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The deadline for the December issue of the Messenger is noon on Thursday, November 21. 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.
What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1–3 gives us an answer. It says faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real, even if we do not see it. It is by faith that we understand that all of creation was made by God's command, and therefore what we see was made by something which cannot be seen.

I heard that, some years ago, thousands of people watched and cheered on a man who was rolling a wheelbarrow back and forth across the Niagara River on a tightrope. As the crowd got larger, the man put a 200-pound sack of sand in the wheelbarrow, and once again he rolled it across and back. He then asked, “How many of you believe I can roll a man across?” The crowd cheered even louder.

There was one man in the front who seemed to be more excited by the extraordinary performance than anyone else. The man on the tightrope pointed to him and said, “You’re next.” The excited man ran away so fast, he couldn’t be seen through the dust cloud he left behind him. Later, when interviewed, he said that he believed the stuntman could do it, but was unwilling to get in the wheelbarrow himself.

It is the same with most people who call themselves Christians. They say that they believe in Jesus and follow Him, but they have never gotten into his “wheelbarrow”. They are not willing to risk being in the “wheelbarrow” of Jesus and being taken to unknown places.

There are people who may ask, “How much faith does it take?” Jesus said only the faith of a mustard seed. A mustard seed is the smallest seed on earth. While others may ask, “What kind of faith?”, there is only one kind of faith. What matters is the object of faith, and the object of our faith must be Jesus Christ. Our faith should not be in our traditions, rituals, worldly objects, materials, works, morals, selves, etc. There is no faith in anything else except Jesus Christ.

In every miracle that Jesus performed, He required faith in God. We must have faith in Jesus—faith that He will enable us to fulfill whatever promises and commitments we make before Him and in His name. If you have doubts about your faith and your trust in Jesus, ask God to help you increase your faith in Him and in His word.

Shalom!

Pastor Ezekiel Koech
3rd Quarter 2019 Financial Report

Several people prepaid their giving to the operating budget for 2019, creating an excess of income over expenses that lasted through July. That overage is now gone and we have used $16,414 in reserve funds in order to pay all bills current, including our year-to-date Mission Share. With the $85,807 in operating income received in the 3rd quarter, we are 12.5% behind budget year-to-date and 4.8% behind last year. While this seems like a large deficit, Lenexa UMC has a tradition of a strong 4th quarter. With the faithful giving of our congregation, we can once again meet our financial goals for the year, but we need your help. If you are behind in your giving, please try to make it up before the end of the year. If you are blessed and can give extra, please do so.

Your faithfulness and generosity reach far beyond the operating budget. You contributed $22,699 to the building fund in the 3rd quarter, enabling us to pay $5,000 of additional principal, bringing our loan balance down to $144,574 as of September 30. Additionally, you gave $2,159 for Hillcrest Transitional Housing through the Hoop Shoot, and $715 to other special offerings and mission projects.

Lenexa UMC is truly blessed to have such wonderful support from our members and friends!

General Operating Fund Contributions Received September 2019 ........................................ $26,799
Building Use, Fundraising and Other Income Received ........................................................ $4,182
Income from Bequest ............................................................................................................... $0
Total Operating Income Received September 2019 ................................................................. $30,981

Mission Shares Paid September 2019 ....................................................................................... $16,750
Mission Shares Paid Year to Date ......................................................................................... $37,687
Budgeted Mission Shares Year to Date ................................................................................ $37,687
Total 2019 Mission Shares .................................................................................................... $50,250

Education Building Debt Report

Balance Due on Education Building Loan 9/30/19 .................................................. $144,574
Amount Remaining on Capital Campaign Pledges ...................................................... $66,276
Gap ............................................................................................................................... $78,298
NOVEMBER 3—ALL SAINTS’ DAY

“The Beatitudes”

Matthew 5:1-12
Matthew describes our life of sainthood. Jesus’ word tells us what “real life” is like as a Christian and at the same time comforts those who receive this word. “Blessed are the poor in spirit. Theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are those who mourn; they shall be comforted. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are those who are persecuted for my sake.” All these Beatitudes describe the lives of saints in this world. Since we’re celebrating All Saints’ Day, let’s be very clear—a saint is a holy person, and those who obey God and his word are saints. When we celebrate All Saints’ Day, we are recognizing that all of us are saints in God’s sight through Christ.


NOVEMBER 10

“Finding Rest in Jesus”

Matthew 11:28-30
Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30 NIV). Jesus is not talking about physical rest, but rather spiritual rest. Many are weary in spirit today. People look everywhere and try everything in the effort to find rest for their souls. Nothing and no one in this world can give you the peace and rest you seek except Jesus Christ.


NOVEMBER 17—BIBLE SUNDAY

“The Rich and the Kingdom of God”

Luke 18:9-14
Luke tells a story of two people who are opposite each other. The story is directed towards those who consider themselves righteous and look down on others, but it is also about grace—about God forgiving what He cannot excuse. And so our salvation depends not on what we can achieve, but on what we are willing to receive. We are not saved by good works, but by God’s work. The true “righteous” person is not someone who flawlessly observes all the “rules”, but someone who begs for mercy and is accepted by God—despite having plenty of human imperfections.

Pastor Ezekiel preaching. Joy Bells at both services.

NOVEMBER 24

“The Ten Lepers”

Luke 17:11-19
“Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, ‘Jesus, Master, have pity on us!’ When he saw them, he said, ‘Go, show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?’” (Luke 17:11-17 NIV). Nine lepers disappeared. They did not come back to say “thank you.” If there is one sin that is most common today, it is lack of gratitude. God does so much for us, and much of the time we take it for granted. Jesus challenges us to turn our attitude of gratitude into an action of appreciation to God.

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, we will be studying Moses during November. Kids Connect at 10:30 participates in learning activities tied to the week’s scripture lesson from the church service.

upcoming events

**GROWING IN GRACE CHILDREN’S CHOIR**

*Wednesday nights | 6:15–7:00 p.m.*

Growing in Grace Choir for kids meets every Wednesday evening at 6:15. There will also be an additional short practice during 10:30 a.m. Sunday school each week so all can participate. Come make a joyful noise with us!

**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 WORKSHOP & BIBLE SUNDAY**

*Saturday, November 16 | 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.*  
*Sunday, November 17 | 10:30 a.m.*

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.

**ADVENT WORKSHOP**

*Wednesday, December 4 | 5:30–6:30 p.m.*

During Dinner’s On Us on December 4, there will be Christmas activities for kids in Schneeberger. Come for dinner and festive crafts!
events for November:

**Sunday, November 3 | 5:00 p.m.**

**LUMYOUTH GAGA BALL!**

Bring yourself and some friends for an evening of friendly competition!

**Sunday, November 10 | 2:00 p.m.**

**LUMYOUTH LEAF-RAKING SERVICE PROJECT**

We'll meet at the church at 2 p.m. and carpool from there.
Bring brown bags and rakes!

**Saturday, November 16–Sunday, November 17**

**LUMYOUTH FALL RETREAT**

Sign up now for Greater Things—Fall Retreat 2019 at Wilderness Retreat Center in Lawson, MO. Registration forms are available in Schneeberger, or you can register by emailing Melinda Parks at melindaparks85@gmail.com. Sign up now so we know how many to count on! Because of the retreat, there will be NO youth group on the 17th.

**Sunday, November 24 | 5:00 p.m.**

**LUMYOUTH FRIENDSGIVING AT THE PARKS’ HOUSE**

We'll need adults to help with cooking! Please email Scot.Schwartz@lenexaumc.org to volunteer.
As we continue to reveal contents from the 1969 time capsule, we want to share excerpts from the letter written by the pastor, Rev. Glen Thompson. In his letter, dated February 23, 1969, he shared the trends he saw in the church at the time.

"Trends now evident in the Church include these:

1. More emphasis on the church's involvement in society and less upon the church as an institution.
3. An ecumenical rather than a denominational focus.
4. A strong revival of the centrality of the laity, with the clergy increasingly being seen as ones who help equip the laity for their ministry in the world.
5. Christian education being more pupil-centered and less centered around the teacher and printed material.
6. Experimental, non-traditional forms of worship.
7. Less satisfaction with white middle class society and more concern for the well-being of all people.
8. Many attempts are being made to reformulate the truths of the Christian faith concerning God, Jesus Christ, Man and Life so that the full dynamic of the Christian way can be once again released in society."

Just looking at this list, it’s hard to tell if this was written in 1969 or 2019! You can read Rev. Thompson’s complete letter, along with other letters from the congregation, on our website. Fifty years ago, they left a message for our congregation today. Those messages are worth reading. Take the time to visit www.lenexaumc.org/150years to see the letters and a complete list of items included in the time capsule which was opened at the June 30, 2019 celebration.

The Records & History Team has decided to put the contents of the 1969 time capsule back into that cornerstone to be opened again by a future generation. In addition, they are going to create a new time capsule to put in the 1924 cornerstone. That original time capsule, placed when the sanctuary was built, was opened in 1969, but found to be damaged from moisture. Only two newspapers were salvaged and they were included in the 1969 time capsule. The 1924 time capsule was not replaced. We want to leave our mark for a future congregation. What would you tell the people of the future? What would you leave them to represent 2019? We want to hear your thoughts. Send your ideas to Linda Stokes at Linda.Stokes@lenexaumc.org. If you have items to donate to the time capsule, leave them in the box under the cornerstone outside the sanctuary. We would like to receive all items by the end of November. At that time, the team will put together the time capsule. The final decision of what is included will be that of the Records & History Team.
A group of more than 60 people packed meals in an event sponsored by LUMC with “Rise Against Hunger” on October 6th in the Underground. Participants packaged and boxed 10,152 meals, which will be used to feed people in need around the world. Participants ranged from small children to great grandparents and everyone worked together to get the job done. Lots of laughing, yelling and joking around was heard as the 6 packing teams each worked to outdo each other. The meals were measured and packed in heat-sealed baggies and then packed in boxes. When they left LUMC, they were ready to be shipped to someone in need, anywhere in the world. “Rise Against Hunger” provides meals to people in more than 100 countries around the world for disaster relief and other hunger needs. The meals consist of rice, soy protein and a combination of dried veggies with a mineral and vitamin packet. Each sealed baggie contains enough food to feed 6 people one meal each once prepared with boiling water. Participants enjoyed a potluck lunch after church and then headed over to the underground to be briefed on the process for packing meals. After everyone was signed in and fitted with hair nets and plastic gloves, they packed the 10,000 plus meals from about 12:30 to 2:30. Charles Cooper was informally voted as the best dressed hair net wearer with his combined white and red nets for his head and facial hair. Everyone had fun and most got to know someone better through the process. All in all, it was a fun and productive event.
NEWS & EVENTS

YAC: YOUNG ADULT CONVERSATIONS

A new ministry is emerging at LUMC. In response to the wishes of our young adults, we are establishing YAC: Young Adult Conversations. Bruce & Lisa Freeman have been recruited to head up YAC for young adults without kids. Our target age range for this group is 18–30 years old. We will launch this group on Sunday, November 24 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 117. (This room is on the lower level of the original church building and next door to the middle school Sunday school room, which is at the base of the stairs at the east entrance.) There will be hot beverages and possibly treats—or you can just grab a plateful from Heavenly Half Hour before heading downstairs. We’ll begin with light-hearted chatter, and then see where the conversation takes us.

FAMILY MATTERS

Family Matters will be a monthly gathering for families with kids from birth-6th grade. We will meet once a month after church from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. for lunch followed by a parent group and kids’ activities. We are hoping to launch this gathering in January. If you did not receive an e-mail with additional information and a request for feedback, please email Mary. Clow@lenexaumc.org. Your input is appreciated as we make plans for this new ministry! Volunteers who are not parents of kids are needed to help with the children’s activities. If you are interested in being involved, contact Mary Clow.

2020 SALTY PEANUTS TRIP

SALTY PEANUTS Adult Mission Team is returning; mark your calendars for March 25–28, 2020. The destination will be Moore, Oklahoma, where there is still much tornado relief and repair to be done. An informational gathering has been set for 11:30 a.m. on November 17 in the Wesley Room. Interested persons should contact Bruce Freeman at brfvet@aol.com or Lisa Freeman at soaringhogs@sbcglobal.net.

WELCOME OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

Scot Schwartz joined the staff of Lenexa United Methodist as the Director of Youth Ministries on Sunday, October 20. He will be working approximately 20 hours per week to coordinate our youth program for 7th–12th graders. Scot has 26 years of teaching experience in Kansas schools, including 12 years of teaching vocal music at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School. He taught an additional 11 years of general classroom music at Rising Star Elementary, which is also part of the Shawnee Mission School District. Scot is a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, having been confirmed in the church at age 12. He has been an active member of the Worden United Methodist Church all his life, up until he transferred his membership to UMCoR in 2017. Scot also currently works in real estate. We are excited to welcome him to our staff!

2020 MIXED NUTS TRIP

Young adults should mark their calendars for January 5–11, 2020. Dave Glisson and Bruce Freeman will lead this year’s mission trip to Sunflower, Mississippi to work once again with families served by Delta Grace. Cost for this mission trip is $125 per young adult, which covers everything except for personal incidentals. Interested persons should contact Bruce Freeman at brfvet@aol.com or text him at (816) 520–2289.
THE LOWDOWN UNDERGROUND
Thursday, November 21
7:00 p.m. | Underground

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!

SUNFLOWER ELEMENTARY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Thank you to all who donated soft goods, clothing, linens, etc. in October to be sold to Savers. Money received from these projects will allow us to be able to assist those Sunflower families who are in need during the holidays.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

We will need families to light the advent wreath during both morning services on each Sunday in December, as well as all of the Christmas Eve services (at 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 11 p.m.) Keep an eye out for signup forms in the coming weeks.

NOVEMBER HEALTH TIP: ANTIOXIDANTS

Antioxidants help to keep us healthy by protecting the body’s cells from damage due to normal body functions and exposure to toxins and pollutants. Antioxidants can be found in purple, blue and red fruits and vegetables such as red grapes, cherries, berries, and pomegranates. Other types of antioxidants, like catechins or flavonols, can be found in dark chocolate, tea, apples, onions, and broccoli.

DINNER’S ON US NEEDS YOUR HELP!

At a meeting of stakeholders for Dinner’s On Us, it was decided to continue this outreach ministry, but we need all members of the congregation to get the word out about this ministry. We plan to continue serving dinner every Wednesday, with the exception of the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. Dinner’s On Us was started to provide a free meal for those in our community who need a little assistance. While this has worked to some extent, we feel that there are still others who would benefit from this program. Linda Stokes will continue to post on Facebook, and we will continue to check with the organizations that were initially contacted for assistance. Flyers will be posted in local store bulletin boards, and organizations that use the church (Boy Scouts, AA, Kindermusik, etc.) will be given flyers to pass out to their members. Right now we have a good core group that comes every Wednesday, and we are thankful to them for their support. Flyers are also on the table outside the sanctuary, and we invite you to take a few and invite someone to come with you to Dinner’s On Us. We are thankful to those who have volunteered to serve the meals on Wednesday: Peggy Nichols, Elizabeth Kling, Van Rose, Sandy Gunkel, and others. We are also extremely thankful to Bruce Freeman for keeping us supplied with pulled pork. If you would like to volunteer to help serve or provide desserts for the meal, that would be great. Contact Wayne Dothage at wdothage@gmail.com to volunteer.

We have just wrapped up our Stewardship Campaign based around the vows we took when we joined the church. The Dinner’s On Us team invites you to be in prayer for the success of this program, to support it with your presence and bring others with you, to get involved by helping serve or providing desserts, and to witness by inviting, neighbors, friends, etc. to come and join you for dinner. This is a mission that gives our church visibility in the community and provides a service to community members. Dinner’s On Us is alive, but we need each of you to help keep it that way!
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS
All are welcome to join one or more of these great classes!

SPECTRUM
9:00 a.m.  |  Room 122

FOUNDATIONS
9:00 a.m.  |  Room 105
For November, Foundations will be continuing with 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

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, November 20  |  12:00 p.m.  |  Library
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
November is here, and we are ready for another exciting month of learning and play in our Preschool and CDO classrooms! Our annual Carnival and Open House last month was a fun time for everyone—we are especially thankful to the Boy Scouts of Troop 186 who volunteered their time! This month, we will be collecting donations for the Johnson County Multi-Service Center. As the holidays approach, this is a great way to teach our little ones the concept of giving to others. Starting in November, we’re also beginning a monthly chapel time, where Mary Clow will lead the preschoolers in a short bible story lesson.

We wish you a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!