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THE ANGEL

A MESSENGER FROM

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LODI † WISCONSIN 53555

WEBSITE: www.LodiPresbyterianChurch.org † E-MAIL: office@lodifpc.org † PHONE: 608-592-4310 † FAX: 608-592-2332

FIND US ON FACEBOOK! FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LODI, WI

DECEMBER 2019



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Please invite family and friends to join us on Tuesday December 24th at 7:30 p.m. for our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service. Everyone is welcome to join in this special celebration of the birth of Jesus.

CHURCH YOUTH CHRISTMAS STORY

Be sure to join us on Sunday, December 8 as the youth of the church will offer their interpretation of a "snapshot" of the story of the birth of Jesus. The congregation will have a role in this version of the Christmas Story, all will be involved.

BUCKHORN GIFT CARDS

Buckhorn gift cards can still be ordered until December 1 and will arrive at the church on December 8. We will mail-out the week of December 8. Increments of \$25.00 are requested as cards are sometimes given out for children, preteens, etc. to buy presents for their siblings or something for themselves. The need has always been there but Kentucky has been hard-hit with the opioid crisis and kids are in need of lots of love and care. Thank you for contributing.

WITH DEEP HUMILITY AND GRATITUDE

It is humbling to realize how many people our church has reached and how much they dearly love this church even years after they have gone. Last month the church received an unexpected gift from Dorothy Ireland Logan. While Dorothy has been gone from our church for many years, she remembered us fondly and left the church an endowment of \$25,000 for the furtherance of our ministry and our mission. As we enter Thanksgiving week, and prepare for Advent, we remember the gifts of the saints given that our ministry might continue long into the future.

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STOCK UP ON *Stocking Stuffers*

**AND HELP OUT
OUR CHURCH AT
THE SAME TIME BY
SIMPLY ORDERING
SCRIP GIFT CARDS!**

**OUR SCRIP
ORDER FORM
IS INCLUDED
IN THIS
NEWSLETTER ON
PAGE 4!**



Message from Pastor Cyndi:

There is something about the fall that seems to lend itself to deep contemplation. Perhaps it is the longer nights, the cooler weather encouraging more time huddled by the fireplace, but whatever it is, I am so very grateful for it. It feels to me like a time of preparation, a sort of advent for the new year and whatever resolutions or discernment I need to make.

We live in a world where decisions tend to overrun discernment but there is great beauty in a discernment process. It opens us up to the work of the Holy Spirit, or at least it's intended to. The decision making process is quick and analytical. It is a very left-brain, logical process. The discernment process is much more open ended, imaginative, invitational, and to me, exciting. It opens us up to awe and wonder as we contemplate where God is at work in our lives, in our community, in our church.

It invites us to review where we are in our spiritual growth, this never-ending process of coming closer to God, to being remade and re-created by God. This year I am engaged in a really wonderful confirmation class with two great kids who have engaged deeply and it's stirred something in me. Perhaps it is time to write a confession again, to deconstruct all that I thought I knew and from those elements to carefully reconstruct a faith statement that is clearer, brighter, more true for me today. This process of seeing where one has grown, how the Spirit is moving in one's life, is terribly exciting to me. I hope that, as you engage with worship, with Christian ed, with bible study, with your own personal spiritual practice, that you too are experiencing the work of God within yourself. The exciting and soul-trembling piece of this is realizing that God is always at work within us, always drawing us closer, and always waiting for us to say 'Yes' to this process.

So I am heading into the new year with much anticipation and excitement about where God is leading us, and who God is transforming us into. I have done several continuing education programs that focus solely on the pastor as one who will go out, learn great things, and through dint of effort and charisma, bring everything back to the church, creating growth and transformation. I must admit that doing this work solely on my own has been frustrating. This year, I want to invite all of you to join me on the path of learning, of discerning, of opening ourselves up to where God is leading us. This year, I want the whole church to join me in this transformative spiritual growth. God does not want only me to come closer or be more holy, but wants all of us to draw near, to embrace the path that God lays out for us, to enter a period of discernment and deep listening for where God is taking us.

Therefore, your session and I have discussed doing a congregation wide book study of Neighborhood Church: Transforming Your Congregation Into a Powerhouse for Mission. This book talks about the ways many churches have experienced God's transformative work in their midst, drawing them closer to God and to their community. We know that God is doing something new in the Church today, and we want to be one of those churches which are engaging in this process.

I hope that you will join me and your session in engaging all of this. God is very much with us, and continues to do great things in our midst.

Grateful to serve with you,
Pastor Cyndi

Family Order Form

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Lodi First Presbyterian Church

See WWW.SHOPWITHSCRIP.COM for a list of ALL vendors. Please CALL & ASK if you have any questions. Most vendors have higher amounts than what is listed. Check out the SPECIALS tab online for short term promotions on higher rates!--Martha 608-220-5592

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Ace Hardware \$25.00	4%		\$	iTunes® \$25.00	5%		\$	Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2.5%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$	Quality Inn \$50.00	4%		\$
Applebee's® \$25.00	8%		\$	Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores \$25.00	6%		\$	Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$	Roundys (IL and WI only) \$100.00	4%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$	Roundys (IL and WI only) \$50.00	4%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	13%		\$	Kwik Trip \$100.00	4%		\$	Sears \$25.00	4%		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$	Kwik Trip \$25.00	4%		\$	Sentry \$50.00	3%		\$
Best Buy® \$25.00	4%		\$	Kwik Trip \$50.00	4%		\$	Shopko \$25.00	3%		\$
Best Western International \$25.00	12%		\$	L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$	Shutterfly \$25.00	9%		\$
BP \$50.00	1.5%		\$	Lands' End \$25.00	16%		\$	Speedway \$25.00	4%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop \$25.00	8%		\$	Macy's \$25.00	10%		\$	Staples \$25.00	5%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$	Marathon \$25.00	3%		\$	Starbucks \$25.00	7%		\$
Cabela's \$25.00	11%		\$	Marcus Theatres \$25.00	9%		\$	Steak 'n Shake \$10.00	8%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$	Menards \$25.00	3%		\$	SUBWAY® Restaurants \$10.00	6%		\$
Comfort Suites \$50.00	4%		\$	Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$	SUBWAY® Restaurants \$50.00	6%		\$
Copps (WI only) \$100.00	4%		\$	Mobil \$50.00	1%		\$	SuperAmerica \$25.00	4%		\$
Copps (WI only) \$50.00	4%		\$	Noodles & Company \$10.00	8%		\$	T.J. Maxx/Marshalls/HomeGoods \$25.00	7%		\$
Cousins Subs \$10.00	9%		\$	Office Depot / Office Max \$25.00	5%		\$	Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	Old Chicago \$25.00	6%		\$	Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$	Olive Garden® \$25.00	7.5%		\$	Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$	Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$	TGI Fridays® \$25.00	9%		\$
Disney \$25.00	3%		\$	Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$	Visa® Five Back™ Gift Card \$50.00	1.25%		\$
Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$	Papa Murphy's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$	Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$	PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$	Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Family Video \$10.00	12%		\$	Pick 'n Save (WI only) \$100.00	4%		\$	Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Fandango \$25.00	4%		\$	Pick 'n Save (WI only) \$50.00	4%		\$	Whole Foods Market \$25.00	3%		\$
Festival Foods (WI) - Skogens \$25.00	3%		\$	Pier 1 Imports \$25.00	9%		\$				
Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$	Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL only) \$100.00	3%		\$				
GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$	Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL only) \$25.00	3%		\$				
Gap \$25.00	14%		\$	Piggly Wiggly (WI, IL only) \$50.00	3%		\$				
GNC \$25.00	8%		\$	Pizza Hut (Not AK or HI) \$10.00	8%		\$				
Home Depot \$25.00	4%		\$	Pizza Ranch \$25.00	8%		\$				
HomeGoods \$25.00	7%		\$								
Hotels.com \$100.00	6%		\$								

Make Checks Payable To: *Lodi First Presbyterian Church Scrip*

Total Due All Columns:

\$

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dec 1	Jean Spataro
Dec 8	Marcia Brown
Dec 15	Diane Lukins
Dec 22	Jim Brown
Dec 24	Open
Dec 29	Open

USHERS

Dec 1	Russ and Judy Richard
Dec 8	Jane Jones and Audrey Kohn
Dec 15	Dan and DeAnn Richards
Dec 22	Jim and Dawn Salzman
Dec 24	The Deacons
Dec 29	Dudley Mehlretter and Rod Hanson

GREETERS

Dec 1	Open
Dec 8	Open
Dec 15	Open
Dec 22	Open
Dec 24	Open
Dec 29	Open

COUNTERS

Dec 1	Zach Dachel and Jean Spataro
Dec 8	Zach Dachel and DeAnn Richards
Dec 15	Diane Lukins and Herb Damsteegt
Dec 22	Ron Nelson and Jeff Leckwee
Dec 29	DeAnn Richards and Dudley Mehlretter

ACCOMPANISTS

Dec 1	Rana Hughey
Dec 8	Anna Salzman
Dec 15	Rana Hughey
Dec 22	Audrey Kohn
Dec 24	Rana Hughey
Dec 29	Jean Mulcahy



HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER!

We'd like to wish the following people a Happy Birthday! If your birthday is in December and your name is not listed, please let the office know the date of your birthday so that it can be entered in the computer.

12/4	MARK NELLEN
12/14	NANCY STOCKS
12/18	DOROTHA LEATHERBERRY
12/29	AMY SOPHA

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
IN
DECEMBER!**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for the **JANUARY** Newsletter is **WEDNESDAY, December 18th at 9 a.m.** If you would like an article in the newsletter, you can e-mail the Church office at office@lodifpc.org or leave it on the desk in the church office.

SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR COLLECTION - ROL

LET'S FILL THE BASKET

A basket is located by the coat rack for collecting socks, underwear and gloves for children and adults for Reach Out Lodi. We will collect through December. This is an ongoing need at all times. Adult, children - all sizes.

BIBLE STUDY AND COFFEE

Join us on Wednesdays at 9:30am in the church library for coffee and great conversation on the Sunday sermon. This is a small group which is also a prayer ministry. Please join us on Wednesdays.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

The year has flown by and unbelievably, the holidays and the year 2020 are just around the corner. Where has this year gone? The Finance Committee is beginning the

process of supporting the financial needs of our Church. As we are in the midst of Stewardship, budgeting and financial planning, we thought it might be helpful to suggest a new giving strategy and plan for our donations.

A change in the tax laws has for many of us effectively taken away the charitable deduction which was claimed on Schedule A. However, there is another avenue that can produce tax savings. For those individuals over age 70 1/2 who are taking payments from their IRA, there is another method of donation. As you may know, the IRS requires a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year. This amount varies from person to person. The IRS now allows a direct charitable donation from the custodian (bank, brokerage, etc.) to the charity, in our case Lodi Presbyterian Church. There is a substantial monetary advantage to both you and the Church.

Combining the federal and state income tax rates reveals the tax savings. Let's assume that your combined federal and state tax rates are 20% to 25% or more. If you make your donation from your after tax income, you are paying tax on your donation. By making a direct donation it would not be taxed. In fact, a pledge could be increased by 10% or

15% and you would still have more money than by making your donation in after tax dollars.

Although it may seem a different way to donate, it is absolutely legal. You would simply have to direct the custodian of your IRA to make the donation directly to the Church, not to you. It may be made at any time during the year not just on January 1st.

You may wish to talk to your accountant, tax advisor or other tax professional about using this donation method. There is also a specific way it must be handled on your tax forms. This information should be shared with your tax preparer.

**Respectfully,
Finance Committee**

DATE CHANGE: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE CHANGE

Due to the Christmas holiday, the deadline for the January 2020 newsletter will be on the 18th of December and distributed on the 23rd. The church office will be closed on the 24th and 25th.



DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
1 Worship- Communion Sunday, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m.	2	3 AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m.	4 Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.	5	6	7																																																																																				
8 Worship, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m.	9	10 AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m.	11 Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Deacons, 6:30p.m. Committee, 7 p.m.	12	13	14																																																																																				
15 Worship, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m.	16	17 AA/Al-Anon, 7:30 p.m.	18 Deadline for January Newsletter, 9 a.m. Mid-week Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Divine Rehab and Nursing, 10:30 a.m. Service of the Longest Night, 6:30 p.m.	19 Our House, 10 a.m.	20	21																																																																																				
22 Worship, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m.	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m.	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28																																																																																				
29 Worship, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m.	30	31 New Year's Eve			<div>November 2019</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<div>January 2020</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

258 Lodi Street
Lodi, WI 53555
Phone: 608-592-4310
Fax: 608-592-2332

PASTOR: CYNDI WUNDER

E-Mail address: pastor@lodifpc.org

Choir Director: Position Open
Custodian: Lori Harrenstein
Church Secretary: Pat Craig
Financial Secretary: John Griffing
Church Secretary's Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday
9:00 a.m.
Nursery Available

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
(DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR)**

10:15 a.m.

Newsletter Graphic Design: Jim Salzman

THE SESSION

Class of 2019

Mae Stocks
Herb Damsteegt
Zack Dachel

Class of 2020

Diane Lukins
Jean Spataro
Ron Nelson

Class of 2021

Dudley Mehltrittter
DeAnn Richards
Jeff Leckwee

DeAnn Richards, Clerk of Session

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2019

Patty Seiler
Pam Odorizzi

Class of 2020

Marcia Brown
Sandy Deselle
Dave Heebner

Class of 2021

Gale Nelson
Bobby Hanson
Laurie Fryman



Lodi Presbyterian Church

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**258 LODI STREET
LODI, WI 53555**