

LCC CONNECTIONS

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Lilburn Christian Church

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

At this time of year, it is common to have the Christmas story read from the books of Matthew and Luke. Matthew describes the events surrounding Jesus' birth more briefly than Luke and includes the visit of the Magi. Luke, on the other hand, has a lengthier record of Jesus' birth, intertwining the narrative with the birth of John the Baptist, the visitation of the angel Gabriel to both Zacharias and Mary, and the shepherds watching over their flocks and visited by a host of angels. Brought together, Matthew and Luke give us a fuller picture of Jesus' birth.

One aspect of Jesus' birth, however, is often overlooked, namely, his genealogy. The first thing one notes about the two genealogies (found in Matt 1 and Luke 3) is the names listed. One name that especially sticks out is Salmon. Both Matthew and Luke note that Salmon (not to be confused with Solomon or the fish!) was one of Jesus' ancestors (Matt 1:4-5; Luke 3:32). Salmon may not ring a bell or seem very significant, but he was the husband of Rahab. We are familiar with her! She was the prostitute who lived in Jericho and protected the Israelite spies (Josh 2:1). Because she helped the spies, she and her family were spared destruction. She became a part of God's covenant people, and then married Salmon. They had a son named Boaz. His name should ring a bell: He was Ruth's husband, the same Ruth for which the Old Testament book bears its name.

The genealogy of Jesus is fascinating and unexpected for many reasons. One reason is because a prostitute (Rahab) is in Jesus' lineage. Imagine that. A prostitute! The Messiah—God incarnate—came in the line of a harlot. Talk about unexpected (and some would probably say shocking).

In contrast, Jesus is in the line of a very faithful Jewish family: Elimelech and Naomi. They were both from Bethlehem, Judah. In an unexpected turn in the story, however, one of Naomi's sons marries Ruth. Ruth was not even Jewish! She was a Moabitess. Then, due to unfortunate circumstances (or shall we say God's providence?), Ruth's husband dies, her sister's husband dies, and so does Naomi's husband. Ruth follows her mother Naomi back to Israel where Ruth then marries Boaz. The rest is history, as they say.

How fascinating! God sends his son in a mixed line of Jewish and Gentile ancestors. From a certain perspective, one was the worst kind of sinner: Rahab. From another perspective, one was a very faithful servant: Naomi (Ruth taking after her). Oh the drama! The twists and turns of marital fidelity and infidelity. A history of faithfulness and obedience. Jesus' ancestry is like anyone else's: a mixed bag of righteousness and unrighteousness.

Why would God choose to send his son into such a circumstance? Why did he not send him in a line as pure as the white-driven snow? The answer is rather easy: he couldn't. Every human is a sinner. As such, God had to use sinners, no matter how unfaithful, to bring the Messiah into the world. Most significantly, the reason why God brought his son into such a world was to save it: "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom 5:6). This Christmas season, let us remember why Jesus was primarily born: to die for us sinners. And remember that he came into the world for your mixed bag of family members, too, no matter how unrighteous they are!

Your Friend and Minister,
Dr. Pete

MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT



Please remember the homeless population during these frigid months. The support provided to Jesus' Place provides to those who attend Sunday School and Worship with a little food and needed items. They also provide food security for families in poverty through their food cooperative program. They provide homeless outreach (many coming from the county shelter or the county jail to attend worship and Bible study), Fish House Recovery program (a 6-12 month program designed to encourage, equip and disciple homeless men with the goals of achieving quality employment, housing, and restoration to family and active membership in a local church body).

There are several other programs and opportunities to provide help if you're interested. Visit our website and look for Jesus Place. www.lilburnchristianchurch.org/missions

Bell Choir Conducted by Dave Wilson

Left to Right front row: Dave Wilson, Jimmy Hendricks, Lois Rodgers, Teri Wilson, Shannon Melton, Cheryl Hendricks

Middle Row Left to Right: Kandy Davidson, Katherine Keahey, Sally Walsh

Back Row Left to Right: Jamie Renshaw, Rachel Solano, Sharon Keyes, Frank Umberger



LIGHT OF THE WORLD is our Christmas Program this year.

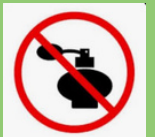
- Sunday, Dec. 1 at Gwinnett Terrace at 4:00 pm
Arrive at 3:00 pm. Please carpool and/or park at Kroger shopping center near the Train Station and use pathway to cross over to Gwinnett Terrace. Use Front Entrance and pick up your nametag. Program begins at 4:00pm. Attire is all black.

- Sunday, Dec. 8 at LCC at 6:00 pm.

- Sunday, Dec. 15th 6:00 pm Whistleville Christian Church

Christmas Program attire Dec 8th & 15th ~ men wear the same attire as last year. Ladies are not wearing the attire from last Christmas. This year, ladies will wear all black modest attire of your choice. Solid black please with no words.

Please remember that we are a **FRAGRANCE FREE** group so please do not wear scented lotions, perfumes or colognes to rehearsal and worship.



Don't you just love the music at LCC? Have you ever wanted to be a part of it, but you just aren't sure where you might fit in? We are looking for ringers! You don't have to read music – although if you do, that is an extra bonus. You don't have to have experience – our director, Dave Wilson, will teach you how, and we all work together as a team to make it happen. We have ringers with all different backgrounds – from music teachers to those who don't read a note of music. You will absolutely fit right in! Plus, you get to fellowship with a great bunch of people! Come join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30. We can't wait to see you! Contact Dave Wilson for more information.



Alex Aleman
Youth Pastor



As we near the Thanksgiving season, I am reminded of all that I have to be thankful for.

I look at my family and their support of me as I minister at LCC. The ideas they give me for Thrive. The advice and words of support when I am feeling down. In all of this I see as the hand of God giving me what is needed for this ministry.

I am blessed by the support of my church family as well. So many of you have been a helping hand in this, and I am forever thankful. Your words of kindness and love are cherished.

Most of all, I am thankful for God's grace and guidance. Without Him I would be flopping around like a fish on dry land trying to figure out what to do.

I love you all.

This past month, Thrive went to the Buford Corn Maze. We had fun sharing time with the Abide class who joined us on our adventure.

I hope you enjoy the photos.

God Speed,

Alex
Youth Pastor

Jennifer Rasor

Children's Director

I love celebrating the birth of Christ, don't you? My favorite part of Christmas decorations are the lights. They bring light to a dark world and reminds us that as Isaiah said, "The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." We know that light is Jesus, and we want to shine that light of Jesus to our community!

One way to do that is to invite everyone you know to our first ever Gingerbread bash! It will be on Saturday, December 14, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. The theme is Follow the Star. This event is for everyone! We will be building gingerbread nativities, along with playing a game, learning a fun new Christmas song, and hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please invite everyone you know to come and participate! Please sign-up on the church website. Click on the picture of the Gingerbread Bash and register there.

Quick look back on November: We were so blessed to have our Child Dedication Sunday AND a double baby shower in November. I love celebrating our families and their little ones! We also had our Operation Christmas Child packing party, which was a great success as well with 136 boxes turned in! As for classes, we had a fantastic time learning about old Testament people such as Adam, Abraham, Joseph, and Samuel in our preschool room. Children's church is continuing their study as well in the OT, focusing on the redemptive nature of our God.





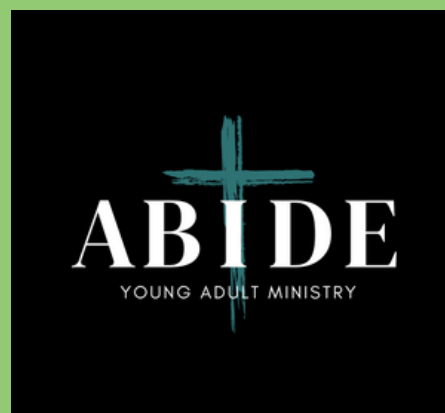
Recharged (Adult Singles)

Our open invitation to all LCC adults to join us for a Christmas play was somewhat successful.

Even though the \$10 Tuesday tickets sold out in record time, we have seven people going to see 'The Christmas Story' at On Stage Walton in Monroe on Saturday, 12/21. I'm sure it will be a blast! Everyone loves the story about Ralphie and his longing for a Red Ryder BB gun. I'm sure you remember the tongue stuck to the telephone phone and the Leg Lamp, as well.

We have seen several productions at this small local theater. If you've never gone to one, it would be a good addition to your To-Do list for 2025.

If you are new to LCC and are interested in joining us, please contact Rosie Bengtson, Karen Throckmorton, Beverly Miles or Bill Michael.



The Abide for Young Adults class had movie night and watched The Jesus Revolution. They saw a glimpse of what it was like before the Jesus Movement, the beginnings of the movement and how much it still has an effect on us today, with music, a timeless authentic message from scripture, and fellowship. The April 1966 cover of Time Magazine that asked, "Is God Dead", to the revival with the hippies and other young people, to the movement that spread across the land and led to the second Time Magazine cover speaking of the Jesus Revolution, just 5 years later. Thank you to the Rasors for opening their home again. Abide continues on Wednesday nights for any young adult from the ages of 18 to 29 years old-ish, as we are digging in the authentic Biblical truths in the great series, that apply young adults, even today, The Chosen. Please come join us, and don't miss worshipping Sunday mornings with Abide!!!!

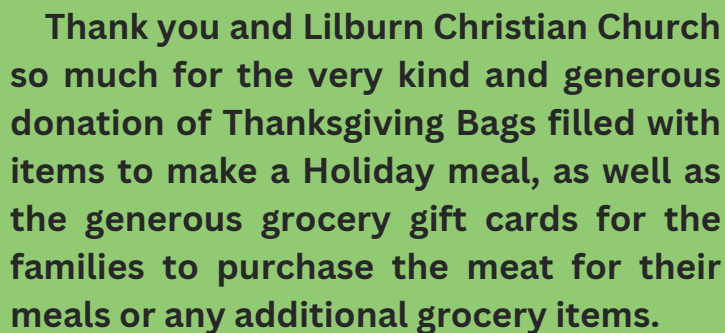




Please stop by the display table in the foyer. Pick up a green bag and a list of requested items by family size (either 1 to 3, or 4 to 6). Purchase items from the list, fill up the green bag and return them by December 15th. They will be delivered to the Lilburn Co-Op for distribution.

Individual or extra items are welcome! We have placed a plastic tub with the display for any individual or extra items purchased. We will fill green bags with those individual or extra items as they are received.

If you purchase items not on the Holiday Bag list, please continue to place those items in the cart or boxes designated for Lilburn Co-Op. Thank you for helping our local community by this effort. Any questions, please contact Bill Michael.



As always, Lilburn Elementary School is so appreciative of the continued support and partnership from Lilburn Christian Church, especially during the Holiday season!





Despite the delay caused by Hurricane Helene, the 16th Annual Gal's Get-A-Way finally occurred on November 8 and 9 at the Lodge at Lake Oconee with 23 women in attendance.

The meeting room at The Lodge was decorated with Fall flower arrangements on each table for four people made by Trish Elkins, along with colorful Fall leaves added to the Fall color scheme ... and the title of the study, "Fall in Love with Jesus." Lynn Akins, author of the study, led the first session. Other sessions were led by team members Kandy Davidson, Cathy Wade, Dixie Grimm and Karen Throckmorton. Trudy Daffron led the group in love songs about Jesus. Cindy Slater pleased the group once again with her culinary skills and served a delicious chocolate cake.

The Service Project for the Get-A-Way was a gift of money to Donna Stamm and Wayne Starling, who recently lost their home in a fire. The amount received and presented to Donna was \$1,720.

Following the closing session on Saturday morning, the group went to The Iron Fork for lunch.

The 2025 Gal's Get-A-Way will be a "two nighter", and we urge all women from LCC to consider attending. It is a time of study, fun and fellowship.

LADIES CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 10:30 AM

OUR SERVICE PROJECT WILL BE SMALL DENOMINATIONS OF
GIFT CARDS OR CANNED GOODS ALL TO BE DONATED TO
LILBURN CO-OP.





December

- 01 Congregation vote on 2025 budget
- 01 CTO Christmas Program at 4:00 pm at Gwinnett Terrace
- 01 Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday
- 07 Ladies Christmas Party @ 10:30 am in the FLC
- 07 Abide Christmas 6:30-8:30 at the Rasor's home
- 05 Divorce Class in the Chapel at 7:00 pm
- 08 Christmas Program at LCC at 6:00 pm
- 11 Thrive Christmas Party at 6:30-8:00 pm
- 14 Shine Gingerbread BASH 10:00 - 11:30 am
- 15 Christmas Program at Whistleville Christian Church at 6:00 pm
- 18 Christmas movie for all ages in the Chapel, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 21 OCC Volunteers work at their Processing Center 2-6 pm
- 24 Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day, No Wed. night meals nor activities

January

- 01 New Year's Day, No Wed. night meal nor activities
- 04 De-decorate the big tree at Noon
- 05 De-decorate the Sanctuary after the service
- 12 Membership Class in FLC, 12:15-2:15 pm
- 19 VBS Volunteer meeting after the service. VBS will be June 1-5, 2025.



- Prayer Requests
- Teresa Herring
- Linda Proctor
- Glenda Middleton
- Dennis & Marcia Heinz
- Richard Walker
- Ron & Carol Hill
- Richard Blankenship
- Jimmy Hendricks & Family
- Janet Curtiss
- Donna Stamm & Wayne Starling
- Blake Fraser
- Olivia Krakeel
- Eddie Herring & Family
- William Hartnett
- Bobby Roberts

●●● BIBLE READING PLAN



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER OF THE
BIBLE.

December
2024

JESUS IN THE GOSPELS

- 1 John 3:16
 - 2 John 1:1-5
 - 3 John 1:10-14
 - 4 Matthew 1:18-20
 - 5 Matthew 1:21-23
 - 6 Luke 2:52
 - 7 Matthew 3:13-17
 - 8 Mark 4:38-41
 - 9 Mark 6:39-44
 - 10 Luke 5:18-20
 - 11 Luke 5:21-24
 - 12 Mark 4:30-32
 - 13 John 14:1-6
 - 14 John 17:20-23
 - 15 Matthew 4:23
 - 16 Matthew 18:12-14
 - 17 Mark 1:40-42
 - 18 John 11:20-22
 - 19 John 11:23-27
 - 20 John 11:33-36
 - 21 John 11:41-44
 - 22 Matthew 17:1-3
 - 23 Matthew 17:5-8
 - 24 Luke 23:3-4
 - 25 Luke 23:13-16
 - 26 Luke 23:32-34
 - 27 Luke 23:39-42
 - 28 Luke 23:44-47
 - 29 Matthew 28:1-4
 - 30 Matthew 28:5-8
 - 31 Matthew 28:16-18
- These scriptures are from
Creating for Christ's
facebook page.

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May this year be more promising than
the year before! Spread the happiness all
around you! It's Christmas! Merry
Christmas to you and your family!

