



# Circuit Rider

## January 2024

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

### Election Resolutions for 2024

Pastor Jerry

And here we are again: election season. I realize that, in a sense, we've been here for a long time already, but this month brings us the Iowa Caucuses and New Hampshire Primary, and maybe something in South Carolina, too. Starting now, it will be everywhere for at least the next ten months.

We always complain about the length of American elections (especially when we learn that some other countries have laws forbidding campaigning until six weeks before election day) but to me at least this year feels especially ominous. Our political discourse has grown so coarse and polarized over the past eight to ten years that I not only dread the constant television ads and shrill news reports on meaningless poll numbers, but also broken relationships, damaged families, and actual violence. I can't do anything about political ads (except not watch them, see below), but speaking as a pastor, let me offer a few things to keep in mind this year as we navigate the social context of modern American elections.

- *God loves our political enemies, even if we've forgotten how.* That person in your office or family or neighborhood whose political opinions drive you so distractedly angry is loved by God with the same passionate intensity that you are. Jesus died for that person, exactly as for you. (Now, for advanced students, apply this principle not only to that irritating person in your life but also to the political candidates. Yes, even *that* candidate.)
- *Perfect love casts out fear* (1 John 4:18). Political operatives on both sides have long known that it is easier to motivate voters with fear than with promises, so candidates have always spent more energy warning voters of the terrible things their opponents would do than talking about the good things that they would do themselves. But in our new internet media world, and with our increasing estrangement from the concept of "truth," fear-mongering has become apocalyptic. Depending on which media sphere your algorithm leads you toward, you get daily reports on how Donald Trump will destroy our government, end elections, and declare himself a dictator or how Joe Biden will continue his campaign to make us a Communist state subservient to his masters in China. Take a breath. Remember that those political campaigns *want* us to be afraid. We are more easily manipulated that way. Don't give in to them. We are called to love, not to fear.
- *Reduce your news intake.* But wait! Aren't we supposed to be responsible, informed voters? Yes, of course. Read all the economic assessments of candidates' fiscal policy that you want. But is that really what we get from our news? And does more news mean being more informed? A few years ago, a group called More in Common did a survey of people on both sides of our political divide. They asked them for their views on various national issues, then asked them what they thought the *other* side believed on the same issues. Generally, people's own views were moderate, slightly left or right of center, but those same people firmly believed that the people on the other side held radical views. This is part of that whole fear-mongering thing. We've been taught that the people in the other political party are all extremists. But here's the most

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**"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  
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.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*

**Jennifer Lohmann**  
*Minister of Worship Music  
and Pianist*

**David Fehr**  
*Choir and Ensemble Director*

**Kathy Amundson-Forsberg**  
*Ellesi Director*

**Edna Sahs**  
*Organist*

**Jennifer Blakeley-Mode**  
*Finance Clerk*

**Aaron Athas**  
*Communications  
Facilitator*

**Joel Carr**  
*Custodian*

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

**Open Position**  
*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.*

### **Lectionary Sermons for January**

#### **Saturday-Sunday, January 6-7.\* Baptism of the Lord**

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: "Anatomy of a Sacrament"

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11; Acts 19:1-7

#### **Saturday-Sunday, January 13-14. 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

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: "Come and See"

Scripture: John 1:43-51

#### **Saturday-Sunday, January 20-21. 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

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: "Who Picked Those Guys?"

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

#### **Saturday-Sunday, January 27-28. 4th Sunday after Epiphany**

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: "Unclean Spirits"

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

\*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)

fascinating thing to me: the study also found that people who consumed the most political media were more wrong about their opponents than those who consumed none at all (David French, "Welcome to our New 'Bespoke Realities,'" *New York Times*). Consuming a lot of political news is not making us more informed; it's making us more irrationally suspicious.

This year can we deliberately set ourselves to focus on love, remembering that Christ is our example, not anyone else? Can we refuse to dance to the manipulative piping of those who want us to live in fear and anger? And can we set ourselves the goal of spending less, not more, time on political news? (Two simple suggestions: [1], mute all political ads as soon as they start, and [2] ignore any news report that has the word "poll" in the headline. These are the junk food of the media; offering only empty calories.)

This year is going to be a trial to all of us, but a trial is by definition a time of testing. We are going to be tested as to whether our faith, based on love of God and neighbor, is going to be more important to us than our politics. God be with us.

### **Choirs begin again this month**

One of the best ways to get to know people in a church is through a choir. Something about getting together for a shared purpose is a lot more comfortable than getting together just to talk.

And now is a perfect time to join a choir, if you haven't already. We are starting a new year, looking at new music, all on the same page. There is no requirement for music-reading ability, no audition. We have people of all different levels of musical ability, sitting together and learning from each other.

If you are interested in at least trying out the choir experience, we will be officially beginning our choir season on Wednesday, January 10. The schedule is:

6:00pm	Handbell Choir (Lounge)
6:15	Ellesi (Fellowship Hall)
7:00	Chancel Choir (Fellowship Hall)
8:00	The Ensemble (Fellowship Hall)

Current choir and ensemble members, watch your emails for possible early rehearsals on January 3.

### **RADIO SERVICE SUPPORT \$165/week**

- |                                     |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 7  | <input type="checkbox"/> January 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> February 4  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 28 | <input type="checkbox"/> February 11 |

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ In Recognition of: \_\_\_\_\_

### **HAVE YOU FOUND US ONLINE?**

Our website [www.lakestreetumc.org](http://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](mailto: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.

### **February Circuit Rider**

Deadline is  
Wednesday, Jan. 21 for  
Thursday, Jan. 29  
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.*

### Thank You!

#### Christmas Cookie Plate Delivery

On December 10, we decorated the church for Christmas, as some of you remember. On that same Sunday, many of us brought plates of Christmas treats, and Winnie Doxsie, Bonnie Wright, and others put together twenty-six plates of goodies to deliver to some of our members who are not able to be in church in person as much anymore.

Most of those plates were taken away for delivery that morning. Others have been delivered since then. Here are some of the responses we have received from the recipients:

*Lake Street members, Stampers and cookie bakers: Thank you SO much for your prayers, cards, encouraging notes, and the delicious plate of Christmas goodies. You have brightened and blessed many of my days with your kindness!*

-- Carol Lamirande

*Last week, Jennie Stratton delivered a plate of goodies to my door. I thanked her, but she said, "I am just the messenger. Thank the ladies of the church." So, as I surveyed the plate of goodies and took the first bite, I thought of the 20-30 kitchens where, a few days earlier, cooks had worked in God's behalf to create signs of his lavish love for me and others. For them, Christianity was not merely a cultural thing, it was action. It was "Kitchen Christianity." And as I reached for another cookie, I thought about the obvious truth about our community. There are all kinds of Christians around us. We have dust rag Christians and flower arranging Christians and money crunching Christians and, yes, taken-for-granted Christians, all of whom are doing stuff and not merely being "entertained" by others. So, now I hope you will join me in this prayer. Thank you God for all the heroes, unsung and often anonymous, who make Lake Street Church a place where you are pleased to do your work. Amen.*

-- Al Olson

### 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, DECORATORS

A big thank you to all the folks who helped decorate this year. Our Lake Street children made fast work of the big stash of colorful bulbs and other ornaments for the trees in the Sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall. Thank you also to the moms and dads, grandparents, MAP (those trees are heavy!), Lake Street's friends and members, for your assistance. *It takes a congregation to decorate our church.* Such fun, and I love the brightness. Blessings.

--Pat Peterson



## 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.*

### Loose Change Mission Offering in January:

This year again, our mission offering in January will go to the **Chippewa Valley Street ministry**. This ministry offers warm clothing, gloves, hats, blankets, sleeping bags, water, hygiene kits to individuals/families living on the streets of Eau Claire, under bridges and in cars. Many have jobs and struggle to find housing they can afford or need to save up money for a security deposit and first month's rent. Some have addictions or are trying to rebuild their life after an addiction. To find out more about this ministry visit: <https://www.chippewavalleystreetministry.org>.

### Scrip Donation to Feed My People

For the past two years, we as a church have designated the profits of our Scrip program - after all expenses - to go to the Feed My People food pantry. Part of the reasoning for this is that, because of the special buying deals that are available to Feed My People, every dollar that they receive they can turn into \$2 of food to give away. In December we sent a check to Feed My People, made up mostly of Scrip profits but also of some other designated gifts. To date, we have sent Feed My People \$5,521.40. So buying and using Scrip cards is just one more way that Lake Streeters have to help others.

### Community Table

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

**January 17 — 9:00-2:00pm**

**February 22 — 9:00-2:00pm**

**March 20 — 9:00-2:00pm**

**April 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 weeks of

**March 17-23 and**

**June 9-15.**

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



### ARCW Wish List for January: Meal in a Can

Join others from Lake Street UMC in assisting AIDS/HIV clients by choosing to donate a "Meal in a Can" – beef stew, soup, ravioli, etc. Your donations will be helping those clients of the ARCW who depend on the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Food Pantry.

Thanks for the donations during November, 2023. Bathroom tissue, soup, vegetables, coffee and candy, evaporated milk plus many additional items were donated! Many thanks to all of you who donated. You touch many lives here in Eau Claire!

### 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 use to support the church and its ministries. **In 2024, again, we have decided to designate our Scrip profits to Feed My People.**

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.

**Stock up  
now!**



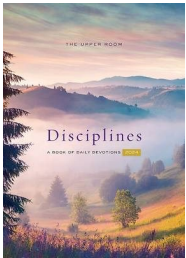
## A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

*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.*



### IM Church Christmas Eve

In addition to our regular 3rd Sunday IM Church services, we also hold an annual Christmas Eve edition. In the IM Church Christmas Eve, we simply talk through and act out the Christmas story. Here, in a rare ancient photograph, Baby Jesus is adored by shepherds as Mary and Joseph and some interested cows look on. (Colorized)



### Upper Room Disciplines, 2024

Only one copy remains in the church office. Cost is \$14.00. If you missed someone's Christmas gift — this might be an idea!

### 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 FOR JANUARY

Since last September, our children's classes have been working their way through the story of the Exodus. We still haven't finished, but as we start the new year, we will be moving to the New Testament for a while, specifically to the Acts of the Apostles, the book that tells the story of the early church in the years after Jesus rose from the grave and returned to the Father.

We will begin our journey through the apostles' church on January 7, at 10:15. Remember that on 3rd Sundays, the children join the Pancake Breakfast serving team and work with them in the kitchen. After all, the children's program is not a separate church, but is a training ground for the rest of their church lives.



### Position Open in LSUMC Preschool

Last month we regretfully said goodbye to Abby Norstad, the UWEC student who has been our competent, cheerful, and dependable Preschool 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](mailto:pastor@lakestreetumc.org).

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United  
Women  
in Faith

The United Women in Faith will not be meeting in the months of January and February. Stay warm. Stay safe. See you on Wednesday, March 20 for a program on "Senior Moments."

## Olson-Maser Scholarship

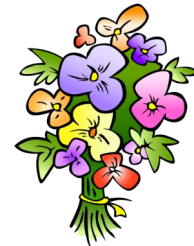
If you, or someone you know,  
is going to school to prepare for a helping profession  
(teaching, medical, social work, ministry)  
remember that we have an annual scholarship  
for such students.

The application is available from the office  
or can be downloaded from the church website.

## January Birthdays

- 1/4 Dewain Lightfoot (84)
- 1/9 Janelle Earl
- 1/10 Beatrice Larson (89)
- 1/17 Pat Peterson
- 1/19 Colleen Bates (91)
- 1/27 Gretchen Glasshof (84)
- 1/28 Jan Voss

*Happy Birthday*



## Prayer Holds Us Together

One of the ways we are able to care for each other, whether we are together or not is by praying. If you would like to be a part of our regular prayer email group, contact Pastor Jerry.



## 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.

## STAMPERS

... will meet **Thursday, January 25th at 1 o'clock** in Room 202. We are always happy to have more helpers. COME join us. You'll have fun.



### The End of Offering Envelopes

This has been in the newsletter for a couple of months, but let's leave it in once more. In 2023, our Finance Committee voted no longer to order or distribute the pre-printed offering envelope booklets that we have used in the past. The reason, simply, is that they are being used less and costing more.

The envelope pads cost about \$2.80 each last year, or a total of \$642, and 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. Over a thousand dollars is a lot to pay for the convenience of pre-printed envelopes.

And so a familiar pattern of church life is gone from Lake Street. Fortunately, the pandemic helped us all to see that there are other options for giving than the old patterns. Many of you simply started mailing your gifts to the church, and many more have signed up for online giving through our website. For your creativity, as well as your generosity, we thank you.

### IRA Rollovers

Many of you have already experienced the Internal Revenue Service requirement that at *some* point you need to start taking money from your retirement funds. (Specifically, at age 73.5, I believe.) You can't get the tax deferral benefits for putting money in IRAs and then never use that money for retirement. Eventually, you have to take the money out and pay some taxes.

But for those who don't *need* that money, but who still have to draw it out, though, there's another option. You are permitted under IRS rules to roll your withdrawal over into a charitable gift - tax free. Thus you can save on taxes and pay your annual pledge up front, with very little fuss or inconvenience.

### Foundation Grant Report

Last year, the Lake Street Foundation's ministry grants to the church added up to \$23,007.69. Much of this money is designated for specific ministry areas, and the rest is undesignated. So far, funds from these grants have been used for:

- Worship: New Advent Candles (\$138.04) and handbell gloves, pads, and desks (\$713.75).
- Inclusive Welcome: Final bill for the Chancel Lift (\$3,000.00), new iPad for homebound worship (\$286.98), a new ice freezer (\$142.00), new water pitchers (\$293.57) for the kitchen, and materials for an inclusion banner in the east stairway window (\$47.20), and \$202.02 toward new sturdy chairs for the Fellowship Hall.
- Spiritual Formation: A plaque designating recipients of the Olson-Maser Scholarship (\$189.95).
- Outreach: 25 backpacks with essential supplies for the homeless, through Community Table (\$1,173.00), other toiletry items for the same backpacks (\$346.22), contribution to underwrite roof repairs on the Nueva Canaan Metodista church in El Alto, Bolivia (\$2,200), grant to The Community Table for new office computers (\$6,000).
- Other expenses.
  - \* Book-keeping adjustments: Zero-ing out the deficit Staff Appreciation Fund (\$118.30) and completing funding on Room 202 air-con (\$509.52).
  - \* Building and capital improvements: New concrete steps from parking lot to 4th street (\$3,400.00), outdoor garden expenses (\$600.00)

Total used: \$19,820.70.



## Memorials and Special Gifts received through December 19

### MEMORIALS

**In memory of Joyce Simpson;** Donors: Ron and Corinne Gjerner, Dick and Linda Keepers; Designated for: Radio Ministry;

**In memory of Joyce Simpson;** Donors: Nancy Brown-Joyce, Judy and Richard Kelly, Shrie Adams, James and Jane Behrens, Jeanette Wangen, Barbara K. Dougal, Kathleen Stoddart, Gary and Jo Ann Wilson, Lynne and Kenneth Ziehr, Barbara Noll Callahan, Nancy Page and James Hodge, Lloyd and Sylvia Leitz, Janet Dow, John and Joellyn Merz, Mitch and Barbara Piper; Undesignated;

**In memory of Joyce Simpson;** Donors: Lloyd and Florence Shepherd; Designated for: United Women in Faith;

**In memory of; Kaye Davie;** Donors: Linda Felty, Sandra Hart, Debra Woodford, Christine Drew, Jane and James Schultz, Kay Bursaw, Ann Yelle, James and Rebecca Maus, Michelle Moltzau, Dale and Pegi Fleming, Jon and Diane Case; Undesignated;

**In memory of Kaye Davie;** Donor: John Melrose; Designated for: Radio Ministry;

**In memory of Kaye Davie;** Donor: Carol Lamirande; Designated for: Outside Gardens;

**In memory of Louise Thompson;** Donor: Craig Koerth; Undesignated;

**In memory of Winnie Joos;** Donors: Dennis and Betty Reinke; Designated for: Music;

### SPECIAL GIFTS

Donors: Paul and Virginia Hilbrich; Designated for: Radio Ministry;

**Pancake Breakfast —** Join us on Sunday, **January 21st** for our first breakfast of the 2024 year. Great pancakes and French toast. Serving begins at **8:30 am**.

## RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

### Financial Report through November, 2023

The brief report is that we held our own in November. At the end of October, we were about \$27,000 in the red on the year, and at the end of November, it was \$28,000.

Several things to keep in mind before getting too worried, however. First, the “revenue” side of our accounts does not include internal transfers, but almost \$8000 of our expenses have been covered by internal transfers from our Parsonage Fund. Moreover, about \$7,000 of the “expenses” recorded in this report are capitalized expenses from previous years – not expenses from this year. Our month by month giving and expenses are considerably closer to each other than a \$28,000 deficit implies.

And finally, remember that we are nearly always in the red at this point. December is by far the largest month for church giving. In 2022, we made up about \$17,000 in the month of December, and giving through the first three weeks of this month has been consistent with last year. We ended last year \$4,000 in the black, and while that may not happen again this year, we will still be within shouting distance of breaking even.

In the good news box, we have seen our invested funds grow dramatically in the past month, which is promising both for our Parsonage Fund transfers and our annual Lake Street Foundation grants, both of which are figured (wholly or partly) based on our end-of-year investment balances.

And so we end this year, once again, with gratitude. You have entrusted Lake Street Church with your gifts, depending on us to use them for ministry to others and for building up the congregation in “wisdom and stature and favor with God and man.” It has been a good and stabilizing year. With that foundation, next year, we will be able to do even more.

Lake Street United Methodist Church

	Operating Fund		Building Fund		Total	
	Nov 2023	Budget Nov 2023	Nov 2023	Budget Nov 2023	Nov 2023	Budget Nov 2023
Offerings and other income *	\$ 330,971	340,830	\$ 5,312	\$ 1,210	\$ 336,283	\$ 342,040
Expenses	278,450	300,900	86,244	\$ 85,246	364,694	386,146
Net of Offerings less expenses	\$ 52,521	\$ 39,930	\$ (80,931)	\$ (84,036)	\$ (28,410)	\$ (44,106)

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

## CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY

### Special NC Jurisdiction Conference Called for Jan. 23

The North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, of which Northern Illinois is a member, will hold a special, virtual session on Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. Central Time.

The jurisdiction's College of Bishops called the session.

The sole item for consideration by the jurisdictional conference delegates at this session is the recommendation that four episcopal areas (regions overseen by a bishop) be combined into two. One new area would partner Northern Illinois and Wisconsin conferences under one bishop and the other area would partner East and West Ohio conferences under one bishop.

The partnered annual conferences would each continue under their own governance and leadership, as they have been. A bishop would oversee both conferences.

A few episcopal areas in The United Methodist Church already contain more than one conference. In the NCJ, the Dakotas and Minnesota conferences were partnered into one episcopal area in 2012. They remain separately governed conferences, although they voluntarily collaborate on some ministries.

The bishops called this special session to settle the number of bishops to be assigned to episcopal areas as of Sept. 1. If this recommendation passes, the jurisdiction will have seven areas.

The jurisdiction's Episcopacy Committee assigns bishops to areas. This usually happens during the jurisdictional conferences, which are held in the summer following General Conferences. The next regular session of the NCJ will take place July 10-13 in Sioux Falls, SD.

Looking at the denomination's required formula that takes into account membership statistics, the committee anticipated two years ago that the jurisdiction may need to reduce the number of its episcopal areas. United Methodist membership, including in the NCJ, has been steadily declining over a number of years. Recent congregational disaffiliations across the denomination have accelerated that trend.

Election and assignment of bishops has usually been the most demanding of the tasks undertaken at jurisdictional conferences. Given the possible reduction in episcopal areas, it may be the case that the NCJ will not need to elect new bishops in 2024.

At the July conference, delegates will also honor two retiring bishops, Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble and Bishop Gregory V. Palmer.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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### DEADLINE

News items for the February issue (mailed on Jan. 29) need to be received by **January 21**.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>2</b> 7:00pm Fellowship Hall In Use (EC Male Chorus) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	<b>3</b> 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	<b>4</b> 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
<b>7</b> <b>Mission Emphasis: Chippewa Valley Street Ministry</b> <b>9:00am Worship with Communion (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1)</b> <i>Message: "Anatomy of a Sacrament";</i> <i>Texts: Mrk 1:4-11 and Acts 19:1-7;</i> 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:15am Children's Education (Room 102/103) 10:15am Confirmation (Fireside Library) <b>10:42am Radio Ministry (880AM &amp; 106.3 FM)</b> 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry Worship (Dockside) 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3514 (Rooms 101/102/103/202)	<b>8</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Fitness Class) 4:30pm Fireside Library In Use (Kathy Gierhart) 6:00pm Leadership Orientation: Welcome, Worship and Communications Teams (Fellowship Hall/online) 6:15pm Pack 128 Den (Rooms 101/102/103/202)	<b>9</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting (Lounge) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall In Use (EC Male Chorus) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	<b>10</b> 9:30am Missions Team (Fireside Library) 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Fitness Class) 6:00pm Handbell Choir (Lounge) 6:15pm Ellesi Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 6:15pm Pack 128 Committee (Room 202) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	<b>11</b> 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)	<b>12</b> 10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry (located at 2610 Alpine Rd)	<b>13</b> 9:00am Room 202 In Use (Amateur Radio Testing) 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
<b>14</b> <b>Mission Emphasis: Chippewa Valley Street Ministry</b> <b>9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube;</b> <i>Message: "Come and See";</i> <i>Text: John 1:43-51;</i> 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:15am Children's Education (Room 102/103) 10:15am Confirmation (Fireside Library) 10:45am AT-IT Team (Conference Room)	<b>15</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Fitness Class)	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Foundation Board (Room 202/online) 6:00pm Leadership Orientation: Trustees, Finance, Staff Parish, Memorials (Fellowship Hall)	<b>17</b> <b>Circuit Rider Deadline</b> 9:00am The Community Table 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Fitness Class) 6:00pm Handbell Choir (Lounge) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	<b>18</b> 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00am Room 202 In Use (Huntington's Disease Support Group) 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1:00pm Hispanic Ministry Worship (Dockside)		7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)			
<b>21</b> <b>Mission Emphasis: Chippewa Valley Street Ministry</b> <b>9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube;</b> <i>Message: "Who Picked Those Guys?";</i> <i>Text: Mark 1:14-20;</i> 8:30am Pancakes Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:15am Children's Education (Room 102/103) 10:15am Confirmation (Fireside Library) <b>10:42am Radio Ministry (880AM &amp; 106.3 FM)</b> 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry Worship (Dockside) <b>3:00pm IM Church (Fellowship Hall)</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Fitness Class) 5:00pm Reconciling Ministry (Room 202) <b>6:00pm Church Council (Fellowship Hall/online)</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting (Lounge) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall In Use (EC Male Chorus) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	<b>24</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Fitness Class) 6:00pm Handbell Choir (Lounge) 6:15pm Ellesi Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	<b>25</b> 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 8:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (Sewing Guild) (Room 101A) <b>9:30am Circuit Rider Assembly (Room 202)</b> 1:00pm Stampers (Room 202)	<b>26</b> 10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry (located at 2610 Alpine Rd)	<b>27</b> 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) Room 101 In Use) NNA Committee) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
<b>28</b> <b>Mission Emphasis: Chippewa Valley Street Ministry</b> <b>9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube;</b> <i>Message: "Unclean Spirits";</i> <i>Text: Mark 1:21-28;</i> 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 10:15am Book Study (Conference Room) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:15am Children's Education (Room 102/103) 10:15am Confirmation (Fireside Library) <b>10:42am Radio Ministry (880AM &amp; 106.3 FM)</b> 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry Worship (Dockside) 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3514 (Rooms 101/102/103/202)	<b>29</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Fitness Class)	<b>30</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting (Lounge) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall In Use (EC Male Chorus) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	<b>31</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Fitness Class) 1:30pm Room 202/Fireside Library In Use (Early Memory Loss Support Group) 6:00pm Handbell Choir (Lounge) 6:15pm Ellesi Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	