

Lyons Muir Church
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September 2021

“He Heard My Cry”

Dear Friends,

The opening of a new school year has prompted both excitement, as our kids take new steps in their lives, and apprehension, as another wave of covid infections and deaths washes across our country. Truthfully, this is not the first time that life has handed me a cocktail mix of ups and downs, and I'll assume that this is true for most. And now as then – when the Lord seems to be holding out a cup that is bittersweet, I find myself drawn to a special kind of prayer... prayers of lament... prayers in which we draw the curtains of genteel religion aside to question God, and to let the daylight of Christ's mercy shine on our tear-stained faces.

I can't believe our son, Elliott, started preschool on August 23. Here he is in all his goofy glory, with his new sneakers on and ready to go... and I have no idea whether he will be safe at school. I have no idea what the actual risk level is, but it is much greater than zero. And the uncertainty about his safety – and the safety of his little brother – tempers my joy as he takes a new step in his beautiful young life. Hope and delight and expectation are mingled in the grail of my heart with anxiety, disquiet, and exhaustion. The reality is that I can't pour this tincture down the drain; I have to drink it. And I lament: “Why, O Lord, must the world be so broken? Why do you remain silent in the face of our calamities? Do you not care that we are dying?” And then with words as big as the waves in my heart, Jesus says, “Peace. Be still.”

Attendance:

The average attendance for the month of August was 32.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	Worship on the Lord's Day, 11
MONDAYS	No regular events
TUESDAYS	Office Hours, 9-12
WEDNESDAYS	Bible Study, 6:30-7:30 Ionia First UMC, Cafe
THURSDAYS	Office Hours, 9-2 Bible Study, 12-1

UPCOMING EVENTS

What bittersweet cup do these days bring to your lips? What do you hope for? Why do you grieve? Who and what are your greatest loves? What wounds do you carry as you move through the world? What are the joys to which you cling? What is the beauty that is always present in your life? In the silence of your secret heart, can you hear the voice of the Savior saying, "Peace. Be Still. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. They shall be filled." Even in your most desperate moment of prayer, as you hope against hope for the world's crushing brokenness to let up, are you still able to say, "I love you, Lord. I don't understand, but I love you Lord. Come what may, I love you Lord."

Over the five Sundays in August, we read through almost every verse of John chapter 6, the great "Bread of Life" discourse. Unavoidably, the text points us over and over again to the Lord's Supper, in which Christ gives his disciples a perpetual remembrance of the agony of his cross mingled with the victory of his love. It is to this crucified God that we must turn: for the only thing greater than the suffering of Christ was his love for the One he called Father. And as we come to the Table of his grace, and we look up to him with tears both joyful and sorrowing, we reach out with our hearts and hands and minds – and all of who we are – to receive his healing and forgiveness. And as we drain that Holy Grail, and taste the sweetness of the Bread of Heaven, faith comes like a freshening breeze, to whisk away the moisture from our cheeks... faith comes like a dove descending, alighting in our hearts with the assurance that no matter what Evil ruins, all good things will be redeemed when the leaves of the Tree of Life are brewed for the healing of the nations...

I love the Lord, who heard my cry
and pitied every groan.

Long as I live and troubles rise,
I'll hasten to His throne.

I love the Lord, who heard my cry
and chased my grief away.

O let my heart no more despair
while I have breath to pray.

-Isaac Watts, 1719

Peace be with you, dear brothers and
sisters.

The LORD is with us.

Jonathan





Peace and Global Witness

September 19, 2021

Noisy Sunday Offering

confronting hopelessness, thwarting division

Empowering congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.



The peace of Christ belongs to everyone, everywhere.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Season of Peace returns Sept. 5-Oct. 3
- The season is a 4 week pilgrimage designed to help individuals, families, congregations and small groups deepen their pursuit of peace.
- Peace and Global Witness Offering, which according to Special Offerings “enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world.”
- A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.



Lyons Muir Church VBS 2021 was a huge success!! Thank you to everyone that made this event possible!!





MISSION STATEMENT

The Lyons-Muir Church is called to be God's healing and hope-filled congregation, and to make followers of Jesus Christ for the positive transformation of our community through lives of prayer, love, forgiveness, honesty, acceptance, and trust.

August Finance Report

Thank you for your ongoing support!!

Revenue \$4,899.15

Disbursements -\$4,757.54

Surplus (Defecit) \$141.61

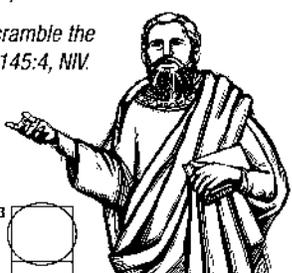
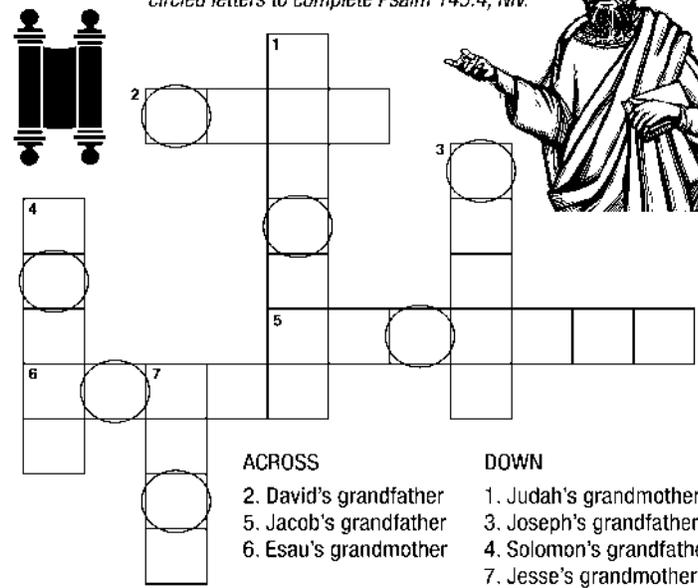
Year to Date Surplus (Defecit) (\$550.20)



Grandparents of the Old Testament

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.

ACROSS
 2. David's grandfather
 5. Jacob's grandfather
 6. Esau's grandmother

DOWN
 1. Judah's grandmother
 3. Joseph's grandfather
 4. Solomon's grandfather
 7. Jesse's grandmother

One G _ N _ _ _ _ _ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obad, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah; DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth; Generation

2021 Adopt-A-Highway

This year's last Adopt-A-Highway dates are September 25-October 3.

Our Adopt-A-Highway area runs down M-21 from the Maple River, through Muir, past our church, to Westbrook Road which is three miles. Volunteers are needed to help with the trash pickup, as the volunteers able to help are dwindling. Last year, there were four people to pick up the three miles and having more volunteers will help. If you would like to volunteer for this community service, please contact Barb Davarn at 989-224-3849.