church staff

Ezekiel Koech  PASTOR
Jennifer Bryan  ECUMENICAL OUTREACH PASTOR
Mary Clow
Ann Ober  CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES
Emily Sutherland  YOUTH MINISTRIES
Lori Campbell  PRESCHOOL/CDO DIRECTOR
Trey Bures  MUSIC STAFF
Jenny Ewing
Nan Hulett
Blair Penney
Liesel Stephens
Lauren Lanigan  OFFICE STAFF
Linda Stokes
Trudi Wenger

The deadline for the September issue of the Messenger is noon on Thursday, August 15. Email articles to office@lenexaumc.org.

The Messenger is available online, or you may pick up a copy at church. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.
The transition is going slow and smooth. I am starting to know people’s names. Sometimes I call people the wrong name and they are kind enough to forgive me. The Wednesday dinner and Sunday Heavenly Half Hour have helped me to know people in our church and in the community.

I am so excited about the ongoing ministries at LUMC. Thank you to all volunteers who help with congregational care, community dinner on Wednesday, worship on Sunday, office work, lawn care, maintenance, housekeeping, leadership, children and youth ministries. We could not do it without you. May God continue to strengthen you all in all you do.

I was happy to learn that LUMC is involved in local and overseas missions. The Bible says, “For God so loved the world that he sent his only son…” (John 3:16.) Jesus was sent into the world to reveal God’s love. In turn Jesus said to his apostles, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21.) The mission of Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all people has been handed down to the church and individual believers, guided by the Holy Spirit. “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8.) It is my joy that Lenexa UMC is fulfilling the Great Commission.

It is my prayer and intention to get to know the needs of the LUMC so that I can be resourceful in meeting those needs. The transition team is helping me to set up cottage meetings. Please be hospitable and generous if the team requests that you host a meeting. I am looking forward to a day when I can know all your names. God bless you all.

In Christ’s Mission,

Pastor Ezekiel
Humor of the month:

The pastor of a small church exhorted his flock to give generously when the collection plate was passed. “Give,” he pleaded, “as though it was going right back into your own pocket.”

After the service, the pastor chided one of the members: “George, I noticed that you let the collection plate go right by you in spite of my appeal.”

“Well, Reverend,” the man replied, “I figured as long as the money was going back into my pocket anyway, it did not need a round trip.”


LUMC FINANCIAL UPDATE

2nd Quarter 2019 Financial Report

Thank you for your continued generosity to Lenexa United Methodist Church! Our operating budget income for the 2nd quarter was $114,500 and $236,227 year to date. Adding in the $26,800 prepaid in 2018 for 2019, a total of $263,027 has been received for the 2019 operating budget—only $3,373 less than this time last year, even though the budget is $9,261 less than in 2018. All bills are paid current.

You also contributed $60,368 to the building fund in the 2nd quarter, enabling us to pay $45,000 of additional principal, bringing our loan balance down to $164,705 as of June 30. Additionally, you gave $3,214 to special offerings and other mission projects, and over $13,000 was raised at the annual LUMYouth Chili Luncheon and Auction for youth ministries.

General Operating Fund Contributions Received June 2019 $29,254
Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Received $731
Income from Bequest $0
Total Operating Income Received June 2019 $29,985

Mission Shares Paid June 2019 $0
Mission Shares Paid Year to Date $20,937
Budgeted Mission Shares Year to Date $25,125
Total 2019 Mission Shares $50,250

We would like to thank everyone who helped reduce the outstanding debt on our education building by donating to the “SHOW YOUR PRIDE” lapel pin fundraising project during the Church’s 150th Anniversary celebration. A total of $9,685 was contributed to the debt, reducing it to $164,705 as of June 30.

We appreciate your generosity and pride in our church. Of course, we will happily continue to receive contributions of any amount from those of you wanting to help us reduce the outstanding debt.
2019 brought us our 30th PEANUTS Mission Week at LUMC. This year’s destination was the Boys Ranch in Gore, Oklahoma, which is a part of the Circle of Care in the Oklahoma Conference. The Boys Ranch houses sibling foster groups of children. This expansive property overlooked the beautiful Tenkiller Lake and was in great need of many, many tasks of repair and maintenance. Nine adults and twenty high school youth traveled south for this week. For many of them, this was their favorite and most fun mission week.

Mark DeCoursey set the tone for us at our Sunday night worship. His witness of faith that has gotten him through this last year was beyond powerful for all of us. He closed his devotion with “What the World Needs Now is Love”. Perfection.

As I mentioned earlier, our tasks were spread all over the expansive property of the Boys Ranch. We reported to work each day at 8 a.m. and finished up around 4 p.m. each day. Lunch time brought us all back together to the picnic tables at the front end of the property. Our shower facilities were located in one of the bunk houses, so the back porch of that house offered fellowship time for the group as we all reflected on our day with one another.

Each year we assemble a group of adults who we believe will foster the spirit of our mission week, teach our youth skills in many areas, and keep our youth safe in all situations that are presented to us. This year’s adults did not disappoint. Cary Efurd served as our PEANUTS Coordinator and ran the worksites very well. Cary has the perfect blend of “get the job done right” and FUN. Dave Glisson joined us again this year and has the patience of a saint when teaching his many skills to the youth. And no one sets the tone for worship better than Dave. Clint, Mike and Bruce each shared their skills, taught safe methods on the job sites, and interjected lots of fun and laughter with their teams. Mark was our “Mr. Safety” everywhere he went. Between holding ladders steady and hydration, Mark was our constant and awesome reminder to take good care of ourselves. Ann Foster worked 24/7 as our nurse and prepared us well in stocking our first aid kits, which are in deep need of replenishing now. Jen Martin radiated joy wherever she went and “loved on” our youth at all times. Spending the week with these eight outstanding adults was my extreme pleasure.
This year we were blessed to have five outstanding high school graduates take their last youth mission trip. Sam DeCoursey, Sydney Sager, Madi Martin, Kaleigh Cooper and Sammy Shepherd showed us what leadership looks like. They were supportive and full of energy on the worksites. They worked, talked, and played with everyone, regardless of age/year in school. They basically modeled to our underclassmen how it is done on a high school mission trip. The group will miss their presence.

Here is a long, yet incomplete list of the tasks we tackled during PEANUTS 2019. We:

- Repaired and painted a ton of picnic tables
- Repaired and restriped two basketball hoops and courts and painted the post and backboards
- Created a burn pile with oodles of tree limbs, old fencing and discarded furniture...then burnt it
- Cleaned the guttering of all residential buildings and office
- Painted gutters
- Stained several benches
- Repaired two bench swings
- Repaired several storage sheds and installed metal roofing
- Replaced and painted wood siding on at least one storage shed
- Stained the cross by their picnic area
- Installed a French drain for their smokehouse
- Repaired the plumbing for the sink in their smokehouse
- Built a new cross to replace the one the PEANUTS built about 15 years ago located lakeside by the lodge
- Repainted the large cast iron sign for Gore United Methodist Church
- Kept ourselves alive with an assortment of 144 Bomb Pops and Push Pops, as well as 21 10-lb. bags of ice.

Please accept our sincere thanks for all of your prayers and support. Youth Ministry at LUMC serves our middle schools and high schools in some of their craziest “growing-up years”. These wonderful youth need your unconditional love and support at all times and through all situations. The ministry cannot remain strong without the time and generosity of our congregation. Thank you.
Notes on the 2019 Young Adult Challenge

This was the 4th year for the “Young Adult Challenge”. This year, three young adults and two “old” adults traveled to Salida, Colorado last month to work, hike, and climb. Salida United Methodist Church once again provided lodging for the group, and incredible scenery, too. There, we had floors to sleep on, showers, and a kitchenette...what more could you ask for? We cooked our own meals and ate like royalty.

As is tradition, the group hiked on Monday—with the goal to reach an elevation of 12,500 feet—to acclimate ourselves to the altitude. “Flatlanders” are in no way familiar with the thin air of the mountains. We had a few struggles with altitude sickness, but managed to reach 12,200 feet that day nonetheless.

Tuesday and Wednesday we had the pleasure of working at Habitat for Humanity. Because of struggles with zoning and variances, they had not yet broken ground on the duplex they are building in the nearby town of Nathrop. We were pleased to get the assignment of making two 8’ x 8’ storage sheds for the project. The young adults dove in and truly enjoyed working with the two interns that Habitat had hired for the summer. The sheds were completed before noon on our second day, so we filled the afternoon with several small jobs and tasks that needed to be done.

On Wednesday evenings, Salida UMC hosts a free dinner for the Raft Guides who come to the valley to work on the river for the float season. Our group met and heard stories from other young adults from all over the country. Their hospitality doesn’t end with dinner. Salida UMC opens up their showers for the raft guides to use, because most of them either live out of their vehicles or camp. The church also offers free toiletries for all dinner guests. It was a great evening of fellowship.

Thursday morning’s wakeup at 3:30 a.m. was brutal, but necessary, so that we could hit the trailhead of Mt. Shavano by 5 a.m. At an elevation of 14,229 feet, we completed the steep climb and summited shortly after 11 a.m. We had our quick lunch/snack at the summit and enjoyed taking countless pictures of the outstanding panorama of snow-covered mountains and deep valleys. We began our descent around 11:30 a.m. and reached our car around 3:30 p.m. All in all, we hiked almost 13 miles and climbed (and descended) 151 floors of “stairs”. Our leftover pizza tasted very good that night.

Ryan, Dustin, and Nick are fine young men, and they were a complete pleasure with whom to travel, work, and play nightly games of Yahtzee.

It is our hope that this mission opportunity will continue at LUMC. Events like this will keep our young adults connected to one another, as well as to their home church.
Dear Church Family,

This is Roy Koech, oldest son of the new pastor, Ezekiel Koech. I would just like to share that I am answering God’s call to go and serve as a missionary through the Global Mission Fellows program, which is run by the UMC General Board of Global Ministries.

On August 12th I will be heading to Atlanta for training and commissioning before I begin my two-year journey in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am humbly requesting that you join me on this journey, spiritually. I cannot express how much prayer and words of encouragement alone would mean to me as I take this next step in my life.

If you feel led to support me financially, that would be wonderful as well. The program provides housing and transportation for the fellows within the program, but we have been tasked with fundraising to make this possible for all of us. If you would like to support me financially you can do so online at advance.umcmission.org (Advance #3022510) or in person.

I appreciate all of the kind words that have already been shared with me in the short time that I have been here, and I’m sorry to be leaving so soon after arriving. However, I will continue to provide updates on the mission work and hope to be able to come home and visit before too long.

In God’s love,

Roy Koech
CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

join us for sunday school!

9:00 A.M.
Nursery: Birth–3 years old
Kids’ Kingdom: 4 years old–6th grade

10:30 A.M.
Nursery: Birth–3 years old
Kids Connect: 4 years old–6th grade

Note: The first Sunday of each month, Kids Connect will stay in the sanctuary for the 10:30 a.m. worship service to experience worship and communion.

Sunday School activites

KID’S KINGDOM  |  9:00 a.m.
We will be studying Noah’s Ark through our rotational model of Sunday School. Kids will learn the story by visiting the Video, Drama, Computers, Cooking, Art, and Bible Skills and Games centers.

KIDS CONNECT  |  10:30 a.m.
Kids will participate in learning activities tied to the week’s scripture lesson from the church service.

upcoming events

CLUB 56 — 5TH AND 6TH GRADE GATHERING
August 18  |  5:00–7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL INFO MEETING
Sunday, August 25  |  11:30 a.m.  |  room E205
An informational meeting for all parents and Sunday School teachers of children will be held after the 10:30 service on Sunday, August 25. Please come to learn more about the what and why of Children’s Sunday School and how you can help!
UPCOMING EVENTS

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY
Many have been asking for a new pictorial directory, as the last one was published in 2013. Mark your calendars now for these portrait dates: August 27, 28, 29, and September 9. To sign up online, go to https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b0b562ex/.

Starting August 4, you may sign up before and after services. While there is no obligation to purchase portraits, those who choose to do so will have them back in time for Christmas. We should also have the new directories by the end of the year. We would like all families to have their pictures taken, as this will be helpful to our members and especially to Pastor Ezekiel as he gets to know us. Look for more information in August about how to sign up to have your picture taken.

HOOP SHOOT
Sunday, September 8 | 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.
The Hillcrest Team is excited to sponsor this year’s annual Hoop Shoot. People of all ages and basketball skills are encouraged to participate and join the fun. The Hoop Shoot takes place on Sunday, September 8, during Heavenly Half Hour and after the 10:30 service. Participants can sign up August 4 through August 11. Sponsors can sign up August 18 through August 25. All proceeds benefit the LUMC Hillcrest Transitional Housing apartment.

BLOCK PARTY
Wednesday, September 18 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.
The Inviting Ministries Committee and Children’s Ministries are announcing the LUMC 4th Annual Block Party on Wednesday, September 18. This is an opportunity for us to invite our neighbors in for an evening of fun and fellowship. We will also be inviting the students, parents, and teachers from Sunflower Elementary School. The Block Party will be on our parking lot and will include a pulled pork dinner with baked beans, coleslaw, and of course, homemade ice cream. A SignUpGenius will be sent out as the date gets closer so you can sign up to help. Children’s Ministries will have games for the kids and there will be a bounce house.

This will give us another opportunity to celebrate 150 years of serving our neighbors in Old Town Lenexa! Put the date on your calendar and plan to join with our neighbors for an evening of good food, cool jazz, and delightful fellowship.

ONGOING EVENTS

WORSHIP IN THE PARK
Sundays | 8:00 a.m. | Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
Our summer outdoor worship services will continue every Sunday morning through August 25 at the Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park gazebo. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy worship in an informal setting with music provided by the Park Players.

DINNER’S ON US
Wednesday nights | 5:30 p.m. | Wesley Room
Dinner’s on us every Wednesday evening at 5:30, when we provide a free meal. Tell your friends, your neighbors, and strangers—ALL are welcome!
IN OTHER NEWS...

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Update from the Church Council and Reconciliation and Education Team: to show support for LGBTQ+ members throughout the United Methodist Church and to broadcast an invitation to all LGBTQ+ people in our community, the Church Council voted to join Reconciling Ministries Network. Joining RMN is in keeping with our tradition and practice of welcoming everyone to LUMC as well as with our statement of inclusion.

LENEXA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: JOURNEYING TOGETHER FOR 150 YEARS

We had a wonderful celebration on June 29 and 30! It was fun to have so many former members, former pastors, descendants of former pastors, and other guests with us to celebrate 150 years of ministry in Old Town Lenexa. If you have not yet ordered your copy of Methodism in Old Town Lenexa: The History of Lenexa United Methodist Church 1869-2019, there are still copies available in the church office or to order online at lenexaumc.org/150years.

One of the wonderful events of the celebration was the opening of the time capsule that had been placed in the cornerstone in 1969. Look for more information coming soon about the contents of the cornerstone, including letters written in 1969 to the congregation of 2019 from the pastor, district superintendent, lay leader, and others. As soon as we are able, this information will be posted on the website and made available in other ways.

Some attendants said they were too busy visiting with friends on June 30 and didn’t get a chance to look at the notebooks that were on display. These notebooks, including pictures, newspaper articles, and other mementos, are currently in the History Room (Room 112). All are welcome to come take a look at any of the items there during the week or on Sunday.

Enjoy learning more about the history of your church, which has been “Journeying Together for 150 Years.”

THANK YOU FROM PASTOR PEGGY AND TOM

Friends,

Thank you so much for your generosity upon my retirement. Your support of the many ministries of LUMC over the past 10 years has been greatly appreciated. Words cannot express how blessed Tom and I have been during our time among you. I trust that you will offer Rev. Koech and his family the same grace and kindness you offered us. We have many wonderful memories upon which to reflect, and we have begun to enjoy retirement already. Grandkids are great. I am especially looking forward to attending a Chiefs game! Again, thanks for your grace, friendship and your commitment to ministry through LUMC.

Grace & Peace,
Tom & Rev. Peggy Hillmon

HELP NEEDED

Dinner on Us needs your help. We need people to bring desserts to go with the meal we serve each week. If you can help by providing a dessert, like cake, pie, cookies, flaming bananas foster, or whatever your specialty is, we would appreciate it. If you can help, please let the office know on what date you can provide a dessert. Many thanks in advance.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR SUNFLOWER ELEMENTARY

The Sunflower Educational Support team is collecting the following supplies for Sunflower Elementary: Crayola Colored Pencils (12 ct), Crayola Crayons (24 ct), Crayola Markers (broad tip, 10 ct), black dry-erase markers, spiral notebooks (70-page, wide-ruled), glue sticks, #2 pencils, wide-lined notebook paper, and Clorox or Lysol disinfecting wipes (not baby wipes). Please place your donations in the tubs under the Sunflower bulletin board outside of Wesley Hall. Donations will be collected through August 11. Thank you for your help!
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS
All are welcome to join one or more of these great classes!

SPECTRUM
9:00 a.m. | Room 122
Spectrum Sunday School Class will be studying "Fear of the Other" by William H. Willimon.

FOUNDATIONS
9:00 a.m. | Room 105
In August, Foundations will be watching and discussing the video series "Revival" by Adam Hamilton.

PATHFINDERS
9:00 a.m. | Asbury Room
Pathfinders selects current issues in the news or other contemporary topics for discussion. We debate how these issues should be addressed in light of scripture and our Christian faith.

PULSE
10:30 a.m. | Room 105
In Pulse, we are currently working our way through Dr. Seuss and the Gospel.

DASHERS
10:30 a.m. | Asbury Room
Every week in Dashers, we hold a discussion centered around the day’s sermon and what it means for you.

LUMC LADIES’ BOOK CLUB
At our August 21 meeting, we will discuss Jayber Crow by Wendell Berry. You may bring a lunch if you want.

Questions?
Contact Linda at lstoker98@gmail.com.