



# Circuit Rider

## September 2025

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

### What I Did on My Summer Sabbatical

Pastor Jerry

You ever have to write those “What I did on my summer vacation” essays in your first week back at school? Didn’t you hate those? Anyway, here’s my report.

First, thank you. I didn’t think I was approaching ministry burn-out or anything like that; I just heard that I was eligible for this “renewal leave” thing and thought it would be a good thing to keep me in my healthy, non-burnt-out state, which I obviously was in. And about three weeks into June, Rebecca said to me: “You know, you’re a different person now than you were a month ago.” I was calmer, listened better, laughed more. Huh.

My goals in beginning this three months away were:

- Rest. Sabbath. A chance to do things slowly and deliberately and enjoy them more.
- Reading. Partly I wanted to read things just for fun, but I also wanted to read some of the academic books of philosophy and history and theology that had been piling up – books for my mind, not just for my ministry.
- Writing. I love to write fiction. It has been both a hobby and a side-career for me, but I haven’t had time to do much with it for the past 15 years, since I became full-time in the pastorate.

Let me start with those. Yes, I rested. I got more exercise, spent more time reading (and doing crossword puzzles). During the times that was actually here in town, I spent much of every day under an umbrella on our back deck. Second: yes, I read. A lot. I finished several books of philosophy and theology, which you’ll hear pieces of in sermons for some time. (Sorry about that.) And third: yes, I wrote a novel. (No, you can’t read it – at least not yet. I’ve started the process of sending it out for publication.)

But one of the great benefits I obtained that I didn’t have on my list of goals was perspective. When you are in the middle of a job day in and day out, you can get pretty good at those details, but you can also lose the bigger picture. Is this weekly task actually worth doing? Am I spending too long on less important parts of my job? Too little time on things that matter more? Now, as I prepare to head back to the office, I have begun to sort these impressions and to ask myself what I have learned? What did I miss from Lake Street while I was gone? I missed MAP, the youth class, and our prayer time together in worship. I even – and this will come as a shock to most of you – missed (some) meetings. When a meeting starts with a question, proceeds with laughter and conversation, and ends with a plan, that is a satisfying experience. What did I not miss? Denominational deadlines, the clutter of the email inbox, and the pressure of stage-managing Sunday worship.

Let me conclude with that last line as a paradigm example. I have always worked hard to keep everything running smoothly on Sunday morning, making sure everyone knows their cues, that nothing runs overtime, and so on. I don’t necessarily feel that we have to end within an hour each week (well, *obviously*) but

(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 @  
10:42AM), 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**  
*Ellesi Director; Interim  
Chancel Choir Director*

**Evan Rognholt**  
*Handbell 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 September**

#### **Sermon Series: Christ in Every Age**

#### **Saturday-Sunday, September 6-7. 13th Sunday after Pentecost**

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: "Christ in the Age of Enchantment"

Scripture: Ephesians 6:12

#### **Saturday-Sunday, September 13-14. 14th Sunday after Pentecost**

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: "Christ in the Age of Reason"

Scripture: Isaiah 44:6-11

#### **Saturday-Sunday, September 20-21. 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

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: "Christ in the Age of Mobilization"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-7

#### **Saturday-Sunday, September 27-28. 16th Sunday after Pentecost**

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: "Christ in the Age of Authenticity (I)"

Scripture: Matthew 10:34-49

#### **Saturday-Sunday, October 4-5. 17th Sunday after Pentecost**

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: "Christ in the Age of Authenticity (II)"

Scripture: Psalm 139

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

if we run over, I want to make sure it was for a good reason. If things go off script, I get stressed and frustrated. But one discipline I imposed on myself for this sabbatical was that, when I wasn't on the road, I attended different churches. In that process, I had a sort of epiphany. Those churches I visited where everything went like clockwork were invariably the least meaningful to me. Those churches (especially the small country ones) where nobody worried about stage-managing felt much more welcoming and loving. I'm still mulling what this means for me and my Sunday preparation, but at the very least it means I shouldn't stress about late entrances and so on. We aren't there for the show.

I'll have a lot more reflections from my time away, and you'll probably hear about them, but for now, let me just say again: Thank you for the opportunity you gave me to spend that time in reflection.

### Music Leadership Changes

Here's where we were at the end of May. Our long-time choir director David Fehr had retired, and those choirs were being led by Kathy Amundson-Forsberg and Evan Rognholt from our congregation. The Staff-Parish committee had begun a community-wide search for a new choir director. Meanwhile, our long-time pianist and accompanist Jennifer Lohmann had been accepted to a graduate program in Georgia. She left Eau Claire at the beginning of August. A lot of change.

Here's where we are now (or at least at the middle of August). We have not had any applications from the community for the director's position, and so we go into the fall in much the same way we began the summer. Kathy will remain the director of Ellesi; Evan will continue as Handbell director; the contemporary group Celebration will continue to lead themselves, and the other choir positions will be divvied up internally. SPRC will keep the job posting open. For the time being, we will continue working with the talents and giftedness of our home-grown musicians.

Given these changes, our choir schedule on Sundays and perhaps also our Wednesday evening rehearsal schedule will be changing. Musicians, keep an eye on our weekly Connections and Short Circuit announcement pages.

But we have better news regarding the piano/accompanist position. We have had several different applications for that role, and as of this writing (August 19), Staff-Parish is interviewing and auditioning those applicants. I look forward to introducing you to a new pianist soon.

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

- |                                       |                                       |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> September 7  | <input type="checkbox"/> September 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> October 5  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> September 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> September 28 | <input type="checkbox"/> October 12 |

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 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.

### October Circuit Rider

Deadline is  
Wednesday, Sept. 17 for  
Thursday, Sept. 25  
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 Update

On Tuesday, August 29, Friends at the Lake participated in an activity involving dressing up in different costumes. Participants wore wigs, hats, colorful jackets, butterfly wings, and other various types of clothing. During the event, there was laughter and smiling among friends and volunteers. On August 14, I served as a vendor at the Skills for the Caregiver event at Jacob's Well and took part in an afternoon panel discussing the continuum of care in the Chippewa Valley. Reflecting on these experiences, it would be beneficial to find ways to communicate the positive atmosphere often present at Friends at the Lake. Activities such as wearing costumes, painting flower designs, and singing songs, contribute to an environment characterized by inclusivity and a welcoming attitude. This ministry is different from the other options available for people living with dementia. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact me at [Laurievb@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:Laurievb@lakestreetumc.org) or call me at 715-832-6603.

*A thank you to the Friends at the Lake, from the Eau Claire Associated School District Family Services.*

*Thank you so very much for taking the time to assemble our attendance magnetic boards. We are so appreciative to have the ready for our families for the start of the school year!*



*Dani Graham*

### Why Hospitality?

Pastor Jerry

I will talk more about this in days to come, but let me just say this: Churches are bad at hospitality. As I visited different churches every week during my sabbatical, I seldom felt welcomed - and only at smaller congregations.

Here's what feels welcoming. Not a pastor or official greeter saying, "Welcome!" They have to; that's their job. What feels welcoming is the regular members noticing someone new and walking over to say hello and helping them get settled. Being welcomed to church should feel like being welcomed to someone's home, and the greeters and the pastor can't communicate that: only you can.

### DO YOU ENJOY COFFEE HOUR?

Help keep Coffee Fellowship going by volunteering to serve 3 or 4 times a year. Training, reimbursement and team development available.



Contact the office or Winnie Doxsie.

### HELP WANTED IN THE PANCAKE BREAKFAST DINING ROOM

1 ½ HOUR SHIFTS

7:00 - 8:30 - SET UP

9:00 - 10:30 - SETTING & CLEARING TABLES

10:30 - 12:00 - CLEAN UP

Contact Winnie Doxsie

**1st Breakfast:  
September 21**



## 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 -- Feed My People

This month the Mission team is asking you to help support the Feed My People Food Bank. The mission of the Feed My People Food Bank is that no one in their 14-county service area should go hungry. They believe that "food makes it possible for kids to learn, for adults to focus better at work, and for seniors to stay healthy and active." To accomplish this, they annually distribute 8 million pounds of food, and help to provide food to over 75,000 individuals. There are 255,297 annual visits by kids to receive food. Food insecurity for families and individuals continues to be a struggle please consider donating this month to the Feed My People Foodbank. If you would like to volunteer in person you can do this by going to: <https://www.fmpfoodbank.org>.

**Beacon House-** The next opportunity to prepare a supper meal for guests at Beacon House is **September 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

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

#### Community Table Report

On August 13th, Lake Street volunteers prepared and served a meal of chicken and grits casserole, fruit salad, tossed salad and dessert for 84 guests. There are more upcoming opportunities to serve on September 10th and October 8th. The early shift from 9-11:15am prepares the meal and the late shift from 11:15am - 1:30pm, 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](mailto:petermnelson@sbcglobal.net).

#### Community Table

Our next dates at TCT are:

**September 10– 9:00-2:00pm**

**October 8 – 9:00-2:00pm**

**November 12 – 9:00-2:00pm**

To volunteer, contact Peter Nelson at 715-379-8135 or at [petermnelson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petermnelson@sbcglobal.net).



#### Beacon House Hosting

Our congregation hosts evening meals at Beacon House next on:

**September 7-13**

Thank you to all the many volunteers

who keep this ministry alive, especially our new volunteers.



#### ARCW Wish List for September: Bathroom Tissue

Please join others from Lake Street in supporting the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin Food Pantry during the month of September by donating **bathroom tissue**. Your donation will assist clients who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Place your donation in the box near the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to those who donated more than 25 Meals-in-a-Can during the month of August. Thanks also for the additional donations of canned fruit, condiments, Jell-O and more. The ARCW values these special items from Lake Street United Methodist Church each month!

#### Scrip Card Purchasing

Starting in **September**, card ordering will change. There will be no table in Fellowship Hall. Orders will be received by September 7th for payment and delivery as of September 14th.



In **October**, purchases will need to be submitted by October 11th with payment and delivery as of October 19th.

In **November**, purchases will need to be submitted by November 9th, with payment and delivery as of November 16th.

In **December**, purchases will need to be submitted by December 7th, with payment and delivery as of December 14th.

Buy Scrip — Support Lake Street UMC

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## A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

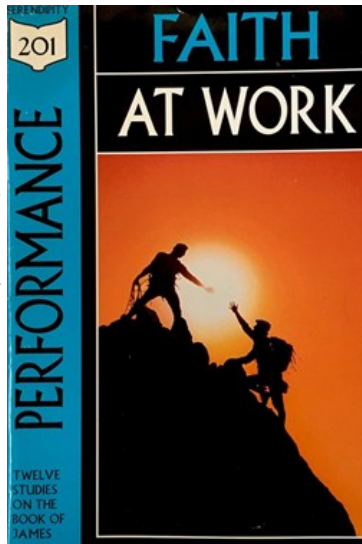
*We seek to be a place where all God's children, of all ages and abilities, can grow together in knowledge and faith, through study, through participation in worship, and through service to others.*

### New Adult Class Beginning In September

One of our most faithful Faith Formation groups is the Adult Book Study that takes place every Sunday after worship in the office conference room. This group is long-standing and includes people both from within the church and outside the church.

For the past few years this group has read a book together and met for discussions, but this Fall they are shifting gears and are going to do a 12-week study in the biblical Book of James. There really isn't a set teacher for the group, but J.J. Henricksen and Per Forsberg do the planning. If you're interested in an in-depth study of an often-overlooked New Testament book, come out and join this group. BYOB.\*

The 12-week schedule is taken from the study guide at the right (*Faith at Work*), but you are welcome to bring any commentaries or other helps that you happen to have. Others are available in our church library.



\*Bring Your Own *Bible*; what did you think we meant?

### 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 / Youth begins Sept 7

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

It is here! Our Sunday School program for kindergarten – fifth grade begins **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 extras.

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Happy Birthday



United  
Women  
in Faith

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW) NEWS

### UWF September Program:

### Women Together – Sleeping Mat Project

Join us September 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm to see how your plastic bags are made into sleeping mats. We will explain and demonstrate the process. You will have a chance to do some weaving on the loom. Completed sleeping mats will be on display. All are welcome—lunch will be served.

## September Birthdays



|      |                   |    |
|------|-------------------|----|
| 3rd  | Linda Peterson    |    |
| 11th | Jane Kilde        |    |
| 12th | Julie Holzinger   |    |
| 19th | Floyd (Bob) Davis | 83 |
| 25th | Lloyd Kragenbring | 86 |
| 27th | Carroll Vowels    | 91 |
| 29th | Geraldine Kunkel  | 94 |

## HOLEY SOCKS PROJECT

Lake Street United Women in Faith continues their **Holey Socks** project, which is a recycling program that raises funds for Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. We're collecting clean, used socks of any brand to send to Terra-Cycle. A collection box is in the Fellowship Hall by the water fountains. This is an all-church project.



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.

## Thanks for the Colors



### Altar Flowers

Thank you to  
Donovan Unruh,  
Kathy Amundson-  
Forsberg and Pat  
Peterson for their

green-thumb talents which have graced the Sanctuary. How has your garden grown after these days of rain and warmth? Do you have asters or sunflowers coming into blossom? Or maybe you shop the Farmers' Market for bouquets. Any may be taken back home to enjoy after services. Vases are available. God colors so well with his crayons!

## HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear Lake Street friends,

I wanted to take this moment to thank everyone for all the cards, the cake, the kind and encouraging words, and all the incredibly generous gifts. I was so touched, and so sad to be leaving this congregation and all the wonderful friends and connections I have made over the past eight years. I am now (mostly) settled into a rental house in Statesboro, Georgia, and I am a week into classes and a week and a half into my graduate assistant duties. While I will probably enjoy being in graduate school and I will definitely enjoy the time that I can devote to becoming an etter pianist, I still very much miss Eau Claire and this church especially, and I suspect I always will. I hope to return in either two yew years or however long it takes to complete this particularljourney, and I cannot really envision my future without this happening. In the meantime, please know that I am so grateful to you all.

— Jennifer

## STAMPERS

Last year when people signed up to design monthly cards, our Janelle Earl chose September. Earlier this year she left us and we decided to honor her by holding our own "memorial" on the regularly-scheduled fourth Friday of the month. Instead of meeting at Lake Street, all past, present and future stampers as well as friends of Janelle are invited to Culver's on Brackett at 11:00 am. In addition to frozen custard there will be plenty of laughs as we remember our dear stamping friend. We're sure Janelle would approve So, see you Thursday, September 25th at Culver's on Brackett at 11:00 am.



## RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

### Trustees Report

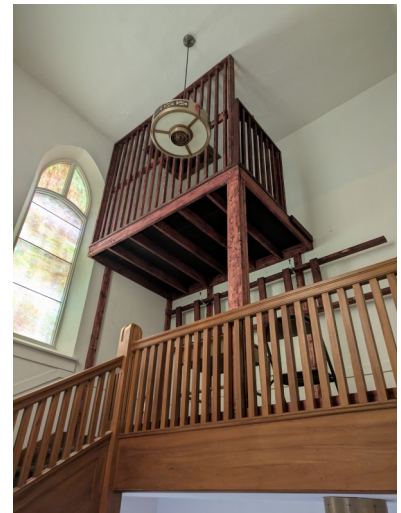
One of the busy seasons for our Board of Trustees is the summer, but a short-staffed office this season, you may not know all the things that they have been up to. Here is a (probably incomplete) list of how your Trustees have been caring for your church building.

**Windows.** So much work on windows. First the windows in the downstairs chapel were sanded and repainted - for the first time in at least a decade. Next, the interior of the windows in the Fellowship Hall were refinished. Thank you to Glenn Bryson for so much time spent on these projects. Now the big one. Section by section we are going to put newer and more energy efficient windows in our education wing. The first step is the main (middle) floor, as all the windows in Rooms 201-203 are being swapped out, to be paid for by part of this year's Foundation Grant.

**Preparation for Kairos Homeschool Community.** As you probably know, we are the new home of a community homeschool co-op. (And if you don't know about this, see the article on p. 10.) On Fridays will be using the second and third floor education wing rooms, as well as the Dockside Room (under the sanctuary) and some of the downstairs youth rooms. This required a *lot* of preparation this summer. To be clear, the Kairos team did a great deal of the work, but the Trustees had a lot to do as well. In particular, they disposed of old and broken furniture, steam cleaned much of the building, including (shudder) the Dockside Room carpet. Special thanks to Randy Espie for all the hours he put in on that project.

**Platform Access to the Bell Tower.** This one takes some explaining. To get to our Bell Tower (and also to the crawlspace over the sanctuary), it has been necessary to bring an extension ladder and climb some 18 feet up to a trapdoor in the northwest stairwell. No one really wants to do that. For at least four years we have been batting around ideas for how to make that trapdoor less harrowing to enter. Finally—having looked at spiral stairs, stairs that fold out from the wall, really bouncy trampolines, and jet-packs—Glenn Bryson designed a better option. Using donated materials and our own labor, we built the platform at the right. Yes, you can still walk safely underneath the platform, unless you are Giannis Antetokounmpo. From the platform, there is a short and stable ladder to the trapdoor.

**Fixed handrail.** There have also been the usual minor repairs, most of which come and go without much notice, but here's a sample: one of the handrails going up the steps from Lake Street to the sanctuary broke. It's fixed now.



**Cleaning Days.** And finally, the Trustees have scheduled two different days to allow all the congregation to have a part in caring for the building—deep cleaning, woodwork polishing, window washing, pew vacuuming. In short, all those things that don't have to be done weekly but which *do* have to be done regularly. The first of these days is already past: August 23. But there's another one coming on September 27. Just show up in your grubbies and get a job. Stay as long as you like, and leave when you must.

Thank you to our Board of Trustees, and to its rookie Chair Jim Roach, who has been capable, organized, and dedicated. Thank you, all of you.

(Left: One more view of the new platform)



## RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

### Memorials and Special Gifts through August 19

#### MEMORIALS

In Memory of: Bob and Be Lamirande; Donor: Carol Lamirande; Designated for: Outside Garden;

#### SPECIAL GIFTS

Donors: B.J. Keepers and Paul and Virginia Hilbrich; Designated for: Radio Broadcast;

Donors: Family of Janelle Earl; Gift of a Kitchen food cart.

### Financial Report, through July, 2025

We had another good month of solid giving and careful expenditures in the month of July. Your giving was \$3,000 over budget, and our expenses stayed right at budget. We continue to be under budget on utilities and maintenance expense, largely because of the time and labor put in by our Board of Trustees (see opposite page).

The two good months of giving in June and July are already starting to level out the surprisingly lean month of May. At the end of May, we were \$32,000 in the red, considerably worse than budget, but as of the end of July, we are \$27,000 in the red, some \$2,000 *better* than budget.

After 25 years as a pastor, I have concluded that I am utterly inept at guessing which months will be good giving months and which ones will not. The only thing I have learned for sure is that I should never be surprised when Lake Street givers give more than expected. As always, thank you.



One more Trustees picture,  
From the August 23 workday

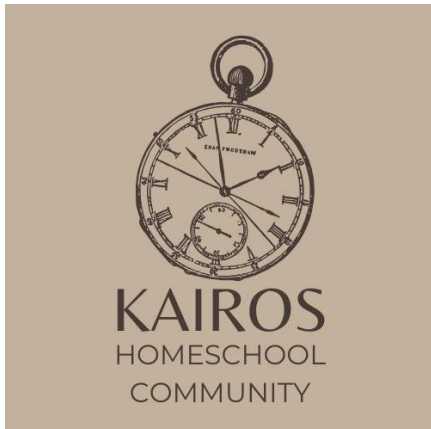
#### Lake Street United Methodist Church

|                                | Operating Fund         |                        | Building Fund          |                        | Total                  |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                                | Actual YTD<br>Jul 2025 | Budget YTD<br>Jul 2025 | Actual YTD<br>Jul 2025 | Budget YTD<br>Jul 2025 | Actual YTD<br>Jul 2025 | Budget YTD<br>Jul 2025 |
| Offerings and other income *   | \$ 208,264             | 214,255                | \$ 3,770               | \$ 2,450               | \$ 212,033             | \$ 216,705             |
| Expenses                       | 182,962                | 187,537                | 56,653                 | \$ 59,033              | 239,616                | 246,570                |
| Net of Offerings less expenses | \$ 25,301              | \$ 26,718              | \$ (52,884)            | \$ (56,583)            | \$ (27,583)            | \$ (29,865)            |

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

## CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY

### Welcome to Kairos Homeschool Community



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, music lessons and several others classes. Classes will be available for students through high school.

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 gives 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 [kairoshomeschoolcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:kairoshomeschoolcommunity@gmail.com).

### 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**.

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| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Thursday                                                                                                                                         | Friday                                                                                                                        | Saturday                                                                                                                                                              |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>2</b><br>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus Board)<br>6:30pm Lounge In Use (Tuesday Womens NA)<br>7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)                                                                 | <b>3</b><br>6:15pm Ellesi Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)<br>6:30pm Fireside Library In Use (Wed NA Group)<br>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)<br>8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Sanctuary)                                                                                                                                                              | <b>4</b><br>7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]<br>9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)                                                         | <b>5</b><br>Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fellowship Hall and Dockside Room)                                 | <b>6</b><br>12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (Sat NA Group)<br>6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook                                                                  |
| <b>7</b><br><b>Mission Emphasis: Feed My People</b><br><b>9:00am Worship with Communion; livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b><br><i>Message: "Christ in the Age of Enchantment"; Text: Ephesians 6:12;</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>10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary)<br>10:15am Children's Education (102/103)<br>10:15am Confirmation/Youth (Fireside)<br>3:00pm Souleing Ministry (Chapel)<br>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting | <b>8</b><br>10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class)<br>10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room)<br>3:00pm Staff Parish (Conference Room/on line)<br>4:15pm Fellowship Hall (ADK Group)<br>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting<br>6:00pm Welcome and Worship Team (Room 202/online) | <b>9</b><br>9:30am Missions Team (Fireside Library)<br>9:30am Room 202 (Stepping On Class)<br>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)<br>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting<br>6:30pm Lounge In Use (Tuesday Womens NA)<br>7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus) | <b>10</b><br>9:00am The Community Table<br>10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class)<br>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting<br>6:15pm Ellesi Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)<br>6:15pm Pack 128 Committee (Room 202)<br>6:30pm Fireside Library In Use (Wed NA Group)<br>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)<br>8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Sanctuary) | <b>11</b><br>7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]<br>9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)<br>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting                         | <b>12</b><br>Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fellowship Hall and Dockside Room)<br>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting | <b>13</b><br>12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (Sat NA Group)<br>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting<br>6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook                                  |
| <b>14</b><br><b>Mission Emphasis: Feed My People</b><br><b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b><br><i>Message: "Christ in the Age of Reason"; Text: Isaiah 44:6-11;</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>10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary)<br>10:15am Children's Education (102/103)<br>10:15am Confirmation/Youth (Fireside)                                                                                    | <b>15</b><br>10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class)<br>10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room)<br>6:15pm Pack 128 Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103)                                                                                                                            | <b>16</b><br>9:30am Room 202 (Stepping On Class)<br>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)<br>5:30pm Trustees (Room 202/on line)<br>6:30pm Finance Committee (Fireside Library/on line)<br>6:30pm Lounge In Use (Tuesday Womens NA)                        | <b>17</b><br><b>Circuit Rider Deadline</b><br>10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class)<br>1:00pm UWF Weaving Project (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)<br>6:30pm Fireside Library In Use (Wed NA Group)<br>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)                                                                                                           | <b>18</b><br>7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]<br>9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)<br>10:30am Friends at the Lake Board (Fellowship Hall) | <b>19</b><br>Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fellowship Hall and Dockside Room)                                | <b>20</b><br>10:00am Room 202 In Use (Huntington's Disease Support Group)<br>12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (Sat NA Group)<br>6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook |

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Monday                                                                                                                                                  | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                         | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                  | Friday                                                    | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00pm Souleleng Ministry (Chapel)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                         | 7:00pm Fellowship Hall<br>(EC Male Chorus)                                                                                                                                                      | 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal<br>(Sanctuary)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>21</b><br><b>Mission Emphasis: Feed My People</b><br>8:30am Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)<br><b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b><br><i>Message: "Christ in the Age of Mobilization";</i><br><i>Text: Deuteronomy 4:1-7;</i><br>10:00am Children, Confirmants and Youth help with Pancake Breakfast<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>10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary)<br><b>3:00pm IM Church (Fellowship Hall)</b><br>3:00pm Souleleng Ministry (Chapel) | <b>22</b><br>10:00am Fellowship Hall<br>(ADRC Brain and Body Class)<br>10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room)<br>6:15pm Pack 128 Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103) | <b>23</b><br>9:30am Room 202 Use (Stepping On Class)<br>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:30pm Lounge In Use (Tuesday Womens NA)<br>7:00pm Fellowship Hall I (EC Male Chorus)  | <b>24</b><br>10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class)<br>1:30pm Room 202/Fireside Library In Use (ADRC Memory Loss Support Group)<br>6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)<br>6:30pm Fireside Library In Use (Wed NA Group)<br>7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)<br>8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Sanctuary) | <b>25</b><br>7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]<br>9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)<br><b>9:30am Circuit Rider Assembly (Room 202)</b><br>11:00am Stampers (Culvers on Brackett Av) | <b>26</b><br>8:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (Sewing Guild) | <b>27</b><br><b>9:00am All-Church Fall Clean Up Day</b><br>9:00am UWF NW District Fall Gathering (Medford UMC)<br>12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (Sat NA Group)<br>1:00pm Room 101 In Use (CV Area NA Meeting)<br>6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook |
| <b>28</b><br><b>Mission Emphasis: Feed My People</b><br><b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b><br><i>Message: "Christ in the Age of Authenticity(1)";</i><br><i>Text: Matthew 10:34-39;</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>10:15am Children's Education (102/103)<br>10:15am Confirmation/Youth (Fireside)<br>3:00pm Souleleng Ministry (Chapel)                                                                                                                   | <b>29</b><br>10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class)<br>10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room)<br><b>6:00pm Church Council (Room 22/online)</b>  | <b>30</b><br>9:30am Room 202 In Use (Stepping On Class)<br>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:30pm Lounge In Use (Tuesday Womens NA)<br>7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                       |