The Grapevine



November 2026



Save the Date!

LPC Christmas Special: Searching for God Through Music

Saturday, December 12th @ 4:00pm,

followed by a family dinner at 5:30pm

All are welcome to our Searching for God Through Music Christmas Program, followed by a family dinner together! This evening will include a presentation by Alan Nowicki, featuring the LPC Chancel Choir, LPC Cherub Choir, LPC Adult Bell Choir and the LPC Worship Team.

Following the Christmas Program will be a family dinner in Waith Fellowship Hall. *Please bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share!*

Invite your family & friends as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ together!

"Come to Me, and I Will Give You Rest"

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30)

(Taken by permission from "Anxiety – Knowing God's Peace" *A 31-Day Devotional for Life* by Paul Tautges)



Rest is the polar opposite of anxiety. Our anxious hearts long for rest but can't seem to find it. And the rest that we need is even deeper than the rest that we typically seek. Too often, we crave immediate relief from our worry rather than the ultimate respite: the quiet contentment for our souls that is found in Jesus. The antidote to our anxiety is *security in the Savior.*

What is the context for these verses? Jesus' command "Come to me" immediately follows a bold revelation of his deity and of his intimate fellowship with the Father (Matt. 11:25-27). Jesus then connects the rest that we seek from our present burdens to the all-important rest that is found in him.

Consider three truths from Matthew 11:28-30 that enable us to rest.

Jesus commands all who are burdened to come to him. The adjective "heavy laden" refers to being burdened by a massive weight of great importance. Since the context of this verse reveals that Jesus' immediate audience is unbelievers, the burden of greatest importance that he is referring to must be sin. As the "one mediator between God and men" (1 Tim. 2:5), he is in the rightful position to command us to come to him. The Bible calls repenting of unbelief and believing in Christ "the obedience of faith" (Rom 1:5). By faith we cease whatever religious "labor" we think may earn our salvation, and we rest in the finished work of our gentle, but triumphant, Savior.

Jesus commands us to be learners. When we obey the gospel's call to come to the Lord Jesus for salvation from our sin, we become disciples – learners. We become lifelong apprentices of Jesus as we carry his yoke. But Jesus says that this yoke is "easy" and that the "burden" of obedience is "light" – just as the apostle John teaches: the commandments of Jesus "are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).

Jesus promises "soul rest". The ultimate rest that Jesus promises to all who come to him is peace for their souls. The burden of sin's penalty is completely lifted, and we are forgiven. But Christ never promises complete deliverance from life's other burdens, trials, and afflictions. He promises the exact opposite to his disciples – that they will be persecuted and hated because of him (John 15:18-19). Nonetheless, Jesus promises to carry these burdens with us and for us.

The stubborn root of anxiety is a fundamental distrust in God's sovereignty, love, and goodness to us – as though Christ doesn't matter anymore. We must sever the root of unbelief at its deepest point by applying the gospel, which is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom 1:16). If we are yoked to Jesus, then nothing that we might fear can threaten God's love for us. Nothing (Rom. 8:38-39). Not that's what I call *rest*!

Sunday Morning Prayer Gathering

This will be a time of weekly corporate prayer dedicated to the pastoral search using the ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) acronym as a framework. Come and pray silently or out loud. All ages are welcome. Parents, please feel free to bring your children.
Meeting weekly in room 106 at LPC on Sunday mornings from 9am to 9:30am.

Prayer Gathering—Monday, November 2nd @ 1:00pm in the Church Library

This will be a time of prayer for the upcoming elections.

The One Year Chronological Bible Sunday School Class has transitioned to the New Testament Book of Acts in November!

The One Year Bible class has transitioned into the New Testament for the remainder of 2026! In November we move into the book of Acts which details the history of the early Christian church, the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the spread of Christianity across the Roman Empire. Our Adult Sunday School meets in room 114/115 each Sunday, you are welcome to join us. The daily readings are available online, including the opportunity to listen to the readings along with a brief daily commentary at:
https://chronologicalbibleblog.com

Adult Education Class - Fall 2026

The Adult Sunday School Class will begin a new video series this Fall called **"A Survey of Church History"**, with Robert Godfrey of Ligonier Ministries. Each class centers around the ~ 20-minute feature video by Dr. Godfrey with class discussions around some specific events of historical significance in the Church from 100-600 AD. The class will meet in Waith Hall right after church. Come join us and learn about such figures such as Polycarp, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Origen, and the Emperor Constantine. Who were these men and what was the significance of their lives on the Church?

Mighty Warriors class in the same classroom and at the same time as the Adult Education hour. This year we will finish the Ten Commandments and learn about how to lead godly lives from the book, "The Man God Uses" by Henry and Tom Blackaby. We will continue to grow in God's wisdom as we study His Word together!

1 Peter 3:12, *The Lord's eyes look on godly people, and he blesses them. His ears are open to their prayers."*
Love in Christ, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Jackson

Meeting the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month - November 8, November 22, December 13, December 27

The Adult Bell Choir will be rehearsing weekly on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00pm in the Music Room. All are welcome whether new to music ministry or an experienced veteran.

LPC Ladies Ministry

Ladies Thursday Morning Small Group

Dates: November 5, December 3, December 17

Time: 10:00—12:00pm, in Waith Fellowship Hall

Topic: *My Times Are In Your Hands, A Study in God's Faithfulness in Affliction*

What to bring: A friend!

Led by: Sharon Miller

Wednesday Family Night & Awana Clubs!



Awana Clubs at LPC for:

- **Cubbies** (ages 3 – PreK): 6pm to 7:30pm in the LPC building
- **Sparks** (K–2nd): 6pm to 7:30pm at the Potters House
- **T&T** (3rd–6th): 6pm to 7:30pm at the Potters House

Our family pizza dinner (5:30PM – 6:00PM) with pizza from Picasso's will continue on Wednesdays before our Awana Clubs! We ask families to contribute $1/slice, if possible. We strongly encourage parents to join their children for dinner, as it's a meaningful opportunity to grow in community together!

After dinner, the kiddos will go to Awana, and we welcome parents and guardians to join us for an **adult small group**. Wednesday night **adult small group** will be held during Awana (6 - 7:30 pm) with a focus on supporting parents and families. We will use the small group material biweekly, with topics of special interest and extra time for fellowship on alternate weeks. **Nursery care** (age 0 -2 years) is available for participants, so invite your **friends and young families**. We are making plans to subdivide/rotate the group as we grow.

Awana *is a fun, Bible memory program for kids that helps them grow in their faith through Scripture memory, engaging lessons, and exciting games.* ***AWANA*** *stands for* ***A****pproved* ***W****orkmen* ***Are N****ot* ***A****shamed (2 Timothy 2:15). At LPC, we believe that the Word of God is precious and powerful and that the memorization and meditation of it transforms hearts and lives. This powerful ministry teaches young minds and equips parents in leading their children in the way of the Lord!*

This is going to be a BLAST! We hope you join us!

Please sign up to join us by using the link found on our website under ***Awana***. Signing up ahead of time helps us to plan for accurate materials!

Christmas Caroling!!

Wednesday, December 16th @ 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Families, youth, and children are invited to go caroling!

Come for pizza at 5:30pm and then plan to stay for Christmas Caroling fun, as we bring joy to the residents at Symphony Manor! We will gather in Waith Hall at 6 PM after our pizza dinner and walk over to Symphony Manor together (~5 minute walk), returning to Waith Hall again for fellowship over some hot chocolate and Christmas goodies, including a showing of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*! THIS IS OPEN TO THE WHOLE CONGREGATION! COME AND JOIN US!

Junior & Senior High Youth Group (7th –12th grade)

Join the GroupMe to stay in the loop!



Saturday, November 14 - Friendsgiving Edition Come for dinner, a Bible lesson, Small Groups & a Thanksgiving party! 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Saturday, December 5 - Christmas Edition Come for dinner, a Bible lesson, Small Groups & a Christmas Party! 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Contact Raffi Wright, LPC Youth & Music Director with questions (raffi@L-P-C.org).

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

Drop off your shoeboxes now until Sunday November 22nd!



It is time to begin packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The collection dates this year are November 16-23.
If you bring your boxes to our church, we will be taking them to Eastern Hills Church, which is the next stop on their journey, on **Sunday November 22**.

Here are some suggestions for things to include in your boxes:

School supplies Crayons, colored pencils, markers (Preferably Crayola brand items), pencil sharpeners, erasers, rulers, glue sticks, pens and pencils with no business/church advertising logos, small pads of papers/notebooks, small calculators, drawstring backpacks

Other suggested items: Flip Flops, Personal Hygiene items-Toothbrush, Plastic dish and bar of soap, washcloth, Jump ropes--the longer the better, Deflated soccer ball and pump, A sturdy bowl or cup and a spoon or spork, A plain colored T-shirt, socks, stuffed animals

For older children: Gardening/work gloves, Sewing Kit, Flashlight-Solar or LED--send extra batteries with the ends taped over

A few items that should NOT be included: Soap, Toothpaste, Candy and gum (both are no longer allowed and will be removed), Anything that requires an explanation--don't send games or crafts with English directions, Anything that is not brand new, War Toys, Anything liquid, including bottles of glue, anything glass that could break.

If you decide to wrap your box after it has been packed, the top and bottom must be wrapped individually. Every shoe box is looked through at the collection center in North Carolina. The shoe box recipients receive a gospel booklet presented in their own language. Shoe box recipients also receive an invitation to attend a 12 lesson follow-up discipleship program called the Greatest Journey. The cost of **processing each box is $10.00**. You may include a check for this amount in your shoebox or you may donate this on-line at Samaritanspurse.org and receive a shipping label that you can tape on your box. If you donate on-line, it will also track your box and you can go on-line to Operation Christmas Child, Pack a shoebox, and Label Options. You should be able to see what country your box or boxes went to.

There is a table set up by the lounge area under the sanctuary where there are plenty of empty boxes. Help yourself!! Plastic shoe boxes work great as well!! You can also purchase boxes from Samaritan's purse directly if you like. They have 2 kinds--plastic or cardboard. **The website is: Samaritanspurse.org.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office at 716-684-2277. Have fun beginning to think about packing your shoe boxes and be in prayer that just the right boy or girl will receive your box or boxes!! I would also ask that if you packed 1 box last year you might consider doing 2 boxes this year. Every box counts and there are lots of children around the world who may only receive this simple shoe box as a gift at Christmas!!

November Missionary of the Month - Niagara Gospel Mission

NIAGARA GOSPEL MISSION
HELP • HOPE • HEALING

Niagara Gospel Mission is located in the heart of Niagara Falls. The zip code where we operate is the 3rd poorest zip code in all of WNY. We have been operating since 2007 and always located in the City. Being on staff at Niagara Gospel Mission is a difficult work for everyone. We regularly witness fights, people struggling under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and people running away from someone looking to abuse them. Our staff also witnesses men who are succeeding suddenly struggle with issues like relapsing. This affects the staff greatly as it is an intense environment; we see things on a regular basis many people never see. It is hard to compartmentalize when we see things happening 20 minutes away from where we live, yet at the same time, we would never witness these things in the communities we live in. We are currently working on training our residents in biblical counseling. We work through a program called IBCD (Institute for Biblical Counseling & Discipleship). Our goal is to train 5 of our key leaders who have graduated our programs in biblical counseling, so they can assist us in the ministry here at Niagara Gospel Mission. We are currently working on building our Women's Center extension. Through this we will house 25 homeless women and look forward to the opportunity to be a gospel witness for women in need of Christ. This is a $6,000,000 project and is a large undertaking trying to find the right staff, enough funding, and revitalizing an old portion of our building. Our goal is to have all staff hired and be open by June 2027. One verse we continue to look to Nehemiah 2:17 and view it as a verse that is very applicable to our city (Niagara Falls). We believe we serve a role similar to Nehemiah in our city.

Prayer requests

- Pray that we would find a godly woman to lead and run our Women's Center, this our greatest need for the Women's Center project.
- Pray for conversion of the residents at our mission, that God would soften their hearts and bring them to Christ.



Prayer Page

Pray for the pastor: Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, we come before you to lift up Pastor Kelly. We ask that You lay Your healing hands on him, relieving his pain and restoring his body to full strength. Guide the doctors and medical team, giving them wisdom to find the right levels to treat the Parkinsons. We pray for peace and comfort for the Negus family. May this trial bring glory to Your name and allow Pastor Kelly to be strengthened by Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Praying for LPC ministries:

Session: The KAP prayer is to be prayer asking for the Lord's blessing upon and His help with the work of Session. Session this month wishes to offer the following KAP prayer requests:

- Please pray for the Interim Pastor Seach Committee.
- Please pray for the Senior Pastor Search Committee.

Deacons: Dear Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, and Holy Spirit, thank you for Your Word, amazing love, hearts for you, and perfect gift of salvation. We rejoice that You gave your only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life in heaven with You. Please help us to stay vigilant daily, ensuring our hearts are in you and not of the world. Keep us from temptations of the flesh or eyes and of being prideful; may we be examples and light in the world to draw others to Your saving grace. Please refresh us daily with the fruits of the spirit and guide us to share Your good news with others continuously and tirelessly without ceasing. We pray all this in Jesus name, AMEN



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Praying for our family

Pastor Kelly
Mike Bishop
KC Carlsen
Jan Majors
Dianne Perry
Judy Cavanaugh
Bill Stortz
Helen Markham
Carole Schafer
Paul & Carol Welker
Doris Moranski
Violet Chaves
Judy Martin
Don Flaig

Home Members
Shirley Richard
Nancy Patterson
Dave Breckenridge
Millie Epolito
Jackie Harbold
Judy Kish

LPC's Military Personnel:
Thomas Carlsen II

LPC Prayer Ministry:
If you have a prayer request or would like to be part of the prayer email list please contact the church office by email (office@l-p-c.org) or call Marie in the church office at 716-684-2277.

Lancaster Presbyterian Church

Non-Profit
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Raffi Wright, Youth & Music Director

Purpose:
For God's glory
we are committed
to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ
in all we say and all we do
to make and equip disciples
in our families, our community, and the world.

Core Values:
We believe in the authority of Scripture
and we affirm
the historic teachings
of Reformed Christianity.

Address Service Requested

