

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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Number 1

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?,, Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:6-8

My most indelible memory of the comic, *Dennis the Menace*, is of Dennis sitting in the corner as punishment for misbehavior. The second most is of his long-suffering neighbor, Mr. Wilson, grumbling about some irritating thing that Dennis has done. The comic is amusing, because we have all lived through similar situations, both as a child learning the difference between right and wrong, and as an adult, trying to teach the difference.

What is clear, however, is that we never really outgrow the need to pay attention to the difference between right and wrong. We face those choices every day, and sometimes the difference between right and wrong is not so obvious. The choices we face often have both good and bad consequences, and we are left unsure of what to do.

The Bible is a record of the people of God as they attempted to be faithful to God’s call to do good instead of evil, to choose right rather than wrong. As the above passage from Micah indicates, it was always a struggle. It also appears that the traditional means of making amends...making burnt offerings, sacrificing animals, giving one’s first born...did not seem to be enough. The questioner sincerely wants to know what he should do to make amends.

The answer, though, is simple enough. Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God.

We are still left with the question of how to do justice in a complicated world and while we want to be kind, sometimes it is harder than it appears. But maybe the key is the last phrase...walk humbly with God. When we remember that we do not know all the answers, we do not even know what unintended consequences my come of the decisions we make, when we accept the fact that we might never be perfect, but that we will always be perfectly loved by God, maybe that is the key to making amends for the wrong decisions we make.

As our nation begins a new chapter in the midst of a massive political divide, we are still called to do justice, love kindness, and walk humble with God. If God’s people keep this one verse of scripture in mind, perhaps we can find a way to reconcile with one another and to build the beloved community that God envisions for us.

Grace and Peace be with you,
Pastor Carolyn

In Our Thoughts & Prayers:

Health Issues:

Glenda Gonzales

Mikki Sanders

Betty Frazer

Karen Jones

Gary & Sherry Elliott

Dottie Baugh

Martha Etheridge

Donna Metzger

Mark Merriman

Gary Harding

Doreta Terry

Beth Aubrey Meyer

Marilyn Henegen

Kathy Harding

John McMillan



We send our condolences to: Marilyn Henegen's friend Tom King, whose wife Linda passed away last week; to

Prayers have been asked for:

Earl Ivory, Luke Alberts, Jerry & Sue Meyers, Patty Dennison, Joni Csaba, Cora DeMasters, Brian Slowinski, Ema Parson, Lewis Brown, Tracey Hagler, Kristen Rossick and baby, Laurelle Zarins, Michael Griffith, Bob Thornton, Jackie Robbins, Kendall Robbins, JR Haner, Susan Moore, Dan Napier, Mike Polesel, Joe Manning, Jill McCorry, Kathy Shickles' friend Rodney, Martha Reyes, Tara Ivory, Mark Cooper, Kristi Walton's cousin Jimmy, Jessica Holcomb, Jim Cecil, Carolyn Hollingsworth, Greg Bowles, Katie Taylor, Jason Daniel Illari, Theresa White, Penny Webb, Sandy Gardner, Ken Burris, Andy Wysong, Valerie Sweeney, Janet Lawrence's father-in-law's friend, Buddy, Carol Richard, Joyce Burris Gant, Greg Gehring, Christian Gehring, Russ Lawrence, Kennedy Rogers, Wade Shaw, Bill Rainwater, Niccole Willoughby, Susan McDanina, Randy and Dawn Paulin, Isaac Gill, JD Reed, Judy Mecher's daughter Patty, David Baugh, Nona and John Haendegis, Steve and Linda Belding, Julie and Jim Gray.

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

Mackenzie Cole, Jenny Gonzales, Alex Brown, Tyler, Sayrah, Brian, and Jacob Martin, Ed Urban, Allison Harding Jeff White, Linne Hoyt-Kerns, Martha and Sidia's families, Richard and Donna Hasse.

We send our condolences to: Marilyn Henegen's friend Tom King, whose wife Linda passed away last week; the family of Ken Burris who passed away last week; Ken was the son of Gil and Marguerite Burris, and brother to Mack and Ka; to the family of Betty Allen who passed away last week. Betty was the mother of the Kerr's nephew, Shawn; the family of the Harding family's friend, Helen M. Batuello, who passed away 2 weeks ago; families of Rickey Wysong and Kathy Rhyneanson, both of whom passed earlier in December and are cousins of Janet Lawrence; the family of Louie Floyd who died in a car accident this past week, and to the family of Nicole Watson who also died in a car accident recently; the family of Silvia Martin's friend, Shirley Gollmer, who passed away recently.

We rejoice with: Doreta Terry on the Christmas Eve birth of great-niece, Ellie Marie, daughter of Amanda and Zach Case and to Vicky and Kyle Shickles, who welcomed a precious baby girl Thursday evening, December 10 at 7:57. Vivian Louise Shickles weighed 6 lbs, 3 oz and 18" long. Grandparents are Ron and Kathy Shickles.

Restoration Update

Not a lot has changed since the last article. The restoration is in it's final parts. The Sanctuary is 90% finished. Carpet, tile, and pews are in place. We are working on the cleaning of the organ. Window treatment is going to be scheduled for this summer, due to work back load of installer. Final decisions regarding the office are in the works.

Yes, it is getting closer.
Rich Sharp

Notes From Stewardship & Finance -

Thank you to the congregation for approving the budget for 2021. If anyone would still like to make a pledge for 2021 please contact me and I will be glad to send you a pledge form.

We do have weekly giving envelopes and will be distributing those to anyone who would like to receive them. Please let me know if you would like to receive giving envelopes for the 2021 calendar year.

Wonderful messages from the mail room:

Merry Christmas from the Allisonville Card Club

Merry Christmas from Allisonville Christian Church

Thanks for all you do for your neighborhood. I know the needs are greater than ever.

God Bless America & Linwood

With Love and Blessings, Naomi Circle Ladies. Centenary Christian Church

God Bless all of you

"...in memory of Letta & Claude Lett (my grandparents), Minnie & Mack Wilson (aunt and uncle of my grandfather), Matle (Wilson) and Harry Hanna (also aunt and uncle of my grandfather), and Virginia (Lett) & John Goodnight (my parents). All were long time members of Linwood. Linwood will always hold a special place in my heart and the hearts of my four cousins. Yours, Jenny Goodnight Yarian-ScalPELLi"

Sincerely,

April McManus
Chairperson Stewardship & Finance Committee
317-408-9103
april.kathleen@sbcglobal.net