



# Lena United Methodist Church

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

## September 2020 Newsletter

### Pastor Keri Rainsberger

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

### September Servants

#### Greeters

6 –  
13 –  
20 –  
27 –

#### Liturgist

6 – Liz Gerber  
13 – Morgan Gerber  
20 – Judy Baer  
27 – Rose Black

#### Video Tech

6 – Cathy Rich  
13 – Cathy Rich  
20 – Cathy Rich  
27 – Cathy Rich

#### Dial-a-Devotion

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

#### Fellowship

6–  
13–  
20–  
27–

#### Sunday School Teachers

Lynne Howe, Lisa Dascher (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Roberta Rogers, Cathy Rich (Youth)  
Sally Buchenau (Adult)



Larry Nelson Photo

**Pray for Healing:** Ryan Wuebben (Bruce Wuebben's son), Jillian (Sharon Hammill's granddaughter), Marcia Pax, Joyce Knight, 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), 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, 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

# Happy Birthday

- 9/2 Lyle Temperly, Jr.
- 9/5 Beulah Haeft, William Haughan
- 9/6 Cody Rogers
- 9/7 Lynn White
- 9/9 Lisa Oellerich
- 9/11 Rebecca Edler, Kim Nelson, Kathie Schulz
- 9/12 Grace Potter
- 9/13 Greg Broge, Josef Edler, Brent Taft
- 9/14 Austin Simmons
- 9/15 Eric Boyer, Mervin Mader, Ruth Wingert
- 9/16 Sharon Hammill, Curt Oellerich, Marty Voreis
- 9/19 Carol Borchardt, Laverne Pax, Brandon Seuring
- 9/20 Jared Kempel, Theresa Kepner
- 9/21 Seth Dascher
- 9/22 Kent Seuring
- 9/23 Peyton Heitkam
- 9/25 Mitchell Temperly, Sarah Todd
- 9/26 Brad Lobdell, Gary Price, Lori Robieson
- 9/27 David Kepner Chloe Mader, David Peight
- 9/28 Tom Smith, Conor Stanley
- 9/30 Natalie Heitkam, Elsie Lobdell



- 9/6 Wayne & Olga Benson, Randy & Renee Buisker
- 9/11 Darryl & Faye Wybourn
- 9/13 Bill & Sherry Bohnsack, Jan & Cathy Daniels
- 9/17 Brad & Diane Kempel
- 9/20 Kyle & Trinity Zimmerman
- 9/21 Bill & Rhonda Hooker, Brad & Keelee Lobdell
- 9/22 Duane & Peggy Eilders
- 9/27 Adam & Karen Kryder
- 9/30 Nick & Dee Wybourn

## **Thank you:**

*Pastor Keri: Thank you so much for sending me the new study Bible. I can't wait to dive into it. I appreciate you and the rest of the church for thinking of me and congratulating me on my college graduation; it really means a lot.*

*God Bless,  
Kenzie Temperly*

***Save the date:*** Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – 11 am – 12pm - Church Conference – Zoom meeting with DS, Rev. Fabiola Grandon-Mayer (SPRC will meet just before that after worship) Everything is by Zoom this year.

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



“And are we yet alive, and see each other's face? Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace! ... What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past, fightings without and fears within, since we assembled last!”

This Charles Wesley hymn (“And Are We Yet Alive” #553) was often sung at gatherings of annual conference. In the early years of Methodism, members of conference would often have been traveling in harsh conditions and not seeing each other for long periods of time. It was far from certain that at the annual gathering they would be “yet alive.”

For many of us it has been a long time since we have gathered to “see each other's face.” Some of us have been able to return to the sanctuary pews, but we are keenly aware there are many faces not there. Some have been able to gather on Facebook and see folk's greetings, but not their face. Others of us have maybe had phone calls or written letters but no faces to see.

While we have been apart we have faced many troubles. Some have been personal struggles, while others have played out on national or international stages. Sometimes we may have felt intimately connected with those around the world who share our troubling, and other times we may have felt isolated and alone.

“Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love; and still he doth his help afford” wrote Wesley in confidence. Although the early Methodists were often apart from each other they still knew they were bound together by one Spirit, one Lord. They trusted that God would be with them and get them through. We too, are bound together in love. We, unlike the early Methodists, have so many more options for keeping connected to each other, and for reminding each other of God's love. We can remain connected even when we have yet to “see each other' face.” When we face troubles it can sometimes be hard to remember those connections to each other and to God who will see us through. So let us use our modern tools, to draw on the timeless Spirit to reach out to each other and keep connected.

## VBS 2020 Wrap-up

**Vacation Bible School** has been a tradition of ours for a long time. For the past several years we have collaborated with the other two Mason Street congregations to host a joint VBS on weekday evenings one week in the summer. With COVID requiring additional safety precautions, we knew the way we have “always done” VBS would not be possible this year. Yet we also wanted to provide a fun opportunity for our community's children to learn more about God.

This year the three congregations paired up to create a “Family Festival” celebrating the Fruit of the Spirit. We created outdoor festival-style booths featuring stories, games, crafts, and other activities centered around each fruit. We invited families to come circulate through the booths like they would at a festival.

We had four families visit our festival. While this low number was disappointing to the team, we really didn't know what to expect. We had thought “we could get no one” because COVID and a disruption of routines might hold families back. We thought “we could get a lot!” because there are not many other activities going on around town. We learned that this festival-style was a lot easier to coordinate and was enjoyable for the volunteers. We see potential in this format despite our disappointments this year.

Our “traditional” VBS has also been seeing decreased attendance in recent years and it has become harder to find volunteers. A re-imagining of this beloved ministry would have been helpful, and COVID was the impetus we needed to do so. We hope that this experience will spark ideas for new ways that we as a congregation can provide valuable outreach and education to our community's children.

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Larry Nelson photo

This month we are featuring and thanking LaVone Gabel and Beulah Haeft for their involvement with Lena UMC. They previously were responsible for preparing all the Food n Fun meals (with help from Marsha Tessoroff) prior to the event becoming a potluck meal. LaVone was chairwoman of the Roast Beef supper for many years and Beulah always helped. Beulah and Lavone are both still very actively involved in the Church. They attend UMW meetings. Beulah puts the weekly bulletins together and gets the monthly newsletters collated, labeled and stamped for mailing (except in these “COVID days”) and helps with funeral lunches. LaVone cuts, pieces and sews many quilt tops and hand ties the quilts for Elizabeth Circle. When we have the rummage and bake sale and bazaar, they can be found in the church kitchen making many pies and cinnamon rolls for sale.

## September 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <b>1 pm Quilters</b>	2	3	4	5
6 <b>9 AM Worship In Person &amp; On -line through Facebook + Communion</b>	7 <b>Labor Day – Office closed</b>	8 <b>1 pm Quilters</b> <b>6:30 pm – Finance</b> <b>7 pm – Ad Council</b>	9	10	11	12
13 <b>9 AM Worship In Person &amp; On -line through Facebook</b>  <b>6 pm – Bible Study at Kryder's</b>	14 <b>6:30 pm – Trustees Mtg</b>	15 <b>1 pm Quilters</b>	16	17	18 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	19 <i>6:45 am Men's Bible Study</i>
20 <b>9 AM Worship In Person &amp; On -line through Facebook</b>	21	22 <b>1 pm Quilters</b>	23	24	25	26
27 <b>9 AM Worship In Person &amp; On -line through Facebook</b>	28 <b>Tentative: 7 pm Stagecoach Quilters</b>  <b>Tentative: Girl Scout meeting</b>	29 <b>1 pm Quilters</b>	30			

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

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Lena, Illinois  
Permit No. 17

## September 2020

6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> - 9 am Worship in person and On Line through Facebook  
7<sup>th</sup> - Labor Day - office closed  
8<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm - Finance; 7 pm - Ad Council  
13<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm - Bible Study at Kryder's  
14<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm - Trustees meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> - Newsletter Deadline  
28<sup>th</sup> - 7 pm - Stagecoach Quilters (tentative)

Or Current Resident

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[ ]  
[ 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
10:30 A.M.