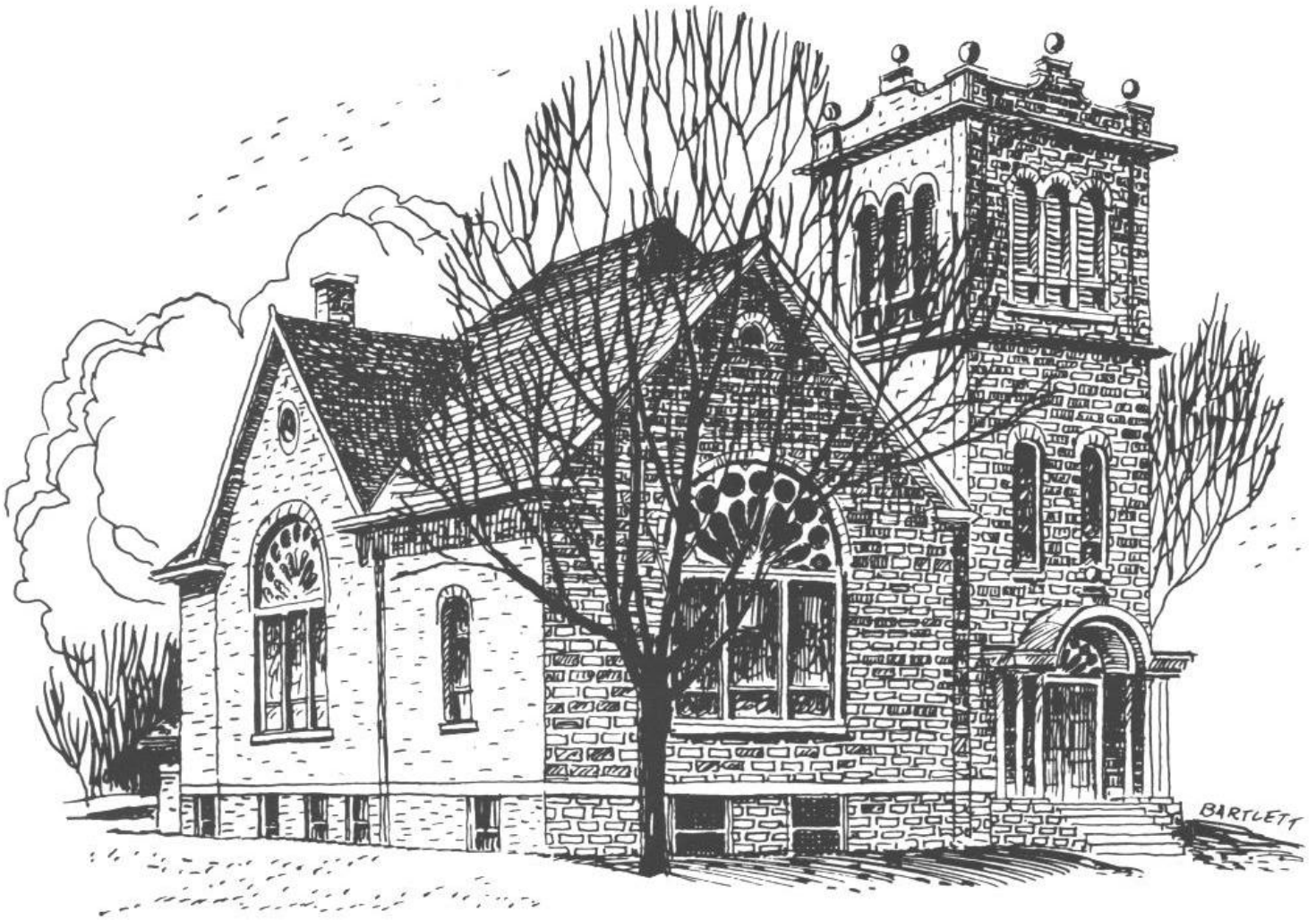


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LODI



THE ANGEL

OCTOBER 2025

258 LODI ST. LODI, WI 53555
WWW.LODIPRESBYTERIANCHURCH.ORG
608-592-4310
OFFICE@LODIFPC.ORG
REVEREND DIETRICH GRUEN:
608-219-9262 | DGRUEN@CHORUS.NET

OCTOBER 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		Men's Bible Study 6:30PM	1 Women's Bible Study 9:30AM	2	3 Dietrich & Sue arrive back in WI	4
5 Sunday service 9AM <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	6	7 Men's Bible Study 6:30PM	8 Women's Bible Study 9:30AM Finance 6PM	9	10	11 Church Charcoal Chicken Dinner 4PM—6:30PM
12 Sunday service 9AM Chad Okopski <i>Baptism of Porter Fryman</i>	13	14 Men's Bible Study 6:30PM	15 Women's Bible Study 9:30AM Deacons + Elders Meeting 4PM	16	17	18
19 Sunday service 9AM <i>Starfish Campaign Ends</i>	20	21 Men's Bible Study 6:30PM	22 Women's Bible Study 9:30AM	23	24	25
26 Sunday service 9AM Paul Knutson	27	28 Men's Bible Study 6:30PM	29	30	31	

REMINDER!

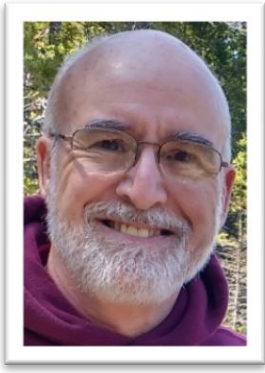
Please help and sign up for
coffee fellowship hour!

Sign-up is on bulletin board
outside of fellowship hall



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

10/1	Luke Beckwith
10/4	Ron Nelson
10/11	Larry Pauls
10/12	Diane Lukins
10/15	Jessica Pauls
10/21	Summer Stocks
10/26	Judy Richard Kathy Markgraf
10/31	Sandy DeSelle



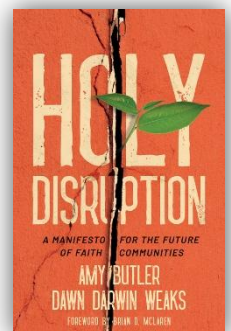
THE PASTOR'S CORNER

As I write these musings for October, I have yet to leave for, much less return from, **our tour of Celtic highlights in the United Kingdom (September 20-October 3)**. To avoid writing something for this space that would seem outdated or premature by the time you read it, I shall offer **a meditation on something timeless: Psalm 139**.

- **Whether tongue-tied or suffering from writer's block**, I am grateful for God's reassuring word in **139:4**: "Before a word is on my tongue, You, Lord, know it completely." This truth applies to the sermons I must write before I leave,... to the words of condolence I offer to the family who just lost a loved one,... and to the prayers I offer to God for all of you in the weeks we are apart.
- Being "apart" must be amended by God's truth in **139:9-10**: "If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast." Yes, across the pond, God will guide Sue and me in our tour decisions. Psalm 139 also reassures us that, this side of the Atlantic, **God also guides and provides for you**. Thanks be to God that we're vitally connected and intimately cared for. Your comforting presence and connection were evident during FPC's hosting of **Bonita Prucha's funeral service** on September 13. Also, I trust "God is with us" when Mitch preaches, the Elders lead, and Zoe covers the office in my absence.
- This update is for those who saw me limping in worship due to a non-contact injury to my right knee while playing racquetball. The **results of the MRI were encouraging**, once again proving the truth of **139:14-15**: "I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful." I pray that these reassuring words, about how we are made and remade whole, apply to all who have shared health concerns in recent weeks.

Indeed, **when one part suffers, we all suffer, and when one part rejoices, we all rejoice**. To that end, I thank God for our new hire, Zoe, who keeps us connected and informed in ways beyond bulletins and newsletters. Herein, you'll see recaps of Elder, Deacon, Finance & other team meetings. **A few updates from your leadership teams who are equipping and serving you:**

- **On October 5**, we kick off a "Sunday School class" discussion of **Holy Disruption**. To be held during the 2nd hour post-worship on Sunday, at a table or two in the back of Fellowship Hall. The books have arrived. Pick up yours so you can read up.



- **TBA in October & November home visits.** We are reorganizing the shepherds' network, with plans for home visits, so we can better advance our mission to love, grow, and serve—together with Christ.

Stewardship: The Session has also approved other ways to give to and through our church this fall.

- **October 11** is our annual **chicken dinner**, a fundraiser to support our church's operations. Tix are \$15 apiece. Deadline for ticket purchase/chicken order is **October 1**. Imagine all the charcoal grilled chicken you can eat (at R)!

- **Pig Roast, August 23.** Thanks to everyone who donated their time & talent & treasure to make this event a success. Altogether, we raised a net \$1680 after deducting expenses, all donated to **Reach Out Lodi** (that's me with ROL director Jim Schmiedlin).



- **Starfish Campaign.** From the Generosity Task Force of JKP, this campaign effectively **retires medical debt by triggering a 100-fold match**. This campaign is month-long and will end **October 19** (make checks payable to FPC-Lodi and include "starfish" in the memo).

- **Gideon's ministry.** Our neighbor, Paul Knutson, will present this ministry on **October 26**, and a free-will offering will be taken that day for the Gideons.

I am not the only "corner" in this newsletter. Here's Zoe. Cheers, **Pastor Dietrich**

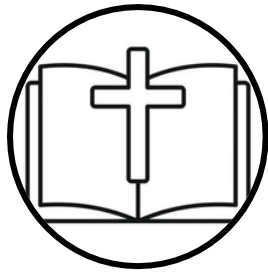


OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

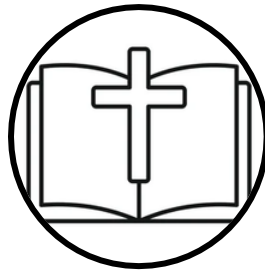
Looking forward to joining you all for church service soon! I've been busy teaching Sunday School at Dekorra Lutheran and recently helped put on the 9th annual Walk for Hope, which raised funds and awareness for suicide prevention in Columbia County. I've posted updated office hours on the church voicemail and Google listing, and will soon be working on refreshing the church website and Facebook page to better connect with our community. I'm also planning to attend a webinar on Church Windows to learn how to create an updated church directory.

Thank you to all who have given me such a warm welcome! **Zoe**

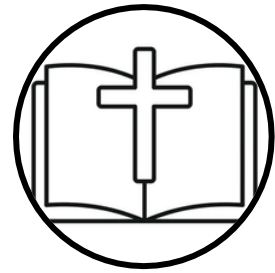
WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



**WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**
9:30AM



**TUESDAY MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**
6:30PM



**SUNDAY WORSHIP
SERVICE**
9:00AM

ANNUAL CHURCH CHARCOAL CHICKEN DINNER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th 4:00—6:30PM

200 tickets available. \$15 per dinner, dine-in or carry-out.

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY OCTOBER 1

Call Lori Harrenstein (608-206-1072) or purchase in the church office
or from any member of the finance team. Hope to see you there!

**Peanut oil used in food prep*

COMMITTEE CORNER

FINANCE

Our Church Finance Committee is exploring ways to keep our membership up to date with our financial condition.

We want to assure you that all is well and while we are developing a system please feel free to request to be added to the Mass Email List for the monthly Finance Reports. If you do not have a computer and a printer let me know and I will make sure you get a paper copy.

Ron Nelson
Finance Chair Person
First Presbyterian Church
Email: finance@lodifpc.org
608-279-5929

MISSIONS

- Pig roast raised \$1680 for Reach Out Lodi
- Starfish Campaign ongoing
- Planning Mexico mission trip

Kathy Markgraf, Mission Chr.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT & OPPORTUNITIES



Our Vision: *Transform communities by matching safe, nurturing adult mentors with area youth, so they reach their full potential and become positive contributors to society.*

About Us: Through community and school-based mentoring, Kinship Mentoring moves communities forward by embracing our evidence-based model that empowers volunteers within our communities to make a real difference in the lives of a child and an entire generation. Mentoring gives the child the support that they need now and has the potential to speak into their lives in a way that will help to keep them on the right path!!



Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me. Mark 9:37



Adult Volunteers (Mentors):

Adult volunteers are matched with a mentee according to location, similar interests and personalities. Volunteer mentors commit to a minimum of one year of service, meeting with their mentee at least 2-4 times a month. Interested adults are interviewed and undergo extensive background check and comprehensive screening before being matched. Sign up now at www.kinshipcc.org



Refer a Child (Mentee):

Mentee applicants ages 5-14 are currently being accepted in Columbia County. You can continue in the program until high school graduation or age 18. Refer a child at www.kinshipcc.org

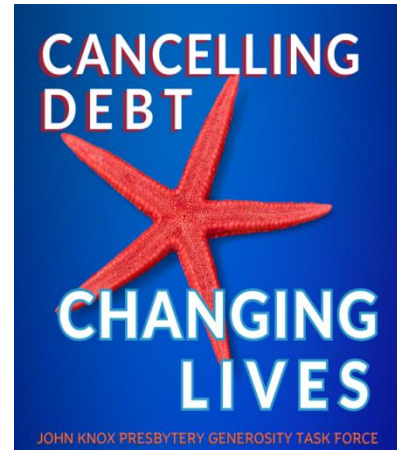
Lunch Buddies:

The Lunch Buddies Program is designed to introduce students to the art of mentoring. We strive to improve a child's social skills and self esteem to foster a better attitude for learning...ultimately improving school success. The student has a one-on-one assigned mentor. The pair will eat lunch together and engage in meaningful conversation while interacting.



For more information or to donate to Kinship:

www.kinshipcc.org ■ 608-697-3260 ■ info@kinshipcc.org



How is your gift to the **Starfish Campaign** multiplied? John Knox Presbytery partners with an organization called Undue Medical Debt to purchase and cancel medical debt on a grand scale. Because Undue Medical Debt understands the medical debt industry, **every dollar the Presbytery raises will remove at least \$100 of medical debt for a family.** That changes people's lives! There are two ways to contribute to this ministry. **Give through October 19** in our Sunday offering, or you may mail your gift to the church. Please make your check out to our church and be sure to mark it "The Starfish Campaign". Help lift a burden on struggling families. Others can live because we give!

CURRENT NEEDS AT REACH OUT LODI

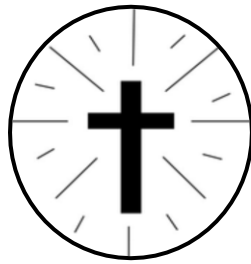
Cereal (we have
Cheerios and
Corn Flakes)
Sugar
Flour
Canned Meals
(Beef Stew,
Hash, Ravioli)

Hamburger
Helper
Dry Red Beans
Pancake Mix
Canned Tuna
Canned Chicken
Salad Dressings
for lettuce

Laundry
Detergent
Toilet Paper
Paper Towel
Household
Cleaners
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Deodorant

Disposable Razors
Single Pack
Toothbrushes
Kleenex

CURRENT MEMBERS OF SESSION & BOARD OF DEACONS



SESSION

Class of 2025	Pam Odorizzi
Class of 2026	Diane Lukins Kathy Markgraf
Class of 2027	Ron Nelson Rod Hansen Mark Fryman

DEACONS

Class of 2025	Phyllis Fryman Brenda Nellen Gale Nelson
Class of 2026	Becky Beckwith Laurie Fryman
Class of 2027	Patti Seiler

Have something you'd like to add to the newsletter? Send an email to
office@lodifpc.org

Deadline for the November newsletter:
Wednesday, October 29th

ANNUAL

CHARCOAL CHICKEN DINNER

ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED AHEAD OF TIME

SATURDAY	OCT		\$15		4:00 PM
	11				DINE-IN OR TO-GO

****PEANUT OIL USED IN FOOD PREPARATION****

HALF GRILLED CHICKEN • POTATO • BEANS • ROLL

TO PURCHASE TICKETS

CALL LORI HARRENSTEIN AT 608.206.1072
OR
CALL THE CHURCH AT 608.592.4310



LODI FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
258 LODI ST, LODI WI 53555