

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Advent 2025 Newsletter



Welcome to the Family of God

It was a blessing to welcome 5 people to the Lakewood Presbyterian Church's Family in November.

We baptized Lilith, Desmond and Orin Beukema and welcomed William Beukema and Cynthia Flores as new members. See page 10 to learn more about William and Cynthia.



In this newsletter you can expect:

Committee
Updates

Calendar

Educational
Opportunities

Advent
Information

Financial
Update

Celebrating Life
at L.P.C.



ONLINE GIVING



LPC FACEBOOK

LAKWOODPRES.ORG

Advent Activity

Pop-up Pageant December 21st

On the 4th Sunday of Advent, we will have a "pop-up" Nativity pageant in worship!

The pageant is a hilarious take on the way the gospel writers shared the good news of Jesus' birth (even when they didn't agree!).

Kids and adults will be invited to participate and no rehearsal is required. You won't want to miss it!



Pastor Laura's Upcoming Time Off

- Vacation: December 25 - January 3
- Study Leave January 4 - 9
- Sue Watkins is available for emergency pastoral care needs

Laura's Study Leave

Laura has been granted a full ride Wink Fellows scholarship from Auburn Theological Seminary, for 2 conferences in 2026. All of her program and travel costs are covered. Her first conference is in January at Mo Ranch Conference in Texas. Laura will learn about:

- Children-centered storytelling practices
- Transforming Sacred Text to animate and celebrate sacred stories
- Connect with other Children-Centered Leaders
- Gain insights to build and maintain intergenerational worshipping communities.

We are blessed to have a pastor who seeks out these opportunities to learn and share with us.

Advent Devotional

Copies of the devotional can be picked up at church for \$2.00 to cover printing costs



Church Calendar

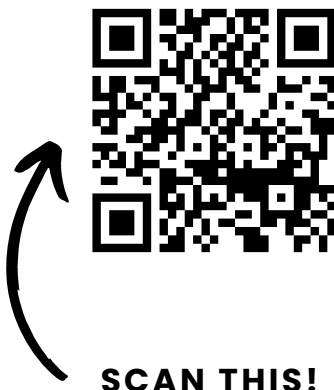
December 7, 6:00 pm	Justice & Mercy Talk @ Lakewood UMC
December 9, 4:30 pm	Session Meeting
December 14, 9:00 am	Godly Play
December 24, 7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
December 28 Worship	Hymn Sing

January 4 Worship	Epiphany Sunday
January 13, 5:30 pm	Session Meeting
January 18, 9:00 am	Godly Play
January 18, 6:00pm	Justice & Mercy Talk @ Lakewood UMC
February 1, 11:30 am	Annual Meeting and Potluck



Ongoing:	
Thursdays 10:00 am	Gentle Yoga
No Yoga	12/11, 12/25, 1/1
Wednesdays 12/3 - 12/17 10:30 -11:45 am	Advent Devotional Group

Did you know we have a podcast?



SCAN THIS!

If you miss coming to church on a Sunday, you can still catch the sermon! We now have a podcast where you can catch up on the sermon every Sunday afternoon. Follow the link, scan the QR code, or subscribe on Apple Podcasts to "Lakewood Presbyterian Church Sermons."

Questions? Call Pastor Laura!

*Join us for
worship,
Sundays at 10:30a.*

Educational Opportunities



We have been blessed with not one but two grants to support our growing children's ministry! In August, we received a \$5,000 grant from Columbia Theological Seminary's Wonder of Worship Grants to support our children's ministry over the next two years. Then in September, we received the Circle of We grant from the Godly Play Foundation to receive all the story materials we need for our first year of Godly Play, worth hundreds of dollars. It is extremely exciting and humbling to receive such meaningful support from outside organizations who believe in what we are doing here at LPC.

Children ages 3 through 5th Grade and their parents are invited to our Godly Play Orientation on Saturday October 11th from 3:30-5:00pm at the church. The orientation is to teach both children and parents about what to expect in a Godly Play class. Everyone will have the opportunity to learn about what Godly Play is and then we will do an entire class together. If there are younger siblings, the nursery will be open (no childcare provided) for parents to be with them during the class session. This year, Godly Play will be once a month, before worship from 9:00-10:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

Families, mark your calendars with the next dates for Godly Play:

December 14th
January 18th

Sunday School note:

Elementary aged children will now stay in worship for the full worship service on the first Sunday of every month. Our hope is that this will give children more opportunities to get familiar with the language and rhythms of our worship service.

It also gives our Sunday school teachers a much needed break each month! We may make some small changes to our service on those Sundays to help our youngest worshippers feel that this service is for them, just as it is for the adult worshippers. What a gift it is to hear their small voices in our sanctuary each Sunday!



Adult Education:

Advent Devotional Study

Wednesday morning small group will follow the Advent devotional.

- December 3, 10 & 17
 - 10:30 - 11:45 am
-

Treasurer's Update



At the end of last year, we predicted we would be about \$58,000 in debt at this point in the year (11/15/25). By the grace of God, many generous donors, and connections to good deals, we are lucky to not be at that number!

Currently we are in a surplus of about \$68,000 for the year so far. We have been able to stay ahead thanks to you all. We have used reserves to pay for our extra expenses this year, particularly the sewer fixes. We also got an amazing deal on three new furnaces this year and it truly saved our budget as well as reserves.

The expenses for Pastor Laura have gone down due to her being at $\frac{3}{4}$ time but that is about the only decrease in expenses for this last part of the year.

We received pledges for 2025 of \$88,000 for the whole year and have currently received \$114,000 from pledged households! It is great news for our church because we have so many ideas to continue to grow our church and fix up our building! We have already grown so much and look forward to all the possibilities ahead! Next up we'll be working on a budget for next year. If you have any input, please contact Jamie Simons at treasurer@lakewoodpres.org or see her at church!

New Secure Donation Box

We now have a secure mailbox for donations, if you need to drop off a check or pledge card during the week. The mailbox is located in the lobby near the library shelves and electrical panels.



End of Year Giving

If you would like to include LPC in your year-end giving, you can give online through our website or bring a check to the church. Online giving makes it easy to set up reoccurring donations if you like to give on a monthly basis. Thank you for your support of LPC!



Happy 95th Birthday Jim Weger!!!

95th Birthday Celebration at Coffee Hour



WHO ARE WE?

PASTOR

REV. LAURA NILE TUELL

NURSERY STAFF

PARKER WILLIAMSON

KIRI-ANN ZAMBARD

PIANIST

XIAOHUI YANG

CUSTODIAN

ANDREA RITTENHOUSE

2025 CHURCH LEADERS

DEACONS

MELINDA ROGIER

BARBARA POLAND

TOM CALLAHAN

CANDICE COCHRAN

TINA MESSMER

ELDERS

SUZY FARLEY

BRAD TOURANGEAU

BECKY BUESCHER

JENNIFER ROGIER

JAMIR SIMONS

DAUNA RITTENHOUSE

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

MELINDA ROGIER

CLERK OF SESSION

BECKY BUESCHER

TREASURER

JAMIE SIMONS

Thank you to everyone who shared photos, articles and information, especially Laura, for this issue of the newsletter.

Contributions are always welcome.

Please send newsletter submissions or ideas to Cynthia Flores at florfam@comcast.net.

Chili & Pumpkin Carving Night

We had a great turn out for our event!

We got to sample 6 awesome chilis, a variety of corn bread, many desserts, and some beverages.

There were 25 adults to watch over our 10 younger pumpkin carvers and painters. We even had a new family show up and got to know them a bit better as well.

Kids enjoyed playing in the dark while we tried to capture the perfect pumpkin picture. Some kiddos even wore their costumes! We look forward to many more food and fun gatherings ahead!



Justice & Mercy Talks

A Community Series hosted by UMC at Lakewood

This past summer The United Methodist Church at Lakewood engaged in deep listening and discernment around the issues that matter the most to them. Out of that work emerged a powerful list of social concerns that call for both compassion and action, and require learning.

They intend to host a series designed to spark learning, dialogue, and connection:

A series of **TED-style talks and Panel Conversations** exploring the issues we care about – together.

Causes We Care About

Food Insecurities
Affordable Housing
LGBTQIA+ Support and Inclusivity
Affordable Health Care
Immigration Rights
Livable Wages & Unions

"Which of these causes matter most to you?"
"How did you come to care about this?"

Each evening will feature multiple voices – activities, practitioners, community leaders and neighbors – offering brief, powerful presentations or participating in moderated panels.

UMC Lakewood's Objectives:

- Equip the congregation through learning and meaningful conversation about issues they say matter.
- Welcome our broader community into an open space for dialogue and shared understanding.
- Create pathways for collaboration between their church, local organizations and community members.

Save the Dates:

Dec 7: LGBTQIA+ Support and Inclusivity

Jan 18: Affordable Health Care

Feb 15: Immigration Rights

Mar 15: Livable Wages and Unions

April 19

May 17

Sundays 6:00-7:15pm

6900 Steilacoom Blvd SW.

Meet our new members



William Beukema grew up loving the woods, beaches, and salt water of the Pacific Northwest. If it involves experiencing and learning about these places and their natural or human history, he's probably interested. He sea kayaks, hikes, and bikes because these activities give him new perspectives on this wonderful region we all share.

William's grandmother played oboe professionally with the Seattle Symphony, and she and his mother cultivated his love of music.

William has three great kids who aren't shy to make themselves known to anybody within earshot. He works as a Teamster truck driver and his wife Jamie is looking to reenter the workforce.



Cynthia Flores has been worshipping at LPC since late 2023 and has gotten involved leading worship, attending Adult Education groups, and editing the newsletter. She has been married to Rick for over 30 years. They have two sons, who are both paramedics. Cynthia & Rick have a goldendoodle named Chewbacca.

Cynthia likes to read. She loves whales along with going to the ocean and getting out in nature. Cynthia is currently trying to learn to knit.

Cynthia volunteers with two organizations she is passionate about. She is the Treasurer for the Steilacoom Historical Education Foundation— a small non-profit organization that facilitates scholarships for students who graduate from Steilacoom High School.

Along with her husband Rick, Cynthia is a Volunteer Community Educator with the Washington State Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. They provide presentations to many different groups in the area, as well as information at tabling events and support the local Walk to End ALZ fundraiser.

Coming to LPC in 2026:

A return to our traditional committee structure

Over the past few years, Session has tried several different options for consolidating our standing Session-led committees and none of our creative solutions have been particularly successful. Session has decided to form the following committees for 2026:

Worship Chair: TBD

Responsible for: working with the Pastor to plan worship services, coordinating special music, and recruiting worship leaders & ushers

Buildings & Grounds Chair: Jim Hall

Responsible for: building maintenance, quarterly church clean-up, long-term maintenance, & managing church building use by outside groups

Christian Education Chair: Jennifer Rogiers

Responsible for: coordinating children's ministry (Sunday School, Godly Play etc.), planning Adult Education classes/groups

Finance & Stewardship Chair: Jamie Simons

Responsible for: reviewing strategic financial decisions, budget planning, and coordinating Stewardship mailing

Social & Mission Chair: Dauna Rittenhouse

Responsible for: planning fellowship events for the congregation, mission projects, and community outreach.

Personnel Chair: Becky Buescher

Responsible for: supporting and overseeing church staff. Committee members are elected by the congregation.

Nominating Chair: Jamie Simons

Responsible for: nominating members to fill officer vacancies. Committee members are elected by the congregation.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees next year, please talk to the chair. We're hoping for 3-4 members per team and teams are

planning to have quarterly meetings. More information will be coming in the new year.
