



The Linway News

June/July/August 2024

Linway United
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Celebrating 127 Years
June 1, 1897-June 1, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



But What About Them?

Dear Friends in Christ,

Members ask the best questions! One of the most frequent ones is, "What about the people who don't know Jesus? Can they get to heaven?" That question has been asked countless times to every Pastor and Youth Worker, Sunday School teacher and Seminary professor that has ever lived. I don't claim to have the final answer, but I want to share the thoughts I had in a recent email exchange with a dear friend:

Good Morning, Pastor Larry,

I have a question that's been weighing on my heart for quite some time. As Christians we're taught that the way to heaven and eternal salvation is through Jesus Christ (John 14:6). If that's true, which I believe it to be, what about all the Jews, Hindus, and Muslims? What happens to them? What about the people that don't even know about Jesus because they live in remote places or haven't been exposed to the Word through no fault of their own?

My Response:

Great question. One of the simplest and also one of the most complex questions the church has faced for centuries! Way too much for an email!

Simple: Jesus is the only way to salvation!

Complex: God is infinitely creative in the way He can bring people to Jesus!

Bottom line: We can trust God to work out the details of a plan that He is so committed to that He sacrificed His own Son to bring it into fulfillment. He desired that none should perish. Therefore, anyone who can be saved, will be!

Our inability to understand how God can bring people to Christ in other cultures and religions (or in our own families!) is in no way a barrier to God saving who God will save! Can a Muslim who has never read the Bible meet Jesus through a dream? Of course. Can a Buddhist be touched by the Holy Spirit and open his/her eyes to see Jesus as Savior? Certainly. Can an entire village in a remote part of China that has never seen a Bible come to a saving knowledge of Christ? Yes. I can't explain it, but God is at work in ways that go way beyond our understanding.

Look at the way Jesus saved the "unsavable" in the eyes of the religious establishment of his day. Or read Acts 15 where the church tried to limit God's ability to save to those who were Jewish. We Christians try to do the same thing when we insist that there is only one formula available to Almighty God to bring people to Christ. Fortunately, we are not in charge of quality control, nor do we have the power to tell God how to do His job.

I hope I haven't created more questions than answers. Thanks for asking and for caring about the people in your life enough to be concerned about their eternal salvation. God figured out a way to reach you and me. He can figure out a way to reach anyone who is willing to be reached.

I hope this will stimulate some thought and address some of your questions too. Hmm... maybe there's a sermon or two in here!

Be blessed,
Pastor Larry



Summer Communion: July 28

Rally Day Communion: September 8

We will be sharing holy communion during both worship services on Sunday, July 28 and Sunday, September 8. We hope you'll be able to join us!



We wish a belated **Happy Father's Day!** to all of our fathers

and grandfathers and also to all of the men of Linway who share their concern and care for others! We also fondly remember the men in our lives who have gone home to the Church Triumphant.

"A righteous man who always walks in his integrity; how blessed are his sons after him." Proverbs 20: 7

Summer Newsletter

This is the combined June/July/August edition of the newsletter. The next Linway News will be available in September.

Transition to New Pastor
Your voice is still needed!



For those who have completed the Congregational Survey, thank you.

For those who haven't had the time to complete it, **we have extended the survey deadline to July 14**. The surveys are available at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/linwayupc>

or in the Narthex of the church on Sunday mornings.

If you are having any difficulty with the survey, please call the church office. We have folks willing to deliver blank surveys or pick-up completed surveys.

We appreciate your input during the transition.

Yours in Christ,
Linway Transition Team
Keith Eremic, Lila Sedlak, Jamie Stewart

Church Picnic at White Oak Park

Thirty-five members and friends attended our annual picnic at White Oak Park in the Maple Pavilion on Sunday, June 9. The picnic began with a lunch of grilled hot dogs and delicious covered dish items everyone brought to share. Though the weather was a little cool, it didn't stop the kids from playing with the water balloons.

The Session

Next Session Meeting: Aug. 20 7:00 pm
in the Friendly Fellowship Room.

Fundraising Committee

Thank You to everyone who helped in any way with our chicken barbecue in May! We sold 200 chicken dinners in 2.5 hours! **The next chicken barbecue is scheduled for Sept. 7.**



Thank You to everyone who purchased or sold pepperoni rolls for our June fundraiser. We sold 94 pepperoni rolls!

Giving Bean Coffee & Tea On-Going

Fundraiser: Online orders may be placed directly with Giving Bean at any time and Linway will earn 25% of the sale. Orders will then be shipped directly to you. Use this link to order:

<https://www.givingbean.com/store/home.php?partner=83fa1>.

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

Property Committee **Kitchen Project**

The long-awaited kitchen project will take place mid-July. This project has been discussed, debated, and planned for a few years and is finally here. Plans include removal of all items from the kitchen, replacing and reconfiguring the kitchen plumbing, replacing the 2-bowl sink with a 3-bowl sink, and replacement of the kitchen floor.



Help is needed the following times:

Mon-Wed evenings July 15-17 to move all items (counters, cupboards, sinks, refrigerator, etc.) out of the kitchen.

Sat July 20 to excavate the kitchen floor.

If you are willing and able to help, please contact Scott Gray at 412-977-8254.

Thank you to Scott Gray & Clara Welty for coordinating and to Rick & Ricky Morgan for being consultants on this project. The plumbing is being done by TIDA Plumbing. Please keep this big project & those doing the work in your prayers.



Church Security

Each night, a member goes through our church to make sure lights/faucets are off, windows are closed, doors are locked, etc.

If you would be willing to help, please contact Scott Gray at 412-977-8254. The current schedule has volunteers doing these security checks 1 week roughly every other month. More help on the schedule would reduce the number of times each person would do security a year.

Lawn Care Donations Requested



It's Grass Cutting Time!

We would appreciate donations toward our Lawn

Care Fund to help defray the cost of the lawn mowing service that takes care of the church's lawn and landscaping. Each weekly cut of the grass costs \$40.00. If you are willing and able to help with this expense, please use one of the all-purpose pew envelopes and designate it for "Lawn Care" or mark it on your check memo line. Thank you so much for helping us keep the church's lawn and grounds looking nice.

Deacons

Next Deacon Meeting: Sun, Sept. 15 at 11:45 a.m. in the Friendly Fellowship Room. Moderator Christine Stewart will email to confirm.

The Deacons gave flowers to all the women and girls who attended worship services on Mother's Day and gave home-baked cookies to the men and boys who attended on Father's Day. They also gave monetary donations to teachers in the Gateway and East Allegheny School Districts.

Christian Education Committee

Vacation Bible School: June 3 – 6



**Amazing Encounters
with Jesus!
John 20: 31**

THANK YOU to
everyone who helped

by volunteering, bringing or inviting a child, remembering VBS in prayer, or giving a donation! Lessons, crafts, and snacks were held in the Social Hall, music was in the Sanctuary, and games were held on the lawn.

Nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the kids & volunteers! **The message and the love of Jesus was shared with 25 kids with the help of more than 30 volunteers!!** The children brought in offering to benefit this year's Mission: "White Oak Safe Haven Animal Shelter" and made no-sew blanket for the shelter animals.

Help Needed at Linway's Table for EA Back to School Community Day

Help is needed at the Linway table on Saturday, July 27. The event is being held in the high school's stadium from 11-2:00. Our table is going to have a craft activity and a game for the children, and we'll be handing out information about our church along with re-usable tote bags. A few Linway folks have volunteered, but a few more to help would be appreciated. If you are able to help, please contact Jaime Ruffing 412-302-6241 or the church office.

Youth Sunday

We are planning to have Youth Sunday late July or early August in which the children and youth of the church assist with the 9:15 and/or 10:30 worship services. Areas where help from the kids would be needed are: greeting & passing out bulletins, reading items, announcing songs/hymns, being acolyte, and possibly doing a "Time with Adults" during the 10:30 Service in place of a "Time with Children". Also, if your child plays an instrument, would he/she be willing to play that day? Parents, please watch for more information to be emailed.

Kid's Club: Summer Party: Aug. 14

Kid's Club is now on summer break, but we are planning a summer party on Wednesday, Aug. 14 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Watch for our emails with more details as this date gets closer.

Linway Preschool

Registrations for 2024/25 are now being accepted, but there are only a few spots left. Classes will begin the first week of September. The 3 Year Olds Class will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The 4 Year Olds Class will be held on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays. Contact the church office for more information.

Music Ministry

Chancel Choir: The choir is taking a break for the summer. **Thank You Choir!** for providing beautiful music to enhance our 10:30 service throughout the year.

Special Music for the Summer

We are seeking individuals who would like to provide Special Music for a Sunday service during the summer. If you would like to share your gift of music at one of the summer services, please contact George Hawkins.



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. Any woman from the church is welcome. the next breakfast dates are August 5 & September 9.

Men's Breakfast

The men are also getting together for breakfast at North Versailles Eat 'N Park. The men meet the last Wednesday of the month at 8:00 a.m. All men are invited. The next breakfast dates are July 31 and August 28.

Craft Ladies

The Craft Ladies are taking a break for the summer and will resume meeting again in the fall.

Meals on Wheels

Congratulations to East Allegheny Meals on Wheels which celebrated its 50 years of service with a luncheon in the Social Hall on July 20. The non-profit, all-volunteer program has been cooking and delivering hot meals to our community neighbors since June 1974. Please see the special announcement included with this newsletter.

Meals on Wheels operates out of the Linway kitchen 5 days a week to provide

meals for their clients. They have a plan in place for when the kitchen construction is underway. Extra hands are always welcome to help. To volunteer or to sign-up to receive meals, please call: 412-327-6908.

Need for Prayer



Please remember the following in our prayers: Helen Alexander, Patty B., Chris Bach, Donnie Baker, Ben B., Doug B., Michele B., Amy C., Chris, Cheryl D., Eremic Family, Betty Frommell, Frank & Mary Lou Fawcett, Bev Harcum, Jill Hardy, Nick Hunter, Alice J., Jackie J., Michelle K., Kevin, Samantha L., Jean Lawton, Vickie Lofgren, Ken M., Eric N., Jan. P, Linda P., Carol Pascarella, Joan Pierro, Donna Pottinger, Renee R., Anna Marie S., Andy Sedlak, Laura Shawley, Shawn, Bill Szmuc, Tammi, Cindy Taylor, Pat V., Wanda, Linda Wetzler

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Keith & Chrissy Eremic and Nicholas and Marissa. Chrissy's mother, Mrs. Sara Lightcap, went home to be with our Lord on June 20.

Congrats College Grad!

Congratulations to Bradley Hallick who graduated from St. Vincent College with a Degree in Mathematics and Engineering. Bradley is the son of Ryan and Heather Hallick. For his engineering project, Bradley designed and installed a living chapel on the grounds of St. Vincent College. It is a solar-powered, self-sustaining area for meditation. May the Lord continue to be with Bradley as he begins the next chapter of his life.

Our Daily Bread

The June-July-August edition of *Our Daily Bread* is available at the Sanctuary entrance. Please pick-up your free copy of this daily devotional booklet and grow your relationship with our Lord.

Happy Anniversary!



Happy June Anniversary to:

Jackie & Tom Thornton
Jaime & Ed Ruffing
Joe & Cindy Deferrari

Happy July Anniversary to:

Melanie & Brian Blackall
Chrissy & Keith Eremic
Fran & Nick Sivrich
Peggy & Nick Sivrich
Kris & Shannon Daugherty
Judy & Don Augustin
Pam & Scott Susan

Happy August Anniversary to:

Amy & Wayne Gida

Happy Birthday!

Happy June Birthday to:

Dorothy Black	Caden Sivrich
Tom Thornton	Pam Susan
Willie Marrow	Scott Susan
Duane Welty	Dale Frye
Cathy Walters	Deanna Buchman
Jacquelyn Ruffing	Ellen Hardy
Samantha Stewart	Marissa Lapp
Stephanie Spingola	



Happy July Birthday to:

Kathy Berger	Laura Shawley
Mary Lou Fawcett	Nancy Hilbert
John Masters	Mia Sivrich
Deanna Walters	

Happy August Birthday to:

Joe Deferrari	Helen Alexander
Kristopher Daugherty	Don Watt
Camden Daugherty	Linda Wirth
Jamie Stewart	Mike Marrow
Keith Eremic	Jeannette Briggs

MA's Pantry

Day of Giving

The Pittsburgh Foundation will once again match online gifts given to them on Aug. 6 for our local Food Bank, MA's Pantry!

Linway is collecting monetary donations for MA's thru AUGUST 4 in order to give a gift from Linway.

YOU DONATE + THEY MATCH =
DOUBLE THE IMPACT!

Since we are combining all donations given through Linway, no monetary amount is too small. If you'd like to help, please place in the offering or mail your donation to Linway so that we receive it by AUG. 4. Checks should be made payable to "Linway Church" and indicate that it is for "MA's Pantry".

With your help, MA's Pantry has been very successful over the last several years through its participation. Last year this effort netted MA's \$37,642 in one day! This year MA's goal is \$40,000. **THANKS!**

MA's Food Distribution Dates:

July 20, Aug. 3, Aug. 17, Sept. 7

The Linway News

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

www.LinwayChurch.org

LinwayChurch Facebook Page

Summer Office Hours are: Mon-Thurs 9-Noon

Church Staff:

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby

Email: pastor.ruby@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 usually the Sunday before the last Sunday of the month.



**ANNOUNCING
50th Anniversary year
June 1974 - June 2024**



**East Allegheny Meals-on-Wheels
600 Lincoln Highway
North Versailles PA 15137
412-327-6908**

Our host church, Linway United Presbyterian, graciously took a leap of faith 50 years ago and offered their facility and their support to a new non-profit, all-volunteer program where food is cooked daily and driven right to the door of the recipient, hot, ready to eat.

The founding Mothers: Beulah Lowden and Virginia Beswick, were told at the time that their idea would not work. "You will never be able to find enough volunteers to cook, pack, and deliver hot meals 5 days a week" was one person's comment at the Church Board Meeting. Well, we proved them wrong! And by the way, the person making that comment became one of the Program's first and longest serving volunteers.

We are proud and pleased to provide a vital service to residents in North Versailles, East McKeesport, and Wilmerding 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year, including holidays, by over 50 dedicated, generous, faithful, hard working men and women of all ages. We currently have one volunteer who has been with the Program all 50 years!

At this time we serve between 35 and 40 clients a day and would welcome more. If you know someone in your circle of friends or in your neighborhood that could benefit from our service, please offer them our phone number. The process is simple to sign up and can be handled with a 5-minute phone call. The only requirement is a person's inability to shop and cook for themselves and to pay a nominal daily fee.

We welcome new volunteers who may have a few hours in the morning one day a week to cook, pack, clean up, drive, or be a runner. While there is no financial gain for your time, your reward is in knowing that you were able to help someone, perhaps a perfect stranger, have a better day because of your service. You can't put a monetary value on that.

It is with sincere gratitude, we recognize and thank our neighborhood churches, organizations, and individuals who have provided our program with financial support. We have encountered hard times over the years so be assured your donations have allowed us to reach this amazing milestone.

Our motto speaks for all of us:

"In as much as you have done it to one
of the least of these, my brethren,
you have done it unto me." (Matt: 25:40)

A FEW POEMS BY FRANK FAWCETT

What's Next?

What's next, what's new
For me and you?
Are we ready to pray
Every hour of the day?
Are we ready to run
When we don't feel like walking?
Are we ready to speak
When we don't feel like talking?
Are we ready to trust
When we're not feeling well?

We just need to adjust
Maybe sit for a spell,
Have a talk with the Lord
Let him know how we feel.
He is ready and willing
To lend us a hand,
To strengthen our zeal
And help us to stand.
To stand up for Jesus
And all he stands for,
To stand on God's promise
Of love evermore.

John 3:16 and 2nd Corinthians 5:17

The Tree of Life

Like a coat of many colors
Trees adorn dear Mother Earth,
Adding beauty to creation
Adding measure to our worth.
The trees provide a shelter
To all flesh and all mankind,
As I look upon them daily
All my blessings come to mind.
With the birds they make sweet music
With the rustle of their leaves,
And with healing bring us comfort
With the cool, soft summer breeze.
Wisdom is a tree of life
Rooted in our heart and soul,
That leads to our salvation
By the One that made us whole.
Jesus said, "You are the branches
And I am the true vine,
And if you do all I command
You are true friends of mine".
To all of us who suffer
Tribulation, stress and strife,
To all who overcome
They shall eat of
The Tree of Life.

*Proverbs 3:18, Psalm 1:1-3, Matthew 7:17,
John 15:14, and Revelations 2:7*

Vict'ry Garden

If we plant tomatoes,
We don't get potatoes.
If we plant potatoes,
We don't get tomatoes.

What you sow is what you reap
This I truly do believe
Bearing fruit, a Godly blessing
That is able to relieve
All the stress and earthly pressure
That may cause us all to stray
From a path of Godly living
That we know, is not the way.

God has a better way for us
He wants us all to know
That if we choose to plant a kiss
Then love will surely grow.
There is a fount in Heaven
From which all blessings flow,
A fount of living water
That is sure to make us grow.

With all that God has given us
Our faith, our victory
We can plant a "Vict'ry Garden"
In this land of liberty.

1st Corinthians 15: 55-57