



Lewiston Community Church

The Beacon

August, 2025

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Community Church

Sunday Services at 10 am

or available on ZOOM

Contact the church for

access codes.

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Meet the Pastor

Hello! My name is Derek Mark Whitacre. Born June 25, 1976. I was raised by my Christian parents, Mark and Phyllis in a little town called Newport, Michigan. I grew up on the shores of Lake Erie along with my younger brother, Kyle and two younger sisters Wendy Jo and Becky Jo. With all of us being 2 years apart, our childhood was colorful and full of good memories to say the least.

My high school education included a freshman year at Jefferson Public School, two years at Gibraltar Baptist Academy and for my senior year a homeschool program thru Christian Liberty Academy was chosen by my parents and me. My brother and sisters also finished their schooling at CLA.

From there I moved on to Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Wisconsin as it was already clear to me that I had been called to pastor. As part of my theology course, I was required to help at a local church. For me, that turned out to be youth pastor at a little Baptist church in Horicon, WI. Though I learned much in the 2 years I lived in Wisconsin, in 1996 I decided to come back home to Michigan and spend the summer earning a little cash to pay for the next semester at a local factory in Taylor, MI. That 'summer job' ended up lasting 17 years! I got married, bought a house and started my life. It might seem like a mistake, like I had taken a wrong turn, but honestly now that I look back, I can see that the Lord had a few things to teach me about life that I wasn't going to learn at some fancy bible college.

In 2015 I accepted a position at TriPoint Church of God in Mio, Michigan as assistant youth director. Soon after I started, the salary of the entire church staff was drastically reduced in an effort to get the church's mortgage paid off. However, I was offered additional schooling in lieu of monetary compensation. I discussed this with my wife, Deanna, and decided that yes, it was time to move forward with my career as a minister and so I accepted their offer. 3 years later I completed the Leadership Focus program, received a minister's license for the state of Michigan and I was officially ordained by a council of my peers.

In 2019 I accepted a call to pastor a church called Fresh Start Ministries, now Fresh Start Community church in West Branch, Michigan. I have enjoyed 6 wonderful years helping this flock along and watching them grow both in size and in faith. Now the time has come to move on to a new church home. Lewiston Community Church is what I truly believe the good Lord has for us next and I cannot express to you in words just how excited my wife and I are about what God is doing in our lives and the way our path has crossed the path of LCC. To God be the glory!

God Bless You,

Pastor Derek



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From the Pastor's Desk

First, can I say on behalf of my wife and I; "God is good all the time, and all the time GOD IS GOOD!" From even before the first day that I was invited to preach for Lewiston Community Church we could clearly see the hand of God at work. As most of you know, I was already pastoring a church down in West Branch when I was asked if I would be interested in a full-time ministry in Lewiston. What that man who asked me didn't know is that my wife and I, for some reason, were discussing what we would do if ever the Lord were to call us away to some other ministry just the day before. We have felt the calling to the Lewiston area for some time now and when I found out that United Congregational Church of Christ had become Lewiston Community Church and that they were searching for a pastor well, all the pieces of God's plan started to fall into place for us.

I have been made aware of the importance of taking time for myself before starting this new calling. This is advice that I will heed as it comes by way of those who are wiser than I, though it will be hard to do as I am eager to get started.

I have been called to lead this church by the family of God and our Heavenly Father. I do not take this lightly. I am looking forward to learning all about our new church home and the town that it's situated in. In my first few days as pastor, my short-term plan will be two-fold.

First, I will be looking for ways to interact with the public in Lewiston. This might be accomplished by way of coffee in the morning with the guys at the local shop or hanging out down at the docks or maybe activities in town on the weekends and the various social clubs that are around. I will also be actively getting to know those families who make up our church a little better. I look forward to time with those who attend regularly and those who are unable to. Praying with them, ministering to them and just being someone to talk with and a friend who will listen is just as important during the week as it is on Sunday.

As for my plans for the church long term, I hope to see a music ministry, a youth ministry and even a bus ministry in our future! I am excited to see where the Lord will take us from here! Whatever God plans to use us for I know this much is true, we will show our neighbors the good work of our Savior and the Salvation that He has purchased for them rather than the punishment He has for sinners. -Amen

John 3:16,17 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Blessings, Pastor Derek



Lewiston Community Church The Beacon

July Photo Gallery



On July 11,
Avery
Huston was
crowned
2025
Alpenfest
Queen!



LCC has a new sign on the
corner of Kneeland St.
and 612! Special thanks
to Bearded Vinyl, and
Tom & Carol Clippard!



On July 18, Jacob Kibby & Emily Torres were married at LCC!



Lewiston Community Church The Beacon

Search Team News

Pastor Derek will start his service at our church on August 1. I want to thank the search committee: Karen Gibson, Nancy Render, Berta Reinhardt, Cindy Gallaway, Maurice Evans, and Ron Johnson, for their efforts throughout the entire process. Their dedication, prayers, discernment, involvement, and time made a powerful impact on the process and selection of Pastor Derek to lead our church. I would also like to thank Emily Gomez for her work and commitment to our church during these challenging transition times over the last few months. She often went beyond her traditional responsibilities to support our church. I am so grateful for and enjoyed working with this group during the search process. Please continue to pray for Pastor Derek and Deanna. – Ted Cox, Search Team Leader

Prayer Team

We are a committed group of prayers who are privileged to lift any requests to the Lord. You can ask for confidential prayer requests by emailing debfish33@hotmail.com. These requests will only be shared with the prayer team, and will be kept confidential. Or you can write down requests on the prayer list on the table just outside the sanctuary. These requests will be shared with the team, and also read during service. These requests are just for the week, unless you indicate that you would like continuous prayers by checking the box next to your request. Thinking about joining the prayer team? Call Deb Cox at 616-443-1848.



Ushers and Liturgists: A sign-up is in the narthex. If you have questions about ushering, contact Joan Penrod or being a liturgist, contact Nancy Render.

Sound & Visuals: We need help running AV, especially in the winter months. We will train you. If interested, please contact the church office.

Museum Greeters: The Lewiston Area Historical Society is in need of greeters to work a couple of hours on Saturdays. Contact Joan Penrod if interested. The LAHS is open 11am – 3pm Memorial Day – Labor Day

Care Team

If you need assistance with transportation to the doctor or other appointments, please contact the church office and assistance can be arranged.



Lewiston Community Church The Beacon

Operation Christmas Child

We will once again be participating in Operation Christmas Child, a part of Samaritan's Purse. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children around the World. We will have shoeboxes and labels **available in August** for you to complete. **The boxes must be completed in early November** and we will once again collect and deliver them. It's not too early to begin gathering items for the boxes. Ideas can be found at samaritanspurse.org. This initiative will be in addition to our regular participation with Community Sharing and the Heifer Project.

Mission Giving Schedule

March – Samaritan's Purse U.S. Disaster Relief

June – Lewiston Community Sharing

September – Samaritan's Purse Global Mission

December – Operation Christmas Child and Heifer International

Please contact Carol Clippard with questions or suggestions. cjclip1@gmail.com or 248-321-8005

Lewiston Community Sharing

Free Store 4615 Montmorency St. & **La Boutique** 4608 Montmorency St. are open on Wednesdays from 10 am-6 pm and Saturdays from 10 am-1 pm

Food Pantry 2887 Kneeland Street is open 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 10 am-1 pm. For more information contact: Deb or Marty Sansone at 989-254-3324 (call or text).

Email: lewistoncommunitysharing@gmail.com

Facebook: Lewiston Community Sharing

Venmo account @ Community Sharing-5.

Lewiston Community Sharing Wishlist

Yellow mustard, chicken noodle soup, spaghetti, and any other kind of pasta besides macaroni.

For your convenience there is a wooden box in the narthex for items you'd like to donate to Community Sharing.





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August

9 Laurie Michael
9 Sue Mitchell
11 Mary Beth Lake
15 Susan Cameron
17 Dave Pynnonen
22 Terrie Case
28 Karen Gibson

5	Greg & Linda Arbogast	1972
12	Dave & Diane Pynnonen	2002
15	Ted & Deb Cox	1976
16	Rod & Judith Carbarry	2003
16	Richard & Laura Korff	1997

If we have missed celebrating your birthday or anniversary, that means we do not have those dates. Please leave your information in the church office. We want everyone to be equally honored on their special day!

Lewiston Community Church Calendar

Timberfest

Welcome Potluck (bring a salad or dessert if able)

Church office closed for carpet cleaning

WOW (Widows or Widowers) Group Meeting

Concert: *Yankee Station* at Lions Park

Concert: *The Kufflinks* at Lions Park

Men's Luncheon at the Iron Kettle

Board of Diaconate and Trustee Meeting

Ukuladies

Friday, August 1 & Saturday, August 2

Sunday, August 3 after 10am service

Thursday, August 7

Thursday, August 14 at 2pm

Thursday, August 14 at 6pm

Thursday, August 21, 6pm

Monday, August 11 at noon

Monday, August 18 at 10am

every other Thursday at 1:30pm

AA meets at the church on
Monday, Thursday and Saturday
at 8 p.m.



If you need to use a hearing assist, please ask an usher to get one for you.



Lewiston Community Church The Beacon

Library – Featured Book

Hearts of Fire, Eight Women in the Underground Church and their Stories of Costly Faith

Women have always been significant in the cause of Christ. *Hearts of Fire* thrillingly describes the work of eight women whose mission continues to be telling the world that He is risen, and with that resurrection comes love, grace, and forgiveness.

Our library has so many books that will build up your faith and help you to be bold for the Savior. You are welcome to browse thru the shelves anytime Emily is in the office.

When taking books out of the library you can sign a sheet located in the Return Tray on top of the file cabinets. When you are finished just leave the book in the Return Tray and we will reshelve it for you. If you have newer book you would like to donate, just leave them in the Return Tray.

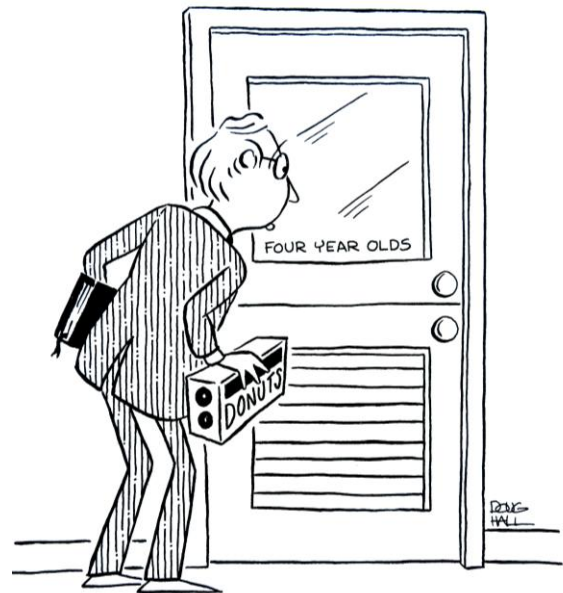
If you have items for the Beacon, please send them to Emily Gómez via email:

lewistoncommunitychurch@gmail.com. **The deadline for the next issue is August 19, 2025 at noon.**

The deadline for announcements or items you would like listed in the Sunday Bulletin is Wednesdays.

PLEASE CONTACT EMILY IN THE
CHURCH OFFICE IF:

- You have not been receiving emails from the church
- You wish to have your Beacon sent to you by US mail
- You have a Lewiston P.O. Box to add to your mailing address
- You'd like to be removed from the email or mailing list



Armed to the teeth, Sunday school teacher
Nat Willowby prepares to do battle with
the forces of darkness.