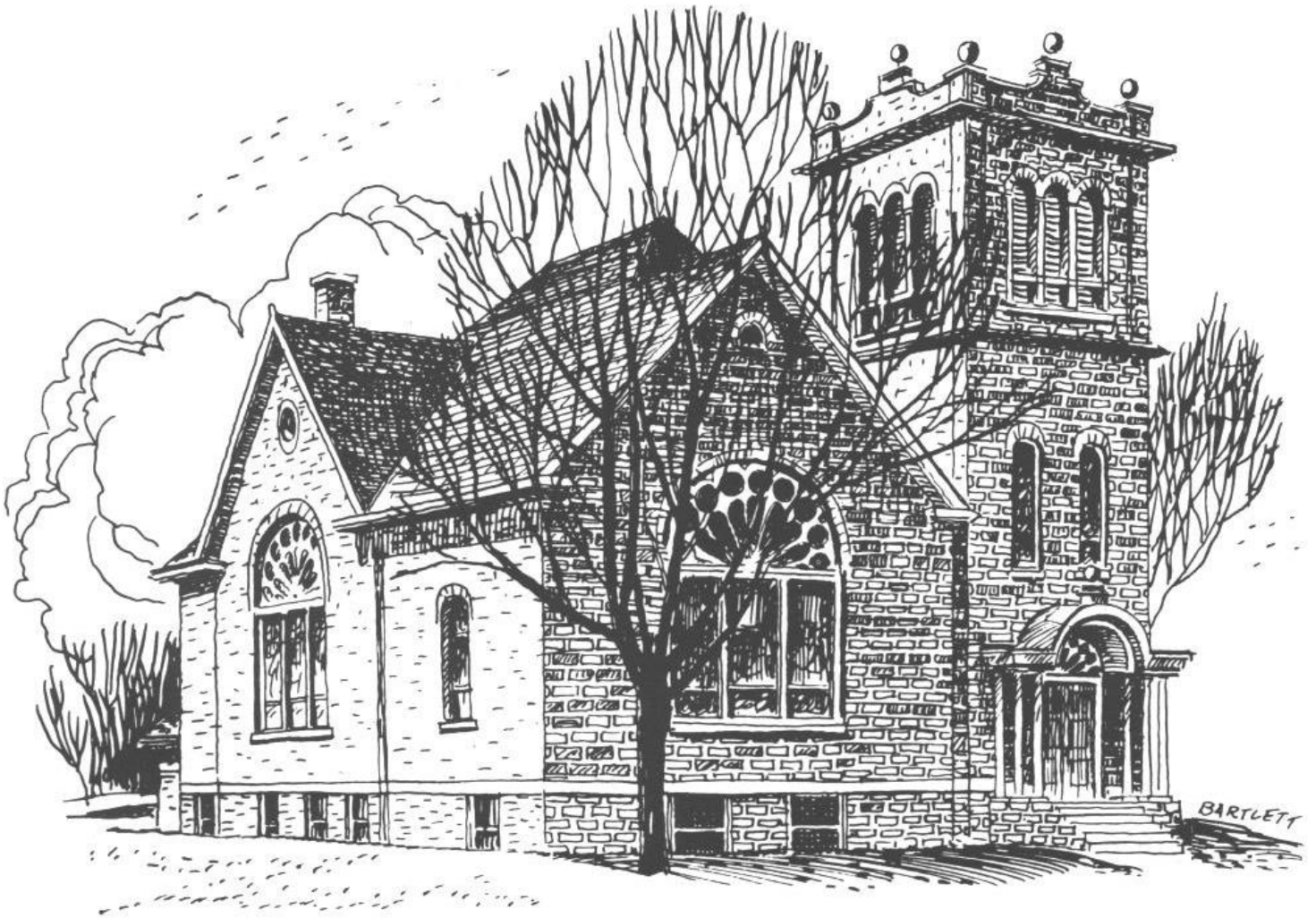


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LODI



THE ANGEL

DECEMBER 2025

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

DECEMBER 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2 <i>Dietrich leaves for TX for Bible/film study</i>	3 Potluck & Bible Trivia 6PM @ DLC	4	5	6 Christmas Fest 8AM-1PM @ Lodi UMC <i>Dietrich returns from TX</i>
7 Sunday service 9AM Congregation Mtg. Post-Svc. Book Study "I Am A Church Member" 10:15AM <i>Communion</i> <i>2nd Sunday Advent</i>	8	9	10 Deacons 4PM Finance 6PM	11 Free Blood Pressure Screening 12PM @ Reach Out Lodi	12	13 Craft Fair 9AM-3PM @ Reach Out Lodi
14 Sunday service 9AM Book Study "I Am A Church Member" 10:15AM <i>3rd Sunday Advent</i>	15	16	17 Session 4PM Blue Christmas service 6PM @ DLC	18 Caregiver Support Group 1PM @ Reach Out Lodi	19	20
21 Sunday service 9AM Book Study "I Am A Church Member" 10:15AM <i>4th Sunday Advent</i>	22	23	24 Christmas Eve service 5PM <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 Christmas Hymn Sing 10AM @ DLC <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26	27
28 Sunday service 9AM	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>			

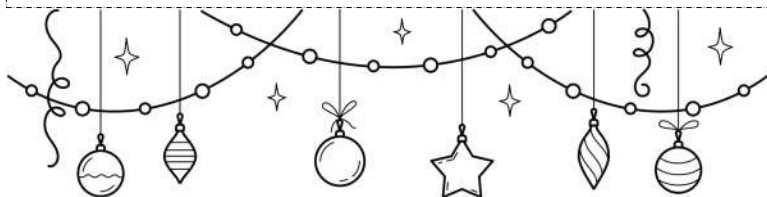
Events held at Lodi Presbyterian unless otherwise specified. DLC = Dekorra Lutheran Church, UMC = United Methodist Church.

GETTING INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Our delightful deacon, Becky Beckwith, is calling on festive friends to help dress the church in Christmas cheer! Stop by anytime during these hours to lend a hand:

Fri. 11/28..... 7:30AM—Noon

Sat. 11/29 10AM—Finish



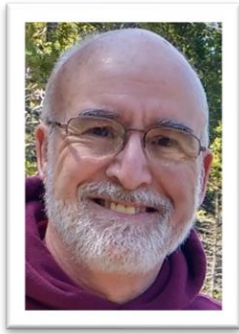
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/4 Mark Nellen

12/14 Nancy Stocks

12/19 Amy Sopha

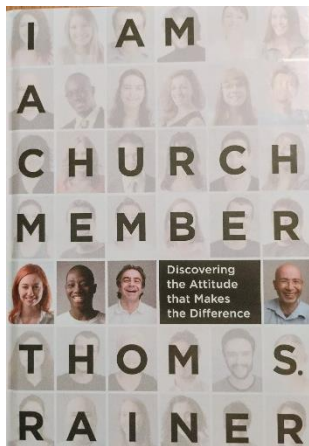




THE PASTOR'S CORNER

I love the opportunities I get to be with you and share God's Word with you. I love pastoral ministry more than I thought I would and more than any other job I do. Yes, I have other jobs, including doggie daycare at home through www.Rover.com; chaplaincy at Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital in Fitchburg, and free-lance

writing and editing. The latter takes me to **Dallas from December 2 to 6**, where I'll work on the Bible study/film discussion guide for Season 5 of *The Chosen*. Don't worry, I'll be back in time to preach on Sunday.



➤ We are growing.

Nine new people stepped forward on November 30 to affirm their faith and adopt FPC-Lodi as their church home. Some were even baptized. Let's welcome them into our hearts and homes.

➤ **Read any good books lately?** *Holy Disruption* is being discussed after worship. When that study concludes, I will lead a discussion of ***I Am a Church Member***. This will be particularly relevant for those who recently joined our church, but others are welcome to join. Books are \$6 ea.

➤ I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. We had a wonderful sense of unity among area churches that participated in our first **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service, hosted at FPC on November 25.**

➤ Next up, **Four Sundays of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.** We're looking for families to light a candle and read a related Scripture on one of three remaining Sundays: December 7, 14, or 21.



➤ **On November 2**, we selected a 5-member **nominating committee** (Dudley Mehlretter, Gale Nelson, Pam Odorizzi, Kathy Fryman-Barrow, Kristi Bereton) to recommend candidates for **future deacons and elders**. If you sense God may be calling you to serve in one capacity or another, please contact one of these five.

➤ **On December 7**, the congregation will confirm recommended candidates to replace those rotating off after a 3-year term or two.

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



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

This year has been a season of gratitude and rediscovery for me. I've been blessed to reconnect with one family of faith at Dekorra Lutheran and, along the way, to find another at Lodi Presbyterian. Both communities have reminded me what it means to belong: to share joys, support one another through challenges, and worship together with hearts full of hope. It's been a gift to see how each congregation lives out God's love in their own unique way!

I've also been spending time with a book that has shaped my faith more than almost any other: Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Thurman, who was a profound influence on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., invites us to see Jesus not just as a divine figure but as a poor, oppressed Jew living under Roman occupation. His teachings weren't just lofty liturgy, but survival strategies for the marginalized. Jesus' life and teachings us a practical roadmap for how the powerless can resist hatred, hold onto dignity, and subvert systems of power without mirroring their violence. Whenever I read this book, I'm reminded that our faith has deep roots in courage, justice, and solidarity with the overlooked. It's a short read, but deeply inspiring, and I highly recommend it!

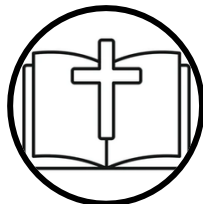
As I reflect on this year, I'm filled with gratitude for both these congregations and the ways they show me the living presence of Jesus in community. Whether in a familiar pew at Dekorra, a friendly smile at Lodi, or in the quiet lessons of a book like Thurman's, I see over and over that faith is meant to connect, to empower, and to call us toward hope and love in every corner of life. My heart is full, and I give thanks for each of you who help make this journey so meaningful. — *Zoe*

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED



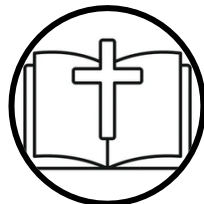
**SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE**

9:00AM



**I AM A CHURCH
MEMBER BOOK
CIRCLE**

2nd Hour post-
worship on
Sundays



**TUESDAY MEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**

6:30PM

Contact Tom Brown
for more info
608-330-7980



**WEDNESDAY
WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**

9:30AM

CURRENT NEEDS AT REACH OUT LODI

FOOD

Salt & Pepper
Sugar
Brown sugar
Baking supplies
Condiments
Canned fruit
Canned pasta
Canned meat
Hamburger Helper
Pancake mix
Brownie mix
Bottled juice

PERSONAL ESSENTIALS

Toilet paper
Paper towels
Laundry detergent
Dish soap
Disposable razors
Shampoo
Bleach cleaners
Body wash
Baggies (quart & gallon)
13-gal. trash bags

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING FOR FAMILIES IN NEED: Donations of *Unwrapped, New* items for children and adults for under the Reach Out Lodi Tree.

Community Store
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We're looking for friendly, dependable volunteers to help keep our **Community Store** running smoothly. Tasks include stocking shelves, greeting customers, and bagging groceries.

JOIN OUR TEAM **Monday - Saturday**
during business hours

Contact ROL to learn more!

608-592-4592
ReachOutLodi.org

601 Clark Street
Lodi, WI



Reach Out Lodi
Needs Your Voice!



We're looking for friendly, dependable volunteers to help answer phones during business hours.— If you enjoy helping others, being part of a great team, and making a difference in your community, this opportunity is for you!

Volunteer Today **608-592-4592**



601 Clark Street
Lodi, WI 53555
ReachOutLodi.org

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

Love Lights Tree Lighting Ceremony – Dec. 1, 5:45 PM, Sauk Prairie Hospital

Dinner & Christmas Music w/Shekinah King – Dec. 2, 5–7 PM, Reach Out Lodi |
\$10 | Must RSVP: 608-592-4592

Potluck & Bible Trivia – 1st Wed's (Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 4), 6 PM, Dekorra Lutheran

Christmas Fest – Dec. 6, 8 AM-1 PM, Lodi United Methodist | Treats & crafts.
Arrive early for cinnamon rolls & coffee/hot chocolate!

Game Night For Those With Disabilities – Dec. 6, 5–7 PM, Reach Out Lodi
Dinner included | Info: 608-592-4592

Free Blood Pressure Screening – Dec. 11, 12–1 PM, Reach Out Lodi

Advance Medical Directive Help – 2nd & 4th Thursdays (Next: Dec. 11), 1–4 PM,
Sauk Prairie Hospital

Craft Fair – Reach Out Lodi – Dec. 13, 9 AM–3 PM & Dec. 14, 1–5 PM

Christmas by the Creek Craft & Vendor Fair – Dec. 14, 10 AM–3 PM, Lodi
Elementary (benefits OccuPaws Guide Dogs)

Soup'r Supper – Dec. 16, 5–6:30 PM, Reach Out Lodi | Free meal

Eating for Life – 3rd Wednesdays (Next: Dec. 17), 12–1 PM, Sauk Prairie Hospital
\$5 - Learn how everyday food choices impact the way you feel and function

Blue Christmas Service – Dec. 17, 6 PM, Dekorra Lutheran Church

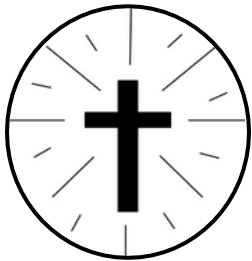
Paul's Chocolates Sale – Dec. 18, 9 AM–4 PM, Sauk Prairie Hospital Lobby
Proceeds benefit Friends of Sauk Prairie Hospital

Caregiver Support Group – 3rd Thu's (Next: Dec. 18), 1–2:30 PM, Reach Out Lodi

Christmas Day Hymn Sing – Dec. 25, 10 AM, Dekorra Lutheran Church



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SESSION & BOARD OF DEACONS



Please join our congregational meeting on Sunday, **December 7th** to elect new Deacons and Session members. This a great chance to get involved if you've ever wondered what church leadership is like. Deacons serve and care for the congregation, while Session Elders help make decisions that guide our ministries. Come, learn, ask questions, and have a voice in shaping the future of our church!

CURRENT SESSION

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

CURRENT 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 January newsletter:
Monday, December 29th