

A LETTER FROM JEFF WILDRICK

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE WE HERE FOR? I'll admit it. Once a question starts bouncing around inside my head, it's difficult for me to let it go. Some questions are easy to answer, thanks to the Internet. For instance, "How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?" The answer: 364 (according to students at Purdue University who actually built a licking machine to test it)!

Other questions are more challenging. For instance, "Why is it taking Jesus so long to return? Why doesn't he just gather all his followers and take us straight to heaven instead of leaving us in this painful, mixed-up world?"

Or, more succinctly, "What in the world are we (still) here for?"

A few hundred years ago, a group of Presbyterians were searching the Scriptures for answers to this same question, and here's what they came up with. God's great ends (purposes) for the church are:

- The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.
- The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.
- The maintenance of divine worship.
- The preservation of the truth.
- The promotion of social righteousness.
- The exhibition of the Kingdom of heaven to the world.

Quite simply, this is the Church's job description!

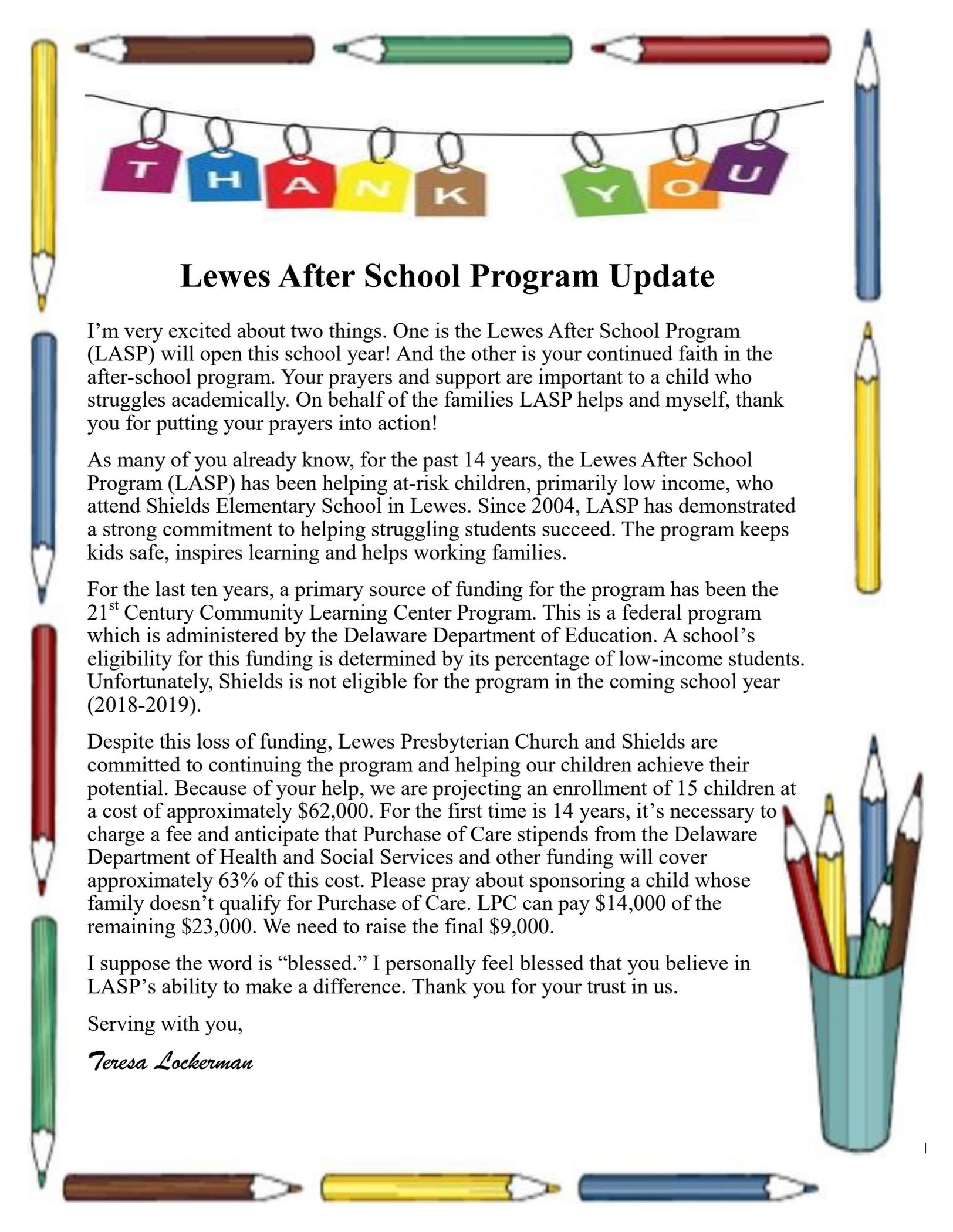
Beginning September 9, the Sunday after Labor Day, we're going to embark on an exploration of God's Word to better understand what it means for any church – for this church – to live out God's purposes. What can we learn about them in our own ministries? And what can we do better?

The good news is that we'll discover quite a few things that we're already doing very well. The great news is that the more we focus our time and energy as a church on God's purposes (rather than our own desires), the more our church will flourish.

For anyone who's interested in going a little deeper, I'll be leading a study each week where we'll dig into the Bible, and our lives, to discover some practical applications for each of the six purposes for the church. (Dates and time to be announced.)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

P.S. I'm eager to meet and talk with as many members of our church family as possible during the brief time that I'll be with you. Whether you'd like to share a cup of coffee (I love coffee), a walk on the beach, a family meal, or a confidential appointment in my study, my wife, Kathy, and I will do our best to make it happen. Please feel free to call or text me at 908-229-9358, make an appointment through the church office, or drop me an email at jhwildrick@gmail.com.



Lewes After School Program Update

I'm very excited about two things. One is the Lewes After School Program (LASP) will open this school year! And the other is your continued faith in the after-school program. Your prayers and support are important to a child who struggles academically. On behalf of the families LASP helps and myself, thank you for putting your prayers into action!

As many of you already know, for the past 14 years, the Lewes After School Program (LASP) has been helping at-risk children, primarily low income, who attend Shields Elementary School in Lewes. Since 2004, LASP has demonstrated a strong commitment to helping struggling students succeed. The program keeps kids safe, inspires learning and helps working families.

For the last ten years, a primary source of funding for the program has been the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program. This is a federal program which is administered by the Delaware Department of Education. A school's eligibility for this funding is determined by its percentage of low-income students. Unfortunately, Shields is not eligible for the program in the coming school year (2018-2019).

Despite this loss of funding, Lewes Presbyterian Church and Shields are committed to continuing the program and helping our children achieve their potential. Because of your help, we are projecting an enrollment of 15 children at a cost of approximately \$62,000. For the first time in 14 years, it's necessary to charge a fee and anticipate that Purchase of Care stipends from the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services and other funding will cover approximately 63% of this cost. Please pray about sponsoring a child whose family doesn't qualify for Purchase of Care. LPC can pay \$14,000 of the remaining \$23,000. We need to raise the final \$9,000.

I suppose the word is "blessed." I personally feel blessed that you believe in LASP's ability to make a difference. Thank you for your trust in us.

Serving with you,

Teresa Lockerman