

THE BEACON

All You Need To Know About Advent at Lakeview

The season of Advent begins on December 1 this year. This is the four week time before Christmas that the church sets aside to focus on themes of preparation, waiting and hope. We look back to the coming of Christ in Bethlehem. We look forward to his return at an unknown time and location. Like usual, Lakeview will also set aside this special time. Our weekend worship themes in Advent will focus on people who were part of the birth story. November 30/December 1=prophets, December 7/8=angels, December 14/15=shepherds and December 21/22=magi. An Advent wreath will be used to mark time. At each worship service during Advent, there will be a time in the service for members of the congregation to come forward and lay their handwritten prayers and concerns in the manger that will stand in the front of the sanctuary. Holy Communion will be served at each worship service also.

Also, during the season of Advent, you are invited to make a financial contribution, using the form in this newsletter, to assist with hunger related decorations for our sanctuary. As you know, we are not always very traditional with our holiday décor at Lakeview. That is intentional, as it is a response to our call as disciples to respond to need and injustice in the world. Last year, many of us participated in the reverse Advent boxes. Instead of Advent calendars, you can take a box and put one food item in it each day during Advent. Then you may bring your box filled with 23 items to worship on Christmas Eve. This food will all be given to the Lakeview Food Pantry. Although the church will not provide the box this year, you can still arrange your own box and participate. There will also be several special events this year during Advent. You are invited to participate.

Dec 1-All about Advent for Lutherans in fellowship hall at 10:00 am

Dec 3-Cedarburg Bus Trip leaves Lakeview at 8:30 am, return at 5:00 pm

Dec 9-Senior Lunch and Euchre Tournament starts at 11:00 am with egg nog and carols

Dec 10-Christmas Cookie Baking with Punky Lakeview kitchen from 10:00 am until noon

Dec 12-Red Cross Blood Drive from noon until 5:00 pm

Dec 15-Music Sunday the choir, Sunday school and a variety of other musicians share music of Advent and Christmas during the service at 9:00 am

Dec 15-All About Christmas for Lutherans in fellowship hall at 10:00 am

New Year Worship

Although we don't worship on January 1, we will celebrate the end of the year and look to the New Year during worship on December 28 at 5:00 pm and December 29 at 9:00 am in the sanctuary. A variety of seasonal hymns and carols are sung at these services.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHRISTMAS AT LAKEVIEW

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT 4 AND 6PM ON DECEMBER 24. THE SERVICES WILL BE ALIKE WITH SPECIAL CHOIR MUSIC AND A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE DRAMA WRITTEN BY PASTOR DEAN AND PERFORMED BY SOME OUTSTANDING LAKEVIEW "CHARACTERS." HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED, CHRISTMAS CAROLS WILL BE SUNG. CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN WORSHIP. THE PARKING IS GREAT, AND THE SEATING IS COMFORTABLE. REMEMBER, THERE IS NO WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25.

December Senior Lunch and Euchre Tournament

Get signed up to attend the annual holiday event on December 9. The festivities begin at 11:00 am in the church library with homemade egg nog (including bourbon and brandy), hot apple cider and appetizers. The fire will be roaring, and carols will be sung, accompanied by Lynn Najem on the piano. At 11:30 am, the meal will be served in East Hall and includes baked chicken, roast ham, real mashed potatoes and gravy, corn pudding, glazed carrots, fruit salad and desserts made by Punky! After the meal, those who wish are invited to play in the euchre tournament. If you don't play euchre, you are welcome to engage in conversation or return to the fire in the library. It is important that you sign up or call the church office by December 4 to let us know if you are coming to this event, so the correct amount of food can be purchased and prepared. And, like usual, we will receive a free-will offering to cover the cost of the food and beverages.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The next quarterly blood drive at Lakeview will be held on Dec 12. Volunteers are always needed. Donations of treats are needed as well. Talk to Terry Warnke if you can help in these areas. Donations of blood are needed to. You can sign up to donate blood on the Red Cross web site or by calling the church office during normal business hours. Consider giving the gift of blood this December.

Noisy Offering

It was so successful last year that we are doing it again. On Music Sunday, Dec 15, the Sunday school children will receive a "noisy" offering during the worship service. A noisy offering should make lots of noise; therefore, you are encouraged to bring lots of coins to loudly drop in the kettles. The money that the kids raise through this crazy offering will go to purchase farm animals through the ELCA Good Gifts program. These animals will be donated to locations in the world where the economy is poor and there is a need for animals. Last year the kids raised, and the congregation donated, over \$800 to this offering. Your gifts were appreciated, and you are invited to start collecting your coins again! For those who attend worship on Saturday, Dec 14, the noisy offering kettles will be available also.

Adult Study

The Sunday morning adult study will take a break on Dec 22, 29 and Jan 5. The study will resume on January 12 at 10:00 am with a guest presentation from Legacy Solar about the use of solar power in our facility. The HVAC Task Group has been working on this, along with many other aspects of cooling and heating, and are pleased to present this informational event to you. Please plan to attend in the sanctuary.

Sin and Satan Bible Study

The Wednesday noon Bible study will take a vacation on Dec 25 and Jan 1. The group will resume, with Pastor Dean leading, at noon on Jan 8. This group meets in the Fellowship Room with coffee and treats made by Punky.

Anyone is welcome to participate in this study. It is lively.

Book Group Working Lunch

Have you read a good book lately that you think others would enjoy? Come join us on Sunday, Jan. 12 at 11am at the Cherokee Country Club for our annual 'working lunch'. We will be compiling the 2020 book titles that will be discussed on the first Monday of each month. Bring along the titles/authors of the books you would like to share and have included in the 2020 book list. Please let Jane Rose know by Dec. 31 that you will be attending. She will be making the reservation for the group. Contact Jane at jfrose@prodigy.net or phone 244-2630.

Trébuchant vers Montréal

Canada/Tripping to Montreal Canada

Pastor Dean is working on a September 2020 adult trip to Montreal Canada. Montreal is in the province of Quebec. The city population is around 1,800,000 people. It is an island on the St. Lawrence Seaway. The official language spoken in 49% of homes is French. Montreal is often considered the most European city in North America. It is diverse and cosmopolitan with great food, music, theater and sports. A trip to Montreal would include visiting the open market in Little Italy, spending time in the historic Old City (French), going to the old port, experiencing the underground city and the botanical gardens. There would also be worship at the Notre Dame Basilica and history at the Chateau Ramezey. Of course, a trip to Montreal must include a visit to Mont Royal, a large park in the center of the city and as the name implies, a hill! Everyone would be required to try Montreal's famous dish-poutine. Its French fries covered in gravy and melted cheese curds. We would fly from O'Hare in Chicago and take a bus back and forth. The plan would be to leave on a Thursday morning and return on a Monday morning. Pastor Dean is in the planning

stages of this annual trip but would invite anyone with interest to come to an informational meeting on Sunday, January 12 at 6:00 pm in the church library. Enter through the south entrance near the kitchen. Coming to the meeting is not a commitment to go on this trip. Making a deposit after the meeting is the commitment. Usually Pastor takes 30 people on these adult trips. *"Lakeview fait Montréal en septembre. Venez vous joindre à l'amusement!"*

Middle School Youth Retreat

The annual retreat for youth in 6th through 9th grade will be held at the Green Lake Conference Center on Jan 17-19, 2020. Pastor Dean and Taryn Lantz will chaperone this group. We'll be staying in the Borden Cottage again, like last year. We'll cook our own meals, have a time for study, enjoy crazy games and entertainment, experience the outside, and just enjoy getting to know each other better. The cost per youth is \$40. Talk to Pastor Dean if you are interested in this retreat, but have not yet signed up.

Giving at Lakeview

We had a couple of months this year when giving was low. That is never a good thing. So you are encouraged to check your giving and your pledge and catch up if you fell behind, or if you are able, make an extra gift. It has been a good year and we've done many things for ministry. We hope to continue that pattern, too. You are always welcome to give by going to the church web site and clicking on the giving tab. You can give by credit card or check through the Vanco Give+ program. We now enter the more expensive season, as we pay for snow and ice removal and heat.

Welcome Recent New Members

Doris Sabatke

Ned and Anita Pierce

Joe Deters

Chuck and Jeannine Johnson

Karen Orr, Tara Hoff & kids, Sevrin & Elsie

Hannah Castillo

Seeking Volunteer Counter

Lakeview is looking for someone to volunteer to join an existing counting team to help count offering at the end of the Sunday morning worship service. Team B includes Ellen Bethel and Carol Rohde (*two very competent counters*) and we are seeking a third person to join them. Counting teams are assigned by the office administrator and count for two weekends in a row. We have 5 teams, so a counting team counts every 10 weeks. If you are willing and able to join this team,

Planter Pots

The planter pots outside the south entrance had just been decorated for autumn, and then we got snow...and then snow again. Fortunately, the gourds and pumpkins held up well! However, with Advent just around the corner (December 1), we need a volunteer to purchase evergreen greenery and replace the

please contact Laura in the office at 244-6181 immediately. Ellen and Carol would be able to train you on the Lakeview procedures easily.

Ushers

Did you know we could always use more ushers? Let the office know if you would be willing to serve in that capacity. Men and women are both invited to share that gift. And thank you for helping to lead morning worship.

pumpkins and gourds, that are decorating the perimeter of the pots (the decorative branches stay in the center of the pots). If you are able to do this, please place your name on the Planter Pot Sign-up Sheet on the far left bulletin board in the Narthex and be ready to update the planters after Thanksgiving. Thanks!



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 2 "HERITAGE OF DARKNESS" BY KATHLEEN ERNST

A WORD FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

Whose birthday is it anyway? We come to this month of December and I wonder who is really having a birthday. The gifts, the decorations, the cards, the food, the beverages, the music, the parties, the cookies, the concerts, the sleigh bells, the trees---who are we recognizing in December with all this stuff? I find those signs with Christmas trees on them that say, *“Let’s Put Christ Back in Christmas”* humorous. There is no Christ in a Christmas tree. I think that decorative flags and cards that say, *“Jesus is the reason for the season”* are hypocritical. I am offended when a store clerk wishes me a Merry Christmas as I check out. There is no for-profit retail establishment that is really concerned about me having a good celebration of my Savior’s birth. It’s all so insincere. It’s all so commercialized. It’s all so self-centered. Family isn’t the most important part of Christmas. Carols are not the most important part of Christmas. Good cheer is not the most important part of Christmas. It’s really quite simple. The only reason there is a Christmas is because a baby was born and laid in a cow manger one evening in Bethlehem. There were no parades, cards, cookies, gifts, special meals, trees, ornaments, lights or decorations. It was quiet and lonely. It was dirty, dingy and practical. They made do with what was available. And within that context, the most important thing happened for you and me. Our Savior was born.

Wouldn’t it be great if we could celebrate our Savior’s birth with the simplicity of that first night? Wouldn’t it be great if our celebration of our Savior’s birth really was about the Savior? Whose birthday is it anyway? What would Jesus wish for on his birthday? How are you doing with that?

In Luke 4:18 we hear Jesus read the prophet Isaiah to explain why he came to earth, *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.”* How would Christmas look if we took that text seriously?

May you each find Christmas 2019 to be a time to give thanks for the gift of salvation and to be a time to bring good news to the poor and to let the oppressed go free. Now that would be a Merry Christmas.

Peace, Pastor DEAN

Advent/Christmas Form

Make a contribution for hunger decorations by contributing \$10. We need the form by **Sunday, Dec 22.**

_____ Contribution for hunger decorations

In memory of

In honor of

Name:

The Beacon
December 2019
Newsletter of Lakeview Lutheran Church

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-Wednesday 8:00-4:30, Thursday 8-2, Friday Closed

Office Closed December 23-25 and January 1

Service Schedule:

5:00pm Saturday, 9:00am Sunday

Christmas Eve 4:00pm and 6:00pm

NEWSLETTER OF:
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A WARM AND CARING COMMUNITY SINCE 1856.