

DECEMBER 2022

LEWIS LAKE NEWS

RECEIVING GOD'S BLESSING
BECOMING GOD'S BLESSING

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Pure Happiness?

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
Matthew 5:8*

It's a sad commentary on the human condition that living in purity of heart often strikes us as a bleak, boring, joyless existence. It makes us think of goody-two-shoes and the holier-than-thou people who are so heavenly minded they're no earthly good.

It's almost axiomatic that any kind of genuine excitement, especially for grown-up people, has a darker element to it. Take, for instance, the terms, “Adult entertainment” and “child-friendly.” Simple, innocent pleasures may satisfy the kids, but it takes some measure of sophistication and at least a little debauchery to make adult blood flow. There's just something exciting about flirting with evil.

Side note: Don't forget, we're under assault by a concerted, orchestrated effort of sexual revolutionaries and activists to destroy our kids' innocence even earlier by exposing them to the most grotesque of sexual deviance (think Drag Queen Story Hour in public libraries and even liberal churches). Children of five and six years old are openly being groomed for sexual exploitation, and the groomers are celebrated as heroes. Satan loves destroying children. Keep your eyes wide open, parents. Your wee ones have powerful, bloodthirsty enemies. End note.

It shouldn't surprise us that most people, especially young adults, don't think Christianity is very fun. Christian morality frowns on many of the things they look to for enjoyment and satisfaction in life (sex before/ outside marriage, drunkenness, gambling, chasing the almighty dollar, to name a few), and encourages things people don't find very interesting (biblical morality, church membership, sacrificial giving, devoting one entire day out of seven to God, loyalty to Christ at any cost). They can't imagine Christianity would be anything but a drag, and small wonder.

When Jesus says, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God,” remember that “blessed” means



“happy.” There's a happiness that attends a purity of heart. And what is that happiness? The pure in heart are blessed, they are happy, *for* or *because* they shall see God.

The Pure Heart

In common parlance, the ‘mind’ is where boring things like thinking and logical reasoning take place, and the ‘heart’ is where exciting things like feeling and dreaming happen. The head thinks according to the rules, the heart knows no boundaries. The brain worries, the heart hopes. No wonder movies tell us to ‘follow our heart.’ Seems like way more fun.

In the Bible, the ‘heart’ is the core of a person. Biblical scholar Leon Morris says the term *heart* “stands for the whole of our inner state, thought and will as well as emotions... the very center of our being.” Everything we think, feel, say, and do springs up out of our heart. And that's true no matter who we are, or what mental or chemical state we find ourselves in. My heart is the true me.

Sometimes we say, “Love the sinner, hate the sin.” There's something to that. But where does a sinner's sin come from? Let's put some labels on sin for a minute. When you envy your neighbor's tractor, or his wife; or envy her home or her children, where do those feelings come from? When you find yourself lost in a fantasy of sexual immorality, where does that come from? To use Jesus' list, where do “evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness” come from? Jesus' answer is this: “All these evil things come from within...” (Mark 7:22-23).

~ continued on page 4

FILL'ER UP

How much time has to go by before a new thing is no longer new? We are enjoying the great blessing of doing ministry together in our new building, but people are always surprised to find out that we have been in here for 6 years already. Furthermore, it is also surprising to discover a growing challenge that is getting more and more of our attention lately. The challenge in question is the fact that we are already running out of room.

Over the years we at Lewis Lake have experienced the reality of the 80% rule. This rule is kind of a weird observation of human nature pointing out that a group of people will rarely grow any larger than 80% of its total seating capacity. As I look out upon the congregation on Sunday mornings it definitely feels like we are pretty full. Now, it is true that, while we are setting up extra rows in the back, there empty chairs here and there further up towards the front. But that is part of the 80% rule. People do not like to be squished in tight. We need a little elbow room, especially out here in the country.

In response to this growing situation the Pastors and Elders and other leaders have been pondering what could be done. The usual thing to do is to either go with multiple services or to build on to our building. Both of these solutions have problems and challenges that would require us change and adapt to a new way of being the Church here at Lewis Lake. So, as you can see, there is no easy way to apply a quick fix to this challenge.

In the movie, "Jeremiah Johnson", an old mountain man asks Jeremiah if he can skin a Grizzly Bear. Jeremiah boldly declares that he could, as fast as the mountain man could bring him one. As Jeremiah waits in the old man's cabin he hears him coming, followed by a "Grizz"! The old man delivers the bear alive to Jeremiah and then bails out one of the cabin windows. "Skin that



one", he shouts with a laugh, "and I'll go get you another one!"

"We have no great ambitions to be a big church. As a matter of fact, it would be a lot easier if we could stay a little smaller. But the Lord keeps bringing people to our door and we are simply trying to keep up with what He is doing."

In the same way, it would seem that, if a Church is willing to take the true, apostolic gospel seriously and commit to discipling new believers in the faith, the Lord seems to be saying "Ok, let's go." and He brings people our way. We have no great ambitions to be a big church. As a matter of fact, it would be a lot easier if we could stay a little smaller. But the Lord keeps bringing people to our door and we are simply trying to keep up with what He is doing.

So, as we come to Church on Sunday mornings, there are some things we can do right now.

- First, look for those empty chairs farther up towards the front and consider trying to fill in the gaps.
- Second, introduce yourself to someone you don't know and get acquainted with them.
- Third, be praying for God's leading as we seek to understand how we can make room for all those whom God is calling.

Pastor Bob



Pastor Bob De Young has served Lewis Lake since 1982. He is now semi-retired and is enjoying the Honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.

“Evil things” come from within. Sinners sin because at their heart, at the core of their being, they’re sinners. Profound, I know. Sinners *want* to sin. Sin makes them *happy*. And this is true even though sin harms a person and ruins his life. Small wonder that purity of heart sounds boring. Small wonder seeing God doesn’t strike people as very exciting. Why would it?

The pure heart, on the other hand, is enthralled by pure things. It is fixated on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, etc (Phil. 4:8). Rather than being obsessed with self-satisfaction, the pure heart loves others, and is therefore “patient and kind... does not envy or boast... is not arrogant or rude... does not insist on its own way... is not irritable or resentful... does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth” (1 Cor 13:4-6).

The problem we all face is that we’re born with impure, selfish hearts. Patience, for instance, is not a default attitude we’re born with. Have you ever heard a hungry baby say, “Take your time, Mom, I’m in no hurry.” I haven’t. Toddlers have to be taught manners; rudeness, arrogance, and unkindness are default positions. There’s something fundamentally wrong with our hearts.

This is why the Bible insists we need a heart transplant. We need a heart that longs for purity, and none of us are born with one. So God puts a new heart in his people, a heart that responds positively to his Word. A heart that *wants* to please God. A heart that finds joy in pleasing God.

I’m always glad when people come to Lewis Lake, whatever their reason. Maybe it’s because we have such an excellent kids ministry, maybe it’s because we have great music, maybe it’s because the service time is convenient, maybe the pastors are so good looking and

the sermons are so riveting. Those are all fine reasons, even if some are implausible!

My favorite reason people attend is when people just *want* to be in God’s house, with God’s people, seeking God’s face and studying God’s Word so they can go out and live it better. They’re pursuing purity of heart, and they won’t rest until they get it. And just as sinners are never happy unless they’re pursuing some kind of sin,

these people are restless unless they’re pursuing God. And they have a profound happiness about them, a happiness non-Christians will never understand. But they can, and often do, appreciate it very much and wish they could have that kind of happiness.

This side of heaven we’ll never get *all* the sin out of our actions, and there’s some remnant of sin still in us, but new-hearted Christians really do find genuine joy in doing – and not doing – things those still enslaved to sin can never enjoy. Which means we’ll always be a little weird.

The Happy Heart

“Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?” David asked, assuming that some people would actually *want* to ascend the Lord’s hill and stand in his holy place. He answers his own question, “He who has clean hands and a pure heart” (Psalm 24:3-4). No one stands before God without a pure heart. But for him who does, “He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation” (Psalm 24:5).

Again, the impure heart really doesn’t have any interest in righteousness. But we’ve already seen Jesus say, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Matt 5:6), so we know that some *do* long for righteousness. They won’t be happy until they get it anymore than a thirsty

“The pure heart ultimately finds its happiness in seeing God. “This is eternal life,” Jesus told his Father, “that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus whom you have sent” (John 17:3). Jesus doesn’t simply mean that knowing God means you’ll live forever, he means the only way to experience life as it was designed to be lived is to know God. Only knowing Jesus is finally satisfying.”



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

MISSIONS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 10TH AT 5:30 PM

COMMUNION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

SS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AT 10:45 AM

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CONFIRMATION ON

DECEMBER 18TH OR 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE DECEMBER 25TH AT 9:00 AM

NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE DECEMBER 31ST AT 7:00 PM



JOIN US FOR

Christmas Caroling



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
5:00 PM: MEET AT THE CHURCH
5:30 PM : DEPART FOR CAROLING
HOT CHOCOLATE & S'MORES TO
FOLLOW AT TRONGARDS' HOME



QUESTIONS: CONTACT BRENDA 320-237-5673 OR KATIE 320-385-0127



New Years Eve at Lewis Lake ~ An Exciting, God Glorifying, Special Night! 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

What To Expect:

Table games
Potluck munchies
Hot cocoa, cider, coffee, tea
Pond hockey, skating,
warming fire (weather
permitting)
Candlelight prayer and praise

What To Bring:

Your family & friends - **NO AGE
RESTRICTIONS**
Table games
Munchies - cold or hot, sweet
or not
Outdoor gear for the bonfire,
sliding hill, and pond

Sunday School Christmas Program

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
10:45 AM

Program practice Saturday, December 17th at 9-11 AM
for children in 1st through 11th Grade

"I beseech you, let us now value and esteem the great mystery of the incarnation and Christ crucified, because Christ is the common centre of heaven and earth, in whom we all centre [are centered]."
~ Richard Sibbes, early 1600's

~ Pure Happiness continued from page 4

man won't be satisfied until he has a tall glass of cool water. Jesus promises they will be satisfied.

The pure heart ultimately finds its happiness in seeing God. "This is eternal life," Jesus told his Father, "that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus whom you have sent" (John 17:3). Jesus doesn't simply mean that knowing God means you'll live forever, he means the only way to experience life as it was designed to be lived is to know God. Only knowing Jesus is finally satisfying.

Hell is unsatisfying for eternity. An eternity of longing for things that can't quench the thirsty soul, and not being able (or willing) to have what does satisfy – knowing God. It's an eternity of dying. Heaven is the happiness of seeing God. God's presence is finally the only thing that can satisfy our deepest longings. Our longings are just that big. God made them that way.

Which means our satisfaction will be far beyond anything we have experienced or can imagine now. The pure in heart will be happy, for they will see God. If God's given

you a purity-seeking heart, rejoice! Then go out and seek to be pure. If God hasn't, and living for God seems dull and boring, but at the same time you're finding yourself incredibly unsatisfied and unhappy even after trying all the stuff that's supposed to make you happy, I challenge you to ask God for a new heart. Even if you're pretty sure you could never want to be righteous, I dare you to ask God to give you a hunger for it.

And we'll pray for that too. Then, watch out! See if God doesn't do for you beyond what you ever thought was possible.

jr



Pastor Joe Reed
is the Senior
Pastor at Lewis
Lake.



Annual All-Church Potluck Meal & Business Meeting

Sunday, January 15, 2022

The All Church Potluck Meal—Follows the Worship Service – *NO Sunday School*

Watch for a sign up sheet to help with setup and cleanup of the tables & the potluck sign up sheet.

Please sign up to bring something if you plan to stay for the potluck so we have enough food for everyone.

The Annual Business Meeting—Follows the meal

Lewis Lake Church Members are encouraged to take part in electing a 2021 Council as well as voting on budget, building, and other items.

Non-Member Friends are welcome to attend and observe.

Financials, Letters of Greeting And Ministry Team Reports

All Items For The Annual Meeting Booklet Are Due To Tami By January 11th

NOMINATION GUIDE

JANUARY 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

*All who serve as leaders of our Church should be
In love with Jesus Christ
Possess a mature and stable faith
Be members of Lewis Lake Covenant Church*



Positions Open

Chairman: This person is the lay leader of our Church. Nominate a man who is spiritually mature, has Church Council experience, and has a heart for the ministry here at Lewis Lake.

Secretary: This person keeps the board meeting records. He or she should be able to grasp the basic points of our board discussions and communicate them succinctly in writing.

Elders: These people are assigned to pay special attention to the spiritual aspects of ministry in our Church. They are in tune with the hearts and souls of the congregation and have a basic understanding of God's goals for His people. Elders (3 men) oversee the discipling process of the whole congregation.

Deacons: The Diaconate (3 men and 3 women) pay special attention to the physical needs of the congregation as well as to the ministries of care and compassion directed towards the world at large. These individuals should be spiritually mature and have a heart for people who are hurting. Deacons also prepare the elements for communion.

Those currently serving on Council some are eligible/some not eligible for nomination:

Brian Hudoba - can be reelected to Chair	Larisa Hudoba - can be re-elected to Deaconess
Jeff De Young, Vice Chair	Brenda Trongard, Deaconess
Jason Wahlstrom, Treasurer	Dianna Sholtz, Deaconess
Bev Tvedt - can be reelected to Secretary	
Duane Munsterteiger, Elder	<i>These people are Ministry Team Leaders who sit on Council:</i> <i>Dan Stassen</i> <i>Dave Strelow</i> <i>Debee Stassen</i> <i>Melodee Hall</i> <i>Clark Hauger</i>
Ken Monson, Elder	
Earl Bracewell – can NOT be re-elected to Elder	
John Perry, Deacon	
Mark Sholtz - can be re-elected to Deacon	

**YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THIS CHURCH TO MAKE A NOMINATION,
AND THOSE YOU NOMINATE MUST BE MEMBERS.**

Refer to attached membership list.

**YOU NEED NOT BE A MEMBER TO PRAY, PRAY, PRAY FOR THIS
PROCESS!!**

*All nominees will be contacted and have the option to decline,
before their name is placed on the ballot.*



ENCOURAGE, ENGAGE & EMPOWER
Women growing TOGETHER IN THEIR FAITH

For, first, the birth of Christ was the incarnation of God: it was God taking upon himself human—a mystery, a wondrous mystery, to be believed in rather than to be defined.

~ Charles Spurgeon

We ❤️ Our Veterans!



Leonard Robyn was the recipient of the WM Veteran Quilt giveaway this year for Veteran's Day. Thank you for your service Leonard!

**Women Ministries
 Annual Meeting
 Monday, January 9, 2022
 at 5:30 PM**
 We will start with a light supper and then move into the business meeting.
EVERYONE
 is welcome! Come and see what we're up too!!

Keeping You Connected

The long awaited Lewis Lake Church App is here! You can get the app in the App store or Google Play. With the app you will be connected wherever you are.

We have also been busy updating our website with a fresh new look. Head over to <https://www.lewislake.org/> and check it out.



Lewis Lake Covenant Church

Available in App Stores



SUB5PLASH™



**Wednesday Evenings
 6:30 PM
 For Youth 6th through 12th
 grade.**

**Saturday Evening Fun
 For Youth 8th through
 12th grade
 Meets the second
 Saturday
 of the month at 6:00 PM**

**If The Weather Outside Gets Frightful
 Cancellations to Worship Services and other Events,
 due to inclement weather, will be:**

- **Posted on the Home page of our website <https://www.lewislake.org/>**
- **Posted on Facebook and Twitter**
- **Called into KBEK**

