

Lakeside Christian Fellowship Ripples



DECEMBER 2022

VOLUME X, NUMBER 12

What is Advent?

Advent is a season in the Church calendar dedicated to the hopeful anticipation for the arrival or "advent" of Jesus of Nazareth. During the four-week period leading up to Christmas, many Advent observers engage in prayer, meditation, and Scripture study that emphasizes hope, peace, love, and joy. Christians from many backgrounds celebrate this time, and while their practices may look different, all focus on the hope-filled arrival of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah and King.

What Does Advent Mean?

Advent means "arrival" and signifies the start of an event or the arrival of a person. We might use the word to talk about "the advent of the Internet" or "the advent of the pandemic." In Christian communities around the world, Advent refers to a four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus of Nazareth on Earth.

Why Is Advent Important?

Advent can be a simple and fun tradition that functions as a festive countdown to Christmas. For others—particularly those who believe Jesus to be the incarnation of God and the long-awaited Messiah—Advent is a shared experience of meditation and prayer that celebrates the arrival of Jesus.

Who Celebrates Advent?

People from Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian traditions celebrate Advent, though the specific practices may vary from community to community. Additionally, some people celebrate Advent without the focus on Jesus' arrival, seeing the tradition as a fun way to countdown to Christmas.

How Is Advent Typically Celebrated?

In some traditions, followers of Jesus devote the first two weeks of Advent to remembering Jesus' promise to return and renew Heaven and Earth, so that humanity can be healed and at peace with God. Then, during the last two weeks of Advent, these communities focus on the birth of Jesus.

A family of faith connecting people to Christ and to each other!

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In other traditions, people focus on four topics—hope, peace, love, and joy—one for each week leading up to Christmas. People may light Advent candles or prepare Advent wreaths, hold special church services or read specific Scriptures each day, and some use an Advent calendar to build anticipation for Christmas.

What Parts of the Bible Inform Our Understanding of Advent?

From the first story in the Bible to the last, we see narratives, poetry, prophecy, biographies, and personal letters that inform our understanding of Advent in unique ways. Whenever the Bible talks about humans waiting and hoping for God to act, it can deepen our understanding of Advent.

Amos 9:11-13

The Restoration of Israel

11 “In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David,
And wall up its breaches;
I will also raise up its ruins
And rebuild it as in the days of old;
12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom
And all the nations who are called by My name,”
Declares the Lord who does this.
13 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord,
“When the plowman will overtake the reaper
And the treader of grapes him who sows seed;
When the mountains will drip sweet wine
And all the hills will be dissolved.

When we read about people who are filled with peace or joy because of the promises of God being fulfilled, this too can develop our understanding of Advent (Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 11:1-5; Luke 1:26-2:20; Luke 1:26-2:20). And when the New Testament talks about a second advent, the return of Jesus, we join in that hopeful anticipation, shared by Christians throughout history (Revelation 21:1-5).

https://bibleproject.com/guides/advent/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIhf_09NnY-wIV2xvUAR1FUg64EAAYASAAEgJq7vD_BwE

2022 Advent ~ Christmas Calendar



Sunday, November 27
First Sunday of Advent
10:30 am Worship



Sunday, December 11
Third Sunday of Advent
10:30 am Worship



Sunday, December 4
Second Sunday of Advent
10:30 am Worship



Sunday, December 18
Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:30 am Worship



Sunday, December 25
Christmas Sunday
10:30 am Worship

Sunday, January 1
Epiphany Sunday
10:30 am Worship



LAKE SIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Leadership Council Report for October 10, 2022

The Leadership Council meeting was called to order at 2:00PM by moderator Fred Pontesso. Council members present were Fred Pontesso, Judy Guthrie, Donna Nash, Genie Carroll, Wilma Sanders, Chuck Smith, Don Killough, Rodger Elliott, Jack Tyler, Susan Galvan, June Freeman and Ginger Halstead. A quorum was present.

Invocation: Reverend Susan Galvan opened with a prayer.

Opening Remarks: Thoughts to Ponder- "Do what is right, not what is easy"

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by June Freeman to approve the minutes from the September 12th Council Meeting. (1) Motion was seconded by Ginger Halstead. Motion carried.

Commission Reports:

Financial Update- Contributions are down but year to date income is sufficient to cover expenses.

Stewardship Commission- Don Killough provided the current results of the Stewardship Drive. There are still some remaining members that need to respond to mailed pledge information. Final results will be shared at the annual meeting on October 30th. Our church secretary is completing a membership audit and confirmation of active members is to follow prior to the annual meeting.

Building and Grounds- Rodger Elliott reported that there are no issues at the current time.

Faith in Action – Wilma Sanders reported that shoe boxes from Samaritans Purse would be available at the next Sunday Service on 10/16 along with instructions for filling the boxes. This is a wonderful way to make a needy child's wishes come true. She also stated that forms will be available at the back of the church to help feed our needy families in Lago Vista area by providing a \$25 donation for the purchase of

gift cards for food for a Thanksgiving meal.

Worship Commission – Ginger Halstead reported that there would not be a Christmas Cantata this year. The council discussed possibly having an evening of Christmas Carols in December. No decision was made.

Pastoral Relations – Jack Tyler stated that he had no report. A discussion was held regarding the need to obtain a portable microphone set for Pastor Susan Galvan and that funds to cover this expense could come from the building fund. A motion was made by Wilma Sanders to take funds from the building fund to purchase the wireless microphone set at an expense not to exceed \$400. (2) Motion was seconded by Genie Carroll. Motion passed. It was also stated that a donation of \$150 had been received from a parish member to be applied to the purchase of this microphone set.

Ministries – June Freeman reported that the potluck held on October 9th was well attended and that the Gaither Band concert was upcoming on October 15th. She also stated that an opening exists for the Congregational Care position for 2023 and a volunteer is needed.

Outreach – Pastor Chuck Smith stated that planning is taking place for Advent Services which will start on 11/27. He reported average attendance figures for September as follows: Attendance in person averaged 40.5; those viewing live streaming of the service=11.75; viewing the service within 24 hours=50.75; average for all viewership=91; and average visits to our website within 24 hours was 39.5. He also stated that there are 69 subscribers to our channel. Donna Nash reported that decorating the church for the Christmas season will take place on Monday, 11/21 @ 9:30. Anyone is welcome to come and help add the warmth of the Christmas season to our sanctuary and parish hall.

CHURCH



COUNCIL

LAKESIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Leadership Council Report for October 10, 2022

Old Business:

Long Range Planning Committee – Chair Edwina Woolsey was not in attendance, however she reported that she will be meeting with Rev. Susan Galvan about several planning ideas that may overlap.

New Business:

By-Law Changes – Donna Nash reported that the first reading of By-Law changes was made at the Sunday service on 9/18; the second reading was included in the October Ripples; and a vote on changes will take place at the annual meeting taking place immediately after the church service on October 30th rather than on October 23rd as previously reported.

Disbursement requests – Fred Pontesso stated that a disbursement sheet must be filled out and signed by Genie Carroll, Treasurer and Fred Pontesso, Moderator before any donation is paid from the church treasury.

Title and a By-Law Change - After discussions among the council, a motion was made by Ginger Halstead to change Bill Parcher's title from "Music Director" to "Minister of Music". (3) Motion was seconded by June Freeman. A vote was held and motion carried. Another motion was made by Judy Guthrie to add our Mission Statement- "A family of faith connecting people to Christ and each other" be added to our By-Laws. (4) Motion was seconded by Jack Tyler. Motion carried.

Puzzle Exchange – Keeping Lago Vista Beautiful President, Denise Sellers requested that we allow her to install a box on the front porch of the church for a puzzle exchange. Our church would not incur any expense for the box or its installation. Several boxes are being placed at establishments around town. There was no objection to allowing this box and council members thought that it would provide additional visibility to our church and location.

Survey Results – At the October 9th potluck, Rev.

Susan Galvan handed out a survey form for us all to complete ranking our opinions on how our parishioners view their membership in the church. She provided results of this survey at the council meeting. Not all questions or answers are mentioned here but results showed that Lakeside Christian Fellowship really cares about its members and that our church is very welcoming to visitors and new members. A consensus showed that LCF could do better to achieve its mission by increasing our membership, adding more activities for the benefit of its members and to draw new members to our church, and to advertise, obtain more publicity, and do more to promote our mission and our church in the community. Overall, what everyone loves about our church is "The people, the fellowship and the music".

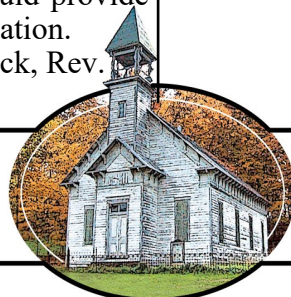
Future Topics:

Next council meeting to take place on November 14, 2022.

Adjourn:

Fred Pontesso adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM

CHURCH



COUNCIL

LAKESIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

2022 Annual Congregational Meeting for October 30, 2022

The annual congregational meeting was called to order at 11:21AM by Moderator Fred Pontesso who welcomed attendees. Thirty-nine members were in attendance and a quorum was present.

Invocation: Pastor Chuck Smith opened with a prayer.

Status of the Church: Fred Pontesso stated that the membership of the church has severely declined. He presented a chart showing Active Membership by year from 2009 -10/30/2022. As of 10/30/2022 active members number 95 with 65 families. There is one person on the Associate Membership role for a total membership today of 96. Between the years of 2011-2017 membership averaged between 137-142 members with 86-90 families. He shared that several members have passed away, moved, or are no longer able to attend in person. Due to COVID there are some who now only view the Sunday service on line. Administrative assistant Debbie Reed is reaching out to families to confirm whether they wish to remain as active members and the membership rolls will be updated according.

Faith In Action: Wilma Sanders has reached out to the Lago Vista School District for information on families in need during this holiday season and stated that there is a large need for donations of food for Thanksgiving. Forms are available to members in a basket at the back of the church to sponsor a family for Thanksgiving by providing funds for the purchase of grocery shopping gift certificates in increments of \$25 each. Please consider filling out a form and returning it to the Worship Center by November 13th. Wilma also stated that shoe boxes are still available at the back of the church to fill with small gifts for a boy or girl in need through the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" Project. Deadline for returning the filled boxes is Sunday November 6th.

Budget/Salaries: Jack Tyler, chair of Pastoral Relations, had presented previously to the Church Council a request for salary increases for all church staff. The council had voted and approved a small 3% salary increase to be added to the budget for all staff members beginning in 2023. The increase is reflected in the 2023 budget to be voted on by members at this annual meeting.

Stewardship Drive/2023 Budget Approval: Don Killough, Stewardship chair, presented the results of the 2023 Pledge Drive. Pledges received to date total \$119,668.00 from 36 pledging families. The Pledge Drive included 57 family units; 47 from Lago Vista and 10 from Point Venture. There are a few families included in the pledge drive that either do not wish to pledge at this time or were out of town during the drive. Pledge contributions have declined from the previous year's pledged amount of \$158,504. He stated that a budget is a plan and that contributions to be received in the future can't be accurately predicted since there are also unpledged contributions received each month. The 2023 budget was reviewed with attending members and in addition to the small salary increases for staff, a higher amount was budgeted for utilities and for advertising in hopes of drawing more members to the church. As a result of lower pledged funds, the projected budget for 2023 will produce a negative of \$57,000 in expenses over income. Plans for growth hopefully will cover this amount but our bank account is still sufficient to cover all expenses. Questions were raised by the congregation about the need for a report of all income and expenses and a balance sheet be available for review by all church members each month. It is the intention of the future treasurer to work with the accountant to revise the way "budgeted vs. actual expense figures" are reported monthly to the congregation in 2023 so that it is easier to review. Don Killough also shared with members present that they can make their pledges to the church through a de-

CHURCH



COUNCIL

LAKESIDE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

2022 Annual Congregational Meeting for October 30, 2022

duction taken directly from their IRA or 401K by their investment adviser and transferred directly to the church. This method of giving will result in their contributions becoming a deduction from actual income on tax returns which could lower their tax burden. This can be discussed directly with a member's personal accountant or financial advisor. Not many people are aware of this option. After all discussion was completed, a motion was made (1) by Warwick Andrews to approve the 2023 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Eleanor Smith. A vote was held and the budget was approved by all.

Building and Grounds: Rodger Elliott stated that recently the landlord has replaced some rotted wood at the base of the front of the building with new stone and rock work. He also intends to upgrade the air conditioning system and may also paint the church building. All these items will be welcome improvements.

Election of Officers and Chairpersons: Fred Pontesso presented the slate of Leadership Council and Ministry Members for 2023. A motion was made (2) by Lance Bass to approve all future council and ministry members. The motion was seconded by Genie Carroll. A vote was held and motion carried.

Election of Nominating Committee: Moderator Fred Pontesso presented the selected 2023 Nominating Committee Members. A motion was made (3) by Betty Houghton to approve the future nominating committee members. The motion was seconded by Mary Ann Childs. Motion approved.

Approval of Constitutional Changes: Proposed changes to the By-Laws had previously been presented to church members by Parliamentary Donna

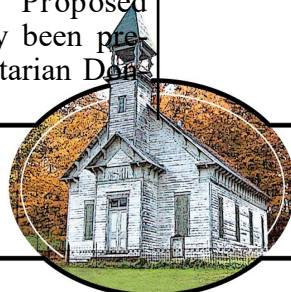
Nash and also included in previous Ripples newsletter which involved the addition of a Ministry Coordinator to the church council. A copy of these by-law changes was also provided to all congregational meeting attendees. A motion was made by Bill Bush (4) to accept the By Law changes as written. Motion was seconded by Blue Galvan. A vote was held and the motion was approved.

Call for Rev. Susan Galvan as Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care: Moderator Fred Pontesso called Susan Galvan to the podium. Parliamentarian, Donna Nash, again read "Calling A Pastor", as included in our By-Laws. As a thought to ponder, Donna stated that "All Pastors can perform the duties of a minister, but Not all Ministers can act as Pastors". She read to Susan the responsibilities of her position as Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care and asked her if she accepted the position. Susan stated "Yes". A motion was made (5) by Jack Tyler to call Susan Galvan as a Pastor to Lakeside Christian Fellowship. Fran Pontesso seconded the motion. A vote was held by the congregation and Susan was accepted to the position.

Closing Remarks: Moderator Fred Pontesso asked the attendees if there were any other questions or business to be presented. Nothing was mentioned. He asked Susan Galvan to say a closing prayer.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:55AM.

CHURCH COUNCIL



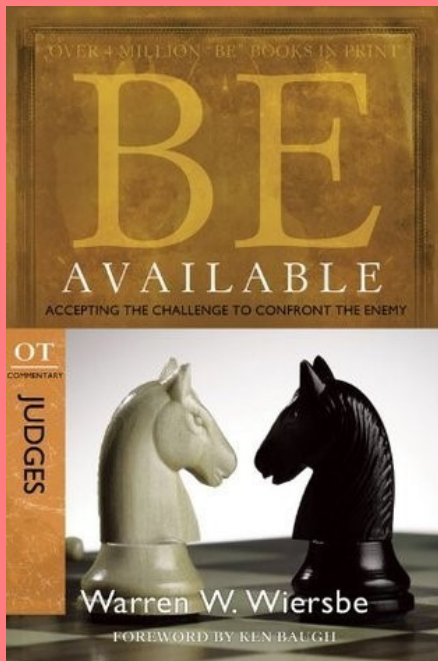
A family of faith connecting people to Christ and to each other!

**Christian Women's Fellowship
will be hosting a potluck on
December 5, 2022
in the LCF Fellowship Hall from
11:30 am - 1:30 pm.**



**Bring your favorite dish to share and join us as we
celebrate getting together once again!**

Lakeside Christian Women's Bible Study



**A new study on the book of Judges
begins on December 7, 2022
in the
LCF Fellowship Hall
at 9:30 a.m.**

**Please contact
Sharon Snowden to order a book
at snow1025@twc.com.**

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

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Come see our new Look!

There is new stone work under the windows and around the sign on the front of the building.



Sing-
Along
Christmas



Join us on December 18, 2022
from 3 - 5 pm
for a Christmas Carol Sing
Along!

Raise your voice in heavenly praise and
join in on the fun!
Who doesn't love to sing
Christmas Carols?
We hope to see you there!

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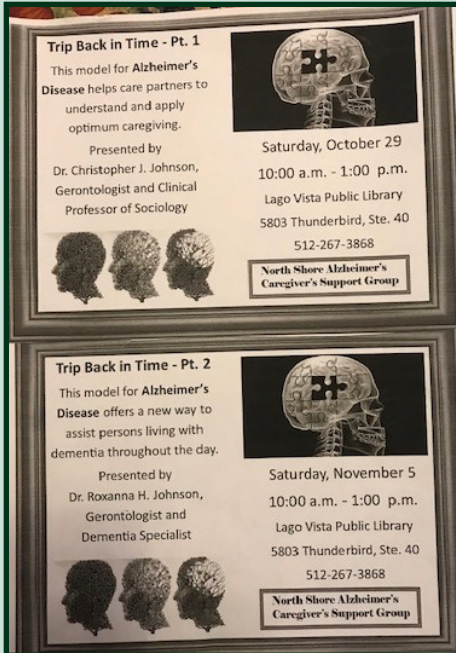
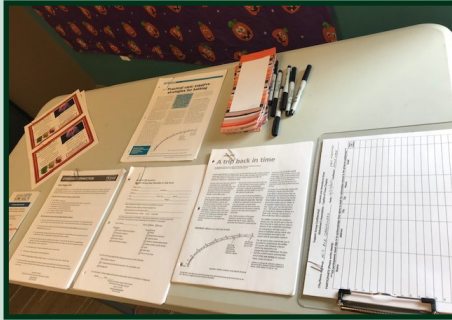
On Thursday, November 17, 2022, Wilma Sanders, Rev. Susan Galvan and Rev. Chuck Smith presented to Lago Vista ISD Superintendent, Suzy Lofton-Bullis and the school councilors, 33 Lowe's grocery gift cards at a value of \$50. each for those student families in need of some extra help during the Thanksgiving Holiday. Thanks and God's blessings to all at Lakeside Christian Fellowship for your generous donations to our community!



Wilma Sanders delivered 30 Christmas Shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Project at the Hill Country Bible Church in Leander, Texas. Our church members are so giving and may God bless them for their donations to help spread the gospel to children throughout the world!

A family of faith connecting people to Christ and to each other!

**On October 30 and November 5, LCF sponsored a memory care seminar
“A Trip back in Time” at the Lago Vista Public Library**



Rev. Chuck Smith



June and David Freeman with
Donna Nash



Guest Speakers
Dr. Roxanne Johnson
And
Dr. Christopher Johnson



A family of faith connecting people to Christ and to each other!

Christmas Decorating and Grounds Clean up Day!

On Monday, November 21, the members of Lakeside Christian Fellowship came out in united force. Twenty members worked together in fellowship working hard while having fun. The gentlemen diligently worked in 36 degree temperatures cleaning up the church grounds while the women hung wreaths and chrismons and angels, all which were handmade by the ladies of LCF.

After a successful day, a delicious brunch was served and shared by all!

Thanks to all of our members that served God by helping our church get ready for the Christmas season!



A family of faith connecting people to Christ and to each other!

Christmas Decorating and Grounds Clean up Day!



A family of faith connecting people to Christ and to each other!

Pop and Drop



A special Thank You to
Dawn Mann Thompson
for donating the flowers to the
October 20,
Deborah Reed for donating to the
October 30
and Dick and Wilma Sanders
for their donation on November 20
to the Worship Services
and then to the
Pop and Drop Ministry.
The flowers were used to brighten
up the day for
several families.



The Pop and Drop Ministry is
in need of small vases!
If you have any small vases to
donate, please contact
Donna Nash
at 512-267-5947.

A BIG THANK YOU TO
Paula Tyler for her donation of
small vases to the ministry.



A family of faith connecting people to Christ and to each other!

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



DECEMBER 2022

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WC 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ AC 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WC Live Streaming	5 8:00 AM Coffee Klatch @ LCF Activity Center 11:30 am-1:30 pm LCF Potluck @ LCF Activity Center	6	7 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Activity Center 	8	9	10
11 9:30 AM Choir Practice @ WC 10:00 AM Meet and Greet @ AC 10:30 AM Worship Service @ WC Live Streaming	12 8:00 AM Coffee Klatch @ LCF Activity Center 2:00 PM Leadership Council Meeting	13	14 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Activity Center	15 Alzheimer Group 10:30 AM @LV Library 	16	17
18 Same as above Christmas Carol Sing Along 3-5 pm @ LCF Worship Center	19 8:00 AM Coffee Klatch @ LCF Activity Center	20	21 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Activity Center 	22 Office Closed Christmas Holiday	23	24 
25 Same Schedule for Morning Worship Merry Christmas!  Christmas Day	26 8:00 AM Coffee Klatch @ LCF Activity Center	27	28 Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM @LCF Activity Center	29 Office Closed Holiday	30	31 

For more information visit the
LCF website at
www.lakesidechristians.org



Carolyn Bass 3
Gene Glass.....26



Mike and Theresa Sholes
12/8

Bonnie & Sid McClung
12/10

Fran & Fred Pontesso
12/22

To be included, please send
your information to:

lakesidechristianfellowship@yahoo.com

Prayer Corner

Prayer: 365 Days of Prayer

Lord,
Our hearts are filled with gladness for
this yearly celebration
of the birth of Jesus Christ;
Make us become confident to face
him in heaven during judgment day
for we have joyfully followed
his teachings.

Amen!



November 30, 2022

YTD Offerings\$173,039.00
YTD Expenses.....\$167,403.00

A family of faith connecting people to Christ and to each other!



**LAKE SIDE CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**

Wishes You a Merry Christmas!

Lakeside Christian Fellowship

Worship Location

1922 American Drive, Lago Vista

Office

1924 American Drive, Lago Vista

512-267-1700, lakesidechristianfellowship@yahoo.com

Mailing Address

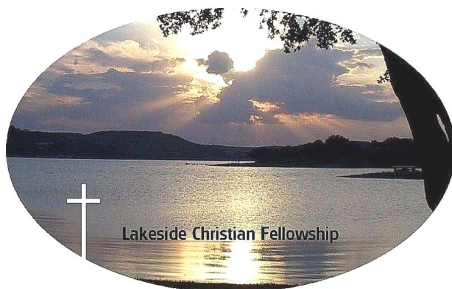
P. O. Box 4874, Lago Vista, TX 78645

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**LAKESIDE
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www.lakesidechristians.org

