

LIFEROADS SUMMER 2025 LETTER

Liferoads Church Family,

July 9, 2025

Pam and I moved here 24 years ago this summer to help start Liferoads and I remember being surprised by how rhythmic life is here in Spokane with the different seasons. Summer is a special time of the year here. The long days, the cool evenings and the many, many opportunities to enjoy God's creation. Many of us enjoy a trip to "the lake." I think it's funny that we don't feel the need to specify *which lake* when we talk about heading to "the lake" when there are 76 lakes within an hour's drive of Spokane. This season is a time to pause and reflect on God's faithfulness, to celebrate His gifts, and to invest in our spiritual growth and relationships.



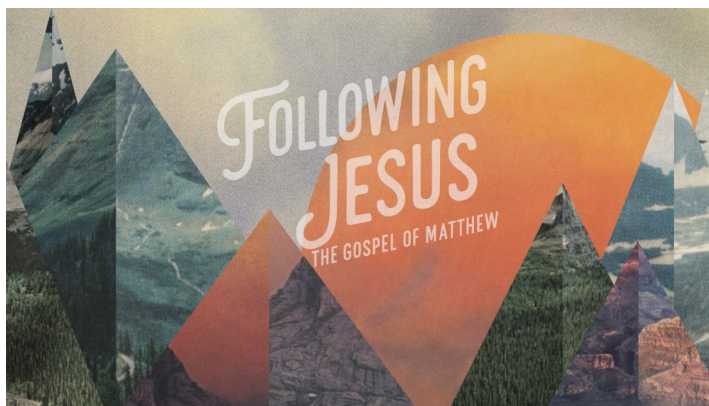
"The Lake" (Fishtrap Lake in this case :)

A few weeks ago, we came together for SOS (Summer of Service) Sunday, commissioning our students in prayer who are serving at four different UGM kids camps this summer. As I write this, there are dozens of students and adults serving the children of our neighborhood school, Stevens elementary, at camp. They are doing a wonderful job! This ministry is a profound example of how God uses our church to impact the next generation. Our students' dedication and willingness to serve their campers is inspiring, and we are excited about the lives that will be impacted through their efforts.



Please continue to pray for our SOS students as they share Christ's love this summer.

We are three weeks into our summer sermon series "Following Jesus," where we are exploring in the Gospel of Matthew what it means to truly follow Him in our daily lives. This week we're studying Matthew chapter 6, and Sunday's message will focus on the Lord's Prayer. If you haven't already, we encourage you to memorize the Lord's Prayer and incorporate it into your prayer life. I love this thought about the Lord's Prayer "It teaches me a way of prayer in two distinct parts: the first gets me in on God's world, the second gets God in on my world." (Lectio360 prayer app). I hope you'll join us Sunday as we unpack those ideas together in the message.



Summer also means it's time for our annual river baptism service. We gather every summer at Plantes Ferry Park (Just below the Antoine Plante memorial along the Centennial Trail). It's a joyful occasion to celebrate new life in Christ and enjoy fellowshiping together by the river. This year we are meeting on July 20th at 1pm after the Sunday service and we will be enjoying root beer floats together after the baptisms! If you (or someone in your family) has been considering baptism, *now* is the time to take this important step in your faith journey. We have prepared some resources on our website liferoads.org/baptism

including guidance for parents whose kids are asking about baptism. You can also sign up to be baptized at that link.

I also want to take a moment to share a financial update and invite your partnership in the work God is doing through our church. This year, stepping out in faith, our church council increased our outside giving as a church from 3% of our budget to 10%, trusting God to multiply its impact. These funds support important work that our denomination does — church planting, disaster relief, chaplaincy, global missions, and care for pastors. We also hired Jessica Harris earlier this year as our new kid's director, a vital role as we continue to invest in the next generation. Jessica's leadership is already making a huge positive impact.

At the same time, our building—our hub for worship, ministry, and outreach—desperately needs a fresh coat of paint. The "front door" of our ministry doesn't currently reflect the vibrant, life-giving church that meets here each week. We're in the process of collecting bids for the painting and needed exterior repairs.



Summer is also the time when church giving often dips as people travel. In other words, sometimes our giving goes to “the lake” too! Right now, our giving is about 10% below what we budgeted for the year. And with the added expense of the painting project, this is an important moment for us to pull together as a church family.

Would you prayerfully consider making a special financial gift this summer? Whether it’s stepping into regular giving for the first time, catching up on missed weeks, or giving above and beyond—your

support matters. Every gift, no matter the size, helps us move forward in faith, care for what God has entrusted to us, and reflect His love to our community.

Liferoads is a church that shows up—for students at camp, for our youth, for one another in hard seasons, and for the neighborhoods around us. I’m so grateful to be on this journey with you. Let’s keep showing up—for Jesus, for each other, and for the mission He’s given us!

I am grateful for you. May God richly bless you this summer!

Pastor Donnie