



# The LUMinary

Laingsburg United Methodist Church • Rev. Brian G. West • 210 N. Crum St • Laingsburg, MI 48848  
517-651-5531 • Email: laingsburgumc@gmail.com • Website: www.laingsburgumc.org

## In This Issue:

Pg. 1:

### • From the Pastor's Pen

Pg. 2:

### • Birthdays & Anniversaries

### • Library News

### • Committee Corner

### • Letters to God

Pg. 3:

### • Year of Generosity & Thanksgiving

### • VBS

### • Help Wanted

### • Photo Directory

Inserts:

### • August Calendar

### • Photo Directory

## "Playing With Our Food"

On almost every evening, Stephanie and I get to experience something that is simultaneously comical, frustrating, interesting, and...well...fun. Our twin sons, Matthew and Micah, sit down in their highchairs at the dining room table, wield their dull plastic forks, and dig into whatever smorgasbord is being served to them for dinner. This goes well for a little while. The forks are used, though not exclusively since everything is technically a "finger food" when you're 1½ years old. A good bit of the food is even consumed. What follows, though, is complete chaos: the boys begin to play with their food. Drop, squeeze, pick at, throw, or any other form of food-play you can imagine. As they're doing this, you can't help but laugh because they're finding immense joy in it. At the same time, though, you can't help but get frustrated. If you've never scraped globs of refried beans off of a wood floor with a putty knife, trust me; it's no fun. All of this culminates with the declaration by one or both of us that dinner is over, and it's time for the boys to get their baths.

I vaguely remember playing with my food as a kid, but never in front of my parents or any other adult. With friends? That's a whole other story. Playing with our food is fun! We just don't know it because we're taught from a very young age that it's not okay to play with our food. In fact, we're taught that there are correct ways to eat food, with correct utensils, correct cutting methods, and even correct chewing methods (I can assure you that chewing with a closed mouth is not a natural instinct).

We're taught the same thing about our faith. We're told, often indirectly, that our faith – our belief in God – is not to be played with. There are things we're supposed to believe, and things we're not supposed to believe. There are things we're allowed to do, and things we're not allowed to do. Things we're to wear, and things we're not to wear. Times in church we're allowed to talk, and times when we better not. Correct ways to pray, and inappropriate ways to pray. The more examples I type, the more I feel as though, at some point, someone said (imagine a wagging finger), "Do not play with your faith."

I wonder what would happen if we played with our faith a little bit. What if we ignored that wagging finger for a little while and shouted "amen" during a silent prayer? Might we smile? What if we were to admit our doubts out loud and begin to explore our questions deeper? Might we breathe a little easier? What if we inserted ourselves into one of the Gospel parables, seeing how we might act out a role? Would we maybe understand it a little better? What if we improvised a song of joy and praise during church for no other reason than that it feels good! What if we were to cry in front of God and the whole world, trusting that God will be there and we just might learn to feel again?

And so, here's my challenge for you as our summer draws to a close: Play with your faith a little bit.

If your Bible looks a little too crisp and perfect, take it for a walk in the rain and read a Psalm of praise.

If your church shoes are shiny and pristine, find a puddle and have fun.

If your prayer life feels a little stale, go sing a hymn in the shower.

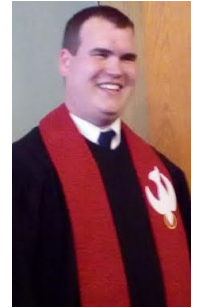
If you see something that God is calling you to do, do it (and if you get a little messy, so be it).

Brothers and sisters in Christ, it's okay to play with your faith a little bit. We might get messy, wrinkled, and grass stained in the process, but know this: you are beautiful, you are loved, and you are in good company.

Oh, and by the way: Next time you're eating green beans, for the love of God, pick one up, throw it across the room, and shout AMEN! You'll be glad you did!

Blessings,

*Pastor Brian*



**Pastor Brian has started a Facebook page:**

*Playing With Our Food*

**This page is dedicated to daily Scripture reflections, devotions, music that speaks to our faith, guest postings, and much more.**

Go to 

 Like our page,

**And have fun with faith!**

[www.facebook.com/playingwithourfood/](http://www.facebook.com/playingwithourfood/)

## Library News

We have several new books that have been donated: Under the Windowsill by local author Elizabeth Wehman is one of them. She has signed this book as seen inside the cover. The girl in the story, 19 year-old Alisha Kenna, finds herself on her family farm under the strict rules of a domineering mother and 5 protective brothers. Alisha finds Mackinac Island as a perfect hiding sanctuary. Will she find freedom to help her find the comfort she misses, from being “under the windowsill”? This book can be found under the windowsill in our library.

Coralie George  
Librarian

## August Volunteers:

### Coffee Hour:

6: CL Adams & Dave Feight  
13: Greg Hunt & Chris Phillips  
20: Joel & Jeana Parker  
27: Ken Plont

### Head Usher:

Lloyd Plont

## COMMITTEE CORNER

### Trustees:

If you could help with mowing the church lawn during the summer, please sign up at the Welcome Station or call the church office. Thanks!

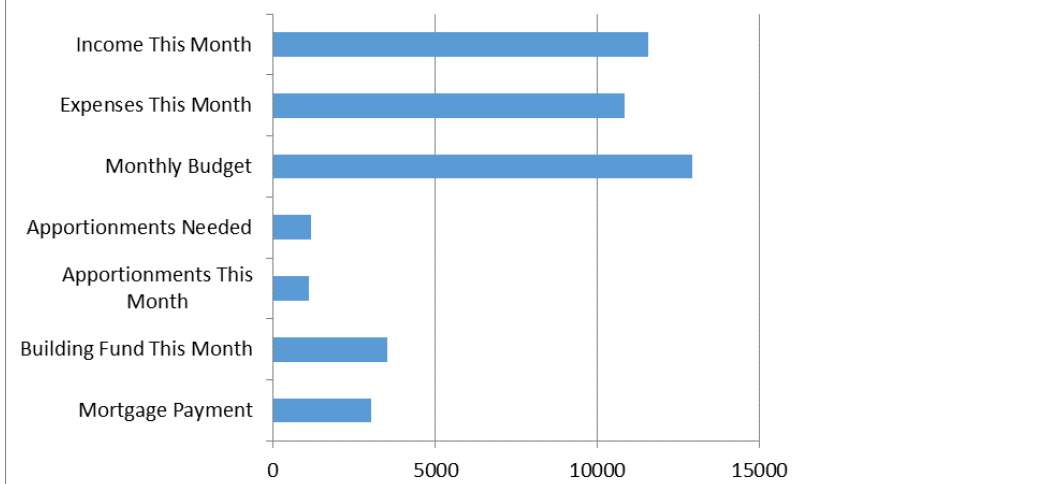
### Finance:

The income of \$3,534 for the Building Fund in June included \$456 from the Chicken-less Chicken Dinner! Thank you! The next Chicken-less Chicken Dinner will be Sunday, Aug. 6.



5: Harold Walters  
6: Rick & Lori Hart  
13: Gwen Ginther  
18: Randy Meder  
18: Ed & Diana Carpenter  
22: Jan Holyfield  
24: Brian Wagner  
27: Duane & Glenna Ginther  
27: Nancy & Floyd Koerner  
28: Dan Venier  
30: Bill Dodge

## June Financial Data



### Letters to God from Kids:

Dear God,

I think about you sometimes even when I'm not praying.

**Is your ministry doing something you would like to have announced in the newsletter?**

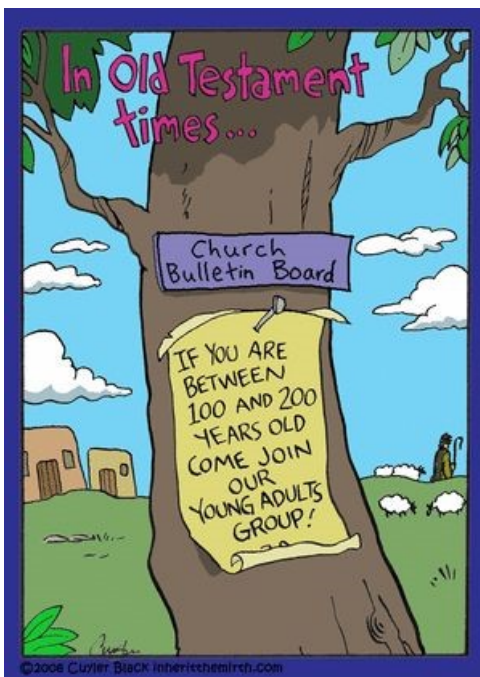
**Please have your article into the office by the 15th of the month.**

**Help Wanted!**

**Volunteer "Chapelaire Choir" Director**

Seeking a volunteer choir director for the adult choir on Sunday mornings. Director needs to have a love for Christ, a love for ministry, and a love for music. Having an ability to read music and an ability to lead other singers in music is necessary.

Please see John Peck or Pastor Brian if you are interested in this position.



**2017 Vacation Bible School  
Laingsburg United Methodist Church**

**Sunday, Aug. 6th-Thurs, Aug. 10th  
5:30-8:00 pm**

**All children Preschool-5th Grade**

**Come and have a great time with games, activities, projects, music, Bible stories, take-homes, and more!**

**Dinner is included and it's free!**

**Register at our website:  
Laingsburgumc.org  
or contact the church office:  
517 651-5531**

**Photo Directory**

We will be doing a new photo directory this fall. Please save September 19 & 20 as the days we will be taking photos.

See the flyer for online sign-up, or you can sign-up at church on Sundays.



(See Exodus 14) 04-20-1999

I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS FAITH ISSUES



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTAGE  
STAMP  
REQUIRED

LAINSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
210 N. CRUM ST.  
LAINSBURG, MI 48848

