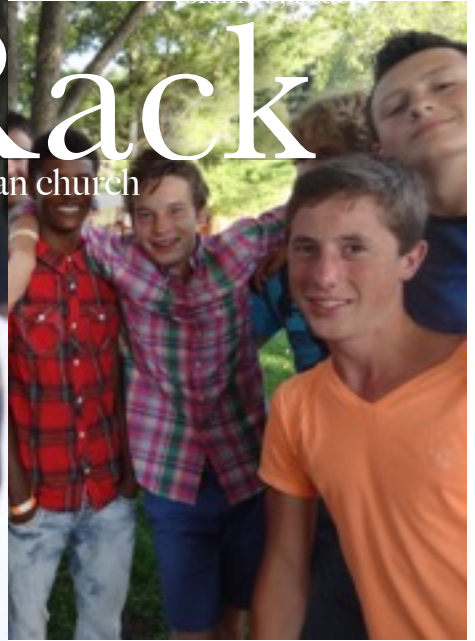


Take me with you!

The Pew Rack

the quarterly magazine of the linden presbyterian church



september - november 2015

- 2 welcome and sunday info
- 3 our mission
- 4 our worship
- 5 why do we do that in worship?
- 6 pastor's bio
- 7 welcoming guests
- 8 missional connections
- 9 daring faith sermon series
- 11 reading is good
- 12 vacation bible school
- 13 focus on fish
- 14 christian education
- 15 deacons
- 16 youth ministry
- 18 upcoming events
- 19 calendar





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.

(continued on next page)

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.

Missional Connections Update

In the upcoming months, LPC will be participating in **Packing With Pride!** It is a local initiative to collect new or slightly used suitcases and luggage. These items are given to local children in the foster care system who may only have a garbage bag or paper grocery sack to hold their belongings. Let's work together to help!

September 24th

Carriage Town visit to serve dinner - five spots open. Sign-up in September.

October 2nd

Fall Clothes Giveaway taking place during the **Soup Supper** which is from 5:00-7:00.

October 4th

SOCKTOBER kick off! Bring in NEW socks, pajamas, or undergarments for local children in the foster care system.

Saturday, November 7th

Annual Coat Drive and Giveaway

****Contact Kristen Garmyn if you are interested in heading this up/volunteering!****

November 15th

Our very first **"Cereal Sunday"**- Bring in a box of cereal for our F.I.S.H. Food Pantry!

We will put **Military Care Kits** together on this day, as well!



Upcoming Sermon Series: Daring Faith - The Key to Miracles

Starting October 4, we will begin to look more in depth about what it means to take risks with our lives to glorify God and see God miraculously work in our lives. For eleven weeks, we will look at what it means to be daring in our faith (see the next page for specific sermon topics). As Christians in America, we have believed for too long that our faith life is where nothing has to change and nothing has to be risked. Jesus says otherwise - we are to be willing to risk our very lives for His glory. That notion immediately brings up missionaries and martyrs, but we make a big mistake by assuming that since we aren't foreign missionaries that God does not call us to be daring for Him. One aspect of our lives is finances and Daring Faith will touch on this aspect of our lives, too. See below to start praying and talking about how we are called to give to glorify God. This will be fleshed out during the series - along with other aspects of life!

"According to your faith, it will be done to you." Matthew 9:29

The one decision you or your family will make during your Daring Faith series will be your own giving commitment. How will you know what God wants you to give? As you pray about it, know that giving is about "Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts." Don't compare your commitment with anyone else's. This is between you and God. Here are some practical steps to help you to seek clarity and wisdom in your decision.

Pray this every day: "Lord, show me how to give in a way that stretches and builds my faith more than ever. I trust you for a miracle." God is more interested in you trusting him than in the amount you commit to give. As you pray daily, God will reveal the amount that you can give. If you are married, pray together with your spouse.

Don't rush your decision. Spend time alone with God each day so you can hear what He is telling you. As you seek His will, God will grow your faith and you will come closer and closer to the miracle he is preparing for you.

Decide whether you will give by reason or by revelation.

When I give based on reason, I simply look at how much I have, figure out a "reasonable" amount to give, and then commit to give that amount. This is the most common way people give to charities. It is an act of unselfishness, but it requires no faith, and no sacrifice, so there's no room for a miracle. Reason simply asks, "What can I afford to give?"

In contrast, when I give based on revelation, I pray, "Lord, what do you want to give through me?" I allow my faith to lead the way. The Bible says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Hebrews 11:6 (NIV). That's why God honored the people of Macedonia: "They gave not only what they could afford, they gave even more than they could afford!" 2 Corinthians 8:3. When you give more than you can afford, you are trusting God in faith to keep his promises. God has more promises in the Bible about generosity than on any other topic.

Here is one: "God loves it when we give cheerfully, so He then provides us with everything we need, and even gives us more than we need, so we can keep on being even more generous!" 2 Corinthians 9:7-8.

Hold a family conference, or set aside time alone with God to talk about your contribution. If you have children, get them involved no matter how young they are. This is an opportunity to teach them about faith and generosity.

Ask everyone to suggest creative ideas for reducing expenses, increasing income, or selling personal items in order to contribute more. Read these Bible promises and instructions together and make a list of what you learn from reading God's Word.

Proverbs 3:9-10, Proverbs 11:24-25, Luke 6:38, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:1-12, 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, Matthew 6:19-20

Remember to consider that your Daring Faith commitment includes a cash gift now, and a 36-month giving commitment. This allows you to give more than you imagined. As you develop the habit of consistent weekly giving, you will be blessed by spiritual growth.

Celebrate your commitment, and what God has revealed to you through this faith-growing process. If you are married or have a family, do this together. Let's pray:

"Father, this is a big step for us. We're asking you to stretch our faith, strengthen our faith, and deepen our faith through our commitment to be generous. We realize that everything we have comes from You, so we have made our commitment for four reasons. First, to express our gratitude for all you've provided to us in the past. Second, to show our desire for you to be first in our lives. Third, to demonstrate our faith in your promises to provide for us in the future as we honor you now. And finally, to show our love and support for our church family in making a difference for eternity. We are grateful for this opportunity to grow and trust you more. We pray that this church-wide campaign will bring you Glory! In Jesus' name, Amen!"

Upcoming Sermons:

October 4	What Happens When You Have Faith	
October 11	How to Get Ready for a Miracle	
October 18	Daring to Believe	
October 25	Daring to Imagine	
November 1	Daring to Give God My Best	Jake Kirk, preaching
November 8	Daring to Plant in Faith	
November 15	Daring to Commit	
November 22	Daring to Grow a Deep Soul	
November 29	Daring to Be Generous, Part I	Elder Kim Herbert, preaching
December 6	Daring to Be Generous, Part II	
December 13	Daring to Wait on God	
December 20	Daring to Go in Faith	



Reading is Good - Free Books on the Web

Do you like to read and perhaps learn a thing or two every now and again? The web is full of free books! Google any of these sites to pull up a treasure trove of free books! God loves an engaged mind!

LibraryThing – LibraryThing connects you to other people who are reading what you're reading and allows you to see which books are popular in various categories of reading.

Textbook Revolution – Links to free online textbooks and other educational materials.

Book TV – This is the companion site to Book TV on C-Span2. The site holds some current interviews with authors, many past interviews, opinions, reviews, and featured programs through online video.

Bookboon – Bookboon provides online textbooks for students in PDF format. The free ebooks can be downloaded without registration. Our books are legal and written exclusively for Bookboon. They are financed by a few in-book ads.

Scribd – Scribd, the online document sharing site which supports Word, Excel, PowerPoint, PDF and other popular formats. You can download a document or embed it in your blog or web page.

BookYards – BookYards is a web portal in which books, education materials, information, and content will be freely to anyone who has an internet connection.

Planet eBook – Free classic literature to download and share.

E-Books Directory – Thousands of ebooks on various subjects to download and share.

Read Print Library – Free online books library for students, teachers, and the classic enthusiast.

GoodReads – Get great book recommendations and keep track of what you want to read.
The Online Books Page – University of Pennsylvania database with over 30,000 books.

Public Literature – Thousands of familiar classics, children's books, plays and poems, as well as books by new authors.

Full Books – Thousands of full-text nonfiction and fiction books.

Many Books – Free fiction and nonfiction ebooks for your PDA, iPod or ebook reader.

Get Free Books – Thousands of free ebooks to download.

Project Gutenberg – More than 20,000 free books from the first producer of free e-books.

Bibliomania – Thousands of classic books, poems, short stories and plays.

Classic Reader – Large collection of free classic books, plays, and short stories from more than 300 authors.

Bartleby Fiction – Classic anthologies and volumes.

The Personal MBA Recommended Reading List – MBA programs don't have a monopoly on advanced business knowledge: you can teach yourself everything you need to know to succeed in life and at work. The Personal MBA features the very best business books available, based on thousands of hours of research.

Books Should Be Free – Free audio books from the public domain.



Vacation Bible School - It's a Wrap!

by Gretchen Sutto, elder leading the Christian Education team

VBS 2015 is in the books and was a fun success! The kids learned about heroes of the Bible: David, Esther, Daniel, Joseph, and the greatest Superhero, Jesus. Throughout the week, the kids created their own superhero costumes which they wore proudly, played some silly games, ate crazy delicious snacks, and sang their hearts out. In addition, our superheroes learned five verses from the Bible (with hand gestures) and came away with the message that Jesus is their Superhero and their best friend. Morgan Dugan (our rock star for the older kids' group) did ministry in a hands-on way. She helped prepare and serve Free Lunch Mondays, clean the mill pond and Eagle Park, organize the clothes closet (HUGE job), and bake cookies for our local heroes, the police and firemen. VBS couldn't have happened without our awesome helpers. A standing ovation goes to Fred Lewis and Lisa Chapin in the kitchen; Tammy Neuville in games; Cindy Brandt in crafts; Don Neuville and Ed Arter in story telling; Gemma Amendola for decorating and organizing the kids to paint the utility pole; our classroom leaders (Sue Chapel, Kim Lau, Janet Miller, along with her daughter Kristen and granddaughters Marisa and Courtney, Sharon Spencley, Susan Spencley, Barb Clark, Leatha Cudworth, and Wendy Mueller); Jack, Tucker, and Camden Whitman and Marco Keech for running sound and pitching in wherever we needed, those who popped in when they could (Nathan Wagner, Anderson Muenzer, Kim Neuville, Theresa Montague, Donna Ingamells, Cassidy Lau, Jerry and Tina Nippa), and those anonymous multitudes who donated pillow cases, brought children, and lifted us up in prayer. We couldn't have done it without you. If you're a techie, search #lpcvbs2015 for some great shots!!

Mile of Pennies Update

As of the end of July, our Mile of Pennies campaign has raised \$221! I'm blown away by the generosity of our congregation. Now that VBS is over, the money will go towards supplies in the Sunday School rooms. We will be looking to update our supply of crayons, markers, and construction paper in addition to adding some resource books. Thanks for your continued contribution and dedication to our youngest disciples!



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!

If you would like to learn more, please talk to Kristen Garmyn, Fred Lewis, Pastor Set, any FISHy person you see or contact the office at 810.735.5755 or lpcoffice@lindenpres.com



Christian Formation for All Ages

by Gretchen Sutto, elder leading the Christian Education team

Adult Bible Study - Monday, September 14th marks the return of our adult Bible study class! Do you enjoy conversation? Are you interested in growing in your knowledge of the Bible? Are you free on Monday nights from 7:00-8:00? If you answered yes to these questions, then this group is for you! We meet in Whitney Hall for a casual discussion of the previous day's sermon or another spiritual topic. Don't worry if you don't know it all – no one does! "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." - Hebrews 10:25. See you there!

Sunday School kids (and parents), mark your calendars!! *Sunday, September 13* will be pajama day! Come relax after that first tiring week of school. Both age groups will hang out in the youth room and watch a video. Snacks will be provided.

There are plenty of exciting and (*cough* educational) things going on each Sunday for our pre-K through elementary school-aged youth in Sunday School thanks to our awesome stable of Sunday School teachers and the diligent support of the Christian Education Committee. We look forward to seeing you and your friends develop into Jesus followers who trust God!

Free Lunch Mondays

Wow, what a success 2015 was! It is overwhelming to see how God has blessed this ministry from its humble beginnings four or so years ago when we were lucky to serve six. This year, our crew served anywhere from 31-66 folks in the community each Monday! A hearty thank you goes out to our Lunch Bunch Ministry Crew – Fred Lewis, Dale Cudworth, Barb Clark, Anna Marie Hurst, Nathan Wagner, Tammy Neuville, Kristen Garmyn, Sharon Spencely, Susan Spencely, Art Smith, Melissa, Morgan, Christina, and Johnathan Dugan (if I missed anyone else, please accept my apologies, but God knows who you are!), and the many who came to eat, donated food or money, prayed for us, and spread the word about what we do. I'm already looking forward to 2016!



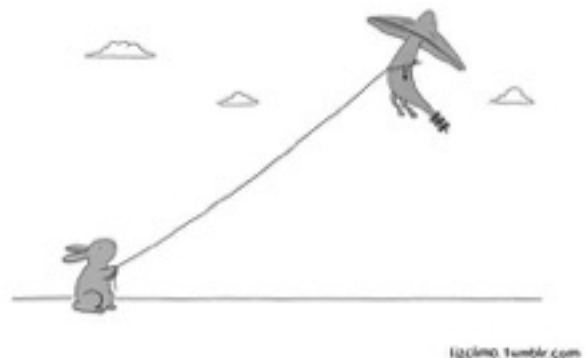
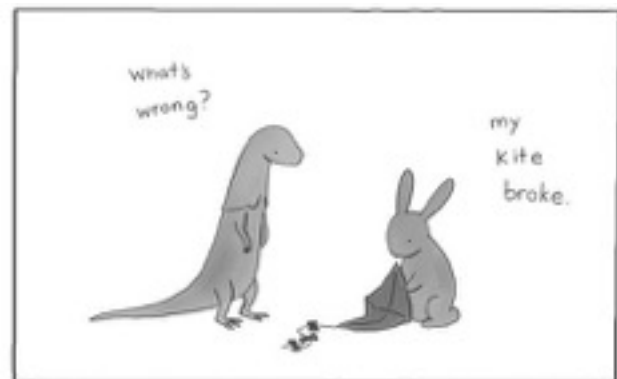
Deacons Provide a Ministry of Caring

by Liz Knuth, deacon

LPC has a long and rich history of individuals accepting the call to fulfill the important role of Deacon. Men and women over the decades have provided Christian service to those in need within the church community. This article highlights why the role of the Deacon is important to the life of the church and will provide some examples of how LPC Deacons are involved in ministering to the needs of LPC.

Deacons have the honor of serving the Lord through service to those in need, to the sick, friendless, and to those who may be in distress. They represent the heart of the church in practical ways by attending to concrete needs such as meals and visitation to the sick or homebound. Following the example laid out by the early church in Acts 6:1-6, Deacons provide the outreach necessary to assist in making the church a caring and welcoming community. They are also privileged to build deeper relationships with members by attending to needs and providing timely support when life's challenges arise.

This past year, LPC Deacons have taken on a 'parish-list' which provides each Deacon with specific members to support through prayer and outreach as needed. We also have a 'Deacon on Duty' each month which is published in the weekly church bulletin. We currently provide communion to those who cannot attend Worship due to ill health, visitation to hospitals and nursing homes, meals to those who are undergoing difficulties from health issues or other urgent events, flowers for the families of newborns, angel statues to those who have lost a loved one and hands-on support at fellowship gatherings and coffee hour. Our congregation is encouraged to keep the Deacons in mind when needs arise by speaking to one of our Deacons or by calling the 'Deacon on Duty'.



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



Ministry with Youth

by Jake Kirk, youth ministry leader

What a summer for the kids... This summer was a sprint for camps, totaling in three unique and special camps for the kids in our youth group and Genesee County. It started in June for five days when our middle school friends went to Michindoh wildlife camp in southwest Michigan. Then for six days in the middle of July our high school friends ventured up to Timberowlf Lake younglife camp in Lake City, Michigan. Then our final trip at the end of July was a 10-day embark to Colorado for 12 high school kids including 4 who attend youth group to go backpacking in the Rocky Mountains.

Each camp has their own stories, stories from kids who experienced a relationship with Christ either for the first time, or on a deeper level. The prayers from the community for these kids were answered in the conversations and relationships made between them and their heavenly Father. The three white poster boards that hung in Whitney Hall all summer with every kid and leaders name going to a camp was offered as a call to pray for each person. We thank you for all your prayers as kids received, heard and accepted the Jesus Christ. Also kids were pushed in ways maybe they thought they couldn't be pushed, and had to rely on God in a way they never had. Through your support and prayers our young friends lives were changed forever.

In September youth group returns and so does campaigners, and we are so excited at Linden Pres. Some of our upperclassmen in the high school youth group are wildlife leaders now, giving back to their middle school friends as leaders. They will be entering into the lives of middle school kids and pouring out the Gospel to kids in Genesee County. It is incredible to see the growth in these young people as they combat the pressures of each day with Christ. We give all thanks to God for a safe and fun summer, and for answered prayers in the lives of our young friends.

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

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.

Bible Study for Adults Resumes

September 14, 2015

7:00pm

Do you enjoy conversation? Are you interested in growing in your knowledge of the Bible? Are you free on Monday nights from 7:00-8:00? If you answered yes to these questions, then this group is for you! We meet in Whitney Hall for a casual discussion of the previous day's sermon or another spiritual topic. Don't worry if you don't know it all – no one does! "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." - Hebrews 10:25. See you there!

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. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Dallas Gatlin, Carriage Town

September 25, 2015

9:00/10:30am

Dr. Dallas Gatlin, Executive Director of Carriage Town Ministries, will join us in worship and deliver the sermon. He is an engaging speaker with great scriptural insight and stories of how the Word of God and the love of Jesus followers is transforming Flint.

Soup Supper and Clothes Giveaway October 2, 2015

5:00pm

It's time for our annual homecoming soup supper. We need soup makers and servers. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall in mid-September. This is a great community event in conjunction with the town parade that raises money for the FISH food pantry. Last year we raised over \$900. This year, let's make it \$1,000! We will also have our clothes giveaway at the same time this year in hopes of reaching more folks in the community. Invite your friends and neighbors!

Reformation Sunday Luncheon

October 25, 2015

11:30ish

Join us after worship for a time of fellowship as we celebrate the Reformation by... eating! More information will be in the October newsletter.

Gazing Ahead: Calendar

September

- 1 Board of Deacons meeting
- 9 Committee/Team meetings
- 14 Adult Bible Study resumes
- 15 Presbytery @ Linden
- 21 Newsletter deadline
- 23 Session meeting
- 24 Carriage Town to Serve Dinner
- 27 Dallas Gatlin, Carriage Town, preaching

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

*Traditional-style at 9:00
Contemporary-style at 10:30*

October

- 2 Soup Supper and Clothes Giveaway
- 4 Daring Faith sermon series begins
- 4 SOCKtober launches
- 6 Board of Deacons meeting
- 14 Committee/Team meetings
- 25 Reformation Sunday Luncheon
- 26 Newsletter Deadline
- 28 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

November

- 1 Jake Kirk, Youth Ministry Associate, preaching
- 3 Board of Deacons meeting
- 6-7 Synod meeting in Toledo
- 7 Coat Drive
- 8 Member Recognition and Memorial Celebration
- 10 Youth Support Team meeting
- 11 Committee/Team meetings
- 15 Military Care Kits and Cereal Sunday
- 16 Newsletter Deadline
- 18 Session
- 22 Community Thanksgiving Worship
- 23 Magazine Deadline
- 25-27 Office Closed
- 29 Elder Kim Whisman, preaching