

MAY 2026

LEWIS LAKE NEWS



Monday, May 25th we will host the Ogilvie American Legion Color Guard for a Memorial Day ceremony remembering those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. *Page 10*

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The Church & Money

by Joe Reed

Great Uncle Bill lived in Florida, and only visited us once up in Northern Minnesota when I was about ten years old. He was rather rotund, and mom warned us not to say anything about it. Uncle Bill was a kind-hearted man who loved to fish, and we lived on a lake. For a couple weeks, my Grampa and Uncle Bill let my brother and me hop in the little aluminum boat and fish with them for hours almost every day. Uncle Bill caught the biggest northern we ever pulled out of our lake, and we were all quite happy for him. He promised my brother and me that if we came to visit him in Florida, he'd take us to the ocean and we'd go shark fishing. Uncle Bill was quite wealthy. That's what Mom said, anyway.

One day Uncle Bill was buying something from a gas station. When he pulled out his wallet, I could see it was just stuffed with money. I said, "Wow, you've got a lot of \$20's in there!" Sticking out my little hand, I continued, "Could I have one?" I don't remember what Uncle Bill said, but I remember I didn't get one. Later, when my Dad and I were alone, he sat me down and said something like, "Son, you don't talk to a man about his money that way, and you sure don't ask him to give you some." I felt terrible. I'd embarrassed my Dad. I'd said something foolish and maybe even hurtful, and I was afraid Uncle Bill wouldn't like me anymore. I won't ever forget that feeling, or Dad's lesson. A few months later, Uncle Bill sent my brother and me each a brand-new tackle box full of various worms, jigs, spoons, Rapalas, and some sort of fancy gizmo that was basically an underwater microphone. We never figured out how it worked, but I felt like Uncle Bill forgave me.

A year ago, I was down in Chisago County visiting with a dear family friend, and as we chatted about the things of God and church, he said to me, "My church is always beating us up for money. We just got done funding a huge project and now they're hammering at us to give more. It's like they're never satisfied." My translation: They've always got their hand out. As he spoke, I felt that same old sense of embarrassment creep up in me again.

I have, I suppose, a different approach to the church and money than most people do. I'm perhaps infamous for my general dislike of fundraisers. Let me give you three reasons I take the approach I do. I've spoken about this in private, at Elders' meetings, Council meetings and Business meetings, and now I'll do it here. I hope it's helpful.

1. The best giving is the most worshipful.

This speaks to our motivation for giving. There's better and worse motivations for giving your money away. Blackmail, for instance, is a really lousy motivation. Powerful, but lousy. For the record, we don't do blackmail at Lewis Lake! The highest, purest motivation is giving as an act of worship to the God we love, because he loved us first.

"There's one place and time a church is biblically authorized to open its hands and receive money from God's people: As an act of worship."

We call what we do on Sunday morning a Worship Service. When I design those, my intention is that everything from the Call to Worship through the Doxology be an act of worship. We worship in song, worship in prayer, worship by hearing the Word, even our greeting is an act of biblically mandated worship (1 Cor 16:20, etc). And giving is an act of worship. That's why it's part of the Worship Service.

There's one place and time a church is biblically authorized to open its hands and receive money from God's people: As an act of worship. In the NT, even when giving is strictly charitable, it's entirely unsolicited and received by the church as an act of worship

(Acts 4:35).

Genuine, acceptable worship must be voluntary, never forced. That's true for all the ways we worship: in song, in prayer, or listening to preaching. We don't force anyone to attend church, we don't force anyone to sing. Coerced worship isn't worship. It's also true for worshipful giving. We must never give "reluctantly or under compulsion" (2 Cor 9:7).

Think about it this way: There's external forces acting on you all the time trying to suck money out of your pocket. You're reluctant, but they're going to try to compel you to part with your money. An advertisement, a good cause, a grubby little

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“You get what you gaze upon”

by Josh Martin

We often find ourselves pondering what the news of the day is. What the “Talking heads” are saying or even what rabbit hole on we have jumped into to hear what our itching ears want to hear. Or maybe the latest scuttlebutt on social media today has our attention. We have a tendency to become what we continually fill ourselves with.

What are you reading? What are you watching? What are you filling your mind with?

What does your daily mental diet look like? Youtube, TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Fox News, CNN? What do those things do for you? Do you feel more fulfilled or better by ‘feeding’ on them?

Many of the distractions take away from our lives. We end up with fear and discontent. There is a war going on for our minds and souls. Satan wants us to believe that God is not who he says he is. He wants us to believe that we are not who God says we are either.

In reality, God really is the creator of all things and worthy of our attention and praise. Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are grafted into the family of God. We are co-heirs with Christ, Sons and Daughters of the Most High God. We are Princes and Princesses of the King. We need to believe this truth.

What if we spent even a little bit more time in our Bibles to see what God really wants for us?

We have to start with God.

Matthew 22:37 says, “And he said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This isn’t a request. This is a command. Love God first! And do it with ALL your heart, soul and mind.

Deuteronomy 10:12 says, “what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,”

Requirements? Yes, God gives us requirements for our relationship with Him. “fear the Lord your God”. Either you fear God and fear nothing else or you find yourself fearing everything else. “Walk in all his ways” or do what He does. Do it though, don’t just talk about it. “Love Him”. This requires time. We need to spend time with Him, just like

we do with our wife/husband, boyfriend/girlfriend.

Intentional devoted time. “Serve the Lord your God”. Do what he says. Bring others to Him.

We need to spend time thinking on things above and not on things below like Colossians 3:2 says.

Homework:

For one day, try what Philippians 4:8 says: “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things.”

What will the Philippians 4:8 day be like? Will you want more? Will your thought life change as you focus on our Lord Jesus?

Now this isn’t just “positive thoughts” will make your day better. This is spending time actively and intentionally thinking on things that are good, but remember what God tells us to do. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.

Your relationship with God is the most important relationship to have. Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness. Build your relationship with Him by reading and meditating on His word. Be intentional and carve out time to be with Him each day.

May God bless you as you lean into Him.

Pastor Josh Martin

“God gives us requirements for our relationship with Him. “fear the Lord your God”. Either you fear God and fear nothing else or you find yourself fearing everything else.”



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

The Colson Corner: Commissioning

by Clark Hauger

The Colson Center is big on commissioning. It has beautiful biblical precedents: The cultural commission from Genesis 1:28 to fill the earth and subdue it and the great commission given by Christ in Matthew 28:18-20 to make disciples and teach them. It means to be assigned a mission to complete and the authority to do so. The word commission was taken hold of by navies. They would build a ship for a certain purpose and *commission* it and when it was “out of commission” it was brought to dry dock for repair in order to, Lord willing, be re-commissioned to another mission.

In May I will have the privilege, not of “graduating” from the Colson Fellows program, but rather to be commissioned into on-going service in Christ’s kingdom. I appreciate the distinction. One signals an arrival or completion and the other a beginning or re-beginning.

This May we find ourselves in a season of various commissionings. All throughout the land eighteen year-olds will be completing their secondary education and be “commissioned” to the post-secondary world; some to further education, some to military service, some to specific skill-based training and job, some to start a family, or to any number of other pursuits. Holding a Christian worldview, I would insist that any of these pursuits can be part of one’s God-given calling and purpose. To enter into any aforementioned trajectory without prayerfulness, wise counsel, and a missional mindset would be to be commissioned as a rudderless ship put out to sea.

There, too, is confirmation. Confirm what? At Lewis Lake we say: To confirm that “confirmands” have received careful teaching of the basics of the bible and how to live the Christian life. Regarding tradition, Martin Luther was loath to call confirmation a “rite” since he wanted to see the church distance herself from the Roman Catholic practices of confirmation as a sacrament[1]: a view which Catholics still hold [2]. Perhaps we should view confirmation as a

“commissioning” of young men and women into a deeper kind of soul-searching having now been presented with Jesus’ comprehensive teachings concerning Himself (Luke 24). They are now faced with a Joshua 24:15 sort of “choose whom you’ll serve” kind of reality: pondering, “Now that I know what this is all about, what must I do about it?”

I encourage you today to pray for our Lewis Lake graduates and confirmands. Pray that their next stages of commissioning would be fruitful and bring them closer to Christ. Also, encourage them. Talk to them. Ask them questions. See if you’re not encouraged yourself by how our young men and women are engaging with God, seeking His face, and preparing for their particular commissionings.

Clark Hauger

“Perhaps we should view confirmation as a “commissioning” of young men and women into a deeper kind of soul-searching having now been presented with Jesus’ comprehensive teachings concerning Himself”



Clark Hauger serves as the Worship Director here at Lewis Lake.

[1]<https://wels.net/faq/confirmation-practices/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CLutherans%20have%20never%20had%20a,and%20continuing%20in%20God's%20Word.>
[2][https://www.vatican.va/content/catechism/en/part_two/section_two/chapter_one/article_2/iii_the_effects_of_confirmation.html#\\$1KJ](https://www.vatican.va/content/catechism/en/part_two/section_two/chapter_one/article_2/iii_the_effects_of_confirmation.html#$1KJ)

Leaves

by Bob De Young

Recently I had the opportunity to hang around several high school students from Ogilvie High who were taking part in a work project in the community. The students went out in teams to give back to the community in some small way and to say thank you for all the support and encouragement that our community brings to our young people. My particular team had been given the task of raking leaves for a lady in our neighborhood. This was kind of a big job, but the young people tackled it with energy and perseverance, and the yard looked really good in the end.

In a way, as we rake up these old dead leaves, we are simply dealing with last year's beauty. As I sat around watching the young people raking, or I mean, as I was supervising, I realized that springtime really is an ugly time of the year. Everything is dull and brown and old. If you're honest, it really does not look very good. And, as we are going through the drudgery of gathering up and getting rid of last year's beauty, we are, at the same time, longing for the beauty of the coming year. We see the little buds on the trees, and we imagine these buds growing into beautiful leaves, swishing back and forth in the warm summer breezes. How wonderful it will be to be living in all the beauty once again.

This work crew of energetic teenagers was so efficient that they got their initial project done ahead of schedule. No problem, I said, and we jumped in the pickup and I took them to my house. As we pulled into my yard the students commented that there was not a leaf to be found. "Why don't you have leaves all over your yard" they asked? Well, I responded, I had a couple of really energetic guys who came and worked very hard with a machine that sucked up all the leaves, which were then, hauled away. I owe it all to them!

There is a beautiful Christian truth illustrated in all of this. We all long for a beautiful life. We realize that yesterday's beauty is now dull, and brown, and not that great anymore. We want the dead leaves to be swept clean away from us. Yesterday's efforts have not lasted. How can we arrive at the place where we have a beautiful life?

In II Corinthians 5:17 the Apostle Paul tells us of a very energetic guy who will come in and give our lives a cleaning, a sweeping, a purifying. Listen to the verse.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Jesus has done a work in the past that has resulted in the most beautiful cleaning job we have ever seen. He does not simply sweep away a few stray leaves from our lives. He gives us a newness that goes all the way to perfection! And this is not a result of our own efforts, but is accomplished by Jesus Christ, Himself, on the cross! When Jesus makes us into this new creation, there will be nothing left to do. We will stand there with a rake in our hands, but no raking will need to be done.

As I write this, the trees are beginning to green up. Soon the leaves will emerge, and the world will be beautiful once again. But this beauty is not going to be permanent. So let the new leaves remind you of the permanent newness, the eternal beauty, and the glorious purity that the Lord gives to all who take refuge in Him!

Pastor Bob

“as we are going through the drudgery of gathering up and getting rid of last year's beauty, we are, at the same time, longing for the beauty of the coming year.”



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 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.
May 9th 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.

Lewis Lake Men in Service to Our Community



Pauline Campbell, the Director of the Mora Crisis Pregnancy Center reached out to see if there would be anyone who could help them move to their new location near Dominoes pizza in Mora.

I committed to helping with "some guys" on 4/25 @ 9am. I showed up with 2 of my boys to find most of the guys that were coming already there. All accounted for, we had 8 men and 3 kids who were able to help. We prayed with Pauline and then got to work. The old facility was emptied in 45 minutes. We were able to get all the things wiped clean of dust and moved into the new space in about an hour. Donuts and pizza were offered and consumed. We were blessed to help Pauline and her staff and they were blessed by our willingness to help move them quickly. There are only 2 people that work at the Mora center. They needed help and God supplied us. ~ Pastor Josh

Dear EMAW,

4-27-26

Thank you, Pastor Josh, for organizing the move.

Thank you, Greg, for the use of your trucks + trailers.

Thank you to the two anonymous donors - one for the donation to the center and the other for the pizza to feed the workers.

Thank you to all of you for your time, expenses with gas, your excitement + willing hearts, and all your hard work! You amazed us at the center and we are so grateful!

You have made a big difference
in more ways than you can see
and more lives than you'll ever know.

God bless you for your faithful service. ☺

It was wonderful to see the varying ages working so well together, also.

As I've thought about you all, this verse comes to mind... "And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him - a threefold cord is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12

Serving with Joy - Pauline ☺

The Lord bless you and keep you.
NUMBERS 6:24 NIV

Confirmation Sunday, May 17, 2026

We will honor our Confirmands with a special presentation and open house following the worship service. 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.

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

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!:

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.

boy with his hand stuck out. You're giving as you respond to things outside you pulling at your money.

Worshipful giving operates by internal pressure. These are internal forces that are pushing money out of your pocket. Your passions, your desires. You (hopefully!) spend money on your wife because you love her. You buy stuff for your grandkids because you can't help it.

We give worshipfully when we give because we want to, and we want to because of how we feel about God. It's how we express our gratitude toward God for loving us and for saving us; it's how we show in a tangible way our love and devotion to God; it's how we express our love for each other, our community, and our world by supporting Gospel ministry, because we believe the more people worshipping God the better – for them, for us, for everyone.

That's the best kind of giving and the kind we should most encourage. And it's the only kind I believe the church is warranted to encourage and receive. It doesn't mean we can never receive funding in other ways, but we need to be careful whenever we wander beyond our warrant.

2. The church should operate differently than the world. Sometimes the church gets confused with a business. Small wonder. A church has boards, budgets, and organizational charts. Other times a church gets confused with a charity. Of course: it's a non-profit that helps needy people. People sometimes call the office asking for money because they think we're a charitable organization.

But the church is not a business, and it's not a charity. A church is... a church. It does charitable things, and sometimes acts in a businesslike way. But the church was Jesus' idea, and if Jesus wanted to start a business or a charity, he could have done that. But he didn't. He started a church.

The world is full of businesses and charities. And that's fine, I'm glad for most of them. Businesses and charities fund themselves in their own ways – businesses by selling a product, charities by selling their vision of compassion. That's all fine and good.

But the church isn't a business, and it's not a charity. It's a church, a spiritual institution. The church exists by the will of Jesus for the gathered worship of God's people and making disciples of Jesus. Churches are funded, not by sales and

services, not pressuring people to give, but by non-reluctant, non-coerced, worshipful, cheerful giving.

The church should operate fundamentally differently than the world, because the church is fundamentally an other-worldly entity. We want that difference to be obvious to even casual observers. We don't want to be confused for a business or a charity. We want to do things differently, because we are different.

3. The church's approach to giving sends a message. Finally, almost everything we do reflects our priorities and values. Churches in the Reformed tradition (like ours) place the pulpit in the center of the action because we most highly value the proclamation of the Word. Churches in other traditions place the altar in the center and push the pulpit to the side, because they have other priorities.

There's a sense in which a church needs money. Since at least Exodus, God's people have funded God's house, because God's house has bills, too. But the church has other needs, and larger ones. I propose that a church's biggest need is the presence and power of God. If God isn't present, a church isn't really a church anymore, whatever it calls itself. If God is present, I firmly believe he can move in the hearts of people to give sufficiently to fund the church's commitments and beyond. To paraphrase Jesus, if we seek His Kingdom first, all the other things we need will be added to us.

I never want us to communicate, especially to outsiders, that our biggest need is their money. If we have our hand out, it should be full of something we're giving away: Hope. Life. Forgiveness. The Word of God. The presence of God. I want people to think of us as a place to receive. And for that, we want to drive our well as deeply as we can in the unsearchable riches of God. I really believe if we do that, and we are a fountain of the blessings of God, God will bless us and meet our needs through the kindness of His people.



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



LAST NIGHT OF YOUTH GROUP IS MAY 20TH!



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.

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.



**A Family and Life Resource
Mora Crisis Pregnancy Center**

*Hours: Monday and Tuesday 11:00-4:00
(or by appointment)*

Because we care...

Think you might be pregnant?
We offer free pregnancy testing and a safe place to come.

Having a baby?
You can earn a crib or pack-n-play and full packages of diapers just by taking parenting classes.

Already a parent?
You can earn full packages of diapers and other baby items just by taking parenting classes.

Need diapers and baby clothes?
You can get diapers, clothing up to size 2T, and various baby items. Come with or without an appointment.



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**All services
are free and
confidential
with no income
requirements**

.....



Contact us

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Mora, Minnesota 55051

☎ 320-679-4493

@ moracpc1995@gmail.com



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 16th 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.



**Will Meet
Wednesday, May 20th
2:00 PM**

*“Have your heart right with Christ, and he will visit you often, and so turn weekdays into Sundays, meals into sacraments, homes into temples, and earth into heaven.”
— Charles H. Spurgeon*

Memorial Day Observance

Join us for an Ogilvie American Legion Color Guard Ceremony honoring those service men and women who paid the ultimate price. The ceremony will begin in the Lewis Lake Memorial Gardens once the Color Guard arrives and is set up. We anticipate their arrival between 9:30am and 10:00am.

Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

Please contact



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.



QUILT RETREAT

Getting Thouse Quilts Done!

MAY 15-17, 2026

Cost: \$20 per person

(covers registration as well as lunch and dinner for all three days-breakfast will be on your own)

Payment required at time of registration (non-refundable).

Space is limited to 12 established quilters,

Register in the app TODAY or use the QR code below.



What to bring:

Your sewing machine, quilting projects and supplies, Your preferred beverages (water, coffee and tea available), snacks to share if you wish.

The sewing area will be open from 9am to 9pm Friday and Saturday and after the Worship Service until 9pm on Sunday.

When you are done sewing for the day you can leave your project here and go home to sleep in the comfort of your own bed.

Contact Tami in the church office if you have any questions.

