



The Pastor's Palette

May 2024

"Gift from a Wild Snail"

One of my favorite books is *Gift From the Sea* by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. The book consists of various introspective chapters, each centering around a "shell" metaphor, a "gift" from the sea, where Anne spent time alone to refresh her mind and spirit from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Examining the configurations of the shells prompts Anne to think differently about life, relationships, marriage, and the aesthetic beauty of the human mind and heart.

A similarly touching book by Elisabeth Tova Bailey is titled *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*. In her book, Elisabeth describes what she observes around her during a long, debilitating illness. When she receives a plant complete with a woodland snail living within its soil, she becomes fascinated with the simplicity of its life. Soon, she develops a kind of relationship with the small creature, caring for it and feeding it leaves, its quiet munching a solace in her loneliness. While others might have found the tiny snail insignificant, Elisabeth realizes that each part of creation, whether human or creature, is part of an entire interwoven network of relationships that make our world fascinating and exquisitely beautiful. In understanding the mysterious life of the snail by her bedside, Elisabeth gains new insights into her own place within the world. In calling attention to the remarkable phenomena of the natural world around us, the book celebrates the resilience of human existence even in our darkest times.

As we leave the dark, cold barrenness of winter and enter into spring, we too notice the budding branches, the sound of returning birds, the green of unfolding, new leaves, the bursting forth of color. Warm winds blow white and pink petals across the roadways and paths. Rains pool and form muddy birdbaths. Bees begin pollinating flowers. Flower beds fill with tulips and daffodils. And with spring comes a feeling that life is in the air. Indeed it is.

Life is a theme that God has developed from micro to macro in every part of the world from the first day of creation. As we continue in May celebrating the resurrection life of Jesus, his post-resurrection appearances to his stunned disciples, and the birth of the early church, we can get an awe-filled sense of how wondrous Life as a disciple can be.

Being a disciple of Jesus is a commitment to paying attention to the little miracles around us, the way life always springs from death and darkness, the way no matter how many times we try to “nail” Jesus down or wipe Him away, He always reappears powerfully and mightily in the world in new and exciting ways with His healing hand and loving heart.

This month as you prepare to be touched by the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, remember that Life starts with a seed. You are that seed. And now is your time to burst forth with the love and beauty of the Gospel message so that all the world can experience the life-giving love of Jesus.

Never for a moment believe that your contribution is not enough. You just may be the next small miracle in someone else’s life.

Rev. Dr. Lori Wagner

If you have a need to talk about something happening in your life, whether in sadness or joy, the pastor’s door is always open and her ear always listening. Just give a call or email.

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Monthly Missional Giving

May’s missional giving (green giving envelope) goes to Zoe Empowers. The difference between Zoe Empowers and other kinds of aid to developing countries is “empowerment.” For decades, the global response to help orphans has been largely relief-based, yielding recipient dependency, donor frustration, and little transformation to support children in their area of need. By creating opportunities for helping orphans become skilled, healthy, and connected community members, Zoe Empowers not only solves the core issue of extreme poverty but eliminates the need for endless aid. Zoe Empowers works with the child-headed households and their families impacted by the global orphan crisis. Through a three-year, locally-led program, participants become safe and healthy, skilled for long-term success, and able to lead meaningful lives within a supportive community providing them with a positive impact. Your gifts to Zoe Empowers helps to empower families and communities to become self-sufficient, skilled, and self-assured, developing individual lives and global citizens.

Thank You

A special THANK YOU to Nick, our wonderful Musician and Music Director for volunteering to play for Lima's Riddle Village service on the evening of Easter Sunday! I know our Riddle congregation were deeply grateful for this meaningful service of celebration!



Sunday, May 5th – The service will include a time of healing and anointing. At 11am, all congregation and community members should stay for a brief gathering to talk about the impact of reading Dynamite Prayer (the 28-day prayer challenge book we all read in April). We will briefly discuss how what we learned can impact Lima Church and the spiritual life of our communities.



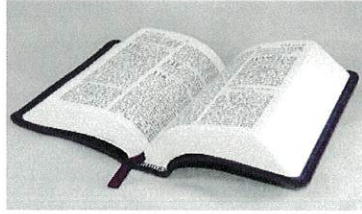
Sunday, May 19th is PENTECOST SUNDAY! We will hold an outdoor public service. All from our communities are encouraged to attend. Come out and celebrate this important day in the life of the church! Bring a picnic lunch for after the service! Invite friends!



Our MOVIE of the month will be held on Sunday evening, May 26th at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. The movie will be 'The Most Reluctant Convert,' the story of C.S. Lewis. Please join us! Popcorn and drinks included!

God's Scriptural Blessing for May

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)



Our book reading for May is "Generation Awakened: An Eyewitness Account of the Powerful Outpouring at Asbury" by Sarah Baldwin. Please read the book and encourage others in church and community to read it with you. An in-person / online gathering for discussion of the book will be held Thursday evening, May 30th at 7pm.



Graduation Recognition

Do you have a student who will be graduating from high school or college in your family? We will be recognizing any graduates in our worship service at 10am on June 2nd. Please call or email Christina with the following information by May 5th:

Name

Current high school or college they're graduating from

Major or future plans if known

Relationship to LUMC member

Contact email and/or phone number

Picture or other comments (optional)

Congregational Challenge

We continue to challenge each member to invite at least 3 people each month to church. 98% of church growth depends upon personal invitation. Please help others to receive the wonderful life of faith here at Lima Church.



United
Women
in Faith

EPAC United Women in Faith

You are invited to come with us to the 2024 Mission Study Event coming up on July 12-13. It is an opportunity to meet and spend 2 days with our new Pastor Jonette Gay because she is one of the study leaders for the event. Second reason to attend is the study book is well-written. It can be used in multiple settings and has inter-generational activities. Third reason to attend is that there is a free, full scholarship for first time attenders.

Mission u for 2024

Mission u dates are Friday July 12th and Saturday July 13th. We are meeting at the Chester Hotel and Conference Center, 815 N. Pottstown Pike (Rt.100), Exton, PA.

Our study leaders are Rev. Jonette Gay (our new Pastor) and Deaconess Logan Alley. Virtual Mission u will be held on Zoom August 6, 8, 13, and 15 evenings from 7 to 9 pm with Deaconess Darlene Di Domineck as study leader.

Registration will be online and link will be available soon. The fees are \$100 for those staying at the hotel, \$50 for commuters and \$20 for online attenders. There are scholarships for first time attenders, plus grants to assist women and men in need. Registration link will be available soon. See Linda Youngstrom for a scholarship or grant form.

The theme for Mission u is "The Kin-dom is Among You: Drawing Closer to God and Each Other." The study book is "Welcome Home" by Neomi Fletcher. It is a paperback book and available on uwfaith.org. Kindle is available from Amazon. Contact Linda, who will be ordering study books because the postage becomes cheaper per book. Hope that you will join us! Contact Linda Youngstrom with questions. (267-789-6386)

Lima UWFaith Summer Fundraiser aka. Rummage Sale

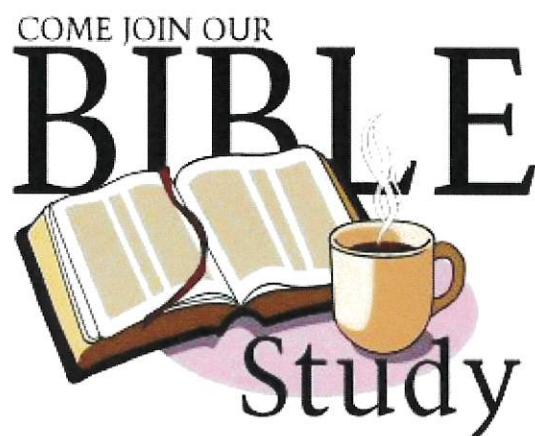
Spring Rummage Sale is finally happening Thursday June 13th through Sat. June 15th. This event will bring us together to work and also have Christian fellowship. The funds raised and the distribution of surplus will permit us to continue to be of service to our marginalized neighbors both locally and internationally through United Women in Faith mission projects.

Looking to help? All women and men are invited to share their time and talents to set up, to sell, and to pack up the surplus for donation to local mission organizations. Be on the lookout on May 12th to sign up on church bulletin for your 2-3 hour block of service time or chart on UWF bulletin board.

Donations? Everyone can donate from their abundance. Donations can include: jewelry, clothes, small pieces of furniture, seasonal decorations, house ware items, books, puzzles, toys, board games, CD & DVD's, workshop tools & hardware, gardening tools, working appliances, working electronic equipment, athletic equipment and luggage. No TV's, computer monitors, large or used children car seats. (It is illegal to sell them.)

Please mark your calendars for the Summer Rummage Sale on June 13th, 14th, and 15th. Next step is to pray for God's will to be fulfilled by our actions. "Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed." Proverbs 16:3 (Living Bible)

Contact Linda Youngstrom using cell number (267-789-6386) with your questions and suggestions.



It's not too late to join in: BIBLE STUDY: MOTHERS OF THE MESSIAH

All are welcome to join in the last few weeks of this 6-week study that examines the stories of 6 women mentioned in the genealogy of Matthew. Why are they there? What do they have to tell us about Jesus' mission?

Join us in person or online Mondays at 2 pm or Tuesdays at 7 pm:

Apr 29/30

May 6/7

May 13/14