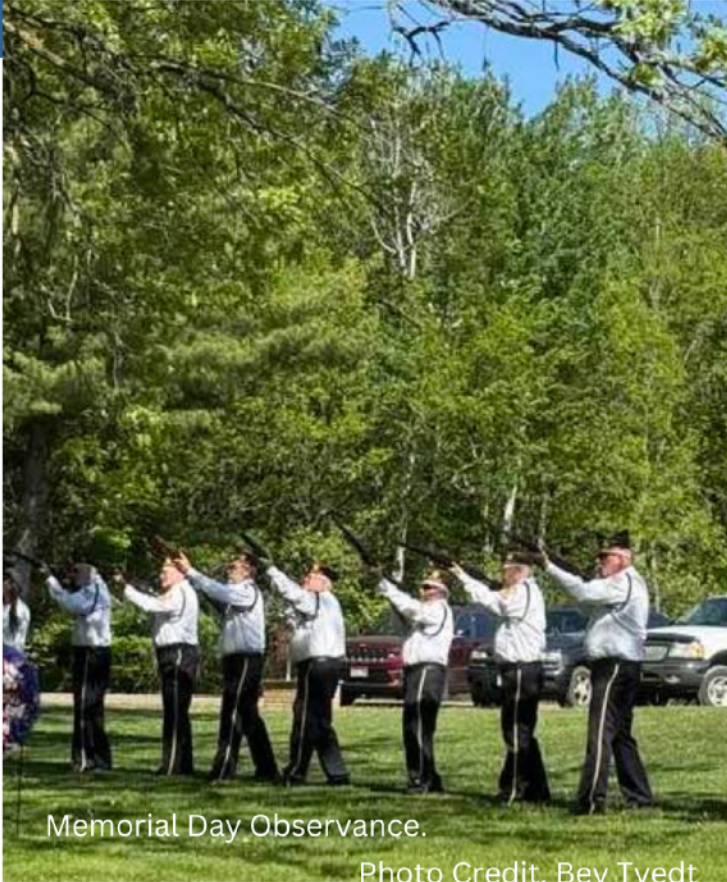
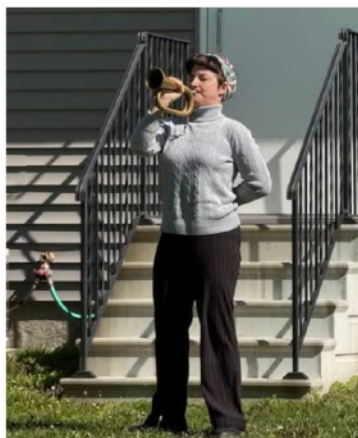


LEWIS LAKE NEWS



Memorial Day Observance.

Photo Credit: Bev Tyedt



PONDERING CHURCH MUSIC

By Pastor Joe Reed | p. 1

Pondering Church Music

by Joe Reed

I've decided to tackle hard subjects for newsletter articles. They make me think, and hopefully they're engaging to read. I've hit politics, money, and worship services, so I figured let's keep the party rolling and talk music.

I grew up in the days of the "worship wars." For those who don't recall those days, I'll give you a few stories to give you a sense of things.

When I was growing up in conservative, non-denominational churches, church music was sung from a hymnal and accompanied by a piano and an organ, both of which my mother played quite well. The song leader stood up front and maybe waved his hand around to the time, but mostly we all just followed the musician. I remember when KBHW, the Christian music station out of International Falls, started playing Sandi Patti and Amy Grant, not because I remember the songs, but because I remember my parents were not at all happy about it.

In about seventh or eighth grade I attended summer camp, my beloved Miracle Bible Camp, then located northwest of Chisholm on Perch Lake. That summer a new director had arrived from Colorado, and brought from his home church some kids for camp staff and counselors. My cabin counselor was Rob. I was shocked and appalled to discover Rob liked "CCM" – contemporary Christian music. You know, the kind with the electric guitars and drums. Rock and Roll. The devil's music. Pure worldliness. I kindly informed my flaming liberal counselor (he must be liberal if he likes that stuff!) of the error of his ways with all the vigor and conviction a young teenager can have parroting everything he'd been taught, and I had a lot of conviction and plenty of instruction. Our cabin would argue about CCM (and other things) late into the night, and Rob even had the new director come into our cabin and try to calm things down. Rob had a tape player, and I still remember him playing Michael W. Smith's "Secret Ambition" trying to prove to me how good it was. I wasn't convinced.

I did love singing Charley Pride's *Louisiana Man* and Jimmy Dean's *Big Bad John* with my dad and my brother, and plenty of Ernest Tubb songs are still lodged in the back of my mind somewhere. That gave me a love for a country, folksy sort of twang.

Fast forward four or five years. My brother and I flew to Arizona to help my grandparents drive from their winter home in Phoenix back to Grand Rapids, Michigan. I brought along a cassette tape of my favorite singing group – the Cathedral Quartet. Rock was sinful and wicked, but Southern Gospel was good, almost country-ish. Anyway, Dad warned me that Grampa wouldn't like it. But somewhere along the road, probably in New Mexico, weary of tapes of kids choirs singing hymns, I slipped that cassette in the deck and let my soul fill with delight as those beautiful harmonies filled the little motorhome. After a good ten or twelve seconds, Grampa said (and I'll never forget it!), "Who's this, a bunch of southern jerks?" And that was the end of that.

Fast forward a couple more years. I'm at Northland Baptist Bible College. All music brought into the dorms has to be "checked." Checked for what, you ask? Checked that the beat is on the 1&3, not the 2&4. Syncopation, it seems, is the devil's playground. Incidentally, my Gramma once said to me, "You know where those drums come from? Africa!" And that settled the argument. Drums are demonic. Northland favored what they called "sacred music," which is acoustic instruments, little to no percussion, and a heavy vibrato. They sound to me like they're singing while standing on a waterbed. I was never a huge fan, if for no other reason than many seemed convinced it was the only music Jesus liked. I was a real rebel in those days, and snuck my 2

Cathedrals CS's into the dorm. I was practiced at listening to banned music secretly, because when I lived at home I used to get out of bed at night and quietly turn on 99.9 USA Radio out of Virginia, MN, to see if one of the few country songs I'm familiar with is on. If *John Deere Green*, *Livin' on Love*, or *Seminole Wind* come on, that's a good night. If I heard Dad coming, it was kill the radio and jump into bed fast. Anyway, back to college... one of my roommates eventually asks me to stop playing Cathedrals music in our room, not because he minds the music, but because his conscience is bothering him that he's got this rebel roommate listening to contraband music and he's not turning me in.

I grew up in the era of two services – the early one "traditional" for the old timers who love being up early and singing hymns, and the later, "contemporary" service for

“Music touches the soul; it’s profoundly spiritual, that’s what makes it so powerful. Not all music touches every soul, but music matters a great deal. We want soul-touching music.”

~ Pondering Church Music, continued on page 4

Graduation Sunday, June 7, 2026

We will honor our high school graduates with a special presentation and reception after the 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 back of the sanctuary.
Thank you Becki Baumann for putting these together!)



COUNCIL MEETING

Council Meeting
Monday, June 8th
7:45 PM



Will Meet
Wednesday, June 17th
2:00 PM



Annual Senior Day at the Lake

Wednesday, June 12th

Hosted by Bev & Dallas Tvedt at their cabin.

Bring a potluck dish to share. Anyone 50 and up are invited for a day of fishing, food, and fellowship.

We will meet at the Ogilvie School parking lot at 10:00 AM to carpool. Bev (253-307-8224) is the contact for this event.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, June 20th 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.

Get the App!

Lewis Lake Covenant Church
Available In App Stores
Apple, 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.

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.
June 13th is the next craft day.

Coming August 6th
Seating is limited register TODAY!

Women's Ministry

Mission Statement

The Women's Ministry at Lewis Lake provides an opportunity for women of all ages to establish a closer bond with God and each other through prayer, study and service.

Vision Statement

Women's Ministry is an inter-generational group of women which exists for the purpose of encouraging and enriching others to the ultimate purpose of building the church of Jesus Christ and glorifying God.



Women's Ministry has reserved 25 seats for Thursday, August 6, 2026, 1 PM performance at the Plymouth Playhouse.

Cost is \$35 per ticket.

Seats are limited so register in the app or on the website **TODAY!**

You can also use the QR code below.



We will have lunch at 11 AM at Perkins Restaurant. The cost of lunch is **not** included in the ticket fee. We will carpool from church, leaving at 9:45am.

This event is open to men and women!!

To take advantage of the groups seating rate you must register no later than July 1st.

If you have any questions or need assistance registering, please contact Joyce Tvedt 612-390-0146 or Becki Baumann 763-898-9742.

the young people who like sleeping in and going to a rock concert instead of church. Easier to just split the church into two separate churches than try to hold the congregation together. The worship wars were no joke. The passion was real; the war was real. I've felt it, and for better or mostly worse, I've participated in it.

That's my musical coming-of-age journey. I've grown along the way. I've made plenty of mistakes. I'm sure I still do. But I've developed a couple guiding principles that I've tried to use to help inform our music at Lewis Lake.

Words matter, but they're not all that matters. Theological conservatives like me are fussy about words. We want them to be true, and right. But somewhere along the way it dawned on me that if the only thing that mattered was the lyrics, we could just recite lyrics, and they would have the same effect on our souls. They don't.

There's something about the music itself that matters. Music touches the soul; it's profoundly *spiritual*, that's what makes it so powerful. Not all music touches every soul, but music matters a great deal. We want soul-touching music. I also really believe because music is so soulful and so spiritual, the best music isn't necessarily produced by the most skilled musicians (though that matters!) but by those who most deeply love the Lord they worship and most ardently desire to minister to God's people. It's an unquantifiable but very real aspect of music.

Singability matters. I'm a lousy singer, as you know. In my head, my voice sounds terrible. When I've had the misfortune to hear a recording of myself sing, I sound downright abominable. But still, I do love to sing. I can sorta sing simple tunes that don't go too high or too low. Michele has helped me as much as she can. One of the priorities I place on church music is that people like me need to be able to sing it. So we can all sing together. Singing together matters, so singing songs we can all sing matters.

Familiarity matters. When I was a kid, we could sing any song in the hymnal. Later we added a chorus book (remember those?). Those songs were the only options. Today, we can splash the lyrics of any song ever written on the screen. The options are limitless. But it's hard to sing new songs, because new is unfamiliar. And when we sing unfamiliar

songs, we sing tentatively and nervously, especially if other people are listening. Nobody wants to let 'er rip on the wrong note at the wrong time. So, we mumble new songs. I do, anyway. But give me a song that I know every word and every note from the top of my head to the soles of my feet, and even though I sing badly, I'll sing joyfully and freely. And when we're singing together, we want to sing joyfully, freely, or, to borrow the album title of a terrific rendering of 17th century English hymns by Maddie Prior and the Carnival Band, we want to *Sing Lustily and with Good Cheer!*

Unity matters. We haven't sang from hymnals in some time. Here's the backstory on that: A couple years back, I made the conscious decision to step away from having both "band songs" and "hymns" in the service. If you'd have told my 13-year-old self that I'd do that someday, I'd have died from a stroke on the spot. My rationale was really quite simple: I didn't want to

intentionally give a nod to one section of the congregation with two songs, and another nod to another section with the other two. I thought then (and still do) that it was important for us to sing one song, as it were. I chatted with our worship leader about it, and Clark was already beginning to integrate our music by leading some of the old hymns with the band anyway. Part of me misses the old hymns with just the piano, with the four parts written there on the page. I love the harmonious singing of my childhood, and unfortunately new songs aren't written that way. At the same time, I recognize this is where music is today, and it's important not only for us to sing one song at church, but in

a sense to sing the same songs Christians everywhere are singing, since Lewis Lake really is just one small (but very special!) place Jesus' people gather together every week.

I don't pretend my way is the perfect way or the only right way. But I truly love the music we have at Lewis Lake, and every year I love it more than the year before. You're singing better all the time, too. And that thrills my heart, and I know it pleases our Lord Jesus.

“the best music isn't necessarily produced by the most skilled musicians (though that matters!) but by those who most deeply love the Lord they worship and most ardently desire to minister to God's people.”



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

Make Your Donor Appointment TODAY!

When you participate in this blood drive not only do you save lives you also support the Ogilvie High School students volunteering to earn scholarships from the Red Cross.

Every year in June Lewis Lake partners with the Ogilvie High School to host a blood drive here at Lewis Lake. Jen Drost organizes the High Schoolers who will be volunteering. The students assist with moving chairs and setting up the space the evening before the drive and the day of the drive they are busy registering the donors.

Donors who give at this drive will receive an exclusive \$15 e-gift card sent via email and a chance to win one of two \$7,500 gift cards.

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive Sponsored by Ogilvie High School

**Location:
Lewis Lake Covenant Church**

**Sanctuary
1030 Grand Street - Ogilvie**

**Thursday, June 25, 2026
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Ogilvie to schedule an appointment.



Come to give blood 6/1-28 for a \$15 e-gift card + chance to win a \$7.5K prize! See rcblood.org/June.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2016 The American National Red Cross

*A god who is all love,
all grace, all mercy,
no sovereignty,
no justice, no holiness,
and no wrath is an idol.*

RC Sproul

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.



Vacation Bible School August 3-6, 2026

Do you have a heart for children's Ministry? If so, please consider volunteering to help out with VBS 2026.

Contact Melodee Hall (612-390-0913) if you would like to be a part of this important children's ministry.

Registration will be open in July!



On May 16th Mark Sholtz & Pastor Josh took a group of youth down to Feed My Starving Children to earn their final Ark points for the upcoming trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Kentucky.



Confirmation Sunday 2026

Congratulations to the confirmation class of 2026.

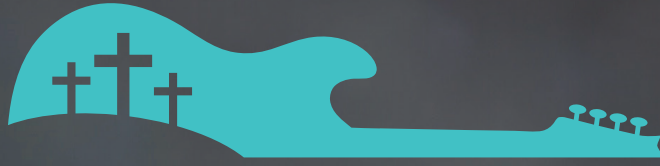
Are you looking for a place to serve at Lewis Lake? Read on!

Would you like to choose what, how much, and when you serve?

The upkeep of our cemetery involves a variety of opportunities!

If you would like more details, please contact me. Betty Kilian Text or call 320.515.1237 (please leave voicemail)

R.U.R.A.L. MUSIC FEST



R.U.R.A.L. MUSIC FEST

AUGUST 28-30 2026

Redemption Hill
Isle, Minnesota

Redeemed • Unqualified • Restored • Accepted • Loved



FREE Admission

Bounce Houses | Kids Zone
Food Trucks | Vendors

AUGUST 28



Sanctus Real

ANDREW RIPP
SEVENTH DAY SLUMBER
JASON GRAY
RACHEL PURCELL
HONOR AND GLORY

AUGUST 29



Marc Martel

One Vision of Queen
DISCIPLE
CHRISTAFARI
STEPHEN STANLEY
JOSH WILSON
JASON DUNN
BROKEN MASTERPIECE

AUGUST 30



Rare of Breed

STRUGGLE JENNINGS
JASON CRABB
SOCIAL CLUB MISFITS
BRAINERD, MN ADULT &
TEEN CHALLENGE CHOIR

More Information at RuralMusic.org

