

LAKE SIDE NEWS

DECEMBER 2025



Lakeside Community Lutheran Church

28626 County Rd H
Webster, WI 54893

(715) 624-4664

aandhlclc@gmail.com
lakesidelutheranwi.com

Pastor Peter Johnson
(715) 566-1992

Worship with
Holy Communion every
Sunday at 10 am

Live Stream on our
YouTube Channel

Join me this Advent season as we journey to Bethlehem in hopeful waiting for the gift of the One who comes to us in humility and vulnerability. Read more in "Ponderings with Pastor Peter".

In this issue:

- **A Christmas Message from Bishop Martin Halom**
- **Council Corner: GOD Continues to Move at Lakeside**
- **Outreach:** See how Lakeside supports our community.
- **Christmas Poinsettias** - Order yours now! See Page 5

Do you have announcements for the
bulletin or this newsletter?

Please forward to
julieslclc@gmail.com
(Note change in email address.)

For Your Attention!

Lakeside has a new telephone number!

(715) 624-4664

Please update your contacts, favorites,
speed dials & rolodex!



PONDERINGS WITH PASTOR PETER



*⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.*

*⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!*



Dear Lakeside Beloved's,

Many years ago as a young adult, I was asked by a non-church goer what Advent was. Admittedly, I don't remember my exact response. Albeit I'm sure that I stumbled through an explanation about how we light a candle every Sunday for some reason that I didn't understand and how as a kid, we would have an "Advent Calendar" where we would open up a little door each day, and in hopefulness, get a piece of candy for our efforts in appeasing mom by reading a Bible verse or something of the sorts.

Throughout the years I have been able to hone my answer into at least a bit more of a cohesive thought and response. Thus if I'm ever asked what Advent is, my answer is simply, "Advent is our season when we wait in hopefulness [for the Messiah]."

Visiting with a colleague recently, I confessed that Advent has always been my least favorite liturgical season. It's not that I discredit its necessity or the theological premise for its existence. Simply for me, it has always felt like a bit of a buzz kill. After all, it wasn't that many months earlier that we journeyed to the cross, experienced the fulcrum point of our theological convictions and creedal confessions. Subsequently, hopeful waiting and the birth of Jesus of Nazareth seemed unnecessary and old news. However, as I grow older, meet more and more people with little or no church connection, and value teaching our children about the Christian faith, I can see the importance of Advent: waiting in hopefulness.

That is, no matter who I talk to, we're all waiting for something. Some of us are waiting for a loved one to hit rock bottom so they will be ready and willing to accept their powerlessness and receive help. Some of us are waiting for test results or a treatment plan. Some of us are waiting to hear the whisper of God to let us know what the right decision is to make. Some of us, including children, are waiting for a gift.

Isaiah 2:4-5 speaks in hopefulness for an idyllic reality of coexistence in light of God's judgment. These two verses are smack dab in the middle of divisive power, disregard for people and their homes, and the lack of care for the neighbor. However disheartening the scene of war and chaos is, especially in a season of waiting, we see that there is hope, even in God's judgement.

So then, what does God's judgement look like? It looks like all people forging strong relationships, not steel for swords and weapons. It looks like all people, building tables, not barriers. It looks like all people, learning a new way; the way of love in light of Love.

Join me this Advent season as we journey to Bethlehem in hopeful waiting for the gift of the One who comes to us in humility and vulnerability that some thirty years later, forged all people together as one body in Christ, calling each of us to walk in light of the Lord!

Advent blessings,
Pastor Peter





COUNCIL CORNER

GOD CONTINUES TO BE ON THE MOVE!

God continued to be on the Move this past month with a huge thank you to the Communications Committee, led by Cindy Paulson, who worked diligently to review the present LCLC website, to delete what is outdated, correct what needed to be updated, and to organize it into a format that will now be ready to move us forward. Pastor Peter has arranged with a colleague of his to help us transition to a more user friendly website host at a less expensive monthly cost. This effort supports our Congregational goal of Outreach to our members and community.

The past several months staff and Council have been working to assure that the transition of snowbirds and staff (Julie) to southern climates will be seamless. Thank you to Laurie Lundeen, Sue Oslund, Cindy Paulson, Marcia Proehl, and Deb Studley for anchoring the office so that clerical and website projects can continue. Julie Swan, as Office Administrator, has been an amazing asset to coordinate the many transitions that have been implemented to improve our efficiency.

With our new logo, our focus on outreach, and recognition that our present sign is outdated, Bob Proehl offered to lead the research as to the feasibility of moving into the digital age with a new outdoor sign. He has been phenomenal in his research and identification of options while always looking for the best and most economical recommendation. With

his leadership and presentation of information, the project has been supported at the Communications Committee and Council level but always subject to financial feasibility, which will be our challenge.

The financial commitment was made by our Congregation at our annual meeting to accept a 15% increase in the 2026 budget, primarily for adjusting to a 12 month annual commitment for our Pastor, cost of living increases for our staff, and inflation for general operating costs. God is on the move, guiding us, but it is each one of us individually that will make the difference by committing to increase our giving during the coming year. Giving is not only a financial decision – it's a spiritual act of trust and discipleship to build a welcoming and thriving Church where our community can worship.

Our success in 2025 would not have been possible without your financial gifts, your time, your energy, and your talents. Together we can continue to support Lakeside Community Lutheran Church to be a Spirit-filled Church that touches lives throughout our community through ministry and outreach.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful holiday season,

Kathy LeMay, Council President



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

The Qualified Charitable Distribution allows individuals who are 70-1/2 years old or older, to donate to the church directly by using distributions from your IRA. The main benefit is that this distribution is not included in the donor's taxable income, effectively lowering your tax liability. And, it can be used to satisfy your annual required minimum distribution (RMD). I simply contacted my 401(k) administrator and had them mail a check directly to the church. If I had asked for a distribution directly to me to pay the church, I would have been taxed on the amount. This option allows you to give a dollar for dollar donation. It is a win, win!

Evie Moore



EMMANUEL GOD WITH US

As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the

concept of incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin



LAKESIDE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Loving Christ through Loving Community

YELLOW LAKE FOOD DISTRIBUTION



Thank you everyone that helped out with food this month; it was a great turnout and everyone did a wonderful job. I am sorry to say we ran completely out of food. Every last can was handed out.

We served 637 families, a total of 1,885 people who we helped. We handed out 21,161 pounds of food and spent \$4,834.11 on cereal, 4 kinds of soup, oatmeal, hot dogs, fish, peaches, green beans, stuffing and gravy.

I want to thank the churches that participate in collecting food every month. It REALLY comes in handy...more than you know!

I am thankful this year for my wonderful volunteers that come month after month to help those in need. I could not do this without you, so THANK YOU!

Debbie O'Connell
Yellow Lake Food Distribution

CRESCENT LAKE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In November we were able to help the local schools with supplies they needed. The schools involved were Siren, Webster and Spooner. Each year we get a list from each district and help them with items that they have no funds for. This includes winter jackets, boots, snow pants, sweatpants, sweatshirts, socks, personal hygiene supplies, snacks, etc.

The report for the Thanksgiving Baskets will be in the January Newsletter. We want to thank everyone for their very generous donations toward this project.

\$1,216.45	Webster School
961.67	Siren School
<u>861.84</u>	Spooner School
\$ 3,039.96	Total for 3 Schools

Thank you for supporting Crescent Lake Outreach.
God Bless!

Margy Rogers, Committee Member

DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

The December Mission of the Month will support the Yellow Lake Food Distribution program. The Endowment Committee will match up to \$3,000 of donations received. Let's support this much needed ministry for our community and fully fund the food distribution in the month of December!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Hello Lakeside! You can be part of our Christmas decorations. The Worship & Music committee is working with Austin's in Webster and will take orders through December 8th. You can give a poinsettia in memory of someone, blessings given, or an event. Please complete the form included in the bulletin or found in the narthex and include a check made out to "Lakeside" with the memo "Poinsettias". Forms can be placed in the offering basket or in the office mailbox. If you have questions, please call Linda Speidel at (952) 334-1914. Your poinsettia can be picked up after the worship service on Sunday, December 28th.

LIBRARY NEWS

With the cooler weather making you want to snuggle in, it's a perfect time to take a book from our library. Here are a few for the month of December.

- Lynn Austin's book "A Women's Place". On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was bombed. This shows how life changed for four very different women after the men went off to war. Their beliefs are challenged and they struggle towards new understanding of what love and sacrifice truly means.

With the Christmas theme we have:

- "Operation Christmas Child". The stories behind Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes for Kids. This project brings great joy to millions of children around the world.

- Guidepost "Christmas Stories of Faith". Guidepost has always had uplifting inspirational stories to reinforce your faith.

There are many other fiction/nonfiction, etc. on our shelves, so take some time to see what we have and sign out a book to enjoy. Happy reading!

Wishing everyone a Very Blessed Christmas,
Library Committee,
Bonnie, Dawn, Jill

October Attendance

In Person	305
On-Line	26
Recording Viewers	173

December Birthdays

Daryl Sulander	12/01
Linda Speidel	12/02
Kathryn Groves	12/03
Judy Wilson	12/07
John Nelson	12/08
Mark Snyder	12/10
Sheila Treise	12/12
John Lahner	12/13
Kathy Schneiberg	12/18
Joe Connor	12/19
Greg Voegele	12/21
Linda Dobson	12/24
Pauline Nelson	12/24
Dick Haag	12/28
Don Ward	12/28



WELCA NEWS

The November Mission of the Month was "Christmas for Kids". Because of your generosity, many children in Burnett County will have a wonderful Christmas, thanks to all the gifts our donations bought and dispersed. The items of the "Hat & Mitten Tree" will help to keep many children warm this winter. We know Christmas is not all about the presents, but the kids will know there are many people who really care for them.

Upcoming Events:

- The December WELCA meeting is cancelled. Future dates will be announced.
- Gather Bible Study: Will not meet in December, but we will meet via Zoom on January 22, February 26, and March 26, 2026 at 12:30 PM Central Time. To join, please contact Brenda Wheeler at brendawheeler50@gmail.com for the link.

We are looking forward to the new year and will keep you posted on upcoming events!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Co-Presidents Jolyne Peterson & Sandie Fisher.



NOVEMBER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Shepherding Group:

Conveners Bob & Vicki Struve

Ken Dobson	Jolyne Peterson
Terri Elfstrom	Mick Peterson
Sandie Fisher	Chuck Royce
Deb & Roger Jackson	Jill Schroeder
Gary & Jodee Kratz	Dawn Straub
Ken & Norma Olson	Pat & Daryl Sulander
Sue Oslund	Sandy Swanson
Larry & Sharon Wiemken	

Counters Deb & Roger Jackson

Stream Team:

Marshall Hoff
Cindy Paulson
Margy Rogers
Tim Smith

THANK YOU!

MISSION OF THE MONTH UPDATE:

Thankofferings have been central to the life of Women of the ELCA since our founding – and Lutheran women have gathered to make Thankofferings since long before that. Thankofferings are gifts made in gratitude for the blessings that God has so generously poured out upon us – blessings that we could never pay back, but that we can certainly pay forward.

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. These ministries include educational resources about giving and managing money, including devotions, Bible studies, and program materials for individuals and small groups; scholarships for Lutheran laywomen; the racial justice advocacy network; working to end human trafficking; advancing the health of women and girls; providing education to women about the signs of domestic abuse and violence and the services available in their communities.

Lakeside Community Lutheran Church has long supported and invited local organizations that provide services to victims of domestic abuse, provide family resources such as parent education, diaper pantries, pregnancy help services, food shelf initiatives and more.

Thank you to all who donated to this year's Thankoffering endeavor and to Pastor Susan Odegard for conducting a worship service highlighting the lives of Ruth and Naomi, the woman who touched Jesus' cloak and was immediately healed, conducting communion and installing the current officers of our local WELCA group.

All donations will be forwarded to the churchwide ELCA women's organization in support of the activities and services mentioned above.

Jolyne Peterson and Sandie Fisher, Co-Presidents
Brenda Wheeler, Secretary
Deb Studley, Treasurer
Dawn Straub, Mission Quilting

December 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	2 Quilting - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal - 4 PM AA - 7 PM	3 Yoga - 9:00 AM Bible Study - 9:30	4 Fellowship at JoMama's Men's Breakfast - 8:00 AM Women's Coffee - 9:00 AM Property Committee - 9:00 Community Quilters - 10 am ADRC - 11:30 AM	5 ADRC - 11:30 AM	6
7 Sunday School - 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal - 9:15 AM Worship - 10:00 AM	8 ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	9 Quilting - 9:00 AM Worship & Music - 10 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal - 4 PM AA - 7 PM	10 Yoga - 9:00 AM Bible Study - 9:30	11 Fellowship at JoMama's Men's Breakfast - 8:00 AM Women's Coffee - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM	12 ADRC - 11:30 AM	13
14 Sunday School - 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal - 9:15 AM Worship - 10:00 AM	15 ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	16 Quilting - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal - 4 PM AA - 7 PM	17 Yellow Lake Food Dist - 8 AM Yoga - 9:00 AM Bible Study - 9:30	18 Yellow Lake Food Dist - 8 AM Fellowship at JoMama's Men's Breakfast - 8:00 AM Women's Coffee - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM	19 ADRC - 11:30 AM	20 Newsletter Deadline
21 Sunday School - 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal - 9:15 AM Worship - 10:00 AM	22 ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	23 Quilting - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal - 4 PM AA - 7 PM	24 Christmas Eve NO Yoga Worship: 4 PM	25 Christmas Day	26 ADRC - 11:30 AM	27
28 Sunday School - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:00 AM	29 ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	30 Quilting - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM AA - 7 PM	31 Yoga - 9:00 AM			