Lord of the Lakes

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

6090 Harbour South, Winneconne, WI 54986



SUNDAY SERVICE

Worship Services
8:00am & 10:00am

Coffee Fellowship
9:00am

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School
Between Services -
9:00am

SWAG - YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Leader Ryan Otto
Wednesdays 6pm-8pm

Team Reach Code
60900

MUSIC MINISTRY

Wednesday Practices
Guitar Band 4pm
AcaBellas 5pm
Choir 6pm

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Il love this quote from Charles Dickens in A Christmas Carol. He writes, "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

There is something truly magical about the Christmas season! The beautiful music, sparkling decorations, and opportunities to help others, remind us of what makes this time of year so special.

I love the familiar stories of the birth of Jesus and all of us coming together in the presence of God. This time of year, is a celebration of God's goodness unlike any other.

We have had a wonderful year as a church, and I am thrilled that it will conclude with our Christmas festivities. There is so much to look forward to. I hope you will take every opportunity to join in.

Whether the holiday season is your favorite time of year or a particularly challenging one, I believe you can find a place of connection here.

I know this church to be a place of comfort and joy. If Christmas brings feelings of melancholy or loneliness, know that my door is always open. I am here through the celebrations and the difficult moments alike.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we be reminded of the hope, love, and light that Christmas brings into our lives. More specifically the hope, love, and light that He brings into our lives. He is with us!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Kevin



Pastor Kevin Heffernan

Email:
pastorkevin@lordofthelakes.net
Phone:
(920)582-2622

PASTOR'S CORNER *by the numbers*

Numbers will be in next month's newsletter

LOL Church Council Members: President - Alex Schoonover, Secretary - Andrea Peterson, Treasurer - Tim Fuller
Members - Mary Mueller, Betts Nikolai, Rhonda Bricco, Pam Ulness, and Misha Grenier

NEWS FROM COUNCIL



Next Council Meeting

December 15th at 6:30

2026 COUNCIL

* **President -** Alex Schoonover
* **Vice President -** Vacant
* **Secretary -** Andrea Peterson
* **Treasuer -** Tim Fuller
* **Council Members**
  Mary Mueller
  Misha Grenier
  Rhonda Bricco
  Betts Nikolai
  Pam Ulness





WELCOME NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

A meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday, November 15, 2026. Congratulations to Todd Hereford, Laurie Schmeling, and Alex Schoonover who were elected to serve 3-year terms and to Jon Walsh who was elected to serve a 1-year term – (the remaining number of years left on ReNae Stopar's term). ReNae resigned earlier in the year, and her position had remained unfilled. Kevin Mauthe is an alternate and in the event one of our Council members should resign before their term is up, he will automatically fill that position. The 2027 members of Lord of the Lakes Council will be: Misha Grenier, Todd Hereford, Betts Nikolai, Andrea Peterson, Laurie Schmeling, Alex Schoonover, Pam Ulness and Jon Walsh. Tim Fuller will continue to be Treasurer. Council will meet in January and elect officers

Annual Budget Meeting

The Annual Budget Meeting was held on November 15th and the proposed operating budget reflecting a $20,594 deficit passed unanimously with a vote of 72-0. Thank you to everyone who stayed for the meeting.





A SUCCESSFUL FALL FEST

Children will get swings in 2027

The Life & Growth Team is pleased to announce that, thanks to your generosity, we met our fundraising goal of $6,000 for the excavation, purchase, and installation of a bay of swings to complement the new playground equipment installed in late spring of this year. The 44 donated raffle baskets generated a net profit of $2,511, and the 13 silent auction items generated an additional $1,255. The dessert and pulled pork meals were well received, and food sales brought in another $1,050. Together with additional monetary gifts, our overall total reached $8,721. We sincerely thank you for your overwhelming support and generosity.

News from

LIFE & GROWTH TEAM



SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN DECEMBER 2

Please begin preparing your favorite soup recipes. Soup suppers will be held at 5:30 PM on December 2, December 9, and December 16, one hour before each Advent service. Everyone is invited to attend. If soup is not your preference, salads, desserts, bread, and appetizers are also welcome. A sign-up sheet is located on the kiosk for those who would like to see what others plan to bring. All are welcome, and we encourage you to bring your family.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT AND COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULES

Thank you for volunteering and for your assistance in developing the schedules for January through April 2027. The new schedules will be available for pick-up by Sunday, December 20. They will be arranged alphabetically by last name in a box on the credenza as you enter the narthex. If you discover a conflict after receiving your schedule, the back of each schedule lists individuals and their preferred service times. Please contact one of them to arrange a swap.

SENIOR FUN DAY

Resumes January 2027

Reminder…no Senior Fun Friday this month! We are taking a break until January 29, 2027. Get together with a friend or two! Invite someone over for coffee that you have never invited over! Have your own mini-pot luck lunch! Get in the car with two or three others and drive around looking at the beautiful Christmas lights. Help deliver Christmas Cheer to our shut-ins!



Ways to help our church & community



Day By Day Shelter -
December 10th

The Day by Day Team appreciates your generous support. Your gifts of time, money, and food have helped us provide a monthly hot meal for Day by Day guests in Oshkosh.

Lord of the Lakes will be serving a Christmas meal to Day by Day Shelter guests on **December 10th**. Please sign up on the kiosk if you can help. We need cooks, bakers, kitchen help and servers. Hams have already been donated --please think of some holidays treats you might like to add. Some suggestions are on the kiosk. Please help us share some special love to some of our most vulnerable neighbors during the holiday season. DbD team. Sally Patterson 920-279-2388.



Thrift & Gift -
Volunteer Saturday

The next volunteer Saturday will be on:

December 5th 10:00am - 2:00pm

By contract, we need a minimum of 6 volunteers, 2 of which must be at the donation door, to run the store. Jobs include cashier, donation intake, cleaning, and a variety of other jobs.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Becky Jahnke at beckyjahnke920@gmail.com.

If you can't volunteer, please stop by and shop. Lord of the Lakes earns 50% of the profit for the day. Thank you to all our shoppers and volunteers.



Scrip Ministry -
Holiday Shopping

Scrip is a great way to doonate to church whild you are out shopping for Christmas presents and food for you holiday meal. There is a variety of stores to choose from. Gift cards also make a nice gift for the hard to buy person, or stocking stuffers.

Our Scrip coordinator, Tammy Wright, and other volunteers are stationed by the entryway between services with their gift card display. The ones they have on hand are just a small sample of what is available. If you go to Raiseright.com and click on "Brands", you can view and browse all the different stores, restaurants, etc. that you could order gift cards from. Be sure to use the **enrollment code 37D492B534575** to register your purchases for Lord of the Lakes.

Busy Hands Quilting Group

Busy Hands will meet on Tuesday, December 8 and December 22, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. For the 8th, we ask attendees to please bring a "white elephant" gift for our exchange.

We have several "regular" participants who have left for winter get aways and we would welcome anyone interested to join "our ranks." No experience needed---we will train you. If you would like to sew, we do have some machines available. In addition, our projects involve a lot of simple "tying of knots" in the quilt assembly process.

And don't forget snacks. At the end of our sessions we enjoy snacks and an inspirational devotion to help keep us all on our faith-filled journeys.

YOUTH NEWS

RYAN OTTO, YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER YOUTH@LORDOFTHELAKES.NET



A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR

There is a lot happening at SWAG, and there is a LOT to be thankful for!

Wednesday nights continue to be a highlight of my week. We are seeing great and consistent attendance, with students showing up ready to have fun, connect with one another, dig into God's Word, and grow in their faith. We are also seeing new faces, which is exciting! It is such a blessing to watch our students build friendships and become more comfortable talking about their faith and what God is doing in their lives.

Our Quake plans are also moving along really well! We currently have 20 students preparing to attend, and I am excited about what this opportunity will mean for our group. Quake is always a great chance for our students to step outside their normal routines, worship with other young people, hear God's Word, and be challenged to live out their faith. I am looking forward to seeing how God works through this experience.

THANK YOU

As we move into Thanksgiving, I can't help but pause and say THANK YOU.

Thank you to our Lord of the Lakes church family for supporting our youth and believing in the importance of investing in the next generation. Thank you to our parents for trusting us with your kids and for encouraging them to be involved. Thank you to our students for bringing their energy, personalities, questions, laughter, and willingness to learn every Wednesday night, And thank you to all of our vounteers and staff who give their time and talents to make SWAG possible.

Because of all of you, we have the opportunity to do something pretty special: **help young people follow Jesus, grow in their faith, and learn what it means to serve others right here in the Winneconne community**. That is something worth celebrating.

I am incredibly thankful for where SWAG is right now and, even more, for where God is leading us. We have a great group of kids, an amazing church family behind them, and so many opportunities ahead of us.

Happy Thanksgiving from SWAG!

Let's continue to pray for our students, encourage them, and remind them that they have an important place in God's church and in our community.
Thank you for allowing me to be part of it.

Youth@lordofthelakes.net
Ryan - SWAG Youth Ministry

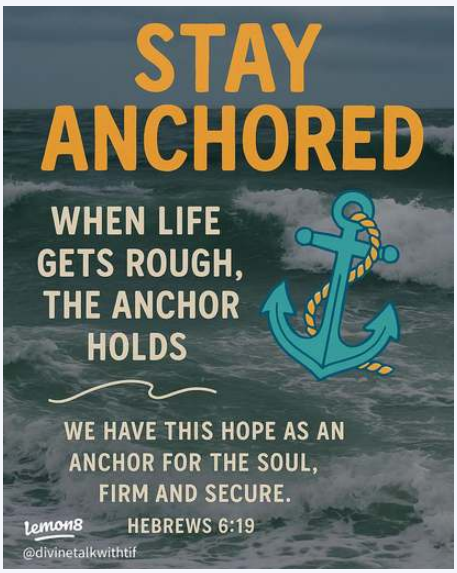
TeamReach

SWAG youth, make sure you have the team reach app downloaded on your phone. This is where we send all communication for our group through. Our access code is 60900



GROUP NIGHTS

Just reminder that SWAG meets every Wednesday from 6pm - 8pm throughout the year. Please come as often as possible, and inviting friends is always welcomed.



CHRISTMAS GIVING 2026

Christmas Giving Team, Kate Fuller, Nancy Hereford, Jackie Neumann, Chris Rescheske and Jody Kell

ABOUT

Most everyone LOVES to receive gifts, and many people find just as much joy in giving them. That is what makes this time of year at Lord of the Lakes so enjoyable. Together, we are able to reach out to those in need to make this Christmas season especially meaningful to them. Giving to people the feeling that someone - who they don't even know - is thinking of them. Acts of love and kindness go a long way.

WHO ARE WE HELPING?

Day By Day Shelter is a 50-bed shelter open 365 days a year.

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services is a 64-bed emergency shelter with services available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Starting on November 15th the Christmas tree with tags will be set up in the Narthex. Tags include items needed by Day By Day Shelter and Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services.
- If you are able to help, please grab a tag, purchase the item, and place it unwrapped in the collection box by December 6th. The Christmas Giving team will distribute the gifts. Monetary gifts or gift cards are also welcomed as the money goes towards larger items, bus passes, and the like. Please make checks payable to Lord of the Lakes with a memo: Christmas Giving



QUESTIONS CALL

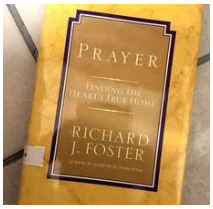
Questions: call or text Kate (608)239-4293, Lani (920)594-3036, Nancy (920)420-2984, Jackie (920)213-6178, Chris (414)315-1963 or Jody (920)420-2186

Thank you for your kindness, and together we can make a difference!

Little Church Library

Submitted by Cheryl Prosek

Looking to deepen your prayer life? Look for this book in our Little Church Library:"Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home". Author Richard Foster famously compares coming to prayer to returning home—a place of rest, acceptance, friendship, and joy rather than performance. The book addresses common human stuggles with prayer such as distraction, boredom, doubt, and the pain of unanswered prayer. Foster emphasizes that anyone can pray regardless of experience, noting that God responds simply because His children ask.



Staff Christmas Gifts

Submitted by Deb Ruedinger

The staff of Lord of the Lakes are hardworking, dedicated, and highly talented. Most work well below the market rate of pay and are well qualified for their roles. For those who may be new and not familiar with the people who make up our staff, they are as follows:

Pastor – Kevin Heffernan
Youth Leader – Ryan Otto
Financial Operations Secretary/Administrative Assistant – Gail Gardner
Financial Clerk – Susan Kaufman
Administrative Assistant/Communications Coordinator – Becky Jahnke
Music Director – Jody Kell
Housekeeping – Darlene Larson
Building Maintenance – Brad Gasper

For many years, Lord of the Lakes has shared the tradition of blessing our staff with a monetary Christmas gift. Contributions are completely voluntary.

If you wish to contribute, please make checks payable to “Lord of the Lakes” and place your check or cash in a separate envelope and mark it “Staff Gift.” Envelopes may be placed in the collection plate, offering box in the sanctuary, mailed or delivered to the church office.

Please submit all gifts by Sunday, December 13. Contributions will be divided equally among our staff and distributed before Christmas. May the spirit of Christmas fill your heart with peace, love, and joy!

Buildings & Grounds

Submitted by Cheryl Prosek

B&G had all carpets and tile floors deep cleaned this past summer. Our building is 22 years old and overall our flooring has held up well. Cleaning the carpets has pointed out areas of wear and especially permanent staining in several areas. As our church activities and use has increased, which has been a good thing, so has the traffic on our various floors. Your B&G Team, being proactive, has looked at a process of how to go about floor replacement -- all carpet and Vinyl Floor tiles. To date, we have gotten 3 quotes to give us a ballpark estimate of cost and best way of approaching this huge project. We have brought in the Business Management Team for the purpose of helping us determine a timeline and how this can be funded. With funding this, B&G envisions this taking place over a few years and doing it in sections. This will not come out of the Operational Budget so it needs to be over and above your week-to-week or month-to-month donations and fundraising.

Thank you to those who have contributed to the start of a designated Floor Fund. We have enough that we can replace the two areas of carpet in our Narthex--the area around the breakfast bar is badly stained and thus a good place to start. So you may see that getting done near the end of winter in 2027. Prior to doing that we have formed a Task Force with a total of 5 of us who volunteered during the Nov. Annual Meeting -- thank you!!! Our mission will be to research product, design, color scheme, etc. and choose/work with a Vendor. .

Our B&G Team works hard and looking backwards at 2026, we have accomplished lots through good team work. But we couldn't do it without you -- thank you for your support in terms of treasury and time!

Happy Birthday

Celebrating December Birthdays
(kids 1-17 & adults 70+)

12/4 - Mary Selle
12/5 - Lincoln Foster
12/16 - Tyler Bostwick
12/18 - Wayne Rudisill
12/26 - Eleanor Adams
12/29 - Kristopher Walsh
12/31 - Griffin Behm

December Worship Assistants

*indicates chairperson for coffee fellowship	
December 6th 8:00 **Greeters:** JoAnne Gehler & Paula Thurber **Reader:** Arial Haemmerle **Communion:** Ellen Smolinski & Deb Ruedinger **Ushers:** Todd & Nancy Hereford **Coffee Fellowship:** Lorraine Papke*, Pam Ulness, Kim Zehner & Jackie Neumann	**December 6th 10:00** **Greeters:** Ginny & Joe Potter **Reader:** Jan Faust **Communion:** Kimberly Radtke & Ray Zegers **Ushers:** Jan & Verne Olson
December 13th 8:00 **Greeters:** Tim & Kate Fuller Family **Reader:** Tom Carter **Communion:** Todd Hereford & Janet Veith **Ushers:** John & Pam Ulness **Coffee Fellowship:** Deb Ruedinger*, Greta Wortman, Mimi Peterson, Kelli & Bryant Schumacher, Janet Kunde	**December 10th 10:00** **Greeters:** Barb & MarkJorna **Reader:** Kristen Bjornstad **Communion:** Barb & Mark Jorna **Ushers:** Janine Brantley & Barry Christianson
December 20th 8:00 **Greeters:** Todd & Nancy Hereford **Reader:** John Ulness **Communion:** Sally Patterson & Deb Ruedinger **Ushers:** Jim & Chris Rescheske **Coffee Fellowship:** Janine Brantley & Barry Christianson*, Lori Schmeling, Gail Gardner, & Tammy Wright	**December 20th 10:00** **Greeters:** Dorothy Bain & Lorraine Papke **Reader:** Ken Mueller **Communion:** Jenni Groholski & Jan Olson **Ushers:** Barb & Mark Jorna
Christmas Eve 4:00 **Greeters:** Walsh Family **Reader:** Jan Faust **Communion:** Betty Nikolai, Carissa Reese, Wayne **Ushers:** Ken & Mary Mueller, Pam Ulness, & JoAnne Gehler	**Christmas Eve 6:00** **Greeters:** **Reader:** Jody Kell **Communion:** Barb & Mark Jorna **Ushers:** Karen & Lou Zwicky
Christmas Day 9:00 **Greeters:** MaryBeth McKee & Sally Patterson **Reader:** Darlene Larson **Communion:** Ellen Smolinski & Sally Patterson **Ushers:** Jan & Verne Olson	
December 27th 8:00 **Greeters:** Sheila Gurkowski & Betty Nikolai **Reader:** Barb Wachtendonk **Communion:** Lisa Curtis & Pam Ulness **Ushers:** Jeff Janson & Paula Thurber **Coffee Fellowship:** Karen & Lou Zwicky*, Mary Beth McKee, Cindy Abraham and Deb Ruedinger	**December 27th 8:00** **Greeters:** Gail Gardner & Beverly Raatjes **Reader:** Kimberly Radtke **Communion:** Gail Gardner & Ken Mueller **Ushers:** Ken & Mary Mueller

December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 3:30pm – Guitar Band 4:00pm – Buildings & Grounds Meeting 4:30pm – AcaBellas 5:30pm – Soup Supper 6:30pm – Advent Service 7:00pm Choir	3	4	5 10:00am – 2pm – LOL volunteers at Winneconne Thrift & Gift
6 8:00am Service 9:00am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Service	7 3:30pm - Addiction Support Group	8 9:00 Busy Hands	9 3:30pm – Guitar Band 4:30pm – AcaBellas 5:30pm – Soup Supper 6:30pm – Advent Service 7:00pm Choir	10	11	12 Children's Progam Dress Rehearsal
13 8:00am Service 9:00am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Service **10:00am Children's Program**	14 3:30pm - Addiction Support Group	15 6:30pm - Council Meeting	16 3:30pm – Guitar Band 4:30pm – AcaBellas 5:30pm – Soup Supper 6:30pm – Advent Service 7:00pm Choir	17	18	19
20 8:00am Service 9:00am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Service	21 3:30pm - Addiction Support Group	22 9:00 Busy Hands	23	24 4:00pm & 6:00pm Christmas Eve Services	25 9:00am – Christmas Day Service	26
27 8:00am Service 9:00am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Service	28 3:30pm - Addiction Support Group	29	30	31		



Lord of the Lakes Church
6090 Harbour South
Winneconne, WI 54986

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Contact Us

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website: www.lordofthelakes.net

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6090 Harbour South
Winneconne, WI 54986



Call 2-1-1 www.21now.org

24/7 Mental Health Crisis Intervention Help Line:
Oshkosh: 233-7707
Neenah: 722-7707
Don't let stigma stand in your way



Prayer List

Please contact the church office or Pastor Kevin to add your request to our prayer chain. All concerns are kept confidential.