

Nº.1

LV JOURNAL

OCTOBER · 2025

BUILD
YOUR
CHURCH



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FROM THE EDITOR

As the leaves begin to turn and the air grows cool and crisp, we enter a season that naturally invites reflection. This October, our theme, Build Your Church, reminds us that the work of God's Kingdom is not a once-a-year project, but a daily calling. Brick by brick, act by act, prayer by prayer, we are building something good and something whole that will outlast us: a community rooted in Christ and overflowing with His love.

This first issue of the LV First Journal is more than a collection of articles, it is a personal mosaic of the stories, faces, and faithful hands that make up our church. You will find reflections from Pastor Adam on God's faithfulness, writings from the hearts of members, testimonies from staff, and glimpses into the vibrant life of our ministries. We celebrate the volunteers who make things move, the children whose untamed joy remind us of the adventures of discovering through faith, and the students whose courage inspires us to stay curious and keep learning through love.

As you read these pages, the hope is that you will see yourself in them, not just as a reader, but as a vital part of the story God is writing here. Every meal shared, every song sung, and every prayer lifted is part of the framework. You are the church, and you are helping to build it.

So, grab a warm drink, settle in, and let these words and images remind you that the Kingdom of God is being built here, now, through ordinary people made extraordinary by His grace.

With gratitude and joy,

ELIZABETH ANNE ROMANYK

EDITOR, LV JOURNAL

SECTION #1

FOUNDATION OF FAITH

“WE CANNOT LIVE ONLY FOR
OURSELVES. A THOUSAND FIBERS
CONNECT US WITH OUR FELLOW MEN”

– HERMAN MELVILLE

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

REVEREND DR. ADAM HILDERBRANDT
LV FIRST SENIOR PASTOR

**“...UPON THIS ROCK I
WILL BUILD MY CHURCH.”
- MATTHEW 16:18**

Dear Friends,

I am so excited for you to hold this book in your hands, to see and hear from people who are a part of this church and community about the work that God is doing in and through this church and each one of you! I want to thank each of you who are taking the time to read this and a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to make this volume a reality!

Last spring I had the joy of accompanying a bunch of our teenagers on a mission trip to rural Kentucky. I do not think that anything is as formative to a young person as giving up their time and serving someone in a different place in life. The work was rewarding, the time together was meaningful, and the worship was transformational. But I must admit, there is one image fixed in my mind from that week. It was our “fun day” when we hiked up a mountain to an amazing natural rock bridge in Natural Bridge State Park. The hike was difficult, but the sight was amazing! This huge piece of rock had been worn away over thousands of years into the shape of a bridge overlooking the beautiful Red River Gorge. One of the reasons that I like this image so much is that it describes who I think Jesus longs for the church to be. An unwavering, solid, stone bridge that has a foot on two different sides. Here at Lawrenceville First, we talk about it as putting Lawrenceville first by connecting the church to the community and the community to the church. We are a natural bridge! From community to church and church to community.

I would love to tell you that this was a brilliant idea or epiphany that I came to on my own, but I just looked at the words of Jesus. In Matthew 16, Jesus takes the disciples on

a hiking expedition near Caesarea Phillipi, which is not traditionally where good Jewish boys would have been hanging out. In fact, there is a cave there where worshipers of all sorts of false gods and idols would gather so much that the place became known as the Gates of Hades. It is there that Peter answers the most important question we could ever answer from Jesus, “Who do you say that I am?” He answers correctly, “The Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” Jesus responds in a unique way saying, “Upon this rock I will build my church.” Now, many think that Jesus was talking about Peter, but I tend to think he was talking about Peter’s statement. His confession, and ours as well, changes every part of our lives and becomes the foundation of the church, the church that Jesus says HE is building and empowering us to help! But that is not the end of the story. I believe Jesus pointed over to the people at the Gates of Hades and said, those gates will not prevail against this confession. In other words, Jesus was connecting the confession to those who had not heard yet, or the church to the community and the community to the church! Jesus says that this movemental gathering of people built on this confession, moved by the Holy Spirit, and serving in the way of Jesus, creates a natural bridge for people.

What you will hear in the pages that follow are the stories of those bridges. There are thousands more we could share about people who have found a renewed faith here, people who have been baptized here, people who have joined a group and grown in their faith here, people who have found their place to worship, and people who have taken a step of faith to join in on what Jesus is building right here. The teachers could share about receiving encouragement throughout the year and building new relationships. There are families who are a part of this church because of the community of love and support they built while learning new skills in the Parents First Initiative.

There are families who have felt the unique embrace of Grace Arbor as they deal with dementia in their home. There are countless stories of people who connected with this church because of your amazing mission projects like Lawrenceville Assistance Project, Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build, and so many more. I could tell you the names of people who I see every year who show up for our choral concerts and special services. So many of you served thousands of people in our city in such a meaningful way through Boo Fest, Prelude to the 4th, and other city events. I have seen bridges built at Candy at the Cabins and Easter Festival where smiling kids and joyful families grow real community. Then there is my favorite hobby... spotting the thousands of Lawrenceville Lights Magnets out in the world reported on cars as far away as Michigan! These people saw the light of Christ at your campground, and you allowed Jesus to build a natural bridge.

These are some of so many examples of how Jesus is building his church here, at Lawrenceville First, and at the same time, building a Kingdom Community in this city and county through your generous work.

As we enter into a new season of commitment through generosity, my prayer is that God would continue to build his Church in and through each of us. It will take all of us to bring about the sort of renovations needed at our facility and in our community. I hope we will all take part in what God is doing here and know that we have a role to play in the work of building Lawrenceville First. God does his most amazing work through amazing people just like you! Please keep reading what follows and enjoy seeing what God has done this last year. And join me in dreaming of what God can do as we pray a bold prayer together, “Build YOUR Church Lord!”



KNOW. BE. DO.

BY REVEREND NATALIE KING

Thinking about “Build Your Church”, I’m drawn to the ways LV First is constantly being the hands and feet of Jesus. The church is not just the place where we gather for worship but it’s the people and how we utilize our resources to show God’s love to others. The church is only a hollow building if it does not come to life through the heart and body of the people living and breathing the story of Jesus in a way that resonates with the community.

In Seminary we had a motto, “Know, Be, Do” that we referenced often in our learning, in the community and in service to others. At LV First one of our mottos is “At LV First we put Lawrenceville first” and how we do that looks a lot like “Know, Be, Do”. We learn about God’s love through Jesus and hold it in our hearts so that it becomes part of our being so that we may share it with others. Each part of this motto is a steppingstone to having the full experience of God’s love and goodness. Each one is equally important as we build our church.

Romans 12 is a good example of how scripture leads us to a full understanding of living a Christian life. This passage leads us from head knowledge to the heart of Jesus’ love which prompts us to action through the power of Jesus. As you read through the scripture passage in Romans, each section will have reflection questions.

KNOW: INTELLECT

We gain understanding and knowledge of the Christian

life at various ages and stages in life. We start teaching our children from the nursery, to Kids Zone, to Confirmation and in youth. We learn more as we mature into adulthood. We value the truth of the gospel of Jesus intellectually which is the start. Our first step in learning anything new is to have the knowledge in the brain. We don’t stop at knowing because simply knowing about a certain topic gives it no meaning. The key is being transformed by knowledge to live differently.

ROMANS 12:1-2

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Reflect on your first time learning about Jesus, God and Christianity. Do you recall what you felt? Did you memorize scripture? I remember taking a new believer’s class with the pastor’s wife before I was baptized. We also had Bible drills to learn the location of passages and be quick on the draw.

BE: HEART

After we have knowledge in our brain about the gospel, we let it transform our hearts to see the world through a new lens. We see ourselves differently as we engage in life from the power of Jesus. We take the knowledge and start finding how it shapes us individually. God created us with unique gifts and talents but only after we learn that God created us to live from these things can we transform our mind to see ourselves as a reflection of God’s love for us. When knowledge reaches our heart, it becomes our being. It has become part of us.

ROMANS 12: 3-8

“For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;



if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

Have you stopped to think about the way living like Jesus has changed you? Are you more aware of the way you interact with others? Do you find joy in certain areas of life or certain ways of serving? This is where you can discern God’s call on your life simply by being you; just the way you were created.

DO: HANDS AND FEET

After knowledge permeates the heart then we can move into living out the truth of the gospel. Though knowing, being and doing work together, they do have an order. First, we know in our brain, then we apply the knowing to our being so that it becomes a part of our existence, and then we can put it into practice. Putting faith into action is where it all comes together.

ROMANS 12: 9-21

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.”

Can you think of a time when you felt you were right where you needed to be, doing what you were supposed to do? That feeling of “I have arrived” or “I have found my place” is a good feeling. It’s more than good, it is holy. There is a sacredness to feeling God’s presence and living in God’s goodness as you do God’s work in this world.

When we serve others “from Jesus” rather than “for Jesus” we find deeper love and purpose in our work. Our best service comes from a place of joy in our hearts rather than an aim to please someone else. When we embrace all the steps of the motto “Know, Be, Do” we prepare ourselves to be fully engaged with Jesus so that his presence becomes part of us as we seek to build the church.

BEAUTY IN THE BROKEN

BY ASHLEY HILLIARD

Some of my earliest memories consist of playing house with my sister. I started babysitting when I was nine. As the oldest, I loved helping with my younger siblings, and if I was ever asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, the answer was simple, a mom. That seemingly simplistic answer held the weight of all the intricate dreams I had for the future. Dreams for my life. Dreams for my one-day family. It was all pretty, and perfect, and wrapped up with a bow.

But life doesn't really work like that. I didn't plan on finding out at 16 that my body was likely not capable of having children. I didn't plan on years of secondary infertility. And I certainly didn't plan on a chronic illness that would steal some of my best laid plans for the perfect roadmap to being the ideal mother.

What I want you to hear today, is how good God is. How much beauty we are surrounded by. How new morning mercies aren't just something we

read about in Lamentations, but that they are real and tangible here and now. How even the most mundane moments are full of beauty, grandeur, and meaning. Just like my childhood hopes and dreams, I want to wrap this up with a feel good, pretty bow. But that's not the reality of living life in a broken world. The reality is, we will all experience loss, heartache, suffering, unmet expectations, and hope deferred. It doesn't always feel beautiful. Sometimes it feels dark, lonely, and hard. But I would have missed so much of His goodness, if I didn't first experience the sorrow that preceded it. Knowing pain, paved the way to more fully knowing Him. What God continues to teach me in the waiting, is that there is joy to be discovered here, too. That here, in the middle of my dark, He continues to provide flickers of light, firefly moments if you will.

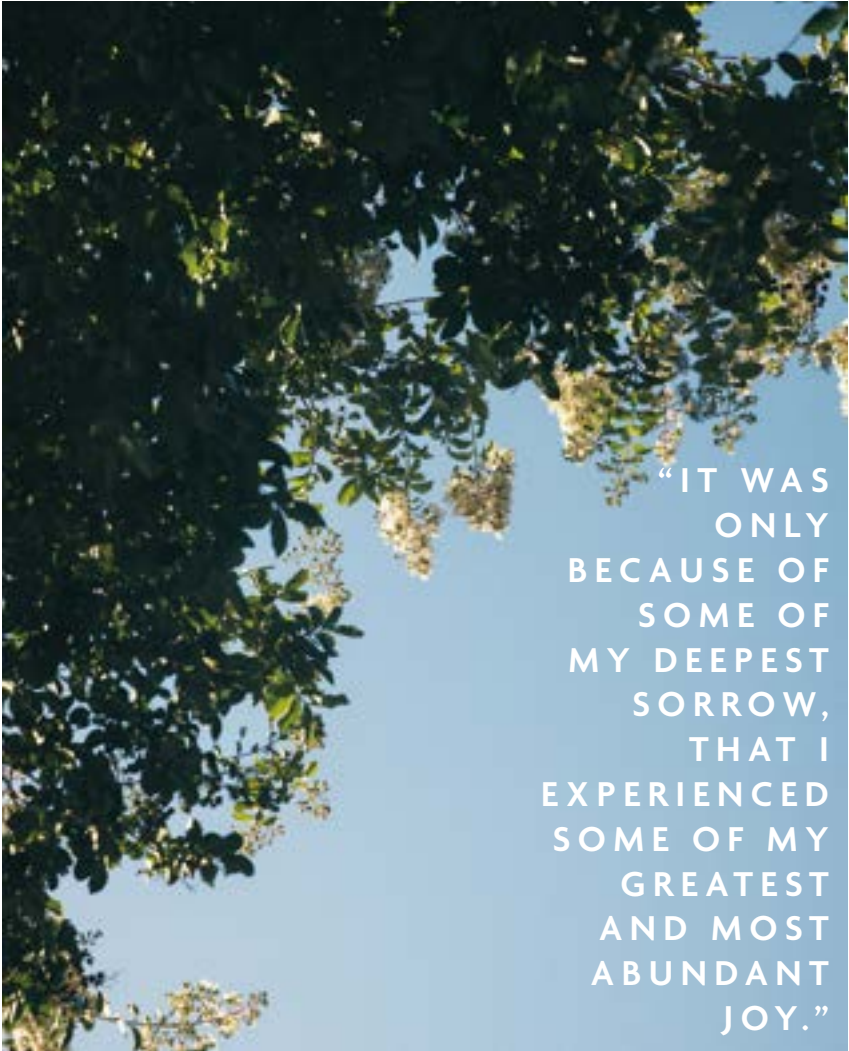
Years ago, I attended a women's retreat. They had a panel of women in every stage of life, and all forms of mothering. The single woman, the waiting mom, the foster mom, the

mom of littles, the mom of teens, the single mom, and the empty nester. The PTA mom, homeschool mom, and working mom. And so many women in between. Here's what I will never forget, at some point during their time on stage, each woman cried. Because life didn't look like they thought it would, because they thought in so many ways, big or small, maybe they were getting it wrong. For all the ways these women were different, THIS acknowledgement made them the

same. Less alone.

This mattered. As a mom who was having to parent from a bed most days, while the doctors continued the grapple with the culprit crippling my body, I looked around and envied what I didn't have, who I couldn't be, what I was missing out on, how I was failing. Yet, here, there were a couple dozen moms, physically healthy, but struggling in similar ways. I wasn't alone. You aren't either.

What I know to be true, is that



“IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF SOME OF MY DEEPEST SORROW, THAT I EXPERIENCED SOME OF MY GREATEST AND MOST ABUNDANT JOY.”

God taught me so much more about light from the throes of the darkness than I ever could have understood or appreciated if He had tried to teach me those same lessons apart from my suffering. It was because of my own weakness that I was more fully aware of His strength in my life. It was only because of some of my deepest sorrow, that I experienced some of my greatest and most abundant joy. Very little feels ordinary when we pray for eyes to see the way He is at work all around and through us. And so often, that means in and through the broken pieces too. Some of the greatest beauty I have beheld is because of my suffering, not despite it. So, when I am tempted to let the hard win, these practices ground me in his goodness and grace:

1. Pay Attention. Look for God everywhere, in everything. Especially where we doubt He is, and always where we don't expect Him. When my focus is on the problem and not fully on Him, I miss that He is at work all around me. Slow down and behold Him.

2. Savor it. Friends, we have tasted hard, so when you taste the gift of His goodness, and trust me, it's plentiful, be all in. Bask in it. Swing a little longer on your back porch. Hold your person tight a few beats more. Rock the baby for an extra song. Chase the fireflies. Slow down during the meal. Delight in the ray of light cast across your floor. Stop to appreciate the unfurling of a new leaf. Listen for the cacophony of birds, linger as they sing. Marvel in the gift of your five senses.

3. Write it down. I don't know about you, but the practice of writing the gifts, for me, is a practice in remembering. A practice in worship and Thanksgiving. A practice in making it count. Making it matter.

4. Celebrate. Always. As much as possible. In my own health journey, sometimes I have good weeks, sometimes it's just a good day, or a good moment- we have learned, my family and I, not to waste those. We celebrate in big and small ways. Silly and over the top ways. Sometimes it's an extravagant outing, hiking to a waterfall, or just walking around the block. Sometimes it's an entire theme day, a dance party in the kitchen, or a karaoke night. Sometimes it's as simple as everyone piling into my bed to chat about their week. However chaotic or organized, I stop to savor it, behold God in the midst of it, it's such a sacred moment amid the hard. The way we celebrate doesn't have to look anything like the way you celebrate, the point is just to be with your people and have fun! Enjoy this one wildly, crazy, amazing, sometimes utterly, devastatingly hard life we have. It's a gift, all of it.

These practices anchor me and remind me WHOSE I am. They are slivers of moments in time where I taste the goodness of God and am overwhelmed by His presence. Now only in part, but a glimpse of what will one day be the fullness of His glory.

Maybe you are in a season of joy and contentment. Mountaintop highs and abundance. Maybe you are in a season of waiting. Lowest valleys and grief that feels all encompassing. Maybe you are somewhere in between. Wherever you are, it matters. It holds weight and deserves to be felt and acknowledged. You aren't alone, you aren't forgotten. He is here whispering a reminder to “Look”. He is present in every moment asking us to find Him. He wants us to draw near so He can overwhelm us with his love.



SECTION #2

LIVING STONES

“THE GREATNESS OF A COMMUNITY IS
MOST ACCURATELY MEASURED BY THE
COMPASSIONATE ACTIONS
OF ITS MEMBERS.”

– CORETTA SCOTT KING

VOLUNTEER VOICES

HELLO FROM THE TECH BOOTH!

BY ANNA COLEY

What I do. I've been volunteering in the tech booth for the Worship Team for about six years. I love that this lets me be part of the Worship Team, even though I'm not musical. I run the slides and the lights for the Sunday service at 9:30 once or twice a month.

Why I do it. I take pride in trying to do an excellent job with my small part of the service. I'm very mindful of visitors or people who may not know the songs that we're singing. I try to change the slides so that everyone singing can see what words are coming up before we get to the next line of the song. I know how uncomfortable it can be when you don't know the song, and it seems like everyone else does.

What brought me to this team? I've always enjoyed technology. I love exploring new gadgets and figuring out how things work. And like I said, I'm not a musical person, but I deeply love music, so being part of the music I love in this way is the perfect intersection of my passions and my skills.

While I am a techy person, I don't think you really have to be one to serve in this role. Anybody who can push a button could try this role and see if it's a good fit!

How I've grown in this role. The nice thing about this position is that there's opportunity for growth. When I first started, it really was just about pushing that button. The content was already built for me, and I simply moved to the next slide or the next lighting cue when it was time.

As I've gotten more experience with this role and learned more, I've been able to do more. Logan, our Director of Modern Worship, still builds out all the content for the service, but now I can help when changes are needed — and even make suggestions. Some people may not be aware, but in addition to the slides the congregation sees on the front



screen, there's also a back screen that shows the lyrics and the chords for the musicians. When we discover in rehearsal that a song is in the wrong key or has the wrong arrangement, I can now make those changes myself.

I also try to pay better attention to the flow of a song and those moments where I can time a light cue well for maximum impact. On Sunday mornings you can watch me play a game of trying to guess when Pastor Adam will bring in a particular slide—whether that's moving to the next verse in the Scripture, showing a funny photo, or referencing a quote. He keeps me on my toes, and I am always tuned in to the sermon. I take pride in doing this job well.

Could this be a place for you? A bonus of working in this role is that I get to be part of a fantastic team. Each musician, singer, and tech team member is passionate about authentic worship and living out following Jesus every day. The song studies that we do in the green room backstage on Sunday mornings between rehearsal and the service are a favorite moment for me. Someone from the team will bring a song for us to listen to and discuss. These discussions are rich and honest. People bring lots of different perspectives and we get a chance to share how the songs relate to our lives. We laugh together a lot.

Serving with this team makes it clear that worship isn't about a performance. At the same time, we're mindful that what we do can help make the people in the room more aware of God's presence and help them fully invest themselves in worship.

If you're looking for a place to serve with a great team that's passionate about worship, come give the tech booth a try!

VOLUNTEER VOICES

FINDING PURPOSE

BY BETH GIBSON

My name is Beth Gibson. My husband, Charles Gibson, and I joined LV First two years ago. The Sunday we joined LV First, several members of the Wesley Sunday Group invited us to come to their class. The members of the class were so welcoming, that after two Sundays we decided to join the class. I am now the secretary for the meeting, which meets once a month. After one year Charles volunteered to be treasurer of the Wesley Group.

About a year ago, we saw an announcement about ushering. We felt like this was a way we could serve the church and serve God. It is rewarding to greet people coming into the church with a warm smile. Also, by ushering, we have learned where different areas of the church are located. This was a way to meet new people in the church and get to know them better. In ushering, we can assist the elderly to the sanctuary and help them to service. In addition, we can answer any questions someone may have about where the children's services are located and help them navigate the church.

Other opportunities I have contributed to through the Wesley Sunday Group are picking up food for the church staff lunch and setting up the lunch for them. Also, I went to the store to purchase Halloween candy for Candy at the Cabins. We also have contributed to the Lawrenceville CO/OP.

By volunteering in small ways, I feel like I am giving back to the church and to God. I feel connected to LV First and God. It gives me a purpose within the church besides just sitting in the pews.

One of my favorite scriptures that applies to volunteering is: 1 Peter 4:10, "Like good stewards of manifold grace of



God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." Another verse is Philippians 2:4, "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

What I would say to someone who is new to LV First, is that volunteering makes you more connected to the church, helps you get to know the members better, and brings out your individual talents.

“THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING EXTEND BEYOND THE CHURCH.”

The benefits of volunteering extend beyond the church. Service provides opportunities for personal growth, skill development, and meaningful fulfillment. Through these experiences, volunteering not only strengthens my faith, but I also gain confidence and a sense of purpose.

LOVE IN ACTION

THE IMPACT OF LV FIRST'S PARENT'S FIRST INITIATIVE

BY ADAM WITTER
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRY

In a world where families often struggle to find support, encouragement, and community, LV First stands as a beacon of light. Through the work of the Parent's First Initiative, the church is not only equipping parents with the tools they need to thrive in their homes but also actively living out its mission to connect the church to the community and the community to the church. Rooted in the belief that thriving families equal a thriving community, this initiative has become a catalyst for transformation, both spiritually and practically.

The Parent's First Initiative began as a response to a growing awareness of the challenges facing modern families such as single-parent homes, economic struggles, emotional burnout, and a loss of spiritual direction. Rather than standing by, LV First took intentional steps to become part of the solution by partnering with the Central Gwinnett cluster schools.

"The goal was never just to offer parenting tips," says Pastor Adam. "It was about building relationships, restoring hope, and helping parents see their God-given value and purpose."

With a holistic approach that includes educational workshops, resourcing, mentorship, and family experiences, the initiative has touched hundreds of families in tangible

ways in its two years of existence.

Perhaps the most powerful testimony to the effectiveness of the Parent's First Initiative comes from the families themselves.

Niecee, a single mother of two, first attended a parenting workshop this past spring of 2025. She expressed that she was at her wits end juggling work, school, and raising two kids, often feeling drained with no time to take care of herself.

Through the initiative, Niecee began attending the 10-week Raising Highly Capable Kids workshop. She expressed, "It wasn't just the parenting advice, it was the love and understanding I received. These people prayed for me, listened to me, and reminded me that I wasn't alone. For the first time in years, I felt seen."

Now, Niecee and her daughter volunteer regularly on Sundays at LVFirst and are even helping out with one of our current parenting workshops in efforts to serve other parents who are where she once was.

Beyond the practical tools and emotional support, the Parent's First Initiative is deeply spiritual at its core. Each session, while built around secular principles, parallel to Christian values.

This program is discipleship. Parenting is one of the most sanctifying journeys a person can walk. We're helping people invite God into the middle of their mess and discover His grace there.

Many participants who started out disconnected from faith have now joined small groups, been baptized, or begun serving in other areas of our church or in their own faith communities.

While the initiative is very grassroots, its ripple effects are being felt throughout the Lawrenceville community and beyond. From partnering with local schools for parenting seminars to offering free childcare during workshops, LV First has made it clear that our mission isn't confined to Sunday mornings.

Other faith communities and partners have reached out to our team regularly to learn best practices in connecting with families and schools in their own communities. We always tell them to listen deeply and ask how they can help.

What makes the Parent's First Initiative stand out isn't just its programs, but the culture of intentional care and Christ-centered compassion that undergirds it. This ministry isn't a quick fix or surface solution; it's a commitment to long-term transformation.

With plans to expand into more schools, train new facilitators, and develop more resources for families, the future of the Parent's First Initiative is bright.

But for LV First, success isn't measured by numbers or events, it's measured by stories of redemption, relationships restored, and families finding hope in Christ.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MIDDLETON FAMILY

We'd been back in our hometown for a few years and were looking for a church home. One day, a lightbulb went on— "Wait a second, Adam Hilderbrandt is the pastor at a church near us! We should go there." Adam and Michelle were Alex's youth pastors at Mountain Park Methodist back in the day and were crucial in those formative years.

We started visiting in early December 2024, and from day one, it just felt right. It was a full-circle moment to introduce our kids to Adam and Michelle. Alex saw people he knew from Mountain Park that had also joined the church over the years. It felt familiar, but there were all these other great people that were new to us, too. We were welcomed to be part of it from the get-go.

In an era of declining church attendance, this place felt set apart. It was real and thriving. We quickly noticed that these people didn't just talk the talk. When they said they were putting Lawrenceville first, they really meant it. We always said we wanted to be in a place that was welcoming to all, where we could deepen our faith and serve others and do life with the people around us, and here we had found it.

Since joining the church, Alex has served as part of the modern worship team and is a student ministry small group leader for the first time this school year. Lauren led the preschool class at VBX this past summer. We're in the Elder Millennials small group. Lauren is also active in the Wednesday night moms' group, and Alex is in a men's group. We love being in these groups because it's the best and easiest way to connect with the people in this church. We get to know each other on a deeper level. We pray for one another. We learn about how Jesus is working in our lives. We commiserate on how tired we are from chasing our young kids around. There's power in feeling supported and seen.

LV First has been a true blessing to us. We've grown our faith, made new friends and reconnected with people who have meant a lot in our lives. We've seen our kids get honestly excited to go to church. We've found our spot. We're excited to be here and look forward to more opportunities to get involved!

SWEET FAMILY

My name is Je'Neice, though I prefer the name "Neicee," and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to share a bit about myself and my journey to LV First. I am a Sr. Independent Beauty Consultant for Mary Kay Cosmetics. I started my business in December of 2024. I love helping women feel their best while practicing self-care. And since 2017, I have also been blessed to sell my own handmade jewelry, art, and special occasion gifts. I love to create beautiful things and see people light up when they receive a gift made special just for them. God has blessed me with two beautiful children, my daughter Kendall Teniah (13) and my son Kadence Tyler (2).

We recently moved to Georgia in January 2023 from Las Vegas, Nevada. We came here for a fresh start, as I am determined to break away from generational cycles and have my children raised in a true community where they can thrive and be supported by real, genuine love.

From our very first visit, we were immediately drawn to the authentic warmth and welcoming spirit of LV First. My daughter started coming to Fusion with a friend and fell in love with the church. After hearing about the Moms Group from Mrs. Annette Houtz, I finally decided to visit, and I'm so glad I did. This community has shown us nothing but love, support, and grace, welcoming us in as family. My children were both baptized on Mother's Day, and I joined that same day!

I am already excited to be a part of the Moms Group and to volunteer with the LV Kids ministry. I love how involved LV First is in the community, and I enjoy being of service to others, so I plan to serve in many more areas. I hope to be a faithful and supportive member of this church family, continuing to grow my relationship with God and my new LV First family. We are so excited to see how God will use us to serve alongside you all in this next season of life.

THE JANVIER JONES FAMILY

My name is Mia Janvier Jones. Originally from Long Beach, CA, my son, Jeremiah, and I moved to Lawrenceville

toward the end of May in 2024.

I was first introduced to LV First by a family friend, Donatello Smith, who had been invited (a few years earlier) by his neighbors, Keith and Bev Roche. After hearing about the church, I visited the website and saw the Campmeeting 2024 event. I thought it would be a great opportunity for my teen to attend and become acclimated to a church community. When he returned, he was so excited about the church that it caused me to be excited too! I was grateful he had found a church community that seemed to support his spiritual growth.

Not long after that event, he was invited to be a Confirmand. That invitation opened deeper conversations at home about making a personal choice to live for God (or at least gain a fuller understanding about choosing God). When he began Confirmation, I continued to attend services occasionally yet often watched online. I told my son I wanted to keep looking, and my teenager said something that really moved me. He declared, "Everything you've been looking for in a church is at LV First, waiting for you." He was right.

Because of that, I decided to attend regularly and seriously consider LV First. It took a few Sundays, but I realized that being present in church makes a big difference compared to watching from home. As more events happened, I became more enthusiastic about learning and volunteering, because I saw a genuine commitment to serving the community from the church.

I have been in church all my life and have served in various ministry capacities. This is not to say I have everything figured out, but LV First has felt like the right place for us in this season. This church has moved me to enthusiastically invite people to the various events because it has been incredibly welcoming to all. I'm grateful for how God is using this church to encourage my family, and I'm excited to keep growing and serving here.

MCCARTY FAMILY

During the Fall of 2023, my family moved to Lawrenceville First United Methodist Church. It has been exciting to become involved in this vibrant faith community.

We found a church with worship services to meet different needs from traditional, contemporary to Holy Communion. It is so exciting to see all ages from babies to youth, young families to working families to retired

families worshipping together. Our senior minister, Dr. Adam Hilderbrandt is adept at teaching and challenging us as we grow stronger in our faith journeys.

LOHMULLER FAMILY

As a follower of Christ, I am blessed to have many friends and family who share my beliefs. I have been a church member all my life, and in 2024 my husband Brian and I looked for a new church home. We found excellent preaching and worship at LV First. The Genesis Sunday School class embraced us with Bible study and Fellowship. The Chancel choir also welcomed me, as did Grace Arbor, where I am the Thursday AM hymn pianist. Lisa Hale and her volunteers provide joy and a warm welcome to all. VBX was a good way to connect with younger folks.

As a 9:30 greeter on Sundays, as well as a Parents First initiative volunteer and Propel participant, I have made many connections with other Christians as we serve God together. Adam Hilderbrandt, Deanne Lynch, Sarah Snyder and my Sunday Group have all supported me and my family in times of illness.

My belief in Jesus's teachings is my guide as I navigate my life and hopes. I have experienced both joy and disappointment in my life but have received much love from my extended family as well as from my spouse, two grown children, and six grandchildren aged 6 to 22. I praise God for my relationships from church as well as my retired nursing career at Emory Hospital.

I would encourage other new members to join a group, or Bible study that fits their personality. There are many kind and loving people at LV First to connect with to develop your own community. It is truly a wonderful place!

SMALL GROUPS. GREAT PURPOSE.

MOMS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY MANDY KLINECT

The pandemic was incredibly hard and made harder for me by my first pregnancy. Isolated, cooped up in my house, and hormones swinging like an enthusiastic 8-year-old on a swing set. It was only my family around when I gave birth to Ilena and visitors were allowed one or two at a time. After, it was only my mom helping us out when we went home.

We were alone spiritually too. My husband Peter and I had been going to a much larger church but felt disconnected from it before the pandemic hit. We'd talked about finding a new church home, but the lockdown kept us restricted to online services. LV First was the first church we attended after the risk was deemed negligible and lockdown was lifted. Peter and I agreed that it would be our church home and tried to get connected.

Sarah Snyder made it easy for us and mentioned specifically Mom's Group to me. I'll be honest: I was terrified. I'm an introvert outright and have had some poor experiences with small groups before. I grew up Southern Baptist and some of those groups feel like an exercise in acting with critics all around. Having to introduce myself to moms that had been mothering for years was intimidating. Motherhood was supposed to come naturally after you had a child, right? So why was it so hard for me? Climbing Mount Everest would have been easier. I didn't think I could take an evening of "Bless your heart" and quiet judgement. But I wanted to try. I wanted to find a home in the church.

Wednesday night came and I packed up my baby and drove to church, still fighting fear. Kim Jefferson welcomed me in and showed me exactly where to go, walking me to the nursery to drop Ilena off and pointing me to the room where the mom's group met. She was lovely, warm, and friendly, and I was sorry to leave. I walked into the room.

**“I FOUND WOMEN
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HAVE ANYTHING
LEFT TO GIVE.”**

First meetings are always awkward and then you've got me, who's always awkward regardless. But it wasn't the judgmental torture I'd been expecting. Instead, I found women who let their real selves be known, who risked being vulnerable and honest, who gave grace when someone didn't have anything left to give. They reassured me that parenting is a skill that they had to learn too. I met other first-time moms and moms about to be empty nesters. They all shared in my joys and sorrows and struggles while I figured out how to parent.

In 2023, I found out I was pregnant again. The symptoms were worse this time around, but I had a community that saw me. It wasn't just my mom, Peter, and me figuring things out when Éowyn was born. Mom's Group made sure there was a meal train to help. There were offers of help, advice on handling two kids, encouraging words and prayers. Even now, if I have an emergency, I don't just get prayers: someone is asking how they can help. A mom came to help with Ilena, 4 now, and Éowyn, 1, when both Peter and I were sick. Mom's Group has been with me through every photo where Éowyn looks like an angry potato and every photo where she's smiling ear-to-ear as my little sweet potato.

I'm still learning how to do the mom thing, how to parent my children the way they need me to, and how to keep myself in the middle of it all. And I know Mom's Group will be right there with me, laughing, crying, and ranting through life.

SMALL GROUPS. GREAT PURPOSE.

OUR CIRCLE. OUR SEASON.

BY MEGAN KENDALL

In 2019, Chrissy Still had the vision to start a small group at LV First called "The Elder Millennials," with a goal to bring the 30-somethings in the church together for meaningful connection and spiritual growth. Now, 6 years later, our small group consists of singles and couples alike, with children ranging from ages none to 14. Our group is active throughout the church, with members attending both 9:30 Modern and 11:00 Traditional services, and serving in the worship band, choir, tech team, and church staff. When the group first started, we met in person every other Thursday, until the pandemic pushed us into digital Zoomland. The group opted to continue Zoom meetings ever since due to the convenience of having kids at home and maintaining bedtime routines.

For study, the Elder Millennials have done scripture lessons, read books such as Love Does and Undistracted by Bob Goff and Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado, done a deep dive into Methodism, and are currently having discussions based around "The Wired Word," a journal with a recent news article with applicable scripture and questions to guide meaningful and practical conversations. Our gatherings usually begin with social catch-up time and many laughs before heading into the discussion topic of the evening. Conversations are open and respectful and group members are welcome to share as much (or as little) as they want. We always close with prayer requests and group prayer.

Our group loves to get together for a social gathering at least once a quarter, with or without the kids. Socials for the adults have included dinners out at a Brazilian steak house, comedy club viewing at the Aurora, and dueling pianos at a local Lawrenceville establishment. Family socials at one of the houses are also a good time for all to gather and enjoy a meal, pool time, and a sports ball game! We have also enjoyed spontaneous group lunches together in downtown Lawrenceville after worship on Sundays. The Elder Millennials have participated in church events together, such

as Candy at the Cabins, Vacation Bible Experience (VBX), and Lawrenceville Assistance Project (LAP).

The Elder Millennials have celebrated many milestones together, such as new babies being born, moving houses, engagements, and career changes. We have supported each other during life's unexpected trials and endured the many facets of adulting together, providing comfort in company, meals, and prayers. Our children are growing up together as part of LV Kids and Students. We love that we have this camaraderie as adults, but even more that our children have this group to connect to others in the church. If you're looking for a small group, we would love to welcome you to join us!

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TIMELESS WORSHIP. TIMELESS GOD.

BY LOGAN PIRKLE
DIRECTOR OF MODERN WORSHIP



SCAN TO LISTEN TO THE
FALL LV JOURNAL PLAYLIST

When I first started leading worship for my youth group in high school, I remembered a certain song really resonating with me. That song, “One Thing Remains”, came out thirteen years ago. Even now, years later, hearing that song brings up fond memories of when my faith was new. There is something special about singing songs that were significant to a certain time of your life. For me, this song signified my first time leading others in worship. It was also the first time I was introduced to the concept that God’s love towards me never fails, never gives up, and never runs out. I think this sentimental nature of music is part of the reason why I have gotten so many requests for a “throwback” worship night. In my seven years at LV First, this has been the recurring request that comes up time and time again.

After seeing that the desire for this kind of worship night was shared by so many, I started planning it for the Summer. The term “Throwback” registers a different era for each congregation member; are we rewinding ten, twenty, or even a hundred years? There are rich, theologically full songs in each of these periods, but for this worship night, I narrowed it down to songs specifically from the 90s and early 2000s.

When planning started, there was an abundance of

song requests. Song selection is often not as straightforward as simply fulfilling each suggestion. As much as my inner people-pleaser wants to say “yes” to every request, there are time limits and technicalities to consider. On a typical Sunday morning, the modern worship team leads four songs, but for this night, we agreed that seven songs were doable.

There was also a technical element at play when it came to selecting songs. Each song needed enough resources for our worship team to utilize in practice. Some common tools many modern worship bands use are clicks and tracks. The click is basically a metronome in the band’s ear, and when paired with the track, which helps create a fuller band sound, they keep the band on the same beat and sounding our best. The nature of many of these older songs meant it was not surprising to see that some of the suggestions did not have the usual resources available in decent quality, if at all. These limitations helped narrow down the song selection and move on to recruiting musicians.

The current modern worship team consists of about forty people, including musicians, sound engineers, light operators, camera operators, and slide managers. This is an incredibly talented and dedicated group of people, and it’s humbling to see this team worship through serving each week. I knew this sort of worship night would be a significant undertaking for the team, requiring much more than what’s needed for a typical Sunday morning. Preparing

would necessitate multiple rehearsals, and as we all know, it is no small miracle to find a time when so many volunteers can be in the same place at the same time! Apart from the run-throughs we did as a team, volunteers spent numerous hours on their own practicing and learning their parts. I cannot emphasize enough how much these volunteers gave of their time and adjusted their schedules to make this come together, as well as my personal gratitude to each of them. With the team assembled, we got to rehearsing in preparation for the event.

Things were coming together music-wise. Then another need came to light, transitions. The transition between elements is always on my radar for a Sunday morning. However, transitioning from one song to the next gets more complicated when doubling the number of musicians, instruments, and songs. By design, many people do not notice the transition of keys, musicians, and instruments as we move from one song to the next. After all, the point of good transitions is that they go unnoticed! Although ironing out the details can get monotonous, organizing these points in the service is important. To preserve the flow and worship environment, there is great effort made to make each transition as smooth as possible. When transitions are awkward, sound messes up, or lights are too busy, it can distract people from the purpose of why we are gathered: to give our attention to God.



After months of prep, it was finally time for the worship night. Feeling overwhelmed and exhausted by it all, I remember telling myself, “I now remember why I haven’t done this before and why I’m never doing it again.” However, God reminded me throughout the night of my purpose. At one point in the service, Luna, the daughter of one of our team members, led a song with her mom. The song she helped lead was not familiar to her; it wasn’t one she heard on the radio or sang in Sunday school. However, this setting provided the opportunity to connect across generations for a cause bigger than ourselves. The congregation consisted of people worshipping from an array of generations and ethnicities— a true picture of Heaven. We were united over the love of our God and caught a glimpse of eternity. We joined together singing old, familiar songs, reflected on our faith journeys, and remembered the times when we sang these songs for the first time. We imitated Heaven and walked away feeling refreshed and encouraged.

It’s hard to pinpoint exactly why singing and meditating on “throwback” songs is so significant. Again, this was, by far,

the most requested service, but why? I don’t think people just wanted to hear these songs again and feel happy; rather, I think it has more to do with sharing songs and stories with others. Just like “One Thing Remains” brings me back to the beginning of my faith journey, these songs remind us of our own stories and milestones in our relationship with God.

So, yes, another throwback night of worship will happen, and once again, we will share, reminisce, and connect together, all while worshipping our Timeless God.

“WE WERE UNITED OVER THE LOVE OF OUR GOD AND CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY.”



FALL PLAYLIST



SCAN TO LISTEN TO THE
FALL LV JOURNAL PLAYLIST

When I was asked to create a playlist for this journal, I tried to compile songs that had been shared with me, or that I knew on my own, that had varying speeds, sounds, dynamics, and themes. Here’s a little bit about each song and why I chose it:

Lead on Good Shepherd by Patrick Mayberry and Zahriya Zachary- This song is a fun, upbeat opener for a playlist, and talks about following God because He is trustworthy. My favorite line in this song is “You’ve walked me through the valley, but You never steered me wrong.”

All Back by Sons of Sunday - Staying in an upbeat feel, this song talks about being confident that God will restore the joy that has been taken and will even double the amount. I hope that if you are feeling drained or empty, you will be encouraged to sing this song and know that God will fill you again.

Mighty God, Father, Friend by Ghostship - You might not have heard of this band before, but their songs are usually rich in theology, and this song is no exception. These poetic lyrics emphasize the glory of our God, and His characteristics, from almighty God to close friend.

We’re Here for You by Jeremy Riddle - Still an upbeat song, but simpler musically, this song declares the purpose for which we are joined together: Jesus. The reason our church exists, we worship, we serve, we make this journal, etc.: It’s all for Jesus.

Come What May by We Are Messengers - “Come What May” is a declaration to stand strong against the hardships of life. We can trust God to be our rock no matter what comes our way. The bridge of this song uses the words from Psalm 23 to emphasize the comfort and guidance we receive from God.

Dwell by SEU Worship - Dropping down in dynamics a bit, “Dwell” is an invitation to abide in Jesus. I heard this song around the time of our 2025 Campmeeting, which was themed around the word “Dwell.” The way this song is written and composed, it feels restful and relaxing, further displaying the theme of resting in God.

Your Love is Strong by Cory Asbury - Whenever I think of the word strong, I tend to think of overpowering or domineering strength, but this song talks about the strength of God in a comforting and safe way. God’s strength is strong enough to calm the storms, to break chains, to provide shelter, even to overcome the grave. These all require great strength, but instead of a towering ruler, God’s strong love provides freedom, belonging, and hope for us.

Only One Found Worthy by Nate Diaz - This song is the lowest dynamically of the playlist, with just a voice, piano, and some strings. This song has similar themes to “Mighty God, Father, Friend” in recognizing how awesome God is, but also how personal He is to us. Whenever I listen to this song, I imagine sitting in a prayer closet one on one with God and just being able to worship Him so intimately.

Seasons Change by United Pursuit - Autumn is my favorite season by far; however, each season brings its own pros and cons. The chorus sums up this song well: “Though the seasons change, your love remains.” Sometimes seasons changing can be positive, and sometimes negative. However, through it all, His love remains. A small easter egg to listen to in this song is that the chord progression for the chorus changes at the end, symbolizing a changing of season, but the constant melody remaining the same.

Daily Bread by Patt Barrett and Kari Jobe - I listened to this song on repeat over the past year and a half to remind myself that all I need, I have in Jesus. No matter what I’m experiencing, I can trust God’s provision and simply draw near to Him.

Good Ground by Citizens - Whenever I listen to new worship music, I tend to listen out for themes/lyrics that are uncommon. This song is a unique prayer for the people of God to be ready to receive His word and to grow strong in faith. One line in this song, in particular was challenging for me, and I encourage you to think through it too: “When Your truth is hard to believe in let our hearts be soft for receiving.” May we be vulnerable enough to let God move in our lives and shape us and grow us into who He wants us to be.

The Lord Will Provide by Passion - I wanted to end this playlist with a newer song. This song has similar themes to “Daily Bread” by talking about God’s provision for all that we need. If we seek first His kingdom, all that we need will be given, just as He does for the flowers and birds of the earth.

SECTION #3

WOVEN TOGETHER

“BEHOLD, HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT IT
IS WHEN BROTHERS DWELL IN UNITY!”

– PSALM 133:1

THE TABLE

FELLOWSHIP & CONNECTION

BY KIM CRAFT

God is great, God is good.
Let us thank Him for our food.
By His hands, we are fed.
Thank Him for our daily bread.
If this little blessing sounds familiar, you know the rich goodness in gathering around a table. We are grateful for the abundance of a hearty meal, and we are grateful for God's just-when-we-need-it provision. It is not only the food that draws us to the table, though. A shared table invites us to spend time together.

Our church is a busy place, full of people coming and going. We visit on the way in or out, we check in with friends, and we say hello as we serve. We also love to gather around a shared table and learn more about each other and the



ways God connects us.

Some of these tables are under enormous, beautiful trees at the Lawrenceville Campground. These trees have witnessed generations of church members filling plates with fried chicken, barbeque, endless salads, and tasty vegetables. The mile long dessert table steals the show. This meal would be different without the breeze through the tree branches and warm conversations around the picnic tables. There's something extra special about a meal that takes you back in time as you share stories of campmeetings from long ago. Banana pudding at a picnic table simply tastes better.

Our Propel Lawrenceville gatherings draw us to a different group of tables. The beauty of a room full of women from all over our community can take your breath away. At Propel, ladies of all ages are seated together. The conversations at these tables lead to wisdom-sharing, prayer partnerships, and lots of laughter. The themed tables are a beautiful setting, but the connections between women genuinely light up the room. Many of the ladies who attend and are seated together have never met, but God always plans the night down to the smallest detail. Women come for a delicious meal, gorgeous decor, meaningful worship, thoughtful discussion, and one hundred and twenty new friends.

Sometimes, a shared table at church looks like a pancake dinner fundraiser, a pizza hang-out, or a parking lot tailgate complete with anything you can throw onto a grill. Our students connect through the special events that mark the academic year. Milestones like graduation are celebrated with church family and friends at the annual senior banquet. Opportunities for sharing and connecting with the people who have prayed and supported our students come full circle around tables in the Warehouse. Community also deepens as we share our tables with athletes from our local schools. What a blessing it is to pray over our students and encourage them to see how God can move in their lives. That impact begins with an invitation to gather for a meal.

**“THAT IMPACT
BEGINS WITH AN
INVITATION TO
GATHER FOR
A MEAL.”**

Small groups gather around the tables in homes, digging deeper into God's word. Families get to know other families as their children play together. Men of our church meet for biscuits and connection in an intentional way that leads to deeper relationships. God brings together the likely and the unlikely. We're called to grow together, to serve together, to pray together, to sit at a table together, and to share our stories.

What table is God calling you to? Are you feeling a nudge to deepen connections with people in our church? A step toward relationship is a faithful step. Who can you welcome to the table when you gather this season?

A sweet blessing that is often sung to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" includes this verse:

*Thank You Father (Thank You Father)
For our food (For our food)
And our many blessings (And our many blessings)
Amen*

The gifts of friendship, listening ears, and understanding hearts are the greatest blessings found around our tables. God provides the bounty for our hearts as well as our bodies. These are many blessings, indeed.



BANANA PUDDING

KIM CRAFT

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ½ cups sweetened whipped cream
- 1 8-ounce block of softened cream cheese
- 1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 cups milk
- 1 5-ounce box of instant vanilla pudding
- 8 sliced bananas
- 2 bags of Chessmen cookies

1. Line the bottom of a 13x9x2 dish with the Chessmen cookies.
2. Layer the bananas on top of cookies.
3. Prepare the pudding mix and milk using an electric mixer.
4. In a separate bowl, mix the cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk until smooth, then fold in the whipped cream.
5. Add the cream cheese mixture to the pudding mixture.
6. Pour this over the banana layer and top with the remaining Chessmen cookies.

Keep refrigerated until ready to serve.

A CHURCH OF GENERATIONS

BY VICKI STILL

As the saying goes, there's no place like home, and LV First is home. It is home because of people who are united by shared faith in Christ, travel through the winding halls and sometimes confusing stairwells to worship, study, fellowship and go out into the community to serve. Those people are family. My family. Your family. And every generation of this family has something to offer to each of the others.

The life experiences of older generations can offer guidance and mentorship to younger generations. The energy, creativity, perspective, and questions of younger members challenge older generations to keep thinking, learning, and

growing. Our multigenerational church family stands as a powerful testament to the beauty of unity across generations.

Now, I personally do love that my husband David and I are blessed to have three generations of our biological family who currently call LV First home as well. We get to hear our son Carter sing in the Chancel choir, and to share worship, fellowship, and service experiences with him and our daughter-in-law, Chrissy. We worship at the same service as our grandchildren, Kayla and Joseph. You have probably noticed them because they are AMAZING kids!! No grandparent bias here.

When our children were growing up, the church building seemed to grow and expand just for them...the preschool

wing was "the new wing" when they went to Sunday School and half day preschool. And later the family center wing opened in time for them to participate in youth activities there. They took piano lessons upstairs in what used to be the choir room (now the Upper Room) and performed at recitals in the sanctuary. In addition to singing in the choir from the age of 3 up, Carter began developing his performance chops in annual children's musicals, cast in memorable roles in plays that I thought I would never forget the names of but now actually have. I am sure I have the programs for them somewhere...(I do remember "Nic at Night" ...that was a catchy title!). Carter's younger sister, Courtney, was only slightly chagrined to be cast as "angel #5", "townsperson #3" or once as a dog in a musical about the nativity. She had no actual desire to perform solos or say lines in front of people and indeed had to be strongly encouraged to bark loudly enough to be heard when she was the unexpected manger scene dog!

Through all these activities, lifelong friendships were developed all around. The kids attended activities for children and youth, participated in VBS, campmeeting, and impactful retreats. As we did all the things in support of the children, their dad and I were busy living, learning, and growing in community with others. We participated in our own Sunday Groups and small groups, served on committees, served in the community and on mission trips, and developed special and meaningful relationships within the body of Christ.

We have attended many weddings in our beautiful sanctuary...our own children's, those of friends, and of the children of friends. Having watched both of our children marry in the very church they were baptized and later confirmed in, we now can add that we have prayed at that same altar over our grandchildren, supported by the prayers and presence of our church family. We walked our daughter and son-in-law's precious babies, Arthur and Ansley, through the halls and out onto the playground when they became too restless to sit through an entire service. Brad and Courtney are part of their new church family at Tuckston United Methodist Church in Athens, but they are always home at LV First too.

The Still Family definitely grew up in this church, developing an extended church family to do life with, study with, worship with, support each other, and serve the community together. We continue to enjoy and benefit from opportunities for multigenerational experiences in worship, study, and service that allow us to know our church family better and to make those relational connections that are so important. It is important that the children of LV First grow up knowing they are part of a larger church family that cares for them. The church becomes a true family of faith, not just a collection of peer groups. It becomes a church that reflects the body of Christ, where every member, of every age, has a vital role so that LV First may be more effective in living out its calling. As Pastor Adam always reminds us, we are better together.



STILLNESS CAPTURED

BY ELIZABETH ROMANYK
PHOTOS BY CALEB CLARK AND TEAM

Today, there are many things available to us in an instant. Fast food, movies and tv shows, package deliveries – all these things you can have at the push of a button. And while I won't complain about speedy internet, with so much available to us so fast, it can push us to rush through the day and with it, precious moments. However, a picture resists rush. The magic of a picture is that it holds a moment for us. While life is happening in high resolution at lightning speed, a picture is still. It invites us to be still with it. To notice. A photo draws us into quiet reflection and in a similar way, Jesus calls us to rest in him. His presence invites us to be still and lean into him to feel life blossoming in and around us. As you read through this journal, the hope is that you'll allow yourself the same pause. Linger, breathe, reflect, and simply, be still.







SECTION #4

YOUNG HEARTS

“CHILDREN ARE NOT THINGS TO
BE MOLDED BUT ARE PEOPLE TO BE
UNFOLDED”

– JESS LAIR

A GENERATION RUNNING TOWARD CHRIST

BY OKSANA SCHWACK
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY

There are many things that can be said about the life of the student ministry, here at LV First. Coming from the director of the student ministry, one might expect a biased opinion in saying the ministry is thriving. But that isn't the case. Having only been in this role since July, and a part of the church since March, I've been able to step in with fresh eyes. What I've witnessed in just a short amount of time is a ministry filled with life, energy, and, most importantly, students who are truly hungry for the things of God.

One of the most beautiful aspects of LV Students is the way it leans into relationships. This ministry doesn't just focus on large gatherings or big events; it emphasizes one-on-one connections and the importance of authentic community. Nowhere is this more evident than on Wednesday nights during Fusion, our small group program that has quickly become a favorite among our students.

Every Wednesday evening, two dedicated adult leaders faithfully show up for their groups. They don't just facilitate discussion, they walk with students through their faith journeys, encourage them in their challenges, and listen to their struggles with school, friendships, family, and life in general. These leaders aren't simply teaching; they're investing. And the students respond. You can see the bonds forming, the trust deepening, and the kind of discipleship happening that goes beyond surface-level faith.

In 2025, there's a narrative that the younger generation is drifting further away from Christ. But when I look at our students, I believe the opposite is true. These young people are searching. They're not content with shallow answers. They want to wrestle with the hard questions of faith, ask

about God's Word, and discover who Jesus really is to them. Instead of turning away from Christ, they're running toward Him with open hearts and open minds. And being able to witness that firsthand is one of the greatest privileges of serving in this ministry.

Another heartbeat of LV Students is worship. When asked what their favorite part of church is, many of our students say the same thing: worship. Whether it's on a Wednesday night at Fusion, Sunday mornings at 9:30, or during retreats and mission trips, worship is where they come alive. They love stepping into God's presence, lifting their voices, and praising the One who created them. Worship is not just an activity for these students it's a posture of the heart. Watching them engage fully and freely is both encouraging and contagious.

Retreats and mission trips are also powerful touchpoints in the life of our ministry. It's in these spaces away from the normal routines and distractions of life that students often experience some of their deepest encounters with God. Whether it's serving others, bonding as a community, or spending extended time in prayer and worship, these moments have a lasting impact. Students return home changed, with fresh passion for their faith and stronger bonds with each other.

But perhaps the most inspiring part of LV Students isn't just what happens at church events, it's how these students carry their faith into their daily lives. I've watched them encourage one another through tough weeks of school, pray for each other's families, and take bold steps of leadership within our church community. They're not just attending youth groups; they're living out their faith. And that's the vision of student ministry: to raise up a generation of disciples who follow Jesus not only on Sundays and Wednesdays but every single day.

So yes, there are many good things happening within LV Students. But even more than that, there are many good things happening within the hearts of our students themselves. They are growing, they are worshiping, they are learning, and they are pursuing Christ with sincerity and passion.

As someone who is still new to both this church and this role, I can honestly say that what I see unfolding here is not simply a "thriving program." It's evidence of God at work in and through a generation that some might overlook or underestimate. My prayer is that as a church, we continue to champion these students, support the leaders who invest in them, and celebrate the way God is moving in their lives.

Because the truth is, the LV Students are more than a ministry, they are a movement. And I believe with all my heart that what God is doing here is only the beginning.



LV STUDENT REFLECTIONS

CALEB
SUTTON
LV STUDENT

In our student ministry, the Middle School Winter Retreat is a highlight of the year not only for our middle schoolers, but also for our high school students who help lead it. During this retreat, our high schoolers step up to guide much of the worship experience. They give messages, read Scripture, and even write quiet-time devotionals for the middle school students. It's a powerful picture of discipleship in action; students leading students and passing on their faith to the next generation.

Here's an example of one of those devotionals, written at last year's retreat by Caleb Sutton, one of our high school seniors for the 2025-2026 school year.

RELAX

Today is departure day! For one last time, go ahead and find a quiet spot to relax. Let's finish up the weekend with a little more scripture and a little more time with God. This weekend's theme was "Through the Storm," and the biggest thing I want you to take home from this quiet time is the idea that "Trusting God means making small, faithful decisions."

SCRIPTURE

1 KINGS 17:15-16 (ESV)

"And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah."

For some context, this verse takes place during a great famine. Elijah, a great prophet, requests that a widow make him a small cake with the last of her flour and oil, making it so she could not make herself any more meals. When she denies him, Elijah tells her that if she does this, by the power of God, neither her flour nor oil will run out. And he was

LV STUDENT REFLECTIONS

SELAH
HILDERBRANDT
LV STUDENT

Nothing about walking into sixth grade was predictable, except knowing that my best friends from church were going to be with me. After our first year of confirmation, we were placed into a small group together. Since then, we have met every Wednesday night as part of our time in LV Students. In our group, we discuss our beliefs, how our weeks have been, and how we can pray for one another. We've attended dance recitals, wished each other luck in swim meets and horse shows, "break a leg" in theater performances, and cheered for one another as we continue to grow into who God made us to be. This group has been my support system through everything.

A few years ago, when life got really difficult for me, my small group gave me verses of encouragement that now hang all over my wall next to my bed. My favorite verse is Isaiah 43:2 NLT. "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown...". These words are a daily reminder that I'm safe with Jesus no matter what I'm going through, because God is with me. I can see God's presence in a real way when I spend time with my small group. It's reflected in each encounter of love, empathy, kindness, joy, and loyalty. It's now my Junior year of high school. Life has not gotten easier; in fact, quite the opposite. The challenges are growing as we are near the end of our high school years. But knowing my small group is a constant gives me the courage to face those challenges.



**“MY SMALL GROUP
GAVE ME VERSES OF
ENCOURAGEMENT
THAT NOW HANG
ALL OVER MY WALL
NEXT TO MY BED.”**

LEADING THROUGH SERVICE AND EXAMPLE

BY CATHERINE LOMBARD
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

1 Timothy 4:12 says, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure.”

Our 3rd grade Jr Ambassadors and 4th/5th Grade Ambassadors take this verse to heart as they serve as leaders in Kids Zone. Not only do they serve as a hospitality team, lead our large group time and operate the audio/visual equipment during children’s worship but most importantly, they lead by example in all that they do! As leaders in Children’s Ministry, our oldest kids are starting to claim their faith as

their own through study and discussion and are learning to lead the way Jesus did - through service and example.

On Sunday mornings, I love when a fourth grader comes running up to me with a microphone and says, “Here, Ms. Catherine, this microphone has new batteries and is ready to go. You’re up next and you’ll need this!” or when a fifth grader sits down with a new kindergartner and says, “I can show you how to play that game!” or a third grader takes a basket of supplies out of my hands and says, “Let me carry that for you!”. The cool thing? These are not isolated incidents but everyday occurrences! So, when you see our Blue Vested Preteens, know that they are leading the way, setting examples for kids and adults in how to lead through service and love like Jesus!

On Wednesday evenings this semester, our younger kids are exploring the Bible stories referenced in the song by Brandon Lake, That’s Who I Praise. Together we are discovering the meaning of each of the phrases in the song that help us know God better and understand more fully why He is worthy of our praise!

We kicked off the study with the very first line of the song, “I wanna dance like David”. We learned all about David as a shepherd, as the champion over Goliath and as a king but most importantly about his heart for God. We shared our best dance moves, talked about faith and created our own Matisse style paintings. We have such creative, insightful and fun kids who are full of joy and eager to learn more about the heroes of our faith! We love to experience Scripture in new ways!

CONNECTED FAMILIES

BY KIM JEFFERSON
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO
CHILDREN’S & STUDENT MINISTRY

As the Family Ministry Administrative Assistant, I have the unique opportunity to partner with parents and guardians from birth to graduation. While I support all areas of Family Ministry throughout the week, on Sundays, Wednesdays and special events, I serve as the “face” of Children’s Ministry welcoming and greeting families as they arrive, answering questions and sharing anecdotal stories at pick-up.

Our Digital Learning Days are a great example of whole family ministry. Over the past few years, we have offered care for elementary aged children on our county’s Digital Learning Days as a ministry to working parents/guardians providing a safe place for kids to do their schoolwork and have some fun on these days out of school. I love watching families move from drop-off childcare to all-in participation.

What an incredible evolution when families discover that not only are their kids welcomed and loved, but that we really do want to get to know the whole family and support them as parents/guardians. It is such a blessing to be a part of inviting a family to LV First after only participating in Digital Learning Days to see several families fully engaged. Having these families want to be a part of something more is so exciting as they become active in all that we do!

I consider it a privilege to be the point of contact with our parents, grandparents and guardians as they entrust us to watch over their children. Hearing their stories, celebrating their wins and encouraging them in challenging times is such a joy; it’s what makes us a family ministry rather than just LV Kids and LV Students!



GOD IS WITH ME. GOD IS ALWAYS WITH ME.

BY KELLEY PIRKLE
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY TEAM

Have you ever had a song stuck in your head? One of those catchy ones that replays in your mind and interrupts your thoughts for a few hours. Or days? Or months?

This is the kind of song that you may attempt to trick your own mind into forgetting. Like, maybe, if you play another song, you may lose the first? This has proven successful for me many times before, but for the last eight months, I’ve had a consistent tune in my head that I cannot seem to shake.

In January, our nursery kids were beginning a series titled “Rain or Shine.” They were learning that Jesus is always a good friend. Along with this unit was a new song called “Always with Me.” The song was simple enough; it teaches that when I’m happy, God is with me. When I’m sad, God is with me. On my good days, God is with me. And even when the day is bad, God is with me. The chorus repeats again and again, “God is with me. God is always with me.” And to that tune, our preschool class dove into the truths within the lyrics.

God is with us no matter what emotion we feel: happy, sad, afraid, worried, confused, excited. We learned that no matter what changes around us, God, and His presence

with us, does not change. For children, this is a huge truth that changes the way they see the world. While their world evolves and gets bigger each day, they can have confidence in a consistent friend, a safe place to hide when scared, or a happy place to celebrate when excited.

I would hear kids singing this song as I walked down the daycare hallways. I saw videos of kids singing the lyrics at home. It was all the repetition of a simple chorus: “God is with me. God is always with me.”

Without doubt, these words got stuck in my head. I caught myself singing the same chorus in my own time—in the car with my husband on the drive to work and in the evening getting ready for bed. I started to embrace the song as a frequent visitor in my mind and “top played” tune on my Spotify.

Like any good children’s song, the lyrics, tune, and motions were catchy. But it was more than that which kept it in my mind. I came to realize how much I was clinging to the reality of God’s presence with me. When a far-off goal comes to fruition, God is with me. When doctors’ appointments don’t go the way I wanted, God is with me. When anxiety makes me feel alone and unsure, God is with me. God is with me. God is always with me.

I now have a reminder on my phone each morning to say aloud, “God is with me.” What started as a simple jingle helped me fix my eyes at the start of each day. For eight

months now, I remember the lyrics to that song and embrace the reality that no matter what I face in the day, the God of peace, comfort, strength, and discernment is with me.

The kids have also taken hold of this message. Recently I was leading Chapel for the daycare and had music softly playing as the kids were settling. Even in the barely audible background music, the littles recognized the familiar tune: “God is with me, God is always with me.” Like a mini-preschool flash mob, the kids broke out into song, repeating the chorus and performing the motions. Even after so many months of new memory verses, sight words, songs, vacations, and sicknesses, the words came back to them just as clear as they were in January. Like a truth that has been imprinted in their growing hearts: God is with me. God is always with me.

Maybe it’s worth listening to the song and catching the earworm for yourself. Or maybe it’s just encouraging to know that our youngest church members are taking hold of a foundational truth like this and owning it even months later. Or perhaps, you’re moved to join me in reciting the chorus: God is with me. God is always with me.



SECTION #5

BUILDING FORWARD

“YOU DON’T HAVE TO SEE THE
WHOLE STAIRCASE, JUST TAKE
THE FIRST STEP.”

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

LOOKING AHEAD

REVEREND DR. ADAM HILDERBRANDT
LV FIRST SENIOR PASTOR

“**A**nd he said to them, Come, follow me, and I will make you fish for people.”
- Matthew 4:19

I love to fish! Many of you already know that about me and some of you have even been kind enough to invite me to go fishing with you... this is my not-so-subtle hint to the rest of you fishermen! People often ask me, “What do you fish for?” and I almost always respond, “Whatever is biting!” I just like to be out on the water, whatever I’m fishing for and whatever I’m catching or not catching.

The one thing I have found that I love more than fishing is taking other people fishing, especially for the first time or the first time in a long time. I enjoy the whole process but especially when they hook into a fish, the surprise quickly followed by the joy of the whole thing just makes my heart happy. During college my roommate told me he had only ever fished for catfish. While catfish is just as fine as any fish to catch, there are some of the best trout streams in the eastern United States not too far from my college - so I insisted he go trout fishing with me. Well, he fell in love and today he is the proud owner of a fishing guide outfit in Western North Carolina. The power of a simple invitation!

As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee he spoke to some fishermen and invited them on a journey, to come, follow him, and to learn to fish for something brand new. Hidden in this one sentence are actually four invitations. First, Jesus invites people to come close to him. This is the invitation to take a step of faith, to move in Jesus’ direction, and to accept Jesus as savior. The second call is to follow in an invitation to surrender. If you think about it, if I’m following Jesus, it means I’m not following me or my own wants and desires. This is one of the most difficult steps for most people. We like the idea of salvation but not surrender! Next, Jesus says he will make us into something. This is a call to discipleship, to be formed and changed by spending time with Jesus with others. Did you catch that, with Jesus with others? Discipleship is not a solo expedition. We fish with others. We grow with others. Then Jesus tells us what we’re fishing for, for people. Jesus invites us to become the people who invite other people to come, follow Jesus, and be made into disciples.

Building the church means we have to be committed to a life that is invitational. Now, I know that some of you understand this fully because I see new people EVERY SUNDAY! Statistics tell us that 82% of people say they would come to church if a

friend invited them but only 2% of Christians say they regularly invite friends to church. You can see the disconnect. There are some amazing things happening each and every day in this building and around this community and I guarantee your friends would love to be involved. I want us to be as excited about how Jesus is Building his Church in this community that we talk about it like the amazing restaurant we went to recently. What I love about this is when someone comes up to me after a service and says, “I invited a person to church today, and they actually came!” It’s the same joy I get when seeing someone catch a fish for the first time! Our work here is to ensure that we are ready to welcome people, that our facilities are functional for new friends, and that we are taking every opportunity to meet people where they are but never leave them where they are. This is fishing, this is building!

But that next step of following Jesus... the more difficult one. That requires more than an invitation, it requires leaving behind some of our expectations. We often think the world revolves around us, but surrender invites us to see the world through Jesus - to follow him in the way of surrender, to choose to be last instead of first, to choose to be great by being the least. For most of us, this really looks like serving others with no expectation of being celebrated for our efforts. Now, I do want to say thank you to EVERY person who serves through this church, but that is not why we should do it. We should serve because that is what we are called to do and it reminds us that we are surrendered to Jesus that we are following him into all sorts of places, schools, apartment complexes, the nursery, food packing afternoons, and even onto a committee!

BUILDING OUR CHURCH MEANS BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE THE PEOPLE THAT JESUS LOVES ARE BOTH IN HERE AND OUT THERE!

Building our church means building our community because the people that Jesus loves are both in here and out there! It is the thing that I hear from so many people these days, “you all really do put Lawrenceville first” ... which is music to this pastor’s ears.

Now, I hope you know that we can find a place and find a purpose but if we haven’t found our people, then we are still missing the boat. For me, fishing is more fun when we do it together, when we learn from each other. Intentionally finding people that you can grow with, learn with, laugh with, pray with, and sometimes cry with is a necessary part of our faith journey. Building our church means building relationships that have deep foundations and are strong enough to survive all that life throws at it. Many of you have this sort of group, the kind of people who show up when the unexpected happens. But if you don’t have those people, if you can’t picture them in your head right now, we want to help you find those people. Don’t do life alone, we were made for community!

As your pastor, I want to say thank you. So many of the things I describe are already happening and you, yes YOU, are a part of it. I take great joy in watching each of you fish! And you are doing a great job; we’ve seen huge growth in all of our children’s ministry ages and events. We



had more kids in VBX this year than we have in over 12 years! Our worship numbers continue to increase by about 10% for the last two consecutive years. We’ve taken in over 150 new members in the last two years and shown positive membership growth for the first time in a decade. Our church is consistently spoken of with these words, “Oh you’re that church that...” and they fill in the blank with some sort of service that you are doing. But as we continue to experience the growth that we have seen in these last few years we need everyone to

be a part of Building Your Church, both here at 395 W Crogan and all over this community. I pray that you will commit to being a part of building this church, in this community, in this moment, because all of us need all of us to be involved in what God has planned for LV first.

Casting a line,
Adam H.

LIVING THE TRINITY

BY SARAH SNYDER
DIRECTOR OF CONNECTIONS

I grew up in a Christian home, like a really Christian one. My mom insisted that our education, home life, and whatever else she could conjure be solely focused on loving Jesus more and learning more about him. This included memorizing scripture. Now, as a 6–7-year-old, there were quite a few times I memorized scriptures that often did not quite click with me. I don’t think it helped that my mom had us memorizing out of the King James Version. One such passage that befuddled me was Matthew 20:16, “So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many

are called, but few are chosen” (KJV). Now, I was a competitive kid (I still am). I could not, no matter how hard I tried, comprehend this verse. What do you mean, “the first shall be last”? They’re not last, they’re first! Why would anyone want to be last? My family was so competitive that we considered second place just the first ones to lose. So here I was, a kid just trying to learn this Bible verse, so confused that wanting to win meant I was also last? It didn’t make any sense to me. I’m sure my mom explained it to me at some point, but I either didn’t get it or wasn’t listening.

As an adult, I hope I at least have a better grasp on the meaning of this verse. It comes at the end of a parable in which the landowner pays each of his workers the same amount, regardless of how long each had worked. Naturally, those who had worked the longest were irritated that they received the same amount as those who had only worked a few hours. Jesus summarizes this parable by stating that the first would be last and the last first. Here we see Jesus’ understanding of discipleship wrapped up in servanthood.

Our call as disciples is to step into the service of others, putting them first over ourselves. It’s a Biblical call that Jesus invites us into through his words and his own personal acts. He was always serving others by being amongst the lowly, healing the sick, and teaching along the way. He invites us into this way of life: putting others first, so that we might be last.

These ideas are found in explicit Biblical terms, but they’re also engrained in our foundational theology. The Trinity exists as an ever-serving person. Each member of

the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternally give and serve the other. The Father is the source. The Father gives of himself to the Son. The Son, in return, gives of himself by offering up to be the Word through which the Father can speak. Finally, the Holy Spirit is the breath by which the Son can speak. Each person of the Trinity works together, continually and eternally giving of themselves to the other.

It is in this way and through this example that we are called. This is the framework Jesus is working from when he calls us to be last. Matthew 20:16 comes across like a command, like everyone who is first will eventually be last; and in a lot of ways, it is a command. The world will one day be made right and those who are first will be last. However, the verse is also an invitation: one in which we can practice and participate in now.

By serving others, putting their needs ahead of our own, we participate in the life of the Trinity. Just as God is eternally serving the members of the Trinity, so too, are we to continuously serve others. By being disciples who look for ways to put others first and ourselves last, we find our way living a life that God himself participates in. This is our calling. To be like God, to be people that are truly living in God’s image, is to be people who serve. This is an individual calling, one that we are all to personally participate in. However, to fully participate in the same ways the Trinity does, we are called to serve together. We are better together, and we are at our best when we serve together. It is a corporate calling—one that together puts others first so that we might be last.

How are you putting others first? In what ways are you participating in the life of the Trinity and serving others? Each of us has a gift and role to play in the life of the church to further God’s kingdom. There are many ways at LV first that you can serve as an individual and as a corporate church. Our church requires around 100 volunteers to make sure that Sunday Mornings happen and around 50 for Wednesday nights—from tech teams to the kids ministry, we have lots of spaces for all kinds of gifts and talents to help you find a place that God is calling you to serve. We also have incredible relationships with local ministries that help fill the gap in our community. They too require assistance in guiding families in need within our community. These acts of corporate service are more than just logistics, they are living examples of discipleship, building up the body of Christ from the inside out.

You can find these resources and next steps for serving inside and outside the church on the church’s website: lvfirst.org/serve.

How are you putting others first? In what ways are you participating in the life of the Trinity and serving others? I hope and pray that the words of Matthew 20:16 resonate with you in a much more profound way than they did when I was a kid. Don’t let the competitive nature of our lives blind us from our ability (or inability) to put others first. Jesus beckons us to lay aside ourselves for the sake of others. In doing so, we live the life the Trinity invites us to, one of service to others first, graciously and eternally.



A PRAYER FOR NOW AND TOMORROW

BY REVEREND DEANNE LYNCH
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

God of grace, and of peace.
God of the silence and
God of the booming
voice.

God in the new and God from the beginning of time.

God of pose and practiced presence
and God in our stumbling words and actions.

It is comforting to stand in the presence of God's love! Lord, you go before us to make a way. You stand beside us, to guide us. You are behind us, encouraging, strengthening, and directing. You are majestic and free-spirited; you are creative and administrative. Lord, you are all we ever need, and all we will need!

We pause this day and call upon God's mighty name, the mighty name of Jesus. Come and stay. Today, there are so many things going through our lives, and our minds, causing us to worry, and forget about simple things, truthful things, all knowing things.

As the school year begins, Lord, we ask for a hedge of protection around each family represented here, every school system and all the teachers, administrators and school staff.

Lord, as we pray for peace, we recognize that it is not just the absence of war or violence; but it is the presence of your calming spirit amid turbulence. Oh, Lord, as we hear these comforting words, might we also find peace, harmony, and beaucoup de paix.

It is the quiet confidence that no matter what storms may rage outside, our souls remain anchored in your stillness. God's Word is filled with assurances that God is near to

the brokenhearted, calms the storm, and blesses children with peace-- that peace that surpasses all understanding. And as we pray for peace, might we realize the areas of our lives that need SHALOM.

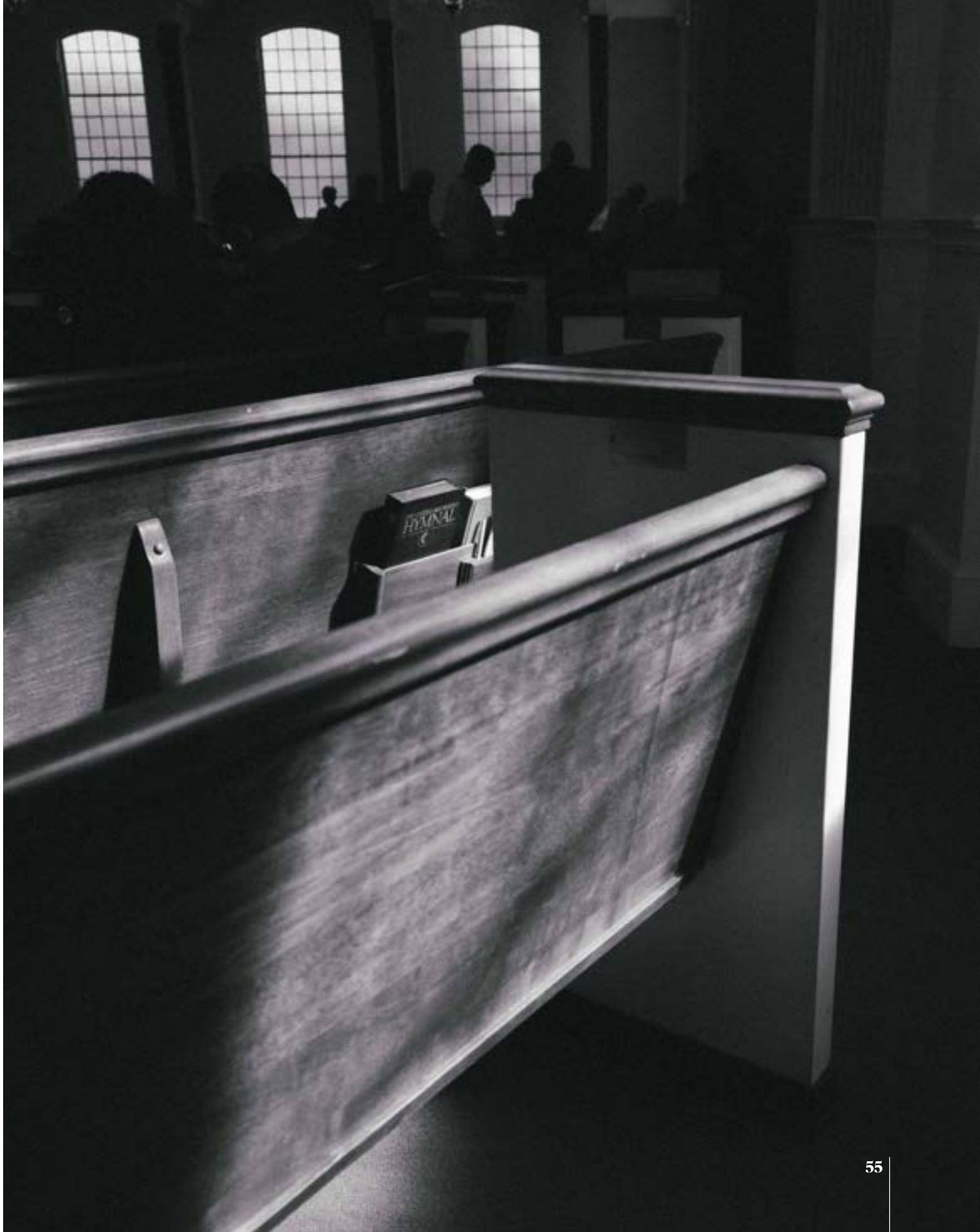
Lord, give us the confidence to share your love and care with all whom we come in contact with.

Lord, give us the words to say, the confidence to say them, and close our mouths should we need to be silent.

We raise you up, mighty Savior. We ask for your unyielding peace. You are the joy that comes in the morning! The care that surrounds us. There are so many who don't know you. Help us to share truth and love with them. Lord, write your words, your song, your very essence in their hearts. Show us how we can guide others to you. Your message is straight forward and simple. We need nothing more than to be in your love and sharing that love with everyone!

Lord, forgive us when we sin against you, against others. Reveal yourself to us in the quiet of this moment!

May we recognize you, oh Lord, your ultimate clarity and energy! May we hear your direction and guidance as we take time to contemplate our commitments to you, whether our time, our worship, our generosity and your guidance. God's love is more than we deserve. But isn't that the truth? God calls us to a relationship. God hears our prayers; even when all we can do is cry out, we lift this to our God. We join together and pray all of this in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.



**A GREAT THANK YOU TO THE HANDS AND
HEARTS THAT BUILT THIS JOURNAL.**

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ABOUT

Lawrenceville First is a Methodist Church located in Downtown Lawrenceville, GA. LVfirst is working to connect the Church to the Community and the Community to the Church.

For more information about serving or taking the next steps in Building Your Church, scan the QR code or go to lvfirst.org/serve



SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning
8:30AM | 9:30AM | 11:00AM

ADDRESS

395 W Crogan St.
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

