

LINWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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The Linwood Lindy



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“Time for a Change?”

How are you going to celebrate Halloween? When I was a child, one of my very favorite holidays was Halloween. It seemed so out of the ordinary from everyday life. It was an opportunity to let one’s imagination run wild – to dress up and pretend to be a character different than one I would ever choose to be, or one that was larger than life – a hero I probably never could be.

I remember several of my costumes vividly. (NOTE: I never wore a “store-bought” costume in my life. It was always something I either figured out from what we had at home, or something my mother would be able to make from stuff she had in her scrap box.) I was a “hobo” one year (probably not politically correct in today’s world). I was a “Knight of Camelot” another (one of my favorites). I was Robin Hood one year (although I refused to wear green tights), Davy Crockett another, and a baseball player the last year I dressed up. (Not much of a stretch.)

I remember school costume contests and parades and lots of games and activities that were pure fun. The best part, of course, was Halloween night – dressing up in costume and wandering the neighborhood, “Trick or Treating” with my friends. I remember we prized the homemade treats the most. A chocolate chip cookie, rice-crispy bar, or popcorn balls were always the best!

The world today is very different. Costumes are less creative (in my opinion). Most are purchased or rented and tend to be much more gory or suggestive of violence and the darker side of Halloween. Most schools do little or nothing to encourage or observe the holiday.

The world today is also more dangerous. When I went trick-or-treating, my parents simply patted me on the back and said, “Have a good time!” – then sent me on my way knowing that I would be safe traveling in an ever-changing group of friends and neighborhood kids. Today’s parents might be charged with gross negligence or even child-abuse for doing the same, and with good reason.

Now, before you think this is wishing for the “good old days” to return, it is not. Times are different from when I was a kid growing up. A lot of changes and precautions followed by today’s families are well-warranted, unfortunately born of terrible Halloween experiences from more recent years. No, I am not calling for a return to the past (as if that were possible anyway). But, perhaps it is time for a change in the way we think of and celebrate Halloween – especially in the church.

Perhaps it is time to remember that it is called “Halloween” because it falls on the eve of All Hallows or All Saints Day. In other words, it is truly a church holiday, set aside for the Christian community to honor that “great cloud of witnesses” gone before us. A time to honor people who’ve lived good lives and sometimes sacrificial lives in their service to other Christians and other peoples. That being the case, it begs the question: “Why don’t we dress our kids up in costumes representing these good folks and take them out on All Hallows Eve to do good works?” Why skeletons, and ghouls and goblins, or “headless horsemen?” (Sorry Irvington....)

As an alternative to gathering goodies, we could choose to put together packages of candy and gifts and take our little angels to a nursing home or go around giving gifts to the elderly and the infirmed. Let’s have some “Pumpkin Carols” written that honor the saints of the past rather than the “Great Pumpkin.” Instead of extorting candy from our neighbors, maybe we could celebrate by offering good deeds to our neighbors, a hug to a grandma or grampa who (quite commonly these days) lives a long way from their grandchildren. How treasured do you think such a gift might be?

Please understand, I’m not trying to take the “fun” out of Halloween. I’m all for having fun – lots of it in fact. But, maybe, just maybe, we could change the focus a bit without sacrificing the fun. Instead of dressing up as “ghouls,” we should dress up as “fools” for Christ. Or, maybe, I have just become old and crotchety.

Happy Halloween!

Pastor Frank

Thoughts & Prayers

Health Issues:

Martha Etheridge, Marilyn Henegen, Doretta Terry, Deeann List, Joan Woodruff, Anne Crapo, Diane Adams, Mattie Horne



Prayers have been asked for:

Jerry & Sue Meyers, Brian Slowinski, Aaron Cepeda, Ariel Horne, Toby Parson, Tiffany Tuttle, Art Gale, Jake Marshall, Jessie Patton, Sheila Patton, Candy Brown Wiley, Becky Spudic, Bonnie White, Billy Creech, Ariyana Burnett, Beth Purkerson Murry, Sandy Nelson, Rob Welch, Megan Clouse, Bud Riddle, John Dalton, Billie Carson, Karen Raub, Doug Engle

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

Greg Spudic, Norma Hibber, James Fuson, Tom & Nancy Horstman, Faye Carson

Prayers of Mercy, Healing and Recovery for: all affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton

Prayers of Condolences offered for: the Hartley family on the passing of Doug's wife, Candy Hartley, on September 28th



The Book Nook

Take time to enjoy the Fall color and fit in some short reads. John MacArthur's booklets provide some great short reads. Here are some that are available in our church library:

What Does It Mean to be Filled with the Spirit?

The Truth About Heaven

The Local Church and Why It Matters

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The Supremacy of Christ

Forgiving One Another

Answering the Key Questions About the Family

One longer book by John McArthur is *The Gospel According to Jesus* which tells what it means for Jesus to be both Savior and Lord in our lives.

Joan Woodruff
Church Librarian

Ed Urban continues to lead the class on a journey through the book of **Psalms**, adding insight and commentary as we go.

We meet for 30 minutes on Sunday mornings at 9:25 in the library. Stop by the parlor and bring your coffee and snack along to class.

Adult
Sunday School
Class



Dearest Linwood Family, Friends and Neighbors:

Thank you everyone for all that you do each and every day to keep our congregation and building thriving. Your generous gifts to Linwood are most sincerely appreciated. God continues to bless us, our ministry and our neighborhood.

Our congregation members, family and friends have continued to provide spiritual, emotional, nutritional and physical support to our neighbors each day we are able to open our doors. The building is open to our neighbors nearly every day of the week for the food pantry and coffee fellowship, rummage room days, weekly worship services, and many more special occasions that are not possible without the support of our entire congregation.

Our annual Stewardship Campaign is now underway. We will be collecting and blessing our pledges during our Thanksgiving worship service on Sunday November 24, 2024 in Fellowship Hall. Please join us that day for dinner after the service.

Enclosed you will find a pledge card to notify the church for your planned giving in 2025. These cards are available in the narthex and office. Please return your pledge in the collection plate any Sunday or by mail or email listed below. If you prefer to make a one-time online donation to our church, please use the Givelify website and search for Linwood Christian Church. (Direct link in QR code below).

I ask you to prayerfully consider your annual pledge this fall and pray for our church, our members and our neighbors as we look forward to another wonderful year of hospitality and ministry at Linwood Christian Church.

**Very sincerely yours,
April McManus
Chairperson Stewardship & Finance
Linwood Christian Church
april.kathleen@sbcglobal.net**



**Linwood Christian Church
2025 Pledge Card**

My commitment for 2025 to Linwood will be:

\$ _____ per week / month / year (please circle one)

_____ weeks of volunteering to the Food Pantry and/or Rummage Room

_____ I will bring grocery bags for the Food Pantry when able

_____ I will pray for Linwood’s ministry and ongoing life of the congregation

Special Events Coming Up

October 27	Last Day to Order Poinsettias	noon
November 3	All Saints Day Observance	during Worship
November 11	BOARD MEETING to approve 2025 Budget	6:30p
November 24	Blessing of the Pledges Thanksgiving Dinner	during Worship after the service
November 30	Hanging of the Greens, Lunch, Boxing of a BAZILLION COOKIES for Food Pantry	10-2
December 1	1st Sunday of Advent	
December 8	Congregational meeting to approve 2025 budget and approve nomination committee report	6:30p

October-November-December RUMMAGE ROOM Mystery Dates

One week each month, there will be a \$5 Bag Sale from the Hardgoods Room (Knickknacks/Household/etc.). You just have to keep shopping with us to find out which week it is!! Get your Christmas shopping done early.

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!

Email us at: linwoodcc@sbcglobal.net Or mail to:

With Subject: Lindy

Entries for next Lindy: November 18th, 4p

Linwood Christian Church – Attn: Lindy

4424 E Michigan Street

Indianapolis, IN 46201

Your Lindy Crew

In God's Time

Create the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



There is a _____ for everything, and a _____ for every activity under the _____. A time to be _____ and a time to _____, a time to _____ and a time to _____

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

heavens born die season time plant uproot