

# BEACON

Lakeview Lutheran Church

Madison, Wisconsin

January, 2008

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2008! Wow, a new year. We give thanks that God has brought us to another year for ministry at Lakeview. This month our congregation will turn 152 years old. It seems like we just celebrated 150 years. A new year means new challenges, new trials, new risks and new opportunities. I like to focus on "new opportunities." Opportunities allow us all to grow and come to new ways of understanding things. New opportunities are all around us in our lives. The first new opportunity that stands before us at Lakeview is in regard to the resolution that the council has passed about the Affirmation of Household Covenants. We have a new opportunity to be the people of God who welcome and bless all committed relationships. We have a new opportunity to ask for God's presence with all people who are committed to spending their lives together. Please read the included document in this newsletter. Come to the information meeting on January 13 and if you are a voting member, make plans to attend the Special Congregation Meeting on January 27.

Another new opportunity for our congregation in 2008 is the gift you are giving me of a three-month sabbatical. I will be away from my office and responsibilities this year during June, July and August. This time away will allow Kris and I some time to relax together and to explore issues that surrounded the

1960's civil rights movement in our nation. We are very excited about having an opportunity like this during the summer. The congregation council is developing a plan to provide pastoral leadership in my absence and to bring lay leadership into new and unique opportunities to serve. It's exciting stuff. And we can all grow from these new experiences.

And of course, as disciples we are constantly called to find new opportunities for caring for those in our world who are oppressed and who are struggling. What new things will we take on at Lakeview this year as disciples of the one who gives us unconditional grace, and forgiveness and new life? How will we make God's love known through our words and actions from this place?

I look forward to our continued partnership as ministers at Lakeview in 2008. I'm excited about the many new opportunities that will arise for us. I look forward to knowing that God will stand with us as we take on these new things. May you have a new year filled with opportunities!

Peace,  
Pastor Kirst



## Food Pantry Needs

**SALTINE CRACKERS  
TOILET PAPER**

## Human Sexuality Resolution and Special Voters Meeting

For the past three years, the Lakeview Human Sexuality Committee has been hard at work and has brought many informational presentations and Bible studies to the congregation. This past fall, the committee drafted a "Resolution for the Affirmation of Household Covenants" for Lakeview Lutheran Church. The committee presented the resolution at the October 2007 Congregation Council meeting. The council unanimously approved the resolution and set **Sunday, January 27 at 11:30 am** for a special voters meeting in the sanctuary. Anyone is welcome to attend the special meeting, but only voting members of the congregation have the privilege of speech and ballot. A voting member, per Chapter 8.02-c of the Lakeview constitution, is someone who is confirmed and who has communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year. Communion records are kept through the Fellowship Pads. Contribution records are kept through the envelope system or through Simply Giving. The purpose of this meeting will be for the voting members of Lakeview Lutheran Church to vote on whether or not to accept the "Resolution for the Affirmation of Household Covenants." A copy of that document has been included in this newsletter. The council and the Human Sexuality Committee will review that document on Sunday, January 13 from 9:15 to 10:15 am in the Fellowship Room. Bring your questions and comments.

## New Member Group

Anyone interested in membership at Lakeview is invited to attend the new member group with Pastor Kirst on Sunday evening, January 13 from 5:30 to 7:00 in West Hall. New members will then be formally received into membership on Sunday, January 27



during the 10:30 am worship service. Please call the church office at 244-6181 to let us know if you plan to participate in the new member program.

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Kirst will continue to lead a Sunday morning Bible study for interested adults and older youth. He will do this in the Fellowship



## Sunday Morning Bible Study

Room from 9:15 to 10:15 am. This is not only a great time to engage in biblical and theological conversation, but it's also a fun time to get to know other people from Lakeview. Coffee and donuts are always available. Pastor will begin a new study on the ideology of St. Paul and the biblical books that have been attributed to him. As part of this study, we will consider how St. Paul understood the role of women and why some of those letters may seem very sexist. All are welcome.

## Dance Alive is Back

Mark your calendars, the annual Dance Alive event will be held on Friday evening, February 15 in East Hall. The Cajun Strangers and the Last Gasp bands will both be playing. Great fun and socialization for all ages.

## Should We Go Back to NOLA?

A meeting to discuss another trip to St. Bernard Parish LA, in the greater New Orleans area, to continue the massive job of hurricane recovery will be held on Wednesday evening, January 16 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Room. If you, or someone you know, are interested in making another trip to NOLA (or back to Biloxi) come to the meeting and help us discuss and plan. We'll know better what we may wish to do after we see who comes to the meeting and what kinds of interest are expressed.



## From the Parish Nurse

### Healing Service

January 8, 2008

7:00 pm in the historic chapel.

Everyone is welcome to this time of readings, prayers, music, laying on of hands, candle lighting and anointing. Pastor Kirst and Anne Tigan lead this service as part of our health ministry here at Lakeview.



The Labyrinth will be open in East Hall for Lenten walks on February 6th and 7th, Ash Wednesday and the following Thursday. Watch the bulletin for more information.

## Stewardship Pledge Cards

Thank you to everyone who has returned a stewardship pledge card. If you haven't remembered to do that, we encourage you to do so. As we begin the planning of our new budget, to be reviewed at the annual meeting in April, pledge information is very helpful. Thank you for continuing to support the ministries, staff and building upkeep of this congregation through your gifts and your volunteer hours.

## Lent Comes Quick

This year the season of Lent comes very early. **Ash Wednesday is February 6, 2008.** Plan to join us for special worship that evening.



## Northside History Presentation

Join us on Saturday evening, February 2nd for worship at 5:00 in the historic chapel with early Lutheran Liturgy and hymns, followed by a potluck supper in East Hall and the Northside History Presentation. Everyone is invited to wear clothes from a prior era! An evening of family worship, fun, entertainment and fellowship.

## Middle School Winter Retreat

Youth in grades 6 through 9 and friends are reminded to get their registration forms to Pastor Kirst, Linda Osterhaus or Linda Schaack very soon to participate in the annual winter retreat in Green Lake. This year the crew will leave Lakeview on Friday, January 18 and return on Sunday, January 20 at noon. Cost for the event is \$40 per youth. If you have questions or need a registration form, stop at the information board in the church narthex or talk to Pastor. If the snow remains, we'll all be going tubing so bring your tubes and warm outdoor clothing.

