

THE BEACON

Advent Begins December 2

The season of Advent begins on December 1 and 2 this year and continues through Dec 24. Our focus for Advent and Christmas at Lakeview is going to be on hunger. The decorations we use in the sanctuary, to uplift the season will focus on hunger. You will not see the traditional “Christmas trees” or greenery. We will not use poinsettias, cyclamen or other flowers this year. Instead, we will consider the 821 million people in the world who are undernourished and the 9 million people who die in the world every year from starvation. We will consider our call from Jesus to respond to world hunger. We will consider how God loves us always and has given the world the resources to end hunger. Throughout the four weeks of Advent, Pastor Dean will use special biblical texts, prayers, videos, hymns and sermons to address this topic. You are invited to complete the Advent form in this newsletter and contribute to the cost of the sanctuary decorations. With each gift of \$10 you are invited to identify someone you would like to remember or honor and those names will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. All decorations will be used to assist someone who is struggling with hunger. Also, from November 18 through December 2 you are invited to pick up a box from the church narthex or office. Then, as a way to mark time this Advent season, your household is invited to place a non-perishable food item in the box each day. The box is like an Advent calendar. Devotions, that you may wish to use each day, will also be available. On Christmas Eve, you will be invited to bring your box with 23 food items to church to be donated to the Lakeview Food Pantry. Together, we will mark time in Advent and remember those who have greater needs than ourselves. We will respond to our call for service during Advent 2018. We hope that many households will pick up a box and participate in this Advent practice. You are encouraged to talk about and even shop together for the things that you will place in the box. Advent is a time of anticipation and sharing. We hope our efforts will encourage you to anticipate and share this year and to give thanks for the resources that you possess.

Advent/Christmas Form

Help decorate the sanctuary, based on the Advent theme of hunger, by contributing \$10. We need the form by **Monday, December 10.**

_____ Contribution for hunger decorations

In memory of

In honor of

Name:

Lakeview Food Pantry Statistics

The Lakeview Food Pantry is open every Monday evening from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. It has served the people of Dane County for over 35 years. The pantry is a walk-in pantry, meaning that folks can show up to shop without an appointment. Guests of the food pantry must show identification to use the pantry and a household can be served once a month. Guests make numerous choices about the food that they want; however, we are not able to have guests pick the majority of things directly from the shelves. The pantry volunteers do set up tables with many food items, clothing items and household supplies that guests can freely select. Gretchen Macht serves as the food pantry volunteer coordinator and she requires a great deal of volunteers to make this weekly ministry successful. Besides working during regular pantry hours, other volunteers are needed to shop for food and supplies. Some are needed to stock shelves every week. Some are needed to go and promote support of the pantry in the community. Many thanks go out to all the dedicated pantry volunteers. If you would like to become a volunteer, contact Gretchen. The pantry is always in need of paper and plastic grocery bags for guests to pack their food. Your donations of those bags are welcome at any time. Financial donations can always be made to the pantry. Checks can be made to Lakeview with a note that the gift should go to the food pantry. If you are a member of Lakeview, giving to the pantry will go on your giving statement. The congregation collects a monthly food item for the pantry on the second weekend of every month. The item to be donated is selected by Gretchen and pantry volunteers. It is based on the needs of the pantry. Many folks have been very generous in supporting this monthly ministry of donating food or supplies to the pantry. Donations of in-kind goods of food, cleaning supplies, personal care supplies and clothing are welcome at any time. In recent months, the pantry has seen an increase in use. To help the congregation be aware of what is happening in the pantry the statistics for October 2018 are included here; 102 households were served, including 184 adults and 121 children. That is a total of 4575 pounds of food. Of these households, 46 households had employment, 42 households received other income outside of employment (*social security, disability, pension etc*) and 14 households had no income. From these statistics it can be seen that many households are not able to survive in Dane County on the income they receive and must supplement that income with outside assistance like the pantry. We can learn from these statistics that, although unemployment in our county is low and jobs are plentiful, they are often not jobs that can sustain a household. If you work at Woodman's for \$11.00 per hour, that equates to \$22,220 annual income, before taxes. In our county, that could be a very difficult wage for a family to live off from. It is those situations that we seem to be seeing in our food pantry. So, your generosity in supporting the pantry is not only greatly appreciated, but absolutely necessary. Thank you to everyone who supports the pantry. We look forward to supporting the pantry during the season of Advent this year.

Thank You!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with meals and with cleaning products for the families who have been meeting at Lakeview with the Northside Children's Zone. Your gifts were much appreciated and the group has really appreciated using our space.

Making space available for non-profit help groups, such as this, is great ministry for our congregation.

Lakeview Book Discussion

Anyone interested in discussing "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas please join the group on Monday, December 3 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room. Also, please note that we will be getting together on Sunday, January 6 for a 'working lunch'(time & place TBD) to decide what books to read/discuss in 2019. Anyone is welcome and please bring book titles that you would like considered for discussion in the upcoming year.

Chicago Bus Trip

The day trip to Chicago leaves the church parking lot promptly at 7:00 am on Tuesday, December 4. First stop is the observation deck of the Hancock Building on Michigan Avenue. After returning to the ground, an hour will be available to experience the shops around Watertower Place on Michigan Ave (*Bloomingdales, Neiman Marcus etc.*). At 1:00 lunch will be enjoyed at the historic Berghoff Restaurant on Adams Street. Our final stop will be an hour at the European Christkindle Christmas Market in Daley Plaza. Projected arrival back at Lakeview is around 6:00 pm.

Cost of the trip is \$54 and includes everything but lunch/beverages. Right now there are 2 spots left on the bus. If you wish to have one or both of those seats, contact Chris Anders immediately.

Senior Christmas Lunch and Euchre Tournament

On December 10, at 11:00 am we will gather in the church library before a real fire in the fireplace. Lynn Najem will be accompanying on the piano as the group sings Christmas Carols around the fire and Christmas tree. Homemade eggnog with bourbon, hot apple cider and appetizers will be enjoyed. At 11:30 dinner will be served in East Hall. The dinner menu includes beef pot roast with red potatoes and carrots, gravy, baked chicken, corn pudding, fruit salad, dessert and beverages. After the meal, a euchre tournament will be held, for those who wish to play. Do not bring food to share for this meal. However, a free will offering will be taken to cover the costs of the beverages and food. Also---***since our focus in Advent is hunger, everyone attending this meal is invited to bring one non-perishable food item for the Lakeview Food Pantry.*** Sign up in the narthex to attend this day of song, food, fellowship and cards!

Blood Drive

The next quarterly blood drive at Lakeview is on Tuesday, December 11. Terry Warnke is in need of volunteers to help with the drive and then to provide donations of refreshments for the folks who donate blood.

Many people are needed to sign up to donate blood on this day. Because our numbers have gone up steadily, the Red Cross has increased our blood donation goal. So, go to the web site or call the church office to donate. What a great gift you can give at this time of year.

Sunday School Noisy Offering

On December 15 and 16 (*music Sunday*) you are invited to bring spare change that is laying around your house, drawers, cars and sofa cushions. During the service, the Sunday school kids will conduct a “noisy” offering (*coins dropping in kettles makes noise*). It is hoped that the noise in the sanctuary is incredible. The change they collect will then be used by the kids to purchase farm animals through the Heifer Foundation. These animals are then given to farmers in struggling countries to be used to produce food. So, if lots of money is raised, the kids may be able to buy a cow or an oxen. If less money is raised they would be able to buy goats or sheep. If only a small amount of change comes they will buy chickens. This is an excellent Sunday school project that we can all help support and it is in keeping with our Advent theme of hunger. So, start collecting and finding that change now so you are ready for the “noisy” offering on December 15 and 16. Thank you Sunday school kids for doing this.

Music Sunday

Each Advent season we set aside a Sunday to hear a variety of special Advent and Christmas music during worship. This year, that special

day will be on December 16 at 9:00 am. This is the third Sunday of Advent. The choir, Sunday school students and many others will be offering a variety of seasonal music that will praise the God who loves us and which will lift up your spirits and hopes. We are not a purest congregation, therefore we allow Christmas music to be part of our Advent ritual and traditions. Both types of music will be heard on December 16. There will also be a sermon and Holy Communion will be served. All are welcome!

Christmas Eve Worship

Worship at Lakeview on Christmas Eve will be at 4:00 and at 6:00 pm. Both services will be exactly the same, but unique from all other services. Holy Communion will be served. The choir will sing. Candles will be lit and a unique drama will be part of the sharing of the gospel of Christ’s birth. The choir and the actors have begun working on this service. Both services are most appropriate for all ages. You are encouraged to invite your family and friends to join you for Christmas Eve worship before you gather for meals, celebrations and presents. The biggest present of all is the gift of a Savior. Are you ready to receive him?

Like usual, there is no worship at Lakeview on December 25, Christmas Day.

Office Closed

Remember that the church office is not open on Fridays. The office will also be closed on Dec 24, 25 and 26 and on Jan 1.

First Weekend of Christmas

According to the church calendar, December 29/30 is the First Weekend of Christmas. We

will worship on Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 9:00 am. There is no Sunday school. Our worship will include carols, readings, sermon and Holy Communion.

UPCOMING in January

January 6-Just Bakery will be selling their excellent baked goods in the narthex before and after worship. Don't miss out.

January 6-we will celebrate the Epiphany of our Savior

January 6-presentation and recruitment at 10:00 am for volunteers to be big sisters and big brothers. All ages are needed. Join us in the sanctuary to learn more.

January 20-middle school winter retreat weekend.

January 26-NO WORSHIP due to annual meeting

January 27-Annual Congregational Meeting for all voting members—special service followed by celebrative meeting

BOOK CLUB

THE LAKEVIEW BOOK CLUB GETS TOGETHER EVERY FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:30PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM FOR DISCUSSION. ANYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

DECEMBER 3 - "THE HATE U GIVE" BY ANGIE THOMAS. CHRIS ANDERS LEADING.

FEBRUARY 4 2019 - "THEY MARCHED INTO SUNLIGHT" BY DAVID MARANISS. SHIRLEY EWERT LEADING.

MARCH 4 2019 - "THE UNREMEMBERED GIRL" BY ELIZA MAXWELL. LINETTE HASS LEADING

A WORD FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

The color for Advent is blue. Blue represents hope. We have hope that the promise of God's kingdom will come. We have hope that a future with no tears or pain will exist. We have hope that God will live among us. These are our spiritual "hopes." They are grounded in the Bible. These hopes are grounded in our understanding of a gracious God who has created each of us in the image of God.

We also hope for other earthly and human things. We hope for justice. We hope that the people of this world will be fed. We hope that death, due to starvation, will end. We hope that the food that the world produces will be shared adequately, so that all stomachs will be filled. We hope that the millions of tons of wasted food each year in our nation will no longer be wasted. We hope that we will be moved by the spirit to re-evaluate our lives and our styles of living to assure that others will eat too.

Because hunger is so real and so prevalent, not only in the world but also in the United States and because hunger is not only in the distant parts of the United States but also in Wisconsin and in Dane County, we will talk about it throughout the four weeks of Advent. Advent is about hope. Blue represents hope. And hoping and taking action for hunger to be eradicated is what Jesus has called on us to do. He said, "When you have fed the least of these, you have fed me." And when the crowds on the hillside were huge and the disciples wanted Jesus to send them away to get something to eat, Jesus surprised them by saying, "They need not go away, YOU give them something to eat." As a disciple of Jesus, we are called to give others something to eat.

During Advent and Christmas, our culture is grounded in food and drink. We have a tradition of gathering with family and friends and work associates around beverages and cuisine. We cook and bake and waste! It's a good time of the year to consider the resources we have and sometimes misuse. It is a good time to think about how we might reassign those resources as we are called to assist those who are hungry.

This year, I invite you to consider hunger with me as we worship on the four weekends of Advent. I invite you to help decorate our sanctuary in a unique way that will benefit the food pantry. I invite you to try a different way of counting the days in Advent by picking up a box in the narthex and placing one non-perishable food item in it each day in Advent. Then I invite you to bring that filled box with 23 food items to worship on Christmas Eve. This food will be donated to the Lakeview pantry. I invite you to pick up a copy of the Advent Devotions/Activities I have put together. You can use them as your household considers hunger every day in Advent. I invite you to bring a food item for the pantry when you come to the senior lunch on December 10. I invite you to consider ways that you and your family and friends can alter your typical holiday traditions so that you can respond to hunger in the world.

In the book of James, we hear the author tell us that "faith without works is dead." We have faith in the Savior born at Christmas. This year, consider how to put that faith to work with the decisions you make and the actions you take.

Blessings and Merry Christmas!

Pastor DEAN

Lakeview Lutheran Church Winter Youth Retreat
Borden Cottage
Green Lake Conference Center-January 18-20, 2019
Grades 6-9

Youth Name

Youth date of birth and grade in school

Name of mother/guardian, address, phone, email

Name of father/guardian, address, 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/guardians can you help by donating any of the following (please mark)---

- 12 pack water
- 12 pack soda
- 12 pack juice
- packs of hot chocolate mix
- bag of snacks (potato chips, Cheetos, corn chips, etc)
- box of breakfast cereal
- bag of fresh fruit

Cost per youth is \$40 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 Dean by Dec 1, 2018.

**Inside:
Advent Giving
Blood Drive
Christmas**

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, Pianist/Choir Director; Gary Cragin, Custodian

Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday 8-4, Wednesday 8-12, Thursday 1-4, Friday Closed

Service Schedule:

5:00pm Saturday

9:00am Sunday

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON, WIS.
PERMIT NO. 1353

NEWSLETTER OF:
Lakeview Lutheran Church
4001 Mandrake Rd.
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 244-6181
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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