



APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Seed of Encouragement

Faith is a decision we make to believe the best even when we are dealing with the worst. A decision we make to believe that even though the road we are currently traveling seems dark and dreary, that God will lead to brighter and better days. A decision to meditate on and continue to repeat what God says about us in spite of how we feel... to say what God says about our lives in spite of what we may be dealing with right now. Faith is a decision to act like it is so... even when it is not so... in order that it might be so... all because GOD SAID SO!!!

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Church Events

- | | | |
|------|---|---------------|
| 4.6 | First Sunday Food Drive | |
| 4.7 | Vera Goldman Circle | 7pm |
| 4.9 | m&ms Event | 9:30am-2:45pm |
| 4.12 | LMM Fishing Tournament
Weigh In & Fish Fry | 4:30pm |
| 4.13 | Palm Sunday
Easter Egg Hunt | 10am |
| | RFL Skating Party | 4:30-6:30pm |
| 4.14 | Leesville Methodist Men
Fellowship Hall | 7pm |
| 4.17 | Maundy Thursday | 6:30pm |
| 4.18 | Community Good Friday
Celebrations Church | 11am-1pm |
| 4.20 | Easter Service
Sunrise Service | 7am |
| | Easter Services | 9am&11am |
| 4.21 | Mamie Leaphart Circle | 7pm |
| 4.24 | B-L Literacy Spelling Bee | 6-8:30pm |
| 4.26 | "Conversations" Training | 9am-Noon |
| 4.27 | Relay For Life Event at LMC | |



Silas, Theo, Trace, and Ollie

Nursery Fun

Sweet treats for the sweet children in nursery. We are so appreciative of our volunteers who keep the babies and children in the Crib Room and Nursery during the 11am service. If you would like to volunteer with this important ministry, see Wayne Eastman or contact the church office.



Easter Egg Hunt

Kidpower/CJK are invited to enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School on April 13th. This event is hosted by the Bill Jones Class.



Let's Play Ball

Thanks to Pat Barr for this action shot... look how great our church sign looks!

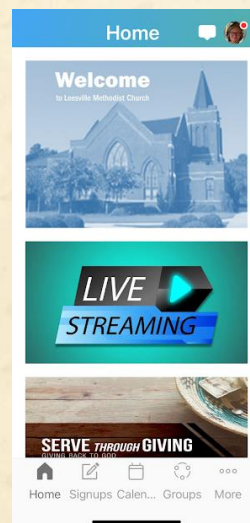
Confirmation Class

Youth are invited to participate in the upcoming confirmation class to be led by John Kneece and Mike Edwards after Easter. Watch for more details.

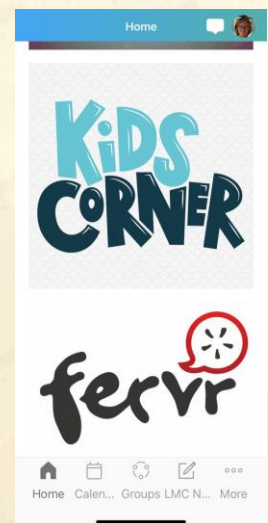


March Acolytes

Conner Rikard and Jesse McDaniel



Church Center App

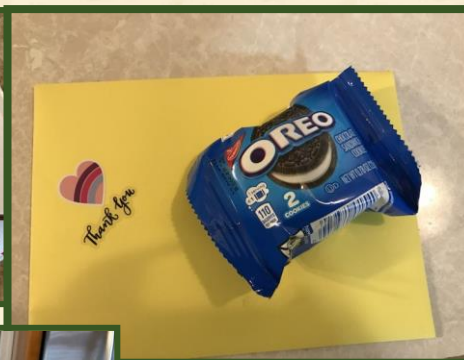


Epworth Social Worker Appreciation

Did you know...The children who call Epworth home have experienced a great deal of hurt and suffering. On average, 65% of residents are placed at Epworth by the SC Department of Social Services after being removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. The remaining 35% arrive as a private placement as a result of a fractured family system that often includes addiction issues, homelessness or other forms of instability. On average, Epworth has 20 sibling groups on campus at any given time. The average stay for a child at Epworth is around one year and eight months, but can vary from a couple of weeks to several years.

No wonder they have one hundred or more social workers assisting these precious children at any given time. LMC's Epworth Representative, Daylene Pitts, took the opportunity to recognize these dedicated workers on behalf of Leesville Methodist with a special note and treat as March was "Social Worker Appreciation Month." What's a gift without a beautiful presentation? Daylene enlisted the artistic talents of Phylis Bouknight to create a very special box to hold all of that love! We continue to love those at Epworth and pray God's blessings upon them in the days to come.

Mark 10:16 And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.



Epworth Mother's Day Offering

Epworth's children are our children, too. Let's plan to give generously through our Mother's Day Offering in May.

m&m Activity

The m&m's met in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, March 12. There were 28 in attendance, along with 2 presenters and 4 helpers. After a welcome by Paula Edwards where she shared a history of Saint Patrick and the meaning of the shamrock, we enjoyed a presentation by Nancy Hare and Cheryl Price detailing their stained glass hobby. Following the presentation, we had a lunch of spaghetti, salad, roasted vegetables, Texas toast and green desserts! The m&m's next meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 9. We will take a trip to Dreher Island State Park and enjoy a picnic and outdoor fun. (No hiking required!)

-Mike Edwards



Mamie Leaphart Circle

On Monday, March 3rd, the Mamie Leaphart Circle enjoyed an outing to San Jose Marina for fellowship and good food. Ten members and four guests enjoyed the evening.

Their next meeting will be held on April 21st. Amy Bedenbaugh will have the program and Beth Berry and Mary Clare Price will be the hostesses. You are invited to join them.



Leesville Methodist Men

Leesville Methodist Men met on Monday, March 10th at Ed Bouknight's for their monthly fellowship and supper. There was good attendance for the delicious fish fry. Guest speaker, B-L Chief of Police, Darren Amick, spoke to the group about the role his faith plays in his daily work.

This group is hosting the 15th Annual LMC Fishing Tournament on Saturday, April 12th. The event will be followed by a fish fry in the fellowship hall. The church is invited to enjoy this wonderful meal.



15TH ANNUAL LEESVILLE METHODIST



APRIL 12, 2025



Leesville
Methodist Church

• \$50 entry fee per person

• Begins at daylight on Lake Murray

• Limit 5 Bass OR 10 Crappies (meeting minimum size requirements)

• Weigh-in 4:30pm in the LMC parking lot with a fish fry to follow

• Winners enjoy a full year of bragging rights

• Proceeds benefit Teen Challenge: Men's Rehab Center Leesville

• Contact Nick Rikard to register 803-318-2177

SPONSORED BY LMC MEN



Missions and Ministries

April First Sunday Food Drive

We had another very successful food drive in March for Wittenberg's Food Pantry. 7 heavy tote bins were delivered that included lots of the requested items of grits, spaghetti pasta, and spaghetti sauce. Once again, well done in helping our neighbors in need. Also, as noted in the March Newsletter, several of our members are donating their time at the 2 local food banks.

On Sunday, April 6, we will be taking up donations for the Christian Ministry Center. Their ongoing needs include the non-perishable items like 2 lb. bags of grits, rice, and dried beans; canned vegetables and fruit; canned meat, tuna, and salmon; spaghetti sauce and pasta; peanut butter and jelly; and quick foods like mac and cheese, cereal, pop tarts, and oatmeal. They also provide baking and cooking items to their clients like flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, and evaporated milk. They also need cleaning supplies like paper towels, dish detergent, laundry detergent, zip lock bags, and trash bags; personal hygiene items like shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and feminine items; as well as grocery bags and egg cartons. An e-mail blast will be sent out the week before the collection highlighting and special needs or requests they have.

Thank you so much for the consistent, continuing support of this very important mission project.

-Wayne Eastman



Got News?

We'd love you to share:

Wendy Zwart @ boykinw@aol.com

Let us know if you'd like to receive the newsletter or email blasts.



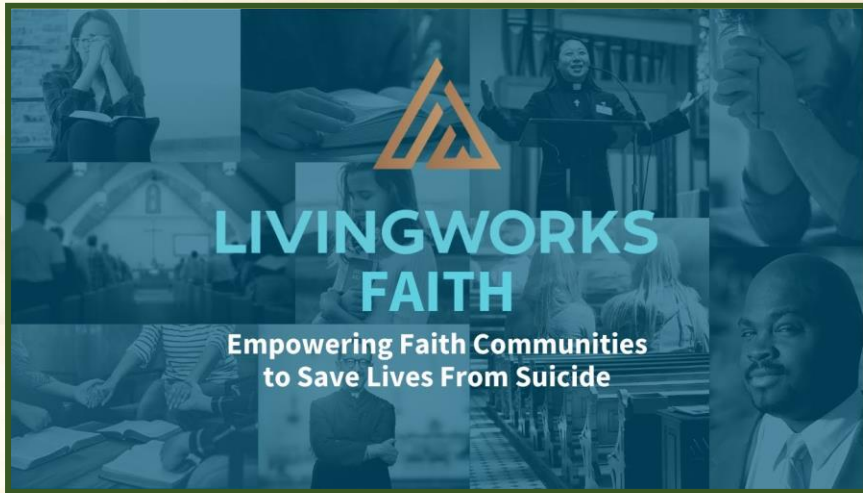
Ministry Focus

The first Sunday food collection this month was for the Wittenberg Food Pantry. We want to thank Wayne Eastman for taking our monthly donations to the food pantries. The March Ministry Focus is Relay for Life and it is going well. The theme is "Don't Stop Believin' for a Cure." The April Ministry Focus will be supporting the Gideons. In addition, David Giesen will offer training on sharing your faith during the month. Watch for more details. -Mike Edwards



Relay for Life

Evangelism



LivingWorks Faith, Suicide Care

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health is offering a free 8-hour virtual training called LivingWorks Faith, Suicide Care. They are encouraging church members, especially the grief ministry team, to participate in the training. There are 50 slots available for this training. Call or text Jan Giesen at 803.582.9337 or email janhgiesen@gmail.com to reserve your slot by April 4th.

Conversations: A Simple Approach to Sharing the Gospel

Ever had the opportunity to share the Gospel, but didn't know what to say? Would you like to know simple steps to share the Gospel with others? Then "Conversations: A Simple Approach to Sharing the Gospel" is for you. There will be a free training offered by the Gideons on Saturday, April 26th from 9am-Noon at LMC. For more information, contact David Giesen 803.604.7132.



Drive Thru Prayer Experience How can we pray for you today?

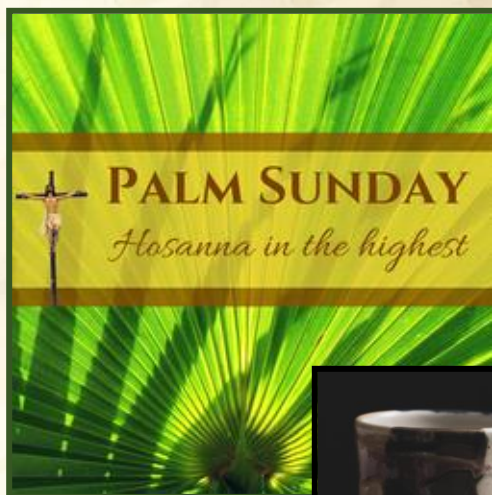


"Drive Thru Prayer" is a global network of Bible-believing and prayer-passionate Christians. As baptized believers, the Prayer Warriors of Drive Thru Prayer are committed to being the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus Christ in their local community as they seek to fulfill Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) through prayer.

"Drive Thru Prayer" will be held at Leesville Methodist between 7am until 9am on Friday, May 9th.

Prayer Warriors are needed. Contact Jan Giesen at 803.582.9337 to volunteer.

Holy Week



There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children during Sunday School. Mike Edwards will bring the message for both services. The Traditional Service will feature a Brass Quintet



This Communion Service will be held in the sanctuary at 6:30pm with Mike Edwards bringing the message.



Community Good Friday Service
Friday, April 18, 2025
11am-1pm
Celebrations Church
1765 Batesburg Hwy, Batesburg, SC 29006



Easter Sunrise Service
April 20th at 7am
David and Jan Giesen
will be bringing the message.

Easter Services
9am and 11am
John Kneece will be bringing
the message.
We will be "flowering the cross"
during both services.



Pastoral Support

John Kneece provided pastoral support in March and Faye Folker will provide support in April.

Mike Edwards and John Kneece are teaching a Lenten Bible study called *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. We are looking at important events in the ministry of Jesus. The study runs Sunday nights at 7 pm or Monday mornings at 10 am weekly from March 9 to April 14. We have 29 participants for the study.
-Mike Edwards

April's Pastoral Care

Faye Folker
fhadaway@gmail.com
(410)-490-7501

April's Pulpit Supply

4.6
John Kneece

4.13
Mike Edwards

4.20
Easter Sunrise: David & Jan Giesen
Easter Services: John Kneece

4.27
David Giesen

Audio Assist Devices

Audio assist devices are available for the 11am worship service. They are located in the narthex.



April Birthdays

4.2-David Leech, Mary Clare Price
4.3-Eliza Hawfield, Kate Eckert, Kyle Meetze
4.4-Carley Soper
4.8-Paula Williamson
4.10-Ryan McDaniel
4.11-Andrew Sanders
4.12-Faye Folker
4.13-Lena Parker, Jake Brown
4.14-Jessica Buzhardt, Bubba Buzhardt, Nancy Maye, Frieda Wald
4.15-Damian Hand
4.16-Rebecca Hite
4.17-Brenda Dunn
4.19-Quincy Hawfield
4.21-Brett Ashley Cockrell, Paul Quattlebaum, Sr., Jessilyn Henwood
4.25-Paul Swygert
4.27-James Sawyer
4.28-Jan Jones

Congratulations to Austin and Samantha Harvey on the birth of their son, Harrison William Harvey, born March 18th. Harrison was welcomed home by his proud big brother, Hudson. Harrison's grandparents are Monty and Jackie Shealy and his great grandmother is Mickey Hite. Such a sweet blessing!

4TH ANNUAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

Thursday, April 24, 2025
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Leesville Methodist Church
510 E. Columbia Ave.
Leesville, SC 29070

Silent Auction will take place from 6-7
\$5 admission

Grief Ministry

Spring is finally here!

Winter felt like forever this year. Now, we're watching the miracle of Nature as life slowly comes back to our landscapes that were changed by the harshness of Winter and natural disasters. The charred California mountains are now filled with beautiful colors of blue lupine, orange poppies and the golden mustard plant. Do you feel it? The colorful blooms heal our souls and give us hope. Rebirth is happening.

Have you noticed that we often refer to life in terms of colors? Sunny days are yellow or golden. Holy days are purple. Rainy days and sad days seem blue and darker. Lonely days seem gray. You've most likely heard expressions like, "I see red" when someone feels angry; "I feel blue" when feeling sad. There's an entire spectrum of color to life with many hues and shades. That all changes when a loved one dies. Grief seems like that long gray Winter.

Life seems to drain of color. It seems to transition from the harsh and glaring trauma of loss to the darkness and gray of loneliness, sadness and despair. It might feel like you're in a long dark tunnel with no light anywhere to be seen. Will you ever see Light and color again?

When you're in pain and hurting with loss and grief, it's hard to believe that the beautiful colors of life will come back. Yet, color does come back, sometimes without your awareness. If you do your grief work, you'll notice one day that you might smile, even laugh, just a little more often. You might notice that you notice other people and realize that you're connected again. If you've had a spouse die, you might begin noticing others and start feeling stirrings of wanting to connect romantically again. You might actually enjoy "you" and some of your alone time that used to only bring pain. Others might even comment that you look different... more alive somehow. Color is beginning to come back into your very being and into your life.

Maybe it just starts by taking it a small step at a time, believing and staying open. Be kind to yourself, take your time and allow yourself to heal. Believe... and take it at a step at a time. The Colors of your Life will come back.
- Jo Christner, Psy.D., Hope Connection

Grief Ministry Team

Della Copper	803.397.4674
Mike Edwards	803.530.6944
Bonnie Hall	803.429.2035
Pam Hawfield	803.960.3481
Kathy McNeill	803.640.1195
Betsy Pierce	803.760.0897
Paul Quattlebaum	803.603.4600
Kaye Shaw	803.622.4114
Deborah Ward	803.687.0484

Thank you...

Our family is so grateful for your expressions of sympathy and love after the death of my husband, Tom Wilkes. Your cards and notes have warmed my heart. Your sharing of love is a reflection of who you are in Christ. We have so many wonderful memories of our time serving at Leesville Methodist Church and all of your support these past few years.

Love , Molly Wilkes and family

March 2025 Church Council Meeting Highlights

The Church Council of Leesville Methodist Church met on Thursday, March 20, 2025. Below are the highlights of the meeting:

SPPRC: There has been a good response to our Pastor Search which has yielded ten resumes to be reviewed. Of these, three candidates have been selected for further review by the subcommittee. The Pastor vacancy is still being advertised. The Office Administrator position has been posted with four resumes received to be reviewed. One of these candidates is also interested in the Youth Director position. The Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, March 24th at 7pm. SPPRC is very appreciative of our lay speakers and their continued efforts to provide pulpit supply and pastoral care.

Finance: Donations for February outpaced our expenses and the church giving overall has been good. Members were encouraged to continue supporting the church as we come to the end of this first quarter of 2025.

Missions/Ministries: There continues to be a good response to the monthly missions and ministries. Special thanks to Wayne Eastman for coordinating our first Sunday food drives. Thanks to the church members for filling seven totes for Wittenberg's Food Pantry and nine totes of personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies for the Christian Ministry Center. Our March ministry focus has been Relay for Life. So far, we have raised \$1900. The luminaries will be on display during both services on Sunday, April 27th. The April ministry focus is to help support the Gideons ministry.

Trustees: No report given

Leesville Methodist Men: The Methodist Men met on March 10th at Ed Bouknight's. They welcomed guest speaker, Police Chief Darren Amick. He shared how his faith played an integral role in his duties with the department. They also made the final arrangements for the upcoming annual fishing tournament on April 12th. The weigh in will be at 4:30pm with a church-wide fish fry to follow. The group will meet again on April 14, 2025 in the fellowship hall.

Leesville Methodist Women: The Vera Goldman Circle met on March 3rd bringing bingo prizes to be given to the senior center. They discussed possible mission projects in the future. The Mamie Leaphart Circle met on March 3rd and enjoyed an outing. They are sponsoring the Kidpower/CJK event on March 30th from 5-6:30pm. The Vera Goldman's next meeting is Monday, April 7th at 7pm, and the Mamie Leaphart's next meeting is Monday, April 21st at 7pm.

Communications: The April Newsletter will be available for pickup on March 30th in the fellowship foyer. Our thanks to Steve Willis for maintaining the church marquee. Communications has supported the SPPRC by creating job posts for the pastor's position and the office administrator's position. The Church Center App has new features on the home page. "Kids Corner" is a site with Bible Stories and Parenting Tips for families. Fervr is a site for Teens with articles, stories, and answered questions with a Biblical response to life's issues. There is also a "Daily Devotions" site for anyone seeking a daily devotional. Thanks to Burgundy Barr for her help with the Church Center App. Renee Howard will be hosting some sessions in the next few weeks for members to learn the benefits of the CC App and how to navigate it. She will also host a session for Group Leaders to learn navigation tools and the communication opportunities the CCApp provides.

Technology: The technology team supported the Youth movie night, the m&m event, and the Masons' Event. They look forward to supporting all of the special music and services in April.

Children and Youth: There was a great response to the Youth Movie Night to see "The Forge". Over thirty youth from LMC and area churches enjoyed corndogs, popcorn, cookies, and treats with the movie. Kidpower/CJK will have a fun evening of activities on March 30th hosted by the Mamie Leaphart Circle. Middle and High School youth have been invited to a free "Road to Life 2025" Youth Rally at Lander University from 6-8pm to hear Dr. Ben Carson on Friday, April 4th.

The Bill Jones class is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Sunday, April 13th during the Sunday School Hour. FBC Batesburg is hosting a Youth Event called "One Night" on Sunday May 18th from 5-8pm. All area youth are invited. They will have food, line dancing, games, and an evening worship. Council voted to give up to \$1,000 to help with the cost of this event. Youth and Parents met on Sunday, March 9th with John, Mike, and Tim to discuss having a Confirmation Class sometime after Easter. The details are yet to be determined. Youth are asked to complete the Confirmation Google Form if they are interested in participating.

Worship Committee: We had forty-two in attendance for the Ash Wednesday service. David Giesen led this service. During the 11am services of April 6th and April 27th, the Handbells will play. There will be a Brass Quintet playing for Palm Sunday at 11am. We will have a Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 with Communion on April 17th. Mike Edwards will be leading the service. There will be a Community Good Friday Service at Celebrations Church from 11am-1pm on April 18th. On Sunday, April 20th we will have an Easter Sunrise at 7am outdoors if the weather allows. David and Jan Giesen will lead the service. John Kneece will bring the message for the 9am and 11am services. We will have Sunday School. Ellen and Nick Rikard will provide the cross for the "Flowering of the Cross" for worship. There will be a photo booth. On May 18th we will honor our graduates with "Graduate Recognition Sunday". Council voted not to meet in April due to a conflict with the Maundy Thursday service.

Disaster Preparedness: No new information. Rodger Williamson shared that the audio assist devices the church had for fellowship hall use have been refurbished and are being using to enhance the enjoyment of the service.

Senior Adults (m&m's): The m&m's met in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, March 12th. There were twenty-eight in attendance, along with two presenters and four helpers. After a welcome by Paula Edwards where she shared a history of Saint Patrick and the meaning of the shamrock, they enjoyed a presentation by Nancy Hare and Cheryl Price detailing their stained glass hobby. Following the presentation, they had a lunch of spaghetti, salad, roasted vegetables, Texas toast and green desserts! The m&m's next meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 9th. We will take a trip to Dreher Island State Park and enjoy a picnic and outdoor fun. (No hiking required!)

Evangelism: Sooner or later, suicide is something every ministry leader will encounter. Whether it's someone experiencing suicidal thoughts or a community that needs comfort after a loss, what's important is to be ready. "LivingWorks Faith" is a groundbreaking skills training program that will give you that readiness and confidence. Jan Giesen is coordinating this 8-hour virtual event. Those interested need to by sign up by April 4th. "SafeTalk" is a three-hour training that prepares participants to recognize invitations, and connect a person with thoughts of suicide to intervention resources. A date will be forthcoming for LMC to host this event which will be open to the community. "Conversations" is a free training will be provided by the Gideons on Saturday, April 26th from 9am-noon at LMC to teach a simple approach to Sharing the Gospel. There will be a "Drive Through Prayer" opportunity for the community on Friday, May 9th from 7-9am at Leesville Methodist using the breezeway in the back of the church. LMC volunteers will offer prayer for those who "drive through" our parking lot.

Pastoral Support Report: John Kneece provided pastoral care during the month of March, and Faye Folker will provide pastoral care for April. The Lenten Bible Study led by John Kneece and Mike Edwards is meeting on Sunday evenings at 7pm and Monday morning at 10am for a six-week study of Adam Hamilton's *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. They have had twenty-eight participants.

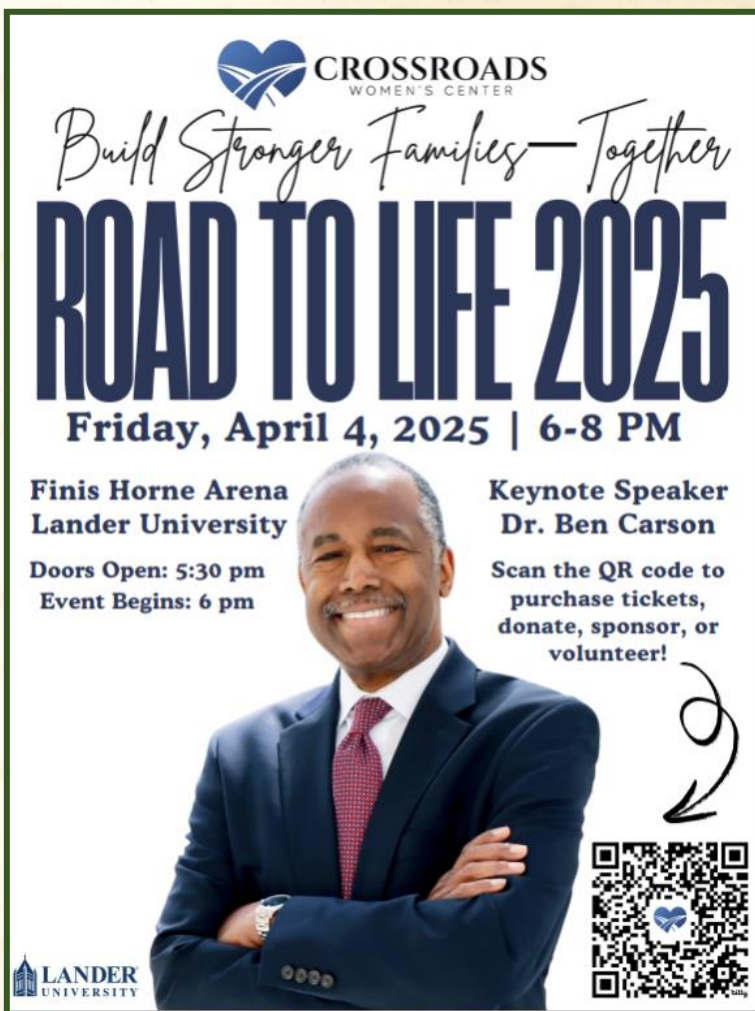
Old Business: None reported

New Business: None reported

The next Church Council meeting is Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7 pm in the conference room.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaye Shaw, Council Chairperson

Road to Life 2025



CROSSROADS
WOMEN'S CENTER

Build Stronger Families—Together

ROAD TO LIFE 2025



Friday, April 4, 2025 | 6-8 PM

**Finis Horne Arena
Lander University**

Doors Open: 5:30 pm
Event Begins: 6 pm

**Keynote Speaker
Dr. Ben Carson**

Scan the QR code to
purchase tickets,
donate, sponsor, or
volunteer!



Dr. Ben Carson is a world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, celebrated for his historic medical breakthroughs, including the first successful separation of craniopagus conjoined twins. Beyond his remarkable achievements in medicine, Dr. Carson has passionately dedicated himself to education, mentoring, and pro-life advocacy. Through initiatives like the Carson Scholars Fund and reading rooms that inspire young minds, Dr. Carson's work has impacted thousands of lives across the nation. His story is one of faith, perseverance, and bold action—a message you won't want to miss.

Are you a high school freshman, college student, or somewhere in between? We've got something special just for you! You're invited to the Road to Life event with a FREE student ticket, exclusively for students like you. This is your chance to stand with a community of young adults passionate about life, hope, and making an impact. Whether you're in your first year of high school or your final semester in college, this event is for you! We can't wait to welcome you. Join us and be part of something meaningful—your voice matters!



9am Service

Greeters/Ushers

4.6 Faye Folker & Lois Hite
4.13 Robert Mabus & John Kneece
4.20 Donna Engelhardt & Paula Edwards
4.27 Juanita Hawfield & TBA

Children's Moments

4.6 Paula Edwards
4.13 Marilyn Crady
4.20 Wendy Zwart
4.27 Jan Giesen

Lay Readers

4.6 Ava Watson
4.13 Wendy Zwart
4.20 Kaye Shaw
4.27 Jessica McCormick

Refreshments

4.6 Mack & Deanna Jacobs
4.13 John & Pam Aycok
4.20 Duane & Deborah Ward
4.27 Lauren Watson

Flowers

4.6 Eula Mae Shealy
4.13 Scott & Brantley Buzhardt
4.20 Lois Hite
4.27 Marilyn Crady

11am Service

Ushers: Rob Bouknight & Craig Shealy

Acolytes: Adelaide Bouknight & Heath Pierce

Children's Moments

4.6 Troy Buzhardt
4.13 Cissy Terlizzi
4.20 John Kneece
4.27 David Giesen

Lay Readers

4.6 Brett Price
4.13 Brenda Dunn
4.20 Will Berry
4.27 Mary Clare Price

Nursery

4.6 Brantley Buzhardt, Mary Clare Price
4.13 Wayne and Linda Eastman
4.20 Nick and Ellen Rikard
4.27 Amy and Andy Bedenbaugh

Crib Room

4.6 Amy and Andy Bedenbaugh
4.13 Billy and Beth Berry
4.20 Linda Eastman, Dee Dee Swygert
4.27 Brantley Buzhardt, Mary Clare Price

