



The Linway News

December 2021

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Greetings! Here we are facing the end of another year. Where did the time go? In some ways many of us are glad to see the end of 2021 A. D. We are still dealing with the effects of the Corona Virus Pandemic and the variant forms of the virus. It is the understatement of the age when we say that we will be glad to put this behind us. Some fear that we will never completely put this behind us. That may be, but it is also true to say that we must move forward in life with faith and hope.

That is what the Season of Advent is really all about. Before the birth of Jesus, our spiritual ancestors encountered many difficulties. They relied upon the proclamations of the prophets that God had not forgotten them. The message was that there was One who would come to redeem Israel. And the people were to actively wait with expectation for the arrival of that One who would be Emmanuel, *God with us*.

The expectation of the coming of the LORD was announced to generation after generation. Did people grow weary? Sure they did. Weariness is not something limited to another place and another time. We know something about weariness in our time. But unlike our spiritual ancestors, we know that the long-expected One has arrived. He was born in a stable in the little town of Bethlehem almost 2,000 years ago. His cousin, John the Baptist, proclaimed his arrival when, on the shore of the river Jordan, he saw Jesus walking and announced: *I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God* (John 1:34).

The Season of Advent helps us prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. We celebrate by making preparation; by decorating our homes and passing along the traditions that we find meaningful that direct our thoughts and our lives to the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. If our faith means anything, it shows us the lengths to which God the heavenly Father went to break the power of sin in our life and provide for the gift of everlasting life. Another way to think of it is that while God despises sin, God loves the sinner. It is God's grace that is the power behind God's love, and Jesus Christ is God in full personhood, who came into the world *full of grace and truth* (John 1:17).

We observe the lighting of the Advent Candles at the beginning of worship to remind us that we are to prepare for the coming of the Lord. The Giving Tree holds ornament opportunities to assist those in need through our local food pantry, MA's Pantry. And in case you haven't heard, through your support, Linway Church has

sent 38 Operation Christmas Child Boxes to children in foreign countries. This is just one of the ways we prepare to share the joy of the season as we never forget that **Jesus is the Reason for the Season.**

While some things are different due to the Corona Virus Pandemic, we have



endeavored to maintain as much as possible for worship. Seating is still to be spaced, but masks need only to be worn as you come in and exit the Sanctuary. Our Christmas Eve service is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. I hope you will make an effort to come and celebrate the joy of Christmas with family and friends. As always, if you have provided a Poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary, Thank You! You are welcome to take it home with you after the service.

Please review the information contained in the rest of this newsletter. It can be a great help as we plan our continuing witness. Margaret joins with me in wishing you and yours a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. 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

Sunday Morning Worship:

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

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00-3:00

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

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Save These Upcoming Dates:

Sun., Dec. 5	Pledge Card Dedication Gift Card Orders Due
Mon. Dec. 6	Women's Breakfast -10:00
Tues, Dec. 7	Poinsettia Orders Due
Sun., Dec. 19	Congregational Meeting
Thurs, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m.



This Christmas Eve we will celebrate the birth of our Lord with one service at 6:00 p.m. The church will be filled with the warm glow of candlelight as we remember that special night. Covid Safety Policies such as social distancing & the use of masks until seated in a pew will be followed, and there will be a limit to the number of people in the Sanctuary. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated using pre-packaged communion cups. Portions of the service will be recorded and posted to the church website and to the Linway Church Facebook Page.

Christmas Poinsettias Order Deadline: Dec. 7



Please use the order form found in the back of this newsletter if you wish to place a poinsettia plant in the sanctuary for Christmas. The order deadline is Tuesday, December 7.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 19 at 11:30

Please stay for a brief Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary following the 10:30 Worship Service on December 19. The purpose of the meeting is to present and approve the names of those who have been nominated for Elders and Deacons for the new term of church officers beginning January 2022.

If you are asked to serve, please prayerfully consider serving a term as an officer of your church. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Stewart at 412-736-9763. She is the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

Stewardship Pledge Cards

Stewardship Pledge Campaign Letters have been mailed to church members and to non-members who have expressed an interest in supporting Linway. If you are a non-member and would like a Pledge for Giving Card to indicate what you/your family will be giving for the 2022 year, please contact the church office. We ask everyone to please complete the Pledge for Giving Card with your estimated giving plans and return it to the church in time for the Pledge Dedication on December 5. This greatly helps with budgeting for the coming year. Thank you.

The Session

Next Session Meeting: Dec. 21 at 7:00 pm

Personnel Committee: **Organist Needed**

We have enjoyed her beautiful music for years, but our organist, Nancy Kelley, will be retiring at the end of the month. Though it will be hard to fill her shoes, the Personnel Committee is currently seeking a new organist. Interested individuals need to contact the office as soon as possible and send their resume to the Linway Personnel Committee at Linway Church by Wednesday, December 8.
Thank you, Nancy, for sharing your gift of music with us!

Property Committee **Snow Removal Donations Requested**

The snow is going to eventually arrive and need removed from our parking lots. 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 "Snow Removal". Thank you so much for helping us keep the church's parking lots plowed and safe.

Fundraising Committee

Thank you to everyone that contributed in any way to our Fall Festival. Not only was it a nice time to socialize, but just over \$3,000 was raised for our church. We could not have held it without all the hard work of so many people in many different ways.

Thank you also to those who participated in our Virtual Vendor Event in November. Thank you to the vendors who donated a percent of their sales to our church.

Linway Quilt Raffle

Congratulations to Tracy Ofchinick who won the quilt raffle. This fundraiser raised \$1,185 for our church.

Gift Card Sale

Order Deadline: Dec. 5

The order form for various restaurant & retail gift cards is in the back of this newsletter. 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!

Giant Eagle Gift Cards

Giant Eagle Gift Cards in various amounts are always available for purchase after the 10:30 worship service. The church receives a percent of each gift card that is purchased.

Deacons



Thank you to the Deacons and to all who helped the Deacons decorate the church for Christmas!

Next Deacon Meeting:

December 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Friendly Fellowship Room. Please remember to bring your stocking items.

Christian Education Committee



Calling ALL Linway Kids & Youth!

We need your help to re-create the nativity scene during a portion of the 10:30 a.m. service on December 19, which is the Sunday before

Christmas. No reading or memorizing lines. Just dressing up as shepherds, or wise men, or sheep, etc. We have the costumes, we just need YOU!

The kids will need to meet upstairs in the Sunday School Classroom at 9:30 a.m. on the 19th in order to get into a costume and go over where they will stand. Please use the East entrance of the church, so that we don't disturb the 9:15 worship service.

Please have your child wear a mask.

We'll need older youth/teens to help out too, but you won't have to dress up unless you'd like to. In order to have an idea of which kids will be participating, please contact the church office by Dec. 12 (one week prior).

Operation Christmas Child: 38 Shoe Boxes!

Thank you to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child.

We sent 38 boxes and \$252 in monetary donations from Linway, sharing the love of the Lord with children around the world!

Please 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

The students are spending the month of December learning about the meaning of Christmas. Rev. Dennis will share the story of the birth of Jesus. The children are making Christmas tree ornaments to give to their families for Christmas. The kids' excitement for Christmas continues to build as they anticipate Christmas morning.

Everyone at the Preschool would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year! From our teachers, Mrs. Michele & Miss Jeannette. Monday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. at

Women's Breakfast

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.

Meals on Wheels

Dear Friends,

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for your many years of providing desserts for Meals-on-Wheels. We will no longer provide a calendar indicating the weeks throughout the year for your donations. We will, however, gladly accept donations of cookies, cakes, pies, etc. (including sugar free) at any time (no icing or nuts, please). The kitchen at Linway is open from 7:00 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Our clients really look forward to the treats in their bag. We currently serve 35-40 every day. Thank you,

Vi Hensler, Program Coordinator

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: Betty Brinker, Margaret, Gwen DeSarno, Janet Doherty, Richard Eboli, Bobby Fazio, Mike Feigh, Wally Fox, Betty Frommell, Richard Hickox, Jill, Kim, Bill & Carmella Knight, Jean Lawton, Rita Marrow, Michelle, Loretta Matsko, Michelle, Carol Pascarella, Renee, Jean Schumacher, Barbara Shoop, Michelle Smith, Snyir Family, Ellen Stevens, David Swauger, Leslie T., Cindy Taylor, Peg Torbich, Arnetta W., Ed Waszkiewicz, Irene Young

The Daily Bread

Dec. – Feb. Edition Now Available

Pick-up your free copy of this daily devotional from the table in the Narthex. Please contact the church office if you would like to stop by during the week for a copy of this booklet.

Happy Anniversary!

Happy December Anniversary to:



Gladys & Michael Festa
Leo & Christina Sullivan
Frank & Wendie Kordalski

Happy Birthday!

Happy December Birthday to:

Aimee Mitchell
Glen Young
Rayanne Pyles
Jesus Christ, we can't forget Him!



Happy Belated Birthday to **Camden Trout!** His birthday was accidentally left out of the November birthdays.



Our Sympathy



We extend our sympathy to the Aston Family. Long-time member H. Carl Aston went home to be with our Lord on November 1.



We extend our sympathy to the Egenlauf Family. Long-time member Donna Egenlauf went home to be with our Lord on Nov. 24.



We extend our sympathy to the Wetzler Family. Linda's sister, Jean Louise Heckman went home to be with our Lord on Nov. 21.



We extend our sympathy to the Snyir Family. Katie Snyir went home to be with our Lord on November 25 at the age of 17. Katie was on our prayer list when she was 5 years old and fighting leukemia. After undergoing a bone marrow transplant, she had a wonderful childhood. Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with brain cancer at the age of 16 and the Lord called her home on Thanksgiving Day.

Liturgists Needed

Liturgists Needed for the 10:30 Service

Please contact 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. 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 become a member of Linway Church.

MA's Pantry

MA's Pantry Giving Tree: A Few Changes

The MA's Pantry Giving Tree is once again located in the Narthex. The tree is 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. Other churches in the community will be purchasing gift cards for Aldi and Walmart. This gives the recipient the freedom to make his/her own selection.

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.



The next edition of this Newsletter will be the January/February Edition and will be sent the beginning of February 2022.

Immediate and Urgent Need for 2 Volunteers for MA's Pantry

Need two able bodied persons with their own transportation who can lift and load/unload weights of up to about 25 pounds. Needed every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. for about 1 hour and 2 Friday mornings each month at 9:00 for about 1 ½ hours. Begin December 3. Call Ed Sites (412) 848-1407.

Poinsettias

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this order form or contact the church office **by Tuesday, Dec 7** if you wish to place a poinsettia plant in the sanctuary for Christmas.

The cost of each plant is \$12.00. Please include payment with the order.

Flowers Given By: Please include your name & phone number

"In Memory Of"or....."In Honor Of"
(please designate)

Name(s): (include relation: parent, brother, grandparent, child, aunt, friend, etc.)

Please select color choice(s) & write quantity:

Red _____ White _____

Pink _____ Marble _____

Total Plants: _____ **Total Due: \$** _____

