

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Church Family,

"And the worst of the worst, the most hated and cursed, is the one that we call Scrooge." So goes the introductory song to one of my favorite Christmas movies "The Muppets Christmas Carol". Scrooge, as we know, was the old greedy miser from Charles Dicken's famous narrative *A Christmas Carol*. Everyone despised him because of his unthankful, greedy heart and contrary disposition to all that was good, including the celebration of Christmas.

By the end of the prose, however, we find that Scrooge had been changed. He had been visited by three ghosts that showed him his past, present, and future. What they showed him was disturbing to him: his true nature, everyone's view of him, and the resulting catastrophes brought about by his ungrateful, uncaring ways. Three ghosts, all in a one night's visit, converted him to be thankful, empathetic, and celebrate Christmas.

Dickens' story, and much more the Muppets interpretation of it, is a great novel that provides good lessons (and some laughter). There is, however, something missing from the story. What was it exactly that made Scrooge change his mind? Was it his own inner strength? The awareness of his faults? Did the ghosts wield some unseen power that convicted him? The story of Scrooge, although a classic, leaves much to the imagination of exactly what brought about his transformation.

In a society that values and prizes the emotional, the sentimental, and psychological well-being, *A Christmas Carol* is a powerful illustration of "becoming a better you": you just need to "see more clearly who you really are" and

then "pull yourself up by the bootstraps" to make yourself better and likable. Only then will life be better for you, and you will be more happy.

By contrast, the biblical story of Christmas is much more significant and powerful. It is about God (specifically, the second person of the Trinity, the Son of God) becoming incarnate in the man Jesus of Nazareth. Just think of this: God becomes a man! More powerfully, he becomes a man to save all of humanity from its sins and re-establish a relationship with himself. Jesus, the God-man, loves his creation to the extent to die a brutal death on a cross and suffer the penalty for *our* sins, we wretched sinners who are powerless and have nothing good in us. Then, in great triumph, Jesus rises from the dead by his own power. Now, transformation of our miserly and contrary dispositions is accomplished, not by us, but God himself!

*This* is a story to write a Christmas carol about! *This* is a story in which true conversion occurs. No matter how much willpower we wield, how many ghosts may visit, or how much awareness we have of our faults, we will never be able to repair our crooked ways. It is only the power of God who can transform us, and this was made possible by the coming of Jesus two-thousand years ago in a feeding trough. *This* is the Christmas Carol of conversion to be told!

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us."* ~John 1:1, 14a

Your Friend and Minister,  
Dr. Pete

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Please email articles to  
[Office@LilburnCC.com](mailto:Office@LilburnCC.com)  
by the **23rd of each month!!**



For our Thanksgiving Outreach, LCC put together over 100 bags of food items to be given out to the Lilburn community. When a bag was picked up, we talked with each person and then prayed for their needs. Many thanks to all of you who filled these bags and to those that helped distribute them.



Southwest Christian Care is a ministry dedicated to providing the highest quality care and support for terminally ill patients, children with special needs, and senior adults, all supported by a spiritual and grief recovery care team. Specifically, the hospice care, providing comfort, encouragement and support is what hospice is all about. Families dealing with end-of-life issues are often stressed, exhausted, fearful and overwhelmed. Knowing that their loved one is being cared for by compassionate and experienced staff brings peace of mind and allows the family to rest and regain their strength. Pray for this very important ministry that is supported by LCC. Remember- they are different. They provide all their services at NO COST to those they serve so our support is very important so please pray for this very important ministry.



## LCC Wednesday Night Meal Ministry



The LCC Kitchen crew would like to thank everyone who has helped in the kitchen this year. The assigned Clean Up Crew groups have been a tremendous help.

### Meals for December:

Dec. 6 Chicken Tortilla Soup, Rainbow Sherbert & Vanilla Wafers  
Dec. 13 Sloppy Joe's & Cobblers  
Dec. 20 & 27: No Meals, Christmas

## Opportunity to Serve Wednesday Night Meals

•We still need additional help to prep, cook and serve – one item, one recipe, one meal at a time. We will provide a task list, recipe, and ingredients for the meal each week. The amount of help needed varies based on the menu. Please let us know if you are willing to help.

•Thanks,  
•Rosie Bengtson 404-403-5765



## DECEMBER

1 Ezek 28-30, 1 Pet 3:7-4:6  
2 Ezek 31-32, 1 Pet 4:7-5:14  
3 Ezek 33-34, 2 Pet 1  
4 Ezek 35-36, 2 Pet 2  
5 Ezek 37-39, 2 Pet 3  
6 Ezek 40-41, 1 John 1:1-2:11  
7 Ezek 42-44, 1 John 2:12-3:3  
8 Ezek 45-46, 1 John 3:4-23  
9 Ezek 47-48, 1 John 3:24-4:19  
10 Dan 1-2, 1 John 4:20-5:21  
11 Dan 3-4, 2 John  
12 Dan 5-6, 3 John  
13 Dan 7-8, Jude  
14 Dan 9:1-11:4, Rev 1  
15 Dan 11:5-12:13, Rev 2  
16 Hos 1-5, Rev 3  
17 Hos 6-9, Rev 4-5  
18 Hos 10-14, Rev 6:1-7:8  
19 Joel 1-3, Rev 7:9-8:13  
20 Amos 1-4, Rev 9  
21 Amos 5-9, Rev 10:1-11:10  
22 Obd, Rev 11:11-12:17  
23 Jonah 1-4, Rev 13  
24 Micah 1-7, Rev 14  
25 Nah 1-3, Rev 15-16  
26 Hab 1-3, Rev 17  
27 Zeph 1-3, Haggai 1-2, Rev. 18  
28 Zech 1-4, Rev 19  
29 Zech 5-8, Rev 20:1-21:8  
30 Zech 9-14, Rev 21:9-27  
31 Mal 1-4, Rev 22



# Thrive

This past month, Thrive found themselves lost in a corn maze. But we were found... LOL. We had a great time together at the Buford Corn Maze, just hanging out and having some fun.

The teens also took care of cleaning the tables after dinner on Wednesday nights during the month of November. It's a great way to not only take part in Wednesday night service, but to also be of service to the body of Christ.

They brought down the Christmas décor in record time. I love that our teens dive in to help here at LCC. We are a family of believers that work together.

I was out-of-town this month, and Colin Hartnett took care of Wednesday nights for me. He did a great job leading a lesson on "Jesus in the Old Testament".

He told me that the youth group really got involved in the discussion and enjoyed the lesson.

I had the opportunity to go with Steve to Berkmar and help with the meal for a football game. I am trying to get a key student to visit us at Thrive.

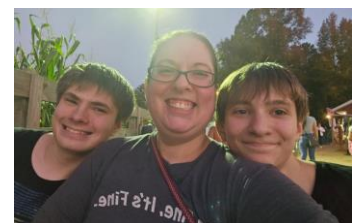
It's my belief that if I can get one of the leaders, he will encourage others to join us as well. Please be in prayer for that student specifically. His name is Armani.

I pray that we all take this Thanksgiving to think about all the blessings from our Lord and Savior. He is the one and only Mighty God who has blessed us all with unconditional forgiveness and love.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. It means a lot.

God Speed!

Alex Aleman  
Youth Pastor



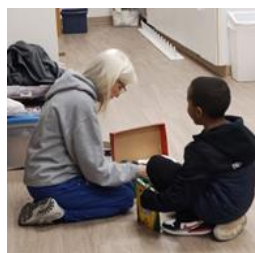




Merry Christmas! We had such a great November in our Children's Ministry! First of all, we made it through the renovations. (Thanks to those who came and helped me get the area back in working order!) I am so excited to announce that a preschool age room is now open! On Wednesday evenings, we are incorporating a Praise and Worship time from 6:30-7:00 We have also implemented a prayer board for the kids to voice their praises and requests to God. What a sweet time to see the kids and volunteers come together and pray for each other. Come on back and check out the Children's area to see what exciting changes we have made and are continuing to do as we trust God to do His good work at LCC.

Our other good news is that we had a great start to our holiday season as our church packed 141 Operation Christmas Child boxes! Over 30 people came and helped pack boxes at our packing party. We made bracelets and cards to put in the boxes while listening to Christmas music. Thanks to the ladies who serve dinner on Wednesday nights, we also had cake which really gave it a party feel! Many who attended said that they had never been to a packing party or participated in Operation Christmas Child. What a true blessing it was to introduce such a great giving opportunity to others.

Thank you to all who so generously gave. Thank you for letting your lights shine for His glory and being a part of spreading the good news of Jesus around the world. To God be the glory!





# Recharged (Adult Singles)

**Recharged (Singles Adult Group): December is Double Event Month!**



## **A Christmas Carol**

by Charles Dickens

### **Thursday, 12/14**

#### **Dinner, Christmas Lights & Cookies!**

Cracker Barrel in Suwanee at 5:00 pm

- Carl Pool from LCC (see Rosie or Karen)
- Car Pool from Cracker Barrel to see -  
Drive Thru Christmas Lights 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm

Dessert (Bring Christmas Cookies, etc...) 8:00 pm

### **Wednesday, 12/20**

#### **Dinner and Aurora Theater**

Dinner in Downtown Lawrenceville

Aurora Theater – A Christmas Carol (one man show)

Tickets are \$40 (to be purchased in advance ASAP)

- Pay Rosie (total amount may include fees)

Show starts at 8:00 pm

(Dinner place and time to be determined)



**PRAISE TO THE LORD,  
THE ALMIGHTY**







## *Ladies Christmas Party*

**Saturday, Dec.2nd**

**Family Life Center**

**12:30 pm to 2:30 pm**

All ladies are invited.

**Christmas Jars** will be displayed, discussed, and filled!

Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm

The cost is \$8.00 per person.

For our service project – please bring gift cards (in small denominations of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20) for Kroger, Public, Walmart, or Target to be donated to Lilburn Co-op.

Be thinking about your favorite scriptures or quotes of Love, Hope, Joy, Comfort, Inspiration, Encouragement. Even bring your Bibles to look up scripture if you want. These will be placed in the jars.



# Upcoming EVENTS

## December

- 1 Happy Birthday Jesus Parent's Night Out  
5:00 – 8:30 pm.
- 2 Ladies Christmas Party in the FLC at 12:30 pm.
- 3 Congregational Meeting to vote on Budget;  
Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday
- 9 CTO rehearsal 10 am – Noon
- 10 Christmas Program at LCC at 6:00 pm
- 14 Recharged: Christmas Light Adventure
- 17 Christmas Program at Whistleville Christian Church at 6:00 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion  
Service at 6:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day
- 27 No Wed. meal nor activities
- 31 De-decorate LCC after Worship

## January

- 01 New Year's Day
- 03 No Wed. night meal nor activities
- 13 Teacher Appreciation & Training 9-11 am
- 21 Vacation Bible School (VBS) Kick-off after  
the service



Teresa Herring  
Loetta Benton  
Linda Proctor  
Glenda Middleton  
Marcia Heinz  
Richard Walker  
Carol Hill  
Carolyn Ballew

Kathy Hill  
Henriette Wilke  
Peggy Newton  
Frank Umberger  
Nevelle Hawkins  
and her family  
Steve Simon  
Family of Gensie  
McDonald



**Katie & Kate Rakestraw**  
**11/19/23**





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