

Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church

536 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas, CA 93901

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Jason Barraca, Pastor

www.lapcsalinas.org



Newsletter – September/October 2021

Hold Down Your Corner

I remember back to when I was around five years old and wanted to make the beds in the house with fitted sheets. I would place one corner of the sheet on the bed, and then try to set the other corners. But the corner I placed wouldn't hold and would just pull in toward the bed. My mother came in and told me to just "hold down your corner." As I held the corner down, she placed the other corners. To make the bed, we had to do it together. If we want to change the world, we can't do it alone. We all play a small part. With that said, how do we as a church, fulfill our part in changing the world?

Many people want to answer that question by stating all of the practical things that need to be done to address specific social issues. However, before those issues can be addressed, true change begins more foundationally. 1 Corinthians 13:3 tells us, *"If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."* Our character and motivations matter to God. What good is it to solve the world's issues, if it is full of selfish and morally corrupt people? The issues may superficially be solved, but others will arise if people don't genuinely love one another.

As Christians, we can each "hold down our corner." We do this by looking at ourselves first. Are we allowing God to change and shape

us by the power of his Spirit, and to be the people he meant for us to be according to his word? Are we genuinely loving and serving God and thus genuinely loving and serving other people? This is the mission of the church, to make disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, who then go out and change the world because of who they are.

What does it mean to "change the world"? The world will always have issues that seem to be insurmountable. They will not be solved overnight and it may seem hopeless. What we can do, is change what is within our immediate control, as individuals and as a collective. We as Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church have made an impact in many people's lives and have changed the world for them. It may not be apparent day to day, and may seem mundane, but the cumulative effect of us being a genuine Disciple-Making Church, has made a difference. We see and hear many testimonies, mine included, of people whose lives have been positively impacted in big ways.

So be encouraged that what you are doing is making a difference. Continue to "hold down your corner." See you all at church.

Pastor Jason

Budget Report

June Receipts	\$ 9,546
June Disbursements	\$ 8,424
July Receipts	\$ 12,674
July Disbursements	\$ 8,291

Per Capita 2021

Each year the Presbytery assesses churches based on the number of members. This year's assessment is \$40 per member. If you are able and would like to help defray this expense, you may write a check to LAPC and mark it "Per Capita". Thank you in advance!

Church Membership

Our church is always open to potential new members. The process is not difficult or time-consuming. If you have been attending for a while and would like to consider joining, please speak to Pastor Jason. He would be glad to explain what is involved. Members are able to vote and to hold church offices, such as Deacon and Elder. Please do not hesitate to inquire. There is no obligation.



We Lift Up in Prayer

Zoe Barraca, LAPC, Lily Matsunaga, Lorrie Mikuni, Sharon Shannon and James Washington, as well as missionaries Akiko and Mitsuo Fujishima and Amalia and Stan Smith.

Mark Your Calendar!



Prayer meetings on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom
Pastor Appreciation Sunday – October 10

Special Offerings July/August

Paul Casey, Rev. George Doyal, Daniel Dudley, Michael Dudley, Rev./Mrs. Kim, Lyle Quock, Dr./Mrs. Wayne Shen, Philip Shen, Jeffrey Shen, Carole Wild

Memorial Offerings

In memory of Phil Durkee

M/M Art Kong

In memory of Paul Ichiuji

Carole Wild

In memory of Don Mikuni

Jean Kitaji

M/M Art Kong

Per Capita

Joyce Martin-Fong

M/M Ben Miyaoka

*Never be afraid to trust an
unknown future to a known
God!!*

Corrie ten Brook, 1971



Fourth of July Festivities

Our nation’s independence in 1776 was celebrated at LAPC with decorations and a traditional hot dog lunch planned and prepared by our wonderful deacons. Thanks to all who worked on this project, including Linda Stubblefield, Carole Wild, Sumi Ichuji, Roz Bailey, Susan Nielsen, Nora Shen and Mary Jane Miyaoka. Appreciation also goes out to those who helped to set up and clean up. Below are some photos from the event.



Update on the Smiths

Our missionary friends, Amalia and Stan Smith, shared the news of Stan’s 90th birthday on May 31st in their July newsletter! What a blessing that he and Amalia (82) continue to be well and able to serve the Lord through their various ministries.

Amalia has mastered the challenges of technology and regularly meets online with women in Mexico and Romania to teach and encourage them. She hopes to travel to Romania this fall on a missionary trip. She also meets and teaches women in their home in Grangeville, ID, as well as in their local church.

Stan continues to write and send materials to pastors to help them with their teaching and congregational leadership. He and Amalia are planning to travel to Washington and Texas to spend time with family there and to minister to local Christian groups.

As always, they appreciate our prayers for their continued good health, guidance and wisdom from the Lord whom they so faithfully serve.

Deacons’ Corner

LAPC is blessed to have two “official” deacons, Linda Stubblefield and Sumi Ichuji, and a cadre of “unofficial” deacons. As a whole group, they work tirelessly to serve the rest of the congregation through prayer and visitations, sending cards, as well as planning and carrying out those plans for special events and holidays. Their gifts of time, talent, creativity and love have made our lives richer and more enjoyable. For that we are so grateful!

“Unofficial deacons” include: Roz Bailey, Teruko Maxwell, Mary Jane Miyaoka, Susan Nielsen, Nora Shen and Carole Wild. Apologies to those whose names were omitted in the last newsletter article expressing appreciation for their work on the Mother’s and Father’s Day celebrations. Thank you, one and all for all you do throughout the year!



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