

Linden Letter

November/ December 2021

Mission Statement: To be a community of prayer, love, and forgiveness committed to leading persons to a living relationship with Jesus Christ and reaching out in acts of compassion and service.

John 18:33-37 (NRSV) ³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters^l again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

On Sunday, November 21st, we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday. We will recognize and celebrate the reign of Jesus as our sovereign King. We will recommit ourselves to serving God and following the leadership of Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. I think it is always important to ask ourselves questions about our faith and our discipleship such as: How am I serving God? How am I spending time with God? How am I showing God’s love to others? And What ways do I think and act that demonstrate the fact that Jesus is my King?

Kingship is a hard concept for us. We are used to questioning our leaders, criticizing our leaders, and turning away from our leaders. We do not usually believe that our leaders always have our best interests at heart. With Jesus, we know that he loves us beyond measure. We know that he wants the best for us. We also know that we are supposed to follow his lead even though we may not like where he leads us.

I hope that you will join me in spending time thinking about the Kingship of Christ and your role as his loyal disciple.

I hope and I pray that you have a wonder filled and blessed Thanksgiving and Advent season.

God’s peace to you all,

Pastor Alicia

Children & Youth

**Our Family Sunday school service is moving to 9:30 am
and is now being held in the fellowship hall!!!**

This service is a blend of Sunday school and family worship. These services have a Sunday school lesson for the children that encourages family discussion and interaction, a (shorter) sermon for adults, a craft or activity that relates to the scripture of the morning, communion, and prayer. We incorporate mission/service opportunities in this service every few weeks. Families are invited to bring chairs, blankets, yoga mats, etc. if you would like. We do provide metal folding chairs as well.

We will begin practicing some Christmas music on the bells and boom whackers and we will decorate the fellowship hall for Christmas! If you have any questions about this service, please contact Pastor Alicia at alicialhume@verizon.net

The youth have spent time during our evening youth group meetings helping others. The youth addressed the cards for the police officers in our precinct and stuffed the bags. They also wrote out Christmas cards for the veterans at the Loch Raven Veteran's hospital.

Youth group meets 6:30-8 pm every Sunday. Since we do not have a Sunday school class for youth right now, pastor Alicia teaches a Bible lesson during youth group. They youth also play games, have snacks, and spend time supporting and encouraging each other.

Our meetings from now until the end of the year are:

November 21: Ice Cream Social- feel free to bring a favorite topping to share if you want! We will also help get ready for Breakfast with Santa

December 5: The meaning of Advent

December 12: Preparing for Christmas

December 19th: Christmas Party

Mission

Many thanks to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child, our October mission collection. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse and again this year our congregation participated in packing shoeboxes for children in need around the world. The shoeboxes contained items such as toys, school supplies and hygiene items. Linden Heights filled 50 shoeboxes and provided financial donations to assist with shipping.

We are currently collecting food for the Victor's Vittles Food Pantry.

Needed items are: spaghetti sauce, instant potatoes, stove top stuffing, hamburger helper, cereal, pancake mix, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shaving cream, shampoo, bar soap, and deodorant. Please make sure that none of the items are expired. You can bring donations to the church 9 am-7 pm on November 21st or 9 am-12 pm on Sunday, November 28th.

In December we will have two mission projects.

We will help a family in need with food for Christmas and Christmas presents. Details for this will be available soon.

We will also support Hanging Tough in Baltimore. This group supports those who are undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. Items are taken to the Franklin Square Infusion Center. Items are due by Monday, December 13th!!

You can fill an entire stocking or donate a few items. Filled stockings should be a mix of these approved items that are not specific for a gender or religion. We suggest that perhaps each stocking have one (or two if you would like) items from each category. Please sign up using the signup genius below so that we know what items we are getting and what items are still needed. You can also call the pastor to let us know what you would like to donate.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-hanging>

HYGIENE: Lotion: Aquaphor or Eucerin Brands, Fragrance Free, Lip Balm, Hand Wipes: Sensitive Skin, Fragrance Free, Pocket Tissues, Nail Files, Wash Cloths

FOOD/BEVERAGE: Mint Gum, Ginger Tea, Ginger Ale, Ginger Candy, Trail Mix or Nuts Granola Bars, Oatmeal Cups, Water Bottles, Travel Mug/Cup

CLOTHING (new): Hats, Scarves, Foot or Hand Warmers

GIFT CARDS -\$25: Door Dash or Grub Hub, Amazon

GAMES (new): Deck of Cards, Travel Sized Games, Puzzle Books -Crossword, Word Search, Sudoku

MISCELLANEOUS (new): Small Adult Coloring Items -book, pens, pencils, Small stuffed animals, Small crafts, Silly Putty, Essential Oils, Note Cards, Handwritten Letter

Do Not Include any of the following items: Shampoo, conditioner, soap, perfume, razors, deodorant, products that have strong scents, jell-o, pudding, applesauce, individual pieces of candy, foods that make crumbs (crackers, chips, candy canes, etc.) individual pens/pencils, used or damaged books/magazines, used or damaged items in general, or medication.

Community Wide Events

Breakfast With Santa will be held on December 4th, 8 am-10 am.

We will ask families to sign up ahead of time through signup genius or by calling the church office at 410-668-6181. We will seat people in shifts, one family per table.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-attending>

Since we will likely have unvaccinated children joining us, we will ask that people wear masks when not eating. Santa will be vaccinated and masked.

I invite you to be a part of this exciting community event! You can sign up to serve using the link below, or call the church office.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-breakfast>

The Living Nativity will be on the evening of December 18th 5:30-7 pm

Animals for the Nativity have been reserved!

This is a wonderful event where we tell the story of the birth of Christ to church members and people in our community.

Please join us in making this event happen! You can sign up to participate by using the link below or calling the church office.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C4EACA62E5-living1>

Worship Advent & Christmas

Our worship schedule has changed!!!!

A group of parishoners met a few weeks ago to discuss the needs of our church community regarding worship. We talked about a lot of different things, including the needs of children, the desire to worship together, and the needs of some of our more senior citizens. We also discussed preferences for music and style of worship. We know that there is no one way to make everyone happy! However, we remember and understand that worship is about what we offer to God. As such, we will continue to have two worship services with a few modifications.

The Family Sunday school service is moving to 9:30 am on Sunday, November 21st. We are also meeting in the fellowship hall. This service will become even more interactive.

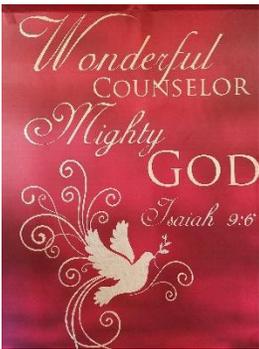
The hybrid in-person/zoom service is moving to 10:30 am on Sunday, November 21st. This service will continue to blend traditional worship and informal worship, striving to find a balance of contemporary and traditional music, movement, meditation, and celebration.

On the 4th Sunday of the month, we will have one, combined service at 10:30 am. This will be an informal service with the children leading portions of the service. It will also be a shorter service, about 45 minutes long.

Poinsettia orders are due soon! We would like as many orders as possible to be in by November 23rd. The final date to order is November 28th. An order form is attached. You can mail the form to the church, however, if you can put it directly into the mailbox, that would be better. You can also call the church with your order or send an email.

Christmas Eve Worship

We will have 3 Christmas Eve worship services and a carol sing this year.



At 4 pm we will have our Family/Children worship service in the sanctuary. We will sing Christmas Carols, read scripture, talk about the birth of Jesus, and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus.

At 7 pm we will have our Traditional Candlelight Service with communion.

We will celebrate the birth of Jesus in scripture, word, and song. This service will be in person and on zoom, the zoom link is below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81727727487?pwd=L1J3MThRTE56eUZvS3E0cmZvY1RvZz09>

Meeting ID: 817 2772 7487

Passcode: 444864

One tap mobile

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+19292056099,,81727727487#,,,,*444864# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kce0vh5qUg>

After the 7 pm Christmas Eve service, we will move to our front lawn for Christmas Caroling.

Please join us as we sing carols for our community and invite them to sing along!

At 11:30 pm we will have a quiet, meditative Christmas Eve service through zoom.

This service will be hosted in the pastor's home and will include Christmas carols, scripture, and time for contemplation. Everyone is invited to have a bell of some sort with them so that we can ring bells together at midnight! If you need a bell, let us know and we can get jingle bells to you. The zoom link is below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86490772933?pwd=K1pazBNb0RIUGVPdmZXKzVsL0JNZz09>

Meeting ID: 864 9077 2933

Passcode: 401877

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Ministry Team's

Finance Ministry Team Report

Electronic Giving is here! After much discussion, the leadership of our church has decided to enable electronic giving through our current church management software program. You currently have two ways to give.

You can use the link below to give using a credit card, debit card, or check. Just click the link (or copy and paste it into your browser) and follow the directions.

<https://onrealm.org/lindenheightsumc/give/now>

You can also text a donation by texting the word “Linden” to 73256. The system will give you a link and prompt you through the donation.

With both options, you can also donate the cost of the church’s processing fee if you would like. A benefit of using this system is that you do not have to keep track of your donations. Your donation gets credited straight into the system and will show up on your end of year giving statement.

Trustee Ministry Team Report

- * The trustees purchased and installed a new, four section quilt rack in the sacrist to better store our paraments.
- * Work is being done in the kitchen to make needed repairs.
- * Gutters have been cleaned
- * The church and education building are being rekeyed to an easier to use master and sub master system. We don’t have a date for that yet, but when it happens we will let people know so that they can hand in old keys and get new ones.
- * Thanks to everyone who helped rake leaves on November 13th! We cleaned up the leaves that had fallen and had a great time!

Adult Christian Education

Reading the Bible in one year has two more meetings! We will meet at 7 pm on Zoom on Tuesday November 23rd. We will discuss Ephesians through James. On Dec. 7th we will discuss 1 Peter through Revelation.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84644784818?pwd=QnVlVWphajBNZFZaK0NrV2J3WVVldz09>

Meeting ID: 846 4478 4818

Passcode: 210711

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,84644784818#,,,,*210711# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd9NnTkFlp>

Advent Bible study on Monday's at 7 pm through zoom.

We will be studying and creating art of Advent. You don't have to be able to sing, draw, paint, etc., you just have to be willing to have an open mind and playful spirit! Participants will need basic supplies like plain paper, a pencil, colored pencils or crayons, a glue stick (or glue bottle), and some construction paper. If you don't have any of these items, let the pastor know! We will hand out supplies on Sunday mornings for those who would like them.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89698391953?pwd=d1lPbkwzbUFkVjEwTTgvdzU1ZXlYdz09>

Meeting ID: 896 9839 1953

Passcode: 326524

One tap mobile

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 896 9839 1953

Passcode: 326524

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdiU30eUyr>

Discipleship Covenant: A few weeks ago, everyone was asked to create a covenant with God to plan how we, as individuals, would intentionally grow in our faith. How are you doing with your covenant? Are there things that you have found helpful? Are there things that have not worked as well as you had hoped? Can you name a way that you have drawn closer to God in faith, knowledge, or love? Here are some suggestions for the next few weeks:

- * Volunteer to serve at the Breakfast with Santa or Living Nativity or both!
- * Do something kind or helpful for someone without letting them know that you did it.
- * Give a gift card to a food store to someone begging on the street.
- * Join the Advent Bible study.
- * Volunteer at the Maryland Food Bank
- * Serve as a parking lot greeter, door greeter, or usher on Christmas Eve
- * Pick a devotional that you have never read and give it a try.