



## **Sunday Sermon Series** ***Ministry Matters:*** ***What Jesus Values in His Church***

**Worship with us every Sunday at 9:30AM**

**Revelation can be intimidating: it's confusing, frightening, and difficult for us to apply today. However, the beginning chapters establishes why Jesus had His apostle and friend, John, write this letter. We're going to examine the seven churches the letter is addressed to and see for ourselves how Jesus warns, commends, and loves His churches, noticing the unique situations they faced, while also seeing the timeless truths God wants us to know as we also go through trials in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

**Sunday, Oct 5th:** Revelation 2:8-11 (Smyrna)

**Sunday, Oct 12th:** Revelation 2:12-17 (Pergamum)

**Sunday, Oct 19th:** Revelation 2:18-29 (Thyatira)

**Sunday, Oct 26th:** Revelation 3:1-6 (Sardis)

**Sunday, Nov 2nd:** Revelation 3:7-13 (Philadelphia)

**Sunday, Nov 9th:** Mission Conference

**Sunday, Nov 16th:** Revelation 3:14-22 (Laodicea)

**Sunday, Nov 23rd:** Revelation 5:1-14

**Wednesday, Nov 26th:** Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service @ 7:30pm

**Sunday, Nov 30th:** First Sunday of Advent

## Always Reforming



Are you a perfectionist? Are you always tinkering with something which someone already told you was fine? Maybe it's when you work on a car or clean the house or play an instrument. I'm especially guilty of this with anything I write: I always find a grammatical error here or feel compelled to rephrase a sentence there. There always seems to be something to fix or fine-tune or add.

For those of us who have this perfectionist mentality, we have ingrained into our minds the need to always improve. We especially need to read Ecclesiastes which reminds us the car will eventually rust away, the house will be dirtied soon, and there will come a time that you won't be able to play an instrument. Even my best sermon or article will fade into obscurity. What an optimistic message so far! What I'm trying to push is what Qoheleth (Hebrew term possibly meaning "preacher" or "teacher," the name given to the writer of Ecclesiastes) said in response to this realization, "*I perceived there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man*" (3:12-13, ESV). We are not created to be perfect in everything we do, but to enjoy the tasks given to us and enjoy the blessings God gives us through these tasks.

But what truly gives us hope as Christians is what Qoheleth writes immediately after: "*I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.*" What God has established will be upheld forever. Nothing can diminish what God has done, and nothing can stop what God has set out to do. The salvation you received from trusting in Christ alone to atone for your sins and justify you in the eyes of the Father is yours forevermore! No one can take it away.

Because God's actions and words endure forever, they are to be treasured and upheld by His people ("*fear before him*"). All that we say and do must testify to His Holy and Everlasting Name. Even writing articles and fixing cars can and should be done in a glorifying way. It demonstrates how seriously we take the salvation we have received. When our actions are done to glorify God, even if they must be done again or are undone by others in this world (c.f., Ecclesiastes 2:21), God treasures the good work we do in His name. Hebrews 13:16 says, "*do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God,*" and in

Colossians 1:10, "*walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*" Let's re-examine the phrase we read earlier in Ecclesiastes 3:12: "*there is nothing better for them than...to do good as long as they live.*" We are not simply commanded to enjoy what God has given us, but use what He has given us to "*do good,*" meaning, live righteously.

So what happens when we live unrighteously? For unbelievers, they must repent and turn to Christ, otherwise they heap condemnation upon themselves for the Day of Judgment. As believers, we must lovingly correct our brothers and sisters in Christ. This does not mean we jump on one another and cruelly condemn people. Rather, we restore and build each other up. Otherwise, when non-Christians view Christians acting improperly, they receive a muddled view of what Jesus is really like.

Interestingly enough, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses, he did this not to antagonize the Catholic Church or break away from them, but sought to bring to light the corruption of indulgences. He witnessed unrighteousness and sought to put an end to it. The response from the Catholic Church and Luther's further response to them is what led to the Protestant Reformation.

We shall do the same. We must confront corruption with sincerity and an eagerness to restore. If opposition and resistance grows after concerted efforts, we must eventually decide upon one of three options: 1) turn and accept the unrighteous as righteous, 2) ignore the issue (which is essentially option 1), or 3) break off from the unrighteous. Option 3 is not a flippant decision, as it was difficult for Luther. We attempt at peace and unity with every effort. However, the difficulty in taking a public stand, even one against something culturally acceptable, demonstrates the importance that staying true to God's Word is paramount. We must always be examining our faith and the faith of our church to ensure we are staying true to God's Word. I pray in the face of prosperity gospel, the New Apostolic Reformation, the sexually immoral in the pulpit, and various other heresies and immoralities we are currently facing, we stay true to God's Word.

Paul urges the Colossian church: "*See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ*" (Colossians 2:8). While God has given everyday tasks for every generation to follow after the previous one, everything must be done for God's glory. And when it comes to matters of faith, we shall always be watchful over the presentation and explanation of God's Word. We will continue to have wolves in sheep's clothing and well-meaning individuals who are led astray, so we must continue to pursue reform and remain true to God's Word. Happy Reformation!

## Adult Education Class - *Learning to Love the Psalms*

Meeting weekly on Sundays @ 11:00am

**The Adult Sunday School Class will begin a new video series this Fall called "Learning to Love the Psalms", with Robert Godfrey of Ligonier Ministries.** The Book of Psalms is one of the greatest treasures the Lord has given to His people. Through these sacred poems, God has given us a rich songbook and a divinely inspired guide for our prayers. Dr. Godfrey provides an overview of the Psalms with the specific goal of learning to love them through a study of their themes, structure, and beauty. Each class centers around the ~ 20-minute feature video by Dr. Godfrey with class discussions around some specific Psalms.

In addition, dispersed throughout the Fall/Winter/Spring terms, there will be 10 single lessons called "Book at a Glance". Five of these lessons will be led by Laurie Muscato and will cover the Old Testament books Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Joshua. Each lesson will give a bird's eye view that allows us to see what place the book has in the Bible narrative, why it matters, and how it points to Jesus. The other five books to study are the single-chapter books of the Bible; Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, and Obadiah led by various members of the Adult Education Committee. These books are often overlooked due to their brevity but are significantly relevant for today covering such topics as avoiding pride, rejecting deception and fighting for the faith.

The class meets in Waith Hall right after church. There will be some time to grab a cup of coffee and chat before class begins. To attend this class, you do not have to be a Bible scholar with all the answers; just a hunger to learn about God's Word and to enjoy some fellowship.

### Mighty Warriors Sunday School Class

**Mighty Warriors class will begin Sunday, October 12th, during the Adult Education hour.**

The schedule for the fall semester will be as follows: October 12, October 26, November 9, November 23, December 14 December 28??? (Hope to get another teacher for this day, as I will be out-of-town)

Come and grow in the Lord. He LOVES YOU! King David writes in Psalm 52: 8b *"I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever."* May God be glorified!

Hope to see you on October 12th! In His Service, Mrs. Miller

### Prayer Gathering - Monday, October 13th

**Come and pray silently or aloud, but join with fellow believers in praise, thanksgiving, confession and petition. 1:00pm in the Church Library**

**LPC T-Shirts** LPC has new shirts available! We believe that wearing the shirt provides a great way of both showing your love for the church while also providing an opportunity to share the love of Christ with those you see in your day-to-day lives. Both kinds of shirts are \$15 each with kids shirts being free! Go to Marie in the main office after the Sunday Service or you can come by the church during office hours (9am-1pm) to get them. Cash or check will be accepted for payment.

### Weekly and Year to Date Giving

#### August 31st Gifts

\$3,953

#### Weekly Required Budget

\$10,890 x 17 remaining

#### 2025 Received

\$284,871

#### 2025 Annual Budget

\$470,000

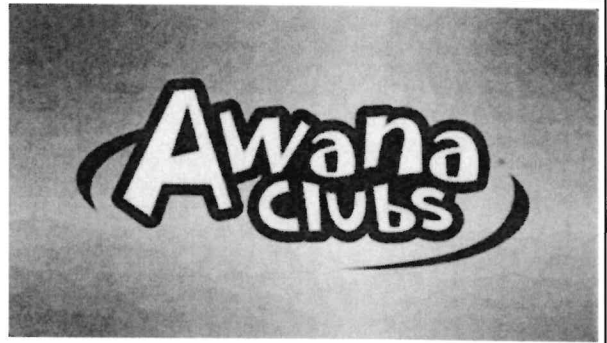


#### How to Give Online

1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit [l-p-c.org/give/](https://l-p-c.org/give/)

# Wednesday Family Night 2025: Awana @ LPC!

## Meeting weekly on Wednesdays



Awana Clubs for 3 year olds to 6th grade:

- **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**.

Before Awana each Wednesday, we will have a **family dinner** (5:15 PM – 6:00 PM) with pizza from Picasso's! 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!

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>

**Trunk or Treat - Wednesday, Oct. 29th @ 6:00pm - Potter's House parking lot**  
**No pizza dinner this evening, see inside for all details for this special event!**

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

Join the GroupMe to stay in the loop for all upcoming events!

**Saturday, October 11th - Youth Group** Dinner, Bible, Games & Small Groups (5:30pm to 7:30pm)

**Saturday, October 25th - Youth Group "FEAR NOT" FEST** Dinner, Bible, Games & Small Groups & CANDY! (5:30pm to 7:30pm)

**Saturday, November 8th - Youth Group MISSION NIGHT!** Join us for part of our Mission Conference (dinner provided)! More details to come via our GroupMe Chat!

**Saturday, November 22nd - Youth Group FRIENDSGIVING EDITION** Dinner, Bible, Games & Small Groups & Thanksgiving Party!! (5:30pm to 7:30pm)

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



LANCASTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

# TRUNK OR TREAT

*games, giggles, goodies*

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October 29 | 6 - 7:30 PM

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*trunks of treats, hearts of love*

Games - Costumes - Candy  
Cider - Donuts - Family Fun

LPC POTTER'S HOUSE & PARKING LOT

5477 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086



## Pastor Will's Book Review: *The Peacemaker* by Ken Sande

Just to give a brief intro, the Adult Education Committee thought it might be fun if I gave book reviews for the Grapevine we could also have on the church website. We want to not only help you see what could be a great read for you, but also give you insight into what one of your pastors is reading! We hope this is a blessing for you!

When I was browsing the Westminster Seminary Bookstore online (as I often do), I came to find out that Westminster Seminary offers their students a class on church conflict and peacemaking in church settings. I was amazed (and a bit envious) that they would have a class on such an important topic. I was opened up to a whole series of books they sell on the subject, with the most prominent one being *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict* by Ken Sande. I quickly purchased this along with a few others they recommended: *The Peacemaking Church* by Curtis Heffelfinger and *The Peacemaking Pastor: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Church Conflict* by Alfred Poirier (who is also the professor of the course). I haven't read the books by Heffelfinger or Poirier just yet, but I wanted to at least read Sande's book.

*The Peacemaker* begins by dispelling the myth that all conflict is bad and should be simply ignored. He explains the opportunities it brings for growth and strength in a church. At the same time, in a time where division and opposition is too common, we must always strive for peace. This striving means seeking after God's will and not our own. When confronting conflict, we must first examine if it's worth the confrontation or if it's something to let go. If it is not damaging to a person's faith and is not sinful by nature, it's best to avoid confrontation. However, in times where confrontation must be made, one must first examine oneself. Take the log out of your own eye, Sande quotes Christ. Sande then uses Matthew 18:15-17 as the framework for how we proceed with resolving conflict with an individual. He is specific to examine when we're at fault or if it's the other person, as well as in times where we begin one-on-one and when it's time to immediately jump to getting church leaders involved. He concludes with the concept of forgiveness, caring for the other person, and in cases where the individual refuses to repent, how to continue loving such a person.

It's a benchmark book for church conflict for a reason. He does a fantastic job defining and understanding the nature of conflict in Part 1. Part 2, which examines which conflicts are worth engaging with, is important for every Christian to read. Personally, when it comes to part 3, he is a little idealistic with how situations will progress and how people will respond: I have found that rarely do people respond so "cleanly," so to speak. However, it's still very beneficial. Finally, I took some issue with Part 4. He seemed to use the least amount of Scripture here, and his reasoning seemed incredibly shaky. He takes the stance that we must forgive a person wholesale: if a person repents, we must never consider the former sin again. This sounds nice until you consider sex offenders and murderers and those dealing with addictions. Yes, we forgive a sinner seven times in one day if he comes to us seven times to repent. However, by then we keep that person away from the situation that is leading him to sin! Sande forgets that though God forgives our sins and the "ultimate consequence" of sin (that is, death and separation from God's love), we are not spared from the "immediate" consequence of sin. If I overindulge in food, and immediately repent, does that mean I will not have a severe stomachache anymore? No! Does that mean I should be allowed to be around buffets if I have a history of overindulgence? Of course not! Sande fails to take this into consideration, which is dangerous for churches dealing with sex-offenders and addicts who need to be told, "we forgive you, but we are not going to put you in a situation again where you can hurt others or yourself."

Overall, if you read the first three parts of the book, you'll find a fantastic book. The fourth part is incredibly rough in my opinion, and the glaring oversight is too distracting to approve without a warning. He at least examines whether or not there should be consequences like court cases and lawsuits, but it still fails to account for what I previously mentioned. If interested, go to [wtsbooks.org](http://wtsbooks.org) to support the seminary or go to Amazon (sometimes Westminster sells it cheaper). If you want a book that examines church conflict on a more historical level, I recommend *When Christians Disagree: Lessons from the Fractured Relationship of John Owen and Richard Baxter* by Tim Cooper. Cooper examines how otherwise amazing men of God fall for the same problems we do. He reviews what shaped their views and strong opinions, how that can shape ours as well, and uses the relationship between Owen and Baxter to review how we should handle disagreements differently. He's light on Scripture, but it follows a more realistic approach to how conflict usually goes, and it has some great discussion questions after each chapter. When I get around to the other books on church conflict, I'll be sure to let you all know how those books are.

## Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

It is time to begin thinking about packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The collection dates this year are November 17-24. If you bring your boxes to our church, we will be taking them to Eastern Hills Wesleyan, which is the next stop on their journey, on **Sunday November 23**. Summer is a great time to start purchasing your school supplies because they are all on sale. It is also a great time to start thinking about what you would like to put in your boxes.

**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](http://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 will be a table set up by the lounge area under the sanctuary where there will be 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 Pat Gerber at (716)668-2670. 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!!

## FILL A BARREL FOR GBENEKORO

As you know, LPC has adopted and supports an EPC church plant in the village of Gbenekoro, Sierra Leone. Gbenekoro is one of the villages where the Kuranko tribe lives. They are an unreached people group, and a very closed Muslim group to the gospel. This year we were able to come alongside the Gbenekoro Church in their outreach into the surrounding Kuranko villages by supporting six church planter/evangelists working in six different villages. Asking each of them how LPC could help support their ministry in practical ways other than prayer and financial support their responses were almost unanimous. "The communities we work in are extremely impoverished and what would help our missionary work the most would be resources to carry out the good news of Jesus Christ, bibles, bible learning and activity materials, clothing, food, and farm tools." Praying for the Lords direction in how our congregation could be directly involved in the work we were led to EPC Pastor Tom Holmes, in Manor, PA.

**So, Let's Fill a Barrel for Gbenekoro!** There will be a blue barrel outside Pastor Will's office.

What to include slightly/good used or new: bibles, bible teaching materials, kids and young adult clothes, shoes, sandals, tennis balls, deflated soccer balls, frisbee, reading glasses, farming tools.

If anyone has access to or knows where we can get more of the same barrels for future shipments, please let us know.

They can be used but never for chemicals because they will be used for water storage after being emptied.

Your mission committee thanks you for your continued support in making the gospel known.

LancasterPresbyterianChurch  
MissionCommittee



# Prayer Page

**Pray for the pastors:** Lord God Almighty, would You help our pastors to humble themselves before You and under Your mighty hand, so that You will lift them up (Jas. 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:6)? Guide them in what is right and teach them Your way (Psa. 25:9). May our congregation see that they are wise and understanding as shown by their good lives, and by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom (Jas. 3:13). Father, You have said that the ones You esteem are those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at Your Word (Isa. 66:2). May our pastors be such a person!

[www.harvestprayer.com/resources/church-prayer/prayer-and-care-for-pastors/](http://www.harvestprayer.com/resources/church-prayer/prayer-and-care-for-pastors/)

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## **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 Awana program as it starts at LPC.

Please pray for the staff, the children and for the parents.

Please pray for God's touch upon all involved.

**Deacons:** Dear God, please fill us with your Spirit so that we (our whole beings) radiate your love and presence to everyone we meet. Holy Spirit, we ask you to fill us with love, kindness and sincerity, which will then be expressed through our actions and words, naturally drawing others to God's presence. Let our lives be a pleasing aroma of Christ to all around us spreading the knowledge of your salvation and transforming lives in your name. Amen

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## **Praying for our family**

Marsha Haas  
Judy Cavanaugh  
Jeremy Miller  
Bill Stortz  
Al Martin  
Helen Markham  
Carole Schafer  
Paul & Carol Welker  
Doris Moranski  
Violet Chaves  
Ron Stasiowski  
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](mailto:office@l-p-c.org)) or call Marie in the church office at 684-2277.



## Lancaster Presbyterian Church

5461 Broadway St. Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716.684.2277

Rev. Dr. Kelly Negus, Senior Pastor

Rev. Will McCabe, Associate Pastor

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.

Non-Profit  
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Permit #40

[www.L-P-C.org](http://www.L-P-C.org)

[office@L-P-C.org](mailto:office@L-P-C.org)

**Address Service Requested**



**Worship with us every Sunday**

**9:30AM**

**Childcare is provided.**

**LIVESTREAM available on our LPC YouTube channel.**

**Sunday School & Adult Education**

**Every Sunday @ 11:00am**

**[www.L-P-C.org](http://www.L-P-C.org)**