



Lisbon United Methodist Church

200 East Market St, Lisbon, IA 52253

Phone: 319-455-2000

email: lisbonumc@netins.net

Website: <http://webmail.netins.net>

Facebook: Lisbon United Methodist Church

Pastor Joshua Swaim

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday School 8:30 am
(September-May)

Worship 9:45 am

From the Pastor's Desk

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew 4: 18-20

My Grandpa Bob was a great fisherman. The best if you ask me. As far back as I can remember, my Grandpa Bob would take his grandkids fishing any opportunity he could. He was the one that taught me everything I know when it comes to fishing. How to hold a fishing pole, how to tie the knots in the line, how to prep your bait, how to pick just the right lure, how to know what time of day to go fishing, how to cast just right, how to maneuver the lure in the water, how to reel at the right speed and depth, how to set a hook into a fish, how to bring them in, how to net them, how to get the hook out of the fish, how to hold the fish, how to clean a fish, etc. These are just a few of the ways he contributed to my learning to fish. It was a priceless opportunity to watch him in action, as he would cast and reel, almost like it was his artform. He was good.

But what I really appreciate even more about my Grandpa Bob, was the fact that even beyond fishing, he was really interested in two other things: Relationship and sharing Jesus with people. He

was a great storyteller, and would always have people around him sharing stories from the past. I remember always asking him to tell us stories when we were little. The greatest story my Grandpa Bob told was with the way he lived his life, however. It was the story of how Jesus had saved him and offered Him relationship with our Heavenly Father! He made sure everyone knew this was the most important stuff in life.

I love how Jesus called fishermen as his first disciples. It always makes me think of my Grandpa! In the Scripture above, Jesus reveals the heart of our Heavenly Father is interested in relationship with the human creation. As Christians, we are called to this same mission... to become fishers of men, women, and children (in order that they might be in relationship with Jesus) as we become closer followers of Jesus! Our mission at Lisbon UMC is simply to connect people to Jesus through our lives. That may be at our workplace with co-workers, it may be at home with family members, it may be with friends at our kids sporting events, it may be with a stranger we meet out in public. We have the opportunity to be telling a story with our lives everyday, (just like my Grandpa Bob did!) The story that will connect people to Jesus! I pray you are available for this as we start a new year! God will bless people through you and will bless your heart at the same time!

Take care,

Pastor Josh

Lisbon United Methodist Church Finances

Lisbon United Methodist Church – January 2021 Newsletter
December 21, 2020

Church Finances

At the start of the COVID Pandemic my wife Deb and I decided that instead of getting a subscription to Netflix to consume our time while we self-isolate, we thought that it would be excellent opportunity to complete some jigsaw puzzles, read some good books, etc. So, we did this. We completed two 1,000 pc jigsaw puzzles, Deb read several novels and I read at least 6 fiction novels during this time.

However, I thought that I could do better, especially with the Pandemic continuing on longer than anyone expected. So, I decided in November to pick up the best book ever written, the Bible, and read it. I had read the Gospels multiple times, but had never read the entire Bible. I decided to start reading from the beginning, Genesis, and go from there. I have found it to be an excellent decision, to fill my mind with the knowledge of the Word, rather than novels, TV, etc. It has helped to open up a whole new perspective and a whole new mindset.

In November, even though Deb and I took every precaution, both of us contracted the COVID virus. Fortunately, the symptoms were relatively mild, like a strong flu for about a week, tiredness, loss of the sense of smell, etc. It was while reading Exodus that I ran across verse **15:2 *The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.*** Just as Moses lead the Israelites out of Egypt while God protected them, in a way I believe that God protected Deb & I through this health challenge. We are so very thankful.

I think that we all have something to be thankful for, especially during this COVID Pandemic, whether that be fully appreciating close

interactions with family members, receiving the vaccine, or developing a closer relationship with Jesus. If it is the latter that you seek, please consider reading the Bible, do not lean on your own understanding. Fill your mind/heart with the good news of the Word and apply it.

Finally, please prayerfully consider sustaining donations/giving during this COVID Pandemic when no sanctuary worship services are being held. The Church website (<http://www.lisboniowaumc.org/>) lists the donation/giving options available, including an opportunity for on-line giving. Together our congregation will get through this COVID episode, even stronger. Soon we will be back together again.

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Russell Rasmussen, Finance Chair, Lisbon United Methodist Church
(319) 329-1637**

Small Group Studies On Line

These studies are open to ALL. Come join one or more to hear the word of God and build a lasting relationship with Him and fellow Christians.

The **Men's Breakfast @ VJ Reinken** 108 Grant Ave Lisbon
This group meets for a devotional reading from My Utmost for His Highest, prayer, breakfast and Christian Fellowship.

Sisters in Christian Study (SCS)

Everyone is anxious to get back to our bible study. This is held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We welcome all women to participate in our bible study.

Women in Christ (WIC) – WIC meets the first Friday each month, March through December at the church. We welcome any woman in our church to become a part of this group.

There is no meeting in January.

Ushers-Month of January TBD

Nursery

Closed through the end of the year.

For information or to volunteer in the nursery beginning next January, contact Daphne Booth or Katie Ortgies.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Sunday School in the fall.

Reminder to all that if you would like a copy of the new Our Daily Bread readings, Mike and Dawn Morgan will deliver them to your home. Please call the office at 319-455-2000.



Lisbon UMW

Thank you to all that participated in the
Lisbon United Methodist Women
November Calendar
Challenge. WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Over \$1550.00 was given. This
money will benefit the missions that we
as Lisbon United Methodist Women
support.

God is Good All the time and All
the Time God is Good!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It has been a different and
difficult year. The light at the end of
the tunnel is coming! I hope that next
year we can do more of our fundraisers
and be able to gather together for
God!

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! ! !

Wendy Johnson
Lisbon UMW President

Important new pandemic guidance from Bishop Laurie and the Iowa Conference Appointive Cabinet

In light of worsening Covid-19 positivity rates, the crisis faced by our healthcare systems, and out of an abundance of caution and love for our neighbor, Bishop Laurie Haller and the Appointive Cabinet is directing clergy and churches to cease in-person worship and church activities through January 10, 2021.

The Appointive Cabinet met this morning to discuss current realities facing Iowa and how best to lead the Conference in the midst of these catastrophic numbers and in response to the genuine fatigue felt by so many across Iowa.

"We need to remember our neighbor during this time and John Wesley's rule of Do No Harm," said Bishop Laurie Haller. "This directive comes out of love for our neighbor."

The Re-entry Team, Extended Cabinet and Communications Team will meet and discuss ways that the Iowa Conference can guide churches in resourcing technology and supporting shifts in ministry and planning from Advent, Christmas, and the Epiphany season. This will include providing ways to partner together across the Iowa Conference to provide virtual worship, small group opportunities, and resourcing local churches with pastoral care, stewardship planning and connecting with communities during this difficult time.

"One of the most comforting truths for the Christian is the ever-present reality that God is with us," said Rev. Dr. Lanette Plambeck of the Re-entry Team. "God's presence is

one of the greatest gifts God gives God's people. God is personally near. Even now — when we are in these pandemic times — this is our truth and where we place our hope."

More information will be released later this week regarding this directive

We will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:15-16

***Reminder: Please have all articles/information for the February newsletter to the church office by January 25th.**