

Vol. 9, Issue 2, February 2020

connect

Love Does

DON'T JUST SAY IT!

THIS THING CALLED "LOVE"

Valentine's serves to remind us of an ever-present love

HIS GREAT LOVE

Discover the hymn that shocked our music pastor

FEBRUARY

2nd Communion

6 pm



7th Prayer Meeting | 7 pm Renaissance Room (FLC)



14th PrimeTime Love Feast 6 pm Renaissance Room (FLC)

**Catered meal. Cost is \$8 per person. Sign-up in the main lobby or through Vida Sexton at 304-617-7231.*

PrimeTime
Love
Feast



9th

**Caring Hearts Widow's Luncheon | 11:30 am
Renaissance Room (FLC)**

**Note the time change for this month*

11th

**First Responders
Outreach Meal Day**

Ebenezer
A Ministry of Lewis Memorial Baptist Church

**Each month we will host a free meal day for the First Responders working in our community. Our desire is that they will see and hear in us the love of Jesus and be filled with hope. You can be a part of this ministry by praying for those who come and those who serve.*

RV

Calendar Key:

Red = LKC

Orange = Refuel

WC = Worship Center

FLC = Family Life Center

SMB = Student Ministry Building

20/20

BIBLE READING

Follow this month's daily Bible reading plan below to refocus in 2020.

1st OFF

2nd Leviticus 1-4

3rd Leviticus 5-7

4th Leviticus 8-10

5th Leviticus 11-13:46

6th Leviticus 13:47-15:33

7th Leviticus 16-18

8th Leviticus 19-21

9th Leviticus 22-23

10th Leviticus 24-25

11th Leviticus 26-27

12th Numbers 1-2

13th Numbers 3-4:33

14th Numbers 4:34-6:27

15th Numbers 7

16th Numbers 8-10

17th Numbers 11-13

18th Numbers 14-15

19th Numbers 16-18

20th Numbers 19-21

21st Numbers 22-24

22nd Numbers 25-27:11

23rd Numbers 27:12-29:40

24th Numbers 30-31

25th Numbers 32-34:15

26th Numbers 34:16-36:13

27th Deuteronomy 1-2

28th Deuteronomy 3-5

29th Deuteronomy 6-9



Sundays

LKC@WC (ages preschool - 4th grade) | 6 pm
L107

Wednesdays

LKC@FLC (ages 3 - 4th grade) | 7 pm
FLC Gym & 2nd Floor

Wednesdays

Lit (5th-6th grades) | 7 pm
FLC 2nd Floor



13th

Valentine's Party

7 pm
Gym/2nd Floor (FLC)

We will celebrate Valentine's Day with a fun treat in each classroom. The children may bring valentine's to give to their friends.

REFUEL



MORE HONEST CONVERSATIONS ON TOUCHY SUBJECTS

Wednesdays

Refuel (Students) | 6:45 pm
SMB 2nd & 3rd Floors

2nd

Super Bowl Party

6 pm
SMB 2nd Floor

16th

Worship Together

Weekend | 10:45 am
Auditorium (WC)

19th

Fear Factor Night

6:45 pm
SMB 2nd & 3rd Floors

21st

Winter Jam

THIS THING CALLED "LOVE"



by Steve Tardy

Steve and his wife Vicky have been members of Lewis since 2003. They have been married for 40 years (August 2020). They have led a small group Bible study in their home for 10 years. Steve is an author, speaker, and radio host. His program, "In Defense of Christ" has been on the air since March 2012. His webpage can be found at idocradio.org. His books can be found on Amazon (under the author's full name: John Steven Tardy). His passion is for all Christians to be able to defend Scripture theologically, historically, and philosophically. Thereby, being able to say..." I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16).

When I was in the first grade I fell in love for the first time. Penny was beautiful, with long brown hair and green eyes. For Valentine's Day I gave her two of my mother's clip-on earrings and an envelope containing 100 pennies. To my surprise, her mother made her give the gifts back to me the next day! Sheeezzz, what an experience on my first attempt at love. In case you're wondering, things did pick up for me. I later told Vicky I could not live without her, and August 16th of this year will mark our 40th wedding anniversary, and I still tell her that I can not live without her. Now, I feel just like the guy I heard in a movie who he said, "I still think about you even when I'm with you!"

My hope for you this Valentine season is that there is someone special in your life. There is no greater feeling than to be loved. It goes beyond feeling needed, it goes beyond being encouraged, welcomed, and even praised. Why? These all involve feelings that ebb and flow, come and go. Ahh, but love is tested. Love is lasting. True love is marked by a steady line that does not waver when the encouragement stops, the praise ceases, no one seems to need you, and the welcoming is no longer visible.

Now I realize not everyone has this type of love in their life; and that this time of year can be discouraging and lonely. I have great news for you! No matter your past, no matter who's love you have lost over the years, and no matter how disgruntled or sad you are feeling, there is a special "Someone" for you. He is Christ the Lord. Dear friend, this isn't just great news, it is the best news! Christ's love is inexhaustible and unchangeable. He is our source of happiness. God tells us in Jeremiah 31:3, "I have loved you with an everlasting love ..." Think about it, "everlasting" is a long time!

Christ has loved you from all eternity, but the extent of His love is exhibited in John 15:13 when He says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Ryrie says this, "... the highest expression of love is a self-sacrifice which spares not life itself."¹ We all know the depths of His love as seen on the cross, therefore, as Christians, we all know the boundless love we have the privilege of experiencing every day.

Dear Christian, my gift to Penny in the first grade was returned to me (and I'm glad because my mom was searching for her earrings). God's gift however, is for all, fits all, and is free all the time. It has a " no return " policy. Have you accepted this gift? If so, are you utilizing this gift to its fullest extent? I dare say, that I do not. Too many times I have let discouragement rule my life. How sad that God has done everything for me, and yet I somehow find a way for God's enduring love to slip right through my fingers. Maybe this is a good time to begin a fresh walk with the Savior. Scripture reminds us that God, in His goodness, goes about seeking those who will love Him (Proverbs 8:17). Therefore, no matter your present condition: happy, sad, or indifferent, God is still seeking you. He seeks after each of us, just as He did Adam and Eve in the garden when He asked, "... where are you? (Gen. 3:9). Maybe He is asking you this same question, can you hear Him calling your name?

How does this encompass you and me today? Love breaks down all barriers, all disappointments and all the " what ifs " in life. God's love is supreme. Having this understanding allows you and me to go through life with all its ups and downs and still have a smile on our face. And the best news? We can share with others why we can keep our heads high when our lives are crumbling down all around us. This Valentine season, be happy. Why? Because the greatest love we will ever experience is ever-present. When is the last time you reached out to Him? He hasn't gone anywhere, so what could be the problem?

We heard from the pulpit a couple of months ago the sermon by Dr. S. M. Lockridge, who said of Christ the King, "... no means of measure can define His limitless love ... He is the greatest phenomenon that has ever crossed the horizon ... you can't outlive Him, and you can't live without him ... I wish I could describe Him to you ..." Dear friends in Christ, please remember, when we experience and utilize the love of Christ in our daily lives, we have everything. Just think, when He is with you, He still thinks about you.

¹ Charles Ryrie, The Ryrie Study Bible, KJV, (Chicago, The Moody Bible Institute, Moody Press, Jan.1,1978), 1524.

“...there is a great God
with a great love for you, and ...
nothing can separate you from ... **HIS**

Because I have attended church since infancy, there are many tunes and lyrics of hymns that bounce around the empty space between my ears. Some of these hymns describe the greatness of our God in ways that cause us to pause, reflect, and stand in awe of His majesty. Others remind us of how much He loves us, and they take us in poetic brilliance to the cross of Christ, while some songs of the faith assure us that God’s Son continues to love us, and “like a Shepherd, Jesus will guard His children.”

Occasionally, there are some words from the hymnal that will shock me, or at least come very close to shocking me. The song, “It’s Just Like His Great Love,” though rarely heard today, was often sung in our church services during my childhood and teen years.

The third verse contains the words that would stand out, and even to this day often echo in my brain. “When sorrow’s clouds o’er take me, and break upon my head, when life seems worse than useless, and I were better dead; What was it in the life of Edna Worrell that brought her to write these lyrics? What is it about them that makes them so captivating to the mind after all these years? I don’t believe she could have written these words without having experienced some immense mental anguish caused by the cares of this life. I also wonder if completely well-adjusted people, who have no inclination to depression or despair, simply glance over these words, or do they think, “well, what was wrong with her?”

It’s a great tragedy to me that there is no historical background written about this hymn, nor do we know much about Edna Worrell’s life. We do know that she was a prolific writer, lived in Philadelphia, and was thought to have been a great, great-grandniece of Betsy Ross.

Verse 2 relates the cause of the anxiety she mentions in verse 3. “Sometimes the clouds of trouble, bedim the sky above, I cannot see my Savior’s face. I doubt His wondrous love.” The end of the third verse gives a solution to the despair of the first half of that verse. “I take my grief to Jesus,” and the triumphant answer of the refrain is, “It’s just like Jesus to roll the clouds away ... It’s just like His great love.”

I don’t know how low despair has taken you, or if you ever considered life to be “worse than useless.” I do know that



by Nathan McClay

Nathan McClay is an assistant pastor and oversees the music and worship ministry of LMBC. He has been serving God at Lewis since 1991. Nathan and his wife, Audrey, have been married for 28 years and have 4 children and two grandchildren.

GREAT LOVE

there is a great God with a great love for you, and if you have trusted Him to save you from your sins, according to Romans 8, nothing can separate you from the love of God. Take time to read the passage for yourself. Notice in Romans 8:32 that if God did not spare His son, then He won't forsake you now. Also, observe the list of the things of this life, of the spiritual powers, and of the dimensions of time and space that cannot separate you from His love. From that viewpoint, you can go from feeling "better dead" to realizing that "we are more than conquerors THROUGH HIM WHO LOVED US!"

It's Just Like His Great Love

Edna R. Worrell, 1903

*A friend I have called Jesus, Whose love is strong and true,
And never fails howe'er 'tis tried, no matter what I do;
I sinned against this love of His, but when I knelt to pray,
Confessing all my guilt to Him, the sin-clouds rolled away.*

Refrain:

It's just like Jesus to roll the clouds away,

*It's just like Jesus to keep me day by day,
It's just like Jesus all along the way,
It's just like His great love.*

*Sometimes when clouds of trouble bedim the sky above,
I cannot see my Savior's face, and doubt His wondrous love;
But He, from heaven's mercy seat, beholding my despair,
In pity bursts the clouds between, and shows me He is there.*

*When sorrow's clouds o'ertake me, and break upon my head,
When life seems worse than useless, and I were better dead;
I take my grief to Jesus then, nor do I go in vain,
For heav'nly hope He gives that cheers like sunshine after rain.*

*Oh, I could sing forever of Jesus' love divine,
Of all His care and tenderness for this poor life of mine;
His love is in and over all, and wind and waves obey,
When Jesus whispers, "Peace, be still!" and rolls the clouds away.*

Kids corner

Special stories
for our LKC kids!



Joey, the Turtle

by Rebekah Shaffer

Artwork by Heather Waugh

Joey is a miniature turtle. He's actually about the size of a silver dollar. He prefers to walk upright on his two back legs to make himself feel bigger, but he's still small and he gets really tired on two legs instead of four.

He lives with his mom and dad, who are also pretty small, in a miniature house in the woods. Everything they own is itty bitty; a tiny table, tiny beds, tiny dishes, and tiny clothes. Even though he's itty bitty, Joey goes to a regular forest kindergarten with his woodland friends. Well, we can loosely call them friends because so far, for Joey, Kindergarten has been harder than walking on two legs; Until one day when everything changed. It wasn't easy for Joey trying to fit in a class of regular size animals. Instead of standing out most of the children actually didn't even notice him during parts of the

school day. When he tried to play games at recess the others pushed him out of playground tag because he was so small and too slow. At lunch no one would trade food with him because his food was just too tiny. After all, who would want to trade a regular size cookie for one the size of a cheerio?

It was hard for him to win the spelling relays in class because the teacher, Mrs. Fitz, couldn't see his itty-bitty hand raised in line behind Periwinkle, the Lop bunny. And when it was carpet time, Joey strained his itty-bitty neck out of his itty-bitty shell just to try to see the pictures of the book Mrs. Fitz was reading. Eventually he would give up and had to settle for only listening to the story book. Each day when Joey walked home alone, he'd wish he was bigger. He would give way to his exhaustion and return to using all four legs, but it didn't really matter because no one was around to see him. He'd kick rocks and dream of not being so itty bitty. Maybe, he thought, if he was bigger, he'd be more important. And each night when he'd crawl into his itty-bitty bed, his momma would kiss his forehead, pull up his covers and tell him that he was a very valuable little turtle no matter his size. She told him the same thing every night, "Joey, you are valuable just the way you are. You just need to wait for the right time and trust."

That made Joey smile. Momma always had a way of making Joey feel special. One ordinary kindergarten day, Joey was struggling in his usual itty-bitty way, when Mrs. Fitz called the class to line up for their regular bathroom break. Suddenly, when she grabbed the door to open it, the handle broke off with a loud crack and went flying across the room. "Oh no, WHAT WILL WE DO? We're trapped!" The other animals cried out in panic. Immediately the students erupted into worried cries. Ginger and Checkers were already doing the potty dance and Penelope was crying big tears because she was trapped FOREVER!

But wait, Mrs. Fitz suddenly thought of the perfect solution. Joey! Yes, Joey was just small enough to fit right inside the tiny hole left where the handle had been and turn the lock to open the door. "Joey" she said, "we all need you to do something no one else in this room can do. Will you help us?" Joey immediately thought of what his momma said to him every night at bedtime, about how he was valuable even being little and he decided to take the chance to help his friends. In a minute's time Joey crawled inside that tiny opening and had that lock turned. All the children cheered with relief, especially the two who had to potty. Joey saved the day and was no longer unnoticed by his classmates. They didn't tease him about being little, they gave him a front spot on the rug, and when it was the spelling relay, Periwinkle let him sit on his shoulders to play. Periwinkle even asked Joey to sit with him in the cafeteria for lunch. You see, whether you are itty bitty or greaty biggie, you are valuable. Sometimes you just have to wait for the right job to come along to show it.



in February

we'll learn from the **book of Exodus.**

The name of the book typically brings to mind an exit, however, instead of focusing on the exit we will focus on God's provision. Both Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings our children are walking with Moses one sandy foot at a time through the desert. They will be learning that in that hard time, during that "exit journey", God provided for them in every step they encountered. In Exodus 15:15, Moses says: *"Because your love is faithful, you will lead the people you have set free. Because you are so strong, you will guide them to the holy place where you live."*

Our older children will be learning how to apply the truths of the stories they've heard for so long. In the first service they are learning practical ways to make right choices while being a light to those around them; and in the second service they will be taking the life of Christ and dissecting why Jesus needed to be a sacrifice for our sins.

February is rich with God's story from the patriarchs to the practical for both our smallest to our oldest children.



LKC@WC is now meeting on Sunday nights! Kids preschool through fourth grade will enjoy lessons, games and more. February's focus will be on the book of John. Parents your kids won't want to miss the fun! It all starts at 6 pm in the LKC Worship Center (L107).



JOIN OTHERS WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE **DIFFERENCE MAKERS**



God called us to be salt and light to the world. This page is dedicated to efforts that help illuminate the darkness by shining the light of Christ. Will you be a difference maker?

A SPECIAL NOTE OF **THANKS**



... To everyone who participated in the Gifts for Jesus Offering. It was the largest we've ever received, which means we will be reaching more people than we ever imagined with life-changing needs as well as the Gospel of Christ! Thanks to your generosity in gifts totaling \$46,468 we were able to send not only one shipping container of clothes, medical equipment, medicine, food, water and more - but two, as well as 3 bundles of farm animals! But that's not all!! The church added \$2,532 to your gifts making it possible to dig another clean-water-bore well that will supply a community with clean, safe water for a lifetime!!! Way to go church! Way to go!!

... Also, thank you to those who participated in the D:Now weekend by hosting teens in your home.



**community
rewards**

SHARE CHRIST AS YOU **SHOP**

Did you know that you can contribute to our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) ministry every time you shop at Kroger? If you haven't signed up yet it's not too late and it's easy to do. Simply

...

1. Visit KrogerCommunityRewards.com
2. Sign in or create your online account
3. Find and select "Lewis Memorial Baptist Church" and click "Enroll"

AND **THANKS**

... To all of our current Kroger Community Reward members. You helped us raise \$1,874 in 2019 to help cover shipping costs and other supplies for OCC.



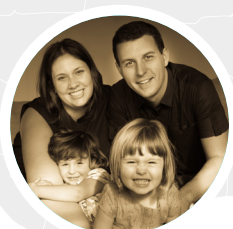
AFRICA



**Justin & Rachel
Hoy**
Senegal



**Jim & Connie
Jeremias**
Kenya



**JJ & Melissa
Alderman**
Togo



**Adam & Faith
Drake**
Togo



**Darin & Kathy
Ishler**
Kenya



**Diana
Ferrell**
Uganda



**Tom & Melissa
Kendall**
Togo



**John & Kidst
Getaneh**
Zambia



**Tom & Marilyn
Wilson**
South Africa



**Pascal & Becky
Grenade**
Mauritius



Meet our newest missionaries...

JUSTIN & RACHEL HOY

November 2019

Although 91% Muslim, we have come to realize that the largest religion of Senegal is actually animism (traditional spirit worship), because most Muslims and Catholics alike practice at least some animistic superstitions. For context, the voodoo culture of Haiti has its roots in West African animism. Animals are often sacrificed by fetish priests with the hope that the spirits will be merciful. Likewise, many people wear charms and pay fetish priests for spells and even curses to be placed on others.

But we are rejoicing in the Lord because He is liberating His people from the spiritual traditions of this culture, and the power of the evil one!

December 2019

This past month Tree of Life master trainers from Senegal started training in another country! That's right, a few of our local master trainers are now foreign missionaries! When we first came to Senegal on a short-term mission trip over 13 years ago and witnessed the lostness firsthand, we couldn't have dreamed that we would be a part of such a milestone. Praise the Lord! He is calling the local believers to see the need, rise up and go! This training is a 1-year commitment, which in the end, will result in commissioned master trainers, who will be equipped to make disciples and plant churches! We have teamed up with missionaries from another mission's agency who have seen the success of Tree of Life and partnered with us to make this training a reality.

Also, in December, my teammate and I added a new training to our monthly trip to the north. This training is in a new city where University students have asked us to come and train their Christian student association. The students were

very eager to begin this training and we were so impressed with how focused and engaged they were immediately.

January 2020

It's hard to believe... but our family just surpassed one year on African soil! So much has changed over the course of that year, yet one thing remains the same and that is the faithfulness of our God! The Lord has been faithful to sustain our life and ministry here in Senegal, and He has used you to do it. Thank you for giving! Thank you for praying! Thank you for your messages of encouragement! We couldn't be here or do anything of spiritual importance without your support.

Prayer Requests:

- Continue to pray for God to open doors for Tree of Life to train disciples in other West African countries.
- Pray for our national partners and master trainers as they continue to push the Gospel out into unreached places. Pray for their health, their protection, and their families.
- Please pray for the Bible Study groups and new churches that were started in 2019, that they will continue to grow in spiritual maturity.

Be an encouragement! Here's how you can contact this missionary family:

Justin & Rachel Hoy

www.thehoysblog.com

jhoy@fim.org

Phone: +221 77 252 9523

TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

Births

- *Ellie, Madeline, & Sadie Hamilton to Mack & Brittany Hamilton*

Bereavements

- *Doris Ashworth, Robby Ashworth's grandmother, Thurman Burns's sister*
- *Mary Brown, Richard Sexton's sister*
- *Willa Davis, Nikki Farley's grandmother*
- *Donald Faherty, Anita Faherty's husband*
- *Aline Henderson, Steve Burgh's mother*
- *Peggy Hayton, Michael Hayton's mother*
- *Eva Maloney Little, Carolyn Lane's mother*

Baptisms

- *Hannah Bledsoe (New Member)*
- *Maggie Burns (New Member)*
- *Jacob Enix (New Member)*
- *Jonah Howerton (New Member)*
- *Rebekah Lamm (New Member)*

Staff Birthdays

- *Phil Newberry (3rd)*

HOW TO JOIN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Are looking for a church home?

Would you prayerfully consider whether God may be leading you to our family of believers?

If you are ready, follow these simple steps:

1st Baptism



Trust in Christ and follow Him in believer's baptism.

2nd Contact



Complete an information card during a service or contact us so we can ask you a few simple questions.

3rd Meet



Meet the pastors for **Starting Point** in the HIS Way Cafe (SMB) **on Sunday, March 8**

4th Preparation



Complete **The Journey** a two-week group Bible study of orientation to LMBC. **Offered in the weeks following Starting Point.**

DID YOU KNOW?

We all have sinned against God. Rom. 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God."

Our sin has a penalty. Rom. 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death ..."

Jesus Christ died for you. Rom. 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

You can be saved through faith in Christ. Eph. 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Come
GROW
with
US

Life Groups are vital to a believer's spiritual growth. For a current list of Life Groups, download our LMBC app or visit lmbc.org. Printed copies are available in the lobbies.

For help getting connected, contact Tim Yates at 304-736-7676 *209 or t.yates@lmbc.org

OUR PASTORS

*¹⁷ Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit. **Hebrews 13:17 NIV***



David Lemming
Senior Pastor



Tim Yates
*Life Group &
Outreach Pastor*



Nathan McClay
Worship Pastor



Jeremy Shaffer
Executive Pastor



Matt McClay
Student Pastor



Phil Newberry
*Membership
Pastor*



Bill Blankenship
*Hospital Visitation
Pastor*

Connect is the monthly news and informational publication from



*Making disciples who
live and love like Jesus*

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Imbc.org

**Emergency pager:
304-691-0633**

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 am, 10:45 am & 6 pm

*Nurseries are available
during all services
on Sunday and on
Wednesday evenings
from 6:45 - 8:15.*

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*Read previous editions of
Connect at Imbc.org.*

Love Does

DON'T JUST SAY IT!