



Circuit Rider

August 2025

www.lakestreetumc.org

Reprinted from August, 2018.

Demographics and the Church

Pastor Jerry

One of the things I look forward to at the Wisconsin Annual Conference meeting – even more than voting on resolutions regarding scheduled special Sundays – is the morning Bible study time. They always bring in somebody with a genuine message, who is able to deliver it well. This year our speaker was Thomas Kemper, who is the General Secretary of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Dr. Kemper presented more than just the Bible. He presented perspective. His life is spent with the global church. While the GBGM is based in Atlanta, Georgia, he himself is from Germany and spent eight years in teaching and street ministry in Brazil. He now oversees Methodist outreach and ministry in 120 different countries. He knows where the Spirit is moving most dramatically.

And not to put too fine a point on it: it's not in the US.

You've heard some of the demographics for our nation. The fastest-growing religious demographic in the USA is "not affiliated with any church" or simply "None." Last time I checked this segment stood at around 25%, which may not seem all that much, but ten years ago, in the 2007 Pew Study, it was 12%. Moreover, if you examine the data by generation, you see that among adults younger than 30, the percentage who of Nones is between 35 and 40%. It doesn't take a genius to see where this is pointing.

(By the way, remember that "None" only refers to affiliation with an established church, not whether the person believes. A great many of those young Nones are eagerly seeking a spiritual life – they just don't expect to find it in an institution. So let's not wring our hands; let's rethink our churches.)

Meanwhile, around the world, Christianity is growing exponentially in the Global South. If current trends continue, Dr. Kemper told the Conference, by 2050 one in four (some say one in three) Christians will live in sub-Saharan Africa, and the largest Christian nation in the world will be China. Think about that for a minute. In another 30 years, the center of Christianity will no longer be here. The thriving churches of Zambia and Togo may look at America as we look at Europe today: "Boy, there sure are a lot of beautiful old empty church buildings there!"

Ah, but it may not be that bad, because we also saw signs of hope and energy and renewal within the United Methodist Churches right here in

(Continued on page 3)

**"CHRIST
FOLLOWERS
LIVING GOD'S
LOVE"**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**9:00 AM
WORSHIP**
IN-PERSON,
BY RADIO (AM 880
OR 106.3 FM @
10:05AM), AND ON
FACEBOOK AND
YOUTUBE

STAY CONNECTED
THROUGH OUR
WEEKLY **LAKE
STREET
CONNECTIONS**
NEWSLETTER SENT
OUT VIA EMAIL AND
FACEBOOK EVERY
THURSDAY
AFTERNOON.

VISIT
**LAKESTREETUMC.
ORG** TO SIGN UP
OR SEND AN EMAIL
TO
COMMUNICATIONS
@LAKESTREETUMC
.ORG

LAKE STREET UMC IS
ONE OF THE UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCHES OF
CHIPPEWA VALLEY:
ALTOONA, ANSON,
AUGUSTA, BLOOMER,
CADOTT, CHAPEL
HEIGHTS, HALLIE,
HOLCOMBE, HOPE,
JIM FALLS, LAKE
STREET, NEW
AUBURN, PLEASANT
VALLEY, STANLEY,
THORP, TRINITY, &
ZION.



Jerry Morris
Pastor

Laurie Van Beek
*Friends at the Lake and
Children's Ministry Director*

Ellen Prellwitz
Administrative Secretary

Kathy Amundson-Forsberg
Elles' Director

Edna Sahs
Organist

Jennifer Blakeley-Mode
Finance Clerk

Aaron Athas
*Communications
Facilitator*

Joel Carr
Custodian

**Daniel Klingensmith, Derek
Brost, Jesse Schwingle,
Per Forsberg, Greg
Wallace**
Worship Technology

OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Wednesday
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

A COMMUNITY OF WORSHIP

We seek to be a community of expectant, God-centered worship, through word and sacrament and God's gift of music – offering together our utmost for God's highest.

Worship Services in August

Saturday-Sunday, August 2-3. Rev. Dawn Jeffers Ramstad preaching

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street Facebook page

Worship with Communion:* 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:05 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "First The Seed Then The Yeast"

Scripture: Matthew 13:18-23, 33

Saturday-Sunday, August 9-10. Greg Wallace preaching

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street Facebook page

Worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:05 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "Be Prepared"

Scripture: Luke 12:13-23

Saturday-Sunday, August 16-17. Len Larsen preaching

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street Facebook page

Worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:05 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "The Race Set Before Us — Theosis?"

Scripture: Luke 11:29—12:2

Saturday-Sunday, August 23-24. Tim Atkins preaching

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street Facebook page

Worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:05 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "TBA: A Story of Faith, Love, and Promises";

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-5;

Saturday-Sunday, August 30-31. Greg Wallace, preaching

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street Facebook page

Worship with Communion:* 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:05 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "A Time to be Humble"

Scripture: Luke 14:7-14

*United Methodists serve Open Communion, welcoming all to join Christ's table, because that's what he did, too.

► ► ► Radio Listeners Attention

Our Sunday service broadcast on Newstalk WMEQ 880/106.3 will now start at **10:05 am**. Same stations/new time.

If you are connected with anyone who joins us on the radio, please let them know of this new time change.

Tune in now at 10:05 am.

Wisconsin, a genuine movement of active, committed lay people who are starting new churches all over the state. Hispanic churches. Yes, again and again, we saw that most of the vitality in our Conference is expressed in Spanish. (Most, but not all: there's also an exciting Korean congregation in Madison.)

It's worth remembering that Christianity was not originally American or European or white or English-speaking. It was a Middle Eastern faith that moved to Europe, whence it spread to the United States, and everywhere it spread, it took on some of the cultural attributes of its new home. Apparently, it's moving on to new homelands, and soon Christians will look different than us and worship and sing and preach and teach and minister differently than we do. And it will be good. After all, our calling is not to create churches after our own image, but churches that represent Christ, and *that* has nothing to do with culture or language or race. In another generation, Christianity will not be associated with Rome and Nashville, but with Sao Paulo and Harare and Beijing and Seoul and Nairobi.

I hope they send missionaries.

Worship Notes for August:

Welcome to Dawn Jeffers Ramstad, who joins us this month as an interim pastor, primarily covering worship leadership, until Pastor Jerry returns from his renewal leave in September. Dawn is a recently retired UM Elder (formerly from Hudson UMC), and she will be preaching and leading Communion on first Sundays and leading the worship services while our own members preach on the other Sundays.

Some of you may have wondered what we are doing with our Saturday evening, online-only, "Living Room" worship service. It feels like a lot to ask our various lay speakers to also pre-record their sermon each week and send it off to Aaron to post. So (as you may have noticed), Aaron is reposting some of our previous services. In the Fall of 2020, while we were still under lockdown, Pastor Jerry began an extended sermon series in which he simply retold the story of scripture from start to finish. This summer's Living Room services are selections from the story sermons that resulted from that experiment. In June, Pastor Jerry told the stories of Genesis, and in July he will be telling the stories of the Exodus.

RADIO SERVICE SUPPORT = \$165/week

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> August 10th | <input type="checkbox"/> August 17th | <input type="checkbox"/> August 24th |
| <input type="checkbox"/> August 31st | <input type="checkbox"/> September 14th | <input type="checkbox"/> September 21st |

Given by: _____ In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____ In Recognition of: _____

HAVE YOU FOUND US ONLINE?

Our website **www.lakestreetumc.org** always has the most up to date calendar, news, online giving and more. Visit it often for past sermon recordings, past Circuit Riders, and a direct link to our Facebook page.



ADDRESS CHANGES

If you have had an address change within the past four months and are receiving the ***Circuit Rider*** newsletter electronically, please send your new address to the church office: **adminsec@lakestreetumc.org**.

Because your digital issue does not go to the post office, there is no Address Service Requested changes that come back to the church office. We appreciate your help to keep our database up to date.

September Circuit Rider

Deadline is

Wednesday, August 20

for

Thursday, August 27th
mailing

Be sure to send your news to Ellen Prellwitz at
Adminsec
[@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:adminsec@lakestreetumc.org)



A COMMUNITY OF INCLUSIVE WELCOME

We embrace all of God's children as persons of sacred worth regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, national origin, culture, tradition, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other difference real or perceived, and welcome all people into the life of this congregation.



FRIENDS at the LAKE

Friends at the Lake — Looking for Volunteers

Our Friends at the Lake volunteers are trained in a social model of care. The healing that comes through this model comes from being in community with others. By gathering for four hours on weekdays to enjoy games, art, music, exercise and fellowship, the rewards our friends reap are immense in cognitive stimulation, physical activity and relational aspects of people spending time in community. Comments from a few volunteers:

"It's friends getting together with friends. We have fun and we laugh a lot." Sharon

"It's been great seeing some of the friends going from apprehensive or anxious about being there to enjoying themselves and more relaxed now that they're regulars." Brenda

"It's enjoyable seeing them laugh and smile and have a good time. They are excited to be here." Paul

If you are wanting more information on becoming a volunteer, contact Laurie Van Beek at 715-832-6603 or Laurievb@Lakestreetumc.org I look forward to hearing from you.

Welcome to Kairos Homeschool Co-op

Over the past several years, we have worked intentionally to make our church not just a safe and affirming place for our own members but for others in the community. We host multiple recovery groups, support groups, and classes. We have become a go-to location for special events from the YMCA and the ADRC.

Most of these groups are designed to support those in crisis: addictions, recoveries, illnesses, medical or cognitive challenges. Beginning next month we will be the host of another community group -- one working at the other end of the life cycle. We will be the location for a new group of local homeschooling families.

Now most of these families teach their children at home — that's kind of the definition of "homeschooling" -- but a group of these families is coming together to bring their children and resources to special classes that others will teach. On the first three Fridays of every month, they will gather in our church for Spanish, Karate, dance, and music lessons and several others classes. Classes will be available for ages through eighth grade.

They will be using primarily the third floor classrooms in our education wing, which are currently unused, but also the Dockside Room (under the sanctuary), the library, room 202, and a few other spaces. They have signed a Building Use agreement with our Board of Trustees that provides them those spaces in return for a small building use fee and a cleaning commitment for the spaces that they use.

Our offices are closed on Fridays anyway, so this provides this group a safe and spacious place for teaching their children. Both the Church Council and the Trustees are excited about the opportunity to contribute to a new generation.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining this homeschool group, you may email them at

Friends at the Lake Volunteer Sign-up

Yes, I would like to be on the Friends at the Lake volunteer roster.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

I would be interested in: (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Participant (Friend)	<input type="checkbox"/> Greeter
<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch prep	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Music
<input type="checkbox"/> Activity Leading	<input type="checkbox"/> Mind Joggers
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Outreach
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	

(And if you don't know what you want to do, come anyway.

We'll figure it out together. Mostly, the job is be a friend.)

A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH

*Our time and talents and resources are not gifts for our enjoyment but a calling to serve others,
particularly the marginalized and those without other defenders.
We seek to serve God by serving God's children in our community, our nation, and our world.*

Mission Team Update

Monthly Mission Offering- Good Neighbor Project

This month the Mission team is asking you to help support The Good Neighbor Project with your mission offering. The Good Neighbor Project helps low-income Longfellow and Lakeshore students overcome financial challenges that could affect their school day. For the past several years in response to high poverty levels at these two neighborhood schools, First Congregational UCC and Lake Street United Methodist Church have partnered to raise funds so that students with limited finances at home can attend field trips, receive a snack, hygiene items, winter clothes, and eyeglasses. Through your mission offering students at Longfellow and Lakeshore will be able to focus on learning and participate in all the school activities. To donate write August Mission Offering or Good Neighbor on your check or envelope.

Beacon House- The next opportunity to prepare a supper meal for guests at Beacon House is **September 7th-13th**. Serving a meal consists of putting together a meal that you would serve to a large family gathering. The number of guests varies but usually runs between 6-8 adults and 6-8 children. If you would be willing to prepare a meal, contact Kent Gierhart at 715-864-2056 and I can answer any questions you might have. The Mission team has also allocated funds to help cover the cost of preparing the meal if needed.

Community Table: On July 9th Lake Street volunteers prepared and served chicken salad sandwiches, green salad, fruit salad and dessert for 96 guests. There are more upcoming opportunities to volunteer on **August 13th and September 10th**. The early shift from 9:00—11:15 am prepares the meal and the late shift from 11:15 am to 1:30 pm serves the meal and does some light clean-up after the meal. To volunteer contact Peter Nelson (715-379-8135) or email to petermnelson@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

Blessing Box: Items currently needed are toothbrushes, tooth paste, socks, wash clothes, and Band-Aids. We have enough soap, shampoo and conditioner for now.

Community Table

Our next dates at TCT are:

**August 13th — 9:00a—1:30p
September 10th**

To volunteer, contact
Peter Nelson at 715-379
-8135 or at



petermnelson@sbcglobal.net.

Beacon House Hosting

Our congregation hosts evening meals at Beacon House next on:

September 7th—13th

Thank you to
all the many
volunteers
who keep
this ministry
alive, especially our new
volunteers.



ARCW Wish List for August: Meal-In-A-Can

Please join others from Lake Street in assisting AIDS/HIV clients by choosing to donate a **"Meal-In-A-Can" — beef stew, soup, ravioli, etc.** Your donation will be helping those clients of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Food Pantry. Please place your items in the AIDS Box located outside the Fellowship Hall doors.

Thanks to those folks who donated 20+ cans of baked beans during the past month to ARCWFood Pantry..



SCRIP AND SERVICE

For the past two years, your purchases of Scrip cards have gone to support the work of Feed My People, and we have donated several thousand dollars to that great ministry.

This year, at the Mission Team's suggestion, the money raised through Scrip will go another feeding ministry, the Community Table. Support LSUMC, and support your community.

~~~~~

## A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

*We seek to be a place where all God's children, of all ages and abilities, can grow together in knowledge and faith, through study, through participation in worship, and through service to others.*

### FIRESIDE LIBRARY NEWS

A new book in the library is Hidden History of Eau Claire, by Diana Peterson and Jodi Kiffmeyer. This book is an easy-to-read and entertaining history book with short chapters highlighting all types of EC history. Lake Street UMC is mentioned in several of the snippets.

"A Gory Death" details what happened to Mary Russell, wife of Lake St. minister Edward Russell, as she walked home from a mission meeting in 1891. (You'll have to read it to get the "gory details"!)

"Drive On In" gives a good account of the years from the 1950s to 2010 when LSUMC met at the drive-in movie theaters for worship on summer Sunday mornings. Included are many visitors' personal comments. An advertisement for a 1999 service which appeared in the Leader Telegram begins "It's the only church in town where you can come in your pajamas, with your golf clubs, your hair in curlers, and the smell of stink bait on your hands". Pastor Jerry gives a good explanation why these services were discontinued as well as what LSUMC is doing now.

Other sections deal with area events, businesses, citizens and famous personalities (remember Sheriff Bob, Ann Landers & Bob Uecker?) Enjoy!

#### **Men at Prayer: Thursdays @ 7:30am**

A weekly time of praying together and studying scripture verse by verse.

Followed by "After-MAP"

at The Goat Coffee House on Water Street.

### Confirmation Meeting

Confirmation at Lake Street begins when a youth reaches 6th grade and concludes when that youth has finished all the requirements. It is not a one-or-two year class, but a series of experiences. Most students and families complete the process in about two years.

Because of Pastor Jerry's sabbatical, he is not sending out advance information, but there will be a gathering in the Fireside Library on September 7th to go over the requirement and to welcome new confirmands to our youth class. (The class includes those who have completed their confirmation process as well.)

This year, Pastor Jerry will be joined by Olivia Rognholt, whose confirmation experience began before Covid, but was interrupted by the shut-downs. Olivia will be serving as a teacher's aid while she completes her own requirements.

### Sunday School

Fall is right around the corner and with that starts our Sunday School program for kindergarten – fifth grade starting **September 7th**.

We celebrated the students receiving Bibles from the Church last May. This year we are going to learn about the Bible: how to use the Bible, the different parts of the Adventure Bible and the Books of the Bible. Along with that in the Fall we will learn about some famous Bible people such as Daniel, Elisha, and Ruth to name a few.

Then in January we will start looking at the Fruits of the Spirit. It will be an exciting time and fun will be had by all!

\*\*\*Remember to bring your Bible. If you do not have one, no worries we have extra.

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Happy Birthday



United  
Women  
in Faith

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW) NEWS

### August Birthdays

|                 |                  |    |
|-----------------|------------------|----|
| Carol Gudnason  | 6 <sup>th</sup>  |    |
| Rita Houser     | 7 <sup>th</sup>  |    |
| Krissy Russell  | 13 <sup>th</sup> |    |
| Glen Bryson     | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 82 |
| Richard Willier | 30 <sup>th</sup> | 80 |

### UWF August Program: Faith Journey Stories

We are blessed to have Chris Draxler and Margo Bolton willing to share their faith struggles and growth during challenging times in their lives. Come for ***lunch at noon on Wednesday, August 20th***, followed by the inspirational stories from two of Jesus' faithful followers. Reservations for the luncheon can be made by calling Julie Holzinger at 715-461-0565.

### Junk In the Trunk

This event will take place from ***8:00 am —1:00 pm on Saturday, August 9th*** in our church parking lot. You are invited to come and sell items right out of your vehicle or set up a table next to your car. The \$10.00 registration fee provides two parking spaces. The monies raised from renting spaces will be used for mission projects through the UWF organization.

You can begin setting up at 6:30 am or later, to be ready by 8:00. Restrooms will be available to vendors. To secure your space contact Bobbie Liedl at 715-271-3450.

### HOLEY SOCKS PROJECT

Lake Street United Women of Faith is participating in a *Holey Socks* project, which is a recycling project that is also used to raise funds for Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. We are collecting clean, used socks of any brand and sending them to Terra-Cycle to recycle. Every shipment of socks sent in earns reward points based on weight. [Reward points are transferred into dollars; 2,500 points earns \$25.]



A collection box is in the Fellowship Hall by the water fountain. This is an all-church project, so start looking for those *Holey Socks* today.



### Altar Flowers

With summer flowers blooming we remind you that

fresh-cut garden flowers are always welcome for the altar on Sundays. Vases are available on request.

### STAMPERS

... will meet on ***Thursday, August 28th at 1:00pm in Room 202***. It's air-conditioned and we have all the supplies. If you have some free time, come join us. You are sure to have fun and we will be glad for your help.



## RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

### ***A Note on Designating Gifts:***

People giving Memorial or special gifts sometimes ask if they should designate a gift or leave it undesignated. Obviously if you are giving for a purpose then you should designate it, but what if you just want to make sure your gift is used? Is it better to designate it or leave it open-ended?

It depends. Sometimes designating gifts too precisely can make the gift less useful. I knew of a church that received a \$250,000 bequest—designated for altar flowers. I imagine that church had a lot of other ways they would have liked to use that money. On the other hand, sometimes money given without designation can end up sitting in an undesignated fund and get forgotten.

So here are some suggestions:

- 1.If you are giving a large gift, then the fewer restrictions you put on the gift, the better. If you want to designate your gift, do so in broad categories (building, worship, education, outreach, etc.).*
- 2.If you are giving a gift and don't need it to be used at once, then it is fine to leave it undesignated. It'll be used one day, and we'll be glad of it then.*
- 3.But if you want to know your gift will be used soon, here are some suggested designations that will ensure that your gift does not fall between the cracks:*

- Radio Ministry.* This crucial ministry costs \$165 / week.
- Building Improvements.* Trustees will always find something to fix.
- Outdoor Garden.* Our beautiful front garden is a labor of love for Bonnie and Linda and other volunteers, but it's not cheap.
- Technology (e.g. AV) upgrades.* I swear, these never end.

– Pastor Jerry

### **Looking for Ways to Support Texas Flood Relief**

► Keep the people of Central Texas in your prayers as the devastating flash floods have struck the region resulting in the loss of multiple lives and leaving many others missing.

► The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a great resource for your donations. 100% of donations will go to support relief efforts for the people of Texas. Place your check in the offering plate or send to the office marked Texas Advance # 901670. Thank you for your support.

## CARNG FOR OUR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

### **All-Church Fall Clean Up Days**

. . . Coming soon . . . Double opportunities to serve!!! All hands cleaning days planned for fall. Make your calendars for Saturdays, **August 23rd and September 27th**. There will be lists of tasks and supplies available but feel free to bring your favorite tools/supplies to help spiff up our wonderful building and grounds.



## RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

### Memorials and Special Gifts through July 22

#### MEMORIALS

In memory of: Janelle Earl; Donor: Beverly Goetz; Designated for: Music Ministries; Donors: Richard and Linda Keepers; Designated for: Music — Chancel Choir; Donors: Lloyd and Florence Shepherd; Loren and Emilie Anderson; Designated for: Lake Street Stampers; Donors: Kathy and Kent Gierhart; Designated for: Bolivian Church; Donors: Darla Sorenson, Louis and Sandra Henke, Family and Friends, Al and Jill Weisenbeck, Peggy J. Klein, James and Holly Heselman, Robert and Doris Walske, Carole Helmer and Drew and Marlene Jonnson; Undesignated;

In memory of: David Kruse; Donor: Carol Fawcett; Undesignated;

In memory of: Birney Dibble; Donors: Peter and Barb Nelson; Designated for: Radio Ministry;

In memory of: Kris Gudnason's Father; Donors: Dick and Linda Keepers; Designated for: Radio Ministry;

#### SPECIAL GIFTS

Donors: B J Keepers and Paul and Virginia Hilberich; Designated for: Radio Ministry;

### Financial Report, through June, 2025

The June financial report improved a bit from May. The month of June was a positive \$2,782 which enabled us to improve a bit for the year-to-date totals. The Gift to God offerings were much better than the May offerings. Many thanks to our generous and faithful givers!

Expenses were pretty much normal in June, with energy and maintenance bills being well within budget. We did have two new windows installed. One of the windows is by the ramp going up to the second floor and the other window is directly above that on the third-floor landing. The windows look great and were very much needed due to the poor condition of the old windows. We thank the foundation grant which paid for this purchase.

Cash stayed about the same amount at the end of June as compared to the end of May, which means we are still in very good shape for our cash balance. Finance has the second quarter audit schedule for July, so we're on track for our closer look at the finances.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the ministries of our church.



Lake Street United Methodist Church

|                                | Operating Fund         |                           | Building Fund          |                        | Total                  |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                                | Actual YTD<br>Jun 2025 | Budget<br>YTD Jun<br>2025 | Actual YTD<br>Jun 2025 | Budget YTD<br>Jun 2025 | Actual YTD<br>Jun 2025 | Budget YTD<br>Jun 2025 |
| Offerings and other income *   | \$ 173,418             | 182,790                   | \$ 3,659               | \$ 2,100               | \$ 177,077             | \$ 184,890             |
| Expenses                       | 157,810                | 163,221                   | 48,532                 | \$ 51,872              | 206,342                | 215,093                |
| Net of Offerings less expenses | \$ 15,608              | \$ 19,569                 | \$ (44,873)            | \$ (49,772)            | \$ (29,265)            | \$ (30,203)            |

\* Excludes parsonage investment gain/loss because it is not included in budget

## A FAREWELL TO JENNIFER LOHMANN

Sunday, July 27, was Jennifer Lohmann's last Sunday on our staff. In the first week of August, she will move to Georgia to begin graduate work in piano. Yes, I know: this feels pretty sudden. But it wasn't announced earlier, because it wasn't certain until recently that it was actually going to happen. In mid July she sold her house, though, which was the last piece that had to fall into place. We all celebrated Jennifer's stay among us on Sunday, July 27 at a special Coffee Fellowship after worship.

Jennifer has been with us for over eight years, having started at Christmas in 2016. She began with two staff roles – worship musician and choir accompanist – but during the Covid-19 pandemic, we added to that, “Minister of Worship Music,” acknowledging all she did during that time. Jennifer was the creative force behind most of our worship adaptations during Covid. For instance, she basically invented the “Living Room Worship” service. In the early days of the shut-down, it was her idea for Pastor Jerry to pre-record a greeting, a prayer, and a sermon while she pre-recorded special music. Aaron Athas added his insight and skill in how to put it all together. We kept that pre-recorded service going even after we started streaming worship live again, and it is still going today, averaging between 70 and 100 viewers per week. Moreover, Jennifer was the one who began putting together our “Online Ensemble” during Covid restrictions – where choir members recorded hymns individually, to be edited together by Jennifer's son Simon (then a graduate student in music in Texas). Jennifer has been the heart of our music program for years.

And, speaking for myself here, she has been an amazing colleague to work with: artistic without being temperamental, talented without being a diva, creative without being weird, and absolutely 100% dependable. She never intentionally draws attention to herself but instead is always focused on making the choirs sound their best and making worship meaningful to the congregation. We will all miss her.

But one reason that she's so good at her job is that she is gifted in many ways, and it is time for her to stretch her wings farther. Jennifer has been part-time with us, making up the rest of her income with other gigs, and by teaching individual piano lessons. In this last role, Jennifer has developed an entirely new approach to teaching beginning piano, one that enables people to learn much faster and grasp music theory better. She has already been giving talks on this new model to teaching conventions around the country, and now she wants to prepare herself to teach at a higher level. She is beginning graduate work, eventually heading toward a PhD in musical pedagogy. So, even though we will miss her, we also rejoice with her and support her courageous decision to reinvent herself.

So, say thank you to Jennifer. If you would like to give a farewell gift to Jennifer, please keep in mind that she is in the process of moving. She doesn't need any more stuff to pack or store. But there are always unexpected costs related to moving. The practical gift would be to give her something to help with those expenses.

— Pastor Jerry

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The *CIRCUIT RIDER* is a monthly news and information publication for members and friends of the Lake Street UMC.

### EDITORS

Rev. Jerry Morris — Layout Editor  
Ellen Prellwitz — Copy Production  
Aaron Athas — Digital Production

### DEADLINE

News items for the July issue (mailed on June 26) need to be received by **June 18**.

Phone # – 715-832-6603

Fax # – 715-832-9500

### MAILING ADDRESS

337 Lake Street, Suite A  
Eau Claire WI 54703

### WEBSITE

[www.lakestreetumc.org](http://www.lakestreetumc.org)

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Rev. Jerry Morris  
[pastor@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:pastor@lakestreetumc.org)

Laurie Van Beek  
[laurievb@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:laurievb@lakestreetumc.org)

Ellen Prellwitz  
[adminsec@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:adminsec@lakestreetumc.org)

Jennifer Blakeley-Mode  
[finance@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:finance@lakestreetumc.org)


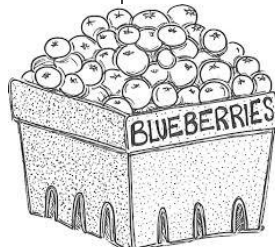

Kathy Amundson-Forsberg  
[kath\\_abby@yahoo.com](mailto:kath_abby@yahoo.com)


Aaron Athas  
Communications  
[@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:@lakestreetumc.org)

Edna Sahs  
[esahs@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:esahs@lakestreetumc.org)

Joel Carr  
(no email address)



| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Monday                                                                             | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                  | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                  | Thursday                                                                          | Friday                                                        | Saturday                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                         | 1                                                                                 | 2                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3<br><b>Mission Emphasis: Good Neighbor Project</b><br><b>9:00am Worship with communion; livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b><br><i>Message: "First the Seed Then the Yeast";</i><br><i>Text: Matthew 13:18-23, 33 ;</i><br><i>Rev. Dawn Jeffers Ramstad preaching</i><br>10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall)<br><b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b><br>10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) | 4                                                                                  | 5<br>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:00pm Fellowship Hall In Use (EC Male Chorus Board)<br>6:30pm Lounge In Use (Tuesday Womens NA)                   | 6<br>9:30am UWF Leadership Team (Room 202)<br>10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Art for Dementia Folk)<br>6:30pm Fireside Library In Use (Wed NA Group) | 7<br>7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]<br>9:00am Quilers (Room 101A)  | 8<br>10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry (located at 2610 Alpine Rd) | 9<br><b>8:00am Junk in the Trunk Sale (Parking Lot)</b><br><b>12:00pm</b><br>Fireside Library In Use (Sat NA Group)<br>6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook     |
| 10<br><b>Mission Emphasis: Good Neighbor Project</b><br><b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b><br><i>Message: "Be Prepared";</i><br><i>Text: Luke 12:13-21;</i><br><i>Greg Wallace preaching;</i><br>10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall)<br><b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b><br>10:15am Book Study (Conference Room)                                                 | 11                                                                                 | 12<br>9:30am ADK Team (Room 202)<br>9:30am Missions Team (Fireside Library)<br>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:30pm Lounge In Use (Tuesday Womens NA) | 13<br>9:00am The Community Table<br>10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Art for Dementia Folk)<br>6:30pm Fireside Library In Use (Wed NA Group)           | 14<br>7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]<br>9:00am Quilers (Room 101A) | 15                                                            | 16<br>10:00am Room 202 In Use (Huntington's Disease Support Group)<br>12:00pm<br>Fireside Library In Use (Sat NA Group)<br>6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook |
| 17<br><b>Mission Emphasis: Good Neighbor Project</b><br><b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b><br><i>Message: "The Race Set Before Us -- Theosis?";</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 18                                                                                 | 19<br>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)                                                                                                                      | 20<br><b>Circuit Rider Deadline</b><br>10:00am Fellowship Hall In                                                                                          | 21<br>7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]                               | 22<br>8:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (Sewing Guild)            | 23<br><b>9:00am All-Church Fall Clean Up Day</b>                                                                                                                  |

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Monday                                                                              | Tuesday                                                                                                                               | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Friday                                                      | Saturday                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>Text: Luke 11:29 - 12:2;</i><br/> <i>Leonard Larsen preaching;</i><br/>           10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall)<br/> <b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b><br/>           10:15am Book Study (Conference Room)<br/> <b>3:00pm IM Church (Fellowship Hall)</b></p>                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                     | 6:30pm Finance Committee<br>(Fireside Library/on line)<br>6:30pm Lounge In Use (Tuesday Womens NA)                                    | Use (ARDC Art for Dementia Folk)<br>12:00pm UWF General Meeting (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:30pm Fireside Library In Use (Wed NA Group)                                                                                                               | 9:00am Quilers (Room 101A)                                                                                                                                                                                             | 10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry<br>(located at 2610 Alpine Rd) | 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (Sat NA Group)<br>6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook                                             |
| <p><b>24</b><br/> <b>Mission Emphasis: Good Neighbor Project</b><br/> <b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b><br/> <i>Message: "TBA: A Story of Faith, Love and Promises"; Text: Genesis 1:1-5;</i><br/> <i>Tim Atkins preaching;</i><br/>           10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall)<br/> <b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b><br/>           10:15am Book Study (Conference Room)</p> | <b>25</b>                                                                           | <p><b>26</b><br/>           10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)<br/>           6:30pm Lounge In Use (Tuesday Womens NA)</p> | <p><b>27</b><br/>           10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Art for Dementia Folk)<br/>           1:30pm Room 202/Fireside Library In Use (ADRC Memory Loss Support Group)<br/>           6:30pm Fireside Library In Use (Wed NA Group)</p> | <p><b>28</b><br/>           7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]<br/>           9:00am Quilers (Room 101A)<br/> <b>9:30am Circuit Rider Assembly (Room 202)</b><br/>           1:00pm Stampers (Room 202)</p> | <b>29</b>                                                   | <p><b>30</b><br/>           12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (Sat NA Group)<br/>           6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook</p> |
| <p><b>31</b><br/> <b>Mission Emphasis: Good Neighbor Project</b><br/> <b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b><br/> <i>Message: A Time to be Humble"; Text: Luke 14:7-14;</i><br/> <i>Greg Wallace preaching;</i><br/>           10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall)<br/> <b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b><br/>           10:15am Book Study (Conference Room)</p>                      |  |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                             |                                                                                                                                      |

July 2025

Dear LSUMC Scrip Supporter

From : Dave Doxsie

Thank you for all of your support for these past 11 years. The LSUMC Scrip Program has generated over \$40,000 in direct contributions to the church and its missions. That is a result of selling over 1 million dollars in Scrip cards.

The process for selling those cards has always been primarily by selling at "the table" on Sunday mornings. That process is going to change in September of this year.

The Scrip Program will eventually achieve the position of zero inventory. That means that there will be no more direct purchasing of cards every Sunday. There will not be the opportunity to walk up to the table and carry away Scrip cards.

We will arrange a period of time each month when we will take orders and payment for cards that will then be delivered to you at a later date after we purchase them. We will designate a period at the beginning of each month.

We will offer to provide a reminder each month either by sending you a text or email, if you wish to provide that contact information. Delivery will be made by either contact at church on a subsequent Sunday or we will attempt to deliver the cards to your home, your choice. As you can imagine, communication by text or email will be important and essentially replace having a table in the fellowship hall each Sunday.

We fully realize that this may reduce our sales activity and will definitely cause our supporters to plan out their Scrip card needs. We will have to evaluate this change as we move forward.

Throughout August, we will be at the table each week selling cards and gathering information on how we can best contact each other by text or email. We welcome your questions, concerns, objections and ideas to this change.

Thanks again for your support,

Dave Doxsie

My Contact Information

920-915-1134 (phone or text)

dave@mapsolutionswi.com