

Newsletter 06.13.24

One of the things that I have learned over the years is that we all have growing edges. By that I mean, we all have areas which we can improve on. We're not perfect, after all.

A growing edge I have is that I need to get better at using my calendar. My wife gets onto me about it all the time. I rarely seem to update it or properly list events in it. I never share it correctly either, meaning my friends and family don't know what's coming up. I'm just the absolute worst at using a calendar.

Which is odd, because on paper I should love having an organized calendar. I hate, absolutely hate, not knowing what's coming up in the next few days. I like being able to plan and be prepared for meetings. I do not like surprises.

I would like to know what's coming. Even if it's something that I don't want to happen and I would love to avoid, if I can see it coming, then I'm more okay with it. Being blindsided is what I hate. The unknown is what's truly scary.

And I know for a fact that I'm not alone in that fear. That fear of the unknown, because I have heard many people in the church express it as well. I have had many talks with people about the future of the church and quite a few of those conversations are filled with anxiety. What is going to happen to us? What does tomorrow hold for us? What are we doing to do?

When we are stressed like this it is easy to become insular. It's a natural reaction to stress and fear to circle the wagons and look inward. The unknown future is out of our control, so we want to find comfort in what we can control.

But friends, in the church that causes a spiral. Why is no one coming to church? Because no one is reaching out from the church into our community. Why are we not reaching out? Because we're worried about no one coming to church, so we're looking inward to protect ourselves. It's a vicious cycle.

That's why I'm so proud of Lakeville United Methodist Church. Instead of circling the wagons and thinking only of ourselves, our church has reached out and looked towards growing the Kingdom. We have an active evangelism team that figures out new ways for us to be in connection with our neighbors. We are out and about in our community. The town of Lakeville knows who we are and what we stand for.

At the end of July, we will have our VBS program. We will have a chance to teach the children of our community how much God loves them, and all that Jesus has done for us. VBS will culminate with Party in the Park! It's going to be a lot of work, but friends, we'll have a lot of fun doing it too.

We can't do these ministries and missions that God has entrusted to our care without each and every one of you. Lakeville United Methodist Church needs you. For the Spirit has given each of you a calling and gifts. The Spirit has plans for you and I am excited to see where the Spirit leads us.

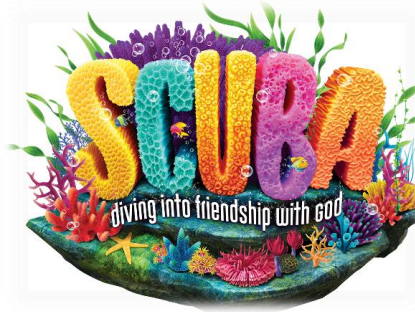
Yes, we don't know what the future holds. No one does. The weatherman can't even tell us if it's going to rain next Monday. But I am always reminded of what God told Jeremiah and through Jeremiah told us, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope (Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV)."

I believe that God does have a plan for us. I believe that while we may not know the future, we can trust that God wants what is best for us. That instead of being filled with fear,

we ought to be filled with hope. For God is leading us and has wonderful plans for us. So let us work together and grow the Kingdom.

God Bless, Pastor Ed

VBS – Scuba
July 29 – August 1
9 AM - Noon



The Lakeville UMC Community Youth Group
Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6 PM.
Talk to Pastor Ed for more information.

Coming Up on The Calendar!

DeColores Meeting – Saturday, June 15, 9 AM – 1 PM

Missions/Evangelism – Monday, June 17, 7 PM

Euchre Game Night – Saturday, June 22, 6 PM

Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, June 26, 10 AM at Vera's Home

Fifth Sunday-June 30 – 10:30 AM church at the pavilion

Picnic and Sundae Bar

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

June 16 Father's Day Cake

June 23 Bev & Maynard

June 30 Fifth Sunday 10:30 AM Worship at the pavilion

TOPS Club is meeting at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206,
use north east door. Come Join Us!

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM

Food Pantry Needs: Shelf Stable Milk, boxed cereal, canned fruit, applesauce, condiments, low sodium soup, pancake syrup, ranch dressing, cake mixes, frosting.

Enrollment for 2024-2025 Little Ones' Preschool is open to everyone now.

Your child must be 3 years old before August 1, 2024 for our Preschool classes and age 4 before August 1, for our Pre-Kindergarten classes.

Registration forms are available in the church office or from Carlene Weber.

Still have openings for 3's class and 4's class.