

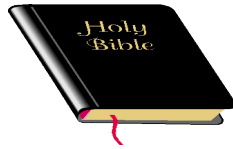


The Linway News

April 2020

To assist in reducing the spread of the Novel Coronavirus in our community, the Linway Session voted on March 30, 2020 to continue our suspension of worship services and church-related activities until April 30th in alignment with the guidelines set forth by the Governor of Pennsylvania.

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! What a difference a few weeks make! I am sitting at my desk writing to you knowing that our Palm Sunday worship, those of the rest of Holy Week, and Easter Sunday worship have been suspended due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. We have never known such a circumstance in our lifetime. The closest that might have come would have been 101-102 years ago with the Pandemic of what was called the Spanish Influenza of 1918. Some worship services may have been suspended then, but I honestly don't know.

At the present time the best way to halt the spread of this pandemic is to practice what is called *social distancing*. Medical science is searching for medicines and medical practices that will aid in people recovering from this scourge. There is encouraging news, but as I write this, it is far too soon to sound the *all clear!* What I can tell you is that as soon as it is safe, we will resume worship and the activities that we believe are part of our calling as followers of Jesus Christ. In the meantime, let's covenant to stay connected. Don't hesitate to periodically call or email friends to see how they are doing. A word of reassurance can lift the fog of discouragement.

Being unable to celebrate Easter in our Lord's Linway Sanctuary this year does not mean that Easter is cancelled. It simply means that we will have the opportunity to observe the greatest celebration in the Christian faith in our homes by tuning in to a video presentation on television or the internet. No matter how it is done, Easter is the celebration of God's desire to have the last word in the human/divine relationship. This is encapsulated in the verses found in the gospel according to John: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten (one and only) Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him* (John 3:16-17).

The Good News for Palm Sunday is that help is on the way for the human situation. The Good News for Easter is that help has ARRIVED! Another way to put this is that God does not leave us to our own devices. God comes to us as promised by God's Word through the prophets. We are not the self-sufficient, powerful people we tend to think we are. The recent Corona Virus Pandemic should be sufficient to prove this point. We are those who, in spite of our achievements, need help. We need help in learning how to live with one another. We need to know and trust what the Apostle Paul wrote to the community of faith in Rome so many years ago:



What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else is all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8: 31-39).

This is the message of Easter. This is the message that hope has arrived. This is the message that the Corona Virus cannot change. This is the message that the Corona Virus or anything else cannot take away. In life and in death, we belong to God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

I hope in the coming days it will be safe for us to come together for worship and service to our Lord Jesus Christ. It will happen. The Good News is for you and for me, and for all who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. As we celebrate the gift of Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord, wherever we celebrate it, let us lift up our hearts to the Lord. God's grace endures forever.

Please review the announcements and information contained in the rest of this newsletter. They will help us to plan for what

we may or may not be allowed to do in the coming days and weeks. I will continue to write a weekly letter with the Scripture readings for the Lord's Day until we receive the all clear.

By the grace of God we are one people and together part of the Body of Christ in this time and place. I look forward to sharing with you the worthy and sacred work of worship, mission, and ministry at our Lord's Linway Church.

Grace & Peace,
Eric E. Dennis, Pastor

Online Video Message

An online video from Rev. Dennis in which he expanded on his message that he shared in the In Touch letter was posted on the [Linway Church Facebook Page](#) on March 29. Future online messages are planned for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, and the remaining Sundays that we do not hold worship service in the sanctuary. [The weekly In Touch letter containing Rev. Dennis' weekly message will continue to be mailed through US Mail and sent by email.](#) Watch your email and the Linway Church Facebook Page for updates regarding future online messages.

Easter Flowers

For those who have placed orders, you will be contacted on whether you wish to have your payment returned or given to the General Fund.



Session Notes

Next Session Meeting: April 21 at 7:00 pm
This will be a phone conference/video call.

Fundraising Committee: Soup Fundraiser

We are sorry we are not able to prepare soup at this time. If you placed an order for soup, you will be contacted regarding your order.

Property Committee

A new outdoor light was installed on the east side of the church to illuminate the East Parking Lot area near the fence. Also, an alarm system was connected to the freezer to send an electronic message should there be a rise in the freezer's temperature.

Members of the Security Committee continue to make daily inspections of the church, as was the procedure prior to the pandemic.

"Buy A Spot" Project: \$3,032 Left to Raise!

Donations have continued to accumulate, and we are happy to share there is only \$3,032 left to raise in order to replace the blacktop on the West Lot. Donations may be mailed to the church. Please designate that it is for the "Buy A Spot Project". THANK YOU for your generosity! Donations are recorded as "Groundskeeping" on your Giving Statement.

Deacons

The Deacon's Palm Sunday Breakfast for this year has been cancelled. At their March 1 meeting, the Deacons voted to give a donation to the following organizations:

- National MS Society
- Lenten Love Box

Texas Roadhouse Rolls Deacon Fundraiser

Unfortunately, Texas Roadhouse is not able to fulfill our fundraiser order and is instead issuing vouchers for our orders. We will notify you when the vouchers are being mailed.

Christian Education Committee



Kids Club Youth Group – activities are suspended until further notice.

Easter Egg Hunt – will not be held.



Linway Retreat NEW DATE: MAY 15-17

It has been decided to move the date of the Linway Retreat from mid-April to May 15-17. Contact Amy 412-352-4385 or Wayne Gida 412-607-8430 by April 26 to reserve your spot for the new retreat date at the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. The theme of this year's retreat is: The Real Truth...Real Life. Bible lessons will focus on Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Some of the planned activities include: campfires, vespers, crafts, discussion, s'mores, ping pong tournament, devotions, sticky buns, Saturday school, laser tag, songs, worship, roasted hot dogs, grey squirrels, the always entertaining skit/talent show, and even more!

Lenten Love Box

Thank you to those who have contributed to our Lenten Love Box in which we collected items & donations for two programs to benefit students in the East Allegheny School District:

- Fueling Future Wildcats gives a bag of food each week to students who may not receive 3 meals a day over the weekend.
- The EA Free Store provides dress code clothing & hygiene items to High School students.

Due to the closure of the schools, these programs are currently on hold. Linway will continue to collect monetary donations to help support them.





Linway's Mission to Feed the Homeless

Unfortunately due to the pandemic, we were unable to carry out our Mission to Feed the Homeless in downtown Pittsburgh in March. Our April Feed the Homeless date has also been cancelled in order to follow the guidelines of social distancing.



Linway Preschool
Classes at Linway Preschool were suspended starting on

March 16. The teachers created and distributed packets to the students so that they may continue working on their A,B,C's and 1,2,3's at home. The teachers are working on holding online preschool meetings with their classes, allowing the students to see and talk with their teachers and classmates.

The Open House which was scheduled for March 18 has been postponed. However, registration for the 2020-21 school year is continuing. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling a child in Linway Preschool starting this August, please contact the church office at 412-824-3555 and we can mail a registration form or provide more information.

EA Students Receive Sack Lunches

Kaitlyn Gida, who organizes Fueling Future Wildcats, has shifted her focus to assisting with distributing sack lunches to students in the East Allegheny School District. Upon the closure of the schools, EA set-up over a dozen daily pick-up locations for students to get a sack lunch, and Linway's front steps were a pick-up location from March 16-27. The pick-up locations have been consolidated and student lunches are no longer being passed out at Linway.



Meals on Wheels
During this pandemic, Meals on Wheels is

continuing to operate out of the Linway kitchen in order to provide meals for their clients. They are providing 5 meals a week but have consolidated their food preparation and delivery to 3 days a week.

Linway Church is scheduled to provide desserts for Meals on Wheels April 13-17 and April 20-24. If you would like to provide store-bought, sealed cookies, please take them to the church kitchen Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 7:00 am–11:00 am. They cannot accept home-made items. If you wish to send money towards a dessert, please mail your check to: Meals on Wheels

600 Lincoln Highway,
North Versailles, PA 15137.



Please remember the following in our prayers:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Helen Alexander | Anne & Phil |
| John Arnold | Betty Brinker |
| Charlotte | Bill Chobanic |
| Clay & Lois | Dorothy |
| Cindy Druga | Mike Feigh |
| Betty Frommell | Gloria |
| Jason & Jackie | Jill |
| Karen | Tim King |
| Edward Lloyd | Sarah Naugle |
| Nellie Nicholls | Nan Oskin |
| Carol Pascarella | Pat |
| Fran Pepler | Ann Puscaric |
| Renee | Doreen Sever |
| Linda Smith | Michelle Smith |
| Cindy Taylor | Jim Welsh |
| Irene Young | |





Happy April Anniversary to:

Ashley & Kurt Hillgartner
Kim & David Brown
Nancy & Steve Hilbert
Sandy & Clare Hillgartner
Mary Lou & Denny Bernhardt



Happy April Birthday to:

Nancy Waszkiewicz	Frank Fawcett
Amy Gida	Gary Walters
Wesson Hillgartner	Betty Brinker
Gwenn Heshizer	Zachary Hilbert
Carol Pascarella	Judy Augustin
Gwen DeSarno	Shannon Daugherty
Linda Wetzler	Andrew Dennis
Jason Dusak	Donald Churchfield
Chris Alexander	



We extend our sympathy to the family of Rev. Dr. John H. MacLeod who went home to be with our Lord on February 27. He was 94 years old. Rev. Dr. MacLeod was Linway's interim pastor just prior to Rev. Dennis becoming our pastor.

Saw this online and wanted to share with you:

When This Pandemic Ends

When this ends – and I KNOW IT WILL –
Every game will sell out
Every restaurant will have a 2-hour wait
Every kid will be glad to be in school
Everyone will love their job
The stock market will skyrocket
Every other house will get TP'd
We'll all embrace and shake hands
That will be a pretty good day!

VFW Community Food Share

VFW Post 8430 on Broadway in East McKeesport has started a Community Food Share. Hours are noon – 7:00 p.m. It's on the honor system: Leave non-perishable food items/paper products if you have extra and take some if you need.

Babysitters/Caregivers Needed

UPMC East and UPMC McKeesport is seeking caregivers/babysitters who would be willing to provide or assist with childcare for healthcare workers during this pandemic. If you are interested, please contact:

Kendrik Jones
Human Resources Assistant
UPMC McKeesport Human Resources
412-664-2415 jonesk16@upmc.edu

The Linway News

Linway United Presbyterian Church
600 Lincoln Highway,
North Versailles, Pa 15137
Church Phone: (412) 824-3555

Church Office Hours are limited:

Telephone messages, email messages, and US Mail are being checked daily.

Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Eric E. Dennis

Email: pastor@linwaychurch.org

Church Office Manager: Leanne Cornell

Email: contact@linwaychurch.org

Financial Secretary: Christine Stewart

Email: financial@linwaychurch.org

Choir Director: Margaret Dennis

Organist: Nancy Kelley

Deadline for newsletter information is usually the Sunday before the last Sunday of the month unless noted differently.

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And It Was Easter!

A Poem by Elsie E. Thornburg

Reprinted from Easter Ideals, March 1962

The Last Supper

"One of you shall betray Me." Jesus said,
As He sat with His disciples breaking bread.
He blessed the bread and blessed the cup
As in His hands He took them up.
"Take! Eat! This is My body broken for you,
This cup, My blood, shed for humanity, too."

Gethsemane

"Father, I pray, let this cup pass from Me."
In the garden in agony He cried.
Great drops of blood, as sweat, fell down
Where Jesus knelt upon the ground.
"Take away this cup from Thine only Son...
And not My will, but Thine be done."

Betrayal

"Whomsoever I kiss, 'tis He." Judas cried
And walked boldly to the Master's side.
Then, just one look into that kindly face...
With a broken heart, he ran from the place,
Throwing the silver, which he was paid,
He cried, " 'Tis innocent blood I have betrayed."

Trial

"Art Thou the king, the Jew's expected one?"
The trial before Pilate had just begun.
Pilate wished the yelling mob to chide,
"I find no fault in Him," he cried.
To the clamoring mob, bereft of reason,
"No cause for death, by guilt or treason."

Sentence

"Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" they cry,
"He is an imposter. He must die.
His blood be on us and our children."
The cry of the mob was cruel and grim...
"Away with Him! Away with Him!
Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Mockery

Scourged and delivered to the angry mob,
They dressed Him in a purple robe.
"Hail Thou! Hail Thou! King of the Jews!"
They before Him jeered and bowed.
On His head a crown of thorns they placed
And led Him forth, as one disgraced.

Preparation

Then, on the cross which He had borne up hill,
They stretched His frail and sacred form,
Where blow on blow, had sent the nails
Into his quivering, suffering flesh;
Then cruel soldiers lifting high the cross
Dropped it quickly with a thundering thud.

On the Cross

"Father, forgive them," in compassion He cried,
"For they know not what they do."
Nails, cruel, pierced His hands and feet,
A sharp sword pierced His body through.
"It is finished," people heard Him say,
"Into Thy hands I commend My spirit today."

Death

A mantle of darkness caressed Him in death,
Covering His friends, whose hearts were bereft.
The rulers knew they were mistaken again,
As the veil in the temple was rent in twain.
Fearful, they fled the angry mob...
Whom had they slain? The Son of God!

Sepulcher

By loving hands brought down from the cross...
Brokenhearted, they keenly felt their loss;
All earth was hushed...not a sound was heard,
Not even a song or the chirp of a bird;
Weird was the cry His mother gave
As His body was placed in the rock-hewn grave.

Pilate

"Earth holds the Nazarene within her grasp;
Trouble with Him," Pilate said, "is past.
He cannot now, as He has often said,
Rise in three days if He were dead.
Go soldiers, place a guard o'er His grave...
Seal fast the entrance to the cave."

Morning

At last, morning came and the cold grey dawn;
Christ's followers, heartbroken, forlorn,
Departed from the city before it was day
Wondering who would roll the stone away.
But lo!...the grave is empty, their Lord is gone,
An angel is guarding the tomb at early morn.

Resurrection

The sun bursts forth in all its glory
Across the earth it tells the story.
"The tomb is empty, the body is gone...
The Christ arose in the early morn."
So, sing ye people, let your voices ring,
Sing ye people. Oh, Christ is King!"

And It Was Easter

He is risen! He is risen!
From death's bondage He is free.
He is risen! He is risen!
And to heaven has the key.
He is risen! He is risen!
How all hearts are made to thrill...
He is risen! He is risen!
All may find Him if they will.