

# THE OPEN DOOR

November 2023

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

Editor: Bev Matlas



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### The Message

Nov 5	Pastor Bill	Nov 26	Pastor Bre
Nov 12	Pastor Bill	Dec 3	Pastor Bill
Nov 19	Pastor Bill	Dec 10	Pastor Bill



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# From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Lakeshore Church Family & Friends,

Oh dear, already many of us have coughs and colds. "It's that time of year." Yet November is also the month when we can experience better mental, physical and spiritual health. The Bible advises us: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) We're in the month that can help us become healthier and happier if we practice giving thanks. Thanksgiving, expressing gratitude, or giving thanks leads to better physical and mental health according to a number of studies. Thankfulness does not have to be a fleeting emotion when you receive a pleasant surprise. Giving thanks can be a habit that helps you experience:

- Less stress
- Better sleep
- More happiness
- Better health
- Improved relationships

Roxie and I have been thanking God for each meal for decades. Our daughter and her family, on the other hand, are not in the custom of thanking God for each meal. When our daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons visit us each summer, we continue with our customary blessing before each meal. One way we include everyone around the table is to invite each person to share what they are grateful for. When Isaac, our 11 year old grandson, shares what he is thankful for, he quickly rattles off five or more things. He has no trouble expressing gratitude.

Saying grace before meals is one good way to express gratitude. Another way is to list all the things you're grateful for before turning out the lights at night. You may want to write down the list of what you're grateful for or list them in your mind. Roxie loves to make lists. I abhor writing down lists. I abhor writing down lists; I prefer to make lists in my mind.

Another productive activity is to tell others why you are grateful for them. It picks up my spirits to hear someone tell me how I have been a positive influence in their lives. Hopefully, I share with you how I am grateful to have you in my life.

I am now inspired to list ten things I am grateful for:

- 1 That our family is healthy and well. Roxie's older sister has been struggling with heart issues, but seems to be gaining strength
- 2 The good worship services that Pastors Bre and Carlton led while Roxie and I were visiting our children in Portugal.
- 3 New members Lisa Sears, Barb Weston and Kevin Losey
- 4 The Deacons working well together for the successful Senior Celebration held on October 26
- 5 The Deacons helping Down's Syndrome families by hosting them on Saturday, November 4.
- 6 Jerry Roberts and Dick Smalldon developing this year's Stewardship Campaign.
- 7 The music leadership provided by Pastor Bre and Carol Cesefske in worship
- 8 Bible Studies on Tuesday, 4pm, led by Pastor Carlton Cook and on Sunday, 9am, led by Dick Smalldon
- 9 Prayer Group on Thursday, 10am, led by Linda Smalldon
- 10 Everyone who helped put together this year's Vacation Bible School.

(cont'd page 4)



Pearl Vermander

*"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. ~ 1 Cor v. 12*

## Do Something

Hi Good People of LPC ~

I have a belief that I don't know that many will agree with but I feel a need to express it anyway...

I love the sermons given at our church and ALMOST always agree with them (uh oh :)).

I have the utmost respect for the time it takes to write them, letting the Holy Spirit be the guide, and the research that goes into some of them.

The one I have a bit of disagreement with was on how bad the world seems to be. Yes, definitely the world has it's natural disasters, horrors, unfathomable cruelty at times, and a distinct lack of integrity in some people, circles, and leaders.

In many areas we are doing it to ourselves by not standing up for what we believe in because we've become too comfortable to take a stand, or think someone else 'should', or believe one person can't make a difference so why bother trying?

I wonder if Viktor Frankl thought 'why bother' with trying to maintain a positive attitude while imprisoned for three years (!) in concentration camps during the holocaust, then went on to write the major best selling book, "Man's Search For Meaning", which gave hope through showing a different way to perceive things that would otherwise break us.

Or Corrie Ten Boom, who was imprisoned for ten months during the holocaust, and her sister as she died due to the horrid conditions they were subjected to. Her story was told in the book and movie, "The Hiding Place". She became a "Tramp for the Lord" by traversing around the world giving hope and encouragement by telling her story of maintaining

faith and love during and after her ordeal, and being able to forgive the worst of her offenders.

Martin Luther King started out as one person. So did Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Joyce Meyer, and all the other world changers.

But we don't have to go 'that big' to make a difference. Just one act of kindness can redeem another's day, and for all you know, save them from doing something harmful to their self or others. It can also start a chain reaction that gets passed on to bless unknown others, one person at a time.

As to how bad the world is getting - are we totally sure there hasn't been as much, if not more evil in the past, and either we forget or we just didn't know about it? Hitler? Saddam Hussein? Sodom and Gomorrah? Pontius Pilot? Or King Herod, who ordered the killing of all the boys three years and younger after Jesus was born? And which King ordered the death of all the boys when Moses was a baby? I could go on, but you get the picture.

Fifty years ago, or even twenty, no one discussed human trafficking, yet it was going on and proliferating in the dark because no one wanted to see. Same with domestic violence, child (and animal) abuse, violence against minorities. We all just walked around in ignorance while so many were suffering in silence, with little to no hope of being noticed, rescued and helped, let alone healed.

In my humble opinion (and you don't have to agree :)), satan is our friend as long as we let him have his way in the dark. It's when people started noticing, shining the Light of God into and doing something about the evils of the world, that satan started rising up to defend his previously free reign in the nether regions of human behavior.

There's also the aspect that, and I love how Mr. Roger's put it - much better than I could: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers, you will always find people who are helping.'

(cont'd on page 7)

## Your Session at Work

Highlights of the October 13 Session meeting:

Membership Update:

Kevin Losey and Barb Weston will be joining through Reaffirmation of Faith and Lisa Sears by Baptism.

Murray McNeill was reinstated as a member.

- Session received a letter of resignation from Sandy Hunwick as chair of the Personnel Committee. Session will miss Sandy's gentle thoughts and prayers.
- Session approved the use of our church facilities by the nonprofit organization, Community Enterprises. Susan Dykstra will work with the organization to ensure it is a positive experience for both parties.
- Pastor Bill was granted vacation time for December 29th-January 9th.
- Pastor Bre will be conducting worship service on December 31st.
- Christian Education will be purchasing the VBS program SCUBA. This promises to be a **Super Cool Underwater Bible Adventure**.
- Christian Education also reported that Children's Sunday School will have five rotating teachers
- Evangelism and Outreach Committee reported that the church is growing. The committee has several upcoming events.
- The Nominating Committee chair Clay Osborne presented nominations for the following positions: Deacons Brenda Losey who will be replacing Toni Osborne who decided not to run again. For the position of Elder on Session, Mike Bergeon will replace Sandy Hunwick for a one-year term.
- The Memorial and Columbarium Committee is still looking into bricks for a privacy barrier that will be constructed near the columbarium.



(cont'd from page 2)

## HEY! WHY STOP AT 10?

### THERE'S MORE I AM GRATEFUL FOR:

- 11 Our wonderful Bell Choir
- 12 All of our Deacons, who have done stellar work this year
- 13 Our officers: President Roger Sheldon, Treasurer Jerry Roberts, and Clerk Sue Dykstra
- 14 Our dependable faithful Session
- 15 The clever, colorful signs that Mary-Beth Sheldon keeps updated in front of the church on Lakeshore Road
- 16 Our Office Manager, Bev Matlas, who shares her talents of accounting, design and faith with Lakeshore Church
- 17 YOU! Every person in our church family, each brings valued gifts and talents into the family.
- 18 Your enthusiasm about inviting new people into our church family, how you welcome them and befriend them!! We are averaging about ten more people in worship this year than last year!!

Have a great THANKSGIVING, not just the one day, November 23, when you will eat a delicious dinner, but take each day in November to practice giving thanks. **Gratitude is wine for the soul. Drink all you want of this wine and you're likely to wake up to a healthier happier version of yourself.**

*Pastor Bill*





**Lori Pollock**

### **Take Refuge in God**

Protection is to defend, guard, safeguard and shield. “To protect implies the use of something (such as a covering) as a barrier to the admission or impact of what may attack or injure.”

We can often feel under “attack” by our current circumstance or those of the world. The feelings of insecurity, loneliness and fear can sometimes overwhelm us.

During these times, turn to our Lord. It has been assured that we are indeed under the cloak of God’s protection. According to the Scriptures, God will encircle, encompass, and shield us if we look to God for refuge.

One of the biblical references to protection is the story of Daniel. Daniel, the faithful, godly servant, was lowered into the lion’s den. Daniel had made up his mind, no matter what, he would not compromise his faith or his God. He could hear the echoes of “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!” Just then, the light of the world shone in the deep darkness and the mouths of the lions were shut.

“He rescues and delivers: He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth, for He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.”  
(Daniel 6:27)

Perhaps these biblical references may seem pertinent to those who obtain Gods special favor and remote from current day circumstances. Not true, God has told us that “We know that God works things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called for his purpose.”  
(Romans 8:28)

During difficult situations, surrender the feelings of anxiety, fears upon our Lord. The Lord is the great “Comforter”, who surrounds us with peace and hope.

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” (Psalm 91: 1-2)

May God’s love and refuge surround you and those you love.



Many of the residents of The Village of Lake Huron Woods form strong friendships living in community with other seniors, sharing meals, shopping excursions and other fun activities. For some of these folks, the friends are their families. So, when one of the residents passes away it’s natural for them to want to honor the life of their friend, and to bring closure to that relationship by attending the funeral or memorial service.

Unfortunately, LHW can provide limited transportation, and some residents are challenged by the use of wheelchairs, walkers or canes which may prevent them from attending the services at the funeral home or church.

The Evangelism and Outreach Committee is working with LHW staff on the details of conducting memorial services for their residents at LHW. Lakeshore has been granted conditional approval for conducting these services pending final approval by the legal department of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan.

Offering the memorial services at LHW is just one more way Lakeshore is reaching out to the community



The concept of pastor appreciation started with the Apostle Paul as he was establishing the first Christian churches. In 1 Timothy, he wrote, “The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching” (1 Tim. 5:17).

Lakeshore is very fortunate to have three very dedicated, loving and caring pastors who serve the needs of our congregation. The pastors were honored during the October 8th Fellowship with double chocolate cake (not quite sure that’s what Paul meant when he said “worthy of double honor”) and ice cream along with the thanks and well wishes of all those in attendance.



The Lakeshore family is blessed to have a group of folks who have committed to pray for the needs of our congregation during troubled times. The Prayer Chain is a powerful way to support one another and to lift up our needs and hopes to God.

If you would like to submit a prayer so that other members of the congregation can pray for you, please email Susan Dykstra at [susandykstra1976@yahoo.com](mailto:susandykstra1976@yahoo.com) and she will be sure to get the prayer out.

Blessings to all!

## Phase II Lake Huron Woods

Groundbreaking ceremonies for Phase II of the Lake Huron Woods campus was held on October 18th. Phase II consists of forty-three one-bedroom apartments and two (2) bedroom apartments. The new apartment building will be a two-story complex and will be built on the west side of Phase I building. Along with the apartments, forty-five new cottages will be built near the apartment building. When the new facilities are complete the entire LHW complex will accommodate around four hundred senior citizens. A new complex and cottages are needed in this community.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, our own Dick Smalldon conducted the invocation. Dick was joined at the ceremony with such dignitaries as Roger Myers, CEO of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan. Presbyterian Villages of Michigan is fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with donors and other financial institutions to provide affordable living for senior citizens.

Our church has an excellent relationship with the administration of Lake Huron Woods. We were instrumental in providing guidance for this wonderful new project in Fort Gratiot.



## Community Corner

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/1	Sue Colwell	11/4	Don Colwell
11/4	Lana Gerrow	11/12	Joe Gerrow
11/14	Clint Stimpson	11/23	Melissa Tabor
11/23	Pastor Roxie	11/27	Marge Rivett

## Finance Snapshot

### For the Month Ending 10/31/23

Operating Income:	\$ 4,827.55
Operating Expenses:	\$ 5,838.04

### Investments @09/30/23

Thrivent:	\$60,706.87
Stifel	\$52,772.53
New Covenant:	\$36,477.58
Presbyterian Fndn:	\$19,315.90

## Pearls of Wisdom (cont'd from page 3)

To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers, so many caring people in the world."

When my high school alma mater, Oxford, had a major tragedy a couple of years ago, I was devastated. I was able to take my dog, Cooper over there a couple of times as a therapy pet. The first couple of times we went to a huge community center where hundreds, if not thousands of people came together on a daily basis to comfort each other, be there for each other, help heal each other. Even our mortal enemies from Lake Orion were congregating there to offer support and love to their newly claimed friends.

When we and four other dog teams went to the high school their first day back, I don't know how many counselors and support personnel were brought in to help the students cope. Professionals from around the country were on call to help any of the faculty and local therapists handle the otherwise overwhelming tragedy.

Yes, one deeply hurting, confused child caused unimaginable horror, terror and immense pain for many, but thousands rose up to show what love in action is, what imperfect mortals who acted as Jesus with skin look like.

When was the last time you heard about other tragedies, whether other mass shootings, war, or natural disasters like hurricanes, wild fires, etc., and no one came to help put things back together again?

Never.

There are countless organizations with mostly volunteers, who race to the sights to see what they can do to aid in the recovery.

Can you even begin to imagine how many millions of others are praying for these situations? And every person that responds in some way during these times of trouble, is just one person who chose to do something.

*Dear Heavenly Abba,*

*Thank You so much for all the good there is in this world, for the millions of people who chose to do something when they see others in pain. Every prayer is a miracle forming, every positive reaction an act of God via human action in compassion, love, empathy and redemption.*

*Help us to focus on that, too. Yes, we need to see the horrors to do something about them, but we can balance that out with remembering who YOU are, greater than all of it, and who we are when we let You work through US, as we come together to do Your work here. With You, we are greater than tragedies, and what satan tries to intimidate us with.*

*In Jesus name, Amen!*

*Hallelujah, and Praise You, God. Amen.*

# Senior Celebration



More than 70 folks attended Senior Celebration 2023 on October 26th. They were treated to a delicious meal of chicken strips, pulled pork, salad, coleslaw, potato salad, pasta salad, beans, mac & cheese, mostaccioli, and desserts catered by Chicken in the Rough.

The group had fun singing a few songs accompanied by Pastor Roxie on piano, and playing some Halloween trivia for a great selection of gift cards.

The day wrapped up with a very fun and funny Talent Show

Who's Got Talent? The Lakeshore Family and Friends!



The Bell Choir  
 "Lord I Want To Be A Christian"



Clay Osborne & Bill Pyke  
 "Who's on First?"



Carol Cesefski  
 "Lord Hold On to Me"



Barb & Drew Merritt, Bonnie Bade  
 "That I Might Be a Christian Today"  
 (Bonnie's original lyrics)



Dick Smalldon  
 "Little Brown Jug?"





DEACON - ELDER RETREAT  
Nov 3rd 3-5 pm  
THE DAVIS' HOME



*Hanging  
of the Greens*  
Dec 3rd

Harvest Potluck



Nov 15 6pm

*Happy 1st week of Advent!*



Congregational Meeting

**Nov 19**  
**following worship**


Dec 3rd  
Interactive Bible Story  
Soup/Salad meal  
following worship

# Children's Zone

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING



# November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Prayer Group 10 am E&O 3 pm Deacons 4 pm	3 Deacon/Elder Retreat 3-5pm The Davis' Home	4
5 Bible Study 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am	6	7 Stewardship & Mgt 1:30 pm Bible Study 4 pm	8	9 Prayer Group 10 am Worship 12:30 pm Session 1:30 pm	13	11
12 Bible Study 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am	13	14 Christian Ed 3 pm Bible Study 4 pm	15 Potluck 6 pm	16 Prayer Group 10 am	17	18
19 Bible Study 9 am Worship 10 am Congregational Meeting 11 am	20	21 Bible Study 4 pm	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving 	24	25
26 Bible Study 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 11 am	27	28 Bible Study 4 pm	29	30 Prayer Group 10 am		