

First United Methodist Church  
30828 Irene Ave.  
P.O. BOX 688  
Lindstrom, MN 55045

(651) 257-4306  
Lindstrommethodist.org

Sent with a prayer to:

December 2022



### Mission Focus:



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 month of December, your donation to missions will be giving the life changing gift of dignity, stability, and generosity by supporting people through Heifer International.

### 2022 Financial Contributions - Deadlines for 2022 Contributions:

Via Offering Tray: Sunday December 25

Via Mail: In the Lindstrom Post office by Thursday December 22

Via Tithe.ly: Transaction created by December 31

All Transactions received after these dates will apply to 2023

### Church Events

- Dec 6th - SPRC 7pm
- Dec 7th - SME 7pm
- Dec 8th - Hope Circle
- Dec 11th - Charge Conference
- Dec 13th - Trustees 630pm
- Dec 14th - Outreach 7pm
- Dec 17th - Living Nativity
- Dec 20th - Finance 6pm Council 7pm
- Dec 21st - Adult Disc. 7pm
- Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Worship 4pm
- Dec 25th - Christmas Day Service 9am
- Dec 26th - Office Closed

### 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



## Happy Birthday!

- Jim Holweger.....December 6
- Cindy Kopp.....December 12
- Gary Gerke.....December 13
- Ernie Kertzsch.....December 14
- Madelyn Tomczak.....December 16
- Carol Lundberg.....December 22
- Larry Knopf.....December 30

## Sunday School



## Adult Study Options for Winter:

**Torah Club** - Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm. Begins Tuesday October 18th and is a year long study

Register online at <https://torahclub.ffoz.org/> The cost is \$60 for the entire year and covers the weekly printed materials. Visitors are welcome to come sample a lesson, just have them connect with me (Adrienne) so I can make sure to get them the study materials they will need to participate.

"The first five books of the Bible are the foundation for all the rest. Yet they are among the most neglected. When the Bible is studied, it is often mis-understood because we've lost the Jewish context. Torah Club gives you the tools you need to understand the Bible in its original historical frame-work. Reawaken your faith, gain new insights into the Scriptures, and take your relationship with the Jewish Messiah to a whole new level. Torah Club gets people back into the Bible and causes the Bible to come alive by restoring a Jewish foundation. Torah Club aspires

### Discipleship 101: Using the 12 steps to cooperate with the Holy Spirit's work of Sanctification

Thursdays, 7 pm. January 5th to February 16th.

The 12 steps have been used successfully for almost 100 years in the context of substance abuse treatment. Please join us as we discuss the steps, their Biblical origins, and apply them to our Christian walk. We will learn how this set of spiritual tools can help us look at ourselves and our patterns of relating to God and others, in ways that may not always have resulted in what God wants for us. We will work through exercises that reveal beliefs, habits and defects from which God desires to heal us. The only requirement for attendance is a willingness to admit we aren't perfect, and a desire to grow spiritually. This study will be team-taught by Nancy Thalacker and Bret RempelEwert. Feel free to reach out with questions.

Proverbs 22:17

*"A merry heart does good like medicine"*

## Meals on Wheels

- December 1 - Greg McCarthy
- December 2 - Jim & Joyce Stafki
- December 5 - Michelle Gillespie
- December 6 - Michelle Gillespie
- December 7 - Carol Carlson
- December 8 - Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
- December 9 - Mike Arendarcy
- December 12 - Joan & Phil DeMunck
- December 13 - Cindy Kopp
- December 14 - Carol Carlson
- December 15 - Bonnie Bielicki
- December 16 - Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
- December 19 - Joan & Phil DeMunck
- December 20 - Sue & Jeff Meinholz
- December 21 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy
- December 22 - Irv & Dorothy Lecy
- December 23 - Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke
- December 26 - Jon Glader
- December 27 - Jon Glader
- December 28 - Fred Prindle
- December 29 - Donn & Sharlene Arnold
- December 30 - Bonnie Bielicki

## 10TH ANNUAL LIVING NATIVITY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17th AT  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LINDSTROM

SHOW TIMES AT 6:00 PM, 6:30 PM, 7:00 PM, 7:30 pm  
SHOWS LAST ABOUT 15 MINS



Join us at our **FREE** outdoor **LIVING NATIVITY**. Bundle up, gather your family and friends to experience the CHRISTmas story like never before. Enjoy live animals, music, outdoor fire, cookie and cocoa inside between shows.

Join us for our CHRISTMAS EVE Service  
December, 24th 4:00pm  
Music prelude at 3:30pm, service begins at 4:00pm  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LINDSTROM  
30828 IRENE AVENUE LINDSTROM - 651-257-4306  
[www.lindstrommethodist.org](http://www.lindstrommethodist.org)  
Pastor Chris Kneen

## 32ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

**WHEN:** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022  
**WHERE:** FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
30828 IRENE AVE. LINDSTROM  
(2 BLOCKS NORTH OF MIDDLE SCHOOL)  
**TIME:** SERVING TIME: NOON - 1:15P.M.

The meal is **FREE**, but reservations are requested by Wednesday, December 14. Please call 257-4306 to reserve a seat; leave a message, if after hours, with your name and the number of people attending.

If you'd like to help serve the meal or donate food, please call the Church at 257-4306 no later than December 16th.

If it's not possible for you to attend, please call and a meal will be delivered to you!

If your plans change for any reason, please feel free to join us without a reservation!

651-257-4306 for reservations



## Memorials Cont.

- In Memory Book: Linda and Cheryl attended Hope Circle meeting, able to chat with older members attaining information about former church members. Will continue to collect photos, info on committees, positions individuals held, memorials given in their honor, and favorite Bible verse.
- Future: 2023 presentation given January or February to congregation about committees projects. Next meeting, February 7th, 2023. New member recognized, Bob Determan.
- As of 10/1 Balance \$29,064.56
- Approved spend \$10,755.17
- Uncommitted \$18,309.39

## SPRC Committee November 7th, 2022

Present: Peter Leadholm, Emily Honerbrink, Dorothy Lecy, Tami Rehbein, Tina Sparby, Pr. Chris

Book Club - Chris Chapter 6

### OLD Business

- Children's Ministry Leader
- Cottage Meetings

### NEW Business

- SPRC Open Position
- Annual SPRC Feedback Form
- Review Staff Check-in

## SME Meeting Oct. 2, 2022

Present: Terry Keese, Char Arnold, Dorothy Lecy, Bret RempelEwert, Cindy Kopp, Sonny Sparby, Pr. Chris

Official name change to SME was approved by Ad Council

- 2023 Budget was partially approved by finance committee. All hardware items, computer supplies, tech booth, etc. were approved. Some other items are still in question. Will address these items as they come up
- Reviewed some of the weekly observations of Sunday mornings. Much debate over if these were really important, or just complaints/opinions, ex. – clutter in front of church, words incorrect on screen, sound problems on the live feed, etc.
- Terry would like Cindy to continue to send out the email for weekly feedback. These will be reviewed by Terry and Chris prior to next meeting and 2-3 main items will be chosen to discuss/address.
- Discussion about possible survey from the congregation regarding SME. Some concern on if we want to open this. Maybe a simple survey in the bulletin or newsletter? Tabled for now.
- How are comments/suggestions handled when presented to committee members? Do these individuals take ownership/responsibility of their ideas? This committee then will need to discuss and try to come to a plan of action

## SME Cont.

- "Healthy Church Initiative" was brought up by Pastor Chris as a way of dealing with these kinds of conflicts. At this time the conference does not have this program in place, but they do have consultants available to come in observe and give feedback. This may cost \$, but unsure how much. These questions will be asked of the DS when she is here for charge conference.
- Dorothy brought up the fact that we are getting low on the individual communion cups/wafers. Erin (new church secretary) will be asked to order more
- Terry informed us that attendance year-to-date is 72 in-house and 9 live-streaming.
- Bret wanted to discuss song selection, volunteers, and his job description. Because of time, he said these could wait until the next meeting.

## Finance

Present: Cindy Anderson, Linda Ploog, Verna Hultman, Lloyd Jones

- Went through budget line by line; passed budget to submit to Council 11/15
- Note: Inflation impacted utilities, insurance and administration

## Outreach Committee October 12, 2022

In Attendance: Cheryl Lecy, Tim Ploog, Dick Berglund, Pastor Chris Kneen

### Old Business:

- Cheryl did contact Chamber of Commerce
- Cheryl Asks council to set up PayPal account, this council agreed to do that

- Adrienne and Angela agreed to lead Pies/Puzzles /Potato soup
- Peter and Katie Leadholm agreed to lead the Living Nativity
- Tami Rehbein agreed to Lead Children's Shop Day

### Actions:

- Leadholms and Tami to provide Erin with details
- Cheryl will send out Building Use Form to Outreach Committee members to create a new Event Building Use Punch List for up coming events.
- After rough draft is approved by Outreach Committee members it should be sent out to past event coordinators for feedback. (Leadholm, Kopp, etc.)

### Events:

- Children's Shop Day -- November 19th, 2022
- Living Nativity -- December 17
- Pies/Puzzles and Potato Soup Date?
- Rally Day/Praise Fest/Hottinany September 2023 – Terry Kopp to follow up January Meeting
- New Business:
- Discussed whether the Outreach Committee should take on duties of Funeral Dinner Ministry. The committee decided this was not within the scope of Outreach Committee duties.

## Foundation Board October 16, 2022

Attendees: Lois Anderson, Dick Berglund, Dari Ferguson, Sue Hernick, and Shirley Oswald

- Treasurer Report: Dick reported that the current Foundation Fund balance is \$250,828.
- Scholarship Thank You Notes: Dari shared three Thank You Notes from the Blackford Scholarship recipients.
- Foundation's State Non-Profit Status: Dari reported that the Foundation's State Non-Profit Status has been renewed.
- Application for Non-Scholarship Funding: Dari is searching for the blank Non-Scholarship Funding form. She will check with Erin for a computer file of this form in the "Foundation Folder".
- Foundation Presentation Statement for the Congregation: Dari shared a Presentation Statement, which describes the Foundation, to be presented to the congregation.
- Scholarship Funding, Application Scoring and Scholarship Award Limitations: The topic of Scholarship Funding, Application Scoring, and Scholarship Award Limitations was discussed briefly. It was decided that this should be a primary topic of the January Foundation Board Meeting.
- Additional Foundation Board Members: The Foundation Board currently has six members, and the Bylaws allow for nine members. It was decided that Dari will invite during her presentation to the congregation interested members to volunteer for the Foundation Board. Current Board members will also talk to individuals to see if they have an interest in the Foundation Board.

## Year 2023 Selected Meeting Dates:

- Sunday, Jan 15th (After Church)
- Sunday, Apr 23rd (After Church)
- Tuesday, June 13th (10:00 AM – Review Scholarship Applications)
- Sunday, Oct 15th (After Church)



## Foundation Statement to Congregation 2022

The church's foundation was created in 1983 as a separate working partner of the church. It has its own yearly tax exemption and it is audited separately. Its original purpose is stated "to operate for the religious, charitable, benevolent, and educational purpose of our church." We have adopted the mission statement as "to direct funds toward initiatives that support personal enrichment of its church family and community, thus moving toward a more Christ-centered life." Our board of directors requires 6-9 members and needs a quorum of 5 to accept or reward funding. Applications for funding are required and are available through the church office. In the past few years, we have provided scholarships [10-\$1000 scholarships this year], audio visual enhancements of \$10,000.00 this year, support to the youth through camp funding, tech equipment for the pastor and youth, and additions to the pastor's discretionary funds. One of our focuses for the upcoming year is to more closely define our scholarship selection system. We meet at a minimum of 4 times a year. We would love to add to our team.

## Church Council Meeting November 15, 2022

Members present: Pr. Chris Kneen, Terry Kopp, Peter Leadholm, Linda Ploog, Emily Honerbrink, Cheryl Lecy, Lloyd Jones, Terry Keese, Boni Stockel, Andy Wilkerson, Dari Ferguson

The November meeting was opened with a devotional from Peter Leadholm based on Deuteronomy 6:18-19

Annual Scheduled Committee Report:  
Foundation • Dari Ferguson provided the report for Foundation and will present to the congregation 11/20/22. See committee report in newsletter.

## Old business

- Charge Conference (everyone invited) will be held at 11am on Sunday, December 11th. It will be run by the District Superintendent; new committee members will be voted in.
- Budget review/approval: Budget was discussed; potential deficit for 2023 based on projected expenses and projected income is \$19,000. Major unavoidable increases to building operations (insurance, utilities). To learn more, attend the Charge Conference. Budget passed.
- Complete nominations: If you are interested in serving on a committee, please reach out to Pastor Chris by December 8th. Nominations can also be made during the Charge Conference.
- Pending Denomination Division Decision (PDDD): SPRC will put together a communications plan for our Church to follow. SPRC will also work on training as a committee for maintaining a high level of communication and conflict management specific to the PDDD should the need arise. Note: There will be time for Q&A with the District Superintendent during the Charge Conference on December 11th. Please attend!

## New business

- Christmas Day service added (9am)

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

## Board of Trustees : November 2022 Report

Present: Lloyd Jones, Irv Lecy, Mark Vanderwerf, Eric Steigmeir, Gary Gerke

- Clean up around garage and room 13 has been completed.
- New windows have been ordered about 6- months out will look at installation in spring of 2023.
- Lloyd will get estimates on cleaning carpet in hallways and fellowship hall.

## Memorial Committee October 25th, 2022

Present Linda, Cheryl, Shirley, Sharlene, Lloyd.

- Reviewed Finances: Garage roofing and siding repairs set for 2023. Seal coat for parking lot was done this fall \$5,580.00
- Trees, landscaping, future project
- Office: Bolt in floor safe, 2023
- Water purification system for offices, future project
- New windows ordered for offices, lounge, set for installation spring of 2023 \$9,864.00
- Nursery: Discussion on replacing flooring in nursery, carpet decided best choice. Cheryl received bid, has been approved by Trustees. Memorials to finance \$3,508.00
- Visual Arts: \$600.00 set aside for Banner storage. Lloyd looking at plans to fit into present closet in Fellowship Hall.
- Worship committee: submitted list of items needed for sound system, mics, cables, headphone. \$1,000 set aside, should be sufficient for purchase.
- No thank you cards needed since last meeting.