

Spotlights

Winter 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKES CHURCH

Looking Ahead

Great events are planned for everyone in the family.
For more information go to: www.shepherdofthelakes.com

December 2

Kids Hope Christmas Celebration
6:00-7:30pm

December 7

Church Family Christmas Party
6:00-8:30pm

December 15

Congregational Voting
Meeting: Constitution
11:15am

December 15

SPLASH Sunday Funday
Favorite Holiday
10:00am

December 21

Project Backpack Christmas Boxes
Packing @ 9:00am
Distribution @ 11:00am

December 22

SPLASH Christmas Program
A Mural of Hope
10:00am

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
2:00pm & 4:00 pm

December 25

Church Offices Closed

December 31

Church Offices Close at Noon

January 1

Church Offices Closed

January 12

Exploring Membership Class & Lunch
11:30am

January 19

SPLASH Sunday Funday
Super Hero
10:00am

January 19

3rd Grade Sword Training
11:15am

January 26

3rd Grade Sword Ceremony
10:00am

January 26

Pre-Congregational Meeting
11:15am

February 2

Annual Meeting
11:15am

February 9

Kids Hope Root Beer Float Sunday
9:30am-11:30am

February 16

SPLASH Sunday Funday
Crazy Hair
10:00am

February 27

Girls' Outreach Event
Princess Tea Party: *A Doll & Me*
6:00-7:00pm

ONGOING EVENTS:

Every Sunday

Parking Lot Prayer @ 8:25am

Every Monday

Evening Prayer @ 6:00pm

Every Second Monday

Church Council Meeting @
6:30pm

Every Tuesday

Adult Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall @ 10:00-11:15am

Every Tuesday

Open Prayer Meeting @
11:15am-12pm

Thoughts from Pastor Dean...

Chapter a Day

This month we, as a church, began reading a Chapter a Day of the Bible. We began in Matthew and on December 1 we will begin with the Gospel of Luke as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World!

‘Why would I want to read the Bible?’ is a legitimate question. It takes time to read even only a chapter a day and my time is precious. I don’t understand everything I read. I am new and don’t know much and therefore I am going to rely on Pastor or other teachers to read it for me and tell me what I should do. Finally, some might say, “I just hate reading.”

Psalm 19:7-8

⁷ The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.

So why read the Bible?

The Bible is Timeless and Timely.

It is a book for the ages. Its principles are universal. Its truths last for all time. But it is also timely. It is relevant for you and your life and for decisions that you’re facing and problems that you struggle with this week!

The Bible is Incredible.

Psalm 19:8 His teachings make us joyful and radiate his light; his precepts are so pure!

The Bible claims for itself to be the word of God, the *inspired* word of God. And Jesus, while He was on earth, also spoke of the Old Testament, the Bible of His day, as being the very words of God. Jesus himself quoted from 22 books of the Old Testament.

The Bible was written over the span of some 1500 years by more than 40 authors on three different continents. It was written by kings and peasants, by statesmen and by farmers, and yet it has an uncanny and supernatural continuity to its theme and story.

The Bible Brings Wisdom.

It’s not only supernatural. It is practical. Psalm 19:8 ‘...the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes.’

What a testimony to the practicality and relevancy of scripture! Applying Bible truths guides me through life. It’s an instruction book, a practical instruction book on how I live my life.

Thoughts from Pastor Dean... (continued)

The Bible Feeds my Soul.

Psalm 19:7 '*The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul.*' I believe that small phrase reveals our highest calling and the most significant role the Bible has in my life. It is a means by which I can know Christ intimately.

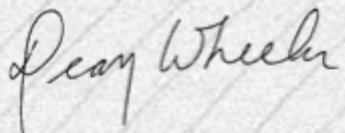
When you pick up The Word of God and thumb through the pages and begin to encounter it, you enter into dialogue with God Himself.

Jesus the King desires a relationship with us! The Bible is not so much an engaging set of propositions and principles, as it is about engaging a person who longs to know you and longs to be known by you.

Erasmus, a contemporary of Martin Luther wrote regarding the Bible, "*These holy pages will summon the living images of His mind. They will give you Christ Himself – talking, healing, dying, rising. The whole Christ in a word. They will give Him to you in an intimacy so close that He would be less visible to you if He stood before your very eyes.*"

Here is my encouragement for you. **Just start** to read a Chapter A Day with your church family. If you are concerned that you won't understand it all then join the club because neither do I. Just start to read. If you think you don't have enough time then I challenge you to take 10 minutes out of your busy schedule to sit at the feet of Jesus. If you hate reading then get the Bible app 'YouVersion' on your phone and it will read the Bible to you. Just start!

Pr. Dean



Psalm 19:7-8

⁷ *The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul.
The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.⁸ The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.*

The Lakes Update

The Rebuilding Teams have been hard at work these last months. The Spiritual Formations team created and launched Table Talks. The congregation has responded so well! There was obviously a hunger for deeper relationships centered on the word of God! If you haven't tried it out yet and you would like to join with others, discuss scripture and pray together, I would encourage you to come! There is always an open seat for you! Table Talks start at 9am and the "coffee's on" at 8:45am.

The Spiritual Life team has launched "A Chapter a Day" Bible reading initiative. Their goal is to engage the congregation in daily rhythms of prayer and bible reading. In the month of November, we read through the book of Matthew. We encourage you to join us for the book of Luke in the month of December. All you need to do is read one chapter per day. We hope you are blessed with a fuller picture of Jesus and a more connectedness to his presence!

The Spiritual Community team has launched a Welcome Team. This team is intentionally looking for visitors to help them feel welcome and help them find their way around The Lakes. This team is looking for additional members! If you can open doors for people, introduce yourself and help others feel welcome, you would be a welcome addition to the team! Talk to Aimee if you are interested!

The Spiritual Community team is also working on Groups. They are launching interest-based, friendship-oriented groups in the coming months. Be on the lookout and join in the fun! The goal is to invest in and develop friendships and live life together for Jesus! If you are interested in leading a group of your own, contact Aimee.

The Outreach team is planning a big remodel of the lobby and nursery starting in January using funds already set aside in the building fund. The idea is to open the lobby space up to provide a more inviting area for guests and fellowship at the same time returning the space to its original design. (Take a look at the beautiful ceiling next time you are at church!) The new nursery space will be in the lower level with all of the other "kid stuff". We believe this will make our space at the church much more welcoming when we invite the community for our Grand Re-opening in the spring.

Brian Handy will be leading the renovations in January and we would like to gather a team around him! We encourage everyone to help where they can! If you have demolition skills, carpentry skills, painting, decorating or design skills, baking or coffee making skills, hauling, sweeping, vacuuming or dusting skills, we want you! Many hands make light work! Together we can create a beautiful space to gather, for our youngest to oldest! If you are interested in joining the renovation team in any capacity, contact Paula, Aimee or Pastor Dean.

The Lakes Update

20/20 Vision

Pastor Dean has laid out what is necessary to move The Lakes into the future that God has for us! We need Unity of Heart in the midst of significant change, Physical Service to do the work necessary and Financial Investment to stabilize our financial situation while we work toward rebuilding.

These things require 100% participation. We cannot rebuild without us all working together toward the same goal. Thank you to all who have given so much already! If you have yet to find a place to serve or return your Faith Pledge card, we encourage you to do so. We cannot do this without you! Everyone one has a place in the body of Christ.

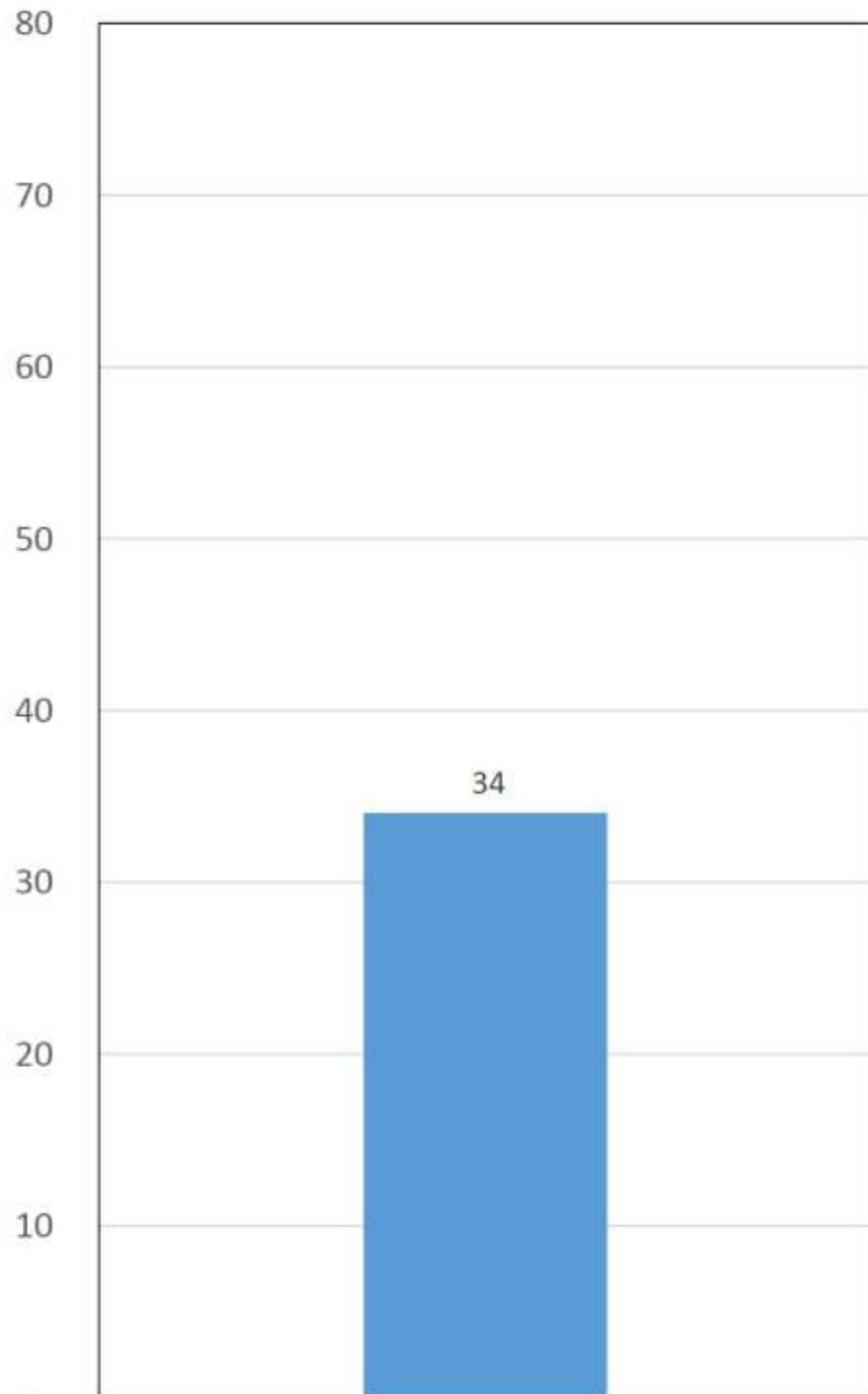
Mark Your Calendar!

January 26th:
Pre-Congregational
Meeting

February 2nd:
Annual Meeting

(Immediately following service/
approximately 11:15am)

Pledge Cards Received





Church Family Christmas Party

Everyone is welcome!

Bring the whole family!

Fellowship Hall
Saturday, December 7th
6:00-8:30pm

The meal will be potluck style so bring a dish to share!

Adults & teens are invited to bring a wrapped white elephant gift for the gift exchange!

There will also be Christmas cut-out cookies for the kids to decorate!

Kids under the age of 6 will need parental help decorating their cookie;)



Christmas Service Times

Tuesday, December 24th

Candlelight Services

2:00pm

4:00pm

Exploring Membership Class & Lunch
Sunday, January 12th
11:30am

Join us for lunch and conversation about membership here at The Lakes!

the lakes
a community church



PROJECT BACKPACK

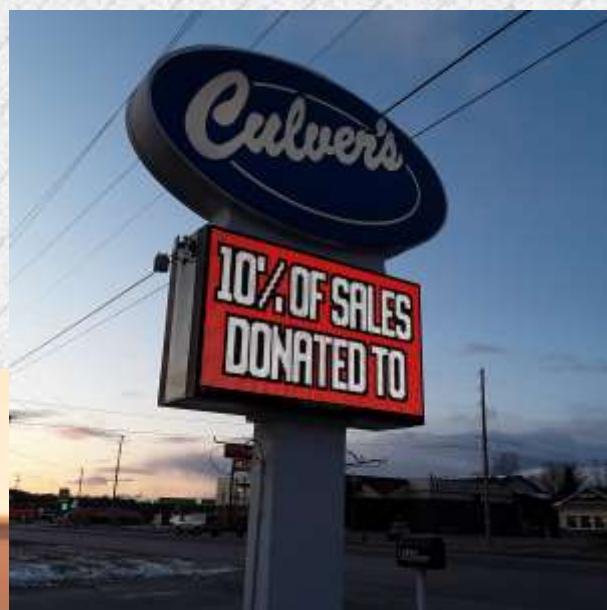
Our Mission: To stamp out hunger in area schools one student at a time.

Christmas is Coming!

Did you know that in addition to feeding over 250 hungry students every weekend during the school year, Project Backpack also provides fixings for a complete Christmas meal to families in need? All students that are enrolled in Project Backpack have the opportunity to sign up to receive a Christmas box including ham, potatoes, carrots, dinner rolls, green beans and pie. All at no cost to them!

Would you like to help us bless these families? We'll need 6 people to help pack the boxes and at least 15 people to help us deliver the meals to their homes. All the excitement takes place on Saturday, December 21. Packing starts at 9 a.m., and delivery starts at 11. Contact Paula Thuerman or sign up in the church lobby to get involved!





Kids Hope USA Night @ Culvers!
Thanks for your support of KHUSA! We raised \$232.00!





KHUSA

Root Beer Float Sunday February 9th, 2020

Have a sweet treat on us!
KHUSA is making root beer
floats Sunday morning,
February 9th (at church).

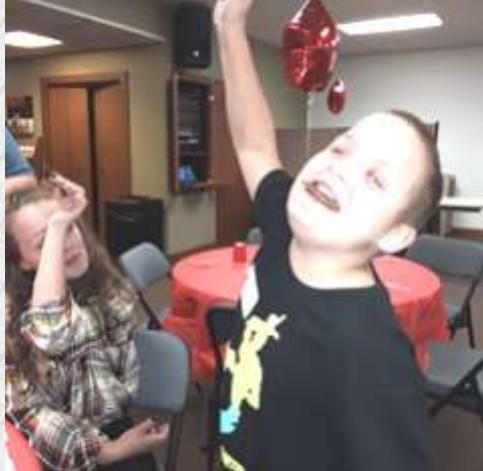
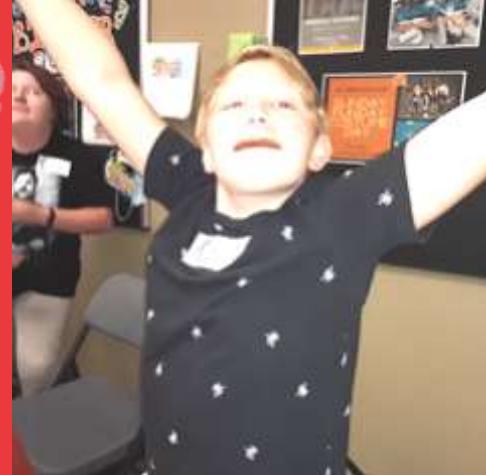
Just our way of saying thanks
for your support!

Thank you so
much for donating
new games for the
Kids Hope
Program!!!



KHUSA Ice Cream Social

What a great night
of ice cream sundaes,
Minute-to-Win-It games
and Veggie Tales we had!





Lutheran World Relief



A HUGE thank you to everyone that donated time, brought in supplies, and helped us pack this year!

We packed a total of:
45 School Kits
42 Baby Kits
14 Personal Care Kits
30 Quilts

These kits are shipped all over the world to impact people in the name of Jesus. Great job being the hands and feet of Jesus!

THANKSGIVING PIE SOCIAL



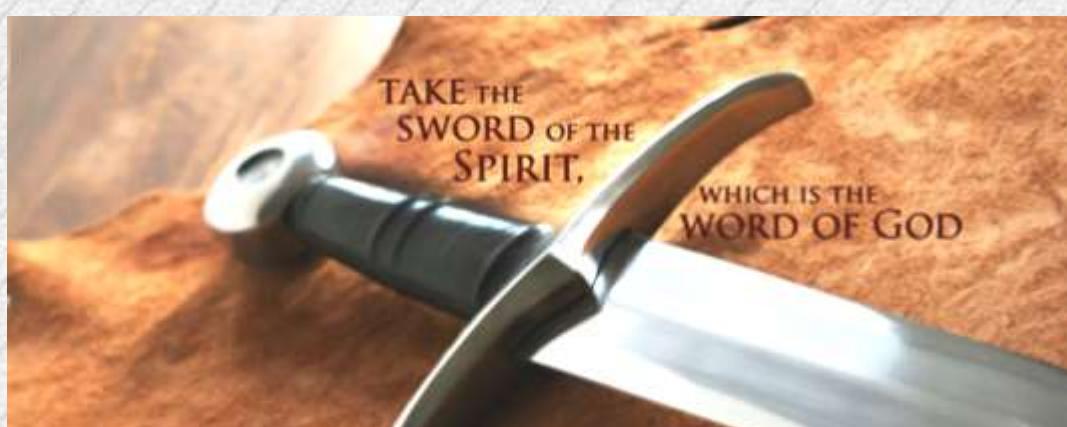
Waupaca High School Madrigal Singers
November 24, 2019
Christmas Carols...
...time with friends
...PIE, PIE, PIE!!!
What could possibly be better?!?



Sword Ceremony

Calling all third graders! It is time again for the Sword Ceremony! During this special ceremony, parents speak a blessing over their children and present them with the Word of God. (The Lakes provides the Bibles.) The Sword Ceremony will be January 26th at 10am. Feel free to invite Grandparents and family members to witness the ceremony!

On Sunday January 19th following service at 11:30 we will have Sword Training together with the third graders and their parents. We will cover Bible basics like, how to look up Bible passages, inspiration and Bible facts. We invite you to join us! If you would like to participate in the ceremony, please contact Aimee either by email or phone - aimee@shepherdofthelakes.com or 715-281-7481.



Sunday Fundays!



A great opportunity to invite a friend!
Kids (preschool-middle school) earn DOUBLE bible bucks for participating!

Join us for these upcoming Sunday Fundays!

December 15th - Favorite Holiday Day! Choose your favorite holiday and go NUTS!
(4th of July, Valentines, St. Patty's, Christmas, etc.)

January 19th - Dress up as your favorite Super Hero!

February 16th - Crazy Hair Day! Google it;) Let us see your wild side!



Digging in to God's Word and BBQ chicken wings to learn about how God put together the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel's dream. What better way for kids to learn about our incredible Creator God than for them to try to assemble a living chicken from a pile of bones! It was messy and memorable for sure:)



COSTUME DAY!

In the bottom pictures the children are planting grass seed as we learn about King Nebuchadnezzar's humbling experience eating grass like an animal! The kids enjoyed watching their grass grow and most tried eating some! Yuck!





Kids Christmas Program – *A Mural of Hope*

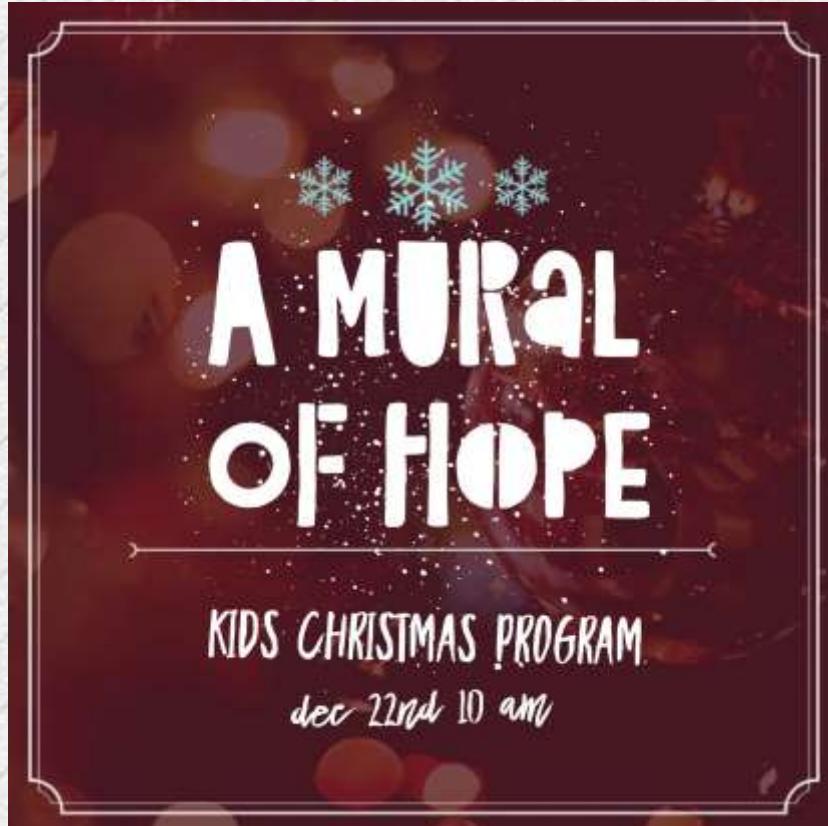
December 22nd at 10:00am

The kids are working hard preparing their Christmas program this year!
We are trying something *totally* new and we cannot wait to share it with you!

Expect art, songs and general kid cuteness!

Invite Grandmas and Grandpas, Aunties and Uncles to join us!

Kids who bring the most people will win a big prize!!!



Kids' Outreach Events 2020

Do you love planning events? Do you like decorating, crafting or “pinteresty” type things?

Do you like throwing a good party? Do you want to see kids filling up The Lakes, experiencing the love of God and hearing the Good News of Jesus? **I invite you to join the Kids Outreach Planning Team!** We will be planning two outreach events for Kids. An event for girls on February 27 – A Doll and Me Tea Party and an event for boys on March 26th – Treasure Quest: A Mining Adventure. All we have for the events are the titles and dates. The planning team will fill in the rest! Contact Aimee with any questions or to join the team!

aimee@shepherdofthelakes.com or 715-281-7481



Kids Outreach Planning Meeting Jan 8th at 6:30 at the Chain O Lakes Bar and Grill.

Mark your calendar to volunteer or attend!





Kids joining us at 9am for Kids Bible Club are working their way through “The Very Best, Hands-On, Kinda Dangerous Family Devotions”. In the picture below we were talking about the power of the Holy Spirit. They had to unroll toilet paper on their own without tearing it. Then Aimee pulled out a toilet paper blaster made from a leaf blower! We talked about how the Holy Spirit gives us power to do what is right, when we ask him!



THE LAKES CORE VALUES



We Are Passionate About Jesus

We intentionally pursue a personal and intimate relationship with God.



We Before Me

We are one church family fed by four streams. We honor a diversity of backgrounds.



We Get Messy

We desire people to be genuine in their relationships with others and Jesus.



We Get Out Of Our Seats

We serve the church and the world for the glory of God.

Shepherd of the Lakes Staff

Dean H. Wheeler *Senior Pastor*

Paula Thuerman *Church Administrator*

Aimee Postel *Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Jess Gibson *Office Assistant*

Julie Handy *Custodian*

Sally Swanson *Childcare Supervisor*

Your Church Council

Please feel free to contact any church council member with any question or concern you have.

JoLene Nollenberg (715)281-9641

Gary Prell, President (715)281-4409

Bob Menzies, Vice Pres. (715)281-7730

Dennis Stuyvenberg (920)867-4067

Brandon Stern (715)412-1774

Margaret Arnold (715) 281-2759

Trent Graham (715) 281-0315

Kim Beyer (920) 246-4528

the
lakes
a community church

We are friends, living and leading like Jesus, bringing
the Kingdom to the lost and the hurting!