

THE BEACON

Weekly Bible Study

Throughout much of the summer, Pastor Dean has conducted a weekly Bible study on the book of James. This Bible study will continue throughout the year. When we have finished studying James, we will select another topic. You are invited to join the study either by attending in person at 9:30 am every Wednesday or by connecting via the Zoom link. If you attend in person, you **MUST** wear a mask. We meet in the East Hall so you will enter through the south entrance near the kitchen. You are asked to use the hand sanitizer that is available once you get inside. The tables are set so that participants sit 6 feet apart and we can accommodate up to 12 participants. You should bring your own Bible and your own beverage if you would like one. If you participate via Zoom, Pastor Dean will send the Zoom link out earlier in the week. Either way is fine as long as anyone attending in person is comfortable with the protocol.

In-person Worship

On June 28 we resumed in-person worship services. On July 12 we incorporated communion into those services. During the hot weather we have worshipped in East Hall with the air conditioning. As cooler weather returns, we will return to the sanctuary. Currently, services are at 5:00 on Saturday and at 9:00 and 10:00 am on Sunday. Beginning on September 20 service times will change to 5:00 pm on Saturday, 8:00 and 9:00 am on Sunday and at 9:30 on Sunday, there will be a 30-minute education experience for all ages in the sanctuary. We will not resume Sunday school or adult education as we have done in the past. Since the sanctuary is set for physical distance, folks who stay for education will remain in the same seats they used at worship. It is very important that anyone who attends in-person worship understands that masks are required at all times while in the building. Only one door will be open for entry and the large blue welcome flag will be out to indicate which door that will be. Hands must be sanitized upon entering. Masks may be removed to eat and drink communion but must be returned over the nose and mouth before walking back to one's seat. If you are unable to follow this protocol for any reason, you should choose to stay home and participate in the worship service via Zoom at 9:00 am or watch the service via Facebook, YouTube or Vimeo later in the week. The protocols are in place to allow everyone who chooses to attend to feel comfortable.

Vocalists Wanted

There will continue to be no group hymns sung during worship. However, we will continue to seek volunteers to sing the designated weekly hymn during each worship service. If you are able and willing to do this, please contact Lynn Najem. The vocalist will only sing that hymn from the front and at a distance from members of the congregation.

Guidance from the ELCA, Wisconsin Council of Churches and Medical Professionals

Pastor Dean and the congregation council continue to use data based on science and reliable resources as we make decisions about events at Lakeview. Currently, it is being suggested to refrain from in-person worship services. At this time, we will continue to offer in-person worship with the very rigid protocol we have established. We will also remain flexible to change as the conditions in our state and community change. At this point, there is not a trend that would suggest things will get better. We may have to make last minute difficult decisions. The Wisconsin Council of Churches continues to also discourage any singing or group speaking. And because of the current Covid trend of infection and death, congregations are being encouraged to immediately begin considering how to adjust expectations for Advent and Christmas. Unless something drastic happens very shortly, we will not be able to provide traditional Advent and Christmas Eve worship. But be assured, that regardless of the virus, our congregation will provide a good virtual option. We have been so appreciative of Terry Warnke's weekly hard work since March to assure that services here are recorded, edited and posted for you to view. And thanks also to Terry's able assist, Susan Warnke, who helps to make sure Terry does his job!

Lakeview Food Pantry

Most of you know that food pantry participation has increased greatly since last March. Our weekly pantry now gears to serve 40 households every week. We have generally been seeing between 35 and 43 households. That's a lot of individuals receiving necessary assistance from the pantry. Your continued support of the pantry has been appreciated. The pantry continues to need brown grocery

bags donated. Bags can be placed in the tub with lid outside the office entrance at any time. If you are interested in learning how you might be able to serve in the pantry at this time, please contact the pantry volunteer coordinator Gretchen Macht.

Book Club

Book club will meet Tuesday, September 8, at 6:30pm. If the weather allows, the meeting will happen in the chapel parking lot with lawn chairs. If it is rainy, the meeting will happen in East Hall. Book club will be discussing Grateful American by Gary Sinise and Marcus Brotherton. Bring your lawn chair.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The next quarterly Red Cross blood drive at Lakeview will be held on September 15 from noon until 5:00 pm. You are encouraged to sign up now for a slot to donate blood. You can do that by going to the Red Cross web site or by calling Laura in the church office. Remember, reservations to give blood during the pandemic are required. Also remember that you must wear a mask in the building. You will have your temperature taken at the door. You must sanitize your hands upon entry. And no one may come with you into the building. Only people donating blood may enter. In June, we saw over 60 people at the blood drive which is the largest blood drive we have ever hosted. While it is understood that some are uncomfortable coming to donate, the need for blood right now is very great. ***Terry also needs 2-3 more volunteers for the blood drive. Contact him ASAP to volunteer.***

Brown Bagging With Chris

In lieu of canceling all our large group events and activities at Lakeview, we are attempting something new that we hope will be a safe way for some folks to leave their homes and

experience some fellowship with other Lakeview members. Every month Chris Anders will host a brown bag lunch at noon. Each lunch will include simple conversation around a particular topic. Each month people MUST make a reservation in advance to attend as we will limit the number of participants to 12. Participants will be physically distanced in East Hall around tables. Masks are required but it is understood that participants will have to remove their masks to eat and drink. So, pack you lunch and beverage and make a reservation to join Chris. In September this event will be held at noon on September 22. The theme for conversation at this lunch will be ***“living alone during the pandemic.”*** To attend you MUST make a reservation by calling the church office at 244-6181. Reservations will be taken until 12 people have signed up or through September 20. In October the event will be held on October 27 and the theme for conversation will be ***“anyone who has had or will be having a joint replacement.”***

Sunday School 2020/21

We will not begin classroom Sunday school in September. For those who are interested, we will offer an all age education time at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary where everyone is physically distanced and wearing a mask. All children who attend should be accompanied by their parents/adults. This will be a 30-minute experience that Pastor Dean, Annette Pownell and Laura Jasiczek will put together. Each week we hope to have a craft project to take home that reflects the theme of the morning education experience. We do not know when classroom experiences will be able to resume.

Choir will NOT resume this fall.

Congratulations to Laura Jasiczek and Colin Baker

They were united in marriage at an outdoor service on Saturday, August 22, here at Lakeview. Laura is our office administrator. We wish them much happiness, along with their children, Axl and Ella, as they begin this new phase of their relationship.

Seminary Starts

Our office administrator, Laura, will begin attending Wartburg Theological Seminary full-time on September 8. She will do many of her classes as a virtual participant, so if she is locked away in a room at Lakeview and not responding to you, she is in class and cannot be disturbed. Please respect that. Laura will continue to work 22 hours per week here at the church. After completion of four years of seminary education (Master of Divinity Degree) and the approval of the synod Candidacy Committee, Laura can be ordained into the ELCA and serve a congregation. It is a busy and tedious process and we are most glad that we can support Laura and her family as she pursues a call to this church.

Thanksgiving Dinner

The annual Thanksgiving dinner that we each get excited to be able to provide to the community free each year will not happen in 2020. The pandemic has made it too difficult for this event to go on as it has in the past. We surely hope that our future allows us to have the traditional Thanksgiving Dinner return to East Hall.

No More Quilting Supplies

Ronda Richards, our resident quilter, is asking that you not donate any material or other quilting supplies at this time. She has had many donations and cannot take any more right now. Thank you for all the supplies you have donated to Ronda in the past.

Black Lives Matter

This past summer has opened our eyes to the continued racism that exists within ourselves and in the structures and systems in our society. We are all encouraged to take steps to make societal change happen. If we truly want a country that includes liberty and justice for all, then we must end any racist ideology and discrimination that exists. And as a congregation of predominantly white middle class people, used to the privilege that comes with that status, this may take some effort. While there are many opportunities in the Madison area to engage in changing people and systems, one thing that everyone can do is become better educated and that includes reading. Pastor Dean and Laura are providing this short list of books they have recently read that they believe would be beneficial for all members of the congregation. They want you to be aware that although they have found value in each of these and other publications, they may not endorse everything that is included in them. These books can likely be obtained through the local libraries or through Amazon. Amazon delivers to your door and libraries are providing curb side, contactless pick up.

Joseph Barndt is an ordained Lutheran pastor who has served congregations in the Bronx, California and Arizona. He has been an anti-racism trainer for 30 years and has been the director of Crossroads Ministry in Chicago for 18 years. His publications are often used in seminary and academic settings, however they can be understood by everyone. Pastor Dean has used his books as classroom textbooks when teaching “Race and Gender” classes at Clark and Loras Colleges.

Check out Barndt’s books---

Dismantling Racism-copyright 1991

Understanding and Dismantling Racism-copyright 2007

Becoming an Anti-Racist Church-copyright 2011

Other options-

So, you Want to Talk About Race – Ijeoma Oluo-copyright 2018

White Fragility – Robin DiAngelo-copyright 2018

Dear Church – Lenny Duncan-copyright 2019

Is God a White Racist-William R. Jones-copyright 1998

How to be Less Stupid About Race-Crystal M. Fleming-copyright 2018

I’m Still Here, Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness-Austin Channing Brown copyright 2018

Race Matters-Cornel West, copyright 1993 (note from Pastor Dean—anything written by Cornel West would be highly recommended)

America’s Original Sin-Jim Wallis, copyright 2016

School Supplies for Food Pantry

As usual, the Lakeview food pantry will be distributing school supplies to families during September. If you are willing and able to donate supplies to the pantry, it would be appreciated. You may bring your donations to worship and place them in the bin when you enter East Hall. You may bring your donations to the church when staff are present. Or you may place your donations in a covered container at any time near the office entrance on the west side of the building. Thank you for supporting the pantry in many ways as our numbers have soared! Items that the food pantry are seeking are listed here;

Plastic bins (example: size 12" by 9")

Hand sanitizer

Children's face masks (no bandannas)

Crayons

Pencils

Glue sticks

Dry erase markers

Spiral notebooks

Washable markers

Colored pencils

Ear buds

School desktop calendar

Spiral notebooks (3-5 subject)

Composition notebooks

Handheld pencil sharpeners

Pens

Folders

Special Meeting of the Congregation

Back on June 28 the congregation met in a special meeting. You approved the purchase and installation of a new boiler system and pneumatic controls for the sanctuary/east hall area of the building. You approved that RG Heating from Waunakee would be the contractor. RG will begin this project in August so that everything is ready for the fall heating season. This boiler system is responsible for heating the sanctuary, narthex, east hall, kitchen, library and former nursery.

The cost of this project is around \$50,000. Fortunately, we have \$39,000 already set aside for this. We also have an undesignated gift of \$10,000 that can be used for the project. However, if you would like to make a financial contribution toward the project, it would reduce the amount we would need to take from this undesignated gift and the gift could be used for other upcoming necessary projects---like replacing the water fountain near the kitchen. We look forward to consistent heating this winter with this new system. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this repair and to the task group who has worked so hard to make this all come together by working with 4 different contractors.

Finances

The finances of the congregation have been stable during this difficult time. Our church council is very grateful to the members of Lakeview and guests who continue to give regularly. Through August 9, our giving has just slightly exceeded our expenses and that is a very good thing! As worship and activities around here remain "unusual" in the upcoming months of the pandemic, our council continues to hope that the financial situation remains stable. You may continue to give using your envelopes and bringing them to worship or by mailing them to the church office. You may contact your bank to establish electronic giving or you may do that with Laura in the church office. You can also go to the church web site and click on giving and then on the Vanco Give+ program and give with credit card or check through the web site. You can even download a Vanco Give+ app for your smart phone and make it super convenient. Thank you for supporting the general budget at Lakeview. Remember, if we don't do a good job supporting the budget, we will not be able to do a good job

in serving the community through our food pantry and other outreach ministries.

Bishop Election

The synod assembly, usually held in early May, will be held on August 29. It will be completely virtual. Your voting members attending from Lakeview via their home computer will be Taryn and Michael Lantz. During this one-day event, the voting members attending will be selecting a new bishop for our synod. Our synod has appreciated the work of interim bishop Peter Rogness, but it is time to fill that position with a permanent bishop. Thank you to Taryn and Michael for attending this important event in the life of the church and our synod.

Project Recovery

If you or a loved one has been emotionally impacted by COVID-19, Project Recovery can help. Trained crisis counselors are available to help people better understand their situation and reactions, assist in the review of their options, provide emotional support and encourage linkage with resources. Visit www.projectrecoverywi.org or call 211 to be connected with a crisis counselor. Project recovery is a program of the Community Action Coalition (CAC).

Madison Urban Ministry

Madison Urban Ministry (MUM) is now Just Dane, but they continue to do the same ministry as in the past, including Just Bakery and Healing House.

A WORD FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

It's been a long 6 months and it's not over! The Covid numbers and deaths are rising across the nation and around the world. And people in our state are protesting proven mitigation procedures. Racial injustice has been brought to the forefront through rallies and demonstrations and even vandalism. A presidential election is right around the corner and we only hear reproachful hateful things about the candidates. We seem to live in a time where people would rather be angry and display hate than try to respond to God's call to love our neighbors. It appears to be easier to hate than to love, maybe for some it's also more pleasurable.

During this time, I hold up the theme of our Holy Book---forgiveness, love and justice. Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. The theme of God's holy word and the call to God's people is to love God and then to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus gave us example upon example of how to act with compassion and kindness, the definition of biblical love. Jesus was not a white man. The people of the Bible are not white people. We need to recognize that race didn't exist then and there is no good reason for it to exist now. We have all been created in God's image. We have all been lovingly and intricately woven together in our mother's wombs. So, there is no good reason to establish or uplift racial divides. There is no good reason to promote anger and hate through our political system. There is no good reason to refuse to follow the advice of capable medical professionals in this country and the world who are giving us directives for how to use mitigation techniques that can reduce the virus.

And we're wondering why humans are so hardheaded? Why do we have this great need to be more concerned about facial autonomy and individual rights than about what is best for the creation? Why are we such jackasses? Wearing a facemask in this pandemic is like restaurant employees being required to wash their hands after using the bathroom. Both are for the health and safety of the community. Why do we read a daily devotion, or go to church on Sunday, or listen to worship on the internet and then go out and lie, cheat, deceive and condemn our neighbors on Monday? After hearing the gospel of God's love, why do so many wish to proclaim a gospel of hate and anger publicly? I'm tired of it all. It's been a long 6 months, and it isn't over and it's not going to end soon, unless we take immediate action.

In the book of James, which members of the congregation have been studying this summer, we are encouraged, implored, even commanded to put our faith into action. Faith without works is dead. How can one claim to love God without putting that claim into practice? I love the book of James. And I use it as a guide (*as it was meant to be*) as I live my life. I want to encourage you to use it also. I want you to uplift the writings of the author of James and make your convictions and your actions match up. I want that for the world because I truly believe that if we expressed our love for one another then racial disparity would end, Covid infections would rapidly decrease, depression and suicide because of sexuality, gender and orientation would diminish. Think of what this world could be like if we could end the legalism in our hearts and in our churches and in our society and actually put into practice what God has asked us to practice—compassionate love for the creation. God has given us the resources to solve the issues. We have the tools. We could choose to use those resources/tools to create a culture that is safe and just for everyone.

I encourage you to hang in there, to use this time to learn and grow and to evaluate your own attitudes and convictions. I encourage you to consider how you and I can each contribute to a just society---because we all can. Right now, each of us can do something. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "It is always the right time to do the right thing."

By the way, I miss all of you. It is difficult to not have the regular contact that I'm accustomed to. I don't like it. Know that I think about each of you often—seriously. I look forward to the day when we can all be together again at Lakeview. So wear the blasted mask so that we can make that happen sooner rather than later!

Peace,

Pastor DEAN

P.S. Read the 5 short chapters of the book of James.

The Beacon
September 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, beginning in September:

Monday-Thursday: 8-5, Friday: Closed

Service Schedule:

5:00pm Saturday, 8:00am and 9:00am Sunday, followed by all-ages education

Lakeview Lutheran Church
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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