

"BEACON" FEBRUARY 2009

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Newsletter of
Lakeview Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lakeview Lutheran Church
Church Office 608-244-6181
M-F 8:00am—4:30pm
www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org

Dean M. Kirst, Pastor
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Lynn Najem, Organist
Jim Schroeder, Bookkeeper
Dayna Dalton, Choir Director
Linda Schaack, Handbell Choir Director
Nel Bailey, Choir Practice Accompanist
Cheryl Diekvoss, Nursery Attendant
Ryan Phillips, Custodian

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday, 5:00 pm/Chapel
Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 am/Sanctuary
9:15 am Education Hour

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

7:00 pm/Sanctuary
Imposition of Ashes
Holy Communion

LABYRINTH

Ash Wednesday
5:00—9:00 pm
East Hall

BEACON

Lakeview Lutheran Church

Madison, Wisconsin

February, 2009

Lent at Lakeview Lutheran Church

The season of Lent, a time for reflection and mediation begins on Ash Wednesday, which is February 22. (*Your Mardi Gras parties should be over on the preceding day.*)

Our worship on Ash Wednesday will be at 7:00 pm and will include the imposition of ashes and Holy

Communion. The senior choir will be providing special music. Throughout the weeks of Lent, we will hold mid-week devotional services every Wednesday evening at 7:00. The theme of those services will be "Our Lutheran Heritage." Each evening we will be exploring what it means to be a Lutheran in our world. We will look at how Lutherans interpret scripture, what doctrines and dogma we hold dear, what it means to be a "word and sacrament" church, the history of the Reformation, who are the Lutherans today in our nation and the world, and what the future of being a Lutheran may mean. Both pastors will participate in these devotions, which will be informal, reflective and educational. They will each last about 45 minutes and will be held in the church sanctuary. Members, friends and neighbors are all invited to participate.



Wednesday Lenten Meals

Preceding the Wednesday devotions during Lent, but NOT on Ash Wednesday, a meal will be offered in the East Hall from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. A free will donation will be received each evening to cover the cost of the food. As we explore our Lutheran heritage during devotions, we enjoy the fellowship of our Lutheran brothers and sisters during the meal. And of course, if some non-Lutherans show up for the meal, we will enjoy fellowship with them as well and show them some terrific Lakeview Lutheran hospitality.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone from the congregation who helped to make the annual winter youth retreat a great



success. Especially thanks to the adults who gave up their weekend at home to chaperone this event including Rene

Puzach, Mindy McElmurry, Dayna Dalton, Michael Knudtson, Nate Campbell and Tracy Stamm. The 27 youth were excellent and a good time was "had by all." You will be able to see pictures of the retreat on Sunday, February 8. We will hold the First with Kirst monthly potluck at 5:00 pm that evening followed by the slide show of the retreat on the big screen in the sanctuary. Invite your friends. The pictures will amaze you! Next year's retreat will be held at Green Lake on January 15-17.



Food Pantry Needs

Toilet Paper
Toilet Paper
Toilet Paper

New Member Group

Pastor Kirst will be leading a new member group for anyone who wishes to join our congregation. Those interested are asked to attend two meetings. One will be Sunday, February 15 from

5:30 to 7:00 pm
in the West Hall.

The second half
of the event will
be held in the
sanctuary on

Sunday, February 22 from 9:15 to 10:15 am. All those who attend these meetings will be welcomed into membership on Sunday, February 22 during the 10:30 am worship service. If you or someone you know wishes to become a member at this time, have them call the church office at 244-6181 or email Pastor Kirst at pastorkirst@charterinternet.com to let us know they will be attending.



Timing of Newsletter

There has been a request for us to get the newsletter into homes before the first of each month. That is indeed what the office would like to have happen. However, that is often not possible for a variety of reasons, the main one being that folks do not get newsletter information to the office administrator in a timely fashion. If you place information in the newsletter, please make every attempt to get your information to Nancy Anderson by the 15th of the month. Also, the newsletter is mailed through bulk mail. We have talked to the post office and learned that they are trying to improve their bulk mailing deliveries as well.

Called To Care for the Environment

As disciples of Christ, we are indeed called to care for all of creation, for people in need and for the environment. As you are well aware, there are major environmental concerns facing our planet right now. We don't need to panic, but it would appear that we need to take action. Plan to attend two important presentations in February. On February 15, at 9:15 am in the sanctuary, Todd Schaack will present on global warming and it's impact on our world. Todd is an atmospheric scientist and is a member of our congregation. On February 22, at 9:15 am in the sanctuary, Shala Werner will present on the human response to global warming. Shala is the state chapter president of the Sierra Club. After these presentations, we will seek ideas for how our congregation can become better educated about the environment and what we can do collectively and individually to assure a safe world for future generations.

Youth Trip Meeting

There will be an important meeting for all youth going on summer trips, their parents/guardians and chaperones on Wednesday, **February 11 at 6:30 pm** in the East Hall at church. Please plan to attend.

Coin Jug

Remember that the youth coin jug is out in the church narthex and a glass is out in the chapel to collect any coins that you wish to contribute to the summer youth trips. The youth appreciate your contributions. Clean out those places where change is accumulating and help the kids out.



A Note From Pastor Laurie

Dear Lakeview Family,

It is often said, “Never discuss politics and religion!” My family and I have learned that lesson the hard way! How about mixing politics and religion? Probably not a good idea either—but I can’t resist the temptation to at least mention the inauguration of our first African-American president and a new spirit which seems afoot in our country. Political parties and particular candidates aside, what struck me most about watching the ceremonies this past Tuesday was the expression on so many of the onlooker’s faces who had made their way to Washington for this historic event: shining eyes, tears, and smiles. All bespoke a new hope for greater justice for all in our country and on our shrinking planet.

What does all this mean for the church at large, and for Lakeview in particular? This morning on a radio talk show I was listening to on the way to work, the host commented on the President’s declaration of a day of “reconciliation and renewal.” The host then exclaimed, “Who does that?!” I thought to myself, “Well, the church does it on a pretty regular basis!”

So for the Lutheran church at large, this new beginning probably means continuing its service to people and places devastated by poverty, and disasters of various kinds. For Lakeview Lutheran, it probably means business as usual, as well. With our many social service ministries already in place, and those we are beginning, we primarily need to remember to lift each other up in prayer that we may be blessed with the energy needed to help make justice more of a reality right where we are. We probably also need to remain aware that things are probably going to get worse before they get better, at least for some—usually the ones Jesus called “the least of these.” The U.S. and world economies are big ships, and big ships are not turned quickly or easily. But from what I have seen and experienced, Lutherans are pretty good at remaining faithful in difficult times. Our theology involves understanding that the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the world may sometimes be hard to distinguish, but they are NOT the same. We are called to be “*in* the world but not *of* it.” What that means for each believer looks different in the way she or he serves and ministers, but for all of us, it means remembering to worship the One is “all in all” and who came to “pitch his tent” among us in the person of Jesus.

Our source of reconciliation and renewal is the Holy Spirit and the body of Christ. I do not mean to use these words as “pastorspeak,” as clerical clichés which can so easily lose their meaning. We all know the walk with Christ, while joyful, is often hard. Such a call and such a life requires daily, sometimes hourly, acknowledgement of our own limitations, and faith that God has the larger picture in mind, with love and concern for all—even those we consider to be on “the wrong side of history.” I love what God says to Jonah at the end of that wonderful story, “And should I not be concerned about Ninevah (Washington?), that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left?” (Jonah 4:11).

I think the line from the inauguration speech I will remember longest is “there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit as a difficult task accomplished and nothing so telling of our character as the way we respond to the challenges we face.” “Let all who work for peace and justice say, “Amen!” (Rev. Joseph Lowry’s closing invocation.)

With hope for new beginnings,
Pastor Laurie

First with Kirst Bible Study (with Veenendaal!)

This year our weekend worship texts will be taken primarily from the gospel of Mark, with some from John woven in. On Sunday, March 1st, our monthly potluck will be preceded by a pre-Lenten Bible reading of the gospel of Mark. We began discussion of Mark at the Adult Study on Sunday, Jan. 18th and will build on that study as we read through the gospel in a single sitting. (You do not need to have been present for that study to participate.) We will meet at 3:30 in the fellowship room and will read/discuss until 5:00. All are invited to participation either one or both of these events.

Book Club to begin in February!

Lakeview Book Club will begin meeting on the 4th Monday of each month. Our first meeting will take place on Monday, Feb. 23 from 6:30-8:30. Coffee and tea will be provided. We can decide as a group if we'd like dessert as a regular feature. (Dessert will be provided at that first meeting.) Our first book will be ***The Shack***

by William P. Young, which comes highly recommended as a book that is both a good story and good theology. It is not a lengthy book and is what most readers would call an "easy read." The book is available through Amazon for \$8.49 or any

of Madison's numerous bookstores. At our first meeting, we will discuss a schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year and a possible reading list. Our first meeting will take place in the fellowship room.



Ash Wednesday and the Labyrinth

Begin Lent with contemplation and prayer through the practice of the labyrinth walk. This year, the hours when the labyrinth will be available will be Ash Wednesday, February 25 from 5:00-9:00 p.m.; Thursday, February 26 from noon to 7:00 p.m. and Friday morning, the 27th from 6:00-9:00 a.m. We hope one of these times will work for you. The labyrinth will be set up in the East Hall.



Knitting/Crocheting Ministry

The next meeting for the knitting/crocheting ministry will be on Feb. 9 from 5:30-7:30p.m. in the fellowship room upstairs. Currently some of the projects we are working on are skull caps and lap blankets for the military, prayer shawls, and squares for "Warm Up America" afghans. All knitters or crocheters or wanna be knitters or crocheters are welcome. We have had bags of yarn donated so if you need yarn, we still have some to give away. If you have any questions or are interested in learning to knit or crochet, call Mary Cragin or Kris Kirst. **Mary promises to bring cookies, too!!**



After the successful Bazaar, gifts were made to various community groups. Many thank you letters have been received and need to be shared with you. They include: Lutheran Social Services (Off the Square Club), Triangle Ministry, Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Madison-area Urban Ministry. Contributions to our own congregation, food pantry, needy families fund, were also made. So, BE PROUD of our organization and ALL who are involved.

Thank you to everyone involved in this SERVICE to others.

Keep the Faith,
Shirley Storkson

A word from the Worship and Music Ministry

Thank you to everyone who indicated interest in being lay readers and communion assistants for the coming year. The list for people to assist during the 10:30 services was particularly gratifying, giving us a good rotation of people for each month. The volunteer list for the 8:00 services is considerably lighter (8 people for readers, 10 for communion assistants), which means that people's names will be repeated frequently on the schedule each month. If problems arise, I hope people will continue to contact me directly or leave a message with Nancy in the church office (Nancy Anderson, 241-6181, offickview@charterinternet.com) to adjust your schedule as needed (especially on the days when the choir sings or the bells ring). Or people can continue to contact a sub to be reader on their own, if needed. Thank you again.

Verallyn Cline

12-Hour Blitz

All youth and friends in grades 6-9 are invited to use the enclosed registration form and register for the 12-Hour Blitz event to be held all night, March 20/21. Pastor Kirst will be the lead chaperone and there will be other adults present. It's a night of fun at Lakeview. Pastor Laurie will be awarding 10 points to any confirmation student who attends. Invite your friends. There will be a sleeping room for those who wish to sleep. We must have ALL the information included on the registration form. Cost is \$5.00 per attendee. Pastor Kirst is planning lots of crazy things. You can even come in your pajamas if you want to. For safety purposes, we will remain in the building all night and you must plan on spending the night if you sign up. It is also necessary to provide us with the name and the phone number of the adult who will be picking up the youth on Saturday morning. We will serve breakfast before the kids depart at 8:00 am.

Road Home Volunteers Update

Lakeview will assist Immanuel Lutheran on Spaight Street with the Road Home Homeless Program for the first time in February. Thirty-two people from our congregation have participated in the required training to serve as volunteers. The volunteer list for February is below;

Sunday, Feb 1

René and Garry Puzach-cooks
Susan and Sterling Lynk family-
hosts
Marlene Hardick-host
Chris Anders-overnight
Pastor Dean-overnight

Monday, Feb 2

Becky and Jason Buchda family-
cooks
Devin Fowler-host
Patty Castillo-host
Deb Meyers-host
Todd, Linda and Charlie Schaack-
overnight

Tuesday, Feb 3

Colleen and Keith Kerl family-cooks
Jan Pond-host
Doris Hicks-host
Mary Beth Riley-host
Marlene Creaser-overnight
Dale Matthews-overnight

Future weeks in 2009 when we will require volunteers to assist at Immanuel are April 4-12 (*yes, it's Holy Week*), October 18-25 and December 27-Jan 3. If you have not been trained, but would like to volunteer in this program, you can receive the required training at The Road Home offices at 128 East Olin Avenue on Feb 3 at 7:00 pm, Feb. 18 at 5:30 pm, Mar 11 at 7:00 pm and Mar 24 at 5:30 pm. The training is one hour. We thank Mary Cragin, René Puzach and Kris Kirst for being our congregation coordinators. You may be hearing from them in the future.

Worship Attendance

For the first time since 2001, the average weekly worship attendance at Lakeview decreased in 2008 instead of increased as in the previous years. We know our salvation is not based on our regular worship attendance but we also know that we are called to worship and give thanks to a God who loves us unconditionally and provides for our needs. We are enriched through our worship practices and the weekly celebration of Holy Communion.



ATTENDANCE

We also know that we are called to be together in community and worship is one of the ways that we can do that. If you have been a marginal worshiper in 2008 or if you have slipped away from regular worship and communion practices, this is an invitation to return. Remember we worship every Saturday evening in the historic chapel at 5:00 pm. This is a very informal and abbreviated service for those who are unable to be part of the Sunday morning worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 am. See you in worship in 2009!

South Central Synod Assembly

Our synod will meet in assembly on June 6 and 7, 2009. Yes, that is a Saturday and Sunday. The assembly will be held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Our congregation is encouraged to send both pastors and a male and female lay member of the congregation. At the present time, we are only planning on attending the assembly on Saturday June 6 as we will be celebrating with our graduating seniors on Sunday June 7. The council is looking for one male and one female member of Lakeview to attend the assembly. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Dean, Pastor Laurie or Linda Schaack our council president.

Special Offerings

On Super Bowl weekend, we will receive a special offering at the conclusion of each service. This offering will be given to the Lakeview Food Pantry. If we raise \$3,200 before June 30 for the food pantry, Thrivent will contribute \$1,600 to the food pantry in addition. Make your checks to Lakeview Lutheran Church and note that they are for "food pantry." Cash is welcome also but cannot be credited to your giving statement unless you note your name and envelope number. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 in the "Souper Bowl" offering on Super Bowl weekend.

We will also hold a second special offering on the weekend of Feb 28/March 1. This offering will go to all the students from our synod who are attending seminaries. It will assist them with the cost of books and tuition. Again, make checks to Lakeview Lutheran Church and note that it's for the seminary fund.

Several years ago, the church council decided to remove some of these charitable situations from the annual budget and hold special offerings throughout the year. Last year the "Souper Bowl" offering raised \$1,000 for the Loaves and Fishes meal site in Biloxi and the seminary offering raised \$700 for students.

Thank you for supporting these important outreach ministries.

Thank you . . .

For 19 years, Lakeview Lutheran Church has participated in Truax Christmas Food Baskets. Thank you for caring for our neighbors. You truly make a difference.

Sincerely,
Arlene Phillips

www.lakeviewlutheranchurch.org

Remember to check out the church web site regularly. We update pictures often. Recently we have added youth retreat pictures, knitting/crocheting pictures, Lutefisk Dinner pictures and more. You can always find the monthly newsletter and calendar on the web site. And the wedding policy, funeral policy, affirmation of household covenants policy are there.

You can even download a copy of the Simply Giving form if you wish to make your offering using the electronic transfer system as many people already do. Also, on the opening page of the web site you will always find current information about activities at Lakeview. If we have to cancel a worship service or other activities due to weather, we will note that on the opening page of the web site as well. So, don't forget to make the church web site your friend! It's a very valuable tool for all of us.

By the way, a huge thank you to Bill Shelton from our congregation who voluntarily and very efficiently maintains the web site.

Adult Mission Trip

After five adult mission trips in 2006 and 2007, we didn't take any in 2008. It's time for the adults of our congregation to go on another mission trip. There will be a special meeting on Sunday, March 8 during the education hour to discuss a trip in the spring. The meeting will be in the Fellowship Room. If you are interested in sharing a week of your time to do "hands-on" ministry, come to the meeting. The trips we have taken to Biloxi and St. Bernard Parish have been helpful, memorable, meaningful and certainly a way to build relationships with people in those communities and with one another from Lakeview.



12-Hour BLITZ

Middle School Youth

Lakeview Lutheran Church

8:00 pm Friday, March 20

TO

8:00 am Saturday March 21

Arrive at 8:00 pm, bring a sleeping bag, pillow and toothbrush. There will be pizza, soda, cookies, games, movies, crafts, fire in fireplace, breakfast and many other crazy things. Anyone in grades 6-9 may attend. You MUST register in advance and you MUST plan to spend the night. We'll have a sleeping room for those who want to sleep/read.

.....

Youth name and phone _____

Adult contact name/phone _____

Second adult contact name/phone _____

Allergies or special needs of youth _____

Name/phone of person picking youth up at 8:00 am _____

**Return with \$5.00 attached to Pastor Kirst
Form MUST be completed in it's entirety.**