

## Letters from Jesus Part 2

In last month's newsletter I began divulging some of the insights I've gained from a recent study I did on the book of Revelation. Using Dr. David Jeremiah's book, *Escape the coming night*, we looked at the first three churches that Jesus spoke to through the Apostle John. This month I want to continue with the final four churches: Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

Thyatira was a city that was located on one of the busiest trade routes in Asia Minor, so it was a very "blue collar" and "salt of the earth" type of culture that thrived off commerce and trading. The church was commended by Jesus as being hard-working, loving, loyal, and having great patience and maturing faith. Her good characteristics sound much like some of our churches today. However, she had a fatal flaw, tolerating sexual immorality.

We hear more and more in the news every year about churches and certain denominations doing this exact thing. Whether it's condoning homosexuality and gay marriage or allowing someone that is living an explicitly immoral lifestyle to serve and even lead, we tolerate under the umbrella of "loving" others or "being socially and politically correct". Jesus called the woman (or group of people) openly practicing sexual immorality in the church at Thyatira "Jezebel", referring to the evil wife of King Ahab, who worshipped foreign gods and brought in false priests and prophetesses as part of a cult that used sexual practices as worship.

Jesus gave three different messages to the church. The first to the person/people practicing the immoral behavior, He called for judgment if there was no repentance. As I mentioned in the first newsletter, the churches in Revelation also parallel the universal church in history. I think that this call to the immoral behavior slipping in could also refer to the church of the Middle (Dark) Ages, when it accomplished little for Christ because it sought to concubine Christianity with the pagan practices of the age, thereby committing spiritual immorality. The next message was to the Christians at Thyatira that didn't follow the immoral practices. Jesus spares them from any additional burdens and says "keep it simple". Sometimes we tend to multiply rules upon rules in Christianity instead of just serving God and loving people, which Jesus said was the greatest command. The final message was for the overcomers to remain faithful and not give in.

The next church that received Jesus' attention was the church at Sardis. Jesus begins His words to this body of believers with words of denunciation rather than commendation, saying, "You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead." He was saying the church was more of a mausoleum than a church, a well-kept place filled with dead men's bones. This is a repeated notion in God's people throughout scripture. Isaiah pointed out people that drew near with their lips, but their hearts were far from God and Jesus spoke to the Pharisees about their nominal belief and hypocrisy. The church in Sardis was like a religion that never got past the infant stage and grew to maturity in Christ. Jesus gives direction to this church by saying, "Wake up before you lose even what little you have left". To the true believers He gives encouragement to keep pressing on even when it seems those in leadership are spiritually dead, to be a church filled with the Holy Spirit, and to become pure and holy. Many churches today are dying and losing any hope of being a godly witness to the on-looking world. Churches don't die because of outside enemies, by totally renouncing Christ or truth, or because God abandons them. They die because each individual has allowed compromise; because we rely on overconfidence in who we used to be, and because we are not sensitive to our spiritual conditions. Dr Jeremiah says, "Christians don't lose their salvation, but their lives can so grieve the Holy Spirit that there is no life, no power, and no vibrancy. When most people in a church do that, there is no life left in that church. Every Christian should look at his or her own life as a barometer of the life of the church. As the members go, so eventually will go the church."

The church at Philadelphia was called the faithful church, a church that pleased the Lord not because of how many members it had, how big the building was, or the size of the budget; it was a church that loved well. From the perspective of church history, the church at Philadelphia represents the period from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the rapture, or what we might call the revived church. Especially early on, this part of church history represents a time of great missionary outreach, revivals, and the advent of the Christian education movement. It is the Philadelphian church that will be in existence in some form when Christ returns. Jesus tells this church that there is an open door or opportunity to do great ministry. He says they have a little strength left so they will need help from the Holy Spirit to bridge the weaknesses they have. They have kept the word and not denied the Lord. Dr. Jeremiah says, "Many church growth experts have identified the characteristics of the Philadelphia church as characteristics of growing congregations: identification of open doors for ministry, dependence on God for strength, commitment to the Word, and submission to the Lordship of Christ." To this church, Jesus made the promises to take down their enemies, keep them from the hour of trial, and a quick return. This is the type of church I pray we can be or are becoming here at LSCC; that we not only bring, build, and send people, but that we are totally in love with God and so sold out to Him that we can't help proclaiming what He's done for us in Jesus!!

As much as I wish I didn't have to conclude with this, it serves as a warning for us to beware not to close the door in Jesus' face by becoming too comfortable. I am speaking, of course, of the Laodicean church, which Jesus diagnoses as compromising, conceited, and Christ-less.

The heart of mankind is described in three different ways in the New Testament. The disciples on the Emmaus road had a burning heart. Matthew 24:12 speaks of a cold heart, and here in Revelation 3:16, Jesus finds this church possessing a "lukewarm" heart. A lukewarm Christian compromises his/her faith, is afraid to stand for anything, or offend anyone. Sadly, there are many Laodicean-like churches in Christendom today trying to please people but displeasing God and duplicating the world at the expense of truth.

The Laodicean church believed they were rich when they were poor, spiritually speaking. Because Laodicea was a very wealthy city, there was an air of materialistic pride that had slipped into the church. We see the same thing happening in our world today as church leaders boast of bigger buildings, vying for influence and control in politics, and competing with the Jones's to have the best of everything and be the coolest church around. David Wilkerson, author of, *The Cross and the Switchblade* says, "... God is not impressed with the church's bloated estimate of itself. The lukewarm church is not destined to dominion, power, and authority of any kind. It is destined for judgment. For nearly 2000 years the church of Jesus Christ has been rejected and persecuted by the world. Am I now to believe that Jesus has changed His mind and decided to close out the ages with a lukewarm, rich, pampered, boastful, self-centered church? Will the last army of God consist of precinct workers getting out the vote? Will the soul-winners be replaced with petitioners going into the highways and hedges seeking signatures for some social cause? No, Jesus calls it, poor, wretched, about to be forever cut off, naked and shameful, blind, and the object of His wrath."

These are poignant and scary words to hear from our Saviors lips. May we ever be seeking to have the burning hearts of the disciples on the Emmaus road and have a fire in our souls that can't be quenched or contained. I pray that we can be on our guard against attitudes and beliefs that mirror the world's and take us away from Jesus' call to die to ourselves, take up our crosses, and be prepared for trials. Please pray with me that Jesus is pleased with us individually and as a corporate body...that we never give in or out...that we can be assured to hear Him say well done. Enter into eternal rest.

Grace be with you, Joshua

Executive Minister-Don Withrow, Worship Minister-Josh Dickey,  
Youth Minister-Brandon Morey, Media Minister-Dave Celeskey  
Lake Superior Christian Church 393 North M553, Marquette, MI 49855 906.249.1431

Services times:  
9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Visit [LSCC.tv](http://LSCC.tv)



# LAKE SUPERIOR LIGHT

LAKE SUPERIOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July 2014 | Issue 7

## Missions Committee Report

The missions committee met on June 10 with seven members and one visitor present. After looking over the newsletters and thank-you letters we received, we listened to the business the visitor shared with us. We advised him that we needed more information, which was given a couple of weeks later. We also talked about the trip to Mountain Mission School from June 21 to June 29. We supported one of our members who rode in the 'Cycle the Campus' fundraiser for His House. We had a letter from Ray Thorne and his wife Denise. They will be in the Upper Peninsula for the month of July and August. One of our members writes to the Bridge of Hope child we support and we had a letter from him.

Danai Chowwiwat will be here to speak to the body in August. He is a Hmong from Thailand who has a ministry in Chiang Mai, Thailand. His board is here in the United States. Danai had been living in Minneapolis for several years, making trips to Thailand periodically. He will be returning to Thailand the end of this year.

Because of your continued support of missions, we were

able to help the following organizations: Chaplaincy Endorsement, to provide chaplains; Wycliffe Bible Translators; Loren and Kensey Ledebuhr; Mission Bible Training Center, for house needs after a long winter; Rapha House, providing a safe house for girls in Haiti; Christian Freedom International, care packs for persecuted people in Pakistan.

We thank the body of LSCC for being mission minded. Without you, we could do nothing. Of course we know that our God has a hand in all of this! And we thank Him also.

The Committee



## Missions: Compassion International

The kids are currently collecting offering for Compassion International to purchase mosquito nets to fight against malaria in Africa and India and water filters to clean contaminated water so kids stay healthy in developing countries. The offering currently totals \$41.59 Yea! We will continue to collect for this mission through August.

## A note from the Executive Minister

Thank you, thank you, thank you! You all have welcomed Pam and me like we are family and helped us feel right at home as we moved into the area last month. Of course we all are family who have Jesus as Lord and Savior. You have shown that the reputation of Yoopers being the friendliest people is really true! Thank you again for that.

We also see the love that you have for our Lord, Jesus as you demonstrate it to everyone who visits our services. As we continue to follow God's leading and demonstrate that love, we can change the world of Marquette County and beyond.

I was looking forward to working with Jerry and Natalie Kizzire and was sad to see them go. When Jerry came, he began to build his ministry on the foundation that Bud left behind. And so now, we will continue to build on the work Jerry and Natalie left behind to help this church family continue to draw others into the congregation and to become more and more like the bride of Christ.

Bringing, Building, Sending; that's what we are all about at Lake Superior Christian Church. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossi in Asia-minor, "Him (Jesus) we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ," (Col. 1:28). As we share our faith with our friends, family, co-workers and others, we will bring them in to adoption as God's children. Growing in our spiritual lives involves

warning and teaching all of the things Jesus taught. And as we encourage each other and obey Jesus in living out our faith we will grow toward maturity, toward completeness, ready to serve and worship Him through eternity when He comes again.

It sure looks like God is on the move in Marquette County. What a privilege it is that we get to be a part of His life-changing work. I'm thrilled to be a part of this adventure and excited to work with all of you to be a part of God's work to transform and save those who have yet to know Christ!

Until next time,  
Don

## Kizzires Korner

Thank you Lake Superior Christian Church,

Natalie and I would like to thank you for this once in a lifetime opportunity to serve along side of you all for these past few years. It has been awesome. We are so grateful for all of the encouragement, letters, conversations, help, gifts, and so much more, as we are leaving. It has been incredible getting to know you. We have enjoyed our exploring of the Upper Peninsula. We are filled with great memories and we are looking forward to what is next. Our prayers are with you as you continue to serve Jesus Christ faithfully here.

In Christ's love,  
jerry and Natalie

## July sermons



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|---------|--|
| July 6  | Jesus, John, and the End of the Age Part I<br>Luke 3:1-14    |
| July 13 | Jesus, John, and the End of the Age Part II<br>Luke 3:15-20  |
| July 20 | Jesus, John, and the End of the Age Part III<br>Luke 7:18-23 |
| July 27 | Jesus, John, and the End of the Age Part IV<br>Luke 7:24-28  |

Welcome back Greg Rhodea as he preaches the month of July. He is visiting us from Dallas, Texas, where he is working on his P.h. D. at Dallas Theological Seminary.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Coming July 27-31  
see details on page 2.



# ministry news

## His House Work Day!

hishouse@lscv.tv

We are looking for folks willing to spend the day serving on two of His House campus houses. We have a variety of projects to accomplish! We'll meet on Saturday, July 12, at 9:00 a.m. at 1701 Presque Isle Ave in Marquette. The fun will include cement, yard work, roofing work, painting and scraping window frames. The work will include hanging out and drinking lemonade! For more information contact Sam Galvin at nmu@hhcf.org.



## ignition student ministries

ignition@lcss.tv

Grades 6th-12th  
WEDNESDAY nights 6-8:00 p.m.

### WORSHIP-THE WORD-FUN-FRIENDS

Join us every other Friday night for Friday Night Ignite from 6:30-11:00 p.m. for fun, food, and friends. Contact the church office at 249-1431 for more information or to find out when the next Friday meeting occurs.



Serving God by bringing people into

His church, building people up in His Son,

and sending people out to serve in His harvest.

## Vacation Bible School July 27-31

Dinner 5:15-6:00 p.m.  
Program 6:00-8:15 p.m.



Grab your secret decoder ring and put on your rearview mirror glasses because in July, you and your kids are heading to the International Spy Academy where you will train to become special agents for the one true God! This VBS is filled with fun mysteries your kids will love and the Bible-based apologetics you trust to teach them truths they won't forget! So synchronize your watches and meet us at the academy!

**We are looking for people to serve in the following areas: teaching, crafts, games, music, and group facilitators. If you are interested in help out contact the church office at 249-1431.**

### Office Manager Position

We're in search of a new Office Manager to replace Mike. Job descriptions will be available outside the church office. Submit resume' and cover letter in Word or PDF format to [executiveminister@lscv.tv](mailto:executiveminister@lscv.tv), or put in Don Withrow's mailbox in the workroom. Submission deadline is 7/14. Interviews will be scheduled there-after. (Repeat applications from the last round must resubmit resume' and cover letter.)

## adult ministries

adults@lscv.tv

### women's ministry-Women Connected

women@lscv.tv

Please note that there will not be a Women's Event Night in July. We will return on August 20 with a "geocaching adventure with Gloria Price."



#### Women "Staying" Connected Summer Activities

- 1) Tuesday morning Bible study. An informal study covering 1 John, from 10-11:30 a.m. in Room 33. Contact LaDonna Slack, Georgie Baij.
- 2) Moms' Meeting at the park. Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – noon. In July we'll meet at Picnic Rocks Park. In case of rain, we'll meet at the children's area, lower level, of the Peter White Library. Contacts: Sarah Schober, Jenny Oosterhouse.
- 3) Chickadees Hiking/Outdoor Recreation Group. Fridays. Contacts: Heidi Bray, Kit Rhodes.
- 4) Summer Book Club: \*June-"A Better Way to Pray" by Andrew Wommack. Discussion: last week/month at Barr's camp in Au Train. Contact: Kathy Barr.

Keep updated on activities by checking the "Women Connected" binder in Connection Central or join the Women Connected, Tuesday morning Bible study and/or Chickadees Facebook page.

### men's ministry

men@lscv.tv

There will not be a Men's Breakfast in July. The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, August 2, at 8:00 a.m. in Room 33 here at LSCC.

### Starting Point Class

Starting point is a class for people looking to learn more about Lake Superior Christian Church. It's the ABCs (A-About us, B-Biblical Beliefs, C-Connecting) to LSCC.

This is a three week class that meets on Sundays from 12:30 -2:00 p.m. Lunch and child care are provided. Class size is limited to 10 adults.



To find out when the next class will begin contact the church office at 249-1431.

### Digging Deeper

Digging Deeper is a good class for getting started in the basic Bible foundations.

This is a six week class that meets on Sundays for about an hour. Contact the church office at 249-1431 to find out when the next class begins!



### Announcement

Congratulations to Garien Kwarciany and Alicia Morey on their engagement!

## children's ministries

kids@lscv.tv



Dear Loved Ones,

Many of you have heard Jerry and I will be leaving Lake Superior Christian Church on June 29. We will actually load the truck on July 7. Help is welcome! I am sorry if I am not able to personally say good-bye. I dread saying goodbye, it is so final – it reminds me there will be a great loss when we move.

Some of the things I will miss:

1. Deer that casually walk through our yard
2. The white rabbit that looks through the window when Jerry is running on the treadmill
3. Beautiful, large snowflakes at the beginning of winter
4. Rain from Lake Superior, even though there isn't a cloud in the sky
5. Church friends and their awesome kids. It hurts to even type this one
6. Visiting cool places with the chickadees
7. Upward Basketball friends and kids
8. VBS: enjoying meals, music, lessons and crafts with amazing families (grandparents, parents and kids)
9. Kid's Choir
10. Missions: seeing children empty their piggy banks, do extra chores, sell prized possessions to help people they don't know... giving so others can have Bibles, food, clean water and so much more...their little hearts are tender and full of love – I have learned so much from them.
11. Volunteers and staff who give so much... who love the Lord and serve Him in many ways – they are truly wonderful, beautiful people.

There are many more things I will miss...the list is overwhelming! Please know I will miss you and pray we will see each other again. But if our earthly paths never cross, I look forward to seeing you in heaven and the day when we all be together again – praising God, laughing, singing, dancing. I envision a huge amphitheater where you and I are gathered with many other faithful Christians – faces I recognize from Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, Texas, Illinois, Montana, Michigan and now, Washington. Part of me is longing for this day to come soon, but until then, I will work hard to lead others to Christ. I encourage you to stay strong in the Lord as well and not to lose heart. Continue to share Christ with others and deliver the message of good news and hope to those around you – exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit in your lives. Keep your eyes on Jesus (you can trust Him) and not on any person who might disappoint you or turn you away from the faith: "Stop trusting in mere humans, who have but a breath in their nostrils. Why hold them in esteem?" Isaiah 2:22

So until we meet in heaven, hold on to...cling to your faith in Jesus: "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-3

I love you and will miss you so much – you have been such a blessing and have enriched my life and the lives of many others...thank you for being my friend.

Natalie

July's Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes." Proverbs 17:17, NIV

### Kids say the funniest things...

The family invited Grandpa over for dinner before his trip to Mexico. Cassie, 5, was asked to say the blessing. "Thank God for Mom and Dad," Cassie began. "And thank God for the food we are about to eat. And thank God Grandpa is going to Mexico!" (Source: The Funny Things Kids Say, Vol. 3)



Vacation Bible School... July 27-31... Dinner... 5:15-6:00 p.m. Program... 6:00-8:15 p.m.

Congratulations to Peter & Melissa Yoder and Sofia & Olivia O. on your baptisms.

Welcome New Members! Don & Pam Withrow

Weekly Stats	1-June	8-June	15-June	22-June	29-June
Baptisms	2	0	0	0	2
First Time Visitors	0	0	6	1	3
Worship Attendance	492	474	409	483	403
Bible School Attendance	76	69	47	46	40
Operating Fund Budget	15,150	\$15,150	\$15,150	\$15,150	\$15,150
Operating Fund Offering	\$11,641	\$16,503	\$12,025	\$12,585	\$11,917