

Soundings

January 2026 - 3509

Lake Shore
CHURCH

Dear Friends:

As we usher in the New Year, many of us will undoubtedly name some resolutions and fresh goals. For many of us (myself included), this annual exercise is more aspirational than anything else. Yes, I want to be healthier, more organized, more ahead of the game. These are good things, and I really do want to be committed to them! But if I'm honest, that kind of commitment tends to put it all on me. It tends to depend on my willpower to achieve a new state of being. And inevitably I end up feeling the burden of it all and reverting back to my old ways.

This January, rather than focusing on commitments we make to ourselves, I'm going to be talking about **Christian commitment. If resolutions are promises we make to ourselves, Christian commitment is a life we surrender to Someone else.**

Christian commitment doesn't start with us but rather with God. From Genesis onward, we see a God who is committed to us—who keeps showing up, and whose faithfulness means He will never let us go. And so, when we respond, it is never about earning God's love. We commit because God has already committed to us. And as we experience God's steadfast love, it draws us in and changes us.

Many are afraid of commitment these days. Commitment can feel like obligation—like one more thing to do. We assume commitment requires constant intensity, passion, and emotional energy. But Christian commitment often lives in the quiet, repeated, and ordinary. It looks like showing up again. Praying again. Serving again. Trying again. Forgiving again. **Our commitment to God is never about arriving somewhere or reaching perfection; it is about returning – again and again - to the One to whom we belong.**

And the beautiful thing about this practice is that we don't do it alone. As a church, we coalesce around the practice of commitment as we gather week by week to proclaim what is true. We worship, we confess, we learn, we serve—and we are formed, not merely by information but a shared life shaped by the faithfulness of God.

As we step into a new year, my prayer is not simply that we would “try harder.” My prayer is that we would respond to God's initiative. That is why I'm excited about **Experiencing God.** It's not a “try harder” program; it's an invitation to pay attention—to discern where God is moving—and then to respond with obedience. The work is personal, but as we practice together—an individual “yes” to God can become a shared step forward as God's people.

I am excited to see where God will take us in 2026. The path is lit and God is faithfully leading the way. **May our commitment be a simple, steady “yes” to His invitation.**

In Christ,



Pastor Adam

Church Contact Information

Address

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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 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.

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS RESUME

Monday-Thursday
8am-6pm
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)
Look to the calendar page for January's unity service schedule

Called AND Committed

January
Sermon Series

In the month of January we will be diving into what it means to be committed to God not just in ourselves, but as one church body.

Because God committed Himself to us in Christ, we say "yes" and step into the journey with him, and we do that not alone but as a unified community on mission.

Congregational Meeting

January 25th following the 10:30am Unity Service

The Lake Shore Church Session invites you to the Annual Congregational Meeting immediately after worship. Please note this will not be live-streamed. We will hear ministry reports, elect Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Nominating Committee members, and address other business. Your participation is important, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Small Group Shoutout!

Bayview Bunch is a welcoming small group at Lake Shore Church that meets semi-monthly. During each meeting, they enjoy a time of fellowship with snacks and beverage, while diving into the discussion topic for that week. In December, they celebrated the Christmas holiday. If you have interest in joining this group, please reach out to Debbie Rowe.



CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING AT LAKE SHORE CHURCH:

Imagine, a cold wintery Saturday night. The church is staged for an event. Santa's sleigh parked out back. He is set up and ready for selfies and gift lists. The Welcome Center is set up for writing cards and "decorating" cookies (really, set up for eating cookies), and the Sanctuary is filled with Christmas songs and the screens are ready for the Nativity Story, hosted by our very own, Brian Moore. The volunteers are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the kids and their parents. Auntie clause and Santa's helper wait in the atrium to guide and direct children and their families to the right stations. We had a successful year of events, the Chili-off with Karaoke, Memorial Day float, VBS, Lake Shore on the Lawn, the Pumpkin Patch, and Trunk N Treat (TNT). Moreover, what I have been alluding to above is our Cookies with Santa event, which just occurred earlier last month.



Now remember, we were also hosting this event for the first time in over four years. I had been preparing for this event for months in the lead up to this day. I was securing a Santa, sharing opportunities to serve with volunteers, putting supply lists together, working with Pastor Adam and Debbie Rowe on the event: decorations, timing, purpose, marketing and advertising, and what kids and families would do at the event. The final month I marketed and advertised with pamphlets, QR code sign-ups, word of mouth invitation, and through the powerful Planning Center Registrations app. That app allowed me to send an invite and the registration page to over two-hundred and fifty families. Out of those two hundred fifty, one-hundred were people not affiliated with the church, but who attended our TNT event. As a result, forty out of the seventy people who attended the event (out of the 140 who signed up or showed interest), were returning visitors from our TNT event. Additionally, I created an event on Facebook that had fifty people show interest or RSVP to Cookies with Santa.



As the ring leader during the event, I was running from station to station making sure people had seen Santa, and knew which of the three nativity story groups was up next. Then, during the first nativity story time, I kept saying, "the next nativity story is five minutes." I noticed that I was going to have a difficult time because to my surprise, the kids were decorating cookies and consuming them just as quickly as they made them, and more vociferously and surprisingly, writing cards. The one part of the event I was most nervous and unsure about was the card writing station. I thought I was competing against cell phones and gaming systems. The Holy Spirit made me a holy fool that night. The kids were dialed in and making sure that no one this year was being left out of the Christmas season: fun and fellowship.

This really is the cherry on top for all the other events and their success this year. As we planned and offered them, the Lord surprised us with how much interest people have, not only in the fun events, but the life of our church. In the same way, I was surprised that kids would want to write and send a card to those who need our love and support the most. It is not typically what we associate with fun, but it is amazing to shower others in God's love, and seeing their response to it. We saw hundreds of new contacts and numerous people interested in, and showing up to, what we are doing as a community here at Lake Shore Church. Thanks for joining in on the celebration and I pray that this gives you courage for the ministry ahead!



A 12-Week Cohort

EXPERIENCING GOD

About...

Instead of just learning **about** God, are you ready to **experience** God in your life? If you've ever wanted help moving from the theoretical to a practical spirituality, this study is for you. This twelve-week book, video, and small group experience will awaken you to the way God is moving and working in your life. The expected outcomes in this study include coming to know God more deeply, learning to recognize God's voice, and understanding God's will for your life. God is already at work. Are you ready to join him?

Sessions will be facilitated by Elder Laura Backer. This opportunity is not to be missed and your participation will put you on the forefront of where we believe God is leading our church in 2026.

To express interest or to learn more, email Laura Backer lbacker2015@hotmail.com or talk to pastoradam@lakeshorechurch.com. Meeting times will be set based on the schedules of those who are interested.

MISSION NEWS

Christmas Gift Tree

Thank you to everyone who shared such kindness and generosity this Christmas with our Gift Tree Families and Second Mile Kids. You gave gifts and Christmas dinner to 23 families (60 kids). You also shared Christmas joy by providing gifts for 20 kids from Second Mile Center of Detroit. Thank you for every gift, dinner, or dollar donated to bring Christmas joy to so many in need.

Ardmore Kindness Club

We partnered once again with the Kindness Club at Ardmore Elementary School. The kids made mini blessing bags with socks, snacks, toothbrushes, and Kleenex in them. All the bags were donated to Motor City Mitten Mission. The bags will be distributed to the unsheltered in the area. Each night Motor City Mitten Mission drives through Detroit and surrounding area looking to help those who are in need, bringing them warm clothes, blankets, a hot meal, and now our mini blessing bags will be included.

Food Pantry/Clothes Closet

We are currently accepting clean, gently used, smoke free, winter clothing for the closet. We are also asking for donations of canned pasta, soups, veggies, fruit, and tuna for the pantry. Thank you for all you do for our closet and pantry!

Lakeview High School Food Drive

The Lakeview High School basketball team had a food drive for our pantry! On Wednesday 12/17 they brought and shelved all the food. We are so grateful for this awesome partnership!

2026 SCS Self Care Fair

On Saturday, 1/3/2026 a friend of our food pantry is giving us a great opportunity! She is partnering with our food pantry at her SCS Self Care Event at the VFW Bruce Post on Jefferson from 10am-3pm. Volunteers from Lake Shore will be manning the entrance table and our food pantry is going to be given all proceeds from the entry fees, plus any other donations given. What a great Mission outreach to start off 2026!

We are being given so many new opportunities to partner with groups within our community to benefit those in need. Thanks for always supporting Mission!

Cheryl Smark

OPEN TO 6TH-12TH GRADERS

SPRING HILL

Annual Youth Winter Retreat

FEBRUARY 13TH-16TH

TOTAL COST: \$230

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!

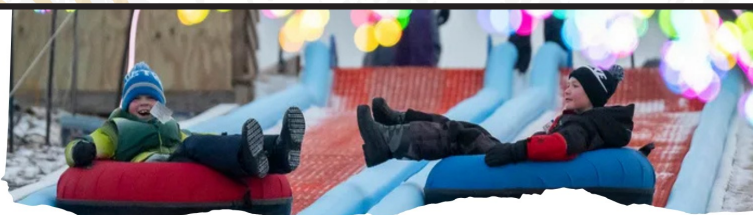
Final registration is due by 1/11/2026.

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!



LET'S GO SLEDDING!
YOUTH GROUP EVENT

Bowers Family Farm

January 24th, 2026



DETAILS

- Cost: \$25/person
- Includes transportation, sledding, hot cocoa, donut, and access to semi-heated tent with tables.

ITINERARY

- Meet at the church at 5:45pm
- Depart at 6pm
- Sledding from 7-7:50
- Access to the semi-heated tent from 6:30-9pm.
- Return to the church around 9:30pm.

RSVP to Sheryl by 1/21 at 586-549-3755

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.

Register online at
lakeshorechurch.com/events

We got to say farewell to Pastor Brendan after worship last week. We are so grateful for everything he has committed to this church over the last three years. He will be missed!



JANUARY 2026



Weekly Activities

Sundays - Youth Group 6pm
Tuesdays - Dulcimer Group 10am
Wednesdays - Lakeshore Ukulele Strummers 1:30pm, AA 7pm
Thursdays - Girl Friends In Christ 10am, Band Rehearsal 5:30pm, AA 7:30pm, AIAnon 7:30pm, Choir Rehearsal 7pm
Saturdays - NA 7:30pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Church Closed - New Years Day 	2	3
4 Communion 10:30am Worship Isaac Preaching Undeck the Halls 12pm Sunday Night Saints 6pm	5	6 Epiphany	7	8	9	10 Breakfast Bunch 10am
11	12 Food Pantry 1pm	13	14 Bayview Bunch 2pm Finance 4pm	15	16	17 Raising Kids In Faith Class 10am-12pm
18 MomCo 6pm	19 Personnel 7pm	20	21 Food Pantry 5pm	22	23	24 Breakfast Bunch 10am Youth Sledding at Bowers Family Farm 5:45pm
25 Sunday Night Saints 6pm 10:30am Worship Congregational Meeting	26 Food Pantry 1pm	27	28 Bayview Bunch 2pm	29	30	31

January Anniversaries

1/1	Kelsie & Nicholas Isham
1/2	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

January Birthdays

1/1	Alison Grosch	1/16	Jan Conflitti
1/3	Thelma Vernier	1/19	Nancy Burke
1/6	Bill Mazmanian	1/20	Brian Malloy
1/7	Dolores Henry	1/21	Cecelia Barr
1/8	Adam Flees	1/22	Judith Barton
1/9	Kristi Droska	1/23	Margaret Sadler
1/11	Cynthia Phillips		Margaret Ackerman
1/14	Alexis Hooper		Becky Bell
	Caleb Grosch	1/24	James Wunderlich
1/15	Macallan Collins	1/29	Pam Boyd
		1/30	David Jenken

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JANUARY UNITY SERVICES - 10:30AM

January 4th - Missionary Isaach Chung preaching
 January 25th - Annual Congregational Meeting