

Soundings

December 2025 - 3509

Lake Shore
CHURCH

Dear Friends,

The holidays are upon us. Halloween and fall decorations have already given way to Christmas. There has been a friendly argument in our house about whether Christmas decorations are allowed to go up *before* Thanksgiving. One of our kids wants to hold the line for the sake of Thanksgiving. He won the argument at home, but in public life he is certainly on the losing side. Christmas seems to come earlier every year—even though it always arrives on December 25th!

We have some great Christmas outreach events coming up!

The first is **Cookies with Santa**. I invite you not only to attend but to invite others! This is an outward-facing community event that is sure to be filled with fun and will include the telling of the Christmas story. It's the kind of event that's easy to invite people to, and a wonderful way to offer an introduction to the Lake Shore Church community.

Later in the month, on **December 16**, we are once again partnering with Motor City Mitten Mission and Shorewood Kiwanis to host a **Christmas Dinner celebration** for families who are unhoused or precariously housed. I am grateful that, as a church family, we get to share Christ's love in such a tangible way this Christmas.

We're also making a small change to our Sunday schedule leading into Christmas. Our choir has suggested a **Unity Service** on **December 14**, and we're going to try it! They will host a free lunch following that service and invite us to stay afterward for an hour-long Christmas concert. Then, on the Sunday before Christmas, we are bringing our **Children's Pageant** into our morning worship service—the kids will bring us the message by sharing the Greatest Story Ever Told. And be sure to join us on the Sunday after Christmas, as we gather for worship, bid farewell to Pastor Brendan, and continue to celebrate the good news of Jesus' birth.

No matter where your heart is this Christmas—whether you are filled with joy or grief, weariness or energy, longing or contentment, whether you are feeling alone with nothing to do or overwhelmed by invitations and parties—I pray that your experiences with Lake Shore Church this year will help center you in the hope, peace, joy, and love that come to us not through the trappings of the season, but through a relationship with the living God, who came to us as a baby.

Grace and peace,



Pastor Adam

P.S. You don't need to invite everyone. Think of just one person or family to invite to Cookies with Santa or Christmas Eve—and invite them to come with you.

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_](https://www.instagram.com/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	Laurel Wayland
Choir Director	Ginny Stieler
Custodian	Beverly Wainio
IT	Kevin Saunders

CHURCH CLOSURE

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

OFFICE HOURS THROUGH THE NEW YEAR

Monday-Thursday
9am to 5pm
Closed 12-1pm
for lunch.

Worship Schedule

Sundays - Traditional @ 9am, Modern @ 10:45am

Nursery care available at both services (infants through age three)
Sunday School at the modern service (ages three - 5th grade)

WHAT CHILD IS THIS? BEYOND THE LULLABY

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

WE LIVE IN A TROUBLED AND COMPLEX TIME. WE SEE HORRORS UNFOLDING ALL OVER THE WORLD AND WE ASK, "HOW DO WE FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM THE HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE OF THE SEASON?" OUR SERIES SEEKS TO ADDRESS THIS QUESTION BY LEANING INTO JESUS' IDENTITY. WE TAKE AS INSPIRATION THE FAMOUS CHRISTMAS CAROL, "WHAT CHILD IS THIS?" WRITTEN BY WILLIAM CHATTERTON DIX IN 1865 ALONG WITH THE SCRIPTURES AND THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT SURROUNDING JESUS' BIRTH. IN THESE THINGS WE FIND THAT GOD'S STORY RUNNING RIGHT INTO THE RECURRING THEMES OF OPPRESSION AND CORRUPTION THAT MARK OUR HUMAN STORY.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST | 7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

HOSTED BY THE DEACONS | GUEST SPEAKER RUTH AZAR
SPECIAL OFFERING FOR THE SECOND MILE CENTER
COOKIE/PUNCH RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Lake Shore Church brings you...

COOKIES WITH Santa

December 6th @5pm

Hand deliver your Christmas list to Santa and Mrs. Claus, decorate delicious holiday cookies and beautiful cards, then gather to hear the story of Christ's birth - the reason for the season!

SPRING HILL

Annual Youth Winter Retreat

Gift your child this Christmas an unforgettable weekend of faith, fun, friends, and the full SpringHill experience!

When: Feb 13th-16th

Cost: \$230

Who: All youth 6th-12th grade

Your retreat experience includes:

- Lodging
- All meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch)
- Transportation by bus
- Full programming
- Most on-site activities

Make Sure to Reserve Your Spot!

Final registration is due by 1/11/2026.

RSVP to Sheryl at 586-549-3755 and pay a \$50 deposit to hold your spot.

Once your deposit is received, you'll receive the registration link.

Unused spots will be released after that date, and additional spots cannot be guaranteed.

Contact Sheryl for information on scholarships we have available for students to attend this awesome experience

Raising Kids in Faith

A Conversation for Parents & Caregivers

Jan 17th
10am-12pm

Join Pastor Adam for a single, 2-hour conversation on what it really looks like to raise children in Christian faith today. We'll talk about a simple theology of kids and faith, practical parenting frameworks, and how the Bible shapes the way we nurture our children. We'll also explore everyday practices—like prayer, worship, gratitude, and serving others—that help faith take root at home, not just at church.

The class will also cover the significance of baptism and the promises that parent(s) make at baptism to "raise their children in faith and in the life of the church," and what those promises look like in real life amid busy schedules, big questions, and imperfect families. There will be plenty of room for questions, sharing, and encouragement—no perfect parents required.

You'll walk away with:

- A clearer understanding of what Christian faith looks like at different ages.
- Simple ideas for prayer, Bible reading, and worship at home.
- Ways to talk about God and Jesus in everyday moments.
- A fresh sense of what your baptism promises mean today.

Register online at
lakeshorechurch.com/events

YOU'RE INVITED! CHILDREN'S *Christmas* PAGEANT

"THE GREATEST STORY
EVER TOLD"

Sunday, December 21st
Unity Service at 10:30am

Join us for a heart-warming and joy-filled celebration as our amazing children bring the Christmas story to life in the most beautiful way! From prophets to soldiers from angels to shepherds, come hear our angelic voices and a message of hope that never grows old, this year's pageant promises to be unforgettable. Bring your family, invite your friends, and come ready to be inspired by the true meaning of Christmas—told through the eyes and hearts of our children. Meet us in the Welcome Center following the pageant for a cookie and punch reception. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Youth Caroling

December 14th
5pm-8pm

Our youth group will be caroling to you this holiday season! If you would like carolers to come to your house to spread some Christmas cheer, contact Sheryl Mieczkowski at 586-549-3755

Chancel Choir Concert December 14th

Merry Christmas!
The Chancel Choir and the staff at Lake Shore Church are offering a day of worship, eats, and music!

Combined worship at 10:30
Lunch 11:45-12:30
Choir Concert 12:45

Join us for a wonderful day
of fellowship!

Kiwanis Christmas Dinner

DECEMBER 16TH

Join us for our 2nd Annual Christmas Dinner Celebration as we bless families in need this holiday season. The evening will include a dinner, presents, giveaways, and a special sharing of the Christmas Story by Pastor Adam. If you are interested in serving at this event, please email pastoradam@lakeshorechurch.com. This event is made possible through a three-way partnership with Motor City Mitten Mission, Shorewood Kiwanis, and Lake Shore Church.

youth group movie night

December 28th
Mark your
calendars!

CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING AT LAKE SHORE CHURCH:

Hi, beloved saints!
Greetings! I hope this December newsletter finds you in good spirits. If not, then I hope it finds you in a little bit for the road ahead. I write to you with much gratitude and sorrow. My heart is so full, and the hurt is because my time here has been so good. I wish I could have had more time to be with, and work with you all. Alas, I trust the Lord will turn that ache and pain into joy for the season ahead, and for the people that God is calling me to next. Officially, I have been with you all for three years. For those brothers and sisters on the APNC, you worked and prayed for and searched for me for much longer than three years. Thank you for all your time, energy, and talents that you expressed in your search for me. You are the first church to call me and ordain me as a minister of Word and Sacrament. You guys wanted ME! As a young man, this has given me so much confidence about my pastoral gifts.



Really though, you are the church I have had many first-time experiences with being a pastor and growing as a pastor. You are also the church that has helped me in countless ways personally, practically, and vocationally. From the opportunities to organize, plan, and lead worship and the teams that coincided with this; the role of expanding our outreach, by dressing up like a turtle, and running around to make sure people had water on a hot Memorial Day; or putting together follow up lists to reach out to attendees to keep them abreast of what is happening in the life of our church (I can’t forget all the people that worked with me on teams to make these times special and full). Oh, there were also opportunities to read books and study God’s word with people, start new teams, and work on all thing's media for the church (Again, I learned so much and grew so much over these three years).

You all have changed how I pastor in today’s world. I have the tradition of being Presbyterian, and the faith that we are still moving forward with reform in the world we are called to dwell and work amongst with Jesus. The Lord truly was glorified in our work together in this place over the last three years. Lest I forget, I learned so much from continuing education engagements, wise elder statesmen and stateswomen telling me to “work smarter, not harder,” or “Look up when you are speaking to us,” and, of course, the staff who made the work environment one of meaning and purpose. Most importantly though, my heart was exposed here, albeit in the midst of all the job description items and roles I played. All these things I did and can do going forward, however, true pastoral call comes from the heart. The Spirit spoke through all that I am, said, and did here, through the Word, service, and people. She said to me, “Brendan, you are a relational pastor. This is your greatest gift to Me. This is the greatest gift you can offer yourself and people who need a friend and companion of faith along the way, truth, and life of Jesus.” Lastly, and not least, I am super grateful that I got to work with Pastor Adam. He is one of the best pastors in the PCUSA, and beyond. His heart for the Lord is pure, and his convictions for the church are true. We really have nothing to fear in the work we do here on earth together. Adam taught me that there is so much hope in each one of our faiths. Adam’s leadership proves this. Keep following the Lord and remember how much God loves you. Like, He really does. You are His greatest work, so live like it. As one of my mentors taught, “God didn’t make no junk.” Don’t wait for someone to tell you that or give you the “get to heaven quick pass.” You have it here at Lake Shore Church, and other people need it too. I leave you with these goodbye words from the lyrics of a popular song, “[Brendan], you don’t have to go home, but you can’t stay here.” It’s been a blast. See you on the other side. ;)

Written and Submitted by Brendan Ashley
Photos Taken by Sophia Liolli

Christmas Gift Tree

The Christmas Gift Tree will be ready on Sunday, November 30th. The envelopes on the tree will include all gift information for each child or for a family Christmas dinner. The children attend school in SCS and have been selected by school counselors, and we also have 20 children from the Second Mile Center included this year. Each child age 12 and under will receive a shirt, pants, and a toy or game. You may add small extras like socks or gloves, but please remember there may be other children in the family. Children ages 13–18 will receive a shirt. Each family will also have a card on the tree for a complete Christmas dinner along with a food gift card. Adding a few extra food items to your basket is always appreciated. All gifts and food baskets must be brought to the church on December 21 before the end of second service. After service, we will sort everything by family, and all gifts and food will be picked up that day at 1:00. Thank you for your kindness and generosity in bringing Christmas joy to families who need a little extra help this season.



December 7th 12-12:45pm

Wondering what your next step in faith might be? Whether you're new or already feel at home at Lake Shore Church, join us for a casual conversation with our pastors. You'll learn more about our church, ways to get involved, and why membership matters. It's a great chance to ask questions, connect, and explore what it means to belong. Everyone's welcome—we'd love to get to know you!

MISSION NEWS

Food Pantry / Clothes Closet

We have been so blessed by the outpouring of support from businesses and individuals in our community who have held food drives for our pantry. Thank you to everyone who has helped keep our shelves stocked—we truly feel the love from all of you.

Our clothes closet will reopen in December. We closed for November to reorganize and regroup. We are accepting only clean, gently used, smoke-free fall and winter clothing and linens. We do not have space to store out-of-season items. Thank you for your donations.

We are also looking for volunteers for the clothes closet to help sort, hang, and arrange clothing, as well as assist our guest families on open pantry days. If you're interested, please contact me at casmarkl@wowway.com.

- December Pantry Hours
- Monday, 12/8 from 12:30–2:30pm
 - Wednesday, 12/17 from 4:30–6:30pm
 - Monday, 12/22 from 12:30–2:30pm












Sunday School Project

On Sunday, 11/16, our Sunday School kids packed 300 bags of candy to be donated to Westminster Church for their Thanksgiving dinner treats. The kids did an awesome job, and we decided that blessing bags will be our next project.

Ardmore School Project

On 11/6, the newly formed Kindness Club at Ardmore School partnered with us to pack 125 sandwiches and treat bags for the MCWARM program at St. Margaret, SCS. The kids did a wonderful job. Our next project on 11/20 will be mini blessing bags with socks and snacks to be donated to Motor City Mitten Mission.

Thank you for always supporting Mission. There are so many in need right now, and we are grateful to be able to help.

  <h1>DECEMBER</h1>  						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 	1 Candlelight Communion Service 7pm 	2	3 Finance Team 2pm	4	5	6 Cookies with Santa 5pm
7  Membership Matters 12pm	8 Food Pantry 1-2:30pm 	9	10 Bayview Bunch 12pm	11	12	13 Cops for Kids 8am
14 Choir concert and lunch 12pm Youth Caroling 5pm Unity Service 10:30am	15 Deacons 7pm Session 7pm	16 Kiwanis Dinner	17 Food Pantry 5-6:30pm 	18	19	20  Children's Pageant Rehearsal 1pm
21 Children's Christmas Pageant and Gift Sunday Unity Service 10:30am	22 Food Pantry 1-2:30pm 	23	24 Christmas Eve Modern 4pm Traditional 9pm 	25 	26	27
28 Brendan's Last Day Youth Movie Night Unity Service 10:30am	29	30	31 Church Closed	Church Closed	2	3

December Important Worship Dates



Unity Services @ 10:30am:
December 14th, 21st, and 28th
January 4th

Christmas Eve Services
Modern 4pm; Traditional 9pm

December Anniversaries

12/2 Bruce & Sandra Appel
12/10 James & Linda Whitman
12/27 Carol & Patrick King
12/31 Margaret & Dan Ackerman

December Birthdays

12/1 Mary Chase	12/19 Jean Rohde
Dan Spear	12/20 Holly Wernet
Bruce Appel	Allen Dickinson
Ken Bolt	Karine Kraus
12/3 Linda Young	12/22 Barb Montgomery
12/4 Linda De Mers	Nicholas Collins
12/6 Sandra Appel	12/26 De Anna Hohn
12/8 Joshua Guske	12/27 Issabella Beattie
12/14 Nicholas Hunter	12/28 Gail Hall
Summer Markovitch	Nicholas Isham
12/15 Madelynn Isham	12/29 Kennedy Corbett
12/16 Troy Mazmanian	12/31 Lillian Claycomb
12/17 Gerald Spiewak	

