

The Grapevine

March 2026



Celebrate Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29th @ 9:30am

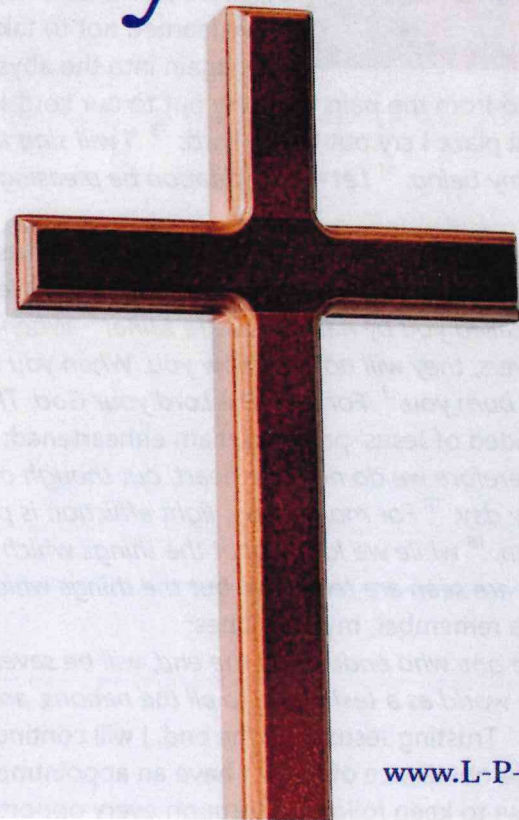
Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2nd @ 7:30pm

Resurrection Sunday

Sunday, April 5th @ 9:30am

Easter Breakfast @ 8:30am

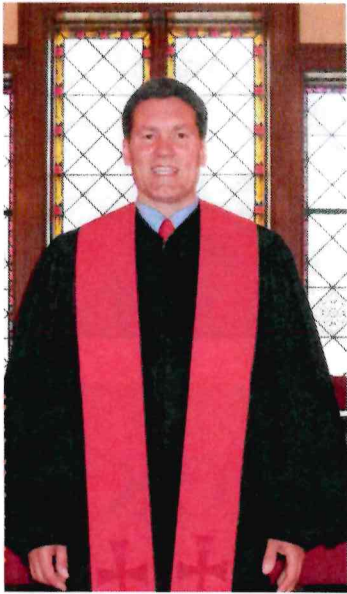


Childcare is provided at all services.

www.L-P-C.org

Easter Morning Breakfast: The entire congregation and their guests are invited to gather for this early morning hot breakfast as we remember the joy of that first Resurrection morning! This is our time together as church family and you won't want to miss it!

Call the church office to register your planned attendance and watch for sign-up sheets to help in the church foyer.



**My loved ones, you are so dear to me.
Thank you for all of your love and kindness.**

I am sorry that I have lagged in communication. I have been overwhelmed. After the onboarding of the subcutaneous dopamine infusion pump my doctor kept encouraging me to give it a little time for my body to adjust. It has been a month with no indication of any improvement. At my last appointment my doctor admitted that I am likely at my new normal.

What does this mean? Apparently, I have moved quickly into advanced Parkinson's. The part of my brain that is charged with such tasks is no longer able to store and buffer dopamine. Think of it like this. When we go to sleep our systems change, slow down, the call for dopamine drops. Then when we wake up, all these systems start calling for dopamine at once. In my case, since there is not enough dopamine available, I am dropped into a crash. I go over the cliff and into the abyss, bottomless. It is more pain than I have ever known and it remains with me until I fall asleep at night. I have learned not to take even the shortest of naps, as each time I wake up I am thrust once again into the abyss. Dear hearts, the pain is hard. One thing I can say: I have

learned from the pain that I cry out to our Lord Jesus far more from the pain than I ever have from ease. In that painful place I cry out to the Lord: ³³ *"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."* ³⁴ *Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the Lord."* (Psalm 104:33–34)

I remember that our Lord promises to be with us in the painful place:

¹ *"Now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, And He who formed you, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!"* ² *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you."* ³ *"For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior."* (Isaiah 43:1–3a)

Reminded of Jesus' presence, I am enheartened:

¹⁶ *"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day."* ¹⁷ *For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,* ¹⁸ *while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."* (2 Corinthians 4:16–18)

Always remember, my dear ones:

¹³ *"The one who endures to the end, will be saved."* ¹⁴ *This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."* (Matthew 24:13–14)

Trusting Jesus until the end, I will continue asking, seeking and knocking for healing, health, wholeness, and the obedience of faith. I have an appointment with a pain specialist scheduled for Tuesday February 24. I promise to keep following through every opportunity our Lord opens in His goodness. Please know that my heart remains steadfast.

Loved ones, I have tried to live a faithful example. As my present neurological realities are catastrophic to my daily function, I find that I have no recourse but to apply for disability, and trust the Lord for His goodness each day. Please know that you are all in my heart, thoughts and prayers. I receive report of your blessings and challenges hungrily. I welcome any and all visits, every prayer. I will always love you! Pastor Kelly

Meal Train for the Negus Family

A Meal Train has been set up for the Negus family to help them during this time. If you would like to provide a meal for the family, please click the link below for all details. If you have any questions please contact the church office (716-684-2277 or office@L-P-C.org).

<https://mealtrain.com/r0gv9l>

Church Custodian - Lancaster Presbyterian Church seeking Church Custodian.

Prior custodial, janitorial, or basic maintenance experience preferred.

Part-Time; 20-30 hours per week.

Interested parties may submit resume or CV to office@L-P-C.org.

Mighty Warriors Class

meeting on the following Sunday mornings at 10:45am

March 8, March 22, April 12, April 26

God is ALWAYS good! Come to class and learn how to have a stronger relationship with Jesus Christ.

Men's Fellowship Brunch - Saturday, March 14, 2026

Sign up today to be a part of our next Men's Fellowship Brunch!

Men, join us and bring a friend for the next Men's Fellowship Brunch in Waith Hall on Saturday, March 14, 2026. The morning will begin around 9:00 AM with coffee and donuts and finish at approximately 11:30 AM. This time together will include a message from Eddy Kuffel, singing led by Raffi and a catered brunch. We will continue with the theme of The Disciplines of a Godly man from the book by Kent Hughes. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call the office so we know the number who plan to attend. Join us for a blessed time of fellowship. There will be a special gift for everyone who attends.

Please consider a \$15 donation to help cover the cost of the breakfast.

Any questions contact the church office at 716-684-2277.

Ladies Bible and Brunch Series - Saturday, March 21st

Discerning the real Jesus from the counterfeits: Lessons from the Gospel of John

Mark your calendars for the following Saturdays in 2026: March 21, May 16

Time: 10-11:30am

What to bring: A friend

Cost: a donation of \$13 for brunch if able

Sign up on the Information Table today, or call the church office.

LPC LIBRARY NEWS - Did you know we have published authors, past and present in our church?

Robert Earl Baney: 150 Years - History of Lancaster Presbyterian Church

Dr. Richard D. Rettew, Pastor Emeritus: Live Free or Die - A guide and resource for growth of Renewal of Lancaster Church; Trains to Hell's Gate - Crime mystery

Betty Nobles: To See Them Clearly? - A loving glimpse into the lives of the elderly.

Sharon Miller: Faith in Crisis - Loving your ADHD Child

Sandy Robinson: Sarah - Bound by Addiction, Freed by Christ

Michael Chorey, Pastor CrossRiver Tabernacle: Almighty River - The Holy Spirit-The Greatest Gift Ever Given to the Church; Crosseyed - How to Have Victory Over Sin

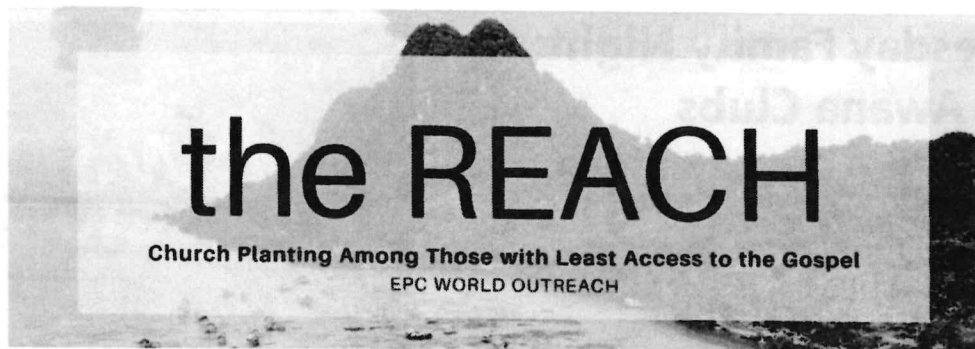
Stop by the library and take advantage of these great reads. Also take note of the newly acquired table and chairs in the Reference Room (#112). We would love to increase our library staff! If you find you have a couple of hours free on Wednesday mornings, please consider volunteering with us. Contact Jane Schafer, Sue Chaves, Reuben or Sharon Krause.

Missionary of the Month - Adele Schenk

I serve in the Czech Republic, in the heart of Europe. It is the most irreligious country in the world, with the vast majority of people not identifying with any religion and only around 2% evangelical Christians. I have been in Czech for 8 years now (as of March 2026). I serve with Word of Life Fellowship, an international non-denominational ministry primarily focused on reaching the young generation with the Gospel. We are para-church, and aim to support and grow the local church. This year we are more officially launching our Disciple-maker program, which involves a yearlong focused discipleship model to train young people how to disciple others. Various members of our staff have been working on this for a few years now and we are excited to have at least 14 discipler/disciple pairs this year! We are continuing to develop curriculum throughout the year, and we look forward to seeing this program strengthen and encourage our young adults and the local churches they belong to! As we continue to develop relationships with local churches across the Czech Republic, we are planning to expand our summer camp ministry. Our goal is to have a full eight weeks of camp by 2032. We are currently at four weeks, with capacity for a total of 360 campers. We are also working to set up a day camp program that would allow for even more campers during our kids' week.

I'm currently studying Galatians, and one of the passages that I keep going back to is Galatians 4:1-7. It is such a beautiful description of just one part of what salvation means! We are adopted into the family of God, made heirs with Christ, and can call the Creator of the universe "Abba, Father"! How absolutely marvelous!





Welcoming the Nations in our Backyard - February newsletter

Dear Friends, Across the EPC, churches are discovering that the nations are closer than they think. Through diaspora ministry—welcoming and engaging international neighbors whom God has brought to our communities—congregations are finding fresh ways to live out the Great Commission. One example comes from Grace Community Church in Lakin, Kansas, where Pastor Remington Dyas and his congregation are welcoming newcomers in their own backyard. Revs. Bill and Sharon A., members of the Presbytery of the West, coordinate the EPC World Outreach Diaspora Outreach Team, helping churches explore opportunities like these across the country.

On a typical Sunday morning in Lakin, Kansas, the back of the bulletin at Grace Community Church lists an unreached people group. It's a simple but steady rhythm of prayer, one practical expression of their mission to be "Gospel Rooted, Growing Together, and Loving Lakin and the Nations." Week after week, the congregation lifts its eyes beyond the edges of town.

Yet for Pastor Rem, that prayer emphasis began to press closer to home.

Lakin is a rural town of about 2,200 people. Fields stretch wide. Neighbors know one another. And just 25 minutes east in Garden City, the nations have quietly gathered. Immigrant families from Afghanistan, Somalia, and across Latin America now call western Kansas home.

"The nations are all around us," Rem said. "They're right over there. We drive there every week for groceries."

Grace Lakin had also been praying a "big kingdom prayer," that their church would increasingly reflect the demographic makeup of their own community. So when an opportunity arose to host a simple community meal that would include Afghan and Somali neighbors, they sensed the Lord might be answering both prayers at once.

The idea wasn't complicated. A friend connected to newcomer communities in Garden City envisioned a shared meal, just food and conversation. Three local churches partnered together. The Veteran's Memorial Building in Lakin was reserved. Members donated lamb. Invitations went out widely. Afghan and Somali families were personally invited.

No elaborate program. Just a potluck.

That June evening, more than 100 people gathered. A large grill smoked outside while lamb sizzled. Afghan and Somali guests brought traditional side dishes from their cultures. Children played hopscotch and tossed footballs. Adults lingered over board games and easy conversation.

"There was diversity in the air," Rem reflected, "and yet people were laughing together, eating good food together... like they'd done it before." He sensed the quiet work of the Holy Spirit making strangers into neighbors.

One conversation stayed with him. Rem sat with three Afghan men working in the United States while their families remained in Central Asia. They spoke of long separations and the slow process of trying to reunite with their wives and children. As they talked about family life, one man mentioned he was searching in matters of faith. Rem listened, learned, and prayed silently for them.

When he stood up from the table, he thought, "We just have so much to learn from one another." He described himself as a sponge that evening, discovering that others could show him aspects of Jesus he had not yet tasted or treasured. The dinner reshaped something in Grace Lakin. It reinforced their conviction that "programs don't reach people, people reach people." It showed them that loving the nations begins with knowing them. What felt ambitious for a small church in a small town became a living picture of the Great Commission.

"We're the ones who overcomplicate things," Rem said. "We're just called to be faithful."

In Lakin, faithfulness looked like setting a table and realizing that the nations were already near.

Wednesday Family Night: Awana Clubs



Awana Clubs at LPC for:

- **Cubbies** (ages 3 – PreK)
- **Sparks** (K–2nd)
- **T&T** (3rd–6th).

Cubbies will meet in the LPC building from **6–7 PM** while **Sparks/T&T** will meet in the Potter's House across the street from **6–7:30 PM**.

Our family pizza dinner (5:15 PM – 6:00 PM) 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** (Bible study) with dessert and coffee. On select weeks, we'll also offer special activities for adults, such as crafting nights.

***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 Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (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! It's never too late to sign up to attend!

Please sign up to join us by using the link below (this can also be found on our website under Youth Ministry). Signing up ahead of time helps us to plan for accurate materials!

<https://lancaster-presbyterian-church-505410.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3066277>

No Family Night & Awana Clubs - Wednesday, April 8th

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

Join the GroupMe to stay in the loop!

Saturday, March 14th - Movie Night! At the Negus home; Drop off at 5:30pm, pick up at 9:00pm (address in GroupMe)

Saturday, March 28th - Youth Group Dinner, Bible, Games & Small Groups (5:30pm to 7:30pm)

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



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:

- In 2025, the congregation has been supportive and generous as the income generally met the increased 2025 needs. However, the future financial needs appear to be even greater than those of 2025, as LPC moves toward replacing Pastor Will with a Second Senior Pastor and yet supporting the fabulous youth programs, music programs, maintaining the facilities and expanding the Sanctuary's video system.
- Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving in 2026.
- Please prayerfully consider "testing the Lord" by tithing if you are not doing so. "Test the Lord" per Malachi 3:10 as tithing is confirmed by Jesus in Mathew 23:23.
- Scripture warns against testing the Lord, except when it comes to tithing. Worship must include tithes and offerings. Let's joyfully worship the Lord!

Deacons: Precious and Holy Lord and Savior, creator of the universe, blessed Redeemer, mighty and powerful King – Lord, you are awesome, gracious, merciful, kind and loving. Forgive us for the times when we take You for granted. Thank You for the gift of Your amazing creation, the wonderful people you have placed in our lives, for friendships and fellowship and most of all for the gift of salvation in Jesus. Thank You for loving us in spite of ourselves. Please help us to daily remember Your holiness and continue to give us hearts, minds and hands to serve You and those You love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Praying for our family

Pastor Kelly
KC Carlsen
Lisa Dunbar
Jeremy Miller
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

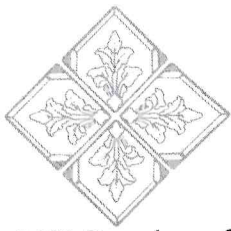
LPC's Military

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

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Phone: 716.684.2277

Rev. Dr. Kelly Negus, Senior Pastor
Raffi Wright, Youth & Music Director

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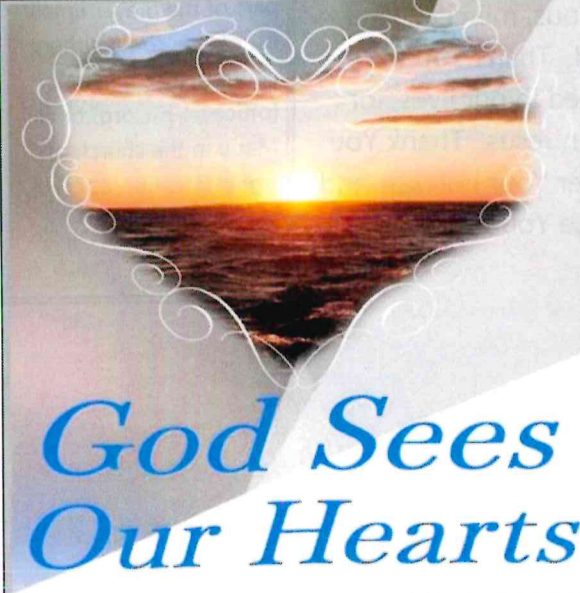
Purpose:

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



Sunday Sermon Series
1 Samuel

Join us for worship at 9:30am!
Adult Education & Sunday School
10:45am

**God Sees
Our Hearts**