

APRIL 2026

LEWIS LAKE NEWS

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Space Problems

by Joe Reed

When we get to Revelation 21, we'll learn about heaven's dimensions, which are about 1500 miles each direction, including up and down. Maybe, like me, you're that combination of Christian who wants to see huge numbers of people in heaven, and country boy who doesn't want to live in a crowded city for all eternity. I suppose perfect neighbors will be great, but you know what would be even greater? Perfect neighbors who live far enough away that I can't see their house. You know what I'm talking about.

Isaiah 49 describes a space problem in Israel. Check this out:

The children of your bereavement will yet say in your ears: The place is too narrow for me; make room for me to dwell in.' Isaiah 49:21

Now, it's not the immediate reference in the text, but I like to read 'children of your bereavement' as our little ones who die. Someday, they'll all come home and suddenly the house will be too small. By God's kindness, my table will have at least ten children around it – six I've known and raised, and four I've never met, including one little guy about two inches long I held in my hand, and a pair of twins. I can imagine them all crammed on the benches around our table, which I designed for our family of eight at the time, trying to carve out enough real estate to enjoy a meal.

In Isaiah 49, God's people have been scattered because of their rebellion. Some find themselves in prison, others in a desert, others in slavery. But something special is happening: They are turning to God, and God is calling them all home. Awesome! But this creates an interesting problem – a space problem. God's calling his people home generates what I think is a holy complaint – "give me more space!"

You know where I'm going with this, don't you? We say often that God is at work among us. People in our community who have lived in the wastelands of empty spirituality, in slavery to addiction, in prisons of guilt and shame are turning to God, and God is calling them home. And until we get to heaven, where is home for God's people? The church! It's God's house.

And God's House at Lewis Lake is getting really full, and it's really exciting.

But it's also a challenge. We've talked for years now about how to face this challenge, and we've tried to address it in small ways. There are seats in the balcony, and the service will be streaming in the chapel as soon as that's completed. But sitting in the chapel watching a streaming service is like eating Thanksgiving Dinner at the kids table on a paper plate. It's okay, but it isn't the same.

So, we're almost certainly going to go back to two services in the fall. The last time we did this, I said, "Of all the bad ideas we have, this is the least bad." And I framed it that way because it was pretty clear most of us didn't like the idea of going to two services, for some very good reasons, and, if I may gently chastise us a bit, for some very selfish ones. So, we gave up the idea and bid it a fond farewell.

But God keeps calling his children home, and the space is still full. It's déjà vu all over again. This time, I'm going to frame it differently, and I'm going to ask you to think about it differently.

"God, here's the things I don't like, but I will embrace them to serve you and do my part to receive the people you're bringing home."

Allow me a momentary metaphor swap: One day Peter went fishing (Luke 5:1-11), and Jesus happened to be nearby. Peter is getting skunked. That is, until Jesus puts half the fish in the lake into his nets. Suddenly nets are breaking and boats are sinking and Peter is hollering to shore for emergency help from another boat. Space problems!

Fishing with Jesus is wildly successful, but it can also be crazy hard work. I suppose Peter could have complained and said, "Jesus, too many fish! I don't like fixing nets; I don't like bailing water; I don't like paying the guys overtime; I'll never wash all this fish smell off me!" But that would have been a silly thing to say, don't you think?

When Peter hit the shore, Jesus said, "from now on you will be catching men" (Luke 5:10). And that's our task too. And as best we can, we're fishing for people, with Jesus. Shocker – Jesus is filling the boat!

~ continued on page 6

Trust

by Josh Martin

Trust. It is something wonderful. Something that can be lost instantaneously. Something that can take a lifetime to gain. Trust is something we want to have in others and yet it seems that it is lost so quickly and completely. When trust is lost, it can be very difficult to get back.

The mention of trust in family, church, business, partnerships, or the government will lead many to sneer or try to explain why and what and who they can or can't trust. We don't even know if we are being told the truth is a common response to anything coming from our own government or press organizations. Often the standard response is disbelief and no trust at all.

God has put many references in place to help us with trust and commands us to do it.

· Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths.

We do lean on our own understanding quite often, but God is worthy of our trust so we should be able to lean on Him when we do not understand. He already knows what is going on when we think we know what is going on. I like straight paths, unless I am on my motorcycle, but that's a little different. The promise we are given however, "Acknowledge Him and he will make your paths straight.", is wonderful. Trust is the key for us.

· Isaiah 26:3-4 says, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock."

Maybe you have wondered about the "perfect peace" that comes from the Prince of Peace. Where is your mind at? Are you keeping your mind on things above? Peace comes from the trust we have in God. He keeps us in perfect peace when our minds are stayed on Him.

· Psalm 143:6 says, "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation".

A warning to us to not try to elevate someone in power to a higher status than we ought. Salvation is lifted up as the great need for us in this verse. We can't forget what Jesus has done for us. He is the way, the truth and the life.

· Psalms 20:7 says, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

Again, another warning to keep our trust in God. We want to trust in our own power, knowledge and understanding, but when it all comes together, we, as Christians must trust in the Lord our God.

Are all these verses commands that we should blindly follow or is there a track record of faithfulness from God that shows we can put our trust in Him? Of course there is a track record! We can see what He has done in His word.

· Deuteronomy 7:9 says, "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,"

· Psalm 86:15 says, "But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

· Psalm 28:7 says, "The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him."

· Isaiah 12:2 says, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

· Psalm 9:10 says, "And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you."

"another warning to keep our trust in God. We want to trust in our own power, knowledge and understanding, but when it all comes together, we, as Christians must trust in the Lord our God."

We can know our Lord God is God, who is faithful and keeps covenants to a thousand generations. He is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He is our strength and he helps us. He is our salvation, so we don't have to fear. And if we put our trust in Him and seek Him, He will not forsake us.

We still have choice in all this though. We can choose to NOT trust in God. Our paths won't be straight, nor will we have perfect peace, mercy, grace, help, salvation and blessings. Instead, we will be overshadowed by fear. This option doesn't sound great, but it also puts us in God's crosshairs...

~continued on page 6

Driverless Cars?

by Bob De Young

So I was reading an article the other day about driverless cars. The article actually focused on the driver being able to take his hands off the steering wheel as the car analyzes the road and makes driving adjustments to the vehicle. Some people think that the future is all about driverless vehicles, but I'm not so sure that's a great idea. The article included information about several lawsuits that were being brought against the manufacturer of these driverless cars stemming from a situation in which these vehicles collided with stationary cars that had been parked along the side of the street.

But there's another reason why I'm not sure about the future of driverless cars. The fact of the matter is, the joy of driving is found in being able to operate the controls of the vehicle. Driving is something that you get good at. We advanced in our driving skills. It is a delight to sense the power of the engine being channeled through the gears of the transmission and out to our wheels, and all of it connected to that little pedal on the floor called the foot feed. Driverless cars seem to take all the fun out of driving. There is the hope that we will have fewer accidents, (and I hope I do not have an accident next week having written all of this). But so far, the accidents are not limited to the cars that are driven by human beings.

As I pondered all of this a strange thought began to jump into my mind. What would it be like to be able to put our walk with the Lord on autopilot? How would that work?

- God would make all our decisions for us.
- The Lord would always move us to avoid Satan's schemes and temptations.
- Our prayers would always be made on time and specifically designed to anticipate all that was about to happen in our lives
- God could turn on a voice recording of the Bible that we would have automatically piped into our brains on a very proper and regular basis.
- Maybe the Lord would even take over our cars, so that even though we had intended to go to the mall on a shopping trip, God would cause our cars to bring us, instead, to a missions project going on in town or a worship service happening at our church.

· And if we did manage to make a wrong turn in our spiritual walk with the Lord, God would suddenly jump into action and our cars would be recalculating a new route to get us to the location God wanted. Just think of it. Our spiritual walk with the Lord would be under his control! There would be no way that anything could go wrong.

But the fact of the matter is, learning to walk with the Lord, and learning to keep step with the Spirit is not something that can be accomplished by going to auto pilot. For, even though we are saved by simply trusting in Jesus and not on the basis of our own human works or efforts, yet the Lord does call us, once we are saved by Grace, to grow in our walk with the Lord. We are called to have our characters developed so that we can choose God's ways and not our own. We are called to recognize the schemes of Satan and to resist him in our lives. We are called to grow in our understanding of the word of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit as we make decisions and choices that will affect our hearts and our future.

The Lord does not want us to simply play the part of an inactive participant, but he wants us to actively grow up in all things into Christ.

There is great joy and not a little fulfillment in our being able to recognize God's call upon our lives and to be purposeful in the way we choose to live out the life of faith.

If the great fun of driving a car is found in being able to operate the controls, so the great joy of being a believer is being able, by God's enablement and strength, to do those things that God has taught us to do and to be the way God has taught us to be and to serve the way God has called us to serve.

You have given your life to Jesus Christ and are trusting Him only to save you from all of your sin. Awesome, that's great! But, this is only the beginning of or life with the Lord. God now calls you to live out the life of faith in this world. And I guess what we are saying today is this. Don't put your walk of faith on auto pilot. Seek to grow wise in the ways of the Lord. Focus on ways that you can keep in step with the Holy Spirit as he leads you and guides you in life. Learn how to make better

“this is only the beginning of or life with the Lord. God now calls you to live out the life of faith in this world.”

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WOMEN'S *Ministry*

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Women's Ministry Meeting
Monday, May 11th at 6:15pm
All Ladies are encouraged to join us.

WM Craft Day (the 2nd Saturday of the month)
Bring a lunch and whatever project you are working on.
April 11th is the next craft day.

Aprons & Cookies

Sandy De Young is a "lady on the go" and she has a soft spot in her heart for the children at Lewis Lake. Back in February she approached Debee Stassen, Karla Dahms and myself with an idea for a class aimed at 7th & 8th grade girls. The goal of the class was to teach the girls basic sewing and they would complete a kitchen apron to take home.

Once the aprons were completed we headed into the kitchen to make cookies for Sunday coffee & fellowship.

We hope to make more classes like this available in the future.



They all did a great job on their aprons!



Confirmation Sunday, May 17, 2026

We will honor our Confirmands before the worship service, at 9:30 a.m., during the Sunday School hour, with a special presentation and open house. During this time we will be taking pictures both of the class and of individuals. There will be opportunity to have a photo with Mom and Dad as well.

The confirmation service itself will be at 10:45 a.m., at Lewis Lake.

Here is a list of our confirmands: Addy Belsheim, Clarissa Houtsma, Eva Martin, James Rice, Esperanza Rolfzen, Kyle Sholtz, Kenzie Williams

Graduation Sunday, May 31, 2026

We will honor our high school graduates with a special presentation and reception after the second worship service.

Here are the names of our Graduates should you wish to give them a card/gift. Lucas Fradette, Blake Karnik, Carter Magaard, Lylah Nehring, Matthew Sholtz, Katie Stafford, James Stromberg.

Gift bags will be located in the Narthex. Thank you Becki Baumann for putting these together!):

Note to Parents of Graduates

- Please turn in **10** “growing up” photos of your child for Graduation Sunday. Photos must be in chronological order on a USB flash/thumb drive or hard copy. If your photos are digital, you can put them all in one album and “share the album” with Tami in the Photos app or Google Drive @lewislake1030@gmail.com. If your photos are on an apple device bring it to church and we will air drop them.
- **Please do not send powerpoint slides or presentations-just single photos.** To give Jesse ample time to set up the presentation, **photos must be turned in no later than May 10th!**



Parents, If you are new to Lewis Lake or your graduate is not on the list please connect with Tami in the office office@lewislake.org or 320-396-3293 to let us know.

Baccalaureate Service

The Ogilvie Baccalaureate Service is Sunday, May 17th from 6:00 – 7:00pm. We would like to invite you to join us to support our 2026 Graduates as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

~ *Space Problems, continued from page 1*

If we're gonna fish for Jesus, we're gonna have to be okay making some significant adjustments when He gets involved. To return to the original metaphor, we're going to have to be okay with creating some space around the table. And I want us not just to be okay with it, but to be excited about it. I want us to consider all the reasons we don't like having two services and set them before God and say something like, "God, here's the things I don't like, but I will embrace them to serve you and do my part to receive the people you're bringing home."

I'm firmly convinced we can't force God's Spirit to work. But I believe just as firmly that we can quench God's Spirit when we are hesitant to embrace what he's doing or even work against it for the sake of our own comfort. God sometimes asks us to suffer some discomfort for the sake of others, but don't you believe, as I do, that just as Jesus suffered for us, we should be willing to suffer some for him, and in any case, that He will richly reward us for all our discomforts we suffer for His sake?

God is going to resolve the heavenly space problem in Revelation 21. Heaven will be full to the brim, and yet I'm sure we'll have plenty of space to spread out. I'll explain that when we get there. In the meantime, we're trying to resolve our space problem here, even while praying God fills us even fuller than before with people He's calling home. It's good when God's at work. But it also means we need to get to work, too.



Joe Reed serves as the Senior Pastor here at Lewis Lake.

~ *Trust, continued from page 2*

- Psalm 78:21-22 says, "Therefore, when the Lord heard, He was full of wrath; a fire kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel, because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power."

"...because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power." That sounds very familiar. We are surrounded by many that do not believe and do not trust.

Or we can have what is promised. Straight paths, perfect peace, mercy, grace, help, salvation, blessings and no need to fear.

- Proverbs 16:20 says, "Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord."
- Psalm 40:4 says, "Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!"
- Psalm 84:12 says, "O Lord of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!"
- Jeremiah 17 says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord."

So Christian, put your full trust in the Lord. He is the faithful God who is worthy of your trust!

- Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

"Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

Pastor Josh Martin



Pastor Josh Martin serves as the Associate Paster here at Lewis Lake.

Holy Week Schedule



Good Friday Service

April 3rd at 7:00 PM

This will be a combined service with Karmel Covenant church at Karmel.



Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service ~ 6:30 AM

Breakfast ~ 7:30 AM

Worship Service ~ 9:00 AM

Breakfast will be served between the Sunrise Service and the Regular Service. Dianna Sholtz is looking for people to sign up to make Egg bakes, muffins or coffee cake.



“Jesus drank the cup of God’s wrath in order that we, undeserving as we are, might be able to drink the cup of blessing and the cup of salvation.”

ALISTAIR BEGG

truthforlife.org

~ *Driverless Cars?*, continued from page 3

decisions that flow out of the values of the Lord rather than the values of this world. We need to let the Word of the Lord dwell within us so we can have His guidance always at hand. The great joy of the Christian life is seeing within our own hearts the spiritual growth that enables us to walk with the Lord as he helps us grow in him.

It is good to learn how to be a great driver. And it is even better to learn the fine art of walking with the Lord as we live out the life of faith. As it says in Ephesians 6:13.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Pastor Bob
April, 2026



Bob De Young is enjoying being semi-retired and holds the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.

Subscribe to the Pulse



Subscribe to the Lewis Lake Pulse, a weekly email sent out on Monday mornings with the week’s announcements, along with a few things Pastor Joe recommends for feeding your soul throughout the week. To subscribe to The Pulse, shoot an email to office@LewisLake.org with the subject line “Subscribe to Pulse” and we’ll get you fixed up! Or you can scan the QR code to the right.




QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, April 13, 2026
7.45 PM
MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 18th
7:00am
 Here at Lewis Lake
 Talk to Pastor Josh if you have any questions.



Will Meet
Wednesday, April 15th
2:00 PM

Watch for more details!

Get the App!



Lewis Lake Covenant Church
 Available In App Stores
 Apple, Google Play, Roku

It's not always easy to keep up with everything that's happening at Lewis Lake. Your life is busy, and so is ours. To that end, we've created the Lewis Lake phone app. Watch sermons, check the church calendar, sign up for events and activities, it's the place to go to see what's happening and plug into the madness. So go wherever you get your apps, and look for Lewis Lake.

QUILT RETREAT
At Lewis Lake

MAY 1-3, 2026
 1030 Grand Street, Ogilvie MN 56358

Watch for more information.
 This retreat will be for established quilters only.




Notary Services Available

Notary Services are available at zero cost to Members and Non-Member friends of Lewis Lake Covenant Church. You can catch Tami on Sunday mornings or make an appointment to stop by the office during the week.



Youth Group Parents Study

Brian Hudoba offers a Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the WM craft room (sewing room) during youth group for parents and anyone else who is interested.

The group is currently working through the Second Epistle of Peter.

2026 Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

Parents did you know that Lewis Lake pays for our kids to go to Camp after they are registered by April 8th and have completed their investment projects.

Investment projects include but are not limited to:

- Scripture Memorization ~ on the camper investment sheets. If your child did not receive one you can talk with our summer camp organizer, Stacy Thoeny 320-980-5759 or check with Tami in the office.
- Lake Beauty Cleanup Day— Saturday, May 2, 2025

Scholarships are available for those who need help with the \$50 registration fee ~ talk to Tami in the office.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:

Save money when you register and pay your deposit by **April 28, 2026.**

This year's theme verse. Campers must memorize and recite this verse to their Sunday school teacher to qualify for Lewis Lake to pay their camper fees (minus the deposit).

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.
Psalm 145:3 ESV





April 18, 2026

Sessions & Cost

Saturday, April 18th - 4:00 PM

Check-in & Fellowship - 3 PM

Registration Deadline:

Sunday, April 12th

Cost

\$50 per couple

Space is limited.

Payment is due at the time of registration online, in the app or in the church office.

Dinner

Dinner is included on Saturday evening between sessions.

Please communicate any food allergies when you register, or at least two weeks in advance.

Cancelations, Transfers & Refunds

In case of cancellation, the registration is transferable if you can fill the space with another couple for the same session.

We are not able to offer refunds.

WHO WILL INHERIT THE MESS?

MINDFUL ESTATE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

CULTIVATING PEACE OF MIND

Who Will Inherit The Mess is a nationally recognized program to address critical estate planning and probate avoidance strategies for all families and individuals.

Join us for this free Estate Planning workshop conducted by Generations Law Firm and sponsored by Converge North Central. Get ready to discover comprehensive estate planning strategies including wills, trusts, powers of attorney, health care directives, tax and charitable gifting strategies, and how to avoid probate.

Generations Law Firm is a trusted partner of Converge North Central, with a proven track record of success. Don't miss out on this exclusive opportunity!

YOU WILL LEARN:

- › How to avoid leaving mess and confusion for your children
- › How to make sure your estate avoids Probate
- › The difference between Wills and Trusts
- › The importance of Power of Attorney and Healthcare Directives
- › How to leave a legacy of love & support while minimizing taxes



JOIN US

Don't miss out! Plan now to attend this free Estate Planning seminar.

DATE

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

TIME

6:00PM

LOCATION

Lewis Lake Covenant Church
1030 Grand Street
Ogilvie MN 56358

FOR MORE INFO

office@lewislake.org