

LAKESHORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE OPEN DOOR

July 2023

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door..." Revelations 3:8



Editor: Bev Matlas

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SUNDAY 10AM

-OR-

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The Message

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| July 2 | Pastor Bill | July 30 | Pastor Bill |
| July 9 | Pastor Bill | Aug 6 | Pastor Bre |
| July 16 | Pastor Bre | Aug 13 | Pastor Bill |
| July 23 | Pastor Bill | Aug 20 | Pastor Bill |



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In God We Trust

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Lakeshore Church Family & Friends,

Sometimes in our lives bad things happen that we wish would not have occurred. Three weeks ago one of our good members came to Sunday morning worship. She hung her coat on the rack in the hallway as most of us do when we wear a coat on a rainy day, which it was. After worship she exited the sanctuary and went to retrieve her coat. It was not where she had hung it. She looked up and down the clothes rack, but did not see it. Where had it gone?

I have three ideas about what happened to the missing coat:

1. One of our church family mistook the overcoat for her own; she put it on, not realizing the coat was not hers. She took it home, hung it up and that's where it hangs to this day.
2. Someone not from our church walked in while we were in worship, saw the attractive coat, quickly took it off the hanger and left without anyone in worship seeing the thief.
3. An individual in worship saw the attractive coat knowing it was not theirs and intentionally took it home.

I tend to believe that the third option is the least likely, but it is possible. Lakeshore is not an ivory tower for saints, but a hospital for sinners. Jesus said, "The Son of Man came to seek out and save the lost." (Luke 19:10) While I would prefer not to consider the possibility of #3, it surely is possible. Each one of us is capable of sin - any kind of sin. Pastor Roxie and I accepted the position of Executive Presbyter, overseeing 42 churches in central Nebraska in 1989. The former Executive Presbyter had been forced to vacate the position after he was convicted of molesting many young boys over 20+ years. I wish it weren't true, but sin is part of all of our lives, which is why we join with others in worship each Sunday to confess our "common sins" or "shared sins," then confess our personal sins in private prayer, and then hear the "Assurance of Pardon," God's forgiveness.

The reason we join together as Lakeshore Church is to experience a better quality life by hearing the truth: we all are sinners and Christ died to take our sin upon himself. As forgiven sinners we come into God's presence as God's children. As God's children we receive an inheritance - which includes eternal life. Our lives go better with God.

Many times through the years when I have lost something, it has turned up in the strangest weirdest places, which is unexplainable. When we had kids at home I blamed it on the kids, but now that we only have a cat at home many mysteries remain unexplainable.

If you look in your closet and see a dark button-down women's overcoat, please bring it to the church and hang it on the rack. It may be the lost overcoat! And the mystery of the lost coat will be unexplainable no longer. Together let us seek the will of God.

Pastor Bill



Fellowship

God IS Love and Grace

“I am my beloved, and my beloved is mine.” Song of Solomon 6:3. (And many other verses that tell us we’re God’s beloved!)

How do you imagine God is?

Do you think when we call Him ‘Love’ and ‘Grace’, He’s sitting on His throne high above and constantly scrutinizing, looking for every imperfection, critiquing us and putting little black marks next to our name (or next to the name of someone who just ticked US off?) :in the Book of Life every time we misstep? I’m really hoping you said no to that!

Then why do so many of us act like we can never get life right, can never be good enough as we are, no matter how much we strive to do better?

I’ve been taking various online classes by Dr. Mark Virkler with CWG Ministries. I love that he talks about HOW God loves us - with JOY!

Since God created us, and He knew what He was getting into, do you think anything we do is a surprise to Him? If He knew He was going to end up hating us or being perpetually irritated by who we are, wouldn’t He have tweaked the model before He breathed life into us?

The images that come to mind when I follow Dr. Virkler’s meditations or instructions on how to ‘journal with Jesus’, make me smile and leave me believing God is actually glad to talk with me. He gives me a big ole’ smile and with twinkling eyes holds His arms out wide for a big hug. He always has time for me, and comforts or encourages or heals or gives wisdom or just listens.

And you know what? He’s that way for every one of us. (Nowhere in the Bible is there an asterisk with the note “Except for you”.)

(cont'd on page 5)

The E&O Committee has many events planned for July. We hope you can join us at these events.

July 8th is Game Night beginning at 6pm. At the June Game Night a few of us met to play a fun game of Rummikub. The Smalldons and Osbornes took a break from their Euchre tournament. We hope they'll pick up the action on the 8th. See you then.

On **July 15th, Pizza and a Movie** will begin at 6pm. Pastor Roxie oversees choosing the movie. It promises to be a good one.

July 19th is our monthly **Potluck Dinner** beginning at 6pm. Bring a dish to share or just come and enjoy a good meal and conversation with old and new friends.



Barb and Drew Merritt entertained us the June potluck. Perhaps they will join us again.

We all enjoyed their guitar music and fun songs.

July 29 Pie & Ice Cream Social 3-5 pm. Enjoy one of Linda Smalldon's delicious home baked pies topped with a creamy scoop of ice cream. Mmmm... doesn't get any better!

Community Corner



Lori Pollack

Miracles Surround Us

The Biblical definition of a “miracle” may be summarized as “an event that involves the direct and all-powerful action of God, an event which transcends the ordinary laws of nature and defying common expectations of behavior”.

Our Lord’s first miracle was the transformation of water into wine at the wedding of Cana in Galilee, where Jesus transformed the water from stone jars used for ceremonial washing into wine. This was the first time he exhibited his supernatural abilities in public. One lesson that can be interpreted from this miracle is that Jesus can provide for us in every aspect of our lives. We may not always get what we want but the power of our Lord can meet our needs and empower us to a deeper relationship with our Lord.

Miracles occur on a daily basis in the world.



Recently, four young children, who survived an airplane crash in the Amazon jungle survived 40 days and were rescued. The

eldest girl utilized the skills passed down from generation to generation of living off the jungle and surviving on cassava flour, fruits and water from leaves in the jungle. Many heroes assisted in this rescue endeavor from the military to indigenous peoples to several tracking dogs. One of the dogs is credited in finding the children, stayed with them for several days but ultimately this dog and several others were lost in the jungle.

That being said, our Lord guided each person and animal to find these children and bring them to safety.



Return to Tradition

For the first time since the Covid 19 Pandemic, the congregation was able to Celebrate the Lord’s Supper on June 4th by partaking in the traditional form of communion of bread and juice. Those who preferred were able to choose communion in the prepackaged wafer and juice.

Serving both the traditional and the prepackaged form of communion was a wonderful compromise so that all members of the congregation can choose the form of communion they are comfortable with.

Communion on June 4th was served by Deacons, Pearl Vermander, Lori Pollack, Carol Cesefski, and Kathy Pennanen.



The gentlemen and the congregation enjoyed a Father's Day breakfast of pancakes, sausages, muffins and fruit salad on June 18th after worship.

Fellowship here at our church is a time to talk with old friends and welcome newcomers to our family.

The gentlemen of the congregation also received a cross keychain.

The E & O Committee thanks Wanda McCormick for whipping up the batter; pancake flippers Linda Smalldon and Toni Osborne; Sue Dykstra for cooking the sausages (See, she can cook) and Kathy Pennanen and Sue Dykstra for keeping the serving bowls full.

The next meeting of the Evangelism and Outreach Committee is July 6th at 3pm.

Community Corner

Come Grow with Us

The 9:00 Sunday morning bible study (Sunday School) started almost two years ago with an attendance of seven of us. Last Sunday there were sixteen of us present at bible study! That is a significant increase in such a short period of time. Every week we have been watching our growth pattern and feeling really good about it.

It is easy (and exciting) to be able to measure our growth by numbers but the real “growth” is much deeper than that. The real growth is on a personal level. Each of us has grown stronger in the past two years, stronger emotionally, love for each other, and love for God. This growth comes from reading scriptures together, discussing the content, and relating God’s word to our present way of life. Although not everyone wishes to participate in the discussion part, everyone benefits by being there and experiencing the moment.

We invite everyone to come and “grow with us”. We are all at different growth stages in our lives but our program is sure to benefit each and every one of us.

The Christian Education Committee



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\$35 for both days

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Pearl's of Wisdom (cont'd from page 3)

God ahead (that was a typo - it was supposed to be ‘go ahead’, but I like that mistake so I’m leaving it!).

So, go ahead and just imagine - Jesus (or God) standing up and looking at you like you ARE His beloved (as the Bible says!) - with a huge grin and eyes that sparkle when He sees you coming towards Him. He’s opening His arms, letting you know that even if you look and smell as bad as the Prodigal Son did when he returned home after his debauched years, you are WELCOME, ALWAYS welcome, to come (back) home, to Him. (Luke 15:11-32)

That’s Love and Grace.
Hal-le-lu-jah and Thank You, God! Amen!

*Dear Heavenly Abba -
Happy Father’s Day, God! Thank you for being the Father we all deserve.*

Eternal gratitude for our inability to make You love us any less, and no matter how much we strain, strive and keep trying to be perfect, You’ll always love us the same because You are love, and there’s never been any limit to Your love to be able expand on or detract from.

Thank You that You love us enough to encourage us perpetually, convict us as necessary, guide us if we care to ask & listen, respond to our cries for help, and are always ready to bring us back to Your ways if we stray, whether intentionally or not.

*And thank You for the hugs that are unending and always joyfully given, no matter what!
AMEN!*

Community Corner



Your Session at Work

As always Session is taking care of church business. A summary of the June 11 meeting follows.

Deacons - Session approved sponsoring a carnival for Blue Water Area Downs Syndrome clients. The carnival is scheduled for September 16, 1-3 pm.

Memorial Columbarium Committee - reported they are looking into a horseshoe shaped brick fence to provide privacy for those visiting and praying for their loved ones.

Evangelism and Outreach Committee - reported an increase in worship service attendance in the month of May. Average attendance during May 2023 was 48 as compared to an average attendance of 33 during May 2022. We have often heard that our church is friendly. Keep up the good work in leading people to the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Next Session meeting is scheduled for July 13th at 1:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Hello Delightful L.P.C.ers!

As you know, every year we have the Senior Citizen's Celebration Day. This year it will be Thursday, October 26, 2023 from 11:00 - 2:00; the talent portion will be 1:00 - 2:00.

For the entertainment portion of the celebration we'd love to show what we've got RIGHT HERE at Lakeshore Presby!

We're planning a talent show and you (yes, YOU!) are invited to participate.

As the Bible says, do not hide your light under a bushel basket . . . it's our time to shine!

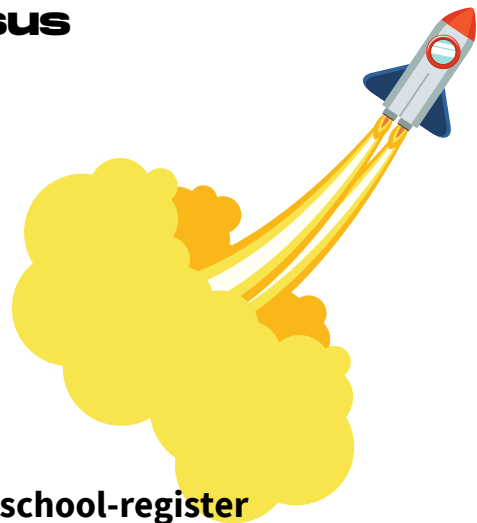
Please let either Lori (517) 375-1628 or Pearl (810) 941-1881 know you'd be interested in performing and we'd be happy to include you in the program!

BLAST OFF THIS AUGUST **Shine the Light of Jesus**

VBS
Space Adventure
August 21-25

See Sue Dykstra for
registration applications

or online at
<https://www.visitlakeshore.com/vacation-bible-school-register>



Community Corner

Birthdays & Anniversaries

7/2 Sam Velasquez	7/6 Carol Lepien
7/7 Jane Tabor	7/9 Jill Berg
7/11 Rich Radatz	7/14 Candace Beals
7/15 Connie Smith	7/15 Lori Nye
7/25 Betsy Roddy	7/27 Julia Hillman
7/27 Joslyn Gerrow	7/28 Dave & Pat Eppley
7/28 Selena Radatz	

Finance Snapshot

For the Month Ending 05/31/23

Operating Income: \$ 4,432.91

Operating Expenses: \$ 4,904.96

Investments @03/31/23

Thrivent: \$39,959.88

\$18,861.27

Stifel \$34,648.85

New Covenant: \$35,978.26

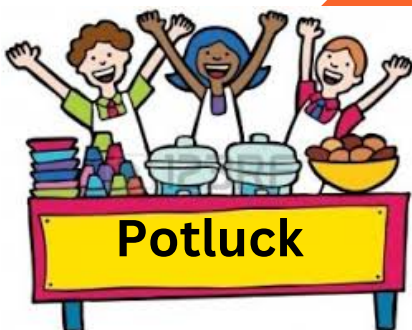
Presbyterian Fndn: \$19,866.56



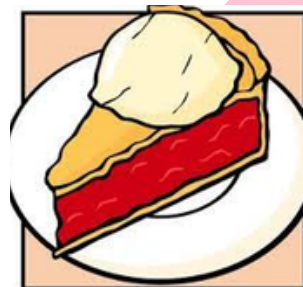
July 8th
6pm
 bring your favorite
 game and a
 munchie to share



July 15th
6pm



July 19th
6pm
 Bring a dish
 to share



July 29th
3-5pm
Pie & Ice Cream Social

Children's Zone



July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 E&O 3pm Deacons 4pm	7	8 Family Game Night 6pm
9	10	11 Stewardship & Mgt 1:30 pm	12	13 Worship 12:30 pm Session 1:30 pm	14	15 Pizza & Movie 6pm
16	17	18	19 Potluck 6pm	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Pie & Ice Cream Social 3-5pm
30	31					

-----WEEKLY-----

SUNDAY

9 am Bible Study

10 am Worship

11:15 am Fellowship

2 pm Worship Lake Huron Woods

7 pm AA

FRIDAY

7 pm AA