

Soundings

January 2025 - 3509

Dear Friends:

As we come to the close of the year, we pause to reflect on God's faithfulness and look ahead with hope. January is a time of fresh beginnings, and at Lake Shore Church, we look forward to the newness that God brings into our lives and community.

As we embrace this season of new beginnings, we are reminded that the words we speak and the messages we receive shape our lives in powerful ways. This truth feels especially urgent in today's world, where words can be both a source of connection and a cause of division.

Words have never been more central—or more contested—than they are today. We live in a world where communication is instant, and opinions are abundant. Words can build up or tear down, inspire action or sow division. In such a noisy world, how do we discern which voices to trust? How do we ensure that our words reflect the truth, hope, and love we find in God?

At Christmas, we celebrate the good news of the Word made flesh—Jesus Christ. His life reminds us that God's Word is not just spoken but lived out through love, mercy, and grace. As we move into 2025, we will ask ourselves, "What word do I want to live by this year?"

Starting on January 12th, I'll begin a new three-week series titled "**Words to Live By.**" Together, we'll explore how God's words shape our lives and call us to speak with purpose, compassion, and courage. We'll ask: What does it mean to live by God's Word when it feels hard to trust what we hear? And how can our words become a source of encouragement, justice, and love in a divided world? My prayer is that this series will encourage us all to listen more deeply to God's voice and respond with grace-filled words in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

Be sure to mark your calendars for **January 26th**. We will have a **Unity Service at 10:30 am**, followed by our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. This gathering is an opportunity to elect church officers, review our 2024 financials, and see our budget for 2025.

As we enter 2025, let's commit to being people whose words and actions reflect the life-giving truth of Jesus Christ. May we be attentive to God's voice, courageous in following His call, and intentional in how we speak and live each day.

In Christ,



Pastor Adam

Lake Shore
CHURCH



Church Contact Information

Address

27801 Jefferson Ave
St. Clair Shores
MI, 48081

Phone

586-777-8533

Socials

Website: lakeshorechurch.com

Facebook: "Lake Shore Presbyterian Church"

Instagram: "lakeshore_church_"

Staff

Senior Pastor	Adam Grosch
Associate Pastor	Brendan Ashley
Office Manager	Stacey King
Bookkeeper	Michelle Decker
Communications Coordinator & Worship Leader	Jenna Dell
Organist	Michael Brooks
Choir Director	Ginny Stieler
Custodian	Beverly Wainio
IT	Kevin Saunders

Worship Schedule

Traditional at 9am
Modern at 10:45am

JOIN US FOR

"Fresh Feedback"

We value your feedback and want to hear both your positive experiences and any concerns about our church staff. To help us improve, we invite you to join the Personnel Team 15 minutes before each meeting. Your input helps us grow together! Personnel will not be meeting in January, so please note the next Personnel meeting below.

Next Meeting:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have any compliments or concerns about the church, please drop a signed note in the blue box on the atrium shelf. Your feedback is important to us, and session guarantees to review everything at their meetings. Thank you for helping to better this church!

Congregational Meeting - Following the January 26th Unity Service

The Lake Shore Church Session invites you to the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26th, 2025, immediately following the 10:30am Unity Service. During the meeting, we will hear the annual reports from various ministry teams, elect Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and members of the Nominating Committee, and address any other business that has been submitted to the Clerk of Session, Carole Koviak, by Sunday, January 12th, 2025. These items will be reviewed, discussed, and potentially recommended by the Session for action.

Your participation is important, and we hope to see you there!

CHURCH CLOSURE

This is a reminder as winter is in full swing, the church will be closed when Lake Shore, Lakeview or South Lake schools are closed due to inclement weather.

2025 Flowers Signup

You can now sign up to purchase the flowers that grace the sanctuary for the 2025 year. The sheet is now available on the bulletin board outside of the church office.

CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING AT LAKE SHORE CHURCH

Jeanette Mazmanian our Bookkeeper & Communications Coordinator will retire this December after working 15 years in our office. We say goodbye to her with a mix of both sadness and gratitude . We will miss seeing her smiling face and the sound of her infectious laughter whenever we visit the office as much as her willingness to help all of us at a moment's notice. We are thankful for her many years of faithful service to our church and membership. Her servant's heart has been a wonderful example of Christ's teachings in action.

Jeanette shared how much she enjoyed working for Lake Shore Church through these years and said she will miss the daily interactions with her church family the most. Sitting next to her co-worker and best friend, Stacy King, has been icing on the cake! She also voiced her gratitude for Pastor Adam saying how thankful she has been for his guidance and leadership.

She and her husband, Bob, plan to travel to Florida for the winter and are looking forward to spending more time with their family, especially their grandsons.

We celebrate Jeanette's retirement with her and wish her endless joy in this next chapter of her life.

Jeanette's role was broken out into two distinct part-time positions. Jenna Dell came on staff this past summer as our new part time Communications Coordinator. Jeanette trained her and helped her to become acclimated to her new responsibilities in this role.

This month Michelle Decker has started training with Jeanette to take over the bookkeeping duties. She is currently working two days a week in the office and in the future will spend one day a week in the office and one day working remotely.

Michelle is no stranger to LSC. She, along with her husband Ben and their three sons, were members here before moving away in 2015. All three boys were baptized at LSC, and during her time here, Michelle served alongside Cheryl Smark in the Food Pantry. She was also involved in various mission projects and MOPS. She has served in a volunteer role as Treasurer for her local elementary school for the past four years while being a stay-at-home mother. Michelle and her family love nature and hiking and spend time traveling when the boys aren't playing travel sports and participating in Cub Scouts.

Michelle started looking for a part time position recently when she came across the bookkeeper job description and thought it would be a great fit where she could utilize her degree in business. Training is going well and Michelle said she is grateful for Jeanette's help and patience during this process.

We are excited to have Michelle back and working in the office and wish her much success in her new role at LSC.

Updates

2025 Presbytery Support

The 2025 Presbytery Support (also known as Per Capita) is \$52.00 per church member. As a congregation, we are required to pay this amount for each member. Your annual contribution helps keep our church budget balanced—thank you for your support!

You'll find a designated envelope for this offering in your box of giving envelopes, or you can simply include a note with your electronic gift.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please feel free to contact our new bookkeeper, Michelle Decker, at the church office: 586-777-8533.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We received three thank-you notes from these organizations, highlighting just a few of the ways we made an impact this year!

The Second Mile Center

In May, we partnered with The Second Mile Center to support their community dinner event at Buffalo Wild Wings, as well as a fundraiser at Copper Hop. Our involvement with this organization helps address food insecurity and provide educational opportunities for children in our community, all rooted in God's love. These children face significant challenges, and our contributions make a lasting impact, not only in their daily lives but also in shaping brighter futures for them.

World Vision

During VBS in August, our VBS families raised \$330 for World Vision, a nonprofit dedicated to addressing the root causes of poverty and injustice. Through their holistic approach, they work to create brighter futures for children and families in need. In a show of support, our church matched this amount, contributing a total of \$660 to this impactful organization.

Hope Build

Macomb County Habitat for Humanity is a Michigan-based nonprofit focused on building affordable homes for low-income families, helping them break the cycle of poverty through homeownership. By partnering with volunteers, donors, and the Habitat ReStore, they provide families with the strength, stability, and self-reliance needed to build better lives.

In honor of Dave Tirsell, who served as our church liaison for this important organization, our church made a donation to support Habitat for Humanity's mission.

MISSION NEWS

Christmas Gift Tree

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Gift Tree. Through your generosity, 10 families (37 children) from our community, as well as 25 children from the Second Mile Center, received Christmas gifts. Each of the 10 families also received a holiday dinner basket and a food gift card. Your kindness brought Christmas joy to so many in need.

Clothes Closet/Food Pantry

In November, we served 228 families (703 individuals), and our dedicated volunteers worked 128.25 hours. If you're able to donate food items, we're in need of some pantry staples: chicken noodle soup, tomato soup, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, Spaghettios, noodles, cereal, and canned vegetables. Many of the guests who visit the food pantry live in temporary housing with limited cooking facilities, so basic, easy-to-prepare meal items are especially helpful.

Our Clothes Closet volunteers have been working tirelessly to organize and distribute donations. To make their job easier, please remember to donate only clean, current-season, smoke-free clothing.

On Monday December 9th, we had several families in need. One woman, who spoke no English, came with an interpreter. She had fled the war in Ukraine and was overwhelmed with emotion when she left our pantry with three bags of groceries, meat, and cheese. She expressed deep gratitude, sharing that she had visited other pantries but never returned because she felt treated poorly. She thanked us through her friend, saying how much it meant that we made her feel welcomed and cared for.

Thanks to the support of our church family, we are able to make a real difference in the lives of those struggling with food insecurity. We are so grateful for your ongoing contributions to the food pantry and Clothes Closet.

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

As the year comes to a close, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all those who work so hard in the pantry and the closet. From unloading the van and stocking the pantry to shopping for food, signing in guests, distributing bread and produce, packing bags, serving guests, and cleaning up, your dedication is truly appreciated.

A special thanks to Steve for his monthly trips to the County for food and to Pepperidge Farm for the free bread. And thank you to our "Closettes" for sorting and hanging clothes, helping guests find what they need, moving racks, and taking donated items to charity organizations.

Thank you all for your unwavering devotion to this mission and to our guests.

Peace and love in 2025,
Cheryl Smark

Youth Events

Join us for the **HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS**

**January
25th**

**Total cost:
\$35**

**@Oakland
University -
The Athletics
Center O'rena**

**Bus leaves from the church at 5:30pm
Game starts at 7pm**

The Globetrotters are the world's basketball team featuring some of the best athletes on the planet, with unmatched fan interaction, incredible ball handling, and other amazing tricks! We hope for you to join us!

Please note tickets are limited, and payment is required to reserve your spot

**Scholarships available through Sheryl Mieczkowski
For more information about scholarships or to register your child for this event, reach out to Sheryl at 586-549-3755**

Events

Lake Shore Church

Worship Night

Friday, January 31st at 7:00pm

Start the new year by lifting your heart in praise and worship! We invite you to an evening of music, prayer, and community as we come together to honor God and embrace the season of Epiphany. Whether you're seeking peace, renewal, or simply a deeper connection, we want you to come as you are.

**Bring your friends and family!
All are welcome!**

OPEN TO 6TH-12TH GRADERS



**FEBRUARY 14TH-16TH
TOTAL COST: \$220**

\$50 DEPOSIT TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

LOOKING FOR ANY LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS GIFTS? GIFT YOUR CHILD THE OPPORTUNITY OF GOING TO SPRING HILL! OUR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE THROUGH FUN ACTIVITIES LIKE BROOM BALL, SLEDDING, POWERFUL SPEAKERS, A HEADLINING CHRISTIAN ROCK BAND, AND SO MUCH MORE. IT'S AN AWESOME WEEKEND YOUR TEEN WON'T WANT TO MISS!

**REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY!
CONTACT SHERYL MIECZKOWSKI AT 586-549-3755**



Walking the Mourner's Path

The Walking the Mourner's Path workshop for January-February 2025 starts January 7th, the first Tuesday in January. If you or a loved one is still interested in this opportunity please reach out to Jenna at jenna@lakeshorechurch.com.

"The Mourner's Path" is a proven small group process that helps people who have lost a loved one come to a new place of healing and comfort. The program is biblically grounded in prayer and is facilitated by our pastor and those who have been through the Mourner's Path Training School.

January 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday Undecking the Halls	6	7 First week of Mourner's Path @7:30pm	8 Finance Team @4pm	9	10	11
12 Momco 6pm	13 Food Pantry 1pm-2:30pm Session 7pm	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 MLK Day Office Closed	21	22 Breakfast Bunch @2:30pm	23	24 Youth Event Harlem Globetrotters	25
26 Unity Service @10:30am - Congregational Meeting to follow Momco 6pm NO YOUTH GROUP	27 Food Pantry 1pm-2:30pm Deacons 7pm	28	29	30	31 Lake Shore Church Worship Night @7pm	

- Sunday Services**
- Traditional @ 9am
 - Modern @ 10:45am
- Child Care**
- Sunday School: ages three through grade five
 - Nursery: infants through age three
- Weekly Events**
- Sunday:**
- Youth Group @ 6-8pm
- Tuesday:**
- Band and Tech Team Rehearsal @ 6pm
 - Mourner's Path @ 7:30pm
- Wednesday:**
- Lake Shore Ukulele Strummers @ 1:30pm
 - Men's AA @ 7pm
- Thursday:**
- Girl Friend's in Christ (Small Group) @ 10am
 - Choir @ 7pm
 - AA @ 7:30pm
 - Al Anon @ 7:30pm
- Friday:**
- Office Closed
- Saturday:**
- NA @ 7:30pm



January Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1/1 Alison Grosch | 1/16 Jan Conflitti |
| 1/2 Sara Welch | 1/19 Nancy Burke |
| 1/3 Thelma Vernier | 1/20 Brian Malloy |
| 1/6 William Mazmanian | 1/21 Cecelia Barr |
| 1/7 Dolores Henry | 1/22 Judith Barton |
| 1/8 Adam Flees | 1/23 Margaret Sadler |
| 1/9 Kristi Droska | Margaret Ackerman |
| 1/11 Cynthia Phillips | Becky Bell |
| 1/13 Cameron Bell | 1/24 James Wunderlich |
| 1/14 Caleb Grosch | 1/29 Pamela Boyd |
| Alexis Hooper | 1/30 David Jenken Jr. |

January Anniversaries

- 1/1 Kelsie & Nicholas Isham
- 1/2 Pastor Adam & Alison Grosch
- 1/5 Al & Julie Bednarski
- 1/12 Ryan & Jessica Willmer
- 1/18 Paul & Kara Kraus
- 1/21 Katherine & Nicholas Collins
- 1/24 Nancy & Mike Boyle
- 1/26 Sheena & Patrick Michels

WINTER YOUTH EVENTS Look to the calendar for no youth days

Harlem Globetrotters Basketball Game 1/25

Super Bowl Sunday 2/9
Board games and tailgate

Spring Hill 2/14-2/16

