



# April Newsletter

## Celebration Dinner

On Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> we will have one service, at 10:00AM, followed by a dinner in honor of

### IAN'S RETIREMENT

The meat, dessert, and drinks will be provided ~ please bring a side dish to go with BBQ



The Lamar Christian QR code has been posted around the building and in the bulletin. Scan the code with your phone for information about getting involved, to submit a prayer request, or to leave your contact info for future reference.

\*Contact Ray or Luann if you need help!

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR UPDATE

The Board has offered Carlos Torres the position and he has accepted.

The next step is for Carlos to preach at both services on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. A congregational vote will follow each service.

### **MISSION**

Building a community that loves God, cares for people, and connects with both.

### **VALUES**

- Unchanging Biblical Truth
- Unceasing Prayer
- Uncommon Generosity
- Unselfish Service
- Undivided Family

### **STAFF**

Senior Minister - Ian Blacker  
Associate Minister - Ray Matteson  
Youth Pastor - Kevin Dickenson  
Children's Director - Kelsey Thomas  
Worship Director - Rod Thomas  
Secretary - Luann Tecklenburg

### **BOARD**

Elders - Rick Akers, Bryan Herrera, Pat Leonard, Ken Montoya, Rod Thomas  
Deacons - Lee Downen, Brian Lauritsen, Monty Coen, Justin Homm, Ron Schmidt  
Trustees - Norm Arends, Ron Clausen, Dave Tecklenburg

## Change is Uncomfortable

Some say change is hard. In some ways that is true, but mostly, I think it just makes us uncomfortable. However, change is an inevitable part of life. When our smartphones receive an update, we get frustrated, but there are usually benefits once we get accustomed to the new way of doing things. As a church, we have already instituted some changes. Our mission, vision, and logo have changed. The look of our foyer has changed.

We have asked our greeters to make some changes. You may be asking why. Well, there are always opportunities to improve what we do and how we do it. We found that one of our weaknesses (like it or not) is that some of our visitors did not feel welcomed. That should never happen in church. We are not saying our greeters were not doing a good job. We appreciate your faithful service through the years. But each of us can always learn, grow and improve. I am sure we want everyone to feel welcomed and wanted, and so we are seeking to improve that area of ministry. By the way, it is everyone's job to make sure people are greeted and feel welcomed. We ask for your patience and to work together as a team as we seek to minister to those who enter our doors each week.

Transitions in leadership are coming as well, but let's call it what it is ... change. It won't all be easy or comfortable, but we ask for your prayers and patience as these transitions and changes take place. Pray for Ian and Lori. Ian's transition away from full-time ministry will be a challenge in some ways. They have faithfully led this church for three decades and I know you appreciate them for all their sacrificial service. The work they have established must continue, it may look different in some ways but there is still much more to do. Remember, He (Jesus) is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20). Jesus is not done with us. Remember, some changes can be exciting as well. I am excited to see how the Lord continues to use us as a church in the next few years as we continue to serve together.

All this change will cause some discomfort at times, but every family experiences changes, yet when they endure those changes with love and unity great things can happen. Pray that God uses all these changes for His glory.

## Our Values

We have talked about our Vision: Jesus Unlimited (Eph. 3:20-21) and our Mission: Building a community that loves God, cares for people, and connects with both. Our Values are:

- Unchanging Biblical Truth
  - Unceasing Prayer
  - Uncommon Generosity
  - Unselfish Service
  - Undivided Family
- We will focus on these values in May and June

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday is quickly approaching & I am busy putting together plans to create a fun & impactful program for the kids! We will be providing 2 different childcare options for younger children and a full-service program for kids during both Easter services. This means I have a variety of ways that you can help serve and I am praying that you will seriously consider where you can help. I am looking for volunteers for both services in these different areas-

- Baby & Toddler Nursery (located in our regular nursery)**
- Preschool Playroom (located in room 12)**
- Easter Program for Elementary Kids (located in basement)**
- Sign-in Tables (located in foyer before services)**

If you have questions or know how you want to help, please let me know or leave a message with any other staff person and I will get back to you. The great thing about having two services is you can attend one and serve at another!

*Thank you! Kelsey*

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Well we are now into April! Hopefully we get May Flowers! This last month was a hectic one. Rebecca and I had our first kid, spring break, Easter, it was a whirlwind of events. But April tends to be when we begin to wind down. Students are just exhausted and ready to be done. Encourage your students to keep pushing through! As far as things this month are concerned, it'll be business as usual for all my groups. The only thing I'd add is camp information for MS and HS is available and will be sent out sometime this month!

## Fall Women's Retreat at Yellow Pine

Mark your calendars Ladies...we are heading back to Yellow Pine! The dates for the Fall Women's Retreat are Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. More detailed information regarding times, travel, etc. will be made available closer to the date. For now....

- There is a sign up sheet by the office
- Cost is \$125 per person (this includes transportation, food, & accommodations - the only individual cost is supper Friday).
- The biggest part of the group will stay in the Lodge, but we have also reserved several small cabins for ladies that prefer a bit more privacy (talk to Luann about this option).

## Farewell

Lori and I want to thank this congregation for your unwavering support, encouragement and prayers over our thirty years of ministry with Lamar Christian Church. We have worked through many challenges together and we have seen many changes to both facilities, staff and ministries. We have been blessed to see God at work through His Holy Spirit and the people of the congregation. So many people have become Jesus followers through our joint ministry.

As we leave this fellowship, we leave it with our prayers that the staff, elders and congregation will continue to seek God's will for their lives on a personal level, and for the ministries of the congregation. We pray that you all will never be satisfied with being comfortable or content in your relationship with God and the ministries of this congregation.

We leave with the prayer that the eldership will continue to simply be servants of God and joint overseers with the ministers, of the ministries of the congregation. We leave with the prayer that the staff will be spirit led in all facets of life and ministry, that they will continue be passionate for ministry above all.

We leave with the prayer that you the congregation will continue to pray and live out your faith in such a way that you give reason for God to increase His blessings through your ministry in the community. We earnestly pray that God will bring exceptional growth of the congregations influence for Jesus in the county, and that hundreds come to Jesus over the next few years.

April the 28<sup>th</sup> is the day when we end our leadership ministry in Lamar, and we and you move on different paths of life and ministry. Pray for Ray, Kevin and Kelsey as they lead the congregations ministries, as they teach, train and empower the congregation for ministry. Always support your ministers, never be afraid to ask questions of them with a Godly attitude and after time in prayer. Always serve together for God's glory, placing Gods will ahead of yours. Remember, its all about Jesus! Farewell, and thank you so much for an incredible thirty years of ministry together.

Ian and Lori

## Mexico Mission Trip Report - Casas por Cristo

We had 18 individuals join us on our trip to Acuna, Mexico to build a house this year. Four people joined us from Kansas and they were a blessing to our group. The team was so well-balanced. We had several people experienced in construction, four fluent Spanish speakers, and some were new to the whole experience, but quickly learned and got busy doing what needed to be done. We were able to complete the house in less than three days. Our own Dominic Esparza who is interning with Casas por Cristo was an excellent leader. It was a different experience than what we have had in Juarez. We were not in town, but out in the country. The family we built for, the Raul Cassio HDZ family, has 8 dairy cows that they milk twice daily and deliver the milk to their customers. They make around \$130 a week. They are a couple raising their granddaughter and have been living with relatives for a few years while they bought their land (it took them 3 years) and waited another 2 years for their house to be built. The house is a real blessing to this family, but more importantly, we were able to show them the love of Christ with our hands and voices. It was wonderful so many were able to converse with Nancy. She also helped in various ways working alongside us. Please keep praying for this family to come to a saving faith in Jesus. Thank you for your prayers and financial support for this mission trip. Your generosity has made a real difference in the life of this family.



# SERVER SCHEDULE

ASSIGNMENT	4/7/24	4/14/24	4/21/24	4/28/24
DEVOTION LEADER - E	Ron Schmidt	Jared Crabtree	Anthony LaTour	†
DEVOTION LEADER - L	Anthony LaTour	David Barber	Anthony LaTour	E
SERVER IN CHARGE - E	Justin Homm	Bryan Herrera	Ron Schmidt	A
SERVER IN CHARGE - L	Joel Souders	Pat Leonard	Ken Montoya	S
SHUT- IN COMM - 1	Albert Moreno		Ken Montoya	T
SHUT- IN COMM - 2	Terry DeWitt	Peter Jabo	Dustin DeWitt	E
GREETERS - E	Mitch Cass	Shirley & Ruthie	Bob Osborn	R
GREETERS - L	Chris Wilkinson	Joe Baca	Jim Ramsay	†
COMMUNION PREP	Diane Smith & Melody Harris			†

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ASSIGNMENT:	4/7/24	4/14/24	4/21/24	4/28/24
DRUMS	JOSH	KEENAN	JOSH	KEENAN
KEYBOARD	JULIE	MARAH	JULIE	ALICIA
BASS	RAY	ZACK	DAVE	EMILY
ELEC. GUITAR	ROD A.	JOSH	ROD A.	ROD A.
GUITAR	ROD T.	MARIAH	ROD T.	ROD T.
VOCAL	CONNIE	KATY	KATHY	ALEXA
VOCAL	RHONDA	AMBER	JOY	HEATHER
VOCAL				
SOUND TECH	KENNY	BRIAN	RORY	RORY
VIDEO LATE	JOAN/TALA	JAYCE/CHLOEE	JOAN/TALA	PAT
LEADER				
PIANO	SUSANNE	BARB	DENNIS (GUITAR)	BARB
SOPRANO	SUSAN	SHELBY	CARILYN	SHELBY
ALTO	MELODY	CHAR	MELODY	CHAR
TENOR	ROD A.	DENNIS	DENNIS	ROD A.
BASS	RON	RON	RON	RON
VIDEO EARLY	SCHMIDT	HOMM	HERRERA	SCHMIDT



## Prayer Requests

Sherry Schemahorn  
Laura Hobden  
Russ Hobden  
Vera Hammons  
David Payne  
Charlie Whiting  
Wanda Simmons  
Ida Heinson  
Truett Sires  
Joe Baggett  
Tom Lewis  
Monica DeBono  
Wyatt Headrick  
Nancy Scriven  
Ruby Wieners

## Memorials

### In Memory of: Charlie Simmons

From: Betty Clark  
Senior Saints

### In Memory of: Lester Scriven

From: Dee & Karla Scriven  
Keith & Debra Nidey

### In Memory of: Lauren Grasmick

From: Senior Saints

### In Memory of: Eileen Hartshorn

From: Betty Clark

### In Memory of: Bob Troutman

From: Kenneth & Carol Brooks  
S.R. & Carolyn Wiles  
Debra Shepard  
Merle & Carol Shalberg

*Our Sympathy  
for the Loss of a  
Loved One*

*Charlie Simmons  
passed away on 3/6*

## April Birthdays & \*Anniversaries

- 1 Bo Brase
- Pat Harris
- 4 Peggy Fowler  
\*Gary & Sheri Higgins
- 5 Sheryl Carrigan
- 6 \*Shawn & Debby Pelley
- 7 Brecklyn Herrera  
Alicia Ridder
- 8 \*Brady & Talara Coen
- 9 Mary Covington
- 10 Sydney Sires  
\*Ernie & Tonya Esparza
- 11 Ellie Brase  
Maria Navarrette
- 12 Zack Rankin  
Diane Pool  
\*Brian & Nicci Lauritsen
- 13 Grant Hobden
- 15 Alice Mauch
- 17 Delorin Bellomy  
Josh Moreno
- 18 Imarie Rankin
- 19 Glenn Otto  
\*Rod & Debbie Ausmus
- 21 Dianna Gilbert
- 22 Monty Coen  
Rex Harper
- 23 \*John Paul & June Unruh  
613 S. Foxfire St.  
McPherson, KS 67460  
\*James & Judy Souders
- 24 \*Mike & Tammy Duffy
- 25 Tammy Montoya  
Rebecca Dickenson
- 27 Albert Moreno
- 29 Ann Turpin  
Diane Smith
- 30 Joe Baca  
Calum Brase  
\*John & Janet Adams

## JOY MINISTRIES

The next JOY meeting is Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in the RFOM. The mission for the month is a gift for one of JOY's sponsored children.

## Our Daily Bread Devos

Many of you have noticed that we did not receive the ODB devos for the Welcome Center this season....apparently they were sent but never received. They are re-sending so should get them the first few days of April. Better late than never!

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BAPTISMS!

LaVetta Harbert - 3/3  
Doug Seigle - 3/6

## BLOOD DRIVE

The next Vitalant Blood Drive will be Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 4:30 in the fellowship hall. Go to [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) to make an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome as time allows - you may be asked to try back in a bit.

## Women's Breakfast

The next Women's Breakfast will be Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am in the fellowship hall.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

This  
is 2 weeks  
sooner than  
usual!

The next Men's Breakfast is Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am in the fellowship hall. All Men are welcome to attend - Come at 6:00 to help cook!

Lamar Christian Church  
811 South Main Street  
Lamar, CO 81052  
(719)336-5343



**LAMAR CHRISTIAN**  
CHURCH

[www.lamarchristian.info](http://www.lamarchristian.info)

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:00AM - Blended

10:30AM - Contemporary

Sunday School - 9:15AM

Children's Church - 10:30AM

## **SENIOR SAINTS**

The purpose of the senior adult ministry of Lamar Christian Church is to share in Christian fellowship and encourage each other in spiritual growth, while striving to be a blessing to the church and community.

Seniors Saints met at 5:00PM on Monday, March 18, 2024 with the following in attendance: Alice Mauch, Ron Clausen, Nancy Idler, Deleta Downen, Judy Weber, LaVoy McCorkle, Larry Tracy, Alice Clark, Kay Slough, Niles & Rosella Voigt, Nancy Voss, Thelma Cole, Don Colclazier, Betty Clark, and part of our new custodian team, Cortney Beshara. We welcomed LaVoy and Cortney and let them go first in line. They both fit right in with these crazy seniors. We told them we would "be nice" to them tonight and then they were "on their own". Ha! Heath, our other part of custodian team wasn't feeling well. We had 16 people - good crowd.

Of course our sweet Luann was there to begin with to make sure we had everything we needed. Love that little lady. She also had set up our tables and chairs for us. Thank you Luann. We visited while getting things set up. Ronnie offered our Blessing and we ate the good food brought in. Yum yum!

We visited while we ate. Shortly after eating Betty called the meeting to order - not a lot of business. Susanne was supposed to do devotions, but something came up and she wasn't able to come. Betty volunteered Susanne for April, but said she would do them if Susanne could not. For devotions this time we decided we all would do them. Kind of a testimony was what was on our minds.

Everyone spoke - wonderful devotions! Thank you everyone!

Prayer concerns - Nancy Scriven - she has some hard decisions to make. Tom Lewis is facing surgery on his shoulder. Joe Baggett has some health problems. Laura Hobden is in treatment for cancer. Niles is facing some testing soon. Wanda Simmons is going through some hard times right now. Our Ministers, Elders and staff - please keep them in your prayers daily. Jared Crabtree had some medical problems. Our Country and Government, and the World situation.

We had 3 tables of Round-a-bout. Table one was Niles, Deleta, Rosella, and Kay. Deleta and Kay won one, Niles and Rosella won two. The second table was Don C. Nancy, Alice M. Alice C. and Nancy V. Don won one, and Alice M. won one. Glad Don could stay tonight and glad he won! Table 3 was LaVoy, Judy, Thelma, and Betty. Betty won 3.

Lots of teasing, and laughter. Good bunch of seniors.

The next meeting will be April 15, 2024 at 5:00PM. Everyone who would like to join us is welcome. Bring something to share and come prepared to have a good meal and a good time.

We were through and on our way home about 7:45PM. Yes Luann we turned the heat down!

Out of news, Nuff for now!

Betty Clark, Reporter

*Sparrow House is celebrating the tenth year of ministry, and that has been possible only by the grace of God and the outpouring of love from the community. We are thankful to each one of you for your Gifts for the King offerings, as well as food drives, monthly support, and also your prayers and encouragement. Galatians 6:2 - "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". May He be glorified in Lamar by our love for each other. Thank you! From all of us at Sparrow House Ministries.*