

Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2022 | 30828 IRENE AVE. | PO BOX 688
651-257-4306 | LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG
PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

Mission Focus: **zoeempowers**

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.

First United Methodist Church will help Zoe Empowers to make an impact when you designate a portion of your offering to "missions" in September. 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. Be even more connected by signing 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 at zoeempowers.org

Join us for a Outdoor Worship Service!

Weather permitting, we will be worshipping outside at the Pavilion on Sunday, September 4th. Bring a lawn chair and/or blanket and enjoy the morning outside with fellow worshippers.

Church Events

- Sept. 5 - Labor Day! *Office closed*
- Sept. 6 - SPRC: 4:45p
- Sept 7 - Worship Planning: 7p
- Sept 8 - Hope Circle: 10am
- Sept 13 - Trustees: 6:30p
- Sept 14 - Outreach: 7p
- Sept 20 - Finance: 6p
Council: 7p
- Sept. 21 - Confirmation Info
night: 6p
Adult Discipleship: 7p
- Sept. 28 - Confirmation: 5-7p
Children's ministry: 7p

Pastor Chris on vacation

Sept 12th - 18th

Highway Clean Up

First United Methodist is responsible for cleaning up about a two mile stretch of County Hwy 19 from County Rd. 14 to Karmel Ave in Chisago.

Please join us on Sunday, October 9th at 1pm for our Fall clean up day. Meet at the front of the church to get a vest and trash grabber.

Thanks for volunteering!

Meals on Wheels

September Route 2 Drivers

Sept 1 - Greg McCarthy

Sept 2 - Jim & Joyce Stafki

Sept 5 - Michelle Gillespie

Sept 6 - Michelle Gillespie

Sept 7 - Carol Carlson

Sept 8 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

Sept 9 - Mike Arendarcz

Sept 12 - Phil & Joan DeMunck

Sept 13 - Cindy Kopp

Sept 14 - Carol Carlson

Sept 15 - Bonnie Bielicki

Sept 16 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

Sept 19 - Joan & Phil DeMunck

Sept 20 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz

Sept 21 - Irve & Dorothy Lecy

Sept 22 - Irve & Dorothy Lecy

Sept 23 - Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke

Sept 26 - Jon Glader

Sept 27 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz

Sept 28 - Fred Prindle

Sept 29 - Donn & Sharlene Arnold

Sept 30 - Bonnie Bielicki

Route 2 Coordinator: Juanita Morgan

Adult Study Options for Fall:

Thursday mornings at 10am beginning on September 22nd. :

DISCIPLE: a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. *DISCIPLE* draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible.

The first study in the program is *DISCIPLE: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study*. It serves as the basis for all other studies in the *DISCIPLE* family that follow. Over the course of 34 weeks, the study covers the entire Bible (Old and New Testaments) following the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem.

A small fee will be charged for this class to cover the cost of study materials. If purchasing the study items is a problem, contact the Church Office.

Sign up for this year long course led by Pastor Chris by September 12th.

Thursday evenings from 7pm-8:30pm beginning on September 22nd. :

"The Armor of God" will be an 8 week study led by Terry Kopp - drawn heavily from a study authored by Rev. Glenn Polzine. (No class on October 20th).

This is a study of Ephesians 6:10-18 and multiple related scriptural references. We will explore, discuss and learn about the tools a Christian needs to navigate the challenges of a life of faith. Weekly topics include truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Spirit.

New to faith in Christ, established followers, seekers and anyone in between can benefit from this study.

No sign up or materials necessary other than your bible and your attention.

The Question of Faith

BY MELI'SA-KAYE ROBOTHAM

UMCYOUNGPEOPLE.ORG

There are times I allow myself to think, hope, and dream strictly within the confines of my limitations. These limitations determine: which areas of study I can pursue, what I can afford, which jobs I can consider, where I can live, etc. It would be imprudent to disregard these restrictions. It's reasonable to operate within our limitations. It requires so much to work hard, sacrifice, earnestly pray, all towards a specific outcome which may never be realized. It has become more obvious to me that instead of asking, "Why not?", the question I often ask myself is, "How can I possibly?"

But then, I also think, "Where is my faith?" Shouldn't I possess faith which can remove great obstacles? Haven't I been advised against doubting? In fact, I have been reassured that my prayers will be answered, once I believe this (Mark 11: 22-24).

Nevertheless, the period of waiting and hoping remains remarkably difficult! I have even reached the point where I confronted God, "This is your moment to show yourself by removing all hindrances!" A recent conversation with my friend let me know that she's had similar desperate moments, where she identified herself to God and then stated that it would have been good time to let her know what to do.

When you earnestly want something and you think you've done everything possible to achieve it, yet it remains unattainable, it hurts immensely. The fear of making a wrong decision, or that you've made the wrong choices all along can become overwhelming. While waiting, I frequently wonder if I am praying for the right things. "Is my will in line with God's will?" Waiting often becomes an opportunity to, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV).

Sadly, I have also discovered that while I may be hoping and praying for miracles, I'm not always prepared to follow through on what I believe. Occasionally there have been instances where my prayers were answered, and I suddenly became disappointed with myself. I subsequently

perceived that I didn't fully expect to receive the things for which I prayed. I had thought that the odds against me were too numerous. I realized that I didn't want to appear silly, or lazy, and so I needed to have backup plans. I was trying desperately to figure everything out; to have all the right answers. I have observed that my faith wanes if I am asked a lot of questions. My doubts and fears resurface because I don't always have specific answers regarding the future. I then attempt to discern whether I'm being idealistic and foolish, or if I'm truly acting on my faith.

I urge you to consider the following questions:

1. Do we dare to act on the faith we claim to possess?
2. Do we wait expectantly or doubtfully?
3. Are we able to determine if our will is in line with God's?

Happy Birthday!

Lois Anderson.....September 2
Russell Oehme.....September 6
Sophia Nelson..... September 12
Jeremy Tomczak.....September 16
Donn Arnold.....September 17
John Jindra.....September 17
Dari Ferguson.....September 19
Wilma Smith.....September 20
Alan Hultman.....September 21
Sharon Loeffelholz.....September 21
Angel RempelEwert.....September 25
Kaitlyn Nelson September 25
LeRoy Johnson.....September 28

Church Council Meeting

August 16, 2022

Members present: Pr. Chris Kneen, Terry Kopp, Verna Hultman, Linda Ploog, Emily Honerbrink, Cheryl Lecy, Lloyd Jones, Terry Keesee, Adrienne Stegmeir

The August meeting was opened with a devotional from Terry Kopp, based on 2 Timothy 3:14

Annual Scheduled Committee Report:

Peter Leadholm provided a report on the Children's Ministry committee; will give full report to congregation on 8/21. Note: Need more committee members!

Old business: New committee meetings progress report

Committees have had consistent attendance; three committees (Adult, Children's, Outreach) still need chairs. Overall very optimistic about forward motion.

- Worship: Terry Keesee named Chair, will begin attending Ad Council. Looking to relieve stress during "SME" (Sunday Morning Experience) at all levels. Set up to support ongoing improvement opportunities. Have planning doc for teams, working 4-6 weeks out. Lots of microphone enhancements in place, next working on sound booth improvements.
- Adult Ministries: Picked out plan for year, look for advertisement in newsletter.
- Outreach: Compiled list of activities, in process of meeting with those who traditionally put those activities on.
- Children's ministry: Looking at what we can do right now with what we have; see committee report in newsletter.

New business: Review fall schedule and establish 22/23 Ad Council Schedule

- Committee reports now include four new committees. Chairs will be on council once those positions are filled.
- Need to fill/approve positions at charge conference. This year's charge conference will be held in November.
- Committee budgets due to Finance committee by September 14. Should include dream sheet, costs and prioritization of requests.

- Will look at filling open positions; intent to step down due to Chris by October 15.
- Soft budget due for review Oct. 18

The following reports were submitted to the Council Secretary prior to the meeting:

Memorials

Met August 2nd, 2022 Linda opened meeting with devotions.

Members present: Linda P, Sharlene A, Shirley O, Cheryl A, Lloyd J.

Reviewed Financial: Repairs on garage will need discussion as additional items have been added beyond roof and siding. Project is bumped into 2023.

As of 7/1/22 the approved spending from Memorial funds is \$20,070. That will leave a balance of \$19,087.

New Business: Some research needed to explore different flooring in nursery besides carpet. Vinyl floor is worn and chipped.

Worship Committee has purchased new sound equipment to enhance our services Easy to play portable Keyboard for indoor and outdoor use. Outdoor speakers, microphones for piano and congregation use. Package includes rolling Speaker Bags and Keyboard Bag.

Present information: Shirley reports Thank You notes are up to date.

Cheryl brought updated examples of pages for Memorial Book for us to review. The committee chose coated, uniform pages that will work with the cover. The picture of the person honored on the left side of page, across from activities and committees listed they were part of in our church. At page bottom is listed items given in honor of loved one. Memorial Book will be placed in the Narthex. We will continue to gather photos, information of past members of FUMC.

Future: Thinking about situations that maybe should be handled by Memorial Committee in the future within the church. Will need to find replacement member for Committee, as Sharlene Arnold is stepping down end of 2022. Next meeting October 25th, 2022.

Church Council Minutes cont.

Board of Trustees

Present: Lloyd Jones, Irv Lecy, Gary Gerke, Pastor Chris

- 1) Seal coating of parking lot will be done on August 12, 2022
- 2) Trustees approved to put new flooring in nursery, funds will come from memorials.
- 3) Kids threw mud at the garage last week Irv and Gary cleaned it off, Lloyd filed a report with Lake area police.

Finance - No July Meeting

SPRC - No July Meeting

Children's Shop Day

Children's Shop Day is on Saturday, November 19th. This event allows kids in the community to come to FUMC and purchase gifts for their family members for a very low price. In order to make it a success we are in need of donations both new and gently used.

Some suggestions are:

- Hygiene products for male/female
- Small tools/flashlights
- Kitchen gadgets and tools
- Candles
- Small toys/coloring books and crayons

Please place your donated items in the Shop Day bin located in Sunday School Room #2. Thank you for your support!

Confirmation

**Please note the date changes.*

Confirmation returns in the fall at FUMC! There will be an informational meeting on **Wednesday, September 21st at 6pm**. Parents should plan to attend with their student.

Confirmation class is for students in grades 6th - 8th. They meet all school year long on Wednesday nights from 5pm - 7pm. The class makes dinner together at church before they start their lesson. There are also great service-oriented field trips and Christian college campus visits planned throughout the year. We hope your student can join us and they are welcome to invite friends.

The first night of confirmation class is **Wednesday, September 28th**.

**My hope does not rest in the affairs of this world.
It rests in Christ who is coming again.**

- Billy Graham -



First United Methodist Church

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Lindstrom, MN 55045

(651) 257-4306

Lindstrommethodist.org

September 2022

Sent with a prayer to:

Join Us For Worship

Worship with us in-person every
Sunday morning at 9am.

Sunday School begins at 10am

Watch our Sunday service LIVE on our
Facebook page.

Sunday Service is available to view on
our website the following Tuesday at
lindstrommethodist.org

How Can We Help?

Church Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

9am - 2pm

Church Office Email:

office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor Chris' Email:

ckneen60@gmail.com