

Lena United Methodist Church

November 2018 Newsletter

Pastor Keri
Rainsberger
815-369-5291 or
Cell 614-542-9197

November Servants

Greeters

4 – Richard & Eleanor Holmes
11 – Richard & Eleanor Holmes
18 – Dwayne & Carol Robieson
25 – Gary & Rose Black

Liturgist

4 – Roberta Rogers
11 – Bonnie Broge
18 – Tiffany Nieman
25 – Judy Baer

Video Tech

4 – Lisa Dascher
11 – Elaine Williams
18 – Cathy Rich
25 – Cathy Rich

Dial-a-Devotion

4 – Norma Klipping
11 – Eleanor Holmes
18 – Pat Phillips
25 – Eleanor Holmes

Fellowship

4 – Please volunteer
11 – Linda Korte, Pat Edler
18 – Please volunteer
25 – Please volunteer

Sunday School Teachers

Lynne Howe, Lisa Dascher
Roberta Rogers, Cathy Rich



Pray for Healing: Sally Buchenau, LaVonne Jones, Robert Hartwig (Ryan Stockton's uncle), Pat Phillips, Darryl Wybourn, Dave (Bonnie Broge's brother-in-law), Dorothy Owens, Todd Miller (Myrna Seuring's nephew), Beulah Klaus (requested by Norma Klipping), Kim Pluss (Dot Spielman's daughter), Debra Bettcher (Bruce Wuebben's friend), Eileen Snapp, Tammy Reimers (Mervin Mader's daughter), Loren Brown (Holly Buss' father), Scott Bonnett, Bob Hendry, Vernon Baer, Myron Coaty, Tam Kryder, Gretchen Heitkam, Myrna Seuring, Vivien Rose Dascher (Jr and Lisa Dascher's granddaughter), John Gorz (Sue Bussian's brother), Joanne Gruendler, Nevin Kryder, Arlene Kryder, Irene Schubert (Sally Buchenau's sister-in-law), Richard (Jeff & Judy Baer's grandson), The Sleezer Home girls have requested prayers for: Kaylee, Emily, Crystal, Marilyn, Kelsey, Kim, Kallista and Mrs. Williams

In treatment:

Pat Campbell (Mick Flynn's sister), Judy Draeving (friend of Wayne & Elaine); Bev Rakowska (Melrose Park)

Our home-bound members and friends:

Lavonne Jones (home); "Butch" and Judy Polhill (home); Lois Thrasher (Liberty Village/Hawthorne Inn); Lorraine Bonebright (Pearl Pavilion); Pauline Lutz, Marilyn Holmes, Al Owens, & Carol Fluegel (all at Lena Living Center)

Our condolences to Eric and Erin Korte and family on the death of Erin's grandfather, Kendal Witte. Mr. Witte died on October 22 and a visitation was held on October 28 from 12 noon – 3 pm at Burke-Tubbs Funeral Home. His funeral was on October 29 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Freeport at 10:30 am.



November Birthdays and Anniversaries

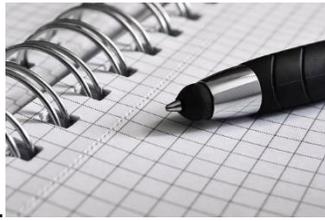
Birthday

- 11/2 Kelsi Dascher, Sharon Koch
- 11/4 Norma Klipping,
Colleen Rakowska, Lily Stockton
- 11/6 Doug Robieson
- 11/7 Karrie Martin
- 11/8 Tam Kryder
- 11/10 Austina Saavedra-Lincoln
- 11/11 Nicholas Borchardt, Pete Brown,
Danielle Thomas
- 11/13 Brian Eilders, Linda Korte,
Nicole McFadden
- 11/15 Erin Eilders, Brooklyn Hudson,
Blakeley Hudson, Gail Mayer
- 11/16 Merlyn Barker, Cameron Kryder,
Addison Kryder, Brayden Kryder
Megan Renner
- 11/18 Cathy Rich, Evan Voreis, Eric Voreis
- 11/20 Connie Robieson
- 11/22 Arlene Kryder, Kurt Snyder, Mike Taft
- 11/23 Emily Foley
- 11/28 Matthew Morrison, Aaron White
- 11/29 Karen Kryder
- 11/30 Nancy Chapin

Anniversaries

- 11/1 Jay & Karlyn Kempel
- 11/4 Ron & Sally Buchenau
- 11/12 James & Diane Burke
- 11/16 Kelly & Janet Lobdell
- 11/21 Ben & Gail Mayer
- 11/23 Brian & Jamie Eilders

Save the Date! December 2, 3:30-5:30 pm will be our “Untangling Christmas” celebration. Christmas is supposed to be “the most wonderful time of the year” but we know it can also be very stressful. The Untangling Christmas gathering will be a time for people and families of all ages to join in a fun and relaxing afternoon of worship and learning. We'll untangle some of the stress of the holiday season by focusing in on the story of Christmas and learning how to center ourselves in Christ. We'll share a story together and use games, activities, and crafts to go deeper into that story allowing it to untangle us. We'll finish the evening with a meal together. We'll even have folks available to untangle those pesky Christmas lights and wrap presents! So gather your friends, family, and neighbors and come on in for an evening of relaxing celebration.



From the Pastor's Desk.....

2018 Pastor Report to Church Conference
Lena UMC, Rockford District

Greetings Lena UMC Church Conference,

It has been a great pleasure to serve among you as pastor this past year! You are a wonderfully dedicated congregation that has been willing to both teach and be taught how to grow deeper in faith and practice.

Our Sunday worship services have been wonderful ways for me to connect with God, and I hope they have been for you too. The worship committee and leadership teams are wonderful. When I have come with ideas, they have figured out how to make them not only work, but truly pull us deeper into worship. So many of you are actively engaged in worship and I rarely have difficulty finding volunteers, even when I have asked you last minute to join in a play you just found out about the morning of worship! We even pulled off bringing back our 11pm Christmas Eve service because "at least 12 people" (more like 50) committed to coming! The new more intimate format brought us right into the stable to wait again for Jesus' birth

I see that same creativity and full-in engagement with each other and our faith in our studies and classrooms. I led two short-term studies focused on devotional practices, one in Advent and one in Lent to compliment our ongoing lay-led Bible Studies and Sunday School classes. There has been a sub-group of the education team meeting to think about how we can best provide Christian Education given the changing realities of less numerous and less regular students. This group has met together four times. We decided on three ideas to try out this year: making sure our children's worship bags tie in with the scripture for the day, trying out a new one-room Sunday School curriculum for our younger class (and changing the age divisions), and trying a new multi-generational worship and education gathering (look out for "Untangling Christmas" coming soon!).

We mourned together the loss of many this year. Since last charge conference, I have officiated at the funerals of Virgil Brinkmeier, Arthur Gabel, David Gruendler, Marjorie Klever, Genevieve Kraft, Marcella Pearson, Terry Price, Joan Reiter, Ray Spielmann, Connie Stamm, Norma Streeb, and Rich Wickersham. We have also kept in our prayers and care many members and loved ones who have faced serious illness this past year. We also mourned the loss of our After School Program which had to be put on hiatus until we can find a suitable location to host the program.

There were also joys among our community. There were new births, new jobs, and recovered health. Since last church conference we celebrated the baptisms of Lucas Hunter, Emma Lampard, Chloe Mader, and Meagan Mader. Chloe, Meagan, Sarah Edler, Morgan Gerber, and Mikaela Nieman joined our congregation by profession of faith after completing confirmation class together along with youth of Warren UMC. We celebrate God's work in their lives, and the way that they enrich our community, through their examples and teaching, and through their learning, bringing us all deeper into our relationship with God.

We also had a concern that became a joy. We discovered our boiler had a crack. We had dedicated folks who "babysat" the old boiler keeping it hobbling along, however, the trustees decided it had to go before the next cold season hit and we were left shivering. The congregation responded overwhelmingly to this need, raising well over the \$15,000 goal for the replacement cost. The extra funding assured that any "surprise" expenses that came up could be covered, and will allow us to cover some yearly maintenance costs that will keep the new boiler running great. The generosity of the congregation was abundant!

I continued to learn and grow this year. I appreciate the great support and collaboration of the local ministerial associations, both the ecumenical Lena Ministerial Association and the Stephenson cluster of the UMC pastors. I also attend a quarterly theological discussion group. I had the opportunity to participate in webinars on Christian Education and Rural Ministry and workshops provided by the district. I, along with some of our lay leaders, were trained in the Rule of Christ. I began the residency program as a provisional candidate for ordination as an elder.

This congregation is also engaged beyond our own walls and out into the community. We have many members who volunteer with local organizations. Our new mustard seed fund from the coins in our offering plate has raised over \$1900 for 13 organizations. Our holiday offerings were either split or completely given for mission. We actively participate in the community-wide Lenten Lunches, and join with the other Mason Street churches to host a summer VBS. I enjoyed being with the food pantry for the food truck distribution days, and joining with the folks of Good Shepherd for their Wednesday night "Open Church" at the Lena Gatherings where we offered games and conversation with the children of the community.

I am looking forward to another year of ministry with this faithful congregation seeking to live out God's love.

In Christ's Love,

UMW meeting Oct. 6, 2018

We voted and decided to stay with the United Methodist District Women's group, but with a few changes of our own. We will be doing away with some of the ritual type things and making it easier to be an officer. Some don't like getting up to do programs, but would like to participate more in the background. If our meetings are a little less formal, maybe others will volunteer.

We also voted to donate \$200 to the Lena Area Church Co-Op to help pay for the Thanksgiving baskets that are given to families in need. They have 50 families on their list this year already. The baskets are purchased through the Northern Illinois Food Bank and give the families everything they need to prepare a good Thanksgiving meal.

We also voted to donate \$100 to the Freeport Sojourn House to help with their expense for a Thanksgiving meal there. Plus we are giving \$50 to Maddy's Pantry

We had our Breakfast, Sweet Shoppe and Craft event on Oct. 20th and it was successful again this year. We don't know the exact amounts yet, because of outstanding bills, but we know we made money.

Our raffle winners are: Quilt by Pastor Keri won by Larry Buchenau, Basket by the Mill Furnishings won by Kathy Baldauf, Amish rug donated by Todd and Sue Bussian won by Cathy Daniels and the \$25 gift certificate from AJ's Lena Maid Meats won by Linda Kinnison of Rockford.

Our Cookie Walk and Chili Supper will be Nov. 30th this year. Now that the bazaar is over, we'll have to start thinking of special cookies and candies to make for that. People get so excited when they come in and see five 8 foot tables with cookies and 2 round tables with candies and other goodies on them. They also like our chili, which warms them up before and after the parade. (continued)

LaVone read from the Response Moments magazine about "A Place for the Forgotten", dealing with sex trade here in our country as well as others. It's hard to believe something like this goes on here, but we hear of missing children and young adults all the time lately. It's a horrible thing to think about.

Our next meeting is Nov. 3rd and is our World Thank Offering & Installation of Officers Program – Marsha Tessendorf
Hostess – Lynne Howe

God bless everyone,
Maryanne Gritzmaker, UMW President

Worship Meeting Minutes Oct. 17,2018

Present: Pastor Keri, Lisa Stich, Cathy Rich & Sally Buchenau
Pastor Keri opened us with prayer.

Our agenda for tonight regards upcoming worship services and special Sundays through the end of the year.
October 28 is Music Sunday. Keri & Bert handling.

All Saints Day will be Nov. 4. Colleen sets up table with remembrance candles to be lit for those in our congregation who passed during this past year & then others who are remembering/honoring loss of loved ones in past years . A tone will be sounded after the reading of the names. Lisa will play soft music while people are coming to the front.

Honoring Veterans Nov. 11

Colors will be presented before worship and retired after worship. An AV review of music and pictures will be shown during our service. Message will center around types of service.

Nov 18 Worship

We will be circulating pumpkins for people to write what they are thankful for & display them around the church.

Thanksgiving Eve service will be tabled this year due to poor attendance in the recent past..will re-evaluate next year.

Christ the King Sunday Nov. 25 Those interested in greening the Sanctuary are invited to lunch. We will be returning to church after lunch to decorate for the Christmas holiday.

Dec 2 First Sunday in Advent We will need readers for lighting the advent candles on Dec. 2, 9,16, 23 for morning worship. Also for the Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 & possibly at 11:00 p.m. Lisa will provide music for those readings. A suggestion was made for various groups to read for morning worship: Confirmants, Praise Team, AV team, adult Sunday School Class. For 4:30 Service : The Gary Buss family We may just ask several folks at the 11:00 p.m. service to read.

Dec 2 Host multi congregational advent program entitled "Untangling Christmas". This program will Begin at 3:00 with everyone gathering in the Sanctuary for opening and singing. Guests will be dismissed to the separate stations which will be inspirational & fun. Basic yoga breathing techniques to help calm stress, crafts, cookies, prayer, Christmas story, drop-off gifts to be wrapped at our gift wrap station, Christmas light untanglers, photo booth. There will be a gathering of all to enjoy a meal together for the last stop. (to close at 5:30 p.m.) (all aimed at starting the season with an attitude of the real meaning of Christmas which is peace) Sally & Cathy R. will work on Liturgist schedule for 2019. Assume all who are currently on the list will continue & try to add a few more.

Our next planned meeting will be Jan 16, 2019 at 6:30 pm

Sally Buchenau

November 2018 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 8 am – MM Breakfast 9:30 am – UMW |
| 4 9 AM Worship- 10:30 Sunday School All Saints Sunday 6:30 Bible Study @ Holmes' | 5 6-7:30 pm – Girl Scouts | 6 1 pm Quilters | 7 7 pm – Learning to Live with Loss | 8 6:30 pm Knitters and Knotters | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9 AM Worship 10:30 Sunday School 6:00 pm – Kryder/Edler Bible | 12 | 13 12 noon – Daytime Food n Fun 1 pm Quilters | 14 | 15 | 16 Newsletter Deadline | 17 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study @ Flynn's 10-3- Girl Scouts – Fellowship Hall |
| 18 9 AM Worship 10:30 Sunday School | 19 6-7:30 pm – Girl Scouts | 20 1 pm Quilters | 21 10 AM Bible Study @ Chapin's 1:30 pm Hannah's Helpers | 22 Happy Thanksgiving!! Office closed | 23 Office closed | 24 |
| 25 9 AM Worship- 10:30 Sunday School | 26 7 pm – Stagecoach Quilters | 27 9:45 am Hymn Sing 1 pm Quilters 1 pm Elizabeth Circle | 28 | 29 | 30 Chili Supper & Cookie Walk | |

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

November 2018

3rd - 8 am - Men's Breakfast, 9:30 - UMW
8th - Knitters & Knotters
5th & 19th - 6pm - Girl Scouts
16th - Newsletter Deadline
22nd - Thanksgiving - Office Closed
26th - 7 pm - Stagecoach Quilters
27th 9:45 am - Hymn Sing
30th - Chili Supper & Cookie Walk

Or Current Resident

[]
[]
[Place label here]

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. Children's worship 9 A. M. 2nd & 4th Sundays
10:30 A.M.