

Take Me with You!

volume 3, issue 2

The Pew Rack

the quarterly magazine of the linden presbyterian church

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june - august 2015



WELCOME

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST - WE WELCOME YOU!

We praise and thank God that you are here today - whether this is your first time or you have been worshipping here for decades, we hope that you experience Jesus Christ's blessing on your life through the worship of this church today.

We invite you to take this magazine with you so that you can get to know more about how we try to keep Christ at the center of our lives and lift up his holy name in worship!

Sunday Morning Information

Here is some information that we hope will help guide you through your time with us this morning, there is more information in the worship bulletin you received when you came in. Please ask a greeter, the pastor, or the person next to you if there is anything we can help you with during your time with us this morning!

RESTROOMS

The nearest restrooms are beneath the sanctuary. Please go down the stairs behind the sanctuary and they will be on your right. Fully accessible restrooms are by the fellowship hall. Please go up the sanctuary ramp to access them.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We offer Sunday School for children pre-school age through fifth grade at our 10:00 worship. Children begin worship in the sanctuary and are dismissed to go to their classrooms with their teachers. Classrooms are beneath the fellowship hall and are best accessed during worship by going down the stairs behind the sanctuary. Children return to the sanctuary for communion on days communion is celebrated.

COFFEE HOUR

We invite you to a time of fellowship, coffee, and food after each of our times of worship. This is a great opportunity to get to know folks and share in a relaxing time of friendship.

CHILD CARE

We are pleased to offer childcare at all Sunday morning worship services and at special worship services. Our nursery caregiver, Sandy Oda, is certified and loves children. Our nursery is designed for children birth to age two but can accommodate older children on a case-by-case basis.

FREE WI-FI

We invite you to take advantage of our free wireless internet throughout the church. The guest network is guestlindenpres and no password is necessary to log on.

INFO TABLE

The info table in the fellowship hall has sign-up sheets, church information, mission opportunities, and many resources to help you and your family as we seek to honor God together. If you heard about it during worship, the information will be on the info table in the fellowship hall.

CONTACT US!

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Mission Statement

Linden Presbyterian Church is a Christ-centered, biblically-based community seeking to serving, engaging, and leading all to become deeper disciples of Jesus.

We invite you to join us in our mission of glorifying God through Jesus Christ with everything we have and with all of who we are!

Our Mission

In everything we do we seek to glorify our loving God who seeks out a personal relationship with each one of us. The call on our lives is to let the Lord into every part of our lives, love God with everything that we are and with everything that we have, and to love those around us with a radical love that transforms relationships! We do this in many ways. We are:

Christ-centered We strive to have our whole lives centered on God's one and only Son Jesus Christ. We seek for nothing apart from Christ but do our best to praise him and seek him alone. Our worship and praise is centered on Christ. Our preaching, teaching, and message to the world is centered on Christ and the new life of grace we have in him.

Biblically-based We believe that the only true and reliable source for information on the salvation we have in Christ and God's plan for our lives and the world is contained in God's Word written for us: the Bible. The Bible is our source for what we believe, our preaching, teaching, how we organize ourselves, and our lives.

Community We are a community of seekers, disciples, and apostles of Jesus Christ who come together as God's Church to worship, learn, serve, and do life together. Jesus Christ calls us to do these things *together* and so we form a community to do these things in relationship with each other.

Serving We are a community called to serve one another and to serve the world with Christ's love, grace, and mercy. We strive to serve people with Christ's heart and passion whether it is a church mission activity, at our places of work, and everywhere in between.

Engaging We engage people with the message of forgiveness and transformation in Jesus Christ. This is the best news that the world has ever and will ever receive! We look to communicate this news through ministries that engage each other and the world.

Leading We look to lead ourselves and our brothers and sisters into the knowledge of Jesus Christ. We seek to be faithful in the leadership of our lives, our families, our vocations, our community, and our world.

All The Good News of Jesus Christ is for everyone and we continue to break new ground in making LPC a place for everybody.

Become deeper disciples of Jesus We deeply desire that everything that we do, say, minister, and live is to make ourselves and those around us have a deeper joy and love of Jesus Christ permeate throughout our lives. We desperately attempt to be a community that makes and grows disciples.



Holy but Not Perfect: Our Worship

Christian worship joyfully ascribes all praise and honor, glory and power to the triune God [God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit]. In worship the people of God acknowledge God present in the world and in their lives. As they respond to God's claim and redemptive action in Jesus Christ, believers are transformed and renewed. In worship the faithful offer themselves to God and are equipped for God's service in the world. - Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Psalm 95:1-7

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Put another way: we give our whole lives over to the whole God and recognize and celebrate the presence of God in our whole lives. We respond to what Jesus Christ has done for us and for the world and know that our lives have radically changed because of the person and work of Jesus Christ. We offer ourselves in service to God.

All of that is definitely true and yet we fall short of getting it right. While we don't often like to proclaim that we don't do things right in our lives we actually are called to come worship God out of admitting that we don't get it right! We come to worship because we know that God does get it right and we praise him for welcoming us into his presence. Jesus Christ takes our efforts at worship and turns it into glorious praise before God the Father - our worship is holy and pleasing before God.

We come to worship to be transformed and celebrate transformation. In Jesus Christ, we know that we have a new life. We aren't stuck in our old habits and our old ways of thinking. We don't have to play by the same depressing rules. **We are freed to have our joy in Christ!** When we come together to praise God or to be in the presence of others praising God, we are opening ourselves up to the Holy Spirit working in our lives - we are being opened to letting our old identity go and being given a new identity in Christ.

We do this in old and new ways. There are hymns and spiritual songs contained in the Bible. Interestingly, the words are often closer to what we consider hymns today, but the instruments and way they would have been sung are closer to what we consider praise songs today. Some of us connect with formality, some of us connect with casualness. Whatever style of worship God is calling you to engage in (probably all of them!), we want to welcome you and know that you have a spiritual home in our communal worship.

In all of our worship we seek to be focused on Christ and His Word and organize our worship on what is commanded of us in Scripture!



Why Do We Do *That* In Worship?

In this section, we will try to briefly shed some light on why we do what we do in our times of communal worship. All of our times of worship include something along these lines. You'll notice that a theme throughout is that we do these things because we find God's call to do them in the Bible.

Call to Worship Our call to worship is a summons from God to come and worship Him. We are called and reminded to be faithful to the call we have to give all glory to God the Father through Jesus Christ. We use passages directly from or inspired by the Bible.

Singing and Music Whether hymns or praise songs or whatever you like to call them, we sing so that we can make melody to the ears of God. Music and singing are very expressive forms of communication that we have been given to express all manners of praise - through joy and through sorrow. We are told in Ephesians 5:19-20 to "be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." We encourage you to sing loudly and boldly and let it make a sweet sound to our God!

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon We confess our sins together that we may confess that Jesus is Lord and Savior and that we need his salvation. We take this time to unburden ourselves of the sin that weighs us down as a community and as individuals just as Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer. We are then assured that because of the work of Jesus Christ and through our faith in Him that all our sins are forgiven.

Sharing in the Peace of Christ This is a tangible way that we show that we are at peace with one another. We have God's peace through Jesus Christ and we extend this peace to others to show that we are united and that nothing stands between us.

Scripture Reading We read passages from both the Old and New Testaments because the whole Bible is God's Word written to us and for us and is useful so that we will know of God's love for and actions in the world, the salvation we have in Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit amongst us. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."

Sermon We have the sermon so that the pastor can have a job. Not really. God calls us to proclaim the Word that all may believe because the Good News of Jesus Christ is *heard*. We mine the scriptures so that we may be transformed by and live our lives according to the Living Word Jesus Christ.

Offering The offering is a time to live into the commands of scripture to return what we have been blessed with to the Body of Christ - the Church. It is a time to commit our time, talent, and resources to living a Christ-centered life.

Prayers of the People We are called by God to be a people that are in regular communication with Him and we call this prayer. It is a time to adore God, thank God, and ask that God be active in particular situations in our world and in our lives. We invited you to verbally lift up a prayer to God that our whole community might join you in that prayer - the heart behind the prayer is more important than the words!



Who is That Guy?

a short biography of Pastor Seth Normington

Pastor Seth was born and raised in Spokane, Washington where the weather is nothing like the weather in Seattle. Both his mother's and father's families have a rich farming and ranching heritage but his grandparents were the ones in their families who found something else to do. He was baptized at a Presbyterian church that his mother joined the summer before he was born. He grew up playing every sport he could possibly play. He stopped going to church in fifth grade but things of faith were consistently on his mind.

In junior high and high school, Seth spent most of his time outside of school running cross country and track. In high school, he was at school by 6:30 in the morning to run and almost every day spent time after school running (he was thinner then). During his senior year his parents divorced. He was a captain on the 5th-ranked track team in the nation.

The summer before college, Seth felt called to take a deeper look at his faith but didn't know what to do about it besides reading his Bible. The day before classes started at Western Washington University, he went to the INN with a friend. There he found 600 college students praising God. He knew immediately this is where God was calling him. At the INN, he joined and led small groups, went on mission trips, wrote and performed in skits and videos, and spent a year working at the INN after graduating with a degree in human services.

Feeling called to ministry of some stripe, Seth was in youth ministry in Spokane while earning an MA in Religious Studies at Gonzaga University. He then moved to the San Francisco area to serve as youth director at the Presbyterian Church of Novato. During these years, he went to Tijuana, Mexico seven times to build houses and his heart was struck by the need for mission work and the depths of poverty in our world.

He went to Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey where he earned a Masters of Divinity degree and served people with developmental disabilities and led the educational ministry at a local church.

Pastor Seth has been the pastor at LPC since July 2010. He especially loves the opportunity to preach and teach God's Word, celebrate the sacraments, and teach and lead people to deeper discipleship in Christ.

In his off hours, Seth is the assistant coach for Linden High School boys cross country and boys and girls track and field. He also enjoys watching shows on Netflix, cooking, golfing, drinking coffee, reading several newspapers/websites each day, pretending to himself that he reads more books than he actually does, exercising, and watching baseball.

You can reach Pastor Seth at pastorseth@lindenpres.com or 810.735.5755.



Seven Things Church Members Should Say to Guests in a Worship Service

by Thom S. Rainier

One of the more common questions I'm asked relates to growth barriers. For example, church leaders may want to know how to move past the 150-attendance level of the past five years. Or other leaders desire to know how to break through financial giving barriers.

Those questions are tough because they often presume a brief response to be adequate. In reality, there are many theological and methodological issues at work in growth barriers. Today, I am looking at a very basic barrier: lack of friendliness to church guests.

In a previous blog post, I noted things we should not say to a guest in our worship services. In today's post I look at the positive perspective: seven things we should say to guests.

1. "Thank you for being here." It's just that basic. I have heard from numerous church guests who returned because they were simply told "thank you."
2. "Let me help you with that." If you see someone struggling with umbrellas, young children, diaper bags, purses, and other items, a gesture to hold something for them is a huge positive. Of course, this comment is appropriate for member to member as well.
3. "Please take my seat." I actually heard that comment twice in a church where I was speaking in the Nashville area. The first comment came from a member to a young family of five who were trying to find a place to sit together.
4. "Here is my email address. Please let me know if I can help in any way." Of course, this comment must be used with discretion, but it can be a hugely positive message to a guest.
5. "Can I show you where you need to go?" Even in smaller churches, guests will not know where to find the nursery, restrooms, and small group meeting areas. You can usually tell when a guest does not know where he or she is to go.
6. "Let me introduce you to _____." The return rate of guests is always higher if they meet other people. A church member may have the opportunity to introduce the guest to the pastor, other church staff, and other members of the church.
7. "Would you join us for lunch?" I saved this question for last for two reasons. First, the situation must obviously be appropriate before you offer the invitation. Second, I have seen this approach have the highest guest return rate of any one factor. What if your church members sought to invite different guests 6 to 12 times a year? The burden would not be great; but the impact would be huge.

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Seven Things Church Members Should Say to Guests in a Worship Service

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Let's look at one example of breaking attendance barriers by saying the right things to guests. Presume your church has two first-time guests a week. Over the course of a year, the church would have 100 first-time guests. With most of the members being genuinely guest friendly, you could see half of those guests become active members. Attendance could thus increase by as much as 50 persons every year.

This article was originally published at ThomRainer.com on May 20, 2015. Thom S. Rainer serves as president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources. Among his greatest joys are his family: his wife Nellie Jo; three sons, Sam, Art, and Jess; and seven grandchildren. Dr. Rainer can be found on Twitter @ThomRainer and at facebook.com/Thom.S.Rainer.

Great Quotes to Ponder

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." — John Piper

"What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God."

— Hans Urs von Balthasar

"Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them." — Elisabeth Elliot

"Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It's not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us." — David Platt

"True faith means holding nothing back. It means putting every hope in God's fidelity to His Promises." — Francis Chan

"Worrying is arrogant because God knows what He's doing." — Barbara Cameron

"When we are securely rooted in personal intimacy with the source of life, it will be possible to remain flexible without being relativistic, convinced without being rigid, willing to confront without being offensive, gentle and forgiving without being soft, and true witnesses without being manipulative." — Henri J.M. Nouwen

"The Christians are right: it is Pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began." — C.S. Lewis



Beatitudes Sermon Series

Starting June 7, we will spend a couple months looking at the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. The Beatitudes are eight proverb-like blessings contained within Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. They are the pinnacle of Jesus' teaching on mercy, spirituality, and compassion. Each one is short, precise but a little cryptic and full of meaning. Each Beatitude hits on a major biblical theme and we will take time to unwrap and explore each theme as we work through the Beatitudes one at a time each Sunday.

I recently read (and currently cannot find) a quote by a theologian that said that much of theology is trying to explain why the Sermon on the Mount (which contains the Beatitudes) don't really apply to us. On the surface, that seems quite cynical. However, the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes challenge the way we live our lives spiritually and morally (even good Christian folk) and we do spend a lot of our time equivocating, ignoring, or figuring out how Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount aren't quite as radical as they appear. We will endeavor to tackle this challenge head on. It will call for us to continue to transform into Christ-likeness by paying more heed to how Jesus tells us to live in relationship with him in this world rather than being so concerned about what the world thinks of our lifestyle.

Beatitude comes from the Latin word for happiness and by extension, blessedness. This section is given such a title because each of the Beatitudes begins with "Blessed are."

Blessed are:

-the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. (5:3)
-those who mourn: for they will be comforted. (5:4)
-the meek: for they will inherit the earth. (5:5)
-those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they will be filled. (5:6)
-the merciful: for they will be shown mercy. (5:7)
-the pure in heart: for they will see God. (5:8)
-the peacemakers: for they will be called children of God. (5:9)
-those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (5:10)



Upcoming Sermon Series: The Life of Joseph

a quick introduction to our sermon series in August and the first part of September

In August and the first part of September we will be looking at the life of Joseph and how his life is a model for how we can live our lives with God today. To introduce us to one of the themes of Joseph's life, below is a post from Greg Laurie, senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, California and Harvest Orange County in Irvine, California. - Pastor Seth

But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden.

— Genesis 39:21

Joseph had been doted on by his father, sold by his brothers into slavery, bought by Potiphar, and eventually promoted to manage Potiphar's entire household. He was doing a great job. Then he was falsely accused of rape and thrown into prison.

But Genesis 39:21 tells us, "The LORD was with Joseph."

In typical Joseph fashion, he was so diligent and hardworking that he was soon running the place. Enter the butler and the baker. They had been working for Pharaoh, but now they were in prison. Joseph saw them one day and basically said, "Hey guys, why are you so sad? Why the long faces?" That's an amazing statement for someone in a dungeon to make to other people in a dungeon. But there was a cheerfulness about Joseph. He was always thinking of others.

So the butler and the baker told Joseph about the dreams they had. Joseph told them, "Interpreting dreams is God's business. . . . Go ahead and tell me your dreams" (Genesis 40:8).

The butler was the first to explain his dream to Joseph. Then Joseph said, "Within three days Pharaoh will lift you up and restore you to your position as his chief cup-bearer. And please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place" (verses 13–14). But two years passed before the butler remembered Joseph.

Has it ever seemed as though you were just spinning your wheels and not going anywhere? How easily Joseph could have felt that way. Yet we never read of him complaining, even for a moment.

Joseph's life serves as a reminder that everything we go through is preparation for something else. God is preparing each of us for something.

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Free Lunch Mondays

by Gretchen Sutto, elder leading the Christian Education team

Our most recent sermon series has been about Jesus at table with various people. Jesus wasn't afraid to eat with others that many shunned. While we tend to choose status, Jesus chose love. We have been encouraged week after week to reach out and share our table with those who may be out of our comfort zone. How many of us have accepted and acted upon that challenge?

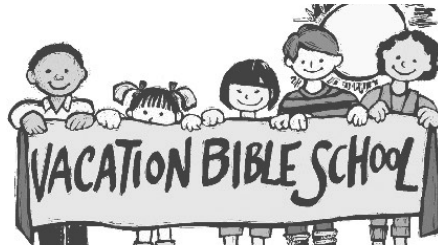
Linden Presbyterian is a church that loves to serve and help others. That is one of my favorite parts about this group. We have no shortage of love: whether it's serving dinner or cleaning up at Carriage Town, boxing food at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, donating and distributing food at our own FISH pantry, collecting and donating clothing, offering free lunches during the summer, adopting Compassion children, or sending money overseas. We love to love. But where does that love take us? Do we do our duty, check it off the list, and then go on with our lives? Or do we actually take the time to form those relationships with the people we are serving?

If we're being honest with ourselves, most of us do not form those relationships. And we're probably not even sure how we can begin to do that. We don't come into contact with people when we box food or rake a yard. This, I'm sure, is an appeal to some. It's uncomfortable to interact with people we don't have things in common with, people we don't share social capital with. But this is what Jesus wants us to do! He wants us to break down those walls that we have created and just love on each other. So how can we form those relationships?

One of the missions that LPC has is Free Lunch Mondays in the summer. We cook a kid-friendly meal (hot dogs, hamburgers, mac and cheese, or tacos), and from 11:30-1:00, anyone (of any age) living in the Linden School District can come and enjoy a free meal. Over the past three years I have volunteered for this ministry, I have been able to begin to form bonds with the families that come back week after week, year after year. I know which girl is allergic to walnuts and can't eat certain cookies for dessert, which boys like Minecraft to ask them about what else they have built, and which man suffered heart issues the year before to inquire about his health. From this ministry, some of these children have attended VBS to learn about Jesus and that He loves them, too.

If you want to reach out to form bonds but are still a bit insecure about jumping right into the city of Flint to get started, I encourage you to join us here! While you may have different backgrounds, or you may be at a different point in your lives, these people that come for lunch are your neighbors. I'm sure you'll find that you have more things in common than you might think. Each week we serve about 20 people, ranging in age from preschool to senior citizens. Since we have begun to play music and have offered coloring on the tables or face painting, more people are beginning to come. And when we have members coming in to eat and share a meal at table with them, I think they feel more comfortable to come back. You don't need to do anything special; just join them at their table and be friendly.

James 1:22 tells us, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Are you ready to accept the challenge?



Vacation Bible School

by Gretchen Sutto, elder leading the Christian Education team

We are busy gearing up for one of our biggest weeks of the summer – Vacation Bible School! VBS 2015 will have a Heroes of the Bible theme, and it will run August 3-7 from 9AM-noon. We will be taking a look at David, Ester, Daniel, Joseph, and our number one superhero, Jesus. If you've never been involved with a VBS before, you may be curious as to how it is run day-to-day. Each morning, the kids gather in the sanctuary in their age groups (pK-K, 1-2 grade, 3-4 grade, 5-6 grade). We begin by introducing what the topic will be, and the kids learn their memory verse of the day. Then, the different age groups begin a rotation, learning about each hero through a story, music, crafts, games, and a snack. The 5-6 group is the exception. These older kids begin in the sanctuary and then head out into Linden to do a community service project, and they return for the story and snack. Finally, all of the kids regroup in the sanctuary to review the verse and sing a song. Whew, it's a busy week!

This year will be extra special because the curriculum is all being planned by our members. Kristen Garmyn, Fred Lewis, Gemma Amendola, Kim Neuville, Donna Ingamells, and Gretchen Sutto have been meeting since last November to begin planning for this year's VBS. We have decided upon the characters, the verses, and have matched the games, crafts, and snacks to complement the theme. While all the other churches will be rotating through the same three VBS curriculums that are available this year, ours will be new and fresh, which is really exciting!

As you may have been able to tell, it takes A LOT of people to make VBS happen. We need volunteers to help register kids as they arrive. Nine leaders are needed to help guide the different age groups around. At least two volunteers each are needed to lead crafts, story, games, and snack time. Extra runners are always useful to hang out with the younger two groups. On top of that, we need volunteers to help us decorate and clean-up at the end. To make a long story short (too late), we need YOU!

I don't like to just think about our youngest disciples as the future of the church; they are our present. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." We need to be training up our kids now in the present so they will be well equipped to lead us into the future. When the disciples wanted to turn the children away, Jesus said to let them come to Him. LPC is ready to have the children come to us, but we need more volunteers in order to make this happen. If you are interested in helping, great! Please contact Kristen Garmyn (kristengarmyn@gmail.com/810.280.5294) or Gretchen Sutto (gsutto915@yahoo.com/810.287.9438) and they will get you plugged in! Still on the fence? Contact them anyway, and they'll talk you into helping!



Focus on FISH

by Kristen Garmyn, elder leading the missional connections team

Our mission statement here at Linden Presbyterian Church is as follows:

We are a Christ-centered, Biblically-based community serving, engaging, and leading all to become deeper disciples of Jesus!

On a daily basis, we strive to live up to our mission through worship, fellowship, and the support programs we are blessed to run right here in our building. It is with God's grace and guidance that we are able to provide a food pantry and a clothes closet for people in need in Linden.

Linden Presbyterian Church has been a staple in the community for more than 150 years. Its members feel passionate about sharing our God-given resources with those around us. Because of dedicated teams of people and generous donations, we are able to do just that.

The F.I.S.H. food pantry (For Instant Sympathetic Help) is located behind the fireside room in the LPC basement. It is a growing ministry that provides emergency boxes of food for Linden School District residents. We have a fantastic team of 20+ people who fill many roles. Some pack food boxes, some order/pick up food from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, and others help with deliveries and various other administrative tasks. Indirectly, people can help F.I.S.H. by simply volunteering at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan! When you volunteer and sign in using the FISH Agency Number (P116), we earn credits to help purchase food at really exceptional prices! This allows us to keep our pantry stocked with great food.

F.I.S.H. utilizes a system of different box sizes depending on the size of the family being helped. Each box contains a variety of foods like spaghetti, macaroni, potatoes, tuna, soup, Spaghetti O's, corn, green beans, peas, tomatoes, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, baked beans, snacks and desserts, condiments, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, paper towels, toilet tissue, and frozen meats. The need for these items has been growing! In 2003, 85 people in 30 families were helped and in 2014, 283 people in 89 families were provided with 10.7 tons of needed care!

Our F.I.S.H. pantry is also home to a Kids' Clothes Closet. At any given time, there are many clothes available for children (sizes infant-juniors) who are in need of clothing. The clothes are sorted by size and gender into labeled bins. Once a year, we hold a clothes giveaway. In the past, we have given away clothes during the back-to-school season and this year, we held the giveaway during the Rummage Sale. It was very successful and approximately 60 garbage bags of clothes found themselves into the hands of people who were truly in need!

To promote, fundraise, and support our F.I.S.H. Pantry, LPC is participating in some exciting events this year. During the Gus Macker Tournament being held in Linden (June 27-28), we will be passing out flyers and manning a booth to share with our community what the F.I.S.H. Pantry is all about.



Focus on FISH

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This will be in efforts to both raise awareness of the program and invite community members to becoming involved! The missional connections team will be working very hard to share with the community how God is working through Linden Presbyterian Church.

In addition to our presence at the Gus Macker Tournament, we will also be holding a church-wide food drive. The 500 lb. Food Drive will begin on July 1st and run through the month of July. It will be our goal, as a congregation, so collect 500 lbs of food for our food pantry! There will be boxes for food collection in Whitney Hall and to celebrate our success, at the end of the month, we will be having a cookout and potluck! To thank you for your generosity, on July 26th, we will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for you! Please bring a dish to pass to this celebration luncheon.

God has truly blessed us all with a heart to serve. We are continuously thankful for His gifts and His grace. He has given us a platform from which to help those less fortunate. His love shines through us as we give our time, talents, and resources to those in our community who are in need. If you feel called to serve in any capacity, please contact the church office. You may also contact Kristen Garmyn at 810-280-5294.

Thank you for your continued willingness to volunteer and support our mission endeavors!





Deacons Provide a Ministry of Caring

According to the Book of Order, “The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.”

We are blessed to have a core group of deacons who take on this high Scriptural calling to care for the people of this congregation and beyond. They provide tangible and intangible care to us when we are in need.

Our deacons are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year via the Deacon on Duty to be caring presence and a ministry resource in times of need or crisis. You can always find the current Deacon on Duty by looking to the newsletter or the Sunday worship bulletin.

Our deacons serve communion to those amongst us who are unable to join us for worship due to poor health or another concern. This is a wonderful ministry that brings a caring deacon alongside our members and friends to celebrate the sacrament with them on a regular basis. After all, the church is not a building it is a group called by God to be the presence of Christ to one another.

Our deacons are active in prayer for those on our prayer list and any other concerns that may need to be lifted up to the Lord. Contact the Deacon on Duty or the office to share your prayer need with the deacons.

This summer you will notice that you will receive a phone call, a card, a face-to-face chat (or maybe all three!) with a deacon. The deacons are starting a “parish model” for their ministry. This means that everyone will have a deacon. We never want anyone who comes through our doors to feel like they are alone. You can always turn to the deacons for a listening ear, a strong shoulder, or to receive the resources you might need. So even if you come to worship every week, expect a deacon to reach out to you as the deacons seek to build personal, Christ-centered connections with each and every person. They will ask you how you are doing, a little about yourself, and how they can be praying for you.

Our deacons want you to know that you are personally cared for all the time!



Summer Youth Camps

by Jake Kirk, youth ministry leader

June 21-25th Michindoh – 6th-8th graders are invited to a special week at Michindoh wildlife camp near Jackson Michigan. There will be the ropes course, paintball, water slide, lake and tubing to name a few exciting things. The speaker will be Jill Rainwater, area director of Midland Younglife and has a heart for middle school friends. Spots available still for the best week of our young friends lives, lime green sing up forms are in Whitney Hall.

July 13-18th Timberwolf Lake – 9th – 12^h graders are invited to the best week of their lives at younglife's Timberwolf Lake camp in Lake City Michigan. This place can only be described as a resort for teenagers. Join teens from across Genesee County and the Midwest for an incredible 6 days. The speaker is younglife speaker Bill Paige, who has served for younglife for over 30 years and in my personal opinion my favorite speaker for younglife. Spots are still available; grab a pink from Whitney Hall.

July 26-31st Wilderness Ranch – I am excited to say 4 young men from the high school youth group will be traveling to Colorado to hike in the Rocky Mountains for 6 days. This trip will be unlike anything these young men have ever done or experienced. It will be challenging physically, emotionally and spiritually, but the reward will be unmatched. 1% of the world will experience what these young men get to do in these 6 days, a truly life changing experience.

Prayer. We are sending a total of 12 kids, 7 middle school kids, and 5 high school students to 3 camps this summer from Linden Presbyterian youth group. We have an additional 70 kids from the Fenton, Linden, Lake Fenton community that will be joining them on these trips. God is going to move in so many ways in our young friends lives that we ask for prayer. Pray for safe travels to and from camp and especially the weeks at camps for fun, and exciting time in fellowship. Pray for the staff, leaders, speakers and people in charge of putting on such incredible weeks for our young friends. Pray for our kids, pray for their hearts to be open and for their relationships with Christ to grow and strengthen.

Youth group will pick back up in the Fall September 13th with middle school meeting 6-7 and high school 7:30-8:30 at Linden Presbyterian Church!



Youth Ministry

growing disciples

School Year Schedule

Middle School 6:00-7:00

High School 7:30-9:00

Campaigners is a Friday morning Bible study for high school students. We meet at 6:00am for breakfast, good times, and Bible study. We meet at 521 South St. and are happy to provide a ride to school. All high school folks are welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Ministry with Youth Mission Statement

The youth ministry at Linden Presbyterian Church is committed to love, nurture, inspire, and equip our youth to be faithful, lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ who reach out to the community and beyond.

Values

Welcome We seek to live as a unique community of faith in which everyone feels welcome.

God based We seek to be more like Jesus, living out the fruits of the spirit, remembering that God is the center of everything we do.

Spiritually Grounded We base our programming on the foundation of a common faith in Jesus Christ.

Excitement We strive to create an environment that attracts youth and families, both members and non-members.

Growth We endeavor to be lifelong disciples who are continually growing in our faith.

Love We strive to be aware of the needs of others and to demonstrate love and compassion to all who come in contact with our youth ministry.

Safety We provide trustworthy adult leaders for all youth and a welcoming environment in which youth feel safe asking questions and seeking support and guidance.

Youth Support Team

The Youth Support Team is a team of adults that supports the mission and continuity of our ministries with youth by partnering with the youth ministry intern and the pastor to holistically nurture, support, promote, pray for, and lead our ministry. The team includes Gretchen Sutto, Susan Malinowski, Fred Lewis, Denny Manner, Tammy Neuville, Kim Herbert, Kevin Whisman, and Gayle Wagner.



Upcoming Events

Free Lunch Mondays

starts June 15, 2015

11:30am-1:00pm

Each Monday throughout the summer we provide a free meal for our community with a kid-friendly menu. We invite you to come serve with us by helping to setup, cook, serve. More importantly, we invite you to come hang out and have lunch! Make a new friend and help us create a hospitable environment for our neighborhood friends! See p. 11 for more details.

Hoosier Harmony

June 27, 2015

7:00pm

Hoosier Harmony, the gospel quartet from Indiana, will join us again for a night of fun and inspirational music. We invite you to come with your family and friends. A reminder to folks who have been here for awhile: they will only be joining us Saturday evening.

500lb Food Drive

throughout July

People are still hungry during the summer, but summer is traditionally the leanest time for food banks around our country. Let's counteract that by helping our own FISH food pantry stay stocked this summer and start the autumn strong! Bring your food during the week or on Sundays. See p. 13 for more details.

Worship Under Pavilion

July 26, 2015

10:00am

We will be outside worshipping our Lord and then celebrating the conclusion of our food drive with a yummy picnic lunch. Look to the July newsletter for specifics (if you don't get the newsletter, please contact the office, sign in on the worship pad, and/or grab one off the table in the fellowship hall.)

Two Services Resumes

September 13, 2015

9:00/10:30

We return to our format of two worship services on this date. Our more traditional-style worship with a touch more formality, hymns, and choirs is at 9:00am. Our more contemporary-style worship with a more casual attitude, praise band, and Sunday School is at 10:30am.

Sticky Faith

September 13, 2015

How to we raise young people and form adults (including ourselves!) who have a faith that sticks with them for the long haul? We will explore this question in depth starting with this Sunday with this new sermon series.

Hosting Presbytery

September 15, 2015

9:30am

We are once again hosting the Presbytery of Lake Huron for their quarterly meeting. We received great reviews when we hosted a couple of years ago. Time to display our gift for hospitality again! We will need people to help with typical worship duties, parking helpers, and tons of kitchen help to prepare a light breakfast and a hearty lunch. Talk to Pastor Seth if you are interested in serving!

Gazing Ahead: Calendar

June

- 2 Board of Deacons meeting
- 2 Presbytery meeting
- 7 Beatitudes Sermon Series Begins
- 7 FISH meeting
- 10 Committee/Team meetings
- 15 Free Lunch Mondays begin
- 21 Elder Jarrod Montague, preaching
- 22 Newsletter deadline
- 27 Hoosier Harmony
- 27-28 Gus Macker Tournament
- 28 Elder Johnathan Dugan, preaching

Summer Worship at 10:00am

*Starting September 13 we are back to our
school year schedule:*

Traditional-style at 9:00

Contemporary-style at 10:30

July

- 3 Office Closed
- 5 500lb Food Drive Kicks Off
- 8 Committee/Team meetings
- 22 Session
- 26 Food Drive Celebration and Worship and Picnic under Pavilion
- 27 Newsletter Deadline

August

- 2 Joseph Sermon Series Begins
- 3-7 Vacation Bible School
- 4 Board of Deacons meeting
- 7-8 Synod Assembly
- 12 Committee/Team meetings
- 16 Elder Kim Whisman (nee Herbert) preaching
- 23 Elder Jarrod Montague preaching
- 24 Newsletter Deadline
- 24 Magazine Deadline
- 26 Session

For a more complete listing of upcoming events, please look to the monthly newsletter and the weekly worship bulletin. You may also go online to lindenpres.com, call the office at 810.735.5755, or email at lpcoffice@lindenpres.com for more information