

THE BEACON

Worship December 27

There will be no Zoom option for worship on Sunday, December 27. The service will be recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube. You will be able to access it there as we celebrate the First Weekend of Christmas.

Final Sunday

Pastor Dean's final day of worship at Lakeview will be on January 3 at 9:00 am. Pastor Steve Kottke, from the bishop's office and council president, Gregg Steinhauer, will be present to conduct a special sending into retirement service on this day. Pastor Dean will preach. There will also be a baptism of the Castillo twins. The service will be live streamed thanks to Terry and Sue Warnke. The link to the live stream is <https://youtu.be/ERdMx6OvdOc>. The live stream will be available beginning at 8:55 am on January 3. You will also be able to Zoom into the service, like usual, but the live stream is highly recommended.

Christmas Worship

Remember that the Christmas service at Lakeview will be available on the church Facebook page or through YouTube. You can also access the video on Vimeo through the church web site. The video will be posted the morning of December 24. You will receive a link via email as the date nears. We give thanks for the many musicians who will make that service special despite the uncomfortable way we have to conduct it this year. We give thanks to Terry and Sue Warnke, who have been and who continue to be dedicated to bringing you these worship services. We give thanks to everyone who has contributed a picture ornament to the sanctuary Christmas tree, so that in this way our congregation can be together for Christmas. One note, if you can access YouTube on your larger television screen, it is a great way to experience the worship service.

Holiday Office Closures

The church office will be closed 12/23, 12/24, and 12/31. The hours will be limited 12/28-12/30.

Lakeview Book Group

The Lakeview book group will be meeting on the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm via Zoom. The meeting ID is 746 134 9008 and the password is WhuV0B. Thank you Ellen Bethel for overseeing Zoom. Anyone is welcome to participate. The January 4th meeting will be a planning session for 2021. If you have titles you would like to contribute but can't make the meeting time, please send your contributions to Chris Anders, coordinator@lakeviewluthernmail.org. Monday, February 1 at 6:30pm, the group will be discussing "The Only Woman in the Room" by Marie Benedict.

Annual Meeting date is January 31. Time for meeting will be 9:30 am. How to attend the meeting will be coming soon! Mark your calendars now.

A NOTE FROM KRIS

Dear Friends,

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my time at Lakeview and how much it has meant for me to be a part of this church family. It's hard for me to realize that after January 3rd and when this pandemic finally subsides that I won't be coming back to this place that is Lakeview Lutheran Church to worship in community with you, the people who are really Lakeview Lutheran Church. It's hard to realize I'll no longer be singing in choir or preparing Porchlight meals or coming to senior lunches or knitting with Knots of Love or going on all of those crazy bus trips. You have supported Dean and I in the best of times and through our worst nightmare of losing our dear Michael. I will never forget how you wrapped your loving arms around us and showed us what God's love really looks like.

I will miss your compassion and acceptance for all of God's people, your willingness to be crazy, and your passion for ministry outside of the walls of the church building, even in the midst of this pandemic. I will continue to pray for the health and safety of each one of you and that it won't be too long before you can come back together and worship as the people of Lakeview Lutheran Church.

Love,

Kris

Some Ethical Directives from the Synod Call Process Handbook

Members Relating to Former Pastors

We believe that the Holy Spirit is acting when a clergy person is called to the office of pastor. We also believe that the Holy Spirit is acting when it is time for that pastor to accept another call; including the call into retirement. How the congregation responds to previous pastors is critical for the health of the congregation and the entire Church. Unhealthy expectations from a congregation of a previous pastor will negatively impact the congregation's ability to receive the ministry of the pastor(s) that follow.

Congregational members make and maintain loving and caring relationships with their pastors and their family members. Within the realm of friendship, it is appropriate to continue such relationships. Hospitality is always proper. It is not appropriate to engage them in discussions or to seek their advice concerning congregational matters or the current pastor. The title of "Pastor" is appropriate for the person who has been called to your congregation. While that person serves you, it is appropriate to address him/her by "Pastor." Once that person ceases to hold the congregational office of pastor, all the responsibilities of that office are removed from him/her and the title of pastor is no longer appropriate to use for that person. Technically, they are still "Reverend" and are still a clergy person, but not your pastor. The members should not turn to a former pastor at emotional and ceremonial times with expectations that the person will perform any pastoral acts, i.e. weddings, funerals, baptisms, home communions, etc. What is important at these times is that we know God is with us and blesses us.

We are baptized children of God. We each have a relationship with God. The challenge is to indeed trust God and God's presence in our lives. These times are special opportunities to allow the called pastor to minister to you and, thereby, build relationship with you. Whether it is a pastor who has been called by the congregation or an interim under contract, it is the responsibility of each member to love them, forgive them, and to turn to them for pastoral leadership.

Clergy Relating to Previously Served Parishes

When a member of the clergy accepts a call to a congregation, a sacred covenant is established between that person as pastor and the people of God in that place. In order that the ministry might be strong and effective, it is important for that relationship to be strengthened and nurtured until God calls that pastor to another ministry setting. When a pastor resigns, that call, that covenant, with all its responsibilities, ends.

The following expectations are offered to clergy with the hope that they will give guidance as they set boundaries and make wise choices which will enable the congregation to build a positive relationship with the new pastor.

Clergy and their family members often establish and invest in long lasting relationships with congregational members. As a new call is accepted, these relationships should continue on a personal basis; not on a professional one. Do not think that you must sever loving relationships. Rather, you must be diligent to exercise responsibility in controlling the boundaries of what topics are open for discussion. These relationships should focus on personal and family issues, not congregational.

It is your responsibility as a former pastor to set clear, consistent boundaries. With former parishioners, refrain from using the title of the office, “pastor,” as a self-descriptor. Setting a firm boundary, continue to ask, and remind people to call you by your given name. Declining invitations by former members to conduct pastoral acts even for their “family” events is a matter of sound clergy expectations. Clergy will increase their spiritual and emotional health by maintaining healthy boundaries and clarifying expectations. When an invitation is offered by a former member, it is important that you do not pass the burden of such a decision back to the pastor who currently holds that call. It is vital that you say a decisive “no” rather than giving an answer such as, “I will, if the current pastor says its okay.” This sounds innocent, but it can be self-serving and diminishes the present pastor’s role and ability to build relationships.

It is your responsibility, as a former pastor, to be supportive of your successor, even when that is difficult to do. If it is not possible for you to be supportive of that pastor’s ministry, it is a matter of healthy expectations that you cut off communication with members of that congregation as it relates to the pastor, or any aspect of congregational life. Even being a “good listener” will become a hindrance to the congregation’s ministry. While the success of their new pastor is not your responsibility, proper boundaries will help ensure that any failings in that ministry will not be attributable to your on-going friendship with any of the members.

FREE HOMEMADE DRIVE-THRU DINNER!

*DONATIONS ACCEPTED

WHERE: LAKEVIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4001 MANDRAKE RD. MADISON, WI

WHEN: FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 4:30-6:00PM

WHAT: CHEESY CHICKEN ENCHILADAS OR CHEESE AND BEAN ENCHILADAS WITH A SIDE OF RICE AND BEANS AND OATMEAL CRANBERRY COOKIE (PROVIDED BY JUST BAKERY)

HOW: CALL THE CHURCH AT 608.244.6181 AND TELL US A NAME, # OF MEALS & PHONE # BY MONDAY 1/18 (WE WILL STOP TAKING RESERVATIONS IF/WHEN WE GET TO 200)

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH PASTOR DEAN

Dear Friends,

As promised in November, I am going to take a trip down memory lane in this letter. And since I've been at Lakeview for over 19 years, the lane is long! So read what you want or discard, if you prefer.

I interviewed at Lakeview on a summer evening in August of 2001. Kris and I got lost on our way to the church and for the only time in my life, we were late. Besides that, we were having a bit of an argument in the car as we pulled into the parking lot. I told Kris that I wasn't at all interested in this call and would never accept it. She wasn't very pleased with me. Boy was I wrong about the call. But it was the only time I was wrong in 2001!

Next came the incredible terrorist event in our nation on September 9. That slowed everything down. But on October 11, after you voted, Dayna Dalton, the council president, signed the letter of call. So, if you have had any issues with how I've served Lakeview, it is all Dayna's fault.

On the first Friday in November in 2001, I attended a court hearing to support a family in my previous congregation. Once that hearing was finished, I rushed over to Lakeview where I poured coffee for the next 10 hours at the annual Lutefisk dinner. Yep, the first day I was here was the Lutefisk dinner, but I decided to move into the office anyway. A little stinky Lutefisk was not going to keep this German away. However, as I often told Nelson Walstead, adding sauerkraut and beer to that dinner would have been nice. Truth be told, I loved that day. You may have come to realize that I love to talk and meet people and that's what I did all day long.

I was officially installed as the pastor of Lakeview on Sunday, November 18, 2001. After worship we celebrated with lunch in East Hall.

I started to rapidly get to know the members of this congregation. The day before the annual Thanksgiving dinner that year, I was walking down the hall at church and there was pounding on the South Entrance doors. I went to the doors and there were two "mature" women standing outside asking to be let in. I did not know them and they both held huge knives! I took the risk and let Marlene Creaser and Lori Pionkowski into the building. They were coming to cube the bread that Donna and Bob Mohrmann had laid out to dry for stuffing. Next came Doris Hicks and Jan Pond to make the stuffing with "300 pounds" of butter. Best stuffing in the world!

Kris and I have always sung in a church choir, so we joined the one at Lakeview. In those days we met in the balcony and often sang up there during worship. That changed fast. Anyway, no one in my original interview ever told me that if I joined choir, I would have to sit by Verallyn Cline every Thursday evening for the next 19 years!

After my first Sunday morning worship at Lakeview, a member came out of the sanctuary and told me I was doing it wrong. Feeling concerned, I asked what was wrong. She told me that the previous

pastor always stood and shook hands on the other side of the doorway. I quickly, but politely, informed her that I was not the “previous” pastor.

My first baptism at Lakeview was of Ian McCosky on November 11, 2001. I got to celebrate his high school graduation here in 2019, too. During my years at Lakeview, I officiated at 133 baptisms, including my first grandson, Huck. My first funeral at Lakeview was George Mulcahy on December 23, 2001. George was buried in the Lakeview Cemetery and I was surprised to learn that we’d all be walking to the internment site. By the way, during my first 12 months at Lakeview I conducted 26 funerals. I was getting a little nervous about this call. While at Lakeview I officiated at 199 funerals. My first wedding at Lakeview was of Sterling Lynk on March 23, 2002. And only a couple of weeks ago we celebrated the ordination of Sterling into the ministry of the ELCA. During my time at Lakeview, I officiated at 44 wedding ceremonies, including that of Laura Jasiczek and Colin Baker. Now Lakeview is traveling with Laura as she attends Wartburg Seminary.

I’ve had so many highlights to ministry in this place. Taking people on trips to new places has always been one of my favorite things to do. I’ve been so grateful that we’ve been able to do lots of that here. I took youth to Atlanta GA, Bayou La Batre AL, Taylorsville NC, Pine Ridge ND, Lodge Grass MO, New Orleans LA, San Antonio TX, Rutland VT, Arecibo Puerto Rico, New York NY, Keshena WI and Toronto CAN. We also did numerous trips to Milwaukee and Lake Geneva and other local spots. There was a time when I would regularly do a 12-hour day van trip with kids. One time, after one of those trips, Lynn Case asked why only the kids got to do that. She wanted a van trip for adults.

Well, you know how eager I am to please, so we rented a van and took 15 people to several attractions in southeastern Wisconsin. After a couple of years of trips in a 15-passenger van we had to add a second 15-passenger van, as participation was increasing. Then, we went to a 31-passenger coach bus with driver and increased our day trips to several times per year, thanks to the help of Chris Anders. Visits to Chicago and boat trips on rivers were very popular. Sometimes the numbers of participants was so high that we rented a 52-passenger coach bus. We had some good times on those van and bus trips. And, as Shirley Ewert recently reminded me, we hit every winery there is!

I also had the memorable opportunity of taking adults out on several different kinds of trips. Again, I enjoyed exposing people to new places and new experiences. My first adult trip at Lakeview was with 25 folks for four days in New York City. We had such a good time that adult trips became anticipated annual events. We went to St. Louis (*where Betty Dorow and Linda Schaack showed us how to drink a fishbowl of beer*), Memphis (*where Georgia Richie got to meet Elvis*), New Orleans (*where I dragged 36 people around that hot and humid city and Carol Robde drank a Sazerac*), New York a second time (*where Gayle Langer fell in love with Pete’s Tavern*) and most recently Washington DC (*where Darlene Wood enjoyed herself at Gatsby’s Tavern*). It broke my heart when I had to cancel the trip to Montreal in 2020 because of the pandemic. Remember the 10-story glass elevator at the Bass Pro Shop in Memphis? In New Orleans, Lynn Najem and Verallyn Cline showed us how a free facial treatment could make you look 20 years younger. Imagine what those two would look like today if they had not done that! In Washington DC, I was forced to watch Randi Matthews drink a couple Miller Lite beers. Randi needs to learn that if you want to drink water, just order water!!!! On each

of these trips, I tried my hardest to lose certain people, but it never happened. Todd Schaack always found his way back! We also had several great adult winter retreats at the Writer's Mansion at the Green Lake Conference Center. What happens in Green Lake, stays in Green Lake!

Of course, my most treasured annual event has been taking 20 to 30 middle school kids to Green Lake for the annual middle school winter retreat. I wish I would have kept track of the number of kids who puked over the years during the evil Saturday night games. For those of you who puked after drinking a blended McDonald's Happy Meal Shake or from eating Twinkies filled with horseradish sauce, I hope this has given you something to tell your grandchildren.

Another genre of trips that I've been honored to lead at Lakeview have been disaster recovery trips. Hundreds of people from Lakeview have participated in this very valuable ministry. Many attended. Others provided financial support. We went to Biloxi, MS after Hurricane Katrina on four occasions. Sleeping in those circus tents and going out to the port-a-potty in the middle of the night were unique experiences. We will always remember that first trip when Ellen Bethel's van got a flat tire on the interstate in Louisiana and Jan Pond solicited the state trooper to give her a couple dollars and we sat at the Hammond Walmart waiting for a new tire. We went to Violet in St. Bernard's Parish, LA twice. The devastation there was absolutely unimaginable after Katrina. After the Souris River flooded in Minot, ND, we took 4 trips up there to clean up debris and hang lots of drywall. Dale Matthews cooked breakfast. Just a note, if you need drywall hung, you may not want to call Dave Haselow, but Dennis Strand may be a good option. And, of course, there was the trip to Crisfield, MD after Hurricane Sandy, where we built a house with the Mennonite Community from Canada (*they actually know what they are doing*) and we exposed Leroy Mellum to sea food delicacies he had never eaten before. In Crisfield there was a drive thru liquor store which totally fascinated Kelly Olson.

My memory lane includes spending 20 Christmas' with you. I also made it through 19 Lenten seasons here, even that year I had the stupid idea to give up coffee for the entire season of Lent. As if Lent isn't bad enough without giving up coffee. I'll never forget how grateful I was to Kathy Kraus who brought me a cup of coffee after the sunrise service. Putting up the Easter Butterfly tree filled with butterflies indicating your gifts, was always an emotional time.

Bible study has always been important to me and we sure had some wonderful studies over the years. The Wednesday noon study was huge, but perhaps those who attended were more impressed over Punky Eagan's pastries than they were over my Bible knowledge. We have been a congregation committed to outreach. Remember that year we raised \$10,000 for CROP? Our food pantry is over 40 years old and going strong. We continue to have a strong relationship with Just Dane (formerly MUM). We hosted the first years of the Just Bakery program in our building. We have been hosts for Road Home guests in our classrooms. We have made meals for Porchlight's Homeless Shelter. We raised over \$8000 for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. We've held quarterly blood drives every year, thanks to Terry Warnke. We've served over 300 people each year at our Thanksgiving dinners that were led by Bob Mohrmann and, more recently, Sandy Rupnow. And those of you in the "senior" category know what great fun and fellowship we have had at senior lunches/euchre tournaments, especially the December one, after everyone enjoyed

homemade egg nog with plenty of bourbon and rum. Those lunches regularly accommodated over 90 people. They were often the highlight of my month.

Perhaps, the number one thing that I am grateful for on this walk down memory lane was what this congregation did in 2007. That year you overwhelmingly voted to adapt the "*Affirmation of Household Covenants Policy*." You worked hard to put this document together. You addressed many different obstacles and ideologies. You used the Bible and tradition and history. You arranged outside presentations. But you succeeded in passing a policy that has been borrowed by seminary professors and other congregations. This policy allowed for the blessing of same gender unions, the blessing of unions of people with disabilities who would have to reduce necessary financial benefits if they got married, and the blessing of unions of senior folks who wanted to spend the rest of lives in a committed relationship but for a variety of reasons, could not become married by the state. You were ahead of your time when you did this. Of course, the church at large and the United States government finally caught up to Lakeview! You understood that caring for other people and accepting those whose circumstances may be different from the majority, were very important attributes for a congregation to have. You understood human commitment. And it is because of that, that I have found my home in this place for over 19 years. This is only one of many examples where you took a risk to put the call to love for your neighbors into action. Yes, you are risk takers.

You are an impressive community, and you are approaching your 175th anniversary as a congregation. There is much history here and you have uplifted that by maintaining the chapel and the cemetery. You are led by the Holy Spirit. You understand God's grace. You understand and are willing to implement your call to love God and to love your neighbors. I hope you will continue that commitment to your faith long into the future. As I come to retirement, Kris and I give thanks for each and every one of you who have joined us on the lane over the years. We give thanks for your sincere commitment to ministry and your dedication to the love and care of all of God's creation. We have been so very grateful of your support when our house was part of the Sun Prairie explosion. And then when we faced the worst experience of our lives. We know that your love for Michael and your love for Kris, Elizabeth and I runs deep. Thank you for the gift of a memory lane that will never be taken from us.

Finally, over the years I have had the opportunity to work with many wonderful and dedicated staff people at Lakeview. I want to commend the dedication of your current staff and let you know that I have appreciated coming to work every day with them. Thank you, Laura, Lynn, Chris and Gary.

You cannot replace me. I am unique and your next pastor will be also. Your job now is to look into the future as you are led by Gregg Steinhauer and work with the synod office to eventually call a new pastor. Keep your minds open. This person will bring new insights and a fresh approach to ministry. Love them as much as you have loved me and my family. And I hope that new pastor loves you as much as I have loved you. Go in peace and continue to serve the Lord!

Love,

Pastor DEAN



Sanctuary Open for Viewing Tree

You are invited to stop by church and view the sanctuary Christmas tree on Dec 21 between 9:00 am and noon. Or on Dec 22 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. The single north side glass door, which enters directly into the sanctuary, will be unlocked. It is accessible by the short “bridge” that leads to the door. Please wear your mask when in the room and please distance yourself from others who might be in the room. Hand sanitizer will be available. Also, if you come to see the tree, please exit that same door without meandering throughout the building. You are welcome to use the narthex restroom if you need one while here. Since we are trying to reduce our contacts and exposures, we ask that you not come to the office area. Yes, it sucks!

The Beacon

January 2021

See Inside for Pastor Dean's Walk Down Memory Lane!

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-Thursday: 8-5, Friday: Closed

Closed: 12/23, 12/24, 12/31

Limited Hours: 12/28-12/30

Service Schedule:

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

Lakeview Lutheran Church
4001 Mandrake Rd.
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 244-6181
ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWSLETTER OF:

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