



# Circuit Rider

March 2026

[www.lakestreetumc.org](http://www.lakestreetumc.org)

## Good for Something

Pastor Jerry

As I continue my Lenten sermon series on doing the *opposite* of the seven deadly sins – in other words, meditations on virtue and morality – I want to return to the article I wrote for last month’s newsletter. For those who can’t remember exactly what I said a month ago without going back and reading it (which is to say all of us, including me) here’s a quick summary of the pertinent parts. In a book I’m reading, a sociological study of those who have drifted away from church in America, it appears clear from interviews that most Americans consider the primary function of religion is to teach morality, especially to youth. But at the same time, Americans don’t believe that morality can *only* be taught by religion. You can get the same lessons from scouts, civic clubs, organized sports, and so on. Thus, as the author puts it: “This essentially means that, in the view of most Americans, the most important task religion specializes in – making people good – is not something that requires religion” (Christian Smith, *Why Religion Went Obsolete*, 47).

But is that really true? Can you have morality without religion, without some transcendent justification for behaving morally? The obvious answer is, “Yes, of course you can. There are many people who don’t follow any religion at all who live far more moral lives than many Christians.” And this is clearly the case. We all probably know people like that. But let’s push a little harder. Where did these virtuous atheists or agnostics get their moral teaching? I know this is only anecdotal evidence, but all the people I know who fit that description received their moral training from deeply religious parents or grandparents. They may have rejected religion, but they have retained the moral framework of the faith they left behind. And I wonder for how many generations without religion those moral values will continue to be passed down before they too are lost.

Another way to approach this question is to ask, why do people behave morally? Here are a few reasons off the top of my head, though I’m sure there are many more:

1. Fear of punishment (e.g. not shoplifting, because you see the store cameras)
2. Concern for public opinion (i.e. seeking the tangible benefits of having a good reputation or at least avoiding the disadvantages of a bad one. “Honesty is the best policy.”)
3. A desire to improve yourself, and a sense that dishonesty, cruelty, and selfishness work against that goal, while honesty, compassion, and generosity work toward it.
4. A strong, sometimes legalistic, sense that some things in this universe are just right and others are just wrong.
5. Actually caring about other people. (“Love your neighbor as yourself.”)
6. As a willing service to a transcendent God, whose worship and being give meaning to your life.

(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 March**

#### **Sermon Series: Contrary Virtue**

#### **Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 28– March 1. 2nd Sunday of Lent**

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

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

Sermon: "Temperance (vs. Lust and Gluttony)"

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:3-8

#### **Saturday-Sunday, March 7-8. 3rd Sunday of Lent**

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: "Contentment (vs. Envy)"

Scripture: Philippians 4:8-13

#### **Saturday-Sunday, March 14-15. 4th Sunday of Lent**

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: "Mercy (vs. Wrath)"

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

#### **Saturday-Sunday, March 21-22. 5th Sunday of Lent**

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: "Humility (vs. Pride)"

Scripture: Matthew 23:1-12

#### **Saturday-Sunday, March 28-29. Palm 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: TBA

Michael Ahrens, Speaking

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

As I said, there are surely other reasons, and none of these are exclusive. (Probably all of us have acted for each of these reasons at some point, even several of them at the same time.) But as you probably guessed, I arranged these in an ascending order from what I consider least admirable to most admirable. The first three motivations are essentially self-centered: I act in this way because of consequences to me if I don't. The second three take their motivation from outside the individual – whether that is a belief that there is an essential order to the universe (#4) or a conviction that love for others is the heart of morality (#5) or theistic faith (#6) – and so they assume unselfish reasons for moral behavior. And again, I wonder how many generations without a belief in God can pass before those three motivations feel obsolete. I don't know how long deep morality can last without a motivation beyond yourself.

Obviously, many will disagree with me, and many have. Among the books written on this subject are: *Good without God* (2012), *Atheist Mind, Humanist Heart* (2014), *The Necessity of Secularism: Why God Can't Tell Us* (2014), and *Living a Good Life without Religion* (2014). My inability to imagine moral behavior without a religious foundation may just be because I've never tried it and never intend to. But at the very least, we who serve a God whose heart of love, justice, compassion, and righteousness shines from scripture, whose heart is described in intimate human detail in the life and teachings of Jesus, have an advantage over those who have to dredge up their own motivations for moral behavior in this world.

We have an eternal reason to be good, which is much more stable, I would think, than being good for nothing.

### Worship Notes for March

For the second year in a row, we are not holding Lenten worship services. Again this year, we are holding a Lenten book study instead of worship (see p. 6 for details). This is not necessarily a permanent change, and we may return to Lenten worship services in coming years, but last year's book study involved more people than our most recent worship services did, and *different* people.

As of this writing, the details are still being worked out, but the plan is to use our Maundy Thursday service both as a time of remembrance of Christ's last supper with his disciples and as a way to conclude the book study.

#### RADIO SERVICE SUPPORT = \$165/week

- |                                  |                                   |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 29 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> March 22 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 5  |

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ In Recognition of: \_\_\_\_\_

### HAVE YOU FOUND US ONLINE?

Our website [www.lakestreetumc.org](http://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](mailto: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.

### April Circuit Rider

Deadline is  
Wednesday, March 18 for  
Thursday, March 26  
mailing

Be sure to send your news to Ellen Prellwitz at [Adminsec@lakestreetumc.org](mailto: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***

March 1–3 is the Respite for All Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. It's often called the "Whirlwind Conference" because so much valuable information is shared in a short amount of time. This year, I am especially excited to hear Loretta Veney, also known as "The Lego Lady." She will be speaking on creativity, connection, and cognitive play. While her mom was living with dementia, Loretta discovered a meaningful connection through using Legos, and she now shares that knowledge with others who are caring for loved ones living with dementia.

Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan will present on implementing RFA surveys and research, and Valerie Boyd will speak about the importance of caregiver support groups. These are just a few of the many excellent speakers who will be part of the conference. Everything kicks off Sunday night with a Memory Silent Disco!

I also realized something exciting this week. In January 2025, we averaged 3.75 participants. This January 2026, we averaged 12.6 participants! That kind of growth is truly incredible. A huge thank you to our faithful volunteers who make this program possible, and thank you to everyone who supports us with your prayers. It has been amazing to witness not only the growth, but also the joy and excitement each Tuesday — both from our Friends and from our volunteers.

### **Contact:**

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

## 5th Sunday Brunch! March 29

It's been a while since we did a big meal together, hasn't it? The Welcome and Worship Team thought so, too, so we're going to have one this month on our "5th Sunday Together."

We're going to do the same thing we did last time: hold a brunch after the morning worship service, with main courses catered



(scrambled eggs, breakfast meat, hash browns, etc.). But we're counting on the congregation for all the trimmings: muffins, breads, fruit, etc. Gluten free contributions would be especially welcome.

If you know you are going to be in town for this Sunday and would like to help, the Welcome and Worship Team would also love to have volunteers to work on setting up and cleaning up. Whatever you can bring or do to contribute to this church family meal - even if all you can bring is an appetite - come join the festivities.

## Upcoming Pancake Breakfasts

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

**March 15**  
**April 19**



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

## 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.*

### March Mission Offering: The Community Table

The Community Table is one of flagship service programs of the Eau Claire area. Under the leadership of our own Tashai Atkins, they not only serve a free healthy hot meal every day of the week to anyone who shows up, but they are active in other programs to help the food insecure and unhoused population.

TCT is also one of our church's deepest and most enduring community partnerships. A team from our church cooks and serves a meal there every month (see below for dates), and we have also been involved in fundraising and support for a backpack program that they run, providing basic needs in a backpack for unhoused people. We also donated money to upgrade TCT's office computer system a few years ago.

Last month, Lake Street volunteers served a meal of pork stir fry, fruit salad, green salad and cookies to 69 guests. This month, our Mission Offering is dedicated to The Community Table. This month would also be a great time to volunteer for the first time. You can volunteer either for the cooking shift (9:00-11:15am) or the serving shift (11:15am-2:00pm) or both. Our next dates are March 11 and April 8. To volunteer, contact Peter Nelson at [petermnelson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petermnelson@sbcglobal.net) or at 715-379-8135.



#### Community Table

Our next dates at TCT are:

**March 11 - 9:00-2:00pm**  
**April 8 - 9:00-2:00pm**

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



[petermnelson@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.



### ARCW Wish List for March: Toothpaste

Join others in assisting AIDS/HIV clients by donating toothpaste to the AIDS RESOURCE CENTER of WISCONSIN during the month of March. Your donation will help those who use this popular item, which we donate to the ARCW.

The Food Pantry workers were overjoyed with the food items donated in February! Items included cereals, canned vegetables and canned fruit, soda, peanut butter, soup (24 cans) and many additional items. Your donation totaled more than 125+ items! Many thanks for your support and kindness.

**Blessing Box**  
DONATION SUGGESTIONS



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

## 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.*

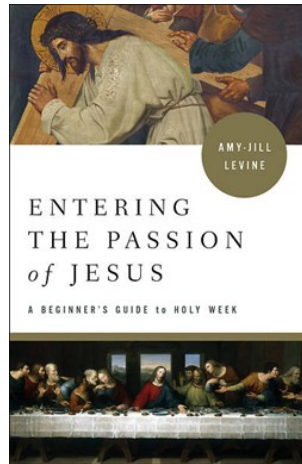
### A Lenten Study: Entering the Passion of Jesus

by Amy-Jill Levine

Last year during Lent we did a book study reading together the book *Re-Telling the Story*, by Anne van Gend, on the Atonement. This year we have chosen to look together at the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, by Amy-Jill Levine. Dr. Levine takes us through the geography and the history of that most significant week in human history, from Palm Sunday to Gethsemane.

Each session will begin with a 7-minute video presentation by the author. We will begin on Wednesday, February 25, and we will meet in the Fireside Library (unless the class gets too big) at 5:00pm.

The church will order books ahead of time from Cokesbury. If you would like to join us and read along, let the office know, so we can order yours.



### Sunday Book Group: Now Bible Group

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.

### Children's Sunday School

In March, we continue looking at the Fruits of the Spirit focusing on faithfulness and gentleness. We look forward to performing "The Books of the Bible", We hope to share this song with you in tin church on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**March 1** – The confirmands will teach the children today: The Feeding of the Five Thousand..

**March 8** – Faithfulness. We will study the Parable of the Faithful Servant learning that we can trust God because he is always faithful. We will also talk about how the book of Acts is the only history book in the New Testament.

**March 15** – No Sunday school. Pancake breakfast

**March 22** – Gentleness. We will discuss Jesus welcoming the children and how he helps us to be gentle with others.

**March 29** – We will sing in church our song, "The Books of the Bible".

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Happy Birthday



United Women in Faith

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW) NEWS

### UWF Season Begins

Welcome back! Our program year begins **Wednesday, March 18, at noon**, for a luncheon served in Fellowship Hall. RSVP please by March 17 to Marty Fisher-Blakeley at momfb@aol.com or 715-456-3346.

After lunch and a brief business meeting we will use our creative talents to decorate Easter bonnets. These will be displayed here at church. So ... check your spring holiday decorations for things you can use to turn plain straw hats into "designer originals." Think: silk flowers, lace, ribbons, Easter eggs, chicks, ducks, bunnies. Whatever says "Spring" to you. We will work in small groups and masterpieces are sure to spring forth. Some hats will be provided, but feel free to bring others.

Date: Wednesday .., March 18  
Time: 12:00 noon - luncheon \$5.00.  
RSVP: by Mar. 17. momfb@aol.com or 715-456-3346

### 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.



### March UWF Birthdays

Mary Sherman	3/3
Paula Utphall	3/12
Jackie Kruse	3/17
Susan Willkom	3/22
Winnie Doxsie	3/24

Chippewa Valley Area Singers (CVASing) will perform its annual fundraising concerts for Feed My People Food Bank on **Sunday, March**



**1 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** The theme this year is Homeland. The performance selections include "We are the World", "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place", "Healing River", and the choir's signature song "Where the Clearwater Flows" among others. Please help our food insecure neighbors while you enjoy this community collaboration. All proceeds go to Feed My People. Tickets for either concert are \$10 and can be purchased from choir members Peggy Fleming, Mary Rose Howard, Karl Koth, Pat Peterson or Jan Smith.

### The Lake Street Stampers ...

will meet at their regular time of **1:00 pm Thursday March 26th in Room 202.**

Come join us for a bit of **SPRING and SUNSHINE** .....at least on paper!

You are always welcome. .



**2025 MISSION GIVING FROM LAKE STREET**

Every month, as you know, we receive a “mission offering” alongside our regular giving. But unless you are on the Mission Team or the Church Council, you may not realize that our mission giving is much more than a monthly collection in orange plastic buckets. And so, each year, once the books are closed, we like to share where some of your giving has been going in terms of ministry and mission beyond our own church doors. Below is a summary our financial mission work in 2025.

One change in this year’s record is that it includes a new category, “Inclusion Ministries,” which are specific ministries of our church designed to connect with people who are often marginalized by society as a whole. At Lake Street these are IM (Inclusive Ministry) Church, for adults with disabilities, and Friends at the Lake, a weekly respite ministry for people with dementia and their caregivers.

<b>International Mission Giving</b>	
Nueva Canaan Iglesia (Bolivia)	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>

<b>Feeding Ministries</b>	
Feed My People	\$3,263.04
Campus Harvest	\$283.57
The Community Table	\$717.03
Community Table (From Scrip)	<u>\$1,433.38</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,697.02</b>

<b>Disaster Relief</b>	
Dignity Kits / Midwest Mission:	\$552.83
UMCOR :	<u>\$2,075.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,627.83</b>

<b>Emergency Help</b>	
CareLink (Salvation Army)	\$660.00
Helping Hands (LSUMC)	<u>\$455.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,115.00</b>

<b>Ministry to Unhoused People</b>	
Chippewa Valley Street Ministry	\$1,050.19
Family Promise / Beacon House	\$410.57
Sojourner House	\$600.43
EC School District Homeless Program	<u>\$100.82</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,162.01</b>

<b>Inclusion Ministries</b>	
IM Church	\$866.94
Friends at the Lake	<u>\$4,905.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b><u>\$5,771.94</u></b>

<b>Other</b>	
Good Neighbor Project:	\$1,335.00
Blessing Box	\$125.00
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic:	<u>\$267.21</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,528.02</b>

<b>LSUMC Mission Giving:</b>	<b>\$21,901.82</b>
<b>UWF Mission Giving:</b>	<b><u>\$8,495.00</u></b>
<b>Total Mission Giving:</b>	<b>\$30,396.82</b>

## Memorials and Special Gifts Through February 11, 2026

### MEMORIALS

In Memory of: **Carroll Vowels**. Donor: Dewain Lightfoot; Designated for: **Coffee Fellowship**.  
Donors: Greg and Brenda Wallace, Donna H. Gilbertson, Jaqueline Kruse, Charles and Sue Nyberg, Sara Goodman, Pamela Burrows, Jim and Kathy Bartl, JJJ's, and Peggy McNeary; **Undesignated**;

Donors: Jennie Stratton, Jerome and Kathryn Reinecke, Keith and Alson Martin, Beverly Goetz, Walter and Christine Schlafke, Steven and Janice Vowels, Spencer and Patrice Ahneman, Mary and William Uelmen, JANDEN Farms LLP (Dennis Donacek), Fredric Bushendorf, Ann and Larry Alfonso, Charles and Susan Larson, John Schaaf, H.L. Minton, Mildred Winters, James and Marilyn Bollinger, Barbara Lee, Loreen Juneau, Jill and Allen Weisenbeck, Sandra Vowels, Lloyd and Florence Shepherd, Marshall Wick, Barb and Peter Nelson, Friends and Family of Carroll Vowels, John Melrose and Marlene Arntson.; Designated for: **Radio Broadcast**;

In Memory of: **Lynne Chase**; Donor: Jacqueline Kruse; **Undesignated**;

In Memory of **Chuck Grandy**; Donors: Ron and Corinne Gjerner and Carol Lamirande; Designated for: **Radio Broadcast**;

In Memory of **Barb Rugotzke**; Donors: Ron and Corinne Gjerner; **Undesignated**;

### SPECIAL GIFTS

Donor: Carol Lamirande; Designated for: **Friends at the Lake Scholarship**;

Donors: Paul and Virginia Hilbrich; Designated for: **Radio Broadcast**.

## RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

### Financial Report through January, 2026

We had a solid financial month to start the new year, which is not always the case for January. Thank you for continuing your faithful giving. Not only was our regular giving above budget, but we continued to receive large one-time gifts for the whole year, which will be distributed in equal monthly amounts through December.

Yes, we are several thousand dollars in the red as of the end of January, but that is normal and was built into the budget. What is more notable is that we are \$4,500 less in the red than we had anticipated.

In the meantime, we continue to give generously to mission and ministry beyond our own walls, even beyond our own nation (see p. 8).

### Scrip Updates—Now Called Raise Right

For March, the Raise Right (formerly called scrip) orders are due on **Sunday, March 8, 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 March orders will be on **Sunday, March 15**.

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



### Lake Street United Methodist Church

	Operating Fund		Building Fund		Total	
	Actual YTD Jan 2026	Budget YTD Jan 2026	Actual YTD Jan 2026	Budget YTD Jan 2026	Actual YTD Jan 2026	Budget YTD Jan 2026
Offerings and other income *	\$ 27,481	24,015	\$ 237	\$ 550	\$ 27,718	\$ 24,565
Expenses	24,980	25,580	8,924	\$ 9,517	33,905	35,097
Net of Offerings less expenses	\$ 2,500	\$ (1,565)	\$ (8,687)	\$ (8,967)	\$ (6,187)	\$ (10,532)

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

## CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY

### Lake Street Scholarships to Summer Camp!

At its January meeting, our Church Council approved using our Foundation Grant money for Spiritual Formation to offer scholarships to camp at Pine Lake United Methodist Camp this summer. (Camp Lucerne, our other camp, is closed for renovations this summer.) The church will pay 80% of the cost for children or youth going to camp. This includes not only the children of church members but extended family members. The council has given Pastor Jerry some flexibility, so if you aren't sure, talk to him. For a full listing of the various camps, go to [wiumcamps.org](http://wiumcamps.org), but in the meantime here's a sampling:

#### **Create!** (a camp devoted to visual art)

Grades 2-4: June 14-17 (Sun-Wed)

Grades 4-6 and 6-9: June 14-19 (Sun-Fri)

#### **Leadership Skills**

Grades 9-12: June 14-19. Through hands-on experiences that blend nature, faith, and friendship, you'll learn how to guide younger campers in activities and evening games—bringing energy, empathy, and creativity to every moment.

#### **Grandparent/Grandchild Camp**

June 19-21 (Fri-Sun)

#### **Mother/Daughter Weekend**

July 10-12 (Fri-Sun)

#### **Wild: Treehouses**

Grades 2-4: July 5-8 (Sun-Wed)

Grades: 4-6: July 5-10 (Sun-Fri) and Aug 2-7 (Sun-Fri)

#### **Wild: Backpacking**

High School: July 5-10 (Sun-Fri)

Middle School: August 2-7 (Sun-Fri)

#### **Classic Camp** (a traditional camp experience)

Grades 2-4: July 12-15 (Sun-Wed)

Grades 4-6, 6-9, and 9-12: July 12-17 (Sun-Fri)

There are camps devoted to games and outdoor adventure, camps that begin with a time of playing video games followed by an afternoon of acting out epic adventures in nature, camps centered on robotics and STEM, camps for families, camps for young adults and camps for adults with differing abilities.

You really should check out the site.



#### **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 April issue (mailed on March. 26) need to be received by **March 18**.

Phone # – 715-832-6603

Fax # – 715-832-9500

#### **MAILING ADDRESS**

337 Lake Street, Suite A  
Eau Claire WI 54703

#### **WEBSITE**

[www.lakestreetumc.org](http://www.lakestreetumc.org)

#### **E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Rev. Jerry Morris  
[pastor@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:pastor@lakestreetumc.org)

Laurie Van Beek  
[laurievb@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:laurievb@lakestreetumc.org)

Ellen Prellwitz  
[adminsec@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:adminsec@lakestreetumc.org)

Jennifer Blakeley-Mode  
[finance@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:finance@lakestreetumc.org)




Kathy Amundson-Forsberg  
[kath\\_abby@yahoo.com](mailto:kath_abby@yahoo.com)



Aaron Athas  
Communications  
[@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:@lakestreetumc.org)

Edna Sahs  
[esahs@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:esahs@lakestreetumc.org)

Joel Carr  
(no email address)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> <b>Mission Emphasis: The Community Table</b> <b>9:00am Worship with Communion; livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b> <i>Message: "Temperance (vs. Lust and Gluttony)"; Text: 2nd Peter 1:3-8;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) <b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b> 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:15am Children's Education taught by the Confirmation and Youth 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) 3:00pm Souleing Ministry (Chapel)</p>	<p><b>2</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room)</p> 	<p><b>3</b> <b>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)</b> 6:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus Board) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9:30am UWF Leadership Team (Room 202) 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) <b>5:00pm Lenten Study (Fireside Library)</b> 6:15pm Ellesi Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p><b>5</b> 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)</p>	<p><b>6</b> Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fireside, Fellowship Hall and Dockside)</p> 	<p><b>7</b> 8:00am Pck 128 Derby Day and Blue and Gold Banquet 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook</p>
<p><b>8</b> <b>Mission Emphasis: The Community Table</b> <i>New Members Received and Baptism</i> <b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b> <i>Message: "Contentment (vs. Envy)"; Text: Philippians 4:8-13;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) <b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b> 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><b>9</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 10:00am Staff Meeting 3:00pm Staff Parish (Conference Room/on line) 4:15pm Fellowship Hall (ADK Group) 6:15pm Pack 128 Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103)</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:30am Missions Team (Fireside Library) <b>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)</b> 6:00pm Communications Team (on line) 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9:00am The Community Table 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) <b>5:00pm Lenten Study (Fireside Library)</b> 6:15pm Ellesi Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary) 6:15pm Pack 128 Committee (Room 202) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p><b>12</b> 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)</p>	<p><b>13</b> Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fireside, Fellowship Hall and Dockside)</p>	<p><b>14</b> 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook</p>
<p><b>15</b> <b>Mission Emphasis: The Community Table</b> 8:30am Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) with Children and Youth Helping <b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b> <i>Message: "Mercy (vs. Wrath)"; Text: Matthew 18:21-35;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) <b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b> 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:15am Children's Education (102/103) 10:15am Confirmation/Youth (Fireside)</p>	<p><b>16</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room) 6:15pm Pack 128 Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103)</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)</b> 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Circuit Rider Deadline</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 12:00pm UWF "In Your Easter Bonnet" (Fellowship Hall) <b>5:00pm Lenten Study (Fireside Library)</b> 6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p><b>19</b> 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 10:30am Friends at the Lake Board (Fellowship Hall)</p> 	<p><b>20</b> Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fireside, Fellowship Hall and Dockside)</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9:00am Lay Speakers Class -- Leading Worship (Conference Room and Sanctuary) 10:00am Room 202 (Huntington's Disease Support Group) 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) <b>3:00pm IM Church (Fellowship Hall)</b> 3:00pm Souleng Ministry (Chapel) 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3514/3324 (Rooms 101/102/103/Dockside)						
<b>22</b> <b>Mission Emphasis: The Community Table</b> <b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b> <i>Message: "Humility (vs. Pride)";</i> <i>Text: Matthew 23:1-12;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) <b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b> 10:15am Children's Education (102/103) 10:15am Confirmation/Youth (Fireside) 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) 10:30am Brunch (Fellowship Hall) 3:00pm Souleng Ministry (Chapel)	<b>23</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 10:00am Staff Meeting <b>6:00pm Church Council (Room 202/online)</b> 6:15pm Pack 128 Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103)	<b>24</b> <b>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)</b> 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)	<b>25</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 1:30pm Room 202/Fireside Library (ADRC Memory Loss Support Group) <b>5:00pm Lenten Study (Fireside Library)</b> 6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	<b>26</b> 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) <b>9:30am Circuit Rider Assembly (Room 202)</b> 1:00pm Stampers (Room 202)	<b>27</b> 8:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (Sewing Guild)	<b>28</b> 8:30am Helping Hands For Our Children (Parking Lot) 9:00am Lay Speakers Class -- Leading Worship(Conference Room and Sanctuary) 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
<b>29 PALM SUNDAY    5th Sunda Togethery</b> <b>Mission Emphasis: The Community Table</b> <b>9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available]</b> Message to be given by Michael Ahrens <b>10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM)</b> 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) <b>10:30a Brunch Fellowship</b> 3:00pm Souleng Ministry (Chapel)	<b>30</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room)	<b>31</b> <b>10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall)</b> 7:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus)			<b>IS COMING!</b>	

Printed February 24, 2026