

## THE BEACON

### **The Future of In-Person Worship**

Nobody is more disappointed over how the Covid pandemic is affecting worship than Pastor Dean. Right now, he and the council simply cannot tell you when we might be able to return to meeting in the sanctuary. The number of hospitalizations in our community continues to be high. The number of positive cases also remains at high levels. And as long as there are super spreader events held without regard to mitigation, we will likely not see those numbers decrease soon. The Wisconsin Council of Churches continues to discourage any in person worship at this time. So stay posted. If it looks safe, we will make a fast decision---maybe just days before we gather. The church Realm email system, Facebook page and church voice mail will provide updates when they occur. For now, we will continue to provide a Zoom option and record the service each Sunday. Terry Warnke will continue to edit those services and post them on the Facebook page, church website and YouTube later in the day. Hang in there!

### **Food Pantry**

The food pantry continues to see high numbers of users each week. It is clear that our pantry is serving a vital need in our community at this time---although it always has. The pantry will continue as a drive through pantry this fall/winter. People wishing to use the pantry get their car in line between 4:30 and 6:30 every Monday evening. Remember, members of the congregation are invited to use the pantry also. Guests of the pantry do not get out of their cars. We have some hardy hard-working volunteers to make this happen and who shop, unload deliveries and keep the shelves full. At this time, the financial situation in the pantry is excellent, thanks to many gifts from you. It is not necessary to make financial gifts to the pantry right now. If and when that situation changes, we will gladly put out a request. Thank you to everyone for supporting this ministry.

### **All Saints Worship**

The annual All Saints worship will certainly look different this year. However, on November 1 we will celebrate the saints like usual and we will lift up those who have departed from our Lakeview family this past year. On November 1, we will remember Barbara Erickson and Lyle Fenske. Candles will be lighted, and flowers will be placed. Although their families will not be able to be present in the sanctuary, they will be invited to participate via Zoom or to watch the service later on YouTube.

### **Thank you Ronda**

This year Ronda Richard made and donated 104 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. This will be her final year for quilt making, as she is retiring from it after many years and many quilts! Thank you to all the members who have contributed material to assist with this ministry.

### **Sanctuary Video Projector**

Unfortunately, the video projector used for worship in our sanctuary bit the dust recently. The projector is over 15 years old and parts are no longer available. The council would like to replace the projector soon and have received bids for \$6500 for a laser projector. We hope that the new projector can be ready for the Christmas services, so that we can bring music into them from Lakeview members that has been pre-recorded. It is very unlikely that we will be able to offer live music or carol singing in the sanctuary this year, regardless of what we are doing for worship. If you would be able to make a contribution toward this projector, it would be greatly appreciated. You can send your check to the church, drop it off, or support the project by going to the Lakeview web site and giving to the "projector" in the Give+ program. Just click on giving. Yes, it is unfortunate that so many things have required repair or replacement recently. No one planned for this!

### **Parking Lot Lights**

A big shout out to Todd Schaack, Dennis Strand and the HVAC Task Group. They have worked hard, and repairs have been made so that there are now working lights in the parking lot surrounding the chapel. Horizontal drilling (*not by Todd*) was done under the parking lot to run new wiring. The return of lights in that lot will be particularly good for security. The new boiler system is also working well as the weather requires us to

turn it on. Someday you will all get to enjoy it!

### **Congratulations Matthew**

On Sunday, October 18 Matthew Heggeland affirmed his baptismal covenant through the Rite of Confirmation at Lakeview. He presented his faith paper as part of the service. You are invited to watch the video of the service and to congratulate Matthew as you are able. Matthew is the son of Dana and Dan Heggeland. Spenser Pownell will also be confirmed on November 15th.

### **Book Club**

This month's read is *Lost Roses* by Martha Hall Kelly. Book Club will meet in the sanctuary on Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, using the accessible entrance by the altar.

### **Polling Site**

Because the Warner Community Center cannot be used as a polling site for this upcoming election, Lakeview's East Hall will be used. If you voted at Warner Park, you will vote in East Hall and the city clerk's office will have it set up very well and with good consideration for Covid prevention. Pastor Dean has met with representatives from the clerk's office. Warner Park is housing the Porchlight Men's Shelter because of the pandemic. If you are not coming to the building to vote on November 3, please do **NOT** come to the building. We are trying to keep anyone out of the building who doesn't need to be here. The staff will not be here, and the office will be closed. East Hall will not be available for any food pantry activity that day either. You will not even be able to access the pantry. So, if you have not already done so, remember to vote, but only come to the church building on November 3 to do just that. Thank you.

### **Drive Thru Lasagna Dinner**

Remember, if you or someone you know would like to participate in the lasagna dinner on Tuesday evening, November 17, you **MUST** make a reservation with the church office on or before Friday, November 13. Pastor Dean will be preparing and cooking the meal (*from scratch*). When you make your reservation, you will need to know how many meat and how many vegetable servings for your order. Pick up of meals will be from 4:30 to 6:00 pm in the south parking lot. Meals will be brought to your car by volunteers. You will not enter the building.

### **Thanksgiving Dinner**

Obviously, we will not be able to host our annual Thanksgiving Dinner this year. This is a great disappointment to many, both diners and volunteers. Hopefully this ministry will be able to return, in some fashion, in 2021.

### **Thanksgiving**

Our nation sets aside a day each year to give thanks. In 2020 that day is November 26. In the church, we know that one day a year doesn't cut it. We are called to give thanks all 365 days of the year. And in 2020, that may have been difficult for us to do. Some days certainly didn't feel like there was any reason to give thanks. But as people of faith, we have the gift of God's love. We know a God who forgives us and makes us righteous and who offers us the great gift of eternity. We know a God who gave us the gift of a Savior at Christmas and the gift of a resurrection at Easter. So we know that, even in a pandemic, when unemployment is high, when anger is rampant, when systemic racism is very visible, and when hurricanes and wildfires don't seem to end, there is reason to give thanks. Thank you, God, for loving us every day! Give thanks.

### **Advent/ Christmas**

The season of Advent begins on November 28/29. It ends on Christmas Eve, which is on a Thursday this year. At this point, we do not know what our Advent and Christmas Services will look like. We do know that we will videotape a service with a variety of music that will be available on Facebook and YouTube. We may be able to offer some services with limited attendance in the sanctuary and via Zoom. If we have a new projector, the in-person services could include video of Lakeview members doing various pieces of Christmas music. Pastor Dean, the staff and the council will continue working on plans for this important season and will keep the congregation informed. The one thing that we know for sure is that we will not be able to gather 300 people in the sanctuary for Christmas. So please see Pastor Dean's Christmas tree request in this newsletter!!!!

### **Meeting With Pastor Steve**

Pastor Steve Kottke is the assistant to our synod bishop. He is the person in that office who will work directly with this congregation to establish an interim pastor to begin here in January. Pastor Steve will also work with the council to write a profile of Lakeview that will then be used for potential pastors to consider interviewing here in the future. The council will establish a call committee under Pastor Steve's guidance. The process will take some time and that's okay. There is a lot of Pastor Dean in this place after 19 plus years of being here. Gregg Steinhauer will lead the council to clear Pastor Dean from Lakeview and provide a path for a new pastor in this congregation. This will be an exciting time for Lakeview and there is a dedicated council and a dedicated bishop's staff to make sure that the best connections can be made for the future of this congregation. Pastor Dean will hold you all and this process in his prayers,

and remember he'll be retired, so he he'll have plenty of time to pray!!!!

### **Protocol When a Pastor Leaves**

When a pastor leaves a congregation, they are encouraged to make a complete break. That is the healthy way. A new pastor, either an interim, initially, or by call, eventually, will be put into place to meet the pastoral needs of members of the congregation and friends. Therefore, the former pastor is discouraged from performing pastoral acts like visits, counseling, communion, weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. This is not easy for the congregation and it's not easy for the pastor, but it's healthy. It's what allows the new person to come with their unique gifts and ideas. It's what allows a new person to develop strong relationships and lead responsible ministry in a congregation without intrusion from a former leader. It may be difficult, but it is necessary. There is no doubt that the next person "*will not be Pastor Dean.*" They will be a uniquely trained, ordained and rostered minister with fresh ideas and directions that can revitalize, in new ways, a

congregation for ministry. And just to be clear, the former pastor does not make contact with any possible future pastor about the idiosyncrasies or member personalities to help them make a decision about accepting or denying a call. The ELCA has a good process in place and together the congregation and Pastor Dean will allow the process to unfold.

### **Blood Drive**

It is not too early to get on board for the next Red Cross blood drive at Lakeview on December 10. The four drives already held here in 2020 have rocked it, as far as participation. In 2019, the 5 blood drives held at Lakeview Lutheran Church collected 192 units of blood. This had a potential of helping 596 patients. In 2020, with 4 blood drives held so far, 211 units of blood have been collected. Thank you for stepping up to the plate and donating blood. Terry looks forward to one more successful drive. Make your reservation to donate by going online right now with the Red Cross or by calling the church office to have Laura make a reservation for you.

### **FREE HOMEMADE DRIVE-THRU DINNER!**



**Where:** Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd.

**When:** Tuesday, November 17, 4:30-6:00pm

### **What:**

**Lasagna-meat** (pasta, sauce, mozzarella, provolone & cheddar, hamburger, Italian sausage)

**or vegetarian** (pasta, sauce, mozzarella, provolone & cheddar, spinach, grated carrot, mushrooms, green pepper, onion)

**Salad** (greens, cucumber, tomato, red onion, croutons, oil & vinegar Italian dressing)

**2 slices sourdough bread** (provided by Just Bakery)

**Sugar cookie** (provided by Just Bakery)

**How:** Call the church at 608.244.6181 and tell us a name, # of meals & phone # by Friday 11/13. Free will donations accepted.

## A WORD FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends, (*this is the Christmas tree request*)

Since we know that we will not be able to gather together in a large group for Christmas Eve this year, I have a request for all of you—and I mean ALL. I would like to put a large lighted tree in the sanctuary. Then I would like to ask each of you to make an ornament for that tree that includes your picture or the picture of your household members. I would like to decorate the sanctuary tree with pictures of all the Lakeview members as a reminder that, even though we can't be physically present to celebrate the birth of Christ, we are present in God's spirit. We know that Christmas trees have nothing to do with the birth of Jesus. But people do. And the relationships that we've established have everything to do with the life and ministry of Jesus. That's why the ornaments need our pictures.

You can make your ornaments as simple or as elaborate as you would like. It would be a fun activity for the members of your household to engage in together. The only requirement is that your ornament include pictures (*individuals or household*). Then get your ornament to church, so that we can begin putting them on for November 29 (*First Weekend in Advent*). Each week in Advent we will make sure that Terry's recording of the service includes a close up of the Christmas tree and the faces of our community gathering here. Some ornaments may be able to be mailed. Others may be delicate and will have to be dropped off at the office. Any ornaments that come before November 29 will go on the tree immediately and the rest will go on as they arrive during Advent. I want to encourage you to participate in this activity.

When I retire on December 31, I want to take all the ornaments with me as a remembrance of the wonderful people in this place and the relationships that Kris and I have made here in the name of our Savior. That is why I hope you will all participate. By the way, ornaments can be funny, too. Make them to reflect your personality, so that Kris and I will look at it and remember that aspect of who you are! So, for Kris and I, and for the community, put your creativity to work soon.

I have had the opportunity to spend 20 Christmas Eves with you. I consider myself blessed that together we have remembered our Savior's birth together that often. While I have many memories of those worship services, I will always hold up the memory of Anthony Dupre. One year on Christmas Eve when he was very young, he came forward for the Children's Message with a group of kids. I asked if they knew the story that I was about to tell them. Anthony's response was classic, "*Of course we do, you tell the same story every year!*" And that, in fact, is true Anthony. We do tell that wonderful story of our Savior's birth year after year. Every year we set aside a time to reflect that the Savior of the world came to live as a human in the being of Jesus. Every year we spend time remember that Jesus was "*God with flesh on.*" And every year, through that Christmas Eve story, we leave with the call to make that Christ known in the world through our words and our actions. We will do that again this year and in my bittersweet feelings of leaving this place that I love, I will rejoice that I get to celebrate that gift with you one more time. So make me an ornament!!! I don't want to hear any whining about your lack of creativity or artistic skills. Everyone can do this. I have asked you to do much more difficult stuff than this over the years and most of you have complied. So just do it! Thank you.

Peace, Pastor DEAN

**The Beacon**  
**November 2020**  
**Newsletter of Lakeview Lutheran Church**

[www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org](http://www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org)

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Lynn Najem, Pianist/Choir Director; Gary Cragin, Custodian

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday: 8-5, Friday: Closed

**Service Schedule:**

9:00am Sunday via Zoom or watch the recorded service any time after it is posted

Lakeview Lutheran Church  
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Madison, WI 53704  
(608) 244-6181  
ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWSLETTER OF:

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