



The Linway News

October 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! As we know, October is a month of transition. We are leaving the past summer behind and entering the fullness of autumn. And when you think about it, our life is full of transitions from what has been to what is and perhaps will be. Some transitions are full of great expectations. Others may bring a sense of foreboding. Our faith can make a great difference in how we perceive transitions in life and who we can count upon. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, was bold enough to write: *If God is for us, who is against us?*

Historically, people have approached God with a profound sense of unworthiness. Today, many people still do. Part of this has to do with our understanding of the *holiness* of God. We are not holy, and we know it. Martin Luther, for instance, was deeply convicted of his personal unworthiness to come near or approach God. He, himself, was deeply doubtful of his own status before God. But in reading Scripture, he came to understand what the Word of God through the prophet Habakkuk and also what the letters of the Apostle Paul had proclaimed: *the righteous shall live by his faith* (Habakkuk 2:4b, and Romans 1:17). This understanding was the spark that ignited what we know to be the Protestant Reformation.

The Good News of the Gospel is that *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever* (Hebrews 13:8). This

means that what God our heavenly Father has accomplished through Jesus Christ is as active, powerful, and present as it has ever been. We are able to approach God with the assurance of unconditional love. Does this mean that things change as we go through transitions in our life? Not as far as our faith is concerned. Yes, we will experience transitions of one kind or another. As an example, I don't move as fast as I once did. But that transition does not touch or impede the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for me. Nor does it for those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and seek to follow his example in their life's witness.

Through all our transitions, God is gracious and merciful to us in our sin and weakness. Yet that does not mean that our sin is inconsequential or our behavior unimportant. If we seek a personal relationship with God through his Son Jesus Christ, then we must seek to walk with God through all things. Let's remember what Jesus told his disciples: *Trust in God always, trust also in me* (John 14:1). It wasn't trust in God when you feel like it. It's not trust in God once in a while, and it is not trust in God when it is convenient. It is trust in God always! If we seek to be faithful, we must bend our lives in God's direction and be living witnesses.

I am reminded of the old gospel song: *It is No Secret What God Can Do*. The chorus of that song reminds us: *It is no secret what God can do! What he has done for others, he can do for you. With arms wide open, he'll pardon you. It is no secret what God can do*. My friends that is grace pure and simple. No matter what

transitions we face, that grace will never change. Thanks be to God.

Please review the information contained in the rest of this newsletter. It can be a great help as we plan our continuing witness. 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

World Communion

Sunday will be held on October 3.

For those watching the service online, be sure to have your elements ready so that you may partake of communion at home. For those partaking of communion in the sanctuary, the packaged communion cups with a wafer will be used.



All Saints Sunday: November 7

We will be remembering the following individuals who went home to be with our Lord this past year:

Dennis Bernhardy	Agnes "Nan" Oskin
Nellie "Betty" Brown	Jane Louise Strong
James Carpenter	Thomas Szmuc Jr.
Donald Churchfield	Gene "Ted" Wirth

Fall Harvest Tables: Oct. 31 – Nov. 14

Tables will be in the front of the Sanctuary for the collection of non-perishable grocery items for MA's Pantry Food Bank in East McKeesport. Monetary donations may be mailed to the church or placed in the pew Giving Envelopes & select "MA's Pantry" on the envelope. MA's is able to use monetary donations to purchase food items at a large discount from the Pittsburgh Food Bank.

Online Recordings:

Now Posted Monday Evenings

Beginning October 3, the online recordings of the Scripture Reading, Morning Prayer, and Sermon will continue, however they will now be posted to the church website and Facebook page on Monday evenings. We apologize to those who enjoy watching the recording on Sundays. There are a limited number of people able to prepare and post the recording. Having an extra day will give them some "breathing room" to get it done.

If you would like to assist during the services with running the power point slide presentations or using the video camera to record, please contact Don Augustin, Jamie Stewart, or Rich Cornell. They will provide training until you are comfortable using the equipment.

The Session

Next Session Meeting: October 19 at 7:00 pm

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee will soon meet to seek individuals for Linway Elders and Deacons for three-year terms which begin in January 2022. Individuals on this year's Nominating Committee are: Chris Stewart, Sallie Kaser, Wayne Gida, Scott Gray, Kim Brown, Jamie Stewart, Rich Cornell, Don Augustin, and Amy Gida.

Please prayerfully consider serving a term as an officer of your church. Any current Elder or Deacon whose term expires at the end of this year and who has served two consecutive three-year terms, must remain off that board for a period of one year before being considered for another term. However, a person can move from one board to another without any lapse of time.

If you have questions, please contact Christine Stewart, Nominating Chairperson.

Fundraising Committee



Mark your calendar for our annual Fall Festival in the lower level of the church.

Plans include:

- Assorted Crafters and Vendors
- Basket Raffle and Quilt Raffle
- Delicious Homemade Foods to Enjoy
- Children's Santa Shop—where kids shop for their loved-ones' Christmas presents
- Pictures with Santa Claus

Ways We Can Use Your Help

In order to make the Fall Festival a success, we need people to help out in a number of ways:

- in the Kitchen
- in the Dining Room
- in the Basket Raffle Room
- at the Baked Goods & Dessert Table
- at the Santa Shop
- Setting-up the Social Hall
- Cleaning-up afterwards

Please watch for the Volunteer Sign-up Sheet to be posted soon and sign-up to help. Thank you very much!

Festival Basket Raffle Donations

One of the highlights of our Fall Festival is the Basket Raffle. In order to make this a success, we are in need of raffle basket donations. Be creative and make a basket that is fun, practical, or unique! Any theme is fine. Please turn-in raffle baskets Thursday or Friday afternoon, Nov. 11 & 12, downstairs in the Friendly Fellowship Room. To turn in your basket prior to Nov.11, please bring your basket to the church office or leave it in the workroom next to the office.

Flea Market Items: Please **DO NOT** bring Flea Market items to the church at this time. We will announce if we are able to accept items.

Linway's Holiday Virtual Vendor Event

Plans are being made for another Linway Virtual Vendor Event which will be held in time to shop for the holidays. When an item is purchased online from one of our vendors, the vendor will donate a percentage of the sale to Linway. If you or someone you know would like to participate as a vendor, please contact Jaime Ruffing at jaime@teisinc.com. Watch the Linway website and Facebook page for more information as it becomes available.



Linway Quilt Raffle

Tickets are available for a beautiful, queen-size winter quilt made by the sewing group of Linway. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5.00. All proceeds will be donated to the church. The winner will be drawn after the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021. To help make this fundraiser a success, please share raffle information with friends /family. Tickets are available after the Sunday services or by contacting Clara Welty, Nancy Waszkiewicz, or the church office.

Linway Chicken Barbecue

THANK YOU to everyone who gave of their time to help out in any way with our September Chicken BBQ Fundraiser! It was a great success thanks to many helping hands!

Property Committee

The hallway floor in the basement has been patched. The committee plans to patch the floor in the basement storage rooms next.

Lawn Care Donations Requested

If you are willing to help with this expense, please use one of the pew envelopes or mail your donation to the church and designate it for "Lawn Care". Thank you so much for helping us keep the church's lawn and grounds looking nice.

Deacons

The Deacons met in-person on Sunday, September 12. A new Deacon schedule was created that runs through December. Contact Glenn Marrow if you are a Deacon and would like to be added to the schedule. The Deacons delivered Chicken BBQ dinners to the shut-ins, are preparing treat boxes for college students and military personnel, and will have a table at the Fall Festival.

Donations for Treat Boxes

The Linway Deacons are seeking donations to send Halloween Treat Boxes to our college students and our members of the military. The donations will be used to purchase treat items and pay for the postage. Please place monetary donations in the offering box or mail to church by Oct. 17 and indicate that it is for the "Halloween Treat Boxes".

Next Deacon Meeting: in-person meeting on Sunday, October 3 at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Women's Breakfast

Monday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m. at North Versailles Eat 'N Park. Any woman from the church is welcome to come. Contact Nancy Waszkiewicz 412-823-3916 or Sandy Hillgartner at 412-877-1518 with questions.

Christian Education Committee

Bibles for 3rd Grade Students



In keeping with our annual tradition, Bella Moore was presented with her own new Bible during our 9:15 a.m. Worship Service on September 26.

Santa Shop Donations Needed

The Fall Festival's Santa Shop is a place children may shop for very reasonably priced gifts for their loved ones, so they may experience the joy of giving. The teens of our church assist the kids with their selections and gift wrapping.

The Christian Education Committee organizes the Santa Shop and is seeking donations of new or VERY gently used items for men, women, kids, and teachers to be sold at the Santa Shop. Please, no clothing except gloves or scarves, etc., and only un-used earrings in their store package. We also need donations of Christmas Gift Bags in a variety of sizes. We have plenty of wrapping paper. Please label donations "Santa Shop" and leave in the Narthex or on the table in the upstairs workroom next to the church office. Thank you very much!

Bless a Child with a Shoebox Gift!

Operation Christmas Child: Starts Oct.10



It's time again to fill shoeboxes with gifts for needy children all over the world. Linway will be kicking-off this project October 10. Each box is a tangible expression of God's love and brings the Good News of Jesus Christ. Children receiving a box are also given the opportunity to participate in a discipleship program where they learn about God's love through Bible stories.

There are many options in which you may help:

1. FILL A BOX: Take an empty box from the sanctuary home with you, fill with your choice of appropriate items for the age group you select, and return the filled box. There are detailed instructions inside on how to fill your box. **All boxes need to be returned to Linway by Sun., Nov. 14.**

NEW THIS YEAR: PLEASE PLACE THE \$9.00 SHIPPING FEE IN THE CHURCH OFFERING BOX INSTEAD OF PLACING INSIDE YOUR SHOEBOX. Use a pew envelope or mail to the church and indicate it is for "Shoeboxes".

2. MONETARY DONATION: Don't really want to shop, but still want to help? Your donation will be sent to Samaritan's Purse and used to buy items for shoeboxes or to help with the shoebox shipping costs.

3. BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE: Samaritan's Purse will pack a box based on gift selections you make. Cost is \$25 per box. Use this link to get started:
www.samaritanspurse.org/occ

4. PRAYER: Pray that each one of our shoeboxes from Linway makes a difference in a child's life and helps them to develop a relationship with our Lord.

Linway Preschool

This month, local firefighters will visit the classroom to teach the children about fire safety and that they do not need to be afraid of firefighters. Students will even get to climb aboard the fire truck! Also in October, the kids will be learning about the season of fall, and will end the month with a Halloween parade and party. All of this, along with plenty of learning, keeps everyone busy. Have a safe and Happy Halloween from our teachers, Mrs. Michele and Miss Jeannette.

Preschool Wish Board

Thank you to everyone who has purchased an item or given a monetary donation to the Preschool.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels operates out of the Linway kitchen 5 days a week to provide meals for their clients. More information on Meals on Wheels is available at:
412-327-6908.

Linway Church will be providing desserts for Meals on Wheels:

October 18-22 and October 25-29.

If you would like to provide store-bought, pre-packaged desserts, please take them to the church kitchen Mon-Friday 7:00 am – 10:30 am. They cannot accept home-made items. They also welcome pre-packaged sugar-free dessert items too!

If you wish to send money towards a dessert, please place your donation in the offering box and label it "For Meals on Wheels" or mail your check to:

Meals on Wheels
600 Lincoln Highway
North Versailles, PA 15137

Need for Prayer

Please remember the following in our prayers:



John Arnold, Betty Brinker,
Margaret, Gwen DeSarno,
Janet Doherty, Richard Eboli,
Bobby Fazio, Mike Feigh,
Wally Fox, Betty Frommell,
Richard Hickox, Bill & Carmella Knight,
Kim, Jean Lawton, Rita Marrow,
Loretta Matsko, Michelle, Carol Pascarella,
Renee, Jean Schumacher, Barbara Shoop,
Ellen Stevens, David Swauger, Donna T.,
Cindy Taylor, Pat Vastadore,
Ed Waszkiewicz, Irene Young

With Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to James Strong and the Strong family. Jane Louis Strong, a long-time member of Linway, went home to be with our Lord on September 20.

Happy Anniversary!

Happy October Anniversary to:



Leanne & Rich Cornell
Kim & Brian Bernhardt
Chris & Jamie Stewart
Carol & Mark Pascarella

Happy Birthday!

Happy October Birthday to:

Timothy Hazard, Sr.	Clare Hillgartner
Samantha Morgan	Nicholas Bernhardt
Karen Crandall	Bill Knight
Sallie Kaser	Nicholas Sivrich
Jaime Ruffing	Audrey Koppel
Lila Sedlak	Claire Conley
Carmella Knight	Tim Mitchell
Meredith Hazard	Diane Bernhardt-Randolph



MA's Pantry

Having just completed a successful "Day of Giving," MA's Pantry is rushing headlong into the fall season. School supplies, warm clothing, Thanksgiving turkey gift cards and preparations for the traditional Christmas Giving Tree program are all under way.

There is no good time to be hungry, cold or left out. We are seeing the first of what may be many families evicted from their apartments and homes. One good thing about MA's Pantry is that it has widespread community support, and everyone looks to MA's Pantry to be ready to help in every way we can.

With some of the proceeds of the "Day of Giving," we purchased a new freezer only to discover the supply line delays about which you have been reading are real. It so happens that big, commercial freezers use computer chips which are in short supply. We are on a long waiting list. Food pantries need infrastructure too. Keep those cards and letters (and groceries and prayers) coming folks. You are MA's Pantry.

Shoe Drive

The East Allegheny Marching Band Shoe Drive continues through Oct. 28. The band is half-way to their goal of 2,500 pairs of shoes. They are collecting gently used shoes for men, women and children in an effort to help those in need and also as a fundraiser for the band. If you have pairs of gently worn, used, and new shoes that you would like to donate, shoe collection boxes are located in the church narthex, east entrance, & social hall stage. Thank you to those who have donated shoes! Please contact Leanne Cornell with questions. Thanks!

Presbyterian Disaster Relief

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance provides help around the world to communities following both natural and man-made disasters. If you would like to donate to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund, please use one of the pew envelopes or mail a check to Linway and write "Disaster Relief" on the memo line. Checks should be payable to Linway and we will then send one check from Linway.

Surprise Party!

Sandy invites you to Clare's Surprise Birthday Celebration! Please feel free to come and go in order to offer Clare birthday greetings. Party-goers are asked to follow Linway's mask policy at the time of the party.

SURPRISE
90th
Birthday Open House
FOR
Clare "CD" Hillgartner
Sunday, October 10th, 2021
After Church • 12-2pm

NO GIFTS • CASUAL DRESS
THEME: BLUE JEANS AND FLANNEL

LINWAY CHURCH SOCIAL HALL
600 LINCOLN WAY (ROUTE 30)
N. VERSAILLES, PA 15137
ENTRANCE IN THE BACK

Help Our Unbelief

By Frank Fawcett

Obedience our only proof
Of our true love for you,
Help us to be obedient
In everything we do.

Help us to be obedient
Help us in all our ways,
To offer in abundance
All our love and all our praise.

Those times when we are tested
And we fail to pass the test,
Please strengthen us in spirit
And help us to do our best.

To honor fathers and our mothers
To love sisters and our brothers,
Then whenever we grow weary
And our hope and eyes grow dim.

Help us all in Jesus' name
To continually look to Him,
And when we falter to our shame
Know where we ought to place the blame.

To honor your omnipotence
Help us to be obedient,
To show our love for you dear Lord
Help us obey your holy word.

Help us, Father, to be strong in the Lord
Our time on Earth is brief,
In all our trials and faltering
Please help our unbelief.

Mark 9:24

**Being A Christian
Is Like Being A Pumpkin**



God picks you from the
patch and brings you in.
(John 15:16)

He washes all the dirt off you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all the
yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of
doubt, hate, greed, etc.
(Romans 6:6)

Then He carves you a new smiling face.
(Psalm 71:23)

He puts His light inside of you to shine for
all the world to see. (Matthew 5:16)

This is a good way to explain being a
Christian during the Fall. If you really look
at it in that point-of-view, the jack-a-lantern
has a new perspective. God does pick us
up. He washes us from our sins (the Blood
of Jesus is what cleanses us). The
scooping out the yucky stuff is God molding
us. The new carved face shows that we are
a new creation in Christ. Plus, the light He
gives us is the light we need to shine in a
dark and dying world. That light is His Light,
the light of Jesus which shines brighter the
darker the world gets. So let your light
shine!

The Humble Bee

By Frank Fawcett

The bee was made to pollinate
We were made to cultivate
To work together for God and man
Given purpose in God's great plan
Destined to be a holy nation
The bee, a master of pollination
The bee has wings and eyes to see
The beauty of flower and field
Given the ability
To produce and maintain the yield
He's given us the tools we need
The talents to create
Given us new hearts and minds
That we may appreciate
Creatures all, both great and small
The work of God's own hand
That we may work together
To bring peace throughout the land
Just like the bee, we ought to be
The keepers of His trust
To be holy as He is holy
For our God is faithful and just

The bee we ought to be!
That's not a question!

1 Kings 3:9; 2 Peter 3:17,18

The Linway News

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

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00

Please use our East Entrance to
visit the office during the week.

Sunday Morning Worship:

9:15 a.m.-Contemporary Service
10:30 a.m. Traditional Service

© License CCLI#:1761256

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 the
Sunday before the last Sunday of the month.