



# LAKESIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Church Council voted to keep the preschool closed for the remainder of 2020. Needless to say, this decision was not an easy one to make.

Since the suspension of the Preschool in April resulting from the coronavirus, Preschool leadership, the Church Council, and the Board of Elders have prayerfully sought ways to reopen the school safely at the appropriate time. However, with a significant decline in enrollment, loss of some teachers, and increased operating cost, it was determined that the school could not reopen without significant subsidy from Lakeside.

Prior to the pandemic, and historically Lakeside Church members have generously subsidized the Preschool, averaging \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year. This was viewed as a part of our mission work. Over the past three years this subsidy has ballooned to \$40,000-60,000. This has resulted from a decline in enrollment, higher teacher salaries, and program demands by the Florida Dept. of Education. After reviewing all the issues, the Church Council concluded that this level of subsidy is no longer sustainable and inhibits our ability to consider other mission work. As a result, the Council voted to keep the Preschool closed for the balance of 2020, which will afford us the time to evaluate the best use of Lakeside's resources for mission work in light of our Vision; "Joyful Christians who Inspire spiritual Growth and Discipleship".

The council has formed a Preschool Closure Committee (Tom Polzin, Bill Boos, and Jean Thieroff, and Joe Cucchi) to ensure an orderly closure of the school. In addition, a Vision team is to be created which will study the long-term viability of the Preschool which must include three elements: a viable budget, a specific mission plan, and a marketing plan. Also, this Vision Team will also explore other alternative ministries consistent with Lakesides overall Vision of "Joyful Christians who inspire spiritual growth and discipleship". These alternatives would include such opportunities as: adult ministries, community outreach programs, family/youth ministry, a day care center, or others.

To that end, we need your prayers, input, and support. We trust God that He is using this Pandemic for our good. We give thanks to Him for this time to pause and reflect to enable us to recommit ourselves to His service. We pray for guidance and wisdom to make the right decisions, and that not our will, but rather His will be done.

Yours in Christ,

Bill Boos, Stewardship Chair