

LCC CONNECTIONS

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

We are all too familiar with New Year's resolutions. One of the most popular is to begin going to the gym regularly. Another is to maintain a better diet. We also know too well the success of these resolutions. Typically, the first month of the new year goes well, and then we find ourselves right back in our usual habits. We end up sitting on the sofa too much or binge watching a streaming show or eating too much junk food (like French fries!). "What in the world happened?" we ask ourselves. Then we comfort ourselves with the words, "There's always next year!" The intention of New Year's resolutions is good (or we would not make them at all); it's the execution that is difficult.

As important as New Year's resolutions about having a more disciplined exercise routine or diet may be, what about a more disciplined spiritual life for the new year? Have you ever made one of these? Maybe you resolved one year to read the Bible in a year or just read it every day. Perhaps you resolved to pray more or learn how to fast. Maybe you committed yourself to serve the church in a greater capacity.

How about this: resolve to just learning about different spiritual disciplines and then working on one or two of them next year? This way, you would not necessarily be committed to a specific routine or daily (or even weekly) practice. You have all year to read and learn about different ways to build your faith and relationship with God.

To help you get started, here is a list of some of the spiritual disciplines Christians have practiced throughout the years. It is followed by some books to investigate the "ins-and-outs" of spiritual disciplines.

Some Spiritual Disciplines:

- Bible reading
- Prayer
- Meditation on God and Scripture
- Reflection
- Fasting
- Solitude
- Study
- Worship

Helpful Books:

- Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald Whitney
- Renovation of the Heart by Dallas Willard
- The Spirit of the Disciplines by Dallas Willard
- Disciplines of a Godly Man by R. Kent Hughes

This year, make a spiritual resolution: discover what the spiritual disciplines are, and try one of them out. You will not be disappointed! You will certainly grow closer to the Lord.

"In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there" (Mark 1:35; NASB).

Your Friend and Minister, Dr. Pete



Southwest Christian Care is a ministry dedicated to providing the highest quality care and support for terminally ill patients, children with special needs, and senior adults, all supported by a spiritual and grief recovery care team.

Southwest Christian Care provides loving and quality healthcare for those facing end of life in their Hospice, nurturing intervention, education and respite care for medically fragile children at Hope House, and supportive comfort to Seniors as they are challenged with loneliness or memory loss. It remains their ultimate desire to reduce the stress, worry and financial burdens on families so that they may be in a stronger position to care for each other.

For this reason, they continue to never charge for their services. They do not subject families to the rigors of navigating insurance, Medicaid or Medicare coverage while in their care—they just want them to focus solely on their loved ones.

Their staff is able to spend more one-on-one time with each guest instead of being tasked with the burden of completing mountains of paperwork in billing for services provided. Through generous and charitable champions of our mission, they are able to make a tremendous impact on the families we serve through excellent quality care.

We at LCC are happy that we're able to provide monthly support for this very important ministry. Please keep them in your prayers this month. To find out more about this ministry, visit them at lilburnchristianchurch.org/missions.

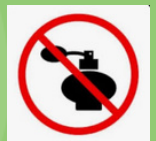
What a wonderful Christmas season we had preparing and sharing Light of the World.

On Sunday, December 1st, the choir and orchestra along (with help from Rob Hubbard and Brian Melton) presented our Christmas program at the Gwinnett Christian Terrace. Many residents attended, and we were all blessed to take the program TO those would not likely be able to attend in person at LCC. 🙌

On the 8th, we presented the program here at LCC & again on the 15th at Whistleville Christian Church. We closed out the season with our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve Service. God is good and we rejoice in the great year that we've had through this ministry. Additionally, we celebrate with gratitude the new members who have joined the choir, orchestra and tech ministry during 2024.

Regular Wednesday rehearsals begin on January 8. We rehearse in the sanctuary from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

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



Thrive

Alex Aleman
Youth Pastor



As we wrap up 2024, I am thankful for each and every one of you.

Your support and love have made this ministry a blessing to be a part of.

I pray that God blessed each and every one of you this Christmas and will continue to bless you into the new year.

We celebrate this season as a reminder that the God of the Universe, the God who needs nothing outside of himself, thought us to be important enough to send Himself in the person of Jesus Christ to pay the price Himself for sins that He did not commit. The sin that had to be answered for in justice, He answered Himself. Why? Because His love for us is so vast and encompassing that it was worth it.

It was His free gift of salvation that makes us whole. He would rather suffer for a time, so that we could be with Him into eternity. What a blessing. What a gift. What a God. What a friend and big brother.

The last thing that Thrive did this past year was to celebrate Christmas in the form of a party. We spent time with each other, doing a gift exchange and having some fun snacks.

It was a great time together, sharing and loving on each other as we close out the 2024.

Alex Aleman
Youth Pastor.



Jennifer Rasor

Children's Director

Happy New Year! I love new beginnings, don't you? The feeling of starting afresh and leaving the old behind can be invigorating. It can also be scary if you don't particularly like change. The Lord has taught me that just as He was leading and guiding me in the past, so shall He lead me in the new. Proverbs 3:5-6 is one of my favorite passages. "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all of your ways and He will make your path straight." I am praying that our SHINE kids will learn to trust in God more and more in 2025! God is so good!

Looking back: What a fun time we had at our first annual Gingerbread Bash! We were so excited to have 65 people there. Praise God for His blessings of family, fun, and most importantly, learning about the true meaning of Christmas. Also in December, our SHINE kids sang with our LCC choir on Christmas Sunday. What a joy it is to see our little ones learning to praise our God! Anyone who serves in SHINE knows what an absolute privilege it is to teach our young ones how glorious our God is.

Looking ahead: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is coming! Our informational meeting will be on Sunday, January 26, right after church. A light lunch will be served. Please come and join us if you are interested in helping out in this vital area of community outreach. I would love to have everyone there!



Recharged (Adult Singles)

The Recharged group hosted an open invitation to all LCC adults to see 'The Christmas Story' at On Stage Walton in Monroe. We had 7 sign up to go.

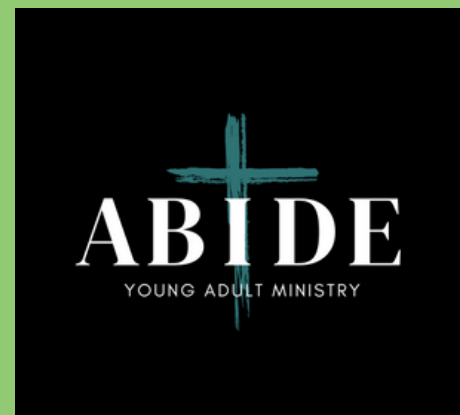
After dinner at Chicken Salad Chick in Loganville, we carpooled to the playhouse.

The play was very well done with an excellent multi-generational cast. It was fun to see a live production vs. the movie. It made us laugh out loud - just like the movie.

For 2025:

The Recharged group will plan and host quarterly events which will be open to all LCC adults. One of those events will be another play at On Stage Walton. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for future dates.

If you have any suggestions for other future events, please contact Rosie Bengtson or Karen Throckmorton.



What an exciting and amazing time it's been the last few weeks and will continue for Abide. As Abide continues its Wednesday nights in watching The Chosen and discussing the Biblical truths this amazing series portrays, we invite any and all between the ages of 18 to 29 years old to join us. The last Wednesday night class before Christmas, Abide planned to watch The Chosen's Christmas movie showing the true Christmas story, but its such a good story that it was opened for all classes to join us, with Abide leading the event. Just after the first of the year, thanks to so many of you who have helped financially, many members from Abide will be going to the Passion 2025 Conference in downtown Atlanta, which as its been said before, is a Faith affirming and Life changing event. As it was said at the beginning of this article, what an exciting and amazing time it is now for our Young Adults at LCC, as we also move to a new and larger classroom, located in the Family Life Center after the new year.





Ladies Christmas Brunch

"Jesus is the Light of the World"

On December 8, the Family Life Center was aglow with candles and Christmas lights as 35 ladies gathered to celebrate "Jesus, The Light of the World". The tables were covered with red tablecloths and centered with hurricane lamps holding white candles encircled with greenery. White napkins tied with a hand painted mini light bulb completed the décor.

A game of Christmas trivia was played and the first table to spell Christmas Joy with correct answers won the game and were allowed to go to the serving table first.

The meal included a Breakfast Casserole of eggs, bacon & hashbrown potatoes, fruit & Yogurt Parfait, cinnamon rolls, orange juice and coffee.

Following the meal, Teri Wilson presented a program which opened with a skit about Christmas lights and the true meaning of Christmas. The Christmas Story from Luke and Matthew was read in segments and after each segment, Teri asked questions for the ladies to silently reflect upon.

\$615 in gift cards and a shopping cart of canned goods were donated to Lilburn Co-op as our Service Project for this event.

Watch the church newsletter and the Sunday bulletin for upcoming events of the Sisters of Grace Fellowship Ministry. All of the LCC ladies are invited and urged to attend.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 01 New Year's Day, No Wed. night meal nor activities
- 04 De-decorate the big tree at 10 am
- 05 De-decorate the Sanctuary after the service
- 06 LCC Prayer Service, 7:00 - 8:00 pm at LCC
- 11 LCC Work Day in FLC Classrooms Upstairs @ 9:00 am.
- 12 Membership Class in FLC, 12:15-2:15 pm
- 26 VBS Volunteer meeting after the service. VBS will be June 1-5, 2025.

February

- 22 Chili Cook-Off, save the date. More info will be forthcoming.



- Prayer Requests
- Teresa Herring
- Linda Proctor
- Glenda Middleton
- Dennis & Marcia Heinz
- Richard Walker
- Ron & Carol Hill
- Richard Blankenship
- Jimmy Hendricks & Family
- Janet Curtiss
- Donna Stamm & Wayne Starling
- Eddie Herring & Family
- Bobby Roberts
- Sharon Keyes & Family



Mike Bonet
December 29, 2024



BIBLE READING PLAN



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER OF THE
BIBLE.

January
2025

- 1 Psalms 148; Genesis 1-2; Ephesians 1
- 2 Genesis 3-4; Ephesians 2
- 3 Genesis 5-6; Psalms 12; Ephesians 3
- 4 Genesis 7-8; Ephesians 4
- 5 Psalms 8; Genesis 9-10; Ephesians 5
- 6 Genesis 11-13; Ephesians 6
- 7 Genesis 14-15; Psalms 47; Matthew 1
- 8 Genesis 16-18; Matthew 2
- 9 Psalms 11; Genesis 19-20; Matthew 3
- 10 Genesis 21-23; Matthew 4
- 11 Genesis 24; Matthew 5
- 12 Genesis 25; Matthew 6; Psalms 127
- 13 Genesis 26-27; Matthew 7
- 14 Genesis 28-29; Matthew 8
- 15 Genesis 30; Matthew 9
- 16 Genesis 31; Matthew 10
- 17 Genesis 32-33; Matthew 11; Ps 131
- 18 Genesis 34; Matthew 12; Psalms 64
- 19 Genesis 35; Matthew 13
- 20 Genesis 36; Matthew 14
- 21 Genesis 37-38; Matthew 15
- 22 Genesis 39-40; Matthew 16
- 23 Genesis 41; Psalms 40; Matthew 17
- 24 Genesis 42; Matthew 18
- 25 Genesis 43-44; Matthew 19
- 26 Genesis 45-46; Matthew 20
- 27 Genesis 47; Matthew 21
- 28 Genesis 48-49; Matthew 22
- 29 Genesis 50; Exodus 1; Matthew 23
- 30 Exodus 2-3; Matthew 24
- 31 Exodus 4; Matthew 25

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