

# Week of November 12, 2023

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**: 11:00a 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.

@LeightonChurchMI
Worship Services on YouTube

@leightonchurch7311

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, November 12	Youth Group 4:45-7:15p Shoebox Packing Party 5p Church Conference 7:00p
Monday, November 13	Men's Basketball 7:00p
Tuesday, November 14	Adult Bible Study 9:30a-11:00a
Wednesday, Nov. 15	DEADLINE TO TURN IN SHOEBOXES Family Dinner 5:30-6:30p Kids Worship 6:00-7:00p Prayer Meeting 6:00-6:30p Table Talk Adult Small Group 6:00-7:00p Praise Team Practice 7:00p
Thursday, Nov. 16	JOY Lunch (Just Older Youth) 1:00p Men's Fellowship 7:00p at Todd Galloway's

#### THANK YOU!!!!

Your faithful and generous response to the challenge to live a life of Christian stewardship is truly a testimony of your faith and love for Him.



Estimated total giving for 2024 is \$223,080.84. That is a 15% increase over last year! The Finance Committee met last Monday to begin the budgeting process for 2024. More will be shared at Sunday night's conference.

Thank you to everyone who stayed to enjoy a delicious dinner catered by Scott's Pig Roast. There was great fellowship around the table.

It was a day full of blessings. We have much to be grateful for.

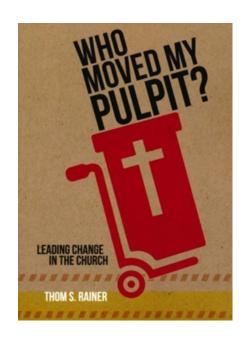
> Thank you! Stacey Aman, Finance Chairperson

## NEW ADULT DISCOVERY PLACE CLASS "Who Moved My Pulpit?"

11:00 a.m. in Rooms 7/8 Led by Jerry Slagh

Who moved my pulpit? It may not be the exact question you're asking, but you're certainly asking questions about change in the church; where it is coming from, why it is happening, and how you're supposed to hang on and follow God through it. If we can get out ahead of it, our church can faithfully meet its timeless calling and serve the new opportunities of the coming years.

In his book, Thom Rainer shares an 8 step roadmap to leading change in the church. Not by changing doctrines or biblical foundations, but by changing methods and approaches for reaching a rapidly changing culture. We will be exploring many of Thom's ideas interwoven with biblical examples of change in the Bible.





Would you like prayer for healing? Prayer for struggles in your life? Prayer for wisdom and discernment?

The Board of Elders are available for prayer at the end of the worship service each Sunday. Just come forward to the altar or to the front pew.



## Hey kids....3rd-8th Grade...

You're growing up and are too old to attend Children's Church, so what do you do during church? How about tuning in to what Pastor Dave is teaching on?

Pick up a clipboard out of the blue tub in the Lobby, fill out the sermon notes paper and turn it in to Rebecca Shanahan or Mark Kaechele after the service to get a prize.

There's a spot for you to write the name of the sermon (hint....watch the screen!), words you didn't understand, what verses were read from the Bible, and the name of a song that was sung during the service.

After awhile, you'll discover how much you've learned about God and how the Bible is important in developing a relationship with Him.



Kids age 4 thru 2nd Grade will gather in the **gym** for Children's Church immediately following the Children's Message.

In Children's Church, kids are learning to be "Fearless" because God is always with us.

Topics include courage, faith, honesty, trust and love.

**PARENTS**....after the worship service, please proceed to the gym to get your children and take them to their Discovery Place class.



# 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 & Nancy Slagh (Rooms 12/13) 6th-8th Grades: Cindy Herring & Valerie Lepeak (Room 9)

9th-12th Grades: Jill Smith, Mark Kaechele, Sally Smith (Youth Room)

Adults:

LOUNGE: "How to Hold on When Life Gets Tough: The Letters of Peter and Jude"

**Doug Thaler** 

ROOMS 7/8: "Who Moved My Pulpit?" - Jerry Slagh

ROOMS 15/16: "Relevant Faith for the Real World: Evangelism, Holiness

And Social Action—Drew Corwin

PRAYER ROOM: All Belong (Special Needs Adults)—Sally Smith

## Sundays Nights 4:45-7:15 pm For all students in 6th-12th grades

November 5th Topic: Over the Top

November 12th: Operation Christmas

Child Shoebox Packing Party

November 19th Topic: Over the Top

November 26th: No Youth Group

December 3rd: Grateful



Brian Smith, Director of Youth Ministries youth@leightonchurch.org

616-881-1488



# No Wednesday Night Ministries November 22nd



#### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 5:30-6:30 P.M. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Come and gather around the table for dinner! Everything is provided for no set cost. Donations are appreciated.

No planning or cooking required. Just enjoy a good meal and good fellowship.



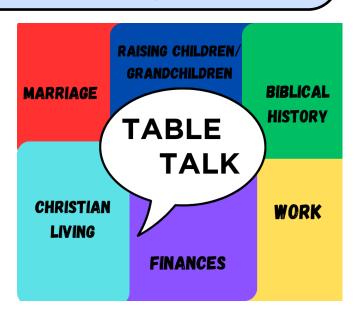
#### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 6:00-7:00 P.M. KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE

Kids will learn how to face the in their lives with the strength that only God can give.

Puppet Shows....Crafts....Games... Bible Lesson....Music



6:00-6:30 p.m.
In the Prayer Room
All are welcome!
Praise the Lord for His blessings
Pray for needs of those in the church & community



6:00-7:00 p.m. in Rooms 10/11
Adults of all ages welcome!
An informal gathering to talk about topics of life and discover the places of the Scriptures.
Nov 15—Judi Galloway: How to Study the Bible



# Thursday, November 16th 7:00 p·m· Galloway's Home 4500 2nd Street Caledonia

A second Men's Fellowship is scheduled for Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. If you weren't able to attend the October Men's Fellowship mark your calendar to attend this gathering in November for fellowship and to plan future gatherings.

Questions? Contact Pastor Dave at (269) 876-7204 or Wayne Ingersoll at (616) 550-5995

Everyone age 50+ is invited to attend the November J.O.Y. lunches at

Curley Cone on M-179 east of Patterson Road on

Thursday, November 16 1:00 p.m.

Friends and family welcome!





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.

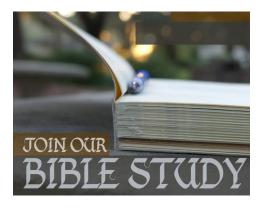
Questions? Contact Jerry Slagh worship@leightonchurch.org



Thank you to all who are providing food and monetary resources for the Hand2Hand food pantry. Because of your generous donations, we are able to provide a Thanksgiving meal of chicken, mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn, fruit jello and apple pie! We are now looking ahead to the Christmas meal and are in need of **16 boxes of scalloped potatoes** to complete our Christmas meal which will also include ham, green beans, fruit jello, and a Christmas cake. Thank you again for your support. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers this holiday season.

Flavored oatmeal packets
Granola/breakfast bars
Canned chicken
Canned peas, carrots, mixed vegetables
Peanut butter/Cheese Cracker Packs
Plain Boxed Scalloped Potatoes (by end of November/1st of December)
Thank you for helping us provide nutritious meals to child with food insecurity.

Lori Haselden, Hand2Hand Coordinator



# 9:30-11:00 a.m. In the Lounge Thru December 5

What do you know about the creation of the world? Are you leaning on what you've heard about creation or have you studied in-depth what God's word tells of the creation of the universe, animals, and mankind?

Go back to the beginning at this Bible study led by Cindy Herring. You'll discover:

The 7 C's of History
God's creation of the universe
Creation of animals, man, Adam & Eve
Dinosaurs & Dragons
Being a Steward of God's Creation
The Corruption-When Sin Entered the World

Adults of all ages and phases of life welcome.

Questions? Contact Cindy Herring
616-299-0083 or bigcowdoc@yahoo.com



The first annual conference of Leighton Church as an independent church is scheduled for

## Sunday, November 12th 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This conference is open for all to attend.

There will be a time of worship, reports from various committee chairpersons, and voting on business matters.

This is a time to reflect on how God has provided for Leighton Church, particularly this past year with disaffiliation from the UMC and becoming an independent church. We'll also look at ministry goals moving forward into the coming year.

Questions can be directed to Scott Pollmann, Board of Elders Chairman (616) 438-5360

Dear Leighton Family,

I want to extend my gratitude for all of your love, prayers, cards, and support for the loss of my dad.

This has been a very difficult season for me and the love of Christ that you have exhibited towards me is yet another reason I am grateful beyond words to call Leighton my church home. You may have noticed I was not here much this past summer. That was because I was lucky enough to be taking care of my dad in these last months of his life on this earth, and I praise God for that time we got to spend together.

Thank you again for everything.

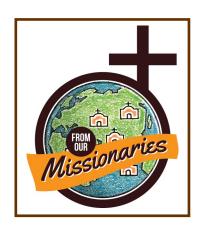
C.J. Yarrington



In moments dark, when shadows fall, God's grace sustains, He hears our call With nail-scarred hands, He leads the way, From dawn to dusk, through night and day

For life is scary, this we know, Yet in our Savior, fears let go He holds us close, His love abounds In Him, true peace and solace found

So let us walk our path with grace, In every trial, seek His face For life's not scary, with Jesus near In Him, we find our refuge clear





#### Brierly & Mackenzie Kuhudzayi Charlotte, Selma Zimbabwe, Africa

In August, the Kuhudzayi Family visited Leighton Church. It was our first visit with them and it was a joy getting to know them and learn more about their ministry in Zimbabwe, Africa. Their ministry focuses on improving the quality of life in southern Africa through agriculture and building the Kingdom by walking along-side people and deepening faith.

During their visit to Leighton in August, the Kuhudzayi's indicated that they had their eye on a 35-acre plot of land in the Matobo District to set up a permanent place to base their ministry. In their recent newsletter the Kuhudzayi's write:

"Since landing back in Zimbabwe on August 26th, we received enough partnership and contributions to put forth an offer for a sale agreement on the 35-acre plot in Matobo District. This was a huge step forward and we were so excited to finally have a permanent place to base our ministry and family, and be able to establish roots in the community and engage them in ways that will share the gospel.

Very shortly after moving all production materials and projects to the plot, we were evicted from the land by a man claiming to be the rightful owner of the land and the police were of no assistance. The money we paid for the land will be reimbursed and we were able to move 90% of the equipment and project assets off. For context, land can be a very contentious and disorganized issue in a former colony like Zimbabwe. Add the difficulty of the economic situation and things can be disorderly to say the least.

The Kuhudzayi's will base their projects close to where they lived last year. They will continue to rent the house they are in and take advantage of the opportunities and relationships they already have here. Continue to pray for them and where God plans for them to base their ministry.

Your gifts to the Faith Promise Missions Fund of Leighton Church supports the ministry of Brierly & Mackenzie Kuhudzayi and 14 other missionaries around the world.

Thank you for giving!



# Make a Difference in the Life of a Child This Christmas!

The Mission Team is working with Samaritan's Purse to collect shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, and personal care items to be sent to children in need around the world.

Operation Christmas Child distributes shoeboxes filled with personal care items, school supplies, accessories, and toys to children ages 2-14 all over the world. For some, this may be the only gift they ever receive. Along with the shoebox, the children hear the Good News of Jesus and receive the gospel story in their language.

Everyone is invited to fill a shoebox. (see the list of items on the next page). Shoeboxes are available in the Lobby along with information about the ministry.

Return your shoebox to the church no later than **NOVEMBER 15TH**.

A special offering is being collected SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH to help cover the cost of shipping the boxes which is \$10/box.

For more information, you may also contact April Taylor, Mission Team Chairperson hafpints@yahoo.com OR 616-293-0514

# SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY

The Youth Group and Mission Team invite you to join us on

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AT 5:00 P.M.

For a Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Packing Party!
400 boxes will be available along with pre-purchased items to pack.
Bring some of your own items or just come to help fill boxes. A collection will be taken from anyone who would like to help to defray from the shipping cost.

Come to pack boxes and then stay for the Church Conference at 7pm Snacks will be served at the packing party.

Questions? Contact Nancy Slagh 616-724-5447

# **SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS**



#### "WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes



#### TOYS

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

### PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes
- Small water bottles

# SCHOOL SUPPLIES • Pens, pencils, sharpeners,

- crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators



#### **ACCESSORIES**

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)

# DO NOT INCLUDE candy; toothpaste; gum; used

or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans

lasinights (with extra batteries)





Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®. Franklin Graham, President | 1-800-353-5949 | samaritanspurse.org © 2023 Samaritan's Purse. All rights reserved.



In addition to the Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection, the Mission Team is also organizing these drives this Christmas season.



Donate Little Debbie brand snacks to be included in treat bags for the patrons of the Barry County Commission on Aging. Any kind of Little Debbie brand snacks will be appreciated (Oatmeal Crème Pies, Christmas Trees, Brownies, Flavored Snack Cakes, etc.)

The goal is to collect 160+ snack cakes/cookies. Place your donation in the designated box in the Lobby by **December 3rd.** 

Questions can be directed to Jan Geukes (616) 240-0265

This is the 2nd year that Leighton Church is hosting a toy drive. The toys will be given to United Way in Barry County. They host a "store" where parents can come to "shop" for Christmas gifts for their children. In order for families to participate, they are screened and must meet certain criteria.

Stop by the Christmas tree in the Lobby and select a tag listing a suggested toy to purchase or pick up a toy/gift of your choosing.

Gifts are to be returned UNWRAPPED to Leighton Church by DECEMBER 10TH,





# Rift Valley Academy Valentine Candy Sale



Amy Galloway is a missionary supported by Leighton Church. She teaches Chemistry at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya, Africa. Not only is she a teacher, but she is also a sponsor for one of the classes. One responsibility for the class she sponsors is fundraising for a couple of big events. In December, her parents, Todd & Judi Galloway, will be traveling to Africa to visit Amy. Amy has asked that Leighton Church conduct a candy drive for the class she sponsors to hold a Valentine candy sale. Candy in Kenya is either very expensive or not available. Below is a list of the items she is asking to be donated. **Donations are due back NOVEMBER 19TH** as Todd & Judi leave for Africa November 26th. Place donations in the marked bin.

You may also give a monetary gift for items to be purchased before the Galloway's leave. You can place a check or cash in the offering plate and designate it VALENTINE CANDY or you can give safely and securely online at www.leightonchurch.org/give. Select VALENTINE CANDY

Take advantage of after Halloween candy sales!! Fun size and regular size candy bars that are listed are appreciated.

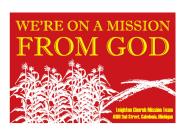
Sour Skittles
Sour Punch Straws
Airheads Extreme Sour
Sour Patch Kids

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
Butterfingers
Hershey's Kisses
Cookies & Cream Hershey Chocolate Bars

Nutella Pretzel Sticks Microwave Popcorn Cheetos Snack Size Bags Slim Jims

> Fruit by the Foot Starbursts Jolly Ranchers Normal Airheads Blow Pops Nerds

#### **T-Shirt Order Form**



God has a purpose and a plan for each one of us. - Jeremiah 29:11

One of our missions here at Leighton is to go out and be the hands and feet of Jesus. When we do, people wonder who we are and what we are doing. Our T-Shirts simply say, "We're on a Mission From God."

Write your name and number of shirts needed in what size on this form and place your payment in the offering plate.

Payment is due with your order. Order deadline is **DECEMBER 10**<sup>th</sup>.

#### **T-Shirt Order Form**

\$10.50 each (2x and 3x additional cost)

#### MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LEIGHTON CHURCH

50% Cotton/50% Polyester

Υοι	ıth		Adult			Adult 2X-5X	
M	L	XL	S	М	L	XL	(2XL=\$3 more) (3XL = \$4 more)

Name		Best Phone# To Reach You
Total # of regular size shirts	@ \$12.00 each	= \$
Total # of 2X shirts	_ @ \$15.00 each = \$	
Total # of 3X shirts	_ @ \$16.00 each = \$	
	Total enclosed = \$	

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LEIGHTON CHURCH

# 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 45

#### Sports:

People of Leighton church have had a strong interest in playing sports for at least 100 years and perhaps longer. The first record we have is the 1923—1927 baseball team. They played on a league for 5 years.

As the years passed, softball replaced baseball. One team, which was organized around 1940 and continued to play together until the early 1950's, won the **Championship** of the Woodland Softball League in 1947.

Basketball teams were not organized at Leighton until after the Parish House was built in 1947. This building gave young people the opportunity to organize a team and to compete against other teams that also were usually church teams. The games were most always played in Leighton's Parish House because very few other churches had an appropriate facility or gym to use. There is a basketball uniform and warm-up sweatshirt on display in the historical cabinet in the narthex. It belonged to Theron Thaler, Doug's father.

There were other teams off and on through the years. Leighton had a Blooper Ball team that played at the Moline fields on Monday nights against other church teams. If the kids would chase down the foul balls and home run balls, they would be given a free candy bar. Blooper ball was played like slow-pitch softball except only two gloves were allowed—shortstop and first base.

Leighton had a volleyball team in the 1990's which played games at Kentwood Community Church. Some of the members of this team were: Stacey Steeby, Shawn Eaton, Mark Kaechele, Colin Mead, Keith Pratt, Mark Schiefla, and Jean Bender. Bill Aman played on the Kentwood Community team so volleyball may have played a part in his and Stacey's future marriage! This volleyball team is also where Mark Kaechele met Ronda who is now his wife!

In 1991 there was a Leighton men's softball team and a co-ed softball team. Some members on the men's team were: Shawn Eaton, Mike Shanahan, Doug Thaler, and Keith Pratt. Some members of the co-ed team were: Cindy Herring, Chris Herring, Shawn Eaton, Keith Pratt, Stacey Steeby, and Mike Shanahan.

In 2013, there were 2 co-ed softball teams. Team #1 had Keith Pratt (coach), Stacey Aman, and Doug Thaler among many others. Mike Lepeak was coach for Team #2 and Loyd Elwood with several others were on that team.

Have you seen the little building near the ball field and play ground? That is the ice cream shack which was built by Art Hooker. Players and spectators alike, enjoyed the ice cream served by Art and Connie Hooker during softball games.

Archery is another sport enjoyed at Leighton. In 2002, adult archery began on Thursday evenings during January-March and during those same months, youth archery on Saturday mornings. Then in 2009, breakfast was offered on Saturday mornings for all ages with youth archery following. The Saturday breakfasts and youth archery continue to date.

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



# Tuesday, November 21st 7:00 p·m·

A special worship service to give God thanks for the many blessings he gives to us each day. All are welcome to come for a special Thanksgiving message, music, and a service of communion.

Following the service, pie and ice cream will be served in the gym.

Donations to the Circle of Joy Women's Fellowship will support missions around the world.

Invite family and friends to join you. Nursery services are not provided.

Sunday, December 3rd at Noon It's an annual celebration for the entire church family!

Come for a potluck dinner at Noon in the gym. Bring your table service and a dish or two to pass. Beverages will be provided.

Good food....good fellowship

Christmas carol sing-a-long

A great way to kick off the Christmas season!





All ladies are invited to gather for a night of Christmas joy on Monday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m. at Connie Hooker's Home 4457 Patterson Road, Middleville

Bring a dish to pass for a potluck dinner (table service and beverages provided) along with a \$10 gift to exchange.

Enjoy the beauty of her home, the fellowship of other women, and the joy of celebrating the birth of Christ.



# Thanks to all who participated in the Trunk or Treat! We estimated 90 kids attended. 8 churches were represented.



Congratulations to the Brandt Family! They had the Wizard of Oz theme for their vehicle and costumes.

They won a 1-night stay for two at the Leonard at Logan House Bed & Breakfast.

Pat Modreske's name was drawn and also won a stay at the Leonard at Logan House Bed & Breakfast.



















# Orders due November 26th

Cost:

\$4.75 each for 4" (5 blooms) \$7.00 each for a 6" (4-7 blooms) \$18.00 each for an 8" (8-12 blooms) \$28.00 for a 10" (16+ blooms)

To successfully place your order please follow these steps:

- 1. Put your name and phone number on the order form.
- 2. Indicate whether you are purchasing poinsettias in memory or in honor and the person's name(s).
- 3. Indicate the number of poinsettias you'd like to order by color and size
- credit card online at www.leightonchurch.org/give and select Holiday Flower Orders Total your order and attach a check made out to Leighton Church or cash in the exact amount. You may also pay by

our Name:	Phone Number:
Nemory of:	
1 Honor of:	

Pink

White

Marble

Red

Poinsettia Color

# **Service in Action**

## **How do I get involved?**

GREETER MINISTRY: November 12: Jan Geukes & Kim Bender November 19: Clay & Luann Snyder November 21 Thanksgiving Service: Mike & Linda Horton	Get involved: Diane Porter, Coordinator (616) 617-0269, dianeporter93@gmail.com
Intercessory Prayer: November 12: Debi Warren November 19: Chris Herring November 26: Alverna Truax	Get involved: Alverna Truax, (616) 891-8219, truax616@gmail.com Pray during the worship service. Serve every 6-8 weeks.
Nursery: November 12: Cindy Herring & Robbin Hilton November 19: Lori Haselden & Valerie Lepeak November 26: Scott & Terri Farmer	Get Involved: Rebecca Shanahan (616) 312-3070, rebeccashanahan84@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done.
Coffee Bar: November 12: Bruce & Kim Bender November 19: Jean McCaul & Debi Warren November 26: Larry & Diane Porter	<b>Get Involved:</b> Contact Connie Hooker (616) 891-8742 or sign up at the Coffee Bar
Treats for Coffee Fellowship:  November 12: Sharon Grinage & Cindy Herring  November 19: Christine Syswerda & Cindy Balyo  November 26: Debi Warren & Diane Porter	Get Involved: Contact Nona Steeby, (616) 891-1567
Acolytes: November 12: Abbi Pollmann & Olivia Taylor November 19: Abbi Pollmann & Keagan Shanahan November 26: Hollie Lepeak & Keagan Shanahan	Get Involved: Luann Snyder (616) 891-8348, luannlewis@yahoo.com
Children's Church: November 12: Christine & Ava Syswerda November 19: Rebecca Shanahan & Britney Bredeweg November 26: Diane & Ian Norris	Get Involved: Rebecca Shanahan (616) 312-3070, rebeccashanahan84@gmail.com Must attend Child Protection Class and have a background check done.
Youth Group Snacks: November 12: Sally Smith November 19: Larry & Diane Porter November 26: No Youth Group	Get Involved: Sign up in the Lobby to provide snacks for 20 on the date that works best for you. Contact Brian Smith with questions (616) 881-1488 or youth@leightonchurch.org