

The Grapevine

March 2018



Celebrate Holy Week

<p><i>"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NIV)</i></p>	Palm Sunday March 25th Traditional Worship @ 8:30 Contemporary Worship @ 11am Sunday School Procession of Palms @ 11am	Maundy Thursday March 29th Service @ 7:30pm Communion served
	Resurrection Sunday April 1st Traditional Worship @ 8:30am Contemporary Worship @ 11am Free Breakfast @ 9:45am <small>No Sunday School or Adult Education</small>	

Small Groups to begin NEW Study

Small groups are beginning a new study – "Jesus Among Secular Gods" by Ravi Zacharias & Vince Vitale.

About the Study: As belief in the secular gods of atheism, hedonism, relativism, and humanism continues to grow, it's more important than ever for believers to be able to defend and share the claims of Christ. Of course, this clash of worldviews is nothing new. Throughout Paul's writing in the New Testament are references to elemental forces that seek to separate believers from the love and truth of Jesus. Not only has the Christian worldview been devalued and dismissed by modern culture, but its believers are also openly ridiculed as irrelevant. This six-session Bible study challenges the popular and trending philosophies of the day, skillfully pointing out the fallacies in their claims and presenting compelling evidence for absolute truth as found in Jesus and revealed in Scripture. This study helps to explore the claims of Christ and provides Christians with the knowledge to articulate their faith that Jesus stands tall above all other gods.

Connect with a Group: If you're not part of a small group, now is the time to jump in! We have groups meeting every evening of the week, except for Tuesday when we have a daytime group. Groups meet every other week for about 2 ½ hours at hosts' homes. Contact Lisa Negus at 341-3223 or Lisalines@roadrunner.com to find a group that fits your schedule.



Is it just me or are the potholes particularly gnarly this spring¹? Driving to campus this morning the road conditions threatened to blow the front end of the little Corolla right out of car. It was foggy. The light was low, and the rain fell steadily. A car was coming on strong in the approaching lane when all of a sudden the crater opened up in the road ahead. Urgent application of the breaks may have saved my life. I don't know if anything could save the alignment. It was one of those encounters where it feels like the entire front right wheel gets swallowed up in the road.

I just happened to be studying Hebrews 12:14 this week so that this Scripture is the message that jumped to mind (thankfully as opposed to some of the less edifying expressions that might have entered unbidden into my mind) in this moment of testing. Hebrews 12:14 runs as follows: "Pursue peace with all men and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord." Yup,

Peace and Sanctification

that's what I thought when the San Andreas Fault opened up in front of my car this morning. It is always a good thing to have God's word simmering in our hearts, because we never know what might be coming next.

A compelling grammatical insight occurred to me in connection with the text as I just happened to be studying it. The word that we translate "pursue" is a Present Active Imperative Second Person Plural verb that might just as well be rendered "all of you *keep* pursuing." This translation feels a bit wordy, but an important emphasis shines through the construction, "All of you *keep* pursuing peace with all men and *keep* pursuing the sanctification (literally "holiness") without which no one will see the Lord." Keep on pursuing peace and sanctification. Never stop pursuing peace and sanctification, because the world we live in is full of potholes, craters and faults. We have to be ready all of the time for anything that comes.

Granted this little driving episode has more to do with pursuing sanctification than it does with peace with all men, but the analogy applies readily enough to daily experiences in the continuous clash of world views. Sunday Lisa presented a brief preview of the coming small group studies in Ravi Zacharias' and Vince Vitale's *Jesus Among Secular Gods*. In the first unit of this study Richard Dawkins is quoted in his provocative attempts to undermine the Christian worldview when he asserts, "Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence."² Richard Dawkins has here offered a caricature of faith, a straw man that is easy to undermine, but irrelevant to the real points in con-

test. Five hundred eyewitnesses all attest to seeing Jesus alive and walking around after He had been crucified. That is no "excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate." That is hard evidence, and it has to be dealt with in any world view.

While we are dealing with the conflict of worldviews, Christians are held to strict standards of conduct and character. We are expected to keep pursuing peace with all men, not just the ones who agree with us. Paul put it this way: "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" (Ro 12:18). This construction suggests the very realistic assessment that sometimes peace will not be possible in this fallen world. If this proves to be the case, then we Christians had better not be found to be the problem, for we are called to love even our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Mt 5:44).

Real life is full of potholes, craters and faults. The followers of Christ are called to the highest standards. As Peter framed it, "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (1 Pet 3:15). Keep pursuing peace with all men, Beloved, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. I love you all!

Pastor Kelly

¹I say "spring," although it may still be early for the term. With a high of 71° today it sure feels like spring.

²Richard Dawkins, "The 'know-nothings', the 'know-all', and the 'no contests'," *The Nullifidian*, December 1994. As quoted in Ravi Zacharias' and Vince Vitale's *Jesus Among Secular Gods: The Questions of Culture and the Invitation of Christ*, p. 10.

Church Announcements

Sunday School Lenten Mission Project

The Lenten season is upon us as we remember how Jesus transformed so many lives when He walked this earth so long ago. He still transforms lives today!



Like a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly, a tiny little seedling transforming into a giant Oak tree, or a pile of wood and nails becoming some ones beautiful home, we can transform a life with the love of Jesus!

The Sunday School Mission project for 2018 is to continue transforming your sponsor child, Luis Rolando Vera Lexcellent's life into something wonderful! This will begin on February 25 and end on April 15th.

15 year old Luis lives in Paraguay South America with his family. Luis was a sad faced little 7 year old in 2009 when he became our sponsor child. Through the years, we've seen his transformation into a happy, hopeful teenager with a big smile in his pictures! Through Christian Children's Fund we've supported Luis, his family, and community. Nutrition, clean water, health care, education, safety, teacher staffing and training, student vocational training, school supplies and uniforms, and home and school repairs are the many benefits of child sponsorship. These are an example of how we are and will continue to transform Luis's life. LPC has committed \$468.00 a year plus additional gifts of \$40 each for his birthday, Christmas, and Easter. Now it's time to replenish those funds.

Children of LPC Sunday School we are not finished yet! Think of some ways you can raise money for Luis and bring it to Sunday School between February 25 and April 15th. Like a seed that needs water and sun, a caterpillar that needs a cocoon and time, or wood and nails that need a carpenter and a hammer, Luis needs our prayers and our support to thrive!

Parents, family, and friends thank you in advance and for past contributions. Please encourage your children! Remember Feb.25-Apr.15th campaign dates and check under those cushions! Luis and his community thank you! Gracias!

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new." (2Cor.5-17)

Special Events—Save the Dates!!!

- **Sat., April 14th—Spring Fling Dinner/Dance**
Appetizers at 5:30pm, with a catered dinner at 6:00pm. Sign ups will begin soon. Please watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins!
- **Sat., May 12th—Women's Celebration Lunch**
11:00am-1:00pm Honor the special women in your life at this free lunch! This is for all ages and genders!
- **Sat., June 16th—Men's Celebration Breakfast**
9:00am-11:00am Honor the special men in your life with a free breakfast. All ages and genders are welcome!

Our state faces significant difficulties, and New Yorkers are looking for a way forward. As Christians, we understand that God ordained three institutions: family, government, and church. Legislative Day attendees will learn how each of these three God-ordained institutions can partner together to solve the problems our state faces. **Join us at Legislative Day 2018 - and help lead the way for the Empire State!**

Albany, NY March 20, 2018 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Contact Gloria Chaves if you are interested in attending this conference.

Ladies Afternoon Prayer & Bible Study

The Ladies Afternoon Prayer and Bible Study group would like to invite all ladies to join us on March 6 at 12:30 pm for a couple hours of food, femalship and fun. We are continuing the DVD series, "Freedom From Fear" led by Dr. Michael Youssef. Each session is stand-alone, so new ladies may join anytime. Tea and dessert will be provided. Feel free to bring friends. Questions may be directed to Lisa McElhinny at 651-9218.

Operation Christmas Shoebox Collection

We are still working on our all church shoe box collection. We are still collecting the "WOW" gift that Samaritan's purse recommends to go in each box. Some suggestions are as follows:

- Stuffed Animals
- Dominoes
- Uno Cards
- Small boxes of Legos
- Soccer ball and pump
- Puzzles
- Miniature Spyrograph
- Miniature Etch-a-Sketch
- Slinky--metal

These are only suggestions. Any game or toy that will fit in a shoe box is acceptable.

We will also collect toothbrushes, combs and hair brushes. Thank you in advance for all donations. If you have any questions, please call Pat Gerber 668-2670

**Evening of Praise
Saturday March 3rd at 7:00pm**

- 7—7:30pm gather for coffee & fellowship
- 7:30—8:30pm praise through contemporary music, prayer and testimonies

Soup Sunday Luncheon—Sunday, March 11th

The last Soup Sunday Luncheon of the season will take place on Sunday, March 11th at 12:15pm.

**Invite your family, friends and neighbors!
All are welcome!**

Summer Youth Camp Registration is Open!!!

Developing a closer relationship to God, building relationships with others, playing games, making crafts, swimming, spending time in the sun – this is just some of what is waiting for campers at our annual Summer Youth Camp! Don't miss the opportunity to sign your kids up for this unforgettable week!

What: Summer Youth Camp

Who: students completing 3rd-8th grade

- 3 different age-based programs are available (see website for program details)
- Campers are encouraged to bring a friend!

When: Sunday, June 24th – Saturday, June 30th

- Campers arrive at 2:30pm on Sunday & leave after our closing celebration on Saturday morning (beginning at 10:30am)

Where: Duffield Camp & Retreat Center

- Sponsored and staffed by volunteers from Lancaster Presbyterian Church

Registration: NOW OPEN!!!

- Early Registration Deadline: **April 15th** (all campers registered by this date receive \$50 off)
- Final Registration Deadline: **June 1st**
- Registration forms available for print online or contact the church office for a paper copy.
- Registration on a first come, first serve basis
 - ◇ **2018 Note: Register early, as we anticipate that some programs will fill to capacity this year!**

Questions & Details:

- Visit the Camp page of our church website at www.L-P-C.org for details and registration forms
- Contact Bethany Potozniak at LPCcamps@gmail.com or 716.573.7810
- Attend the Parent Information Meeting on Wednesday, March 14th at 7:30pm at LPC

High Schoolers:

- 9th – 12th graders that regularly participate in weekly Worship Services, Sunday School, or Youth Group are eligible to assist as staff. Interested youth **MUST** contact Bethany Potozniak by **March 1st**.

Special Concert featuring Eduard Klassen, a Paraguayan folk harpist

Sunday, May 6th

**Welcome Reception—6:30pm in
Waith Fellowship Hall**

Concert 7:00pm—8:30pm in the sanctuary

Eduard Klassen was born and raised in an isolated area of Paraguay, South America, (508 km from the nearest city) and was 15 years old when he first saw a paved highway. Playing the harp has been his passion since 1977. His formal musical training included 5 years of study in Asuncion, Paraguay.

Christine Klassen was born and raised in Ontario, Canada, and has played the piano since 1976. She studied nursing in Stratford, Ontario and graduated as an R.N. Christine has recently started playing keyboard alongside her husband and touring together once again.

The Klassen's have experience in a variety of settings including churches of most denominations, large and small concerts, banquets, fundraisers, and ministry to seniors. They have made numerous appearances on radio & television including Charles Price of the People's Church (Living Truth Television Program) and Toronto's "100 Huntley Street". They have also recorded 21 albums, 3 DVD's, and 1 Book. Tours have taken them to 31 countries having performed over 4500 concerts in the past 31 years.

At age 30, Eduard accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, and since then has followed the call into full time music ministry. When not touring, Eduard presently lives in Stratford, Ontario with his wife Christine, and their two sons, Mathias and Sheldon.

The Klassen's prove the power of Philippians 4:19 by not setting a fee for their personal appearances, however, remuneration is typically addressed on an honorarium or freewill offering basis.

The Klassen's would welcome the opportunity to join you in sharing the "Good News" of the gospel through music in your community.

"I'm working for the Lord", says Eduard, "wherever He leads. In my life and in my travels I seek to uplift the Lord's name. I love to tell others what God has done for me. My desire is to use my gift of music and testimony to exhort and encourage other people in all walks of life. "We appreciate your prayers and encouragement as we minister and travel in different countries. We thank you for supporting us in this way."

A free will offering will be taken at the concert for their ministry.

LancasterPresbyterianChurch
MissionCommittee



Youth Groups at LPC

Bible Discussions - Games - Activities - Retreats - Service Opportunities



3rd—6th Grade

Each week will focus on a different character trait

Wednesdays 7-8:30pm

7th—12th Grade

God: The Promise Keeper

Sundays 7-9pm

3rd—6th Grade Youth Group Spring Retreat

- **April 6th-8th—Spring Retreat at Duffield Camp & Retreat Center**
 - ◇ Meet at the church on Friday, April 6th at 1:30pm
 - ◇ Travel in the church van to Camp Duffield
 - ◇ Return to the church on Sunday April 8th at 4:00pm
 - ◇ Visit the Events page on our church website for the required permission slip

Junior/Senior High Youth Schedule—March & April

March

- **Sunday, March 4th** – Youth Group @ the Potter's House, 7 – 9 pm
- **Sunday, March 11th** – Youth Group @ the Potter's House, 7 – 9 pm
- **Sunday, March 18th – Bowling at the Moose Club**
*(** in place of regular youth group--note the time change!)*
 Meet at the Potters House at 6:00pm and walk to the Moose Lodge
 \$6.00 per person
 Pick up at the Potter's House at 9:00pm
 Permission slip required (available on the church website)
- **Sunday, March 25th** – Youth Group @ the Potter's House, 7—9pm

April

- **Sunday, April 1st – No Youth Group**
- **Sunday, April 8th** – Youth Group @ the Potter's House, 7—9pm
- **Sunday, April 15th** – Youth Group @ the Potter's House, 7 – 9 pm
- **Friday, April 20th – Sunday, April 22nd – Retreat at Camp Allegany State Park**
 Meet at the church on Friday, April 20th at 5:00pm
 \$75.00 per person
 Pick up at the church Sunday, April 22nd at approx. 1:30pm
 Permission slip required (available on the church website)
- **Sunday, April 22nd – No Youth Group**
- **Sunday, April 29th** – Youth Group @ the Potter's House, 7—9pm

Visit the Events page on our church website for more information (www.L-P-C.org)

Youth News

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Christian Education Committee Mtg—7:00pm	2 Craft Fellowship—10:00am	3 Evening of Praise—7:00pm
4 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 SS & AE—9:45 Jr/SrHiYG Superbowl Party—6:00pm	5	6 Ladies Afternoon Prayer & Bible Study—12:30pm, Worship Committee Mtg—7:00pm	7 Choirs & Youth Group; Mission Committee Mtg—7:00pm, Outreach Committee Mtg—7:00pm	8 Women's Evening Bible Study—6:45pm	9	10
11 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 SS & AE—9:45 Communication Forum Soup Lunch—12:15pm Jr/SrHiYG—7:00pm	12	13 Deacons Mtg—7:00pm, Trustees Mtg—7:00pm	14 Choirs & Youth Group Parent Camp Mtg—7:30pm	15	16	17
18 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 SS & AE—9:45am Cooking Class—12:30pm Jr/SrHiYG Bowling—6:00pm	19	20 Stated Session Mtg—7:00pm	21 Choirs & Youth Group; Technology Committee Mtg—7:00pm; Senior High Camp Staff Mtg—7:30pm	22 Grapevine Crew —11:45am, Women's Evening Bible Study—6:45pm	23	24
25 Palm Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 SS & AE—9:45am DAB—12:30pm Senior High Camp Staff Mtg—6:30pm Jr/Sr HiYG—7:00pm	26	27	28 Choirs & Youth Group	29 Maundy Thursday Service—7:30pm	30 Office Closed	31

Interested in bringing flavors out in your cooking? Want to know some kitchen tools, tricks & seasons for food? Join Mike Bishop & Gabrielle Miller for a fun & interactive cooking class:

- Class #1: Soup Stocks
- Sunday, March 18th @ 12:30pm
- Waith Fellowship Hall & kitchen
- \$3.00 per person to cover food supplies for class & lunch
- ***Limit of 10 people per class***
- RSVP to Mike 393-0084

Additional classes to be held April 15 & May 20.



Weekly Schedule

Sunday

- Worship at 8:30am & 11:00am Nursery and pre-school child care during both services
- Sunday School and Adult Education Classes — 9:45-10:45am
- Junior & Senior High Youth Group 7:00pm —PH

Monday

- Men's Bible Study—7:00pm Rm.114

Wednesday

- Adult Bells—6:00pm — Music Room
- 3rd-6th grade YG 7:00-8:30pm
- Chancel Choir—7:00pm (Sanctuary)

Thursday

- Gathering In His Name Bible Study—10:00am
- Worship Team Rehearsal—7:30pm



Prayer Page—March 2018

Pray for the pastors: Lord, let our pastors have a discerning mind to prioritize the precious minutes in the day. Let our pastors discern what is most important and be guarded against tyranny of the urgent (2 Corinthians 11:14, 1 John 4:1)

The Pray! Prayer Journal, Nov Press 2003, p.155

Praying for LPC ministries:

Outreach Committee: Please pray for our outreach to the Buffalo City Mission this Saturday, Feb 17th. May the meal we share meet more than just a passing need, but open the door for God to work in the lives of those we serve. Please also pray that friendships would grow and be strengthened among those who serve.

Session: Oh Lord, your Word inspires and exemplifies the stone set by Samuel in 1 Samuel 7:12. Let us look to the cross and the work of Jesus Christ on it as our Ebenezer of remembrance of Your faithfulness to our congregation for 200 years. We give all glory, praise and thanks to you Father as ... "Thus far the Lord has helped us." Please, Lord, continue to help us remain in Your will, in the precious name of Jesus, Amen!

Camp: Pray that all staffing positions will be filled. Pray for staff as they organize and write this year's curriculum.

Prayer for our country: Pray that God will comfort parents and students alike who have been affected by the many school shootings, and especially the recent shootings in Kentucky and Florida. Give our Christian children the faith and strength to be able to reach out with the hope of the gospel to their classmates. Pray that God will change the hearts and minds of young people who have lost hope and purpose for their lives.

Prayer for our world: Pray that the gospel will continue to spread in China. The government has recently begun to crack down on Christian activity more intensely than in recent years. Pray for Xi Jinping, "president" of China, that he will give his people religious freedom and that he himself will have his spiritual eyes opened. Pray also for the many students who have heard the gospel during their time in the United States, that they would believe the truth, and live out their faith in China.



Please keep the Gadra family in your prayers. Gerry Gadra went home to be with the Lord on February 12th. A Memorial Service is being planned for Saturday, March 17th.

Praying for our family

Pat Shaner
Colleen Ludeking
Jackie Harbold
Doug Everts
Prudy Allein
Sue VanOrman
Janet Kranso
Rob Herget
Ken Gordon
Kathy Frank
Jan Stasiowski
BJ Rustic
Betty Glowacki
Terry Riordan
Al LaVenture
Sally Godfrey
Rob Benzel
Heather Cronk
Alice Hirsch
Nancy Lyon
Joyce Olivieri
Lettie Vona

LPC's Military Personnel:

Laurel Foss
Thomas Eaton
Dan Pulley
Steve Schuman

Missions:

Emily Pulley
Sarah Michel



Lancaster Presbyterian Church

An Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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Lancaster, NY 14086
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5461 Broadway St. Lancaster, NY 14086
Phone: 716.684.2277 Fax: 716.684.2446

www.L-P-C.org
office@L-P-C.org

Rev. Kelly Negus, Senior Pastor
Peter Gawron, Director of Family and Youth Ministries

Purpose:

For God's glory
we are committed
to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ
in all we say and all we do
to make and equip disciples
in our families, our community, and the world.

Core Values:

We believe in the authority of Scripture
and we affirm
the historic teachings
of Reformed Christianity.

Address Service Requested



Celebrate Holy Week

Palm Sunday

March 25th

Traditional Worship @ 8:30
Contemporary Worship @ 11am

Sunday School Procession of Palms @ 11am

Maundy Thursday

March 29th

Service @ 7:30pm

Communion served

Resurrection Sunday

April 1st

Traditional Worship @ 8:30am
Contemporary Worship @ 11am

Free Breakfast @ 9:45am

No Sunday School or Adult Education

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5:8 (NIV)