

LAKESHORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE OPEN DOOR

August 2025

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

Susan Dykstra, Editor



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN THE
SANCTUARY
SUNDAY 10AM**

-OR-

**ACCESS THE LIVESTREAM
OF SUNDAY'S WORSHIP**

<https://meet.google.com/rik-bqqf-rye>

**phone call: 1-929-282-0976 and
at the prompt enter: 574 737 948#.**

God make me strong in spirit,
courageous in action, gentle of
heart, let me act in wisdom, conquer
my fear and doubt, let me discover
my own hidden gifts, meet others
with compassion, be a source of my
healing, energize and make me to
face each day with hope and joy in
Jesus name, Amen.



**9am Adult Bible Study
10am Worship Service
11am Fellowship
2pm Lake Huron Woods**

**Lakeshore Presbyterian Church
5235 Lakeshore Rd
Fort Gratiot, MI 48059**

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From the Pastor's Desk

Is it true that a church can be healthier when it is slimmer? I'm not thinking about the size of Lakeshore's waistline, but the size of its budget. Six months into 2025 Lakeshore ran a deficit of about \$10,000. Your Session realized that Lakeshore could not continue rolling up a deficit, which forced it to draw down its reserves. The result is a trimmed down budget, hopefully leading to a balanced budget by the end of the year. Beginning August first, I, your Pastor, will be compensated for working 4 hours/week for Lakeshore, down from 5 hours/week. When I work more than 4 hours in any week, those hours will be donated time. Virtually all the members of Lakeshore Church volunteer their time and talents to serve God through Lakeshore. Thank you for donating your time and talents to Lakeshore! Your pastor does the same. We're in this together, each of us trying to carry our fair share. Being paid one less hour/week will save Lakeshore \$40/week or \$840 between August 1 and the end of 2025.

Two other staff members have also agreed to decrease the amount they receive from Lakeshore. Bev Matlas, our office manager, has agreed to reduce her compensation by \$1,500 on a yearly basis. Phil Larson, our director of music, has agreed to a cut in his compensation by \$1,300 on a yearly basis.

The amount that committees spend also has been decreased. For example the Evangelism and Outreach Committee will see a decrease of \$4,000 in its annual budget from \$8,000/year to \$4,000/year. This year Lakeshore is saving about \$2,000 by cutting our own lawn instead of contracting lawn mowing to an outside firm. Mike Bergeon, Kevin Losey and Kathy Pennanen mow the grass around the church building by volunteering their time. Overall Lakeshore will spend almost \$10,000 less in the second half of 2025 than in the first half.

Lakeshore has also been blessed with income from PACE [Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly] next to the church building. PACE has outgrown its parking spaces. PACE now pays \$250/month for use of up to 15 parking spaces from Monday-Friday.

There is a saying that minutes sitting at the dinner table does not add to our waistline; it is the seconds that we take. Most of us would agree that slimming down would benefit our long term health. For Lakeshore, slimming down our expenditures will make us healthier in the long run. For the first six months of 2025, we relied on the Evangelism and Outreach Committee to invite neighbors to join us for worship by mailing hundreds of cards to our neighbors each month. A few of these cards reached into the hearts of our neighbors, and these neighbors visited us for worship. Cards can be effective, but far more effective is a personal invitation. No longer can we sit back and say, "That's the job of Evangelism and Outreach." Inviting others to church is now all our job. Can you think of a neighbor, friend or relative whom you could invite to church? I'm thinking of people I plan to invite to church.

For sure Lakeshore can be leaner and meaner. (Meaner being a metaphor for better serving Jesus Christ.) For the last 5 months of 2025 Lakeshore will surely be leaner in the budget. I believe it will also be more effective in serving Jesus Christ. Lakeshore can be like the early church, "Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers." (Acts 9:31)

The Apostles and How They Died



Life was probably rough on the Apostles . But, in death it became nasty. Listed below is how each Apostle died according to traditional views.

Peter	crucified upside down
Andrew	crucified on an X cross
John	died naturally
James	crucified
Philip	crucified
Bartholomew	skinned alive
Thomas	slain by a spear
Matthew	killed by a two headed spear
James (son of Alpheus)	stoned
Thadeus	killed by arrows
Simon	sawn in half
Mathias	beheaded



Once again, the congregation is delighted that Elder Dick Smalldon was directed by God to deliver the sermons when Pastor Bill was away.

Until recently, Dick has taught Bible study at Lake Huron Woods. Dick currently teaches Adult Bible study every Sunday beginning at 9am

Our church and community should be a church and community that everyone brags about. We need our church and community to be a loving, forgiving, welcoming, and understanding group of people. Some people in the church and community do more than others. Is the person who does more than others in volunteering a more valued person than others? Ephesians 2:8-9 states "For it is by grace you have been saved though faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast."

Our church and community need to have positive thoughts. Instead of negative thoughts, boost people. No one wants to go to church or live in a community, that is negative. "Loving your neighbor as yourself" is found in Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 22:39, and Mark 12:31.

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN



SESSION SNIPPETS

Session approved that there would be no Vacation Bible School this year because there is a lack of interest from children. In an effort to save money, Session approved that the church bulletins and announcements will now be printed in black and white and the front cover picture will be replaced. Also, the announcements will be printed on the last page of the bulletin



August Birthdays

4th Gail Vermander

6th Cassidy Gerrow

9th Karen Presbie

21st Dick Smalldon

23rd Linda Smalldon

27th Daniel Ryan

28th Martia Nelson

30th Kenna Nelson



August Anniversaries

15th Steve and Holly Anderson

21st Dick and Linda Smalldon

25th Mike and Sue Bergeon

CHURCH BIRTHDAY



Our church will be having a birthday party hosted by the Evangelism and Outreach Committee on Sunday August 17th after worship.

Cake and ice cream will be served.

There will be a few games. The church has a gift registry of its own and would like the items to be considered as a gift. The items are:

- toilet paper
- paper towels
- dishwasher detergent
- dish soap
- AA batteries
- 8 ½ x 11 copy paper
- 8 ½ x 14 copy paper
- furniture polish
- toilet bowl cleaner
- counter cleaner
- garbage bags (tall kitchen)
- kleenex
- dinner napkins
- windex

Funny! Not Funny!



This cemetery is located near Harbor Beach, Michigan. When I passed the cemetery, I had to turn around because I had to check my eyes to make sure I was seeing it correctly.

**Thankful
Grateful
Blessed**

Our church prayer group meets every Thursday at 10am in the Christian Education Room. The power of prayer is amazing.



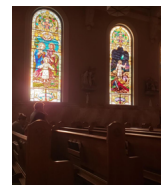
DUCKS IN A ROW

Monthly Prayer



I am with you and will protect you wherever you go. Genesis 28:15

CHURCH



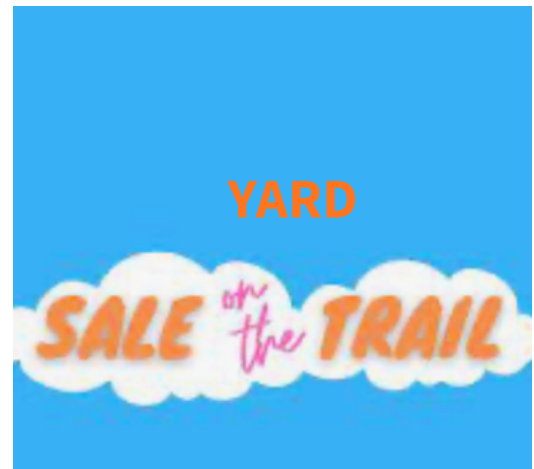
Meetings

5 th	Stewardship	2pm
7 th	E and O	11am
7 th	Deacons	1pm
14 th	Worship	12:30pm
14 th	Session	1:30pm
14 th	Christian Ed	3pm

August Events



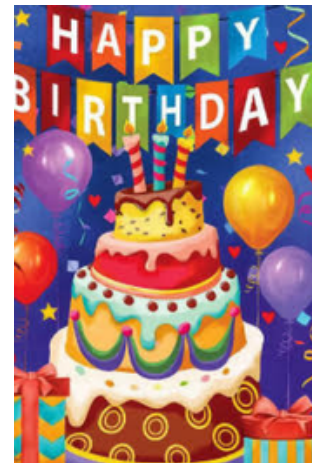
August 2nd 3pm



Sale Trail
August 8th and 9th 7am-3pm



Craft Day
August 16th 1-3pm



August 17th after worship



Potluck
August 20th 6pm



Church Picnic
August 31st 11am

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