



Circuit Rider

August 2023

www.lakestreetumc.org

The New In-Person Normal

Pastor Jerry

As we begin to sort out the aftermath of our three-year Covid experience and how it is going to affect the American Church, one of the most vexing problems in every faith community is that of in-person worship attendance. Let me summarize where we are and how we got here.

Before Covid-19, the most widely used and universally accepted measure of church health was weekly worship attendance. Obviously, some churches had experimented with ways to expand their reach beyond in-person worship numbers – broadcasting on radio or basic cable and, more recently, livestreaming on social media – but in most cases, those broadcast efforts were thought of as auxiliary options for shut-ins or others who could not be present in person. In-person was *real* worship, and broadcast was second-best. In our annual statistical reports to the Wisconsin Conference, we were asked for attendance numbers for every sort of gathering we held, but no one even asked if we had other worship options.

And then we couldn't have in-person worship at all, when the world shut down for Covid. Suddenly everyone was scrambling for makeshift ways to extend worship of some sort into people's quarantine homes. A few weeks later, when it began to sink in that Covid might be more than just a two-month inconvenience, we began looking for ways to make remote worship *better*, that is, less makeshift and more meaningful. Lake Street was lucky in that we already had a radio broadcast and had been livestreaming on Facebook for years, so our learning curve was less drastic. Using an idea from Jennifer Lohmann and the technical wizardry of Aaron Athas, we were even able to develop a new worship service entirely, the pre-recorded "Living Room Service" that consists of prayer and music and scripture and message in a 40-minute online-only format.

Then we noticed something: people were tuning in to that service from all over the country – usually friends or family of Lake Street people, but not only those. After all, if you're going to attend worship online, there's no particular reason you should have to tune in to a church in your hometown. Maybe, we thought, there was something in this service beyond just an emergency stopgap measure.

Finally, the Covid emergency eased, and we could resume in-person worship and, a year later, even lift the mask requirement. Now things could get back to normal, right? That's certainly what a lot of people thought. But that was simply wrong. In many ways, we are discovering, the pre-2020 church world is gone. Now, in terms of in-person worship attendance, here's what we see.

- In-person attendance at worship is running about 50-65% of what it was before the shut-downs. Many are continuing to make one of our online services their primary worship experience.
- But very few families have disappeared from in-person attendance *entirely*. Instead, many individuals and families now alternate worshiping from home and in-person. In other words, our online worship options are no longer add-

(Continued on page 3)

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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**9:00 AM
WORSHIP**
IN-PERSON,
BY RADIO (WMEQ
92.1), 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

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

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.

LUKE'S GOOD NEWS: Telling the Story of Christ through Luke's Eyes

Saturday-Sunday, August 5-6*

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

Traditional worship with Communion*: 9:00am. Radio 92.1 FM,
Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Message: "On the Way to Jerusalem"

Scripture: Luke 17-19

Saturday-Sunday, August 12-13

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

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Radio 92.1 FM, Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube.

Sermon: "Telling the Story through Music"

Scripture: Various

Saturday-Sunday, August 19-20

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

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Radio 92.1 FM, Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube.

Sermon: "In Jerusalem"

Scripture: Luke 19-22

Saturday-Sunday, August 26-27

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

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Radio 92.1 FM, Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube.

Sermon: Luke's Good News

Scripture: Luke 23-24

*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)

ons for the homebound but are more like the Drive-In Service used to be – another option for worship on any given weekend.

- Meanwhile, the online and radio options continue to make unexpected impacts on people outside the church. (See article on p. 4.) Having been forced out of our “in-person church is *real* church” mindset, we have made a difference to a variety of people who would never have come to us physically.

As I say, these patterns are not unique to us. In-person attendance has taken a huge hit across the country, and many church leaders are frantically trying to figure out how to solve this “problem” and get people back in the pews. I have some sympathy for these frantic souls, but let me add one more bullet-point.

- It doesn’t matter whether we like the new attendance patterns or not. They are here to stay. Our task is not to claw the old ways back from the past but to figure out how to be the church in this new context. How can we intentionally foster community for those who are less frequently in the building, or never? How can we maximize the advantages of our broader impact on the community?

What the pandemic did, I believe, was not to change the world, but rather to speed up changes that were already underway. We jumped into hyperspace unexpectedly and found ourselves in a new galaxy. Which is kind of exciting. Now what are going to do here?

Worship Updates

Communion Changes. Another part of our worship that may have changed forever through the shut-down is the way we do Communion. Before the shut-downs, pretty much all United Methodists had gone to Communion by intinction, mostly because it’s really easy to set up. In a time of widespread concern over contagion, though, the idea of taking Communion from a cup that a line of people had been dipping their fingers in was not exciting. In fact, even now that those fears have subsided somewhat, it’s still not very enticing. On the other hand, nobody’s all that excited about the prepackaged 3-in-1 cups (“Jesus Luncheables”) that are hard to open without spilling juice on your or your neighbor’s lap. So we have gone to a middle ground, using precut bread and individual disposable juice cups.

But that’s also been an awful lot of plastic waste. So we did a full-building search and recovered the glass Communion cups from the pre-1980 version of Lake Street. They clean up really nicely in the dishwasher. Look for these in this month’s Communion and listen for the new instructions on what to do with the cups after the service.

Sometimes the old ways really *are* best.

RADIO SERVICE SUPPORT

\$165/week

☐ August 6

☐ August 20

☐ September 3

☐ August 13

☐ August 27

☐ September 10

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.

September Circuit Rider

Deadline is

Wednesday, August 23 for
Thursday, August 31
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.

Lives Touched Remotely, Pastor Jerry

As I noted in my cover article this month, we have begun to rethink our traditional assumption that only in-person church attendance is “real” church, and that joining worship by radio or computer is somehow a lesser thing. It would be more accurate to say that each worship venue has its own advantages and disadvantages for different people. For instance, one advantage of in-person church obviously is how it makes it easier to create and build community with other followers of Christ. But this very advantage can be off-putting and a stumbling block to first-time visitors, who feel left out by all the community going on around them. To someone who is wanting to focus on God for an hour without having to run the gauntlet of being either ignored or glad-handed by a group of strangers, our online or radio options can be just what they want. Let me tell a couple of stories.

At the end of May, wrapping up a sermon series on issues that have challenged the church, I preached on the issue of homosexuality and laid out how I deal with the conflict between some of the biblical verses condemning homosexuality and Jesus’ example of welcome to all. The morning after that sermon, I received an email from a local woman who had heard the sermon on the radio and who wanted to thank me. She is, herself, an atheist and apparently stumbled onto the sermon (there are advantages to being broadcast on a rock station) and began listening expecting to hear all her preconceptions of Christianity confirmed. They were not. She told me that she agreed with everything I said. (This is actually a little worrisome - I don’t set out to preach sermons that atheists will completely agree with - but in this case, on this particular subject, I’ll take it.)

Then, two weeks later, I got an email from another radio listener who had caught that same sermon. This one was a Christian who had been raised in a very evangelical church but who had always questioned some of their teachings and, as a result, had been ostracized by most of her family. After that sermon, she has become a faithful listener to our radio broadcast, which comes on just at a time that she is always in the car on Sunday mornings (going to spend the morning with her grandfather, of whom she is caregiver). She wrote to thank me for affirming her own faith, that it was possible to be a follower of Christ without turning off her mind and denying all her hard questions.

I don’t expect either of these listeners ever to visit our church in person, but because we have a footprint in the world, and not just on our own street corner, we have made a difference to them.



Thank you to the volunteer crew who spent several hours this week cleaning our church sanctuary: vacuuming and washing the pews, including the balcony (thank you Peter!), cleaning wax off cushions, replacing pew pencils and envelopes, and checking through song books, washing the Altar woodwork, etc.

A labor of love by: Jill Weisenbeck, Kathy Gierhart, Mary Kay Francis, Jan Smith, Pat Peterson, Mary Rose Howard, and Pegi Fleming.

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

Family Promise/Beacon House: Lake Street served supper meals to 7 adults and 11 children ages (5-14) during the week of July 16-22. All you need is a favorite recipe and a couple hours of time to help with this outreach mission. Your next opportunity to serve is the week of **December 10-16**. Call Kent Gierhart at 715-864-2056.

Community Table: The Mission team would like to thank Tom Stanford for organizing the volunteers to support this organization over the past few years. Peter Nelson has taken over for Tom and is looking for more volunteers to help on **August 10**. Two shifts are needed, from 9 to 11:30 am. (food preparation) and 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. (serving and clean-up). Let Peter Nelson know if you can work on August 10. Other dates coming up are September 13, October 18, and November 15.

August Loose Change Offering: "Good Neighbor Project"

It's hard to focus on math equations or reading a book at school when your tummy is rumbling. This past school year, growling stomachs of nearly 400 students at Lakeshore and Longfellow schools were quieted as their teachers offered snacks provided by the Good Neighbor Project. Those snacks, purchased through Good Neighbor's partnership with Feed My People food bank, are possible at a fraction of cost thanks to your support of the project.

Our church partners with First Congregational Church to provide snacks and other critical school needs to low-income students so they can participate in school. We've also paid for items such as clothes, boots, shoes, snow pants, books, school supplies, field trip fees, and meals when students' accounts fall into the red, ensuring they receive a full meal rather than just a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Staff members at both schools can immediately tap Good Neighbor funds whenever they see students' needs so their family's financial struggles don't touch their school experience. The schools' principals and teachers continually thank us for helping their students. They and their students can focus on learning instead of unmet needs.

Our church's annual Good Neighbor Project fundraiser will be held in the month of August. Just \$10 can support the needs of many students. Checks should be made out to Lake Street Church with "Good Neighbor" in the memo line. We have had a wonderful outpouring of love in the past. Thank you for your support.

Community Table

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

August 10 (9:00-2:00pm)
September 13 (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 August: Macaroni and Cheese

Consider supporting the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Food Pantry. Please join other Lake Street members in contributing **Macaroni & Cheese** to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Food Pantry. Your donation will assist over 40 area families in our community affected by HIV/AIDS. Place your donated item in the ARCW box outside Fellowship Hall.

Special thanks to those folks who donated 20+ dental toothpaste/brushes to the ARCW Food Pantry during June. ARCW is always grateful to receive your donations! Thanks for your efforts!

BUY SCRIP THIS YEAR

For 2022 all Scrip earnings went to help those who are food insecure. That means we have providing over \$3000 to helping others in hard times.

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.

Buy Scrip. Support LSUMC



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.

Confirmation Beginning this Fall

Confirmation in the United Methodist Church is a time for people of all ages, beginning at 6th grade, to explore the foundations of their faith: the Bible, our basic Christian doctrines, and our Methodist heritage. Then, confirmands are given a chance to *confirm* their baptism by publicly declaring their faith in Christ.

At Lake Street we add a bit to this process. Since being a Christian is more than just what we know or believe but how well we live it out, we also ask our confirmands to experience volunteering in the church and community (among other things). At the right is a picture of one of our confirmands, Molly Scholl, working at the Community Table in June. She even brought along a friend, Sydney.

If you have a child who is entering 6th grade this Fall, Confirmation begins in September. The process takes a while. With dedication, all our requirements can be completed in a year, but most people take two or three years to complete all their markers. If you don't receive a letter from Pastor Jerry in this month, please contact him to let him know he missed you.

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 Ministry Coordinator

We are looking for someone to oversee the preschool and children's ministries of Lake Street, especially the preschool and children's spiritual formation programs on Sundays, but including also special activities for children and families as well as summer programs. \$15/hour and approximately 10 hours a week. Since we do not have a full children's program during the summer, the hours may be more during the year and less during those months. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Pastor Jerry.

(pastor@lakestreetumc.org)

FIRESIDE LIBRARY NEWS

New non-fiction books have been added to the library and currently are located on the hutch by the door. Enjoy!

Being Well with Chronic Illness by Kat Hill

Disciplines: Daily Devotions 2021 by Upper Room

Essential Christmas Prayers by Paraclete Press

Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved by Kate Bowler

I Bought a House on Gratitude Street by J. Ellsworth Kalas

Killing Jesus by Bill O'Reilly

Light We Carry by Michelle Obama

Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton

Norma Olson—A Life Well Lived: Stories Worth Sharing by Cheri Olson

Practicing Resurrection: Gospel of Mark by Janet Wolf

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

On **Wednesday, August 16**, UWF will meet at **1:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Shauna Hanson, director of Helping Hands for Our

Children in the Chippewa Valley. She will be speaking to us about this non-profit in our community that takes donations of clothing, bedding, toys, books, baby equipment and more and gives it to those in need. Helping Hands also sponsors special events for children on holidays and for back-to-school. We hope to learn more about this relatively new organization and how we can support them. Everyone is invited to attend. Reservations are due to Carol Gudnason (715-864-5841) by August 13.

And looking farther ahead:

Wisconsin UWF Annual Gathering – Lake Street UMC *Mosaic of Faith: We Are All Part of God's Story*

Friday, October 13

- Volunteer Service at Hope Village, Chippewa Falls
- Explore Eau Claire – Various activities are planned
- 6:30 p.m. – Worship and speaker at Lake Street

Saturday, October 14

- Worship and speaker
- Keynote Panel with Mike Cohoon, Founder of Hope Village, Chippewa Falls
- 5 breakout sessions in afternoon
- Closing worship and communion



STAMPERS

...will meet Thursday August 24th at 1 o/c in Room 202. Come join us for an hour or so of fellowship and spread some joy. You'll be glad you did.



August Birthdays

6th – Carol Gudnason

7th – Rita Houser

13th – Krissy Russell

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 Jer-
ry.



Fund-Raising Opportunity for UWF

Wanted: **original** ink jet cartridges, new or used. Please gently wrap them (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. The program is "Empties4Cash" if you would like more information.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS

Our table for sharing our excess garden produce is set up in the Fellowship Hall. As tomatoes and cucumbers begin to appear in greater profusion than you can use or preserve, bring them by the church. In our church's commitment to inclusion, this is a new ministry to those members who suffer under the crippling disadvantages of not being able to keep plants alive (you know who you are).



Moreover, when the zucchini plants start to produce and, once again, you ask yourself why you planted so many, this year you don't have to resort to dropping them in unlocked cars or on doorsteps in the middle of the night. Bring them here. All vegetables are welcome.

To Scrip or Not to Scrip

Most of you are probably familiar with our Scrip program, in which the church buys gift cards for local businesses at a discount, then sells the cards to members for the full amount of the card. The result of this is that the church gets to keep the amount of the discount. So, for instance, a member buys a Mega-Holiday gift card for \$100, but because the church bought that card at a 10% discount, the Scrip program gets to keep \$10. Most of the discounts are smaller than that, closer to 3%, but it all adds up. Over the past few years, the Scrip program has made about \$3,500 per year for the church. That money has been designated in various ways: the Bell Tower Capital Campaign, Building Projects, and recently for Feed My People.

This doesn't just happen, though. For the past six years, our own Scrip program has been ably run by Dave Doxsie. A few other volunteers have helped out with Sunday sales, but all the work done in the background has been done by Dave. At the end of this year, though, Dave is retiring from Scrip. That means that unless we can find someone - or, better, at least two people - who can take over those duties, we will need to discontinue offering Scrip.

The basic duties of the Scrip coordinator are:

- **Sales.** This has traditionally been done from a table in the Fellowship Hall, though there may be other methods that could be used to supplement that process.
- **Ordering.** Cards that have been sold must be restocked. Most of these are ordered from one source, which mails the order to the church, but some of our most popular cards must be ordered separately then picked up at the store.
- **Accounting.** Dave has an Excel spreadsheet for recording all sales and orders, which he can give to his replacement(s). Scrip also has its own checking account to balance. Regular reports go to the Finance Committee and our auditors.
- **Marketing.** Simply keeping the program before the congregation by means of the Circuit Rider, the Short Circuit, and our church's other media.

There may be ways to streamline some of these processes, but the first step is to find someone who would be willing to take it on. If you are interested let Dave or Pastor Jerry know.

RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

This month the Finance Committee took a midsummer break from meeting and so did not review the financial reports through June. We will have the full reports through July available next month. But, as it happens, this past month was a month of great generosity through Memorial Gifts, and we needed the whole financial page just to report on that, anyway.

Memorials and Special Gifts received through July 17

MEMORIALS

In memory of **Dorothy Elliot**; Donors: Dave and Jackie Kruse. Designated for Radio Broadcast

In Memory of **Marty Fuller**; Donors: Dave and Jackie Kruse. Designated for Radio Broadcast

In Memory of **Nancy Espie**; Donors: Kathy Anderson, Marlene Arntson, Ron and Corinne Gjerner, Dave and Jackie Kruse, John and Margaret Melrose, Barb and Peter Nelson, Katie and Jerry Kroll, Tom Bauer, Tom and Mary Brownell, Kirsten and Brian Gierhart, Keith and Gretchen Glasshof, Kari Kaehler, Dick and Linda Keepers, Gene and Bobbie Liedl, Sandy Madson, Fritz Von Schrader. Designated for Radio Broadcast

Donors: Judy Sheu, Carol Mooney, Rita, Shawn and Kim Houser, Mary Kay and Ray Frances, Dale and Pegi Fleming, Jon and Diane Case, Jack and Susan Wilfong, Mike Staples, Carole Robb, Joan Unser, Todd and Wendi Tillung, Mina and Kenneth Sigurdson, Mary and Bruce Rosenau, Eau Claire Mighty Docs, Sarah and Joe Brownell, Cari and Bradley Barrett, Jenni Stratton. Undesignated Gifts.

Donors: Janelle Earl, Lloyd and Florence Shepherd. Designated for L.S. Stampers (Postage)

Donors: Jan and Jeff Voss. Designated for Debt Retirement

Donor: Terri Koca. Designated for : IM Church

In memory of **Winnie Joos**; Donors: Carol Mooney, Susan and David Sie, Doris Prindle, Holly Russell and David Bevis, Nyla Musser and Greta Gerrard. Designated for: Music and Choir Ministry (by request of the family).

Donors: Lloyd and Florence Shepard, Dale and Pegi Fleming. Designated for: UMWF

Donors: John and Margaret Melrose. Designated for Radio Broadcast

Donors: Steve and Becky Lasure. Designated for: Technology

In Memory of **Scott Rugotzke**; Donors: Keith and Gretchen Glasshof. Designated for Radio Broadcast (7/15).

SPECIAL GIFTS

In Celebration of **Barb Rogotzke's** good health news. Donors: Keith and Gretchen Glasshof. Designated for Radio Broadcast (7/15).



CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY

To the North West District Churches from our new District Superintendent

Hope and Joy!

Entering into the second week in my new role, my prayers were centered around these two words: hope and joy. *“O God, we are your people committed to following Jesus through and with the United Methodist Church here in North West Wisconsin. Increase hope and joy in us. Let them extend beyond us and flourish in our communities through our ministry.”*

Greetings to you, my beloved and respected leaders of the United Methodist churches in the North West District of the Wisconsin Conference. I didn't want it to take long to send my greetings to the churches. You are important. You are appreciated. Thank you for your dedication as leaders of The United Methodist Church. Thank you for embodying God's message of hope and joy.

I am here as your servant leader and fellow follower of Jesus Christ. You have refused to give up on our faith communities despite the challenges of declining numbers. I join you in holding steadfast to the promise given by God: “a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

“Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

Yes! We have a reason to be hopeful, so we “rejoice in the Lord” (Philippians 4:4) and share “the reason for our hope with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15) in our communities and beyond. We are God's people who “rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn, living in harmony with one another.” (Romans 12:15-16a)

I am grateful for the opportunity to begin my one-on-one meetings with the clergy. Each encounter reveals the unique and diverse stories of God's calling and the remarkable work being done through the United Methodist Church. Of course, there are challenges that must be named within our stories. However, as Henri Nouwen wrote, “As long as we have stories to tell to each other there is hope. As long as we can remind each other of the lives of God's people in whom the love of God becomes manifest, there is reason to move forward.”

My commitment will remain unwavering to celebrate the stories that God continues to weave in us, among us, and through us. I am honored to be a mere instrument in God's hands, joyfully writing new faith stories without fear but with an abundance of hope and joy.

Together, as encouraged with the words of Romans 12:12, let us rejoice in our confident hope, display patience amidst troubles, and persistently lift our prayers.

May the joy of trusting in God and the hope that comes from it be yours on every Sunday with your church family and friends. May such overflowing joy and hope flourish in your life every day as you walk with God.

Hope and joy!

PyungAhn “Peace” Kim

North West District Superintendent
Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church
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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 September issue (mailed on August 31) need to be received by **August 23**.

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(no email address)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:30am Fellowship Hall In Use (Kathy Gierhart) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	2 9:30am UWF Exec Comm (Room 202) 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Summer Class Concludes) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	3 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)	4 6:00pm Hispanic Ministry Prayer/Worship (Dockside Room)	5 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
6 Mission Emphasis: Good Neighbor Project 9:00am Worship with Communion (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1) Sermon: "On the Way to Jerusalem"; Text: Luke 17 - 19 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry (Dockside Room)	7 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room)	8 6:00pm Communications Team (on line) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	9 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	10 9:00am The Community Table 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 9:00am The Community Table	11 10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry (located at 2610 Alpine Rd) 5:00pm Sanctuary In Use (Emma Boley Wedding rehearsal) 6:00pm Hispanic Ministry Prayer/Worship (Dockside Room)	12 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 2:00pm Sanctuary In Use (Emma Boley Wedding) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
13 Mission Emphasis: Good Neighbor Project 9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1)	14	15 5:30pm Trustees (Room 202/on line) 6:30pm Finance Committee	16 1:00pm UWF General Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	17 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)	18 6:00pm Hispanic Ministry Prayer/Worship (Dockside Room)	19 10:00am Room 202 In Use (Huntington's Disease Support Group)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Message: "Telling the Story through Music"; Selected Texts; 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 10:45am AT-IT Team (Conference Room) 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry (Dockside Room)		(Fireside Library/on line) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)				12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
20 Mission Emphasis: Good Neighbor Project 9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1) Sermon: "In Jerusalem"; Text: Luke 19-22; 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry (Dockside Room) 3:00pm IM Church (Fellowship Hall)	21 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room)	22 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	23 Circuit Rider Deadline 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	24 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 8:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (Sewing Guild) 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 1:00pm Stampers (Room 202)	25 10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry (located at 2610 Alpine Rd) 6:00pm Hispanic Ministry Prayer/Worship (Dockside Room)	26 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
27 Mission Emphasis: Good Neighbor Project 9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1) Sermon: "Luke's Good News"; Text: Luke 23 - 24; 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry (Dockside Room)	28 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 6:00pm Church Council (Fellowship Hall/online)	29 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	30 9:00am Missions Team (Fireside Library) 1:30pm Room 202/Fireside Library In Use (Early Memory Loss Support Group) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	31 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 9:30am Circuit Rider Assembly (Room 202)	