

THE BEACON

Noisy Offering

During Music Sunday, on December 15, the Sunday school kids raised \$732 in coins in the noisy offering. Thank you to everyone who contributed to that. The children will use this money to select farm animals from the ELCA Good Gifts program and then send these animals to locations around the world where there is need. This is an excellent program to provide work animals and food sources to places struggling with food scarcity. Thank you, Sunday school kids. The congregation will be informed about what animals they purchase once the kids do that in January.

Thank You for Decorating our Sanctuary for Christmas

During the season of Advent, the congregation made another unique Christmas decorating project take place. You donated financial gifts which allowed us to put 50 salt and pepper shaker combo packs on the evergreen Christmas tree. Your financial gifts of \$1454 also purchased 636 cans of Dinty Moore beef stew. Who else can say they had a Dinty Moore Christmas tree? All of these food items will be given to the Lakeview Food Pantry during our Epiphany Worship service on Sunday, January 5. Thank you to everyone who takes these mission projects seriously.

Special Epiphany Worship

Epiphany is January 6 and ends the Christmas Season in the church. It is the day we celebrate that Christ was made manifest for all people of the world. We remember that the poor lowly shepherds were the first to hear of his birth and that the wealthy kings were also alerted. Christ is for everyone. Christ is the light of the world. We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 5 at 9:00 am. As part of the actual worship service, we will dismantle the Dinty Moore Christmas tree and the evergreen tree. We will process all the food collected in the sanctuary and in the Advent boxes to the lower level and sort it for the Lakeview Food Pantry. The service will conclude in East Hall and the pantry with a hymn, closing prayer and benediction. There will be ways for everyone to participate, even if you are not able to carry food downstairs. Adults and kids of all ages can be part of this unique Epiphany celebration. Communion will be celebrated in this service.

News You Can Use

Our first presenter for 2020 will be Acting Police Chief Victor Wahl. He will be speaking about what he thinks needs to happen and would like to see you and I do to address the issue of gun violence in our city. Anyone is welcome to attend on **Thursday, January 23rd**, from **9:30am-10:30am** in the Fellowship Room. Pastries and hot beverages available.

Singles Brunch

The next Singles Brunch is scheduled to be held at the Avenue Bar on January 5, meeting at 10:15 and leaving immediately following worship service. Please advise Gayle Langer if you are planning to attend: 249-3906 or gaylelanger@gmail.com.

Sin and Satan

The Wednesday noon Bible study will resume on January 8 in the Fellowship Room. Anyone is invited to join the group for provocative study, great discussion, a few laughs and Punky's desserts. We conclude around 1:00 pm.

Lakeview Choir

There will not be a choir rehearsal on Thursday, January 2. Choir will resume at 7:00 pm on January 9. New faces are always welcome to join the choir. Rehearsals are about an hour and are held in the sanctuary.

Food Pantry Collection

The January food pantry collection is on January 11/12 and will be cereal – hot or cold. Thank you for continuing to support Lakeview's food pantry and keeping our shelves stocked!

Solar Presentation

Join us Sunday, January 12, after the service, for a presentation by Legacy Solar. They will discuss various options for Lakeview Lutheran to get a portion of our electricity from solar panels. The HVAC committee will be seeking feedback if this is something the congregation is interested in and wants the committee to consider as a possible option. This presentation is just informational. No vote to acquire a system of solar panels will be held.

Book Group Working Lunch

Have you read a good book lately that you think others would enjoy? Come join us on Sunday, January 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 December 31 that you will be attending. She will be making the reservation for the group. Contact Jane at jfrose@prodigy.net or 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!”***

Senior Lunch and Euchre Tournament

The monthly senior lunch will be held on January 13 and the meal will be served at 11:00am. As usual, January is the month when Pastor Dean and his very capable helpers provide a soup buffet. This year they will make four kinds of soup—all from scratch. Get signed up to join us for the meal. Birthday cake and ice cream will be served for dessert because someone turns 63 the following day!

Dorcas Circle

In January, the Dorcas Circle Bible study will meet at 9:30am on Tuesday, January 14. Pastor Dean will lead a discussion on the Lord’s Prayer from Luther’s Small Catechism. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Middle School Winter Retreat

The middle school winter retreat for youth in grades 6-9 will be January 17-19. Registration forms have been emailed and handed to youth in class. Please turn in completed forms with payment as soon as possible, so Pastor Dean can make plans for this event. Pastor Dean and Taryn Lantz will be chaperones and drivers for the retreat.

Baking With Punky

Due to popular demand, Punky has decided to continue offering monthly baking classes in the upcoming year. After discussion with Pastor Dean, we will change the procedure slightly. Each session will cost \$25. Five dollars will go to Punky for the purchase of the product and \$20 will go toward the kitchen loan. This past year, Punky was purchasing all the product and when people signed up and didn’t attend, she purchased unnecessary product. So, you are welcome to sign up for any of the 3 upcoming classes, but signing up for any one of them doesn’t happen until you pay the fee. You may make your check out to Lakeview and give it to Chris Anders when you sign up. Please don’t

put it in the offering plate as the information may not get to Chris. We thank Punky for providing these very fun and informative mornings. Each class begins at 10:00am and ends at noon. Each class can accommodate 10 students. Classes will be as follows:

Jan 21-Cinnamon and Pecan Rolls

Feb 13-Valentine Truffles

Mar 17-Puff Pastry

Porchlight Meals 2020

Lakeview will be providing a dinner meal for the Porchlight men’s shelter at Grace Episcopal 6 times during the upcoming year. Here are the dates:

Jan. 21, Mar. 17, May 19, Jul. 21, Sept. 15 and Nov. 17. All dates are a **Tuesday**. Please look for a ‘Food Donation/Volunteer’ sign-up in the Narthex 3 weeks prior to each of these dates. We will also need a couple of people to help prep and assemble the meal on each of these dates beginning at 10am. A couple of volunteers will then aid Gregg & Beth Steinhauer in transporting and serving the meal. They will depart from Lakeview at 6:15pm and return around 9:30pm. Thank you to all who made this ministry a success in the past year.

Annual Meeting Celebration

Get ready and get excited! It is the day when our congregation comes together to celebrate our ministry in 2019 and to look forward to the ways we can be disciples and serve in 2020. The annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 26. That means that there will be no worship on Saturday, January 25. There will be no education time on January 26 as it is hoped that everyone participates in the annual meeting as worship concludes in the sanctuary. The worship service that morning will reflect our time of celebration. At the meeting you will elect new council members. You will review and decide on a plan of ministry for 2020. You will be invited to support that plan by completing a pledge card. There will be additional information about life

at Lakeview and what the future might hold. Come to the annual meeting. Childcare will be provided in the lower level. Most annual meetings at Lakeview last about an hour, which is far shorter than sitting at a movie, football game or concert. See you then.

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

Facebook Pictures

During December there were many events at Lakeview and many of those events were recorded in pictures. You can find these pictures on Lakeview's Facebook page. See the trip to Cedarburg, singles brunch, the senior Christmas meal, the knitting Christmas party, cookie baking with Punky and more. Check out the Facebook page. You might find pictures of yourself.

A WORD FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

I suppose it is typical that a pastor looks toward the new year and contemplates what kinds of ministry their congregation might accomplish. I would guess that most pastors are like me as they consider the things that didn't go so well the previous year along with the successful programs they experienced. The new year is often the time to think about direction and risks and challenges.

Recently an outsider asked me why I have been here for over 18 years. They had experienced a rapid change in pastoral leadership in their congregation and wanted to know what the people of Lakeview did to keep me around. My response was *"they have always been willing to grow and take on new challenges."* It's true. The people who make up Lakeview Lutheran Church are not stuck in history, tradition or orthodoxy. You are not unwilling to look at how the church should be the church in a changing world and society. Together we have tried and accomplished new things. As your pastor, you have been willing to consider ideas that I propose and directions that I suggest we might go and that has been a vital reason for my longevity here. We have been a team.

So, as I think about how we can continue to be the church in 2020, I think about these things. I would like to see us become a Reconciled in Christ congregation. While we have always been open and accepting of people of all gender expressions and orientations, and while we have a policy that included blessing same gender unions long before two people of the same gender could legally marry, we have never become a recognized reconciled congregation. If we did that, we would make a statement to the Christian community that all are truly welcome here.

I would like to consider revising our worship plans in the upcoming year. We could evaluate if times and dates for worship are practical and encouraging for people to attend. We could consider our style of worship and what would be most uplifting and enlightening in today's world. We could consider if an off-site worship opportunity each week would be beneficial. This means

making changes and like everything else in our lives, we should consider if change in the congregation could benefit more people.

I would like us to consider how our building gets used. We make our building available to many charitable and non-profit organizations. Sometimes the building is very busy. At the same time, because of the room configuration and room size, many parts of our building get minimal use. We should look at what alterations might be made in our building and how those alterations could contribute to additional ministry and service for ourselves and for our neighbors in upcoming years.

I would like to increase the number of people who participate in Bible study. We have a large group of folks who attend a study on Wednesday at noon. We have another solid group who attend a study on Sunday morning. But what dates and times and topics might welcome those who find existing times difficult to participate in?

I would like to continue to look at what we use to measure activity, interest and success in the congregation. In the ELCA, like many other denominations, we often evaluate the success and activity of a congregation through worship attendance and financial giving. In the ELCA we call it the trend report. While there is valuable information in the “trend report,” it paints a very limited picture of what a congregation is, does or has the potential to be. So many activities, events and studies here at Lakeview, like other congregations, are not reflected in the trend report. We, like many, have seen a decrease in worship attendance. But do we see a decrease in activity within our congregation? Should we put our energy in increasing worship attendance or are there better places to place our energy so that we can make the grace of God known in the world?

It's a new year. We have lots to do. I am not a person who is able to be comfortable with the status quo and you know that. So, with the power of the Holy Spirit and the strength of God's unconditional love, I hope we can together make 2020 a year to remember.

Peace, Pastor DEAN



December Senior Lunch – Lynn Najem and Kris Kirst.

The Beacon
January 2020
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

Service Schedule:

5:00pm Saturday, 9:00am Sunday

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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