

LAKESHORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE OPEN DOOR

December/January 2023-24

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

Editor: Bev Matlas



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

SUNDAY 10AM

-OR-

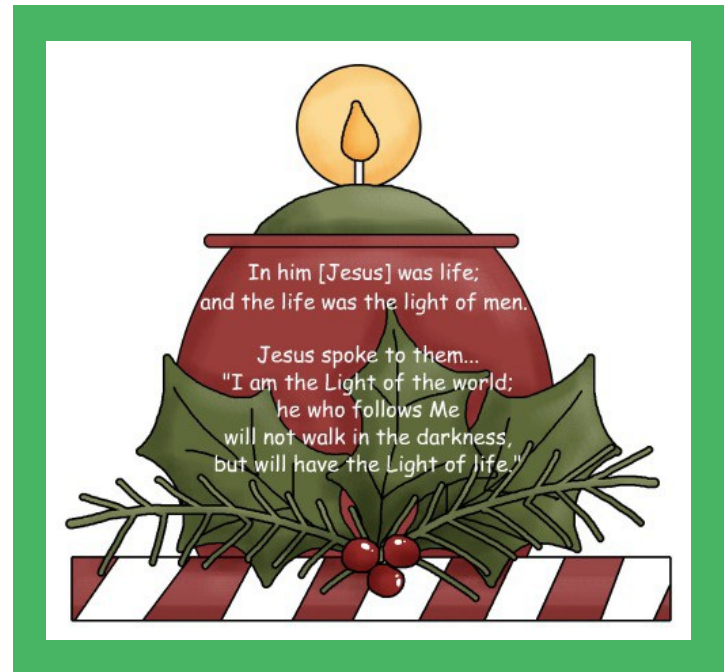
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The Message

Dec 31	Pastor Bre	Jan 28	Pastor Bill
Jan 7	Pastor Bre	Feb 4	Pastor Bre
Jan 14	Pastor Bill	Feb 11	Pastor Bill
Jan 21	Pastor Bre	Feb 18	Pastor Bre



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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Lakeshore Church Family & Friends,

Jesus is the light of the world. When we follow that light we will not walk in darkness. Don't you love all the colorful lights brightening up our dark evenings? Roxie and I delight to walk through the Sherman Woods area to view the yards and homes of its residents lit up with strings of lights in the trees, yards and houses. They remind me that Jesus is the light of the world, He cannot be defeated; He will always bring joy to the world.

We are all on a journey through life, and every year in December when the nights are longest and the days shortest, we are reminded that the darkness shall not overcome the light. The light of Jesus prevails!

Have you ever had to drive at night through a blizzard? All around you it is dark, your headlights illuminate the road only 20 feet ahead of you. If a car happens to be stopped in the middle of the road, the chance of stopping on time is negligible. How scary it is. You grip the steering wheel until your knuckles turn white. You pray, "God please get us home." You are stressed, then you see the light of a business that you know. Finally you see the lights of your own house, and you exhale. Lights have led you to the safety of your home!

Christmas is a marker on our road of life. We can have a terrible year. We can feel very alone. Perhaps having lost a family member, a close friend or a beloved pet, and we wonder if we can make it through one more year. Then Christmas comes around: lights shine out hope, bells ring out joy, carols shout out love. We will make it. Thank you God for Christmas!

What a joy it is to see children learn more and more every year. As a parent it sometimes feels as if the infants will never grow up. With the patient love of parents, the trained teaching of schools, and the guidance of churches, children learn year after year, until the child is ready to leave home, earn a living, and start a family.

All of us who receive Jesus Christ as our Savior are children of God. We begin as infants traveling a narrow road that few choose to take. No question, it is a difficult road. We have chances to take other roads that would require less of us, choices that entice us, but our goal is to remain on the road that Jesus tells us to travel. Every year we pass Christmas with its bright lights, and the remembrance of the birth of our LORD, JESUS CHRIST. On this road we help one another with an outstretched hand of love, a prayer for support, a word of encouragement. Just as a child reaches adulthood, so also we reach the abundant life that Jesus offers in this life, and life everlasting.

MERRY CHRISTMAS. May you carry the love, joy and hope of Christmas throughout 2024 and into all eternity!

Pastor Bill



Lori Pollock

Instruments of His Peace

Peace can be defined as a “a state of tranquility or quiet”. The spiritual meaning of peace is the knowledge that God is by our side and finding rest in that. The comfort that God is by your side no matter what.

“We sometimes fail to understand that everlasting peace that Jesus promises us is an inner peace, born of our faith, anchored by testimony, nurtured with love, and expressed through our obedience and being repentant of our sins. This peace is a of spirit that echoes through our heart and the soul.”

True peace can also be experienced as state of consciousness where the truth about life is understood and one can experience a deep peace as a result. This “peace” can be aloof and difficult to find in the world of today. So many forces can penetrate the spiritual resolve of “peace”. But Jesus reassures his children that through the love and mercy of God that these forces can be overcome.

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulations. But take heart: I have overcome the world: (John 16:33)

Living in peace with the world and yourself is one of the most precious gifts one can achieve. This spiritual goal has also been found to “heal” your physical and emotional state. Peace requires a diligent effort and constant vigilance.

Peace can be found in many of Gods’ gifts and creations given to us. A simple walk in the forest and soaking in the beauty and silence can give us peace. Peace has many faces. The challenge is to find the peace which we are completely surrounded by. Let the peace soak in and give thanks to our Lord!

God instructs us to be “instruments of his peace”. To share peace with all those we come in contact with. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”. (Matthew 5:9)

There is such joy in finding and sharing peace! In this Christmas Season, may the peace of our Lord surround you and yours.

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23)



Annual Congregational Meeting

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 28 following the morning worship service. The Sunday prior to our Annual Meeting you should receive the Annual Report, which will include a report from each committee of Session and from the deacons, telling us what each committee and what the deacons did in 2023. Any concern can be raised at the Annual Meeting.

This Christmas end a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a letter. Give a soft answer Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in word and deed. Keep a promise. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Apologize. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Be kind. Be gentle. Laugh a little more. Express your gratitude. Welcome a stranger Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love, and then speak it again.



Deacon Ministry

For the month of December, the Deacons agreed to donate to some good causes.

\$500 dollars was okayed to support Sandy Hunwick's good work with foster children, Michigan Youth Opportunities. They help children who are aging out of the foster care system with gift cards and other necessities so they have some much-needed supplies as they learn to find their way into adulthood without any other benefits. They also learn (hopefully!) that people DO care about them.

We upped our contribution to Daily Bread from \$250 every six months to \$300 to help defray their costs for our magazines. Daily Bread is run solely on donations and does not charge for distribution of their magazines, nor do they have any advertising income.

Beginning in 2024 Safe Horizons, the St. Clair County safe house for women (and their children) leaving abusive relationships will be receiving a quarterly donation from LPC.

Pastor Bill asked for a special Christmas collection to be taken up on December 17 & 24. The money will go towards helping pay medical costs for retired Presbyterian pastors who struggle financially.

Linda and Dick Smalldon have graciously offered to do communion set up for the first weekend in January. (Thank you!)

The Deacons wish everyone at LPC a beautifully blessed Christmas, and a wonder-filled new year!

Per Capita Why Are We Asked to "Give"

When you receive your 2024 offering envelopes, you will find an envelope titled "Per Capita." Some people know what this envelope is for but many others do not. To understand what per capita is and why we contribute, one must have a basic understanding of Presbytery.

Presbytery is an administrative body that consists of six agencies. These agencies address missions, pensions, loans, publishing, etc. Our congregants are probably familiar with the four special offerings we have each year. The Presbyterian Mission Agency oversees these offerings.

The Office of the General Assembly, one of the six agencies, is funded by the annual per capita. This agency assists with immigration and visas for foreign pastors, administrative training, the process for new calls for ministers, the biennial conference, and so much more.

Per capita is based on the number of active members. It is a special offering that is separate from the amount members estimate they can give throughout the year. The expectation is each active member will pay per capita although it is understood that not all members are in a position to do so. If this happens, our church covers the per capita out of the general fund.

The per capita amount for next year is a one time payment of \$35.90 per member. This is the only funding the General Assembly receives to support pastors, congregations, and councils. Please prayerfully consider donating your per capita this coming year.

Birthdays

- 1/2** Jacklyn Lyons
1/12 Sophia Bade
1/15 Janet Wagner
Tim Wolvin
1/20 Caroline Janosky

Finance Snapshot

For the Month Ending 11/30/23

Operating Income:	\$ 15,305.77
Operating Expenses:	\$ 7,671.47

Investments @09/30/23

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

Installation and Ordination of Deacons and Elders

We normally have ample motivation to get up and worship God at Lakeshore Church on Sunday morning. Some mornings we might have an additional motivation. One of those days is January 7, when our newly elected Deacons and Elders will be ordained and installed. Recognizing the leadership of deacons and elders goes back to the time Jesus was upon this earth. Right after Jesus was crucified, the early church chose deacons to serve church members with special needs. Seven men served as the first deacons. On January 7, Pastor Bre will ordain Brenda Losey as deacon [we ordain anyone elected who has never before served as a deacon] and install Kathrin Pennanen, Linda Smalldon and Wanda McCormick. Being installed as elders we will have Sue Dykstra, Mike Bergeon, Dick Smalldon and Pat Eppley. Please plan to be at worship to support our newly elected deacons and elders.

January Events

1/17 Potluck 6pm

1/20 Learn a Craft Day 3-5pm

Wanda, Linda and Sue will teach us how to knit, crochet and make cards.

Christmas Tea

We were treated to a delicious spread of appetizers and sweets lovingly prepared by Linda Smalldon.

Thank you Linda for sharing your Christmas Spirit!



Children's Zone

