

THE BEACON

ADVENT

The new church year began on Nov 29/30 with the season of Advent. This year, all Advent worship services, including Saturday evening, will be held in the main sanctuary. Advent is the time to look back and remember the birth of Christ. It is also the time to look forward to a return. The

EACH WEEK OF ADVENT, YOU ARE
INVITED TO BRING A GIFT TO SHARE

color for Advent is blue which represents hope. Every weekend, you will see changes in the sanctuary as we approach Christmas. Each weekend of Advent, you will hear the background and history of a familiar Advent/Christmas hymn. The weekend themes for Advent will be;

Nov 29/30 Zechariah's Surprise in the Temple
Dec 06/07 Unexpected and Mysterious
Dec 13/14 Joseph "the just" and his Dream
Dec 20/21 Mary gives Birth

The weekly themes will be lifted up in readings, meditations, music, prayers and videography. Holy Communion will be served every time we gather. Children will be recognized. Each week

of Advent you are also invited to bring a gift to share with local social service agencies. The agencies and the items we will collect are listed:

Nov 29/30 Triangle Ministry-new warm socks for men and women-all sizes
Dec 06/07 Children's books for the Vera Court Literacy Program
Dec 13/14 Madison Urban Ministry-culturally diverse children's books
Dec 20/21 Regular size toothpaste for Domestic Abuse Intervention Services

Bring your gifts to worship and place them at the designated spot at the altar.

Each week, at the conclusion of Advent worship, you will be given a list of daily devotions to consider for the upcoming week. The season of Advent is a wonderful and quiet time of meditation during a time when the secular world is filled with chaos and confusion.

**Church office is closed at noon on
December 24 and all day on December
25 and 26 and January 1.**

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Worship on Christmas day will be at 9:00 am in the sanctuary. It will include Holy Communion and a different sermon than the 6:30 pm service on Christmas Eve. Special music will be offered.

Christmas Concert and Program

Be sure to be at Lakeview by 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 14. The Sunday school youth and Lakeview Choir, along with soloists and other instrumentalists will be presenting the annual Christmas concert in the sanctuary. Meditative readings by high school youth will also be part of this program. Immediately after the service, there will be a pasta dinner for everyone in East Hall. The pasta dinner is a fundraiser sponsored by the high school youth going to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit. A free-will offering will be taken at the concert to assist the youth with their trip. It will be a nice evening of music, food, fellowship and youth support. Bring a friend or neighbor and enjoy.

Christmas Eve Worship

On Christmas Eve our first worship service will be at 4:00 pm. During this service, the cast of "Best Christmas Pageant Ever," under the direction of Lynn Najem, will present their play. This is a humorous and inspiring production that captures a very serious side of Christmas in the zany antics of the cast and the "horrible" Herdsman children. This is an intergenerational production. You will be moved. Holy communion will be served at this service. At 6:30 pm the choir will assist to lead the annual Candlelight Service. You will be able to experience what 30 glowing candles on the altar look like. You will hear the traditional Christmas Gospel read. There will be a time for children and Holy Communion will be served. Last year, many people attended both services on Christmas Eve because they offered such different aspects of the birth story. Visitors are always welcome.

Weekend After Christmas

On December 27 we will worship at 5:00 pm in the historic chapel. On December 28 we will

worship at 9:00 am ONLY in the sanctuary. Both of these services will consist of readings and carols. Holy Communion will be served.

Kids Breakfast with Santa Claus



- Esquire Club on Sherman Ave.
- Saturday, Dec. 6th 8:00am until 11:00am
- Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Milk and Juice
- Children \$4 Adults \$6

Proceeds benefit our Northside Food Pantries. Non-perishable good item donations will be appreciated.

Kringle Delivery

The Kringles that were ordered through the youth fundraiser will be delivered on Dec 12. Once the exact time of their arrival is known, we will be able to set a time for people to stop by church and pick up their order. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser for our youth.

Annual Senior Christmas Lunch and Euchre Tournament

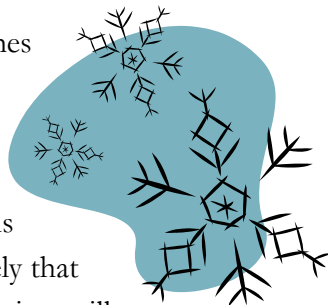
On Monday, December 15 it all begins at 11:00 am with a wood fire in the library fireplace, carol sing and appetizers. At 11:30 am lunch, prepared by "chef" Pastor Dean will be served in East Hall. You will enjoy roast chicken, baked ham, real mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, steamed carrots and a surprise Christmas dessert. You are invited to make a donation to cover the cost of the food. Wear something festive. Stay after lunch to play in the euchre tournament, to talk with friends, to make new friends, or to sleep in front of the fireplace. Get signed up now to attend this fun afternoon.

Homeless Memorial Service

December 21st will be cold and snowy and most of us will be in the middle of our holiday preparations. There will be shopping to finish and gifts to wrap. There will be cookies to be baked and fruit cake to be brined. Cards will need to be written out and you will be wondering when you are going to put up the tree. Of course all of this will be happening in our nicely heated and very comfortable homes. That's why it's important for us to all take a couple hours on Sunday, Dec 21 and attend the annual Homeless Memorial Service on the Capital Square in Madison. In the middle of our "abundance and plenty" we pause to remember those who have "little or nothing." We pause to uplift people who have died while homeless. The event begins at 3:00 pm and will include a walk around the square with Clydesdale horses pulling a hearse. There will be bagpipes and readings and prayers. And there will be a time to remember. You can name names out loud if you choose. The bells of Grace Episcopal will toll. Pastor Dean is one of the community members who will again be leading this event. As a gift to those who are homeless, you are also invited to bring donations of warm socks, hats, mittens/gloves, scarves and long underwear to be donated to Community Action Coalition to be given to those with needs. Make this event an important part of your December.

Inclement Weather

Sometimes it becomes necessary during winter to cancel activities or worship at Lakeview. If the Madison schools close for the day, it is likely that evening activities at Lakeview will



be canceled. If Pastor Dean can make it to church from Sun Prairie on the weekend, we will NOT cancel worship. However, if worship or activities are canceled we will notify you by putting the information on the church answering machine, by posting on the church Facebook page and by listing it on www.NBC15.com.

Chicago Bound

On December 10th, thirty-one folks from Lakeview will be heading to Chicago for some holiday spirit. They'll be taking a coach bus from Lazers Bus Service in Marshall. After spending an hour at Macy's on State Street, former Marshall Fields, they will have lunch at the famous Berghoff Restaurant and then complete the day with a visit to the European Christmas Market in Daley Plaza. It will be a fun day with great fellowship.

Middle School Winter Retreat

The annual middle school winter retreat for youth in grades 6-9 will be held January 16-18, 2015 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake WI. We will again be staying in the comfortable Robbins Hall Dorms. Our meals will be served buffet style in the Kraft Dining Room and the meals are large and varied and really good. Recreation will include basketball, Ping-Pong, carpet ball and weight machines in the Rec Center and if there is snow, we'll go sledding on some great hills on the Lawsonia Links Golf Course. On Saturday morning Pastor Dean will lead a time for learning and growth as he uses a "Survivor" theme to explore courage and strength through 5 Bible stories. And of course, there will be the crazy and bizarre games played on Saturday evening. We will gather at church at 5:00 pm on Friday and depart at 5:30 pm. We will return to church at noon on Sunday. Chaperones for this

retreat are Nate Campbell, Amy Luebke, Nancy Stillwell, Jason Buchda, Jen Evans and Pastor Dean. The cost per youth for the weekend is \$80. Each youth pays \$40 and the church youth fund pays the other half. Youth are encouraged to bring friends, who should also complete the registration form in this newsletter and include the \$40 deposit. The more kids that go, the more fun it will be.

Adult Retreat to Green Lake

A winter adult retreat has been scheduled for Feb 20-22, 2015 at the Christian Writer's Mansion at the Green Lake Conference Center. We can take 18 adults on this experience. The topic of this retreat will be "*Saving Jesus From the Church.*" Pastor Dean will lead a Saturday morning discussion on the book by the same title. You can be assured that the discussion will be lively and provocative as well as thought provoking and inspiring. The retreat will end with worship on Sunday morning and you will be able to be back in Madison around noon. Cost per person is \$130 and includes housing, linens, food, dinner on Friday night and the book. See Chris Anders when you are ready to make a commitment to attend this event. But don't delay because of limited capacity.

Disaster Recovery in Somerset County

Start thinking ahead. Lakeview will be traveling to Somerset County, Maryland and do Hurricane Sandy disaster recovery from April 20-24, 2015. We can only take 15 workers on this trip. We are hoping to visit Washington DC for a day as part of this trip. A meeting for anyone who may be interested in this trip will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 12 in the church sanctuary. Come to the meeting to obtain information and to share ideas. Coming to the meeting does not commit you to attend the work trip.

Call for Food Pantry

The Food Pantry needs pancake mix, syrup and hot cereal. If you are inclined, swing by Aldi and buy a case of any of those choices to donate. Also, the pantry continues to give out warm winter clothing during November. So if you have new or gently used coats, socks, long underwear, sweaters, hats, mittens, scarves, boots, snow pants etc to share, bring your donations to the pantry door in East Hall. Thank you for supporting the Lakeview Food Pantry.

Email Newsletters

Would you be interested in receiving your future Beacon's via email? If so, we can make that happen! We will have a sign up form in the Narthex, starting December 6TH/7TH If you would prefer to receive an emailed copy, and no longer receive a paper copy of The Beacon, please put your name and email address on the form for us. Please make sure to print legibly and include your email, even if the church office already has it recorded. Also, if you decide to make this change, make sure to update the church office any time you have an email change, so we can be sure you are always getting your Beacon.



A WORD (OR TWO) FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

I don't like the Christmas story according to Luke. It makes Joseph look like a buffoon. I mean really, what level headed, rational man who is about to become a responsible father, would stick his girlfriend, who is 9 months pregnant, on a donkey and make her travel through the countryside to another city without a hotel reservation? The story in Luke makes Joseph look like a thoughtless and insensitive guy. And of course, that only provides encouragement to make all men look foolish. I would much rather read the birth story according to Matthew. In that story Joseph never leaves his house in Bethlehem. He is visited by an angel who tells him that Mary is going to have a baby but it's okay, he should still take her as his wife. Joseph does exactly what the angel tells him, he takes Mary as his wife, she bears a son and Joseph names him Jesus. Joseph looks like a great guy in this story. He exemplifies someone who is responsible and compliant with directions.

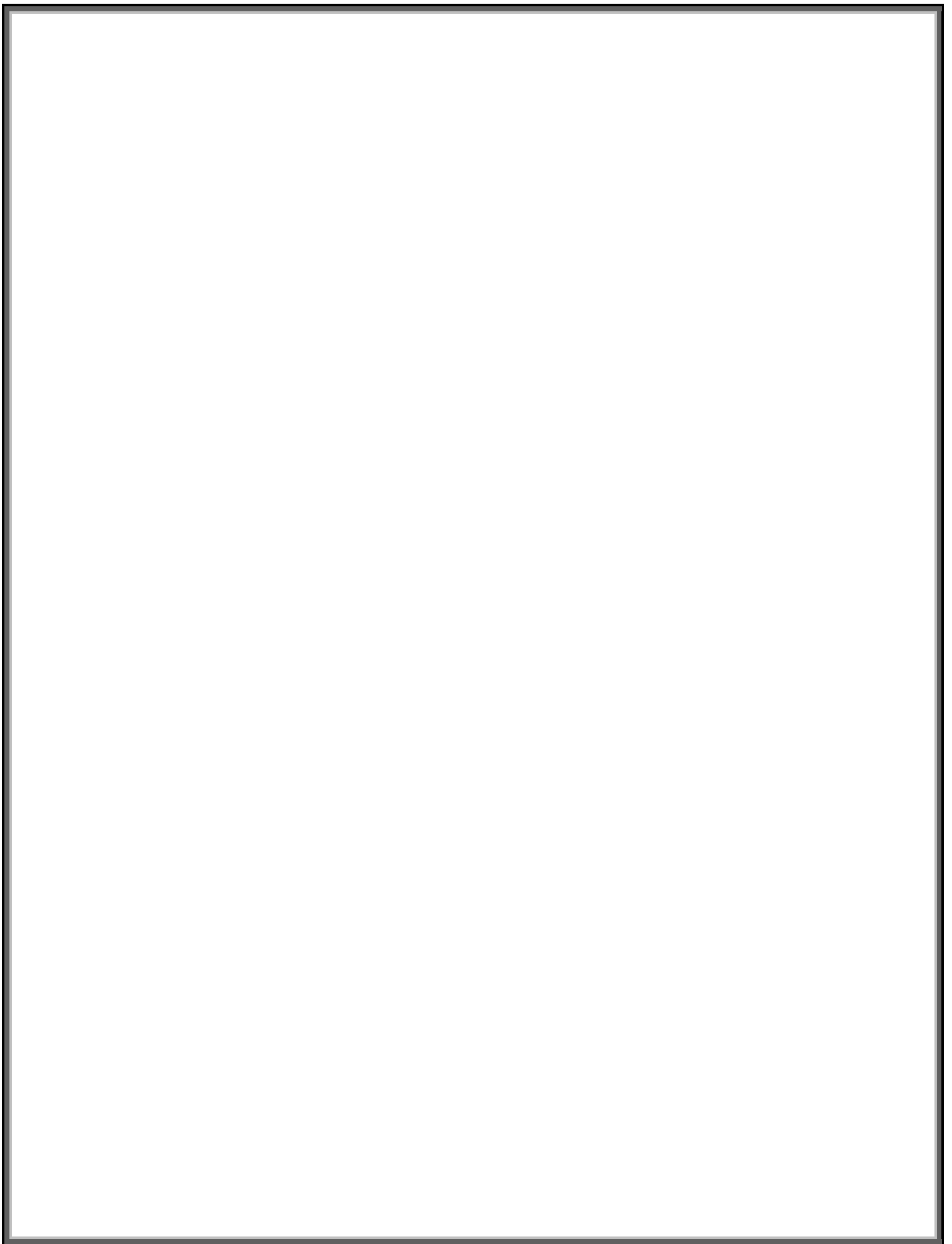
Isn't it great that we have 2 very different stories about the birth of our Savior to choose from? That way, if you don't like one you can read the other. We have two accounts of Jesus' birth that don't come anywhere close to matching up. They actually contradict each other. But these stories were not written to "match up." They were never meant to be historical accounts about the birth of Jesus. So it doesn't matter if they conflict, or are inaccurate or even make Joseph look like a poor decision maker. These stories are not about history, they are about faith.

They are about God bursting into our world. They are about our relationship with God. They are about God's outrageous and gracious love for all people. These stories are wonderfully woven legends about God's revelation to us, whether we are poor shepherds or mighty kings. They are powerful stories that affirm our faith.

So, if you want to put Jesus in a manger in a stable even though Matthew's account has him born in a house, go ahead. If you want to put angels and wise men in your nativity set, even though neither story suggests that either of those came to the birth site, go ahead. Note: wise men came to a house about 2 years after the birth, according to Matthew and angels only came to the shepherds according to Luke. If it helps your faithful relationship with God to have animals in your nativity set, even though there is nothing to suggest that animals were there, do it! If it helps your spirituality to put up a Christmas tree in your home with decorations—which has absolutely nothing to do with the birth stories of Christ--do it. Christmas is about God bounding into our lives with grace and love and whatever we can do to uplift that wonderful news, seems to be the right thing.

Like usual, I hope you will ground your Christmas in worship, in the celebration of Holy Communion, in the love that God has for you. Just like there is no one right way to understand the birth of Christ, there is no one right way to love God. Just do it!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor DEAN



**Inside:
Thinking About Advent
Christmas Services and Activities
Upcoming Trips**

Lakeview Lutheran Church, Office: (608) 244-6181

Mondays to Fridays 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org

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Chris Anders, Ministry Coordinator, coordinator@lakeviewlutheranmail.org

Lynn Najem, Organist/Choir Director; Regina Thomas, Custodian

Service schedule:

Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:15am and 10:30am

Christmas Concert 12/14, 4:00pm

Christmas Eve 4:00pm and 6:30pm, Christmas Day 9:00am

Sunday 12/28, 9:00am

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A WARM AND CARING COMMUNITY SINCE 1856.