

LINWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4424 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46201
(317) 357-8771
Rev. Carolyn Watkins, Senior Pastor
Email: linwoodcc@sbcglobal.net



The Linwood Lindy



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“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

Matthew 25:35-36

In the weeks between now and Christmas we will have plenty of opportunities to welcome strangers and friends into our faith community. And it's easy to invite friends, because we know them and there's no awkward need to break the ice. We can introduce them to other church friends and we have a point of reference to begin conversation.

Welcoming strangers, on the other hand, is more difficult, especially if you are naturally shy; even more especially if the newcomers are naturally shy, too. And yet, welcoming the stranger is vitally important for Christian communities. In the book of Deuteronomy, God tells the people, “You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” God asks the Israelites to remember how uncomfortable it was to be in a strange place, and asks them to empathize with those who found themselves strangers in Israel.

This Sunday we will be worshiping downstairs around the dinner tables as we did two years ago. Think about what it's like to go someplace for the first time. Remember the feeling of uncertainty, the concern that you might be accidentally sitting in someone else's seat. If you see someone sitting by themselves, invite them to sit with you, or ask if you can join them. Introduce them to others around you. Pay attention to questions they might have about what is going to happen.

In other words, BE the neighbor Jesus asks you to be!

Blessings,
Pastor Carolyn

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Health Issues:

Juanita Adams
Dottie Baugh
Danny Cox
Mikki Sanders
Sandy Turner

Glenda Gonzales
Joe Frazer
Gil Burris
Dorothy Snyder
Dana Crapo

Marty Lord
Janie Gorton
Emma Edwards
Kathy Coe
Linne Hoyt-Kerns



Prayers have been asked for:

Earl Ivory, Lanetta Birdsong, Danielle Chislom, Sue Moye, Lyla McGlinchey, Roger Freeman, Luke Alberts, Steve & Pam Etheridge, Doris Mink, Doug Hartley, Sandy Freeman, Jerry & Sue Meyers, Phillip Bruce, Fred Fowler, James Hemphill, Ronnie Hagler, Shirley Hauger, Ben Wiseman, Bobby Powell, Nelda Armstrong, Les Squire, Virginia Childs, Kathy Freeman, Brian & Robin Baxter, Jean Williams, Betty Turner, Frank Lamar, Michael Wemhoff, Barbra Cooper, Norma Crosby, Jolene McClusky, Carla Hatton, Gary Light, Tracy Hagler, David Reeves, Sonya Hicks, Rebakah Cochran, Karen Damon, Suzanne Burgdoff, Lee Motley, Jim Thistlewaite, Sue Hendrickson, Elizabeth Anne Davis, J.R. Williams, Dale Wright, Debbie Hartley Cooper, Leticia Santiago, Jajaira Santiago, Millie Yant, Russ Smith, Michael Henegen.

We join with God's loving concern for those facing life's difficult times:

Lisa Johnson, David Palusko, Paul Palusko, Teresa McQueen, Don McSwain, Karl & Melissa, Phillip Bruce family, Leisa Schmid, Kristi Walton, Jill & Lee McCorry family, Melissa Benton & family, Tracy Nelson, Brian Lawson.

ONCE AGAIN WE ARE SO GREATLY BLESSED WITH THOSE VOLUNTEERS WHO ACT AS GREETERS. LITURGISTS AND CHILDREN'S MESSENGERS. THANKS TO THOSE SERVING IN OCTOBER.

Scott, Skylar & Evan Stackhouse
Gary Harding
Sharon Williams
Kathy Harding

Vickie Pastrick
Beth Aubrey Meyer
Lynne Kreiger
Ron Pastrick

Aaron Harding
Kyle & Vicky Shickles
Kelly & Andy Martin

October Posy Pots

"Deepest Sympathy to Kathy Shickles and family & friends of Kathy's sister, Margene (Genie) Caplinger who passed away October 2, 201" from Handbells & Choir.

"Happy 40th wedding anniversary to my wife, Kathy" from Gary Harding

"Happy Healing, Dana Crapo" from Handbells & Choir

Food Pantry Updates

There will be NO Food Pantry on Wednesday November 22nd instead it will be held Monday November 20th. Starting in December the Food Pantry will have NEW Hours of 10am- 12:30pm!

Out to Pastor, Minister of Community Relationships, Lynne Kreiger

Had a wonderful phone call to a family member that lives out of state the other day. The most interesting part of our conversation was our exchange about how beautiful the trees have been this fall and that there have been days where the weather has been so perfect, that it has been a joy just to be out in it, experiencing it, even when doing humdrum activities like going to the bank and filling the gas tank in the car. You see, this family member has lived in New Orleans for the last forty something years and hasn't been around to see the foliage change since the Captain and Tennille were hoping love would keep us together. She has great memories of growing up here and maybe some advantage in that she lived here before the time when everyone had central air conditioning and came inside instead of spending long parts of the day on various porches, seeking the breezes that made life comfortable back then.

I tried to describe the many trees and their colors this fall and the magnificence and wonder that it strikes in my heart when I come across a particularly fabulous maple or ginkgo or sweet gum, or even some unbelievably terrific vista that shows every possible shade that nature is gladly displaying with unbelievable joy. Really, there have been moments that I should have pulled over, when my driving was so affected by the beauty of what I was seeing. Of course, my efforts fell short, because there really are no words to describe what I was seeing. However, my efforts were supported by her memories, and in them trees and views that have long vanished from our Indiana landscape lived once again and brought her happiness. We are so blessed to be able to carry forward great memories into our current days. The joys of today are made more striking when they are underscored by the happiness of the past. Finding Uncle Bob's handsome nose on the face of a newborn brings a delight that otherwise is diminished or lost when memories of Uncle Bob's kindness and good heart are forgotten.

This has made me resolve to think about the many wonderful memories that I have and to actively build new happy ones by not letting the happy moments pass by without notice. Like the leaves on the trees that are desperately waving their beautiful leaves for our notice, the people around us, whether family, friends, or strangers and their funny, loving, good hearted ways contain gifts of future joy if only we stop to notice.

All Saints Sunday *November 5, 2017* *Linwood Christian Church*

**Gary Brewer
Gloria Brewer
Charles Brown
Susan Burgdoff
Tom Busich
Margene Caplinger
Brandon Cole
Jeff Cox
Julie Diggs
Sharon Daugherty
Linda Eaton**

**Jackie Wilson
Eugene Thorn
Tom Spahn
Stephen Robbins
Helen Merriman
Hazel Anne Kimmel
Alexis Hogge
Wilbur Lee Harvey
Emily Fields
Jim Ellerbrook
Kenneth Arthur Hendrickson**

**Bonita Jane Westfall
Phyllis Thompson
Doug Smith
Mary Lou Elliott Polesel
John McNichols
Kathy Johnson
Keith Higgins
Lucille Gentry
Steve Falksen
Jerry Eden**

**Steven Mark Van Horne
Martha Sutter
Bill Schapker
Virginia O'Connor
Dorothy McCory
Andrew Jester
Patricia Harding
Elizabeth Garner
Lynn Ervin
Glenda Eck**

Thanksgiving Sunday

This coming Sunday, November 19, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving together as a church. We plan to worship in the Fellowship Hall around the dinner tables...some of us enjoyed the less formal, cozier atmosphere from a couple of years ago when the boiler was out, so we're going to try it again, just this one Sunday. This will also make less work for those in charge of the cornucopia, the fruits and vegetables for the food pantry that will decorate the worship space.

Just remember: don't eat your pie until worship is over!

Christmas is Coming!

The time between Thanksgiving and New Years is one of the best around Linwood. We have special events planned, and hope that you will invite your friends and neighbors to join us for some of them. Here is a quick run-down:

November 19	Thanksgiving Dinner after church
December 2	Hanging of the Greens Prepare cookie boxes for Food Pantry—we need a bazillion!
December 3	First Sunday of Advent Christmas Family Sing-along and dessert buffet, 6:30 pm
December 10	Second Sunday of Advent
December 17	Third Sunday of Advent
December 24	Fourth Sunday of Advent worship at 10:30 am Christmas Eve Services at 7:00 and 11:00 pm

Please note that this year is a bit different from usual. The first Sunday of Advent is not the Sunday after Thanksgiving as it often is. Also, the fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. That means that we are going to have a LOT of church that day. We will light the 4th candle of the Advent Wreath in the morning, but then we will welcome the birth of Jesus in the evening. At 7:00pm we will have our informal family friendly service in fellowship hall followed by snacks and conversation (and maybe we'll be able to track Santa this year...) At 11:00 we'll have our traditional Candlelight Service.

Christmas Families

We need your help! Each year at Christmas we help families from our food pantry area provide Christmas presents for their children. There are two ways you can help. First, we need to collect enough money; we try to raise about \$3,000 each year to distribute to the different families facing tough times. Second, we need people to take the parents shopping; this way the parents can choose what their children really need, and they have transportation and company while shopping. Please send in your donations to the church office or put them in the offering plate (marked “Christmas Families”) and contact Sherry Elliott if you would like to help with the shopping.

Count Your Blessings!

We saw who you “hung around with” this summer as pictures appeared on the clothesline in the church hall. As we finish out the year with Thanksgiving and Christmas, let's see how God has blessed you this year. A new grandchild? A stunningly beautiful sunset? A family gathering? The ability to work at a job you love? Recovery from illness?

Start bringing in pictures to share of the glimpses of God and God's blessings in your life and in the lives of those around you. We'll look forward each week to see how things progress!

A Note from Beth:

On Saturday, December 2, we really need your help with our Cookie Box Assembly project. We will assemble approximately one bazillion homemade cookies into boxes to give as gifts of love to our Food Pantry clients during the month of December. We have this project down to a science so it doesn't take too long and is really pretty fun! So...GET BUSY!! We are counting on you to bake, bake, bake and get those delicious cookies over to church before noon on that day so they can be assembled into the boxes. Each box will contain 2 dozen assorted cookies so we really do need lots! If you bring cookies to church during the week, please put them in the refrigerator in the church kitchen for safekeeping. Any questions about any of this stuff? Call Beth (317-796-7743).

Sunday, December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent this year so, not only will we be celebrating the Sunday of Hope in worship with a beautiful musical candle lighting liturgy, but we will gather again in the evening for our traditional Christmas Family Sing-Along! This year we will have as our special guests The Technicians Show Choir from Arsenal Tech High School. We will also have our traditional Rummage Room Christmas Boutique set up for your shopping pleasure during the evening! We will wrap up the whole night with a wonderful Dessert Pitch-In. It is a great way to kick off your holiday season. Be sure to invite the whole gang!! Here is the schedule:

6:30 PM - Bell Choir Prelude

7:00 PM - Singing

8:00 PM - Dessert

Christmas is coming, and as we look back on 2017, and count all the blessings Linwood has received, there are too many to list. We now have an opportunity to give blessings to others. There are Children of our Food Pantry Patrons that might not have much of a Christmas and we can help with each of us giving, and providing the surprise each child will have on Christmas Day.

As we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, let us share with neighborhood friends the true meaning of Christmas, and provide the Hope, Joy, Peace and Love that each of us live each day.

The real Joy of doing this each year is taking each Mother or Father shopping, and listening to their stories, and hoping I can give them a little hope, a little peace and a lot of love and joy, because in doing this I receive all of these and it makes my Christmas season so special.

So I am just asking that if you are able to give a little, so that we can give so much more to these Children, and make their Christmas more special!

Please send or bring you donation to Church, and mark for the Family Christmas Fund. God Bless each of you, and hope you receive all the Hope, Peace, Love and Joy this Christmas season.

Sherry Elliott

A special thank you; kudos to our church treasurer, Jan Sharp. All the congregation knew was that Linwood received a grant for \$50,000 for a three month sabbatical for our minister and our congregation. Jan had to keep it separate from our regular budget items and keep the records straight. That could not have been easy. Thank you, Jan, for a great job.

-Anonymous

PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET		Proposed
DEPARTMENT	Line #	2018 BUDGET
<u>Christian Ed</u>		
Sunday School	21	\$200.00
Totals		\$200.00
<u>Membership</u>		
Reception	42	\$50.00
Picnic	43	
Church Dinners	44	\$550.00
Totals		\$600.00
<u>Property</u>		
Utilities	50	\$16,400.00
Insurance	51	\$10,600.00
Janitor Supplies	52	\$1,600.00
AED Machine	53	\$1,200.00
Organ/Piano Service	54	\$1,200.00
Building Repairs	55	\$3,700.00
Phone & Internet	56	\$2,500.00
Boiler & HVAC repairs	57	\$3,000.00
Sewer Taxes	59	\$300.00
Copier	58	\$3,200.00
Totals		\$43,700.00
<u>Stewardship & Finance</u>		
Misc Supplies	60	\$250.00
Financial Campaign	61	\$25.00
Envelopes for Giving	62	\$250.00
Postage	63	\$240.00
Totals		\$765.00
<u>World Outreach</u>		
D M F	70	\$0.00
Totals		\$0.00
<u>Worship and Fine Arts</u>		
Communion	82	\$400.00
Flowers & grad gifts (Mother & Father's Day)	83	\$100.00
Totals		\$500.00
<u>General Administration</u>		
Minister's Salary	100	\$22,307.00
Minister's Pension	101	\$4,660.00
Minister's Housing	102	\$12,360.00
Minister's SS Offset	104	\$0.00
Minister's Car & Personal Business	112	\$300.00
Minister's Books & Continuing Education	114	\$200.00
Minister's Convention & Assembly	115	\$500.00
Minister's Package Subtotal		\$40,327.00
Minister's Health Care	103	\$16,881.00
Church Custodian	109	\$9,834.00
Social Security	110	\$2,500.00
Organist/Choir Director Salary	116	\$12,766.00
Substitute Organist	117	\$375.00
Substitute Minister	118	\$400.00
Subtotal		\$42,756.00
Totals		\$83,083.00
<u>General Expenses</u>		
Postage	121	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	124	\$1,600.00
Totals		\$2,600.00
Total		\$131,448.00

