

connect

THE RIGHTEOUS
PERSON MAY HAVE MANY
TROUBLES,

**BUT
THE LORD
DELIVERS
HIM FROM
THEM
ALL**

PSALMS
34:19 NIV

AUG.

2023

Can't be here in-person?

Join us live Sundays
at 9 & 10:45 am
on Facebook, Imbc.tv,
or our LMBC app.



July 31st

Deacon's Meeting

- 7 pm, HIS Way Cafe

Aug. 2nd

Business Meeting

- 8:15 pm, Worship Center

Aug. 11th

PrimeTime Celebrates Summer

- 6 pm, Renaissance Room

Menu: Chicken casserole, pork loin with mashed potatoes and gravy. You bring: veggie, salad and dessert. Sign up with Vida or Blanche, or by calling the church office (304-736-7676).

Aug. 16th

Speaker: Mark Goddard

- 7 pm, Worship Center

Sept. 10th & 17th

Missions Sunday

- 9 am, 10:45 am & 6 pm

Sept. 13th

International Dinner

- 6 pm, FLC/Gym

Other calendars:

Rooted (Bible)
Ebenezer

pg. 13
pg. 17



*We are looking for volunteers who would like to serve in our K-3 age range once a month in the first and second services on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Rebekah Shaffer at r.shaffer@lmbc.org.

*Sunday Mornings WC lower level

6: Jesus' Miracles prove He is God
13: Jesus taught about character
20: Jesus taught about behavior
27: Jesus taught about God's love

Weds @ 7pm in the FLC

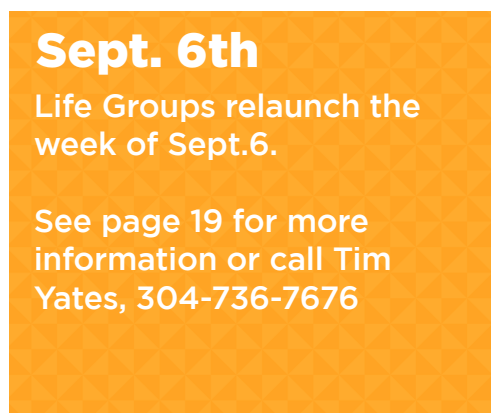
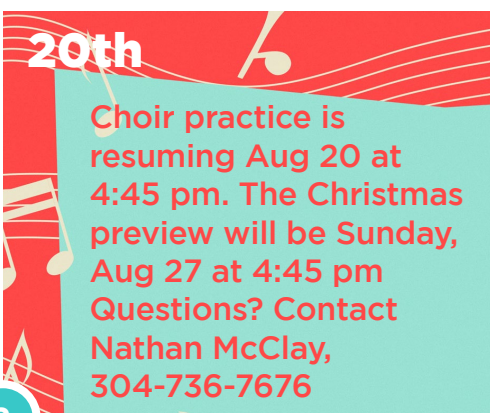
2, 9, 16: Bible for Life
23: **Carnival Night**
30: Bible for Life

4th Thursday from 4-5:15 pm @ Ebenezer

24: Bible Club

LKC Sings on Back to School Sunday!

20: LKC will sing upstairs in the morning services.



Visit lmbc.org/lkc or
ask to join our
Facebook group

Follow us on Instagram!

@refuelstudents

THE FAMILY OF GOD

The family is seated at the Thanksgiving table with plates and silverware neatly arranged over a crisp, white tablecloth. Quite a spread of delectable fixings is before the folks that are gathered there. Grandpa stands, joyfully overseeing the festive holiday occasion, while Grandma, also standing, is placing the turkey platter on the table. There are broad smiles on the faces of all who are present. They are enjoying each other's company and anticipating a delicious meal. The scene is from a 1943 Norman Rockwell painting entitled "Freedom from Want."

As I looked up this painting online, I found an updated version. We move ahead in years from 1943 to a 2016 cartoon version of the same picture. Grandpa, still standing and presiding over the scene, is wearing a cap that reveals his political leanings, and Grandma, while placing the turkey on the table, has fire in her eyes. Other family members point fingers across the table, fully engaged in battle until "every foe is vanquished," each one is proven right, and each opponent is proven wrong "indeed." There are no smiles to be found anywhere at this gathering. One poor fellow, with eyes, opened

as wide as saucers, seems to be totally terrified by the whole scenario.

While looking at this cartoon version of the iconic Rockwell painting, several episodes of Vicki Lawrence's TV classic, *Mama's Family*, came to mind, including one centered around a very memorable Thanksgiving Day. Now that was quite a dysfunctional family! A rival to that kind of dysfunction would be the Bunker family, from the hilarious 1970s sitcom, *All in the Family*, with their constant bickering over the cultural and political issues of the day.

While some families are more like the Norman Rockwell painting of 1943, and others are more representative of the updated cartoon, it is safe to say that most families fall somewhere in between.

It seems that family situations could often be described by the opening lines of Charles Dicken's classic, *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of

Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

As believers, we are part of a family that, while not presently perfect on this earth, can be a great source of spiritual strength and encouragement during our life in this present world, and its eternal prospects are not only positive but are also perfect. We call this family the family of God. As followers of Christ, while passing through this world with its "many dangers, toils, and snares," we can all join in with the words of Bill and Gloria Gaither, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God."

As we think together about the family of God, let's consider two relationships: 1) Our relationship with our Heavenly Father and 2) our relationship with our brothers and sister in Christ.

In the Family of God, God is our Heavenly Father. Many Christian sociologists and psychologists have noted that our view of God is often tainted by how our earthly father treated us. If he was severe, we think of God as a Father who we can never please, and who is always angry with us. Such a father, we would consider unapproachable. Some fathers are distant in their relationship with their children. Some are entirely absent, while others are constantly present, providing love, encouragement, and a gentle, reassuring touch. We are given these comforting words concerning our heavenly Father in Psalm 103, "As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him."

Even though the family of God on earth is not perfect, we are guided by a perfect and loving Heavenly Father. This Father, who "did not spare His only Son, but offered Him but for us all, how shall He not give us all things?" (Rom. 8:31). We read further in the Romans 8 passage that "nothing can ever separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." The love of our heavenly Father is famously noted in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten

“... Even though the family of God on earth is not perfect, we are guided by a perfect and loving Heavenly Father.

Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” The love of this Father allows us to be called the children of God. “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God.” Phillip Bliss exclaimed in the great hymn, “Once for All,” “Children of God, O glorious calling, surely His grace will keep us from falling.” This endearing title, Children of God, is given to those that believe on and receive Jesus Christ. “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12). Following verse tells that we were born into this family, not by blood or by our own will, but the will of God.

Ephesians 2 tells us that we were once foreigners and strangers to God, but believers in Jesus Christ are now fellow citizens and members of the household of God. Before placing faith in Christ, we were considered foreigners and strangers and slaves to sin. However, our loving heavenly Father has adopted us into His family, according to Romans 8:15. We can now cry “Abba Father” to our God. Abba is the most endearing term for the children of God to use when calling on the Father and is often recognized as equivalent to the modern term “daddy.”

When we become part of the family of God, not only is He our Father, but we also gain a new set of brothers and sisters in the Lord and have certain benefits and responsibilities that come with having these new spiritual siblings.

We are told to do good for our new family. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10). We do not earn our salvation by good works. Still, we are told in Ephesians 2:10 that “we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them,” and Paul tells the Galatians that we should pay extra attention to the care of fellow believers. In the preceding verse, we will notice that doing good to our brothers and sisters in Christ would involve seeking to restore them when they have fallen into sin. “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in a

trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1) According to this verse, we can never have an attitude of superiority when helping to restore the fallen. We should never look down our long, pharisaical noses at any brother or sister in Christ because all of us can yield to temptation. Another of Paul’s admonitions that comes to mind in this situation is, “Let he who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall.” (1 Corinthians 10:12). Jesus, when addressing the crowd surrounding the woman who was caught in adultery, called out, “He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone.”

Another way we can do good to the family of God is by bearing one another’s burdens. According to Galatians 6, if we do this, we fulfill the law of Christ. John MacArthur notes, “‘Burdens’ are extra heavy loads, which represent difficulties or problems people have trouble dealing with. ‘Bear’ denotes carrying something with endurance.” Jesus told us to “rejoice with those that rejoice and weep with those who weep.” Bearing the burdens of others involves quite a bit of the weeping part, but we can also share in the rejoicing, especially when a burden is finally lifted.

As members of this new family and as disciples of Christ, we are told to love one another. Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are My disciples if you love one another.” (John 13:34, 35)

A loving relationship within a family requires that we think of others rather than ourselves. Paul told the Romans in chapter 12 of his epistle to them not to think more highly of themselves than they ought, and he told the Philippians to have the mind of Christ if they were to have love and fellowship among themselves. Our Lord did not cling to His reputation, but he made Himself a servant and was made in the likeness of man. His humility was displayed in the greatest form when He died on the cross for our sins.

James describes the opposite of a loving,

selfless, and humble family when he points out the source of wars and fighting within a body of believers. Pride and self-centeredness comprise the root of disharmony in a congregation. “Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war within your members?” (James 4:1)

The church family sometimes can be messy because we are imperfect people, even though we serve a perfect God. As we grow in our Christian faith and in the process of sanctification, we will become more and more conformed to the image of Christ. We will begin to think much less about ourselves and become more in tune with the needs of others.

The writer of Hebrews encouraged believers of his day to “hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering and let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works.” We do this by “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.” We meet in our local church to edify, encourage, and comfort one another, and to help each other to become more like Christ.

Families come in all shapes and sizes. Some are wealthy, and some are poor. Some are highly educated, and some have limited education. Some are highly functional, while others are dysfunctional. Some are closely knitted, and others are cold and distant. While God’s family here on earth is often a work in progress, what a grand and glorious day it will be when all of God’s family from all over the world and from all centuries are united in the land beyond the skies!

The prospects are great for the family of God because one day, we will be with a perfect heavenly Father, and we shall be like Jesus Christ. “Beloved, we are the children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.” The entire family of God will be gathered, and “there will be no sickness, sadness, sorrow, or death.” There will also be no more

arguments or selfishness, and we will all live together in perfect harmony and peace. All our attention and praise for all of eternity will be to the Lamb of God, and we will shout, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.”

*On that bright and golden morning
When the Son of man shall come
And the radiance of His glory we shall see
When from every clime and nation
He shall call His people home
What a gathering of the ransomed that will be*

*When our eyes behold the city
With its many mansions bright
And its river calm and restful flowing free
When the friends that death hath parted
Shall in bliss again unite
What a gathering and a greeting there will be*

*Oh the King is surely coming
And the time is drawing nigh
When the blessed day of promise we shall see
Then the changing “in a moment”
“in the twinkling of an eye”
And forever in His presence we shall be*

*What a gathering what a gathering
What a gathering of the ransomed
In the summer land of love
What a gathering what a gathering
Of the ransomed in that happy home above*

Fanny J. Crosby



by Nathan McClay

Nathan McClay is an assistant pastor and oversees the music and worship ministry of LMBC. He has been serving God at Lewis since 1991. Nathan and his wife, Audrey, have four children and two grandchildren.

THEOLOGICAL IMAGINATIONS

by Rebekah Shaffer



Rebekah is the wife of Pastor Jeremy Shaffer and the mother of Grace and Luke. She is the Children's Ministry Director and leads the Daughters of the King Life Group.

Our children will sit in pews they did not see built, carry Bibles they did not buy, go to a church they did not see built, and sing hymns written by people they do not know. With the exception of a few that are planting churches, most American families are attending churches that were built before they ever attended. The Hebrew people who were crossing over into the promised land were told by God of a similar situation.

10 “And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, 12 then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

Why were God's people being warned in this way? Because God did not want future generations to forget what He had done. Fast forward a few thousand years, and we are arguably facing a greater risk of forgetting God. In fact, some would say that many have already forgotten. So, how do we, as parents, properly hand down our faith to our children? Though there are many practices to discuss, for this article we will only examine one. A vital tool for passing down faith from

generation to generation is the cultivation of a theological imagination in our children. This practice is pivotal in transmitting our love of God to our children and children's children. George MacDonald defines imagination as “the faculty that puts thought into form.”

Therefore, theological imagination invites the mind to behold the image of God and all of God's divine truth on a continual basis. In other words, it is to invite children to have more than motions (albeit habits of spiritual disciplines are important), more than head knowledge, more than moral lessons, but the fullness of thought of God and His Word. The Hebrew nation missed what God was saying about this in Deuteronomy 6.

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Instead of focusing on what was needed to “teach them diligently,” history tells us that many took the practical aspects of the command and literally made headpieces, necklaces, signposts, etc., containing God's

Word for their children to wear. While there is nothing wrong with wearing or decorating with Scripture (it's one thing I love to do), if we employ physical reminders without engaging the theological imagination in our children, then we have missed God's intended message. All of the tangible reminders were to serve as doors to conversations with our children that lead to thoughts and understanding.

Let me explain by using a simple analogy. In the late 1990s, I witnessed our church's main Worship Center being built. I have images in my mind of the space simply as a big hole of dirt, then the concrete and steel frames, then brick, and so on. I even have a memory of the sanctuary when it was a completely open space with only carpet and no pews. However, these images of the building being built aren't real to my children, who are members of this church but were born long after the building was completed. They sit in finished pews, and unless I describe it to them in detail and invite them to imagine what the building would have looked like, they do not have a knowledge of what it used to be. What if I described each stage of the building process to them in words they understood, then I invited them to meditate on it? Eventually, they could draw pictures in their minds of the scenes of each stage. Also, they would never doubt that the construction of the building was a real process because of the time I spent sharing what I, myself, had witnessed. Although a crude analogy, I hope this illustrates how our children should be invited daily to think about Biblical truths, Biblical narratives, and the image of the invisible God. These divine things should be presented regularly to our children to dwell on as true and historical. Once a week

at church or Sunday School is not adequate. Developing a theological imagination must be done frequently and purposefully. How often does your family discuss Biblical things? How many dinner conversations involve the wonder of God? As we begin a new school year, let us commit to developing first our own theological imagination and then our children's.

Practical ways to engage the theological imagination:

1. Read the Bible together as a family in short sections and talk about it together. Perhaps sketch the scene from your imagination together after reading. Or look at images of historical places where the event occurred and/or archaeological artifacts.
2. Listen to the Bible read aloud in your car, then have each listener retell part of what they heard.
3. Talk about God's truths every morning as you eat breakfast or drive to school.
4. Ask your children questions about what they think about a Bible truth, narrative, or promise and listen to them without interrupting.
5. Watch illustrated Bible movies together.
6. Pray with, over, and in front of your children every day.
7. Ask your children to lead your family in prayer and teach them how to pray.
8. Take your children to beautiful places of creation that humble the heart with its majesty.
9. Sing worship songs together.
10. Go to church no matter what. It must be a priority in your family life.

ABRAHAM

What does it mean that those who are of faith are sons of Abraham (Gal. 3:7)?

For the complete article/answer and more insight, visit gotquestions.org/sons-of-Abraham.html

Paul wrote, “Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham” (Gal 3:7 ESV). Here Paul advances the idea of a spiritual family in contrast to a physical family—a family sharing faith rather than a bloodline.

Obviously, Abraham had literal, physical descendants. It was they, through Isaac and Jacob, who became the nation of Israel, God’s chosen people. However, many in Israel did not follow God the way that they should have. At the same time, there were some Gentiles in the Old Testament, like Rahab and Ruth, who were adopted into the family of Israel. In the New Testament, many Gentiles are “grafted” into the tree of Israel through their faith in Jesus, the Messiah of Israel (Romans 11:17–20).

In Romans 9:6–7, Paul explains, “For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children.” In other words, there are some people who are descendants of Israel (Jacob), but they are not part of the blessing of Israel. Likewise, there are some who are descended from Abraham but not “sons of Abraham” in a spiritual sense. Being a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob is not enough. One must also now be a “descendant” of Christ. Of course, Christ had no physical descendants, but, at the end of Romans 9, Paul explains that those who have faith like Abraham had are made righteous before God, just as Abraham was. Those without faith in Christ, even if they are physical descendants of Abraham, are excluded; those with faith in Christ, even if they are Gentiles, are included as spiritual “sons of Abraham.”

In Galatians 3, Paul states it all plainly: “So also Abraham ‘believed God, and it was credited

to him as righteousness.’ Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. . . . So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith” (Galatians 3:6–9). To be a “son” of someone is to have that person’s traits. To be the “Son of God” is to have God’s traits. To be a “son of Abraham” is to display a character quality of Abraham, namely, faith. Everyone who demonstrates faith is showing himself to be like Abraham in the sense that Abraham, too, had faith (Genesis 15:6).

Abraham heard from God and believed. Abraham’s faith caused him to leave everything behind and live the rest of his life as a stranger in a strange land. Abraham’s faith trusted that he and Sarah would have a child, even though that seemed impossible. Abraham’s faith was even willing to sacrifice the promised son, believing that God would raise him from the dead (Hebrews 11:9). Because of Abraham’s example of faith, the Bible points to him as the father of faith, as it were. All who similarly trust in the Lord are “sons of Abraham.” As Paul writes, “So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile . . . for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:26–29).

God had promised Abraham that “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:3). One way this prophecy is fulfilled is through the salvation that God grants to us, by grace through faith: “Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed.’ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith” (Galatians 3:7–9, ESV).

ANNE GRAHAM LOTZ
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *JESUS IN ME*
and
RACHEL-RUTH LOTZ WRIGHT

Jesus Followers



Real-Life
Lessons for
Igniting Faith
in the Next
Generation

Consider this statement from the email/devotion I received, “Many in this next generation are lost. They are hurting, fearful, and lonely, while looking to solutions that produce even more problems. The answer is a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus! So how do we pass that legacy of faith on to the next generation?” *Jesus Followers* will help answer this question, as it points you to “practical help from Biblical models and from examples in the Graham-Lotz family.”

“With Bible teaching, memorable examples, and specific challenges to help you implement key principles in your daily life, *Jesus Followers* is both a delightful collection of real-life stories and a guide to igniting faith in future generations as they, too, embrace a God of love and grace.

Whether you are feeling uncertain about how to begin the relay race, fighting weariness as you run, or enjoying the wind in your face as you prepare to hand off the Baton, *Jesus Followers* will inspire you to firmly grip the truth for yourself, then pass it effectively to the next generation... with joy!”

“Jesus Followers will help you take stock of your faith and grow in your walk with Christ.”
-- Greg Laurie (evangelical author, pastor, and evangelist)

“An inspiring guide for living with intentionality and instilling truth in the next generation.” --Dr. Tony Evans

WHAT WE'RE READING

by Mary Ellen Black [all quotes are taken from the book jacket or their email invitation]

I’m adding *Jesus Followers* to the stack of “to read - or - read again” books on my nightstand! While I admit to judging the book by its cover and deciding it was more for those raising young children - I quickly changed my mind after receiving an email from AnGeL Ministries, a weekly devotion that I follow, by Anne Graham Lotz. The email’s description was very inviting, and I was promptly reminded not to ‘judge a book by its cover’. So now I’m sharing it with you, during our Family Focus month, as I believe it is a wonderful book for all followers of Jesus. Because, whether we are raising young children, mentoring our grown children, spending time with grandchildren, teaching Sunday School, or any number of other opportunities that put us in touch with younger generations - we are all called to “pass on” our faith.

“You and I are in a race called life. The Baton is Truth that leads to faith in Jesus Christ. Each generation receives the Baton from the previous generation, runs the race to the best of its ability, then is responsible for passing it smoothly and securely to the next generation. Our hope is to encourage you to be intentional as you, too, seek to be a Jesus Follower who successfully passes the Baton to the next generation.”

LESSONS FROM PROVERBS

By: Pastor Lemming

“For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it.” (Proverbs 8:11 NLT)

Acquiring God’s wisdom is a lifelong pursuit and more valuable than any other thing you can desire in life. Proverbs 8 personifies wisdom as a companion of the Lord in all His actions, words, and deeds! It’s ever present with Him because it’s “His” wisdom! Pursuing wisdom, in essence, means pursuing God! In this chapter, wisdom ¹calls out to us, ²is with Kings that rule well, ³was with God at the beginning and during creation, ⁴gives life to those that find it, etc. Everything God says and does is wise! We’re in need of God’s wisdom all the time. Actually, we should pray for wisdom all the time. So much of life is confusing apart from God’s wisdom. There are still lots of things none of us figured out yet, and we’re waiting on God to give us greater wisdom so we can understand them. But, operating according to God’s wisdom always pays off. That doesn’t mean life necessarily gets easier! Sometimes it gets a lot harder because the world we live in rejects God’s wisdom. The wisdom of the world is contrary to the wisdom of God...in almost every area of life. What having God’s wisdom does for us (when we apply it) is give us a sense of direction, confidence, and fulfillment ... even if everyone else opposes us for doing life God’s way. God’s wisdom comes through scripture, worship, preaching/teaching, godly counsel, the Holy Spirit’s leading, the fear of the Lord, and other similar things! Make God’s wisdom your supreme goal, and you’ll soon find yourself seeing the Lord at work everywhere in your life!

“

What having God’s wisdom does for us ... is give us a sense of direction, confidence, and fulfillment ...

IMAGO DEI

Theological Word of the Month

by Jeremy Shaffer

Imago Dei is a Latin phrase that is often used when speaking or discussing God’s crowning act of creation. What separates humanity from the rest of the creation is the fact that we were created in the “image of God” (imago dei). Genesis 1:26 is the first time we find reference to the image of God, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...” Being created in the image of God is what makes mankind “different” from the rest of God’s creation. Throughout history, many have offered ideas as to what it means to be “different” from the rest of creation, but in the simplest terms what makes us “different” is that we were made to resemble God. We like to think that Jesus coming to earth (in His incarnation) is a great example of how humanity and God are similar. However, we must remember He is God and we are not – and that chasm is unfathomable. John Frame, in a work entitled *Men and Women in the Image of God*, puts that chasm in perspective: “I would infer that everything we are reflects God in some way, though of course everything we are is also different from God! Our souls, bodies, reason, will, goodness are like God, but also unlike him, for He is the Creator, paradigm and infinite exemplar of these qualities.”

Whether we can wrap our minds around it or not, the good news is that humanity is special and unique from everything else that God created. Going back to the Genesis narrative, we are reminded that after God created mankind from the dust of the ground, He breathed into him the breath of Life – only then did man become a living soul, capable of being an image bearer of God. We can discuss and debate what the term imago dei means in all its nuances but being created in the image of God would be worthless if God didn’t breathe life into us. The one trait that proponents of evolution can not change by artificial intelligence is the breath of God. It’s the breath of God that makes humanity “different” from the rest of God’s creation!

ROOTED

Grow in your faith by staying rooted in the Word of God. Your Spiritual Yearbook can be found at the merch corner in the main lobby.

- 1st Matthew 6:1-4
- 2nd Matthew 6:5-8
- 3rd Matthew 6:9-15
- 4th Matthew 6:19-21
- 5th Psalm 119:57-64
- 6th -
- 7th Matthew 6:25-34
- 8th Matthew 7:1-6
- 9th Matthew 7:7-12
- 10th Matthew 7:15-20
- 11th Matthew 7:24-27
- 12th Psalm 119:65-72
- 13th -
- 14th Genesis 1:1-13
- 15th Genesis 1:14-25
- 16th Genesis 1:26-31
- 17th Genesis 2:1-7
- 18th Genesis 2:8-17
- 19th Psalm 119:73-80
- 20th -
- 21st Genesis 2:18-25
- 22nd Genesis 3:1-7
- 23rd Genesis 3:8-19
- 24th Genesis 3:20-24
- 25th Genesis 4:1-7
- 26th Psalm 119:97-104
- 27th -
- 28th Genesis 4:8-15
- 29th Genesis 4:16-24
- 30th Genesis 4:25-5:5
- 31st Genesis 6:1-10

MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

IN SOUTH AMERICA

SECURED G. Family, Brazil

Mark & Odie Goddard, Paraguay

Mike & Trisha Goddard, Paraguay

Spencer & Joanna Goddard, Brazil

John & Brenda Gossett, Trinidad

Jon & Erin Mathews, Brazil

Dwayne & Dianna Spear, Brazil

John & Barb Windler, Paraguay



DARIN & KATHY
ISHLER

In their spring update, missionaries Darin and Kathy Ishler shared about one of the ladies in their church losing her husband in a tragic car accident. They went on to state that, while the Gospel had been shared with the man several times, he was not saved. The following excerpt from that update will shed light on the opportunity and praise we just received in their summer update concerning the grip Satan has on people through rituals and ancestry worship.

"It was sad to learn that when the body was taken to the family's home, the extended family and friends took the deceased and slaughtered a goat. They covered his body with the blood of the goat to appease the ancestors and remove any curse upon the family. The church hall was overflowing with people paying their respects. Pastor Dennis clearly presented the truth of the Gospel at the funeral. Please continue to pray that the light of Christ will permeate the darkness in this needy land."

Dear Church Family, We have two wonderful praises to share! One of the large radio stations that Pastor Dennis teaches on every week, came to him with the idea of taking his program mobile. They offered to help him travel to various locations to air his program

For full updates, go to [Imbc.org/missionary-updates](https://www.imbc.org/missionary-updates)

MISSION FOCUSED

live. For the past few weeks, the station has been promoting the event in Empageni, which is about 2 hours north of Durban. One of our ABWE colleagues, Gary Strange, teaches sound doctrine in that area. Pastor Dennis was able to connect with one of the pastors there who helped host the event. The plan was to have Pastor Dennis and his colleague, Pastor Khoza, preach, then have Q&As after each message. They were expecting many pastors, 300 plus people, and would provide a delicious lunch for the attendees. A week before the event, Pastor Dennis and Pastor Khoza were on the radio speaking strongly against ancestral worship and not compromising your faith. After the radio program, about fifty percent of the pastors pulled their members from attending the event. The hall was still packed on Saturday, but after Pastor Khoza preached, several of the pastors requested that the Q&A not happen. However, Pastor Dennis was able to convince them to proceed with the Q&A. Then, it was Pastor Dennis's time to preach. During his message, about 10-15 people stood up and left. As Americans, we do not fully understand the grip Satan has on people through ancestry worship. Many African Christians are pressured to perform traditional practices or be shunned or persecuted by family and community. It is ingrained from early childhood, firmly established in culture, and nearly impossible to change. It takes time, built-in trust, and the repetition of sound doctrine through the Word of God from pastors who are unwilling to compromise their faith in Christ alone. As Pastor Dennis encouraged us on Sunday, some preachers can prevent their members from attending an event, but they cannot stop the people from listening to the Gospel on the radio in their own homes! Thank you so much for making it possible to reach this needy land with the truth of the Bible.

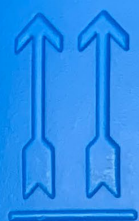
Family News

Another exciting update is about our son Tyler. Some of you may know that God has been working in his heart during his freshman year studying Physics at Cedarville University. With much prayer and seeking, Tyler has changed his major and is now on his way to getting his Master of Divinity at Cedarville. He believes God is directing him in Biblical studies and counseling to work in full-time Christian service. We are very excited for him! Cedarville has a ChurchMatching program. If a church sends in a donation for Tyler, they will match it up to \$500. Would you pray about sending in a gift to help Tyler with his Biblical education? Please follow on the link below.

<https://www.cedarville.edu/financialaid/Church-Matching-Scholarships>

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support. We could not share the Gospel here in South Africa without amazing partners like you. May God bless you abundantly.

In His Faithful Hands,
Darin and Kathy, Tyler, Ella, and Alexis Ishler



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DONATIONS

are now being accepted. Shoebox packing time will be here before we know it!

Donation barrels are currently located in the Welcome Center and the upper and lower lobbies. Many stores are currently having back-to-school sales, so now is the time to shop for school supplies. We are in need of the following:

- pens
- pencils
- pencil sharpeners
- erasers
- crayons
- colored pencils
- markers
- scissors
- solar calculators
- single-subject notebooks

If you run across any deals on any other shoebox items (personal care items, small toys, coloring books, etc.), feel free to bring those as well.

If you prefer to shop online and have the items delivered directly to the church, you can use the QR code below to go directly to the LMBC Operation Christmas Child Amazon Wish List. We also have a Walmart Wish List, and it can be found by going to Walmart.com, “Find a Registry”, and searching under “Any Occasion”, event name “LMBC”, State, “WV”.



QUESTIONS?

For additional information or other ways to help, contact Terri Thompson, our OCC Coordinator.

terri.hager@aol.com
304-360-0849

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

SERVE GOD SERVE OTHERS

Visit lmbc.org/serve to find specific needs and see where you can serve here at LMBC.

More VBS news!

We have more exciting news concerning our 2023 VBS offering. We reported in July that the preliminary total for the offering was more than \$2267, but we are excited to tell you that after a week of counting each and every coin brought in by the children, the final total was \$4,528.62.

The Smith family, missionaries to Papua New Guinea, and this year’s recipients of the VBS offering, were ecstatic to hear the news. They look forward to using it to add a second literacy program, as well as for the purchase of AWANA curriculum for some of the local churches, as none of them currently have a children’s program.

OCC Collections

Check out page 16 for the current details and join us in the mission to give children the Gift of Jesus Christ along with a shoebox filled with toys and treasures that always bring a smile.

Ways to Serve

Are you looking for ways to serve at LMBC? We would love to help you find just the right place to use your gifts or willing spirit. You can find a list of ways to “get involved” online at lmbc.org/serve or by calling the church office at 304-736-7676.

“FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE ... MARK 10:45

Every member of the church community has been called to serve. Just like each part of our body performs a different but vital role, the church body needs all its people working together to function effectively. No matter your role: You are valuable! We invite you to consider joining us in the mission and ministry of LMBC.



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST
FAMILY NEWS

Bereavements

- Chad Black
- Clarence Lykins, Jr, Angel Schneider's brother

New Members/Baptisms

- Noah Chapman (Baptism)

LOOKING FOR A STARTING POINT?

How to join our community of faith

Are you looking for a church home?
Would you prayerfully consider whether God
may be leading you to our family of believers?
If you are ready, follow these simple steps:

1st
Baptism



Trust in Christ and
follow Him in believer's
baptism.

2nd
Register
(pick 1)



In Service: scan the QR
code on the pew in front
of you and let us know
you would like to join.
Online: lmbc.org/register
Call: 304-736-7676

3rd
Discover



Check out the
information in the
visitor packet you
received when you
registered with us or
visit lmbc.org/what-we-believe to learn
about our core beliefs
and more.

4th
Experience



Come to the next
Starting Point on
Sunday, Aug. 20
at 4:30 pm in the HIS
Way Cafe (SMB), where
you'll meet with our
Pastors to begin your
membership experience.
Call: 304-736-7676
Pre-register: lmbc.org/starting-point

Ways to Give:



Offering Boxes
in the Auditorium



lmbc.org
or our App



By mail

WANT TO JOIN A LIFEGROUP?

Come grow with us **Faded group names are on Summer break*

ADULTS (COED)	SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am Through the Bible (S104) Jared Blankenship Wall Builders (S100) Steve Bragg Cornerstone (S102) Tim Koletka Maranatha (Renaissance Room) Chuck Daniel
	TUESDAYS @ 1 pm <i>On break</i> Fearless (S100) Estep/Wyrick
	@ 6 pm Life Together (HIS Way Cafe) Tim Yates
	WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am Encouraging Friends Ministry (I12) Kate McMullen
	@ 6:30 pm At Home with the Word (Tardy Home) Steve & Vicky Tardy It's Always Something (S100) Chuck Daniel
WOMEN	@ 6:45 pm Abundant Life (L108) Gary McMullen
	@ 7 pm Selah (L114) Nathan McClay Friends of God (Renaissance Room) David & Mary Lemming Friends of God 2.0 (Northside House) Sargent/Ball Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren (F206) Bob & Kim Brown Rooted in Christ (Barboursville Park) Jonah & MaKayla Howerton
	Every other Wed Whosoever (L112) Sargent/Fry
	FRIDAYS @ 5:30 pm Believing, Belonging, & Becoming (HIS Way Cafe) Thurman Lowder
	SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am Journey with Him (L110) Hale/Tritz
MEN	MONDAYS @ 6 pm Daughters of the King (S100) Rebekah Shaffer
	TUESDAYS @ 9:30 am Kingdom Seekers (Tardy Home) Tardy/McMullen
	@ 10 am At His Feet (S100) Beth Jenkins
	On break Sewing for God's Children (L104) Barbara Keaton
	WEDNESDAYS @ 7 pm <i>First Wed. of Aug only</i> 4Ever His (L107) Leah Adkins Women of God (F205) Hager/Bashore <i>*Embrace Grace (L106) -for single pregnant ladies</i> Angela Cantley
SENIORS	THURSDAYS @ 10 am Women of Strength (HIS Way Cafe) Mullens/Foreman
	WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am Westridge Wisdom (S100) Jeremy Shaffer
	@ 7 pm Men of Truth (HIS Way Cafe) Steve Bragg Iron Sharpeners (L110) Matheny/Miller
	SUNDAYS @ 9 am Willing Workers (L108) Richard Sexton Young at Heart (L114) Bill Blankenship
	FRIDAYS @ 11 am <i>Out for Aug</i> Life Group (Victory Place Apartments) Charles Logan

Connect is the monthly news and
informational publication from



*Making disciples who
live and love like Jesus*

**5385 W. Pea Ridge Rd.
Huntington, WV 25705
304-736-7676
lmbc.org**

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 & 10:45 am (watch live
at lmbc.tv)

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE
STUDY**
7 pm

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Executive Editor,
Angie O'Dell
Content Editor,
Mary Ellen Black
Graphic Designer,
Matt Waller

*Read previous editions
of Connect at
lmbc.org/connect*



THE RIGHTEOUS
PERSON MAY HAVE MANY
TROUBLES,

**BUT
THE LORD
DELIVERS
HIM FROM
THEM
ALL**



PSALMS
34:19 NIV