

Pastor Keri  
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## Lena United Methodist Church

*Rooted in Christ, Growing Towards God, Producing the  
Fruit of the Holy Spirit, Spreading Seeds for the Future.*

### August 2020 Newsletter

#### August Servants

##### Greeters

2 –  
9 –  
16 –  
23 –  
30 –

##### Liturgist

2 – Sally Buchenau  
9 – Scott Stich  
16 – Roberta Rogers  
23 – Bonnie Broge  
30 – Tiffany Nieman

##### Video Tech

2 – Cathy Rich  
9 – Elaine Williams  
16 – Cathy Rich  
23 – Cathy Rich  
30 – Cathy Rich

##### Dial-a-Devotion

2 – Pat Phillips  
9 – Janet Lobdell  
16 – Norma Klipping  
23 – Eleanor Holmes  
30 – Pat Phillips

##### Fellowship

2 –  
9 –  
16 –  
23 –  
30 –



An Egret

Photo by Larry Nelson

**Pray for Healing:** Lila Carr (friend of Gretchen Heitkam), Jade Gabel (LaVone Gabel's great granddaughter), Marcia Lobdell, Judy Baer, Rhys Stone (Larry & Kim Nelson's great grandson), Pat Krome (friend of Bruce Wuebben), Dennis Dunn (friend of Bruce Wuebben), Dean Obert, Dorothy Montgomery, Arlene Kryder, Jodee Offerman (Renee Buisker's friend), Mark Mader, Bonnie Vondra (friend of Sally Buchenau), Pauline Lutz, Johanne Wingert, Larry Buchenau, Eileen Snapp, MaryLou Bunker-Langy (Mervin Mader's cousin), Judy Buchenau, Howard Rowe (friend of Jeff and Judy Baer), Hailey Betthausser (Bev Lindenman's great granddaughter), Michael Reimers (Merv Mader's grandson), Kris Sanders (Barb Feiner's daughter), Sharon Schwartz, Ken Gritzmaker, Deloris Siemens, Lisa Prindle (friend of Janice Myelle), Verla Lobdell, Judy Welch, Robert Hartwig, Darryl Wybourn, Dave (Bonnie Broge's brother-in-law), Kim Pluss (Dot Spielmann's daughter), Vernon Baer, Myron Coaty, Tam Kryder, Vivien Rose Dascher, John Gorz (Sue Bussian's brother)

##### **In treatment:**

Triscia Nickel, Pat Campbell (Mick Flynn's sister), Todd Miller (Myrna Seuring's nephew)

##### **Our home-bound members and friends:**

Ben & Gail Mayer – Liberty Village, Lois Thrasher (Liberty Village/Hawthorne Inn); Lorraine Bonebright (Pearl Pavilion); Pauline Lutz, Marilyn Holmes, Al Owens, & Carol Fluegel (all at Lena Living Center); Chris Liles (Oakley Courts);  
Joyce Brinkmeier – Presence St. Joseph Center  
Viola Sargent – Graceland Manor Assisted Living – Monroe, WI

Lena United Methodist Church received a paperback copy of the book, "E. Lester Stanton: My Autobiography". Rev. E. Lester Stanton served the Lena Methodist Church from 1935 – 1938. He wrote the memories of his life at age 89 and his grandson, Joe Richard of Vienna, IL typed the information and printed it in March, 2020. The book has been placed in the church library, if you'd like to check it out. He writes about his time here in Lena on pages 188 through 192.

**Our condolences** to Rich Weber and family on the death of his mother, Doris, on July 27.

Reminder: A Family Festival will be held on Saturday, August 1, 1-4pm on the grounds of Lena UMC (118 W Mason St). Families of all shapes and sizes are welcome to explore together the “Fruit of the Spirit” with interactive booths and activities provided by Beloved, Good Shepherd and Lena UMC churches. All festivities are outside and for the whole family to participate at their own pace. Rain date will be August 8.

Calendar note: The Edler/Kryder Bible Study will not meet in August. The group will resume Sunday nights (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month) at 6 pm on September 13 at Kryder’s.

**Message from the LUMC Scholarship Committee:**

We received one application for a scholarship this year, and we are excited to announce that we awarded Rebecca Edler a \$1000 scholarship for her continued education.

The Scholarship Team’s decision was in reaction to the accelerated cost of higher education.

We all wish Rebecca lots of love and many blessings for her future.

Scott Stich, Vera Kempel, Lynne Howe,  
Elaine Williams- Chairman

**Birthdays**

8/1 Julie Lobdell  
8/2 Keegan Knoup, Kenny Broge  
8/3 Marvin Hixson  
8/4 Terry Hixson, Raylan Nieman  
8/5 Ronald Fluegel, Robert Kepner  
8/7 Jason Boland, Bennett Morrison  
8/8 Cheryl Hartney, Dee Anne Temperly  
8/9 David McFadden  
8/10 Dwayne Robieson  
8/13 Tiffany Nieman, Aileen Schreiner  
8/14 Matt Yeager  
8/16 Brady Eilders, Thomas White  
8/17 Karen Kryder, Corey Nelson  
8/18 Douglas Pauley  
8/19 Larry Nelson, Kelly Short  
8/20 Scott Borchardt, Dolores Solace  
8/21 Heidi Edler, Burdene Meyers  
8/22 Sherry Sandell, Kara Short  
8/24 Wayne Benson  
7/25 Rachael Setterstrom  
8/26 Lynne Howe  
8/27 Kelly Lobdell, Roberta Rogers  
8/28 Lisa Stich, Cole Wickersham  
8/30 Jay Kempel, Raymond-John Schulz  
8/31 Caitlyn Kryder, Ben Kryder, Patricia Phillips, Tracey Williams

**Anniversaries**

8/1 David & Sara Kepner, Ryan & Lily Stockton  
8/12 Merton & Sharon Holland  
8/22 Ryan & Danielle Thomas  
8/26 Jeff & Judy Baer, Jim & Marilyn Klever  
8/29 Ryan & Holly Buss, Brian & Laura Setterstrom  
8/30 Gary & Nancy Price

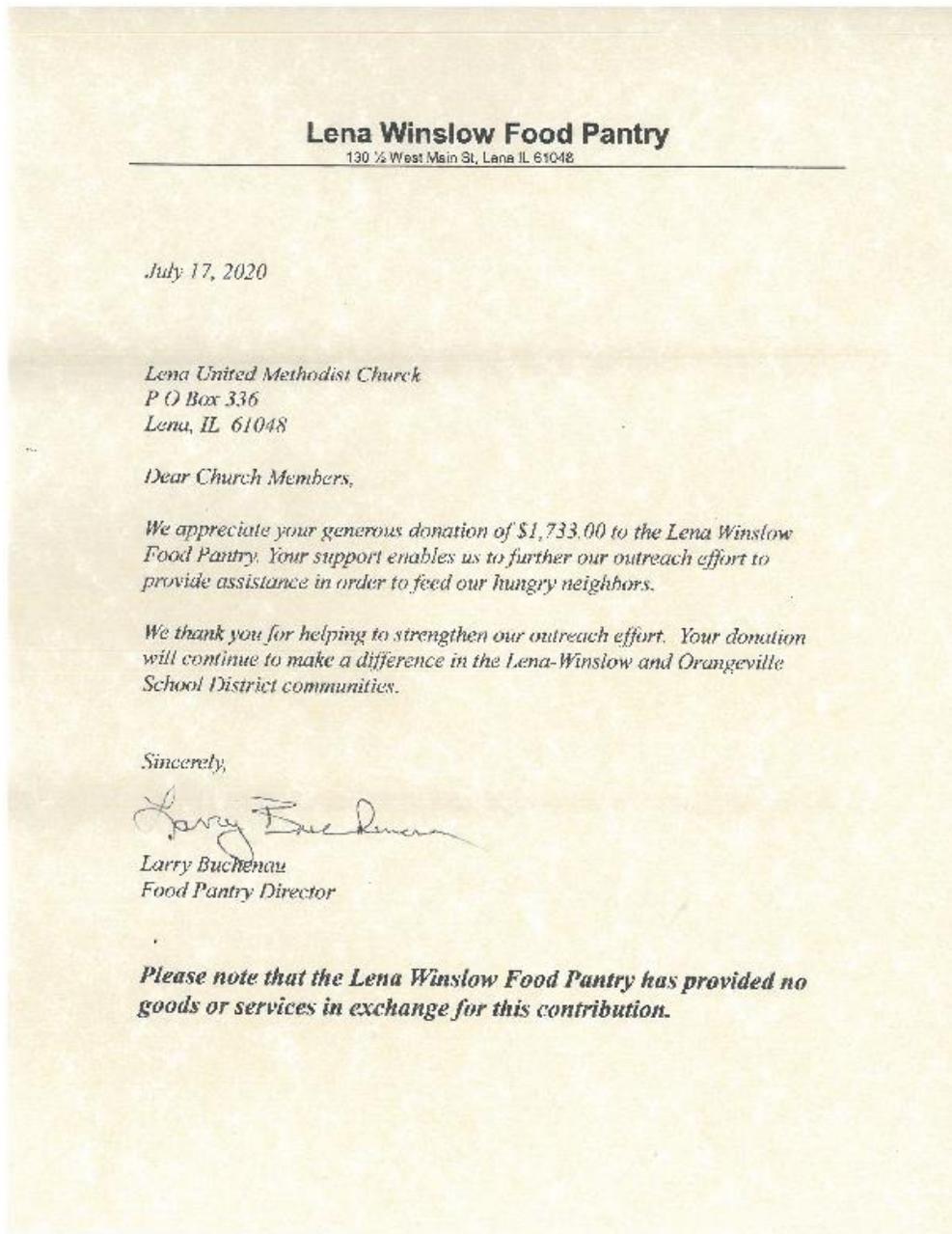
**Area events:**

Harmony UMC, 2600 W Pearl City Rd, Freeport will hold its **Annual Rummage Sale**, August 5, 6 and 7 and August 19, 20 and 21 from 8am – 5pm. Mask is required, sale is held outside, practice social distancing. No food will be served.

**Music in the Park info provided by Lena E-Free Church:**

Saturdays, 6:30 pm at Lion’s Park by the Splashland Café. August 1 – Gone Fishin’ – Pearl City, August 8 – Alleluia Quartette, Stockton, August 15 – Set Free, Shannon & Freeport, August 22 – Professions of Faith, Rockford, August 29 – Grace Free Methodist Worship Team, September 5 – Deb Leininger, Freeport

**Thank you:**



## From the Pastor's Desk.....



Ahh, August, the last hurrah of summer before the turning toward fall. What a summer this has been. We also have no idea what this fall will be like even though it is just around the corner. We have been living in uncertainty and a space of liminality, or between-ness for months now. We have been waiting for a return to “normal” but also slowly creating “new normals.” What started out as initially maybe a few weeks of strange is now looking like settling into long-term changes.

The song I picked for the Call to Worship for the first Sunday of August was “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” In it Thomas Chisholm sings to God “thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.” In a time of upheaval in change, what a great comfort it is to worship a God that “changest not.”

Yet, in reading the scripture “changest not” doesn't mean there is no change. What never changes is the core of who God is – God's unending, unswerving, unchanging love and faithfulness to us. Yet how God shows love, how we understand and interact with God, the specific actions God takes in the world – all those change. God responds to all that is around, not as a frozen unchanging past relic, but as a living God.

In all of this time of change, let the Holy Spirit also aid us in remaining ever faithful to our core, to our relationship with God and each other, and to the values taught to us by Jesus and his followers. Let the Spirit also give us strength and courage to respond and change how we live out that core in an ever changing world.

## LENA UMC TRUSTEE MINUTES

July 13, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Members** present were Gary Black, Gary Buss, Richard Holmes and Linda Voreis. Also present was Pastor Keri. Absent members were Pete Brown, Dennis Bussian, Gary Myelle, Jeff Stamm, and Nick Wybourn.

**Opening Prayer** led by Richard Holmes, prayers for Pete Brown, Ben & Gail Mayer.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the May 11, 2020 meeting were discussed. Gary Buss moved to accept the minutes and Gary Black seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Tuck pointing** on the upper portion of the church should be done. The trustees did an outside inspection and agreed that work should be done. Richard will contact Dana Keefer to get an estimate. Jim Heiler could be contacted. Richard will ask for other possible people to work on tuck pointing.

**Chimney repair and liner,** Repairs were completed and no liner was needed. Richard used masonry cement to fill in around the duct work.

**Vanity Light** in the education wing women's bathroom will be fixed by Gary Buss.

**Ceiling fan** in the parsonage is bought and will be installed this week by Gary Buss, free of charge.

**Elevator shut off control** still needs to be moved. Gary Buss will get it done at no cost, before the next inspection.

**Squirrels** are along the outside of the elevator, into the eaves, and attic are being taken care of by Richard.

**Church Bus** recall letter was mailed from the Ford Motor Company regarding the one-way clutch plate replacement. Richard contacted a Ford dealership and they knew nothing about it.

**Church Bus Insurance** had a reduction on the insurance for 3 ½ months, from March 15th thru June 30th.

**Parsonage deck** was power washed and stained.

### NEW BUSINESS

**New washer and dryer for the parsonage** was purchased from Schultz Appliance at Scales Mound for \$1,213.99

**US Small Business Administration** offers a forgivable loan of \$17,800.00 The church kept paying its employees during Covid-19. The Lena State Bank was used.

**Cedarville United Methodist Church** would like 2 dividers. Because we have 12, we agreed that they could have a couple.

**Home Defense** needs to be sprayed around the outside of the church. Richard will purchase a gallon from Farm & Fleet for \$13.99 and Gary Black will do the spraying.

**A plexi-glass shield** is requested for the pulpit, so Pastor Keri can remove her mask when speaking into the microphone. This will help with the sound quality.

**Closing prayer** with Pastor Keri      **Meeting Adjourned** at 7:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting** will be Monday, September 14th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

***Lena United Methodist Church – Finance Committee Minutes – July 14, 2020***

Finance Chair, Kim Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Attendees by Zoom: Kim Nelson, Larry Nelson, Jeff and Judy Baer. Attendees in person: Richard Holmes, Scott Stich, Randy Kryder Pastor Keri and Chris Bartelt.

Pastor Keri led us in prayer.

Richard made a motion to approve the May 12, 2020 meeting minutes and it was seconded by Judy. Motion carried and minutes were approved.

**Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2020:** At the end of June, the balance in the General Fund is \$33,465.08. This balance reflects the special deposit from the SBA Paycheck Protection program of \$17,800 on May 18. With SBA subtracted, the balance is \$15,665.08, which is still very good in comparison to previous years' balances in 2017 through 2019. The designated fund balance is \$19,638.46. Easter funds were dispersed to Le-Win Food Pantry in the amount of \$1,733 and to Lena Ministerial Association Benevolence Fund of \$1,583. Other expenses paid from the designated fund were \$2,009.09 from church maintenance account for church chimney repairs and parsonage expenses for a washer/dryer and deck staining.

**P&L Reviews-May Profit & Loss:** May income from envelope giving was above budget by \$5,794.88, plus the SBA deposit of \$17,800 was added into other income giving a total income for May of \$34,998.50. Expenses were slightly above budget, due to three payrolls in May. Other expenses held below budget. May net income was \$22,246.03

**June Profit & Loss:** Income was \$8,840 which was below budget by \$5,650.25 and expenses were \$10,068.05 on budget by \$384.36 Accounts over budget were: #6006 for purchase of Deluxe checks needed for paying bills and #6609 due to a six month bill for service when we usually had been receiving this bill monthly. Net income was minus \$1,588.05.

**January through June Year to Date Profit & Loss:** Income from envelopes is below budget by \$5,316.30, but with the SBA deposit income is \$13,352.20 above budget. Total expenses to budget is doing well by \$4,638.18 under budget. When SBA is subtracted from year to date net income our net income is (\$1731.52). Net income this year, even with the unusual situation of shelter in place, is doing better than the year to date income in years 2017 through 2019.

Update on SBA Paycheck Protection Program: We are waiting for the bank to get us the application form needed for the loan forgiveness process. The coverage period has been extended to 24 weeks, however we are in a position to report sooner as we have the required expenses needed for the loan to be forgiven.

We received a benevolent request for \$100 for the Osterloo girls for a special online Transition Seminar Interaction International camp. Randy made a motion to pay this from the Lena UMC designated fund benevolent account. Richard seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion passed.

Update: With shelter in place, we have been receiving contributions in the mail. This has worked well and we still can receive the giving this way. However, with the worship services starting up again, some people may bring contributions to the church. To keep it simple and limit people handling the money from all the different services, the pastor and Finance Chairman have tentatively planned to have all the envelopes from the services and mail be counted on Monday with the Office Assistant and another designated person. We will see how this process goes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. Next meeting: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Chris Bartelt, Financial Secretary

**Lena United Methodist Church – Ad Council Meeting Minutes –  
July 14, 2020**

Randy Kryder, Ad Council chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Attendees by Zoom: Kim Nelson, Jeff and Judy Baer. Attendees in person: Richard Holmes, Scott Stich, Randy Kryder, Pastor Keri and Chris Bartelt. Pastor Roger Bronkema attended the first few minutes of the meeting by Zoom. Other attendees: Larry Nelson by Zoom.

Pastor Roger said he has been busy since July 1 with Warren UMC and Elizabeth UMC and wanted to take a moment to thank the Lena UMC Ad Council for the opportunity he's had since April 2018 serving as the youth director at Lena UMC. He said he has enjoyed working with the youth and Pastor Keri and is happy that the middle school aged kids have had the opportunity to participate in the art and cooking classes that were offered after school in the Spring, but stopped due to the pandemic.

Special prayer requests were for Pete Brown who had a procedure today to place a tube in his ear, for Ben & Gail Mayer who are currently residing at Liberty Village Assisted Living due to Gail's recent surgery and Ben's heart issue, Tam Kryder for her check up on Wednesday in Madison that had been postponed since March, the Le-Win students using the weight room since it reopened after a COVID-19 case.

The minutes from the May 12, 2020 meeting were accepted as printed.

**Committee Reports: Membership** – Judy Baer reported that Kierra Lynn Schulz will receive a pen at Worship service on July 19 for her high school graduation. Three college graduates will receive study Bibles, but are unable to attend Worship on Sunday. Rachel Edler, McKenzie Temperly and Alan Myelle are the recipients. Pastor Keri and Richard and Eleanor Holmes will hand out gifts on Sunday in Jeff and Judy Baer's absence. We will put Mother's and Father's Day gifts on a table in the back of church for folks to pick them in the future as we were unable to hand out these gifts on the appropriate dates due to the pandemic.

**Trustees** – Richard reported that tuck pointing was done 2 years ago and more needs to be done this year. He will get bids from a couple brick layers. Two years ago we spent approximately \$3,000 for this. The chimney repair is done and no liner was needed. We received a re-call notice for the bus. Richard will go to Fairway Ford tomorrow to see what needs to be fixed. The insurance was taken off the bus by the conference for mid-March to July 1 during shelter in place. Richard will purchase some Home Defense and Gary Black will spray it outside the church. The Trustee agreed it is ok to give 2 or 3 panels (dividers) to the Cedarille UMC as we have 12 and they are not being used.

**SPRC** – Pastor Keri reported that the Ministry Review is being done different this year. She has to prepare her review and take it to SPRC. Kim said staff reviews need to be done; and Pastor Keri said she would take that info to Tammy.

**Finance** – Finance reports were covered at the Finance Meeting earlier tonight. **Update on SBA**

**Paycheck Protection Program:** We are waiting for the bank to get us the application form needed for the loan forgiveness process. The coverage period has been extended to 24 weeks, however we are in a position to report sooner as we have the required expenses needed for the loan to be forgiven.

**Update on money counting:** With shelter in place, we have been receiving contributions in the mail. This has worked well and we still can receive the giving this way. However, with the worship services starting up again, some people may bring contributions to the church. To keep it simple and limit people handling the money from all the different services, the pastor and finance chairman have tentatively planned to have all the envelopes from the services and mail be counted on Monday with the office assistant and another designated person. We will see how this process goes.

**Education** – Pastor Keri reported that VBS will be held outside at Lena UMC in conjunction with Good Shepherd and Beloved churches. It will be a 1 day all family event (1-4 pm) on August 1 (rain date August 8). Each congregation will have their own booth with different "Fruits of the Spirit". The fruits of the Spirit for LUMC are: Patience, Kindness, and Goodness. Sally is checking to see if Adult Sunday School wants to start meeting again.

**Missions:** No report. Missions committee has not reconvened.

**Worship** – Sally was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Worship team had a meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>, and since then the Lena UMC Re-gather team has been meeting every other week.

***July 14 Ad Council Meeting Minutes – continued.....***

**Other comments:**

Return to in-person worship. We had 27 people at the July 12<sup>th</sup> in person at Worship with approximately 30 people on Facebook.

What to do about Youth Director. We need to brainstorm.

Problem with having a parking lot worship service. We do not have a FM transmitter.

Communion? It was suggested we could possibly have in-person in church communion, pre-packaged, blessed communion for drive-thru pick up, and also deliver to shut-ins. More planning needed on this.

Chris said she was approached by the Lena Girl Scout leader regarding using the church's fellowship hall for their meetings again during the 2020-21 school year. There was some discussion by the Council whether we want to limit them to just using one room for their meetings plus limiting restroom use to just one restroom due to increased sanitizing that would be needed after their meetings. Judy Baer made a motion to allow the Girl Scouts to use Fellowship Hall for their meetings. The motion was seconded by Richard and approved by the Council.

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm with a prayer by Pastor Keri.

The next meeting will be September 8, 2020 @ 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Bartelt, Secretary

## August 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>  1-4 pm Mason Street VBS event "Fruit of the Spirit" – outside on LUMC grounds
<b>2</b> 9 AM Worship- In-person and On-line + Communion	3	4  1 pm Quilters	5	6	7	<b>8</b>  <i>1-4 pm Rain date            for VBS event</i>
<b>9</b> 9 AM Worship- In-person and On-line	10	11  1 pm Quilters	12	13	14  <b>Newsletter            Deadline</b>	<b>15</b> 6:45 am Men's Bible Study
<b>16</b> 9 AM Worship- In-person and On-line	17	18  1 pm Quilters	19	20	21	22
<b>23</b> 9 AM Worship- In-person and On-line	24	25 1 pm Quilters	26	27	28	29
<b>30</b> 9 AM Worship- In-person and On-line	31					

Lena United Methodist Church  
118 W. Mason Street  
P.O. Box 336  
Lena, IL. 61048  
**Website: [lenaumc.org](http://lenaumc.org)**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S.POSTAGE  
P A I D  
Lena, Illinois  
Permit No. 17

## August 2020

1<sup>st</sup> - 1-4 pm - Fruit of the Spirit (VBS family event) on LUMC grounds  
8<sup>th</sup> - Rain date for Fruit of the Spirit  
14<sup>th</sup> - Newsletter Deadline

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Pastor Keri Rainsberger  
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Sunday School

815-324-27469  
369-5291  
369-4411  
Sunday 9 A.M.  
10:30 A.M.

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Church e-mail [umclena@gmail.com](mailto:umclena@gmail.com)  
Fax xxx  
Children's worship 9 A. M. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays