

Presby Press

RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND

THIS MONTH: READING THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

This year a group of us, spearheaded by Kim Herbert, are reading the Bible in a year. Please see p. 8 of this newsletter for the schedule, a way to get involved, and some great reasons that you should join us in this endeavor.

I am pleased to be doing this and excited that Kim has felt called to help us get closer to God's Word. As we start this adventure together, I would like to use some of this space to share a few tips that I think will be handy as we move along.

- 1. Find a buddy** It can be difficult to do something new by yourself. A buddy can help commiserate with you when you fall behind and encourage you to catch back up. And vice versa. You will inspire each other (check out Proverbs 27:17).
- 2. Find a Bible** Take a quick look at the Bible that you have (if you have one). Is it a Bible you enjoy reading? Is the language understandable? Is the font big enough? If you are on the market for a Bible, I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) or the New International Version (NIV). We use the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) in worship and the Bibles in the pews are Today's English Version (from 40 years ago). If you don't have a Bible, we have plenty in the library, please stop by and grab one.
- 3. Read it like a book** This might seem to be goofy advice, but if you have tried reading the Bible before, you have probably found yourself reading much more slowly to try to perfectly and completely understand each and every word and then dwell upon each verse for awhile. This is a wonderful way to read scripture and I highly encourage it, but it won't get you through this particular adventure unless you have a couple of hours a day. Instead, try reading at the pace you typically read at. Ignore the chapter and verse markers (the chapters in the Bible are way shorter than in most books but we tend to see reading three chapters as reading a ton). If you are perplexed by something, make a quick mark by it and move on - it might make sense in the context of the whole narrative. You can always ask me if you are confused about something and I will help guide you through it.
- 4. Do you need a schedule?** Some people thrive on keeping a strict routine. Others find routines confining. Decide what works best for you and then be flexible with that.

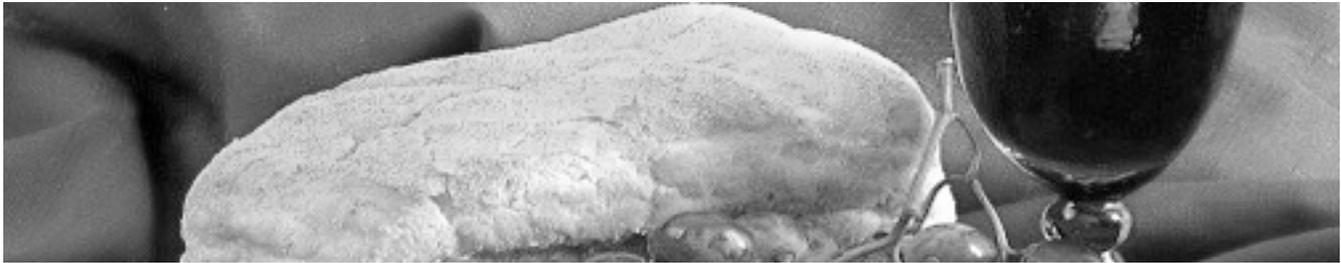
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In other news, there is plenty of information in this newsletter about all the wonderful ministry going on here - I encourage you to read it all! I would like to highlight that we will have one worship gathering on January 25 at 10:00 followed by our annual meeting and luncheon - please join us, it is a wonderful time of fellowship and learning about the ministries of the church. We will also ordain/install elders and deacons at both services on January 4 and the officer retreat is January 16 & 17. Please pray for our elders and deacons as they begin a new chapter in the spiritual nurture and leadership of the church. I also encourage you to pray about how God is calling you into Kingdom living in 2015.

Christ's blessings,





SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

COFFEE HOUR

Kim Herbert & Gayle Wagner will be coordinating the 9:00 coffee hour and **Kristen Garmyn** will be coordinating the 10:30. If you are willing to assist them, please let them know.

USHERS

	9:00	10:30
1/4	Donna Maidment, Sharon Haley, Sharon Donaldson	Cindy & Dave Shane
1/11	Denny & Lola Manner Bill & Joy Thompson	Chapin family
1/18	Rich & Sue Eaton Richard & Doris Parks	Sweitzer & Collins families
1/25	Cindy Shane and David Brownlee (one worship at 10:00am)	

LITURGISTS

	9:00	10:30
1/4	Liz Knuth	Melissa Dugan
1/11	Denny Manner	Kathy Selden
1/18	Doug Spalding	Trevor Cekander
1/25	Mary Leitkam (one worship at 10:00am)	

COMMUNION SERVERS

January 4

9:00

Sue Chapel
Rich Eaton

10:30

Sue Chapel
Kathy Selden

January 18

10:30

Laura Huston
Tammy Neuville

If you would like to be a communion server or help setup or cleanup, please contact Sue Eaton.

IN WORSHIP

If you would like to serve as an usher or liturgist, please contact Cindy Shane at cshane@cityoffenton.org



A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Gracious God, I come before you to praise and adore Your Holy Name this day for the gift of _____ in Your Church Universal and here at Linden Presbyterian. I ask for your blessings upon _____ this day and in the coming year, that s/he may come to a deeper knowledge of Your love, grace, and peace in mind, heart, and spirit. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.

- Jan 2 Richard Geske
- 3 Elizabeth Hetes
- 10 LuAnn Longstreth
- 14 Camden Whitman
- 15 Irene Bowles
- 23 Laurie Jones
Courtney Versola
- 24 Gary Childs
Mary Collins
- 25 Will Collins
- 28 Jarrod Montague
- 29 Julie Vincent

- 30 Maclin Perigo
Charlie Spalding

Keep that birthday mind sharp with this sudoku puzzle courtesy of puzzles.ca. This is easy puzzle #119, if you'd

8	1		7		4			
2		3					7	1
7		5		3				
			6				3	4
		2	8			9		
			9	5	7	2	6	
9			2	6	8	3		7
		6	4				9	2
					1			

CONTACTS

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Rev. Seth A. Normington
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Linda Lewis lpcoffice@lindenpres.com

Organist/Choir Director
Edward Arter 810.735.5755

Youth Ministry Intern
Jake Kirk 810.730.3783

Praise Band
Johnathan & Melissa Dugan and Jarrod Montague
lpcoffice@lindenpres.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VBS Planning Meetings – January 14 and February 25, 6:00pm

Wait, VBS planning meetings in January and February? Yes! This year, the theme will be based around heroes of the Bible, culminating with Jesus as the Ultimate Superhero. We are planning our own curriculum this year, so help us hit the ground running! We will be discussing which heroes to include, game/snack/craft ideas, which week of the summer to hold it, and we need your help! Have you ever wanted to help out with VBS, but work weekday mornings and felt like you've never been able to? Here's your chance; we'd love for you to join us! Please contact Kristen Garmyn or Gretchen Sutto with questions or suggestions.

Chatting with Jake - January 18, 5:30pm

Parents, come meet up with Jake at the church for coffee and chatting! Are you excited that your child is attending youth group, but you're not sure how to help them grow? Then this meeting is for you! Jake will be collecting emails and phone numbers from parents to be able to send out scripture references, topics covered, and follow-up questions you may want to ask your child on the way home to keep the conversation going. The youth will be in the Fireside Room with pizza during this meeting.

The Youth Room Needs Help!

We are so thankful to have our own room downstairs at LPC to call "home," but now we need to spruce it up! We are looking for donations of couches, chairs, lighting, lava lamps, disco balls... You name it, we need it!

Adult Education

During the first quarter of 2015, we will have adult education opportunities that correspond with the two sermon series that we will be journeying through together (The Book of Ruth and 40 Days in the Word). Pastor Seth will lead these classes at two different times each week. The first opportunity will be on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm. The second opportunity will be Tuesday mornings from 10:30-11:30. We will meet in the fellowship hall or family room. Please bring your Bible, if you have one (Bibles will be available at class). Join in when it is convenient for you! If you would like childcare, please try to give us a week's notice so that we can ensure someone is available.

YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH GROUP TIMES ON SUNDAY NIGHTS

Middle School (6th – 8th) 6:00 – 7:00pm at Linden Presbyterian

High School (9th – 12th) 7:30 – 9pm at Linden Presbyterian

YOUTH GROUP DATES FOR NOVEMBER

January 4 - normal times

January 11 - normal times

January 18 - gathering at 5:30... see “chatting with Jake” below

January 25 - normal times

High school: **Campaigners** is at Kim Herbert’s house. Wake up, come be spiritually and physically fed with a full breakfast and a message before the last school day of the week. Invite Friends! Kim’s address is 521 South St. Linden, MI.

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Food Bank of Eastern Michigan – January 24, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Come join our youth as we put our faith into action at the food bank. Middle school high school, and parents are welcome to join! There will be a carpooling caravan leaving from the church at 8:30am.

Winter Weekend for Middle Schoolers - February 6-8

The middle school will be attending Timberwolf Lake February 6-8 and all 6th – 8th graders are invited! Spend a weekend in a winter wonderland at a resort just for kids! Forms are on the information table in Whitney Hall or see Jake. Chances to win money for winter weekend are happening at middle school youth group on Sunday nights 6-7!

Deacon on Duty

Nancy Robare 810.348.1198

In the event you have a pastoral care emergency after office hours, the Deacon on Duty is available to take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They will be able to notify the proper people and provide you the care you need.

PER CAPITA

As the New Year begins we would like to remind you about the annual Per Capita Dues. Per capita is an amount of money, this year \$25.00 per member, which our congregation pays to our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

Linden Presbyterian Church will pay \$8,500.00 in Per Capita Dues this year. We will have to pay this whether you contribute your per capita or not. How can you help? By contributing your portion of per capita, you can free up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in the church and community. If you haven't yet contributed, we hope you will consider doing so. **Each year, \$3,000-\$4,000 comes out of our budget to pay for members who do not pay their per capita.** Please help us and do your part. This isn't the most glamorous piece of giving, but it does facilitate the workings of our congregation and spread the Word of Christ throughout the world.

How important is per capita? Here are some examples:

- Does our congregation want to benefit from relationships and cooperation with other Presbyterian churches across the country? When we look for pastors, it is the presbytery that provides resources for us. If we have a legal problem, the presbytery helps us. If we had a crisis in the congregation, it is the presbytery that would help us. Your per capita pays for the General Assembly meeting every two years where Presbyterians gather together to worship and discern the mind of Christ for the church.
- Does our congregation want to be involved in mission work throughout the world, sharing the gospel in all parts of the earth? In many places in our world, it is difficult to "do mission" except by working ecumenically with other churches. Your per capita helps to pay for meetings of Presbyterians with people of other Christian churches, allowing us to maintain those ties for mission.
- Do we want to benefit from helpful Presbyterian resources such as the Book of Order and The Book of Confessions? Your per capita pays for producing these basic resources, including in Spanish, Korean, and Braille.
- Do we want future generations to learn about our congregation's present work (e.g., anniversary celebrations, membership rolls, session actions)? Your per capita helps to fund the Presbyterian Historical Society – preserving and sharing the Presbyterian experience.
- Do we want pastors who are well prepared to lead our congregation? Your per capita funds the preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students.
- Do we want well-trained leaders for our presbyteries and more? Your per capita pays for annual training events for presbytery executives, stated clerks, and others who help lead our work and mission.

We do not believe in being lone rangers in the PC(USA). We need each other as we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As we benefit from the gifts, skills, vision, and ministry of each other in this place, so, too, do we benefit from an even wider array of gifts and ministry of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters across the church. Your per capita pays for the programs, training, and resources that help us work together and discern the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

Please contribute your per capita by writing a check to LPC with "per capita" in the memo line, place cash in an envelope marked "per capita", or us a per capita envelope. Thanks!

Linden Presbyterian Church Stewardship Commitment 2015

There's still time! We are all called to be stewards of the resources God has given us. We also provide generously by committing our time and talents towards the needs of the Church. I understand I may change my commitment at any time by contacting the finance secretary, Laura Huston. **Please fill out and return to offering plate or office.**

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

YES, I/we will support our church financially with an annual gift of \$ _____

which I/we would like to pay weekly, monthly, quarterly, other _____

will pay by: Check/Cash Automatic debit (if new to ACH, please provide a voided check)

Would you like numbered envelopes for the year beginning January 1, 2015? Yes No

I would also like to show support with my time and talents in these areas:

- Finance Christian Education Youth Support Missions Building & Grounds
- Music & Worship Office assistance Please contact me about other opportunities

Every walk is a collection of steps. Today, you are asked to consider your next step in growing in your giving to Christ and Christ's church. The chart below encourages you to make a growth step from your current level of giving.

	This year's current level of giving:	Step forward to this level of giving:
_____	\$0.00 – \$4.99	\$10.00 per week
_____	\$5.00 – \$9.99	\$15.00 per week
_____	\$10.00 – \$14.99	\$20.00 per week
_____	\$15.00 – \$19.99	\$25.00 per week
_____	\$20.00 – \$29.99	\$35.00 per week
_____	\$30.00 – \$39.99	\$45.00 per week
_____	\$40.00 – \$49.99	\$55.00 per week
_____	\$50.00 – \$59.99	\$65.00 per week
_____	\$60.00 – \$69.99	\$75.00 per week
_____	\$70.00 – \$79.99	\$85.00 per week
_____	\$80.00 – \$89.99	\$95.00 per week
_____	\$90.00 – \$99.99	\$105.00 per week
_____	\$100.00 – \$119.99	\$125.00 per week
_____	\$120.00 – \$139.99	\$145.00 per week
_____	\$140.00 – \$159.99	\$165.00 per week
_____	Over \$160.00 per week add \$15.00 per week	

READING THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Kim Herbert is organizing a congregation-wide effort to read the Bible in a year. There is a sign-up sheet in Whitney Hall if you would like to receive updates and invitations to optional quarterly gatherings.

January Schedule

- 1 Genesis 1-3
- 2 Genesis 4-7
- 3 Genesis 8-11
- 4 Genesis 12-15
- 5 Genesis 16-18
- 6 Genesis 19-20
- 7 Genesis 21-23
- 8 Genesis 24-25
- 9 Genesis 26-28
- 10 Genesis 29-30
- 11 Genesis 31-32
- 12 Genesis 33-35
- 13 Genesis 36-38
- 14 Genesis 39-41
- 15 Genesis 42-44
- 16 Genesis 45-47
- 17 Genesis 48-50
- 18 Exodus 1-3
- 19 Exodus 4-6
- 20 Exodus 7-9
- 21 Exodus 10-12
- 22 Exodus 13-15
- 23 Exodus 16-18
- 24 Exodus 19-21
- 25 Exodus 22-24
- 26 Exodus 25-27
- 27 Exodus 28-29
- 28 Exodus 30-32
- 29 Exodus 33-35
- 30 Exodus 36-38
- 31 Exodus 39-40

Top Ten Reasons to Read the Bible in a Year

by Pastor Seth
(in no particular order)

10. Scripture is God's Word to us (2 Timothy 3:16) and we should want to know what God is saying to us.
9. We are called to meditate on it day and night (Joshua 1:8).
8. It isn't actually as much reading as you think
7. Many Christians claim to have a "biblical worldview" but few actually read the Bible. If you are going to say you follow the teachings of the Bible, you should probably check them out for yourself.
6. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
- Psalm 119:105
5. It is the only rule for our faith
4. It is the truth (John 17:17)
3. It keeps us from sin (Psalm 119:11)
2. Daily Bible reading puts us in closer touch with God
1. You will become wiser, calmer, more peaceful, and will have been nourished by God's Word

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12-29-2014

MY NEW YEARS RESOLUTION THIS YEAR IS
TO DO THE THINGS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN
DOING LAST YEAR

JANUARY CALENDAR

9:00 - Traditional-style Worship

10:30 - Contemporary-style Worship

1ST AND 2ND	OFFICE CLOSED
3RD AT 8:30AM	PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND MEN'S CLUB
4TH	ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AT BOTH SERVICES
6TH AT 7:00PM	BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING
6TH AT 8:30AM	PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND MEN'S CLUB
14TH AT 6:00PM	VBS PLANNING MEETING
14TH AT 7:00PM	COMMITTEE/TEAM MEETINGS (WORSHIP COMM. AT 6:00)
16TH AND 17TH	OFFICER RETREAT
18TH AT 5:30PM	CHATTING WITH JAKE
24TH	MISSION SERVICE AT FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN
25TH AT 10:00AM	WORSHIP FOLLOWED BY ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON
28TH	SESSION MEETING

MONDAYS

8:00PM AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM

7:00 ADULT EDUCATION

TUESDAYS

10:30 ADULT EDUCATION

WEDNESDAYS

9:30AM QUILTERS

THURSDAYS

6:30PM CHANCEL CHOIR

8:00PM BELL CHOIR

8:00PM AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM

December Newsletter Deadline

Communication is key to a vital congregation!

Please send all submissions to pastorseth@lindenpres.com by

Monday, January 26 at 5:00pm

SNOW AT THE CHURCH

We could use some shovelers! We especially need people who are willing to shovel/snow blow on Sunday mornings - during the week would help, too, but Sundays are essential. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Pick your Sunday. If there is no snow that day, you are off the hook!

A LITTLE EXTRA CLEANING

We have a few things around the church that could use a little extra cleaning but not enough to have a full-blown work day. If you have some spare time to assist with some light cleaning tasks, please call the office. Thanks!

NEW TABLES & CHAIRS AND AN UPDATED CARILLON

Our thanks to the Memorial Committee and the Session for spearheading the acquisition of our new tables and chairs in the fellowship hall. We also thank Marge Kimble and her sister, Shirley, for funding the repairs to the carillon that allow it to bless our community with songs again. Thanks!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED