



Lena United Methodist Church

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

February 2022 Newsletter



Larry Nelson Photo

**Pastor Keri
Rainsberger**

815-369-5291 or
Cell 614-542-9197

February Servants

Liturgist

6 – Liz Gerber
13 - Judy Baer
20 – Rose Black
27 – Scott Stich

Audio/Video Tech

6 – Dean, Cathy, Sharon, Chloe
13 –Dean, Cathy, Sharon, Chloe
20 - Dean, Cathy, Sharon, Chloe
27 – Dean, Cathy, Sharon, Chloe

Dial-a-Devotion

6 – Eleanor Holmes
13 – Pat Phillips
20 – Janet Lobdell
27 – Norma Klipping

Fellowship

6–
13– MaryAnne Gritzmaker
20–
27–

Sunday School Teachers

Lynne Howe ,Lisa Dascher
(K-5th grade)
Cathy Rich (Youth)

Pray for Healing: Jeff and Judy Baer, Dana Rakowska, Vivien Rose Dascher, Rhys Stone and his parents, Rachel Nelson, Eleanor Holmes, Paul, Jen and Chase Wuebben, Ryan, Stacey Ava, Carter and Hadley Wuebben, Tina Wuebben and her fiancé Justin Best, Lisa Wienand's family, Cindy Kerchner, Dan Kempel, Kathie Schulz, Kim Pluss (Dot Spielmann's daughter), McConnell family (Tammy Edler's sister), Norman Wybourn, Steve and Melody Deihl, Prayers for Bill Dorsey's family since his passing, Jerri Wilson (Bonnie Broge's mother), Tammy Riemers, Richard Weber, Shirley Goldsmith (Pat Edler's friend), Sharon Hammill, Gordon Brown (Pete & Allie Brown's nephew), Bert & Jessica Beverage (friends of Kirsten Hollister), Jackie Edler, Debra Smith, Gretchen Kempel, Ruth Wingert, Dave Mader, Irene Rainsberger and Grace Cassaday (Pastor Keri's grandmothers), Audrey Adleman (Tam Kryder's mom), Sylvia Barr (Pat Phillips' niece), Dennis Dunn (friend of Bruce Wuebben), Dorothy Montgomery, Arlene Kryder, Mark Mader, Pauline Lutz, MaryLou Bunker-Langy (Mervin Mader's cousin), Howard Rowe (friend of Jeff and Judy Baer), Michael Reimers (Merv Mader's grandson), Kris Sanders (Barb Feiner's daughter), Sharon Schwartz, Deloris Siemens, Lisa Prindle (friend of Janice Myelle), Judy Welch, Robert Hartwig, Darryl Wybourn, Vernon Baer, Tam Kryder, Frank Edler (Marcia Pax's father) and his wife Sharon, Bonnie Broge's dad-Jim, Stacey Biehl (daughter of Sherrie Biehl).

In treatment:

Linda Farwell (friend of Ryan Stockton), Pat Campbell (Mick Flynn's sister)

Our home-bound members and friends:

Lois Thrasher (Liberty Village); Dorothy Montgomery - Manor Court at Liberty Village
Pauline Lutz, Chris Liles, Carol Fluegel, Burdene Meyers – Lena Living Center
Joyce Brinkmeier – Presence St. Joseph Center
Viola Sargent – Graceland Manor Assisted Living – Monroe, WI
Gail Mayer- Touchmark, Drive #M32 Appleton, WI



I would like to thank my church family who prayed for me, sent cards, brought us food and filled in for me as I recover from having a knee replacement surgery. Thank you all so much.

Bless you,
Eleanor

Happy Birthday

2/1	Ray Boland	2/16	Kim Baxter
2/2	Brock Fransen	2/17	Gary Myers
2/3	Jason Kempel, Justin Kempel	2/18	Debra Smith
2/6	Mark Mader	2/19	Kevin Robieson
2/7	Megan Borchardt	2/20	Evan Short
2/10	Douglas Kempel	2/21	Amy McFadden
2/11	Stacey Mader	2/22	Carol Wickersham
2/12	Pauline Swearingen, Eli Baxter	2/23	Nancy Lobdell
2/13	Michael Williams	2/24	Bruce Shelton
2/14	Eric Thomassen	2/26	Karen Peight, Lois Shelton
2/15	Liz Gerber, Adam Kryder	2/27	Richard Holmes, Christopher Stockton

Thank you to **Bruce Wuebben** who accepted the volunteer opportunity of Sign Changer.

Your offerings can be mailed to our P O Box 336, Lena, IL.

The Friendship Center in Lena is urgently looking for bus drivers, van drivers, bus aides, cooks, cooks helpers, RNs and CNAs. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining their team please reach out to the Friendship Center at 815-369-2690.

From the Pastor's Desk....



“When do we have church again?” one of the Kids Night Out participants asked. Without thinking I replied “Sundays at 9 am.” I realized as soon as I saw her confused look that I had failed the exam. She didn't want to know when some generic other thing called church was meeting. She wanted to know when THIS gathering of church was happening again. When was THIS group of fun kids, youth and adults going to gather again for a time of joy, celebration, and fellowship.

How easy it is to fall into the trap of a narrow definition of church. I had whole classes in seminary that taught and reminded me not to do it. I often preach reminders to all of us not to do it. Yet, when I got the question, I immediately fell back into old routines and definitions. In that moment my mind heard “church” and thought “a specific gathering at the set hour of 9am on Sunday morning with a set format of worship.” Are we doing the same kind of boxing in with our other gatherings?

Jesus always respected the Sabbath. For him that would have been what we call Friday at sundown into Saturday at sundown. Many Christians moved our Sabbath day to Sunday in remembrance of God's recreation and overcoming of death on Easter. The Gospel of Luke records that he went to the synagogue regularly, like we go to church. Yet, as much as Jesus respected the Sabbath, he would not let a narrow definition of it restrict the movement of God's work. Maybe this was because he realized every single day was God's day. Jesus looked for ways to bring Sabbath to other days of the week, and to bring the ordinary into the extraordinary of the Sabbath day.

How can we transform the way we think about our gathering of church? What does it mean for us to be church every day of the week, and to bring our everyday into our times of gathering? May that challenge sit with us this month.

LENA UMC TRUSTEE MINUTES
January 10, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members present were Gary Black, Richard Holmes, Linda Korte, Jeff Stamm, Linda Voreis, and Bruce Wuebben. Absent members were Pete Brown and Gary Myelle

Opening Prayer was led by Richard Holmes.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November 8, 2021 meeting were discussed. Gary motioned to accept the minutes and Bruce seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes were approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS

Tuck pointing on the back of the church, by Dana Keefer, will wait until spring.

Church's eaves trough has been fixed.

Electrical work in the quilting room and control center must be done, but has not been completed.

Parsonage siding repairs were completed by Steve Bonebright at a cost of \$439.00.

Pfile Plastering was completed December 10th & 13th at a cost of \$1,560.00. Thank you to all of the trustees who volunteered to help. Richard will contact Pfile to complete the missed window in the library. It was discussed and decided to leave the window coverings off to prevent moisture and damage to the new plaster.

Painting on all of the repaired plaster was completed by Brent Geilenfeldt.

Polhill Electric has been contacted to reinstall outlets in fellowship hall and plastic surface conduit.

Elevator inspection was completed in December. Jeff and Richard will ask if there are other church and apartment buildings, who they use for inspection of their elevators, and if it is a lower cost.

NEW BUSINESS

Parsonage lawn care bid, from Dave DeMeester, to spray only front and sides for only \$46.00. Prepay by 3/15/2022 for a reduced cost of \$41.40. Jeff motioned to accept the bid, Bruce seconded, motion approved.

Meeker Memorial money uses were discussed and considered. Suggestions presented to the trustees were wireless microphones, rewire electrical service to the control center, speakers in fellowship hall, and other upgrades as needed. Richard asked for a committee to oversee this work. Richard suggested Dean Gerbick and Larry Nelson. Bruce suggested his knowledgeable friend for advice. Jeff volunteered to help if needed.

Church bus batteries were replaced. The use of the bus and drivers were discussed.

Recoat the parking lot and painting parking lines need to be done. Bruce said he would measure the area and get estimates.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Next Meeting will be March 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by secretary Linda Voreis

Lena United Methodist Church - Finance Committee Minutes –January 11, 2022

Finance Chair, Kim Nelson called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm and Scott Stich led us in prayer. Attendees: Scott Stich, Kim Nelson, Larry Nelson, Richard Holmes, Roberta Rogers, Steve Rothschadl, Judy Buchenau and Chris Bartelt.

The minutes of the November 9 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Kim reviewed the Balance Sheet, November and December P&Ls and December YTD P&L. Highlights follow:

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021: At the end of December, the balance in the General Fund is \$55,445.80, but would be \$17,253.24 without SBA loans and 941 tax credit in 2020/2021. The designated fund balance is \$40,710.62. Comments on balance sheet: There is \$2,576 in the Thanksgiving account. This will be paid out to the Le-Win Food Pantry on January 18th. There is \$8151 in the Christmas account at the end of December. There is \$12,383.80 in Undesignated Memorials and the total of the Memorial fund (including checking and CDs) is \$59,674.58. There is \$53,256.04 in the NUDD Endowment fund.

P&L Reviews- November Profit & Loss comments: \$11,755 in envelope giving was received against a budget of \$14,239. Total expenses for the month were \$11,236 against a budget of \$11,355.08. Net ordinary income was \$593.40

December Profit & Loss: In December, the income from envelope giving was on target (\$14,923 received against a budget of \$14,392). In the Finance account, "Offering Envelopes" was over budget due to ordering offering envelopes for 2022. In the Trustees accounts, the church gas account is over budget (\$actual \$960.08 versus budget of \$830). Trustee expenses for December were under budget by \$73.43. Net ordinary income for the month was \$4,344.53

December 31, 2021 Year to Date Profit & Loss: Net ordinary income year to date is \$26,039.42. Comments: Income from envelope giving for January through December was \$143,129. Expense review: in the SPRC accounts, Pastor Health Insurance is under budget as the conference waived the monthly fee of \$1600 in August. Also Pastor Keri only spent \$962.56 of the \$5,000 budgeted for Pastor Professional Expense, and there was no expense in the "Wages – Ministry Staffing" account due to the open position of Children's Ministry leader. Expenses for January through December were \$138,868.27 which is under budget by \$9,225.73.

Other comments:

Scott asked how we are doing on the Mustard Seed food pantry collections. Chris reported we have collected and sent checks for \$200 to each of the following pantries: Lena, Cedarville, Warren, Pearl City, and Freeport New Jerusalem Church. We have collected \$36.57 against the \$200 goal for Lanark's pantry. After Lanark, the only remaining pantry we have identified is Dakota/Davis. Kim reported the audit will be done on January 17. Account holders are to have their records turned in to the church office by Friday January 14 for the audit.

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm. Next meeting: March 8th, 2022 @ 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Chris Bartelt, Financial Secretary

Lena United Methodist Church – Ad Council Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2022

Roberta Rogers, Ad Council vice-chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Attendees: Scott Stich, Kim Nelson, Roberta Rogers, Richard Holmes, Steve Rothschadl, Lynne Howe, Judy Buchenau, Randy Kryder and Chris Bartelt. Other attendees: Larry Nelson.

Kim made a motion that was seconded by Richard to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2021 meeting. The minutes were approved.

Randy Kryder, chairman, arrived at 7:20 pm and presided over the remainder of the meeting,

Committee Reports: **Membership** – No report **Missions:** No report.

Trustees – Richard reported: tuckpointing at the back of the church will wait until Spring. Cost is about \$3,000. Church eaves trough has been fixed; electrical work in the quilting room and control center is not completed yet. Parsonage siding repairs are done; Pfile plastering was done in December. Painting on the new plaster is completed. One spot for repairing plaster in the Library was missed. Richard will contact Pfile. Elevator inspection was done in December. Dave DeMeester will spray front and side lawns at parsonage this year. Cost is \$41.40 if paid by March 15. Bruce Wuebben has agreed to serve on the trustees committee. Richard will set up a committee to review wireless microphones, rewiring electrical service to the control center, speakers in fellowship hall. The Meeker memorial money could be used for these upgrades. People suggested for this committee are Dean Gerbick, Larry Nelson, Scott Stich, Jeff Stamm. Parking lot needs to be re-coated this year and parking lines painted. Bruce Wuebben will measure and get quotes.

SPRC – Lynne reported staff evaluations were completed in December 2021 and rate increases were allotted. There is a job description for the Children’s Ministry Director; and the position remains unfilled.

Lay Leader’s Report – Scott reported the Prairie North Leadership Training is Saturday, January 29 from 9-11:30 am and will be held by Zoom. The training is free. Church members and leaders are encouraged to sign up and attend as there are some informative workshop sessions. Also, the conference-wide Laity Convocation is scheduled for Saturday February 12 from 9 am to noon via Zoom. Cost to attend is \$10.

Finance – Scott made a motion that an Ad Hoc committee be set up by Randy. The committee will be comprised of a representative from each of the following committees: Trustees, Finance, Worship, Education, Memorials, The purpose of the committee is to determine best use of memorial monies and bring it before the Ad Council for approval. The committee would meet on an “as needed” basis. The motion was seconded by Lynne and approved by voice vote.

A donation was received in December of \$5,000 to be designated for benevolence to the community. After discussion of various needs and suggestions, Kim made a motion requesting Pastor Keri to contact the Lena Ministerial Association to get a copy of it’s Policies and Procedures and Balance Sheet. The motion was seconded by Scott and approved by voice vote.

Kim made a motion to give \$1500 (\$500 for each of the past three years that we haven’t donated) to the Lena Area Church Cooperative (LACC). Roberta seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

Education – We need a chairman for this committee. Roberta reported Kids Night Out has been very positive. There were 7 attendees in December and 9 attendees in January. The next Kids Night Out is scheduled for February 3 and will have a Valentine’s theme.

Worship – We need a chairman for this committee. There was no report.

Pastors Report: Pastor Keri was on vacation. There was no report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next meeting will be March 8th, 2022 @ 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Bartelt, Secretary

Kid's Night Out

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 5:30-8:00PM
FEB. 3 | MARCH 3 | APRIL 7 | MAY 5

Lena UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 118 W. MASON ST., Lena

KIDS 5-10 years old can come join us for crafts, games, food, friends & fun.
Moms and Dads, have a parent's night out, too...we'll see you at 8:00pm!

KIDS WILL BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES BY ADULTS & OLDER CHURCH YOUTH
MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED EXCEPT WHILE EATING & DRINKING

DINNER WILL BE SERVED; PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES WHEN YOU RSVP
KID'S NIGHT IS FREE! PLEASE RSVP SO WE CAN PLAN ACCORDINGLY:

CALL THE CHURCH AT 815.369.5291 OR EMAIL umclena@gmail.com

(FREE EVENT. DONATIONS ACCEPTED...RSVPS APPRECIATED BUT DROP-INS ARE MOST WELCOME, TOO!)



HOLD FAST TO THE MAST

Strengthening Our Spiritual Lives

LAITY CONVOCATION 2022

Saturday
February 12

9:00 am - Noon

Online via Zoom

Cost \$10



Featuring:

Kara Lassen Oliver Associate Publisher with The Upper Room

Rev. Dr. Regina Bridges Davis Spiritual Clinical Counselor & Ordained Deacon

George Groves NIC United Methodist Men President

Members of 4 local congregations of the NIC sharing new and exciting ministries

Break out session to provide discussion and discernment

Register: www.umcnic.org/calendar/laity-convocation-2022



Registration January 3 - February 3



Northern Illinois Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Board of Laity

Questions? Contact Mark Manzi
630.945.7479 mmanzi@sbcglobal.net

February 2022 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1 pm Quilters	2	3  5:30-8 pm Kid's Night Out	4 5:00 – 6:30pm Girl Scouts- Fellowship Hall	5 8 am – Men's Breakfast 9:30 am - UMW
6 9 AM Worship In Person & On -line through Facebook + Communion Fellowship 9:45 – Sunday School	7	8 1 pm Quilters	9	10	11	12
13 9 AM Worship In Person & On -line through Facebook Fellowship 9:45 – Sunday School 6 pm –Edler/ Kryder Bible Study at the Church	14 Happy Valentine's Day! 	15 1 pm Quilters	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline 5:00 – 6:30pm Girl Scouts- Fellowship Hall	19 <i>7:00 am Men's</i> <i>Bible Study</i> <i>Fellowship</i> <i>Hall</i>
20 9 AM Worship In Person & On -line through Facebook Fellowship 9:45 – Sunday School	21	22 1 pm Quilters	23	24	25	26
27 9 AM Worship In Person & On -line through Facebook Fellowship 9:45 – Sunday School	28					

Lena United Methodist Church
118 W. Mason Street
P.O. Box 336
Lena, IL. 61048
Website: lenaumc.org

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

February 2022

5th – 8 am – Men’s Breakfast; 9:30 am - UMW
6th, 13th, 20th, 27th - 9 am Worship in person and On Line through Facebook
13th – 6 pm – Edler/Kryder Bible Study – Fellowship Hall
18th - Newsletter Deadline
19th – 7 am - Men’s Bible Study

Or Current Resident

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[Place label here]
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Pastor Keri Rainsberger
Office Telephone
Dial-A-Devotion
Worship hours:
Sunday School

Home 815-324-2746 Cell 614-524-9197
369-5291 Church e-mail: umclena@gmail.com
369-4411
Sunday 9 A.M.
9:45 A.M.