



The Linway News

November 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! The month of November is a busy month both in our individual lives and in the church. It starts off on the first day – All Saints’ Day! In the Reformed Church of the Protest Reformation, it is a recognition and a celebration of all the faithful who have, as we say in the church: *joined the church triumphant*. Other parts of God’s universal church focus on church leaders of the past who have been designated as a *saint* for some practice or event(s) that occurred over their earthly ministry. The Reformers always thought that to be a bit exclusive, and they elected the more inclusive understanding of all the faithful who, as the great hymn announces, *from their labors rest*.

The next day is our election day for this year. It is not a Presidential or a Congressional election, but focuses on more local races. I urge all registered voters to cast their ballots for the candidates and issues of their choice. I can hardly emphasize enough the importance of exercising your right to vote. It is a freedom that we should all cherish as so many others in the world do not have that opportunity.

During this month you will receive a letter from the Stewardship Committee asking for your pledge of support for the coming New Year. You will receive a copy of the proposed budget for 2022 and a pledge card to use to indicate your support. We will dedicate all pledges during an upcoming Sunday worship service. Please

prayerfully consider your support for our Lord’s Church in the coming year.

Our Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 13th this year. It will be modified in format due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. One obvious change is that we are asking everyone who comes to the Fall Festival to wear a mask except when you are sitting down to eat lunch. Additionally, we will not be having a Flea Market as part of the Festival. With the drain work in some of the basement rooms, there is not sufficient space currently available to hold the Flea Market.

As you may know, Operation Christmas Child is in full swing. The deadline for the return of the shoe boxes is Sunday, November 14th. Boxes are available at the church. A new option is to fill your “box” online. Yes, you read that correctly! There are instructions on how to use the “online” option and literally shop from the comfort of your home. Of course you can always make a financial donation to support Operation Christmas Child, and our treasurer will see that all donated monies are sent.

The Fall Harvest tables are in the Sanctuary to receive your non-perishable food items for our local food panty – MA’s Pantry. This is a local ministry that Linway Church helped to establish many years ago. It has grown in the number of individuals/families served over the years. The need has not lessened. We’ll also be participating in the MA’s Pantry Giving Tree. There is a slight change, so read more about this later in this newsletter.

This year, the Thanksgiving holiday falls on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Although not a formal religious holiday, it is undergirded by our Judeo/Christian belief in giving thanks to Almighty God. We are blessed in so many ways, and although we face difficulties from time to time, we must never shy away from giving thanks to God from whom all blessings flow.

This brings me to Sunday, Nov. 28th, which is the first Sunday in Advent this year. With the Sanctuary decorated for the Christmas celebration, we are invited to begin our personal, spiritual journey to Bethlehem. The birth of the Christ Child is the second greatest celebration of the church. The greatest celebration is Easter when we celebrate Christ's Resurrection. More about that early next year.

Did I say that November was a busy month? Absolutely! And it begins with remembering those who have gone before us and left us a legacy of faith and service. The author of the letter to the Hebrews encourages us as we move forward with these words: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

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



All Saints Memorial Service : **Sunday, November 7**

In the Protestant Church calendar, we observe "All Saints Day" as a special time to give thanks for all those believers who have preceded us in history. We believe, as did St. Paul, that all who put their trust in Jesus Christ and follow him, are made separate and filled with his grace. The "Saints" are beloved of God, called to be different from this world, and bearers of Christ's truth and love.

During our 10:30 Worship Service on November 7, we will be remembering the following who were beloved among us and this past year have passed from our sight, but we trust are in the care of our Lord:

Dennis Bernhardt	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 are 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.



Advent Readers/ **Candle Lighters Needed**

We are seeking individuals, families, or friends who are willing to read the Advent Reading and light the corresponding candles for one of the four Sundays in Advent or Christmas Eve: Nov. 28, and Dec. 5, 12, 19 & 24. Please contact Lila Sedlak or the church office if you are interested in helping.

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 percent 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

Time is running out for you to purchase a raffle ticket for this 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.

Coming Soon: Gift Card Sale

The Fundraising Committee will soon have order forms available for various restaurant & retail gift cards. The church will receive a percentage of the value of the purchased gift cards. Use the cards when doing your shopping or purchasing meals. They also make great Christmas stocking stuffers!

Property Committee

Work continues to progress on the basement project, with the floors having been cemented in the two rooms and hallway. The next step is to paint and re-organize. Thank you to those who helped with this big project!



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, October 3. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards our treat boxes for our college students and military personnel. The Deacons are planning for their table at the Fall Festival.



Extra hands will be welcome at the end of November when the Deacons decorate the church for Christmas. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Next Deacon Meeting: November 7 at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall.

Christian Education Committee

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!



Christmas Program

Unfortunately, we are unable to hold our Christmas Luncheon this year. In its place, we would like the children and teens to present a short Christmas Program to the congregation

as part of the Sunday, December 19th 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. We'll have both speaking and non-speaking parts. Rehearsals will be during Sunday School on December 5 and 12, and also after church on December 12. To make this program a success, the kids should attend all 3 rehearsals. Please contact the church office or a member of Christian Ed to let us know if your child/teen can participate.

Bless a Child with
a Shoebox Gift!

Operation Christmas Child:
Return Your Box by Nov.14

It's time again to fill shoeboxes with gifts for needy children all over the world. 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 Samaritans 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 our students will be learning about fall, turkeys, pilgrims, Indians, and also about the importance of family. Each student will contribute an item for their classroom's Thanksgiving Feast before having some time off to enjoy the holiday with their families. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving from our teachers, Mrs. Michele and Miss Jeannette.

Meals on Wheels

Thank you to everyone who gave desserts or who gave a monetary contribution towards desserts! 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.

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, Jill, Bill & Carmella Knight, Kim, Jean Lawton, Rita Marrow, Michelle, Loretta Matsko, Michelle, Carol Pascarella, Renee, Jean Schumacher, Barbara Shoop, Ellen Stevens, David Swauger, Donna T., Leslie T., Cindy Taylor, Ed Waszkiewicz, Irene Young



Happy Anniversary!

Happy November Anniversary to:



Tim & Aimee Mitchell
Nancy & Ed Waszkiewicz

Happy Birthday!

Happy November Birthday to:

Shannon Jeffries
T.J. Cornell
Carl Aston
Kaitlyn Gida
Sue Keller



Timothy Hazard, Jr.
Scott Gray
Mary Lou Bernhardt
Sandy Hillgartner
Dorothy Spencer

Women's Breakfast

Monday, November 1 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.

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.

MA's Pantry Giving Tree: A Few Changes

The MA's Pantry Giving Tree will once again be located in the Narthex starting Nov. 28.

The tree will be decorated with paper ornaments representing individuals who are served by our local food bank. **One change from previous years is that instead of purchasing an item, you are asked to give a \$25 gift card to Giant Eagle OR make a donation towards the purchase of a gift card.** This gives the recipient the freedom to make his/her own selection.



Other churches in the community will be purchasing gift cards for Aldi and Walmart. Since we already have our Giant Eagle Gift Card Fundraiser, it seemed like a win-win for those from Linway to purchase Giant Eagle Cards. For our Giant Eagle Gift Card Fundraiser, Linway receives a percent of the sale of each card. The Giant Eagle Gift Cards are available for purchase throughout the year in the office or after the worship services.

Would you please consider participating in this worthy cause? Here's how it works:

1. Please take an ornament from the tree and purchase the \$25 gift card listed on the ornament.
2. Place your gift card inside the envelope attached to the paper ornament. Place the envelope in our Offering Box located in the back of the Sanctuary **by Sun., Dec. 12.** The gift cards will then be taken to MA's Pantry for distribution.

You may also place a monetary donation in the Offering Box, which will be combined with other donations and used to purchase gift cards. Please mark that your donation is for the Giving Tree.

This is a busy time of year, yet this project may be seen as one way in which we can

prepare ourselves for Christmas by thinking of those less fortunate. Our gifts may be able to make their Christmas just a bit brighter.

Liturgists Needed

Liturgists Needed for the 10:30 Service

Please contact Rev. Dennis or the church office if you would be able to help by reading the Call to Worship, Invitation to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Declaration of Pardon during the service. With the holidays coming and folks traveling, we could use a few extra readers on the rotation schedule.

Considering Church Membership?

Please contact Rev. Dennis or the church office if you would like to consider becoming a member of Linway Church.

Shoe Drive: Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated shoes for the East Allegheny Marching Band Shoe Drive! The band reached their goal of collecting 2,500 pairs of shoes. They knew they couldn't do it alone, and our community came through for them in big ways. The shoes are being picked up by Funds2Org on Saturday, October 30 for distribution throughout 25 countries around the world. Plus, the EA Band will receive a cash donation for their efforts. These funds are so important to help the band continue to operate smoothly. Thank you for assisting them in this effort!



"The Bright and Morning Star"

A poem by Linway member Frank Fawcett.

I am the bright and morning star,
The light of each new day.
I am a lamp unto your feet,
To light and lead the way.
Take up your cross and follow me,
And you will find my grace.
Sufficient for the days ahead,
And all the trials you'll face.
Without me you can do nothing,
With me you will do just fine.
I'll provide all that you need,
If you'll just fall in line.
I'll lead you to a brighter day,
Show you the way, and how to pray.
Show you all that you can do,
To love others as I do.
And finally I'll make it plain,
For all who call upon my name.
That no matter where you are,
I'll always be your morning star.

"We Thank You Father"

A poem by Linway member Frank Fawcett.

We thank you Father
For this time and this place,
And especially thank you
For your saving grace.
We thank you Father
For the here and now,
And also thank you
For the where and how.
We thank you Father
For your word that feeds.
We thank you for your loving ways,
And all the month and years and days
That by your grace you let us live.
The never ending love you give.
And how we thank you
For letting us
Be one with you,
In God we trust.
In Jesus' name we thank you Lord,
For your everlasting word.
Amen!



*May God grant you a
joyous and blessed
Thanksgiving!*

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

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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.