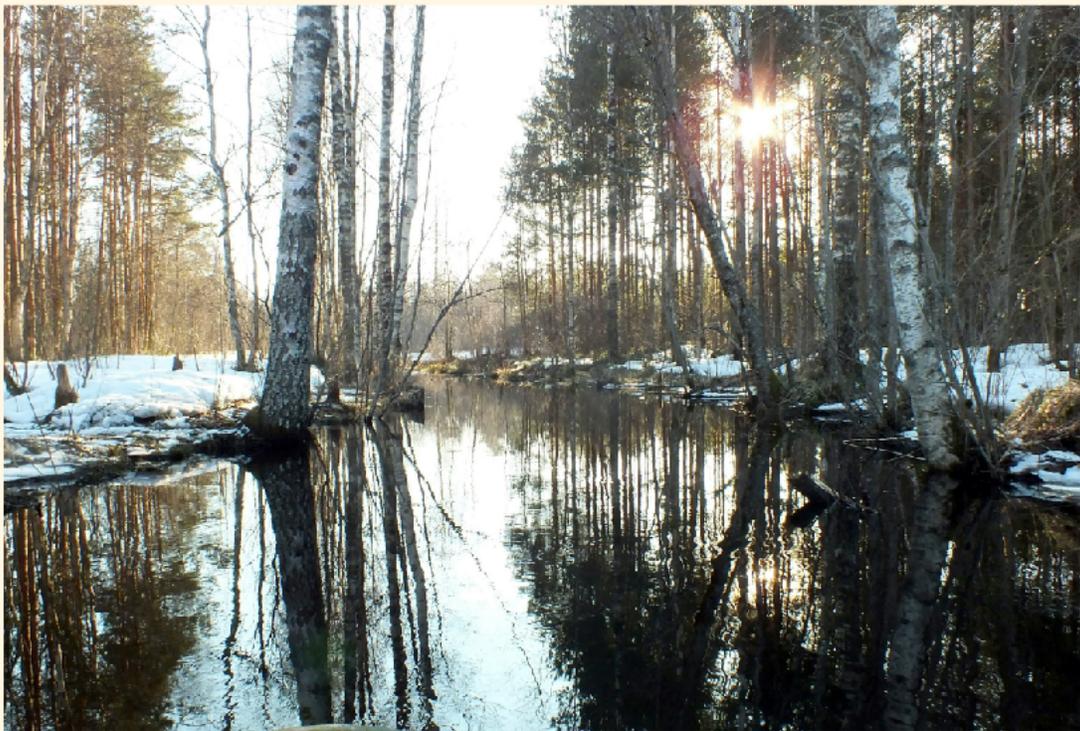


MARCH 2026

LEWIS LAKE NEWS



The Pastor & Politics

*By Pastor Joe Reed
Page 1*

Youth Ministry

*By Pastor Josh Martin
Page 2*

The Pastor & Politics

by Joe Reed

One day last week, I was sitting in Freddie's and overheard someone say, in a rather boisterous voice (I wasn't *trying* to overhear anything!), "Sometimes I talk about politics, and my wife shoots me a dirty look!" You know the type, and even if I agreed with his politics, I think I'd also sympathize with his wife!

What follows has nothing to do with my wife, and almost nothing to do with politics. What it does have to do with is my approach to political issues. I do this so you know where I'm coming from, and why I do (or don't) engage in various political discussions publicly in my office as a pastor. To that end, here's eight reflections from your pastor on politics.

First, I have political opinions. What's more, I think they're right. If I discovered they were wrong, as happens from time to time, I'd change them, then I'd go right back to thinking I was right again. And I assume you're probably like that too. I vote, like I believe citizens should (particularly informed citizens!). I don't vote every time the polls are opened, nor am I only a once-every-four-years voter. I'm roughly an every-other-year voter. I've attended a couple township meetings and a county board meeting to speak against the proliferation of marijuana farms in my neighborhood. That's perhaps too involved for some, and not enough for others. It is what it is.

Second, I love to see good people occupy political office. By "good people," I mean honorable people who are resistant to the corruptive influence of power, and who respect the rule of law. I've read enough history and traveled enough places in the world to know when power is coupled with corruption and uncoupled from the law, the common citizen ends up paying the highest price. By the way, the notion that an unchanging, eternal law, not a fickle, mortal ruler, should be the supreme governor in a land is a very biblical idea. Christians are people devoted to an unalterable, authoritative text – we're Word people. And that's produced some very fine societies.

Third, we tend to hold our political beliefs rather fiercely. They reflect our longings to live in a better world, and the pathway

we believe will get us there. We believe that if our political ideals were carried out, the world would be a better place, but if the other guy had his way, the world would be a worse place. It's easy to see whoever holds opposite political views as a threat to our own well-being – economically, socially, morally, etc. In other words, we can easily see political opponents as enemies.

Fourth, the Bible does have *some* things to say about *some* political issues. You've heard me speak against abortion and homosexuality – and I will again. These issues are political issues, but they're much more than that. They're also *moral* issues rather clearly addressed in the Bible, and Christians are duty-bound to believe whatever the Bible teaches. So I don't mind speaking to those issues, because they're not *primarily* political, they're first and foremost moral issues. Don't take innocent life, and God-honoring sex only takes place between a married man and his wife. Everything else is illicit and to be condemned as such.

Fifth, the Bible doesn't speak clearly about other political issues. If you and I are having lunch, I might complain about property taxes or environmental regulations, but the Bible doesn't give me any authority to demand a change in cost of tabs for my boat. I have my own opinion; I don't know God's opinion.

Sixth, my primary pastoral responsibility is to help you know what God says in His Word so you can obey it. That doesn't just mean reading the Bible out loud, but studying it carefully so I can explain it as clearly as I know how – and always trying to learn how to do so even better. At my best, I keep my own political opinions to myself and only say what I know is true. And when I wander out into the realm of opinion (I trust quite rarely), I hope I make that very clear. It's okay if you ignore my opinions. My heart breaks when someone ignores God's clear commands, but I have to hold my opinions loosely.

Seventh, I feel very keenly the responsibility to minister to *all* of God's people, not only the ones who share my own political persuasions. In fact, I'd be quite delighted if nobody knew what they were. If someone is offended by the plain teaching of the Word of God or our devotion to Christ, I can't help

“It’s part of life in this world, and we’re participants in our society. But we set those feelings aside on a Sunday morning, because first and foremost, we are a people united in our unwavering devotion to the Lord Jesus”

~continued on page 4

Youth Ministry

by Josh Martin

Lewis Lake Family,

Greetings to you all. I have been working with our Youth Group for the last few months and more recently have taken over the teaching lesson each Wednesday evening. I have been in full learn mode with names, relationships and interests of the students. We have many kids attending youth group each week. We have been averaging 25 students each week. Kids from Milaca, Braham, Mora and Ogilvie attend regularly.

I have been teaching the lesson each week on different topics such as Trust, Fear, Treasures, Fearing God, the Roman's Road to salvation and Atonement. I ask the kids to open their bibles each night and ask each of them to read a few verses aloud to us as we walk through the lesson. Some are new at looking up verses in the bible and others are well acquainted. It is wonderful to hear our kids reading scripture with their peers each Wednesday evening.

We have kids from 7th grade up through 12th grade each week and we divide the larger group and send the 7th/8th graders to play a game in the big room in the basement while I give the lesson in the youth room to the 9th-12th graders. We switch groups about halfway through so each group is able to hear the lesson and also have fun playing games. The students have been enjoying the separate time for the lesson and game time each week.

We are looking forward to the upcoming Ark trip this year. We have 16 students currently registered for the Ark trip. We have much to prepare for the trip and many of the kids are very close to getting their needed Ark points for the trip. We will have more information about the trip and more Ark point opportunities coming soon.

It has been an incredible blessing to be working with the Youth. The team of faithful volunteers continue to be wonderful and encouraging. A big thank you to Mark and Dianna Sholtz, Debee Stassen, Duane Munstersteiger, Jodie Rolf, Katie Jacobs, Cassie Murphy and Becky Baumann. These volunteers are consistent week in and week out and are integral to our youth group. They help with the lesson time and game time; they help in the kitchen and make the yummy food for the meals our students have on Wednesday evenings.

Please continue to pray for our kids, students and young people. Our Youth need to be prayed for and so do the youth leaders/volunteers. Your prayers and generosity make our youth group what it is.

God continues to be at work here at Lewis Lake!

Pastor Josh



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



Youth Group Parent Meeting
Wednesday, March 11th
after Youth Group (8pm)
We will go over final arrangements for
the ARK Trip and the payment deadline.

Recommended Reading

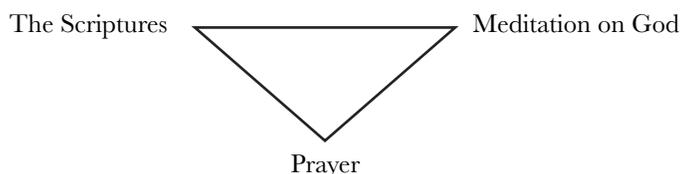
A Heart Aflame for God
A Reformed Approach to Spiritual Formation
By Matthew Bingham
Crossway Books, 2025
Reviewed by Pastor Bob

Problem: Some approaches to Christian spirituality and the disciplines and practices used by people today to grow closer to God are not healthy or helpful. Many of these approaches which are used to pursue spiritual growth arise from pagan religions or the mere ruminations of minds untethered to biblical truth.

A recent book, written by Matthew Bingham, is an effort to help believers discover and develop spiritual habits and practices that are fully grounded in the Word of God, and have been used by Christians down through Church history to grow strong in their faith, mature in their relationship to Jesus, all the while avoiding the errors used by Satan to stop us from following our Lord in daily life. Bingham states that the main purpose of this book is to “retrieve a Reformed approach to spiritual formation for the benefit of contemporary Christians.”

As you read this book, it will be helpful to remember that the author is writing to academic critics, as well as to regular believers. Sometimes the flow of thought can be a little hard to understand because he uses the language of the scholar to argue his point. Reading the book on a Kindle can help because you can simply tap on a word that you don't understand to get the dictionary definition. But even if things are a little tricky to understand in certain places, this book contains so much that is quite plain and clear.

One of the primary ways that Bingham tries to help modern believers to pursue spiritual growth and maturity in a healthy way is the development of what he calls **“The Reformation Triangle.”** The Reformation Triangle is made up of the following three elements.



Spiritual growth in the soul of a believer cannot entertain any old kind of spirituality, nor can it be pursued in any old way. Satan, along with our own sinful hearts, is working overtime to contaminate any effort we might make to grow closer to our Lord. How can we make sure that our own spiritual growth is the kind of growth that God wants for us? The **Reformation Triangle** can help us.

The first step in seeking spiritual growth is to read the Bible. This is a very “Word-Based” business. The book has a whole chapter on how to read the Bible in ways that will help you draw near to God Himself!

The second step in seeking spiritual growth is to Meditate. But this meditation is not simply emptying your mind and opening yourself up to something in general. Rather, our meditation is to be upon the scriptures and what they say about God, Himself. Bingham spends another whole chapter sharing with us the many ways we can meditate on God's Word.

The third step in seeking spiritual growth is prayer. After we have read a passage of scripture in all kinds of important ways, and after we have meditated on that passage in all kinds of important ways, now the believer is ready to pray for what God has promised. At this point, our prayers will be informed and conditioned and influenced by God Himself who has called us to pray for the very things He has promised in the first place.

~continued on page 4

~ *The Pastor & Politics, continued from page 1*

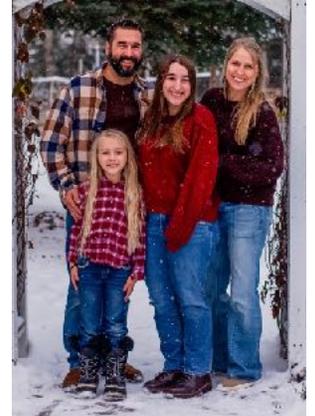
that. That comes with the calling. But if someone can't come and worship Christ because they can't see past my support for or opposition to the president, then I've really failed.

Eighth, and most importantly, I firmly believe the thing around which God's people must unite is nothing more or nothing less than the worship of God Himself. I've known pastors who have made a big deal of political issues, and what ends up happening is they run off those who dissent and attract those who agree until the whole church is basically comprised of those who agree with the pastor's politics. I don't think that's right. I don't want us to ever be the pro-Trump church. Or the anti-Trump church. How we feel about Trump, Walz, or any other politician, present or future, should never define us.

It doesn't mean we don't have feelings about those guys, we can't help it. It's part of life in this world, and we're participants in our society. But we set those feelings aside on a Sunday morning, because first and foremost, we are a people united in our unwavering devotion to the Lord Jesus. When we're lifting up our

voices together in praise to Him, I don't give a rip who you voted for. You're my brother, my sister, my friend. And I hope you feel the same way.

Besides, in the end, the whole political system is coming down, and Jesus will reign. I want it to be as good as it can, as long as it can, just like you do. But our hope for a bright future isn't found in D.C. or St. Paul, it's in heaven. And I hope we're all agreed that's where we should be spending most of our time looking. In any case, that's where I'll be trying to get us to look. And if I stray from that goal, remind me of this article, and tell me to get my act together.



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

Some people seem to think that the nearer you get to God the further you must be from humanity, but that's not true. Genuine proximity to God is epitomized in the act of serving someone else.

JOHN MACARTHUR

~ *Recommended Reading, continued from page 3*

In the last half of the book the author addresses some of the more traditional features of the spiritual disciplines. These would be things like:

- Self examination or the inward look,
- The role of nature in the spiritual disciplines, or the outward look,
- Christian relationships, or the looking towards others to help us grow spiritually.

Bingham is primarily concerned that our practices that help us pursue spiritual growth and a strong faith be biblically sound. Not everything that uses the word "spiritual" is good and true. But, if you long to draw near to the true God, and desire to see victory over sin in your life, and you long to see your faith come alive in anew and fresh ways, then this book will be a help to you.

Check out the book table in the Foyer for this, and other great titles!

Pastor Bob



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

Update on the Fellowship Hall Remodel

The Chapel is coming together The ceiling is finished, the lighting is in place (thank you Kelly Hoyles for finding the perfect chandeliers).

Carpet is on order and should arrive in the next couple of weeks. Gary Hoyles and Cory Nielsen finished up the drop ceiling and cleaned up the floors so they are ready to install the carpet once it arrives.

Some of you will recognize the stained glass of “Jesus in the Garden” Gary cleaned it up, added new lighting, filtering and a new frame. It is now in its permanent home in the new Chapel.

Pastor Joe is working on the doors for the Chapel and the classrooms while Kelly is looking for hardware for them.



Holy Week Schedule

Easter Camp 2026



Saturday, March 28, 2026

11:00am - 2:00pm

An entire Vacation Bible School Experience in a Single Afternoon! An afternoon dedicated to learning about our Savior Jesus Christ. For children age 4 through 6th Grade.

If you would like to volunteer to help with Easter Camp you can sign up on the East wall.

**REGISTRATION IS
OPEN IN THE APP!**



**Palm Sunday
March 29th**

We will share Communion



**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.

COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 9th
7:45pm



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 21st
7:00am
 Here at Lewis Lake
 Talk to Pastor Josh if you have any questions.



Will Meet
Wednesday, March 18th
2:00 PM



50 & BETTER
5th SUNDAY
DINNER

50 & Better
5th Sunday Dinner
 Sunday, March 29th
 12:30pm
 Pizza Ranch in Cambridge
 Cost is \$18 per person payable at the restaurant.

Get the App!



Lewis Lake Covenant Church
 Available in App Stores
 Apple, Google Play, Amazon, 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.

Subscribe to the Pulse



Lewis Lake Covenant Church
Lewis Lake 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.



WOMEN'S *Ministry*

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

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.

Ministry Meetings

2nd Monday of odd months
@ 6:15 pm
Lewis Lake Covenant Church
January, March, May, July, September, November

All Women Welcome! Bring new ideas! Find a Connection!

hosted by: Women's Ministry

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY
CRAFT DAY**

Come join us for hands-on crafting fun and share in fellowship with your sisters in Christ!

2ND SATURDAY EVERY MONTH
Open House style from 9 am to 3 pm in the craft room

Bring your own project Work on local mission projects Make and take a craft

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

2026 NOMINATIONS

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

VICE CHAIR

Teaming with Chair, and/or carrying out duties in the absence of Chair.

- Organize WM team meetings and make contacts as needed
- Present Sunday ministry presentation and WM updates
- Transact business in an efficient manner
 - Be responsible for all publicly

VICE SECRETARY

Teaming with Secretary, and/or carry out duties in the absence of Secretary

- Keep minutes, record meetings and distribute copies to the current WM team. Retain copies of all meeting notes for reference
- Record the name of the person when dealing with important decisions, motions, or finance.
- If a program is presented, include names of participants and a brief summary in the minutes.
- Attend all LLWM meetings.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- Handle all deposits or incoming financials
- Keep detailed records of donations to supply the donor with accurate tax statement and distribute at year end.
- Correspond with Treasurer for accurate bookkeeping.
- Attend all LLWM meetings
- Prepare financial reports to include:
 - Balance on hand
 - Receipts
 - Expenses
 - Budget
 - Submit bi-monthly report to church secretary before the second Sunday of each month for council minutes.

VICE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Teaming with Finance Secretary, and/or carry out duties in the absence of Financial Secretary. See above for duties.

POSITIONS OPEN FOR NOMINATION

VICE CHAIR - 2 YR TERM

Debee Stassen

Must be a Member

VICE SECRETARY - 2 YR TERM

Sandy DeYoung

Member or Friend

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Vacant seat

Member or Friend

VICE FINANCIAL SECRETARY - 2 YR TERM

Dianna Sholtz

Member or Friend

Reach out to Becki Baumann, Debee Stassen, or Tami Goley with your nominations.

Please gain approval from nominee prior to bringing her name forward.

Elections will be voted on at WM meeting Monday, March 9th.

All Lewis Lake Ladies are encouraged to join us for the Women's Ministry Meeting
March 9th at 6:15pm

7TH & 8TH GRADE GIRLS

You are invited to Craft Day



*Hosted by:
Sandy De Young, Karla Dahms,
Debee Stassen & Tami Goley*



*We will start the day in the craft room.
We will teach you how to make
your very own apron that you
can take home.
Then we will head to the kitchen
to make cookies.
We only have 8 spots open so the first
8 to sign up in the app will get a spot.*

MARCH 14, 2026

start at 9am | Lewis Lake Covenant Church

*Sign up in the app by March
8th to save your spot!*

Update on our granddaughter, Kaitlin

by Joyce Tvedt

For those of you new to our Lewis Lake family, on August 31, 2021, our granddaughter, Kaitlin began her journey with a very rare benign brain tumor.

After two major surgeries that week, in her recovery, she had to regain motor skills, speech and occupational therapies. There was no guarantee that the tumor would not grow back.

An MRI every 6 months since, the most recent was last week, shows “No change” – Thank God.

Kaitlin is a full-time RN at Mercy Hospital in Medical-Surgical. She & Jeremiah have two children, Maverick (born April 13, 2024) and Paisley (born Jan 19, 2026).

Thank You so much for the many continued prayers for her and her precious family. God has truly blessed them and answered prayers! With joy & gratitude, Joyce & Jerry Tvedt



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

Attention Ladies of Lewis Lake

We have been invited to join a Ladies Luncheon at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Mora on Saturday, March 14th at 11:00am. Tickets are \$10 each. Talk to Tami in the office if you would like to purchase tickets to the luncheon.

Emmanuel Baptist Women's Ministries Presents:

"The Wellspring of Life" Ladies' Luncheon



Saturday March 14, 2026 / 11:00 a.m.

Tickets: \$10.00

"In all the noise of the world around us—and in the changes within our own lives—it is easy to be swept into a tornado of heaviness, hopelessness, and darkness. Yet there is a wellspring of Life, and we are invited to come just as we are to receive True Love, Hope, and Light." ~ Jenni Thyng



Guest Speaker
Jenni Thyng

Tickets on Sale
During Church Office hours:
Wednesday and Thursday
9am to 3pm.



Tickets can be purchased on our
website
emmanuelmora.com/luncheon
or by scanning the QR Code

Ticket sales and Event are Located at Emmanuel Baptist Church
536 Union St. S
Mora Mn 55051



Come and be refreshed.



Lewis Lake 101

Saturday, March, 14th at 9:00am.

Here at Lewis Lake.

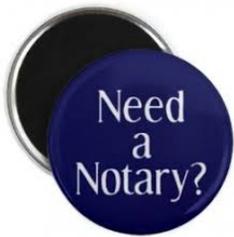
Join us if you are interested in membership or just want to know more about Lewis Lake



Newcomer Lunch

Sunday, March 15th at 12:00pm

If you are new to Lewis Lake join us for lunch. We look forward to getting to know you.



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.

