

LINWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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The Linwood Lindy



Volume 51

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Number 03

What to do about those Lenten blues...

So, how's it going with keeping those Lenten disciplines going? Yeah, mine lasted about 3 days this year. I think my record is somewhere around 12 days before my Lenten promises fall to the wayside. Oh well, there's always next year!

Confession time: I did not grow up in a tradition where Lent was observed. All I knew was that some people chose to give up chocolate for 40 days, most of which they spent feeling pretty miserable. We didn't observe pancake day in my family either; I still don't know why. My introduction to that was at the house of my grade-school friend who was from the Roman Catholic tradition. I walked into his house after school one year the Tuesday prior to the beginning of Lent to find multiple pans were engaged in a production line of hot goodies that were cooked, flipped and generously sprinkled with lemon and sugar before we fell on them with gusto and a fork. I was hooked and began to wonder why my family wasn't Catholic? That night I tried to talk my parents into converting, but they firmly said, "No!" It was an early lesson for me that Protestants have less fun.

Lent is, in many ways, the equivalent of Advent in so far as it is also a season of preparation, waiting, expectation and reflection before one of the two major events in the Christian calendar. While Christmas is a soft-focus affair of open fires, family togetherness, feasting and gifts, Easter (at least before we get to the bunny that delivers chocolate eggs part) includes uncomfortable stories of betrayal, aloneness, nails, blood and death. Thankfully, the events of Good Friday give way to the celebration of Resurrection Sunday when Jesus' victory over sin and death opened the way for us to have a deeper, richer, more intimate relationship with God that would no longer require sacrifice of any sort, ever again – well, at least until Lent rolls around again next year – or the church needs a new furnace.

For this reason, I find myself somewhat irritated with Lent. Heresy? I don't think so. It just feels too self-focused for my liking – about what I can achieve, as if that somehow makes me more worthy of God's love and attention. It can appear to be all about my own self-effort; works rather than faith.

Setting aside time for connecting with God, for self-reflection and realigning ourselves with God's ways while intentionally leaning in to hear God's voice more clearly, are all worthwhile; but why confine them to these 40 days? We could equally say the same of Advent. Surely we'll want to explore these significant themes thoroughly throughout the year if one is making it a priority to walk more closely with God.

Furthermore, the idea that my foregoing something as inane as chocolate or television is somehow a *sacrifice* doesn't sit comfortably with me given all that Jesus put on the line on our behalf. Will abstaining from certain things during Lent help me focus on God? Maybe; so it *could be* worthwhile. Will setting personal preferences aside free up time to spend with the teachings of Jesus instead? Almost certainly! But, it still seems rather a feeble offering in the light of God's lavish love and generous mercy. Besides, baseball season is about to start and all those games will be on TV!

So, if your initial promise for the Lenten season has already been broken, please know you are forgiven. God has already forgiven far worse offenses. So, what to do? My advice is simply this: spend the rest of the time between now and Easter and the rest of your life focused more on God and less on you. After all, the depth of our faith rests not on how we integrate God in our lives a couple of seasons a year, but in how we do so daily.

Pastor Frank

Thoughts & Prayers



Health Issues:

Martha Etheridge, Marilyn Henegen, Judy Mecher

Prayers have been asked for:

Jerry & Sue Meyers, Brian Slowinski, Aaron Cepeda, Toby Parson, Jake Marshall, Jessie Patton, Sheila Patton, Rob Welch, Billie Carson, Karen Raub, Doug Engle, Jenn Streyckmans, Margie Wilson, Louise Scrougham, Nancy Schoen, George Hill, Charlotte Schumacher, Christopher Ignaut, Dan Rau, Charles Weaver, Tom Chisholm, Connie Kramer, Lana Tekulve, John Franke, Jennifer Kelly, Tim Hurst, Fay Walker-Wells, Jason Kropp, Anne Brower, Joann Engero, Roger Schumacher, Susie Cordi, Jodi Martin, Teresa Daugherty

We join with God's loving concerns for those facing life's difficult times:

Faye Carson, John McMillan, Debbie Ignaut, Dee Miller, Nancy Pottorff, Joyce Franke, Doug Wickham, Jason Kropp, Leana Wright, Mindy and Tyler Cloud

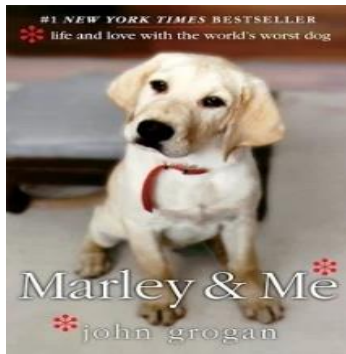
Our prayers of Joy are offered for: Debbie Rhoads and family for all of your prayers, Doug Wickham who is receiving new bifocals; Kingston Rivers has passed his tests and is scheduled for surgery later this year

Prayers of Condolences offered for the family and friends of: Bob Cloud who passed away March 6th, Debra Spears on her passing March 1st, Ellie Kerr who passed on February 28th, John Mallicoat passed February 16th, Bud Riddle passed February 15th, Ares Vawter passed Feb 12th, Iris Vawter passed February 5th,

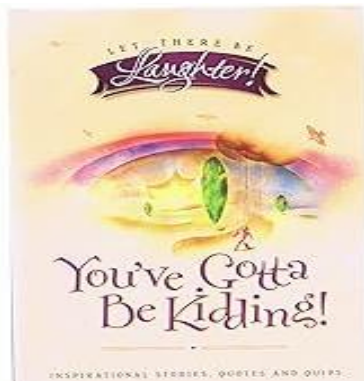


The Book Nook

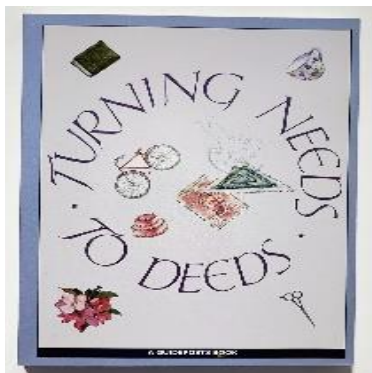
Let's welcome Spring with some great reading!



Marley and Me by John Grogan is the heartwarming and unforgettable story of a family and their wonderful neurotic dog who taught them what really matters.



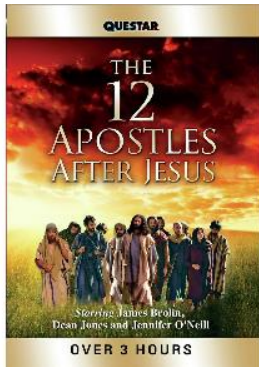
You've Got to be Kidding by Mary Hollingsworth and friends tells inspirational stories, quotes, and quips about life's funny moments.



Turning Needs to Deeds compiled by Guideposts tells us about real people who found practical ways to bring happiness to the lives of others.

Joan Woodruff
Church Librarian

Adult Sunday School Class



We are continuing our verse by verse journey through the Acts of the Apostles with the help of the movie *The 12 Apostles after Jesus*. This Sunday we will witness and discuss Acts 10:1 – Acts 13: 12 and will be continuing for the following six Sundays, after which we will return to Ed Urban’s study of Psalms beginning at Psalm 50. For this movie we will be meeting in the large classroom across the hall from the library.

We meet for 30 minutes on Sunday mornings at 9:20 in the library. Stop by the parlor and bring your coffee and snack along to class.



Special Events ...

We welcome you to join us during the Lenten Season. Be sure to mark you calendars so you don't miss an event.

March 19	2 nd Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Elder Meditation at 6:30p
March 26	3 rd Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Elder Meditation at 6:30p
April 2	4 th Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Elder Meditation at 6:30p
April 9	5 th Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Elder Meditation at 6:30p
April 13	Palm Sunday	Distribution of Palm Branches Service in the Sanctuary 10:30a
April 16	6 th Week of Lent	Fellowship Hall 6p Supper provided; Culmination of Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday Pastor Frank Meditation at 6:30p
April 20	Easter Sunday	Sunrise Service in the Sanctuary at 7:00a Breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 8:30a He Is Risen Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 10:30a

From the Pews ...

Everyone is Irish on St Paddy's Day ...

Knock knock. Who's there? Irish. Irish who? Irish you a happy St. Patrick's Day!

What do you call a frog that jumps into a pot of gold?
A leap-rechaun.

What is green and sings?
Elvis Parsley.

Why should you never iron a four-leaf clover?
You don't want to press your luck.

Changes at Linwood?

We are in the process of reviewing the Linwood Constitution and By-laws and would like input from our members. If you have any questions or suggestions for a change, please write them down and email them by May 1st to us with Subject: Constitution and By-laws. You can also mail or drop off your ideas in the Church Office. Thank you for participating in Linwood's future.

Rich Sharp, Committee Chair

Sharing Our Church ...

Live and archived service streams are available at: [YouTube.com/@LinwoodCC](https://www.youtube.com/@LinwoodCC)
Visit our Web Page at www.linwoodchristian.org to learn what is going on at Linwood.

To submit an entry or comment on what you want to read about in the Lindy, you can Email us at: linwoodcc@sbcglobal.net Or mail to:

With Subject: Lindy

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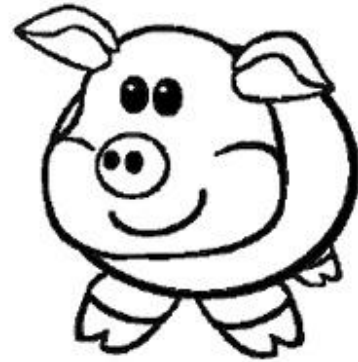
Entries for next Lindy: April 14, 4p

Your Lindy Crew

Word Find

The Parable of the Lost Son

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32 (NIV).

H I R E D N D M Y E S T A T E
C W Y Y E X W R E W N M G I O
Q O H B E O T E G E E B Q D H
F T M J N N P M P Q T A B A F
S A S P U O T S Y N C F L P W
T T T O A S D T L Z A Z G T R
A O C H O S R T W P I G S G H
R I O L E E S C F E O M N F N
V M E K P R A I O P F I E E X
I K S O S I X O O D R R K A F
N Q R O K R E G D N F E T S O
G P A R N F X Z O D Q E S T U
Z H A X Q S T O M A C H E E N
G D L N D B H I K I S S E D D
Z S Y T W Z C E L E B R A T E

WEALTH	ESTATE	COUNTRY	PIGS	FOOD
COMPASSION	HIRED	FOUND	FEED	RING
CELEBRATE	STARVING	PROPERTY	FEAST	SONS
KISSED	FATHER	STOMACH	SPENT	LOST

Word Shape

The Parable of the Fig Tree

" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

Luke 13:8-9 (NIV)



Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

parable
fig

tree
planted

vineyard
fruit

soil
fertilize