

# LAKE SIDE NEWS

MARCH 2026

## Lakeside Community Lutheran Church

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**Pastor Peter Johnson**  
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Worship with  
Holy Communion every  
Sunday at 10 am

Live Stream on our  
YouTube Channel



Lent is the season for us to remember that God's desire is a deep relationship with us; in the messiness and gloriousness of our humanness. Read more in "Ponderings with Pastor Peter".



### In this issue:

- Council Corner: New technology coming this spring!
- Kids Zone: Photos from the February 8th blessing
- National Quilting Day: A day of "piece" - pg 7



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

NW Synod Assembly	4/25
Reconnection Dinner	5/30
Vacation Bible School	7/6 - 7/10
Chuck Craine Concert	8/26

**Spring Forward!**  
**Daylight Saving Time begins**  
**Sunday, March 8th**  
**Set your clocks ahead!**



Do you have announcements for the bulletin or this newsletter?

Please forward to

**julieslclc@gmail.com**

(Note change in email address.)



## PONDERINGS WITH PASTOR PETER

*Matthew 26:39*

*<sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want."*

Dear Lakeside Beloved's,

I was told once that if your understanding of God hasn't changed, then you're probably not hangin' out with Him very much. This bothered me. Growing up, I attended CCD every Wednesday, Mass every Sunday, and every Holy Day of Obligation. Heck, even in tech school, the farm I lived on let me leave early on Sunday mornings so I could go to church. Most of my adult life before seminary was feeling the void of not knowing enough about God. When granted the opportunity to study theology full-time, I was never satisfied when a seminary course was over. That is, it only fueled my irritability that I still didn't know enough about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit. It was at this intersection of head and heart that my understanding of God began to change.

One of my not so favorite memories of Lent growing up was having to give something up. I did not know, let alone understand, the significance in fasting (no meat on Friday's), sacrifice, and the need to strip ourselves of whatever it is in life that distracts us from Jesus. The doctrine of demand to do such things could muster up a moralism or legalism that if we don't, we are doing something wrong or might not quite do all that is required to experience the resurrection through eternal life. Thus my understanding of Lent was this: Focus on the distractions.

Roughly 13 years ago, NEEDTOBREATHE released the song "Garden." It's an interpretation of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane. In the song you hear the gravity of what Jesus is feeling. What strikes me most however, is how the lyrics capture the second half of verse 39 in Matthew 26; "...yet not what I want but what you want." In this ½ verse, we see a

shift in focus. Jesus shifts the focus from his desire to have his impending death and pain and anguish relieved, to seeking God's desire. What would happen if we tried to let go of what frightens us and focus on what God wants from us...for us? I believe that it would lead us to this question.

What does God want from us or for us? The answer? Relationship. That's it. Relationship.

Jesus the Christ, in all of his human-ness and God-ness, chose to lean into his relationship with the Father with all the fear, anxiety, and anguish that his earthly existence provided. There was no pious submission. No radiant walk of honor into the hands of his persecutors. Just trembling hands, bended knees, gazing eyes, and an aching heart. Focused.

Over the years I've learned that Lent is not a list of distractions or the focus of our shortcomings. It is not a test of our faithfulness or a gauge for piety. Lent is the season for us to remember that God's desire is a deep relationship with us; in the messiness and gloriousness of our humanness. Therefore, let us not be distracted by that which distracts us. Let us focus on the God that "so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." for it is "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him

[Garden, Needtobreathe](#)

Lenten blessings and Jesus loves you!

Pastor Peter



# Council Corner



## Stewardship

At our February Council meeting, we reviewed the January financial results and while it may be a timing issue, our expected offerings for the month were below the target. We are hopeful that this won't be the norm and that the commitment to increase our giving will be achieved throughout the year.

## Outreach

Our newly created Kids Zone is finalized and was blessed during February worship. Again, we are grateful to the families of young children who brought this request forward and for their support of our commitment to Sunday School and youth involvement in our worship services.

Our website is a work in progress and so much is happening under the leadership of Cindy Paulson. We have a new look, updated information, engaging photos, and a focus on outreach to our community. Please take time to look at the site as it continues to be enhanced and use it as a way to stay connected to current and future information.

## Technology Goal

I am excited to report that the goal of updating our church environment continues to happen and the first part of our focus on technology is to upgrade the sanctuary sound system as approved by the Council.

The project, under the leadership of Marshall Hoff and Mick Peterson, became affordable through their thorough review with the audio company as to what was needed by a church our size. Funding the new system is made possible with memorials from the families of Joyce Hoagland and Robert Zietsch, both of whom worshipped remotely when they were no longer able to physically attend worship. Anticipated installation will be this spring.

## LCLC 40th Anniversary

Initial planning for celebrations throughout 2026 has started with a planning discussion at the February Council meeting. Consensus was to capitalize on multiple events throughout the year, rather than one mass celebration. Mark your calendar now for the Reconnect Dinner on May 30 and the Chuck Craine Music Concert on August 26. Research is underway to develop "Church Merch" highlighting our new logo and colors. More ideas for events will follow as planning continues. The committee welcomes anyone who would like to share in making this celebration a great one!

Kathy LeMay

On behalf of the LCLC Council



## KIDS ZONE BLESSING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

Blessings flowed and the Spirit was felt as we asked for God's blessing upon this space.

Where two or three are gathered, truly Christ is in our midst.





## Kids Zone: A story of Gospel, Gratitude, and Giving

*Philippians 1:27; 2:4*

<sup>27</sup> *“Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel...”*

<sup>4</sup> *“Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.”*

Standing firm in one spirit and through the approval for the transformation of a holy and sacred space in the sanctuary, our council proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ by affirming that all ages, wiggles and all, are valued members of the community that deserve a place to call church home too.

In solidarity, our Endowment committee stood alongside the Kids Zone families and affirmed through their generosity that children are indeed seen, welcome, and home.

Gathered in-person and online, with one mind and faith-filled hearts, our congregation asked for God’s blessing upon the Kids Zone, all present, and those yet to come.

The apostle Paul writes to the congregation in Philippi, encouraging them to see that the way of the gospel is Christ’s love and generosity in action, seeking first the interests of the others before themselves. Our congregation, called into being by the power of the Holy Spirit and sustained through your generosity, serves together in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Therefore, as one body, living faithfully into another month of stewarding our Lakeside Community Lutheran Church into the sustainable future by continuing to increase our giving by \$50.00/month/household, let us give thanks for the opportunity to seek the interests of others by loving Christ through loving community.

In gratitude for your generous and gospel-filled hearts,  
Pastor Peter





# LAKESIDE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Loving Christ through Loving Community*

## YELLOW LAKE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We appreciate the efforts of all those who helped this month. We typically see a decrease in volunteers in February as many individuals travel south, yet our team collaborated efficiently and provided support to 598 families, assisting a total of 1,787 people. We distributed nearly 20,000 pounds of food and spent \$5,009.78 for the purchase of cereal, two types of soup, peaches, green beans, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, tuna, tuna helper, margarine, chicken thighs and legs, and ground chicken.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission. You are the best!

See you next month on March 18th and 19th.

Debbie O'Connell  
Yellow Lake Food Distribution

## CRESCENT LAKE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In February we were able to help with the following:

Electricity	\$300.00
Rent	<u>150.00</u>
Total	<u>\$450.00</u>

If you know of someone struggling with their bills, please encourage them to call us. They can call the church office any time and the office will contact us.

Thank you for your support of Crescent Lake!

Margy Rogers, Committee Member.

## YELLOW LAKE FOOD DISTRIBUTION 2025 RECAP

Families Served	7,131
Total People	20,605
Dollars Spent	\$60,761.22
Total Pounds	272,813

Thank You, Lakeside,  
for your continuing support.



## MARCH FOOD OF THE MONTH

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Let's fill the box!



## February Attendance

In Person 182  
Recording Viewers 300

## FEBRUARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Shepherding Group:

#### Conveners: Dawn & Doug Straub

Lisa & Greg Voegel  
Sheila & Mark Treise  
Heidi, Bob, Rachel & Carter Hanson



#### Counters: Dave & Linda Speidel

#### Stream Team:

Marshall Hoff  
Cindy Paulson  
Margy Rogers  
Tim Smith

#### Song Leaders:

Laura Smith  
Dave Speidel  
Linda Speidel  
Vern Umholtz

#### Altar Guild:

Mary Danielson  
Cindy Paulson

**THANK YOU!**

### March Birthdays

Sandy McCollum	3/02
Diane Hoff	3/04
Roger Jackson	3/09
Jodee Kratz	3/10
Diane Gobel	3/12
Adin Treague	3/15
Marty Janey	3/16
Joyce Bailey	3/20
Roger Knudsen	3/20
Tom Rogers	3/21
Lois Haag	3/22
Jakobe Johnson	3/29
Randy Bennett	3/31



## WORSHIP & MUSIC NEWS

- With Holy Week approaching, the choir is resuming and welcomes new singers. If interested, or know someone who is, please contact Dave or Linda Speidel at 612-812-9931.
- We are pleased to announce that Nicholle Schuelke will join the service music team in March, sharing responsibilities with Judi. Nikki will be playing the piano a couple of times a month.
- Watch for upcoming details about ordering lilies and other spring flowers for the Easter Flower Garden around the altar.

## WELCA NEWS



- Thank you to everyone who made our Ash Wednesday soup and fellowship a big success despite the snow and ice.
- Fair trade coffee will still be served at fellowship, but due to increased costs, it will only be available for purchase at bake/craft sales.

- Upcoming Events:

Board Meeting: April 13 at 10 am in the library.

Synod Retreat: June 29 & 30, Luther Park in Chetek (details and registration coming soon).

Triennial Gathering: July 16–19, Des Moines, Iowa.



Submitted by co-presidents Jolyne Peterson and Sandie Fisher.



## LIBRARY NEWS

March is here, bringing spring closer!

Booklets with Bible studies are available on the left bookshelves in our library. If you can't join group studies but wish to learn more, feel free to take one for personal or family use. They cover various topics and can be used daily or weekly.

We hope these resources support your faith journey.

Library Committee,  
Bonnie, Dawn, and Jill



## MISSION QUILTING

*Let's have a day of Peace...Piecing Quilts, that is!*

National Quilting Day is in March, so we're joining in by piecing quilt tops for our World Relief Mission Quilts on Friday, March 13th from 9–2. Anyone can help and have some fun working together. There is a job for everyone, and everyone is invited.

Please bring something to share for lunch so we can enjoy time together around the table. We've already packed nearly 150 quilts, which puts us well on our way to reaching our goal of 250 again this year. Last year, we surpassed expectations by shipping 342 quilts—maybe we can do it again this year!

We hope to have a great turnout on March 13th!



## March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sunday School - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:00 AM	<b>2</b> ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	<b>3</b> Quilting - 9:00 AM Worship & Music - 10 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM AA - 7 PM	<b>4</b> Yoga - 9:00 AM Bible Study - 9:30 AM	<b>5</b> Fellowship at JoMama's Men's Breakfast - 8:00 AM Women's Coffee - 9:00 AM Community Quilters - 9:30 AM ADRC - 11:30 - AM Choir Rehearsal - 4 PM	<b>6</b> ADRC - 11:30 AM	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Daylight Saving Time Sunday School - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:00 AM	<b>9</b> ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	<b>10</b> Quilting - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM AA - 7 PM	<b>11</b> Yoga - 9:00 AM Council Meeting - 1 PM	<b>12</b> Fellowship at JoMama's Men's Breakfast - 8:00 AM Women's Coffee - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM	<b>13</b> Quilting - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> No Sunday School Worship - 10:00 AM	<b>16</b> ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	<b>17</b> Quilting - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM AA - 7 PM	<b>18</b> Yellow Lake Food Dist - 8 AM Yoga - 9:00 AM	<b>19</b> 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	<b>20</b> First Day of Spring! Newsletter Deadline ADRC - 11:30 AM	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sunday School - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:00 AM	<b>23</b> ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	<b>24</b> Quilting - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM AA - 7 PM	<b>25</b> Yoga - 9:00 AM	<b>26</b> Fellowship at JoMama's Men's Breakfast - 8:00 AM Women's Coffee - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal - 4 PM	<b>27</b> ADRC - 11:30 AM	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Palm Sunday Sunday School - 9:00 AM Worship - 10:00 AM	<b>30</b> ADRC - 11:30 AM Yoga - 6:00 PM	<b>31</b> Quilting - 9:00 AM ADRC - 11:30 AM AA - 7 PM				