

AUGUST 2026

LEWIS LAKE NEWS

OUR MISSION IS TO GLORIFY GOD BY
PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL TO ALL PEOPLE,
AND DISCIPLE THE BELIEVERS TO BECOME
MATURE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST.

**HONORING THE PAST
INTO THE FUTURE**

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UPCOMING CHANGES**

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Honoring the Past Into the Future

by Joe Reed

I don't recall the first Wednesday morning I sat down at the Rock Creek Café with Jason Wahlstrom. I think it was about nine years ago, right when I came to Lewis Lake, but it may have started even earlier. Jason was *en route* to a weekly meeting in North Branch and passed by the café anyway, and it was just two miles from my house. We sat and talked theology for a couple hours, then went on our way. The next week, we did it again. And kept doing it. One week I pick up the tab, the next week Jason does.

During Covid the café shut down, so Jason would swing by my house and I would make us a rather inferior breakfast, and sometimes I'd go to his place where Amy would feed us rather like royalty. For a couple years we met on Tuesday because his meeting day changed, but now we're back to Wednesday, "as Moses intended," we say. We always have the same thing, and the waitress doesn't even bother asking for our order. I always drink way too much coffee, and in all these years, Jason hasn't had even a sip of water. I don't get it.

James 4:14 says you don't know what tomorrow holds, so when you make plans, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." With that in mind, sometime around 10pm on Tuesday night, one of us will text the other, "James 4@7?" If the answer comes back, "If we live!" then we plan for breakfast. Sometimes we don't talk much, just stare out the window. Sometimes we still have things to say when the late hour forces him into his '64 Chev and me into whatever German abomination I'm driving at the time. It's a good tradition, and I hope it lasts another couple decades.

Tradition is good and meaningful. At its best, tradition is like a well-worn path that is both comfortable and beneficial. And the longer they continue, the stronger and more meaningful they become.

If my Dad is in town, I'll invite him to join us. Before coming on our pastoral staff, Josh Martin joined us for about a year. Once in a while someone else will pop in. But to be honest, our

little tradition doesn't mean nearly as much to anyone else as it does to us. Others will join us if it's convenient, our Wednesday mornings typically revolve around breakfast. Jason doesn't drive to North Branch anymore, so he's going way out of his way every Wednesday. But it's tradition, and it matters to us, so it's worth it, even if it wouldn't make sense to anyone else.

One of the things that make old churches special is the old traditions. "The way things have always been" is comfortable and meaningful. The furniture, the pictures, the way certain songs are sung, the things we do and the things we don't do. They're all a part of a church's history and even of her soul.

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But it's important to remember that traditions don't happen overnight, and meaningful traditions take years to develop. And that means, for new people, those old traditions don't carry the same weight. That is, it can be hard to appreciate the old traditions. Sometimes they don't understand the traditions at all. You can't really blame them, can you?

One of the things that has been very important to me in remodeling the Old Fellowship Hall is honoring our past. That's why we're calling it Heritage Hall. It's healthy to remember we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and honor the life and ministry of those who, humanly speaking, made Lewis Lake what it was, and then entrusted it into our care.

Those of you who have been around Lewis Lake for decades will find deep meaning in the stained-glass portrait of Jesus praying in the Garden, now hanging in the chapel, or

the pine ceiling from the old sanctuary, now hanging in the fireside room, which, a decade ago, was the church kitchen. We hope to have the walls decorated with pictures and relics from years gone by. It's only right. Some of you will see those things and fill your mind with memories and your eyes with tears. Others, perhaps newcomers or even our own kids and grandkids, won't feel anything more than a passing curiosity, because they have no connected memories. We have to be okay with that.

~ continued on page 6

Sunday school – upcoming changes

by Josh Martin

We have recently taken 10 of our students down to Kentucky to visit the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum. These 2 museums are part of Ken Ham's Answers in Genesis. They present biblical answers to life's questions.

Answers in Genesis has curriculum for churches and we have moved forward and invested in the Answers in Genesis Sunday school curriculum. A few of our Sunday school classes have been using Answers in Genesis for years already and have been very pleased. Now all of our Sunday School teachers have the new, age appropriate, material and will be preparing for our Sunday School Fall kick off coming up in September.

This comprehensive curriculum has been put together in such a way as to have the students learn more each year as they move through each grade and mature. The 20 units of study are spread among all of our children's Sunday school classes so as our kids grow they will be learning more each year from one class to the next.

We are very excited for this change! We want to make sure our Sunday School teachers have a biblical curriculum they can work from right away. The new curriculum will allow flexibility and will let the teachers work through both Old and New Testaments each year. We will be able to have continuity through the elementary, middle school and high school classes as our students grow.

In addition, we have made a change to our Confirmation classes as well. We are moving our confirmation classes to 9th and 10th graders instead of the 7th and 8th graders. We have noticed a major drop off in attendance of our middle school and high school classes after confirmation. We want to continue with confirmation, but also want a more mature student and curriculum to engage them more through the years.

How can this work? Clark Hauger has been working with our 7th grade confirmation class and I have been working with our 8th grade confirmation class. This year, Clark will not be teaching confirmation, but will be teaching our upcoming 7th graders. I will be teaching the students that Clark taught in his confirmation class last year and we will be confirming those students this coming year.

Next year, 2027, Neither Clark nor I will be teaching confirmation. We will be teaching other classes during the 2027 Sunday School year.

In 2028, Clark will resume teaching Confirmation, but to our 9th graders at that time. I will continue to teach another class that year.

In 2029, both Clark and I will be back teaching confirmation, but to our 9th and 10th graders.

This is going to be a bit of a process, but we are praying it will be a successful change for our students as they grow.

Lastly, we have new Adult Sunday school classes being made available as well. They will be held in the newly remodeled Heritage Hall up the ramp past the kitchen. We will be having 5 different class rooms with 5 different classes available. We are very excited to offer multiple classes such as, Lewis Lake 101, Sanctification, Knowing God's will, Ethics, Assurance of Salvation, Personal Finance & Stewardship, Prayer, Doctrines of Grace, Family Worship, etc. These classes will be available during our Sunday school season. We will have a published list of classes, teachers and dates coming soon. Stay tuned!

That is a lot of change! We continue to pray that God will be blessed by our outreach and teaching here at Lewis Lake and that His name will be glorified. Please pray with us for this upcoming year of ministry!

May God bless you!
Pastor Josh Martin



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

Being The Patient

by Bob De Young

So, here I was, once again, at Abbott- Northwestern Hospital. This was a place I had been to many times over. When one becomes a Pastor it is a natural and normal part of the job description to visit people in the hospital with scripture and prayer. On this day, in the quiet moments, I let my mind wander back over those “visitation memories”. I pondered the people who had ended up in this huge place, here in the middle of this vast city. I had prayed for many people here in this place. Some of them received healing from the Lord, but others died and entered into their heavenly reward the very same day that they had entered this hospital. It makes you feel very weak and incompetent to see someone die, for whom you had just prayed. I once had a man die right in the middle of my prayer for him. But, then there are those for whom we prayed, and though their situation seemed dire, yet the Lord raised them up with healing in His wings and we were able to rejoice and worship the Lord together for the healing He had given.

When I went to Abbott Northwestern Hospital I came there as a healer and a helper. I came representing the Church. The whole Church could not fit in that little hospital room, so I was there, and they were there through me. God came to His people through me and I knew what to do. I read scripture and I prayed. This was my role, my duty, my work.

But now I was in the hospital room, but I was not the pastor. Instead, I was the patient. Instead of being the strong one, I was weak. Instead of doing things for someone, now things were done to me. Instead of having to avert my eyes because someone’s hospital gown was functioning more like a mini-skirt than a true robe, I was the one who had to fight that crazy hospital gown for a modicum of dignity. Instead of stepping out of the room while a delicate procedure had to take place, I had to stay put. Yes, I knew how to be a Pastor in a hospital room, but this business of being a patient was something altogether different.

One of the main features of being a patient is the necessity of embracing pain. In the gospel of Mark 5:25-26 we read about a woman who was also a patient.

“And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.”

This woman was wrestling with a very challenging problem. Her problem lasted a long time and the things that the doctors did to try to help her ending up causing her a great amount of pain.

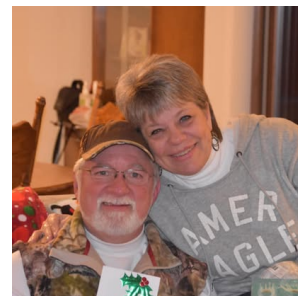
To put it bluntly, this woman was in a moment of great desperation. I have been in hospital rooms where the presence of desperation is so heavy, you can almost smell it.

But I have also experienced much of what this desperate woman experienced. For, out of her desperation she sought out Jesus, and, with nothing left to do, she clung to him. She sought out His healing and she sought out His presence. Either she would be healed by this very amazing man or she would receive courage to carry on in this fight against this horrible disease.

Yes, I am not used to being the patient. Instead of praying for people, people are praying for me. And the prayers you are lifting up for me are strengthening me to cling to Jesus and embrace His true healing that is complete and eternal!

Pastor Bob

“the prayers you are lifting up for me are strengthening me to cling to Jesus and embrace His true healing that is complete and eternal!”



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

WOMEN'S *Ministry*

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH



WOMEN'S
Ministry

Craft Day

Saturday, August 8th
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Bring your lunch and your projects and come join us

Pie Fundraiser for 5th Quarter



Women's Ministry is looking for donations of pies to raise money for 5th quarter (a teen ministry held at Ogilvie Raceway on Friday evenings during the school year).

Pies will be sold at Corn on the Curb. We are hoping to get 100 pies. Please deliver the pies to church by August 15th. Thank You! Debee Stassen (320-333-5108) is the contact for this event.

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 11, 2026
7:45 PM



Tech Team Members

It takes a team effort to make Sundays happen. Are you interested in joining the tech team? Talk to Jesse - we would love to add you to the team. It is easier than you think. Training will be provided.



BAPTISM SERVICE

**We are planning a baptism service on
Sunday, August 30th.**

If you're interested in learning more about baptism, or being baptized, please contact Pastor Joe.



Help save a life.

Schedule your
blood donation
appointment today.



Lewis Lake Blood Drive

Thursday, September 3rd
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Call 1-800-RED-CROSS
to schedule your donation
appointment today!**

But even as we honor our past, we're doing something new, and in the process creating our own new traditions. I would love it if, in half a century, those who are kids today but by then will be elders, deacons, and ministry leaders, will walk down Heritage Hall and look at those classrooms and say, "Remember all God did for us and in us in these rooms? Remember how, week after week, we forged a deep love for him and each other?" Maybe they'll still have a man from the church do the Scripture reading every Sunday. I hope so. But that's a very new tradition, and who knows how long it might last.

Honoring tradition is important. But so is creating new ones. Every generation needs the freedom to be able to do that. It's a common observation that many churches are dying out. That very few churches have any children. I have a theory about that, and it's this: When the old traditions are the only allowable traditions, and there's no room for new people making new ones, the only ones who feel welcome are those who venerate the old ways, and it's just not possible that those who didn't grow up with the old traditions will appreciate them in the same way. And so, a death-spiral begins as the gap between the past and the future becomes wider and wider.

Walking this balance is difficult. Abandoning our past and unmooring from what made us who we are is a dangerous affair. There's good reason to keep some relics around and honor the past. But living in the past as if that's the only good and right way to do ministry is also dangerous. If Dale

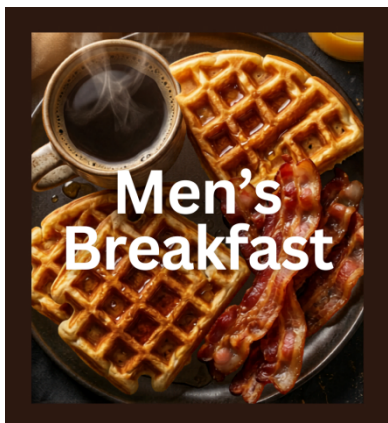
Hawkins is correct, sometime in the 20's or 30's Lewis Lake switched from Swedish to English as its primary language. Knowing how stubborn old Swedes can be, I'm sure this was a painful transition! But in Kanabec County in the early 1900's, the future was English, and I for one am glad they recognized that and made the switch, painful as it was for some.

I think we can honor the Swedes, and do it in English. And if the old saints could look down and watch, I think they'd be pretty happy about what they saw, and about where we are and what we're up to. I like to think they'd happily and easily recognize the Gospel we preach and the process of God changing lives, even if they wondered whatever happened to the old building they constructed, and why there's so many Dutchmen and people from outside Ogilvie. Even if they thought we were wimps for needing air conditioning and comfortable classrooms. God bless them. And God bless us. I think both can happen.

"Tradition is good and meaningful. At its best, tradition is like a well-worn path that is both comfortable and beneficial. And the longer they continue, the stronger and more meaningful they become."



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



Saturday, August 15th at 7:00am

Here at Lewis Lake

Come, join your fellow men for breakfast and great conversation.

Please register so we can plan to have enough food for everyone.

Contact Pastor Josh 651-308-3724 if you have questions about the men's breakfast.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THE BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER!

Join us for a week of
Bible Teaching ~ Creative games ~ Incredible music ~ Super-fun snacks
Invite a friend!

**FOR ALL KIDS GOING INTO KINDERGARTEN
THROUGH GOING INTO 6TH GRADE THIS FALL**

Monday, August 3rd - Thursday, August 6th 6:00pm - 8:30pm
at Lewis Lake Covenant Church
1030 Grand Street
Ogilvie, MN 56358

- **MONDAY, August 3rd – DOORS OPEN AT 5:30** – A parent or guardian **MUST** accompany the child when they sign in.
- AN OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN each day to support our VBS *World Vision Child*. Your child will learn about Toma who is from Cambodia during the week.
- Parents please join us on Thursday evening to see what the kids have been up to all week. Dinner will be provided.

If you have questions call the church office (320)396-3293
or send an email to lewislake1030@gmail.com

Register your child for this FREE event
on the *Lewis Lake Kids* page on our website lewislake.org
in the app or scan the QR Code below.



Thank You For Helping Reduce The Lewis Lake Garbage Bill By Recycling Your Aluminum Cans

1. Take your aluminum cans to the Ogilvie Recycling Center
225 E. George Street - Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00
2. Look for the desk toward the back of the room, on the left.
3. Identify your donation by filling out a form with the name Lewis Lake Covenant Church.
The name is all that is needed, as the office will take care of the rest.
4. If there is no one to take the cans, leave the form on the bag(s) of cans.
5. You may also check in the office for help.



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.



Get the App!



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.

