

Linden Letter

October 2022

Scripture: Psalm 30:4-5 (NRSV) ⁴ *Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.* ⁵ *For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.*

Pastor's Message

I was reading a devotional a few days ago and the author said that we should "rise with joy" every day. He was not speaking of the resurrection, but a daily attitude that we should assume when waking in the morning. I know that some people are "morning people." They bounce out of bed with the rising of the sun, happy to be up and wide awake. Some like the morning but need a cup of coffee or two before finding their cheerful selves. Others would rather have morning happen a little later in the day.

The point of the devotional wasn't that we should love mornings, but that we should begin each day with joy, giving thanks to God for the day and for the possibilities that the day holds. What would it be like to start each day with joy? Joy can be hard, especially if we are grieving, hurting, or struggling. However, each of us can begin the day with a "thank-you" to God for giving us the day as a gift to be used for God's purposes. We can begin each day asking God to let us be a blessing to one person that day. We can begin each day with the joy of knowing that no matter what is going on in our lives, God is with us.

This month I invite you to practice rising with joy every day. Give thanks to God, know that the day before you is a gift, and seek the joy that only God can bring.

God's peace and love to you,

Pastor Alicia

Mission & Outreach

Our October Mission focus is Operation Christmas Child 2022

It is that time of the year again! Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes will be available in the breezeway in early October. We ask that you take a box or two to fill, mark whether you will be filling it for a boy or girl and their age. (Please mark the top of the box with that information), and have fun filling your box! Enclosing a personal note to the child receiving the box will be a special treat for him or her also! FYI (**We have learned that boys in the age group of 12-14 receive very few gift boxes**). Your filled boxes will be due back to the church by the 30th of October. You may leave your filled boxes on the table in the Breezeway.

Please fill your box with only the items that are on the list included in your shoebox. Donations for shipping are also welcome.

Thank you for Blessing the children around the world!!

REMINDER: DO NOT INCLUDE: CANDY, FOOD OF ANY KIND, TOOTHPASTE, BUBBLES, LIQUIDS OR LOTIONS, WAR RELATED ITEMS.

Mission & Outreach Updates

We recently donated \$500 to **Helping Up for the women's shelter**.

We had a very successful **collection of school supplies for Pine Grove Elementary School**. Their thank you note said: *"Thank you so much for the school supplies the church donated for our students this year. We could not be more appreciative of your constant support over the years. We are so lucky to have you in our community. Stay safe and be well."*

Upcoming Mission Opportunities:

November: We will collect food for Victor's Vittles, specifically food for Thanksgiving.

From November-February (cold and flu season) we will have an ongoing collection of tissues and hand sanitizers for the classrooms at Pine Grove Elementary School.

December: We will support a family in need for Christmas.

January: We are having a blood drive on January 21. Donors and volunteers are both needed! We will also be putting together birthday celebration kits for families who get food at Victor's Vittles. We want children in need to be able to have a birthday cake, some balloons, and a candle to blow out on their birthday.

Later in the spring we will be working with Bikes for the World.

We are also planning a Day of Service for our congregation and community.

Children & Youth

Bibles will be presented to our 3rd graders on October 16th at the 9:30 Family Service.
Everyone is welcome!

Reverse Trick or Treat: Children, Youth, and their families will be dressing up in costumes and going to Glen Meadows on **Oct. 21st** to hand out goodies to some of the residents. **We will meet there at 5 pm.** Please let Pastor Alicia or Deirdre Duda know if your family will be joining us!

Our **Kids Group** this year will be for children in kindergarten through 4th grade. We will meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month from 3-4 for games, a snack, and a Bible lesson. Our first gathering this year will be Oct. 16th.

Tween Group is a newly formed group for children in the 5th and 6th grades. They are often too old for the younger children activities but too young for conversations with high school youth, so they get their own group this year! This group will meet on the 1st Sunday of each month from 3-4 for games, conversation, and a Bible lesson.

Our **Youth Group** this year will be for children in the 7-12th grades. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month 6:30-8 pm.

*** We are going to the corn maze at Beachmont on Oct. 22nd at 7 pm.** Friends are welcome to attend with permission slips. We want to order tickets ahead of time so that we don't have to stand in line- so Please let Pastor Alicia know if your child is interested in attending no later than Sunday, Oct. 16th!

Prayer Partners Needed!!

Every year we ask every adult in our church to pray for 1 child (or more if you would like!) on a weekly basis. Adult prayer partners are encouraged to send cards or notes to their assigned child. Adults are also encouraged to get to meet the child and their parents for worship or fellowship events. As recent events in our community have proven, it is hard to be a child in the world today. Issues such as violence in our communities and schools, social media, bullying, peer pressure, and the ease with which one can get drugs and alcohol make being a child hard! They need our prayers! We have 33 children affiliated with our church in one way or another. If you are willing to pray for a child, please contact Pastor Alicia or use the sign up genius link below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-praying>

Worship



Over the summer worshipers were invited to submit their favorite songs to sing. We didn't get to all of them, but we did sing quite a number of your favorites! In case you missed it, here is a list of the songs we sang:

"Amazing Grace," "Be Still My Soul," "Because of Who You Are," "Chain Breaker," "Come Thou Fount," "Here I Am, Lord," "Holy, Holy, Holy," "How Can I

Keep From Singing,” “How Great is Our God,” “How Great Thou Art,” “I Can Only Imagine,” “I’ll Fly Away,” “In the Garden,” “It is Well With My Soul,” “Lamb of God,” ”Lord I Need You,” “Old Rugged Cross,” “On Eagle’s Wings,” “Onward Christian Soldiers,” “Raise A Hallelujah,” “Standing on the Promises,” “Way Maker,” “We are Called”

Worship Schedule

On September 11th we resumed our two-worship service format.

* **At 9:30 we have a Family Worship service.** This is an interactive service with elements of VBS, Sunday School, and traditional worship. Most weeks families have an opportunity to talk about the Bible lesson and how it applies to their lives. All are welcome, even if you do not have children in your home!

* **At 10:30 we have our informal traditional service.** You can worship at this service in person or through zoom.

On the 1st Sunday of each month, we will have one, blended service at 10:30 am.

Mark your Calendars- we will celebrate All Saint’s Sunday on November 6th. We will remember and honor those in our congregation who have passed into glory this past year. Everyone will have a chance to light and candle and speak the name of a loved one who has died this past year as well.

Community Outreach

Pancake Supper Report

We had a great turnout for the pancake supper. Thanks to everyone who mad it happen! We plan to do this once a quarter and hope to reach more people in our community. Thank you to everyone who helped at this outreach event!

Our Fall Flea Market has been postponed to October 8th due to rain. If you can help with set up, selling, and/or clean up, at our new date, please let Pastor Alicia or John Smell know!



Trunk or Treat

Our Trunk or Treat will be held this year on **October 30th at 4 pm.** All are invited to decorate a car and hand out candy! Please let Pastor Alicia know if you are interested in participating or sign up using the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-trunk1>

Ministry Team News

Exciting News!

Our leadership Team is in the process of ordering a new electronic sign for the front lawn of our church. (The space for the sign, in line with the garden gate, is marked in white paint on the grass if you are curious about the location. The sign will be set back enough to ensure visibility of traffic.)

Imagine how a colorful, dynamic sign will help us increase our communication with our community and neighbors:

Invite new members...

Announce worship and fellowship times...

Build anticipation for upcoming events...

Encourage neighbors to join in our mission projects...

Share messages of encouragement...

And so much more!

Before the Christmas season, we hope to have installed our new double-sided, full color TEKstar Outdoor LED sign. You can see a sample of what the sign will look like on the flyer in the walkway. The sign is 6' wide by 4' high on a pedestal 2' high. It has an active display case 2'1" X 5'3" and can display 3 lines of changeable lettering and graphics. Communication to the sign is provided by short-range wireless radios. An electrician is being hired to get the electrical wiring out to the sign location, which will require some trench digging.

Our membership has always supported our special project needs with their prayers and their generous gifts. More than 3/4 of the funding for the sign is being provided from Trustees and Memorial Gift funds. We encourage our members to help us pay for the sign by donating to the Improvement Fund or donating in memory of loved ones.

Thank you for your generosity and your support!

Our Church Conference will be held on Thursday, October 13th at 6:30 pm. We will once again have a virtual church conference. The zoom link will be sent out as soon as it is available.

Please lock up when you leave!

We are finding doors unlocked, lights on, and fans on when the building is unoccupied. If you are in the building, please make sure to lock up and shut off all lights and bathroom fans before you leave.

The **Trustees** just had all of the gutters cleaned, tree branches trimmed so that they don't tear off shingles, and gutter guards installed.

We began a relationship with a congregation from the Seventh Day Adventist Church right before the pandemic started. They worshiped in our fellowship hall a few times before they too moved to virtual worship. We are pleased to announce that they have returned to Linden Heights as of Oct. 1. We look forward to getting to know this congregation and hope to find ways to serve God together!

Church Calendar

Sundays Except the first Sunday of the month:

9:30 am Family Worship in the fellowship hall

10:30 am Informal/Traditional worship in the sanctuary & on zoom.

Oct. 8th: Flea Market- set up begins at 6:30 am and the event runs 8am-12

Oct. 10th: Mission & Outreach Team meeting 6 pm in the preschool room
Leadership Team meeting 7 pm in the preschool room

Oct. 13th: Church Conference 6:30 pm on zoom

Oct. 16th: Bibles given to 3rd graders at the 9:30 am worship service
Kids Group 3-4 pm in the fellowship Hall
Youth Group 6:30-8 pm in the youth room

Oct. 21st: Reverse Trunk or Treat 5 pm at Glen Meadows

Oct. 22nd: Beachmont Corn Maze 7-9 pm

Oct. 30th: Trunk or Treat 4 pm in our parking lot

Nov. 6th: All Saint's Sunday at the 10:30 worship service

Mark Your Calendars

Dec. 3rd- Breakfast With Santa

Dec. 17th- Living Nativity

Church Leadership

Pastor: Alicia Vanisko

Pianist: Jin Lee

Community Outreach/

Handbell Director: Deirdre Duda

Leadership Chair/

Children's Ministries: Barb Yingling

SPRC Chair: Dave Conrad

Missions Chair: Debbie Gorshe &

Connie Simmons

Worship Technology: Greg Singer & Brian
Vanisko

Trustee Chair: Frank Barilla

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