

THE BEACON

Ornaments

Thank you to all who bought ornaments during Advent. We raised \$715. \$357.50 of that will go to the Salvation Army and \$357.50 will go to the kitchen fund.

Knots of Love

The following items were lovingly handmade and distributed to Mendota School, Meriter Hospital, the VA Hospital, VFW and Agrace Hospice, by the Knots of Love group for the 2016 year: 14 skull caps, 15 lap blankets, 18 premie blankets, 12 prayer shawls, 69 scarves, 25 hats, 72 mittens, 4 headbands. Thank you for your donations!

Annual Meeting Celebration

For the past several years, we have turned the Lakeview annual meeting into a day of celebration. We don't like dull and boring business meetings but we also know that the business of the church must get done. This year our annual meeting celebration will be on Jan 22, immediately as the worship service concludes in the sanctuary. Worship and meeting are tied together because that's who we are. Remember that there is NO Saturday evening worship on Jan 21. There is no education time on Jan 22. There will be childcare in the lower level during the meeting. There will be special refreshments in the Fellowship Room at 8:00 am. There will be door prizes during the meeting, but you have to be present to win. We will talk about our finances and approve a new plan for ministry (budget). We will elect four new council members to replace Mary Cragin, Dayna Dalton, Jean Mani and Tom Thornburgh. You'll hear updates about the kitchen project and about future projects that are necessary to maintain our building and grounds. It is hoped that all voting members will attend this important gathering time for Lakeview.

Road Home

Thanks to ALL the volunteers who helped, in whatever capacity, to make our final host week for 2016 a great success. Please note that Lakeview's host weeks for 2017 are: ***April 9-16; June 11-18; Oct. 1-8; Dec. 3-10.*** If you are not currently a volunteer with Road Home but would like to be, please contact Chris Anders, coordinator@lakeviewlutheranmail.org, for more information. Anywhere from 40-60 volunteers are needed each week we host the families. Volunteer slots include moving belongings into rooms and making beds, cooking dinners, which are served at 6pm in the evening, doing activities with the kids for 2hrs. in the evenings, staying overnight with the families, reloading belongings the following Sunday morning, cleaning up the kitchen after families move out and donating food items for the families brown bag lunches and snacks.

Inclement Weather and Cancellations

If winter weather causes us to cancel worship or activities at Lakeview, we will make every effort to share information with you in the following ways;

- Post a note on the church answering machine
- Post a note on the church Facebook page
- Post an announcement on www.nbc15.com
- Send a note via our Realm record keeping system, if possible.

Wednesday Noon Bible Study

Pastor Dean continues to lead Bible Study every Wednesday at noon in the Fellowship Room, near the Sanctuary. A large group of folks participate, but new students are always welcome. We are continuing to read and study the Book of Revelation, as we look at end time prophecy. Bring a Bible and lunch, if you wish. Coffee is provided. Bring an open mind and a sense of humor, too!

Summer Youth Trip Meeting

On Sunday, Jan 8 at 10:00 am, Pastor Dean will meet with all the youth and their parents/guardians who have registered for the summer trip to New York City. We will gather in the sanctuary. This is a very important meeting and all are asked to be present. We will outline our fundraising plan for the year and all families will need to assist with the fundraising project, unless they plan to pay the total fee directly out of pocket. So mark your calendars. New York will be a great experience for all.

Book Club Selections

Come join the Lakeview Book Club at Benvenuto's on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 11am for a 'working' brunch. We will be putting together the monthly list of titles to read for 2017. Anyone is welcome to join in the selection process. Bring your list of book titles to share. Book discussions are held on the first Monday of the month starting on Feb. 6 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room.

Faith and Family Night

The next Faith and Family night at Lakeview will be on Sunday, Jan 8. All folks gather in the church library at 4:00 and Pastor Dean reads the evening biblical story. Then, there will be an activity for everyone that is based on the story. A couple of games will follow, if time permits. We conclude with a simple meal-free will offering to help pay for the food/beverages. We depart at 6:00 pm. We've had good attendance at these events. If you haven't

joined us, feel free to come on Jan 8. Friends/family are welcome too!

Food Pantry Weekend in January

Like usual, the second weekend in January will include our monthly food pantry collection. On Jan 7 and 8 you are encouraged to bring Peanut Butter to worship and place it on the food pantry cart in the front of the sanctuary. Thank you for your monthly donations to the pantry. They have been big and well received in the pantry. The pantry continues to give out warm winter clothing that you may wish to donate. New or used is fine. Think coats, hats, gloves, mittens, socks, sweaters, sweatshirts, etc. in all sizes.

Dorcas Circle meets for Bible Study at 9:30 am on Tuesday Jan 10.

Pastor Dean will continue to lead the Bible study of the book of Esther. All are welcome.

Middle School Winter Retreat

Youth in grades 6-9 will be heading out to the Green Lake Conference Center along with chaperones; Nancy Stillwell, Jen Evans, Dayna Dalton, David Haselow and Pastor Dean on Friday Jan 13. They will depart from church at 5:00 pm. They will return to church at noon on Sunday, Jan 15. If you have not yet registered for this event, do so now! Cost for kids, including guests, is \$45. We love to have guests because the more kids, the more fun we have. The theme this year is. "The Big 10." We'll enjoy outside activities, stuff in the gym and, of course, crazy games in the dorm.

Senior 'Souper' Bowl Party

Come join the fun on Monday, Jan. 23 at 11am. Pastor Dean will be presenting a Soup Buffet consisting of 3 homemade soups with all the fixings. Just Bakery will provide the dessert. There will be a free will offering. The Euchre Tournament will follow lunch with prizes to the top three scores. Please be sure to sign up at the Information Station before Thurs., Jan. 19th.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

Because of many other obligations, Pastor Dean will not be able to resume the Sunday morning Bible study, at 10:00 am, until Jan 29. On that day, adults and older youth are invited to join him in the Fellowship Room to begin a study on other faiths. This study will be biblically based and will help us to understand those who live around us and in our community, but who are not Christian. When we get

to know each other, we take better care of each other and do a better job of keeping our neighborhoods and communities safe. That's our calling as faith based people of God. Bring a Bible and join the group on Jan 29. This is a great place for parents of Sunday school and confirmation students to hang out while waiting for your children in class.

A WORD FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

Part of my call as your pastor is to guide you to open your minds and see scripture with different lenses. I am called to stay faithful to the gospel and our holy books when I preach and teach, but part of that includes me provoking my listeners to think deeper or to think differently or to think in new ways. In this process, sometimes I will frustrate you, sometimes aggravate you and sometimes I may even infuriate you. Maybe I've already done that. I'm not Jesus, but I do think he did the same thing to his listeners and we are contemplating those same words and stories today. They are stories that can frustrate, aggravate and even infuriate us, even now. They are still the stories and words that guide our thinking and our actions, just as they guided his early disciples. And in the midst of Jesus' frustrating, aggravating and even infuriating his followers and friends, he loved them. He always loved them. He always loves us.

Well folks, I hope I am meeting my responsibilities in aggravating you! I hope that in my preaching and in my teaching I am provoking you to think with new eyes and new ideas! I hope my messages sometimes send you home confused and confounded! Despite my love for you, I want us to think deep.

I want to invite you to join me in a Bible study in this New Year. Maybe you even want to make that a New Year's resolution and actually carry it out. I know that most New Year's resolutions are forgotten by Jan 10. Come and be provoked on Sunday mornings, at 10:00 am, in the Fellowship Room, as we look at other religions around us. Come with an open mind. Come and be aggravated and frustrated on Wednesday, at noon, when we continue to look at end time prophecy, particularly through the Book of Revelation. Many people leave that group aggravated and confused—but a lot of us come that way to begin with! Come to study the book of Esther at the monthly Dorcas Bible study. In Lent, plan to be provoked every Wednesday evening as we take a deep and difficult look at poverty in our community and in our nation and how our holy scripture speaks to that and our responses.

And here's the other invitation-I would be most interested in starting other Bible studies at times that are convenient for you, the members of Lakeview. If current Bible study opportunities do not fit into your work schedule, talk to me about what we might be able to arrange. There is nothing preventing us from having a weekly or bi-weekly evening Bible study. I can frustrate, aggravate and infuriate you even on a Tuesday night! And you know I would enjoy doing it.

We have a new year before us, so it's a great time to consider how to enrich and enhance our spirituality and our relationship with God through new ways to worship and do Bible study.

Peace,

Pastor Dean

**Inside:
Annual Meeting Celebration
Activities in the New Year**

www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org

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Lynn Najem, Organist/Choir Director; Gary Cragin, Custodian

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Service Schedule:

5:00pm Saturday

9:00am Sunday

NEWSLETTER OF:
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