



The Linworth Link

Volume 16, Issue 12, December 2009

Linworth United Methodist Church

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December Worship Schedule

6 - 2nd Sunday of Advent Holy Communion

8:45 a.m.—Choir Cantata
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary
11:30 a.m.—Choir Cantata

13 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m.—Traditional
10:15 a.m.—Children's
Christmas Musical
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

20 - 4th Sunday of Advent Baptism & New Member Sunday

8:45 a.m. —Traditional
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

24 - Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. **Family Worship**
6:30 p.m. **Contemporary**
9:00 p.m. **Festival of
Lessons & Carols**
11:00 p.m. **Holy
Communion & Candlelight
Service**

27 - 1st Sunday after Christmas

8:45 a.m.—Traditional
10:15 a.m.—Contemporary
11:30 a.m.—Traditional

Words from Pastor Rae Lynn

Dear Linworth Family,

Christmas Eve worship is my most favorite worship of the year. I love Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, but Christmas Eve worship touches something deep within me. I am certain it has to do with growing up in the faith, being involved in the children's choir musical at the church, candlelight services, singing all the songs about baby Jesus and wise men and angels, all the images, all the colors, all the sights and all the sounds. Christmas Eve was musical, magical and mystical, and every year, the child inside this adult body of mine, looks for those sights and sounds and sentiments all over again.

Even before Thanksgiving this year, the radio 93.3 has been playing continuous Christmas music. Seems a bit early, but this year I have welcomed it. I suppose because with the events of this past fall, I am wanting the "soothing of the season." Now, I realize that for many of us, with all the parties and preparations that go with them, the list-making and the shopping, the house cleaning and decorating, nothing seems soothing at all about this season. Others of us welcome all the festivities and all the preparations that go with the season. Preparation is a part of what may make Christmas special, and many of you through all your preparations offer hospitality to friends and neighbors making the season special for them.

I look forward to the Family Advent Festival, the Christmas Cookie Sale, The United Methodist Women's Christmas party. Not to mention the Choir Cantata, the Children's Christmas musical, and many other places where I will fellowship and share time with many of you.

I also look forward to giving to the Adopt-A-Family, the Christmas giving to Pharr Literacy and the AIRO Ministry, and the many other giving opportunities where I can offer a financial contribution to take the edge off and share the burden with others who do not have enough for a "holly, jolly Christmas." But mostly, I am looking forward to the story, the Christmas story, hearing it again and letting its message break through into my life all over again.

The chorus from the angels, "For to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord," echoes Isaiah 9:6, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given," the One whom God has sent into the world, not to condemn, but to save. The soothing of a Savior who is light in our darkness, hope in our despair, the way when our path is unclear, and the whisper of comfort when pain screams inside. When I come to the season of Advent and Christmas, I want to see Jesus, to slow down my life and not miss, in the midst of all the festivities, the face of Jesus, not miss, in the midst of the realities of life, the image of Jesus. And where I see pain and sorrow, despair and darkness, Jesus is there in the

(Continued on back page)



Small Groups

Between the Lines: Contact: Faye Black

If you love to read fiction and would like to talk about books with other fiction lovers, plan to join the Between the Lines book club. We will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, **except** September, **December**, June, July and August.

Bridge Club: Contact: Linda Kemp

Bridge Club will meet on **Friday, Dec 4** at 6:00 p.m. at Linworth UMC. We will meet with the Hand and Foot Card Group for a Christmas gathering in the Fellowship Hall. Our meetings are usually the 1st Friday of the month at 8:00 p.m. (with a few exceptions caused by holidays). We meet in the homes of members.

Building Nesters: Contact: Sara Schwanzl

Join us on **Dec 3 & 17**, the group will meet for Bible study from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in room 228. Our social event is TBA.

Closer Walk Class: Contact: Janet Blocher

This discussion based class meets at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings in room 225. It is designed to give adults who typically attend the Contemporary Worship Service an opportunity to develop a closer spiritual walk.

Dining Disciples: Contacts: Marlene Goodenow/Karen Stahle/Sally Moser/Julie Yeater

For fun and fellowship, join Dining Disciples. Groups of singles and married couples meet in homes or restaurants for a meal about 4 times a year. What a great way to get to know each other. To sign up, call a contact.

Hand and Foot Card Club: Contact: Jean Balsler

The Club will meet on **Friday, Dec 4** at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Bridge Club will join this fun bunch for a Christmas gathering.

HomeBuilders: Contact: Mary Torok

Watch the worship folder for details about this new group.

IMPACT Service Group: Contact: Becki Hollenbaugh

IMPACT is a service group that meets with residents at Claremont Retirement Village. Join them on **Dec 7** at 6:30 p.m. for a Holiday Party at Becki's home; and on **Dec 16** at 7:00 p.m. for the Holiday Party at Claremont.

In Daily Places: Contact: Debby Fuller

Ladies: Join "In Daily Places" as we continue our study of **Catching Fireflies: Teaching Your Heart to See God's Light Everywhere**, by best-selling author and "Women of Faith" speaker, Patsy Claremont. We will meet this month on **Monday, Dec 14** in room 226. Call with questions.

Keen Adult Bible Study: Contact: Bob Jacobson

This Sunday morning Sunday School class meets at 10:00 a.m. in room 136 of the Fellowship Hall.

LinWomen Online: Contact: Sharon Valade

A virtual community of Linworth Women who are able to share using modern technology. Call Sharon to sign up and get logged on.

Men's Before-Work Spiritual Sharing Group:

Contact: Mike Smeltzer

The Men's Breakfast Group normally meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings at First Watch Restaurant. Join them on **Dec 8 & 22** at 7:00 a.m.

Mom's Book Study: Contact: Julie Yeater

This is a book study for moms of all ages! Our book for this fall is "The Sister Circle Handbook: Discover the Joy of Friendship" by Nancy Moser and Brenda Josee. Normally we meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings of each month, however because of Christmas we'll only meet on **Dec 10** at 6:30 p.m.

MOPS (Mothers Of Preschoolers):

Contacts: Holly Meister & Andrea Orofino

MOPS is a Christian group for mothers with children ages birth through kindergarten. Our December meeting date is **Dec 14 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** For more information, contact Holly or Andrea.

Peace in the House: Contact: Shelley Burton

This group supports you finding and maintaining peace with yourself, peace with God, and peace with others. Meet with us on **Wednesdays, Dec 2 & 16** at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Sensational Older Singles (SOS):

Contact: Lois Gifford

Call Lois to find out what this group is planning.

Searchers: Contact: Doug Stahle

Meets in the Fellowship Hall (room 128) at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings for thought provoking and stimulating discussion on a number of religious issues.

Shawl Ministry: Contacts: Marilyn Pohlman/Jean Davidson

More than 230 shawls already have been presented to those in pain. Call a contact to become involved.

Stephen Ministry: Contact: Sandy Apicella

Meet **Tuesdays, Dec 1 & 15** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: Contact: Maxine Bartelt

We meet each Thursday from 10:00—11:30 a.m. We are finishing our study of "The Fruit of the Spirit" by Stewart Bisco and on Dec 3 we will begin the study of "Neglected Voices—Biblical spirituality in the margins" by John Indermark. This study will get us better acquainted with some of the lesser known Biblical characters. We will not meet on Dec 24 & 31. All visitors are welcome. Leadership (in the absence of their regular leader, Lillian Payne) is shared by the members. Visitors always welcome!

Women's Bible Study: Contact: Jeanne Byers

Join us as we begin a new study on **Dec 6** entitled "Becoming Women of Purpose." This study will help you discover God's purpose in your life and will give you the framework you need to live a purposeful life that brings glory and honor to God. Join us as we meet in room 210 at 10:00 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you need a phone number or email for a contact person for an event or group, please contact the church office (336-8485).



Children's Ministry at Linworth

Do You Have a Child Who Needs to be Baptized? Do you need to be baptized?

Join us for our next **Baptism Sunday on December 20**. A class for parents will be offered on December 13 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Registration forms are located in the church office. Contact Mary Torok (336-8485) for more information.

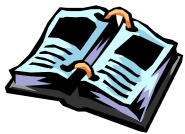


Club 56 News

Club 56, a group especially for youth in grades 5 & 6, will meet on **December 6 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** at the church to go Christmas caroling! Friends are always welcome! January dates include **January 17 & 31** for some winter snow fun or ice skating, whichever the weather provides. Questions? Call Jenifer Wynne or Julie Ricketts.

Family Advent Festival

Linworth's Annual Family Advent Festival will happen on **Saturday, December 5 from 9:00—11:00 a.m.** Join us for a hot breakfast, crafts, a mission project, a puppet show, and a visit from a jolly old elf! Tickets are \$5/person or \$15/family and scholarship money is available. Tickets are on sale now! Interested in volunteering for this exciting morning of ministry? Contact Mary Torok (336-8485).



Pastors' Hospital Visitation Schedules

Pastor Rae Lynn Schleif: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday

Pastor Gene Folden: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Pastor Jeffery Dunn: Available upon request

As always, contact the church office (336-8485) with any pastoral needs.

Do You Have an Aging Parent?

We are exploring the possibility of forming a new group to support and educate those who are dealing with an aging parent. If you are interested in participating, if you want to be part of the visioning process, or if you have skills to offer, please contact Mary Torok at 336-8485.



Membership News

Births:

David William Mooney, great-grandson of Lena Hill

Nathan Garrett Andrews, grandson of Jill & Gary Bruck

Lonely? Sad? Discouraged?



Going through a tough time—emotionally or spiritually? Struggling with a crisis in life? Or simply feeling down?

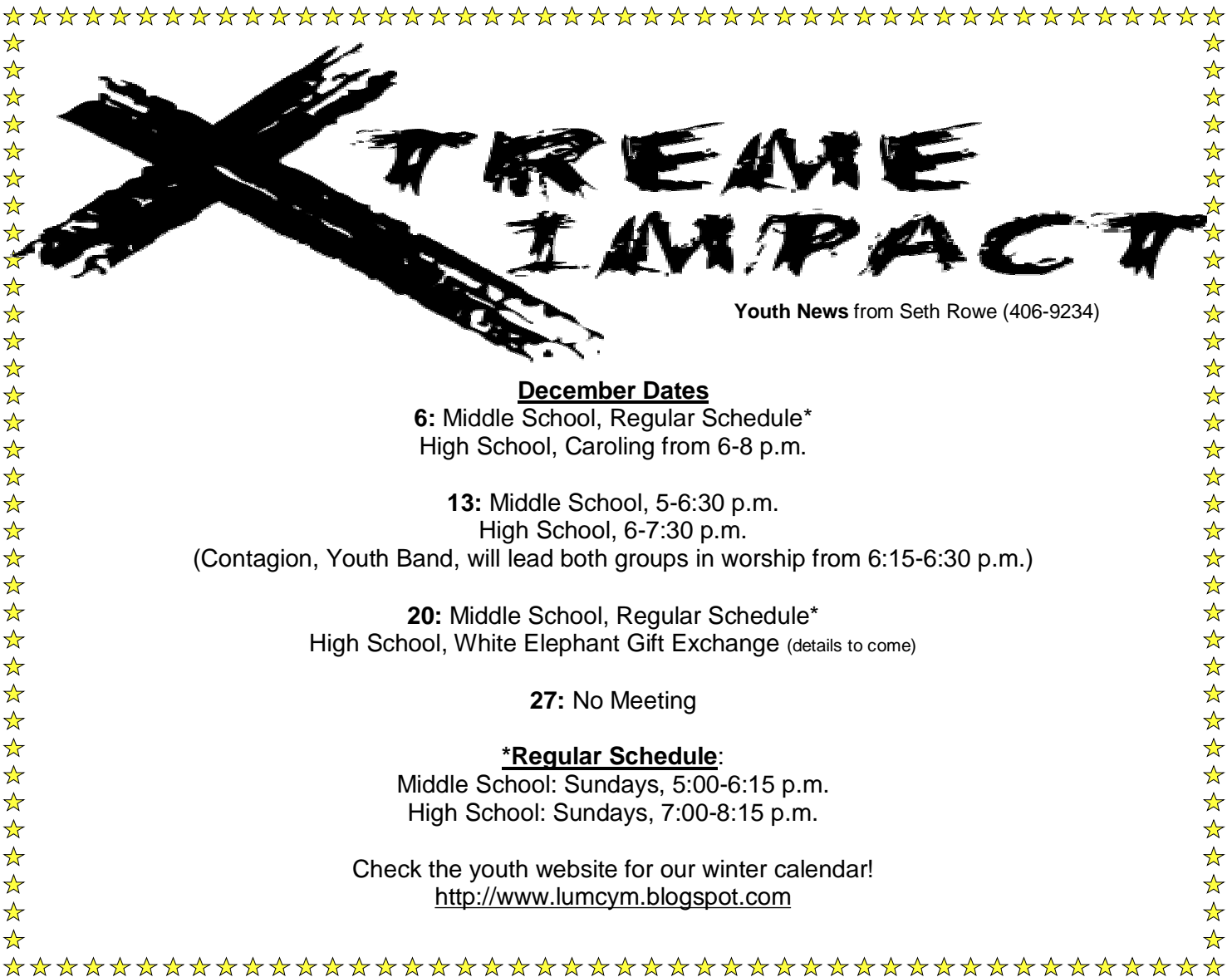
Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a member of our congregation who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray, and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free, and very helpful.

To learn more, talk with a pastor or Sandy Apicella.

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

— Galatians 6:2

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



XMAS TREASURE IMPACT

Youth News from Seth Rowe (406-9234)

December Dates

6: Middle School, Regular Schedule*
High School, Caroling from 6-8 p.m.

13: Middle School, 5-6:30 p.m.
High School, 6-7:30 p.m.
(Contagion, Youth Band, will lead both groups in worship from 6:15-6:30 p.m.)

20: Middle School, Regular Schedule*
High School, White Elephant Gift Exchange (details to come)

27: No Meeting

*Regular Schedule:

Middle School: Sundays, 5:00-6:15 p.m.
High School: Sundays, 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Check the youth website for our winter calendar!
<http://www.lumcym.blogspot.com>

Preaching Texts for December

December 6 - Dr. Gene Folden, 10:15 a.m.,
Luke 3:1-6, "The Gift of Surprises"
Chancel Choir Cantata at 8:45 & 11:30 a.m.

December 13 – Dr. Gene Folden, 8:45 & 11:30
a.m., Luke 3:1-6, "The Gift of Surprises"
Children's Christmas Musical at 10:15 a.m.

December 20 - Pastor Rae Lynn Schleif
Philippians 4:4-9, "The Gift of 'Whatever'"

December 24 - Christmas Eve, All pastors
preaching (4:30, 6:30, 9:00 & 11:00 p.m.)

December 27 - Dr. Eugene Folden
Luke 2:41-52



Contact:
Sharon McManis

Linworth Campers

Watch for details about the
winter planning dinner.

If you would like a complete
schedule,
contact Sharon McManis.

Unsolved Mystery:

Would whoever donated the antique marriage
license of Charles Finzer to Nora Knecht of
Sugar creek, Ohio, to the Garage Sale, please
contact Sue Kuhn (889-8560)? I am anxious to
know how you came across this treasure— they are
the great-grandparents of my deceased husband,
Ted Kuhn.



It's THE most WONDERFUL time of the year!

The 7th Annual Christmas Cookie Sale will be Saturday morning, **December 5** from **8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.** This is one fun, busy activity that brings us all together to raise money for missions: locally, nationally, and internationally. You are asked to bring your cookies to Church on Friday, December 4. Feel free to stay a while; work with us for an hour or so. Contact: Jean Davidson (jeandavidson@nremt.org or 785-1618). Be a missionary...Bake, Bake, Bake, Pray, Pray, Pray and Buy, Buy Buy!

Make Holiday Plans Now

Join us for our **Annual Christmas Party on Tuesday evening December 8 at 7:00 p.m.** Join us for Faith, Fellowship & Fun, in the Worship Center and Fellowship Hall. We are pleased to have guest speaker Julie Fritz-Bergman to present "Let's Go Over to Bethlehem." As is our usual custom, we shall be collecting layette items for Church Women United.

Mission Board Meeting: Contact: Sondie Schwotzer

First Monday of every month. Next meeting is **December 7** at 7:00 p.m. in room 210.

Evening Circle: Contacts: Linda Holloway & Kathy Balakrishnan

Annual Christmas Gathering on **December 8 at 7:00 p.m.**

Fellowship Day Circle: Contacts: Nancy Zimmerman & Marlene Heltzel

Annual Christmas Gathering on **December 8 at 7:00 p.m.**

MOPS: Contacts: Holly Meister & Andrea Orofino

Meets the second Monday morning in December on **December 14** in the Worship Center from 9:30—11:30 a.m.

Service Circle: Contact: Lea Elshoff

Circle will meet Friday morning **December 18** at 9:30 a.m. for sandwich making in the Church Kitchen for Faith Mission.

Thank Offerings To Be Given

If you have not yet completed your pledge to missions for 2009 we respectfully ask that you do this before the end of the year. Please contact Kathy Bell with any questions.

MISSION PROJECT HELP

During the month of December we are collecting disposable diapers and layette items for New Life UMC and Church Women United. Our collection of used postage stamps, Campbell's Soup Labels, used reading glasses, and pop can tabs is continuous! Please note: our colorful three-drawer container for these items has been removed. You are now asked to place all of these items in the UMW – Club 56 cabinet across from the Church Office, or they may be brought to any Circle or Board meeting. Thank you for your ongoing support.



A Group For Young Adults

(students, young working adults,
young marrieds and singles)

December Dates to Remember

- 2: Bible Study at LUMC in room 228 from 7-9 p.m.
- 9: Bible Study at LUMC in room 228 from 7-9 p.m.
- 16: Christmas Party at Jeff & Elizabeth Werner's homes
- 23: No Fusion
- 30: tbd

For more information and to be added to the list-serv, please email Angela Pucher at linworthfusion@gmail.com.



Linworthys News
(the 55 and over group)
Contacts: Doug Stahle & Joe Strickland

Dinner Theatre Trip, **Friday, December 18** at La Comedia in Springboro, Ohio (5 minutes from the Dayton Mall). The stage show is “Christmas Spectacular.” The cost is \$60 per person, includes transportation, lunch and stage show. Make reservations by calling Donna Hughes, and mail OR give your check made payable to Linworthys to George Bilderback. Many of us who have made this trip can testify that this is a winner— great fellowship on the bus, excellent lunch, and an enjoyable stage show with talented actors. There are still seats available. For those who have signed on, the deadline for cancellation is December 9. **The bus leaves from the church at 8:30 a.m. and arrives back at 4:30 p.m.** Don’t miss this trip. Take a break from Christmas preparations, sit back, relax and consider this part of your Christmas celebration!



Get Involved with Social Concerns

Christmas Adopt-A-Family

“Creating Community, Growing in Christ and Serving the World.” The Christmas Adopt-A-Family program is an opportunity for you to live our mission statement! We will be working under the guidelines of other social agencies such as Salvation Army, First Link, etc. to guarantee fairness and legitimate needs to families in the community.

Social Concerns
Contact: Esther Hunter

Our goal is for the congregation to provide gifts, monetary donations through cash and checks or gift cards for the families. Gift ideas will be provided for ages newborn—12, ages 13-16 will receive gift cards and the family will receive a holiday meal with food items

purchased with the Giant Eagle and Wal-Mart gift cards.

Here’s how you can help:

- ⇒ Purchase a gift card for any amount through SCRIP (benefits LUMC) to Giant Eagle and/or Wal-Mart. Gift cards with specific dollar amounts will be available to choose from the bulletin board at church.
- ⇒ Provide a monetary donation in the form of cash or checks. Checks should be made out to LUMC. Please attach a note stating your donation is for Christmas Adopt-A-Family.
- ⇒ Pick and purchase a gift off the bulletin board at church to return by December 13.

Envelopes will be available for donations from November 29-December 13. Please see the bulletin board and bulletin for future announcements. If you have any questions please call Donna Hughes or Christine Rinehart. Happy Holidays to you and all the families we can help!

(If you have questions regarding items of Social Concern, please contact Esther Hunter.)



Christmas Offering Dedicated

Celebration of Christmas is affirming the joy in our lives and sharing our joy with others. As you think about sharing your joy please think about making a donation to the Christmas offering as a way to share the joy with those you may not see on a daily basis. This year the Christmas offering will support the following mission projects with your generous gifts:

Pharr Literacy Project: The Pharr Literacy Project is located in the poorest county in the United States with the second highest child poverty rate and high unemployment. Over 97% of the population is Hispanic and many speak Spanish as their only language. Over 60% of adults in Pharr do not have a high school diploma or GED. The Pharr Literacy Project was founded by Keith and Elva Michal from Linworth. The program provides GED prep-work, ESL classes, introductory computer classes, basic work force skills and pre-literacy classes for children. Over the past year nearly 650 participants were served, with a participant retention rate of 72%. 65% of ESL students have successfully graduated to the next level of study, and 70% of involved children have met or exceeded their personal reading goals.

AIRO Ministry: AIRO Ministry is a non-denominational ministry that provides chaplains for hospitals, jails, and prisons, as well as, coordinates International Medical Mission Outreach. Jim & Janet Thompson's son, Daniel, works for AIRO Ministry.

Think of Alternative Gifts During Advent

The Mission Committee will begin the Advent Season by selling Alternative Gifts. With an Alternative Gift you make a donation to commemorate your friends and loved ones. Proceeds from Alternative Gifts will support the Heifer International Project or New Life United Methodist Church.

The Committee will sell alternative gifts from November 29—December 20. Honor someone on your Christmas list with a “donation” gift of hats and gloves (for New Life Church) or various farm animals and trees (for Heifer International). Look for the table in the hallway between Sunday services beginning November 29.

Donations for New Life Church Needed

Daily living items we take for granted are a daily struggle for families that depend on the services of New Life United Methodist Church. New Life needs toothpaste, tooth brushes, razors, bar soap, towels and blankets to meet the needs of the families who depend on them. Please help fill the gap. Please leave these items in the cabinet across from the office marked “New Life.”

Habitat Dedication

Linworth, along with several other churches, donated money and people power to construct houses in the Habitat Project organized by Hilliard UMC. In early May, this group began building two houses in adjacent lots. This was the first project for the Hilliard Adopt-A-House group to manage. These homes were dedicated on November 15. Thanks go to Mike Torok and crew for a job well done!



Upcoming Events

Dec 5—UMW Annual Christmas Cookie Sale
Family Advent Festival

Dec 8—UMW Christmas Gathering

Dec 12 & 13—Children's Christmas Musical

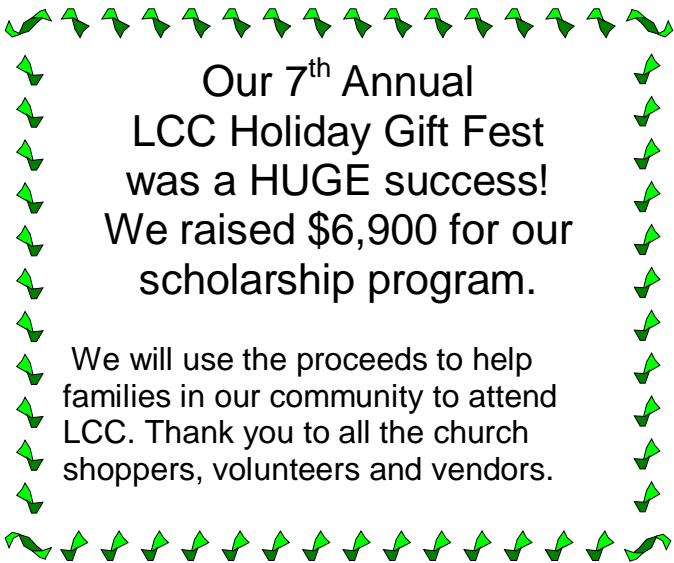
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m.—Family Worship

6:30 p.m.—Contemporary Worship with Communion and Candlelight

9:00 p.m.—Festival of Lessons & Carols with Candlelight

11:00 p.m.—Holy Communion & Candlelight Service



Our 7th Annual
LCC Holiday Gift Fest
was a HUGE success!
We raised \$6,900 for our
scholarship program.

We will use the proceeds to help families in our community to attend LCC. Thank you to all the church shoppers, volunteers and vendors.

Our Children's Center News--

The Linworth Children's Center Board has been meeting regularly to follow the needs of the Center and to begin the search process for the director position. Alicia Manning, our LCC Board Chairperson, and I have kept close to the Center these last several months and we are pleased with how the ministry has been moving forward through this time of transition. Susan Craig and Anna Lambert have been co-directing the Center since early September. They stepped in and have led in an outstanding manner. The teaching staff has also stepped up and stepped in and I give thanks for their love and dedication to our children's center.

The LCC Board is currently reviewing the director position description, laying it along side of several we have received from other centers. We will finish polishing our position description and then have next step conversations. We expect to have the position filled by March 1, 2010.

I am thankful for a congregation who has embraced the Children's Center, stepped up to help with the recent Gift Fest, and for the Children's Center staff who assisted with the Garage Sale and the many ways we are all together in ministry.

Rae Lynn

Strategy Team Work

The Strategy Team has been meeting monthly since September. We will soon place, within the worship folder, a synopsis of our work and an invitation for all of us at Linworth to come to an event. At the event we will share the outline of our vision for our church with you. This will be a time to gain your input! Look for it and come!

Pastor Is Going to SE Asia

In April of 2010, Pastor Rae Lynn will be traveling to Southeast Asia for 16 days. She will leave the week following Easter Sunday and return by April 25. She invites up to four or five persons from Linworth who would be interested in traveling to Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam to see our church at work in the world to come along. Cost would be close to \$3,000, which includes air fare, hotels, other travel needs and most meals. Let Pastor Schleif know by January 15 if you want to come along!



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Order your Christmas Poinsettia NOW! Cost is \$7.50 per plant. All orders must be received by December 13. Payment can be attached to order form. Checks payable to LUMC. Complete the form below with the worship folder inscription and return to the church office with payment. (Please print.)

Given by:

In memory of:

OR

In honor of:

No. of plants: _____ Total amount: _____

2009 Fall Garage Sale Report

The Fall Garage Sale was another great success! Here are some of the statistics. (All numbers are approximate.)

200+ volunteers worked over 2,200 hours
15 meals were served
95 people per meal (that's 1,425 total meals!!!)
\$1.69 cost per person per meal

Approximate Gross Sales	\$22,400.00
<u>Approximate Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 9,585.00</u>
Net Profit	\$12,815.00

Division of Net Profit	
Linworthys	\$ 1,281.50
Youth (Xtreme Impact)	\$ 7,500.00
<u>Trustees</u>	<u>\$ 4,033.50</u>
Total Dispersed	\$12,815.00

Those helped by Linworth United Methodist Church include:

New Life UMC
Volunteers of America
Gospel Church
Prison Ministry
Impact
Quilting Group
4 individuals

Xtreme Impact Fall Retreat An Awesome Experience!

This year at the Youth Fall Retreat we took a great group of students to Camp Akita, near Logan, Ohio. The theme for the weekend was "The Church." We specifically asked the questions, "What is Church?" "Why Church?" and "How Church?" We learned that church is not a building or an event, but rather a community of people who together love God and love one another. With that theme as our backdrop we grew closer together as a group through worship, shared meals, small group sharing, fun (and messy) games, and simply being in one another's presence. We hope that the spirit of unity we enjoyed on the retreat will remain as we continue to meet together throughout the rest of the school year and beyond. Thanks to Denny Devine, Christina Smith, and Matthews Ruff for their leadership and service, and to all the students for being awesome people.


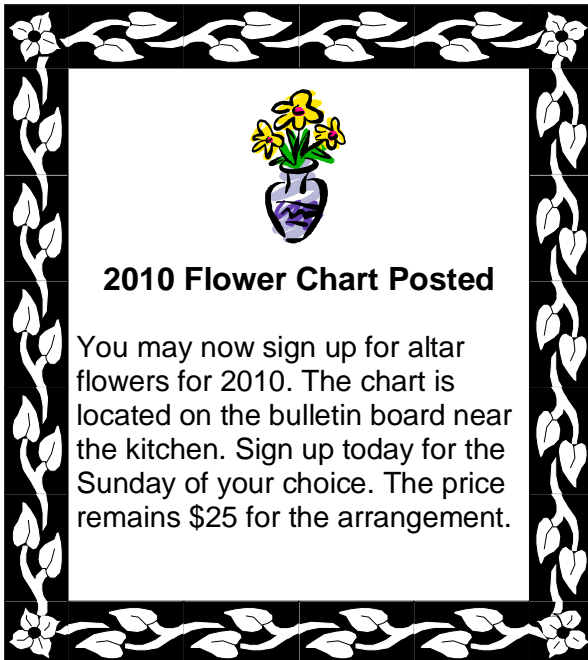


Linworth United Methodist Church
7070 Bent Tree Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235

*Creating Community
Growing in Christ
Serving the World*

**Sunday Morning
Worship
Opportunities**

8:45 Traditional
10:15 Contemporary
11:30 Traditional



2010 Flower Chart Posted

You may now sign up for altar flowers for 2010. The chart is located on the bulletin board near the kitchen. Sign up today for the Sunday of your choice. The price remains \$25 for the arrangement.

(Continued from first page)

midst of such emotions expressed by so many and calls us to be there with them and with him.

I am going to bask in his light, be held by his hope, and be open to another who may need help, comfort, and connection. That is the Christmas gift I want to receive and want to give this year. What do you want most for Christmas?

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of
redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord
at thy birth.*

Pastor Rae Lynn