

THE BEACON

Christmas

Yes, it's coming! And it's going to look different this year from any Christmas you have likely known. It will be different in your church. It will be different in your home and in your community. Celebrations will be unusual and perhaps lonely. If you shop, you are likely finding new and different ways to do that. But the important thing to remember is that Christmas still comes, even in a pandemic. It's important to remember that all our traditions and activities, which usually make up this time, have nothing to do with our Savior's birth. We will still remember that Jesus was born in that stable, that angels lit up the night sky to mark his arrival, that shepherds knelt at his manger in amazement, and that Mary pondered all these things in her heart. Christmas can never be taken away. The salvation born at Christmas will happen in 2020 just like every other year. BUT, what we will miss is gathering together in a large group in our sanctuary to celebrate and remember the birth of Christ. We'll miss sharing his holy meal and the reflective glow of our candles in the dimly lighted sanctuary. We'll miss singing cherished carols together. As of right now, with virus numbers soaring and hospitals and health care workers overwhelmed, there is no reason to believe that we will gather in person on Christmas Eve. BUT, do not be dismayed! Pastor Dean, Lynn Najem, Terry Warnke and a host of musicians are already working on a wonderful YouTube video Christmas Eve service that will be available to everyone on December 24. It's going to be a wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth---just in a different way. And don't forget that for this service, we hope to have pictured ornaments from all the members/households of the congregation hanging on a tree in the sanctuary. Maybe the best Christmas gift of love we can give to each other this year is to stay away from one another.

December Council Meeting

In December, the congregation council will meet on Tuesday, December 1. This will be an in-person meeting with masks and distancing, if possible. Joining the council will be Pastor Steve Kottke who is the assistant to our synod bishop. Pastor Steve will assist the council in taking the next steps toward an interim pastor at Lakeview and eventually to the establishment of a call committee leading to a new full-time pastor.

Advent

The season of Advent begins on November 29. It is the time of preparation for four weeks before Christmas. It is our opportunity to meditate on the already and not yet. During Advent we prepare to remember the coming of Christ at Christmas and look forward with anticipation to the return of Christ. During our electronic worship services this year in Advent we will be reading the Second Lesson assigned to the week and Pastor Dean will preach from that text. There will be a soloist singing an appropriate Advent hymn. Each week Lynn Najem will play a meditative piano piece based on a Christmas Carol and we will give information about that carol, when it was written, background, how it got to be a traditional Christmas Carol etc. We will light the Advent wreath in the sanctuary each week and you are invited to have one at home to light as you watch the worship service. Also during each service, Terry will give you a close up of the sanctuary Christmas tree that will be accumulating picture ornaments of all Lakeview members. Join us for Advent worship via Zoom, or through YouTube or the church Facebook page.

Christmas Ornaments

Hey Lakeview, it's time to make your Christmas ornament for the sanctuary Christmas tree. We want the faces of everyone on that tree, so take a picture of yourself or your household and turn it into something for the tree or cut your picture out of the last directory. Your ornament can be

as simple or as complicated as your talents allow. Anything is okay, as long as everyone in your picture is wearing clothing! This tree will be a representation of the people of our congregation who will not be able to be in the sanctuary this Christmas. The tree will go up for November 29, the first weekend in Advent and the ornaments will be hung as they are received in the office. Some are already here! Then, remember that Pastor Dean will be taking the ornaments as a keepsake of the people of Lakeview. So don't delay in participating in this project. Thank you!

Book Club

"Heft" by Liz Moore will be discussed on Monday, December 7, at 6:30pm via Zoom. Please contact Ellen Bethel, ellen.bethel@sbcglobal.net if you would like the passcode for the session. Anyone is welcome to join the discussion. In January, we will meet via Zoom to decide the reading list for 2021, date and time to be determined. Regardless of whether you participate in discussions, if you have read something lately that you would like to share, please email Chris Anders, coordinator@lakeviewlutheranmail.org with titles. Lastly, the February read has been changed to "The Only Women in the Room" by Marie Benedict. Zoom discussion will happen Monday, February 1, at 6:30pm.

December Drive Through Dinner

Laura Jasiczek, Lakeview Office Administrator and Wartburg Seminary student, will be coordinating a second drive

through meal. This meal of scalloped potatoes and ham and side dishes will be served on Tuesday, December 22, from 4:30 to 6:00pm. Pastor Dean and Kris will be cooking. Check the menu and other information in this newsletter. Remember to make your reservation for this event by Wednesday December 16, though sooner is better than later. Due to the success of November's meal, we will stop taking reservations once we get to 200. We cannot serve people who don't make a reservation, as we will cook based on reservations. Also, we do not have the ability to deliver meals.

Final Day

Pastor Dean's final day at Lakeview will be the Sunday morning worship service on January 3 at 9:00 am. Pastor Steve Kottke, from the synod bishop's office and Gregg Steinhauer, council president will participate with Pastor Dean in a special service of sending into retirement. You can join us via Zoom for the service or throughout the week on YouTube or Facebook.

Wednesday Bible Study

The weekly Bible study at 9:30 on Wednesdays will continue each week through December 16 on zoom.

Congratulations Sterling

Sterling Lynk, a member of our congregation, has completed his studies at Luther Seminary. He was recently called to serve as pastor of Dekorra Lutheran Church near Poynette. Sterling was ordained in ministry on November 14 at Lakeview. Bishop Joy Mortensen-Weibe ordained Sterling. You are

invited to congratulate Sterling as he becomes a leader in the church with cards, gifts, notes etc.

Congratulations Spenser

Spenser Pownell, son of Scott and Annette Pownell affirmed his baptismal covenant through the Rite of Confirmation at Lakeview on Sunday, November 15. You are invited to congratulate Spenser with cards, notes, and gifts, if you are able.

Food Pantry

The food pantry is still in need of paper bags. Orders are packed in doubled paper bags and each household receives 2-4 bags worth of food per week. Serving an average of 40 households a week, the pantry goes through a lot of paper bags! Bags can be left in the black tub at the office entrance. Thank you!

Sanctuary Projector

As many of you know, the projector that we use and enjoy in our sanctuary died a couple of weeks ago. That projector was 15 years old and is no longer manufactured. Therefore, no parts can be obtained for it. We received bids for a new lazar projector that we would like to purchase through Wisconsin Audio/Visual. This is actually the company who installed the original projector but with a new name. The new projector would be bulbless so we would never have to worry about bulb replacement. A new bulb for our current projector is \$400! The projector that we would wish to purchase is \$6500. It is an important time to have this option as we continue to utilize a variety of technology to provide worship and educational experiences at Lakeview. To date,

\$5650 has been donated toward this new projector. If you would like to make a financial donation, of any size, toward the projector, you are invited to do so. You can give with check, cash or by going to the church web site to the Vanco Give+ program and give via check or credit card. Thank you

to all the people who have already supported this project and to all the people who will still do that. Unfortunately, we've had too many items in our building requiring replacement or repair this year. But the heat in the sanctuary from the new boiler system sure is nice and efficient.

FREE HOMEMADE DRIVE-THRU DINNER!

*donations accepted



Where: Lakeview Lutheran Church, 4001 Mandrake Rd. Madison, WI

When: Tuesday, December 22, 4:30-6:00pm

What: Scalloped Potatoes and Ham (meatless option available, too), Green Bean Casserole, Fruit Salad, and Frosted Sugar Cookie (provided by Just Bakery)

How: Call the church at 608.244.6181 and tell us a name, # of meals & phone # by Wed. 12/16 (we will stop taking reservations if/when we get to 200)

A WORD FROM PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

I lived on a dairy farm until I was 10 years old. I was never cut out to be a farmer. But I uphold the idea that *“you can take the boy from the farm, but you can’t take the farm from the boy.”* Something inside of me has always had a great compassion for the agriculture and dairy industry. Something about the smell of newly tilled black soil or freshly cut alfalfa, or the sight of golden fields of grain, or watching corn become knee high by the fourth of July is held sacred within me. I know many of you have that history as well.

I have been a Christian and a Lutheran all my life. For 63 years I have tried to understand what it means to uphold that double commandment that Jesus gave us in Luke 10, ***“you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”***

When I combine my faith in agriculture and my faith in the double commandment, it forces me to look very deeply and with great sensitivity, on the employment of undocumented workers in the Wisconsin agriculture industry. Through much reading and study, it is clear to me that dairy farming and many other aspects of the agriculture industry in Wisconsin would not produce the products that they do in this time if it were not for immigrant and undocumented labor. While there are many books and articles out there to read, I would like to commend one written by Julie C. Keller entitled, ***“Milking in The Shadows.”*** The book is academic, and data driven, which is why I like it. So, if you prefer to formulate decisions without data and support, don’t read it.

In this book, Ms. Keller addresses the relationship between north-western Wisconsin dairy farmers and undocumented men and women coming to work from villages in the Mexican states of Veracruz and Guanajuato. Ms. Keller makes many trips to those Mexican villages and develops relationships with the people. She even lives there for a period of time. She also spends much time on the Wisconsin dairy farms and in the small communities where they exist to gather her data and information. She weaves an incredible story based on fact and reality. She incorporates stories from the farm owners and the immigrants that uplift how important Mexican labor is in our state. She details the very difficult and unsafe procedures people go through in crossing the border “illegally” because they need money to support their children and because farms in Wisconsin can’t find that labor locally. It is eye opening. This book supports my desire that our nation’s immigration policies should include a path to citizenship for the thousands of undocumented workers in our state (and country) who are here doing the work that American citizens do not wish to do.

And because I hold the biblical texts to be profound truths about God’s grace, I support my views on immigration with Deuteronomy 10:19 ***“You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt,”*** and with Leviticus 19:33 ***“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself,”*** and with Hebrews 13:1 ***“let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them and those who are being tortured as if you yourselves were being tortured.”***

During this time of thanksgiving, I give thanks for those men and women who have such a strong desire to support their children with housing, food and education, that they are willing to risk life and safety to come and work difficult jobs to assure that I am able to continue to call my home AMERICA’S DAIRYLAND. I like cheese, butter, ice cream, beef, pork, chickens and eggs—vegetables too. I thank the farmer and the undocumented worker for allowing me to eat the foods I enjoy. I encourage you to give this issue some consideration.

Peace,

Pastor DEAN

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December 2020
Newsletter of Lakeview Lutheran Church

www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org

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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-Thursday: 8-5, Friday: Closed

Service Schedule:

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

NEWSLETTER OF:
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