

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Church Family,

Just recently, I was scrolling through Instagram. One post stated that “you can be a nice person” but still “avoid toxic people” and “stand up for yourself.” Another stated that “karma says not to attach yourself emotionally to anyone because when that person leaves you will still be attached.” Posts, one after the other, effectively provided advice on how to avoid emotional, psychological, and physical pain.

As I read these posts, I felt like I was being choked with ropes. With every upward motion of my scrolling finger, I felt as if I was losing breath and inching closer to suffocation. Rather than finding relief from the problems of life, I was becoming more chained to them. The very things that the posts were telling me would set me free were in fact leading me to slavery.

It should not be a surprise that the world's advice on how to remedy the problems of life is empty, cold, and dark. The world misdiagnoses the problem of humanity, so how can it provide any meaningful, substantive solution to it? For the world, the problem is that we don't live our authentic selves, and so the solution is to do what we can to avoid pain and nurture our own psychological and emotional well-being. In short, the world's solution is to feed the Self, the ego—be self-centered and think only how to build your self-esteem. This is the American gospel.

The true Gospel, on the other hand, is much more powerful and leads to life. According to the Christian faith, humanity's problem is humanity itself. As Harry Blamires writes in his book *The Christian Mind*: “In the Christian moral system the key sin is pride—that perversion of the will by which the self is asserted as the centre of the universe” (p.89). This, of course, goes back to the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve thought that they could become like God. There is nothing more prideful than thinking you can become God!

Pride, the underlying problem and sin of humanity, still infects every one of us. We think very highly of ourselves. We think we are experts at everything, and we make sure we tell others what they are doing is wrong. We critique everyone, and then gather others around who support our ideas as we gossip about, rather than building up, others. “Did you hear what she said? I wouldn't have said it that way!” “I think they need to do this rather than that.” “Why do *you* think it should be done that way. *My* way is better.” How many times do we say these kinds of things, whether verbally or in our heads?

But there is a way out, and it's the best news ever! The problem of pride (the self) can be destroyed and remade, and we can begin to learn how to love others and put them before ourselves. It's summed up with one word: grace. Because we worship the Self and destroyed our relationship with God and others, God the Father sent his Son to die on the cross and resurrect from the dead, thereby defeating our old sinful nature and providing a way to remake us as selfless service-oriented people like Jesus. This is grace! We did not deserve the work of Jesus. It is a gift. And this gift, when accepted and opened, becomes to us a new birth. The Holy Spirit remakes us into the image of Jesus.

This remedy is much better than the world's “solution” to become more selfish! When we become less selfish, we become more like Jesus. And to become more like Jesus brings much more joy and peace. After all, to love and serve was what we were created for!

“Therefore, we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” ~2 Corinthians 4:16 (NASB)

Your Friend and Minister,
Dr. Pete

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Please email articles to
Office@LilburnCC.com
by the **23rd of each month!!**

SERMON SERIES

Sermon Series

Series: What is a Church Member?

(Based upon Thom Rainer's book, *I am a Church Member*)

2/4/2024 - Part 1: Church Members Function -
1 Cor. 12:12-13 (w/ a view to vv.14-26)

2/11/2024 - Part 2: Church Members Unify -
Eph. 4:1-6

2/18/2024 - Part 3: Church Members Insist on
Others' Preferences - Philip. 2:1-11 (w/ a view
to Matt. 20:20-28)

2/25/2024 - Part 4: Church Members Submit
and Pray for Their Leaders - Heb. 13:17; 1
Thess. 5:12-13

3/3/2024 - Part 5: Church Members Lead Their
Families to be Healthy Church Members - Eph.
6:1-4 (w/ a view to Deut. 6:4-8)

3/10/2024 - Part 6: Church Members Treasure
Their Membership - 1 Pet. 1:3-9 (w/ a view to
Matt. 13:44-45)

DID JESUS *REALLY* RISE FROM THE DEAD?

A HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION



SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Q/A SESSION TO FOLLOW



LILBURN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
314 ARCADE ROAD
LILBURN, GA 30047

DR. MIKE LICONA

Dr. Licona, Professor of New Testament Studies at Houston Christian University and President of Risen Jesus, Inc., has a Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from the University of Pretoria. He is the author of numerous books and has spoken on more than 100 university campuses and has appeared on dozens of radio and television programs.



Missions Spotlight



NORTH GEORGIA CHRISTIAN CAMP

Please start praying now for all the children and teens attending camp this year. This is a great ministry that we support! If you have child you'd like to have attend camp, please visit their website and sign up. You can link through the LCC website>GetConnected>Missions. There are two weeks that are already full!

North Georgia Christian Camp has been committed to providing a quality Christian camp in a loving, caring, and safe environment for over 50 years. They exist to show and tell youth about Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in Whom we have life everlasting. Many lives are changed and enriched by those who attend! Please pray for the camp this upcoming month!

Missions Update: On a side note, because of the generosity of LCC, we were able to increase the support for each of our missions for 2024. If you are interested in seeing those missions that are supported by LCC, contact Jeff Stephens, or the church office, and we'll provide that to you.

Thrive

Sometimes, when we think of how God moves in our lives and in the lives of others, it is difficult to remain patient. Why does it seem to take so long to see God at work? We might ask ourselves “am I wasting my time in this? I don’t see any fruit” when faced with a long period of time where we are serving God faithfully but don’t see any results.

In this month’s newsletter, I want to highlight how “staying the course” does yield results when God is ready to reveal them.

Several years ago, Josh Cox and Melissa Daniels heard the call to begin ministering to the football team at Berkmar. The church body got behind this call as well. You donated food, water bottles, Gatorade, and your time and money.

In recent years, Steve Straughan began to head this ministry up. Along with several volunteers, he and his team have continued what Josh and Melissa started years ago.

Because I work during the week, I am generally unable to assist with the food delivery to the football team. Steve asked me several times to come out and visit the team with him if I ever had an opening in my schedule at work.

One Friday afternoon, God opened the door for me to have time to help deliver food to the football team with Steve.



As I got to the school, I prayed this... “*God, show me who’s the leader in this group of boys*”. My thinking was that if I could connect with a leader within the group, and could get him to visit LCC, then by default, he would naturally lead others to visit.

During the meal, the Lord pointed him out. Plain as day. His name is Armani Rodriguez (the boy in the white t-shirt in the photo). I watched him as he hushed his table of friends because Steve was about to start talking. He told his friends to pay attention... A natural leader if I had ever seen one.

I spent time talking to him. I invited him to Thrive the following week, but he didn’t show. Then a few months later, LCC hosted the Berkmar Football Banquet. I came SPECIFICALLY to see Armani. This time I got his phone number. I invited him again and sent reminder texts.

Two weeks ago, he showed up with his sister. Last Wednesday he showed up with his sister and four other friends. I was told that he had actually invited 15 people, but several fell through.

Let me end by saying this. I have had little to do with the Berkmar ministry. Aside from verbal support, I am unable to be there because of work. But this church has people who have faithfully served Berkmar for years with little visible return on investment. Those whom I named in this message and countless others behind the scenes.

To all of you, “*thank you for staying the course*”. Your commitment to serve God at Berkmar is the reason that six teens heard the Gospel last night.

My wife Carrie made a great point. She said, “*I hope they return, but if they don’t, you at least had the chance to plant the seed of God’s Word in their hearts.*”

That is the truth, and it’s worth its weight in gold.

God Speed,

Alex Aleman
Youth Pastor



January was a great month for LCC Children's Ministry! We unveiled our NEW name: SHINE! Our tag line comes from Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Our tag line is, "Shining our lights for His glory." We want to impress upon our kids that our lights are only a reflection of the True Light that has come into the world (John 1:9). Our Scripture focus for our new name is John 1:4 - "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

We had a great launch meeting with 15 in attendance. Thank you to those who came!

Our other exciting news is we had our first Vacation Bible School planning meeting this past Sunday! Our theme is SCUBA: Diving into friendship with God. The dates are June 2-6 with the time from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. If you would like to help out with VBS, it's not too late! There is room for everyone who wants to be involved. Again, there are places to serve even if teaching isn't your cup of (sweet) tea. See Jennifer Rasor for more details.





Recharged (Adult Singles)

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

‘Recharged’ is the Adult Singles Group at LCC. Anyone who is single (was married or never married) is welcome to come and join us for our events. We formed this social group a couple of years ago. The name was designed around the connection and friendships that are developed in a social setting. Sometimes, we just need to recharge our batteries by being around others in similar circumstances. Other times, we can be the little charge of encouragement someone else needs. We enjoy talking, laughing, eating, going to the movies, short road trips and just doing things together. We always have a great time whatever we decide to do!

We had a Soup and Sandwich potluck on Sunday, 1/28 to discuss our activities for 2024. Here is our quarterly calendar of events planned. However, we are certainly open to adding other events in-between. We have an email broadcast code that we use to communicate with the group.

If you are not on our list and are interested in joining us, please see Rosie Bengtson, Karen Throckmorton, Bill Michael, Marilyn Nelson or Beverly Miles.

Recharged (Singles Adult Group: Calendar for 2024 (Quarterly Events Planned)			
1 st Quarter	Tuesday, Feb. 27	On Stage Walton in Monroe	“I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change”
2 nd Quarter	Friday, April 26	Gibbs Garden	Lunch at the Arbor Cafe
3 rd Quarter	Friday, July 19	Booth Western Art Museum	Lunch at Blevins Bistro
4 th Quarter	To Be Determined	Possible: Gospel Music concert, another play or Christmas concert ???	

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Join Us As We Celebrate Easter Week

Palm Sunday 3/24 10:45am	The Disciple's Service 3/28 7:00pm	Easter Celebration 3/31 10:45am
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LCC Wednesday Night Meal Ministry

Meals for February:

02/07 Lasagna / Brownies & Ice Cream
02/14 Hamburgers & Hot Dogs / Red Cakes
02/21 Chili Mac / Sherbet & Vanilla Wafers
02/28 Pulled BBQ Pork / Apple & Peach Cobblers

The assigned Clean Up Crew for February is Thrive (Youth Group). Clean up starts at 6:20 pm. There is a task list of what needs to be done in the gym, as well as the kitchen. With many hands, it only takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. The kitchen crew appreciates the extra help.

Opportunity to Serve Wednesday Night Meals

We can always use 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



FEBRUARY

- 1 Exodus 35-37; Psalm 26; Phil 4
- 2 Exodus 38-40; Hebrews 1
- 3 Leviticus 1-3; Psalm 27; Hebrews 2
- 4 Leviticus 4-7; Hebrews 3
- 5 Leviticus 8-11; Psalm 110; Hebrews 4
- 6 Leviticus 12-14; Psalm 111; Heb 5
- 7 Leviticus 15-18; Psalm 31; Hebrews 6
- 8 Leviticus 19-20; Hebrews 7
- 9 Leviticus 21-23; Hebrews 8
- 10 Leviticus 24-25; Psalm 81; Hebrews 9
- 11 Leviticus 26-27; Psalm 112; Hebrews 10
- 12 Numbers 1-2; Psalm 64; Hebrews 11
- 13 Numbers 3-5; Hebrews 12
- 14 Numbers 6-7; Hebrews 13
- 15 Numbers 8-11; Colossians 1
- 16 Numbers 12-14; Psalm 28; Col 2
- 17 Numbers 15-18; Psalm 113; Col 3
- 18 Numbers 19-21; Colossians 4
- 19 Numbers 22-25; Luke 1
- 20 Numbers 26-29; Luke 2
- 21 Numbers 30-33; Psalm 35; Luke 3
- 22 Numbers 34-36; Luke 4
- 23 Deuteronomy 1-3; Psalm 36; Luke 5
- 24 Deuteronomy 4-5; Luke 6
- 25 Deuteronomy 6-9; Luke 7
- 26 Deuteronomy 10-14; Psalm 5; Luke 8
- 27 Deuteronomy 15-18; Psalm 115; Luke 9
- 28 Deuteronomy 19-22; Psalm 6; Luke 10
- 29 Deuteronomy 23-26; Luke 11

HEAT



AND

sweets

Family Game Night!!!!

Chili Bake Off and Bake Goods!!



Where: Lilburn Christian Church
314 Arcado Road
Lilburn, GA 30047

When: February 24, 2024 at 5pm to 7pm

What to Bring: You, Your Family and Friends!

Upcoming EVENTS

February

24 Chili Cook-off 5:00 – 7:00 pm in the FLC.

March

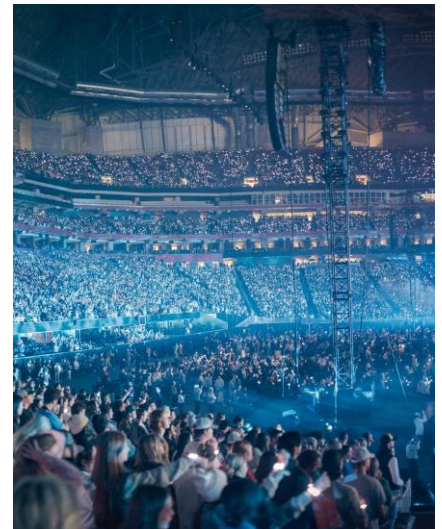
16 LCC Work Day 9 am – Noon
17 MainStreet Concert at 6:00 pm
21,22,23 Church Directory Photos will be taken
24 Palm Sunday
28 The Disciples' Service at 7:00 pm
31 Easter Sunday

Prayer Requests

Teresa Herring
Loetta Benton
Linda Proctor
Glenda Middleton
Marcia Heinz
Richard Walker
Carol Hill
Dotty Zetty
Clare Mescher
Josh & Lucy Vincent
and Baby Lily

LCC @ Passion 2024 Summery:

On January 3rd to the 5th, a group of young adults, ages 18-25, from Lilburn Christian Church had an amazing opportunity to attend "Passion 2024", a nationwide event calling all young adults to come together and worship, be equipped and to be inspired to "Call On Heaven." This event took place at the Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia with over 55,000 in attendance. At the conference, students engaged in corporate worship, scriptural reading from several pastors, and even encountered 12 verses from the Word of God being translated into a native Peruvian dialect "Amari" for the very first time in history! This conference for sure was a life changing, and transformational moment that has encouraged our young adults to "Call On Heaven" and to live for Christ. We thank our sponsors and leaders for helping to make this conference available for our LCC community. As our young adults look forward for the future that God has planned for them, let us all as an LCC family continue praying that the Lord uses them for His Kingdom and His Renown!



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We're on the web:
www.lilburncc.com

Spreading the gospel to
every tribe and nation

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Above all
else love
each other
deeply.