

LAKE SIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December, 2023

**SERVICES ARE
ONLINE AND ONSITE**

Sunday Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Contemporary

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Traditional

Mid-Week Services
5:00 p.m. Wednesday

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Inside this issue:

Blessed Angels	1
Pastor's Page	2
Joyfully Inspiring	3
Christmas Colors	3
Church Council	4
Advent Food Drive	5
Make a Joyful Noise	5
Birthday/Anniversary	6
December Classes	7
Joy Column	8
World Renew	9
Bread Breakers	9
Groups	10
Debt/Reformation	11
Thanksgiving & Décor	12
Treehouse Pre-School	13
Hospitality	13
World Renew Dinners	13
LWML	14
More/Strong Disciples	15
Thank You for Food!	16



THE MESSENGER

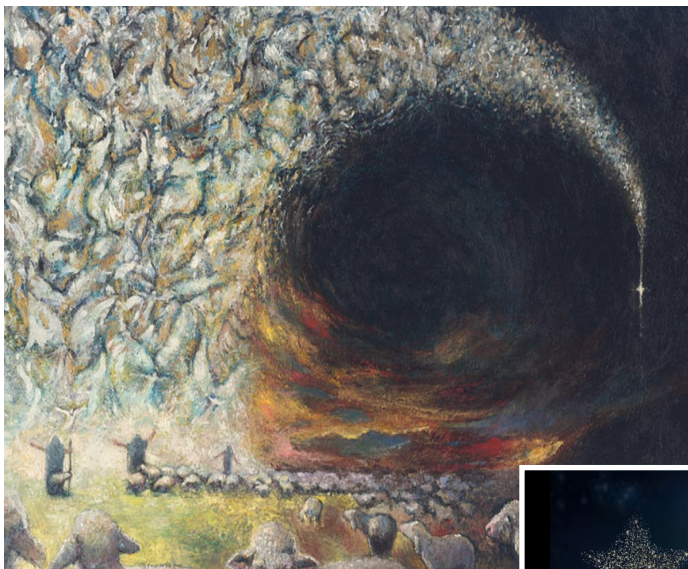
*Joyfully inspiring more
and stronger disciples.*



In the fields, the glory shone all around the blessed angel preaches...

The angel declares good news for all the world, the Savior is born, but the most shocking words that the angel speaks is, "for you" (Luke 2:11).

No wonder this is such a wonderful and marvelous night. And just to make sure we don't miss this, the Lord sends a *multitude* of angelic heavenly host to preach and sing what has happened (Luke 2:13). Though we're not sure how many angels are in a host, a division, nor how many are in a multitude? But we know that a multitude of hosts is a lot, thousands upon thousands, all singing, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace..." (Luke 2:14). You wouldn't miss that.



For this Baby, this Child lying in a manger; this is the glory of God and the peace of all men. For this Child would do something even more shocking than being born with this lowly birth, He would bring Himself all the way to the cross for our sins so that He could set heaven and earth at peace, forgive our sins and have us in life everlasting.

Dear saints,

*This is the most shocking,
and wonderful, and fantastic
Christmas gift of all...
and it is for you and me.*

Christmas Blessings!



*Excerpts from Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller - LCMS
- Christmas 2019 Newsletter -*





God's Love Abides - Respond Confidently

This is the last of our series on spiritual conversations. Our culture hungers for spiritual conversations. How wonderful that God leads us to respond with confidence in living them out in our lives.

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:4-6a



Wow! What an excuse eliminating Bible verse. When we look to ourselves for spiritual conversations, we seek to change the subject. But when we speak by faith, the Gospel is planted. Alleluia!

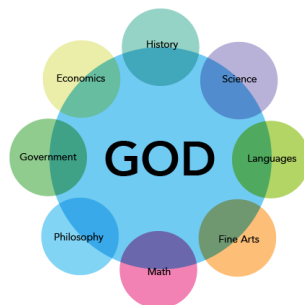
God Himself makes us qualified to share our faith and we are glad when we do. We feel peace and joy; we laugh; we aren't afraid even though we know these conversations are sometimes difficult.

God's love leads us in strong confidence. In our spiritual conversation we can:

- Invest time and energy into preparing for spiritual conversations.
- Try to understand others.
- We naturally adapt our responses to someone in a conversation based on where they are on their spiritual journey.
- We are patient with others during spiritual conversations and endure through the awkward moments.
- We experience positive benefits from spiritual conversations.



When it comes to spiritual conversations we see God is the center of them:



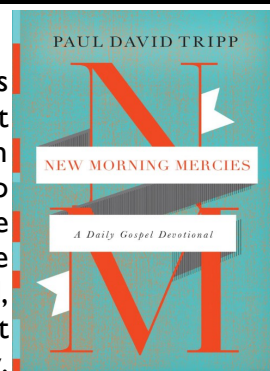
- God's love Transforms us - Embrace the Gospel
- God's love Grows us - Apply Spiritual Disciplines
- God's love Empowers us - Grasp the Calling
- God's loves Engages others through us - Expect Spiritual Conversations
- God's love Abides - Respond Confidently

When we engage in spiritual conversations through God's love miracles happen.

Pastor David Dahlke

Joyfully Inspiring

December wraps up our focus on “New Morning Mercies” as the basis of Pastor’s 2023 sermon themes. Personally, Paul Tripp’s daily gospel devotionals have taught me a great deal about trusting in God’s goodness, relying on His grace, and living in His glory every day. I’ve learned a lot about the heart being the problem. As Tripp writes (March 7), “People, locations, and situations don’t cause me to sin; they’re where the sin of my heart gets revealed.” I’ll confess, it’s easy to put myself in the starring role of my life. Or to tell myself that I know best, that I’ve got it covered, that the sin in my heart is tucked away. When Jesus is not first, we steal the great joy He intends for our lives. We fail to seek the grace He offers to us every day. So, as I think of JOY, I see it as a call to action: Today, will it be “(J)esus (O)r (Y)ou”? When I choose Jesus, I find Joy. When I choose me and my wants, my pride, my comfort, I lose focus on the joy of Jesus. So, Jesus or You? I pray for Joy. Joy in Jesus, and His new morning mercies.



Preview of December sermons:

December 3: The Big Point *(Based on New Morning Mercies Dec 4)*

“You were designed for it. You have missed the point without it. What is it? Living every day for the glory of the Father.”

December 10: Ambassador for the King *(Based on New Morning Mercies Dec 14)*

“What does it mean to be an ambassador of the King? It means reflecting his message, his methods, and his character wherever he’s placed us.”

December 17: Empowering Jesus *(Based on New Morning Mercies Dec 18)*

“Every time you desire to do and choose to do what is right in God’s eyes, you celebrate the grace that is yours in Christ Jesus.”

December 24: You are the Temple *(Based on New Morning Mercies Dec 27)*

“Why give way to fear when, in Christ, it is impossible for you to ever be alone because you are now the temple in which God dwells?”

December 31: Little Moments *(Based on New Morning Mercies Dec 31)*

“God’s work in you is a process, not an event. It progresses not in three or four huge moments, but in ten thousand little moments of change.”

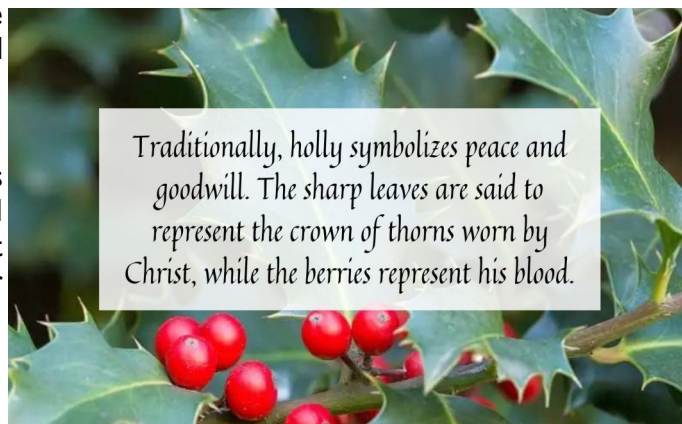
Red and Green Religious Christmas Colors

There are people all over the world who want to keep Christ in Christmas. As a result, one of the questions asked revolve around the colors of the holidays and whether or not they’re religiously significant. Some Christians believe the holly wreaths to be symbolic of Jesus’ crown. Where the red berries represent Jesus’ blood, the spiky holly leaves are said to embody the crown of thorns that encircled his head on the cross.

Other Christmas Colors

While red and green are on the top of the charts during the jolliest time of year, gold, blue, and white often follow suit. Gold symbolizes the gift from the three wise men, blue represents Mother Mary, who in art typically wears blue, and the white links to the purity of Jesus Himself.

Enjoy a Colorful Christmas!





Your Lakeside Lakeside Council are guiding and facilitating the following items:

We welcome our new President-Elect, Tim Dell and our new Secretary Elect, Brenda McCowan. They will take office on January 1st. Also re-elected to office for two years is our Lead Trustee, Lee Knudsvig. We pray for the wisdom and strength that only God can provide in their leadership in Lakeside as we march forward into 2024.

We will be renewing our contract-lease with The Treehouse for another year (2024). They have plans to convert part of the building space to a "Home-School" environment. This will be **Faith and Family Hybrid Christian Academy**. It will include older children on our campus. God at work. I am always amazed – but never surprised!

World Renew volunteers have joined us to spread the Christian help to all God's children in the area that are still needing help restoring their homes from Hurricane IAN (last year!). There will be crews (men and women) rotating in and out each 3 weeks for several months (through April). We are considering an extension beyond April. They will be headquartered and stay at our church. The Holy Spirit has truly blessed us with this opportunity to serve others. Lee Knudsvig is working on prospective major alterations to our "youth" building to include showers, lavatory and kitchen facilities. Once again, God is moving us from the old-Lakeside to new possibilities to enable us to reach out in new ways as a SENT congregation!

There are exploratory efforts for a new **Church Plant** in the area considering the growth in population. Again, a passion inspired by the Holy Spirit. May this new church plant lead us to greater glory for Christ and a beautiful opportunity for all of us at Lakeside. I encourage all our congregants to stop and listen for that quiet voice from within and ask "What can I do, Lord, and where will You lead Me?"

The amazing efforts by the Band-of-Brothers have had great response to the push on our **Advent Food Drive**. Thank you. There are many that will benefit from the generosity of Lakeside congregants in this season of both need and Joy. Keep up the good work! The focus for week #2 (Dec.3-9) is Lunch items; Week #3 (Dec. 10-16) is Dinner items; Finally Week 4 (Dec. 17-21) Desserts and Snacks.

The **Seminarian support** at Band of Brothers is exploring a new avenue since our initial support focus has moved on to another focus. We are also looking into how this may work to enhance future pastors in our area as our population grows. Can't wait to see what the Holy Spirit has in store for us next!

Financially, we are doing well thanks to God's provision and the support of all the congregants that are helping to support the Light of Christ going out to our congregants and also outward to the world around us. Also, Hallelujah! We are mortgage debt-FREE as of the end of October. Our assets have certainly grown but also our maintenance costs and certainly our insurance costs have grown (as I am sure we are all aware in this part of Florida). As the Lord said so many times in scriptures "FEAR NOT". Trust in God and as we spread His good News – He will always provide.

To all the souls that help keep our Christian Family alive, vibrant and inspired,

Thank You!



13
I can do all things through
Christ who gives me strength.

phil 4:13

Men's Group Band of Brothers

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

- Week 1 (Nov 24 - Dec 2) **Breakfast Foods**
 Week 2 (Dec 3 - Dec 9) **Lunch Foods**
 Week 3 (Dec 10 - Dec 16) **Dinner Foods**
 Week 4 (Dec 17 - Dec 21) **Dessert/Snacks**



HELP US HELP OTHERS

Financial Assistance was given
to support the Food Drive by
Thrivent Financial

Food drop off will be located in the Chapel area of the sanctuary, or you can bring your donations to the church office Monday-Thursday, 8-2 or Friday 8-12:00.



ADVENT

- Week 1 – Breakfast Foods
 Week 2 – Lunch Foods
 Week 3 – Dinner Foods
 Week 4 – Dessert/Snacks

Make a Joyful Noise

The Lakeside Handbell group has started once again. Anyone interested in playing handbells is invited to join us. It is a lot of fun! We meet on Wednesday's at 3:30 in the Sanctuary.



Birthdays

Carol Williamson	Dec 2	Joshua Ehrat	Dec 20
Joyce Berndt	Dec 5	Ted Gossert	Dec 21
Robert Hoops	Dec 6	J e s u s	Dec 25
Holly Totushek	Dec 10	John Vargo	Dec 27
Ryan Kalish	Dec 13	Ralph D'Elosua	Dec 28
Sam Bowers	Dec 14	Leah Nyvoll	Dec 29
Chris Kalish	Dec 14	Diane Szkola	Dec 30
Terry Walker	Dec 15	Linda Gabriel	Dec 31
Mike Mona	Dec 17	Marjorie Haag	Dec 31
Natalie Cornwell	Dec 20	Jim Melcher	Dec 31

Happy Birthday and Anniversary



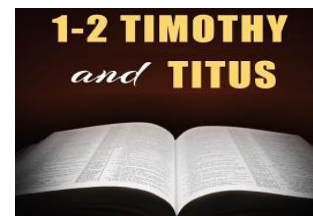
Anniversaries

Albert and Jane Haring	Dec 5
Ralph and Mae Reichert	Dec 6
Bob and Nancy Koelper	Dec 10
Don and Janet Jawor	Dec 12
Charles and Louise Solomon	Dec 15
Craig and Linda MacDonald	Dec 18
John and Joyce Perkins	Dec 18
Mike and Jean Thieroff	Dec 21
Bob and Janet Haessler	Dec 26

- DECEMBER CLASSES -

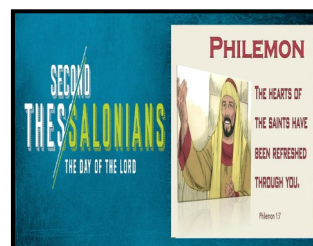
Monday Women's Study (in the Youth Room)

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



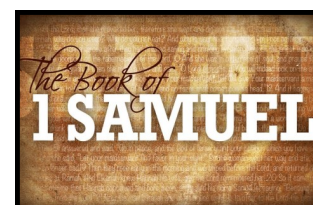
Wednesday Adult Bible Study (Online Zoom)

Join Pastor Dahlke
The Study of 2nd Thessalonians and Philemon
 9:00 a.m. Wednesday's online (Zoom).



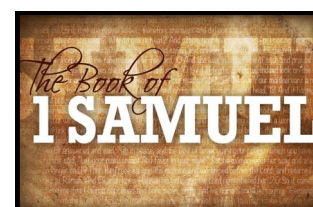
Wednesday Adult Bible Study (On Site)

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



Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study (Online Zoom)

Join Pastor Dahlke
The Study of 1st Samuel
 Cancelled until January 3, 2024



Saturday Morning - Men's Group Study (in the Youth Room)

Join the men
New Morning Mercies
 Saturday at 8:30 AM - (Meyer Hall)
 (Note: the 1st Saturday of the month is at 8:00 at Skilllets)



NEW* In-Home Study - Mike Lange and Tim Matheny

Join the Group beginning **January 9, 2024**
 Contact Mike: mikeland626@gmail.com or 937-728-2927
 Held between the home of Tim and Kay Mathey and Mike Lange.



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

JOY COLUMN

We have adding a new column in our Newsletter. We would like for members to submit a short description of a Christian experience they have had. Include the results, great or small. Also include the Joy you experienced from reaching out and spreading the Good News of the love and truth of Jesus. Your column can even be seeing someone else reaching out...



Try to limit your column to approximately 100 words or less. Do not include names... the article should remain anonymous. This will help us focus on our faith and learn to inspire others.

Any written (paper) descriptions or emails should be sent to the church office for use in the "Joy Column" (llc@lakesidelutheran.net).
We look forward to hearing from you.



My sister in Florida had been battling cancer for many years. She complained to me that she did not have the strength to clean out her garage. Living in Illinois at the time, I planned time in April to help with the garage. We spent three joyful days cleaning, laughing and remembering our childhood while we created boxes and boxes of usable items to be donated to her church for others in need. At her memorial service the following September, many of her friends came to me saying "only a loving sister would help clean out a garage." I stated, "it was a joyful time." The smallest help you offer makes the largest impression. Find joy in the ordinary!!



A friend (unaffiliated with church) and I shared a day out and about in the community. Our task was taking used toys that were in good shape into the community and randomly placing them on park benches. Some of the toys were handed directly to parents, others were handed to the children, others just left on a bench. The toys were given out as a **Random Acts of Kindness**. Each toy included a card with scripture on the back of the gift tag.

My friend had the best time handing the gifts. She was so happy to be involved with spreading God's Love through these old toys. We all shared Jesus that day (she, the children, the parents and myself). When we returned home my friend was very excited and expressed that she wants to do this every year. Spreading God's Word and Love is Contagious!



**KINDNESS IS
CONTAGIOUS**

*Please enjoy this
Random Act of Kindness.
Our kids are done with this toy.
We hope it makes you smile.*





We are blessed to have an opportunity to partner with World Renew – a helping team of Christians who have extended their skills and time to help others recover from Hurricane Ian destruction to their homes. Yes, Hurricane IAN from last year! There are many people that still have uninhabitable homes through problems with insurance, lack of repair funds, age, etc. The volunteers come from many parts of the USA and Canada just to reach out in Christian charity to help our neighbors. They have currently assessed and planned work on over 100 homes in South Sarasota County here in Florida.



Lakeside has been honored to join with World Renew as our part of the effort by offering some of our campus buildings and willing congregants to house, provide services and fellowship and our heartfelt thanks for all the willing hands as we join in Loving our Neighbors as Ourselves. The Holy Spirit offered us this opportunity and we had to respond – We could Do No Other!



We have committed to this Partnership until at Least April 2024 and possibly beyond. The outreach to others in need has also opened up new avenues of discipleship opportunities to share the Joy that we have found in our faith. Our Lord Jesus is so good and fills us with such Joy that sharing the Gospel through loving our neighbors and extending a Christian welcome cannot help but bear fruit.

THIS is the way God's creation is supposed to work and grow. Thank you Jesus!

BREAD BREAKERS

AND THEY
DEVOTED
THEMSELVES
TO THE
APOSTLES'
TEACHING AND
THE
FELLOWSHIP,
TO THE
BREAKING OF
BREAD AND
THE PRAYERS.
ACTS 2:42

The Bread Breakers offers an opportunity to become involved in living the Lakeside Vision: "Joyful Christians who inspire More and Stronger Disciples." People get together in small groups for friendship, church community, and fun. Through conversations we are encouraged and filled with the Joy of Jesus. Bread Breakers is designed so all who attend Lakeside will have an opportunity to create bonds with others in a close, caring, supportive environment.

We are preparing to shuffle groups around, so we can get to know others. Groups formed are composed of long-standing members, new members, couples, singles, full-time and seasonal members. Each group should plan to meet monthly: Jan. - May.

Each of the groups is autonomous and agrees on a different volunteer each month to plan and coordinate the next month's activity. Members communicate their availability to attend, or they send their regrets. Participation is encouraged, but entirely voluntary.

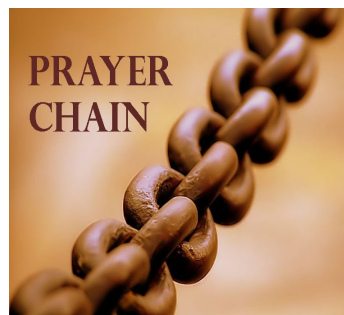
There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the kick-off of the January season. Please sign the sheet by the end of December, or you may contact Linda MacDonald if you have questions, or to sign up.

(573) 693-8446 craiglindamac@gmail.com

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.



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

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.



(Photo)

The Stitch-n-Chatter ladies packaged up Christmas goodies for foster children.

(Below) Retire the Debt / Reformation Dinner Photos



(Below) Celebrating the 100th birthday with Marion Dailey!

(Below) Congrats and Thanks to Bill Meints for his service to Lakeside Lutheran Church





We give thanks to God for a wonderful 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Celebration.

Many thanks to all who helped set up, clean up and prepare part of the meal. A big thank you to Pastor and Amy for coordinating the festivities! There was plenty of food and fellowship for our 61 guests. We were happy to have about 15 World Renew volunteers join us after working a few hours in the morning, then they returned back to work after our noon Thanksgiving meal.

Are we maybe going for #3 Pastor?

(above) **ENJOYING THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP**

(below) **DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS**



The decorating crew had a busy morning on Nov 25 - lights to hang, manger to assemble, 6 trees to decorate and lots of cocoa and cookies eat! Another day of fun and fellowship (with work in between)!



THE TREEHOUSE PRE-SCHOOL



We continue to teach Bible stories, pray and sing songs to the 40 plus children every Wednesday morning at Children's Chapel. The volunteers enjoy the singing as much as the little ones! Come join us to watch or participate, 9:45 AM every Wednesday.

The Treehouse will host it's 2nd annual Christmas party in Meyer Hall, December 28th.

Santa and Mrs. Claus plan to make an appearance!



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality committee is so appreciative of all the donations of cookies and dollars to our mission. December's mission will again be for the **Water Project in Africa**, as we only collected one week last month. Coffee and Cookies will be December 3rd and December 17th, between services. See you there!



The Water Project



WORLD RENEW TEAM I

Thanks to all of you for making such a lovely Italian farewell dinner for the first World Renew team. I thank God for each of you and am proud to call you my friend in Christ!



LWML DECEMBER POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY

The LWML will be holding a Happy Birthday Jesus party on Thursday, December 14th at 11:30 (NOTE: the 2nd Thursday this month!). All Lakeside ladies & their guests are welcome. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex indicating what type of dish you'll bring to share for lunch. Bring a wrapped gift (\$10 limit) to participate in the gift exchange.



Also, we will be collecting Jesus birthday baby gifts to be donated to the Venice Area Pregnancy Center.

Baby items include: baby lotion, Desitin ointment, pacifiers, children's sunscreen, baby cereal & small juice packets that 3 or 4 year old children can hold. (Please, no baby food)

We are looking forward to celebrating Jesus' birthday with you!



LWML ANGEL GIVING TREE

An Angel Giving Tree has been set up in the narthex by LWML to provide gifts to women & children in need this Christmas season. The gifts will be going to two organizations - Prodigal Daughters (a 24-month residential program for women & children) & the Venice Area Pregnancy Care Center (assisting families with babies). If you'd like to participate: pick an angel off of the tree, buy the gift, bring the wrapped gift to church with the angel attached to it, put it under the Christmas tree in the narthex. **Gifts need to be returned by Sunday, Dec. 10th.** We thank you for being Jesus' hands & feet this Christmas season!



LWML HOPE SEEDS

LWML's service event for was a huge success. 29 people volunteered to fill 3,400 carrot seed packets that will be sent to countries that are in need of healthy food. A delicious salad lunch was enjoyed afterwards.





Communicating Lakeside's Vision

(Moving from Paper and into the Hearts of People)

Joyfully inspiring more and stronger disciples.

1. Do you have the **joy** of the Lord as your strength? Nehemiah 8:10
2. Do you **inspire** others for good works? Hebrews 10:24
3. Do you see your mission to make **more** disciples? Matthew 28:19
4. Do you make disciples **stronger**? 1 Cor. 16:3

Are you able to convey the vision in both words and actions? People can lose the message quickly, so it needs to be communicated often over the long haul. Vision drip is when other activities slowly replace the vision. Do the resources we use at Lakeside support the vision or does it support pet projects that make us feel good about ourselves?

Communicating the Vision Strategy

1. The vision was cast November 8th at the Voter's meeting.
2. Talk the vision: People cast the vision in conversation, in worship, in the narthex, in our studies, in the parking lots, in our homes, in our fellowship events, and much more.
3. Banner displaying the vision.
4. Newsletter articles: Each month we will assign one person to submit an article to the newsletter sharing the vision in their life.
5. Worship Testimonies: Once a month have a testimony reflecting the vision given.
6. Worship: Vision incorporated into the worship service.
7. Worship: 15 Sermons that highlight the vision throughout the year in 2024
Jan 7, Feb. 2, Feb. 18, Mar. 24, May 5, 19, June 9, 16, July 14,
Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Nov. 17, Dec. 15
8. Mission Pathways Transformation events.
9. What can you do? When 150 people work to deliver the vision, it moves. When we depend on the pastor to do it for us we destroy the pastor's effectiveness.
10. Review its effectiveness – January 29th SWOT Meeting.

Why is building the vision so important? You may have the greatest vision in the world but if it is not communicated to the people, by the people, for the people it will prove to be impotent. When we fail to communicate the vision, the people will begin to assume that the vision is not really important, or that leaders are no longer committed to it. When the mission is not communicated to the hearts of people, we fall into default mode of just critiquing people, visions, programs, and worship.



LAKESED LUTHERAN CHURCH

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We're on the web
www.LakesideLutheran.Net



Thank you for the Advent Food Donations!



Lakeside Lutheran Church
2401 Tamiami Trail South
Venice, FL 34293

Stamp

Joyfully inspiring more and stronger disciples.