Mission Statement
We strive to be a welcoming, worshipping community of faith, helping people discover and deepen their relationship with God, growing as disciples of Christ, and reaching out in faith and loving service.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
Sermon: Reworked but not Thrown Away
Liturgy: Jeremiah 18: 1-11
Holy Communion / Hunger Sunday
Worship for All Ages / Birthday Sunday

News from the Office:
Reminder – our Weekly Announcements can be found at the rear of the Sanctuary and in the Parlor (during Fellowship Hour).
Please help us as we look to be good stewards of our resources (physical/financial) and as we explore ways to communicate all the exciting activities happening here at LCC.
Dear Church,

My husband has always been a very active parent. Aside from the year and a half he spent as a newspaper reporter in Wisconsin, he has either worked part time or been a full-time stay at home dad, so he has often taken the lead on bedtime, bathtime, and many of the other routines of parenthood. He does spend more time with them than I do. So it’s humorous to me that when people see him with the kids he is regularly asked if he’s “babysitting” them. I guess it used to be common phrasing for fathers—maybe a bit of a generational shift—this idea that fathers babysit their own children. I am so grateful for him; he is their parent and not their babysitter.

Recently I read an article called, “Your Church Doesn’t Need Volunteers” by Erin Wathen. The premise of the article is that, just like you don’t babysit your own children, you don’t volunteer in your own church. She writes, “To volunteer means that you are an outside resource, stepping in to help an organization in need...it’s what you do at a place that is important to you—but not at a place that belongs to you.” I think that our LCC family deeply understands this notion. This is our church; it belongs to us. This building is the vessel through which we are able to magnify the work of Jesus Christ and gather to worship God. Our community is made up of our siblings in Christ, our Beloved Ones, so it comes naturally to care for one another with grace and gratitude. Our connection to the Wider Church and to the world reminds us that all of God’s children are connected to us and we are committed to them in prayer and in financial support, just as we are doing with the UCC in Mozambique through Global Ministries. We are not outsiders coming in to put volunteer hours into a mission that is important to us; we are stewards caring for our own home, our own family, that which we are woven into.

So I’m inviting you to think about that—how does LCC belong to you? I can say with certainty that LCC needs you—your presence and your prayers most of all. When you are with us, LCC is more complete, whether it’s by physically being present in worship or (if you can’t be physically present) by connecting to each other through phone calls, letters, e-mails, and prayer. We are who we are because God is with us, and because you are with us.

The spirit continues to be vividly and brilliantly present at LCC. Through October, in preparation for the 2020 budget year, we will be offering building tours each Sunday after church so people can get to know our physical property better, while also understanding the current and upcoming maintenance needs of the church. This is important because it will play a role in our Stewardship conversations in November.

Sunday, October 27th is a “New Member Sunday.” This past Sunday evening, approximately 40 potential new members (including children) gathered for a dinner in our church parlor and had a wonderful time getting to know each other and the church. Six-year-old Teegan Barlow bravely volunteered to start our round of introductions. She stood on her chair and told the whole room about how she told her dad she wanted to go to church, and she really likes coming here. A room full of hearts was warmed, and the stories continued to flow about how people “really like coming here.” Most of those folks will be joining the church on New Member Sunday and I love that they will be woven into this beautiful community. See, I told you the spirit continues to be vividly and brilliantly present!

My heart is always with you, with Grace and Peace,
Pastor Joanna
**Reflection on Music**

See the people walking around, wounded.  
Some wounds are fresh, raw,  
some are scabbing, healing.  
Many hurt grievously.

See the people walking around, scarred.  
Some scars are superficial yet noticeable, others are invisible to others but are deep within.  
Though we try to forget about them,  
sometimes we are made to remember.

See the people walking around, scared  
that our scars and wounds mar us forever, scorn us and, worse yet, hold us back on the brink of hope and life.

As Rev. Joanna’s sermon last Sunday referenced, there are cracks in our cisterns. (If you didn’t get to hear it, listen to it online!) We are indeed flawed vessels of Christ’s love and our ability to contain it may sometimes be compromised by past hurts, what we perceive to be “cracks.” However, as a wise friend once said, we are all broken in our own ways, but we still have agency not to let them circumscribe all we can be and do in life.

I firmly believe that music, the arts, community, generosity, and the many beautiful people and experiences we find consistently at LCC can help us to think and feel past our cracks. My professional bias would like to claim that music in particular has the power and gentleness to be glue in those cracks, to heal us, to mourn with us and rage with us. Above all, it hopes with us, supporting us through a catharsis which frees us up to work to create a better world and a better us.

As this fall kicked off with Rally Day, I was reminded of the support I felt, not just from music, but from the many wonderful people who make music with me every week, as well as each and every one of you. When music resounds in our sanctuary, we can discern Christ’s love, the love of the music’s creator(s), the love of everyone making that music, and the love of everyone sharing in it together near and far. It is a beautiful communion and I find myself constantly touched by it.

I also wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation or Naomi Columna and Ben Liu, our new soprano and tenor section leader and soloists. They are both top-notch musicians, with highly expressive voices, superb training, and a giving spirit which I hear every time they sing. I encourage you to introduce yourselves to them and hope they’ll be with us for a while; their contributions to the music program are already considerable.

Coming up in October, there will be an excellent CityMusic concert October 20 at 5 pm. Unfortunately, the cello recital scheduled for the 13th will be postponed for a bit due to an excellent professional opportunity my cellist friend, Anna, could not pass up. We look forward to playing it in the future for you. And the choir, bells, soloists, and featured instrumentalists will be offering varied music throughout the month. Mike Galloway will be leading a beautiful arrangement of David Haas’ “You Are Mine,” featuring Meghan’s wonderful singing.

Thanks for reading and hope to see you soon; come find me during coffee hour and let me know what you think of the music so far this fall.

Ben Malkevitch  
Director of Music Ministries
Stewardship Update

On September 22\textsuperscript{nd}, following worship, we gathered for a congregational meeting hosted by the Stewardship Team. This team has gathered often since our annual meeting in February to discuss ways to right-size our budget and reduce our endowment dependency to match the needs of a growing church and active use of our 100+ year old building.

The team has reached out to many individuals in the congregation for advice and support, and invites more commentary as well. The presentation included, most notably, information about changes to our annual budgeting process (developing the 2020 proposed budget in October, ahead of our November Stewardship Month, rather than in December/January, ahead of our Annual Meeting) and information about reducing our endowment draw for operating expenses from 5% (our consistent, annual draw) to 4% in 2020 and 3% in 2021. It is likely that we will both increase our proposed budget and decrease our endowment draw, which means that we need an overall increase to our pledges for 2020. You will hear more about this in the next two months.

We felt that it would be important to adopt a shared covenant as we enter into this time of transition and sometimes difficult conversation, to center us as we move forward in the coming months in discerning how and why God is calling us to these important shifts.

If you have any questions, or would like to add to the conversation, please contact Pastor Joanna or a member of the Stewardship Team (Missy Toms, Melissa Armstrong-Brine, Sarah Banyasz, Jeremy Borell, Maic D’Agostino, Liz Maugans, Richard and Judy Foote, J. Horner, Steve Hotchkiss, Dave Mechenbeier, Karen Wagner, and Jill Richardson)

COVENANT FOR LAKEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Stewardship Team
September 22, 2019

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

O God, You are our shepherd, our guide throughout our life, and the restorer of our soul. You created all life and fashioned humans in your image, anointing us, and promising to never leave us alone. Your covenant with us includes an invitation and a promise of life with You in this life and throughout eternity. You generously offer us hesed, mercy and lovingkindness, You gave us Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, and the Holy Spirit as a comforter and Your voice inside us. No vessel is large enough to hold all the blessings we receive from You.

With abiding gratitude, we covenant with You to:

- Engage in this world as disciples of Jesus
- Support the ministry and covenants of this church, Lakewood Congregational, through worship and with the gifts of our time, skills, and financial offerings
- Pray for each other, our community, our region, our nation, and our world
- Recognize injustice and work for holistic solutions
- Act with the awareness that our choices directly and indirectly impact current and future generations
- Embrace wonder, recognizing You in the people we meet and in your creation

Throughout our daily and communal life, we will Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Children and Family Ministries

Youth Planning Team: Monday, October 7, 7-8pm
Any youth or adults interested in helping plan for our youth ministry may attend. Please join us!

Stay Up To Date
Stay up to date with all of our happenings for children, youth, and families!

To be added to our email list, be sure you have turned in your Faith Formation registration forms. The forms are available on the CYF bulletin board or on the church website. Forms

Families with children and youth who are active in our church are also welcome to join our Facebook group: Lakewood Congregational Church Children & Youth

Would you like to help in the nursery?
Our church nursery is a special place to be on Sunday mornings. Our nursery workers have the joy of caring for our little ones while also listening to the worship service through a speaker. Adults and youth, if you would like to help in the nursery 1-3 times per month, please e-mail Rachel (Rachel@lcc-church.org)

Youth Led Worship at Eliza Jennings
Sunday, November 10, 9:45am
All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to help lead worship at Eliza Jennings Assisted Living. We will not be having Eliza Jennings Worship in October; it will begin in November and will continue through the school year on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Transportation is provided and the leadership is not difficult. This is a fun way to spend time with your friends while giving back to others.

Parents, if you would like to help out by driving for this event, please contact Rachel. All youth not riding with their parent will need to turn in their Faith Formation Registration and Medical/Liability Release prior to the event (info about registration and release are found in this newsletter and at www.lcc-church.org).

Youth and adults planning to attend, please sign up on the Eliza Jennings sheet which is on the Sign Up bulletin board outside of the Parlor.

Thank you, LCC church family, for your support of our youth during our car washes this summer! The youth had a lot of fun washing your cars! Your donations help make our summer mission trips possible. Thank you!

Announcing: LCC’s Youth Musical
On Youth Sunday, we were happy to announce our 2020 Youth Musical….Seussical! Our musicals at LCC feature young people in grades 3-12.

Auditions will be Sunday, December 8th at noon. The shows will be April 3-5 (Palm Sunday Weekend). Mark your calendars! More information coming soon!
Children and Family Ministries: Youth News

Youth, congratulations for the incredible job you did leading Youth Sunday! LCC is so blessed to have such incredible young people. We appreciate you all sharing with us! Thank you to all of the adults who helped arrange everything for a very special service! If you were unable to attend Youth Sunday, you can listen to their reflection on this summer’s mission trip on the LCC website (Sermons section).

Youth Group: Sunday, October 6, 11:30am-12:30pm
We are having Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders on Sunday, October 6th (after Next Generation Band).

All LCC youth and their friends are welcome. Lunch provided (probably pizza, contact Rachel with food concerns/requests/questions).

We will have some fun together, talk about upcoming events, and also break out into separate groups for middle and high school for part of our time together.

Youth Trip to the Spooky Ranch: Sunday, October 20, 6:15-10pm
“Spooky Ranch at The Rockin’-R-Ranch offers something no other haunted event can! Not the ordinary boring hayride. 5 dynamic attractions that you will not find anywhere else in the Cleveland area. You will scream, laugh, and be amazed...leaving you absolutely entertained!” We will also have a campfire to roast hot dogs and s’mores!

Sign up on the Faith Formation bulletin board or by emailing Rachel. Cost is $15 per person. Please sign up and pay no later than Tuesday, October 15th. Your spot will be reserved when you have both signed up and paid. Each youth will also need to turn in a FF Registration and Medical/Liability Release (unless already completed).

Parents, would you like to help out by driving/chaperoning this event? Please email Rachel to volunteer.

All Ages Pumpkin Carving: Sunday, October 27, 11:30am-1pm
Keep your house pumpkin-gut-free by doing your carving with us at LCC! All are welcome and no registration is required.

Bring your pumpkins and carving supplies. We will have prizes for different categories and best in age level. After church, stop by the parlor for some snacks, then head down to the social hall for our pumpkin fun!
A Ministry to Serve

COMMUNITY MEAL
OCTOBER 3rd

Join us for the LCC Community Meal!

As always, we will start set-up and food preparation about 3:30pm. We'll then plate the food and be ready for service at 6:00pm.

We will need people to help put up tables and chairs, set tables, make coffee, tea, lemonade and food. During dinner, we will need a few folks in the kitchen to assist with refilling dishes for second helpings and afterwards we will need assistance with clean-up of the social hall and kitchen.

We generally finish up by 7:15pm. We welcome you for any amount of time you can join us!

If you are unable to make our community dinner but are interested in serving, Trinity is in need of help for their community meals. Their October schedule is posted below.

TRINITY COMMUNITY MEALS:

- Monday, Oct. 7, 6pm
- Saturday, Oct. 19 at 12pm

Trinity Produce Distribution: 10am-12pm: Saturday, Oct. 19
Trinity Pantry: 10am-12pm: Saturday, Oct. 26

Volunteers are needed for each and every program offering. Please join us!

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Martha’s Table, an “INreach” Team at LCC (Nurture and Growth) needs your HELP*. Many of you are familiar with Martha, the woman from the Bible who was all about serving Jesus and others great meals at her home! (Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-44, 12:2). Our own Martha’s Table began a few years ago and has served our LCC family members many meals to help nourish the body, the mind, and the soul when life has become difficult to manage.

Jennifer Schwelik heads up the Team of chefs/bakers/deliverers; *if you are interested in being a part of this behind-the-scenes Team, email or call Jennifer (see Church Directory.)

And, if you are in need of a meal due to an illness, death, new baby, or some other reason preventing you from cooking a dinner, call the church office (216-221-9555).

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COMMUNITY CORNER

Have you recently volunteered? Are you part of an event that needs volunteers or fundraising? Please contact Laura Hampton at lblesseh@bw.edu to have your information included in future additions of The Columns or the weekly bulletin.
A Ministry to Serve / In and Around LCC

Community of Hope (formerly Open Table)

We have some good news! After waiting for over a year to be matched up with a young person, it looks like we are finally on our way!

Seven of us started on this journey with Open Table about 18 months ago. This organization works with young people that have been in the foster care system. A young person is matched with a community of adults who commit to meeting at least once a week to build relationships with the young person. Through the process, the group becomes family for the young person. Community of Hope has launched dozens of tables and served so many young people.

Some on the LCC group had to drop off the previous table but we are happy that three new people have stepped up. The community includes John Bando, Sandie King, Charles Lyons, Jr., Valerie Mechenbier, Vicki Smigelski, and Scott Suttell. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin our journey with our young person. Thanks to our LCC family for supporting this outreach.

Each year LCC/Trinity creates our own daily devotional for the holiday season (Advent—Epiphany)

Let Karen Wagner know if you/family are interested in participating. She will select Bible verse for you to ponder and then write about.

Are you interested in participating, but are not fond of writing? Karen is willing to give you a Bible verse to ponder. Then, she’ll sit with you and listen to your thoughts about the verse. From that conversation, she will create a devotion for your approval. Once you like it, then your devotion is added to the booklet.

The verses are being selected. All we need are writers. Devotion deadline is Friday, November 15. Early submission is encouraged and appreciated.

Karen Wagner, kewagner3@gmail.com, 440.759.5093

LCC PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer Request Cards can be found on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or you can call the church office if you, or someone you love, is in need of prayer.

The LCC Prayer Chain includes members Chiquita Matthews, Ellen Tudron, Kathy MacDougall, Robert Wenz, Vicki Smigelski, Muriel Campbell, Nancy Gibbs, Alicia Fortenbaugh, Marinika Beaver, J. Horner, Patti Dobro, Charlotte Brown, Karen Lee, Pastor Joanna, and Patti Komperda. Let Karen Lee (church office) or Pastor Joanna know if you would like to be added to the Chain or if you would like to add

Join the Journey

Are you looking for a way to deepen your faith? How has God called you individually and us collectively to be the church? Brian McLaren takes us on an amazing faith journey in his book We Make the Road by Walking. With McLaren, we will explore how to be alive in our faith through a quest for spiritual formation, reorientation, and activation.

Join members of Trinity Lutheran and Lakewood Congregational on the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month beginning October 1, 2019 through May 19, 2020, from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm Childcare will be available upon request. This is not your parents Bible study. If you are new to small group study or a long-time student, all are welcome.

Join Paula Deal, Haylee Schwenk, and Karen Wagner as we walk with God through the church year. Books may be purchased through the LCC church office, 216-221-9555. Contact Paula Deal, paula.deal@gmail.com, for more information.
A Ministry to Serve / In and Around LCC

FRIEND’S CIRCLE EVENTS
Friends Circle (a multi-generational women’s group)
Friend’s Circle’s next will Eliza Jennings program (date to be determined)
Please contact the office at 216-221-9555 or lccstaff@lcc-church.org to be added to our email list.

Clifton Beach Outing 2019

Adult Faith Formation
The Adult Faith Formation Team plans various programs throughout the year to help live out our mission by helping people discover and deepen their relationship with God and growing as disciples of Christ. We are looking to add more members to the team. If you’re interested, our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 8 at 7 pm at the church.

LCC MEMBER NEWS:
◊ Condolences to Judy, Richard and the entire Foote/Hampton family on the sudden passing of Judy’s sister, Sandy Hampton https://www.berrymcgreevey.com/obituary/sandra-hampton
◊ Congratulations and good luck to Andy Slimak (husband of Alannah McCarthy) on becoming the new co-owner of Westlake’s Starz Ballroom.
◊ Congratulations to David Burns for kicking the winning field goal in last week’s Lakewood Middle School football game
◊ Congratulations to Tim Daso, Eliza Richardson, and Drew Sheldon for being recognized for excellence on their AP exams
◊ Chris Burns joined the Cleveland Pops Chorus—the Cleveland Pops Orchestra: Holiday Spectacular December 1, 2pm at the Connor Palace (tickets through Playhouse Square)
◊ Joey Daso, Audrey Warren, and Sarah Whitkofski were all cast in Lakewood High School’s fall play, Moon Over Buffalo
◊ Charlie Payne led Lakewood’s Middle School Cross Country Boys Team at the Valley Forge Invitational to first place by placing 1st in his race on Sept. 21st

Be sure to send your news to the office at lccstaff@lcc-church.org by the last Monday of the month. We love to celebrate and support our members.
In and Around LCC

Adventures in Reading
CALLING ALL READERS!
Come to Adventures in Reading
(LCC book club)
the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
Tuesday, Oct. 8th
12:30 p.m.
Westlake Porter Library
27333 Center Ridge Rd.

Book: The Kurdish Bike by Alesa Lightbourne

Kay Galloway will lead the review and discussion of The Kurdish Bike (© 2016) by Alesa Lightbourne. This novel is based on a true story and follows an American teacher whose values are challenged in an Iraqi village in 2010. “Courageous teachers wanted to rebuild a war-torn nation.” With her marriage over and her life gone flat, Theresa Turner responds to an online post and lands at a school in Kurdish Iraq. Theresa’s greatest challenge will be balancing respect for cultural values while trying to introduce more enlightened attitudes toward women. The Kurdish Bike is an eye-opener into little known customs in one of the world’s most explosive regions—a novel of love, betrayal, and redemption.

Looking ahead to November: Our book review will be Where the Crawdads Sing (© 2018) by Delia Owens

MEN’S GROUP
All men are invited to the LCC Men’s Group gathering hosted by Richard Foote on Wednesday, October 2, 7:00pm. Plan to stay and watch the American League Wild Card game on the movie room big screen. There will be soft drinks and popcorn. Bring any other beverage you want, and pizza will be ordered as usual. Richard’s address is Brighton Chase Apts., 19875 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River (driveway west of Panera). Park anywhere around the building or turn right to park next door in front of Cube Smart (ignore tow signs which are for abandoned cars only). Please join us!
Plan to stay to watch Browns @ Jets game on Monday Night Football at 8:15pm. Bring any beverage you want, and pizza will be ordered as usual.

SECOND SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12TH
Women of all ages in our church are invited to gather for an hour of conversation, reflection and prayer.
We’ll meet next for Second Saturday on Saturday, October 12, 9:00am at the church. Take some time to get to know other women in our church family as we continue on our spiritual journeys. Get to know women of all ages as we journey through life.
October Birthdays

Sally Hotchkiss October 1
Patsy Welsh October 1
Kallie Mitchell October 3
Aidan Erway October 3
Jack Sheldon October 3
Molly Kenney October 4
Patti Dobro October 5
Brandon Erway October 5
Helen Fraunfelder October 6
Joann Riordan October 7
Charlotte Brown October 10
Ted Nagel October 10
Ann Schleckman October 10
Cathy Kuhn October 11
Alicia Fortenbaugh October 13
David McDermott October 13
Susan Walker October 13
Nancy Gibbs October 14
Cindy Stockman October 15
Deborah Szabo October 15
Cliff Brockman October 16
Marinika Beaver October 17
Helen McDermott October 19
Jack Rupert October 19
Eugene Stair October 20
Doris Holmok October 30

Adam and Nicole Wills Oct. 1
Bob & Carol Richardson Oct. 5
Jack & Jane Archer Oct. 6
Kris & Kelly Payne Oct. 7
Shawn & Julie Warren Oct. 11
Ted & Megan Nagel Oct. 12
Tom & Muriel Campbell Oct. 14
Peter & Arlie Matera Oct. 15
Scott & Jill Richardson Oct. 19
Thomas Chesnes & Oct. 20
Charlie Olivo
Mark & Julie Hogan Oct. 23

October Anniversaries
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**October 2019**

- **Worship for All Ages**
  - Holy Communion
  - Birthday/Hunger Sunday
  - 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
  - 10 am Worship—Sanctuary
  - 10 am Eliza Jennings Worship
  - 10:15 am Faith Formation
  - 11 am Fellowship Hour
  - 11:15 am Building Tour
  - 11:30 am Youth Group
  - 11:30 am Marketing Meeting

- **New Member Sunday**
  - 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal
  - 10 am Worship—Sanctuary
  - 10:15 am Faith Formation
  - 11 am Fellowship Hour—Parlor
  - 11:15 am Building Tour
  - 5 pm CityMusic
  - 6:15 pm Youth Trip to Spooky Ranch

- **Other Events**
  - 6:30 pm Tai Chi—Parlor
  - 6:45 pm Handbells
  - 7:30 pm AA—Social Hall
  - 8 pm Choir
  - 9 pm AA—Social Hall
  - 10-12 pm Trinity Program—Parlor
STAFF:
Senior Minister
Joanna D’Agostino
revjoanna@lcc-church.org

Director of Music
Ben Malkevitch
ben@lcc-church.org

Director of Children & Family Ministries
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Childcare
Jacqueline Reasor

Building and Property
Liz Spahr

HAYNES NURSERY SCHOOL
Alison Yonkers, Director
haynesnurseryschool@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE TEAM:
Chair: Greg Wereb
Vice-Chair: Liz Spahr
Moderator: Michael Komperda
Treasurer: David Amen
Nurture and Growth Ministries:
   Sue Tammio
Welcoming Ministries:
   Scott Sutell
Outreach Ministries:
   Laura Blesse—Hampton
Diaconate: Vicki Smigelski

SUNDAY WORSHIP:
NURSERY: Sunday, 9:50 a.m.
WORSHIP: Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
FAITH FORMATION: 10:15 a.m.
(Children start in worship and are
excused to attend classes at Faith Formation time)

PHONE: 216-221-9555
FAX: 216-221-9088
WEBSITE: www.lcc-church.org
E-MAIL: lccstaff@lcc-church.org

- Building Tours: Every Sunday in October—meet in the
  lobby at 11:15am to learn more about this great big
  building of ours
- Men’s Group: Oct. 2, 7pm
- Second Saturday: Oct. 12, 9am
- The Cello Concert (10/13) has been postponed
- CityMusic: Oct. 20, 5pm
- Pumpkin Carving: Oct. 27 (after worship—meet in the
  Social Hall with your pumpkin and tools
- October 27: New Member Sunday