



The Linway News

January - April 2026 Newsletter

Linway United
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Celebrating 129 Years
June 1, 1897 - June 1, 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Renewed Day by Day

2 Corinthians 4:16-18



Dear friends,

It feels as though we only just finished putting away the Christmas decorations, and already we find ourselves walking the road of Lent. The church calendar often moves this way. One moment we are singing "Joy to the World," celebrating the birth of Christ with lights and laughter. The next, we are invited into a quieter season of reflection, prayer, and repentance.

At first glance, that quick turn can feel abrupt. Yet the rhythm is deeply meaningful.

The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:16, "*So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.*" These words remind us that the Christian life is not lived in only one season. There are times of celebration and times of reflection, moments of brightness and moments of quiet searching. Through them all, God is at work renewing us.

Lent is one of those seasons when we slow down and pay attention to our hearts. It is not meant to be a gloomy time, but a *purposeful time*; a time when we step back from the busyness of life and ask where God might be calling us to deeper faith.

In many ways, the shift from Christmas to Lent mirrors our own spiritual lives. There are times when faith feels like a joyful feast: prayers come easily, gratitude overflows, and we sense God's presence clearly. At other times, faith looks more like a journey through the wilderness, where we

are invited to examine ourselves honestly and rediscover our dependence on God.

Both seasons are necessary.

Christmas reminds us that God has come near to us in Jesus Christ. Lent reminds us why we needed Christ to come at all. Christmas celebrates the gift; Lent prepares our hearts to understand its depth.

Paul encourages us not to lose heart because God is continually renewing us, "*day by day.*" That phrase is important. Spiritual growth rarely happens in dramatic leaps. More often it happens slowly, through daily prayer, daily acts of kindness, daily moments of turning our hearts back toward God.

This winter season offers us that opportunity.

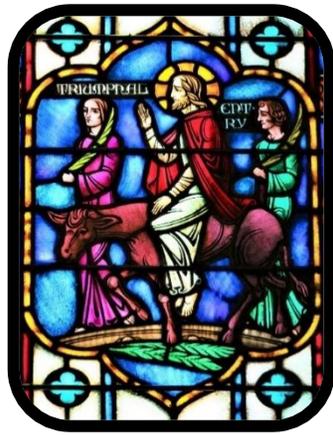
As the days are still short and the air still cold, we are given space to pause and reflect. Lent invites us to pray more intentionally, to read Scripture more carefully, and to look honestly at the places in our lives where God is still shaping us.

And the good news is that this journey does not end in reflection alone. Lent ultimately leads us to Easter, the celebration of resurrection and new life. The quiet work God does in our hearts now prepares us for the joy that is coming.

So as we continue through these last few winter days, may we embrace the rhythm of the season. May we not lose heart. And may we trust that, even when life feels busy or uncertain, God is faithfully renewing us...day by day.

In Christ's loving grace and peace,
Pastor Jakob

The Triumphal
Entry of Jesus
depicted in one of
Linway's beautiful
stained glass
Sanctuary windows



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday March 29

Breakfast served 8:15 to 9:30 a.m.

One Combined Worship Service 10:00a.m.

Children's Parade of Palms during service

Maundy Thursday April 2

Meal with Communion at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday April 3

Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday April 5

Services at 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Breakfast

Come for Breakfast & Stay for Worship!

The Deacons will host the Palm Sunday Breakfast March 29th, serving from 8:15 to 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. An adult meal is \$10 and children age 10 & under are \$5. Each adult meal comes with 2 scrambled eggs, 2 sausage links, hash brown, toast, fruit salad and a drink. This is a fundraiser for the Deacons.

Following the breakfast, there will be one combined Palm Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. The children are invited to the back of the Sanctuary as the service begins to prepare for the Parade of Palms. We hope you can come!

Maundy Thursday Meal & Communion **6:30 p.m. in Social Hall**

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper the way Jesus & the disciples did. They gathered together not in a worship service, but around a table to celebrate the Passover.

Everyone is welcome to gather downstairs in our Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. to share a simple meal of soup (chicken noodle or chicken rice soup) and bread. After the meal Pastor Jakob will lead the Communion Service. There is no charge for this special meal. Please invite friends, family, youth, and children to join us as we remember and reflect on the first Lord's Supper so many years ago.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.

This is a solemn service in which we remember Jesus' life, crucifixion, & death. Stemming from Latin, the word "Tenebrae" means "darkness." Such a definition is suitable for this service, which centers around the increasing darkness of the church as the lights on the candelabra are extinguished. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Greway and the St. John's Lutheran congregation will be joining us as we share this service together.

A special candelabra is used during Tenebrae. After each reading, whether from the Psalms or gospels, a candle is extinguished until one is left. By the end of the service, the church is cast into darkness, except for the continual light of the Christ candle, symbolizing Christ as the Light of the World.

As a service with deep biblical meaning, each part of Tenebrae sets the mood for the congregation as they consider the darkness of that day as the Savior hung on the cross and died for the sins of the world. At the conclusion of the service, all who are present exit the sanctuary in silence. Please consider attending this powerful, moving service.

Easter Sunday Services

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

Join us for worship
as we celebrate
the resurrection
of our Lord!



Wednesday Watch: Throughout Lent, Pastor Jakob shares "Wednesday Watch", a mid-week video message posted on Wednesdays to the Linway Facebook page & website www.LinwayChurch.org Take a moment during the week to slow down, reflect on scripture, and keep our hearts' attention to Christ on the road to the cross.

YOU ARE INVITED!

**Linway Appreciation
Spaghetti Dinner
Tues, March 24th
5:00-7:00pm**



It's not a meeting, not a fundraiser, and not a covered-dish. Just a time to relax & enjoy dinner together in our Social Hall! Gluten free options available. All are welcome to come have dinner with your Linway family! There is no charge. Invite a friend!

The Session

Next Session Meeting: April 28 at 7:00

Member Care & Outreach Committee

If you are interested in serving on the Member Care Committee, please speak to Amy Gida 412-607-8430. Anyone from Linway is able to assist with Member Care's activities.

Walking with Jesus: During Lent, this journey through scripture & discipline entails a daily scripture reading from the book of Acts, a physical activity (walk or whatever you're able to do) & a challenge. A handout with scripture readings & challenges is on the table at the church entrance. If you need, we have extra Bibles at the church that you can take home to help with this journey.

You're welcome to walk in the Social Hall on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. Let Chris Stewart or the office know if you're participating so that we can cheer each other on as we build our faith and discipline during Lent.

Palm Frond Crosses: Learn to fold a palm frond into a cross! Taught by Sandy Hillgartner on Sat, March 28 at 11:30 a.m. in our Fellowship Room. Bring along a pair of scissors & we'll supply the palms. There is no cost, and everyone is invited! Use the back door along James Street to enter. If you're interested in attending, please talk to Leanne Cornell or call the church office so we can have an idea how many palms to order.



Coffee Connection: Volunteers are always welcome to host a Sunday morning Coffee Connection or provide a snack. There is a sign-up sheet on the coffee table if you'd be able to help.

Missions Committee

One Great Hour of Sharing:

The Sunday School kids are saving money in their fish banks that will be sent to help mission projects through the Presbyterian Church USA. They'd be delighted if you would like to help & add to their fish banks from now to Easter Sunday.



There are special envelopes in the pews if you would like to help the Presbyterian Church USA with their mission in the US and around the world with helping those who are poor, hungry or oppressed, or assisting during a natural disaster. You may also mail your gift to Linway or place in the offering, and designate it is for the "One Great Hour of Sharing".

Light of Life Rescue Mission: is one of the missions that Linway supports. During the cold storms of January, they continued to provide for Pittsburgh's most vulnerable & encouraged those at tent camps to seek shelter and provided:

- 1,404 shelter nights
- 654 guests in emergency shelter
- 6,567 hot meals from their kitchen

MA's Pantry

We are looking for a member of Linway to join Clare Hillgartner on the MA's Pantry Board, which meets quarterly on Saturday mornings at 11:00 at the conclusion of food distribution. This is a great way to get involved and support the work of MA's Pantry through assisting in the activities and oversight of their efforts. If you are interested in volunteering on the Board or hearing more about it, please reach out to the church office or Jamie Stewart.

Volunteer Drivers: are needed to make home deliveries. It only takes 1 to 1 ½ hours two Saturday mornings each month. An increasing number of MA's recipients are handicapped and homebound. If you want to explore this or other volunteer opportunities, please call Ed Sites at (412) 848-1407.

Linway's Souper Bowl Cook-off raised \$223 for MA's. The Kordalski's wedding soup was the winner. Congrats to Chef Frank who prepared this winning soup & who was presented with the golden ladle!

Upcoming MA's distribution dates are March 21 & April 11 & 25 from 9-11:00am at 1000 Broadway in East McKeesport. Phone 412-824-0277 for more information.

Fundraising Committee

Giant Eagle Gift Cards in various amounts are always available for purchase after the 10:30 worship service or by calling the church office. Currently, we also have Eat N' Park, Dunkin Donuts, and Denny's gift cards available. The church receives a percent of each gift card that is purchased.

Sarris Candy is available after the worship services or by contacting the church office. \$1 for Candy Bars (Milk Chocolate, Almond, Peanut Butter, or Crisp Rice flavors) and \$2 for a pack of 2 Chocolate-covered Pretzel Rods.

Finance Committee

Thank you for your support, both financially and prayerfully, that you give to our church. It is greatly appreciated!

We kindly ask Linway members to please remember to pay your 2026 Presbytery Assessment. This is the amount each member of the church is asked to pay to cover the operational expenses of the Presbytery. The Per Capita Apportionment for 2026 is \$40 per member. When placing this in the offering or mailing to the church, please indicate that it is for the Per Capita.

2026 Special Offerings

The Presbytery Church (USA) has designated the following special offerings throughout the year. If you choose to give a gift, please designate which special offering it is for. For those who have a box of giving envelopes, there are corresponding envelopes in the box for each of the dates listed below.

Per Capita Apportionment \$40 per member
Lenten Offering – Feb. 15
One Great Hour of Sharing – March 29
Easter Offering – April 5
Mother's Day – May 10
Pentecost – May 24
Peace & Global Witness – Oct. 4
Thanksgiving – Nov 22
Advent – Nov 29
Christmas Offering – Dec. 24
Christmas Joy – Dec. 13

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above. James 1: 17.

Property Committee

These first months of 2026 have been busy for the Property Committee. At the end of January due to the extreme cold weather, the water line behind the church broke, resulting in the loss of water for 5 days and the cancellation of the Feb. 1 worship services while repairs were made.

Fortunately, the break occurred outside of the church building, and the rushing water went down the storm drain and not inside the church building.

On Feb. 5, the gas company worked on the gas line outside the church. Activities for the day had to be canceled due to having to shut off the boiler while repairs were completed.

Mid-February, replacement of the 3rd floor malfunctioning toilets revealed a bigger problem of a cracked pipe which resulted in the replacement of the original 1940 plumbing lines for both 3rd floor restrooms. Work will continue in these restrooms to repair the drywall, paint, and install new flooring.

Unfortunately, we continue to have issues with our plumbing due to wipes, paper towels, or other “flushable” items being flushed down the toilets. Wipes advertised as “flushable” are truly not flushable and will cause clogs. Our church plumbing can only handle toilet paper being flushed. Please help us to avoid serious and costly plumbing repairs by not flushing the above items.

If you would like to contribute to the **Building Fund**, please place your gift in an envelope and designate that it is “For the Building Fund”. Then, mail it to the church or place in the offering. We thank you, in advance, for helping with the cost of necessary projects to maintain our church building and property.

Deacons

The Deacons thank everyone who donated items or funds for the Valentine’s Treat Boxes that they sent to our college students. At their last meeting, they voted to give a donation to MA’s Pantry through the Soup-er Bowl of Caring.

The Deacons are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Palm Sunday Breakfast on

March 29th. They thank you in advance for your support of their breakfast fundraiser.

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir practices on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. New choir members are always welcome to sing joyfully to the Lord. We are happy to share our gift of music & invite you to join us for fun, fellowship & singing. All levels of singing, from beginners to experienced, blend nicely in our choir. Talk to our organist, George Hawkins.

Bell Choir is rehearsing Thursday nights at 6:00 in preparation to play at Easter. New members are welcome. See George Hawkins if you are interested.



Christian Education Committee



Picture from the 2025 Retreat

Linway Retreat: April 24-26

The Linway Retreat will be held April 24-26 at the Ligonier Camp and Conference Center. Everyone is encouraged to take some time away from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives and “retreat” to Ligonier, where you can enjoy the beauty and quiet of nature while enjoying fellowship with Linway friends. **Registration forms are due by Sunday, April 5th, but please register as soon as possible.** More information about the retreat & registration is on the last page of this newsletter. Extra forms are in the Narthex, on the church website or call the church office.

Children's Sunday School: is offered every Sunday during the 10:30 Service until 11:30. Kids are dismissed to go to Sunday School during the service following the Time With the Children. Coloring/activity pages are always available at the church entrance.

Kid's Club

Next Dates: March 25 & April 8

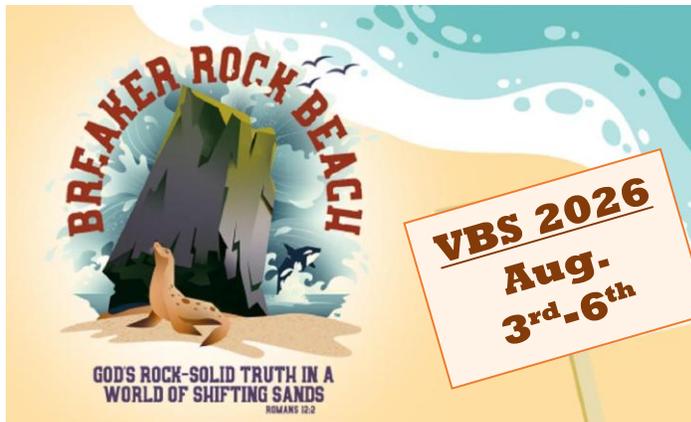
Kid's Club meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Occasionally the date is changed due to a holiday. Each Kid's Club night has a Bible lesson, game, craft, music, and snack.

Kid's Club is open to children age 5 through 6th grade, regardless of their church affiliation or school district. Feel free to share information about our program with other families. Please contact the church office for registration forms or if you have questions.



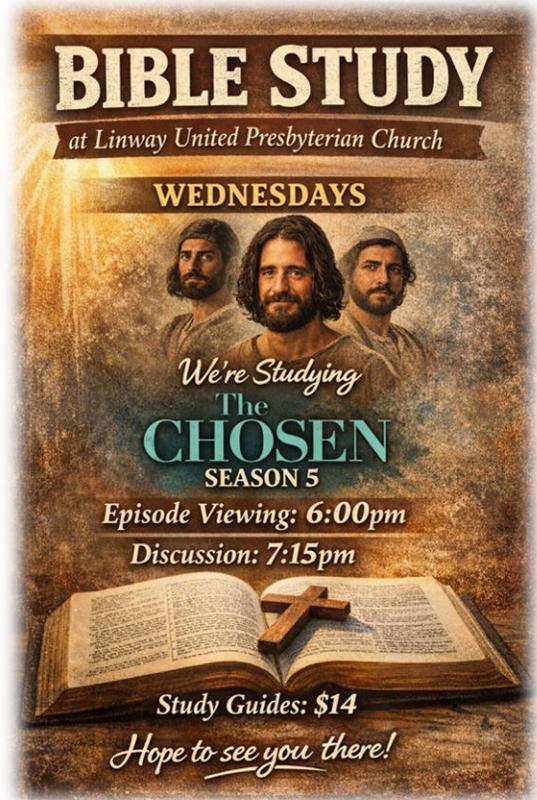
Church Picnic on June 7

We hope you can come for our annual Church Picnic at White Oak Park! Save the date!



VBS

Planning has begun for our Vacation Bible School, "Breaker Rock Beach", which will be held August 3-6. We'll learn that unlike shifting sand, God's truth never changes. It stands strong, like a towering rock against the crashing waves. Mark your calendar so you can join us at the "beach"!



"The Chosen" Adult Bible Study

Our Bible Study is watching and discussing Season 5 of *The Chosen*, which portrays the events from Palm Sunday to Easter. Participants either watch the week's episode at home or at the church on Wednesdays starting at 6:00 p.m. Bible Study discussion is then held at 7:15 p.m. Each lesson is independent of the others, so if you haven't participated and would like to come, you will not be lost during the discussion.

If you would like more information about this Bible Study, please contact Kristopher Daugherty at 412-378-6032. Information about *The Chosen* or to watch episodes is at <https://watch.thechosen.tv/>

Summer Camps

Camp Crestfield and Ligonier Camp & Conference Center are two wonderful, local Christian summer camps for kids. Scholarship money to attend is available through the church and also through the camp. The Christian Education Committee will do their best to help or find financial help for any Linway child who wants to go. Consider having your child invite a friend to

make the camp experience even better!
More information is available on the camps' websites: www.ligoniercamp.org or www.crestfieldcc.org

Linway Preschool

The students at our Linway Preschool are ready for Spring! The bulletin boards in the hallway are decorated with Easter and Spring artwork created by the children. Pastor Jakob will soon be visiting the classrooms to share the Easter story.



Open House for prospective students and their parents/guardians for the 2026/27 school year will be held on Wednesday, April 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tour the classrooms and meet the teachers. Use the east door of the church. Classes are held September thru May. Three-year olds meet Tuesdays & Thursdays. Four-year olds meet Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

Women's Breakfast

The first Monday of the month, the women of Linway get together for breakfast at 10:00 a.m. at North Versailles Eat 'N Park. You're welcome to bring a friend! The next breakfast will be on April 6. Come on out and let someone else do the cooking and the dishes!

Men's Breakfast

The men are also getting together for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at North Versailles Eat 'N Park. All men are invited. The next breakfast date will be March 25. Come on out for breakfast and lively conversation!

Craft Ladies

The Craft Ladies meet the first and third Tuesday of the month downstairs in the Friendly Fellowship Room at 12:30. Please use the James Street Entrance (back door of the church). Contact Clara Welty 412-953-7227 or Nancy Waszkiewicz 412-378-9136 for more information.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels operates out of the Linway kitchen 5 days a week to provide meals for their clients. To enquire about receiving reasonably priced meals, call: 412-327-6908.

Volunteers: Consider volunteering one day a week for an hour or two to help Meals on Wheels get hot meals to those who need them. There are many ways to help: drivers, runners (deliver meals to the door), packers, kitchen help, or substitute for volunteers that are taking a day off. Please consider donating your time to this worthy cause. For questions about volunteering, contact Leslie Gray at 412-977-2938 or Terry Claycomb at 412-327-6908.

Welcome New Member!

On February 22 we welcomed Linda Rawa as a new member of Linway Church. Linda has been attending services & helping at various church activities for a while. She is the sister of Sandi Szmuc. Linda, we're glad to have you as a member of our church family!

New Member Class

A New Member Class will be forming for those interested in becoming a member of Linway. Speak with Pastor Jakob or contact the church office.

Need for Prayer



Please remember the following in our prayers:

David A, Helen Alexander, Annie, Kathy B, Patty B, Jeannette Briggs, Don & Donnie Baker, Chris, Jim C, Cheryl D, Nathan E, Betty Frommell, Michelle F, Brian H, Barb Harvey, Clare & Sandy Hillgartner, Bev & Barry Harcum, Frank Kordalski Sr, Bill Knight, David K, Harold L, Cindie M, Rick Morgan, Cindy & Ken McCall, L. M, Peg M, Andrew N, Howard N, Mark Pascarella, Arthur R, Renee R, Cindy S. Susan S, Shawn, Laura Shawley, Bill Szmuc, Bruce S, Glenda T, Tracey, Pat V, Kevin W, Scott W, Wanda, Linda Wetzler

In Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the Fawcett Family. Long-time Linway member, Mr. Frank Fawcett, went home to be with our Lord on January 1, 2026.

Thank You!

Bill Knight would like to thank everyone who has visited, sent cards, and kept him in prayer. He is very appreciative of all the support.

Barb Harvey wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, calls & texts messages following her elbow injury and surgery. It means a lot to her to have the support of her church family.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Nicholas Eremic for earning the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in Boy Scouts of America. Nicholas is the son of Keith & Chrissy Eremic. Congratulations on this incredible achievement!

Happy Birthday + Anniversary!

Happy April Birthday to:

Gary Buchman	Nancy Waszkiewicz
Amy Gida	Gary Walters
Wesson Hillgartner	Gwenn Heshizer
Zachary Hilbert	Judy Augustin
Carol Pascarella	Shannon Daugherty
Linda Wetzler	Andrew Dennis
Chris Alexander	Jason Dusak



Happy April Anniversary to:



Kim & David Brown
Nancy & Steve Hilbert
Sandy & Clare Hillgartner

If you would like to share your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office.

Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread March Edition Has Arrived! Pick up your free copy of this daily devotional on the table as you exit. You may also read this online at www.ODBM.org

Have a blessed Easter!



Chancel Flowers

Orders for the 2026 Chancel Flowers “in memory” or “in honor” of a loved are now being taken. The cost is \$20.00 per vase. You may order one or two vases for a Sunday. If there is a particular date you would like to reserve, please do so as early as possible. The deadline to reserve a particular date is two weeks beforehand. To order, please complete this form and place it in the offering with your payment or mail to the church office.

I would like to order:

_____ **1 Vase of Flowers for \$20.00**

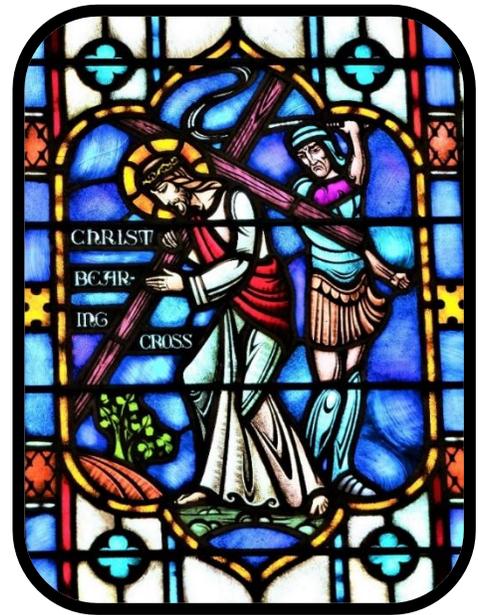
_____ **2 Vases of Flowers for \$40.00**

For the Date:

Flowers Given By: Please include your name & phone number

“In Memory Of”or... “In Honor Of”
(please designate)

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



Christ Bearing the Cross
Depicted through one of Linway’s beautiful stained glass windows

The Linway News

Linway United Presbyterian Church
600 Lincoln Highway
North Versailles, Pa 15137
(412) 824-3555 www.LinwayChurch.org

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00-3:00; Fri 9:00- Noon
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

One Palm Sun Service at 10a.m. on 3/29

Church Staff:

Pastor Jakob Harmon, Student Pastor
Email: Pastor.Harmon@Linwaychurch.org

Church Office Manager: Leanne Cornell
Email: contact@linwaychurch.org

Financial Secretary: Christine Stewart
Email: financial@linwaychurch.org

Organist/Choir Director: George Hawkins

Deadline for newsletter information is the Sunday before the last Sunday of the month.



**Please Join Us at
Linway Church
for**

Palm Sunday Breakfast

March 29th, 2026

Serving from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Each Adult Meal Comes With:

**2 Scrambled Eggs, 2 Sausage Links,
Hash Brown, Toast, Fruit Salad & Drink:
Coffee, Tea, or Juice**

Adults: \$10

Children age 10 & under: \$5

**Stay for our
Palm Sunday Worship Service
at 10:00 a.m.**

**Linway Church 412-824-3555
600 Lincoln Highway, North Versailles**



LINWAY CHURCH RETREAT – 2026

When? **Friday evening, April 24th to Sunday morning, April 26th**
Where? **Ligonier Camp and Conference Center**
Cost? **Weekend rate: \$60 per adult /\$30 per child(3 years thru 12thgrade) includes lodging & meals**
Saturday only: \$20 per adult / \$10 per child (3 years thru 12th grade) includes meals
Registration? **All registration forms are due by **Sunday, April 5th****

We hope you will join us at RETREAT 2026. It is a great way to get to know members of your Linway family! LCCC has private rooms with bathrooms, prepared meals, and beautiful surroundings! There will be activities for fun, fellowship, and Christian education for all ages, including an optional group LASER TAG session, supervised by LCCC staff at no additional cost to participants.

Attendance for only part of the weekend without overnight lodging is encouraged for those with limited availability or would like to experience the retreat (maybe for the first time) without committing to the entire weekend. All registration, including only partial attendance, is required by April 5th!

Discounted rates for Linway members, their immediate family and anyone who attends worship or participates in the life of Linway are:

\$60 per adult / \$30 per child (3 years thru 12th grade) for the weekend includes lodging & meals
\$20 per adult / \$10 per child for Saturday only & includes meals

Financial assistance may be available by contacting Amy Gida, the church office or a member of the Christian Education Committee. Guests who do not meet discount guidelines will be charged the full LCCC fees: \$135 for the weekend or \$67 for Saturday only.

Questions? Contact Amy Gida (412-607-8430, luckyfool67@aol.com) or the church office

----- cut here -----

RETREAT 2026 Registration ~ Complete & return by Sunday, April 5th ~ Continue on back, if necessary.

Please give completed form to Amy Gida, place in the offering, or turn into the church office.

NAME: _____ (If child, age/grade: _____)
WEEKEND ____ or SATURDAY ONLY ____ LASER TAG: Yes / No

NAME: _____ (If child, age/grade: _____)
WEEKEND ____ or SATURDAY ONLY ____ LASER TAG: Yes / No

NAME: _____ (If child, age/grade: _____)
WEEKEND ____ or SATURDAY ONLY ____ LASER TAG: Yes / No

NAME: _____ (If child, age/grade: _____)
WEEKEND ____ or SATURDAY ONLY ____ LASER TAG: Yes / No

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

FOOD ALLERGIES or RESTRICTIONS: _____

IF PLANNING TO ROOM WITH ANOTHER PERSON/GROUP, WHO? _____

What's the Linway Retreat? A Linway Tradition Since 1978

Lamont Lodge

Where we stay. Our group has this entire building.



Comfortable Guest Rooms



Bible Lessons



Dining Hall



Crafts!



Fun Activities!



Talent Show!



Plus There's More!

Campfire Songs, Prayer, Games, Snacks, Family, Quiet Time, Music, Relaxation, Nature, Laughter, Praise, Love of our Lord, Campfire, Devotions, Laser Tag, Vespers, Saturday School, Ping Pong, Old & New Friends!

