



# Grace Courier

## *First United Methodist Church*

NOVEMBER 2021 | 30828 IRENE AVE. | P.O. BOX 688  
LINDSTROM, MN | LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG  
PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

## Mission Focus: Heifer International

Heifer International works around the world in 21 countries alongside local farmers and business owners. They support communities as they provide training to improve the quality and quantity of goods they produce, connections to markets, and increased sales and incomes. Values-based partnerships are created focusing on social, environmental and financial returns.

Giving an animal is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to

medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. As these businesses grow, they in turn help others by gifting animals to others in need. During the months of November and December we will be filling a stable with animals to change lives!

Check out the bulletin board in the church hallway to see our stable and how many animals will be sponsored through First United Methodist Church, Lindstrom.

## Thank You Highway Clean up Crew!

Twice a year, worshippers from First United Methodist come together to clean up a two mile stretch of County Road 19. On Sunday, October 11th a group of eleven spent a couple hours picking up trash in the ditches to make our community clean and welcoming. Thank you to Gary Gerke, Jack Danielson, Irv Lecy, Taylor & Erin Thorvaldson, Bret & Cailey RempelEwert, Scott & Cheryl Lecy, and Patsy & Dick Berglund.

## Church Events

- **Nov 7** - Daylight Savings Ends Foundation, 10:30am
- **Nov 8** - Memorials, 10:30am
- **Nov 9** - Trustees, 6:30pm  
SPRC, 5pm
- **Nov. 11** - Hope Circle, 10am
- **Nov 16** - Finance, 6pm  
Church Council, 7pm
- **Nov 22** - Newsletter Deadline
- **Nov 24** - Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7pm
- **Nov 25** - HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**Office closed Nov 25 & 26**



# Meals on Wheels

Nov 1 - Greg McCarthy  
Nov 2 - Greg McCarthy  
Nov 3 - Bonnie Bielicki  
Nov 4 - Jim & Joyce Stafki  
Nov 5 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

Nov 8 - Phil & Joan DeMunck  
Nov 9 - Cindy Kopp  
Nov 10 - Gary Gerke  
Nov 11 - Michelle Gillespie  
Nov 12 - Michelle Gillespie

Nov 15- Joan & Phil DeMunck  
Nov 16 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker  
Nov 17 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker  
Nov 18 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie  
Nov 19 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Nov 22 - Jon Glader  
Nov 23 - Jon Glader  
Nov 24 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy  
Nov 25 - Thanksgiving  
Nov 26 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz

Nov 29 - Fred Prindle  
Nov 30 - Fred Prindle

*Meals on Wheels Coordinator:  
Juanita Morgan 257-9268*

## Happy Birthday!

**Laura Tomczak.....November 2**  
**Bret RempelEwert.....November 5**  
**Taylor Thorvaldson.....November 8**  
**Paige Leadholm.....November 10**  
**Ralph Bates.....November 16**  
**Emma Tomczak.....November 19**  
**Ella Leadholm.....November 28**  
**Marilee Fredrickson.....November 29**

# Announcements

The Conference Lay Ministry Team is inviting members of our congregation to participate in Lay Speaker training sessions in November. There are three sessions and they will take place virtually on three consecutive Saturdays beginning on November 6th with topic of "Your Call to Ministry". Each session runs from 9:45am– 2:45 pm.

Contact the Church Office or Pastor Chris if you are interested in joining.

**Memorials Update:** The church has \$59,870 in a dedicated savings account that was gifted to the church over the past several years in memory to loved ones. The Memorials Committee has been working with committees to identify needed items that could be purchased with these funds. Items that can be purchased with Memorial funds are physical items for the church or repairs of property. Funds are not to be used for on-going operational expenses.

We have approved several projects/items that have been submitted totaling \$37,186 that will be spent over the next 12 months. A list of approved spends will be included in the October's Council minutes.

We want to keep a list of items needed/desired in front of our committee so as funds are given in memory of loved ones, we can quickly identify how to use those funds.

We also want to have a list of wants/needs available for Pastor Chris to have if families ask how their memorial might be spent for the church. Please forward submissions to anyone on the Memorials Committee.

If you have any questions regarding Memorials, please contact Linda Ploog, 612.616.5657 or [lkploog@gmail.com](mailto:lkploog@gmail.com).



# What a Hoot!

The All-Church, Old-Fashioned, American-Style Hootenanny last month was a great reminder of the fun we can have at church. As Christians, the ability to spread joy and laughter is a simple way to show God's love. Thank you Terry & Cindy Kopp for putting together such a wonderful show! Also, thank you Scott & Wendy Braski for a great meal along with countless other volunteers for sharing their wonderful talents.

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## Confirmation

The confirmation class continues to meet on Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 7pm. They make a meal together before learning the lesson for the week. FUMC students are combined with Taylors Falls Methodist Church.

On Sunday, November 14th the class has an opportunity to experience a worship service at Park UMC in Minneapolis. They will leave FUMC at 8:30 am and caravan to Park UMC. After the service they will go out to eat at a local restaurant. Parents are welcome to join and are encouraged to be a chaperone on the trip.

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## Thanksgiving Service

Join us for a Thanksgiving Eve Service. It will be held here on Wednesday, November 24th at 7pm. Confirmation Students will help lead the service.

## Thanksgiving Should Never End

By: Vanessa Small (UMC Young People)

Throughout the Scriptures, we are reminded to give thanks to the Lord:

- *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever."* (Psalm 118:1 NIV)
- *"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done."* (1 Chronicles 16:8 NIV)
- *"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* (1 Chronicles 16:8 NIV)
- *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* (Colossians 3:17 NIV)

God is so good, and His people truly should have a thankful heart, praising Him for who He is and what He has done. Unfortunately, His people haven't always had that thankful heart.

In the book of Numbers, we read about the Israelites' experience in the wilderness. The people were constantly grumbling against God instead of trusting Him. They had seen His awesome wonders and grace. He sent manna from heaven and provided water from a rock. God had miraculously delivered them from slavery in Egypt, but their hearts were turning back. Here they were experiencing God's miraculous provision, but they seem to have taken it for granted. As soon as God had done one thing for them, they were wanting something else and finding another reason to grumble. Their faith and focus were not where they should have been.

It's easy to judge the Israelites as unthankful complainers, but I realize that I probably am not much different. How many times do I experience God's great blessings in my life, but then look at another situation and start complaining about that instead of praising and thanking God for His goodness? How many times do I focus my attention on my problems and needs instead of on Jesus and His love?

In the United States, we set aside one day each year in November as a day to give thanks. We often gather with loved ones and enjoy a large feast. We list all our blessings for which we are thankful. But for too many of us, it ends there. We get up from that table and go back to our normal routine. Instead of remaining in that attitude of thankfulness, we start grumbling about football game scores, dirty dishes, or long lines at the store.

I pray that our hearts will remain in an attitude of thanksgiving all year round. God is good every day, not just on the fourth Thursday in November. Let's thank Him each day.



# Council Minutes *October 2021*

Council members present: Terry Kopp, Rebecca Ervasti, Verna Hultman, Emily Honerbrink, Cheryl Lecy, Lloyd Jones, Donn Arnold, Adrienne Stegmeir, Boni Stockel, Andy Wilkerson

*The October meeting was opened with a devotional from Verna Hultman.*

## **Old business:**

**Conference Consultant Opportunity:** We hired William Lewis, retired from corporate business leadership/industrial psychology, to lead a “strategic positioning” process. First step in consultant process underway.

**Boy Scouts:** Had them fill out a facility use form but not satisfactory for insurance purposes. Lloyd to go back to conference for guidance and forms. Scouts are sponsored by local Lions club.

**Charge Conference:** Annual Church meeting to elect officers; approve budget. Pr. Chris to moderate. Agreement to hold Charge Conference in conjunction with next council meeting on 11/16. Finance committee to distribute budget to Council seven days prior to Charge Conference. Note: Conference is very happy with progression of growth over the past year!

**Discussion:** Do we keep momentum going forward in developing strong committees by appointing assistant chairs for all committees? **Further discussion necessary.**

**Living Nativity:** Council was asked whether there is any concern with holding the Nativity in person vs drive through. Agreement that Council stands behind Nativity committee; they are empowered to choose direction.

**Busy Bags:** Adrienne presented new “Busy Bags” with a variety of age appropriate fidgeters; designed to help kids focus on service. Excited to see kids use them.

*Meeting closed with Prayer. Next meeting November 16th; this will also be the Charge conference.*

**The following reports were submitted to the Council Secretary prior to the meeting; approved at start of meeting:**

## **Memorials:**

Emails were sent out to committees approving majority of items on their lists. purchases can be made, receipts turned in to Memorials. Notification letters are to be sent out to congregation informing of projects to be worked on this

year and 2022. Will make up thank you cards on church stationery. Any recognition plaques, writing or embroidery placed on memorial item, shall be the responsibility of the Memorial committee. Nov. 8, 10:30am next meeting.

## **Finance:**

### **Review Statements:**

- Statement of Financial Position – Lloyd found an error in the published report for dedicated accounts. He will review and edit (\$89K vs \$91K in totals). We are also double checking email distribution.
- Statement of Activities – Offerings (giving) for August \$15252 which is \$548 above the four year average 2018-2021: the projected FY2021 revenue is tracking above budget.
- Dedicated Accounts – The Finance Committee has been working to eliminate zero (Ø) balance accounts and combining other accounts. Motion by Donn Arnold to combine 914, 916, 920, 921, 928, and 929 into a single 938 General Account. Vi Strand Trust #934 moved to #906 Memorials in the amount of \$15,736.99; second by Lloyd Jones. Motion passed. Note: Doris Brand account remains an open item. Current signer is Scott Lecy. Action: Verna will follow up with Scott to update.

### **New Business:**

- The auditor recommended a Financial Control Policy be created. A working copy has been distributed for review and continues to be revised.
- Lloyd Jones requested reimbursement for the August lawn mower purchase for \$4,850 (est). Motion by Verna Hultman, second by Donn Arnold. Motion passed.

### **Key target areas:**

1. Financial Chart: 3 year history chart to compare monthly giving/expenses. Completed and distributed. This will be a living document distributed to the finance committee monthly (Verna/Lloyd)
2. Online/alternative giving: Verna compared options for fees. Tithe.ly is currently 3.8%. Other options are lower (1.5-2%), however, they are not as user friendly as tithe.ly.

Members have the option of autopay (zero fees), online (member has option to pay fee or deduct from offering), or in-person. Item closed.



# Council Minutes *Cont.*

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 one time gifts. (present to August Council meeting). Update: August council approved special gifts be assigned to memorials committee going forward. Special gifts definition is also included in working Financial Control Policy. Item closed.

4. Doris Brand trust: Update numbers for Doris Brand trust. The last statement we have physically is April 2021 with a balance of \$25,536. Edward Jones office confirmed signer is Scott Lecy and couldn't give info until signer is updated. Open item.

6. Budget: September time frame to create and submit 2022 budget.

- Oct 10th submission from committees
- November 16th – working/proposed budget
- January 18th – approve budget

7. Stewardship Drive:

- Stewardship month launch Oct 3rd. Lloyd will present.
- Weekly bulletin inserts OK with committee
- Stewardship Sunday October 31.

## **Missions:**

• Missions through First UMC are impacting the world for Christ through local, regional and global outreach. In October the mission focus was Zoey Empowers. This ministry supports orphans by giving them the skills they need to be successful and self-sufficient contributors in their communities while fostering their faith and love of God. As a church we have the opportunity to have an ongoing impact and relationship with orphans in Africa through partnership with Zoey Empowers.

• In October, there was an opportunity to attend a fundraiser event for Safe Haven Foster Shoppe as well as purchase tickets for the Teen Challenge Christmas concert in December.

During the holiday season we will be collecting donations to fill our own bulletin board “stable” with animals to gift through Heifer International.

- Contributions for September (NOMADS) totaled \$765.00.

## **Trustees:**

- Wi-Fi has been updated and we are able to get a signal in the nursery which allowed us to put in a new TV and they can now watch Sunday service in nursery.
- Our Church bell is ringing again thanks to Mark Vanderwerf who got up and cleaned out bird nests and lubing different parts of bell.
- Board voted and approved to raise Trustee budget for 2022 to \$3000.00.
- John Thorvaldson and Mark Vanderwerf agreed to new Terms for Trustees.

## **SPRC:**

District Superintendent Meeting – Zoom – October 20th

- SPRC Feedback Worksheet submitted, will send copy to group. Group to choose how to attend Oct. 20th meeting (virtual or in person; buffalo plaid attire regardless).

Children's Ministry Leader

- Grant Submitted for potential outside funds, thanks Verna! Aligned to strategic planning.

Matthew 18 Training

- Need to define conflict process, based on what we've learned from other Churches
- Role Playing: Group acted out scenarios for conflict and meetings for resolutions.

Brought up that we should give Council insight into how to do conflict resolution meetings in case they are brought in.

District Superintendent Feedback - shared where Susan would like us to focus.

- What are some ways to prepare the congregation for change?
- Plan or structure for a “behavior covenant” when a new pastor or staff joins the team.

SPRC to help facilitate introductions, bring in best practices. Take more of a leading role and educate new employees to traditions/functions of the Church.

Budget discussion for Staff salaries



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NOVEMBER 2021

**Sent with a prayer to:**

**Watch Us Online Every Sunday**

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

The Sunday service is available for viewing the following Monday on our website:

[Lindstrommethodist.org](http://Lindstrommethodist.org)

## We Are Here to Help!

Church Office Hours:  
Monday—Friday: 9am—1 pm

Church Office Email:  
[office@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:office@lindstrommethodist.org)

Pastor Chris' Email:  
[pastor@lindstrommethodist.org](mailto:pastor@lindstrommethodist.org)