

THE BEACON

Seroogy's Candy Bars

Many varieties of Seroogy's candy bars are available for sale in the church office. They are \$1.50 each. They taste good! Stop by and pick some up from Laura. The revenue from these candy bars helps to fund the youth trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston next summer.

Underwear Collection

Pastor Mary Pharmer will be spending several months working at Annunciation House, along the US border, in El Paso, Texas, welcoming people who enter the United States. She will spend much time cooking and cleaning. She also is seeking donations of quart and gallon size zip lock bags and socks and underwear of all sizes for all genders. Please bring you donations to worship on Dec 30/31, as Pastor Mary will be leading worship, or to the church office before January 7th.

Houston Youth Trip Meeting

All youth, going to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston next summer, and their parents

Annual Meeting Celebration

The annual meeting celebration at Lakeview will be on Sunday, January 21. There will be no worship service on Saturday evening, January 20 and there will be no education time on Sunday January 21. But everyone is encouraged to attend our celebration of mission and ministry on Sunday morning. At 8:00 am, there will be breakfast style refreshments in the Fellowship Room. At 9:00 am, we will worship together and the choir and Sunday school children will sing during the service. When worship concludes, President Gayle Langer will call the annual meeting to order in the sanctuary. We will hear updates on future projects, like a possible child day care center in our building. We will pass a plan for ministry (budget) for 2018 and then we will be invited to complete pledge cards indicating how we can each help fund that plan for ministry. We will elect new council members. There will be door prizes. We'll have a complete report from Linda Schaack, our treasurer, who will be in Colorado but we will bring her into the meeting via Facetime on the big screen. Like usual, it is a day to celebrate and the council hopes that all members of the congregation will attend.

should attend the important meeting at 8:00 am on Sunday, January 7, in the church sanctuary. At this meeting we will talk about costs, transportation options and we'll lay out a plan for fundraising for the next 6 months. Pastor Dean will lead this meeting. Make plans to be there.

Council Meeting

Church council—please remember that our January meeting is on Monday, January 8 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room.

MEETING-New Orleans Fall Adult Trip

If you have an interest in joining Pastor Dean for a retreat to New Orleans in October 2018, you should attend the meeting on January 10, at 6:30 pm, in the church library. Enter through the south side entrance—near the kitchen. We'll have a fire in the fireplace and talk about options and ideas for this trip. You will be able to make a final decision about going on the trip after this meeting. We have had some wonderful adult fellowship trips in recent years to New York, St. Louis and Memphis, along with some great adult retreats at the Green Lake Conference Center, so we look forward to this future trip, as well. This trip will require air travel, not coach bus travel. See you at the meeting.

Choir Resumes

The choir will not rehearse on Dec 28 or Jan 4. Thank you, choir, for all your hard work this fall and particularly in Advent and Christmas. We will be ready to learn new music and to lead worship, resuming rehearsals on Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 pm, in the sanctuary. New members at choir are always welcome. Lynn

likes to see new faces and hear new voices so if joining choir has been an interest of yours, show up on Jan 11.

Winter Youth Retreat

As has been published, the annual winter youth retreat will be held at the Green Lake Conference Center on January 12-14, 2018. This year, it is for all youth and their guests who are in grades 7-12. The fee per person is \$45. Registration forms MUST be to Pastor Dean by Jan 1. If an adequate number of forms have not been received by that day, the event will be cancelled. The chaperones this year will be Dave Haselow, Taryn Lantz, Dayna Dalton and Pastor Dean. Registration forms can be found on the Information Station table in the narthex or picked up from Pastor Dean. Youth and families have been emailed these forms, as well. We look forward to this event, where we will have lots of fun, eat good food, play stupid games and take a serious look at doing God's justice by modeling Jesus in the world.

Lay Led Worship on Jan 13/14

Over the weekend that Pastor Dean is on the winter retreat, you will have a unique opportunity. John Dyar will lead both worship services that weekend and sing a special song. The preacher at both services will be Laura Jasiczek. Laura is our office administrator. She is a member at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation and is currently exploring a call to seminary. She has visited several schools of different denominations, including Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque (where Pastor Dean graduated). Lynn Najem will be at the piano on this weekend.

Food Pantry January Collection

Our monthly food pantry collection will be on January 13/14. We will be collecting shampoo and dish soap. Bring your gifts directly to worship and place them on the cart. Your gifts are gratefully appreciated. In December, you donated 1100 disposable diapers, 24 boxes of tampons and 26 boxes of pads. The pile in front of church was amazing!

Book Club – 2018

Anyone interested in discussing and compiling our 2018 monthly reading list? Come join us for a ‘working’ lunch at Texas Roadhouse on Sunday, Jan 14 at 11:30am. Bring along titles/authors of books you would like to see included in our monthly discussions. Please let Linette Hass, hass@att.net, if you plan to attend. She will make a reservation for the group.

January Renewal Service

The monthly renewal service, held in the historic chapel, will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 17. All who would like a break from the noise and the struggles of the world are invited to attend. Communion is served. Refreshments and fellowship are an important part of the service.

Global Oppression Task Group Meetings Resume

The global oppression task group will resume meeting on Thursday, January 18 at 6:00 pm, in the Fellowship Room. Like usual, we will conclude for choir at 7:00 pm. Bring all the information that you have collected about opening a child day care center here at

Lakeview. We are moving in that direction, just as this group identified.

Senior Lunch/Euchre Tournament

Jan 22, 11am, will be our first senior lunch for 2018. Pastor Dean will be hosting a soup buffet, including bread, cheese, green salad and dessert. Please consider attending, even if you don't play euchre. Sign up for the event at the Information Station. Also, you can pick up a copy of the schedule for all senior lunches for 2018 at that table. Our partners at NESCO will be providing prizes to the top 3 scores.

Sunday Morning Adult Study

Pastor Dean will resume a Sunday morning adult study on Sunday, January 28, in the Fellowship Room. This study is for adults or older youth who would like to attend. It is from 10:00 to 11:00 am. We will be exploring the ELCA *draft* Social Statement on Women and Justice. At the conclusion, all participants will be able to submit a response form with information to help the formulators of the statement to make a final statement. It is hoped that many would attend this study. At this time in our nation, with the recent allegations of sexual abuse and victimization, it is most timely that we gather to study and understand God's will for God's people. All participants will receive a copy of the study.

Road Home Update

Most of you have heard by now that The Road Home of Dane County will be ending its shelter program early in 2018. Our final time to serve as host for the program will be in March. Road Home of Dane County operates a variety of housing programs and services to people who

are struggling with inadequate housing options in a market where housing is very expensive. All other programs will continue. The Board of Directors made the decision to end the shelter program because shelter services have changed in Dane County. This decision was not made because of inadequate funding. Our Lakeview council treasurer, Linda Schaack, currently serves as the president of the Road Home

Board of Directors. We are grateful for Linda's ministry with this important community service. Included in this newsletter is a list of questions that Road Home prepared, anticipating what the community may wish to know. After our final host time in March, we will plan a special recognition event for all our supportive and hardworking Road Home volunteers. Watch for details.

A WORD FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

On January 6 the church celebrates the Epiphany of our Lord. It is the celebration that acknowledges the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentile world (*the non-Jews*). It is this epiphany that makes us realize that Jesus came, not only for his Jewish brothers and sisters, but for everyone else in the cosmos, too. We are those Gentiles!

The biblical reading on Epiphany is always the same. It comes from the second chapter of Matthew's gospel. It is the story of some magi or astrologers or perhaps wise men (*although gender is never mentioned*) that came from an Eastern foreign land to pay respect to Jesus. In the story, we are never told the number of folks who came. Could be three, could be six, or could be ten. It is also clear in the story that they did not come to a manger or a barn, but to a house. And they found the child and his mother. Joseph is not in the story. Jesus was likely around two years old by the time the magi arrived. The magi brought him gifts fit for a king (*although disappointing to a baby*)—gold, frankincense and myrrh.

We usually get this story confused and want to make the magi visit part of the Christmas story. It's not. It deserves special recognition. It is not about the birth of Jesus, but the work and authority of Jesus. It is one of the best stories we have to help us see how the salvation of Jesus is not limited, but available to all, even regal gentile astrologers from other lands. This story helps us see the universality of the Christ, born in Bethlehem and honored by shepherds and wealthy kings from a faraway place.

This is a great church holiday that doesn't get as much attention as it should. Jesus is for the world--the whole world, the whole cosmos! The Jewish people didn't have a corner on Jesus. Americans don't have exclusive rights to Jesus. Christians are not the only ones to know the love of God made visible in Christ. Jesus is for the world. He has come to bring God's unconditional gracious love to everyone. Jesus is the light of the world. Epiphany celebrates his light.

When we realize that Jesus is for all, it should have a serious impact on how we live, work, love, accept, welcome and open hearts and doors to others. God doesn't just bless America, God blesses the world. We will be celebrating the Epiphany of our Lord on Saturday, January 6 at 5:00 pm and Sunday, January 7 at 9:00 am. Everyone is welcome. You can still come to church, even though Christmas is over! There is more to celebrate and give thanks for beyond the birth.

Peace to you in the New Year!

Pastor DEAN

Focusing on Housing: Changes Ahead for The Road Home

Frequently Asked Questions

We continue to hear about Madison's homelessness problems. Will there be enough places for homeless families to stay once The Road Home's shelter closes? We will continue to work collaboratively with agencies in our community that provide shelter. Right now, we provide shelter space for 3 of the approximately 50 families who are in shelter in Dane County at any one time. We believe that the root cause of much of the homelessness in our community is lack of affordable housing. By focusing on creating affordable housing and supporting families so they can maintain housing, we will be working towards long-term solutions to homelessness.

What will happen to families staying at The Road Home's shelter as it phases out?

We will inform all families who enter our shelter of our closing date (March 31). We will work diligently to place these families into one of our housing programs. We will also work with other agencies to transition any remaining families to another shelter as we continue to seek to find affordable housing for them.

Congregations have done much of their volunteer work with the shelter. Will The Road Home continue to partner with congregations if they don't have a shelter?

Just as in the past, congregation partnerships will be invaluable to our work. We have been working with our partners in the faith community to figure out the best ways to work together moving forward. Host congregation with the support of buddy congregations can adopt a month where they fill volunteer needs such as putting on an event for families or filling specific volunteer responsibilities.

How will the volunteer experience for individuals and families change?

Volunteers will continue to be critical to our success. There will be new opportunities for families to volunteer together as well as for volunteers to interact with our families. Some examples include becoming a buddy family to a family in our program, preparing meals, helping in our after-school programs or holding wish list drives. Contact Alane Conn, our volunteer coordinator, at 608-294-7998 or vol.mgr@trhome.org for more information about volunteering.

I heard that you are moving to another building. Is that related to your shelter closing?

We have outgrown our current rented space, making it necessary for us to find a new location. In the spring, we will move to a new building located on the south side of Madison. Although the decisions to end shelter and relocate our agency followed two separate trajectories, as we considered how a new space could most effectively serve families experiencing homelessness, the timing converged. Our new location will include space for expanded skill-building classes and other evening activities.

Does this change represent a change in The Road Home's mission?

No. Our mission and vision of every child deserves a home remains the same. We remain committed to helping families find secure housing.

I know that The Road Home provided a day shelter for families. Will that continue?

No. Our new building will not include space for a day shelter. Recently, The Beacon, a new resource center for people experiencing homelessness, opened in Madison. They serve over 150 people each day. We will partner with them to provide case management to families there.

Was The Road Home's shelter not financially viable?

The decision to phase out shelter was not based on lack of funding. Instead, it was deliberate and carefully thought out by our staff and Board of Directors, with the goal of maximizing our resources to most effectively serve homeless and formerly homeless families in our community.

What housing programs is The Road Home involved with now?

We currently run seven housing programs. Please look in the Programs section of our website to learn more. Our rapid rehousing programs help families who may have encountered a short-term crisis or roadblock overcome that and get rehoused as quickly as possible. Our permanent supportive housing programs work to end chronic homelessness by providing support to families facing significant barriers. These programs provide case management and varying amounts of support.

With shelter ending, what new programs or initiatives will you be focusing on?

We have several new initiatives that we are excited about! We will be offering more skill-based classes such as budgeting and resume building at our new building. We also have some exciting housing programs in the works for 2018. New partnerships will help us transition families from our supportive housing into more independent living, opening up those supported housing spots for other families. We have partnered with Stonehouse Development and will be opening nine affordable three-bedroom units in the spring. We will also launch a pilot program that brings several agencies together along with a couple of congregations in a team approach to support formerly homeless families in housing.

**Inside:
Annual Meeting
What's happening with The Road Home
Youth**

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

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MADISON, WIS.
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Lakeview Lutheran Church
4001 Mandrake Rd.
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 244-6181
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