The deadline for the November issue of the Messenger is noon on Thursday, October 17. 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.
Think of what this means for someone who comes to faith in Jesus. No matter what family they were born into, whether they are the son of a drug dealer, daughter of a slave, ditch-digger, or even a used-car salesman, when they come to faith in Jesus Christ they are elevated in position to the highest family in the universe. They are part of the royal family of King Jesus.

We all, as priests in God’s sight, have access to God’s presence. In the Old Testament, there was initially a tent where God lived and then later a temple. Now, of course, we all understand that God didn’t just live in a tent or in a temple. Rather the idea was that God’s presence was in a special way in this tent and temple. They knew that God is everywhere.

Now, for us today, when we talk about the priesthood of all believers, we aren’t saying that everybody can do everything. We can all serve others, however, both inside and outside our community. What do we bring? We bring God’s love. We bring God’s blessing. We bring Jesus—that is, the restoration of God’s relationship with people. We can all serve. But we don’t all serve in the same way. Some serve through helping cooking a meal for youth, others by calling up someone who is going through a difficult time at the moment, offering congregational care, chairing a committee, sitting in a committee, and so forth. We can all make others feel loved, and if someone feels loved by others, maybe through that they will feel God’s love as well. We all struggle to feel God’s love at times. We all need to be encouraged, to be pointed back to God, and to be loved by others and God.

As I see it,

...you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10 NIV)
Thank you to all those who have accepted to serve in different ministries and leadership positions at the church beginning next year. If you have not been called by Lay Leadership or the Nomination Committee to serve in a particular position next year, perhaps you will be called in the coming days.

In God’s exciting steps!

Pastor Ezekiel Koech

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**LUMC FINANCIAL UPDATE**

General Operating Fund Contributions Received August 2019 ........................................... $24,455
Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Received .......................................................... $1,039
Income from Bequest ....................................................................................................................... $0
Total Operating Income Received August 2019 ........................................................................ $25,494

Mission Shares Paid August 2019 ................................................................................................ $0
Mission Shares Paid Year to Date ......................................................................................... $20,937
Budgeted Mission Shares Year to Date ................................................................. $33,500
Total 2019 Mission Shares ........................................................................................................... $50,250

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**Education Building Debt Report**

Balance Due on Education Building Loan 8/31/19 ............................................................... $149,648
Amount Remaining on Capital Campaign Pledges .......................................................... $69,738
Gap ............................................................................................................................ $79,910
“What Are You Doing With Your Talents?”

1 Peter 4:6–11

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms” (v. 10). What does this mean? Simply put, it means that each believer has special talents with which to serve others.


“The Chasm is From This Life To Eternity”

Luke 16:19–31

The chasm that separates Lazarus and the rich man in the next world is simply a manifestation of the gate that separated them in this world. The rich man carried it with him into the next world—it was a part of him. The gate that separates and divides us in this world is not a condition of circumstances or categories: rich or poor, black or white, gay or straight, Muslim or Christian, etc. The gate that becomes a chasm always exists within us before it exists between us. It is upon each of us to address it within ourselves.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

join us for sunday school!

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

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

On the first Sunday of each month, Kids Connect stays in the sanctuary for the 10:30 a.m. service to experience worship and communion. In Kid’s Kingdom at 9:00 a.m., we will be studying Moses during October. Kids Connect at 10:30 a.m. participates in learning activities tied to the week’s scripture lesson from the church service.

upcoming events

CHILDREN’S SABBATH
Sunday, October 20 | 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Kids are needed to help lead both worship services, including greeting, ushering, leading prayer, reading scripture. Contact Mary at Mary.Clow@lenexaumc.org to sign your kid up!

FALL FESTIVAL
Saturday, October 26 | 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Save the date for the Fall Festival! All kids are invited to wear costumes and come for games, crafts, and treats. Volunteers are needed to help decorate and run activities. Please contact Mary Clow if you are interested. Bring donations of individually wrapped candy to the church office. Invite your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of fun! Note: This replaces the Trunk or Treat event we have held in past years.

GO NUTS FOR KIDS
Each Sunday in November, you will have the opportunity to support children’s ministry by purchasing nuts and other holiday treats. Thank you for your continued support of the children of LUMC!

BIBLE SUNDAY
3rd graders (and older kids who haven’t participated previously) are invited to our Bible Workshop on Saturday, November 16 from 11 a.m. –2 p.m. We will have lunch and participate in activities to learn about our bible. Parents should plan to attend as well. On Sunday, November 17, the bibles will be presented as gifts from the church during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.
9:00 A.M.
Youth sit together in the front-right area of the Sanctuary for the 9:00 worship service.

10:30 A.M.
Youth meet for Sunday School—middle school in Room 119 in the basement, high school in the loft.

5:00 P.M.
Youth meet in Schneeberger Hall for a snack supper and a variety of different activities.

upcoming events:

Sunday, October 6 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.
LUMYOUTH IMPROV NIGHT
Enjoy improv with Emily!

Sunday, October 13 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.
LUMYOUTH YOGA
We will have a yoga instructor coming in to teach us some yoga!
Please bring a yoga mat or a towel and appropriate activewear!

Sunday, October 27 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.
LUMYOUTH HALLOWEEN PARTY!
The Efurds have volunteered to host—start planning costumes now!
Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy. What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus’ affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On World Communion Sunday, your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

“The United Methodist Church,” said Makalah Cannon, “has supported my upbringing by giving me a church home, a foundation and a doctrine grounded in structure, which helps me in my daily studies.”

Makalah heard about the Ethnic Scholarship through her church, Andrews Chapel United Methodist. Receiving the scholarship, which is supported by generous gifts on World Communion Sunday, “has helped my life tremendously,” she said. Now a student at the University of West Georgia, Makalah has already taken the Certified Nursing Assistant course, which offered hands-on experience. She recently applied to nursing school.

Makalah is grateful for her faith family’s role in her life. “My church has been my support throughout my childhood years and has ingrained in me the importance of praying, biblical teachings and United Methodist beliefs. They have given me the mindset that I am able to do anything I put my mind to.”

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” Because the people of The United Methodist Church believe that all of God’s children have been created and gifted to build the kingdom Jesus ushered in, we’re resourcing them to do just that. Because of your giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.
As you are probably aware by now, this year’s Stewardship campaign, “Faithful Together—150 Years of Generosity”, was built around the 5 key areas of focus in our United Methodist membership vows: prayer, presence, gifts, service and witness.

As we began with the topic of prayer on September 15, hopefully you had a chance to hear Andrea Cook’s touching words about her journey in prayer for her daughter Addi’s healing from cancer as well as Pastor Ezekiel’s compelling sermon on prayer. Many of us were in tears listening to Andrea’s heartfelt comments.

The next Sunday, we focused on presence, with comments from Dave Glisson and another related sermon from Pastor Ezekiel helping us to consider the value of our presence with others from LUMC engaging in worship and service.

On September 29, the focus was on gifts, again with a corresponding sermon from Pastor Ezekiel as well as some challenging comments from Diane Troy about our commitment to support LUMC financially.

Many of you reported engaging and moving discussions on each of these subjects from your Sunday School classes as well.

If you haven’t registered your commitment in each of these areas, please do so. Forms are available through the church website, in the emails or letters you have received each week on these subjects and in paper-card form at Sunday worship or from the office.

You will receive emails or letters about Service and Witness over the coming weeks similar to those you have already seen for Prayer, Presence and Gifts. Again, an opportunity will be included for you to register your commitment to LUMC in these key areas. There will be speakers, sermons from Pastor Ezekiel and Sunday School discussions on these subjects as well on the corresponding Sundays.

On October 6, we will be packaging meals for Rise Against Hunger as part of a church-wide service event. We will begin packing meals in the Underground just after a quick potluck lunch in Schneeberger immediately following the 10:30 service.

Please plan to continue your engagement in this important focus for our 2020 activities here at LUMC.
UPCOMING EVENTS

HOT LUNCH SERVICE
Friday, October 4

It’s time for the St. Mary’s Kitchen ministry. Join a group of volunteers to help feed those in need on Friday, October 4. We also need people to prepare casseroles, salads and desserts to help make this a great success. Look for sign-up sheets on tables in the Narthex. Contact Tom Bean at (913) 888–2446 for more info.

SERVICE DAY
Sunday, October 6

On October 6, we will observe our membership vow of service as part of the “Faithful Together —150 Years of Generosity” campaign. There will be a potluck dinner in Schneeberger Hall after the 10:30 worship service, followed immediately by a meal-packaging event for Rise Against Hunger in the Underground. Our goal is to package 10,000 meals during our all-church day of service. We anticipate being done by 2:30, but if enough people participate, we will finish earlier. We invite you to stay for as long as you are able. To help us plan appropriately, please let us know you are coming via the church’s Facebook event page or by contacting the church office.

NEW DIRECTORY PHOTOS
Monday, October 14 | Asbury Room

Due to the great response to our pictorial directory, there will be one more photography date on October 14. This will be at the church with check-in in the Asbury Room. There are a few openings still available. You may sign up online at https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b0b562ex/ or contact the church office. There is no obligation to purchase portraits, but each family photographed receives a free directory and 8"x10". We would like all families to have their pictures taken, since this will be helpful to our members and especially to Pastor Ezekiel as he gets to know us.

Photos are here! If you did not order portraits from Lifetouch, your free 8”x10” will be shipped to the church. The first group has arrived and may be picked up outside the sanctuary. If your picture is not here yet, it will be included in a future shipment.

THE LOWDOWN UNDERGROUND
Thursday, October 17 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us on October 17 as we welcome our very own Director of Contemporary Music, Blair Penney, to the Underground. In addition to being interviewed, Blair will sit in and make music with the Underground Collective for the evening. This is sure to be an interesting night and a fascinating musical collaboration you won’t want to miss!

On November 21, we will welcome LUMC’s Director of Children’s Ministries, Mary Clow, for the evening. We will discuss her role within the church community, in addition to the usual Underground topics. Mary was an integral part of launching the Underground Community back in 2016 and we are excited to have her join us for another Thursday in the Underground! We invite you to join us on December 19 as well for an evening of silence, calmness, and reflection.

This series is open to all members of the congregation and community. Join us each month in the Underground for fellowship, music, and coffee as we continue to grow as a community!

KINDERMUSIK

Classes are enrolling now for Kindermusik, held at Lenexa UMC in rooms 127 and 129! Integration of music into your child’s daily routine means improving their ability to think, reason, create, and express. With 40 years of experience in early childhood development, Kindermusik is the world’s most trusted name in musical learning for children ages 0–7. Visit us at www.injoymusic.com to schedule a free preview class!
SUNFLOWER ELEMENTARY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Thank you to all who purchased kettle corn and pork rinds during our September fundraiser. We appreciate your support. The Sunflower team has another event coming up—we will be collecting gently used soft items in October.

Items to be collected are:
• All men’s, women’s and children’s clothing, coats and jackets, shoes, jewelry, and accessories such as hats, scarves, ties, socks, mittens, and belts
• Bed and bath items such as towels, sheets, pillows, blankets, curtains, and tablecloths
• Purses, backpacks, and wallets

We will not be collecting any other items such as household goods or furniture. The collectible items should be placed in large 33-gallon trash bags and placed in Room 110 (Missions Room) on the lower level through the month of October. Our goal is to collect 100 bags. Please help us meet that goal!

Sunflower Principal Ryan Kalis’ main focus this year will be on the social and emotional well-being of the students. He has set up a Sensory Room as a retreat for students who need this help. It is available to a student until he/she feels more comfortable. We, as a team, will follow this focus and assist as we can with items that are needed for the Sensory Room.

Principal Kalis has also asked for volunteers at Sunflower. The teacher will decide how you can help in the classroom, whether it be tutoring or assisting in other ways. There is an MVP training session on October 2 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Sunflower Library. If you have any questions regarding the clothing collection or volunteering, contact Carol Dyhouse.

1969 TIME CAPSULE CONTENTS

“So, this is 2019. Or did you open this box early? I hope not.

It must have taken a determined faith among your members for this church to have spread so great an influence in this area. The future of the church must hold quite a challenge for you when you think of the competition you will have for people’s interests.”

This is how Lay Leader Sam Haskin begins the letter inside the time capsule from the LUMC congregation of 1969, which we opened in June. Many in the congregation remember Sam. As part of our 150th anniversary celebration, his daughter, Judy Rapp, shared the story of Sam hauling bricks for the building of the new sanctuary as a young child in 1924. Sam’s message, written 50 years ago, was right on. He envisioned the challenges that we would face as a congregation today. You can read Sam’s complete letter, along with letters from the pastor, the district superintendent, 5th and 6th graders, and more, on our website. Fifty years ago, they all left a message for the congregation of today. Those messages are worth reading. Take the time to visit lenexaumc.org/150years to see the letters and a complete list of items included in the time capsule that was opened at the June 30, 2019 celebration.

—health ministries—

MUSICIANS NEEDED

Are you, or do you know, a drummer, bassist, guitarist, and/or singer? Perhaps someone on your marching band’s drum line would want experience playing a drum set. Maybe there is a rock bass player at your high school wanting to play more between tours! If interested, please call, text or email Blair Penney at (913) 492-1286 or blair.penney@schmittmusic.com.

OCTOBER HEALTH TIP:

Eat like an athlete—not a couch potato—on game day.

Set out raw veggies and dip instead of chips, and you’ll graze much more healthfully. You can improve game-day favorites by cutting pizza into smaller slices or doling chili into cups instead of bowl-sized portions.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN ONE OR MORE OF THESE GREAT CLASSES!

SPECTRUM
9:00 a.m. | Room 122
This month, Spectrum Sunday School Class will be discussing each week’s stewardship campaign topic.

FOUNDATIONS
9:00 a.m. | Room 105
In October, Foundations Sunday School class will finish the stewardship emphasis on renewing our membership pledge, then start a series about Martin Luther’s theme of the power of God’s grace.

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
This month in Pulse, discussions will center around each week’s stewardship campaign topic.

DASHERS
10:30 a.m. | Asbury Room
After experiencing 9 a.m. worship, we reflect on the day’s service through lively and thoughtful conversation. Someone often brings something from the editorial page for discussion, and we apply our faith walk to the topic at hand as we share our opinions. We know our date of birth, and don’t know the day we will die, but we’re doing our best to fill the dash.

LUMC LADIES’ BOOK CLUB
Wednesday, October 16 | 12:00 p.m. | Library
For October, ladies’ book club will be discussing Caleb’s Crossing by Geraldine Brooks. On November 20, we will discuss The Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at noon. You may bring a lunch if you want. Questions? Contact Linda Stoker at lstoker98@gmail.com.

PRESCHOOL NEWS
The school year is now in full swing, and our Preschool and CDO classrooms are filled with lots of learning, playing, friends, and fun fall activities! Our annual carnival and open house is Monday, October 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us for a pizza dinner, preschool carnival games, and visiting your child’s classroom. We hope to see you at this fun family event and fundraiser!