



Circuit Rider

March 2026

www.lakestreetumc.org

Resurrection as Metaphor

Pastor Jerry

I occasionally encounter someone arguing that we should see the resurrection of Christ from the dead as a metaphor: for instance, for our emergence from the pain and difficulties of the human condition into the new peace that is available through faith. Or some variation of that. Whatever form the suggestion takes, I'm not a fan.

For starters I nearly always feel that the argument is disingenuous. That is, these people aren't really saying that this is the actual, true, deep meaning of the gospel story. Usually what they're saying is that this is a way to get at least some meaning of this otherwise embarrassingly unscientific tale. There are many who love the moral teachings of Jesus but who regard all the biblical stories about a God who does miracles as remnants of a more simple-minded, superstitious age. So, since the New Testament itself regards the resurrection as the heart of Christianity, they feel the need to find some interpretation of that story that won't embarrass them in front of their friends. Well, I can't blame them. If I had begun with the assumption that the story as it is told in the gospels couldn't possibly be factual, I'd be doing the same interpretive gymnastics.

But if those metaphorical interpretations were all we had, what a sad faith would be ours. We would have to picture the disciples, grieving over the death of their master, either inventing or imagining their master rising from the dead in order to communicate to others that hard times are only temporary, and things will look up soon. The sun'll come out, tomorrow. Tomorrow is another day. Always look on the bright side of life.

But that, of course, is not what the disciples said. They said in very blunt, physical terms that they had seen him alive, and they concluded that his resurrection did more than just provide vague encouragement. They said it changed the fabric of the universe. Because Christ rose from the dead, death itself had been defeated, and we too would rise. Because we will rise from the dead, we now live in this world as strangers and aliens, part of this world now but ultimately just visitors. Our dreams, our hopes, and our values belong to a different world. I find this interpretation of the resurrection much more exciting than any metaphorical meaning I've ever heard, and since I have no bias against the notion of a God who does miracles, I'm going to stick to the traditional teaching that Jesus actually did rise from the dead on the third day.

But having said that, there is a way to come back to the resurrection as a metaphor. Once we have accepted that Jesus Christ literally, physically, historically rose from the dead, we can extend that as a metaphor for our

(Continued on page 3)

"CHRIST FOLLOWERS LIVING GOD'S LOVE"

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM WORSHIP
IN-PERSON,
BY RADIO (AM 880
OR 106.3 FM @
10:05 AM), AND ON
FACEBOOK AND
YOUTUBE

STAY CONNECTED THROUGH OUR WEEKLY **LAKE STREET CONNECTIONS** NEWSLETTER SENT OUT VIA EMAIL AND FACEBOOK EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

VISIT **LAKESTREETUMC.ORG** TO SIGN UP OR SEND AN EMAIL TO COMMUNICATIONS @LAKESTREETUMC.ORG

LAKE STREET UMC IS ONE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY: ALTOONA, ANSON, AUGUSTA, BLOOMER, CADOTT, CHAPEL HEIGHTS, HALLIE, HOLCOMBE, HOPE, JIM FALLS, LAKE STREET, NEW AUBURN, PLEASANT VALLEY, STANLEY, THORP, TRINITY, & ZION.



Jerry Morris
Pastor

Laurie Van Beek
*Friends at the Lake and
Children's Ministry Director*

Ellen Prellwitz
Administrative Secretary

Kathy Amundson-Forsberg
*Ellesi Director; Interim
Chancel Choir Director*

Evan Rognholt
*Handbell and Ensemble
Director*

Ben Kittilstad
*Worship pianist and choir
accompanist*

Edna Sahs
Organist

Jennifer Blakeley-Mode
Finance Clerk

Aaron Athas
*Communications
Facilitator*

Joel Carr
Custodian

**Daniel Klingensmith, Derek
Brost, Per Forsberg, Greg
Wallace**
Worship Technology

OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Wednesday
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

A COMMUNITY OF WORSHIP

We seek to be a community of expectant, God-centered worship, through word and sacrament and God's gift of music – offering together our utmost for God's highest.

Worship Services in April

Holy Week

Thursday, April 2, 6:30pm. Maundy Thursday.

"Communion Stories" - A serving remembering Christ's Last Supper with his disciples and his continuing suppers with us.

Friday, April 3, 7:00pm. Good Friday.

12:00pm - Ecumenical Good Friday service at First Congregational Church.

7:00pm. Tenebrae Service, A Meditation on Light and Darkness. With Hope UMC, at Lake Street.

Saturday-Sunday, April 4-5. Easter Sunday

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street
Facebook page

Worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:05 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "So What?"
Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Saturday-Sunday, April 11-12. 2nd Sunday of Easter

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street
Facebook page

Worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:05 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "Unlikely Prophet"
Scripture: Numbers 22:22-35

Saturday-Sunday, April 18-19. 3rd Sunday of Easter

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street
Facebook page

Worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:05 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "Unwanted Prophecy"
Scripture: Numbers 22:41-23:12

Saturday-Sunday, April 25-26. 4th Sunday of Easter

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street
Facebook page

Worship: 9:00am. Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Radio broadcast 10:05 on AM 880 and 106.3 FM.

Sermon: "The Power of One" Lay Speaker Tim Atkins preaching.
Scripture: TBA

*United Methodists serve Open Communion, welcoming all to join Christ's table, because that's what he did, too.

ministry on earth. That is, as Christ rose from the dead, we are called to bring light to those who walk in darkness, life to those who dwell in Deathshadow. We are called to bring hope to those who see only a bleak future ahead of them, love to those who have only known rejection. This is part metaphor and part consequence, but either way it is using resurrection as a model for our lives.

This is, in a sense, what we set out to do with the Friends at the Lake program. People with dementia, who saw nothing in their future but a continuing decline and narrowing of horizons into loneliness and confusion have been given something to look forward to each week, a time of hope, and a weekly reminder that they are loved. It's not a literal resurrection, but it's not chopped liver, either. And this month our Accessibility Team Toward Inclusion – working with the Mission Team and the JONAH interfaith ministry – begins hosting a four-week conference on the problem of homelessness (see full article on p. 4). Unhoused people need their own new life, and if we can be a part of that earthly resurrection, then our own resurrection demands that we try.

Among the other irrational things that I believe is that God actually loves all of us, and Christ's resurrection changed reality for everyone, including those who have trouble with the concept of miracles. Christ is risen. Amen.

Worship Notes for April

April begins with one of the most significant worship weeks of the year: Holy Week. Our worship services this week are:

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall. "Communion Stories." All our memories of this week come from stories told by the apostles, and one of the earliest and most frequently told stories is that of Jesus' last supper. Join us as we look at the 5 different ways that this story was told in scripture—and the ways we retell it now.

Good Friday: April 3, 7:00pm, Sanctuary,. With Hope UMC. "A Service of Light." From start to finish, the Bible uses the metaphor of light and darkness. Join us as we meditate on that image from "Let there be light" at the creation to "and there was darkness over the land" at the crucifixion.

Easter Sunday. April 5, 9:00am, Sanctuary. But the light returned and cannot be banished ever again. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

RADIO SERVICE SUPPORT = \$165/week

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 26 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 10 |

Given by: _____ In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____ In Recognition of: _____

HAVE YOU FOUND US ONLINE?

Our website www.lakestreetumc.org always has the most up to date calendar, news, online giving and more. Visit it often for past sermon recordings, past Circuit Riders, and a direct link to our Facebook page.



ADDRESS CHANGES

If you have had an address change within the past four months and are receiving the **Circuit Rider** newsletter electronically, please send your new address to the church office: adminsec@lakestreetumc.org.

Because your digital issue does not go to the post office, there is no Address Service Requested changes that come back to the church office. We appreciate your help to keep our database up to date.

May Circuit Rider

Deadline is
Wednesday, April 22 for
Thursday, April 30
mailing

Be sure to send your news to Ellen Prellwitz at Adminsec@lakestreetumc.org



A COMMUNITY OF INCLUSIVE WELCOME

We embrace all of God's children as persons of sacred worth regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, national origin, culture, tradition, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other difference real or perceived, and welcome all people into the life of this congregation.



FRIENDS *at the* LAKE

FriendsattheLake.com

The Respite For All conference in Alabama was excellent. Key takeaways included working with Legos and "silent disco" as engagement tools for those living with dementia, as well as the POEMrenovation program, which uses words to help unlock memories. We used POEMrenovation last week at Friends and it was a huge success.

Thank you for all your support, Laurie.

Contact:

Laurie Van Beek
Laurievb@lakestreetumc.org
715-832-6603

Upcoming Pancake Breakfasts

Remember, the pancake team takes December off. Our next breakfast will be:

March 15
April 19
May 17



Cost: \$8.00. Children and guests free. Volunteers always welcome.

A thank you note:

Dear Lake Street United Methodist church congregation:
Thanks you *so much* for the wonderful gift to the ECASD Homeless Program! We are so appreciative to have your donations to purchase clothing items for school for students currently experiencing homelessness.

- Dani Graham

Stronger Together: Addressing Homelessness Locally

Many of you will remember the service last Fall when two members of LEAB (Lived Experience Advisory Board) spoke in church about their experiences with homelessness, and how they are using that experience to help people understand and – more important – care about this growing problem in our community and in our nation.

Our Accessibility Toward Inclusion Team (ATIT), which sponsored that Sunday, has continued working to raise that awareness and to contribute to the longer task of finding solutions. Working with our Mission Team, the JONAH advisory board, and leaders from community agencies that work with the unhoused population, they have put together a four-week series of seminars that will be held here at Lake Street on four Thursdays in April and May: April 23 and 30; May 14 and 21. These sessions seek to dismantle some of the myths surrounding homelessness and point toward what is being done to change the status quo and, most of all, what we can do to be a part of that change.

Presentations will come from LEAB, Family Promise, the county health department, The Community Table, Chippewa Valley Street Ministry, Sojourner House, and others. The presentation will go from 7:00 to 8:pm and will be followed by a time with snacks and refreshments with a chance to ask further questions.

If you are interested in coming to the series and would be willing to help serve the refreshments at least one of those for nights, let Pastor Jerry, Katy Kroll, or Bill Schildt know. And even if you can't be there in person you could contribute to this community service event by bringing cookies or treats.

A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH

*Our time and talents and resources are not gifts for our enjoyment but a calling to serve others, particularly the marginalized and those without other defenders.
We seek to serve God by serving God's children in our community, our nation, and our world.*

April Mission Offering: Sojourner House

This month the Mission team is asking you to help support Sojourner House. Sojourner House provides a safe clean place for adult men and women who are experiencing homelessness. It provides a place to sleep from 7 P.M. to 8 A.M. Guests can sleep overnight, shower, wash their clothes and eat breakfast.

Beacon House- Our next opportunity to serve is May 17th-23rd. Contact Kent Gierhart at 715-8964-2056 or khghart@yahoo.com



Beacon House Diaper Drive- Many of the families Beacon House serves need essential items for their children and diapers are one of the most requested supplies. Please consider helping a young family by donating a package or two of diapers. A collection box is in the narthex.

Community Table: Lake Street volunteers served a meal of Asian fruit salad, green salad and banana pudding to 65 guests on March 11. Our next dates to prepare and serve a meal are April 8 and May 13. To volunteer, please contact Peter Nelson at 715-379-8135 or petermnelson@sbcglobal.net.



Blessing Box: Thank you to everyone who continue to supply items for our Blessing Box. Items currently needed are toothbrushes, wash cloths, toothpaste, socks, large underwear, Vaseline, and Band-Aids. We have enough soap, shampoo, and conditioner for now.

ARCW Wish List for April: Macaroni and Cheese

Our donation for the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin this month is Macaroni/Cheese. It's through the support of Lake Street UMC that items are donated to ARCW clients.

Thank you to those folks who donated the tuna fish during March along with a variety of other food items. ARCW appreciates your support!

.Scrip Updates—Now Called Raise Right

For April, the Raise Right (formerly called scrip) orders are due on **Sunday, April 12, 2026**. Al Weisenbeck will be in Fellowship Hall to take orders. Alternatively, you may email or text Al with your order. Contact Al if you need a form.

Delivery for the April orders will be on **Sunday, April 19**.

Thank you for supporting scrip! The money that scrip earns goes to help fund **The Community Table**.

Al's contact information:
715 271 6354
weisenbecka@gmail.com

Community Table

Our next dates at TCT are:

April 8 - 9:00-2:00pm
May 13 - 9:00-2:00pm

To volunteer, contact Peter Nelson at 715-379-8135 or at



petermnelson@sbcglobal.net

Beacon House Hosting

Our congregation hosts evening meals at Beacon House next on:

May 17th—23rd.

Thank you to all the many volunteers who keep this ministry alive, especially our new volunteers.



A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

We seek to be a place where all God's children, of all ages and abilities, can grow together in knowledge and faith, through study, through participation in worship, and through service to others.

A Post-Lenten Bible Study

Our Lenten Bible study, working through the Passion of Jesus with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, was a good experience for those involved. Not only did that group decide to come back the week after Easter to finish the final chapter of that book, but they decided to continue meeting after that - beginning the Gospel of Mark.

And just like that, we have a new Bible study group beginning in the **Fireside Library, at 5:00pm on Wednesdays**. This class is designed to be an introductory class, suitable for people with no previous biblical training at all. It is also going to be largely self-directed. J.J. Henricksen and Jerry Morris, who co-led the Lenten study, are not always available on Wednesdays at that time.

Does this fit your need? Are you looking for a group of non-scholars, just trying to get to know the Bible a little better together? Come give it a try!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

The study group that meets on Sunday mornings in the church office conference room has for many years been reading books together, but has shifted focus. We will now be doing "pick up Bible study." We will have a plan for the study a few weeks ahead, but preparation is optional. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

Men at Prayer: Thursdays @ 7:30am

A weekly time of praying together and studying scripture verse by verse.

Followed by "After-MAP"

at The Goat Coffee House on Water Street.

To join MAP remotely, contact Pastor Jerry

Olson-Maser Scholarship

The Norma Olson-Beverly Olson Scholarship is an annual scholarship for students who are preparing for "helping professions." This includes teaching, social work, medical care, and ministry. Last year the grant was \$500.

If you or someone you know fits that general description, application forms are available either at the office or on the church website under the "Spiritual Formation" tab. The deadline for applications is April 15.

This scholarship is not restricted to members of Lake Street. Students at any level of post-high school education are encouraged to apply: university, tech school, or graduate school.

Don't forget!

LSUMC has summer camp scholarships available.

80% of the cost!

See wiumcamps.org for options

Children's Sunday School

In April, we continue looking at the Fruits of the Spirit focusing on gentleness and self-control.

April 5 – Easter no Sunday School

April 12 – We will be studying Gentleness using the story of Jesus welcoming the children.

April 19 – Pancake breakfast, no Sunday School

April 26 – We will be studying self-control using the story of Jesus resisting temptation.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Happy Birthday



United Women in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW) NEWS

April UWF Birthdays

Jennie Stratton	April 15
Edna Sahs	April 16

UWF April Program: Want to get away?

After a long snowy winter, most of us would like to plan a trip. Maybe a bus tour, train trip, international flight and tour, or simply just a day trip. Whatever you wish, it does take planning. Come join **us Wednesday, April 15th at 1:00 pm** to get started. One of our well-traveled former professional travel friends will have her tips and secrets for a successful trip. Bring your friends or neighbors for what promises to be a fun discussion of travel in our golden years. Dessert and coffee will be served. Call or text Julie at 715-461-0565. See you soon in Fellowship Hall.

UWF Spring Day of Enrichment

Please mark your calendars and save the date, April 18, 2026, for UWF Spring Day of Enrichment. This year it will be at the Menomonie, WI UMC and the theme is "Creation Care."

All are invited to bring a 'picture' of nature that you enjoy. It can be any form of portable media. Please write a short description of why it's meaningful to you and place it in front of your item on display for all to see and enjoy.

There is a full information poster and registration forms, due by April 10th, on the bulletin board in the hallway near the name tags.

HOLEY SOCKS PROJECT

Lake Street United Women in Faith continues their **Holey Socks** project, which is a recycling program that raises funds for Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee. **The Terra-Cycle program will now only accept GOLDTOE-Brand socks.** A collection box is in the Fellowship Hall by the water fountains. This is an all-church project.



A collection box is in the Fellowship Hall by the water fountain. This is an all-church project, so start looking for those **Holey Socks** today.

Prayer Holds Us Together

One of the ways we are able to care for each other, whether we are together or not is by praying. If you would like to be a part of our regular prayer email group, contact Pastor Jerry.



Altar Flowers Always Welcome

Remember, if you have a profusion of Spring flowers that you would like to share with the congregation, you can always bring them to church for the altar!



Altar Flowers

Vases available for loan!

The Lake Street Stampers ...

will meet at **1:00 pm Thursday April 16 in Room 202.**

Come and join us for an hour or so of fun and fellowship and spread some cheer for our friends who don't get about as much as they would like.

You are always welcome. .



LAKE STREET FAMILY NEWS

Thank you, Lake Street Family

Thank you so very much for all your love, prayers, and support while I am “out of service.” The surgeon’s report on 3/18 is that my broken leg is healing very nicely. I appreciate all the cards and greetings. - Dale Fleming



Barbara Reid joined our congregation, through a statement of her faith in Christ and baptism, on March 8.

FIRESIDE LIBRARY NEWS

New items in the Library include the following:

Fiction:

My Beloved: A Mitford Novel (F Kar), Prayers for Sale (F Dal)

Non-Fiction:

Love One Another: Becoming the Church Jesus Longs For (250 Sit),
Tend to Your Spirit: Mindful Living With Chronic Illness (248.86 Lep),
Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Week (232.96 Lev),
Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross (232.9 Rob),
Hope for Hard Times (248.4DeV),
Dynamite Prayer: A 28 Day Experiment (242 Pic),
Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God (231.7 Win)

Biography:

Rad American Women A-Z (B Sch)



New Members

On March 8, we e welcomed four new members to the Lake Street family. They are (left to right) the Lawrence family—Grayson, Rebecca, and Josh—and Barb Reid.

And we welcome also a lifelong Lake-streeter, Kyler Rognholt, to the much-needed role of official Lake Street photographer.

Memorials and Special Gifts Through February II, 2026

MEMORIALS

- In Memory of: **Carroll Vowels**. Donors: Mike and Cindy McCluskey; Designated for: Radio Ministry; Donors: Jeff and Janet Voss. Designated for: Friends of the Lake;
- In Memory of: **Chuck Grandy**; Donors: Bruce and Linda Butler, Michael Grandy, Debra Olson, Kathryn Prentice, Walter and Sheri Hill, Sharon Southard, Carol Fawcett; Designated for: Radio Broadcast;
- In Memory of **Barb Rugotzke**: Jeff and Janet Voss; Designated for: Friends of the Lake.; Donors: Mike and Cindy McCluskey; Designated for: Radio Ministry;
- In Memory of: **John Larsen**; Donors: Leonard and Margaret Larsen; Designated for: Friends of the Lake;
- In Memory of: **David Kruse**; Donors: Jackie, Kristi and Tim Kruse; Designated for: UMCOR.;

SPECIAL GIFTS

- Donor: Carol Lamarinde; Designated for: Outside Gardening;
- Donors: Leonard and Margaret Larsen.
In honor of: Margaret Larsen's Birthday;
Designated for: UMCOR
- Donor: William Shirer; Designated for: Gift to God;
- Donors: Paul and Virginia Hilbrich; Designated for Radio Ministry.

RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

Financial Report through February, 2026

February was an excellent giving month for us, which is always good news. Not only did you as a congregation give almost three thousand dollars more than budget for the month of February, but several gave their entire pledge for the year. Those gifts are put in a separate fund and spread out in equal portions for the remaining months of the year, so as level out the budget reporting. Meanwhile, Memorial Gifts to the Radio Broadcast fund have already paid for most of that fund's expenses for 2026. Thank you.

On the other hand, February was also an excellent spending month for us - in the sense of, "Man! We spent a lot!" Most of these expenses were building related. We paid a *lot* for snow removal, including the cost of trucking away the snow mountain from the southeast corner of our parking lot in late January. We also paid for the regular preventive maintenance on our boilers. As a result of these expenses, our bottom line dropped by several thousand since January.

The good news, if you want to call it that, is that this month's deficit only brought us back to where we had expected to be. In our budgeting this year, based on normal seasonal patterns, we had expected to be about \$20,500 in the red as of the end of February. January was such a good month that we were well above budget, but February re-established reality. We are currently about \$20,000 in the red.

Thank you for your continuing generosity. The Trustees have promised to spend less on snow removal beginning in April.

Lake Street United Methodist Church

	Operating Fund		Building Fund		Total	
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
	Feb 2026	Feb 2026	Feb 2026	Feb 2026	Feb 2026	Feb 2026
Offerings and other income *	\$ 57,551	48,030	\$ 727	\$ 1,100	\$ 58,278	\$ 49,130
Expenses	50,334	50,619	28,014	\$ 19,033	78,348	69,652
Net of Offerings less expenses	<u>\$ 7,217</u>	<u>\$ (2,589)</u>	<u>\$ (27,287)</u>	<u>\$ (17,933)</u>	<u>\$ (20,070)</u>	<u>\$ (20,522)</u>

* Excludes parsonage investment gain/loss because it is not included in budget

CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY

Good Neighbor Project Fills Snack Gap

Our September 2025 special offering quiets students' rumbling tummies through this school year, enabling them to focus on learning.

Snacks are Longfellow and Lakeshore schools' main use of Good Neighbor Project funds. This First Congregational UCC and Lake Street United Methodist Church partnership provides items that students struggle to provide themselves.

A federal fruit and vegetable grant funds snacks for part of the year. On days without fruit and veggies, students are offered a Good Neighbor Project snack if they can't bring one. When the grant ends in winter, our snacks are provided daily to any student who needs one.

Nonperishable goodies such as crackers, granola bars, and snack mixes are ordered in large quantities and shipped directly to the schools. Snack coordinators at both schools express gratitude each time they request snacks to replenish their supply.

Red Cross Blood Drive Donors Needed

Thursday, April 30th

12 Noon-5:30pm

Lake Street United Methodist Church

Go online to Redcrossblood.org
and register to donate or

call 715-834-5744.



**American
Red Cross**

When you see her next, thank her for all her countless hours of work in the background. And if you are interested in keeping the streak going by taking over, talk to Linda to see what the job involves. .

The Lake Street blood drives have been a fixture in our congregational life for decades now. We are one of the (if not *the*) largest individual drive in town, at least partly because we always have the best snacks. This stellar reputation has continued even as leaders have stepped down and been replaced by others. Now, Linda Keepers, who has led the Blood Drive for the past several years, is retiring her clipboard. This April's drive is her last drive.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *CIRCUIT RIDER* is a monthly news and information publication for members and friends of the Lake Street UMC.

EDITORS

Rev. Jerry Morris —Layout Editor
Ellen Prellwitz – Copy Production
Aaron Athas — Digital Production

DEADLINE

News items for the May issue (mailed on April 30) need to be received by **April 22**.

Phone # – 715-832-6603

Fax # – 715-832-9500

MAILING ADDRESS

337 Lake Street, Suite A
Eau Claire WI 54703

WEBSITE

www.lakestreetumc.org

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Rev. Jerry Morris
pastor@lakestreetumc.org

Laurie Van Beek
laurievb@lakestreetumc.org

Ellen Prellwitz
adminsec@lakestreetumc.org

Jennifer Blakeley-Mode
finance@lakestreetumc.org

Kathy Amundson-Forsberg
kath_abby@yahoo.com



Aaron Athas
Communications
@lakestreetumc.org

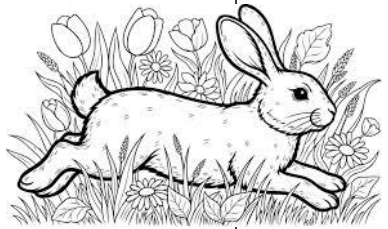
Edna Sahs
esahs@lakestreetumc.org

Ben Kittilstad
ben4699@gmail.com

Joel Carr
(no email address)



		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p>1 UWF Leadership Team (Room 202) 6:15pm Ellesi Rehearsal 6:15pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Fireside Library (Wed NA Group) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellow Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship (Fellowship Hall) -- "Communion Memories"</p>	<p>3 GOOD FRIDAY Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fireside, Fellowship Hall and Dockside) 7:00pm Good Friday Worship (Sanctuary) -- Tenebrae Service "A Meditation on Light and Darkness"</p>	<p>4 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook</p>
<p>5 EASTER SUNDAY Mission Emphasis: Sojourner House 9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available] <i>Message: "So What?"; Text: Mark 16:1-8;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellow Hall) 10:05am Radio Min (880AM/106.3 FM) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:15am Children's Education (102/103) 10:15am Confirmation/Youth (Fireside) 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) 3:00pm Souleing Ministry (Chapel)</p>	<p>6 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room) 6:15pm Pack 128 Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus Additional Rehearsal)</p>	<p>7 6:00am Spring Election (Fellowship Hall) 9:30am Room 202 Use (Stepping On Class) 6:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus Board) 6:30pm Lounge (Tuesday Womens NA) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)</p>	<p>8 9:00am The Community Table 11:00am Celebration of Life for Joyce Mortt 5:00pm Lenten Bible Study Concludes (Fireside Library) 6:15pm Handbell Choir 6:15pm Pack 128 Committee (Room 202) 6:30pm Fireside Library (Wed NA Group) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>9 Room 202 (ADRC Mind Over Matter) 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)</p>	<p>10 Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fireside, Fellowship Hall and Dockside)</p> <p>11 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook</p>
<p>12 Mission Emphasis: Sojourner House 9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available] <i>Message: "Unlikely Prophet"; Text: Numbers 22:22-36;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellow Hall) 10:05am Radio Min (880AM/106.3 FM) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:15am Children's Education (102/103) 10:15am Confirmation/Youth (Fireside) 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) 3:00pm Souleing Ministry (Chapel)</p>	<p>13 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room) 3:00pm Staff Parish (Conference Room/on line) 4:15pm Fellowship Hall In Use (ADK Group) 6:15pm Pack 128 Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103)</p>	<p>14 9:30am Room 202 Use (Stepping On Class) 10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Communications Team (on line) 6:30pm Lounge (Tuesday Womens NA)</p>	<p>15 1:00pm UWF Travel Tips for Seniors (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Bible Study (Fireside Library) 6:15pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Fireside Library (Wed NA Group) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellow Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellow Hall)</p>	<p>16 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)</p>	<p>17 Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fireside, Fellowship Hall and Dockside)</p> <p>18 9:00am UWF Spring Day of Enrichment (Menomonie UMC) 10:00am Room 202 (Huntington's Disease Support Group) 10:00am Visitation for Lloyd Shepherd</p>

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3514/3324 (Rooms 101/102/103/Dockside)		7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)		11:00am Celebration of Life for Lloyd Shepherd with fellowship following 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook		
19 Mission Emphasis: Sojourner House 8:30am Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) with Children and Youth Helping 9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available] <i>Message: "Unwanted Prophecy";</i> <i>Text: Numbers 22:41 - 23:12;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellow Hall) 10:05am Radio Min (880AM/106.3 FM) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) 3:00pm IM Church (Fellowship Hall) 3:00pm Souleng Ministry (Chapel)	20 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room) 6:15pm Pack 128 Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus Additional Rehearsal)	21 9:30am Room 202 Use (Stepping On Class) 10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Lounge (Tuesday Womens NA) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)	22 Circuit Rider Deadline 5:00pm Bible Study (Fireside Library) 6:15pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Fireside Library (Wed NA Group) 7:00pm Chancel Choir (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	23 Room 202 (ADRC Mind Over Matter) 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 1:00pm Stampers (Room 202) 7:00pm Homeless Conference (Fellowship Hall)	24 8:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (Sewing Guild)	25 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
26 Mission Emphasis: Sojourner House 9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available] <i>Tim Atkins, preaching</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellow Hall) 10:05am Radio Min (880AM/106.3 FM) 10:15am Children's Education (102/103) 10:15am Confirmation/Youth (Fireside) 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) 3:00pm Souleng Ministry (Chapel)	27 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room) 6:00pm Church Council (Room 202/online) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus Additional Rehearsal)	28 9:30am Room 202 Use (Stepping On Class) 10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Lounge (Tuesday Womens NA) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)	29 1:30pm Room 202/Fireside Library (ADRC Memory Loss Support Group) 3:00pm Set Up in Fellowship Hall for Blood Drive 5:00pm Bible Study (Fireside Library) 6:15pm Handbell Choir 6:30pm Fireside Library (Wed NA Group) 7:00pm Chancel Choir I (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellow Hall)	30 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 12:00pm Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall) 7:00pm Homeless Conference (Fellowship Hall)		



Lake Street United Methodist Church
337 Lake Street Suite A -- Eau Claire WI 54703
715-832-6603 -- www.lakestreetumc.org

Holy Week || Easter 2026

Dear Lake Street Family and Friends,

When I worked for a landscaper in Oklahoma, February was when the daffodils first appeared, and that was the month for clearing out winter beds and starting to put in the annuals. Here in Wisconsin, while only fools and gamblers put in their flower beds before Mother's Day, Spring Fever starts in April. That's the month when we pull our lawn furniture out of the basement or shed, when we start leaving home without gloves, or even (fools and gamblers, again) without a jacket. April is the month of hope for something that isn't here yet, but which we've been longing for since Christmas.

Which is why it is so wonderful to begin April with Holy Week, the time of hoping for something that isn't here yet, but which we have been longing for since Christmas: Easter. The day of resurrection. On Christmas we remembered that hope came into the world "in the bleak midwinter," but that hope was still only a baby. Now that baby has grown up and is changing everything.

And so we honor this season, as we did Christmas, with special times of worship. This year we invite you to these services:

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 6:30pm, in the Fellowship Hall. "Communion Stories." All our memories of this week come from stories told by the apostles, and one of the earliest and most frequently told stories is that of Jesus' last supper. Join us as we look at the five different ways that this story was told in scripture—and the ways we retell it now.

Good Friday: April 3, 7:00pm, in the Sanctuary, . With Hope UMC. "A Service of Light." From start to finish, the Bible uses the metaphor of light and darkness. Join us as we meditate on that image from "Let there be light" at the creation to "and there was darkness over the land" at the crucifixion.

Easter Sunday. April 5, 9:00am, Sanctuary. But the light that was extinguished that bleak afternoon returned on the third day and will never be banished again. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

And finally, as we do each year, we offer you the opportunity to give a special monetary gift in honor of Easter. Enclosed with this letter is an Easter Offering envelope to support the continuing ministry of our church.

– *Pastor Jerry Morris*