

LAKESIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

January, 2025

**SERVICES ARE
ONSITE AND ONLINE**

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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MESSENGER

*Joyfully inspiring more
and stronger disciples.*



Navigating Life Changes as a Christian

We naturally go through both good and bad transitions in life. Some are predictable, yet others are unexpected. Changes worth celebrating (ie: Graduation. Marriage. A new job.) and changes worth mourning (ie: Loss of a loved one. Layoff. Sickness.) Any life change can bring stress. It can feel chaotic - like everything is out of place. But if you have a relationship with God, you know that life with God is a journey. As a Christian, you should expect many changes and life transitions as God uses you and your life for His glory. Change is good. Change is a necessary part of life. Change shows we are growing closer to who God created us to be and stepping into the plans He has for us.



But how do you find joy when it seems like your whole life has been turned up-side-down? We find stress from the never ending to do lists. There is feelings of always being behind with everything. There is frustration of trying to figure out how to do things that I had never done before. But God doesn't leave you hanging. He has a way of speaking to you when you need Him the most. For example: Everyone knows that moving requires a lot of work. God opens up an opportunity for you, but if you aren't willing to put in the work to pack your belongings and move, you won't step into the new part of life that God has for you. You can move forward to plans God has in this new season.

No matter what season you are in, below are strategies of change to step into the season God has for you.

- Make God your top priority. He is more important than ever in a season of change. God is the one thing that never changes. He is essential when it feels like everything else is changing around you. John 15:4-5.
- Find Your Daily Rhythm - Activities that refresh you (food, shower, exercise...)
- Take Time to Rest - Matthew 11:28-29
- Don't Feel Bad Saying No
- Ask for Help when you need it – Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. That's what Christian friends are for.
- Take Time to Enjoy the Celebration - God calls us to celebrate and enjoy life. – Ecclesiastes 8:15
- Give Yourself Grace - it can be difficult to give ourselves grace. Sometimes we can start to feel bad for not giving as much time or attention to other things. But God tells us that His power works best in our weaknesses. – 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Make Time for the Things You Enjoy. There will be days that you focus on your to do list and nothing else. When you find yourself consumed with checking things off your list that you really don't want to do, be sure to make time for those things that you actually enjoy.
- Pray about EVERYTHING. In seasons of transition, it's easy to start worrying about everything. All of the things that could go wrong: Instead, Pray! Philippians 4:6-7 — 1 Peter 5:7 — Matthew 6:25-34

Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.



Make Disciples as You Go in 2025

The literal translation of the command in Matthew 28:19-20 is this: “As you are going, make disciples!” Jesus is directing us to make disciples as we go about living. Disciple makers take the bright light of Christ into a dark world.

Think about the non-Christians you know in your life. You may connect with them often, or maybe irregularly. Use the following categories to help you think of names of people who need Christ. Try to write a name or names after each category.

- Someone under your own roof
- Someone at work or school
- Someone in your neighborhood or community
- A friend or family member
- Someone you do fun things with in your life

Pray for these names. God is leading these people across your path and in your routines of life. Many people need us to wisely and patiently listen to them, pray for them and point them to Christ. They need the seed of the gospel planted in them by the messenger or the sower.

Let’s Review! In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples teaching and baptizing. In John 17, Jesus prayed to the Father about completing the work He had been given: making disciples. This work was important because the message of the Gospel needs a messenger.

Have you ever looked at the church as God’s team to plant the Gospel in large amounts. The church is part of God’s design for disciple making. Review Matthew 16:18: “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Jesus tells us who is going to crush the gates of hell (the forces of evil). Can it be you?



The church team is important because no one person has all the abilities, gifts and wisdom of Jesus (even if they think they have all the answers, they don’t). We need each other to fulfill Christ’s command. Though we are responsible to disciple those God brings across our paths, we were never intended to do it all alone. Working as a team helps us to keep Jesus first and avoid exalting one player’s importance above another. We all *joyfully inspire more and stronger disciples* in unique ways by the power of the Gospel.

In the church, people do all these things through the Holy Spirit in inspiring disciples. What gifts and abilities do you have that can help others grow in Jesus?

Paul told us in Ephesians 2:10 that we are God’s masterpiece and that He saved us for good works that He planned for us to do. We all have roles we have been gifted and shaped to fulfill. Even the scars we received from others (and the ones we’ve given ourselves) can be used now for Jesus.

What has God brought you through in your life that could be used to disciple others? God has a beautiful mission that only you can fulfill. Enjoy!

Pastor Dahlke

**FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP,
CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS UNTO
GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD
HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT
WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.**

EPHESIANS 2:10





The Lakeside Mission Statement is 'Joyfully Inspiring More and Stronger Disciples'. We are reminded of this at the end of each church service during the Benediction. The Lakeside definition of a Disciple is 'one who Believes in Jesus, Follows Jesus, and SHARES Jesus'.

All of us are active in a variety of communities, those places where we live, work, volunteer, and play. Our individual communities include people God has placed in our path, people who we should be building trusting relationships with. We need to meet those people where they are, and not be critical or judgmental. We should be listening much more than talking.

As we build that trusting relationship and listen to their hurts and/or needs, we will hear the opening the Holy Spirit has given to SHARE Jesus. Be gentle, not overbearing. Have faith that the Holy Spirit, who alerted us to the 'opening', He will continue to be with us, and them, throughout this discussion and the discussions to follow.

Do not expect a conversion or 'aha' moment after the first discussion. It will usually take much longer than you expect, and may include numerous conversations by you and/or other Christians to nudge them toward Seeing the Light! Continue to pray, and listen for the openings. Remember you do not do the converting, but the Holy Spirit does - using you and possibly others.

The Board of Elders



- JANUARY CLASSES -

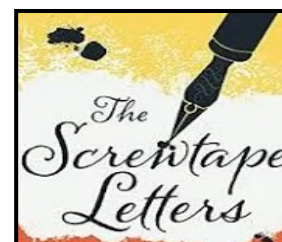
Monday Evening - Women's Study (On Site)

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



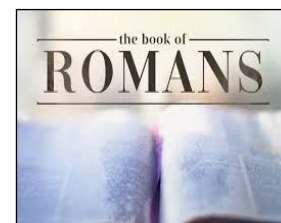
Tuesday - Living Water In - Home Study Group

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



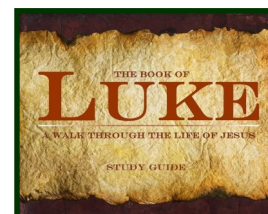
Wednesday Morning - Adult Bible Study (Online Zoom)

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



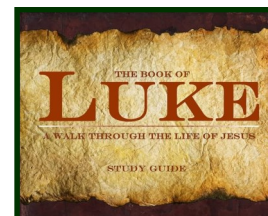
Wednesday Morning - Adult Bible Study (On Site)

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 (Online - Zoom)



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.

CAMPUS SAFETY TEAM

CAMPUS SAFETY and NSPG Team (Non-Profit Security Grant)

If you have an interest in campus and worship safety, please join us on Wednesday, January 15 in the conference room. We will be discussing ways to improve safety and security on campus and provide more information on the recently awarded Nonprofit Security Grants that will lead to improvements on site over the next 3 years. If you would like to know more about the planned work or would like to share experience in law enforcement, security or grant implementation this will be a chance to participate in our plans for the future. We would like to open this especially to our seasonal members who have been involved in this type of review in the past. If you have any questions, please speak with Lee Knudsvig or Pete Gardner.



THE BOOK OF ACTS - STUDY GUIDE

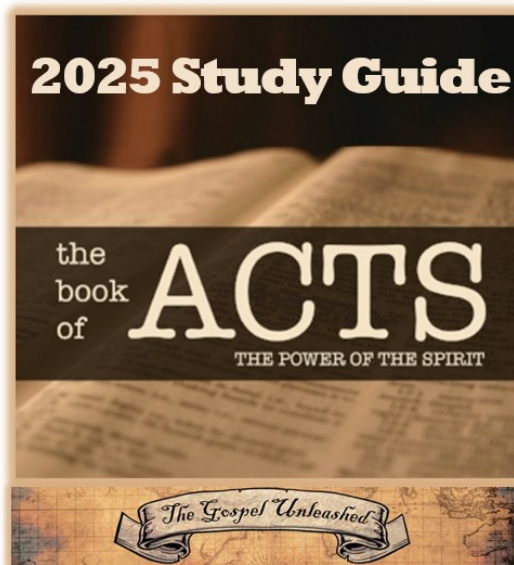
The 2025 readings at Lakeside Lutheran Church will be focusing on the Book of Acts. There are Study Guides available for the 2025 Acts series. The guides are in the Narthex. Pick up a copy and take it home for self-study of the readings that are being used each week.

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

llc@lakesidelutheran.net

or

pastordavid@lakesidelutheran.net



**“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

Jeff and Kim Payne Jan - 15
Bob and Joan McManaman Jan - 24
Bob and Tracy Adkirson Jan - 25

Birthdays

Elizabeth Bauer Jan - 1	Diane Kremkow Jan - 8	John Warner Jan - 22
Bob Bradham Jan - 1	Susan Swenson Jan - 8	Carrie Wilks Jan - 24
Michael Ehrat Jan - 2	Dave Gohil Jan - 9	Dennis Bakalik Jan - 25
Faith Dahlke Jan - 2	Judith Domzalski Jan - 12	Rob Adkirson Jan - 25
Janet Vargo Jan - 4	Jeannette Eaves Jan - 14	Linda Lally Jan - 26
Elnor Miller Jan - 6	Lesley Bowers Jan - 15	Karen Gonzales Jan - 26
Jennifer Shepard Jan - 6	Lloyd Foster Jan - 18	Kathleen Witte Jan - 27
Richard Stadler Jan - 6	Tracy Adkirson Jan - 19	Sandra Feinsod Jan - 28
Robert Tenteronamo Jan - 6	Thomas Langenek Jan - 21	George Johnson Jan - 30
Nina Rausch Jan - 7	Alexandra Surma Jan - 21	Sonja Correa Jan - 31
Jeff Cornwell Jan - 8	Conor Groves Jan - 21	Lawrence Waters Jan - 31



DISCIPLESHIP GROUP PHOTO

(Mission Cohort Training)

This particular group is some of the Elders and their wife's.

Lakeside Band-of-Brothers

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 from 8:30-10:00 am in Meyer Hall (except the first Saturday of the month at Skillet's Restaurant).

All men welcome – bring a friend!

We are currently reviewing the book of 2 Corinthians - Paul's letter about how we act and relate to each other and the world around us - and how we can support each other, in faith, to a more fulfilling and meaningful purpose together.

Each week we have a good discussion and exchange of experiences that help us all to grow and be better Christian men. Many participate in the discussions, some just listen and observe. We all absorb the experiences around us to find a deeper and more rewarding purpose within us – Jesus.

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

As we band together as brothers-in-Christ we become *unstoppable* for our faith and His glory.



LWML CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



LWML January Meeting: Purses and Prayer

Ladies - The theme for our January LWML meeting will be Purses and Prayers. It will be held on the **2nd Thursday, January 9th** at 11:30. We will be playing a purse game and offering special handmade purses for sale as a fundraiser. We will be enjoying a Macaroni-n-Cheese bar at lunch. All Lakeside ladies and their guests are welcome. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex. Hope you can join us for a fun time together!



LWML Bakeless Cake Sale



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be holding a Bakeless Cake Sale Fundraiser on January 12th and 19th. Look for the flyer/envelope that you will receive in your bulletins on those Sundays - then place the envelope in the cake in the narthex. Money received will go towards LWML mission projects. Thank you for your support!

LWML Mite Sunday

The 1st Sunday of each month is LWML Mite Sunday. Lakeside LWML supports the Florida-Georgia LWML with our mites. Your mites support Rebecca's Garden of Hope which is Christ-centered support for college-bound students in educational advising ministry. 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 making 2024 a successful year in our bi-monthly mission donations! The mission collection basket is on the table with coffee and cookies, which will be January 5th and January 19th. Please stay for a cup of coffee, cookies and conversation in the Narthex between services and after late service. It's a great time to greet our seasonal friends and meet new friends.



Christmas Decorating Teams

Thank you everyone who came to decorate the church campus in December. We are asking for volunteers to help us take down the decorations on Friday, January 10th, at 10:00.





WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Thanks to all for making our Christmas dinner another success...with such tasty dishes!!



TREEHOUSE PRESCHOOL

It was an early Merry Christmas for the children at preschool. They enjoyed a lunch, prepared by Ms. Colleen, followed by a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus (aka Wendell and Linda Wolka). There were 40 good little boys and girls, and they all received a gift bag from Santa. Also attending were about 16 family members. They were all invited to join us for Christmas worship.



Group picture of Santa, Mrs., preschool teachers, Ms. Sharon and Ms. Colleen.

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. If you'd like further information about Faith and Family Hybrid, please contact Elizabeth Randol at (941) 497-5858.



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.

Please contact Linda MacDonald (craiglindamac@gmail.com) if you haven't joined yet.

The purpose of the Church Mouse.

The *real* purpose of the Church Mouse is to watch, observe and listen to what is happening in the faith-walk of the family of God's people, and to report how some of our journeys are bringing Joy into our lives – or not! Sometimes we forget that The Lord has only good for us, and peace, but we lead ourselves astray with our own priorities for our lives. Sometimes we forget to **trust** God, and try to do it ourselves.

In *Jeremiah 29:11* God states: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

In listening I have heard some say that the clearest conversations they have with the Lord is in the morning upon waking up – when the rest of the cares and concerns of the world have not yet intruded and taken our focus yet. At that time there is no fear and we have a peaceful and joyful presence with God (how many times in the Bible does He say Fear Not). Then we can truly pray for others first, and then for ourselves, that He will take control of our daily lives and provide what we need - not always what we want - to bring peace into our lives.

I have heard this several times from our Church family. The answer is truly in faith and trust that God will provide and bring us the joy and peace He wants for us.

Have a joyful, peaceful and confident New Year - Trusting in Jesus!

The Church Mouse



THE LWML ANGEL TREE

On behalf of Prodigal Daughters and the Venice Area Pregnancy Care Center, LWML would like to thank everyone that took an angel and provided a gift for those that are in need in our area. It was truly overwhelming to see the generosity of Lakeside. Happy New Year - and thanks!



LAKESIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2401 Tamiami Trail South
Venice, FL 34293

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

Email:
LLC@LakesideLutheran.Net

We're on the web
www.LakesideLutheran.Net



Lakeside Lutheran Church
2401 Tamiami Trail South
Venice, FL 34293

Stamp

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