

Lakeside Christian Fellowship Ripples



MARCH 2026

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 3



You may be asking yourself what do I do during Lent? Last month I gave you the three pillars of lent: pray daily, fasting and giving. Here's 10 ideas that may help you to experience this season more abundantly. These were gleaned from many ideas I found researching specific things to enhance my Lenten journey.

1. **Read the Sunday Scriptures before worship begins.**

- Why: Preparing your heart and mind in advance opens you to deeper hearing and makes the Sunday readings come alive.
- How to start: Set aside 15–30 minutes on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Read the appointed passages slowly, underline a phrase that sticks with you, and ask: "What word might God be giving me this week?"
- Short prayer: Lord, prepare my heart to meet You in Your Word.

2. **Fast from one frequent expense and give the savings away.**

- Why: Giving up a small comfort trains generosity and helps detach us from possessions.
- How to start: Pick one recurring expense (clothes, takeout, coffee shop splurges). Calculate the money you'd normally spend for 40 days and name a trusted local charity to receive it. Keep a jar or a running total to watch the offering grow.
- Short prayer: God of provision, teach me to trust You and to share what I have.

3. **Take on a 40-day practice of blessing others.**

- Why: Deliberate acts cultivate compassion and reorient our hearts outward.
- How to start: Choose one: 40 letters of encouragement, 40 intentional acts of kindness, or 40 phone calls to people who matter. Record each day to sustain momentum.
- Short prayer: Use me as an instrument of Your love.

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4. **Read the Gospel of Mark in one sitting.**

- Why: Mark's brevity and urgency bring the story of Jesus and the cross into sharp focus—an ideal single-sitting Lenten discipline.
- How to start: Choose a quiet afternoon, bring a notebook, and read straight through. Afterwards, jot one verse that grabbed you and why.
- Short prayer: Open my eyes to the life and sacrifice of Jesus.

5. **Practice a short, regular silence.**

- Why: Voluntary silence clears mental clutter and sharpens spiritual listening.
- How to start: Once a day on your commute, turn off the radio and phone notifications for 10–20 minutes. Notice thoughts, breath, and surroundings.
- Short prayer: Teach me to listen rather than simply to fill the noise.

6. **Place a cross where you sleep.**

- Why: A visible cross becomes a nightly reminder of Christ's presence and sacrificial love.
- How to start: Choose a simple cross and put it on your bedside table or above your bed. Each night, touch it briefly and breathe a short prayer of thanks.
- Short prayer: Let this symbol remind me of Your love every night.

7. **Fast from hurtful speech and online cruelty.**

- Why: Words wound or heal; Lent is a time to choose speech that builds up.
- How to start: Make a clear promise—no gossip, no mean comments, no scrolling into vicious threads. If you slip, confess and recommit.
- Short prayer: Guard my tongue and soften my heart toward others.

8. **Use coloring as contemplative prayer.**

- Why: Repetitive, tactile activity quiets the mind and opens space for prayer.
- How to start: Buy a simple coloring book or download a Lent-themed coloring page. As you color, repeat a short prayer phrase (e.g., “Lord Jesus, have mercy”) and notice what arises.
- Short prayer: Move through my hands as I color; speak to my heart.

9. **Pray intentionally for strangers you notice.**

- Why: This practice fosters empathy and reminds us of the invisible burdens others carry.
- How to start: During errands or commutes, select someone to pray for—silently name a blessing or need and lift them to God. Keep it brief but consistent.
- Short prayer: God of compassion, meet this person in their struggle.

10. **Build relationship with your neighbors.**

- Why: Neighborliness turns neighborhoods into small communities of care – an expression of God's kingdom nearby.
- How to start: Introduce yourself, invite a neighbor to dinner, or leave a small meal for an older person on your block. Consider a simple “How can I pray for you?” as an opening line.
- Short prayer: Help me to be a neighbor who reflects Your love.

Choose one or two of these practices for the season – consistency matters more than doing everything. Keep a short journal of what you notice and revisit your commitments as Lent progresses. May these small disciplines draw you nearer to God, deepen your compassion for others, and shape you more into the likeness of Christ.

Blessings,

Rev. Chuck Smith



LENTEN *Schedule*



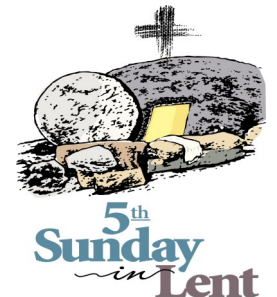
March 1, 2nd Sunday in Lent
Worship 10:30 a.m. at Lakeside Worship Sanctuary



March 8, 3rd Sunday in Lent
Worship 10:30 a.m. at Lakeside Worship Sanctuary



March 15, 4th Sunday in Lent
Worship 10:30 a.m. at Lakeside Worship Sanctuary



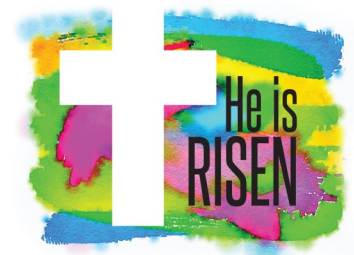
March 22, 5th Sunday in Lent
Worship 10:30 a.m. at Lakeside Worship Sanctuary



March 29, Palm/Passion Sunday
Worship 10:30 a.m. at Lakeside Worship Sanctuary

April 3, Good Friday

April 5, Easter Sunday
"Sonrise" Service 7:00 a.m.
Regular Easter Worship Service 10:30 a.m. at
Lakeside Worship Sanctuary



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LAKESIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Leadership Council Report for February 9, 2026

The Leadership Council Meeting was called to order at 9:35AM by Moderator Bill Bush. Members present were Bill Bush, Nancy Meierhoff, Russell Reese, Wilma Sanders (via Zoom), Laurie Glass, Gene Glass, Judy Guthrie and Fred Pontesso. A quorum was present. Also attending was Pastor Chuck Smith.

Invocation: Pastor Chuck opened with a prayer.

Opening Remarks: Moderator Bill Bush talked about the new trifold brochure for the church pews. He will get with Debbie on the size of these brochures. He shared a letter from an author of book titled "Love God and Leave the Last Days Behind", which might be added to the church library.

Thoughts to Ponder: Bill discussed concerns about the future of jobs due to technological advancements, particularly AI. He emphasized the importance of guiding our grandchildren to find meaning in life through Jesus Christ.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 12, 2026 Council meeting were approved by unanimous consent. The minutes of the January 12, 2026 Special Executive Meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Summary of Meeting: The Council discussed financial matters, including the consolidation of various funds and the decision to move the Project Operating Fund into the Pinnacle Cove General Reserve Fund. They discussed the need to review and potentially disband several smaller funds, such as the transportation fund and the Christian Women's Fellowship account. The Council also addressed the upcoming Congregational Meeting to vote on By-law changes, deciding to hold it at the start of the worship service on February 15th. They considered how to handle the presence of a guest pastor candidate during this meeting and agreed to stream the event on YouTube for those unable to attend in person. Also, they reviewed the church's investment options and discussed the need to find a more liquid

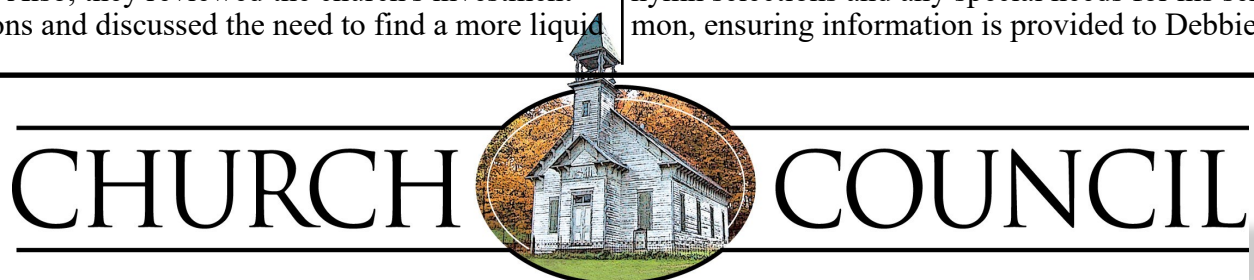
investment for a portion of their funds.

Outreach: Bill talked about the upcoming Ministerial Alliance Meeting, which the Mayor plans to attend, though a date is still undecided. This would include the faith leaders in the community. Pastor Chuck will let us know when the meeting is scheduled. Bill discussed the President's Council and Chamber of Commerce meetings, with Pastor Chuck expressing a preference for the former's roundtable discussion format over the latter's speaker-focused approach. Pastor Chuck mentioned a new Chamber of Commerce Newsletter and planned to follow-up on information included and bulk mailing. He said we are a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Promotions & Marketing: Warwick was unable to attend this meeting.

Faith in Action: Russell talked about the Fresh Food Distribution Program in Jonestown this Friday. He is working with Hill Country Ministries to host an event on March 27 from 0900-1100 at the City Hall parking lot. He will talk with the Hope Center and Rolling Hills Food Pantry about promotion of this event. There is no income requirements for this event. He still needs 6-7 volunteers for this event and they should show up 30 minutes early for setup. He also reminded everyone to bring some LCF church signs for this event. Russell also relayed that he is working on the Scattering Garden.

Pastoral Search Committee: Nancy relayed the Committee had a meeting this past week. They had two candidates, John Zamudio and Eric Haueter, to consider, as well as 3 other candidates. A letter was sent to the non-selectees thanking them for their interest and time. They selected John Zamudio from Utopia, Texas to come preach at LCF this next Sunday. She has sent him our church bulletin and the order of worship. Also, she is coordinating his hymn selections and any special needs for his sermon, ensuring information is provided to Debbie by



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Wednesday. She will ensure Judy has his bio for introduction to the congregation. There was a discussion regarding John's application. We will have a Council meeting the next day (Monday) after he preaches. She said John is looking for a church where the congregation gets involved in activities. Nancy relayed that Ginger Halstead and Larry Thyssen will call the references provided by John Zamudio and report back to the Council. Also, a Background Check will be done. The Council reviewed the structure of the compensation package, which will include salary, housing benefits, medical benefits, insurance, and other allowances. They planned to discuss this package at the next meeting on Thursday, 19 February. There was a long conversation about all that has to be done before confirming John Zamudio as our new pastor.

Pastoral Relations: Nancy relayed the Pulpit Supply Schedule for the upcoming months and who will preach: John Zamudio on 15 February; Pastor Chuck Smith on 1 and 8 March; Bill Krejci on 15 March; Pastor Chuck Smith on 22 March; Jim Christie on 29 March; Pastor Chuck Smith on 1 April; Dale Hill on 12 April; Pastor Rick Waters on 19 April; Pastor Chuck Smith on 26 April, 3-10-24 May; Dale Hill on 17 May; and Jim Christie on 31 May. Bill relayed that he had talked with Jim Singleton, who is with the Hill Country Singers. He has offered to preach if we need someone to fill in. Nancy will contact him regarding the Pulpit Supply Schedule.

Worship Committee: Fred stated there wasn't much to report at this time. He relayed that Pastor Chuck has volunteered to do Ash Wednesday service and the Easter Sunrise Service. There was a discussion regarding an upcoming baptism of Roger Elliott's granddaughter, Natalie. Pastor Chuck has ordered a baptism bowl for children and babies. This baptism will be done before or after the Sunday service or could be part of the service. The date for this baptism is to be determined.

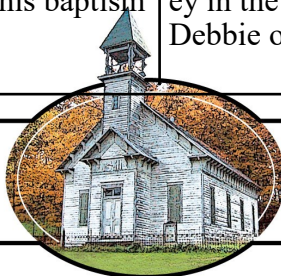
Ministries: Laurie commented on the Lago Vista Players using our facilities 3 days week now. They store their props in the pantries. They have asked if they could use the rolling cart and the lectern for their play. They will return it afterwards. There was a discussion regarding the various community groups using the church facility, including the Lago Vista Players, Hill Country Singers, and Veterans' meetings, and noted that Game Day would be held on the 3rd Sundays with snacks provided.

Building and Grounds: Gene stated the fire extinguishers have been inspected and the HVAC filters have been replaced. These will now go to a six-month schedule. He discussed replacing deck boards on February 28 or March 7. He will let Debbie know to put this on the calendar. The Council discussed possibly having Kyngdom Remodeling for future projects.

Stewardship Committee: Ginger was unable to attend this meeting.

Financial Update (January 2026): Judy talked about the removal of Men in Trucks account, as we no longer need a transportation fund. Gene made a **Motion (1)** that the Project Operating Fund of \$5,008.13 into the Pinnacle Cove General Reserve Fund. Nancy seconded the motion. The Council voted and the motion was approved. Bill said he will send out the description of this Pinnacle Cove Reserve Fund that has been set up for the Council's review and inputs. Bill explained the Reserve Fund was established to cover unexpected expenses when the church moved, and he will send out a description of the fund to the Council. The group clarified the difference between the General Reserve Fund and the Wishlist, which is for specific items people want to donate to the church. They discussed the Memorial Fund, as well as the Medical Emergencies Fund. It was suggested putting the medical emergencies money in the Power of One fund. Judy will check with Debbie on the status and intended use of the \$275 in

CHURCH



COUNCIL

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the Wishlist Fund and the \$213 in the Women's Ministry Fund and report back to the Council. Gene suggested putting this money back in the Reserve Fund. The Men in Trucks Fund will be closed. The Memorial Fund is used for funds donated by family and friends in memory of a loved one who has passed away. Laurie stated that we bought the green hymnals with some of this money. The North Shore Support Groups Fund is for the Alzheimer's and Cancer groups. The Power of One Fund is where we send a monthly check to Hope House Center. The Security Deposit Fund: Judy stated she will also check with Debbie on the \$100 security deposit and determine if it should be combined with the \$5,000 First Texas Bank account. The Transportation Fund will be moved into the Operating Fund. There was a discussion about the Women's Ministry Fund and what is used for. Judy will check with Regina on this. The Council discussed moving \$100,000 of funds into a CD or other high interest investment by the end of December. Judy will research this and bring a specific proposal including details on rates and terms for the Council to review. Fred commented that for the year ending December 2025, donations by the congregation along with other income were in excess of all church expenses by \$32,277. This has exceeded the 2025 budget plan by \$49,140, which is the first time in 5 years that LCF has had income in excess of expenses. Judy will announce this to the congregation at our next church service. There was also a discussion about the upcoming Congregational Meeting to vote on Bylaws changes. Gene said he will send the updated Bylaws to Debbie for printing for this meeting and for filing. It was decided to hold this meeting before the worship service on 15 February, with the meeting to be recorded on YouTube.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Future Topics: Next meeting: The next regular Council meeting will be on March 9, 2026.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:30AM.

Motions:

1. Project Operating Fund Into the Pinnacle Cove Reserve Fund



A warm welcome to the newest members of our church!

Rob and Melinda Sebesta
Joined LCF on February 15, 2026.

We are blessed to have you as part of our family!



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Worship Service Flower Donations

There are several dates available if you are interested in donating \$30.00 for flowers in honor of a special event or in memory of someone for the Sunday Worship Services.

If you are interested sign up on the flower chart in the back of the Worship Sanctuary or contact the church office.



It's Spring Forward time!
Don't forget to set your clocks
1 hour ahead on
Saturday night, March 7, 2026
before you go to bed.

Daylight Savings begins on March 8.



Remember that there are receptacles at the back of the church for clothing and non-perishable food items which are always in need and will be donated to The Hope Center and Hill Country Community Ministries.



The primary function of ushers/greeters is to welcome the congregation and visitors as they arrive, as well as passing out bulletins.

A warm, friendly smile reveals the church's personality and makes people feel welcomed.

If you are interested in being a Greeter/Usher Contact the Church Office or sign up on the sheet in the back of the Worship Sanctuary.

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Faith in Action Chair, Russell Reese, dropped off the LCF food donations at the Hope Center on February 11th. Also, Tanya Reese dropped off the LCF clothing and linen donations at

the Hill Country Community Ministries (HCCM) Thrift store in Leander on February 17th. Both the Hope Center and HCCM were very appreciative and happy to receive our donations. Please continue to give your food and clothing/linen donations and Tanya and I will ensure they are taken to the appropriated location. If you are not able to bring them to the church, please let Tanya or I know and we will make arrangements with you to pick your donations up.

I also want to take a moment and tell you about the Fresh Food for All (FFFA) initiative offered by HCCM. FFFA is a targeted approach to tackling hunger and promoting better nutrition. HCCM steps up by extending help to underserved areas, granting clients direct access to fresh produce, and allowing them to select their preferred fruits and vegetables - all for FREE!

Although HCCM has been providing this service to Jonestown and other areas for quite some time, **HCCM will now begin to offer this program in Lago Vista beginning Friday March 27th from 9am to 11am in the Lago Vista City Hall parking lot located at 5803 Thunderbird Street and will continue this program on the 4th Friday of each month at the same time and location.** Although we do have some volunteers committed from the LCF Church and other volunteers that have previously helped out HCCM setting up the FFFA in Jonestown, please feel free to contact Russell if you would also like to participate.

Please inform your neighbors and friends that if they know of anyone that may be experiencing food insecurities and may need a helping hand are made aware of this program.

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LCF Annual Baseball Night Out will be on Wednesday, April 15.

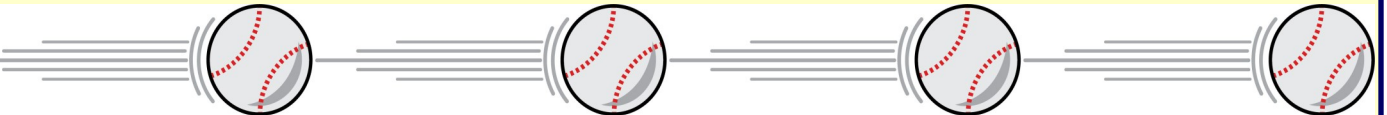
Once again the members and friends of LCF will enjoy a night out at the Round Rock Express baseball game.

Tickets are \$16. per person.

A discounted parking pass will be given for those driving.

Bring your family and friends and join us for this fun annual event!

Contact Gene or Laurie Glass for more information



Pastor Gary Hambrick

**The WOW Bible Study Group
will continue to study scripture and
books of the bible listening to
podcasts by Gary Hambrick
with discussions to follow.**

**The bible study meets downstairs
in the LCF Fellowship Hall
at 9:30 a.m.**

**All ladies
are welcome to attend!.**

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On March 15, 2026,

LCF will have a Sunday Easter/Springtime
Pot Luck
in the Fellowship Hall immediately following
the
Worship Service.

The ham and beverages will be provided.
Bring your favorite salad, side dish or dessert
to share
and join us for
a meal and fellowship as we welcome rebirth
and Spring!

We hope to see you there!!

Guest Pastor, John Zamudio, gave a very
inspirational sermon on February 15, 2026
on the “King of Glory” and will be
Preaching again on March 15, 2026.

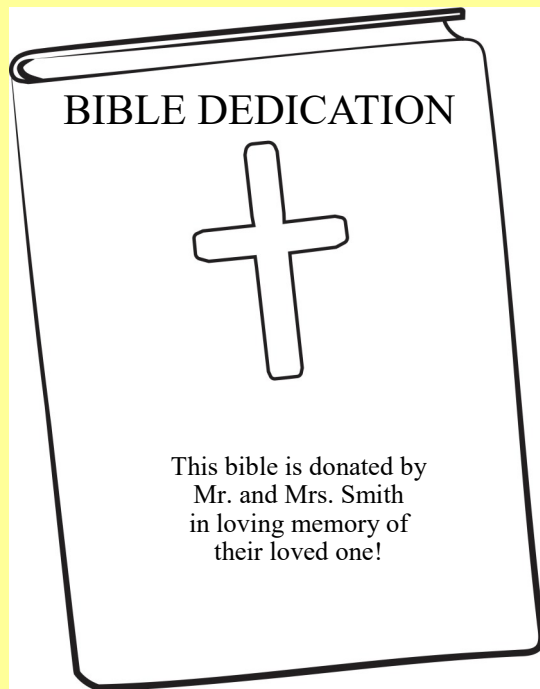
We encourage everyone to come out and
hear Rev. Zamudio preach as he is being
considered
for the full-time Pastor position
At Lakeside Christian Fellowship.

After the sermon, members can meet and
visit with Rev. Zamudio at the
Pot Luck, which will be held immediately
following the worship service.

Ballots to cast your vote regarding the
full-time Pastor will be available on the
table at the back of the Worship Sanctuary
or in the church office from
March 8—March 22, 2026.



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Members of Lakeside Christian Fellowship
Have the opportunity to dedicate a bible in
honor or memory of a loved one.

Our new Pew Bibles have a dedication page in the
front that provides the opportunity for members of
our congregation to place a printed dedication in
memory of or in honor of loved ones.

If you are interested in dedicating a bible in
honor or memory of your loved ones,
make a donation to the LCF's memorial fund for
\$15. per bible dedication (the cost per bible).
We will place a label in a bible in honor or memory
of your loved one worded as you choose.

**The Next Game Day will be held from 2-5 pm on
April 19, the third Sunday of the month,
in the LCF Fellowship Hall.**

March Game Day has been canceled!

Bring any card or board game you choose to play.
A few snacks will be provided but
bring your own beverage.

If you have a card table or two, bring it.
It would be greatly appreciated.

All are welcome to attend!

Contact Laurie Glass for additional information.



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**

**Lakeside Christian Fellowship
will be having a "Work Day" on February 28, 2026
at 9 am.**

The purpose of the work day will be to work on the decking
outside of the Fellowship Hall.

The more volunteers we have, the quicker
the project will take.

All help is greatly appreciated!
For more information, contact Gene Glass.

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**Church
Office
Hours:
Wednesday
and Thursday
from 9:30 am
to 3:30 pm.**



Please remember
that all church
activities should
be scheduled on
the master
calendar in the
church office.
Thank you!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WS 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming	2	3 9:30 AM Men's Bible Study LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs	4 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs	5	6 World Day of Prayer 	7 SET CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR 
8 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WS 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	9 9:30 AM Leadership Council Meeting @ LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs	10 9:30 AM Men's Bible Study LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs	11 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs	12	13	14
15 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WS 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming Pot Luck to Follow	16	17 9:30 AM Men's Bible Study LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs 	18 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs 	19 Alzheimer Group 10:30 AM @LV Library	20 	21
22 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WS 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ WS 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WS Live Streaming	23	24 9:30 AM Men's Bible Study LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs	25 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs	26	27	28
29 Same as Above 	30	31 9:30 AM Men's Bible Study LCF Fellowship Hall Downstairs	For more information visit the LCF website at www.lakesidechristians.org			

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Dave Farwell	8
Joe Wolverton	8
Dorothy Gudgeall	18
William Bush	22
Ginger Halsted	23



Lance & Carolyn Bass
March 1

William & Linda Summers
March 10

Tom & Kari Monahan
March 25

If you would like your dates to be
Included, please send your
information to the church office!!

lakesidechristianfellowship@yahoo.com

Prayer Corner

<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/spring-prayers>

A Metaphor for Change

Spring is a metaphor for change.
Some changes we eagerly await, and some we abhor.
Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited.
To all these changes we ask the gift of Your
perspective beckoning us to expectation,
hope, and rebirth.
May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that
You are at work renewing the earth.
As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in
our lives, too.
Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our
lives this Spring.
Awaken us to new life and perspective,
for we pray in Jesus' name.

- Found on: <https://www.chausa.org/prayers/prayer-library/general-prayers-and-prayer-services/seasonal-and-holidays/spring-prayer>

February 26, 2026

YTD Offerings..... \$44,509.42

YTD Expenses..... \$36,575.11

Lakeside Christian Fellowship

Worship and Office Location
3305 Pinnacle Cove, Lago Vista, TX

Contact:

512-267-1700, lakesidechristianfellowship@yahoo.com

Mailing Address

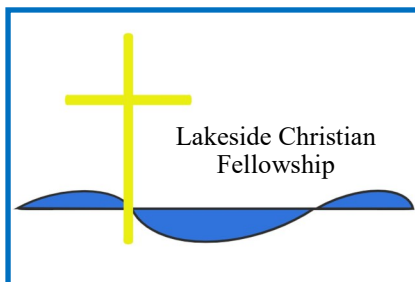
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