

Presby Press

RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND

THIS MONTH: JOIN US

God's glory be to you in the name of Jesus Christ - the risen Savior who takes away the sins of the world! It is the Easter season and our worship takes on a special character as we recall the events of the most important week in history - what we call Holy Week - which culminates in Resurrection Sunday. We have a host of communal worship opportunities that we invite you to engage in as we have our joy in Christ together (see p. 10 of this newsletter).

I invite you to come as you are to join the Church Universal in celebrating Jesus. If you have fallen out of the practice of joining in communal worship, the Easter season is a great time to break that habit! Come and experience the resurrected Savior! God tears down the barriers between Himself and us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Don't let those small doubts and nagging fears keep you from God. Take the risk to shake off those cobwebs and come to be renewed by the Holy Spirit. Take the risk to start a new tradition in your household by joining in the worship of God.

Of the many great things about Easter, I find that it is a perfect time to reach out to God and ask for the renewal and transformation of our minds, hearts, and spirits. God is desperate to renew your relationship with Him and eager to renew and transform your relationships with your family, friends, co-workers, enemies, and strangers. Our God is not a God who wants you to be burdened by your past or consumed by how you have felt separated by God. Our God is a loving God who wants you to enjoy new life in Christ.

So join us - experience the resurrected Christ in your life anew. Invite people to join you and know that you have a loving community waiting for you here.

If you have questions, comments, concerns, or would like to meet, I am always happy to hear from you and meet with you. You may call me at 810.735.5755 or email me at pastorseth@lindenpres.com.

May Christ's blessings be with you,



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SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

COFFEE HOUR

Sue Eaton will be coordinating the 9:00 coffee hour and

Nancy Robare will be coordinating the 10:30. If you are willing to assist them, please let them know.

USHERS

9:00

10:30

4/5 Cindy Brandt
Sharon & Susie Spencley

Keech family

4/12 Jesse & Sharon Foster
Gary Childs & Nettie Holtslander

Cindy Shane
Christina Dugan

4/19 Dick & Geri Geske
Leatha Cudworth

Chapin family

4/26 Richard & Doris Parks
Rich & Sue Eaton

Sue Chapel
Deb Wasylyshyn

LITURGISTS

9:00

10:30

4/5 Cindy Brandt

Cindy Shane

4/12 Wendy Mueller

Melissa Dugan

4/19 Bonnie Vander Muellen

Kathy Selden

4/26 Dick Honaker

Trevor CeKander

COMMUNION SERVERS

April 5

9:00

Mylan Huyck
Carla Juarez

10:30

Sharon Foster
Laura Huston

April 19

10:30

TBD

If you would like to be a communion server, please contact Sue Eaton.

IN WORSHIP

If you would like to serve as an usher or liturgist, please contact

Cindy Shane at
cshane@cityoffenton.org



A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Gracious God, I come before you to praise and adore Your Holy Name this day for the gift of _____ in Your Church Universal and here at Linden Presbyterian. I ask for your blessings upon _____ this day and in the coming year, that s/he may come to a deeper knowledge of Your love, grace, and peace in mind, heart, and spirit. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.

April 1 Martha Stehle
Mary Sweet

8 Keith Wenger

14 Alan Mann
Evan Mann

15 Ruth Fogelsonger
Edis Wade

17 Kaileigh Vincent

21 Jesse Foster

23 Laurie Perigo

26 Donna Wade

27 Marjory Felch
Audrey Hyde

28 Mason Zysk
Jane (Neuville) Palmatier

30 Megan Oda

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			9					2

puzzle courtesy of
puzzles.ca

keep that birthday
mind sharp!

CONTACTS

Pastor

Rev. Seth A. Normington
pastorseth@lindenpres.com

Office Administrator

Linda Lewis lpcoffice@lindenpres.com

Organist/Choir Director

Edward Arter 810.735.5755

Youth Ministry Intern

Jake Kirk 810.730.3783

Praise Band

Johnathan & Melissa Dugan and Jarrod Montague
lpcoffice@lindepres.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VBS Planning Meeting – April 15, 6:00

VBS is already beginning to take shape! Mark your calendars for August 3-7 and join us for some Super Heroes of the Bible fun! Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 15 in Whitney Hall. We will begin planning the games, snacks, and crafts, and we'd appreciate your input! If you're available, please feel free to join us. Please contact Kristen Garmyn or Gretchen Sutto with questions or suggestions.

Mile of Pennies – Raised \$85 after the first month!

Do you have any loose change in your pockets, car, or wallets that you wouldn't mind parting with? Help out the Christian Education Committee and drop it in the jar in Whitney Hall! We are trying to raise a mile of pennies – that's 84,440 coins (which comes out to a whopping \$844.40!). Through June 30, all money raised will go towards fundraising for Vacation Bible School, specifically with advertising in mind. We'd like a banner to go up outside in the spring and an ad to go in the Tri-County this summer. Beginning July 1, that money will directly benefit the Sunday School in the classrooms. Nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills also will be accepted!

Look for a VBS banner out front that you have helped us fund!

Confirmation

A confirmation class is currently being planned for this spring. If you know of a young person, around 8th grade through 12th grade, who would like to learn what it means to become a full-fledged member of the church, please contact Pastor Seth or Gretchen Sutto. Pastor Seth will lead a class once a week (Thursdays at 7:00) through the weeks of April 13 - May 18. Once we know how many youth are attending, we will match you with a mentor to help guide you along the way. May 31 will be our Celebration Sunday.

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"I didn't say I was unfulfilled. I said I was hollow."

YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH GROUP TIMES ON SUNDAY NIGHTS

Middle School (6th – 8th) 6:00 – 7:00pm at Linden Presbyterian

High School (9th – 12th) 7:30 – 9pm at Linden Presbyterian

Campaigners

We meet at Kim Herbert's house every Friday morning the high school has school from 6am to 7am to have a delicious homemade breakfast and get into the word of God. All 9th – 12th graders are invited! See Kim, Seth, or Jake for more information.

Summer Camps

Middle School: Middle school camp will be June 21-28th at Michindoh camp in Hillsdale Michigan. Forms will be arriving soon along with fundraisers for this incredible weeklong trip in Whitney Hall.

High School: We travel up to Timberwolf Lake in Lake City Michigan on July 13-18th for the best week of a kid in high school's life. Forms and fundraisers will be arriving soon to Whitney Hall.

Easter

Easter Morning Sunrise Service has always been one of my favorite services of the year. The sun is just peeking over the horizon, the air is crisp, and being outside in His creation just makes me feel more connected to God. We're there in the morning around the time the women, John, and Peter would have been arriving at the tomb, and we get to begin our day with that same overwhelming joy knowing that our Savior lives!

This year's Sunrise Service will add an extra dose of wonderful as our youth will be leading the service – reading the liturgy, leading in the prayers, and sharing the message. I know it's cold, and it tends to be windy and sometimes snowy, but the unexplainable peace and excitement that surround you are well worth it!

After service, you can make your way to Whitney Hall for an Easter Breakfast, which will run from 7:30(ish) – 10:00(ish). Any donations made at the breakfast will go towards sending our youth to camp this summer.

30 Hour Famine – April 25-26

Our high school youth will once again be participating in the 30 Hour Famine through World Vision. They will push their physical bodies to the limit by fasting from food for 30 hours and by sleeping in boxes outside overnight. While they are struggling physically, they will learn that they need to rely fully and wholeheartedly on God to make it through. It's a tough couple of days, but the strength they gain by living out Philippians 4:13 will help carry them through other hard times in their lives. The youth will also be raising funds to send to World Vision for them to distribute throughout the world to those who do not have the option to end their daily famine after 30 hours.

On Sunday, April 19, the youth will be having a bake sale to help raise money to send to World Vision to aid in their quest to end hunger throughout the world. Please come with generous hearts!

DEACONS CORNER

Hello congregation! Did you know that our deacons are available to take communion to the homebound? This is a wonderful way to let those who are unable to attend services due to health issues know that we remember them and that they are included at the Lord's Supper. Deacons can take communion to the homebound twice a month, the first Sunday and the third Sunday during the week after we have celebrated it as a congregation.

Please contact any of our current deacons if you know of someone who would appreciate taking communion in their home, assisted living facility, or hospital.

Leatha Cudworth	weash0681@yahoo.com	810.444.7828
Carla Juarez	csjmamia@yahoo.com	801.964.4934
Liz Knuth	lizknuth@gmail.com	810.513.7719
Kim Lau	pineapple8084@gmail.com	810.252.7734
Nancy Robare	nrobare@med.umich.edu	810.348.1198
Don Sweitzer	djsweitzer@yahoo.com	810.936.1286
Paula Sweitzer	djsweitzer@yahoo.com	810.936.6531
Debbie Wasyslyshn		810.735.6531

Deacon on Duty

Leatha Cudworth 810.444.7828

In the event you have a pastoral care emergency after office hours, the Deacon on Duty is available to take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They will be able to notify the proper people and provide you the care you need.

SEVEN HABITS OF A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE STEWARD

Habit 6: Give Time and Talent

Much has been written about the habits it takes to be a highly effective person or a highly effective family or a highly effective teen. This seven-part series will reflect on the habits of a highly effective steward.

Since stewardship is a part of discipleship, and discipleship is a journey for each of us, we hope that these habits will help us reflect on this area of our Christian life.

What can we do with the life God has given us? Since everything we have really belongs to God, we are simply using for God what God has entrusted to us. This includes our intellect, beauty, skills, energy, time and imagination.

Each one of us is uniquely gifted. God has a purpose and plan for each of us that no one else can fulfill. We possess our own unique temperaments, passions, skills and experiences to be used for God's purpose.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

As Christian stewards—managers of the gifts God has given us—we are called to reflect God's love in our community. We are called to love as Jesus loved, to serve as Jesus served. This means we have a responsibility to reflect God's love in our homes and offices, city streets and neighborhoods—in everything we say and do. In a world weakened by a lack of love, we are called to offer loving service to others.

One of the greatest gifts we can give is the gift of self. Any day is a good day to offer the gift of self to build up the Kingdom of God in our families, communities and church.

What will be the fruit of a truly Christian stewardship of time and talent? First, we will multiply ourselves in His service. Second, we will advance the work of the kingdom. Third, we will bring glory to God, and this is the reason we are here.

Courtesy of the Finance & Stewardship Committee (Reprinted by permission: Barnabas Foundation, Tinley Park, Illinois)

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The Finance and Stewardship Team is happy to provide the following summary of our 2015 finances through February 28:

Total Income (commitments, other offerings, rental income, etc.)	\$30,366.74
Total Expenses (all payments)	<u>\$34,524.80</u>
Difference	(\$4,158.06)

Our income is currently below budgeted levels. The primary cause of this is a reduction in receipts of pledged income in February. Our expenses are over budget by approximately \$1,400 due to our per capita payment to the denomination and increased utility expenses in the winter months and city utility payments (which will even out over the year).

We are grateful for your confidence in the mission of our congregation and your willingness to hear God's call and commit with your time, talent, and resources.



Easter Story

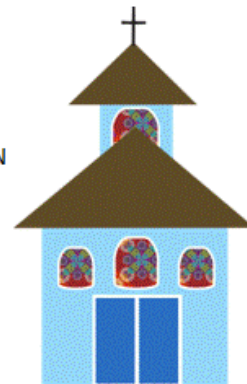
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 FAITH
 GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
 JUDAS
 LAMB
 LAST SUPPER
 LENT
 MARY
 MIRACLE
 PASSOVER
 PENANCE
 PENTECOST

PRAYER
 REDEMPTION
 REJOICE
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 SAVIOR
 SON
 THORNS
 TOMB



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MISSIONAL CONNECTIONS

Hello Friends in Christ!

April is a very busy month for Linden Presbyterian Church and the Missional Connections Team! There are many opportunities to serve our Lord and community this month. If you feel called to serve in any of the following ways, please contact Kristen Garmyn (kristengarmyn@gmail.com) or John Whitman. We would love to provide answers and encouragement to anyone interested in joining us!

On Saturday, April 18th, we will be spending our morning at Carriage Town. It is the only work day we have scheduled so far this year! This is an amazing opportunity to get your hands dirty and dust off your trade skills in the name of service to others!

On Saturday, April 25th, we will be participating in Christmas in Action. This is an amazing opportunity to help repair a home (free of cost) for a senior in our community!

On Sunday, April 26th, our church is registered for Compassion Sunday. If you feel called to serve in the way of monthly sponsorship for a child overseas, this opportunity is great for you! Our congregation's goal this year is to sponsor 10 children! Please consider sponsoring a child with your God-given resources to help ensure that he/she receives necessary care, education, and teaching of the Word.

Last but not least, we will be holding a Spring/Summer Kids' Clothes Giveaway during LPC's rummage sale. Our Kids' Clothes Closet is busting at the seams with wonderful spring/summer clothes for children. Our Back-to-School Clothes drive is always a success, but at that time, people aren't looking for summer clothes. In doing this giveaway during the rummage sale, we hope to be able to provide free children's clothes to people in Linden who need them.

Thank you for your continued support! May God continue to bless you and may you feel called to share your blessing with those in our community, country, and world.

Missional Connections Team



SPECIAL WORSHIP GATHERINGS THIS SPRING

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2015

10:00am

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week and focuses on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will have one service at 10:00am. At 9:30am we will take palms and process through town signing hymns and bringing celebration in the name of Jesus to the streets of downtown Linden.

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2015

7:00pm

Maundy Thursday recalls the last night of Jesus' earthly life, the washing of the disciples' feet, the command to love one another, and the institution of the Lord's Supper. We will celebrate with lively music and share in the communal meal Jesus instructs us to share.

Good Friday

April 3, 2015

7:00pm

Why is it good? It is called good because of what Jesus' death means for the redemption and salvation of the world. We remember Jesus' sacrifice with a more somber service.

Easter Saturday Prayer Vigil

April 4, 2015

12:00pm-6:00pm

The sanctuary will be open for individual prayer (with resources available) on this day between Jesus' death and resurrection. Pastor Seth will be available to anoint worshipers with oil.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 5, 2015

7:00am

Our youth ministry team (including our youth!) will lead our sunrise worship this year. We invite you attend this special time, join us for breakfast, and then celebrate the resurrection again indoors! We will be at the Gazebo by the Mill Pond.

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2015

9:00am & 10:30am

He lives! What more can we say? Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us! There will be an Easter Breakfast led by and to support our youth from 8:00-10:30am. Invite your friends and invite your enemies to worship the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ! We look forward to seeing you for this special time of worship.

Ascension Day

May 14, 2015

6:00/7:00pm

Ascension Day is when we celebrate Jesus ascending to his heavenly throne 40 days after his resurrection (remember, he makes many appearances to the disciples). We will celebrate with a barbecue at 6:00 and a concert at 7:00 featuring the full breadth and depth of our music ministries. This is a Thursday (Ascension Day is always a Thursday).

APRIL CALENDAR**9:00 - Traditional-style Worship****10:30 - Contemporary-style Worship**

2ND AT 7:00PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP
3RD AT 7:00PM	GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP
4TH AT 8:30AM	PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND MEN'S CLUB
4TH 12:00-6:00PM	EASTER SATURDAY PRAYER VIGIL
5TH AT 7:00AM	SUNRISE SERVICE AT LINDEN GAZEBO
7TH AT 7:00PM	BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING
12TH	ELDER KIM HERBERT PREACHING
15TH AT 6:00PM	VBS PLANNING MEETING
15TH AT 7:00PM	COMMITTEE/TEAM MEETINGS (WORSHIP COMM. AT 6:00)
18TH	CARRIAGE TOWN MISSION SERVICE
25TH	CHRISTMAS IN ACTION
29TH AT 7:00PM	SESSION MEETING

MONDAYS

7:00PM ADULT EDUCATION CLASS
8:00PM AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM

TUESDAYS

10:30AM ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

WEDNESDAYS

9:30AM QUILTERS

THURSDAYS

6:30PM CHANCEL CHOIR
8:00PM BELL CHOIR
8:00PM AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM

May Newsletter Deadline

Communication is key to a vital congregation!

Please send all submissions to pastorseth@lindenpres.com by

Monday, April 27 at 5:00pm

RUMMAGE SALE

The annual rummage sale sponsored by the Men's Club and the Presbyterian Women will be held May 7-9. The sale will be open on Thursday from 9:00-7:00, Friday from 9:00-4:30, and Saturday from 9:00-12:00. Donations for the sale will be received beginning on Sunday, May 3. Setup will begin Sunday afternoon and cleanup will be on Saturday afternoon. This is an all week event and the Men's Club and Presbyterian Women invite you to help them out - a sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Please bring clean, usable donations. We cannot handle and will not accept extra heavy furniture or appliances and there is no market for old televisions.

Clothing is not offered for sale but is received at any time by the Missional Connections Team. We keep children's clothes here for distribution and take adult clothing to Carriage Town Ministries. There will be a children's clothing distribution during the rummage sale.

Linden Presbyterian Church
119 W. Broad St [PO Box 277]
Linden, MI 48451

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED