



Circuit Rider

May 2026

www.lakestreetumc.org

“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.

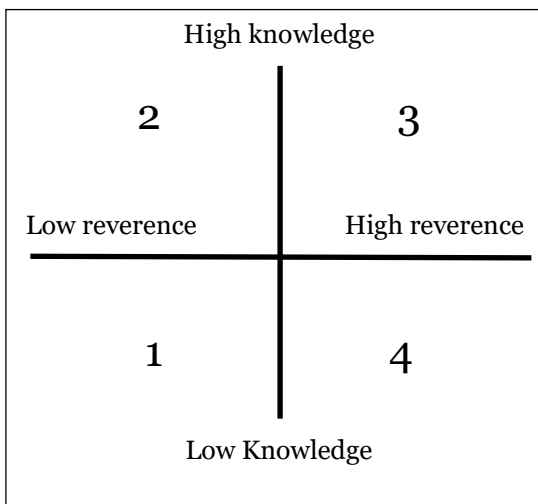
VISIT **LAKESTREETUMC.ORG** TO SIGN UP OR SEND AN EMAIL TO COMMUNICATIONS @LAKESTREETUMC.ORG

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.

Four Ways of Looking at the Bible

Pastor Jerry

Picture two lines – a horizontal x axis and a vertical y axis, intersecting at the center to make four squares. The x axis measures how much someone reveres the Bible, with the left-hand side being “regards it with no reverence” and the right-hand side being “reveres it deeply.” The y axis measures Biblical knowledge, with the lower extreme representing “knows nothing at all” and the upper extreme representing “knows the Bible well.” This gives us four different areas, representing four different kinds of relationship to the Bible: (1) people who neither know nor care much about the Bible, (2) people who know a lot about the Bible it, but hold it in little reverence, (3) people who know the Bible well and hold it in great reverence, and (4) those who hold it in great reverence but know very little about it. In my thirty-plus years of ministry, some of it as a professor of Bible and the rest as a pastor, I have known people from each quadrant.



Quadrant 1 is fairly easy to understand. People who are not Christian and who have no interest in Christianity neither value our scripture nor read it. Nor should we expect them to. There are a lot of people in this category.

People from **Quadrant 2**, who do not hold the Bible in any particular reverence but who know a lot about it, are less common, but not *that* unusual. In my experience, these are usually people who we raised to hold the Bible in reverence, and studied it intently, but then abandoned their original devotion. For instance, someone may have been brought up in a fundamentalist church, taught that the Bible was inerrant and infallible in every word, but then deeper study revealed that the Bible’s account of creation does not mesh with reality, that scripture contradicts itself sometimes, and so on. When forced to surrender their childhood illusions about the Bible, some give up on it entirely. A good example is the popular author and lecturer Dr. Bart Ehrman, who knows a great deal about the Bible, but having abandoned his childhood faith, teaches it as an English teacher might teach *The Iliad*, or as a history teacher might teach Herodotus: as an interesting artifact with great cultural significance, but nothing more.

Quadrant 3, again, is fairly easy to explain. These are followers of Christ who have encountered God in the pages of scripture, so they both value the Bible deeply and read and study it often. Every Christian should be somewhere in this quadrant. I don’t mean that every Christian is supposed to be a Bible scholar. Some people’s faith is expressed primarily through relationships or service or prayer. But the Bible is the touchstone that holds us together, our primary shared

(Continued on page 3)



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 May

Series: It's the End of the World (Apocalyptic 101)

Saturday-Sunday, May 2-3. 5th 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: "What Is Inspiration?"

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 3:14-16

Saturday-Sunday, May 9-10. 6th Sunday of Easter

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

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

Sermon: "Case Study: The Bible on Women"

Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:8-15 (and others)

Saturday-Sunday, May 16-17. 7th Sunday of Easter. Music 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: "The Bible on Music"

Scripture: Various scriptures

Saturday-Sunday, May 23-24. Pentecost 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: "The Bible, the Spirit, and Us"

Scripture: Acts 2:1-7, 11-21

Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31. Peace with Justice 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: "Jesus Didn't Have a Denomination"

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

Lay Servant Greg Wallace speaking

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

source of inspiration and guidance. We should all both care about scripture and want to know it better.

The people I understand least are those in **Quadrant 4**. These people value the Bible, or at least claim to, but don't actually know it or read it. Valuing a book and not reading it is like valuing a pair of shoes and not wearing them: you aren't valuing them in the way that they are meant to be valued. Some of those in this quadrant are people who are content to let someone else, like their pastor, tell them what the Bible says but who never check that witness against the text. Others in this quadrant are people who use the Bible primarily as a source of proof-texts – verses that can be divorced from their scriptural context and used to support whatever point the person is making, but who never look at the larger witness of scripture as a whole. In this case, the Bible is not an authority but a tool used to support one's own authority.

In the month of May, in my sermons, I'm going to be talking about scripture: how to read it with sensitivity and judgment, and how to let it read us. My goal – actually one of the goals of my entire ministry – is to move people from Quadrant 4 to Quadrant 3. We have an amazing book, through which untold millions have encountered God. Let's not leave it in the display case. Let's learn it.

Worship Notes for May

May is not traditionally a month of special worship services, but we have something to report for every Sunday this month.

May 3 - The Eau Claire Marathon. Once again this year we have a chance to support the hard work of our local runners by either coming to church very early or worshiping from home. See the full article on p. 8, but as far as worship goes, note that we will be delaying Communion this month until the second Sunday.

May 10 - This Sunday will be Communion Sunday. Those who don't like it when we change things around, you've been warned.

May 17 - Music Sunday! Our annual celebration of worship through music. All our choirs and ensembles have a chance to lead us, and the preacher has a chance to be very brief.

May 24 - Pentecost Sunday. This is the Sunday when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. In the liturgical tradition, *red* is the color for the Holy Spirit. Wear something bright red this week.

May 31 - Greg Wallace preaching. As Pastor Jerry is away at his son William's wedding, Our church's Lay Leader, and one of our certified Lay Speakers will be bringing the message.

RADIO SERVICE SUPPORT = \$165/week

- May 3 May 17 May 30
- May 10 May 24 June 7

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.

June Circuit Rider

Deadline is Wednesday, May 20 for Thursday, May 28 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.



FriendsattheLake.com

This past Tuesday, we welcomed our 19th Friend to Friends at the Lake. While we've never had all 19 attend at once, the need—and the opportunity—is growing.

As a volunteer-driven program, our volunteers truly are the heartbeat of what we do. Serving in a respite community is not a one-on-one responsibility, but a shared experience where the team carries the load together.

Our volunteers gain:

- Meaningful, hands-on service to others
- Bringing joy and purpose to a difficult season of life
- Days filled with laughter and genuine connection
- Honoring someone they love who has lived with Alzheimer's or dementia
- Being part of a welcoming, "no-label" community

There is no set schedule or long-term commitment—simply come when you are able.

If you have ever felt a nudge to serve, this may be the place for you.

Contact:

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

Stronger Together: Addressing Homelessness Locally

The four-week seminar on homelessness, sponsored by our own Accessibility Team Toward Inclusion in cooperation with multiple community organizations, has begun with sessions on April 23 and 30. The final two sessions will be held on Thursdays May 14 and 21. In these sessions, guest presenters will cover causes of homelessness, work that is already being done to remedy the problem, and work that can yet be done. But one of the goals of this series to make "homelessness" not just a social problem to be dispassionately considered but a human problem with a face.

Presentations will come from LEAB (Lived Experience Advisory Board), Family Promise, the county health department, The Community Table, Chippewa Valley Street Ministry, Sojourner House, and others. The presentations 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.

Final Pancake Breakfast This Spring

Remember, the pancake team takes the summer off. Our last breakfast before September will be:

May 17

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



DO YOU ENJOY COFFEE HOUR?

Help keep Coffee Fellowship going by volunteering to serve. Let's plan simple summer treats, many dates available. Training, reimbursement and team development is available. Sign up on the door to the pantry in the kitchen or with Winnie Doxie at 920-915-0432.



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.*

May Mission Offering: International Seminary Scholarship Drive

This month the Mission team is joining the rest of the United Methodist Church in taking up a collection to support ministerial education around the world. Most of the growth in the United Methodist Church today is found in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. There is no better way to support that growth and give it stability than to support the training of leaders. **See the full article on p. 10 regarding this world-wide fund drive for seminary education.**

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 meatloaf, seasoned potatoes, fruit and veggie salads to 85 guests on April 8. Our next dates to volunteer are May 13 and June 10. To volunteer, 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.

Community Table

Our next dates at TCT are:

May 13 - 9:00am-2:00pm
June 10 - 9:00am-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.



Raise Right (Scrip) for May

Thank you for your support of our Raise Right (Scrip) program. Through this program we are able to help support our Community Table commitment. Al Weisenbeck is now managing this fund-raising effort.

Mother's Day offers a great opportunity to support the Raise Right program. Buy gift cards for your mom, or take your Mom out for a meal using one of the many restaurant gift cards available. Al has a variety of restaurant cards in stock.

To save on shipping costs, Al orders the cards monthly. The May order deadline is May 10 for pickup on May 17. Payment is due when you pick up the cards. Looking ahead to June, the order date is June 7, with pickup on June 14.

Place your orders by stopping by the Raise Right table in the Fellowship Hall, or by texting or emailing your order to Al.

Weisenbecka@gmail.com 715 271 6354



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.

Old Testament 101

The Lenten Bible Study, in which we examined the biblical story of Passion Week, has had a child. On Monday, April 27, at 1:30 pm, that group started a four-session overview of the Old Testament—how it fits together into a coherent story, and how it prepares us for the story of Christ. Anyone who is free on Mondays at that time and would like learn a little more about the first two thirds of our Bible is welcome to join them in the Fireside Library (or Room 202 if we need more space).

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)

Olson-Maser Scholarship: Bobby Shepherd

The Olson-Maser Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the 2026 recipient of this award will be **Bobby Shepherd**, of our own church family.

The Olson-Maser Scholarship is given every year to a student who is going into a “helping” profession - e.g. nursing, teaching, social work, or ministry. Bobby is in his second year of studying nursing, supporting himself along the way by working as a “caretaker” at the Hands On Adult Day Care Center, and as a cashier at Festival Foods. Bobby says that he chose nursing because it engages both his mind and his heart, calling for both problem-solving and compassion.

Congratulations, Bobby.

Don't forget!

LSUMC has summer camp scholarships available.

80% of the cost!

See wiumcamps.org for options

Children's Sunday School

As we wind down this year in Sunday School, we learned a lot. We started our study of the Bible with Bible Basics including learning the Books of the Bible. We learned the Fruits of the Spirit and how we can demonstrate them today. It was a pleasure teaching this group of children and am looking forward to next year. Below is the schedule for May.

May 3 – No Sunday School due to the Eau Claire Marathon

May 10 – Last Sunday School Class for this 2025-26 year. Reviewing what we have learned this past year with various games and other fun things.

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.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United Women in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW) NEWS

May UWF Birthdays

UWF May Program: Healthy Aging

Florence Shepherd	May 1
Marlene Arntson	May 15
Kirsten Gierhart	May 17
Mary Zempel	May 21
Kathy Gierhart	May 22
Susie Deacon	May 25

Come join us on **Wednesday, May 20th at 1 pm** when Deb Bruning from ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) will share tips on 'Healthy Aging' and also give an overview of programs and services offered by ADRC.

All are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall to learn and socialize. Dessert and coffee will be served following the program.

A Season for Flowers

One of the ways to celebrate the joy of God's creation in the season of new life (Easter, but also Spring) is with flowers. Here are two ways to do that:

- By bringing flowers to church.** 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! Vases are available for loan!
- By helping with the church's flower garden.** Bonnie Wright is the landscape artist who has turned our front flower bed into such a dazzling display year after year. If you would be willing to help with this project, let Bonnie know or just contact the church. Weeding is always a gift.



Happy Birthday



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.



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.

The Lake Street Stampers ...

will meet on **Thursday May 21st at 1 o'clock in Room 202.** It would be great to see you there and you will have fun.



CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY

Eau Claire Marathon, Sunday, May 3.

Once again, the annual Eau Claire Marathon route is going to completely circle our church building, and there are street closings all around us. Here are some suggestions:

- If you want or need to be in church in person that Sunday, consider walking or riding a bicycle if you are within a suitable distance. If you need to drive, though, here is how to get through: (1) approach the church from the West, coming up Menomonie from Clairmont. Menomonie becomes Water Street, and at 3^d Avenue, turn north (left). The next street up from Water Street is Chippewa Street, which is part of the race route, but the people at that intersection have been instructed to let cars through when there are no runners. Try to get through **before 8:30**. One of the races will be passing that intersection at 9:00am.
- Maybe take this week to enjoy worship online. You can wear pajamas, drink coffee, snack, and talk back to the preacher, all while avoiding traffic frustration.
- Since the online service can be viewed anytime, consider coming down to cheer on the runners. Running a marathon takes months or years of preparation, and people who have put in that kind of effort for that long deserve our respect and encouragement.

Communion in May will be delayed until the following week, May 10.



Church Spring Cleaning, May 16

The Board of Trustees has scheduled a workday on Saturday, May 16. Come down during the morning when you can and stay as long as you're free. Deep cleaning, polishing, and scrubbing all those things that don't need cleaning weekly, but *do* need cleaning sometimes. Inside and outside work (unless it rains, in which case, come back inside).

A list of jobs and cleaning supplies will be available at the door, but feel free to bring your own lucky bucket and brush.

NAMI Walk in the Chippewa Valley

Hello, my fellow Lake Street United Methodist Church family – It's that time of the year again for the NAMI Walk in the Chippewa Valley on May 30th. This year the walk is earlier instead of September like the last three years. I am looking forward to getting all your generous donations in sponsoring me again on this year's walk.

With love – Aaron R. Hurlburt



Lake Street United Methodist Church

	Operating Fund		Building Fund		Total	
	Actual YTD Mar 2026	Budget YTD Mar 2026	Actual YTD Mar 2026	Budget YTD Mar 2026	Actual YTD Mar 2026	Budget YTD Mar 2026
Offerings and other income *	\$ 92,507	74,545	\$ 1,237	\$ 1,650	\$ 93,744	\$ 76,195
Expenses	76,189	76,174	37,002	\$ 28,548	113,191	104,722
Net of Offerings less expenses	<u>\$ 16,318</u>	<u>\$ (1,629)</u>	<u>\$ (35,765)</u>	<u>\$ (26,898)</u>	<u>\$ (19,447)</u>	<u>\$ (28,527)</u>

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

Memorials and Special Gifts Through April 20, 2026

MEMORIALS

In Memory of: **Carroll Vowels**; Donors: Donald and Jane Quinn, Marty Fisher-Blakeley; Designated for: Radio Broadcast;

In Memory of **Chuck Grandy**; Donor: Marty Fisher-Blakeley. Radio Ministry;

In Memory of **Barb Rugotzke**: Donor: Marty Fisher-Blakeley; Undesignated;

In Memory of: **Joyce Mortt**; Donor: Carol Lamirande; Designated for: Good Samaritan fund; Donors: Marty Fisher-Blakeley, Jackie Kruse, Thomas and Jill Barland; Undesignated;

In Memory of **Lloyd Shepherd**; Donors: Sandra Vowels, Florence Shepherd, Ron and Corinne Gjerning, Marshall Wick, Ellen Niemuth, Susie Deacon, Mary Zempel, Sharon Southard, Thomas Bauer, Kent and Kathy Gierhart, Larry and Elaine Fischer; Designated for: Capital Campaign;

Donors: Brad and Jan Smith, Jackie Kruse, Carol Lamirande, Janet and Jeff Voss, Jill and Al Weisenbeck; Designated for: Friends of the Lake Scholarship;

Donors: Betty Keepers and Marlene Arntson; Designated for: Radio Broadcast;

Donors: Joann Rutz, Marty Fisher-Blakeley, Robert Tollefson, Carol Mooney, Jerome and Kathleen Kroll, Dale and Peggy Fleming; Undesignated.;

Donor: Teresa Koca; Designated for: Community Table;

In Memory of: **Don Frank**; Donors: Carol Lamarinde and Jackie Kruse; Designated for: Friends of the Lake Scholarship;

SPECIAL GIFTS

Donors: Jeff and Jan Voss; Designated for: Friends of the Lake Scholarship;

Donors: Dick and Linda Keepersm Paul and Virginia Hilbrich; Designated for: Radio Broadcast;

Donors: Ron and Corinne Gjerning; Designated for: Sojourner House.

RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

Financial Report through March, 2026

So, first of all, thank you. You continue to make it harder to predict our financial future, but in a good way. We in the Finance Committee keep making budgets based on long-term trends and healthy realism, and you keep giving more than we had projected. Take March, for instance. You not only gave \$9,500 more than we had projected for March, putting us \$18,000 ahead of budget in our giving for the first three months of the year (see the table at the bottom of page 8), but we've actually received much more than that.

Many of you have already given your entire year's pledge. When that happens at the beginning of the year, we place those gifts in a separate fund and spread those gifts out in equal portions over the remaining months of the year. This helps level out the normal ups and downs of giving throughout the year, and that "Pre-paid Pledge" account is well-funded for this year.

And we have received several gifts this past month designated for the Lake Street Foundation. Gifts to the Foundation not only help us to navigate the expenses of the current year but help to support ministry for many years to come, through the annual Ministry Grants that the Foundation gives to our various teams and committees.

Again, thank you!



2026 Graduates!



Is someone from your family graduating this month? Let the church office know! We want to celebrate with you.



Congratulations to all of you.

CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY

International Scholarship Drive for UM Pastors

We are so spoiled here in the United States. We expect our pastors to have put in the time, to have studied scripture at a deep level, to have learned the ins and outs of church practice, to be able to explain theological concepts, to have been taught best practices in pastoral care, and to have training in leadership and administrative skills. All this comes from seminary. On top of that, our Board of Ordained Ministry adds further tests before submitting names for ordination: professional psychological profiles, written papers on theological and practical subjects, a sample Bible study, a sample sermon (with video), and six rounds of nerve-wracking interviews. Our pastors are highly trained and thoroughly vetted. (I know. Some of you are saying, "If that's so, how did so-and-so get through?" Hey, it happens. You should see the ones that didn't.)

Here at Lake Street, it has probably been since the 1800s that we've had a pastor who didn't have at least a seminary degree. Even in our smaller churches, nearly all congregations have pastors with seminary or its Course of Study equivalent. Nationwide, 71% of UM churches are led by someone with a seminary degree.

And outside the US, that percentage is 5%.

This isn't because pastors don't *want* to have seminary training. It is primarily a matter of money. There isn't a seminary in their country, or if there is, there is no financial support to enable pastors and their families to uproot and move away for school. Many of these pastors will be bi-vocational, serving churches alongside earning a living in another job, and it's hard to give up your livelihood for a couple of years to study for what may always be a volunteer or part-time role.

Many do anyway. Many give up everything and travel across countries for this training, so strongly do they feel their calling to serve. We in more comfortable circumstances should use our bounty to support their commitment and to enable more to follow their example.

The United Methodist Council of Bishops is calling on all Methodist churches to join in a global offering to support seminary training around the world. They are calling May 17, 2026 "Miracle Sunday" and the goal is raise funds on that day that will be sufficient to support the seminary education of 500 new pastors *per year* around the world. For us, it will be the mission offering for the entire month of May. Consider making a

special gift this month to support the wider Methodist connection.



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 June issue (mailed on May 28) need to be received by **May 20**.

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Fax # – 715-832-9500

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Ben Kittilstad
ben4699@gmail.com

Joel Carr
(no email address)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:00am Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fireside, Fellowship Hall and Dockside) 9:00am Kairos karate practice (Sanctuary)	2 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
3 Mission Emphasis: International Seminary Education Month 9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available] <i>Message: "What Is Inspiration?";</i> <i>Text: 2nd Timothy 3:14-17; 2nd Peter 3:14-16;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM) 10:15am Celebration Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) 3:00pm Souleing Ministry (Chapel)	4 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 1:30pm Bible Study (Fireside Library) 6:15pm Pack 128 Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103)	5 9:30am Room 202 Use (Stepping On Class) 10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Fellowship Hall (EC Male Chorus Board) 6:30pm Lounge (Tuesday Womens NA)	6 9:30am UWF Leadership Team (Room 202) 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary) 6:30pm Fireside Library (Wed NA Group) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	7 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 9:30am Room 202 (ADRC Mind Over Matter)	8 9:00am Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fireside, Fellowship Hall and Dockside) 4:00pm Kairos Dance Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	9 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
10 BIBLE SUNDAY Mission Emphasis: International Seminary Education Month 9:00am Worship with communion; livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available] <i>Message: "Case Study: The Bible on Women";</i> <i>Text: 1st Timothy 2:8-15 (and others)</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:05am Radio Ministry (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) 5:00pm Girl Scout Troop 3514/3324 (Rooms	11 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room) 1:30pm Bible Study (Fireside Library) 4:15pm Fellowship Hall In Use (ADK Group) 6:00pm Welcome and Worship Team (Room 202/online) 6:15pm Pack 128	12 9:30am Missions Team (Fireside) 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)	13 9:00am The Community Table 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 6:15pm Handbell Choir (Sanctuary) 6:15pm Pack 128 Committee (Room 202) 6:30pm Fireside Library (Wed NA Group) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	14 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 7:00pm Homelessness Conference (Fellowship Hall)	15 9:00am Kairos Home School (Rooms 101/102/Third Floor, Fireside, Fellowship Hall and Dockside) 4:00pm Kairos Dance Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	16 9:00am All-Church Work Day 10:00am Room 202 (Huntington's Disease Support Group) 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 1:00pm Private Recital (Sanctuary and

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
101/102/103/Dockside)	Meeting (Rooms 101/102/103)		8:00pm Ensemble Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)			Fellowship Hall) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
17 MUSIC SUNDAY Mission Emphasis: International Seminary Education Month 8:30am Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) with Children and Youth Helping 9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available] <i>Message: "The Bible on Music";</i> <i>Text: Various Scriptures;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:05am Radio Ministry (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) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting	18 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conf Room) 1:30pm Bible Study (Fireside Library) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting	19 9:30am Room 202 Use (Stepping On Class) 10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting 5:30pm Trustees (Room 202/on line) 6:30pm Finance Committee (Fireside Library/on line) 6:30pm Lounge (Tuesday Womens NA)	20 Circuit Rider Deadline 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 1:00pm UWF "Healthy Aging" (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting 6:30pm Fireside Library (Wed NA Group)	21 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 10:30am Friends at the Lake Board (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Stampers (Room 202) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting 7:00pm Homelessness Conference (Fellowship Hall)	22 8:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (Sewing Guild) 4:00pm Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary in Use (Kairos Home School End of Year Celebration) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting	23 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting
24 Mission Emphasis: International Seminary Education Month 9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available] <i>Message: "The Bible, the Spirit, and Us";</i> <i>Text: Acts 2:1-7, 11-21</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM) 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) 3:00pm Souleng Ministry (Chapel)	25 Memorial Day – Office Closed	26 10:00am Friends at the Lake (Fellowship Hall) 6:30pm Lounge (Tuesday Womens NA) 6:00pm Church Council (Room 202/online)	27 10:00am Fellowship Hall (ADRC Brain and Body Class) 1:30pm Room 202/Fireside Library (ADRC Memory Loss Support Group) 6:30pm Fireside Library (Wed NA Group)	28 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside) 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 9:30am Circuit Rider Assembly (Room 202)	29	30 12:00pm Fireside Library (Sat NA Group)
31 Mission Emphasis: International Seminary Education Month 9:00am Worship with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; [Nursery Available] <i>Message: "Jesus Didn't Have a Denomination";</i> <i>Text: Matthew 28:16-20;; Greg Wallace Speaking;</i> 10:00am Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:05am Radio Ministry (880AM/106.3 FM) 10:30am Bible Group (Conference Room) 3:00pm Souleng Ministry (Chapel)	