



# The LUMinary

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## Pastor's Corner

### Approaching the Scriptures with Fresh Eyes

For the past few weeks, I have been participating in a Disciple 1 Bible Study group and it has been such a life-giving experience for me. You might find it shocking to know that beyond spending time with the scriptures I plan to preach on each week, I don't normally get to spend much time steeped in the scriptures in this way. I wonder, how often and intentionally do you approach the texts of the Bible? In just three weeks, we have read and studied the entirety of Genesis, which I will admit has been a bit intense but also awesome!

Spending such intentional and structured time in the scripture is something that I have deeply missed since becoming a pastor. In college and seminary, I spent SO MUCH time reading and studying the Bible, and during that time I developed a great passion and interest in studying the Bible. The beauty of it all is that each time I approach the scriptures, no matter how familiar, I am able to draw something new and inspiring from the experience.

While we read through Genesis, we asked three questions of each story: 1) What does this story tell us about God? 2) What does this story tell us about humanity? 3) What does this story tell us about the relationship between God and humanity? I wonder what you might glean from these stories, or any portions of the Bible, if you too were to approach the stories first with these three questions. I encourage you, this month, to work your way through Genesis (or some other book of the Bible that is of interest to you), asking these questions each day, and taking notes on your reflections.

Blessings,

*Pastor Tiffany*

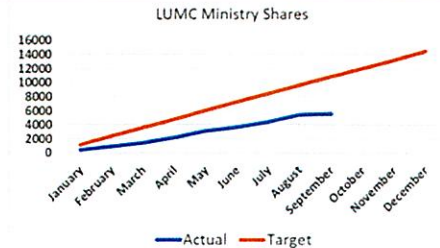


## Finances

Our average monthly income for the first two thirds of the year for the General Fund was \$12,117 and our average expenses were

\$12,252. Thus far, we have been able to keep our expenses below our monthly budget of \$13,747. In order to do this, we are running on a minimalist budget. We remain drastically behind on our attempt to meet our Ministry Shares obligation to the Michigan Conference. To date, we have sent \$5,612 which is 39% of our obligation of \$14,550.

We want to thank all of you who support our ministries through your time, talents, generosity, and witness!



## Trustees

Immense progress has been made on the prayer garden, and it is becoming a very beautiful and peaceful place for prayer, so be sure to check things out whenever you are in the neighborhood. The lattice privacy fence is up, the stone retaining wall—used to bring up the ground level around the gazebo—is complete, and a few plants have been added. With enormous thanks to the Carpenters and the staff of Peacock Road Family Farm, a large cross made from an old barn beam has been installed in the southwest corner of the garden. The cornerstone from our original church building is now on display at the base of the cross. The Robinsons did a remarkable job of cleaning up and installing the old church sign which will display the memorial plaques for everyone whose memorial money was utilized to complete the project. There has been substantial cost to complete the project. Installing a concrete pad that would support the weight of the bell cost \$3500. Preparing the footing for and laying out the stones for the prayer labyrinth cost \$7018. These two items as well as the minor costs associated with some of the finishing touches on the project have depleted the memorial fund and set the facilities fund back \$400 so far. We do still have several items that remain unfinished, including the engraving of the memorial plaques and installation of lighting. This is where you come in. If you would like to help offset these additional costs you may do so by making a memorial contribution in memory of a loved one. We recommend that those contributions begin at \$25. You may also indicate if there is a specific plant you would like added, and we will make every effort to accommodate that.

## Worship and Fellowship Events

Below you will find a list of dates, sermon titles, and scripture lessons for the coming month.

**Worship time is now 10:30 am.**

Oct 1: <i>For the Long Haul: Quarreled and Tested</i>	Exodus 17:1-7 and Matthew 21:23-32
Oct 8: <i>For the Long Haul: Fruit of the Kingdom</i> Second Sunday Breakfast 9:30 am	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9 and Matthew 21:33-46
Oct 15: <i>For the Long Haul: Stiff-necked people</i>	Exodus 32:1-14 and Matthew 22:1-14
Oct 22: <i>The End in Sight: The Things that are God's</i>	Exodus 33:1-23 and Matthew 22:15-22
Oct 29: <i>The End in Sight: Face to Face</i>	Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Leviticus 19:1-2, 18-20; Matthew 22:34-46

### Coffee Hour Hosts:

Oct 1: Martha West/Wendy Venier  
Oct 8: Second Sunday Breakfast: John & Joan Peck  
Oct 15: Dave & Jessie Sebenick  
Oct 22: Pat Hibbard  
Oct 29: John & Joan Peck

## Service



Open 1:00-3:00 pm Mondays  
6:00-8:00 pm Thursdays  
Open to all Laingsburg residents



Recyclers have been very busy. To keep things running smoothly, more volunteers are needed. Please check their website for more info and to volunteer: [recyclelaingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite](http://recyclelaingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite)

### Looking Glass Monthly Report. We were able to help the following in July/Aug

2 homeless clients lodging	\$ 750.00
4 clients with rent payments	1,350.00
0 clients with utility payments	<u>000.00</u>
July & August total	\$ 2,100.00

**Change for a Change for September went to missionary Princess Jusu.**  
We collected \$324.50

**Change for a Change for October will go to our Midwest Mission project:**  
Rice Meal Packs which we will assemble on Nov. 11

## Outreach

### CARE CLOSET AT LAINGSBURG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We are collecting healthy snack items for the Care Closet at Laingsburg Elementary School. Last year we collected some personal care items and water bottles. This year we have been told some children come without a snack, so that will be our collection for now. Please place your items in the tubs in the foyer.

**(all items must be in individual packages)**

Items that we suggest are: fruit snacks, granola bars, cereal bars, fruit cups, goldfish/chips, nut-free trail mix

Remember, Trunk-or-Treat will be coming October 31st. Please begin to watch for the candy sales. We need lots of candy! We also need volunteers to greet our guests and hand out candy.



## Discovery

Bible Study  
Thursday at 10:00 am.  
Watch for a new study in October.



**Messy Church Note:** After a little over a year of holding Messy Church, the Messy Church team has decided to discontinue the program due to limited community engagement and waning participation from church volunteers. It was a wonderful program and a good time was had by many, but we have decided that it is time to direct our energy elsewhere.

**MIDWEST**

disaster relief • education



**MISSION**

health • micro business

## **Community Rice Meal Pack Event** **Hosted by Laingsburg United Methodist Church**

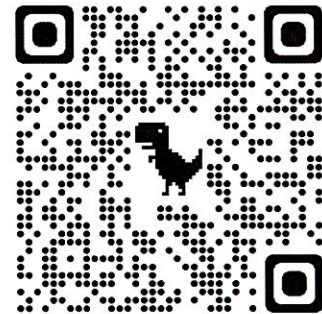
Our goal is to feed **12,000** people so we will be packing **2,000** bags.

Come for a time of great fellowship and great impact! Space is limited so sign up early. All ages and abilities are welcome. Meals are sent to Ukraine, Haiti and the Middle East.

**Date:** Saturday, Nov. 11    **Time:** 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** LUMC    517-651-5531    210 Crum St., Laingsburg

**Sign up at** [www.tinyurl.com/bdu6k44t](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdu6k44t)  
**or scan this code** 



**One rice meal bag costs \$2 and feeds six people.**  
**Donations welcome! Scan the code to the left or visit**  
[www.secure.myvanco.com/YJDY/campaign/C-YRA6](http://www.secure.myvanco.com/YJDY/campaign/C-YRA6).