



Circuit Rider

December 2023

www.lakestreetumc.org

A New Worship Year

Pastor Jerry



A few months ago, I began to notice something that bothered me. I have a complicated system for cataloguing my sermons. I have one folder called "Sermon Series" with subfolders for each new series I preach, but I also file those same sermons in different folders by their scripture reference. Thus I have folders for Old Testament Sermons, New Testament Sermons, and Gospel Sermons. What started to bother me

was that when I went to file my sermons under their scripture references, I kept discovering that I had preached several other sermons on the same passage. In some cases, I found that I'd preached from the same passage several times since being appointed to Lake Street.

I began to wonder: Am I just preaching my own favorites over and over? Are you only getting sermons based on what's interesting and important to me? Am I just presenting the Gospel According to Jerry?

There is another option for selecting sermon scriptures, though. It's called The Common Lectionary. This is a three-year plan that provides set scripture passages for every Sunday and special worship day over three years, after which the cycle starts over. For each worship service, there are four designated scripture readings: one from the Psalms, one from somewhere else in the Old Testament, one from the Gospels, and one from somewhere else in the New Testament. In very liturgical traditions, like Roman Catholic or Episcopalian churches, all four passages will be read during the course of the service, and the sermon will almost always be from the Gospel reading. Methodists don't usually read all four scriptures, but many – even most – Methodist clergy use the lectionary rather than the "Sermon Series" idea when choosing what to preach on each week.

I have tried both methods. When I first became a Methodist, I preached the lectionary for my first four or five years. Eventually, though, I decided that I preferred the Sermon Series plan. I could develop series based on specific needs in the congregation, new books I had read, and so on. Moreover, I could take on difficult topics by cutting them down into bite-sized pieces. But the danger of the Sermon Series method is what I just described: it makes it possible for a pastor to preach only favorite scriptures and subjects. When I used the lectionary, by contrast, I sometimes found myself faced with the task of preaching from a passage that I would never have chosen. And often

(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), 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

Rev. Bill Beaton
Visitation Pastor

Ellen Prellwitz
Administrative Secretary

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*Minister of Worship Music
and Pianist*

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Kathy Amundson-Forsberg
Ellesi Director

Edna Sahs
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Finance Clerk

Aaron Athas
*Communications
Facilitator*

Joel Carr
Custodian

**Amie Costello, Derek
Brost, Jesse Schwingle,
Per Forsberg, Greg
Wallace**
Worship Technology

Abby Norstad
Preschool

Volunteers

Many Gifted Laity

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.

Saturday-Sunday, December 2-3* First Sunday of Advent

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

Traditional worship with Communion*: 9:00am. Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:42 on AM 880 and
106.3 FM.

Message: "Why So Serious?"

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Saturday-Sunday, December 9-10 Second Sunday of Advent

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

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and
YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:42 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "Second Meanings"

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8 / Isaiah 40:1-11

Saturday-Sunday, December 16-17, Music Sunday!

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

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and
YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:42 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "Are You a Prophet?"

Scripture: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Longest Night Worship Service, December 20 (Snow date: Dec. 21)

A service for those who are grieving this Christmas Season

Hope United Methodist Church, 2233 Golf Road, 6:00pm

Story: "The Griefers"

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 23

3:00pm. An IM Church Christmas Eve-Eve service!

"A Living Christmas Story" - with trained actors, professional
costumes, life-like sets. More or less. Also much laughter.

6:00pm. Christmas Eve from the Living Room posted on Facebook,
featuring the original story, "We Used to Own This Place!"

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and
YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:42 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

A "Las Posadas" worship reflection.

*Christmas Eve Services, with candle lighting and Communion**

4:00 and 7:00pm.

Story: "We Used to Own This Place!"

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve, TBA

*Communion is served on the first Sunday of the month. United Methodists
serve Open Communion, welcoming all to join Christ's table, because that's
what he did, too.

(Continued from page 1)

that was good for me. Sometimes, once I had forced myself to sit down and work on it, I found that there was more in that passage than I had ever realized.

All this is a long-winded way to tell you that I have decided it is time for me to go back to preaching the lectionary, at least for a year, both as a discipline for me and as a change of pace for you. And, since the liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent (December 3, this year), that new plan starts this month.

This may involve more than sermons, though. The worship planning team is already considering ways to adapt our order of worship to this somewhat-more-liturgical plan. Moreover, now that I'll be preaching on the same thing that pastors all over the world are preaching on, there are other options for study and reflection, both for pastors and worshipers. Let's see where this leads us.

December Worship Calendar

As is clear from the opposite page, December is a busy month, worship-wise, at Lake Street. Not only do our regular services have special elements (e.g. advent candle lighting), but we also have special services. These are:

- *A Longest Night Service* (or "Blue Christmas"). This is a special service designed for people who are grieving a loss during the holiday season. This will be at **6:00pm, at Hope UMC, on Wednesday, December 20**. This is a joint service of the Chippewa Valley United Methodist churches. (In case of bad weather, as happened last year, this service will be held on Thursday, December 21.)
- *A Very IM Church Christmas*. We have for years held a special IM Church Christmas Eve service at 2pm – a dramatic re-enactment of the Christmas story, with carols and cookies. This year, though, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, which means we already have a full day, so we will be doing a Christmas Eve-Eve IM Church service at **3:00pm on Saturday, December 23, in the Fellowship Hall**.
- *Las Posadas service*. In 1587, Fr. Diego de Soria invented a dramatic way to teach the Christmas story to villagers in Mexico. The pageant revolves around the Holy Family seeking shelter from house to house. Our **Christmas Eve morning worship this year, at 9:00am**, will be an adaptation of that service.
- And, as usual, our Christmas Eve service will feature Communion, candle-lighting, carols, the Christmas Story, and an original story by Pastor Jerry. Services will be at our usual times: **4:00 and 7:00pm**.

RADIO SERVICE SUPPORT

\$165/week

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> December 17 | <input type="checkbox"/> December 31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> December 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 7 |

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

January Circuit Rider

Deadline is
Wednesday, Dec. 20 for
Thursday, Dec. 28
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.

Christmas Decorating and Party December 10

On the first Sunday of Advent (December 3), we will have some basic Christmas decorations up, but our major decorating will be done the following Sunday, on December 10, and it will be a whole church project. So stay after church for a time of decorating trees, hanging garlands, setting up nativity sets, and making our sanctuary festive for the day of great rejoicing that nears. After that, children and other artistic people are invited to go to the Fellowship Hall to decorate Christmas cookies.

And, if you're one of those who makes special Christmas treats (e.g. cookies, fudge, candy, fudge, popcorn, or fudge) make a little extra to bring that day, to use on treat plates to deliver to some of our homebound members and friends.

For the rest, come to Coffee Fellowship that day anyway, hosted by Dick and Linda Keepers to celebrate their 30th anniversary.



Thank you from Joel Carr,

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you to everybody who has helped me through the past few months, after I lost my housing. Thank you especially to Julie Beaton, who worked so hard to help me find my new place. And thank you to all the rest of you who donated furnishings.

The Spirit of God is really living here. Thank you.

Joel

A Radio Survey

As many of you know, in October our radio broadcast went through some changes. The iHeart Radio company that broadcasts it moved it to different stations and began broadcasting a taped recording at 10:42am instead live. We made a point of publicizing these changes and, so far, we have not had any complaints from people who tried to find our worship service but could not.

But maybe we *wouldn't* have heard. The fact is, we know people listen to our broadcast but have never really had a clear idea how many, which means that we now have no way of knowing if all our radio listeners have successfully made the switch to the new time and stations.

So maybe this is a good time to find out. We don't want to do a full survey, but if you are a faithful radio listener to our broadcast, could you give us a call to let us know? Just call the office at 715-832-6603. If there's no one in, just leave us a message. All we want to know is your name, that you do join our worship by radio at least some of the time, and whether you've been able to make the change to the new time (10:42am) and one of the new radio stations (AM 880 or 106.3 FM).

Thank you from The Community Table

Lake Street UMC,

Congrats! You are one of our top donors for the 3rd quarter of 2023! The new computer systems that you funded work perfectly and the backpacks for the unhoused are a hit. We are thankful for your support!

Tashai

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.*

Meaningful Christmas: Nueva Canaan Metodista Iglesias and Helping Hands for Our Children in the Chippewa Valley



Every year, our church's December mission offering is an especially generous expression of the spirit of giving, and for that reason we sometimes split our giving between two different causes. This year your Meaningful Christmas giving will go (1) to the Nueva Canaan Methodist Church in El Alto, Bolivia, and (2) to a new local non-profit for families with children. Nueva Canaan is the church that we have recently begun a partnership with. We have already helped them pay for materials to replace their leaky roof (with \$2,200 from the Foundation Mission Grant) and half of our Christmas mission giving will go toward another building project—repairing a wall. Helping Hands for Our Children, is a project begun by a woman who realized that while there are food pantries and soup kitchens for the food insecure, there are no programs in the area helping families with diapers, formula, and other needs specific for small children. Helping Hands, located in Banbury Place, is funded entirely by donations from the community. Yours will be part of that.



Community Table Report from November 15

Lake Street UMC volunteers prepared and served a meal of bratwurst, fruit salad, green salad and Crumbl cookies for 102 people on Wednesday, November 15. Thank you to Brian Gierhart, Kirsten Gierhart, Kathy Gierhart, Mary Rose Howard, Toni Kruse, Jeff Pettis, Jill Weisenbeck, Al Weisenbeck, Val Bryson, Glen Bryson, Kent Gierhart, Denny Peterson and Joanne Ures-Halvorson. Volunteering at the Community Table is not only a satisfying experience but is also an excellent social activity as well.

Community Table



Our next dates to cook and serve at the Community Table are:

January 17 — 9:00-2:00pm

Volunteers may sign up for the whole time or for the first or second half. To volunteer, contact Peter Nelson.

Beacon House Hosting

Our congregation hosts the evening meals at Beacon House next during the week of **December 10-16.**

If you can make a meal for unhoused families, contact Kent Gierhart at 715-864-2056.



ARCW Wish List for December: Peanut Butter

Please join others from Lake Street in supporting the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Food Pantry during the month of December by donating a jar of peanut butter. Your donation will assist clients of the Resource Center who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Place your donation in the ARCW box located near the entrance to our Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to those who donated more the 45+ containers of fruit during the month of October along with additional donations of: vegetables, cereal, cocoa, soup and cereal. The Center values the special gifts received from the Lake Street each month!

BUY SCRIP THIS YEAR

As the New Year begins, think about making Scrip a part of your regular shopping. A percentage of your regular grocery or gas expense can be used to support the church and its ministries.

Yes, that's right. We have had enough volunteers come forward to make it possible to keep our Scrip program going, but some things are going to be different. For instance, there will be more Sundays when Scrip cards are not available, especially in the winter months. So stock up now!

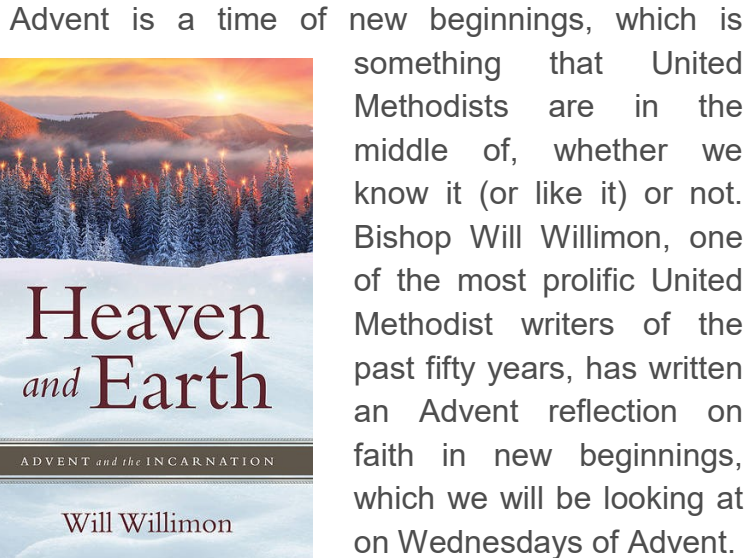


A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

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.

Advent Study:

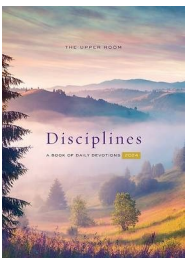
Heaven and Earth, by Will Willimon



Advent is a time of new beginnings, which is something that United Methodists are in the middle of, whether we know it (or like it) or not. Bishop Will Willimon, one of the most prolific United Methodist writers of the past fifty years, has written an Advent reflection on faith in new beginnings, which we will be looking at on Wednesdays of Advent.

We will meet at 5:00pm in the Fireside Library on three successive Wednesdays (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13), with perhaps a fourth session to be scheduled later. Some books are available at church, or you could order your own from Cokesbury.com or other book

Upper Room Disciplines, 2024



Just a note for those of you who use the Upper Room Disciplines devotional guide: it's time to pick up next year's book. Simply call or email the church office and let Ellen know. The cost is \$14.00 per book. They make a great

Men at Prayer: Thursdays @ 7:30am

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

Followed by "After-MAP"
at The Goat Coffee House on
Water Street.

CHILDREN'S FORMATION SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

With holiday schedules our children's classes are meeting only twice in December, and one of those is a workday. On December 3 we will finally get Moses and the Children of Israel to Mount Sinai, where they will receive the Law and a new relationship with God, through a New Covenant. Then, on December 10, the children will be a part of the church-wide Christmas decorating.

- December 3, The Ten Commandments
- December 10, Church Decorating

In 2024, we plan to move back to the New Testament and learn about the Early Church, especially from the Book of Acts. Thank you to all who have volunteered with our children and have become a part of what "church" will always mean to them.



Position Open in LSUMC Preschool

This month we regretfully say goodbye to Abby Norstad, the UWEC student who has been our competent, cheerful, and dependable Pre-school Area Coordinator for most of the past two years. As Abby moves to a field placement next semester, then graduation, we wish her the best.

Staff-Parish is continuing to look for a replacement for Abby, but if you know someone who would like a position working with children for three hours on Sunday morning, at \$15.00 an hour, encourage them to contact Pastor Jerry at pastor@lakestreetumc.org.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United
Women
in Faith

Please Come!
Lake Street UMC
United Women of
Faith
Christmas Tea



Please join us for the Annual Christmas Tea
Wednesday, December 13 at 2:00 PM
Lake Street UMC,
337 Lake Street, Eau Claire

Begin in the Sanctuary for singing, praising
and a short program. Then on to Fellowship
Hall to enjoy homemade Christmas treats,
tea, coffee, and of course,
FELLOWSHIP!

The Ink-Jet Project, UWF

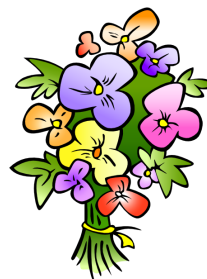
We have been inviting people to bring in their recyclable inkjet printer cartridges for a couple of months now, as a fund-raising project. These have to be original inkjet cartridges, new or used and should be gently wrapped (you can use the container the new one came in) to avoid damage. A collection box will be placed in the Fellowship Hall along with a list of acceptable cartridges. Eventually these cartridges are mailed to a program called "Empties4Cash," which will send money.

New member Pegi Fleming, who coordinates this project sends this update: We celebrate that the first check has been received for \$34 in exchange for a box of new and used ink cartridges. Thank you for helping us raise funds for Missions with the United Women in Faith.

December Birthdays

1st – Kristen Francis
7th – RoseMary Wollum (96 years)
10th – Donna Jahnke (92 years)
15th – Bonnie Wright
18th—Judy Sheu
18th—Ellen Prellwitz
21st – Susie Staves
24th—Carol Mooney
25th – Beth Sherman
27th – Chuck Grandy
31st – Shirley Hoffman (90 years)
31st – Margaret Larsen

Happy Birthday



STAMPERS

. . . will meet on Thursday
December 28 at 1 0'clock in
Room 202. This is our picture
day so wear your funny HATS
and be sure and come. ALSO
bring your blue scraps (6" x
3/4") . We
need 350 or
so. That's 60
plus from
each of us.
Can we do it?
Sure we can!



The End of Offering Envelopes

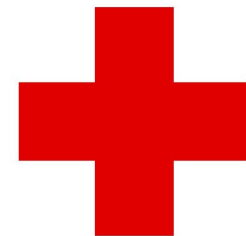
Many of you may have noticed this: the Sunday morning offering plate is not what it used to be. As the plates get passed down the aisles, it appears that most people are just putting in their "Connect Cards." Don't worry; people are still giving to the church. It's just that there are a lot of different options for doing so. Every month between a third and a half of the money given to the church is given online, either through the giving portal on our website or by an automatic transfer set up through the giver's bank. Many others - especially since the Covid shut-downs -- just mail a check to the church every month. Still others take advantage of IRS rules and give their entire pledge to the church out of their mandatory retirement disbursement (thus not having to pay tax on that amount).

As a result of all this, fewer and fewer are using the traditional booklets of offering envelopes that we have mailed out at the beginning of each year. But as that number drops, we have a problem. The envelope pads are already expensive (we paid \$642 last year @ about \$2.80 each), and even mailing them out using bulk rate added another \$257.00 to the cost. But we have to have at least two hundred items to qualify for the bulk rate, and we no longer have that many. To mail envelopes by regular mail would be about \$700.00. That's a lot to pay for the convenience of pre-printed envelopes.

Our Finance Committee has voted this year to discontinue the pre-printed envelope tradition. We will not be mailing out, or even ordering, envelopes for 2024. But, as noted above, there are other options. When Covid hit and we didn't have offering plates at all for over a year, we figured out new ways to give. We can do it again.

Lake Street November 10th Blood Drive Recap

The Lake Street drive held on Friday, November 10th was very successful with 79 units of blood donated, three more units than the quota set by the Red Cross. This amount of blood could impact the lives of up to 237 people. This drive and all the drives Lake Street would not happen without the help and support of so many volunteers. There are many more aspects to a project like this than just recruiting donors. These include registration, food donations, canteen help, greeter, set/up and putting everything back in place again. All-together there were 21 volunteers: Mary Rose Howard, Kathy Gierhart, Kirsten Gierhart, Denny Peterson, Cheryl Kreitlow, Jennie Stratton, Veronica Marshall-Potter, Jill Weisenbeck, Bonnie Wright, Marty Fisher-Blakeley, Corinne Gjerner, Winnie Doxsie, Jon and Diane Case, Steve Blashford, John Melrose, Jeff Pettis, Paul van Beek, Mike McCluskey, Pastor Jerry and Dick Keepers. I extend a "from the bottom of my heart" thank you to all these volunteers.



**American
Red Cross**

at

The next blood drive will be on Friday, May 10, 2024. Maybe you too would like to donate your time as a blood donor and/or volunteers.

-- Linda Keepers, Lake Street UMC Blood Drive Coordinator

RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

Memorials and Special Gifts received through November 20

MEMORIALS

In memory of Craig Heabler;
Donor: Mariette Amundson,
Designated for: Radio Ministry

In memory of Joyce Simpson;
Donors: Brenda and Greg
Wallace, Marlene Arntson,
Carol Lamarinde, B.J. Keepers,
Mary B Moberg. Designated
for: Radio Ministry

In memory of Joyce Simpson;
Donor: Sue Cody.
Undesignated

In memory of Kaye Davie;
Donor: Christine Kramschusler.
Undesignated

In memory of Larry Wangen;
Donors: Gretchen Glasshoff,
Marlene Arntson. Designated
for: Radio Ministry

In memory of Louise Thompson;
Donor: Marlene Arntson.
Designated for: Radio Ministry



Financial Report through October, 2023

Financially, we held our own in October and even gained some ground. As you can see in the spreadsheet at the bottom of the page, we were about \$27,000 in the red at the end of October. This is much better than our budget projections for this point of the year (-\$46,700) and also an improvement on where we were at the end of September (-\$30,000). But it is still \$27,000 in the red. November and December are traditionally two strong months for giving, which we took into account as we prepared this year's budget, so we'll be watching the next couple of months closely.

Some things to remember here: first, these numbers do not affect our mission giving. Most of our mission giving—and it remains a lot—comes (1) from your gifts over and above your pledge, in the monthly mission offerings, or (2) from invested funds and Foundation grants that are earmarked for mission projects. This past month, for instance, we sent \$2,200 to the Nueva Canaan UM church in El Alto, Bolivia, to help fund a new roof.

And second, this is a good time to remind you of some of the ways that our tax code encourages charitable giving. You may give toward your 2024 pledge in this month and count it as a 2023 charitable donation on this year's taxes. We will set it aside in a separate fund and transfer it to our "Gift to God" in twelve equal monthly payments next year. Just make sure you clearly mark the gifts as "Prepaid 2024."

And third, some of you are at the age where you are required to withdraw some money each year from your retirement savings (and then pay taxes on those withdrawals, as income). However, if you do not need that money for your living expenses, you may withdraw it and give it to the church, in which case by law there is no tax on the withdrawal.

Lake Street United Methodist Church

	Operating Fund		Building Fund		Total	
	Oct 2023	Budget Oct 2023	Oct 2023	Budget Oct 2023	Oct 2023	Budget Oct 2023
Offerings and other income *	\$ 301,309	304,015	\$ 4,622	\$ 1,100	\$ 305,931	\$ 305,115
Expenses	253,744	274,039	79,326	\$ 77,782	333,070	351,821
Net of Offerings less expenses	\$ 47,566	\$ 29,976	\$ (74,704)	\$ (76,682)	\$ (27,138)	\$ (46,706)

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

CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY

Eau Claire Male Chorus Christmas Concert: *"It's Beginning To Sound a Lot Like Christmas"*

The annual EC Male Chorus concerts will be presented on **Friday, December 1st and Saturday, December 2nd**. Friday's concert will be at **7:00p** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314 Lexington Blvd, and Saturday's will be held here in the Lake Street Sanctuary at **2:00pm**. A significant number of our own choir members (including our Choir Director, David Fehr, and our Music Minister, Jennifer Lohmann) are active in this chorus, so you will be supporting your friends and church family.

Guest artists at the concert include: Chippewa Valley Boys Choir, Notre Dame Chant Choir and Clearwater Connections. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Purchase at Festival Foods or online at volumeonetickets.org. Information and tickets also at 715-720-9092.



Lay Servants / Lay Speakers and You

John Wesley started a movement of Christian reform and rededication that spread throughout England—but found little traction among ordained clergy. Those who were still benefiting from the existing church saw no need to change anything. So Wesley simply started recruiting and training lay people (even, gasp, women) to spread his message of growing toward perfection through the grace of Christ. Indeed, most of the early Methodist leaders were lay people.

Methodism is no longer seen as a threat to institutional religion. Quite the opposite, in fact. But a continuing reminder of our early reliance on lay leaders is the position known as Lay Speaker (updated recently to include the category Lay Servant). These are lay people from Methodist churches who have taken some basic classes in congregational leadership and who commit to continuing education as more Lay Speaker/Servant classes are offered. Their names are listed at the district and conference level and are made available to speak in churches when they are needed. Greg Wallace, Len Larsen, and Tim Atkins are lay speakers from our congregation.

In the Northwest District, we are beginning to explore new ways to offer these lay training classes—online options, for instance. If you are intrigued by this possibility and would like to know more, please contact Pastor Jerry.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

EDITORS

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

DEADLINE

News items for the January issue (mailed on Dec. 28) need to be received by **December 20**.

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Fax # – 715-832-9500

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Dear Lake Street Members and Friends:

One of the things that we like about Christmas is that it doesn't change. Think about that: this is not the time of year that we like to try new things. This is the time of year that we cook traditional recipes, carefully trot out traditional decorations, and do things *the way we've always done them*. There's something comforting about that. Yes, there are times for trying new things, but there are also times for holding on to what is traditional.

Church is pretty good at that holding-on-to-what-is-traditional business. Probably too good, in fact, and I feel like I spend a lot of time talking about ways that the modern church needs to try new things. But at Christmas even irritating people like me relax and acknowledge that there is much in tradition that we need to hold on to.

Such as worship. Here are some of the worship and celebration options that the church is offering or hosting:




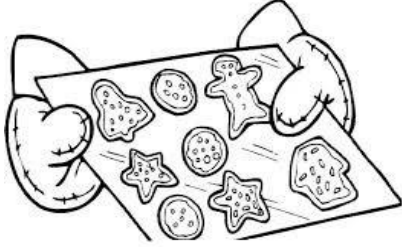
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|-------------|--|
| December 10 | Church Decorating! Stay after church and bring on the spirit of the season by decorating our sanctuary and gathering area and fellowship hall. |
| December 17 | Music Sunday! Our semiannual celebration of worship through music at Lake Street, featuring all our choirs and ensembles. |
| December 20 | 6:00 pm –Longest Night Worship. A service for those who are grieving this Christmas, a joint service of the Chippewa Valley United Methodist congregations, held this year at Hope UMC (2233 Golf Road). <i>Snow date: December 21.</i> |
| December 23 | 3:00 pm. An IM Church Christmas Eve-Eve service. "A Living Christmas Story." Our annual Christmas Eve service for the Inclusive Ministry Church, moved up one day because Christmas Eve is especially busy this year. A time of much laughter as we act out the story of Jesus' birth. |
| December 24 | 9:00 am. A "Las Posadas" worship service, reflecting on the homeless holy family on the night of Jesus' birth.

4:00 and 7:00 pm – Our traditional Christmas Eve Services, with Communion and Candle lighting, featuring an original Christmas story, "We Used to Own This Place!" |



Not everything on this list is traditional, at least to us. The "Longest Night" service is a traditional service, but not something we've done in many years. (We tried last year, but it got snowed out.) And the "Las Posadas" service is an ancient service, but from the traditions of Mexico. Still, most of the above should be familiar.

But here's one tradition that will definitely be familiar. As always, we are including with this advent letter an envelope for an Advent Offering, a chance for you to remember the church financially during this season of gift-giving.

Pastor Jerry Morris

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>     </div>						
3 Mission Emphasis: Nueva Canaan, Alto Bolivia AND Helping Hands for Children of the Chippewa Valley 9:00am Worship with communion with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Message: "Why So Serious?"; Text: Mark 13;24-37; 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall) 10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:15am Children's Education (Rm 102/103) 10:15am Confirmation (Fireside Library) 10:42am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM) 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry Worship (Dockside) 3:30pm Fellow Hall In Use (Moms On Run) 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3514	4 11:00am Celebration Life Service for Joyce Simpson (Sanctuary) with fellowship following 4:30pm Fellowship Hall In Use (Kathy Gierhart (ADK)) 6:15pm Pack 128 Den (Rooms 101/102/103/202)	5 9:00am Staff Meeting (Lounge) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall In Use (EC Male Chorus) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	6 5:00pm Advent Study (Fireside Library) 6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal (Lounge) 6:15pm Ellesi Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	7 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Missions Team (Fireside Library) 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)	8 10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry (located at 2610 Alpine Rd)	9 9:30am Confirmation Intensive (Hope UMC) 10:00am NA Committee (Room 101) 12:00pm Fireside In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
10 Mission Emphasis: Nueva Canaan, Alto Bolivia AND Helping Hands for Children of the Chippewa Valley 9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Message: "Lessons and Carols"; Texts: Mark 1:1-18 and Isaiah 40:1-11; 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall) 10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:42am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM) 10:45am AT-IT Team (Conference Room) 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry Worship (Dockside) 3:30pm Fellow Hall In Use (Moms On Run) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting	11 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting 6:15pm Pack 128 Den (Rooms 101/102/103/202)	12 9:00am Staff Meeting (Lounge) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting 6:00pm Communications Team (on line) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall In Use (EC Male Chorus) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	13 2:00pm UWF Christmas Tea (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Advent Study (Fireside Library) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting 6:00pm Handbell Rehearsal (Lounge) 6:15pm Pack 128 Committee (Room 202) 6:30pm NA (Fireside) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	14 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting	15 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting	16 10:00am Room 202 In Use (Huntington's Disease Support Group) 12:00pm Fireside In Use (NA Group) 12:00pm Sanctuary In Use (Jennifer Lohmann) 2:00pm Sanctuary In Use (Private Recital) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 MUSIC SUNDAY Mission Emphasis: Nueva Canaan, Alto Bolivia AND Helping Hands for Children of the Chippewa Valley 9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Message: "Are You a Prophet?"; Text: John 1:6-8 and 19-28; 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall) 10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) 10:42am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM) 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry Worship (Dockside) 3:00pm IM Church (Fellowship Hall) 3:30pm Room 102 In Use (Moms On Run) 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3514	18 6:15pm Pack 128 Den (Rooms 101/102/103/202)	19 9:00am Staff Meeting (Lounge) 5:30pm Trustees (Room 202/on line) 6:30pm Finance Committee (Fireside Library/on line) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall In Use (EC Male Chorus) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	20 Circuit Rider Deadline 5:00pm Advent Study (Fireside Library) 6:00pm Longest Night Christmas Service (Sanctuary); Message: "The Griefers"; at Hope UMC; 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	21 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)	22 10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry (located at 2610 Alpine Rd)	23 12:00pm Fireside In Use (NA Group) 3:00pm IM Church Christmas Eve Worship: "A Living Christmas Story" with trained actors, professional costumes, life-like sets. 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook;; Message -- "We Used to Own This Place!"
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Worship Reflection: "Las Posadas"; 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall) 10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) 10:42am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM) 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Message: "We Used to Own This Place" Texts: Luke 2:1-20 and John 1:1-14 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Message: "We Used to Own This Place" Texts: Luke 2:1-20 and John 1:1-14	25 CHRISTMAS DAY (Office Closed) 	26 9:00am Staff Meeting (Lounge) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship	27 1:30pm Room 202/Fireside Library In Use (Early Memory Loss Support Group) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	28 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 9:30am Circuit Rider Assembly (Room 202) 1:00pm Stampers (Room 202)	29	30 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
31 9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellow Hall) 10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) 10:42am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)						

Printed November 29, 2023