



GRACE COURIER

lindstrommethodist.org

Easter Brunch!

Easter Brunch will be served by our children and youth on April 21st.

Brunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 7:30a-8:45a. We will be serving assorted egg bakes, homemade cinnamon rolls, an assortment of fresh fruit, coffee, milk and juice.

Please email **Wendy Vanderwerf** at markwendyv1@gmail.com if you are interested in donating an egg bake (your own recipe) or fresh fruit for the brunch.

We know there are people with dietary restrictions and we would like to accommodate you! Please email Wendy with

any food restrictions and we will make sure to have a special selection available for you.

All donations will be used for an upcoming mission trip and sending our youth to camp.

Thank you to this generous congregation for your ongoing support of our children and youth!!



Holy Week and Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

April 14 ~
Passion/Palm Sunday
9:00 a.m. Worship

April 17 ~
No Wednesday Night Activities
7:00 p.m. Choir

April 18 ~
Maundy/Holy Thursday
7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

April 21 ~
Easter!
7:30—8:45 a.m. Breakfast by youth
9:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Easter Carnival, April 13

The Easter Carnival is on Saturday April 13th. We are looking for a couple new games this year and need the congregation's help and creativeness. If you have a game idea that you would like to make for this community event, please put your game on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Also needed are plastic eggs filled with candy. Eggs will be in the fellowship hall in another week or so. A big hit every year is the cake walk and it wouldn't be a cake walk without cakes or treats! Please bake a few extras while you are doing your Easter baking and bring them in no sooner than Wednesday, April 10. This much anticipated community event cannot happen without you!! Please sign up to help in anyway that you'd like! Questions? Please contact **Katie Leadholm**, katie-peter@hotmail.com

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Dates to remember:

- April 13
Easter Carnival
- April 14
Palm Sunday
- April 18
Holy Thursday
- April 21
Easter
- April 24
Last Wednesday Night Supper—Potluck

From the pastor...

Mutual Conversation and Consolation

Dear Friends,

“Good Listening = Good Conversation”

As a congregation, you modeled this truth beautifully as we met after worship on Sunday, March 17 to share our thoughts and feelings regarding the UMC’s recent vote to continue (and strengthen) the ban on same-sex marriage and LGBTQ+ ordinations at the Special General Conference in St. Louis in February.

I was so pleased to see the generous attendance from our congregation who were able to attend this meeting. I’d like to affirm their good listening skills, which in turn, led to the important, fruitful, respectful, and good conversation that I was hoping and praying for. I dare say everyone present at that meeting left feeling listened to, encouraged, and fulfilled. God’s presence in the Holy Spirit was felt by all because of how well we listened to and encouraged one another, despite differing theological and scriptural understandings.

The presence of the Spirit that was felt, I believe, is what Martin Luther referred to as the *mutual conversation and consolation of the saints*. Luther believed such mutual conversation and consolation of the saints was almost sacramental – right up there with Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. He felt that in the same ways God uses baptism and holy communion to bestow upon us His grace, so does He through mutual conversation and consolation. I believe God’s grace was bestowed upon all in attendance at our meeting that day, as we participated in mutual, kind, intelligent, and faithful conversation regarding a divisive matter of faith and life. It was sacramental, for sure.

In my sermon that morning, in reference to Jesus’ desire to gather us close to Him as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings, I reminded how Jesus is calling us to *“Come home. My nest is filled with people like you – and perhaps not like you – people I created – people I love – people I long to be close to and in relationship with. It’s a messy nest – this family of God; this church of mine on earth; people wander off, get lost and come and go all the time.”*

That’s the thing about communities of faith who regularly gather together to make sense of faith and life – they’re messy – but in a beautiful way.

Churches are one of the last places within our current social and political landscape where we rub shoulders with people who hold different values and views from us. Churches are one of the only places in our divided society where people of different races and socioeconomic status spend time together engaging in meaningful connection and conversation. Churches are among those few places with intergenerational connection, where children can learn to form healthy friendships with adults outside their own families. It’s messy, but it’s beautiful. It’s in churches where we get to practice forgiveness and reconciliation, where we get to share joy with others when we are close to God, where we can be supported and comforted in the midst of our grief and pain, and where we can draw inspiration from others when we begin to stray as followers of Jesus. Church is where we are given the freedom to try to figure out what it means to follow Jesus in this crazy, divided, conflicted, and amazing world of ours.

The tenth chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews says this, *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.”* (Hebrews 10:24-25)

I am thankful for the way Christians spurred one another on “toward love and good deeds” at our meeting that day. While helpful for the matter at hand, I also believe the mutual conversation and consolation that was demonstrated will shape who we are and how we converse, in general, moving forward.

For all who were able to attend, I thank you – for your kindness, your respect, your vulnerability, your openness, your commitment, your faithfulness, your prayers, and mostly – your love.

Coming to church matters – *always – but especially, for such a time as this.*

Thank you. God bless you.

Pr. Dale



In Our Prayers...

Cole Anderson; Sandy Danielson; Brad Elshaug; Brian Elshaug; Rusty Johnson; George Hultman; Olga Determan; Steve Graves; Rebecca Ervasti

Pastoral Care

Hospitals no longer telephone churches, because of the privacy act, to let us know that one of our members have been admitted.

Please notify the church office, 257-4306, if you desire pastoral care for illness, hospitalizations, or surgeries.

HELP

Health Equipment Lending Program

Do you or someone you know need temporary medical equipment?

HELP began in 2010 with the idea of three men from the community (two from Trinity Lutheran Church and one from First UMC) who saw the need for health equipment to be available to all who may have need of it.

HELP offers used medical equipment to anyone with a temporary need. The equipment can be "borrowed" for up to six months, but can be extended with a phone call for a maximum borrow time of one year. The equipment is housed at First UMC.

The equipment is donated by individuals and health care providers. It is cleaned and sanitized before being issued for use.

Call the church office, 257-4306, for information on what equipment is available for your use or to donate used equipment.

Nursery

We are pleased to be able to provide a Nursery during the worship service. It is designed for infants through 2 years.

Children are always welcome in the worship service.

Birthdays!



Kyle Sparby.....April 1
Cheryl Lecy.....April 3
Dianne Hagenstad.....April 10
Kathy Larsen.....April 10
John Thorvaldson.....April 11
Tim Ploog.....April 13
Scott Lecy.....April 17
Tom Lundberg.....April 19
Colleen Kopp.....April 23
Karen Hanson.....April 24
Marlys Polzine.....April 24
Dorothy Lecy.....April 27
Pauline Heilig.....April 28
Marna Gerke.....April 30



Purchased something for the church?

To get an accurate count of giving to the church, please let us know if you have purchased something for the church but have not asked for reimbursement. We will list that purchase on your giving statement as a "gift-in-kind" so it will show on your contribution statement and the church knows how much is being given.

If you have any questions, please contact **Linda Ploog** 651-257-3323.

FUMC Foundation Funds

The Foundation Board would like to inform you that if you are involved with a church related activity and need some funds to help finance an event, we may be able to assist you. To get more information, talk with **Donn Arnold** or any other board member.

Applications for the grants are available in the church office or from **Donn Arnold**.

Unidos en Cristo weekends Experience New Testament Christianity

Unidos en Cristo (formally Cursillo) is a 3-day learning, sharing and inspirational experience of living in a Christian community. During the three days of a week-end, a person experiences authentic Christian fellowship and the joy of being part of a genuine Christian community.

2019

No information is available at this time.

If you would like to participate in an Unidos en Cristo weekend or would like more information, please contact **Scott or Cheryl Lecy**, 651-462-5725.

Prison Ministry...if you're interested in Charis Prison Ministry, please contact **Jim or Connie Buelow**, 651-465-3024.

Monthly Giving update

Our General Fund Budget for 2019 is \$192,053, which becomes \$16,004 per month.

General Fund giving for February was \$10,804.

Thank you for your support of our ministries!

Worship Attendance in March

March 3—72

March 10—37

March 17—113

March 24—105

Newsletter sent before March 31...



Church Council Minutes

March 19, 2019

Pastor Dale, Erin Thorvaldson, Craig Stockel, Lloyd Jones, Scott Lecy, Terry Keesee

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Meetings will be moved from the third to the second Tuesday of the month. Light will be placed near sidewalk on South Parking lot.

FOUNDATION: N/A

MISSIONS: Adrienne Stegmeir will serve as Chairperson of this committee. Thank you, Adrienne!

PUBLICITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA: Erin T. and Pastor Dale regularly post updates about events/activities. Erin T. recently posted Easter Carnival update. Pastor Dale posted updates from Special General Conference and Wednesday evening Lenten Bible Studies.

LAY LEADER: Craig Stockel will lead worship on Sunday, March 31. Paul Prokosch will deliver the message.

FINANCE: All is well. We have 5 Sundays in March. That's good! Year-to-date about a \$200 difference from February 2018 in total income.

STAFF PARISH: Donn Arnold and Barb Prindle declined chair position. Committee will meet on April 28 to determine a new Chair of the committee. Two new members on the committee are needed.

PASTOR: February was busy with updates and conversations from Special General Conference. Good, productive discussions have been had. Provided updates as they were available. Had a positive meeting after worship on March 17 to discuss feelings surrounding decision of Special General Conference. Keeping busy with sermon/Bible study prep, worship planning, counseling and home visits.

WORSHIP DESIGN: In the Lenten season, altar has been done. Working on Maundy Thursday design.

CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRIES: Confirmation program has ended for 2018-2019 program year. There will be an end of the year get together with Club Rock and confirmation programs combined. Sarah Clark is working on a fundraiser for Camp and Mission Trip. Will Caldwell will be confirmed this Spring.

ADULT MINISTRIES: Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening Bible studies going well.

EASTER CARNIVAL: Saturday April 13th – watch for sign ups, help spread the word.

EASTER BREAKFAST: Before service on Easter Sunday

TEEN CHALLENGE: June 23rd

Meeting adjourned: 8:44 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by:
Erin Thorvaldson

This 'n' That
By Juanita Morgan

Two new refrigerators and an upright freezer are now installed in our church kitchen. **Lloyd Jones**, Trustees Chair, made all the arrangements with Karl's Appliances in North Branch. Delivery was made March 11. The service men removed the old refrigerators and brought in the new appliances. Ron and I removed and replaced refrigerated/frozen items, from the old to the new.

These appliances are a donation from Hope Circle. We saved money that was given to Hope Circle for providing funeral lunches. So if you thanked the Circle with a monetary gift in memory of a loved one, you, too, have made this purchase possible. Many thanks to Lloyd and Hope Circle!



Our church is blessed to have so many gifted 'music makers': vocal and instrumental. Bell players frequently share their expertise during Sunday worship. What a lovely sight and sound they make! The coordination of the bell ringers is amazing as they together produce a beautiful piece of Christian music. We even have some children learning to play Bells, thanks to the leadership of **Katie Leadholm**. We thank you all. Pictured: L-R, **Patsy Berglund, Sue Hanvey, Lois Anderson, Cindy Kopp, Kay Oien, Adrienne Stegmeir, and Dick Berglund**.



Hope Circle: A group of Friends, Drawn together by Christ, Sharing His Love, Learning His Truth, Sharing His Peace.

This was written on the inside cover of the Hope Circle Log Book begun in 1981.





Meals on Wheels Deliverers

April 1—Marvin Hultquist

April 2—Ron & Juanita Morgan

April 3—Gary Gerke

April 4—Donn & Sharlene Arnold

April 5—Greg McCarthy

April 8—Michelle Gillespie

April 9—Cindy Kopp

April 10—Larry & Shirley Knopf

April 11—Irv & Dorothy Lecy

April 12—Jim & Joyce Stafki

April 15—Phil & Joan DeMunck

April 16—Grace Schmidt & Erma Broecker

April 17—Lois Anderson & Judy Pierre

April 18—Harold & Jan Lovaas

April 19—Bonnie Vasatka

April 22—Jim & Joyce Stafki

April 23—Jan Gravelle & Diana Westrum

April 24—Bonnie Bielicki

April 25—Jon Glader

April 26—Dick Berglund & Wally Ostlie

April 29—Georgia Burg

April 30—Fred Prindle

Meals on Wheels Coordinator:

Juanita Morgan, 257-9268

Tech Ministries Schedule

April 7 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Kay Oien

April 14 – Sound: Craig Stockel

Accompanist: Kay Oien

April 21 – Sound: Scott Lecy

Accompanist: Kay Oien

April 28 – Sound: Needed

Accompanist: Sue Hanvey

Hope Circle meeting...

Hope Circle will be meeting Thursday, April 11 at 9:30 a.m. All women of the church are invited!



Prayer Chain

If you would like a request for prayer to go out on our Prayer Chain, please call **Connie Buelow, 651-465-3024**, or **Lois Anderson, 651-213-1036**, or the church office, 257-4306.

Would you like to be a part of the Prayer Chain? Please call the church office for more information.

Can we be of help?

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday,

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Pastor Dale is available to help you with your spiritual journey and the door is open most mornings. Please give us a call at 257-4306 if we can be of help to you in any way.

Church email address:

office@lindstrommethodist.org

Pastor Dale's email address:

dale@lindstrommethodist.org

Sunday Messages available online

Pastor Dale's Sunday messages are posted to our website: www.lindstrommethodist.org the week following the service.

Pastor Dale writes a blog on the website and posts it on Tuesdays.

Weekly Electronic News (eNews) from First UMC delivered to your computer or smartphone every Monday morning. Subscribe on our church website today!

April 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6p Bell Choir	2 8:30a Lenten "Groove" 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church	3 5p Family Dinner 5:30p Youth Bells 6p Adult Bible Study NO Choir 7p Worship Team	4 8:30a Lenten "Groove"	5 Pastor's Day Off 5:30p Club Rock	6
7 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship	8 6p Bell Choir	9 8:30a Lenten "Groove" 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church 6:30p Trustees	10 5p Family Dinner 5:30p Youth Bells 6p LAST Adult Bible Study 7p Choir 8p Worship Team	11 8:30a Lenten "Groove" 9:30a Hope Circle	12 Pastor's Day Off	13 10a Easter Carnival!
14 Palm Sunday 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 	15 6p Bell Choir	16 8:30a Lenten "Groove" 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church 7p Finance 8p Church Council Newsletter deadline	17 No Activities 7p Choir	18 Holy Thursday 7p Worship Service 	19 Good Friday Pastor's Day Off	20 Holy Saturday
21 Easter! 7:30-8:45a Breakfast 9:00a Worship 	22 6p Bell Choir	23 9:15a Women's Bible Study @ church	24 5p LAST Family Dinner Potluck 5:30p Youth Bells NO Adult Bible Study NO Choir 7p Worship Team	25	26 Pastor's Day Off	27
28 9:00a Worship/ Sunday School 10:15a Fellowship 10:30a Staff/Parish Relations Committee	29 6p Bell Choir	30	Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:00a – 2:30p			

First United Methodist Church
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lindstrommethodist.org

Address Service Requested
Contains dated material

Sent with a prayer to:

April 2019



First United Methodist Church Pastor Dale Stiles

Practicing Grace Until We Are Perfected In Love

The *Grace Courier* is a monthly publication of First United Methodist Church.

Deadline: the third Tuesday of each month for inclusion in the next month's publication.

Articles received after this date will not be printed. Place articles in the secretary's mailbox, on the desk in the office or email them to the church. The editor reserves the right to edit any material submitted for publication.

We welcome you to worship with us!

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Children leave for Sunday School during Worship

Coffee fellowship 10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Activities:

5:00p Family Dinner

6:00p Adult Bible Study

7:00p Confirmation

7:00p Choir

Our Ministry Team:

Pastor...

Administrative Secretary / Treasurer...

Children's Coordinator...

Choir Director...

Church Council Chairperson...

Custodian...

Finance Chairperson...

Financial Secretary...

Foundation Chairperson...

Lay Leader...

Lay Member to Annual Conference...

Mission Chairperson...

Staff/Parish Relations Chairperson...

Trustees Chairperson...

Worship Team Leader...

Youth Coordinator...

Dale Stiles

Carol Schmidt

Erin Thorvaldson

Kay Oien

Terry Keesee

Cheryl Hultquist

Scott Lecy

Linda Ploog

Donn Arnold

Craig Stockel

Adrienne Stegmeir

Lloyd Jones

Beth Lunsford

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