

LAKE SIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

October, 2023

**SERVICES ARE
ONLINE AND ONSITE**

Sunday Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Contemporary

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Traditional

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Friday

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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THE MESSENGER

*Joyful Christians who Inspire
Spiritual Growth and Discipleship*

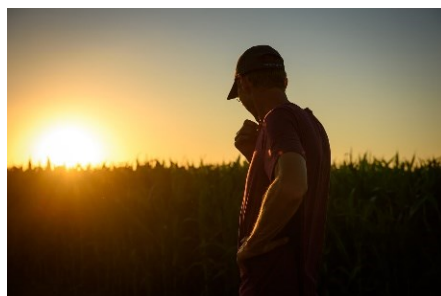


God Provides the Harvest

The Rev. Steven Struecker is sowing seeds as both a full-time farmer and a full-time pastor. He rejoices in his call to pastor two small churches in rural Iowa. He looks like a pastor in the church, and a farmer on the farm. He knows that God has called him to each. For this he is thankful.

He's humbled to be called to serve the Word. The people are blessed to hear the Word proclaimed. And the Church goes on. And God is faithful to His promises.

"The farming and the parish ministry have worked well together because they are similar," Struecker says, as he reflects on his two roles. "We have to keep the weeds out and nourish the seed. When God's Word comes into our lives, it strengthens us and gives us hope." The Word will not return void but will accomplish what God desires. And so Struecker preaches every Sunday. The Spirit works to produce a harvest.



The congregations he serves are not able to financially support a full-time pastor - something he sees as an opportunity. He can farm and serve as their pastor. It's a difficult balance at times, and it isn't for everyone. Bi-vocational pastoral ministry wasn't something he sought out, and yet he's doing it. "If no one provided pastoral ministry to these churches, they would have had to close. And that hurts the community as well as the members," he says. (*)

The journey for formal training took 10 years - first through the licensed lay deacon program at Concordia University, St. Paul, to final graduation at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Looking back, he says that the road to ordination was not easy, but he wouldn't change a thing. The two congregations he serves are worth it. They need to hear God's Word and receive His Sacraments according to His will. Rural churches face unique challenges. For this reason, Struecker is thankful for LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM). "It's nice to know that there is a branch of the LCMS that is looking out for them".

God uses this farmer to bring His Word to the people. Many conversations at church begin with discussions of the weather and the farming conditions. His work as a farmer is something his flock and community can relate to. But Struecker always turns the conversation to the Word of God and the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. It calls to mind the Parable of the Sower, who went out to plant seed... and that seed was the Word of God - sowing seed, tilling the ground and trusting in God to produce the harvest.

Taken from Lutherans Engage - Fall 2017

*** Note: If you feel a calling to be a church worker, please visit
Set Apart to Serve website: www.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve**

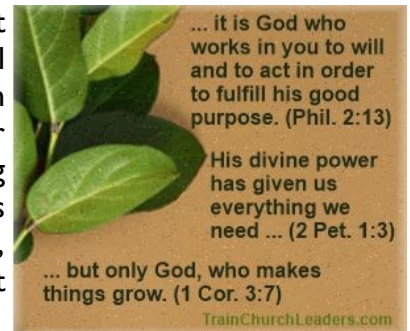


**For more information
Email: setapart2serve@lcms.org
or Call 888-843-5267**

God's Love Empowers us - Grasp the Calling



This month we continue with part three of a five part look at spiritual conversations with an emphasis on God's love that empowers us. For many in the church today grasping our identity and the power that is in our calling is never discussed, taught, and passed on to the next generation.



I Corinthians 12:4-6, 11 - Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who ap-
portions to each one individually as he wills.

What happens when we people of faith know that all that is done through us is by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit? What happens when we truly grasp our calling and a gift of God to us to be shared past ourselves? These people of faith know they are part of the "priesthood of all believers." They accept a personal responsibility and intentionally seek to share their faith with other people joyfully.

The following five bullet points expand on this:

- I believe God has called Christians (me) to spread the Good News.
- I recognize the impact of spiritual conversations in other people's lives.
- I feel a personal responsibility to share my faith with others.
- I rely on God in order to share the Gospel.
- I see sharing the Gospel as one way I can serve other people.



All these areas call upon the believer to go past passive Christianity into active spiritual impact through the Holy Spirit. This is in contrast to our normal Christianity of passivity or what we now call social media Christianity. Many say it is too late for this generation and that it must start fresh in a new era. But others say "Who can stop me"? When you grasp the empowerment of your calling in the Holy Spirit beautiful things happen.

Next month we will look at how it's O.K. to expect spiritual conversations.

Pastor David Dahlke

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

This year the congregation will be electing the Church Council positions of President, Lead Trustee and Secretary at the Annual Voter's Meeting on November 8. A Nominating Committee has been formed and is working on the slate of candidates for the election. The Nominating Committee this year is Peter Gardner, Bill Meints, Nina Rausch, Edrise Sievers and Diane Kremkow with Pastor Dahlke providing guidance.

The Nominating Committee will then present the slate of candidates to Council in October and then to the Congregation for voting at the meeting planned for November 8.

Now is an opportunity for you to be moved by to Holy Spirit to impact our mission at Lakeside in a new way. If you have any recommendations for candidates to be nominated or would like to serve yourself, please email Peter Gardner at pbgl458@aol.com by October 3.

If you have any questions on this new process, please reach out to any members of the Nominating Committee or Pastor Dahlke.

Why is the Nominating Committee so critical in the church?

The Nominating Committee is a spiritual ministry called to identify leadership for a variety of roles in the life of the congregation. How this committee is to work in the body of Christ? When done well it can enliven and strengthen the ministry and mission of the church in significant and transformative ways. A healthy Nominating Committee does the following:

1. They ask the congregation (the body of Christ) to pray for them and the ministry. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.
 2. They ask the congregation to prayerfully and lovingly submit names for certain positions in the congregation that God has placed on their heart. Here we see the hand of the Holy Spirit in many people.
 3. They connect with the submitted names and share how God is seeking to work through them. Their name is raised up as a calling, gift and a ministry empower and motivated by the Holy Spirit.
 4. They submit a list of names to the body of Christ for God to raise up the person to the glory of His name. The names are joyfully voted on by the body of Christ after prayer.
- Those that are elected, by the congregation, are properly installed to faithfully have God work through them for the mission of the church and their specific ministry plan. All this for the glory of God!

In our era of congregational life the need is greater than ever to inspire ministry in and through the baptized church. The great calling in the church is to inspire leaders that inspire leaders.

Positions up for election at Lakeside for 2023.

President, Lead Trustee and Secretary FOR 2 YEAR TERMS STARTING JANUARY 2023.

Below are the responsibilities for each position and a few statements on why one would be willing to serve in that position.

The President shall:

- Preside at all meetings of the Membership and Council;
- Appoint a Nominating Team, Auditing team and any other special committees or individuals, as may be needed, with the advice and assistance of the Pastor and Vice President;
- Sign all required documents;
- In the even numbered year, appoint a committee, which shall review the Constitution and By-laws of the congregation and present recommendations to the Council.
- Ensure that proper orientation and training are taking place for Church Council members.
- Ensure that the constitution and by-laws are being followed.
- Ensure that the Council fulfills its responsibilities.

Lead Trustee shall:

- Lead the Trustees Team
- Supervise and maintain all of the physical properties of the congregation.
- Be sure that the buildings are operating with proper fire safety and security.
- Develops a plan for maintenance, repairs and improvement of church building and grounds.
- Monitors ongoing custodial service and contracts.
- Supervises the custodians in their duties, obtaining regular written reports from the custodians as to the physical condition of the property.
- Arranges for emergency repairs and for all normal repairs or alterations as may be necessary or desirable.
- Maintains inventory of records for all properties, buildings, and equipment owned by the church verifying annually.
- Provides high quality and perpetual care for Lakeside Lutheran Church Memorial Garden.
- Works with Vice-President to ensure proper insurance coverage for the congregation.

The Secretary shall:

- Keep accurate minutes of the meetings of the congregation and Church Council.
- Keep a list of members eligible to vote.
- Keep a record of elections and appointments to assist the nominating committee.



Your Lakeside Lutheran Church Council - guiding and facilitating the following:

WOW! A lot is going on at Lakeside. There are a lot of volunteers recruited and needed – all of us are moving forward for the Truth and Glory of Christ!

The Council is busy building a slate of candidate nominations for the Congregation to vote and approve on during the November 8th Annual Congregational Meeting. This year we are voting for President, Lead Trustee, and Secretary.



LIVING JUSTICE • LOVING MERCY • SERVING CHRIST

Official domestic disaster response partner of:



World Renew volunteers have joined Lakeside to spread Christian help to all God's people in our area. Being helped are those who still in need restoring to their homes from Hurricane Ian (last year!). There will be crews (men and women) rotating in-and-out each 3 weeks for several months. They will be headquartered and staying on our church campus. The Holy Spirit has truly blessed us with this opportunity to serve others.

The Seminarian support will become a line-item on our regular budget going forward. It is part of our effort to encourage and rebuild the Pastoral leadership that is so needed in this crazy world we live in.



Our Band of Brothers continue to inspire enthusiasm from our men to bring our faith to others: The Apathy of America – followed with The Remedy of Revival (by David Jeremiah) will be presented to our congregation and Christians at-large in October. "In light of the declining cultural values and it's effect on our faith and worship, something needs to be done and not just talked about." We welcome all men to join us on Saturday mornings, 8:30. Help us to Inspire-the-Fire! We may not be able to change the direction of the culture – but we can point them to the place where answers are found!



There is a growing and enthusiastic interest in the Women's Bible Study on Monday evenings at 6:00, hosted and led by our own Amy Dahlke. Ladies, come and join in a "deep-dive" into the heart of our active faith.

Lets use the instruction and knowledge we acquired in the recent presentations on Spiritual Conversation Workshops. We all know the "why" of the reason to have spiritual conversations constantly - this presentation helped us to understand the "how" to do this effectively, as we fulfill our Lord's direction to spread the Gospel and the faith. The presentation will be repeated in the near future to accommodate anyone who may have missed the presentation, as well as our arriving "snow-birds"! Yay !

We are exploring the possibility of an inexpensive "spaghetti dinner" once a month for the parents and children from Treehouse Preschool. This is an opportunity to share our faith and joy.

To all the souls that help keep our Christian Family alive, vibrant and inspired – Thank You for your heart, willingness and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit - WE CAN DO IT! We can do all this through Christ who gives us strength (Phil 4:13)





LWML Purple & Pearls Tea

All Lakeside women (and friends) are cordially invited to put on their purple & pearls and join us for our October "Purple & Pearls" Tea on Thursday, October 5th at 11:30 a.m. We will be holding a Welcome Back Meet & Greet and also enjoying Ice Tea & Tea Sandwiches (both savory & sweet). Please sign-up in the Narthex. See you there!



LWML Fall Rally at Beautiful Savior - Sarasota!

The 2023 Sarasota Fall LWML Rally will be Saturday, Oct. 21st at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Sarasota. We'll be enjoying a worship service, Bible study, African Institute information sharing, lunch and a business meeting. The day starts at 8:30 and ends around 1:00. Lakeside ladies can carpool together. Please sign-up in the Narthex and indicate if you would like to carpool. The cost is \$10 which can be either given to Judy Meske, placed in an envelope in the offering plate (with LWML Rally indicated & your name) or paid at our October LWML Meeting. October 5th is the deadline to register. Hope you can join us!



LWML Sarasota Fall Rally Collection:

On **October 8th and 15th**, LWML will be collecting for two missions in support of the LWML Sarasota Fall Rally. "Throne of Grace" a men's shelter in Bradenton - and - The African Leadership Initiative whose objective is to develop the next generation of values-based African leaders with integrity.

Throne of Grace needs:

Gently used men's jeans
Gently used men's T-shirts
New Bath towels
New Wash cloths
Bar soap
Shampoo



The African Leadership needs:

Gently used boys lightweight clothing
Gently used girls lightweight clothing
School supplies (paper, pencils, crayons and coloring books)

Collection bins will be located in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!

Birthdays

Stanley Gabriel	October 1	Amelia Freeman	October 15
Andy Jacobs	October 1	Albert Harring	October 15
Keith Kremkow	October 4	George Shepard	October 15
Jorge Groves	October 5	Gage Tippman	October 18
Carole Schroeder	October 5	Herm Bokelman	October 19
Cheryl Brown	October 6	Robert Heckler	October 20
Ronald Dehardt	October 6	Barbara Shepler	October 20
Ida Kiss	October 7	Richard Galloway	October 23
Rudolph Dornemann	October 9	RuthAnn Eesley	October 27
Patty Thompson	October 10	Jane Harring	October 27
John Bolger	October 12	Dan Ladigoski	October 27
Jean Finkenstadt	October 13	Terry Warner	October 27
Karen Phillips	October 13	Jean Thieroff	October 28
Janet Gardner	October 14	Marian Dailey	October 31
Janet Jawor	October 14	Linda MacDonald	October 31
Bob Koelper	October 14	Martha Schipul	October 31
Doris Toso	October 14	Kim Payne	October

Happy Birthday and Anniversary



Anniversaries

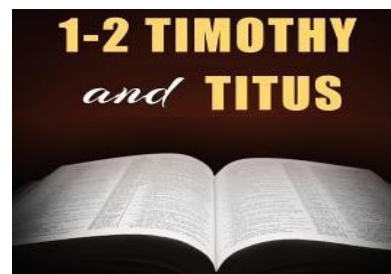


Sam and Lesley Bowers	October 14
Dennis and Gale Bakalik	October 24
Joseph and Georgene St. Pierre	October 24
Lloyd and Connie Foster	October 27
Robert and Lorraine Brock	October 29

- OCTOBER CLASSES -

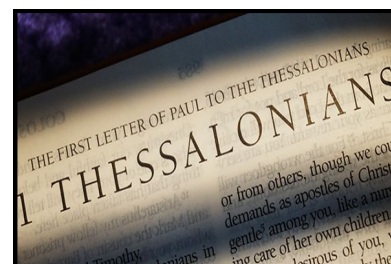
Monday Women's Study (Meyer Hall or Sanctuary)

Led by Amy Dahlke
1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus
 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



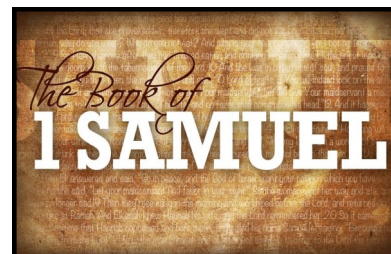
Wednesday Adult Bible Study (Online Zoom)

Join Pastor Dahlke
The Study of 1st Thessalonians
 9:00 a.m. Wednesday's online (Zoom).



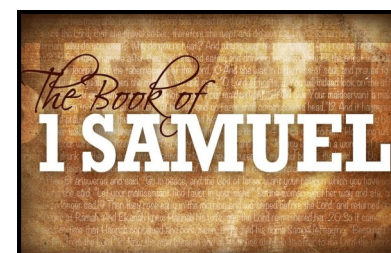
Wednesday Adult Bible Study (On Site)

Join Pastor Dahlke
The Study of 1st Samuel
 Wednesday's at 10:30 a.m. in Meyer Hall



Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study (Online Zoom)

Join Pastor Dahlke
The Study of 1st Samuel
 Wednesday's at 7:00 PM online (Zoom).



Saturday Morning - Men's Group Study (Meyer Hall)

Join the men
Apathy of America followed by **Remedy of Revival**
 Saturday at 8:30 AM - in Meyer Hall
 (Note: the 1st Saturday of the month is at 8:00 at Skilltets)



Contact Pastor (PastorDavid@LakesideLutheran.Net) or the church office
 (LLC@LakesideLutheran.Net) to sign up for an online class.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you always

in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now," writes St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (PHIL. 1:3).



With this same gratitude, we thank the workers who serve with the Word and mercy of Christ. Throughout this month, show appreciation for all church workers.



For teachers especially we give thanks, who teach God's Word to our children, dedicate countless hours to the classroom, who love the children of God they teach and who live a life of service to Christ and His church.



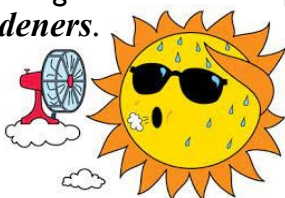
For all church workers, from pastors to parish music, and family life Christian education, who teach God's Word and point us to Christ. Tell them "Thank you!" this month for all they do!



OCTOBER IS THANK CHURCH WORKERS MONTH

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST OUR GARDENING ADVENTURE IS NEARLY OVER

The Florida sun did-it-in for our garden (*and our gardeners*). We have **no pumpkins**. We will be accepting purchased pumpkins to "PLACE" in the garden (so the children can see how a pumpkin patch is supposed to look). If you would like to donate a pumpkin, please bring it to church office through October 13. If we have enough pumpkins we will allow each **child** (*50 children total*) to pick out a pumpkin. If there are only a few, we will allow each **class** to get one pumpkin. If we only have a couple we will give them to the **preschool** to decorate the front entrance. Thank you from the *Retiring Gardeners*.



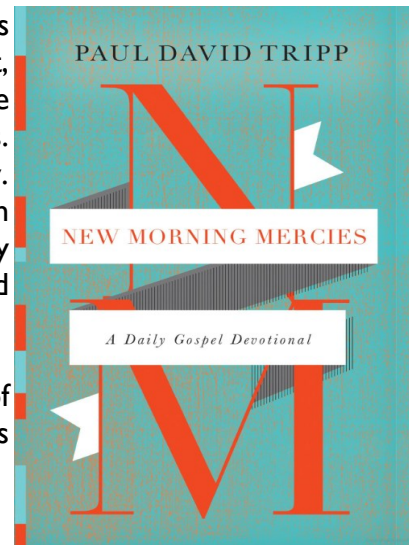
Walmart is selling Pumpkins: **\$4.58 each**
Aldi's is selling Pumpkins: **\$4.26 each**

Joyfully Inspiring

What's your morning routine? Is it the same every day? For some, it's coffee and morning devotions. Or maybe, it's exercise, breakfast, Wordle, taking the dog outside, getting ready for work, watering the plants, emptying the dishwasher, or hundreds of other routine tasks. Some say the way we start the day has an effect on the rest of our day. But, one thing is absolutely true: "As God's child, you have been blessed with eternal mercies that are new every morning." Every morning, God's personal grace meets you "right where you are and gives you just what you need."

Pastor's October sermons help us piece together the jigsaw puzzle of life with eternity in the center. God's love is the central piece. It's there for us, every morning. "God knows the end from the beginning."

Thank you to those who shared their joyful inspirations with us in September. We are truly blessed by God's grace that transforms us and gives us amazing joy in knowing our sins are forgiven, our debt has been paid.



Preview of October sermon themes:

October 1: Eternal World View *(Based on New Morning Mercies October 6)*

"Without eternity in the center of our thinking, our picture of life is like a jigsaw puzzle missing a central piece." (Message given by Craig MacDonald - Elder)

October 8: Prayer Part 3 *(Based on New Morning Mercies October 12)*

"Prayer is abandoning a life of demand and complaint, recognizing undeserved blessing, and giving myself a life of thankfulness."

October 15: Mercies *(Based on New Morning Mercies October 14)*

"The battles of sanctification are many, but God's mercies are new morning after morning after morning." (Message given by Rev. Dave Barber, Guest Pastor)

October 22: Just Who is God? *(Based on New Morning Mercies October 23)*

"We panic. God stays true to his sovereign plan. We wonder. God knows the end from the beginning. We pray. God answers with wisdom and grace."
(Message given by Rev. Curt Adams, Guest Pastor)

October 29: Where Do We Go for Hope?

(Based on New Morning Mercies November 2)

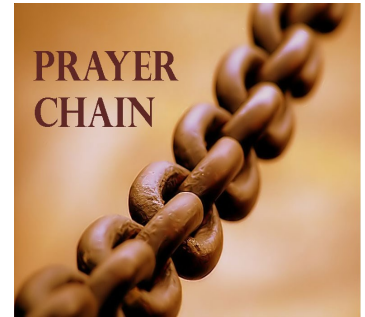
"The cross of Jesus Christ stands as a beacon of hope in a world gone bad. Life, hope, forgiveness, and change really are possible!"



Prayer Chain

Please feel free to make a prayer request. You can fill out a request card at church, or call the office, or send an email. When making a prayer request, please include a brief description of what we are praying for.

Please include your name, address, and phone number if you would like to be contacted or desire a visit.



PRAYER
CHAIN



Helping Hands

We have a group of people who are ready and willing help you! If you need help please contact the church office and we will try to find someone who can assist you.

We are always looking for members who are willing to assist. Please let the office know if you can be a helper.

Altar Flowers Purchases

Flowers make excellent gifts for any occasion. For just \$30 you can purchase a bouquet of flowers for the Altar. Your flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 service. Call or email the church office to place your order for flowers. Flowers that are not picked up will be used to brighten someone else's day. The flower chart for 2024 has been placed in the Narthex. Please notice the price for the flower arrangements in 2024 has gone up to \$35 per each vase. Thank you for your purchase.



Altar Flowers

ALL SAINTS DAY - Sunday Nov. 5, 2023

Please submit name(s) of those who have passed away during this past year who you would like included in our ***All Saints Day Worship Service on November 5th.***

(the deadline is October 30th)

(Deceased Name)

(Deceased Name)

(place this completed slip in the offering plate)

Member, Tim Matheny, found this post in Confessional Lutheran Fellowship - by Jeff Rieman. He found it interesting that the Holy Spirit would have this pop-up in his feed when he was trying to have a conversation with a Buddhist nun.



How should we feel when we find out others are “exploring” other religions?

In a sidewalk outreach conversation after church, a man named Edward told me he was exploring Buddhism. I asked about his background and found out he had been raised Roman Catholic and had lived in a heavily Christian Bible Belt community, but didn't like the hypocrisy of Christians and now favors the spirituality of Buddhism with its practices of meditation.

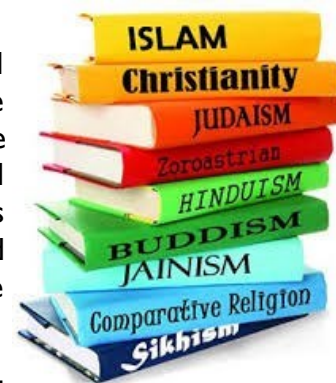
I guess I could have felt rejected and defensive and immediately reacted with some sort of strong argument for biblical Christianity and against Buddhism. But while there is a place for a strong defense of our Christian faith, this was early in our conversation and I needed to do more listening than talking, finding points of agreement rather than giving the impression that I was looking for an argument.

Is there anything positive we can find to agree on when we learn that others are exploring other religions? What is one thing that we can point to that the various world religions have in common, something that all religions agree on and that we can use to affirm those who are exploring or favor other religions? What we have in common is this: We all have the same problem. The problem common to us all is we all have a sense of right and wrong and we all knowingly break it. We all have a conscience – we are all “with knowledge” – the general knowledge of good and evil. We have all knowingly done the bad things we know we should not do, and we have neglected to do the good we ought to do.

Edward and I talked a while about this and, despite our different religious beliefs, we had a lot to agree on. This is an important point to make in beginning a Gospel conversation not only because it gives people of different beliefs something to agree on, but also because it provides the basic foundation for sharing the Gospel.

People of different religions may share the same problem, but they all claim different solutions. These fall into two categories. One side says we can save ourselves – through following religious rituals and rules. The other side says we need a savior outside of ourselves – and as far as I know there is only one of the world's religions that has a Savior. Others may have prophets or teachers, but only Christianity has Jesus. The good news of Christianity is that we have a savior, but this also points to the bad news that we will be sinners who need saving.

As I talked with Edward, finding points of agreement early in our conversation helped prepare him to hear the Gospel without immediately feeling rejected or defensive about his beliefs. And this could only happen by refusing to feel rejected or defensive myself when their beliefs are different from my own.



Tim Matheny says that he has used this approach in the past; pointing out that Christianity is the only religion offering free salvation.

Table Fellowship:

Are you being Jesus at meal time or being something else?

Why is table fellowship of great importance both to the early Christian church and to us today? Can you think of a few reasons? Table fellowship is a theme throughout the Bible, and is used to teach the stories of God to God's people and beyond. The stories of God's prophets often involve eating and sharing the things of God that were needed to be shared and to connect with eternity. It seems like Jesus was always eating with someone for the same salvation. The Last Supper points to Christ's own sacrifice for our life, and to the Great Banquet that will be held for all of us in heaven. The early Church continued the table fellowship both in daily meals and in holy communion, and so do we.



Christ is present in all of our table fellowship because we are the temple of Christ. (1 Cor 6:19) Christ's presence at the table means that we recognize that God is the giver of all good things. We see that Jesus is the "true bread of life." (John 6:33-48) When we eat together, we welcome the Lord's presence. When in the presence of the Lord, we joyfully celebrate the gift of food, the gift of Christ's sacrifice, and the promise of His presence both now and in the future when we partake in the eternal banquet.

God's desire for His people is wonderful table fellowship. It leads us right into the Lord's Table. These relationships are made to be marked with love, and eating is a time of celebration of God's goodness.

What does table fellowship look like when you invite some people that need the presence of Jesus through you? Here are six ingredients that go into table fellowship:

Inviting non-Christians
Building community & unity
Expressing present and future hope

Teaching the Word
Sharing
Telling the Christian story





THE TREEHOUSE PRESCHOOL

The Treehouse Preschool at Lakeside is up and running...fast! More teachers have been hired, the classes are full and it warms our hearts! Especially on Wednesday mornings when about 40 little ones come to the church sanctuary for Children's Chapel. The children hear a Bible story, watch a coordinating video, pray, sing and even dance in the aisles. If you'd like to take a peek, maybe sing along, come join us any Wednesday morning at 9:45AM. Thanks to our many chapel volunteers, more helpers are always welcomed!! The preschool is looking for volunteers to assist in ANY capacity during school hours: in the office, kitchen, classroom or just tidying up. Please contact Sharon Ladigoski for more information.



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

COFFEE & COOKIES - FUN & FELLOWSHIP - There are so many things going on with our Hospitality committee and Lakeside members. Coffee and cookies are served on the first and third Sunday's of the month, (October 1st and October 15th). If you would like to donate cookies, please leave them in the narthex. Many thanks for the support of our "Mission Basket" on the coffee table. Our missionary family for October is Pastor J.P. Cima, and his wife Aimee and three children. They have been serving in Cambodia for more than 15 years.



ALOHA POTLUCK - Mark your calendars for our next potluck dinner, **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17th**. The doors open at 5:30; dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. It is



always good to get a head count for the table set up. Be sure to wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt, grass skirt or flower lei. Our onsite volunteers from World Renew will join us. It's a great opportunity to meet and greet. Contact Sharon Ladigoski (941) 460-6959.

Spiritual Conversations

Last August, Lakeside offered a two-part workshop on spiritual conversations. Research is showing that the American church is not that great at having spiritual conversations. They are not meaning the quality of the spiritual conversations - but rather people are not having them at all. Over the next few months, I will try to review and augment some of the content of the workshops.

Lutheran Hour Ministries shared five points that will help with your intentionality and eagerness of having spiritual conversations. If we engage in these five points our eagerness and intentionality will jump greatly. We can all list the excuses - from apathy, not my responsibility, fear, laziness, or even hubris - but let's look at the good stuff. Below are the five areas I will cover:

- God's love Transforms us - Embrace the Gospel
- God's love Grows us - Apply Spiritual Disciplines
- God's love Empowers us - Grasp the Calling
- God's love Engages others through us - Expect Spiritual Conversations
- God's love Abides - Respond Confidently

Let's look at the first area by reviewing 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." What other verse makes this clear for you?

When we Embrace the Gospel, we have a clear and certain understanding that salvation comes from belief in Jesus Christ alone and forgiveness of sins comes only through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The next five points flow from this grand teaching of scripture:

- I believe everyone needs their sins forgiven.
- I believe forgiveness only comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- I trust in Jesus for eternal life.
- When I think about who I am, I see my primary identity as a child of God.
- I am quick to forgive others.

When we are transformed by the love of Christ, we are compelled by the Gospel (2 Cor. 5:14). We desire all to be saved as God does (1 Tim. 2:4). So spiritual conversations are not optional in faith, but a flowing of love into others wrapped in kindness and grace. Table fellowship is a perfect time for sharing the love of Jesus. Give others the opportunity to share their story as well. As you break bread and sip on the water of life (John 4:14) - Jesus is with you.

God wants all men to be saved

1 Timothy 2





Several members from Lakeside go to **Harbor Health Nursing Home** in Port Charlotte on the 4th Sunday of every month. They offer a church service, singing, praying and enjoying fellowship with the residents. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Peter Gardner (908) 265-6473 for more information. Last month the volunteers got together for Burgers & Beers - Fun & Fellowship.



NURSING HOME
MINISTRY

LAKESIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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