

# LCC CONNECTIONS

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Lilburn Christian Church

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# MINISTER'S MESSAGE

At this time of year, we often think of making New Year's resolutions. Some resolve to begin exercising for the new year. Others resolve to eat better. Some may even commit to making better choices or being kinder. But, as we all know, New Year's resolutions are often broken. Why is this, and is there anything we can do to avoid the typical pitfall?

There are probably numerous reasons why we break our resolutions so easily and quickly. Perhaps we forget to schedule it on our calendar because we have yet to create the new habit. Maybe we feel uncomfortable going to the gym for the first or second time, and then we just avoid the awkwardness by quitting. There is probably, however, a common thread that makes all resolutions so difficult to keep: we try to do it on our own.

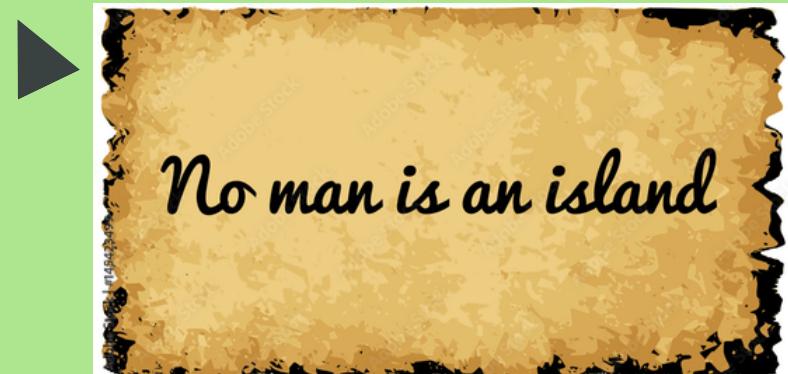
It's much more difficult to accomplish tasks by one's self. When we have a helper, it's definitely a lot easier. A helper aids in accountability, camaraderie, and motivation to stick to "it". A one-hundred-pound weight is much easier to lift with two people rather than one. The wisdom of Solomon noted the following:

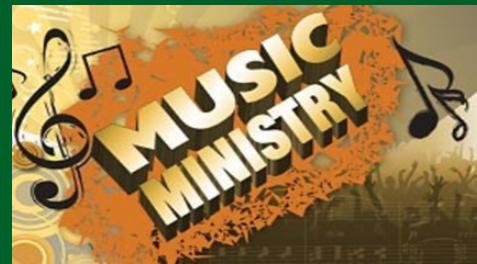
Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart (Eccles 4:9-12; NASB).

What is the point for us? This year let's make a good New Year's resolution and find someone in the body of Christ to follow through with us! Perhaps you desire to pray or study more. Maybe you want to try the spiritual discipline of fasting or solitude for the first time. Do not try it by yourself! Find a Christian brother or sister who is interested in making the same resolution, and then walk with one another as you begin to practice it. No one in the church of Christ is alone! We are a community Jesus has created for fellowship and edification. We cannot exist alone. As the saying goes, no man is an island. And this definitely applies to Christians! Remember: "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Prov 27:17).

Moreover, consider that you have the Holy Spirit who dwells in you. He can give you the moral and spiritual strength to you and your companion to accomplish the New Year's resolution. Whenever we attempt to put into practice those things which help us become more like Christ on our own strength, we are doomed to fail. Salvation—from justification to full sanctification—is God's work. We just need to provide the Spirit the opportunity to work on us. So let's work together! That's one reason why Christ built his church!

Your Friend and Minister,  
Dr. Pete





## Dwayne Wylds Music Minister

It has been a wonderful 2025. We have served together with sister churches starting at Watkinsville in the summer at their revival, ministered once a month through the entire year with a service of hymns and the Lord's Supper to the residents of Gwinnett Terrace, had a wonderful Resurrection Sunday, and prepared and worked alongside two other churches to present our 2nd annual UNITED Program.

In August we hosted the first BLESSINGS BRUNCH to honor all who serve at LCC in ministries across our campus and beyond. Additionally, we saw a member of our tech team, Will Tang, be baptized

as well as Arely Ramos from our Choir. 🙏, PRAISE THE LORD 🙏. New members were added to the music ministry, and we presented our annual Christmas program, which was COME ADORE, and had the privilege of adding the angels (from the children's program) join us on the 14th. Thank you, Jennifer. They truly added a moment of pure joy at the start of the program.

Our church graciously welcomed the Mainstreet Orchestra a venue in which to present their programs. Many in Mainstreet are not believers, and it has been a nice opportunity to host them. Thank you LCC for attending those concerts and building relationships with those folks.

Lastly, on the final Wednesday rehearsal of 2025, when presented with an opportunity to raise \$7,000 to build a safe shelter for Emfemia in Honduras with three days notice, you contributed over \$3,000, and combined with the Welcome Sunday School class, the total goal needed of \$7,000 was met. She and her children will soon have safe shelter. What you do MATTERS!

Coming together in song every week for one goal to worship God and help prepare the hearts to receive the Lord's Supper and the message in the sermon is so important, and we cannot wait to see how God is going to use you all in 2026.



# Thrive

As this year draws to a close, I look back at 2025 and realize that even though it has been a very difficult year for me personally, the Lord has been faithful. When I don't understand, I can rest assured that he does. When I'm confused, there's confidence in knowing that he is not. When I'm afraid, I can rest in his strength.

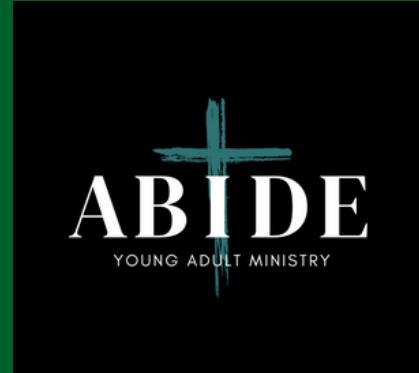
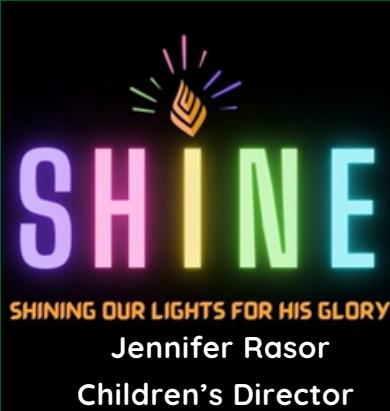
I look at all these kids that join us in Thrive and I'm humbled that God chose me to be the one to lead this group. I love each and every one of these children, and I think of them as an extension of my own family. It's amazing to see them grow and share accomplishments and struggles. I've been here for over 4 years, and I wouldn't change it for anything in the world. I really do love the youth, about the truth of God and his Word.

To close off 2025, we had our annual Christmas party, and we had some visitors, which was fantastic. The teens had a great time together, sharing gifts and playing games, period, laughing and horsing around. It was just a fantastic night.

I pray that the Lord blesses LCC into 2026 and that every single one of you has a fantastic Christmas and happy new year.

Alex Aleman  
Youth Pastor





John 8:12 – “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”

This month, we feel the darkness earlier in the evening than ever before. But, the darkest time of the year coincides with the time of year that many of us have extra lights in our houses! The more darkness there is, the more light we need. Praise God for sending His Son to be the Light of the World! May we reflect His light to others during this blessed Christmas season.

We were able to spread the love of Jesus at the Blanket and Bible Give-away to our community, where we gave out at least 50 blankets and Bibles, along with some surprise vegetables! Then, we celebrated Jesus' birth with our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Gingerbread Bash in the beginning of December. Our Christmas celebration was complete with the all-church Christmas play, The Star of Bethlehem. About 108 attended. What a joyous month this has been!

Praise God for His indescribable gift of Jesus, our Messiah!

It's been a very busy time for those in the Abide Young Adult group, not only with our Wednesday night group study, but also being involved in other LCC events. We had several who participated in the recent Christmas play as well as the Choir programs. In our Abide group, we did a condensed version of a video series called The Christmas Experience, by Kyle Idleman. We watched six videos during a three week time period. Although a bit slow in a few places, it really brought the Christmas story to life, with Kyle adding details and information that so many who want to make Christmas story videos seem to leave out. We have some exciting things being worked out for this coming year so if you are between 18-29, or know someone who is, please join us or invite them to join us at 6:30 upstairs in the FLC every Wednesday evening.

Byron Davidson



# Mission Spotlight



Buena Vista Soccer Academies



WHO ARE WE? In 2008, we landed in Guatemala. We were overwhelmed with the physical AND spiritual need. Our eyes were opened to extreme poverty, suffering children, abusive homes, absent fathers, and a corrupted version of Christianity. What we experienced changed us to the core.

Arriving without a sending organization or even a "ministry plan", we simply focused on abiding in Christ, and following as the Lord leads. We became part of a village community. We worked alongside, grieved alongside, suffered alongside, and celebrated alongside. The memories of community projects, shared meals, weddings, birthdays, funerals, tragedies, preaching, teaching, and discipling... are literally endless. These are cherished memories we will never forget.

We started the Buena Vista Sports Academy (BVSA), which uses soccer as a means to share the gospel, teach the Bible, and disciple those the Lord saves. Through soccer, we are able to get into difficult places around the world. Learn more at [BvsaRhinos.com](http://BvsaRhinos.com).

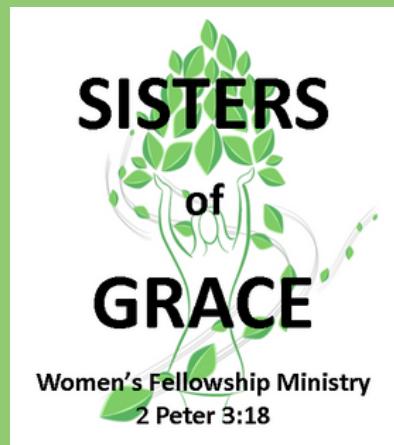
The number of graduates from our Academies that want to be pastors and missionaries led us to where we are today. Planting another Academy in the region of Quiché Guatemala, this site will include a Bible Institute devoted to offering Biblical studies, the training of pastors and missionaries, and church planting.

You can read more about the Quiche Project and Bible Institute at [www.quicheproject.com](http://www.quicheproject.com). The Quiché Project is underway in the central highlands of Guatemala, in the predominately Mayan region of Quiché. After 10+ years of teaching the Bible and discipling young men, graduates of our academies began feeling the Lord's call into full time ministry. Without quality options nearby for furthering their study and preparation, the vision for the Quiché Project began to take shape.

In addition to the Soccer Academy, the plans for the Quiché Project include a Bible Institute focused on advanced Biblical studies, church planting, and the training and sending of Spanish-speaking pastors and missionaries. Of course, we continue receiving English-speaking missionary candidates as well.

The Quiché Bible Institute will offer further education in Bible, Theology, Pastoral Ministry, Global Missions, and more, to student residents onsite. It also gives us one location for all missionary and pastoral candidates to come and train over a longer period of time. Other short-term programs and courses will be available to anyone interested growing in their Biblical studies.





The annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon was held Saturday, Dec. 7th in the FLC, hosted by the Sisters of Grace leadership team. This year 34 women attended. The ladies enjoyed fellowship during the lunch, which was a variety of soups, breads & crackers, vegetable tray and some delicious desserts.

This year's theme was "3 Women of Christmas" from the book written by Liz Curtis Higgs. Lynn Akins was narrator, introducing three skits with the three women. Schyler Umberger portrayed Mary, Rachel Solano was Elizabeth (Mary's cousin) and Teri Wilson portrayed Anna (a prophetess who approached Joseph and Mary with the Christ Child in the temple). The program ended with the singing of several traditional Christmas hymns.

In keeping with the theme, nativity scenes decorated the tables as centerpieces.

Our service project was for Lilburn Elementary School. The ladies generously contributed \$460.00 in support of the many projects for the children and families at the school.

The gathering of our ladies in fellowship and celebration of the true meaning of the Christmas season is always a treasured highlight of the year.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# January

- 01 New Year's Day
- 01 Passion Watch 2026 for 18-25 year olds
- 04 De-decorate LCC
- 05 Prayer Meeting 7-8 pm
- 19 Memorial for Wanda McClanahan at LCC, Visitation at 10 am & Memorial at 11 am.



Linda Proctor  
Dennis & Marcia Heinz  
Ron & Carol Hill  
Richard Blankenship  
Terri Randall  
Teresa Elias  
Chris & Peggy Newton  
Jeff Quimby  
Pat Ferguson  
Sandy Amrhein  
Mark McClanahan & Family

# February

- 01 Prayer Meeting, 7-8 pm
- 06



**Derex Sango**  
**12/29/25**



# BIBLE READING PLAN



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE  
THE POWER OF THE  
BIBLE.

January  
2026

- 11 Genesis 1-3
- 2 Genesis 4-7
- 3 Genesis 8-11
- 4 Job 1-5
- 5 Job 6-9
- 6 Job 10-13
- 7 Job 14-16
- 8 Job 17-20
- 9 Job 21-23
- 10 Job 24-28
- 11 Job 29-31
- 12 Job 32-34
- 13 Job 35-37
- 14 Job 38-39
- 15 Job 40-42
- 16 Genesis 12-15
- 17 Genesis 16-18
- 18 Genesis 19-21
- 19 Genesis 22-24
- 20 Genesis 25-26
- 21 Genesis 27-29
- 22 Genesis 30-31
- 23 Genesis 32-34
- 24 Genesis 35-37
- 25 Genesis 38-40
- 26 Genesis 41-42
- 27 Genesis 43-45
- 28 Genesis 46-47
- 29 Genesis 48-50
- 30 Exodus 1-3
- 31 Exodus 4-6

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**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”**  
**(2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)**