



The LUMinary

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"The Church's Agenda – Part 1"

"The Importance of Doing It Right"

I find it an interesting activity to ask people I've never met before if they belong to a church, or not. I don't do this in a creepy way, nor do I begin a conversation this way. But, each time, I'm met with one of two answers: (1) "Yes! And let me tell you about how great my church is!" or (2) "No. Churches seem to always just want something from me." Sometimes, those in the "no" group will even go as far as to name what they see in the church: *an agenda*.

Our lives are full of people and groups with *agendas*, aren't they? Politicians and parties have agendas, companies have agendas, banks have agendas, and even family members have agendas from time to time. We're surrounded by agendas! Some agendas are well intentioned and seek the common good. Some agendas are maybe a little more hidden – even sinister. But, with agenda overload in our lives, we end up doing something interesting: we avoid all things that smell of agenda.

Including the church.

But what is the church's agenda? What are we, the church, trying to do? With this LUMinary article, and with a series of articles to come, we're going to spell out the church's agenda. In this series, we'll explore LUMC's "agenda," especially as it pertains to the following topics:

Your Membership: "Becoming and Being a Disciple"

Your Family: "Supporting Loved Ones as Disciples"

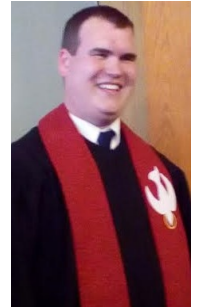
Financial Asking and Giving: "Supporting Ministries with Our Passion and Gifts"

Your Time and Talents: "Supporting Ministries with Other Capital"

New People: "Refusing to Keep It All To Ourselves"

We'll get to all of that starting in August, but for July, let's begin by taking a quick look at the very foundation of what *should be* the church's agenda. For this we turn to, among many other scriptures, Matthew 28:16-20. In it, we meet the resurrected Jesus who speaks with the disciples, instructing them to continue in ministry.

"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



As we read this, we find the foundation of our agenda: to go, to make disciples, to welcome, to teach, and to believe. Do we always do this well? Of course not! Sometimes the global church fails miserably and we form our own agenda, ignoring Scripture. My prayer is that, in these times, we repent and ask God's forgiveness...and the forgiveness of others and of those we've hurt. But when we follow Christ's great commission to go, make disciples, welcome, teach, and believe, the world *will* change for the better – and so will we.

With this article, and with the five to come, we'll discover more about what the church's agenda is all about – including our own agenda here at LUMC. My hope is that, as we do so, you and others will discover that it may not be what you thought.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

Agenda

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Words to remember:

- A hard thing about business is minding your own.
- Not what we have, but what we enjoy, constitutes our abundance.

July Volunteers:

Coffee Hour:

- 1: Nancy Koerner
- 8: Roger & Sybil Curtis
- 15: Pat Hibbard
- 22: Jeff & Jan Holyfield
- 29: Troy & Katrina Hill

Head Usher: Clyde Stanlake

COMMITTEE CORNER

Trustees:

Thank you to those who are mowing the lawn. Thank you to Roger Ramirez for his work in repairing the front stone work. Thank you to Roger Curtis for power washing the front and back entrances. Your help is greatly appreciated to keep our building looking clean and welcoming.

Stewardship Story:

For the second month, the Finance committee is sharing what we're calling the "Stewardship Story." In essence, it is a narrative report of our church's finances. Put another way, it is a report of how *your* financial stewardship – your giving and generosity – is making the Finance Committee's stewardship responsibility possible. This report also gives us a chance to lift up financial celebrations, share where we are hoping for financial growth, and what the committee is working toward in the time ahead.

As May is officially in the books, soon to be followed by the month of June, we can celebrate that much was accomplished, financially. Though our "General Fund" income (\$8,006) was a bit lower than our typical month, it is important to note that all utilities and salaries were paid and all programs, worship, ministry, and outreach continued, fully funded and supported. *(Note: When we talk about the "General Fund," it's important to remember that this is the account which covers all ministry and program expenses, such as salaries, program costs, outreach, mission, apportionment giving, and even things like internet and Consumer's Energy.)*

As we move forward, a particular area of our focus in the General Fund will be coming up to date on our Apportionment giving goals – LUMC's giving to the conference and global UMC for ministry and mission. These funds that we give do amazing ministry, and it's important to this committee and to the congregation that we pay them in full. All totaled, we will give just over \$16,000 during 2018 to support these ministries. If you are inclined to give an additional amount toward the *Apportionments*, please remember that we take a special offering on the last Sunday of every month using the pink envelopes (provided in the pews), though an offering like this can be given at any time, as well.

Looking to our "Facilities Fund" which includes costs such as the building mortgage, facility upkeep, and insurances, we have MUCH to celebrate. In addition to making our regularly scheduled payments, we were able to make our first of several larger payments from our Miracle Sunday. With immediate cash on hand, our May payment totaled: \$55,656. This will certainly make a difference in the amount that remains. Additional large payments will be made as promised Miracle Sunday giving continues to come in. An area of focus in the Facilities Fund will be to steadily increase the amount set aside for facility maintenance and repair (an important ministry of hospitality).

Finally, as a reminder for all of us as we are now well into the beautiful summer months, the ministries and outreach of this congregation continue, and in some cases even grow during the summer months. Please help the Finance Committee by remembering to give regularly, and to make up your giving from vacation weeks. Together, we all have amazing work to do, and your generosity helps to make it all possible!



- 3: Roger & Sybil Curtis
- 5: Thelma Smith
- 6: Diane Nowlin
- 19: Eli Meder
- 19: Dan & Wendy Venier
- 22: Tom Brewer
- 22: Diana Hill
- 24: Mary Jane Walters
- 25: Cheri Ramirez
- 26: Paula Krebiehl-Hoggard
- 27: David Sebenick
- 27: Robert Leonard
- 28: Gary Davis
- 28: Carl & Coralie George

Letters to God from Kids:

Dear God,
Would you make me a little brother? I want somebody to boss around. Amen.



VBS 2018 SPLASH-Beach Party!

Sunday, July 15 - Thursday, July 19

5:30-8:00 pm

Ages 5-5th Grade

at Laingsburg UMC



Come join us for Bible stories, crafts,
activities/games and dinner!
It's free!

This is a joint adventure between LUMC
and St. Isidore.

Contact Pastor Brian at LUMC or
Mary Stevens at St. Isidore
for more information and a registration form.



Is there anyone in the church who has building experience and is willing to help the Memorial Committee design the structure to hold the old bell? We would appreciate the help. Please contact Susan Protas. Thanks.

VBS SPONSORSHIP

As we prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School, we have an opportunity for members of this church family to sponsor a child. This sponsorship will provide each participant with their very own Children's Bible and an accompanying "Get to Know Your Bible" book. A sponsorship is \$30/child, and a sponsorship envelope can be found on the bulletin board across from the church kitchen. We are hoping to gather 20 sponsorships.

Many thanks in advance!

The **Missions Work Area** is collecting outer winter clothing (coats, hats, mittens, snow pants, etc.) for our Free Winter Clothing Store.

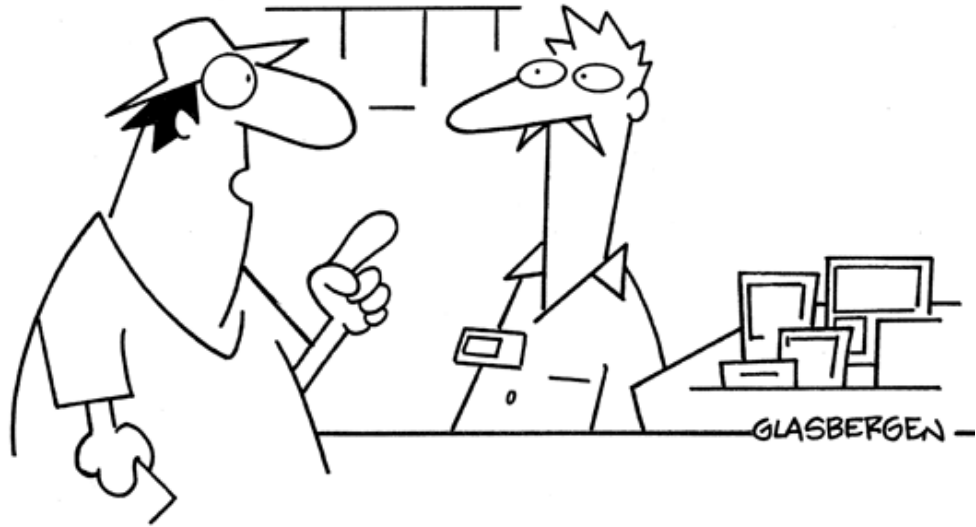
Our emphasis is on children's clothing, but we do accept adult clothing as well.

Please place items in green tubs under the name tag table.



Campgrounds
Cabins - Tents

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**“My family wants a genuine back-to-nature camping experience,
but with Wi-Fi, air conditioning, and satellite TV.”**



POSTAGE
STAMP
REQUIRED

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

