

LAKESIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December, 2024

SERVICES ARE ONSITE AND ONLINE

Sunday Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Contemporary

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Traditional

Mid-Week Advent Service
5:00 PM

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

*Joyfully inspiring more
and stronger disciples.*



Is it any wonder the world is seemingly Godless? Some churches are deciding to cancel extra services (like Thanksgiving, Advent and even Christmas-Eve and Christmas Day services). Unchurched folks notice that the churches are closed.



Could you imagine a cold and bare church on Christmas-Eve? The thought is really sad. Where will His people be? Reducing services is part of a larger movement. In 2005, a number of churches all conspired to cancel the service on Dec.25th (since it fell on a Sunday.) The decision was about “being lifestyle-friendly for people who are just very, very busy.” Should churches bow to the culture and become “lifestyle-friendly”? Thankfully, we at Lakeside do not follow that trend. By cancelling even one of these services, it makes all other services vulnerable.

I do get it. Everyone's busy during the holidays. Everyone wants a picture-perfect Christmas. Everyone has someone ready to give them grief for skipping a part of a cozy family Christmas celebration to go to church. As busy as everyone is - Christmas is the birth of our Leader. “The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The very God who spoke the universe into existence became a tiny baby - a real, live, flesh-and-blood human being for us.

To my fellow Christians I say this: Let's not give our churches any cause to cancel Christmas. Two thousand years ago in Bethlehem, God fulfilled a promise made at the dawn of creation (Gen. 3:15). He became one of us, and that event changes everything! So this Christmas, enjoy time at home with your family. Feast. Make merry. Open presents. Sing carols. Deck the halls. But whatever else you do, make time for worship and go to church.

This is the **season** This is the **reason**





Dear Lakeside,

I would like to take this time to prayerfully wish you a very Merry Christmas. Christmas joy is a result of Christ being our gift to overcome the sin and pain of the world.



During this season, we will be celebrating Jesus as the Light.

As Christmas approaches, you may be concerned about all kinds of stuff. There are presents to buy, decorations to put up, cards to send, and food to prepare. God wants us to “put on the armor of light.”

We often do not think about how we are preparing ourselves for Christmas. We are often too focused on preparing the external rather than the internal. As Advent begins, remember to prepare more than stuff. Prepare your heart and mind, body and soul to be ready when Christ comes again.

We may feel alone or overwhelmed. We may seem to have a fading energy and endurance. Some of you may be dreading the potential conflict that will come when you gather with family and friends for Christmas celebrations. The apostle Paul writes that our God is the God of endurance and encouragement. You may be tired. You may be discouraged. But Christ has visited His people, and He gathers us all so that we may shine more brightly together in this world of darkness and discouragement.

As you prepare for Christmas, may you be encouraged by your brothers and sisters in Christ who shine alongside you and may you do the same for others. As Christmas approaches, it can be difficult to stay focused on our identity and purpose as God’s people. It’s easy to get swept up in the numerous worldly expectations around us. We often try to make everything perfect. We try to trim the perfect tree, buy the perfect gifts, and cook the perfect meals. Yet we know that perfection exists only in Jesus. In December we will celebrate perfection being born in a manger. God calls us, His people, away from imperfection and into His perfection. He sets His own Light within us and sets us apart to shine in this dark world. In these few days of Advent, remember that you are set apart for a purpose: to shine the light of Christ.

I am grateful to God that He has sent the Light. This Christmas we celebrate that Light. Without Christ’s presence among us we would be lost. Through God’s presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole by the Light. I pray you have a fantastic Christmas.

Pastor Dahlke



Happy New Church Year!

A TIME FOR RENEWAL



NEW CHURCH YEAR - NEW RESOLUTIONS

Advent is the start of the new Church Year. Some people make New Year's Resolutions for the calendar year, but now may be a good time to make a Spiritual Resolution for New Church Year.

This can be a time to start that daily devotion habit. A few resources include:

- Portals of Prayer (available quarterly in the Narthex and Church Office).
- Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotions. You can read this online, subscribe and receive a daily email, or download the app. <https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions>
- LWML Mustard Seed Daily Devotions. You can read this online or subscribe to receive a daily email. <https://www.lwml.org/todays-mustard-seed-devotion>
- You can ask your Elder for additional resources.
- This might also be the time to join a Bible Class. Options at Lakeside include:
 - † Monday Women's Bible Study led by Amy Dahlke in the Sanctuary at 6 PM.
 - † Wednesday Adult Zoom Bible study led by Pastor at 9 AM, currently studying Romans.
 - † Wednesday Adult Bible study led by Pastor and 10:30 AM in Meyer Hall, currently studying Luke.
 - † Wednesday Adult Zoom Bible study led by Pastor at 7 PM, (postponed until 1/8/25).
 - † Saturday Men's Band of Brothers at 8:30 AM in Meyer Hall.

George Shepard will be starting 'Reading Through the Bible in 90 Days'. There is a daily reading schedule to complete on your own, with regular encouragement from George. There is a sign-up sheet and reading schedule in the Narthex. Contact George (geojen2@gmail.com) if you would like a copy of the reading schedule emailed to you.

As you can see, there are a variety of ways to enhance your Spiritual growth for the Church New Year. Blessings on the individual path you are led to take.

The Board of Elders



- DECEMBER CLASSES -

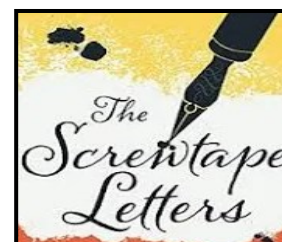
Monday Evening - Women's Study (On Site)

Led by Amy Dahlke
The Study of the Gospel of Matthew
6:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)



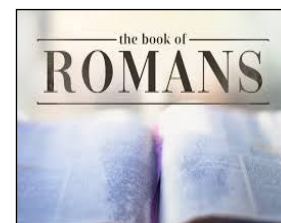
Tuesday - Living Water In - Home Study Group

Led by Mike Lange
The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis
(Off Campus)



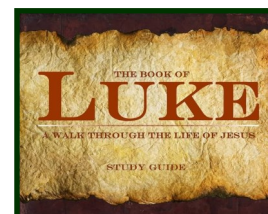
Wednesday Morning - Adult Bible Study (Online Zoom)

Join Pastor Dahlke
The Book of Romans (along with some Catechism)
9:00 a.m. Wednesday's (Online - Zoom)



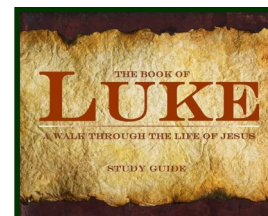
Wednesday Morning - Adult Bible Study (On Site)

Join Pastor Dahlke
The Study of Luke
10:30 a.m. Wednesday's (Meyer Hall)



Wednesday Evening - Adult Bible Study (Online Zoom)

Join Pastor Dahlke
The Study of Luke
7:00 p.m. Wednesday's (Class Resumes 1/8/25)

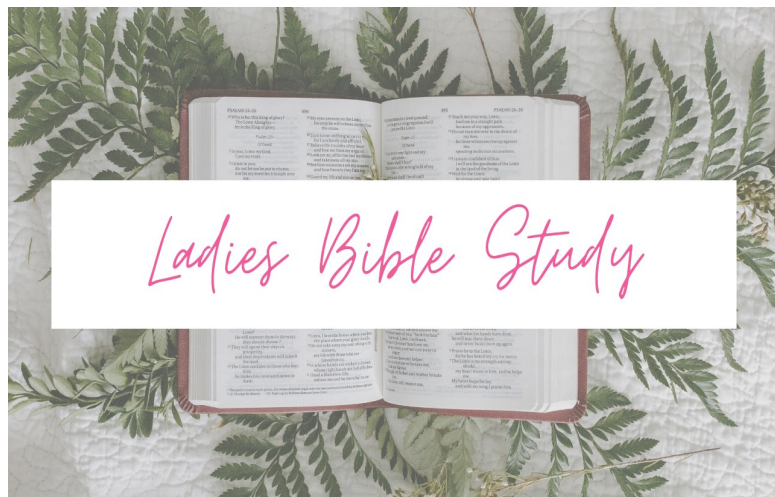


Saturday Morning - Men's Group Study (On Site)

Join the men
Study: God's Word for Today: 2 Corinthians
8:30 a.m. Saturday (Meyer Hall)
(Note: the 1st Saturday of the month is at 8:00 at Skillets Restaurant)



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



LADIES BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Monday night Women's Bible Study Group has applied for Thrivent Action Grants to complete two service projects over the next few weeks. Their first project is to make a take-home meal for each of the teachers at the Treehouse Preschool so that they can have a night off from cooking and enjoy a meal with their families during the busy month of December. The second project is to make care packages for the residents of Gardens of Venice Assisted Living Center. They are making care packages for 25 men and 53 women.

- November 25 and December 2 they will have Bible Study. The topic(s) is yet to be determined as they do not want to start a new study until January.
- December 9 is their night for service projects. They will complete both projects that night.
- December 16 will be the Women's Bible Study Christmas table fellowship meal together.
- December 23 and 31 there will be no Bible study - Merry Christmas to everyone!

Please talk with Amy Dahlke if you have any questions about the Women's Bible Study Group, or if you would like to join them.

THE BOOK OF ACTS - STUDY GUIDE

The 2025 readings at Lakeside Lutheran Church will be focusing on the Book of Acts. There are Study Guides available for the 2025 Acts series. The guides are in the Narthex. Pick up a copy and take it home for self-study of the readings that are being used each week.

Email the church office if you would like an copy to be sent to you.

llc@lakesidelutheran.net

or



pastordavid@lakesidelutheran.net

2025 Study Guide

the book of **ACTS**
THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

The Gospel Unleashed

"Joyfully Inspiring More and Stronger Disciples!"

 **Lakeside Lutheran Church**
2401 Tamiami Trail South, Venice, FL
(941) 493-5102 llc@lakesidelutheran.net 



Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries

Al and Jane Haring	December 5
Ralph and Mae Reichert	December 6
Craig and Linda MacDonald	December 18
John and Joyce Perkins	December 18
Mike and Jean Thieroff	December 21
Bob and Janet Haessler	December 26

Birthdays

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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US AT THE MOVIE THEATER?

Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin.

PG-13

Dietrich Bonhoeffer joins a deadly plot to assassinate Hitler and save millions of Jews.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran Pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi dissident. His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential; his 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic. Apart from his theological writings, Bonhoeffer was known for his staunch resistance to the Nazi dictatorship, including vocal opposition to Adolf Hitler's euthanasia program and genocidal persecution of the Jews. The theater production of Bonhoeffer will be released in Venice in December. If you would like to join us at the theater, please watch for a sign-up sheet to be placed in the narthex.

LAKESIDE BAND-of-BROTHERS

Lakeside Band-of-Brothers is striving to know the Joy of Christ better through the study of His word, loving and serving our Lord as He first loved and served us, the Band of Brothers is committed to becoming the men that GOD has called us to be. The Band-of-Brothers meets each Saturday morning at 8:30-10:00 am in Meyer Hall (except the first Saturday of the month, which is at Skillet's Restaurant).

All men welcome – bring a friend!

We meet each week to discuss and join together to find ways that we, as Christian Men, can better serve our Lord and our faith in our efforts and outreach. In this crazy world we cannot hope to change the culture back to Christ (that is for the Holy Spirit) but we can reach out and offer a hand to those falling into despondency so they can truly be known by the heart of God. There are so many out there that need that Peace that only knowing Christ can bring.

We just began a study and discussion of 2 Corinthians. During the study we really get into deep conversations about how the words of the Bible relates to us and affects how we live as men in this crazy world. We have a lot of *Ah Hah!* moments.

Men, please come join us - coffee and donuts are included!

AS WE BAND TOGETHER
AS BROTHERS-IN-CHRIST
WE BECOME UNSTOPPABLE
FOR OUR FAITH AND HIS GLORY.



TREEHOUSE PRESCHOOL

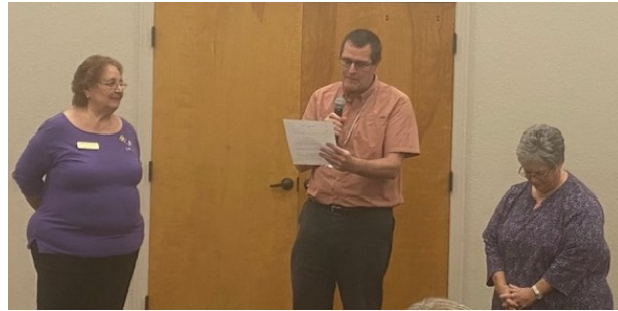
The Treehouse Preschool enjoyed their "costume parade" on Wednesday, October 30 (see photo below). What fun to see a lot of the children arrive for Children's Chapel in their costumes and pose for a picture... with teachers too!

Ms. Colleen displayed the candy corn as a reference to go along with the Bible story. The children were delighted to receive "Jesus is the Light" stickers on their way out.

Everyone is welcome to watch or participate in Children's Chapel - it takes place every Wednesday at 9:45AM. If you'd like any other information about the preschool, please contact Sharon Ladigoski (941) 460-6959.

NOTE: The Treehouse Preschool is now sharing space with a homeschooling co-op called "Faith and Family Hybrid Christian Academy of Venice". The co-op is currently for grades K-8, and hoping to expand through grade 12 next year. They meet Monday and Wednesday, from 9:00-3:00. They start with chapel, and then go onto class work. The attendance is about 15 on Monday and 30 on Wednesday. It's great to see more children on campus. If you'd like further information, please contact Elizabeth Randol at (941) 497-5858.





LWML Fall Rally Recap

Eight ladies and Pastor attended the LWML Zone Rally at Faith Lutheran Church in Punta Gorda on November 16th. Sherry Klopfer (Lakeside) was voted in as Zone Treasurer during the meeting. Thanks to everyone at Lakeside who donated plastic grocery bags and personal items for the 'Jesus Loves You Ministry'. Lakeside had the biggest collection and the items will be given to the homeless in Charlotte and South Sarasota Counties. The ladies enjoyed watching how the plastic bags will be woven into plastic sleeping mats for the homeless. Thanks again Lakeside for your overwhelming support and generosity.

LWML December Potluck Christmas Party

The LWML will be holding its Potluck Christmas Party on Thursday, December 5th at 11:30. The theme will be "Joy is the Journey". All Lakeside ladies and their guests are welcome. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex indicating what type of dish you will bring to share for lunch. Also please bring a wrapped gift (\$10 limit) that reflects "JOY". It can be an item that has the word "JOY" on it, or something that gives you joy. We are looking forward to celebrating the joy of Jesus' birth with you!



LWML Angel Giving Tree

An Angel Giving Tree (set up by LWML) will be in the narthex starting December 1st to provide gifts to women and children in need this Christmas season. The gifts will be going to two organizations - Prodigal Daughters (a 24-month residential program for women and children) and the Venice Area Pregnancy Care Center (assisting families with babies). If you would like to participate please pick an angel off of the tree, buy the gift, bring the WRAPPED gift to church with the angel attached to it, and put it under the Christmas tree in the narthex. **Gifts need to be returned by Sun., Dec. 15th.** We thank you for being Jesus' hands and feet to those in need this Christmas season!



LWML Mighty Mites

The 1st Sunday of each month is LWML Mite Sunday. Your mites support 'What Does This Mean' - Bible Books for Haitian Families. Haitian families will be provided Bible storybooks in Haitian, Creole and French, better enabling Lutheran churches to teach the gospel. Please bring your mite box on the 1st Sunday and put it on the purple table in the narthex - and take a new box! Also, EVERYONE is welcome to add their spare change to the Mighty Mites Bucket! Thank you for your generosity and support.



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 with small tasks! 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 \$35 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.



Hospitality Committee

Thanks to all for bringing in cookies and more thanks to those who stay for coffee and fellowship. It's a great opportunity to say hello to our seasonal friends and meet so many new people who have recently moved to the area. Take a look around...say hello to someone new, you'll be glad you did. Coffee & cookies will be available December 1st and 15th... See you then!

Poinsettia Shortages

Please know, with the two hurricanes this year, that the poinsettia crop was damaged; thus, it is hard to find poinsettias at a reasonable price. It has been decided to purchase 20 plants (*if they are available*) to decorate around the altar. Following the 10:30 late service, on Dec. 29th, people may feel free to take a poinsettia plant home (first come, first serve). NOTE: We will not be offering plants for sale this year.





WELCOME BACK and POTLUCK
Our November World Renew team had about 10 "repeat" volunteers - it was so nice to see them again and say Welcome Back. We had a full house for a potluck on Tuesday, November 12, with about 72 people attending. We got to hear from several of the World Renew team members. To close out the dinner, they gathered together and sang, 'Abide With Me'. It was a great way to end the evening. Thanks to all who set-up, cleaned-up and brought wonderful dishes and desserts to share.





Add a sprinkle, pinch, dash, or drop
**AND JOIN US AT A
COOKIE EXCHANGE PARTY**

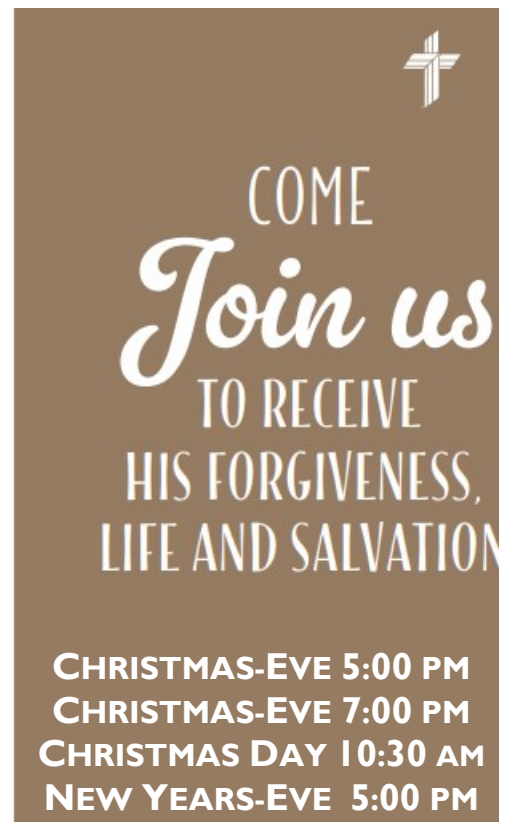
Place: Lakeside Lutheran Church - LWML
Date: Wednesday, December 11th
Time: Following the Advent Service
RSVP: Colleen Umphrey (by Sunday 12/8/24)
umphrey.colleen@gmail.com

Please bring 2-3 dozen of your favorite cookies, a container for cookies, and a copy of the recipe.

Rejoice



THE LORD IS AT HAND



COME
Join us
TO RECEIVE
HIS FORGIVENESS,
LIFE AND SALVATION

CHRISTMAS-EVE 5:00 PM
CHRISTMAS-EVE 7:00 PM
CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30 AM
NEW YEARS-EVE 5:00 PM

C.R.E.W. (*Christians Ready, Equipped and Willing*) is a small but hearty Lakeside Lutheran group formed after Hurricane Ian with the goal of helping our church and community prepare for and clean up after a hurricane or other unfortunate event. They seek to extend the love of Jesus to others through acts of service (generally physical work projects), building relationships with those in need, and prayer.

On Saturday, Nov. 23rd, the Lakeside Lutheran Church Band of Brothers and C.R.E.W. chopped up, hauled and stacked a yard full of damaged wooden fencing for a Nokomis homeowner whose property was damaged by hurricanes Helene and Milton. Thank you all for being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!

Speak with Diane Emo or Lee Knudsvig for more information about CREW.





Bread Breakers 2025

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 they 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 once monthly: January - 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 if you have questions you may contact Linda MacDonald craiglindamac@gmail.com.



SERVICES ARE DECEMBER 4th, 11th and 18th - 5:00 PM



**REJOICE:
THE LORD IS
AT HAND**



There was a ball of mud that sat along the road. The ball of mud thought of itself as of no consequence at all - unimportant - not worth much if anything. For a very long time, many passed by the ball of mud and never even noticed it. The people just ignored it and went on their way. The animals and carts just went on by and didn't notice it at all.

One day the Master, Jesus, came by. Along with the Master were His disciple followers. There was a man born blind from birth set before them. The disciples asked the Master why this man was blind, what sin had he committed, or was it his parents that sinned. The Master said neither had happened. This man was born blind so that the works of God could be shown through him. As He said this, the Master bend down and picked up the ball of mud and held it.

The ball of mud felt warm and good to be in His hands, and the ball of mud felt somehow important. Jesus started to squeeze the mud and then did something strange. He spit saliva on the mud so that God could work with the mud and the power of the Holy Spirit. Then He spread the mud on the blind man's eyes, anointed him and told him to go wash the mud off in the pool of Siloam (which means "sent"). As the man washed off the mud, suddenly he could see light, see colors, and see the birds that he could hear singing for so long. The mud was washed away and having performed it's mission of light and salvation, the mud was dismissed.

Jesus explained: ⁴"We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9: 1-7)

Are we the "ball of mud" that is sent to open the eyes of others and point them toward the only true light of salvation in Jesus; OR are we the one who's eyes were opened to believe that only through the light of Christ can we see, knowing all other paths lead to darkness and are nothing!

Remember: The only path to light and Joy is through Christ.

"Lakeside church mouse"



LAKESIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Venice, FL 34293

Phone: 941-493-5102
Fax: 941-493-1999

Email:
LLC@LakesideLutheran.Net

We're on the web
www.LakesideLutheran.Net

Sunday	Dec. 1	Sunday Services (9:00 and 10:30)
Wed.	Dec. 4	Advent 1 Midweek Service (5:00) and Dinner
Sunday	Dec. 8	Sunday Services (9:00 and 10:30)
Wed.	Dec. 11	Advent 2 Midweek Service (5:00) and Dinner
Sunday	Dec. 15	Sunday Services (9:00 and 10:30)
Wed.	Dec. 18	Advent 3 Midweek Service (5:00) and Dinner
Sunday	Dec. 22	Sunday Services (9:00 and 10:30)
Tuesday	Dec. 24	Christmas-Eve Services (5:00 and 7:00)
Wed.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day Service (10:30 only)
Sunday	Dec. 29	Sunday Services (9:00 and 10:30)
Tuesday	Dec. 31	New Years Eve Service (5:00)

**Merry
Christmas**
And Happy New Year

Lakeside Lutheran Church
2401 Tamiami Trail South
Venice, FL 34293

Stamp

Joyfully inspiring more and stronger disciples.