



Leighton Church

Proclaiming New Life in Jesus Christ

Rev. David W. Meister

Week of March 26, 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 26	<i>5th Sunday of Lent</i> Special Church Conference to Vote on Disaffiliation 11:00a Youth Group 4:45-7:00p
Monday, March 27	Gym in Use 6:00-7:00p Men's Basketball 7:00p
Tuesday, March 28	Worship Planning Team Meeting 6:30p
Wednesday, March 29	Kids Musical Practice 5:30-6:15p Family Dinner 5:30p (Last one) Resurrection Celebration 6:00p Lenten Bible Study 6:00p Praise Team Practice 7:00p
Thursday, March 30	Health & Safety Team Meeting 6:30p
Sunday, April 2	<i>Palm Sunday</i> No Youth Group
Monday, April 3	Finance Committee Meeting 6:30p Men's Basketball 7:00p



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 to vote and must be present to vote.

Normal Discovery Place classes will not be held due to the special church conference. Children Kindergarten thru 5th Grade age will gather in Rooms 7/8 for a movie, puzzles, coloring activities, etc. If the group is too large, the group will gather in the gym. Jenni Pollmann and Nancy Slagh will be supervising the children.

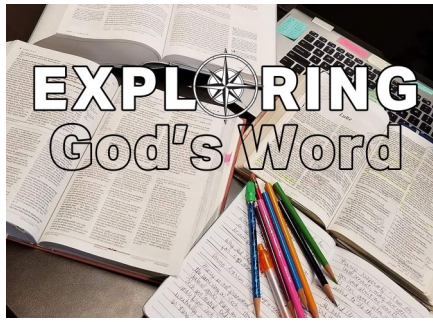
It is up to the discretion of the parents of toddlers and preschoolers whether their children go with the older kids or attend the special church conference with them.

Jr High and Sr High students are encouraged to attend the special church conference.

Questions concerning activities for the children during the conference can be directed to Mark Kaechele, Chairperson of the Discipleship Team.
mark141@gmail.com

Questions concerning the special church conference can be directed to Scott Pollmann (616) 438-5360 scott.pollmann@gmail.com or Pastor Dave Meister (269) 876-7204 pastor@leightonchurch.org





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 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" began 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. This study will resume on April 2nd.

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



SCHEDULE:

March 26: Echo

April 2: No Youth Group—Spring Break

April 9: No Youth Group—Easter Sunday

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

YOUTH NEEDED FOR EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



Jr and Sr High students are invited to be part of the Easter Sunrise Service and help with breakfast afterward.

- A few students needed for a simple skit during the service. There are minimal lines to memorize. Contact Jerry Slagh if interested (jdsmusic@aol.com)
- Help is needed serving breakfast and clean-up afterward. Contact Brian Smith if interested (616) 881-1488

All students helping need to arrive to the church by 6:30 a.m.



Wednesday, March 29
5:30-7:00 p.m.

March 29th is the final night of Family Dinner, Kids Worship, and Pre-Teen Bible Study.

Join us for this fun evening of Easter-themed games and crafts, pizza and ice cream! Parents, siblings and friends welcome!

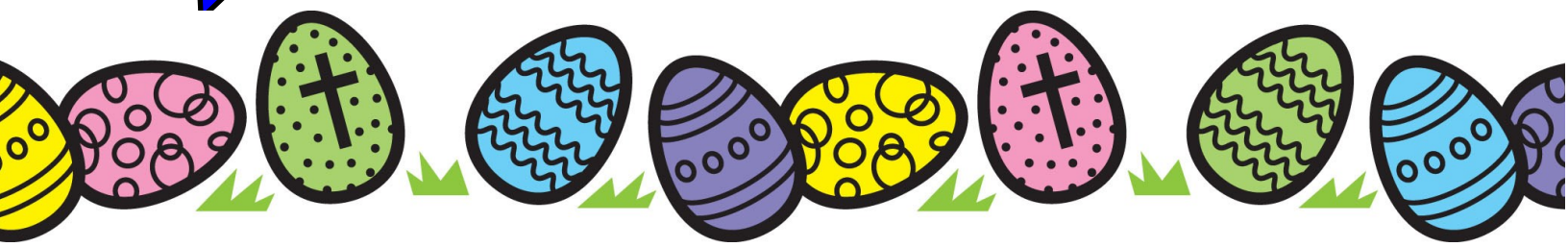
PIZZA 
 **PARTY**

&

ICE CREAM
FOR
EVERYBODY! 

GAMES

CRAFTS





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:

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.

Monday, April 3—Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4—Discipleship 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 = \$11,600

NEEDED = \$4,400

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

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 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)



*Terry & Melinda Ganka
Jay Tyler & John
Ethnos360
Papua New Guinea*

Terry & Melinda Ganka and their 3 young boys headed to Papua New Guinea, an island country located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, in December of 2019. Since their arrival, they have experienced many ups and downs, starting with the pandemic in 2020. They had just settled into their ministry roles, the boys started in their new school and they had learned the trade language. Once the pandemic hit, the boys started homeschooling and there were dramatic changes in Terry's role as Flight Coordinator.

In 2021, many of their friends left the mission field including coworkers, which resulted in Terry's Flight Coordinator role becoming more demanding. The Ganka's moved houses, experienced community troubles and staffing losses at the hangar including the only helicopter pilot at the time.

Last year, Melinda returned to the States twice in 6 months. The first time was following the direction of the Holy Spirit to check in with their church family and to see her family. The second time was to help her ailing father before he passed away. In the midst of that, staff levels were lower and new flight scheduling and billing software was implemented.

Currently, Melinda and their middle son, Tyler, are in the U.S. so Tyler can receive the help he needs for psychological challenges he is having. Pray for healing for Tyler and for the family to remain strong in the midst of their separation.

In the midst of this strife, the Ganka's did not become bitter or resent God, but it has been difficult to be at peace and to thrive instead of just survive.

God did open a door earlier this year to create long lasting relationships through soccer. Terry has organized an intercommunity soccer game with members of the local community and missionaries. Three communities gather together to play, pray, eat and share. Hundreds of people come to watch the "white missionaries" play and talk with them. One weekend nearly 200 visitors came for soccer and a shared meal at the missionary center. Many expressed that for decades they had driven past the mission center not knowing about the love the missionaries have for them and what they do. God is working in Papua New Guinea!

Your support to the Faith Promise Missions Fund of Leighton Church supports the ministry of Terry & Melinda Ganka and 13 other missionaries around the world.

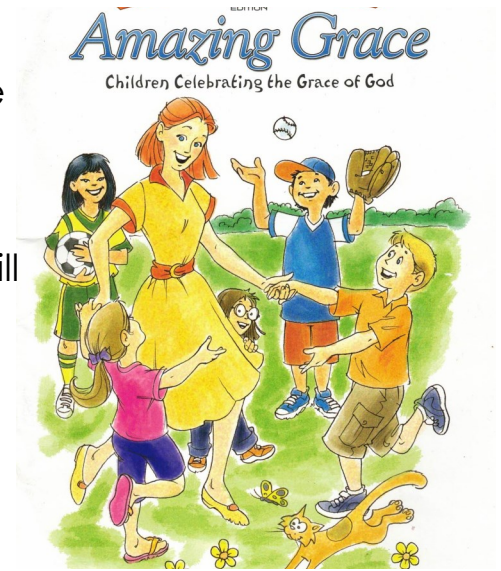
Thank you for giving!

"Amazing Grace" Kids Musical Coming May 7th!

"Amazing Grace" is a musical featuring children and teens teaching about God's amazing grace available to us all!

Starting April 5th, musical practice will be held each Wednesday night from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Family Dinners will no longer be served, but the kids will receive a snack and water during practice.

Questions can be directed to Jamie Shira
(616) 552-2798



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

It's not too late to join 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



Palm Sunday, April 2nd



Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Palm branches for everyone as we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. Kids are invited to march into the Sanctuary to start the service. If your kids wish to participate, please have them at church by 9:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6th



Service of Communion 7:00 p.m.

Remembering that final night in the Upper Room when Jesus and His disciples ate one last meal together before His crucifixion. Come for this special service in preparation for Easter morning.

Easter Sunday, April 9th

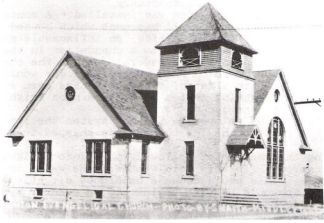


Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast served in the gym afterward.

Easter Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
(Nursery Services (0-4) available and
Children's Church for K-3rd Grade)

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 12

Leighton UM Church currently has many committees (teams) and boards. In the early years of Leighton Church, there were also committees (not as many as now) with some being much different than we have now. A journal of the Annual Meetings of the church for the years 1877-1908, reveal offices required by Conference were : Board of Trustees, Class Leaders, Solicitors, and Exhorters.

The responsibility of the **trustees** (a board we still have today) was the care and upkeep of church property. There were 5 members and each was to serve 3 years. Their terms were staggered so that at no time would there be a completely new board.

It was the trustees responsibility to provide firewood each year for heating the church. At each Annual Meeting, various members would present bids for selling wood from their woodlots. It was then voted to decide which bid to accept. Then the trustee board would need to see that the trees were felled and sawed into suitable lengths for firewood, hauled to the church, and piled on the north side. The wood was supplied ahead of time because the cutting of the trees was done during winter when the farmers were not working in their fields.

Class Leaders: Until 1951, the parish was divided into sections. These sections varied in number depending on the number of members and their geographical location. Sometimes there were 4 classes, sometimes 2 or 3. Each class had a class leader. The purpose of these classes was for spiritual growth and fellowship. Each class met once a week in a designated **home** for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All the members of each family attended. The names of the classes were: East Class, West Class, North Class, and South Class.

In the 1950's, when transportation was easier and the church building was big enough for all the members of the four classes, it was decided to discontinue the four weekly class meetings and to meet together in the church as one class on Wednesday evenings. Then there was one class leader. This became known as **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting**.

(To be continued.....by Luann Snyder)



Sarah Geers has faithfully served as Nursery Coordinator and Children's Church Coordinator for many years. She has done a great job getting volunteers for these areas and putting schedules together. Sarah has also cleaned the nursery regularly (including toys) and kept it neat and organized. She has put together lesson plans for Children's Church.



Sarah has resigned from these roles effective March 31st. Thank you, Sarah, for the amazing job you have done in these important areas of ministry. We appreciate the time you've given and the use of your talents to facilitate these ministries.

Rebecca Shanahan has graciously accepted the role of Nursery and Children's Church Coordinator effective April 1st. Please encourage Rebecca and offer your time to help in the Nursery or Children's Church if you are able.

Rebecca can be reached at (616) 312-3070 or rebeccashanahan84@gmail.com

Free Books, Devotionals & Bible Studies



Stop by the table in the Lobby and pick up any books, devotionals, or Bible studies that may be of interest to you.

They are **FREE!!**

Most of the books are non-fiction and focus on Christian Living. There are a variety of devotional topics and Bible study topics.

Any remaining books will be sent to Christian Resources International, an organization that sends Bibles and Christian literature and curriculum to ministries around the world.

Service in Action

How do I get involved?

GREETER MINISTRY: March 26: Clay & Luann Snyder April 2: Art & Connie Hooker April 6 Maundy Thursday: Jan Geukes & Kim Bender	Get involved: Diane Porter, Coordinator (616) 617-0269, dianepor93@gmail.com
Intercessory Prayer: March 26: Debi Warren April 2: Jean McCaul April 9: Chris Herring	Get involved: Alverna Truax, (616) 891-8219, truax616@gmail.com Pray during the worship service. Serve every 6-8 weeks.
Nursery: March 26: Scott & Terri Farmer April 2: Lauren Risner & Rylee Norris April 9: Karyn Blank & Annah Smith	Get Involved: Rebecca Shanahan (616) 312-3070, rebeccashanahan84@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done.
Coffee Bar: March 26: Jean McCaul & Debi Warren April 2: Andy & April Taylor April 9: Drew & Jackie Corwin	Get Involved: Contact Connie Hooker (616) 891-8742 or sign up at the Coffee Bar
Treats for Coffee Fellowship: March 26: Robbin Hilton/Cookies in the Cupboard April 2: Jean Bender & Robbi Hilton April 9: Tena Vander Schuur	Get Involved: Contact Nona Steeby, (616) 891-1567
Acolytes: March 26: Emily Acker & Amelia Geers April 2: Cameron Acker & Keagan Shanahan April 9: Abbi Pollmann & Olivia Taylor	Get Involved: Luann Snyder (616) 891-8348, luannlewis@yahoo.com
Children's Church: March 26: Diane Norris, Christine & Ava Syswerda April 2: Rebecca Shanahan & Britney Bredeweg April 9: Diane & Ian Norris	Get Involved: Rebecca Shanahan (616) 312-3070, rebeccashanahan84@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done.
Kids Worship: March 29—Closing Party All Volunteers are to attend	Get Involved: Valerie Lepeak (616) 366-1162 babspoiled9@yahoo.com
Praise Team March 26—Sound: Scott Pollmann Media: Ronda Kaechele Vocals: Jerry Slagh, Cole Mead, Jean Bender, Nancy Slagh, April Taylor Instruments: Jerry Slagh (guitar), Jerry Shira (drums) Jamie Shira (piano)	Get Involved: Contact Jerry Slagh if you are interested in joining the sound, media, and/or praise team. jdsmusic@aol.com