

First United Methodist
Church

30828 Irene Ave.

P.O. BOX 688

Lindstrom, MN 55045

(651) 257-4306

Sent with a prayer to:

lindstrommethodist.org

March 2023

We Are Here to Help!
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

Join us for Worship!
Church Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9am - 2pm
Church Office Email:
office@lindstrommethodist.org
Pastor Chris' Email:
ckneen60@gmail.com

Grace Courier

First United Methodist Church

MARCH 2023 | 30828 IRENE AVE. | PO BOX 688 | 651-257-4306
LINDSTROMMETHODIST.ORG | PASTOR CHRIS KNEEN

Mission Focus!

March is MN Foodshare Month!

Minnesota FoodShare began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Across East Central Minnesota, over 9% of our neighbors do not have enough money to buy food for their families. Many of them report going hungry or skipping meals to ensure food goes to their children. Over half of the individuals who visit Family Pathways Food Shelf are under 18 or over 65 years of age.



This March, we join Family Pathways' food shelves, faith communities, businesses, and organizations across Minnesota in acting to end hunger and food insecurity by hosting a Food and Funds Drive. We will be creating a "CAN-struction zone" in the foyer to collect cans of fruit, veggies, hearty soups, and canned meats that will strengthen and build up members of our community. Please bring nutritious canned foods for our local Family Pathways Food Pantry and/or designate monetary donations as "Missions" throughout March. With Foodshare buying power, every \$1 you give = \$7 worth of groceries for a local family. You can also find a list of the Food Pantry's most wanted items in the foyer. Together we can help to end hunger in our community!

Church Events

- Mar 1 - Sunday Morning Experience 7pm
- Mar 5 - LUKE Study Week 2
- Mar 12- LUKE Study Week 3
- Mar 14- Trustees 6:30 SPRC 7pm
- Mar 15- Adult Ed 7pm
- Mar 19- LUKE Study Week 4
- Mar 21- Finance 6pm Ad Council 7pm
- Mar 22- Children Ed 7pm
- Mar 26- LUKE Study Week 5
- Pastor Chris Vacation March 6 - March 12

Happy Birthday!

Bonnie Bielicki.....March 1

Boni Stockel.....March 4

Nordell Anderson.....March 5

Nancy Thalacker.....March 5

Tyler Nelson March 12

Brody Thorvaldson.....March 13

Jim Palmer.....March 16

Diana Westrum.....March 19

Shirley Oswald.....March 27



New Members:

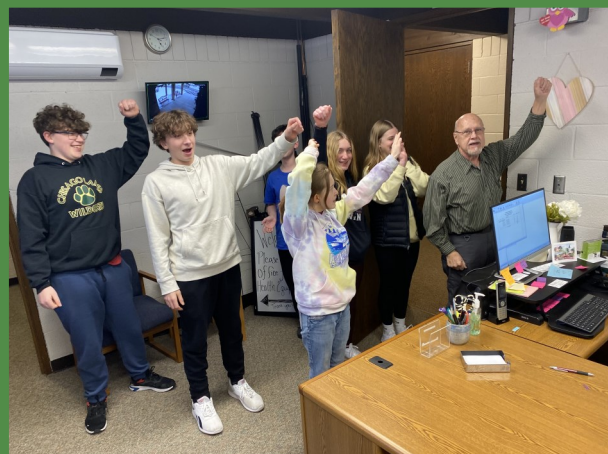
Bret & Angela RempelEwert

Shane & Molly Hultman

Confirmation



February 2023



Offering Counter Needed

Counting the offering takes about 45 minutes once/month following the service. You would count with another person. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact Linda Ploog lkploog@gmail.com or 612.616.5657



Open Positions! We need You!

Worship Coordinator

Children's Ministry Leader

Contact Pastor Chris for more information

Bible Study App-

Did you know you have the power of Bible study at your finger tips? Please see Ruth Johnsen for assistance in setting up the new app on your phone.



LUKE

Luke shows us God choosing and using those who are very old, like Elizabeth and Zechariah, and those who are young, like Mary. God calls each of us, whatever our circumstances.

*How has God called you?
How has your response to God's calling changed over time?*

**JESUS AND THE OUTSIDERS,
OUTCASTS, AND OUTLAWS**

Join Us for a Lenten
Bible Study on
Luke!

Contact the church
office for more
information



Pies, Puzzles, & Potato Soup!

February 2023



Ad Council – February 21, 2023

Devotions: Dari Ferguson

Committee report – Verna Hultman, Finance Committee

This is an open meeting the third Tuesday of each month at 6 PM. Everyone is always welcome to attend and learn how the finance committee works! Key responsibilities is to track all receipts from general offering, memorials, and other donations. We track expenses and try to anticipate upcoming challenges for items such as utilities, insurance, snow removal, building repairs, upgrades, outreach materials, confirmation and children's ministries. Our committee maintains the financial records for the church and completes all necessary conference and tax reports. Our church is financially healthy! We were audited by a conference volunteer in 2021-2022 and continue to follow his suggestions to improve our oversight. Our church doesn't have any debt and meets all conference apportionments. We try to live within our annual budget with flexibility for unexpected events. We appreciate all of the gifts and talents from our congregation as we continue to grow.

Old Business:

Discernment Process

- Terry shared SPRC guidelines for conversation for the upcoming all-Church meeting along with mission statement and core values of First United Methodist Church.
- Schedule
- Discussed next meeting format: The goal is to make sure everyone is heard; the key is to listen to everyone's opinions.
- Council members shared their personal stances with each other
- Polling
- Decision to vote process
- Tech/Zoom issues
- Post vote process

SPRC Committee February 7th, 2023

Book Club - Chris • Chapter 8

OLD Business

- Children's Ministry Leader
- Cottage Meetings - Placeholder
- Discernment Process
- Worship Leader Vacancy

NEW Business

- Discernment Process - Visitors

Outreach February 8, 2023

Present: Terry Keesee, Dick Berglund, Pastor Chris, Cheryl Lecy

Old Business:

1. Discussed Wild Game Feed- Andy Wilkerson lead, rescheduled tentative March
2. Puzzles Pies and Potato- 14 teams, good support from congregation
3. Outreach Communication Event Form should be filled out by Cheryl Lecy for Easter Breakfast
4. Easter Carnival- looking for lead
5. Women's brunch- Cindy Kopp, Cyndi Keesee, Wendy Braski, Wendy Vanderwerf. OCEF has been given to them.

New Business:

1. February Missions Report (Adrienne)- In January, First UMC donated \$386 to support people experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities area through Union Gospel Mission. The February mission is Zoe Empowers. Zoe Empowers works with children experiencing extreme poverty in Africa and India.

Outreach Continued:

- 1. (cont.) Children live together for 3 years during their program and are provided medical care, food, shelter, and education. On graduation they have careers or own business and are respected members of their communities, often going on to support other family members. The March mission will be Family Pathways Food Pantry.
- 2. Mission March missions (Adrienne)- Announcements for Family Pathways and food shelf month were sent to the office for the newsletter and bulletin.
- 3. New resident address list- Erin G. has received the list from Erin T. Welcome/ invitations have been mailed. New lists will be received quarterly.
- 4. Visitor gift mug discussed- On hold until after discernment. Power point presentation attached for file.

Memorials

- Present: Lloyd J, Bob D, Shirley O, Linda P, Cheryl HA
- Balance sheet unsigned \$15,348.38
 - Went through year end report wish list
 - \$1200.00 might be coming back from trustees into memorials
 - Update on progress on memorial book on what been started

SME

Members present: Pastor Chris, Terry Keesee, Char Arnold, Dorothy Lecy, Sonny Sparby

No approval of January minutes since the scheduled meeting was cancelled due to weather.

SME Continued:

- The open Worship Leader/Coordinator position was discussed. Because of the discernment process, all committee resources, and efforts (SPRC/Ad Council) are being directed towards that process for the time being. Cindy Kopp and Terry Keesee have been filling in as Interim Leaders for the months of January and February.
- We had a “sound system test experiment” in the Sanctuary. Several church members graciously attended as we tested various sound level settings and input sources. This was done to identify what sounds best as far as volume levels, audio effects, and balancing of the signals that are sent through our sound system. We found there to be numerous thoughts on what sounds good/bad, what sounds too loud/too soft, what sounds balanced/unbalanced, etc. Many thanks to those that were able to help us out...we learned a lot!

Reviewed some of the weekly observations of our Sunday mornings:

- We are still having some problems with the overhead lyrics not matching what is sung from the hymnals. Erin will be looking into this in the future.
- The addition of the page numbers in the bulletin for scripture readings has been greatly accepted and appreciated.
- We are still “working on” the benediction portion of the services.....trying to incorporate the “The Blessing” into the postlude.
- We successfully had our 1st “Digital Accompaniment service last Sunday. All music was mixed and played from the soundboard. We will continue to do this when we have scheduling conflicts with our piano players and/or praise bands.

SME Continued

- Dwight Johnson, Almelund Lutheran Worship Leader, was mentioned as a possible guest performer for Sunday services. Terry Keesee will be contacting Dwight to set up a meeting to further explore this.
- The “discernment process” was a topic of discussion for the committee and P. Chris. Many good questions were brought forward, and a healthy discussion was held.
- An idea was brought to the committee regarding a “Generation To Generation” Sunday. This would occur once a month following the service and would unite our youth with our older generation in Fellowship, Lunch, and Activities. The idea is under consideration.
- Dorothy and Char (Visual Arts) are preparing for the upcoming Holy services.....Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.
- Terry informed us that the on-site attendance figures for January 2023 showed a 16% increase over January 2022. The January 2023 streaming numbers showed a 48% decrease compared to January 2022. These figures will be discussed at future SME meetings.



Meals On Wheels -- Route 2

March 2023

- March 1 – Greg McCarthy
- March 2 – Jim & Joyce Stafki
- March 3 – Mike Arendarczyk
- March 6 – Michelle Gillespie
- March 7 – Michelle Gillespie
- March 8 – Carol Carlson
- March 9 – Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
- March 10 – Fred Prindle
- March 13 – Joan & Phil DeMunck
- March 14 – Cindy Kopp
- March 15 – Carol Carlson
- March 16 – Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie
- March 17 – Jack Danielson & Gary Gerke
- March 20 – Joan & Phil DeMunck
- March 21 – Jeff & Sue Meinholz
- March 22 – Irv & Dorothy Lecy
- March 23 – Irv & Dorothy Lecy
- March 24 – Fred Prindle
- March 27 – Jon Glader
- March 28 – Jeff & Sue Meinholz
- March 29 – Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
- March 30 – Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker
- March 31 – Bonnie Bielicki