

The Light of Lakewood Presbyterian Church



Rooted in Time

Dear Lakewood Family,

Writing this letter at the end of October feels like living in two worlds at once. Part of me lives in the present—scrambling for last-minute Halloween costumes and enjoying the last of the fall leaves, while the other part of me lives in the future—planning for November, Advent, and Christmas. Then, I start to think even further—what will the new year bring? What is in store for all of us next year? What about planning for years ahead?

All of us experience time in different ways. Some people are predisposed to live in the past, always thinking about what was. Others, like me, are preoccupied with the future and what may be to come. I think there are far fewer people out there who are good at being present in the moment.

My hope for all of us—myself included—is that we will seek to be rooted in the present moment. Yes, we need to remember our history and plan for our future, but we cannot miss out on the present. If we try to avoid today's heartaches, we also miss out on the joys of each day we get to lead.

I've been reminded lately how precious and fleeting this season of life is. No version of the future is guaranteed, and this church's future is certainly uncertain. We have big decisions to make together, and we will have to decide how much energy we have to do that work together.

In our discerning and our planning for the future, let us not forget to breathe deeply and live fully in this moment.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Laura

In this month's newsletter you can expect:

🕯️ A first look at our Advent series

📷 Photos from our Harvest Festival

💰 Updates on our finances, stewardship, and Feasibility Study

📅 Save the Dates for upcoming events, and more!



ONLINE GIVING



LPC FACEBOOK

*Pastor
Laura
teaching a
Godly Play
lesson on
Creation for
children's
time*



What is Godly Play?

In July, we received a **\$1000 grant** from Columbia Theological Seminary (Laura's alma mater) to start Godly Play at our church. So what is it?

Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance.

Godly Play has a Montessori foundation with 40+ years of research and practice.

Godly Play values process, openness, discovery, community and relationships.

Godly Play models the worship life, stories, symbols and rituals of Christian congregations.

Godly Play allows practitioners to make relevant and personal theological meaning.

Godly Play nurtures participants to larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering and play.

Interested in learning more? Good news-- Joy Stuter, Creative Director of the Godly Play foundation will be coming on February 2nd to introduce us **all** to the wondrous mystery of Godly Play. Stay tuned for more!

Who are we?

PASTOR

REV. LAURA NILE TUELL

NURSERY STAFF

TAYANA BRAGGS
PARKER WILLIAMSON
KIRI-ANN ZAMBARD

PIANIST

XIAOHUI YANG

CUSTODIAN

ANDREA RITTENHOUSE

2024 CHURCH LEADERS

DEACONS

- RENEA WILLIAMSON
- CHELSEA WILLIAMSON
- MELINDA ROGIERS
- BARBARA POLAND
- TOM CALLAHAN

ELDERS

- BECKY BUESCHER
(clerk)
- JENNIFER ROGIERS
- JIM HALL (treasurer)
- CONNIE
DUNKLEBERGER
- SUZY FARLEY
- BRAD TOURANGEAU

Stewardship recap

We just wrapped up our 2025 Stewardship campaign called "Grace in Action" where we talked about how we're made in God's image and so we're called to be gracious as God has been gracious to us.

In 2024, we had 21 households who pledged \$83,532.

For 2025, we've received **19** household pledges for **\$83,000** so far.

Have you turned in your pledge card yet? If not, please mail it to the church this month so we can plan our budget for 2025!



Meet our new Nursery Attendant- Tayana Braggs!

We are delighted to introduce our new nursery attendant, Tayana Braggs. Tayana has been in the childcare system for about 4 1/2 years now and says, "it's always a blessing to have experienced so many wonderful children with different backgrounds." Tayana grew up in the church doing every volunteer job there is, so when she saw our job posting, she was excited to spread her wings into another church and their youth. Tayana especially loves music, which we look forward to her incorporating into our nursery. Please give her a warm LPC welcome on Sunday!

All Saints Sunday

November 3rd

All Saints Day invites us to remember the "saints" who have died and gone before us to eternity with God. It's a day when we give thanks for their lives at the same time we grieve their absence in our own lives.

On All Saints Sunday, you're invited to bring a photo of a loved one who has died for our memorial table in the lobby.



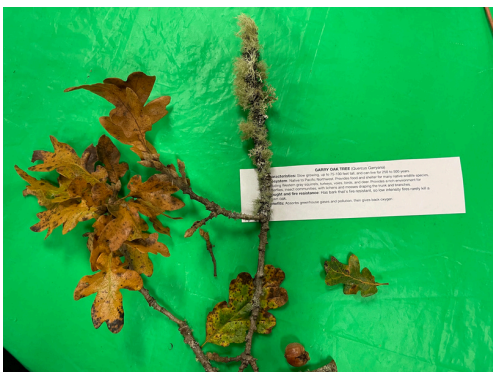
Journey Through the Christian Year

November 24th

Have you ever wondered what the fabric colors in the sanctuary mean and why they keep changing? Or what "the season after Pentecost" means? Then join us for a special kid-led service on **Christ the King Sunday**, which is the last Sunday of our church calendar year. Together, we'll walk through each season of the church year and experiences the scriptures, songs, and sights of seasons. Even lifelong Presbyterians might learn something! You won't want to miss it.

Special services in November!

Harvest Festival Photos



Feeling anxious about the upcoming election? You're not alone! Check out this resource from the great folks at the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

SEVEN PRAYERS WITH SEVEN SCRIPTURES

YOU CAN PRAY ONE EACH DAY OF THE WEEK, WHEN YOU READ THE MORNING NEWS OR SOCIAL MEDIA, AT YOUR LUNCH BREAK, OR AT THE END OF A TROUBLING DAY. OR, YOU CAN PRAY THE PRAYER YOU NEED IN THAT MOMENT.

On your way to the polls, conventions, or demonstrations

**When our anger leads us to roads of rage;
Spirit of Wisdom, guide us to take hopeful action.**

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." – Psalm 34:14

When the news is disturbing

**When hopelessness troubles us;
Gentle God, may we know Your presence is with us.**

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." – John 14:27

When social media posts or politics threaten friendships

**When politics and systems of the world threaten to divide us;
Prince of Peace, reign in us.**

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." – Colossians 3:15

As political signs are posted

When we see our neighborhoods covered with blue and red signs; Creator God, remind us You created every one of us, all our neighbors, in Your image.

"If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." – Romans 12:18

When we feel defeated, or don't want to engage with others

**When our despair causes us to withdraw;
O Lord, remind us that we belong together.**

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." – Matthew 5:9

When your mental health is affected

**When our anxiety keeps us up at night;
God Who Watches Over Us, grant us restful sleep.**

"I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety." – Psalm 4:8

When fear of what might happen overwhelms us

**When hope seems but a glimmer;
Eternal One, remind us that seeds take time to be planted.**

"And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace." – James 3:18

loving your neighbor
IN ELECTION SEASON

MORE RESOURCES AT WICHURCHES.ORG/ELECTIONS

Hello beloveds!

After Rev. Heather James had to take a step back due to a diagnosis of breast cancer, I was elated to have been asked by Session to join you through December as your new consultant support for the **finalization of your feasibility study!** I think it's **so smart** that you started this work in early 2024 so that you are prepped and ready to consider what a faithful future of LPC looks like. In the coming months, we hope to offer a **menu** of well-researched options for the church to consider for its next active step into the future. We are always doing this work **together**, so your input over the summer and into the fall has and will be essential to discerning what the future of a vibrant LPC looks like.

A great time to consider your future is during stewardship season! **What gifts do you have and what blessings do you need to continue to do the good work of the LPC community?** Below is a standard budget projection for your year--most churches overview their budgets during stewardship season, so let's begin with the numbers. **How does this information inform your wonderings for what LPC needs in its future?**

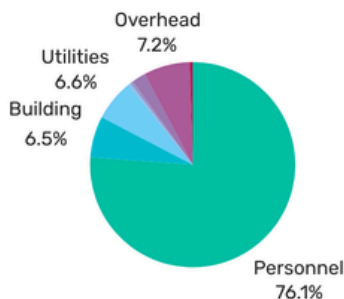
I'll be with you in person on **Sunday, November 10** for a pulpit supply and I look forward to continuing the fruitful conversations that we started this summer. And I look forward to hearing how stewardship season went!

Until November, Rev. Addie Domske

* LPC Financial Snapshot

2024 Budget Breakdown

- Personnel - \$125,704
- Building & Grounds- \$10,750
- Utilities - \$10,889
- Office - \$595
- Christian Ed - \$800
- Mission - \$3,600
- Overhead - \$11,809
- Social - \$300
- Worship - \$650



In the Bank...



Money Market

\$19k

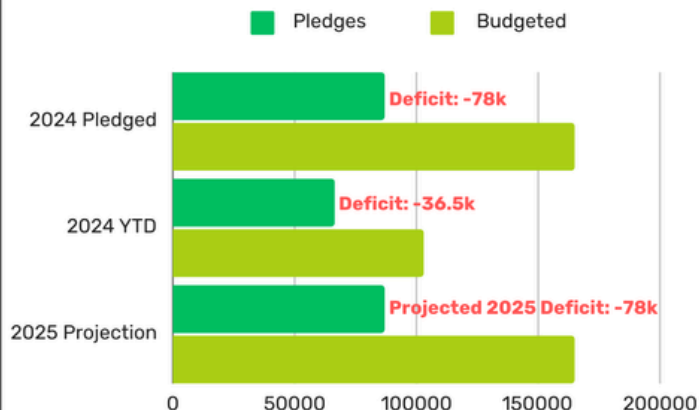
Morgan Stanley

\$98k

Began 2024 with \$148k -
[30k for 2024 deficit recovery] - [20k for roof repair] = +98k

2024 Roof Repair
-\$20k

Annual Pledges Compared to Budget



Church Calendar

November

November 3	All Saints Sunday
November 7	Gentle Yoga - 10am
November 4-11	Pastor Laura on Study Leave
November 10	Sunday Worship(Pastor Addie preaching!)
November 14	Gentle Yoga - 10 am
November 17	Sunday Worship(Nile Tuell twins baptism!)
November 21	Gentle Yoga - 10 am
November 24	“Journey Through the Christian Year“
November 30	Church Decorating for Advent (9am-12pm)

December

December 1	First Sunday of Advent
December 8	Second Sunday of Advent
December 15	Third Sunday of Advent
December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24	Christmas Eve Service- 7pm

First Look at our Advent series!



YOU ARE A BLESSING



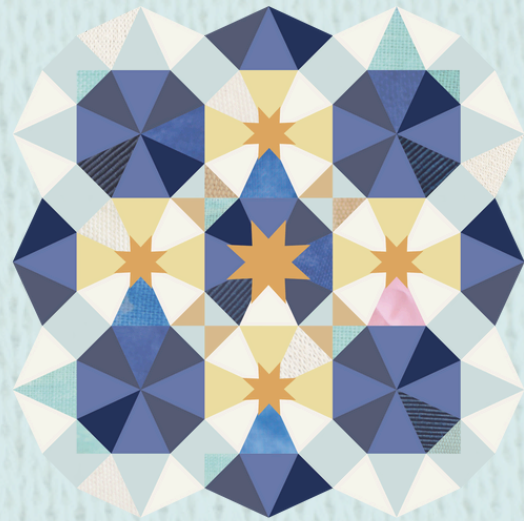
WE CAN'T GO ALONE



HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK



DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO



**WORDS
FOR THE BEGINNING**

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year rushes in. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving—and yet, we feel the weight of many things coming to an end. The world as we know it spins madly on. This year, Advent will start as another election season in the US comes to a close. What are the reminders we will need in order to move faithfully through this threshold?

This year's Advent series from "A Sanctified Art" is filled with the blessings and words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. It's inspired by imagining the words Mary would speak to her newborn son. What scriptures and stories would she impart to him? What lessons would she teach him as he grew? And so, the weekly themes may feel like the lessons we teach to children, but in reality, these are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults.

Resources for Advent include:

- Liturgical art to accompany our worship series
- Printed Advent Devotional
- Sunday School Curriculum and Children's Bulletins Epiphany service & star words!
- Homemade quilted paraments for our sanctuary, made by Renea Williamson!
- Family advent calendars
- Epiphany service & star words
- and more!

It's going to be a beautiful and special season of preparing for the birth of Jesus and you won't want to miss it! Join us Sundays in December.



LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME

Finance Update

From Jim Hall, Treasurer

We are **\$5,945** in the **RED** for the month of September and likely by a similar amount for October's general expenses.

In addition, November will see a lot of money being spent on building maintenance. We need to fix the leaking roof, which will cost \$16,500 at best. We are also doing some band-aid fixes on the plumbing for \$7,100. And finally, we are planning to replace one of our 30 year old furnaces, which will cost about \$3,000. These costs add up to at least \$26,600 for maintenance, which doesn't include our regular expenses.

If anyone is able to add to their monthly/yearly giving, it will really help our reserve funds are being depleted fairly quickly.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of making an additional gift to cover these maintenance expenses.

Feasibility Study Update

As you may know, the Session has been engaged in a year-long **Feasibility Study** to examine our resources, obstacles, and vision for purpose in the world. That process began with surveying the congregation (you may remember filling out post-it note surveys back in the summer). The Session analyzed those results and now Pastor Laura is working with Pastor Addie Domske to put forth a "menu of options" for our future. This month, Session will be meeting to go over those options and begin discerning which options we have the *energy, hope, imagination, and love* to pursue.

What can you do?

Pray for your leaders! Discernment is hard work and there are big decisions that need to be made. This work also requires a lot of time and energy out of our volunteer leaders. Remind them that you value their sacrificial work.

Did you know we have a podcast?



SCAN THIS!

If you miss coming to church on a Sunday, you can still catch the sermon! We now have a podcast where you can catch up on the sermon every Sunday afternoon. Follow the link, scan the QR code, or subscribe on Apple Podcasts to "Lakewood Presbyterian Church Sermons."

Questions? Call Pastor Laura

*Join us for
worship,
Sundays at 10:30a.*