Methodist Church, Lindstrom is making a difference for the kingdom of God every month through missions giving and service. This month we are supporting Feed My Starving Children.

Every year, millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and undernutrition. Hunger is still causing nearly half of deaths in children under 5 years old. From this data, we estimate at least 6,200 children die each day from causes related to undernutrition. This is heartbreaking.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC works with food distribution partners that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.

FMSC meals are developed by food science and nutrition professionals to supplement nutritional needs and reduce problems with malnutrition.

Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive and develop to their full potential.

How much can we raise together to help feed children in body and spirit this month?

\$88 feeds a child for a year

\$365 feeds a family for a year

\$1,866 provides a pallet of food

\$10,000 feeds a village

You can also support this great ministry by volunteering your time packing food at one of the 3 Minnesota sites. Through volunteering at FMSC, you'll get the chance to impact hundreds of kids in just two hours per packing shift. For more information or to sign up visit <https://www.fmsc.org/get-involved/volunteer>.

Church Events

- **April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm**
Office closed
- **April 2 - Good Friday Service, 8pm**
Office closed
- **April 4 - Easter Sunday**
- **April 6 - SPRC, 7pm**
- **April 13 - Trustees, 7pm**
- **April 20 - Finance, 6pm**
Church Council, 7pm
- **April 27 - Foundation meeting, 7pm**

Options Together Bible Study

A Biblical Guide to Engaging American Poverty

Options Together is a small group Bible study designed to help us all engage with the Lord's mandate to care for the poor in the context of relationships, ridding us of the old giver/receiver narrative.

The in-depth biblical content combines video lessons with each chapter, accompanied by written guides for group leaders and participants.

Options Together Bible Study begins on **Sunday, April 11th** and will continue for seven weeks through **Sunday May 23rd**. It will be from

10:15am - 11:15am in the Church Sanctuary.

For more information contact
Adrienne Stegmeir.
aestegmeir@yahoo.com

Monthly Giving

General Fund Budget for 2021 is \$172,500, which becomes \$14,375 per month.

General Fund giving for February was: \$16,106

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

Offering 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! We need two more people 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 at: 612-616-5657 or lkploog@gmail.com

Happy Birthday!

Kyle Sparby.....April 1
Cheryl Lecy.....April 3
Dianne Hagenstad.....April 10
Kathy Larsen.....April 10
John Thorvaldson.....April 11
Tim Ploog.....April 13
Scott Lecy.....April 17
Tom Lundberg.....April 19
Colleen Kopp.....April 23
Karen Hanson.....April 24
Marlys Polzine.....April 24
Dorothy Lecy.....April 27
Pauline Heilig.....April 28
Marna Gerke.....April 30

Youth at FUMC

A nursery is available during Sunday morning worship. Children up to age 3 are welcome to come play!

Sunday School for ages 3 through 5th grade is every Sunday! Children start worship with their parents and are dismissed after communion for class.

The confirmation class is for grades 6-8 and meet every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning after church.

Council Minutes

March 16, 2021

Meeting held virtually via Zoom.

Attendees: Pastor Chris, Tom Ervasti, Lloyd Jones, Scott Lecy, Adrienne Stegmeir, Emily Honerbrink, Erin Thorvaldson

FINANCE:

- Ended January around \$18,000 February at \$42,000 that includes a pledge from 2020 and 2021 as well as \$10,000 grant.
- The last time an audit was completed was 2000, looking for a 3rd party to complete this in the near future.
- Payments to apportionments will be paid for January and February.
- It has been some time since there has been a pay increase for the custodian, with current extra cleaning and amount of time, all agreed a raise is much needed. Sarah Sandgren is also coming up on one year and would like to also give a raise. All agreed upon. It will start first pay day next quarter.

YOUTH:

- Easter fundraiser to raise funds for youth to go to camp, \$15 charcuterie boards, sweet or salty option available for purchase.

MISSIONS:

- April will be Feed My Starving Children, limited spots available to volunteer.
- As we continue through the year, do we want to look at ministries that are close or different ones, keep the ones we have done, open it up to broader options. Looking for feedback on this.

MISC.:

- Many agreed it would be nice to have the sermon tie in with Sunday School or other ministries, where all would work more closely and be interconnected. A future meeting will be set to discuss best ways to do this.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Erin Thorvaldson

Announcements

- The General Church Conference is postponed to 2022, with online Special Session in 2021. The Commission on the General Conference just announced its decision to further postpone the 2020 General Conference until Aug. 29 – Sept. 6, 2022 in Minneapolis, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the safety of mass gatherings and travel. In response to the further postponement, the Council of Bishops (COB) is calling a Special Session of the General Conference to be convened online on May 8, 2021. The purpose of the 2021 Special Session will be limited to gaining a quorum in order to suspend the rules for the sole purpose of allowing the use of paper ballots to act upon 12 pieces of legislation that would enable the church to effectively continue its work until the postponed 2020 General Conference is held in 2022.
- Confirmation class will continue on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7pm. The last day of Confirmation will be Wednesday, May 12th. Confirmation Sunday is May 16th.
- Monthly calendars can be found online at lindstrommethodist.org as well as on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.
- Newsletter deadline is the **23rd of each month**. If you would like an announcement or article in the newsletter, please submit by then.

Meals on Wheels

Drivers for April 2021

April 1 - Greg McCarthy	April 19 - Michelle Gillespie
April 2 - Greg McCarthy	April 20 - Grace Schmidt
	April 21 - Bonnie Bielicki
April 5 - Phil & Joan DeMunck	April 22 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
April 6 - Gary Gerke	April 23 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
April 7 - Gary Gerke	
April 8 - Jim & Joyce Stafki	
April 9 - Jim & Joyce Stafki	April 26 - Jon Glader
	April 27 - Jon Glader
April 12 - Phil & Joan DeMunck	April 28 - Wendy Braski
April 13 - Cindy Kopp	April 29 - Fred Prindle
April 14 - Don & Sharlene Arnold	April 30 - Fred Prindle
April 15 - Irve & Dorothy Lecy	
April 16 - Irve & Dorothy Lecy	Meals on Wheels Coordinator: Juanita Morgan, 257-9268



Sunday Messages

We live stream our Sunday Worship every week on our Facebook page. Join us at 9am!

Can't make it to Church on Sunday? No problem! We stream our service **live** on Facebook at 9am every Sunday. You can watch it by simply logging in to your Facebook account and searching for Lindstrom Methodist.

Don't have Facebook but want to watch church live? Head to our website: lindstrommethodist.org. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click the Facebook link in the bottom left corner.

Missed watching church live? Don't worry, we post the previous Sunday's worship service on our website Monday morning. If you head to our website, lindstrommethodist.org you can click on the video right on our homepage and watch whenever it is convenient to you!

We are here to help!

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9am - 1 pm

Office Email:

Office@lindstrommethodist.org

Office Phone #:

(651) 257-4306

Pastor Chris' Email:

pastor@lindstrommethodist.org