

# Lord <sup>Of</sup> The Lakes

We are a family of faith, celebrating Jesus Christ at work in our lives and actively inviting others to do the same.



## April 2023

Many years ago, my goal in life was to make the high school basketball team. I was that kid out shooting hoops at all hours in the driveway, annoying the neighbors late into the night. I worked hard to get in shape and did everything possible to refine my skills. Then you know what happened? I made the team only to ride the bench all season long. It was a heartbreaker to watch my teammates look like they were having the time of their life on the court while I waited and waited and waited to see any game time.

After two years of this, I'd had enough. I decided to let that dream go, and instead, joined an intermural league with a bunch of buddies. Funny enough, I soon rediscovered the joy in the game! It was no longer about jockeying for a position or pushing myself to become better and better. Instead, I had fun with my friends, fun playing the game, fun being a kid! That year was the highlight of my "basketball career."

It's interesting that my dream was squashed but something wonderful came after it. I've learned that lesson dozens of times during adulthood. We think there's one way to do things. We think we know exactly what we want. We think we have to have it our way. And when that doesn't happen, we often discover something new – and sometimes better – while learning about ourselves along the way.

The same can be said in our spiritual lives. We pray and pray about something and think we know what's best, only to discover God had a different idea in mind. Jeremiah 29:11 summarizes God's role, saying, "For I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Of course Easter Sunday might be the biggest change of plans the world has ever seen. And this month we remember very clearly that human dreams can become wonderful when God steps in, even when all seems lost. Who knew the best was yet to come when Good Friday arrived?

No matter what is going on in our lives, we can hang onto the fact that God is walking with us, always.

Pastor Kevin

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### LENTEN Schedule

Palm Sunday - April 2nd: Services at 8:00 am & 10am  
Maundy Thursday - April 6th: Service at 6:30pm  
Good Friday - April 7th: Service at 6:30pm  
Easter - April 9th: Services 8:00am and 10:00am



**Lord of the Lakes Easter Breakfast 2023**  
**All are Welcome**  
**Sunday, April 9th Between Services**  
(see details on page 4)

**Lord of the Lakes**  
**Pastor Kevin Heffernan**  
Email: [pastorkevin@lordofthelakes.net](mailto:pastorkevin@lordofthelakes.net)  
Phone: (920) 582-2622

Church Email: [office@lordofthelakes.net](mailto:office@lordofthelakes.net)  
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God listens and God does answer prayers even though it is human nature to think sometimes he does not hear them! He has been working overtime for Lord of the Lakes!

We continue to pray every day for guidance and wisdom in making decisions that impact all of us involved at Lord of the Lakes. Since my last writing, we had a little crisis in the office that forced us to take some emergency action on the path to resolving a few of our technology issues. First, we found the answering machine was not working properly and finally were able to get a representative from our current telephone service to come out and resolve that problem. This company has been a real challenge to work with! Council members Tennille Peterson and Wayne Ludkey have been working countless hours in cooperation with our office staff and consultant Randy Korus advising as they try and resolve issues with our email, out of date software, transferring data and other tech related problems. We purchased a new computer and monitor for the office administration and Office 365 software will have been installed on all 4 of the office computers including the Office Administration, Financial Secretary, Pastor, and Youth Leader by the time you read the newsletter. We were able to accomplish this by using Project Fund-21202 with the balance coming from Fortify Investment account (Linda Zillges gift). By taking monies from these funds, we have not impacted our operating budget at all, and we are getting a little closer to making our office folks smile again. We continue to work on resolving our email issues! The web page has been temporarily put on the back burner until we get these higher priority areas of concern resolved.

Since the end of February, we have received additional monies from members of our congregation donated specifically for "Technology" that will assist us in meeting these needs. Your generosity is overwhelming.! Next month I look forward to updating you on what we were able to accomplish toward meeting our technology goals without impacting our operating budget!

Congratulations to the members of our Wednesday Night Youth Group! Love their new name – SWAG (Saved With Amazing Grace) This is a fabulous group of kids that I, too, get the privilege of working with throughout the year as they volunteer for various worship assistant duties and help us in other ways around Lord of the Lakes. They are smart, dedicated, hard-working, love their church family and Jesus Christ! We need more adults willing to volunteer to work with this group. They are special, and it will be a worthwhile opportunity if you are so inclined.

Welcome new members! Wow! What an excellent group of adults and children! We are so glad to have you! Choosing a church is a personal decision. So glad you chose us!

We look forward to seeing everyone Easter Sunday, April 9 for Service and Easter Brunch. You will be greeted with "He is Risen" and you will respond with "He is Risen Indeed" repeatedly. What a day of celebration!

Debbie Ruedinger  
Lord of the Lakes Council President

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## Treasurer Report

Greetings from the land of finance! Last month I introduced the amazing team of people we have guiding our congregation financially. This month the focus is on the nuts and bolts of the budget process.

Last November, you, our congregation, voted on our 2023 budget. But how is the budget developed?

Our office team handles the electronic recording of all financial transactions for the church. Each financial transaction is recorded to a specific account in our computer system. We have accounts for everything – expenses like office supplies, inside maintenance, payroll, subscriptions, and income such as offerings and donations. This detailed tracking allows us to easily produce a preliminary budget report that shows all income and expenses for the year. Since this process begins during the summer, we project costs for the remainder of the year based on data from the previous year.

Once the draft budget is created, it is sent to committees for review and feedback. Council, committees, and the administrative team look at their respective expenses for the year, determine if they are over/under budget, and make recommendations for the next year's budget. Recommendations are then sent to the finance team for further analysis and adjustments. This back and forth continues until a final budget proposal is agreed upon by the council and the finance team. The budget is then put forth for consideration and vote by the congregation (you).

Our budget is created, but how do we know what we will have for income? Simple answer is, we don't know. I'm not going to lie – that freaked me out a bit (ok, a lot) coming into this role. I'm familiar with personal and business budgeting – I can reasonably expect 'x' amount of dollars every <insert timeframe here>. Doesn't work that way in the church. Income history from previous years, combined with current year data gives us a good guess on where we might end up, but it is only a guess. Fortunately, we are blessed with

- A generous congregation
- A fiscally responsible team

For those that attended the congregational meeting, you know the challenges to our budget due to aging systems requiring replacement – specifically technology, parking lot lights, 3 furnaces/air conditioners. Council is working closely with Buildings & Grounds, the Administrative Team, and Business Management Team to determine what repairs/replacements “need” to be versus “should” be completed. We are also analyzing whether the costs can be managed within the confines of our current budget.

Strategically, we are undergoing an audit of all major systems to determine when maintenance or replacement will be necessary. Our hope is to prolong the lifespan of systems but also begin proactively allocating monies for eventual replacement. Additionally, all committees are drafting “Needs, Wants and Dreams” lists so we can continue to our shift to proactive budgeting.

We ask for your continuing prayers for guidance, wisdom, and discernment as we collectively work to honor our Lord with the gifts of this congregation.

Respectfully,  
Tennille Peterson, Treasurer



Deb Ruedinger is our Volunteer Coordinator. Currently she is working on the rotation schedules for May-August Worship Assistants and for Coffee Fellowship. **We need additional Readers, Communion Assistants and Ushers for the 8am worship service. We also need additional people for Ushers at the 10:00am service.** If you are not already on Deb's volunteer list, or perhaps you are new and would like to be added, please message her at 863-634-9794 or speak to her between worship services on Sunday mornings. We hate to see people go, but if you need to be removed from one of the schedules, now is the time to let her know before new ones are printed.

We also need a few additional people to add to our **Coffee Fellowship** teams to provide and serve treats and small bites between our worship services on Sunday mornings. Maybe you are someone who likes to bake and are willing to provide baked goods from time to time but are unable to help make the coffee and serve the food, due to other obligations. Please let us know. We have room for you also! Again, if you are not already on any of these lists and find that it is something you think you will enjoy doing, please let Deb know. Text message is best.

Finally, for those of you currently serving as Worship Assistants in any capacity, looking ahead, if you absolutely know there will be a particular Sunday or month you are out of town or not available, please let Deb know as soon as possible. Some have already done this, and it is very helpful. Thank all of you for generously giving of your time and talents!

### Easter Brunch Plans

On Easter Sunday, April 9, between services at 9:00am in the narthex we will have our Easter Brunch. Lord of Lakes will provide sliced ham and sausage and we are asking members of the congregation to bring accompanying dishes of your choice. These may be egg bakes, quiches, hash brown casseroles, overnight French toast, fruits, muffins, pastries, or luscious desserts. It is your choice! We will provide juice, milk, coffee, water, and lemonade.

Volunteers are needed to assist with taking the heavy rectangle tables out of storage and setting them up following Bible study on Thursday April 6 and then we need a group to assist with getting beverages set up, clean-up, washing dishes, bagging trash etc. following the brunch on Sunday, April 9. We will put a sign-up sheet on the kiosk for all these details. Questions? Call Pam @ 920-450-0276

Following brunch at 10:00 am we will have our traditional Easter egg hunt for the kiddos!



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Busy Hands will meet this month on April 11th & 25th at 9:00am. If you are interested in joining us for some quilting, food, fellowship and devotional we would love to have you. No sewing experience is needed.

***There is no stuff  
In Heaven***  
You can't take it with you.  
When it's time, Lord of the Lakes  
can make good use of a portion  
of your investments, property  
and insurance to fulfill God's  
mission in our community.





In the month of March, T.W.I.G. had two opportunities to get together for fellowship. The first was to attend the free Oshkosh Community Band Spring Concert on Saturday night, March 18 at the Oshkosh West High School Alberta Kimball Auditorium. Our own TWIG Dana Hartel was a member of the Oshkosh Area Community Band for over 30 years as a percussionist and she introduced us to this event. Dana is now retired from the band. The next concert scheduled will be in June and it also be free.

Our second event was a social and dinner at the Fin n Feather held on Thursday evening, March 23 at 5:30pm. Several young ladies and mature ladies from Lord of the Lakes participated in this activity as well. We appreciate member Jan Trow for arranging our venues and putting out the announcements each month. As we move into the warmer time of the year, we will have more opportunities to gather and enjoy one another's company. We are being inconsistent with meeting days and times on purpose in order to give various members who are still in the workforce to participate once in a while! Please continue to watch for announcements in our weekly church bulletin and on the kiosk in the narthex of the church. We will have a luncheon or dinner in April. Don't miss out!



Our service project has been preparing a meal and serving it periodically at the Day-by-Day Warming Shelter in Oshkosh. Our next date is Thursday, May 4. Please sign up on the kiosk if you would like to help shop, cook or serve for this particular date. Thank you, Sally Patterson for being our contact and organizing these activities and of course to those who volunteer. If this is something that interest you, sign up! Men are welcome to participate!

Remember, our activities are open to ALL women at Lord of the Lakes and their friends. We are not age restricted! If you have questions or want additional information on anything related to T.W.I.G., please free to contact Deb Ruedinger at 863-634-9794. Text messaging is fantastic!

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**Life & Growth Team:** Our Easter Brunch on Sunday morning between services is a huge churchwide life and growth activity. We plan to provide that with a little twist this year. Members will be asked to bring a covered dish that may be whatever they think we need for a brunch in lieu of us baking large pans of eggs that don't taste so great anyway. Lord of Lakes will provide slices of ham and sausage. By doing it this way, guests will be able to go down both sides of the table and serve themselves. We will just have to monitor and refill the dishes for items we are providing and of course provide the coffee, juice, water, and lemonade to accompany the meal. One thing you can count on is the desserts will be fabulous!

The Soup Suppers during lent on Wednesday evenings have been well attended and are another opportunity for the whole family to participate.



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**NAME TAG SUNDAYS!** What fun! We declared the third Sunday of each month as Name Tag Sunday and what a wonderful way to get to know each other and put names to faces! We had no rules other than everyone was asked to identify themselves in some way. You could write your name on one of the peel and stick badges we provided, or you could use a name badge that represented something from your past! We had some who brought their badges from a recent special event, group travel and others who wore their badges from a previous club. We will do it again so if you want to dig in your drawer and pull out your identity from the past or use one of ours, the next Name Tag Sunday will be April 16, 2023.



**OUR SCHEDULE!**

Youth Group meets:  
Wednesdays 6-9

Team Reach Code  
60900

We are taking the time to dig deeper into the meaning of Lent and how it influences us as we move toward resurrection Sunday!

Its official! The youth group has spoken and the new name of their group is....(drum roll please)

**S.W.A.G.**

It was voted on and although there were many great ideas that came close, the acronym S.W.A.G. (Saved With Amazing Grace) gives the kids the chance to share the Good News of God's love and the Amazing Grace that saves us, and help them to invite, connect and share the Gospel in their own way. As promised, T-shirts, and other merch will be coming. Thank you to the SWAG Youth for working on this and passing on to the next generation of youth kids a cool way to share their Youth Group Story and what Grace means to each of them.

Our Pizza Fundraiser was another huge success and we had a net of over \$1,600 dollars raised and prepared almost 400 pizzas. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your support and pizza cravings! The kids and adult helpers worked hard to prepare and package the pizzas March 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for all who purchased at church or thru a youth member as well as the multiple generous donations. We are so blessed with the love and support of our church family.

We are working close with Crossways Camp Ministries as we prepare for our summer bible camp. Please continue to pray for our Youth. As I get closer to each of them and learn more about their daily life and faith, I see wonderful promise and Hope in each of them. Some of our Wednesday Nights they spend time having fun, playing games, laughing and just being middle and high school kids. There are also times where we learn about the heart felt stresses and struggles that they are experiencing in school, sports, in relationships and with their faith. I think we can all relate to this no matter what season of life we are in! With that said, I would like to ask each of you reading this Newsletter to include our S.W.A.G kids in your prayers. Pray what the spirit puts in your heart to pray for our youth. I often pray that they can know they are Loved, that they continue to lean on God (in Good times and in Bad) and that kindness and forgiveness is a choice we all get to make that leads us to the Peace that passes our human understanding. I pray they are able to see Gods Love, Feel Gods Love and Be Gods Love in the world today, tomorrow and well into the future.

Thank you for taking a moment to pray with me.

In God's Love,  
Ryan Otto, S.W.A.G. Youth Pastor

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### Easter Egg Hunt

We will once again be having our Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:00 service on Easter Sunday. This year is going to run differently as we are going to break kids up by age groups:



Little-2nd graders - back hall and Sunday school rooms  
3rd-5th grade. - gathering area and church



They will hunt for eggs in different areas of the church. If kids "see" eggs before the hunt we would ask that they leave them alone so it's fair for everyone.

We will be looking for a few parents to help: make sure each kid gets the right amount of eggs, help open eggs and bag the goodies for each kid, collect eggs for next year, and just help supervise the event.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 10-2 Thrift
<b>2</b> 8 & 10am Worship 	<b>3</b> 5:00pm Narcotics Anonymous 6:00 AcaBellas	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 Youth Group 6:45 Guitar Band	<b>6</b> 8:30am Bible Study 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service	<b>7</b> 6:30 Good Friday Service	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8 & 10am Worship 	<b>10</b> 5:00 Narcotics Anonymous 6:00pm AcaBellas	<b>11</b> 9:00 am - Busy Hands	<b>12</b> 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 Youth Group 6:45 Guitar Band	<b>13</b> 8:30am Bible Study		<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8 & 10am Worship Name Tag Sunday 	<b>17</b> <b>*Newsletter Articles due*</b> 5:00 Narcotics Anonymous 6:00pm AcaBellas	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Council meeting	<b>19</b> 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 Youth Group 6:45 Guitar Band	<b>20</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8 & 10am Worship	<b>24</b> 5:00 Narcotics Anonymous 6:00pm AcaBellas	<b>25</b> 9:00 am - Busy Hands	<b>26</b> 6:00 Choir Practice 6:00 Youth Group 6:45 Guitar Band	<b>27</b> 8:30am Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8 & 10am Worship						<p><b>Celebrate April Birthdays</b> (over 70)</p> <p>4/6 - Janine Brantley  4/10 - Dorothy Zeinert  4/11 - Marlin Greenfield  4/22 - Marie Lesnick  4/24 - Rich Carlson  4/26 - Chris Rescheske  4/29 - Joleen Downs</p>  <p>Contact the office for any changes</p>



# April Worship Assistants

*indicates chairperson for coffee fellowship	
<b>April 2nd 8:00am Palm Sunday</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Mark & Teri Henry <b>Reader:</b> Betts Nikolai <b>Communion:</b> Betts Nikolai & Marie Walsh <b>Usher:</b> Ron Miller & Rick Pierre <b>Coffee Fellowship:</b> Debbie Ruedinger*, Mark Kunde, Kim Zehner, Mary Brefeld & Dick Schallert	<b>April 2nd 10:00am Palm Sunday</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Ken & Mary Mueller <b>Reader:</b> Mara Schell <b>Communion:</b> Kimberly Radtke & Andrea Schell <b>Usher:</b> Joe Groholski & Mary Beth McKee
<b>April 9th 8:00am Easter Sunday</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Betts Nikolai & Kim Zehner <b>Reader:</b> Jody Kell <b>Communion:</b> Ellen Smolinski & Jill Templin <b>Usher:</b> Karen & Lou Zwicky & Brian & Trevor Bliske <b>Coffee Fellowship:</b> Easter Brunch	<b>April 9th 10:00am Easter Sunday</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Jenni & Joe Groholski <b>Reader:</b> Jan Faust <b>Communion:</b> Allys Rudisill, Ken Mueller, & Ryan Otto <b>Usher:</b> Barb & Mark Jorna & Jan & Verne Olson
<b>April 16th 8:00am</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Hattie Engeldinger & Trevor Bliske <b>Reader:</b> Tammie Voelkel-Fox <b>Communion:</b> Betts Nikolai & Deb Ruedinger <b>Usher:</b> Pam & John Ulness <b>Coffee Fellowship:</b> Jan Olson*, Beth & Jim Melby, & Marie Walsh	<b>April 16th 10:00am</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Lorraine Papke & Beverly Raatjes <b>Reader:</b> Kristen Bjornstad <b>Communion:</b> Gail Gardner, Ray Zegers & Ken Mueller <b>Usher:</b> Ginny & Joe Potter
<b>April 23rd 8:00am</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Sheila Gurkowski & Victoria Waters <b>Reader:</b> Barb Wachtendonk <b>Communion:</b> Marie Walsh & Kim Zehner <b>Usher:</b> Everette Fox & Mel Koneman <b>Coffee Fellowship:</b> Chris & Erin Forer*, Diana Dorner, & Gail Gardner	<b>April 23rd 10:00am</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Jeremiah Jahnke & Emily Schell <b>Reader:</b> Mark Kunde <b>Communion:</b> Ken & Mary Mueller <b>Usher:</b> Brennan Jaeger & Ryan Otto
<b>April 30th 8:00am</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Jill Templin & Marie Lesnick <b>Reader:</b> Audrey Bishop <b>Communion:</b> Joanne Dallmann & Pam Ulness <b>Usher:</b> Chris & Jim Rescheske <b>Coffee Fellowship:</b> Judy & Bob Felberg*, Laurie Behm, Tammie Wright & Kristin Woods	<b>April 30th 10:00am</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Luke Fuller & Will Nigl <b>Reader:</b> Molly Otto <b>Communion:</b> Jenni & Joe Groholski <b>Usher:</b> Kay & Tom Lettau



## May Ushers 8:00am

May 7 - Chuck & Judy Riese  
 May 14 - Debbie Ruedinger & Kim Zehner  
 May 21 - Karen & Lou Zwicky  
 May 28 - Rick Pierre & Mel Koneman

## May Ushers 10:00am

May 7 - Jim & Beth Melby  
 May 14 - Janine Brantley & Bette Lee  
 May 21 - Mary Beth McKee & Ann Zillges  
 May 28 - Barb & Mark Jorna





**"Gladys, you really need to update your picture for the directory"**

## Church Directory

On May 15, 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-7:45pm Harman Studios be taking photos for the new Lord of the Lakes Church Directory. Betts Nikolai is chairman of this project, and she is being assisted by an outstanding team made up of Heidi Ludkey, Barb Jorna, Jan Trow, Jan Faust, Sara Walsh, Kim Zehner, Mary Mueller, Lorraine Papke, and Misha Grenier. We encourage and want every individual or family that comes to worship at Lord of the Lakes to participate! Our goal is to have at least 90 sittings! There is absolutely no cost to you for the photo shoot. If you want to order photos then of course there is a charge for that. Each participant will receive a complimentary 5x7 or 8x10 portrait of their directory pose. We will begin signing people up this month. Please watch your weekly bulletin and see the kiosk for additional information on how to schedule your appointment. You will have the ability to do it on-line. If that does not work for you, then we will have representatives from the team present between services during the month of April and early May to sign you up.

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## Thrift Partner Program



A huge thank you to those that volunteer on our Thrift Saturday's. We always have a great time, and it is a great way to get to know each other while serving others. If you are interested in volunteering, you can sign up for the entire time or just an hour or two, any time you are willing share is welcomed. As always, if you unable to volunteer please come and shop and don't forget to bring your friends, family and neighbors to shop as well!

**We raised \$675.82 in February**

Reminder Next Thrift Days: **April 1st**

Contact Becky Jahnke at [beckyjahnke920@gmail.com](mailto:beckyjahnke920@gmail.com) if interested in volunteering

**Scrip:** Just a reminder that scrip gift cards make great gifts to fill your Easter Baskets. There are a wide variety of stores, including stores from all over the United States so you don't have to limit yourself to shopping for people who just live in Wisconsin. If you have any questions regarding scrip please Contact Tammy Wright at 920.420.3755 or [wisupermom@gmail.com](mailto:wisupermom@gmail.com) Shop today at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com)

Scrip is Fundraising While You Shop!™



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**The Easter Bunny** was originated in Germany

Easter is a Christian holiday in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Americans eat about 1.5 Million peeps a year

New clothes for Easter used to be considered good luck

76% of people eat the ears 1st of a chocolate

A white lily is also known as the Easter Lily

Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday

Eating hot cross buns on Easter originated from Greece

The White House Easter Egg Roll started in 1878

Pretzels are associated with Easter as they resemble arms crossed in prayer

Dyeing eggs started as religious custom in Ukrainian

**EASTER fun facts for kids**

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24/7 Mental Health Crisis  
Intervention Help Line: Oshkosh:  
233-7707, Neenah: 722-7707

**"We praise you in this  
Easter season. Change  
our lives, change our  
hearts to be messengers  
of Easter joy and hope."**

- Father Larry Snyder, "An Easter Prayer"

**Prayer** is a crucial part of our faith lives and support of each other. Please contact the church office or Pastor Kevin to add your request to the prayer chain. All concerns on the prayer chain are kept confidential. *Pastor Kevin*

*"A place of refuge in a troubled world"*