



the lake church

August 2025

BEING YOUR SHEPHERD



During my first year as pastor here, I read a book that still affects my pastoring today: *“Lead like a Shepherd.”* Thus, I don’t see myself as the CEO or Head Honcho at The Lake Church, but rather as a shepherd, looking over the flock, caring for them, protecting them, loving them, and leading them. This is probably one reason Psalm 23 is extra special to me.

Debbie and I are happy and blessed to be serving the Lord here. Thank you for all the encouragement, joy, and love you share with us.

WE love you!

Pastor Jim

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

DOG DAYS OF AUGUST

The expression, Dog Days of August (or sometimes “Dog Days of Summer”) started with the ancient Romans. August has the reputation of being hot, muggy, and uncomfortable, so where does that expression about “Dog Days” come from?

I had occasion to look into some facts about August since my wife’s birthday is August 1 and we end up celebrating it almost all month. Except for the fact that it was named after Augustus Caesar, there is not much

interesting about the history of this month. Apparently July was named after Julius Caesar, so Augustus wanted the next month named after him. Originally it was known as Sixtilius and had 30 days. Augustus changed the name and the length to 31 days to stay equal to Julius.

Anyway, Sirius (the dogstar) near the end of July would appear in the sky just before the sun, and that marked the beginning of the very hottest days of the year. The Romans referred to



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Dr. Jim Brown, Pastor

this period as “dies caniculares” or “days of the dog star”, which eventually translated as just “dog days”, the term we use today.

The Greeks connected this time with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, bad luck, and mad dogs. (Possibly the inspiration for the phrase “only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun”).

Dog Days does not actually refer to dogs, but I’m sure it is a time when dogs actually become lazier and rest more than usual... I would if I were one. But it does show that world God gave us has not changed for millennia. Abraham, David, Jesus and all the people of the Bible experienced the same world we live in today. The truths and wisdom from Old and New Testaments are still the same and as relevant today as they were then.

Thinking about birthdays, for anyone who gets depressed about getting older, check out Psalm 90:12 – ***“God teaches us to number our days, that we may present to Him a heart of wisdom”***

God Bless everyone, and Happy Dog Days,

Art Pedersen,

Chairman, Board of Directors

SCAM ALERT! (From Pastor Jim and the Church Board)



Beware of emails or texts from “Pastor Jim” or “Dr Jim Brown” or similar ... saying something like: “I need something handled with discretion, but I can’t talk right now, so please email me back and I’ll tell you what I need” ... yada yada yada. **SCAM.**

This has happened at least twice in the past year, and some dear folks – out of love for the church and

the pastor – have responded and lost \$\$\$. We’re saddened to see this happen... **THUS**, this warning.

If you are in doubt about any email or text (or fake phone calls) – call or talk face to face with Debbie or me directly.

Thanks ... I’m just being the “shepherd” trying to protect the flock.

BECAUSE I KNOW HIM... (a message from Amy Pulliam)

Okay Church Family! Ready, set, GO! Nine words. ***“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks.”***

Today I can’t wait to be asked, “Why are you smiling?” Ready, I eagerly respond, “Because I know Him.” Then it’s their turn and it gets fun... I get smirks, shrugs, hugs, doors opened and closed, and my favorite is when they ask totally confused, “What?” This is my ministry that God has given to me all traced back to a burden I wasn’t very thrilled to carry around with me. Also, turns out God uses it to

save me over and over. He's also using it to connect me to those who need Him. I'm blessed by my adversity, beyond measure.

Our salvation just might come from one of life's "surprises." Recently I was reading a story about President Theodore Roosevelt that brought this to my attention in correlation with my own trials I'm experiencing. My story is slightly less dramatic!

Theodore Roosevelt lived before bifocals were an available tool. He was burdened by always needing to carry two sets of glasses, one on and one in a case in his chest pocket. It was even stated he "hated" having to tote two sets around. He was in Milwaukee one day and suddenly a man fired a gun making an attempt on the President's life. A surgeon who had been tending to his wound approached him with a surprise gift. In the surgeon's hands was the President's steel eyeglasses case! The case had in fact taken the bullet instead of his heart thereby saving his life. Saved by a case he hated to carry. A case he was burdened by.



As God works His plan of salvation for the world, He is full of surprises. I have personally found He has an awesome sense of humor too.

In my own life I have found that old habits die hard and my flesh can start molding my days as if I were in charge. I am armed with my checklist and think I know how everything is going to turn out. Nothing can stop a good list once it gets going; by the time I'm done I've ended with power washing the house (My wheelchair shouldn't be an issue!) Been there?

Terrifying and freeing in unison is the Biblical truth... GOD IS IN CHARGE. Always has been and always will be. How assuring that the job is taken. Not only is the position filled but it is filled by the one and only true God who created the heavens and the earth, light and darkness, can do only good, is perfectly just, is all powerful, knew me before I was formed in my mother's womb! Whoa – awestruck. Checklist revised to now say "obey & surrender".

We all know, as His children, the to-do list can grow longer to include important things such as serve, pray, read His Word... and others activities that make for an abundant christian life (Did you know Pastor Jim just started a new 40 day devotional called 40 KEYS to Abundant Christian Living?) The point is, our to-do lists are often not what actually NEED to get done and what we consider important might even need some thought too.

Getting back on track, I'd like to steer this toward the storyline of what President Roosevelt thought of as a burden and even hated, is the very thing that God chose to utilize to save his life. God didn't choose a heroic person to jump in front of him or to have the shooter sneeze and miss. God chose the eyeglasses case as his tool of salvation. God knows exactly how He is going to save us... all we have to do is accept Him.

That thing I think of as a burden and don't like in MY life is the tool God is using for my salvation too. If you know a bit of my story you'll already know that I live with chronic pain and am disabled. (At

least until God heals me, if that is His Will for my life) God is equipping me through my experience of pain to connect with others who are hurting too. And there is a lot of work to do!

Connecting the dots. I see us, His children, like infinite grains of sand on the beach... all alike yet different and each seeing the shore uniquely. Connecting with each other in His creation and abiding in Him. His Church. Wherever two or more are gathered, right? Whether the waiting room, hospital operating room, or the line at the pharmacy (now I think I need to get out more as my list sounds a bit depressing). Hey, I'm keeping it real!

I just had surgery less than two weeks ago and the team of surgeons, nurses and doctors in the operating room asked me what music I liked as they were putting me under general anesthesia and I said "Wait! I need more time – too many good songs – but I love worship music!" The last thing I remember hearing before going under was several of them going back and forth on their favorite Christian songs. That's blessing.

There is light, joy, love, sweetness everywhere because God is everywhere! He is always there! We are the ones that just need to choose to reverence Him. Praise Him. Give Him the to-do list and thank Him! Even when it's scary, just remember one of the most stated things in the Bible is... fear not!

Not only do we get new life, but He gives us eternity and the option to choose it when we are ready. Only God does that. Learning God's character and knowing who He is deepens my relationship with Him and that changes everything. I am blessed each morning I get to wake up and thank Him for new mercies. Today He gave me another chance and an opportunity to write this article to my Church Family. Even on the hard days, tears may fall down to my lap, but I get to hold the Living Word in my hands and talk with Him. "It is written" I think to myself and just like that it is well with my soul.

"Rejoice in HOPE; Be patient in AFFLICTION; Be persistent in PRAYER." (Romans 12:12)

Gratefully,

Amy Pulliam

HEALTH NEWS FROM THE "CHURCH NURSE"

Oh those nasty skin tears. Ever have one? A skin tear is a type of injury where the skin is torn from the body. These tears usually affect thin and fragile skin.

Unlike supple skin that can stretch to keep from breaking, aging and thin skin will tear at the slightest bump it seems. Even taking off a band aid can tear the skin...

So, let's look at some categories and causes of skin tears.

I preface this by always checking in with your physician to be sure he/she agrees with your treatment plan.

Skin Tear Types: There are three categories of skin tears and a few subcategories. The main difference between skin tear types is whether the skin flap can be reattached to the body and heal well.

Category 1... In a category 1 skin tear, the skin flap is complete enough that all the edges can close. This kind of skin tear might heal if you put the skin flap back where it belongs and wrap the wound in a light dressing. DO NOT PUT TAPE ON THE SKIN.

Category 2... In this category, the skin flap is damaged and will not close properly. In this case, the tear will not heal right because the flap cannot reach the edges of the wound. Category 2a means the flap is pink. Category 2b means the flap is pale or blue. This could mean that the skin tear is not going to heal or going to take 3 – 4 weeks to heal.

Category 3... In a category 3 skin tear, the skin flap is completely gone. This type of skin tear will take the longest to heal.

What are the causes of skin tears? We know that with aging skin tears are more common.

As you get older, the blood vessels in your skin start to feed less moisture and nutrients to your skin tissue. Older people, particularly if they are frail and need help moving around, are likely to get skin tears. Thinner skin means you lack that cushion you had when you were younger. Even a slight bump can tear the skin and make blood vessels break open and cause a bruise.

We will cover the ways to treat skin tears in the next Newsletter. Perhaps we should have started with that first!!!! Well, Follow Pastor Jim Brown's method in the meanwhile – wrap yourself in bubble wrap and duct tape. 😂 Until then: May the Lord's healing balm keep you protected. Stay hydrated in the heat of the summer months. God Bless this wonderful Lake Church Family.

Shalom ~ Shalom,

MJ Goldzimer RN

Congregational Nurse at The Lake Church

FOR BETTER OR VERSE: A Calendar of Bible Verses by Month and Day

Here's a fun way to read 365 meaningful scriptures this year. One scripture a day... each day of the month has a corresponding verse for that date. As you wake up each day, read the verse designated for that day. Last month we gave you the August scriptures.

Here's your **September** list (month 9):

Proverbs 9:1, Mark 9:2, Acts 9:3, Proverbs 9:4, John 9:5, Luke 9:6, Mark 9:7, Proverbs 9:8, Proverbs 9:9, 2 Corinthians 9:10, Proverbs 9:11, Proverbs 9:12, Luke 9:13, Mark 9:14, Acts 9:15, Genesis 9:16, Genesis 9:17, Acts 9:18, I Corinthians 9:19, Numbers 9:20, Mark 9:21, Matthew 9:22, Luke 9:23, I Corinthians 9:24, Acts 9:25, Exodus 9:26, Mark 9:27, Esther 9:28, Luke 9:29, 2 Chronicles 9:30.

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