

THE BEACON

What is Advent?

Advent is the beginning of the New Year in the church. It is a season that is four weeks in length before the Christmas season begins. The Christmas season begins on December 25 and continues until Epiphany on January 6. This year, Advent begins on Dec 2/3 and ends on Dec 23/24. During the season of Advent we look back and reflect on the great prophecies that proclaimed God would send a Messiah. We also look ahead during Advent to remember God's promise that someday the Messiah will return and we will live in harmony with God. The color blue is used during Advent because it represents our hope in a God who is true to the promise. An Advent wreath is one way to mark time during the season. There are many other ways as well. Remember, like a Christmas tree, the Advent wreath has no biblical foundation but is something that people have devised.

This year at Lakeview, each week in Advent will have a theme; first week-peace, second week-hope, third week-joy and fourth week-promise. We will only use one Bible reading during the weekends of Advent and that reading will be from the prophet Isaiah. The sermon and music will be based on this reading and the weekend theme. Holy Communion will be served every time we worship.

Advent Collection for Healing House

During the 4 weeks of Advent we will collect new items for the new healing house that will open in Madison in 2018. Healing House will be a home downtown, operated by Madison Urban Ministry-MUM where people who are being released from the hospital and in need of follow-up care, but who are homeless, can live during the follow-up care. This could include people who need radiation or chemotherapy or physical therapy. It could be a place for homeless parents to live because their newborn baby is not being released from the hospital. This is a great need in Madison and the model that is being used has been very successful in other cities, Cincinnati being one of them. So during the weeks of Advent you are invited to bring in NEW donations for this project. Please select your donations from the list on the next page:

Music Sunday in Advent

On December 10 there will be a special music service at 9:00 am as we celebrate the second weekend on Advent. The choir, Sunday school children and other soloists and youth will be offering a variety of Advent and Christmas music during this service. The service will also include the reading from Isaiah, a brief reflection from Pastor Dean, hymns, prayers and Holy Communion.

- Children's books for all ages and levels
- Adult books
- Baby diapers of all sizes
- Kitchen utensils—every kind
- Kitchen cookware—pots, pans, roasters
- Kitchen bakeware—cake pans, muffin pans, cookie sheets
- Kitchen Pyrex ware
- Small kitchen appliances like hand mixer, electric knife, blender, crock pot
- Kitchen towels and dish cloths and pot holders
- Glass casseroles
- Plastic cups, plates, bowls, silverware for babies and young children
- Sippy cups
- Children's toys for all ages

Do not wrap what you purchase. These are not gifts, they are to stock the home—like a wedding shower! Bring your donations to church and place them under the designated tree. Thank you for supporting this important project in our community.

Santa Breakfast to Benefit Local Food Pantries - December 2

On Saturday, December 2 the Northside Business Association and Northside food pantries are hosting a Santa Breakfast at the Esquire Club on Sherman Avenue. Lakeview's Food Pantry is one of the recipients of the donations raised from this event. Bring the kids, grandkids, and neighbor kids! Kids \$4, Adults \$8.

Road Home Week

Lakeview will be hosting the Road Home families from December 3-10. We will need

some additional help this time as Burke Lutheran, our buddies, will not be able to host on Sunday, the 3rd. That day, after the 9am service, please come downstairs after worship to help upload the truck and make beds. Please consider donating food items for snacks and brown bag lunches. The sign-up board is in the Narthex by the Information Station. I will be contacting trained volunteers for dinners, activities and overnights. On Sunday, December 10th, at 8:15am, we will need about 6-8 people to load belongings into the truck and do light cleaning of the kitchen. If you would like to help, in any capacity, please contact Chris Anders, coordinator@lakeviewlutheranmail.org

Book Club Discussion

Anyone interested in discussing "The Life List" by Lori Nelson Spielman is welcome to attend the discussion on Monday, December 4th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room.

Cody Clauson Trio Music & Dinner Show

Saturday, December 9, we will be taking a bus from Lakeview, at 10am, to the above-mentioned Christmas Show being held at the Green Lake Conference Center. The dinner show starts at 12pm. Return to Lakeview between 4-4:30pm. From their website: Take a seat in Bauer Dining Room near a roaring fire and indulge in a delectable holiday buffet. The menu includes roast tom turkey, chef-carved honey glazed pit ham, mashed potatoes and turkey gravy, sage stuffing, vegetable blend, spinach/mandarin orange/feta salad, rolls, breads, holiday desserts and beverages. Cody headlines the trio with tenor banjo, guitar and vocals. His

sister Brittney joins in on double bass and vocals. Their father Brent rounds out the group with steel guitar, piano, five-string banjo, violin and vocals. The trio's Christmas music features a variety of styles including country/western, jazz, blues, swing, bluegrass, ragtime and gospel. Total cost is \$64/person. That includes the dinner, show and transportation. Please sign up at the Information Station. Payment reserves your seat. This trip is not just for Seniors.

December Food Pantry Collection

The food pantry is requesting feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons, and liners) and Size 4 & 5 diapers for December. These items can be brought to service the weekend of December 9th and 10th.

Chapel Rental Host Training

Remember that we are inviting members of the congregation to be trained as hosts to be present if an outside group rents the chapel (*see the Chapel Rental Policy on church web site*). To be a host and be paid \$12 per hour, you need to attend the training with Pastor Dean on Thursday, December 14, in the chapel, at 6:30 pm. The training and skills needed are not difficult. Please let Pastor know if you will attend the training and then be willing to be on the paid chapel host list.

Senior Lunch on December 11 is Special

The annual December senior lunch and euchre tournament on December 11 begins at 11:00 am with a Christmas Carol sing-a-long in front of the fireplace in the library. During that time, homemade egg nog, fruit punch and appetizers will be served. At 11:30 am dinner

will be served in the dining room. The menu this year is roasted chicken, Swiss steak with gravy, real mashed potatoes, traditional green bean casserole, glazed carrots, fruit salad, rolls, beverages and a homemade pie buffet for dessert. Guests are asked to not bring food but to bring money to help pay for the cost of the meal. After dinner, those who wish may play in the euchre tournament, help clean up, enjoy conversation with others or return to enjoy the fire in the fireplace. Sign up in advance is requested so the correct amount of food can be prepared. We do not define who a "senior" is in this congregation.

Service of Renewal

The December Service of Renewal will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 20 in the historic chapel. Since this time of year can be difficult for many who struggle with all kinds of issues, you are encouraged to attend. You are encouraged to set aside the noise of the outside world and focus on God's promise to love us despite our despair and grief. People come to this service for a variety of reasons. Everyone is welcome to attend as we find strength to "walk through those dark valleys" from each other. The service includes Holy Communion and concludes with a time for light refreshments and conversation. All held in the chapel.

Christmas Weekend is Strange

Because Christmas Eve is the evening of the Fourth Weekend in Advent, it makes for an interesting time for planning. So, mark your calendars. On December 23, we will celebrate the 4th weekend in Advent at worship at 5:00 pm. On Dec 24 we will celebrate the 4th

weekend in Advent and then transition to the birth of the Savior during worship at 9:00 am. Yes, you could attend this worship service as a Christmas Eve worship service. Then, there will be a traditional Christmas Eve candle light service at 5:00 pm on Dec 24. All these services will include Holy Communion and special music. The choir will sing at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Like usual, there will be no worship service on December 25.

Food Pantry Review

For nearly 35 years Lakeview has operated a food pantry. Currently the pantry is open on Monday evenings from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. It serves Dane County residents. Gretchen Macht is the volunteer food pantry coordinator. She has many wonderful volunteers to help keep the pantry in good shape. Often times, she can use additional volunteers. Talk to her if you are interested. In the past 6 months, the pantry has seen a significant increase in use. In October, the pantry served 104 households (*no repeats*). It is important to note that 42 of those households had employment. We are reminded through these statistics that there are numerous employed folks in our county whose employment does not support the cost of living here. It is often difficult for these folks to use the pantry but it is impressive to see how comfortable our volunteers make it for our pantry guests. Because of the increased use of the pantry and because CAC has not been able to supply us with lower cost proteins (meat) recently, we have had to buy meat directly from a retailer. That is more expensive than getting it from CAC. Recently many folks responded to a call for extra

financial help to buy meat. Remember that our pantry has no budget; it is dependent on financial gifts only. It is anticipated that this need for meat will continue through the end of the year. If you are interested in making a financial gift to the pantry for this need, you are invited to write a check to Lakeview and note that it is for MEAT. Your giving statement will be credited. Thank you for responding to need as it arises. And HUGE thank you to Gretchen and all the folks who volunteer to make the food pantry such a smooth operation.

Winter Youth Retreat

You've likely heard the news that the annual winter youth retreat in Green Lake is open to anyone in grades 7 through 12 this year. The group will depart from Lakeview at 5:30 pm on Friday, January 12 and return to Lakeview at noon on Sunday, January 14. It is important that anyone attending—members of Lakeview and their guests, complete the enclosed registration form, attach payment of \$45 and get it to Pastor Dean by January 1, 2018. Failure to have adequate registrations by January 1 could result in canceling the retreat. Because we have had diminishing attendance in recent years, we will no longer be able to use the dormitories at the Green Lake Center in the future. The dorms can house 72 people so they would like them for larger groups and not have only 20 people in the dorm. The dorm is a great place for our group and our activities. The daily schedule and the activities of the retreat will also take on a new look this year and those details will be available in the narthex soon. We will focus on our role as disciples and what it

means to imitate and follow Jesus. A variety of social justice issues will be addressed. We hope this will, again, be a fun event and that many kids will register to attend. We'll have time outside and in the rec center, too. Contact Pastor Dean if you have questions. Make registration checks to Lakeview. Yes, there will still be games!!!!!!!

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting celebration of the Lakeview congregation will be on Sunday, January 21. That means that there will be no worship service on Saturday evening. We will share coffee and fellowship at 8:00 am on Sunday, worship as a community at 9:00 am and plan for the upcoming year at the meeting immediately after worship. Everything will take place in the sanctuary. There is no

Sunday school, confirmation or adult education on this day, either. This is an important annual event for all members of this congregation. We elect new council members, pass a new budget, share highlights of the past year, talk about new projects and opportunities for ministry, make a financial pledge and give out door prizes.

New Orleans in October

If you are interested in an adult fellowship retreat to New Orleans in October 2018, you should be sure to let Pastor Dean know. So far, 22 folks have indicated interest. Planning and the establishment of dates will happen after the New Year.

A WORD FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

It's that time of year, again, that is difficult for Kris and I and far too many others. As "White Christmas" is played from loudspeakers, our hearts are playing Blue Christmas every day. As many of you have experienced, it is hard to avoid gloominess when living in a world that defines a merry Christmas based on food, drink, cards, parties, gifts, decorations, family gatherings, lights, music, holiday clothing, traditions, special greetings and chestnuts roasting on a fire. When you don't meet the expectations of society's idea of what is a good Christmas, you struggle. I don't meet the expectations. All the traditions and memories of our past come crashing down as sorrow, hurt and anger because they can't happen that way this year or ever again. This is not a joyous time of year for so many of us and the world around us simply magnifies that by refusing to recognize it.

During this time of year, I have to get in touch with biblical reality. I have to remind myself that Jesus never spoke of a special day called Thanksgiving. He called us to praise and give thanks to God regularly, but he never called us to sit around with others and eat enormous amounts of food, watch parades and football games and then share what things we are thankful for. I doubt that Jesus cares if the mall is open or closed on Thanksgiving. I also remind myself that Jesus or any other biblical writer never suggested that we celebrate his birth with presents and Christmas trees and cookies and cards and even plastic home nativity scenes. Jesus would likely be appalled to know that we encourage celebrating his birthday by increasing our consumer spending on things

that we don't need and can't afford. I think he may even be dissatisfied with the emphasis we place on celebrating his birthday with family and friends—remember how he defined family, "***my mother and brothers and sisters are those who hear the word of God and do it.***"

Christmas is simply the birth of our Savior. It doesn't come with any frills. It's about the pain and mess of childbirth. It's about poverty and social dysfunction. It's about the recognition of this baby as the Messiah, the anointed one of God. Christmas is about our gratitude that God was willing to show us what God's forgiveness and grace looked like by giving us the vivid example of Jesus. When you strip away all the things that humans have decided to add to the celebration of the birthday of Jesus, it reduces it to a very simple event that is not at all simple in its outcome. And all we are asked to do is have faith. We are not asked to put up a tree, or wish others a Merry Christmas, or sing carols, or put plastic statues in our yards. All we are asked to do to celebrate Christmas is to recognize that through Jesus we know that God loves us, forgives us and promises us the gift of eternity. Hopefully, this will make us content enough to gather and give thanks and praise the God who is the giver of the gift.

Since I have been put into this situation, I have become so acutely aware of what a horrible thing society does to people who struggle at this time of year. It has made me much more aware of what I value and see as important in the midst of overwhelming grief that will not let go. It has made me simplify my life and find deeper meaning in salvation and less meaning in all the "stuff."

I pray that each of you will hold fast to the biblical words, "***for you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.***" I pray that each of you will not get crushed by the pressure to uphold the unnecessary traditions that society places upon us at this time of year. I pray that each of you, along with Kris and I, will simply know the power of that Bethlehem birth. I invite you to struggle with others at the Service of Renewal on December 20. I invite you to give thanks for the gift of salvation at worship on December 24 at 9:00 am and at 5:00 pm.

May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all human understanding, be in your hearts now and always. **Pastor Dean**

Evergreen Order Form

Order evergreens to brighten Lakeview's sanctuary.

Evergreens @ \$30 each

In memory of

In honor

Name:

Lakeview Lutheran Church Winter Youth Retreat
Green Lake Conference Center-January 12-14, 2018
Grades 8-12
Note that High School youth may attend this retreat

Youth name and address

Youth date of birth and grade in school

Gender M/F/O

Name of parent/guardian, phone, email

Name of parent/guardian, phone, email

Emergency contact person, other than parents/guardians, and phone

Physician's name and telephone number

Medical insurance name

Group number

Phone

Identify any medical conditions/medications the chaperones should be aware of

Identify any special diet or accessibility needs we should be aware of-food allergies

Parents/adults- we need volunteers to make this retreat happen. Drivers are very important to transport kids to and from Green Lake—it's about 1.5 hours north of Madison. Maps provided.

- I can help drive to Green Lake on Friday evening 5:30 pm, # of seatbelts _____
 I can help drive from Green Lake on Sunday morning 10:30 am, # of seatbelts _____

Parents/adults-you can also help by donating something below. Bring to church on Friday evening.

- I can furnish a 12 pack of soda for this event
 I can furnish a 12 pack of bottled water for this event
 I can furnish a bag of snacks for this event (chips, corn chips, etc.)
 I can furnish a batch of home made cookies/bars for this event

Cost per youth, non-Lakeview friends too, is \$45 and includes lodging, meals, bed linens, towels, soap and use of all recreation areas at Green Lake. Checks should be made to "Lakeview Lutheran Church" and attached to this completed form. Please complete all areas of the form and return to Pastor Kirst by January 1, 2018. Lack of registration forms by due date could result in canceling of the retreat.

**Inside:
Advent
Road Home
Winter Youth Retreat Registration**

www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org

Dean M. Kirst, Pastor, pastordean@lakeviewlutheranmail.org

Laura Jasiczek, Office Administrator, office@lakeviewlutheranmail.org

Chris Anders, Ministry Coordinator, coordinator@lakeviewlutheranmail.org

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

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30

Service Schedule:

5:00pm Saturday

9:00am Sunday

RETURNSERVICE REQUESTED
(608) 244-6181
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Lakeview Lutheran Church
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NEWSLETTER OF:

A WARM AND CARING COMMUNITY SINCE 1856.
LAKEVIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH ON MADISON'S NORTH SIDE.