

LCC CONNECTIONS

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Church Family,

Not too long ago, I met a pastor friend of mine for lunch. We talked about life in general, but we also discussed the church where he ministered. As he spoke, I could see some anguish on his face. His emotions heightened, and his mannerisms became more dynamic. Then, like a geyser that bursts open from the depths of the earth, he cried out, "I just wish there was something we could do to get the people in my church to go deeper and to want Jesus really personally. We are just in a rut, going through the motions."

I would be lying if I said I did not feel the same way at times. Pastors everywhere have this passion—this desire—for the people to whom they minister. Why else would they be called to the ministry? What else would drive them? If there is anything desired by pastors, it is that their people will be strong, faithful disciples who know the Lord deeply. But how does a pastor and a church stoke such a longing in her people?

I did not really have any good advice for my pastor friend. The only response I could muster was: (1) I shared the same desire, and he is not alone, and (2) reality really stinks. The first seems obvious, but the second not as much. The stinky reality is that Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matt 7:13-14; NASB). In other words, not many will truly find the way of Christ. The fact of the matter is that most do not want to go deeper in their faith and really want to know Jesus personally. Yes, I know. It sounds harsh and terrible. Reality stinks. Jesus said so.

So are we helpless? Is it a fruitless endeavor to try guiding people into a deeper relationship with Jesus? What can we do? How can we stop "playing church" and really grow closer to Christ?

We may be powerless, but God is not! Specifically, God's Word is powerful, and the Holy Spirit continues to work, drawing people to Jesus. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." When the Gospel is preached, the message penetrates the very heart of unbelievers as well as believers. Note that Hebrews says the message (God's Word) is living and active. It is not dead, lying dormant, or no longer working.

In addition to God's Word being active, the Holy Spirit works. Jesus told his disciples that when he ascends back to Heaven, he would send the Spirit, and he would "convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment" (John 16:8). These words of Jesus, unfortunately, are taken by some to be no longer applicable—that the Spirit no longer convicts people of sin, righteousness, and judgment. This is far from the truth. If it were not for the Spirit working, no one would (or could) come to Christ. Our sinful hearts and minds must be penetrated with the Gospel by the power of the Spirit.

In the conversation with my pastor friend, I actually gave one other piece of advice: remember Jesus' words in Matthew 19:26. "With people this [salvation] is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Although we may not have the power to convict others to have a deeper relationship with Christ, God does. As Christ-followers, all we can do is maintain the course: preach and teach the Word of God. Hopefully and prayerfully, others will decide to imbibe deeply from the well of Living Water.



Its time for camp!! If you have children or grandchildren, please take a few minutes to get them registered for camp! Church camp provides a great opportunity for children to learn about Jesus, have fun and make lasting lifetime memories. Lilburn supports North GA Christian Camp, however, there's also Woodland Christian Camp. Both offers a wild variety of activities, dates etc. Please take a few minutes to visit their website and register! Lilburnchristianchurch.org /missions and for Woodland Christian Camp: woodlandcamp.org. Registration opened Feb 1st! N. GA Camp has new camps such as Art/Photography camp, Adventure Jr., Day Camp; Art Week, TREK (a backpacking adventure camp for rising 8th graders-graduating seniors.

Please pray for a successful camp this year and that souls are saved!




Rehearsal

Wednesdays: We rehearse in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

Sunday Mornings: We rehearse from 9:00 - 9:30 am.

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

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
- James 1:22 -

heartlight.org

Hosted at Lilburn Christian Church

UNITED

Worship Night

Sunday September 21st at 5:00pm

Come worship, pray and fellowship with churches from all over Georgia

Interested in participating?
Contact Dwayne Wylds at dwayne@lilburncc.com

Visit our website to learn more www.lilburnchristianchurch.org

Thrive

Alex Aleman
Youth Pastor



As we start off our new year, we are focusing on the meaning of Sin, Conviction, Guilt and Grace.

I believe it is important for our young people to understand the differences in these because so many of our students find themselves feeling guilty even after confessing their sin and asking for forgiveness.

The devil loves to make us feel guilty but the Bible tells us that if we sin and confess that sin, we are forgiven and that sin is no longer remembered by God.

Isaiah 43:25 says

“I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sin.”

And 1 John 1:9, says

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

How beautiful it is to know that our Lord and Savior gave his life as a ransom for us so that we could be forgiven and reconciled to him.

Pray for our students as we study these subjects in depth.

One last thing... Brandan and Cam (former Thrive members, now Abide members) have started a Bible study. I am so proud of these two young men. They have been meeting with a group of friends on Tuesday nights. They study God's word for hours, talking and discussing the things of God.

Keep them in your prayers as God leads them.

Matthew 5:14-16 – “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Our kids' area is called Shine because one of our many roles as a follower of Jesus is to allow our lights to shine in front of others, not so that we may be glorified, but that our light would point to the True Light that has come into the world. A great analogy of this in creation is the relationship of the moon to the sun. The moon doesn't have a light of its own, but it is covered in reflective powder that reflects the light of the sun, the source of power, heat, and light in our solar system. We want our kids to know who God is so that they can learn to reflect that light to others in a dark world. May His light shine through us so that others may glorify Him!

January was a slow month in Shine as many of our families have been fighting sickness and the cold weather. We are looking forward to warmer weather and welcoming our little ones back! We have been learning about the life of Jesus in our Preschool Sunday school class, while elementary kids have been in the gospels in Children's Church. This past Sunday, they learned of the healing of the leper.

As always, thank you to our faithful volunteers who have shown up this month! I appreciate each and every one of you.





Recharged (Adult Singles)

The Recharged group is hosting quarterly events in 2025.

This is for anyone who is interested (not just single adults).

The sign-up sheet is in the foyer. Please sign up if you are interested.

Check your calendars and be ready to discuss possible dates.

If these events do not interest you, please let us know what you would like to do.

Questions: Ask Rosie Bengtson or Karen Throckmorton.

1st Quarter: Atlanta Exhibition

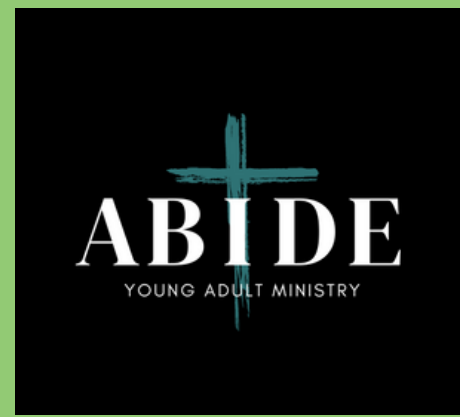
Discovering the world of Jesus:

* Explore life in the Holy Land 2,000 years ago through state-of-the-art displays combining archaeology and modern technology. Marvel at over 350 genuine relics.

(This exhibit is in Atlanta until the end of February.)

2nd Quarter: Gainesville Botanical Garden

Date: To Be Determined / Springtime – April?



Abide for Young Adults continues its Wednesday night studies using the Chosen video series taught by Byron Davidson. We just finished season 1. It's an amazing series helping us to understand the way it could have been when Jesus taught and preached to His early followers.

We now have a new classroom dedicated to our Abide group. We are now meeting in the FLC upstairs classroom. Alyssa has done a great job in getting this set up for us with decorations and furniture, just for us!

Many of the Abide group also attended the Passion 2025 Conference the first week in January, what a tremendous event in ATL at the State Farm Arena this year. In all we had 14 young adults and 4 leaders attend. God is moving in these young adults. Please continue to pray for this group, and please let any young adult 18 to 25 years old know we have a place for them in Abide.



UPCOMING

EVENTS

February

- 03 Prayer meeting, 7-8 pm
- 09 Launching Pad (membership class) 12:15 - 2:15 pm.
- 16 VBS meeting after the service for anyone interested in helping out with pre-schoolers.
- 22 Chili Cook-Off, save the date. More info will be forthcoming.

March

- 01 Ramadan Prayer for Muslims event (night of prayer for Muslims during Ramadan) from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. In addition to prayer, there will be a presentation on the beliefs and practices of Islam.
- 16 Main Street Concert at LCC at 6:00 pm

Welcome
New Members



Chuck Marchman
January 26, 2025



Prayer Requests

- Linda Proctor
- Glenda Middleton
- Dennis & Marcia Heinz
- Richard Walker
- Ron & Carol Hill
- Richard Blankenship
- Janet Curtiss
- Bobby Roberts
- Sharon Keyes & Family
- Tony Knight
- Harold Holcombe
- Hal Rodgers
- Laurie Evans
- Bill O'Brien (and Cade)
- Family of Dotty Zetty
- Family of Nevelle Hawkins
- Phyllis Macheski



Luz Falconi
January 26, 2025



BIBLE READING PLAN



NEVER UNDERESTIMATE
THE POWER OF THE
BIBLE.

February
2025

- 1 Exodus 5; Matthew 26; Psalm 41
- 2 Exodus 6; Matthew 27
- 3 Exodus 7-8; Matthew 28; Psalm 67
- 4 Exodus 9-10; Psalm 105
- 5 Exodus 11-12; Psalm 91
- 6 Exodus 13-15; Psalm 114
- 7 Exodus 16-18; 1 Peter 1
- 8 1 Peter 2; Exodus 19-20
- 9 Exodus 21-22; 1 Peter 3
- 10 Exodus 23-24; 1 Peter 4
- 11 Exodus 25-26; 1 Peter 5
- 12 Exodus 27-28; Psalms 96
- 13 Exodus 29-30; 2 Corinthians 1
- 14 Exodus 31-32; 2 Corinthians 2
- 15 Exodus 33-34; 2 Corinthians 3
- 16 Exodus 35-36; 2 Corinthians 4
- 17 Exodus 37-38; 2 Corinthians 5
- 18 Exodus 39-40; 2 Corinthians 6
- 19 Leviticus 1-3; 2 Corinthians 7
- 20 Leviticus 4-5; 2 Corinthians 8
- 21 Leviticus 6-7; 2 Corinthians 9
- 22 Leviticus 8-10; 2 Corinthians 10
- 23 Leviticus 11; 2 Corinthians 11; Ps 56
- 24 Leviticus 12-13; 2 Corinthians 12
- 25 Leviticus 14-15; 2 Corinthians 13
- 26 1 John 1; Leviticus 16-18
- 27 1 John 2; Leviticus 19-21
- 28 Leviticus 22-23; 1 John 3

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With an open heart..
WELCOME
FEBRUARY
New beginnings

New **month**
New **start**
New **focus**
New **blessings.**

looking forward to
more **lessons,**
more **laughter** and
more

Love.

