

The Leighton News
Week of November 15, 2015

On The Calendar This Week:

Sunday, November 15:

Sunday's Message: - "Blessed to be a Blessing" – Genesis 12:1-3, Matthew 5:13-16

The Angel Tree ministry begins Sunday. Angel Tree is a ministry of Prison Fellowship, making Christmas brighter for children with incarcerated parents. Select the name of an "angel" from the tree in the Lobby, purchase the gift listed on the tag, and return it wrapped by December 6th. Questions can be directed to Barb Moore (269) 795-2108 or Connie Blain (616) 891-1858.

Children ages 4-7 will be dismissed during the worship service to go to Children's Church which is held down the Children's Wing.

Non-perishable food items, paper products and cleaning items are collected during the offering time by kids and the ushers. Your donations of these items stock our food pantry.

Coffee, tea, lemonade, and treats are available in the Lobby immediately after the worship service.

Sunday School classes for all ages are held each Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-Noon.

G.L.U.E. Youth Group Sunday night for all 6th-12th grade students from 5:45-8:00 p.m. at the church. Bring your friends!

Christmas Choir Practice 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Monday, November 16:

- 6:00 p.m. Guitar Group (Prayer Room)
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Basketball (Family Center)
- 7:00 p.m. Circle of Joy Women's Fellowship (Lounge)

Wednesday, November 18:

- 5:30 p.m. Family Dinner (Family Center)
- 6:15 p.m. Pioneer Clubs for kids age 4 thru 6th Grade

- 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary)
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study on Revelation (Library)
6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting (Lounge)

CIRCLE OF JOY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Circle of Joy Women's Fellowship November gathering is Monday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge. Daniel Schutte from the Inner City Church Planting Mission will be sharing about reaching the lost in downtown Grand Rapids and around the world. Refreshments provided. Questions can be directed to [Jean Bender](#).

GUITAR GROUP

Do you have a desire to learn to play the guitar, but didn't want to spend a lot of money on lessons? Perhaps you know how to play the guitar a little bit, but would enjoy getting together with others and play. If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, then Monday night Guitar Group is for you. There is no cost to participate, but you must bring your own guitar.

Lessons are in a group setting and are CD/DVD based. Guitar Group meets Monday, November 16th in the Prayer Room from 6:00-7:00 p.m. For more information, contact [Judy Hanlon](#)

ADULT BASKETBALL MONDAY NIGHTS!

All adults are welcome to come Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Center for pick-up games. Contact [Doug Thaler](#) for more information.

FAMILY DINNER WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Family Center
Everyone is welcome to come!
All food and beverages provided.
Donations are appreciated to support this ministry.

PIONEER CLUBS **WHAT IS PIONEER CLUBS®?**

Pioneer Clubs is for kids age 4-6th Grade and meets Wednesdays from through March 30th from 6:15 p.m.-8:00 p.m. There is no cost to participate. Kids learn to make Christ Lord in every aspect of life through Bible exploration, memorizing Scripture, playing games, singing, and building skills like cooking, woodworking, etc. while earning badges along the way. Children are welcome to Pioneer Clubs anytime. Registration forms are available in the Lobby for those who have not yet registered and are also attached.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PIONEER CLUBS AS SUBS ONCE A MONTH

Several more adult volunteers are needed to help just once a month with Pioneer Clubs. Roles include helping in classrooms, helping in the Nursery, or where needed. Your help is needed as a substitute just one Wednesday night a month from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

For more information about Pioneer Clubs or how you can help with Pioneer Clubs, contact Club Coordinator, [Allison Draaisma](#).

PRAYER MEETING

Prayer Meeting meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

Everyone is welcome to come and pray for our church, needs lifted up within our church, our community, nation, and leaders.

Questions can be directed to Nancy Geertman (616) 891-8935 or Alverna Truax (616) 891-8219.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

All adults are welcome to come to Bible study on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Library. The group is currently studying the book of Revelation using Chuck Swindoll's material. Come and get a mid-week spiritual pick-me-up! Questions can be directed to Mike Horton at (269) 792-4519.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Tuesday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Pie & Ice Cream Social in the Lobby After the Service

Friends and family are welcome!

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND SPECIAL OFFERING

On Sunday, November 29th, a special offering will be collected for the Leighton Church Good Samaritan Fund. This fund offers financial assistance to those in our church family and community in need of help with utility bills, rent/mortgage payments, medical bills, food, etc. So far this year, \$6,096.25 has been given from the Good Samaritan Fund. Please prayerfully consider your gift to the Good Samaritan Fund on November 29th.

PURCHASE A POINSETTIA IN MEMORY AND/OR IN HONOR OF YOUR LOVED ONE(S)

Order a poinsettia in memory and/or in honor of your loved one(s). Poinsettias will be displayed in the Sanctuary from December 20-24 and will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve Worship service. The name of the purchaser will be on the bottom of the pot.

Orders are due Sunday, December 6th. Use the attached order form or the form in the bulletin beginning this Sunday. Questions can be directed to [Stacey Aman](#).

COMING IN DECEMBER:

Leighton's Annual Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Bill Haggard, is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is open for everyone to attend. Business conducted includes approving Pastor's salary for 2016, confirming committee members for 2016, and highlighting significant ministry experiences from 2015. Plan to attend.

Annual Church-wide Christmas Potluck is happening Sunday, December 6th at Noon in the Family Center. This is a special time for the Leighton Family to celebrate together the birth of Christ. Bring a dish to pass and table service. After lunch, there will be a Christmas carol sing-a-long including the ever popular "*Twelve Days of Christmas*."

"THE CHRISTIAN AND WITNESSING" CLASS COMING

Do you feel God laying it on your heart to share with others how Christ has made a difference in your life, but you aren't sure how to witness to them? Are you fearful about telling others about Christ; afraid of offending them, rejection, or doing an inadequate job of representing Christ?

Bonnie Adams and Judy Terpstra feel God calling them to lead a class on "*The Christian and Witnessing*." To better prepare for the class, they are asking that those interested please sign up in the Lobby or contact either of them.

Meeting date, time, and start date, will be announced soon.
Contact [Bonnie](#) or [Judy](#) if you are interested in participating in this class or have any questions.

PIE SALE FUNDRAISER FOR MISSION TRIP

There are a group of adults and teens from Leighton going to Puerto Rico in July of 2016 on a mission trip. To raise funds toward the cost of the trip, the group is selling homemade Dutch Apple pies for \$10.00 each. Pies are frozen ready to bake. See [Misty Getter](#) or [Tina Peck](#) if interested in buying a pie.

THANK YOU!

To our Leighton Church Family,
We want to thank you for all of the support and love you have extended to us in so many ways; praying for us as we prepared for our wedding, the lovely bridal shower, all who helped us prepare for our wedding, and everyone who celebrated with us on our wedding day. We are so grateful for you, our church family.
With Love and Gratitude,
Mark & Lucia Schiefela

I would like to thank everyone who has been so willing to bring cookies and goodies for the Coffee Fellowship. By the looks of the crowd gathered around, everyone enjoys them.
Thank you again,
Nona Steeby

Dear Leighton United Methodist Church,
It was a joy to worship and visit with you on November 1st. Thank you for your warm welcome and the opportunity to share about the ministries in Southeast Asia and pray together. Thank you for your generous gifts to the ministries in Southeast Asia. We are grateful to you as we join together to serve the unseen and the unreached. The demonstration farm, the village sized clean water filtration systems, and the medical boat continue to help those in need in isolated villages, particularly along the river. These ministries meet physical needs while building meaningful relationships so Christ can be shared.
Blessings,

Ron & Melin Green

The Circle of Joy Women's Fellowship thanks all those who gave donations for baked goods at last week's bake sale. \$303 was given. Missionaries and mission organizations around the world are being supported through your donations.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

There are many opportunities to get involved in the life of Leighton Church; attend worship, volunteer to be part of a ministry, volunteer to lead a ministry, attend Bible study, be part of the praise team, etc.

Listed below are areas where folks are needed to lead or participate in ministries at Leighton Church. Please pray over this list. Perhaps God is nudging you to serve.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL— Seeking individuals who would be willing to teach Sunday School classes while teachers are on vacation, ill, etc. This would be for children's classes (age 2 thru 5th grade), Jr. High (6th-8th grade), Sr. High (9th-12th grade), and perhaps an adult class on occasion. If interested, please contact [Bonnie McBride](#), [Amanda Athearn](#), or [Christine Syswerda](#)

PRAISE TEAM/SOUND TEAM—The praise team is in need of instrumentalists and tech-crew members. If you play piano, bass, drums, or guitar or would like to operate the soundboard or presentation software, contact [Josh Webb](#)

CDL DRIVERS FOR YOUTH EVENTS—On occasion, the youth group borrows or rents a bus to transport the youth group to their destination. Drivers for the bus must have a CDL endorsement on the license. More drivers are needed. If you have a CDL endorsement on your license or would be willing to obtain an endorsement to help transport the youth group, contact Scott or [Misty Getter](#) or [Stacey Aman](#). Drivers would not be expected to participate in events the youth are attending.

CLEANING CREW VOLUNTEERS - Our church family is blessed to have a team of volunteers who give of their time each week to clean our facility. One more person is needed to join the team. Cleaning can be done when it fits your schedule (day or evening). Average time per week is about one hour. Duties include mopping kitchen, cleaning classroom tables in East wing, dusting in the Lobby, Prayer

Room, & Sanctuary, and cleaning the coffee bar area. If interested, please contact [Jackie Corwin](#).

LEIGHTON MISSIONS T-SHIRT ORDER:

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. Let people around know by ordering a t-shirt and wearing it when you participate in church or missions projects. Use the attached t-shirt order form and return it along with payment to Connie Blain. Orders will be taken ongoing. Shirts are bright red and cost \$10 each (2X-5X are \$1 per X).

NEED PRAYER? PRAYER ROOM OPEN SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP.

The Prayer Room is staffed on Sunday mornings following the worship service. If you would like to be prayed for or have a need you would like prayer for, feel free to stop in the Prayer Room which is located across from the Coffee Bar. Questions can be directed to Nancy Geertman.

SERVICE IN ACTION

COFFEE SERVERS:

November 15—Barbara Moore & Bob Roelofs

November 22—Wayne & Noreen Ingersoll

November 29—Open

PROVIDING TREATS FOR COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

November 15—Linda Horton & Connie Hooker

November 22—Noreen Ingersoll & Jean McCaul

November 29—Cindy Punt & Keith Pratt

GREETERS:

November 15—Randy & Bonnie Adams

November 22—Jim & Bonnie Ciluffo

November 24—Art & Connie Hooker

November 29—Terri & Samantha Farmer

NURSERY:

November 15—Cindy & Rebecka Thaler
November 22—Renee & Amanda Seeley
November 29—Cindy Herring & Britney Bredeweg

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPERS:

November 15—Sam Farmer, Christine Syswerda, Robbin Hilton
November 22—Brad & Sarah Geers
November 29—Sam Farmer, Josh & Kate Webb

CHILDREN'S CHURCH HELPERS:

November 15—Sam Farmer, Sarah Getter, Gabby Nicholson
November 22—Becca Getter, Britney Bredeweg
November 29—Sam Farmer

ESTATE SALE ITEMS

Luann Lewis Snyder has household items and antiques for sale from her mother's home. There is a list of items being sold posted on the bulletin board down the North hallway between rooms 8 & 9 and items are also listed below. For more information, contact Luann at 616-891-8348.

Electric Range (must go!!)
wooden frame mirror (15 1/4" x 23")
wall hanging that looks like tree branch
2 round frameless mirrors

ANTIQUES:

Old suitcase
wicker picnic basket with colored dishes
2 gallon crock
metal bread box
carpet sweeper
large brown jug
2 flower pictures
oval mirror (gold frame)
table lamp

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Your donations of non-perishable food items to our food pantry give assistance to the 13 families that regularly visit our pantry (regularly means at least once a month). Any items you can donate are appreciated. Food items are collected each Sunday during the offering time.

Laundry Detergent
Toilet Tissue
Spaghetti & Sauce
Canned fruit & meats
Cereal
Soup
Boxed meals/pasta & rice side dishes
Macaroni & Cheese
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Peanut Butter & Jelly
Shampoo & Conditioner
Toothpaste
Deodorant for Men & Women
Ketchup, Mustard, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing

Please do not donate items that have been opened or are outdated. Items are collected each Sunday during the offering time. Thank you!

SHOPPING FOR MISSIONS

You can help support the ministries of Red Bird Mission in Kentucky just by shopping at Meijer through the Meijer Rewards program. Just sign up by going to [Meijer.com/rewards](https://www.meijer.com/rewards) or to the customer service counter at any Meijer store with the Leighton United Methodist Church code 415811. Then use your rewards card whenever you purchase gas, pharmaceuticals, general merchandise, and groceries. Payment for purchases to count for rewards must be cash, debit, or Meijer credit card (no checks). Another \$100 has been received through Meijer Rewards and it has been sent to Red Bird Mission to be used where they need it most. For more information, contact Luann Lewis Snyder 616-891-8348.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE COLLECTION

Did you know that many pastors, Christians, missionaries around the world do not have access to materials to prepare sermons, Bible studies, or for their own personal devotions?

An organization called Christian Resources International

collects Bibles, devotional books, curriculum, and more to send to pastors, evangelists, Bible colleges, and missionaries around the world. If you have any of these items that you would like to donate, bring them and drop them in the box in the Lounge. Dave & Sharon Kaechele will deliver them to CRI.

DONATE ANY EXTRA/UNWANTED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

If you have any extra or unwanted medical equipment (walkers, crutches, canes, knee braces, wheelchairs, etc.) in your home, contact [Tiffany Thaler](mailto:Tiffany.Thaler). Each August, Grand Valley State University's physical therapy program makes a trip to Guatemala with Hearts in Motion. Medical equipment is needed to help aid local residents. Any donation can make a difference.

SON-LIFE CAMP & RETREAT CENTER NEEDS SECRETARY

SON-Life Camp & Retreat Center is accepting applications for a part-time secretary. If you are interested in joining their ministry, submit an application and resume by mail or to hope@son-lifecamp.org. Applications and a job description can be found on the camp website at www.son-lifecamp.org

PROJECT HOPE HAS MANY VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN!

Would you like to serve the Lord a few hours a week and enjoy being with the "Body of Christ" or even fulfill the deep need to have purpose for the Lord? Come to Project Hope! We are in need of people to fill these volunteer positions:

Cashiers (Must be 18 years or older)

Drivers to pick up food (CDL is not required, but must have a good driving record)

An experienced person to price antiques and restock floor

A puzzle-putter-together/counter. Can be done in the comfort of your own home and at your convenience.

Volunteers needed to price clothing, housewares, etc. Can be as young as 15 with parental consent.

"Jewelry Happenings" (sorting and pricing) first Thursday of every month. Snacks provided!

Cosmetics and cards.

Frames, pictures and wall hangings – price and stock floor

Gardner to help keep up the "Annetta Garden Center" and the landscape around the building.

If interested in helping us out as a driver or gardner, call Sandy at (616) 681-HOPE ext.

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Please call Jean Bodo, Thrift Store Director (616) 681-HOPE ext. 106 if interested in any other volunteer positions listed.

HELP SYRIAN REFUGEE YOUTH

What you able to do to provide assistance to Syrian refugee youth who have no parents to care for them? Since the beginning of the civil war in Syria in 2011, more than four million refugees have fled their homes in Syria in pursuit of safety in neighboring countries. Of these four million individuals, nearly half are children. Will you consider sharing your home in West Michigan with a Syrian youth? If you would like to make a positive impact locally on this global issue, please call Ana Jose at Bethany Christian Services at 616-965-8027 or e-mail her at ajose@bethany.org

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS GRIEF SUPPORT EVENT

Those grieving the loss of loved ones are hit particularly hard during the holidays. Matthyse Kuiper DeGraaf Funeral Services is hosting a community grief support event on Saturday, November 14th from 10:00 am-11:30 am at Rush Creek Bible Church in the Fireside Room. This is a free interactive community grief support event led by Rev. Gene Pearson, MA in Professional Counseling, Licensed Professional Counselor, State of Michigan, and Certified Professional Empowerment Coach.

Coffee and cinnamon rolls will be served.

Please RSVP by Friday, November 6th by calling Marilyn at (616) 534-5417. Rush Creek Bible Church is located at 2334 – 76th Street SW, Byron Center

“THE DROP BOX” FREE FILM SCREENING

Grand Rapids Right to Life is hosting a free screening of the film “The Drop Box.” Pastor Lee built a box that has received over 600 unwanted babies who would have been abandoned on the streets of Seoul, South Korea. Following the screening, a Q&A session will be held with Kristi Gleason, International Programs Director, and Alison Adema, International Services Coordinator from Bethany Christian Services. Don’t miss this one-night-only opportunity on Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Bible College located at 1011 Aldon Street SW, Wyoming. For more information call 616-532-2300 or e-mail info@grrtl.org.

ADOPTION IS SUPER GATHERING

Are babies ever unwanted? How much does adoption cost? Do birth moms have to say goodbye to their babies forever? Grand Rapids Students for Life will learn the answers to these questions and more during National Adoption Month. Students may come and share their own adoption stories, too. Join the fun with Erin, student coordinator, at the “Adoption is SUPER” gathering on Tuesday, November 17th at 4:00 p.m. at the Grand Rapids Right to Life office located at 2340 Porter Street SW, Wyoming. For more information or to RSVP, contact Erin at 616-532-2300 or info@grrtl.org.

FREE SCREENING OF “GOD GREW TIRED OF US”

Bethany Christian Services is hosting a free screening of the movie “God Grew Tired of Us” on Thursday, November 12th at 6:30 p.m. at Celebration! Cinema South located at

1605 Eastport Dr., Grand Rapids (Kalamazoo Ave & M-6 area). Free pop and popcorn included.

REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT FOSTER PARENTS URGENTLY NEEDED!

There is an urgent need for foster parents willing to open their hearts and homes to refugee and immigrant youth. These young people desperately need a loving and accepting foster home to welcome them to our country and prepare them for future independence.

Bethany Christian Services provides foster care for refugee and immigrant youth between the ages of 13 and 17 who have been separated from their home and family due to war, abuse, or community violence. They have no adult caregiver and are eligible for protection in the U.S.

Learn more at a no commitment information meeting on either November 3rd or December 7th 6:00-8:00 p.m. or 10:00am-Noon. RSVP is required and can be done by calling 616-224-7540 or e-mail refugeefostercare@bethany.org. Meetings are held at 1050 36th Street, Suite 400, Grand Rapids.

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED FOR YOUTH IN NEED OF SPECIAL CARE

Bethany Christian Services is seeking loving foster homes for two youth in need of special care. One is a teen from Africa who suffered injuries while escaping an attack on his village and is now wheelchair bound. He needs a handicap accessible home. The other is a 7-months pregnant girl from Central America. If you would like to learn more about accepting one of these youth into your home, contact Ana Jose at (616) 965-8027 or ajose@bethany.org.

LAY SERVANT CLASSES REGISTRATION OPEN

Lay Speaking Ministries is hosting lay speaking classes on Saturday, January 23, 2016 and Saturday, February 6, 2016 at Grand Rapids Trinity United Methodist Church located at 1100 Lake Drive SE. Those completing lay speaking classes receive certification to speak at area churches filling the pulpit for pastor's.

Classes are held both dates from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with lunch provided. Both basic and advanced courses are offered on both dates.

Basic class is \$25.00 which includes materials and lunch.

Advanced classes are \$25 which includes lunch.

There must be at least 10 registrations to hold class.

To register, call Jody Pratt at 269-792-0481 or prattjji@hughes.net.

Saturday, February 13th is held as an alternate date in the event of a weather cancellation. For more details on lay speaking classes, you may also talk to [Jim Ciluffo](#) who has taken the basic course.

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