

The “oil needs to be changed” light is on in Rita’s and mine’s car. Unlike other cars I’ve driven, it’s not a small genie lamp looking amber light. No, it’s a giant pop-up that covers the dashboard. It is worded ominously and isn’t just a suggestion. It declares to the driver “YOU MUST CHANGE THE OIL!” It’s impossible to miss.

It’s also been on for three weeks.

I know, I know, that’s pretty irresponsible on my part. An oil change is an important part of regular maintenance of one’s vehicle. If you don’t change the oil regularly, then your car is going to start making weird noises and soon parts are going to fall off. I like this car, so I have every reason to go get the oil changed.

It’s also not like it’s a huge inconvenience either. I could go to one of the seemingly endless stations around the South Bend area. No appointment is necessary, I just have to drive up and they’ll do all the work for me. It’ll only take fifteen minutes at most and it’s honestly not that expensive. I have plenty of time and the cost isn’t the problem.

Still, it’s been three weeks. Why haven’t I? I don’t actually know...

It may sound weird to say, but our faith is a lot like my car. Our faith gets us where we’re going. It carries us through the storms of life. Our faith works!

But it also needs to be maintained. There are plenty of people out there who say they are people of faith, but never darken the doors to a church. Say they are Christians, but never crack open the Bible. Say they are religious, but never pray.

I don’t doubt that they believe in Christ. I believe them when they say they love God. After all, I don’t know their hearts, and who am I to doubt anyone’s claims of faith?

But they are acting like I am with my car. They are at risk of burn out. Their faith can easily be overwhelmed by the storms of life. It can be quietly forgotten, and it can slip away when they’re not paying attention to it.

Faith needs regular maintenance. And we maintain our faith through regular acts of worship. By gathering together, we help reinforce each other’s faith. We help lift each other up. By reading Scripture we help our faith grow in depth. By praying regularly, we let our faith build a stronger connection with our Lord.

And honestly, none of this is particularly difficult. Worship does not require us to rearrange our entire lives. Prayer does not require a special degree or a quiet mountain retreat. Opening the Bible does not require us to have all the answers. These are simple things, but they are important things.

The warning light on my dashboard is still there. Every time I get in the car, it reminds me that I need to do something about it. Eventually, I am going to have to stop ignoring it and take care of the car.

Maybe our faith has warning lights too. Maybe there are moments when we realize that we have gotten too busy to pray, too distracted to read Scripture, or too disconnected from our church family. Those moments are not reasons to give up. They are reminders that it is time for a little maintenance.

So, take the warning light seriously. Make time for worship. Spend a little time in prayer. Open your Bible. Come together with your church family. Give your faith the regular attention it needs.

After all, I really like my car. I would hate to see something happen to it simply because I ignored a warning light.

And I really like my faith too. I would hate to see it slowly fade simply because I forgot to take care of it. God Bless, Pastor Ed

TOPS Club meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.

Thank You

Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for the kind words and thoughts in the passing of my daughter. A special thanks to the Sewing Group for the beautiful blanket.

Sincerely, Anna's family, Dixie

Sincere and heartfelt Thank You to all who donated items for Women's Mission Circles Rummage Sale. Carol McDougal has been our major leader of us all who sort, clean, arrange items for sale. Plus the set up and tear down of tables, putting areas used back in place.

As of Thursday, Oct 1 sales have surpassed \$ 2,800., there is still \$\$ to be turned in.

The dollars raised are used for local missions we support.

Online giving is available for your convenience
Scan the QR code for the direct link. Also, at lakevilleumc.org



Food Pantry Needs: pasta sauce, elbow macaroni, jam & jelly, canned pasta-ravioli, boxed stuffing, taco kits, Knorr Sides, pudding & jello, syrup, canned soup with meat, canned fruit Thank you.

The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule

Oct. 11 Diane **Oct. 18** _____

Oct. 25 Denny

**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the
kitchen door.**

Sunday Kids Church Schedule

Oct. 11 Rita **Oct. 18** _____

Oct. 25 _____

**Sign up at the bulletin board outside the
kitchen door.**

Looking Ahead

Lakeville Fall Festival – Saturday, Oct. 10

Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Monday, Oct. 12, 5 PM Dustin's House - Plymouth

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Oct. 13, 3-6 PM

Staff Parish Meeting – Thursday, Oct. 15, 6:30 PM

Disciples & Dragons Youth Group – Sunday, Oct. 18, 6 PM

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, Oct. 24, 4 – 6 PM

Hot Dogs at the pavilion – Saturday, Oct. 24, 6 PM

Food Pantry – Tuesday, Oct. 27, 3-6 PM

Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, Oct. 28, 11 AM

Meet at the Studebaker Museum - \$11.

Finance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, Oct. 28, 10 AM



LAKEVILLE UMC
INVITES YOU TO
**87TH ANNUAL
TURKEY SUPPER**

Come enjoy a hearty turkey dinner
with all the fixings
& visit our Craft Bazaar!

Cost: \$15 per plate

Purchase your tickets in person at the church, by
calling the church, or online.

Extra dressing, cranberry relish, and coleslaw are also available for purchase.

Tickets on sale now thru Nov. 12

Come hungry and leave happy!

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

DINE IN AND CARRY OUT
4:00-6:30 PM

610 N Michigan St, Lakeville, IN
Phone: (574) 784-8215

SCAN TO BUY TICKETS

