



The Beacon

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T-TH 9 am – 4 pm

Facebook: Lewiston Community Church

Sunday Services at 10 am
or available on ZOOM &
Facebook Live

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From the Pastor’s Desk April 2026



Here we go. We’re off and running now that spring has officially arrived. As our calendar for the year fills with events, I am overwhelmed by the goodness of God. Plenty of churches have ideas and those ideas are good ones, but the one thing we have to go with those ideas is people who want to make those ideas go for the sake of the community and God’s Kingdom.

As I look around at all that is happening in our church family, I am reminded again and again that ministry is never a one-person effort. It is the steady, faithful work of many hearts pulling in the same direction. Whether it’s preparing meals, organizing events, teaching our children, visiting those who are hurting, or simply showing up with a smile and a willing spirit, each act of service becomes a thread God uses to weave something beautiful among us.

This season brings with it a renewed sense of possibility. Spring has a way of waking us up—of stirring hope, refreshing our spirits, and reminding us that God is always doing something new. I see that same renewal happening in our congregation. There is a growing eagerness to reach beyond our walls, to deepen our relationships with one another, and to step into the opportunities God places before us. It is a joy to witness, and an even greater joy to be part of it with you.

My prayer is that we continue to move forward with hearts full of gratitude and expectation. Let’s keep our eyes open for the quiet ways God is at work, the small moments that become big blessings, and the opportunities that may seem ordinary but carry eternal significance. When we offer ourselves—our time, our gifts, our compassion—God multiplies it in ways we may never fully see, but that always bear fruit.

God Bless You,

Pastor Derek



The Beacon

Missions Quarterly Giving Schedule

March – Operation: Lost Sheep

June - Lewiston Community Sharing

September - Samaritan's Purse U.S. Disaster Relief and Global Mission

December - Operation Christmas Child and Heifer International

Please contact Carol Clippard for more information, comments, or questions regarding LCC's Outreach Opportunities. cjclip1@gmail.com or 248-321-8005

Operation Christmas Child: Thank You from Samaritan's Purse

Dear Friends,

Thank you for partnering with us during National Collection Week. Your generosity helped us pack 10.9 million boxes in the U.S. and 12,205,900 globally. Praise God!

We look forward to working with you this fall to reach our U.S. goal of 14 million boxes!

With gratitude in Christ,

Kim Sandberg

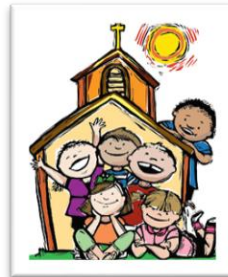
Volunteer

Central Drop off Leader, Great Lakes Region



Vacation Bible School

LCC would like to hold Vacation Bible School this summer. Call Deb Cox (616.443.1848) if you're interested in being involved, or write your name, number and the letters "VBS" on a visitor card and place it in the collection plate.





Service Opportunities CHURCH BOARD 2026

Serving the church means actively using your unique gifts, talents, skills, and time to support the community, meet the needs of others, and reflect Christ’s love through actions. Lewiston Community Church offers many opportunities for service and participation in the work of the church. You are encouraged to consider how you can be the hands and feet of Jesus by serving.

The Church Board, under the leadership of Ted Cox, President, is made up of several committees seen in the chart below. Each one of these teams is vital to the ministry and outreach of the church. Please consider where you could be of service to our congregation and our community through the church.

Note that there is a contact person for each committee. Please contact that person (or call the church office) when you decide where you can be of service. You can choose more than one!

Thank you for your service!

Worship/ Sanctuary Team	Spiritual Growth Team	Community Outreach Team	Fellowship & Hospitality Team	Electronic Media Team	Finance Team	Property Management Team
Chancel -Candles -Piano -Altar Flowers -Communion Set-up & Prep Worship Welcomer Ushers Worship Leader	Adult -Bible Study -Book Study -Special courses -Mentorship -Library -Prayer Team Youth and Children -Mentorship -Sunday School -Youth Group Other Events	Missions -Samaritians Purse -Heifer Project -Community Sharing Community Garden Special Events	Visitor Bags -Name tags Decorating Coffee Hour Funeral Meals Special Meals & Events Kitchen Organization Manage supplies for kitchen	Video Sound Worship Leader -Music	Budget Personal/Salaries/Hiring Herman Miller Approve Requests from other Teams Pay Bills Money counters Electronic Giving	Church Building/Parsonage -Recommend upgrades/repairs -Obtain Bids -Contact person for work Security Grounds
LEADER Nancy Render	LEADER Maurice Evans	LEADER Carol Clippard	LEADER	LEADER Deb Larner	LEADER Ted Cox	LEADER Tom Clippard

Worship/Sanctuary Team:	Nancy Render	231-499-7353
Spiritual Growth Team:	Maurice Evans	269-217-0455
Community Outreach Team:	Carol Clippard	248-321-8005
Fellowship/Hospitality Team:	Berta Reinhardt	989-350-2998
Electronic Media Team:	Deb Larner	517-202-3072
Finance Team:	Ted Cox	616-443-1917
Property Management Team:	Tom Clippard	248-321-8005

More Service Opportunities

Community Time: Community Time is important to us at Lewiston Community Church. We welcome folks willing to help with set-up or clean-up following our coffee hour. We also welcome contributions of treats if you wish to do some cooking. A sign-up sheet is located in the foyer for Sundays. Other ways you can help are to donate a can of regular or decaf coffee or a box of your favorite tea. We also welcome donations to help defray the cost of cookies. Thank you so much for your assistance and we look forward to seeing you at Fellowship Hour!

Ushers and Welcomers: A sign-up is in the foyer. If you have questions about ushering, contact Joan Penrod. For questions about being a welcomer (welcoming & reading announcements at the start of service), contact Nancy Render.

Employment Opportunity

Worship Leader: We are looking for a musician to lead the congregation in song on Sunday mornings. This person does not need to be part of the congregation. Please spread the word and contact the church office if you know of anyone who might be interested.

Prayer Team

We are a committed group of prayers who are privileged to lift any requests to the Lord. You can ask for confidential prayer requests by emailing debfish33@hotmail.com. These requests will only be shared with the prayer team, and will be kept confidential. Or you can write down requests on the prayer list on the table just outside the sanctuary. These requests will be shared with the team, and also read during service. These requests are just for the week, unless you indicate that you would like continuous prayers by checking the box next to your request. Thinking about joining the prayer team? Call Deb Cox at 616.443.1848.

Continuing Prayer Requests



Charles Cekala, Joel Adamen, Lori Beaudoin, Neil Gallaway,
Rick Patanis, Shelley Thompson, and Will Scott





Saved vs. Healed **By Barbara Ann Burns**

In a world full of pain, we seek out ways to end suffering. We grasp at the concept of natural health. We search for “THE CURE” to ease the pain we experience. So many times, we look outwardly to others to deliver and rescue us.

The Old Testament is full of wonderful stories of ABBA FATHER loving HIS children over and over again. What do the prophets tell us continually? YAHWEH even tells HIS Chosen Kings to: Trust, have Faith, and Obey.

Then JESUS shows up.

How many times (in HIS 3-year ministry) does JESUS say, your sins are forgiven or you are healed, or go and sin no more? How many times does HE expound on that person’s faith being the key to their healing? “Be healed and sin no more.”

YAHWEH puts the onus on us to “sin no more,” to BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OURSELVES. Yes, HE gave us life. HE continues to GRACE us with HIS LOVE. What is our part in health/healing in this equation?

Mark your calendars: Health Classes with Barb Burns will be offered from 6:30pm – 7:30pm in the LCC Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 23 and Tuesday, May 19.

Lewiston Community Sharing

**Lewiston Community Sharing
is in its 42nd year, and going strong!**

Free Store 4615 Montmorency St. & **La Boutique** 4608 Montmorency St. are open on Wednesdays from 10 am-6 pm and Saturdays from 10am-1 pm

Food Pantry 2887 Kneeland Street is open 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 10 am-1 pm. For more information contact: Deb or Marty Sansone at 989-254-3324 (call or text).

Email: lewistoncommunitysharing@gmail.com
Facebook: Lewiston Community Sharing
Venmo account @ Community Sharing-5.

**Lewiston Community Sharing
Wish Lists**

Free Store: Boys sweatpants size 12 and up, and men’s jeans or sweatpants size 29-32

Food Pantry: crackers, syrup, and oatmeal

April 6-10 Nicolet Bank is fundraising for CS, with boxes for donations to the free store and food pantry.

For your convenience there is a wooden box in the narthex for items you’d like to donate to Community Sharing.

Assistance Offered by LCC

Hearing Assist

If you need to use a hearing assist during Sunday service, please ask an usher to get one for you.

Care Team

If you need assistance with transportation to the doctor or other appointments, please contact the church office and assistance can be arranged.

Giving Envelopes

If you would like envelopes for your weekly cash or check offerings, please let an usher, or the church office know. We'd be happy to give you a set for the year 2026.

Altar Flowers

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for those who would like to bring flowers to decorate the altar during Sunday service. Please indicate when you sign up if you would like to remember or honor a loved one or acknowledge a significant date. Your arrangements can be dropped off at church prior to the Sunday service or brought in on Sunday morning and placed on the altar.



WinSome Women 2026 Christian Retreat

May 5 & 6, 2026 at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, MI

THEME: *He Restores My Soul*

Join with other women for fellowship, encouragement, and inspiration as God's love comes alive.

Speakers include: Asheritah Ciuciu, Cindy Bultema, and Hope Darst.

Register at www.wswretreats.org

(Also see flyer on church bulletin board)



LCC Events & Lewiston Community Calendar

WEEKLY EVENTS

AA

Book Study/Discipleship Class

Deadline for Bulletin Announcements

Ukuladies

Every Mon., Thurs., Sat. at 8pm

Wednesdays 6:30 -7:30pm, LCC Fellowship Hall

Thursdays at 10am

Thursdays at 1:30pm, LCC Fellowship Hall

THIS MONTH

Good Friday Service with Holy Communion

Easter & Holy Communion Service

Men’s Lunch at the Iron Kettle

2026 SKYWARN Spotter Training, free and open to the public

WOW (Widows or Widowers) Meeting, Lewiston Lodge

Continuing Health Class with Barb Burns

LCC Church Board Meeting

Deadline for May issue of The Beacon

Friday, April 3, 3pm

Sunday, April 5, 10am

Monday, April 13 at noon

Wednesday, April 15, 6-7:30pm, Montmorency County Courthouse, Commissioners Room

Thursday, April 9 at 2pm, Contact Gloria at 989.786.3601 with any questions and to RSVP

Thursday, April 23, 6:30 – 7:30pm, Fellowship Hall

TBA

Tuesday, April 21 at 4pm

Happy Birthday

HAPPY Anniversary

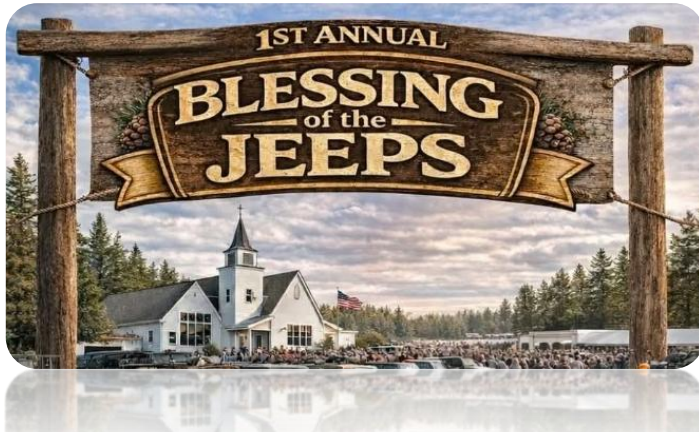
Tim Gallaway – April 2
Pat Brooks – April 4
Adam Arbogast – April 7
Mary Kay Moular – April 8
Virgil Klein – April 20
Ted Cox – April 20
Diane Pynnonen – April 23
Rick Turczynski – April 25
Linda Rundel – April 27
Ellen Klein – April 28
Neil Gallaway – April 28

Jeff & Laurie Michael – April 22, 1989
Curt & Nancy Render – April 22, 1967
Ralph & Sue Mitchell – April 28, 1956

If we have missed celebrating your birthday or anniversary, please call or email the church office. We want everyone to be equally honored on their special day!



More Events for 2026!



Blessing of the Jeeps Saturday, May 16

Begins at 10am

Blessing at 11am

Music by His Country hiscountry.net

Food by Paddling Pig

FREE Family Friendly event

\$10 fee to show: People's Choice, Spick-and-Span, & Rustiest.

Bring your friends and family!

Timberfest Volunteer Roll Call

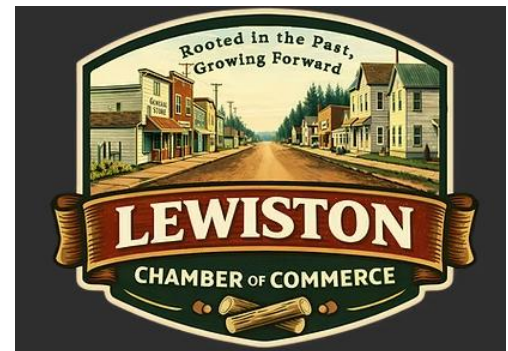
This year's Timberfest is Friday, August 7th and Saturday, August 8th. This event takes lots of planning and even more volunteers. The Chamber is seeking volunteers to help during the above two days.

We are offering a friendly competition for any business and/or organization that provides the most volunteers and/or volunteer hours. A special prize and bragging rights for volunteer of the year will be up for grabs!

If you are interested in helping either or both days, please reach out to the Chamber so we can start filling our volunteer spots.

We appreciate your time and help making this event bigger and better each year!

-Lewiston Chamber Board



Men's Retreat at Grace Adventures

October 16 – 18, 2026, Mears, MI

Speaker: Bryan Marvel, Author of *Journey to the Cross*

Worship: TBD

<https://graceadventures.org/fall-mens-retreat/>



Library Featured Book:
The Bible, Luke 24

Let's read from the greatest book ever written, The Bible. Read Luke 24 and hear about the days right after the resurrection and what was happening to Jesus' followers! It's amazing and should renew your spirit for seeking after Jesus again and again.

Happy reading!

When taking books out of the library you can sign a sheet located in the Return Tray on top of the file cabinets. When you are finished just leave the book in the Return Tray and we will reshelve it for you. If you have newer book you would like to donate, just leave them in the Return Tray.





CHURCH IS HARD

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.
Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.
Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.
Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.
Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.
Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.
Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.
Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.
Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.
Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.
Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.
Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.
Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.
Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.
Church is hard for the sinners.
Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress. However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, when I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

Author Unknown