



Leighton Church

Proclaiming New Life in Jesus Christ

Rev. David W. Meister

Week of March 19, 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

4180 2nd Street
Caledonia, MI 49316
(616) 891-8028
office@leightonchurch.org
www.leightonchurch.org
Office Hours: 9a-3p
Tues/Wed/Thurs

Sunday Worship: 9:30a
The Discovery Place: 10:45a
Classes for children, youth & adults

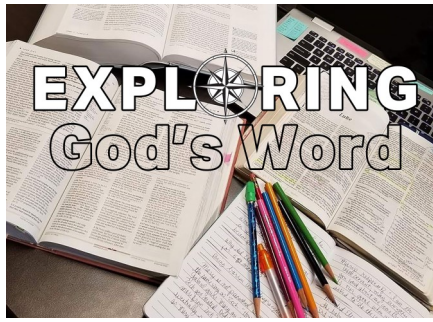
Board of Elders:
Scott Pollmann (Chairman),
Todd Galloway, Art Hooker,
Wayne Ingersoll, David
Kaechele, Doug Thaler,
Pastor Dave Meister

*Hearing assist system
available from the sound booth
at the back of the Sanctuary.*



@LeightonUMChurch

Sunday, March 19	Leadership Team/Board of Elders Lunch Noon Youth Group 4:45-7:00p
Monday, March 20	Circle of Joy Women's Fellowship 1:30p Gym in Use 6:00-7:00p Men's Basketball 7:00p
Tuesday, March 21	Leadership Team Meeting 6:30p
Wednesday, March 22	Kids Musical Practice 5:30-6:15p Family Dinner 5:30p Kids Worship 6:00p Pre-Teen Bible Study 6:00p Lenten Bible Study 6:00p Praise Team Practice 7:00p
Friday, March 24	IF: Gathering Women's Conference at New Life Church in Wayland 6:15-9:30p
Saturday, March 25	Health & Safety Team Training 7:30a-Noon IF: Gathering Women's Conference 10a-4p at New Life Church in Wayland



The Discovery Place For Children, Teens & Adults

THE DISCOVERY PLACE CLASSES, TEACHERS & LOCATIONS

Toddlers, Preschoolers & Young 5's: Connie Blain & Britney Bredeweg (Room 4)

Kindergarten-2nd Grade: Jan Geukes & Terri Farmer (Room 3)

3rd-5th Grades: Jackie Corwin & Annah Smith (Rooms 12/13)

6th-8th Grades: Cindy Herring (Room 9)

9th-12th Grades: Brad & Sarah Geers (Youth Room)

Adults:

Young Adult/Career (Prayer Room): Mark & Ronda Kaechele

Drew Corwin (Rooms 15/16) - Powerful Messages from the Minor Prophets

Bill & Stacey Aman (Rooms 7/8) - Why Easter Matters

Doug Thaler (Lounge) - Jesus Speaks To Your Church: Studies in Revelation

Jerry & Nancy Slagh (old Library) - Men are Like Waffles, Women are Like Spaghetti

Easter Series Starting in The Discovery Place



"Why Easter Matters"

Sunday Mornings

The Discovery Place

Rooms 7/8

Led by Bill & Stacey Aman

It's something we all struggle with—trusting God and following His ways, yet we often resist. We want to follow Jesus and the instructions given to us in the Scripture, but sometimes we just do what we want anyway.

A 4-week study called "Why Easter Matters" is starting on Sunday, March 19th. In this study, we'll look at 3 people whose lives intersected with Jesus' life in the weeks leading up to his crucifixion. Each of them had an agenda that put them at odds with God and with Jesus. There's a little piece of them in all of us.

BUT their stories of resistance illustrate the futility of resisting God.

Join us in Rooms 7/8 for this video based study from Andy Stanley led by Bill & Stacey Aman. All ages are welcome.

A group just for Teens!
All students in 6th-12th grades welcome!



SCHEDULE:

March 19: Echo

March 26: Echo

April 2: No Youth Group—Spring Break

Youth Group is held from 4:45-7:00 p.m. on Sunday nights.

Invite your friends to come along!

Questions? Contact Brian Smith, Director of Youth Ministries
youth@leightonchurch.org or 616-881-1488

**Are you unable to attend services on Sunday
because you are ill, unable to get-out or out of
town?**

Now you don't have to miss a worship service!!

Sunday morning worship services are now being recorded and posted on the church YouTube channel on Mondays.

Subscribe to the church's YouTube channel and get notifications when the sermons are uploaded OR visit the church website to be directed to YouTube to watch services.

Questions? Contact Jerry Slagh
worship@leightonchurch.org



KIDS



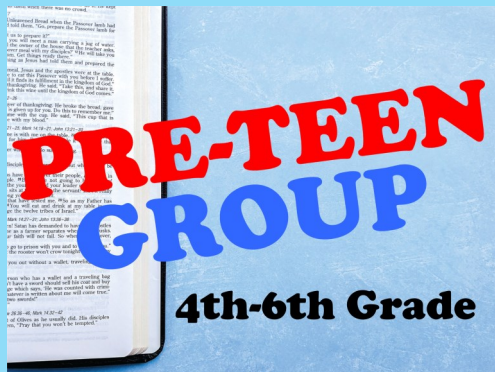
WORSHIP

2 More Wednesday Nights of

Kids Worship & Pre-Teen Bible Study

KIDS WORSHIP 6:00-7:00 P.M.

For kids in Kindergarten thru 3rd Grade
A mid-week spiritual pick-me-up for kids with high-energy music, interactive Bible lesson and hands-on crafts.



PRE-TEEN BIBLE STUDY 6:00-7:00 P.M.

For boys and girls in grades 4, 5 and 6
A time to hang out together, do Bible puzzles and play Bible games and learn about a Christian worldview through "FORGED" Bible study.

Wednesday Nights

5:30-6:30 pm in the gym

This is open to the community.

All are welcome!



Take the night off from cooking dinner and doing dishes and gather around the table in the gym at Leighton Church on Wednesday nights

5:30-6:30 p.m. thru March 29

Everyone is welcome! All food and beverages are provided.

There is no set cost, but donations are appreciated to help off-set expenses.

Family Dinner Weekly Menu:

March 22—Taco Bar, Cake

March 29 (FINAL NIGHT) - Pizza, Ice Cream Sundae Bar



Sunday, March 26th

11:00 a.m.

Disaffiliation Vote

A special church conference is scheduled for Sunday, March 26th at 11:00 a.m. with District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Margie Crawford presiding. The purpose of this conference is the first step in determining the future of Leighton Church; to remain a part of the United Methodist denomination or disaffiliate.

Only members are eligible and must be present to vote. Complete details were sent all members and regular attenders last week. If you did not receive a letter, please contact Stacey in the church office. (616) 891-8028

Questions can be directed to Scott Pollmann, Board of Elders Chairman or Pastor Dave Meister.



All women are invited to gather at Jean Bender's home on

Monday, March 20th at 1:30 p.m.

for an afternoon of fellowship, encouragement and refreshments.

Jane Hannan will be sharing a devotional and leading us through a simple work project.

Come and enjoy the company of other women! Friends are welcome!

Jean Bender's home is located at
3050 N. M-37 Highway, Middleville (just north of Adams Road)
(269) 795-3458



JUST OLDER YOUTH LUNCHEONS

Let's get together for lunch!

Those age 50+ are invited to gather for lunch the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:00pm at an area restaurant.

April Luncheons:

April 6th and 20th

Curley Cone, 12850 W. M-179 Hwy, Wayland

The ground rules are: everyone pays for their own meal and there will be no discussion of politics or church business. This is an opportunity for seniors to gather together for fellowship and to get better acquainted.

We Care Card Ministry

Receiving a card in the mail is encouraging and can uplift one's spirit.

Stop by the table in the Lobby to sign cards for those who haven't been at church for some time, for those who are recovering from surgery or illness, and for those who just need a word of encouragement. Each week a new set of cards is set out.

Questions can be addressed to Sharon Kaechele
(616) 891-1020



Take note of the following meetings that are scheduled for the coming weeks:

Tuesday, March 21—Leadership Team 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 25—Health & Safety Team Training 7:30a-Noon

Sunday, March 26—Church Conference Disaffiliation Vote 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 28—Worship Planning Team 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 30—Health & Safety Team Meeting 6:30 p.m.





WE'RE NEARING OUR GOAL!!!

We are getting so close to reaching our goal of \$16,000 to upgrade the church's digital sign at the corner.

The current sign is over 13 years old and replacement parts are no longer available.

There are 65 giving families in the church. If each family gave just **\$80**, we could easily meet our goal.

Some have contributed about and beyond for which we are very grateful. The goal is in sight! Help us get there so we can share about the many ministries happening at Leighton Church with the large number of people driving by our corner on a daily basis.

If you wish to contribute toward this need, you may make checks payable to Leighton Church and designate your gift SIGN or give safely and securely online and select the Sign Upgrade Fund. www.leightonchurch.org/give.

Questions can be directed to Chris Herring, Board of Trustees Chair. (616) 437-3484 or herring@iserv.net



GOAL = \$16,000

RECEIVED = \$11,550

NEEDED = \$4,450



Leighton Church Funeral Luncheon Policy

1. If a luncheon is desired after a funeral service/graveside service, contact the church office (616) 891-8028
2. The church office will contact the Funeral Luncheon Committee from the Circle of Joy.
3. Standard luncheon consists of:

Meat Sandwiches (typically ham and turkey)	Potato Salad and Cole Slaw
Pickles and Potato Chips	Coffee, lemonade and water

 Cakes are furnished by the Leighton Church Family
 This menu can be altered if the family has any special requests
4. The family is expected to pay for the cost of groceries and supplies and any special request items. An invoice will be sent from the church.
5. The family is to make a donation to the Circle of Joy for coordinating and serving the luncheon.

Questions on this policy can be directed to Jean Bender, Circle of Joy President (269) 795-3458

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

We needeth thee to reach children in our community thru Vacation Bible School!



**Job Descriptions available
at the VBS Display table.**

**Contact Cindy Herring
with questions.**

(616) 299-0083

bigcowdoc@yahoo.com

Sunday, June 25-Thursday, June 29
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Volunteer Recruitment has begun!
There's a spot for men and women and teens (must
be at least 12 years of age) to get involved!

OPEN POSITIONS:

- Prayer Coordinator
- Sound/AV Coordinator
- Games Helper (1)
- Security Helper (1)
- 4 Year Olds & Young 5's Assistant (1)
- K-1st Grade Teacher
- 2nd-3rd Grade Teacher
- K-1st Grade Guide (2)
- 2nd-3rd Grade Guide (1)
- 4th-6th Grade Guide (1)
- Registration/Sign in (1)
- AV Assistant (1)
- Substitutes (5)

The following items are being collected for crafts during Vacation Bible School. If you would like to donate any of the items below, please place them in the designated basket in the Lobby. Questions can be directed to Jodi Smith (616) 877-4963



- 100 Paint Stir Sticks (must be new)
- 100 Chinet Dinner Platters 10" Oval Heavy Duty or Thick (to make shields)
- 10-12 rolls of cheap tin foil
- 100 Bulk Plain Military Dog Tags (no chains needed)
- 200 JUMBO Craft Sticks (plain or colored is fine)
- 50 Pack of 9x12 single sided, self-sealing adhesive laminating sheets (NOT POUCHES)
- 30 Old Magazines (any kind...these will be used for table covering/ protection when punching metal)



Dwayne & Brenda Johnson

The Trucking Collective

Dwayne & Brenda Johnson are reaching those in the trucking industry with the Gospel. Their focus is in all areas of the trucking industry; drivers, trucking company owners and employees, and truck stop employees.

Since starting their own non-profit ministry, The Trucking Collective, the Johnson's and the Board of Directors have been praying for God to open doors for possible new locations; particularly in the Detroit area. Businesses on the east side of Michigan tend to be "more transactional than relational," Dwayne & Brenda write in their most recent newsletter.

The Johnson's see God opening doors and providing opportunities. The Johnson's share this in their newsletter:

"Recently I received a phone call from a trucking company, letting me know that one of their drivers had been in a terrible accident-one that could have taken his life. The injuries left him unable to drive, and because of the recovery time, he had to move in with family in the Detroit area. His company asked me to reach out to him and see how we could pray and encourage him. The driver had made a statement that he believes maybe there was a reason he is still alive after the crash. We all know that God has a purpose for this man's life, but he needs someone to come alongside him and share the love of Jesus, for him to see himself the way God sees him. We also desire to connect drivers with a local church, getting them involved and fellowshiping with other believers."

And another instance where the Johnson's see God working to get their ministry into the Detroit area: *"A few months ago, Brenda and I spoke at a company during their monthly employee meeting. After we spoke, one of the employees shared with us that her husband is a pastor and got his start in the Detroit area. They supplied the name of four churches in the area that they were involved with and suggested I get in contact with them. A couple of them just happen to be a few short miles away from this driver's parents' house!"*

Pray that God will continue to open doors and present opportunities for Dwayne & Brenda to get connected with truckers and those in the industry and churches to connect with drivers.

*Your support to the Faith Promise Missions Fund of Leighton Church supports the ministry of Dwayne & Brenda Johnson and 13 other missionaries around the world.
Thank you for giving!*

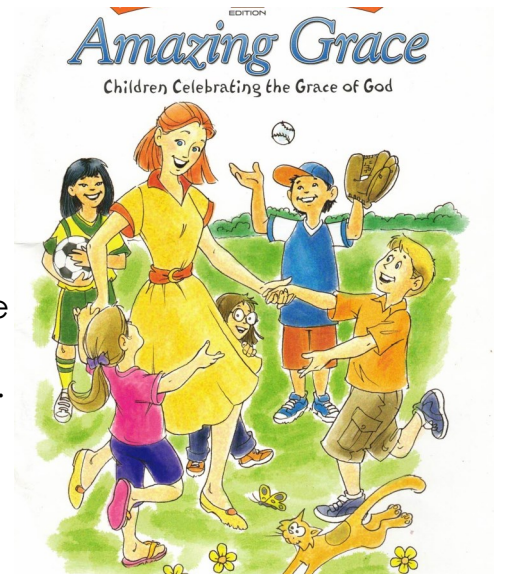
Backup Singers Needed for Kids/Youth Musical

"Amazing Grace" is coming to Leighton Church on Sunday, May 7th!

A few **backup singers are still needed**. All ages welcome. A recording of the music is available for you to practice at home on your own time.

Backup singers only need to attend the final 3 rehearsals in April. During the performance, you'll be sitting behind the piano.

If you are interested, please contact Jamie Shira
(616) 552-2798 Call or Text



Wednesday Nights 6:00-7:00 p.m. March 22, 29 & April 5

Is your heart heavy with the troubles of this world and the struggles in your own life? Does anxiety and stress rule in your life day-to-day? Learn how to rest in God's love and set your troubles at the foot of the cross through this video-based study by Max Lucado

"HE CHOSE THE NAILS" will take you through the last moments of Jesus' life showing that Jesus' journey to the cross was not by chance. God chose the path; he selected the nails. God was never more sovereign than in the details of the death of His Son. And in those details are gifts Christ provided for us....the cross. The thorns. The nails. The seamless robe. The empty tomb.

Men and women of all ages and phases of life are welcome to come Wednesday evenings in March from 6:00-7:00 p.m. to:

- Experience Lent as a time not to just give up something, but to prepare to receive good gifts from God
 - Take comfort that Jesus understands everything that you face in life
- Stand firm in the promise that you are forgiven and are welcome in God's presence no matter what you've done.

Questions? Contact Pastor Dave (269) 876-7204



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

MARCH 24 & 25

NEW LIFE CHURCH, WAYLAND

New Life Church in Wayland is hosting IF: 2023 on Friday, March 24th from 6:15-9:30 pm and Saturday, March 25th 10:00 am-4:00 pm. This is a recording of the original livestream event.

IF 2023 is where women all over the world gather, worship, get equipped and discover the next step in their calling to go and make disciples. IF: 2023 is a time for women to be reminded that God is who we need and God will provide.

IF is for women and girls (middle school on up). The cost is \$45 per person (register before March 24th) or \$50 at the door. This includes the conference, dinner on Friday, lunch on Saturday and a few surprises along the way.

Let's have a great group of girls and ladies from Leighton attend! Register at Newlifewayland.org/ifgathering. We don't want anyone to be hindered because of cost. Contact Stacey Aman for more details. (616) 891-8028 or office@leightonchurch.org If you plan to attend, sign the clipboard in the Lobby or online at www.leightonchurch.org/womens-ministries

New Life Church is located at 160 Pine Street, Wayland

SPECTRUM HEALTH HOSPICE VOLUNTEERING

Compassionate caring hearts and helping hands are needed for Spectrum Health Hospice patients receiving end-of-life care. Volunteer opportunities are available for:

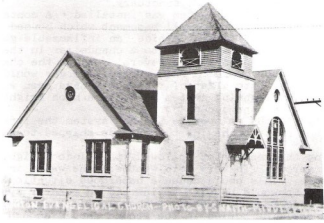
Licensed Cosmetologists, Singers, Instrumentalists, Visiting Pets, and for those who can offer friendly visits and caregiver relief.

Consider offering your gift of time, care and presence to patients during this critical time in their life. Spectrum Health Hospice serves patients in 11 counties throughout West Michigan in both home and facility environments. The program is flexible.

The next volunteer orientation sessions are March 21 and 28 from 9a-1p (must attend both). Contact hospice.Volunteers@spectrumhealth.org or 616-391-4240 to learn more.



Celebrating 160 Years of Proclaiming New Life in Jesus Christ 1863-2023



2023 is the 160th Anniversary of Leighton Church. Several people are attending Leighton Church now that were not here 10 years ago for our 150th celebrations which included year-long, weekly oral presentations of church history. Therefore, this year we will be having historical reports printed in the weekly news bulletin to inform (or remind) people of our church's beginnings and events.

WHO WE WERE—WHO WE ARE: A FAITH JOURNEY—Part 11: Language

Because the **early** settlers in the Leighton area were **German** immigrants, they spoke the German **language** which means the church services were also conducted in German. But in the **late** 1800's more and more settlers arrived, establishing homes and businesses in neighboring villages of Caledonia, Middleville, Corning, Moline, and Wayland. These were **English** speaking communities. The German speaking people of Leighton transacted business in these communities and needed to be able to communicate with their business associates and friends.

The German settlers also had contact with the English language through their children who were of school age. All children in Michigan who were of legal school age were required to attend school and English was the language used in Michigan public schools. As the children learned the language, they would be able to teach it to their parents at home.

When Simon Heist started the first Leighton Sunday School in 1877, classes in the lower grades were conducted in English and taught by students who had completed 8th grade in the public school.

By 1898, the language of Leighton's worship services became an issue. The younger people wanted the message delivered in English while the older people wished to continue to have the German language used. So it was decided to have the church service conducted in English on only the first Sunday of each month. By 1905, services were in English on the first and third Sundays of the month and in German on the second and fourth Sundays. That continued for a few years until eventually the sermon during the second and fourth Sundays was in German for just 15 minutes and in English for 15 minutes.

By 1917, English was used exclusively in all the worship services **and** Sunday School classes with the **exception of one**. Church members respected the desire of the oldest members of the church whose class was conducted in the German language and they used German literature. This continued even until 1934. Although there were only a few elderly members left and even though they were able to speak and read English, it was a joy for them to read, speak, and hear their native language. They were a blessing to the younger members who treasured their memory in later years.

A German Bible was presented to Simon Heist in December, 1879. That Bible is displayed in the historical case in our narthex. Inside the front cover is a German inscription which has been translated and is as follows:

A Christmas gift for Simon Heist, Superintendent of the Leighton Evangelical Sunday School as an acknowledgment of his many years of service as Sunday School officer. Given by a number of Sunday School members and friends. Leighton, Kent County (inaccurate-should be Allegan), Michigan December 24, 1879.

Simon Heist not only started the first Sunday School in 1877, but was the S.S. Superintendent for 23 consecutive years, out of office for a few years, and then Superintendent again for 2 years, making a total of 25 years of service.

(To be continued...by Luann Snyder)



BARRY COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PRESENTS

CHOSEN ^W_S_G TRU SERVA



Concessions Available

STARTS AT 7PM | **MAR 25TH 2023**
@ BCCS GYMNASIUM
2999 MCKEOWN RD HASTINGS MI 49058

///// CONCERT IS DONATION BASED

(269)948-2151



info@bccsk12.com

Service in Action

How do I get involved?

GREETER MINISTRY: March 19: Jan Geukes & Kim Bender March 26: Clay & Luann Snyder April 2: To Be Announced	Get involved: Diane Porter, Coordinator (616) 617-0269, dianepor93@gmail.com
Intercessory Prayer: March 19: Mike & Sandy Shanahan March 26: Debi Warren April 2: Jean McCaul	Get involved: Alverna Truax, (616) 891-8219, truax616@gmail.com Pray during the worship service. Serve every 6-8 weeks.
Nursery: March 19: Christine & Ava Syswerda March 26: Scott & Terri Farmer April 2: Lauren Risner & Rylee Norris	Get Involved: Rebecca Shanahan (616) 312-3070, rebeccashanahan84@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done.
Coffee Bar: March 19: Colin Mead & Lori Haselden March 26: Jean McCaul & Debi Warren April 2: Servers Needed	Get Involved: Contact Connie Hooker (616) 891-8742 or sign up at the Coffee Bar
Treats for Coffee Fellowship: March 19: Christine Syswerda & Judy Hanlon March 26: Robbin Hilton/Cookies in the Cupboard April 2: Jean Bender & Robbi Hilton	Get Involved: Contact Nona Steeby, (616) 891-1567
Acolytes: March 19: Makiah Geers & Abbi Pollmann March 26: Emily Acker & Amelia Geers April 2: Cameron Acker & Keagan Shanahan	Get Involved: Luann Snyder (616) 891-8348, luannlewis@yahoo.com
Children's Church: March 19: Rebecca Shanahan, Valerie & Hollie Lepeak March 26: Diane Norris, Christine & Ava Syswerda April 2: Rebecca Shanahan & Britney Bredeweg	Get Involved: Rebecca Shanahan (616) 312-3070, rebeccashanahan84@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done.
Kids Worship: March 22—Lesson: Valerie Lepeak & Rebecca Shanahan Crafts: Britney Bredeweg & Rylee Norris March 29—Closing Party All Volunteers are to attend	Get Involved: Valerie Lepeak (616) 366-1162 babspoiled9@yahoo.com
Praise Team March 19— Sound: Brad Geers Media: Jamie Shira Instruments: Jerry Slagh (guitar), Jerry Shira (drums), Stacey Aman (piano), Jenni Pollmann (flute/guitar) Vocals: Jerry Slagh, Jenni Pollmann, April Taylor, Jean Bender	Get Involved: Contact Jerry Slagh if you are interested in joining the sound, media, and/or praise team. jdsmusic@aol.com