

# THE BEACON

## “Souper” Bowl

Yes, the end of the NFL football season was disappointing for those of us living in Wisconsin. But there will still be a Super Bowl game played on Sunday February 1. Even if you are depressed about the teams, or feeling blue because you can't watch Aaron Rodgers or Clay Matthews on your television screen one more time, there is something that you can do on this weekend that will make you feel very good. At all worship

## SOUPER BOWL 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY

services on Super Bowl weekend, we will receive a special offering for the Dane County Salvation Army. Every year, we receive a special offering on Super Bowl weekend to give to a food serving organization. This year it is our local Salvation Army because they need it. They are the largest provider of shelter and meals in Dane County. You can bring them on Jan 31 or Feb 1 or you can mail them in or drop them at the church office. You should make your checks out to “Lakeview.” Make sure they indicate that they should go to the Souper Bowl offering. If you

give by check or use your envelope number, our counters will be able to record your gift on your giving statement.

## Council Installation

The new church council, elected at the annual meeting on January 25, will be officially installed on Sunday, February 1 during the 10:30 am worship service.

## Fruit Sale is Coming

During the month of February our high school youth going to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit and our middle school youth going on a summer mission trip to Milwaukee will be selling fruit. They will have navel oranges, ruby red grapefruit, red and golden delicious apples, Hawaiian pineapple and mixed bag options available. The fruit orders will be due on Sunday, March 8 and the fruit will arrive at Lakeview on Saturday, March 21. This is a fundraiser that is good for everyone!!!! Watch for opportunities to support this sale coming soon.

## Mid Week in Lent

During the season of Lent, we encourage a time of devotion and growth, a time to ponder our spirituality, our relationship with God and our call to be disciples. We will gather at Lakeview every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Due to the many things that have happened in

## Ash Wednesday Worship

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. We will gather for somber worship at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The mood is subdued. The choir will sing, communion will be served and ashes will be imposed as we remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Ash Wednesday worship is a very different time from routine weekend worship at Lakeview. On this day we plan silence for personal reflection and contemplation and prayer. All are welcome to find solace in this service.

our country and world in recent months, our theme during these mid-week devotions will be on racial issues. Each week, there will be a guest presenter who will speak about racial issues from their perspective. The guest will also allow time for questions. We'll conclude the evening with a biblical reading, hymn and prayer. At this time, the presenters included;

**Feb 25-** Police Chief Kovel from the Madison Police Department

**March 4-** Quiana Holmes-Abanukam who will share her experience of being homeless and now serving as a case manager for the Road Home.

**March 11-** John Givens who is a northside neighbor and works with MUM and the prison re-entry program. John will share personal experiences of being incarcerated.

**March 18-** TBA

**March 25-** Onar Asun from the Niagara Foundation who will speak on racial issues surrounding people from the middle east who are Muslim in our community.

### **Senior Lunch/Euchre Tournament**

Feb. 23 is the next Senior lunch/Euchre event. Warner Park will be hosting. Lunch is served at 11:30am with cards to follow. You need to be signed up for this lunch in advance, so, please do so at the Information Station in the Narthex or contact Chris Anders by Thurs., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 Euchre scores.

### **Kids and Families**

A Lakeview fun day has been planned by Monica Dyar. Kids, accompanied by their parents, should come to church at 2:00 pm on Saturday, Feb 7. Bring sledding gear and appropriate clothes to go next door on the hill at Human Services for some fun trips down. After the sledding, bring some snacks and beverages to share with the group back at church. It will be a fun day and we hope many folks will participate. Who knows, maybe even the pastor will get on a sled!!!!????????

## **Lakeview Literary Society 2015**

### **Reading List**

The following list of book titles has been chosen for discussion by the group:

**Feb. 2** – Miracle Beach by Erin Celello

**Mar.2** – The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult

**Apr.6** – Life After Life by Jill McCorkle

**May 4** – Philomena(We will be watching the movie as a group)

**Jun.1** – Dear Life by Alice Munro

**Jul.6** – The Kindness of Strangers by Katrina Kittle

**Aug.3** – The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

**Sept.8(Tues.)** – All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

**Oct.5** – In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin by Erik Larson

**Nov.2** – A Sudden Light by Garth Stein

**Dec.7** – Comfort and Joy by Kristen Hannah

Group discussions are held on the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room. Anyone is welcome to attend.

### **Food Pantry Needs**

The Food Pantry needs canned fruit, peas, tuna, all kinds of soup, but particularly the heartier ones that are more of a meal, jelly and jam, dish soap, tampons and diapers, particularly larger sized ones.

### **Ephesians Bible Study**

Did you know that every Wednesday at noon, up to 17 people gather with Pastor Dean to study the biblical book of Ephesians? If you haven't come to this study, it's not too late. New folks are always welcome. The group meets in the upstairs Fellowship Room. Coffee and tea are served. Some folks bring a lunch. Sometimes treats show up. Bring a Bible, a sense of humor and a willingness to explore God's living word for our lives today. You may be surprised over some of the things you hear. It's a wonderful group.

### **Confirmation At Road Home**

Confirmation students will serve the meal, clean up the kitchen and entertain children at Road

Home on Thursday, Feb 12 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm in the lower level of Lakeview. If you are in confirmation class and need to complete service project hours, this is an opportunity. Let Pastor Dean know in advance if you are coming on this evening. The March service project will be at Second Harvest Food Bank.

### **Choir**

The Lakeview Choir meets every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The choir is directed by our music director Lynn Najem. There is always room for more choir members. Very soon the choir will begin working on the Passion Musical and Easter Sunday selections. Having lots of voices for these two important celebrations is a good thing. So if you just want to sing for a short period of time with the choir, you are still welcome.

### **Red Beans and Rice**

A few years ago we began a new tradition at Lakeview that has been well received. It's a Red Beans and Rice Mardi Gras celebration. Red beans and rice are served in New Orleans on Monday evenings the way that fish fries are served in Wisconsin on Friday evenings. Mardi Gras is the time of year between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday when the people celebrate with food, costumes, King cakes, parades, dances and even

## **RED BEANS AND RICE MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION FEB. 15**

some adult beverages. The celebration of Mardi Gras climaxes on the Tuesday night before Ash Wednesday and ends at midnight. Then, the solemnness of Lent is ushered in. This year, our Mardi Gras event is going to be held on Sunday, February 15. The youth who are going to the national youth gathering in July will be serving the traditional red beans and rice, (vegetarian option), salad, French bread, fried beignets with powdered sugar and beverages from 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm. There will be beads for everyone and guests are invited to dress in fun costumes for the party. Live music will again be provided by the Dixie Horizons Jazz Band. Tickets are available in the narthex, the church office or from a youth. Adults are \$9, under 12 are \$5. Hot dogs will be

available for children who choose. Plan to attend this fun evening of food, laughter, dancing and fellowship. And help raise money for the youth trip as well.

### **Adult Winter Retreat**

There is still one room with 2 double beds available on the adult winter retreat. This year's event will be February 20-22 and will again be held at the Writer's Mansion at the Green Lake Conference Center. This home is located right on the shore of Big Green Lake and nestled in a wooded area where deer and wild turkeys are regularly sighted. We'll car pool to Green Lake and rendezvous for dinner on the way up there at the Kingston House in the small community of Kingston. Pastor Dean will lead a provocative discussion on Saturday morning about saving Jesus from the church. We'll talk about how we can stop worshiping Christ and start following him. We'll talk about religion as relationship, not righteousness and Christian compassion, not condemnation. All participants will receive a book by Robin Meyers to read or review before the retreat. Saturday afternoon, participants will enjoy free time as they wish. Some will sleep, some will read, some will take a walk, some will snow shoe, some will go shopping for antiques, some will just enjoy conversation around the large wood burning fireplace in the living room. We'll cook Saturday evening dinner together and then enjoy a great game of "What's Yours Like" in the evening. You'll laugh until you wet your pants. Cost for everything on this retreat is \$130 per person. Check in with Chris Anders if you would like the remaining lodging.

### **Sabbatical Time**

If you attended the annual meeting, you are aware that the church council has approved a three-month sabbatical leave for Pastor Dean. They have used the Lakeview Clergy Sabbatical Leave Policy that this congregation approved in 2007. The policy allows for the pastor of this congregation to take a sabbatical leave after every 5 years of service. Pastor Dean took leave in 2008. Pastor and Kris will take leave from June 1 until August 23, 2015. They will spend time re-visiting Rutland Vermont (site of one of our youth mission trips). They will experience the splendor of God's creation at Acadia National Park off the coast of Maine. They will explore

history in Boston and end up, where else, but Folly Beach South Carolina. This is a good time for the congregation to discuss and explore Pastor Dean's future here. He has been here since November 2001, which means he is going on year number 14. He is 58 years of age and will retire at age 66. Very soon he will be "over the hill" for future calls within the church. Therefore, we should be open and honest and talk about whether it is best for Lakeview for Pastor Dean to finish his career life here or if it is best for Lakeview for him to move on soon. This is a conversation that should be honest, thoughtful and sensitive to everyone. It is not a time for anonymous letters or phone calls, but a time to look at how this congregation can best be served as we move forward.

### **Winter Youth Retreat**

The Lakeview congregation offers a wonderful gift. It is an annual weekend winter retreat for youth in grades 6-9. This year, that retreat was held on Jan 16-18 at the Green Lake Conference



Center and we had a wonderful time. Twenty-three youth joined 6 adult chaperones to play games, explore God's power to help us survive, eat good food, enjoy crazy fellowship and laugh a lot. We are grateful that we have been able to host this event since 2002. Next year space has been reserved in Robbins Hall North at Green Lake on January 15-17. And by the way, the Lakeview youth and their guests are absolutely wonderful.

### **Knots of Love Update**

Lakeview's "Knots of Love" knitting, crocheting and quilting ministry had another busy year in 2014. Fifteen knitters/crocheters met at 5:30 p.m. on the second Monday each month to knit, crochet, share patterns, turn in projects and socialize. Much more work was done in individual homes. This year, a total of 2,980 volunteer hours and 210 projects were recorded through early December. The group made prayer and preemie shawls, skull caps, headbands, adult and kids hats, mittens, booties, lap robes and baby afghans. Items were donated to various groups, including

hospitals and Lakeview's food pantry for community distribution. Our quilters made 210 quilts and contributed an additional 646 volunteer hours.

Thrivent financial has supported our work for the past five years – this year with a grant of \$375.00 for the purchase of quilt material and yarn. Recently, Lakeview received a letter from Thrivent stating that southern Wisconsin would no longer have a local chapter system primarily due lack of volunteers and the work required of them. We would instead be a part of a regional system not fully defined. This means that Lakeview and other churches part of the Central Dane Chapter (and other chapters in southern Wisconsin) will no longer receive Thrivent grant funds for Care in Community projects such as Knots of Love, CROP, rummage sale, etc. At this time we don't know what other options will be available. Lakeview members who do own Thrivent insurance projects will still be able to designate their dollars to Lakeview as in the past. We thank Thrivent Financial for their past support of the Care in Community grant program. If you would like to become a part of the Knots of Love group, come and meet with us on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the upstairs fellowship room. If you have any good, "newish" (not 10 years old) yarn in full skeins or more, we do accept donations. Talk to Mary Cragin, Kris Kirst or Lynn Case.

### **Middle School Summer Trip**

This coming summer, our middle school trip will be to Milwaukee. We will depart from Lakeview on Sunday, August 9 and return to Lakeview on Thursday, August 13. Any youth who are in grades 6-8 this year are eligible for this trip. The cost is \$150 per youth. Youth pay \$50 deposit and then they can either pay the remainder or fundraise the amount through the spring fruit sale. A registration form is included in this newsletter and should be completed and returned with the deposit to Pastor Dean by February 8, 2015. Since Pastor Dean will be on sabbatical this summer, Nate Campbell will be leading this trip with other adults. The youth will stay in the convent house of St. Rose of Lima Parish. They explore poverty and racism in the city of Milwaukee through a variety of service projects, presentations, tours and real experiences. Guests

are always welcome on our trips. Youth who wish to go on this trip should register soon so you can participate in the fruit sale fundraiser which will begin on February 1. If you have further questions, please contact Pastor Dean in the church office.

### A Note From Pastor Dean

Dear Friends,

I have always been concerned about the racial divisions that exist in our nation. I believe that people who authentically follow Jesus have a strong responsibility to take a stand against racial inequality. I believe it is our faith-based responsibility to seek impartiality, justice and liberty for all people. Perhaps the biblical story that has had the most powerful influence on me regarding race is the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well (*John 4:1-42*). Jesus broke several boundaries that day and by doing so, he set an example for us to do the same. Not only did Jesus squash the racial boundary that had existed between his Jewish ancestry and the Samaritan people, but he also crushed the fictitious boundary of his time (*and our time too*) that women and men were not equal. Jesus trampled a gender boundary as well as a racial one. And further, he befriended a woman and offered her living water even though she didn't meet the moral standards of his time. Too often this woman would be condemned in our time, as well, for making the decisions she made.

Jesus condemned behaviors that strive to separate people or that attempt to make one group of people more powerful and influential than another. He calls on us to do likewise if we agree to be his disciple.

The events in our nation over the past several months have troubled me on several levels. I believe there is plenty of evidence to suggest that racism exists in America. I believe racism exists in the church as well. I believe we are a society that continues to assign power based on

skin color, or gender, or sexual orientation, or religion, or ethnic background. This is not the example Christ gave us. This is disturbing to me. At the same time, I believe it is wrong to suggest that police officers are racists or that community leaders are racist or that social workers are racists or that church leaders are racist. Unfortunately, some are. But stereotyping people as racist because of the position they hold or the color of their skin is as wrong as the racist behaviors that some people exhibit.

I believe that education and awareness is our healthy defense against racist attitudes and behaviors. We can and should read the examples given to us by Jesus in our holy texts. There are many. We might even truly believe we are living out those examples until we hear from real people about their real life experiences. Hearing what others are experiencing may suggest that we haven't fully grasped Jesus' example.

I want to invite you to join me this year during Lent to become better educated about racial issues in our community. I want to invite you to hear about racial issues from a variety of perspectives as we host guest presenters every Wednesday evening in our sanctuary. I want to invite you to read at least one book during Lent about race in America. I want to invite you to see the movie "Selma." Kris and I walked the Pettus Bridge where bloody Sunday took place. Together we can challenge and overcome stereotypes that are not true. Together we can learn that the shade of our skin is not relevant to the quality of our character. Together we can create a community that is safe for all of God's people. And yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks! The dog just needs an open mind and a willingness to hear other voices and feel other people's feelings. Let's tackle this topic in a way that brings glory to God.

Peace,

Pastor DEAN

**Inside:**

**“Souper” Bowl Sunday**

**Red Beans and Rice**

**Lenten Services**

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

Mondays to Fridays 8 a.m. — 4 p.m. [www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org](http://www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org)

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

**Service schedule:**

**Saturday 5pm, Chapel**

**Sunday 8:15am and 10:30am**

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A WARM AND CARING COMMUNITY SINCE 1856.