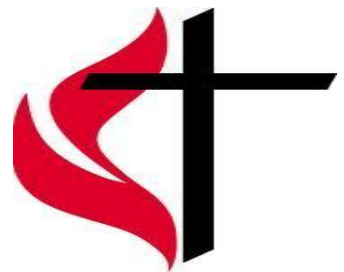


"Linden United Methodist Church"

A place to encounter Christ and deepen your walk through
Christian Hospitality



The Beacon !



Linden United Methodist Church
19147 E. Hwy 26 - MAIL P.O. Box 693
Linden, Ca 95236
Phone (209) 887-3362
lindenumc.ca@gmail.com
Rev. Romeo Gunzon - (715) 813-8899
romeogunzon@gmail.com

**March
and
April
2025**

Sunday Morning Activities:

Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study- 9:45 a.m.
Kids Sunday School: 11:15a.m.
Fellowship Time: 12:00 a.m.



Because He Lives !

I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives *all fear is gone;*

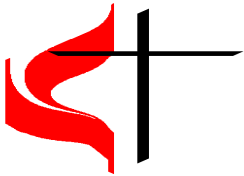
Because I know He holds the future,



*And life is worth the living just
because He lives.*

Notice: The following letter was read at LUMC during the January 2 worship service from our District Superintendent Mary Maaga announcing the pastoral change at the church to start July 1, 2025. We look forward to welcoming our new minister and wish Rev. Romeo success in his next assignment.

Hope to see you to greet our new “minister” on that date. By Gwen Jenkins



Central Valley District

California-Nevada Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

Bishop: Sandra Olewine

District Superintendent: Mary Maaga

Dear Siblings in Christ at Farmington and Linden United Methodist Churches,

Grace and Peace to you in the Name and Living Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ! My thoughts and prayers are with you as you embark on a new season. I recommended to the Bishop and Cabinet that the mission and ministry of Linden and Farmington would be best served by sharing a half-time minister, since as rural Churches with a commitment to children and families, you share much in common. Plus, with your proximity to one another, it is possible to imagine shared programs.

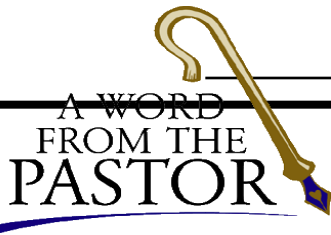
After prayerful discernment, Bishop Sandra Olewine and the Cabinet of the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church will be sending a skilled and experienced Certified Lay Minister to serve both your Churches. It is with great joy that I inform you that Jo Baker-Warren will be assigned to you, effective July 1, 2025, serving $\frac{1}{4}$ time at Farmington and $\frac{1}{4}$ at Linden.

Certified Lay Minister Jo Baker-Warren has been a certified lay speaker in the United Methodist Church since 2006, continuing her education as a Christian leader with advanced lay speaker training, certified lay minister training, as well as taking focused courses on how to grow healthy Churches that are fruitful in their impact on community. She also participated in the leadership institute. Minister Jo is currently in the re-certification process as a Certified Lay Minister, which involves retreats, ZOOM classes, assignments, and participation in a cohort of CLMs who share their insights and experiences with one another. While serving as your Certified Lay Minister, Jo will be mentored by the incoming Pastor of Oakdale and Escalon. She will also be invited to participate in the Gold 'N Valley Circuit of pastoral leaders, which includes United Methodist clergy from our region.

On behalf of the Bishop, thank you for your steadfast love of God and neighbor. I anticipate the joy of hearing wonderful things in the year ahead. May the Lord bless you with vitality and hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

District Superintendent Mary Maaga
Joyfully Serving the Central Valley



THE LORD IS OUR SALVATION - LENT 2025

ASH WEDNESDAY BEGINS THE JOURNEY OF LENT--THE JOURNEY OF FOLLOWING JESUS' STEPS TO JERUSALEM, THE JOURNEY OF TURNING TOWARD THE CROSS. ***ASH WEDNESDAY BEGINS A PERIOD OF INTROSPECTION--A TIME TO REFLECT UPON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN AND TAKE UP ONE'S CROSS AND TO FOLLOW JESUS.***

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES ON OUR FOREHEADS REMINDS US OF THE FRAILTY OF OUR LIVES HERE ON EARTH. WE WERE CREATED OF THE DUST, AND TO DUST WE SHALL RETURN. DIVINE JUDGMENT IS AT HAND, BUT THIS JUDGMENT IS TEMPERED WITH MERCY AND A CALL TO BEGIN OUR JOURNEY ANEW. ASH WEDNESDAY PRESENTS THE PROMISE AND HOPE OF SALVATION WHEN WE RETURN TO GOD. SOMETIMES, THE CLEAREST WAY TO UNDERSTAND SALVATION IS TO LOOK AT WHAT IS BROKEN, DYSFUNCTIONAL, AND MESSED UP IN OUR LIVES.

THE REALITY OF HELL LOOKS DIFFERENT IN EVERY SITUATION. SOMETIMES IT AFFECTS OUR PERSONAL LIVES THROUGH ADDICTION AND OPPRESSION. SOMETIMES IT AFFECTS OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH INJUSTICE OR TRAGEDY. SOMETIMES HELL'S GRASP IS SUBTLE, AND WE DENY IT'S THERE. BUT WHEN WE BECOME AWARE OF HELLISH SITUATIONS, THEY CAN HELP US TO SEE, IN CONTRAST, HOW GOD COMES TO BRING SALVATION: WE DISCOVER THE GOOD NEWS JESUS OFFERS IN A PARTICULAR PLACE OR TO A PARTICULAR PERSON. SALVATION IS NOT A GENERAL THEORY. WE CLAIM THAT JESUS IS THE LORD OF OUR SALVATION AND IS DOING SOMETHING TO TRANSFORM OUR LIVES.

SALVATION IS "GOD'S DELIVERANCE OF THOSE IN A SITUATION OF NEED..... ***RESULTING IN THEIR RESTORATION TO WHOLENESS***". IT IS RESTORATION BECAUSE SALVATION DOES NOT OFFER SOMETHING NEW; IT IS GOD'S **original** INTENTION FOR CREATION. IN THE BEGINNING, "the earth was without shape or form, it was dark over the deep sea" (Genesis 1:2). **GOD SPOKE TO BRING LIFE....LIGHT...AND TRUTH OUT OF DARKNESS.**

THIS INTENDED PEACE OF CREATION IS DESCRIBED BY THE HEBREW WORD **shalom**. THE WORD SHALOM ENCOMPASSES GOD'S DESIRE THAT WE EXPERIENCE WHOLENESS AND WELL-BEING, SAFETY AND PROTECTION, PEACE AND LOVE. GOD'S WORK OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST RESCUES US FROM THE HELL THAT HAS DESTROYED SHALOM SO WE MIGHT LIVE IN THIS PEACE ONCE MORE.

WE KNOW WHO GOD IS BY WHAT GOD DOES. THE SCRIPTURES WE EXPLORE DURING THIS SEASON OF LENT REVEAL TO US OUR LORD. WHETHER IT IS IN THE FLOOD OR IN BABYLON, IN THE BACK ALLEYS OF JERUSALEM OR AT THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, GOD HAS ACTED CONSISTENTLY TO BRING LIFE OUT OF DEATH, BRING LIGHT OUT OF DARKNESS, AND BRING US BACK INTO HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER. NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF HELL WE ARE FACING, THE GOD WHO CREATED US CAN REDEEM US, ***THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST IS BIG ENOUGH, WIDE ENOUGH, AND POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SAVE.***

HOWEVER, CHRIST NOT ONLY SAVES US **from** SOMETHING; HE ALSO SAVES US **for** SOMETHING. TO DECLARE JESUS IS THE LORD OF OUR SALVATION IS TO PLACE OUR LIFE IN GOD'S HANDS AND TO ACCEPT THE COVENANT OF THAT RELATIONSHIP. IT IS TO TRUST THAT JESUS' ***DEATH..... RESURRECTION.....AND ASCENSION WILL BRING LIGHT TO THE DARKEST CORNERS OF OUR EXISTENCE.*** IT IS TO TURN AWAY FROM THE HELL THAT IS SO FAMILIAR TO EMBRACE A LIFE OF SHALOM WE NEVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE.
DO YOU HAVE FAITH THAT GOD CAN DO THAT IN YOUR LIFE? ARE YOU READY TO ACCEPT YOUR SALVATION?

HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE! PRAYERFULLY YOURS, REV. ROMEO E. GUNZON



The Coming of Holy Easter



April 13 Palm/Passion Sunday

@ 11:00 a.m. LUMC



April 17 Maundy Thursday Communion Service

@ 5:00 p.m. @ LUMC



April 18 Good Friday Service @

St. Paul's United Methodist Church .
at 1625 N Lincoln St. -Stockton

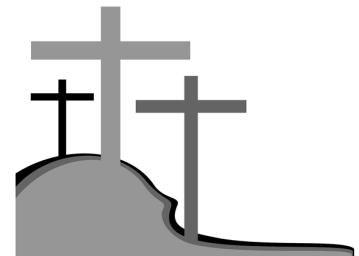
April 20 Sunrise Service

@ 6:30 a.m. @ Scheppman Home

April 20

Easter Church Service

@ 11:00 a.m. at Linden United Methodist Church







Linden Methodist Women



Join in "connecting with others" and re-charging your spirit
at the Methodist Women meeting on the third Tuesday each month (except July & August). Join us in the Parlor at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday March 18 and April 15 with a sack lunch if you can stay for fellowship lunch. With prayer, fellowship, spiritual growth, concern for others, etc. *we do recharge our spirits.*

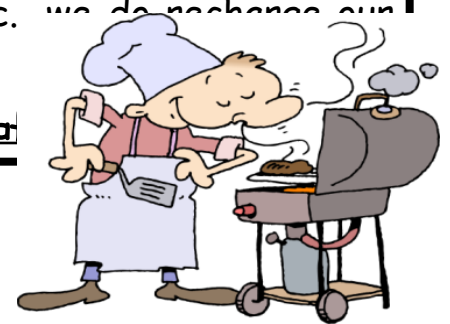
*Mark
Your
Calendar*

See You Tuesdays.... March 18 & April 15 at

And... date to save...

"SPRING " BRATS BBQ

Friday May 2



A Visiting Pastor at LUMC....

During January the Linden United Methodist Church hosted a wonderful visiting pastor from the Philippines. His name is Tham Samson. He is currently pursuing his Masters of Divinity degree and plans on completing in April of 2025. He will return next year to Linden for a visit. He gave an interesting sermon about "Live your life with purpose"

By Judy Scheppman

MARCH



March

**YES, We are
OPEN**



"Church Opener/Closer - Dick & J

March Greeters

2 Sue Pelot
9 Gwen Jenkins
16 Melvie Herzog
23 Dick Klein
30 Gwen Jenkins

March Liturgists

2 Gayle Watkins
9 Jan Kisse
16 Gayle Watkins
23 Judy Klein
30 Gayle Watkins

March SS Kids—

2 Jan Kisse
9 Gayle Watkins
16 Judy Klein
23 Jan Kisse
30 No Sunday School

Daylight Savings change on
March 8.....Spring Forward !



" Dates to Save " for March

Tues.	4	Women's Breakfast @ 8:30 a.m. @ Huckleberry's
Tues.	4	Fat Tues. with pancakes at 5:30 pm @ Mission Hall & Ash Wednesday Ashes @ 7:00 @ Sanctuary
Sat.	8	Daylight Savings ... Spring your clocks forward or be late
Sun.	9	Church Council after Fellowship
Tues.	11	Women's Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m. @ Parlor
Wed.	12	Singing in the Hall @ 6:30 p.m. in Mission Hall
Thurs.	13	Men's Breakfast @ 9:00 a.m. in Lockeford
Thurs.	13	Ladies Fellowship/Games @ 10:30 a.m. @ Parlor
Sun.	16	Potluck Sunday bring something to share while visiting

Tues.	18	Methodist Women @ 10:30 a.m. @ Parlor
Sun.	23	Trustees after Fellowship
Wed.	26	Gourmet Group @11:30 a.m. @Whirlow's at 1926 Pacific Ave.

Spring



Church Opener/Closer - Jo & Lee Warren (Thanks !)

Greeters		Liturgists		Kids SS	
6	Sue Pelot	6	Jo Warren	6	Judy Klein
13	Gwen Jenkins	13	Jan Kissee	13	Gayle Watkins
20	Melvie Herzog	20	Gayle Watkins	20	NO SS - EASTER
27	Dick Klein	27	Judy Klein	27	Jan Kissee



" Dates to Save for April "

Tues.	1	Women's Breakfast @ 8:30 a.m. @ Huckleberry's
Tues.	8	Women's Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m. @ Parlor
Wed.	9	Singing in the Hall @ 6:30 p.m. in Mission Hall
Thurs.	10	Men's Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. in Lockeford
Thurs.	10	Ladies Fellowship/Games @ 10:30 a.m. @ Parlor
Tues.	15	Methodist Women @ 10:30 a.m. (bring sack lunch & smiles)
Thurs.	17	Maundy Thursday Communion Service @ 5:00 pm @ LUMC

Fri.	18	Good Friday Service @ St. Paul United Methodist Church 1625 N. Lincoln St. Stockton @
Sunday	20	<u>EASTER</u> Services - Sunrise 6:30 & Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Sun.	20	Potluck canceled this month
Wed.	23	Gourmet Group @ 5:30 pm @ Olive Garden
Thurs.	24	Ladies Fellowship/Games @ 10:30 a.m. @ Parlor