



Calendar of Events

- Council (6:30 p.m., Sanctuary) – July 1st
- Lakewood Association 250th Celebration (5:00—8:00 p.m. Lakewood Park) - July 3rd
- Monday Night Prayer Time (6:00-7:00 p.m., Prayer Chapel) – July 6th
- Trustees (6:30 p.m.) – July 8th
- United Women in Faith (10:00 a.m., Library) - July 11th
- Vacation Bible School - July 12th—15th (6:00-8:00 p.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church)
- Monday Night Prayer Time (6:00-7:00 p.m., Prayer Chapel) – July 13th
- Epilogue Group (11:30 a.m., Shrine Club) – July 15th
- SPRC (6:30 p.m.) – July 16th
- Monday Night Prayer Time (6:00-7:00 p.m., Prayer Chapel) – July 20th
- Monday Night Prayer Time (6:00-7:00 p.m., Presque Isle State Park) – July 27th
- Council (6:30 p.m., Sanctuary) – July 29th
- Reminder: NO Men’s Group until October

Save the Date

Kick Off Event (Asbury Park) - August 9th

Our vision is to glorify God by helping people to discover, experience, and know the love and presence of Jesus Christ.



Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I read this article in February of this year and have been practicing some of the ways in which we can pray. When I pray for many at Lakewood UMC, I do envision the persons or situations bathed in God’s Holy Light. I thought that; with our active prayer ministry making an impact on Lakewood, that I would share this article/resource:

How to nurture prayer practices in kids and teens

By Laura Buchanan

While many of us might think of prayer as quiet time spent with our heads bowed and hands clasped, it can look very different for each of us.

“There is no right way to pray . . . when it comes to prayer, there’s so much possibility,” says the Rev. Roger Owens, author and professor of Christian spirituality and ministry.

Adults can lead the way in exploring a variety of prayer practices as they help young people find out what brings them closer to God. It’s a lifelong lesson that all families should learn together.

Open up the conversation

“Parents can feel like they’re not confident enough in their own prayer life, [thinking], ‘Who am I to talk to my kids about prayer?’ But it should be the most natural thing for families, guardians and parents to be able to talk with each other and with their kids about life with God, prayer and their spiritual lives,” says Owens.

Owens’ latest book, [Praying Their Way](#), helps families do just that. It includes conversation starters so that prayer moves from something that feels private and perhaps difficult to discuss to something fun for everyone to discover.

“I think what [adults] are going to find is that these are meaningful practices and ideas about prayer they can talk about for themselves, not just for their kids. And [it will] increase confidence so that conversations and praying together can happen more freely and naturally.

“The best way to help the faith development of kids is to make sure that the adults around them are growing in their faith and feeling equipped,” he observes.

About the book: Inspired by time spent in prayer with
(Continued on page 2)

his kids and answering their curious questions, Owens saw the need for an accessible, practical resource for parents that could pave the way for meaningful faith conversations.

So that adults feel supported, [Praying Their Way](#) includes scripts, step-by-step guides, variation suggestions and ways to practice alone or with a group.

While the book is focused on preteens, the content can easily be adapted to younger and older children. It's perfect for families, youth or children's ministry leaders, and anyone who spends time with young people. It's available from [Upper Room Books](#).

Be adventurous

The book suggests 24 prayer practices, which are sorted into the categories of Scripture, silence, body, nature, together and justice. Owens says, "I think if you ask a lot of kids in 5th or 6th or 7th grade, 'What's prayer?', they'll say, 'Talking to God.' I think the goal of this book is to give a really holistic, varied approach, also knowing that everyone's different.

"Some folks are going to find one way that really works, and some are going to enter into it another way. Some are going to be more physical, and some are going to be really happy with the wordy stuff. Because all kids are different, [we need to] create the widest possible approaches to entering in. I seriously doubt that any kid's going to do all 24 of these practices and say, 'They're all for me.'"

Trying the practices can be lifechanging for kids and teens as they discover what helps them feel God's presence. Owens suggests beginning each practice imagining that God is delighting in you and is smiling at you. Here are some ideas to explore:

- **Read Scripture:** Unpack a Scripture passage, spend time figuring out what it is about and what it means, listen to what God might be saying to you and experience God's presence.
- **Get physical:** Pray the Lord's prayer using gestures.
- **Bathe in light:** Picture someone or something that you are concerned about. Then picture them bathed in God's light. Imagine God's healing on them and entrust them to God's care.
- **Give a morning offering:** First thing in the morning, sit with your hands in a bowl shape and think about what your day will hold. Imagine placing those things in the bowl and then lift it to God.
- **Engage in justice:** Think of different ways to pray for social justice, food insecurities, climate justice or other advocacy needs in your community. Do research, discuss the issue with others, pray about how you can assist and then engage in fulfilling needs.

"It's a wide palette that allows both adults and kids to enter into a lot of different doors and experiment. See what works, what feels natural," Owens explains.

Honor kids' voices

As you explore prayer practices with the young people in your life, create a safe, nonjudgmental space for reflection and conversation so that relationships can be strengthened as well.

Owens wrote [Praying Their Way](#) with his young teenage daughter, Mary Clare, who was integral in ensuring the book would resonate with others in her stage of life. She contributed personal reflections and experiences throughout.

"I thought it was really important to have a kid's voice in this, that perspective of actually doing a prayer practice and saying, 'Here's what I did, here's what it was like and why it was meaningful to me.' That was beautiful for me to be able to hear from her heart about what it means for her to experience the fact that God is here," Owens shares.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Amy Estes	07/02
Ellen Hulings	07/02
Ashley Thais	07/02
Richard Giacomelli	07/04
Jackson Eastman	07/06
John Currier	07/07
Gary Delio	07/07
James Robertson	07/07
Alice Johnson	07/09
Sandra Ellsworth	07/11
Tony Roussos	07/12
Jane Hasley	07/13
Sandra Hess	07/19
Patricia Webber	07/19
Linda Arkelian	07/22
Lyn Kendall	07/24
Judy Mallory	07/24
Devon Wettekin	07/26
Mary Geib	07/28
Katlyn Wettekin	07/29
Linda Lim	07/30



Lakewood Youth News

*Helping youth to discover, experience and know
the love and presence of Jesus Christ*

Our Youth Group has had a wonderful year of connecting, growing in faith, and serving others. We are thankful for all the students, leaders, and families who made this year so meaningful. We wish everyone a safe and blessed summer.

We look forward to seeing you again when Youth Group resumes on **September 13!**

Contact Information

For questions and concerns please contact us any time.

Jackie and Jeremiah Bull

Home: 814-833-4520

Call or Text: 814-323-6805

Email: missjackie77@hotmail.com

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you a recent graduate or know someone who is? If you are a member of Lakewood Church and plan to continue your education, academic or technical trades training, we encourage you to apply for a Lakewood UMC Scholarship. Applications are in the back of the Sanctuary. Return completed applications to the Church Office no later than September 30. Applications will be reviewed by the Trustees at the September meeting.

Erie City Mission Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for an opportunity to directly serve those in need? Lakewood volunteers are needed on **Sunday, July 19** to help with preparing and serving a meal and providing fellowship at the Erie City Mission, 1023 French Street. There is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby. Contact Lisa Medina or Chris Paul if you have additional questions. Volunteers meet at about 9:15 a.m. at the City Mission (entrance behind the building). Volunteers are usually done by 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. We usually need about 10 volunteers so please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. If you are interested in helping with this ministry but are unable to serve on July 19, there will be additional opportunities to serve in 2026 on **September 20** and **November 15**.

Council Update - July 2026

Lakewood Association 250th Celebration: July 3 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The Lakewood Association will be hosting a special 250th Celebration in the park on July 3! This is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with our neighbors and share God's love within our community. Our church will be participating with a Hospitality Tent featuring free freezer pops, a craft table with bracelet-making and patriotic treat crafts, a Kids on Wheels Parade, Sonlight Puppets, a Prayer Wall, and giveaways to help us connect with families and neighbors throughout the event. Volunteers are needed to help make this outreach opportunity a success, and we invite everyone to be part of this exciting day of connection, fellowship, and service!

Ministry Action Plan

We invite everyone to prayerfully consider sharing their gifts and talents by becoming involved in at least one ministry. To help the congregation learn more about each ministry, short videos highlighting ministry opportunities will be shared during worship services and posted on our website. In the weeks leading up to the videos, Council members will also use the "Message from the Youth" time to share a "Message from Council," offering scripture connections, personal reflections, and insights connected to the featured themes. We are excited to see how God will continue to work through our church as we build real connections, grow in faith, and serve others together.

Celebration / Kick Off Event: August 9

Mark your calendars for August 9 as we come together to celebrate this new chapter and kick off our ministries! Join us for a picnic at Asbury Park as we gather in fellowship and excitement for what's ahead. More details will be shared soon—we hope to see you there!

Lakewood Tagline

Council has adopted the tagline: ***Real Connections, Growing Faith, Serving Others***. This tagline reflects our mission to build meaningful relationships within our congregation and community, deepen our faith through worship and service, and share God's love by serving others. We look forward to living out this mission together through our ministries, events, and community connections.

Facebook and Instagram: @LakewoodErie

Check out our updated Facebook and Instagram pages to see all the exciting things happening at Lakewood UMC! We encourage you to follow our accounts and share our posts with family and friends. Helping spread the word is a great way to support our church's ministry and outreach. If you have an event, ministry update, or story you'd like to share on our social media platforms, please contact Jackie Bull or Marg Estes.

Coming Soon . . . Lakewood Apparel

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, July 29 at 6:30 p.m.



JUNE 2026 ATTENDANCE:

Average attendance for weekly in-person worship: 68

Average views of weekly livestream (Youtube): 56

Average weekly combined "attendance" for June: 124

Average weekly combined "attendance" to-date: 122



United
Women
in Faith

UWIF will be meeting July 11 in the library at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing rummage sale proceeds and plans for future events. We made \$3,024 before expenses. Thanks to all who participated including those who helped feed our weary bodies! Plus a big round of applause to Bonnie Truchanowicz, Betty Bowers and Dan Thompson (our muscle man)!

"I want to say to everyone who helped out at the sale, you went above and beyond this year, and I am so thankful for the turnout and how much money we made! I appreciate everything that everyone did and I hope you will be there next year to help us make another great year at our sale! Thank you so much!" -Bonnie T

THE WEST MILLCREEK FOOD PANTRY

Children are out of school for the summer. That means that they will be home for all of their meals. In order to pass out one box of cereal or a can of veggies, fruit, or tuna, we need 172 of each item. Our pantry depends heartily on the support we receive from our churches! Thank you in advance for helping us reach our goal.

Thank you,
Karen

MONDAY NIGHT PRAYER TIME

Please join us on Mondays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Lakewood Prayer Chapel (off the sanctuary). This prayer hour has a new format which will include a weekly focus and special prayer intention.

- July 6 Addiction & Mental Illness
- July 13 Siblings & Family Concerns
- July 20 Children Home in the Summer
- July 27 God's Creation
Prayer at Presque Isle State Park TBD

This is a comfortable, welcoming, covenant space to gather in the presence of God. You don't need to pray out loud unless you want to – you can simply participate by being present. We plan to meet every Monday for one hour – there is no commitment – come when you can or feel called to be there. Everyone is invited. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Medina, Margueritta Estes, or Jackie Bull.



Prayer for Discernment

God, Our Father,
You have a plan for each one of us, You hold out to us a future full of hope.
Give us the wisdom of your Spirit so that we can see the shape of your plan
in the gifts you have given us, and in the circumstances of our daily lives.
Give us the freedom of your Spirit, to seek you with all our hearts,
and to choose your will above all else.
Amen.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 12TH—15TH

6-8 PM

Come join us as we take a safari through tropical islands as we learn how Jesus comes to seek and to save us!

Dear Parents & Youth:

Come and explore God's Word as we learn how our loving God helps us face our challenges. Join us on an exciting adventure as faith takes us exploring through the tropics. As we trek along, we will explore new places, make memories, discover how to live out God's love in our everyday lives and feel God's presence with us wherever we go!

Explorers will navigate caves, rivers, volcanoes and lush vegetation as they learn that God is with them in whatever situation they face. We will discover timeless Bible stories that show how people from the Old and New Testaments journeyed with God through many locations and situations and found strength in God's presence wherever they went.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 12th—Wednesday, July 15th

6 pm—8 pm join us for some real fun and Bible adventures as we trek along God's path!

For fun we ask that your kiddo wear a t-shirt to match the color of the day. This is not a requirement, so please don't go out and purchase new clothing.

Sunday—green Monday—yellow Tuesday—orange Wednesday—red

Immanuel and Lakewood Methodist Churches are working together to make this VBS 2026 Tropic Trek with God a fun and meaningful experience as the kiddos learn that God is always present. Should you have any questions, or would like to register please feel free to contact us at (814) 833-4062.

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

******Those who trek along with us may donate a nonperishable food item to help stock the Little Pantry to help those in need.******



**Tropical Trek Vacation Bible
School**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Registration**

July 12th—July 15th

Childs Name: _____

Childs Gender : _____ Childs Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Last School Grade Completed: _____

Name of Parent: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

I grant Immanuel Lutheran / Lakewood UMC the right to take photos of my child I connection with VBS and agree they may use such photos as publicity, illustration and Web content

Parent Signature: _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

In case of emergency contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

