



# Lewiston Community Church The Beacon

September, 2025

**Pastor: Derek Whitacre**  
989.342.0016  
PastorDerekLCC@gmail.com  
**Office Manager/Editor:**  
**Emily Gómez**  
989.786.4764  
lewistoncommunitychurch@gmail.com  
**Moderator:**  
**Cindy Gallaway**  
**Clerk: Deb Larner**  
**Church Office Hours:**  
T-TH 9 am – 4 pm  
**Facebook:** Lewiston Community Church

Sunday Services at 10 am or available on ZOOM  
Contact the church for access codes.

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## From the Pastor's Desk



*Phillipians 3: 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

From the bottom of our hearts, my family and I would like to thank all of you for the warm welcome that we received on our first Sunday at Lewiston Community Church on August 3. What a great time of worship and fellowship it was! At the end of service my wife and I stood at the back of the sanctuary near the front door to greet everyone as they made their way downstairs. We were truly blessed with encouragement and kindness from each and every one of you.

From the prayers at the beginning to the Communion service at the end, the entire service clearly had touched many people in their hearts and reached them in their souls. I couldn't help but smile for the rest of the day because of the Holy presence that was in that building on Sunday morning. It was so full of joy and the Holy Spirit. All of us could feel it and it was wonderful.

I look forward to serving this congregation as pastor for many years to come. My family is excited as well. I don't know exactly where God is taking LCC but I am certain that He has great things planned for us in the years to come. So, I guess we'd all better buckle up, be on guard and get ready to be BLESSED!

Pastor Derek



# Lewiston Community Church The Beacon

## Operation Christmas Child - 2025

"Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." Bob Pierce wrote those words after visiting suffering children in Korea. This led him to found Samaritan's Purse in 1970. The mission of this organization was to "meet emergency needs in crisis areas through existing evangelical mission agencies and national churches". When Pierce died in 1978, Franklin Graham became president of Samaritan's Purse and he has continued the mission of Bob Pierce by leading the ministry through hurricanes, earthquakes, wars, and famine around the world, following the Biblical example of the Good Samaritan.

In 1993, Graham started a ministry called "Operation Christmas Child" to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to suffering or needy children around the world. By filling a simple shoe box with gifts for needy children, Operation Christmas Child has communicated to children around the world what the angel said to the shepherds about Jesus' birth, "I bring you news of great joy that will be for all the people". (Luke 2:10). Since 1993, 220 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene items and a gospel message. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many children, is their first gift ever, it also gives them a tangible expression of God's love. Shoebox gifts are collected by faithful partners around the world including the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Finland, and the United Kingdom and delivered to children wherever Samaritan's Purse has identified need.

Again this year, we will be participating in Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. Shoeboxes will be available this month in the narthex with thorough directions on how to build and fill your shoebox. A list of suggested items will be on your shoebox label that you will pick up with your shoebox. It also will include items not to be packed in your box, such as food, candy, liquids, lotions, medications, glass items, etc. It is not too early to get started filling your shoeboxes!

A \$10.00 donation to cover the cost of shipping can be packed in your box in cash or check made out to Samaritan's Purse.

Last year we delivered 85 shoeboxes to our deliver site, E-Free Church in Gaylord. Our goal this year is 100! I know we can do it!! The deadline for dropping off your shoebox at the church is Sunday, November 16. However, you can bring your shoeboxes back to church anytime you have them completed. It is fun to watch the number of boxes grow over the next few months. Feel free to take as many boxes as you want. Give them to friends and family to fill as well.

Thank you for your participation in this ministry for children in need. Our church may be small in number, but we have proven to have very big hearts! If you have any questions at all about Operation Christmas Child, please call Nancy Render at 231-499-7353 or find me at the Operation Christmas Child table in the narthex.

Going for 100 boxes with your help and support,  
Nancy Render



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Gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are delivered together with **the Good News of Jesus Christ** as expressions of God's immense love for a child. **So, be sure to make them ...**

**FUN:** Include a quality "wow" item to delight the child, such as ...

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal

**FULL:** To fill empty spaces, add school supplies and personal care items, such as ...

- Pens, pencils, crayons, and notebooks
- Sunglasses
- Flashlights

**PERSONALIZED:** Make sure every shoebox is unique and covered in prayer.

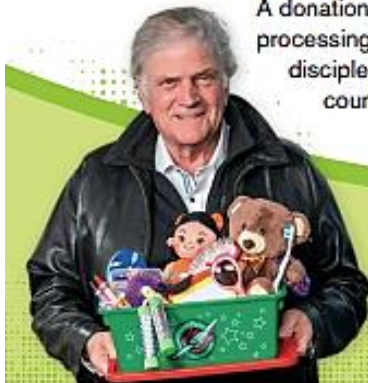
Include a note of encouragement and photo of you, your family, church, or group to further personalize the gift. These personal letters often are children's favorite shoebox items!

Wondering  
if certain items  
are OK to pack?  
**See our gift  
suggestions and  
search tool:**



### WHERE WILL IT GO?

A donation of \$10 per shoebox is critical to help cover collecting, processing, and shipping gifts to equip local churches for evangelism and discipleship. Give online through Follow Your Box and discover the country destination of your gift through our Look-up Tool.



**"Shoebox gifts are like  
snowflakes—no two are alike!"**

*—Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse*

VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT [SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE](http://SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE).



Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®.  
Franklin Graham, President | 1-800-353-5949 | [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org)  
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# Lewiston Community Church The Beacon

## 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](mailto: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.

## Continuing Prayer Requests

Andrea Merritt

Jay Kipina

Jean Moeller

Nancy White

Peg Agren

Sherry May

Shirley Wolf



## Care Team

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

**Ushers and Service Leaders:** A sign-up is in the narthex. If you have questions about ushering, contact Joan Penrod. For questions about being a service leader, contact Nancy Render.

**Sound & Visuals:** We are looking for musicians and people experienced in running AV to help with Sunday services. These individuals do not need to be part of the congregation. Please spread the word and contact the church office if you know of anyone who might be interested.

**Facebook:** Follow us on Facebook @Lewiston Community Church (make sure it's our church in Lewiston, MI, there are other churches with the same name). We can broadcast live services on Facebook Live once we have 100 followers.







## Lewiston Community Church The Beacon

### Mission Giving for September: Samaritan's Purse Global Mission

For over 50 years, Samaritan's Purse Global Mission has done its utmost to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. Our gifts ensure that teams will be able to reach hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance to those with unfathomable needs.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Food Pantry & Free Store Wishlist

**Free Store:** plastic grocery bags, Men's 28" – 32" work pants and jeans.

**Food Pantry:** ketchup, pasta (no macaroni), soup, canned fruit, mixed veggies, cereal, paper towels.

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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### September

2 Aubrey Peppin  
3 Wendy Huston  
8 James Madison  
10 Linda Arbogast  
10 Fidelis Parrish  
13 Elmo Wolf  
14 Avery Huston  
15 Samantha Dikeman  
20 Mary Woosley  
22 Dave Engel  
27 Madison Peppin  
29 Owen Lake

11 Elmo & Shirley Wolf 1965  
14 Maurice & Susan Evans 1974  
19 James & Amanda Lake 1998  
21 Dave & Sue Engel 2004  
30 Shawn & Wendy Huston 2000

*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

**Men's Lunch** at the Iron Kettle

**WOW (Widows or Widowers) Meeting**

**Board of Diaconate and Trustee Meeting**

**Coffee & Cars on Kneeland St. (Outside Chamber)**

**Ukuladies**

**Deadline for October issue of The Beacon**

Please note (from Donna Vasher): The **14th Annual Women's Mini-Retreat** to be held on Saturday, September 6th 2025 has been cancelled for this year.

**Monday, September 8 at noon**

**Thursday, September 11 at 2pm**, Lew. Lodge

**Monday, September 15 at 10am**

**Monday, September 15, 5-8pm**  
**every other Thursday at 1:30pm**

**Tuesday, September 23 at noon**

**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

*Jesus, The God Who Knows Your Name, by Max Lucado*

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood" John 1:14

Didn't have to, did he?

Jesus could have become a voice--a voice in the air.

Jesus could have become a message--a message in the sky.

Jesus could have become a light--a light in the night.

But he became more, so much more. He became flesh.

Jesus came to be near You. What a beginning. What an entrance. What a moment.

Look long into the heart of Christ and you will see more clearly the person you were created to be.

There are so many books in our library that will speak to you in all phases of life. Come in and explore the shelves, and take something new home to read.

*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 September 23, 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

