

Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

"As Followers of Jesus Christ, we will proclaim the message of God's kingdom and bring hope to a hurting world beginning in Chisago County. "

OCTOBER 2021

30828 IRENE AVE. | P.O. BOX 688 | LINDSTROM, MN

LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG

PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

Mission Focus:

Zoe Empowers

Equipping vulnerable children with tools and training to overcome life threatening poverty for good.

380 million children are trapped in the cycle of poverty. Orphaned and vulnerable children living in extreme poverty are abused, sick and isolated from their community. Through Zoe Empowers, children who once lived in poverty become entrepreneurs, providers, and leaders in their community who know their worth and abilities.

The organization equips children to overcome poverty by addressing all areas of life including child rights, food security, health and hygiene, secure housing, community connections, education, income generation, and spiritual strength. Most importantly, children learn that God loves them and experience the gospel in action.

Our church will help Zoe Empowers to make an impact when you designate a portion of your offering to "missions" in October. A little bit makes a big difference! It costs less than \$300 to equip one child to overcome extreme poverty and become part of a strong and healthy community in just three years.

You can sign up for encouraging stories of orphan empowerment to be sent to your email inbox or to become an official ministry prayer partner and receive weekly updates on the Zoe Empowers website: zoeempowers.org.

All-Church, Old-Fashioned, American-Style Hootenanny

The greatest show in Chisago County returns on Saturday, October 23rd at 6pm. Limited tickets are available to purchase during Fellowship Hour after Sunday worship. You don't want to miss out on the fun!

Church Events

- Oct. 3 - Highway clean-up, 1pm
- Oct. 4 - Memorials, 10:30am
- Oct. 11 - SPRC, 7pm
Office closed
- Oct. 12 - Trustees, 6:30p
- Oct. 14 - Hope Circle, 10am
- Oct. 19 - Finance, 6pm
Church Council, 7pm
- Oct. 20 - MEA Break:
No Confirmation
- Oct. 22 - Newsletter deadline
- Oct. 23 - Hootenanny, 6pm
- Oct. 31 - Stewardship Sunday

Meals on Wheels

Oct. 1—Joan & Phil DeMunck

Oct. 4—Greg McCarthy

Oct. 5—Greg McCarthy

Oct. 6—Gary Gerke

Oct. 7—Jim & Joyce Stafki

Oct. 8—Jim & Joyce Stafki

Oct. 11—Joan & Phil DeMunck

Oct. 12—Cindy Kopp

Oct. 13—Gary Gerke

Oct. 14—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

Oct. 15—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

Oct. 18—Michelle Gillespie

Oct. 19—Bonnie Bielicki

Oct. 20—Bonnie Bielicki

Oct. 21—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Oct. 22—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Oct. 25—Jon Glader

Oct. 26—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

Oct. 27—Sue & Jeff Meinholz

Oct. 28—Sue & Jeff Meinholz

Oct. 29—Fred Prindle

Route 2 Coordinator: Juanita Morgan, 651-257-9268

Announcements

October is Stewardship month. God calls us to be good stewards of all we are given – creation, relationships, our bodies, our talents, money, and other material gifts of all sorts.

Look for pledge cards in the bulletin. Stewardship Sunday is October 31st.

Confirmation is offered for youth in grades 6th through 8th. They meet every Wednesday at 5pm to cook dinner together and then move on to a lesson and faith discussions. Youth are encouraged to bring a friend!

Highway Clean-Up is Sunday October 3rd! Please meet at the church at 1pm. Lots of volunteers are needed to make quick work.

All ladies are welcome to join Hope Circle on Thursday October 14th at 10 am. In addition to devotions and coffee/tea and treats, they will be checking out the church kitchen to see where some cleaning is needed and hopefully completing some tasks.

Contact Dorothy Lecy with questions:
651-260-3048

We are trying to update our contact information for those who attend FUMC. Please fill out the form in the Fellowship Hall or send an email to the Church Office with any changes.
office@lindstrommethodist.org.

Ways to Give to FUMC:

1. Tithely is an app that makes it easy to give. If you need help downloading and setting up the app on your phone or tablet, someone from the Finance committee would be happy to help.
2. Bill Pay is an automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Give your bank the name and address of the church and a payment will automatically come out of your account, no need to write checks!
3. Cash and Checks of course are a wonderful way to support FUMC and is always welcome. If you would like giving envelopes, please let the church office know.



Council Reports

Committee Reports submitted by committee chairs, compiled by Council Secretary, Emily Honerbrink.

Missions: In August the congregation gave \$750 and a box of school supplies to support Family Pathways. Thank you for your generosity! The mission focus for September is NOMADS. This organization utilizes volunteers to improve people's living conditions while spreading the love of Christ. A focus on NOMADS was shared during service on September 19.

The next mission focus during service will be October 10. Additional information about missions is always available on the website, in the newsletter, and in the bulletin.

Memorial: The Memorial Committee reviewed the "wish lists" submitted by seven committees, narrowing down their choices and setting a timeline for purchasing the designated items. Some action will take place this fall, but most will be bumped into 2022. The committee's next meeting will be on October 4th at 10:30a.m. The group will be deciding on the date(s) for fund spending.

SPRC:

- There will be a sign put up at the Nursery about keeping it cleaned up and organized (just waiting on the printer to be repaired)
- Pastoral Care team training will begin on October 6th (One more member is still needed)
- There will be a Sunday school skit/mentorship for students in the craft time starting on Sept. 12th the SPRC members will participate for the first week then confirmation kids will take over helping Chris during Sunday school.
- Youth Ministry Updates
 - Job Description for the position
 - PR & Active recruiting someone for the role
 - Strong Communication plan
 - Sunday school will be PK-5th (or could be 6th)
 - New timeframe will be 2-3 month
- Matthew 18 training will be moved to the next meeting
- We reviewed and discussed the SPRC Feedback/Review Worksheet that many members completed (looking for common themes and compiling responses)
 - This will be submitted to the Superintendent in October. It will be a virtual meeting.
 - More discussion about Youth Ministry
 - Curriculum needs to be "age appropriate"
 - How do we care for whoever comes to Sunday school? Some children may not come with a parent?

Finance:

Statement of Activities – Offerings (giving) for July: Lloyd reported the last four months offerings have been below monthly budget. August is a five Sunday month which should help monthly totals. July has a -\$4847 deficit. YTD numbers remain positive at \$16,496. This compares to a

YTD deficit of \$8007 in 2020.

Dedicated Accounts – The Finance Committee has been working to eliminate zero (Ø) balance accounts and combining other accounts.

Discussion regarding 904 – Youth Camp/Mission.

Reimbursements are "slow". Lloyd will make an announcement this Sunday to remind parents to submit a reimbursement form.

Continuing discussion regarding Youth/Children's ministries allocation and funding. The foundation has offered to help fund the onboarding of this staff position pending long term funding and budget. The SPRC has created a job description with the framework for a 24 hour position.

The Memorials leadership team reached out to all committees regarding their "wish list" and priorities. Memorials currently has \$21,279 in their account. Memorial funds dedicated to specific functions will continue to be kept on a separate ledger (ie. Youth, missions, etc). General donations are available to be used as the committee determines.

New Business – open discussion -establish key roles/responsibilities/priorities for the Finance Committee moving forward.

Key target areas:

1. Financial Chart: Create 3 year history chart to compare monthly giving/expenses. (Verna/Lloyd)
2. Online/alternative giving: Work on communication to expand giving for folks not able to attend in-person worship. Tithe.ly; direct bank automatic pay, etc. Current online giving is around \$100/month. (Verna)
3. Special Gifts: Update 1996 policy regarding special gifts. The current policy distributes special gifts 1/3 to memorials; 1/3 foundation and 1/3 trustees. Suggestion is to move special gift accounts to Memorials as they are typically onetime gifts. (present to August Council meeting)
4. Doris Brand trust: Update numbers for Doris Brand trust. The last statement I have is April 2021 with a balance of \$25,536. Work with council to move to Memorials Committee.
5. Dedicated accounts: Continue to focus on cleaning up the accounts. Current recommendation is to eliminate 920 (Puzzles, Pie & Potato Soup); 916 (Hootenanny); 917 (Thursday Night Family); 928 (Pavilion) as individual accounts.
6. Budget: September timeframe to create and submit 2022 budget.
7. Stewardship Drive: Fall timeframe



First United Methodist Church
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Lindstrom, MN 55045
(651)257-4306
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Sent with a prayer to:

October 2021

How Can We Help?

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 9am—1 pm

Office Email:

Office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor Chris' Email:

pastor@lindstrommethodist.org

Watch us online every Sunday

We stream our worship service LIVE every Sunday at 9am on our Facebook page.

You can watch it by simply logging in to your

Facebook account and searching for Lindstrom

Methodist.

Don't have Facebook? Head to our website:

lindstrommethodist.org and scroll to the bottom of

the home page. There is a Facebook link in the

bottom left corner that will take you to the live

streaming worship service.

You can also watch any Sunday service on our

website the following Monday.