



April 2019

Bridging the Gap Mission Seminar April 26-27, 2019

Muslims are coming to America to big cities and even to smaller towns. They come as immigrants who pay their own way to find a better life. They come as international students to our college campuses for a better education. And they come as refugees attempting to escape life threatening danger from extremists.

The questions is, how are we going to respond to this great influx of Muslims into America?
Will we be like Jonah? Will we run...hide...and hate...as he did?

So many Christian in our churches are much like Jonah: either angry or afraid of Muslims, especially since 9/11, and also since the recent rise of ISIS. We have often turned on our televisions only to see something on cable news about radical Islam and terrorists' attacks. These stories are not just coming from the Middle East. They originate from places like Australia, France, Denmark, Canada, and now even within our own country. These events trigger *fear* and *anger* as our natural responses to Muslims.

But there is another question:

As Muslims come to America, will we be like Jonah or...will we be like Jesus? Will we be like the One who came to seek and to save that which is lost?

At EPC World Outreach, we believe we have to be ready for the multitudes of Muslims who are coming to our homeland. We need to be informed. And we need to have God's heart for them. We have an excellent weekend seminar called ***Bridging the Gap*** which is specifically designed to help your church learn about Islam and how to reach out to Muslims in your community. We also have a list of helpful, practical resources regarding outreach to Muslims: books, websites, articles and contacts with other U.S. Muslim ministries. We also have a team of EPC World Outreach people (stateside missionaries) who can coach and mentor you in U.S. Muslim outreach right where you live.

If you want your church to bridge the gap from being angry or afraid of Muslims to being compassionate, confident, and courageous witnesses, please let us...help you...love them.

Mark and Mary from EPC World Outreach will be presenting during this weekend. See the church website (www.L-P-C.org) more information and the schedule of events.

LancasterPresbyterianChurch
MissionCommittee





The Lenten Lunch Series this year is on a succession of human needs and dynamics in connection with God's will. For example, God's Will and My Inadequacy, God's Will and My Identity, God's Will and My Worldview, God's Will and My Response. I drew the subject of God's Will and My Dreams, and since most of us will not be able to be present for this proclamation, and because I am socked in trying to prepare for preaching six times in one week, I thought I would share some of the reflections that are perking in my heart and mind on God's Will and My Dreams.

The idea of God's Will and My Dreams in relation to the text of 2 Samuel 7 that is appointed for me seems to be that David dreamed of being able to build a house for God. Careful examination of the text seems to undermine the integrity of this inference as David would appear to be thinking of building God a house more to salve his conscience than out of any altruistic dreams of doing something wonderful for the LORD. The opening verses of our passage find David in the awkward position of having gone ahead and built a palace for himself. Only then does he notice the incongruity between his own magnifi-

Dreams

cent palace and the tent that the presence of the Lord is dwelling in and prefer the notion that perhaps it's time to build an even bigger palace for the Lord than he has completed for himself. That inference feels more like a misguided attempt at a bribe than an altruistic dream of doing something thoughtful for the Lord. Perhaps I am being too hard on David. Be that as it may, let's say we give David the benefit of the doubt and grant that he is truly dreaming of building a beautiful palace for the Lord. That is my point of departure for the assignment, and I am not at all finding the experience without value. In fact, it is peculiarly significant that this assignment would come, unplanned, to me in this stage of my life.

We all have many dreams. Young people dream of completing academic requirements and credentialing for their life's work. We dream of finding just the right fit in a job that will be meaningful and rewarding. Many of us dream of finding the spouse with whom we may spend our lives. In this connection, we often dream of children, and being good parents. I have dreamed many dreams in my life and seen them all fulfilled in the Lord's time and in His way infinitely better than I ever could have thought or imagined for myself. My wife, Lisa, is a dream come true. Our sons, the G-men, are all blessing to us beyond all hopes. Serving as the pastor of a faithful people is a dream fulfilled for me, and being sustained, strengthened and supported by all of you through the requirements of my doctorate is more than I ever dreamed. The Lord has been good!

I have some dreams that are still in process. The big one is my dream of finishing out my ministry contribution with strength and integrity right here in your midst. After my recent visit with the neurologist I begin to wonder if I will be up to the challenge. If you were not able to be in attendance the day that I announced my news, then you may not have heard that a highly qualified professional thinks it more likely than not that I am on my way to Parkinson's Disease. That was a piece of

the puzzle that I wasn't really looking for, but am resolved to absorb faithfully as we all lean into these steps trusting in the Lord's goodness. Even as I write this day I am looking forward to the Session's anointing me tonight with oil and praying for me in obedience to the Lord's provisions for our confession, forgiveness and healing in James chapter 5. I am strangely unafraid on the one hand, but on the other hand I am not presuming on God's goodness for my dreams, I am trusting Him to provide in every day and in every step. I know that He is in control and that He will be faithful to bring forth all of His purpose for us. I am accepting His will and making every effort to prefer His will to my own. I affirm at every opportunity that He will never disappoint us.

All power, ability, capacity, etc. are from the Lord (Psalm 27:1). Apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5), but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). The Lord is the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17), and He holds our dreams. In truth *from Him* and *through Him* and *to Him* are all things. To Him be the glory forever (Romans 11:36). No one knows what her life will be tomorrow (James 4:14). Humility is always in order (Proverbs 27:1 and Luke 12:19-20). The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps (Proverbs 16:9). Is He worthy of our trust in all things (Proverbs 3:5-6)? Indeed, He is worthy! We can trust Him with our dreams; we can trust Him with anything. Whatever comes, Dear Hearts, I will trust in Jesus! I am so thankful that I get to walk these steps with you.

All my love, Pastor Kelly

P.S. I did find a word of encouragement in my reading on Parkinson's that has served to bless me. It came in the simple affirmation patients with Parkinson's can live a good to great quality of life. If the Lord sees fit to allow me to undergo Parkinson's, I am certain that my quality of life will be good to great. Ha! For me to live is Christ and to die is gain!

Church Announcements

National Day of Prayer—Thurs., May 2, 2019 **Lancaster Town Hall 12 noon—12:45 P.M.** **Lancaster Presbyterian Church 7:00 P.M.**

Many days of prayer have been proclaimed throughout the history of this nation.

In 1952 a bill was initiated by Mr. Conrad Hilton of Hilton Hotels and Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas, and passed, that the President of the United States was to set aside an appropriate day each year, as a National Day of Prayer. But not until 1979 was the National Prayer Committee officially formed. And not until 1988 was the bill given final confirmation. The bill passed unanimously in the Senate and a few days later in the House. On Thursday, May 8, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed into law Public Law 100-307 which designated the first Thursday in May as the annual observance of the National Day of Prayer.

On Thursday, May 1 1997, the LPC Evangelism Committee led by Frank Gerber & Ron Stasiowski organized a National Day of Prayer at Lancaster Presbyterian Church. Every year since then, LPC has observed the National Day of Prayer in some way. Sometimes it has been a worship service, sometimes just an open building for silent prayer. At other times there was group prayer. This observance of the NDP continues to this time.

Sometime around 2006, I read that Christians should gather in front of their town halls to pray for our local, state and federal government officials. So on a beautiful, warm first Thursday in May, I went to the Lancaster Town Hall to join the Lancaster National Day of Prayer. I sat on the stone wall in front of the town hall and waited, but no one came. Obviously there was no town observance. Finally a man came along on his bicycle to attend to some business in the town hall building. As he walked by, I asked, "Do you know what today is?" He said, "No, what?" I said it's the National Day of Prayer. He said, "Really? Are you prayin'?" I said I was and he sat down and we prayed. He was from Love Joy Church. I don't know his name but I often wonder if he remembers that day, because that was the birth of the Lancaster National Day of Prayer at the town hall.

The next year, I invited some people from LPC to come to the town hall and a few came. The next year a few more and we continued until 2010 when Pastor Kelly agreed to lead a gathering that we could advertise to

other churches. He gladly jumped at the opportunity and has been leading the prayer gathering in front of the town hall ever since. Generally about 50-60 people gather, and occasionally government officials attend. In 2018 several international students came and were impressed and surprised. They said, "That would never happen in China."

We have a treasure in our religious freedom in this country and it is being threatened by the forces of evil. The constitutionality of the National Day of Prayer was challenged in court by the Freedom From Religion Foundation in 2011 but their attempt was unanimously dismissed by a federal appellate court. However, each year there are new attacks on religious freedom in the United States. The church of Christ needs to awaken from its complacency.

If at all possible, please join us Thursday, May 2 at noon for this public observance of our Christian faith and freedom to pray.

Ladies Afternoon Prayer & Bible Study

Ladies Afternoon Prayer and Bible Study group invites all ladies to join us April 2 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm in the Upper Classroom for faith, femalship and fun as we travel to Israel with Kathie Lee Gifford and her friend Rabbi Sobel along with the DVD series, "The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi" in Honor of Resurrection Sunday, and the place where our Savior lived, died and rose again. Please feel free to bring guests. We will provide tea and dessert. Please direct any questions to Lisa McElhinny at 651-9218.



Coming in May....

- **Underwear (new) and clothing (used) collection for Buffalo City Mission**
- **Soup for PATH - Wednesdays in May**

Sunday School Lenten Mission Update

Dear parents and children, as you were previously notified our S.S. fundraiser for Luis Rolando Vera Lexcelent begins March 17. This year the funds raised will be divided 50/50 between Luis and his community and CCFC's choice of where the money is needed the most.

Christian Children's Fund of Canada's sponsors will match 5X each dollar donated. The money will be used where most needed in a CCFC community anywhere in the world.

See the posters at the south entrance for more information. Updates will be reported as to the needs of Luis and his Community in Villarica S.A.

Keep Luis in your hearts, and prayers for his health, happiness and future. Luis and CCFC are forever grateful for your help in saving, changing, and inspiring him and other children around the world! GRACIUS!

KAIROS Prison Ministry

*"I was in prison and You visited me,
I was hungry and You fed me."*

The spring Albion Kairos weekend is going to be May 16-19. Karros is a Weekend run mostly by lay people to help prisoners learn about Christ's love. There are about 30 prisoners on the weekend. If you would like to help show Christ's love to them there are several ways this can be done

1. Pray for the weekend before and after.
2. Write notes to the inmates. Just a short note with a bible passage and an uplifting encouraging message. (addressed to Dear Sister in Christ)
3. Give \$5 for a meal for an inmate. We provide 3 meals during the weekend that is not prison food. (If interested this can be given in a blue envelope marked Kairos)
4. Snacks -can be given they have to be purchased and in non resalable bags

There will a box marked Kairos in the hall outside of Pete's office.

On Saturday 5/18 there will be a Holy Hour and free lunch at The Grove UMC. 11004 W. Center St, Medina NY 14103. 12:00 till 2:00. At this time there will be a message by a former Kairos graduate. There will also be singing and praying for the candidates.

Summer Youth Camp Registration is now open!!!! June 27th—July 3rd Students completing 3rd-8th grade

New for 2019: dig deeper into God's Word as campers learn about the Light that Shines in the Darkness! Campers will search the scriptures to better understand how Jesus is the light!

Campers arrive at 6:00pm on Thursday, evening and leave after our closing program on Wednesday morning (closing begins at 10:30am)

Duffield Camp & Retreat Center Sponsored & staffed by volunteers from LPC

Registration: Open now!

- 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 (**Register early, as we anticipate that some programs will fill to capacity this year!**)

Questions & Details:

- Visit the Summer Youth Camp page of our church website at www.L-P-C.org for program details and registration forms
- Contact Bethany Potozniak at LPCcamps@gmail.com or 716.573.7810

High Schoolers:

- High School Staff Training Meeting: Sunday, May 19th, 5—7pm in the Potters House

Buffalo's International Students are having a banquet May 4th from 6:30pm—9:00pm at Randall Church. The speakers will be Pastor Patrick Tharp. Tickets are \$15 per person. Registration is by mail or at www.isibuffalo.com/banquet

**Women's Celebration Luncheon
Saturday, May 11th
11:00am—1:00pm
Waith Fellowship Hall**



Youth Groups at LPC

Bible Discussions - Games - Activities - Retreats - Service Opportunities



Sunday Evenings at LPC 7:00pm—8:30pm

3rd-6th Grade Youth Group—Room 114 at the church

7th-12th Grade Youth Group—Potters House

Youth News

Junior/Senior High Youth Group April Schedule

Sunday, April 7th – Bowling at the Moose Lodge

Meet at the Potter's House at 5:30pm

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Return to the Potter's House for pick up at 8:30pm

Permission slip is required

Sunday, April 14th – Youth Group @ the Potter's House, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Sunday, April 21st – No Youth Group (Resurrection Sunday)

Sunday, April 28th – Youth Group @ the Potter's House, 7:00pm—8:30pm

For questions or concerns, please contact Pete Gawron, Director of Family & Youth Ministry at LPC. Email: petegawron@gmail.com Phone: (716)220-5443

Important message for parents: In order to keep communication effective between the leaders and children, all parents, and any one else who is interested, are encouraged to join Remind—a private mobile text messaging platform for parents and children in a particular group. Receive text messages containing important updates, announcements and messages for Junior/Senior High Youth Group!

How to join: Enter the number 81010 on your smartphone; text the message @pagaw

Important Dates

- **Senior High Camp Staff Training Meeting—Sunday, May 19th, 5:00pm—7:00pm in the Potters House**
- **Confirmation Sunday—Sunday, June 16th, one service at 9:30am**
- **Summer Youth Camp—June 27 to July 3, 2019**
- **Vacation Bible School—July 21 to July 25**
- **Youth Mission Work—July 28 to July 31 (more details to come) Please note the youth and leaders will be doing mission work locally.**
- **Confirmation Wilderness Trip—August 2 to August 5**

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2 Ladies Afternoon Prayer & Bible Study—12:30pm, Worship Committee Mtg—7:00pm	3 Choirs Mission Committee Mtg—7:00pm, Outreach Committee Mtg—7:00pm	4 Women's Evening Bible Study—6:45pm	5	6
7 Worship 8:30 & 11:00am SS & AE—9:45am Jr/Sr High Bowling—5:30pm 3rd-6th Gr YG—7:00pm	8 Missionary Prayer Gathering—1:00pm	9 Deacons Mtg—7:00pm, Trustees Mtg—7:00pm	10 Choirs	11 Christian Education Committee Mtg—7:00pm	12	13
14 Palm Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00am SS & AE—9:45am Youth Groups—7:00pm	15	16 Stated Session Mtg—7:00pm	17 Choirs	18 Maundy Thursday Service—7:30pm	19 Office Closed	20
21 Resurrection Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00am Easter breakfast—9:45am NO SS & AE No Youth Groups	22	23	24 No Choirs	25 Grapevine Crew—10:00am, Women's Evening Bible Study—6:45pm	26	27
28 Worship 8:30 & 11:00am SS & AE—9:45am Youth Groups—7:00pm	29	30				

**Bridging the Gap
Mission Seminar
April 26—27**

LPC will be hosting the 31st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies Friday, May 3rd—Saturday, May 4th

Please watch the Sunday bulletins for information on participating in this weekend and ways you can volunteer to help.

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
- 3rd-6th grade YG; Junior & Senior High Youth Group—7:00pm

Monday

- Men's Bible Study—7:00pm (Rm. 215)

Wednesday

- Adult Bells—6:00pm — Music Room
- Chancel Choir—7:00pm (Sanctuary)

Thursday

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



Prayer Page—April 2019

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:

Session: Lord, help us to see our own errors, to see our own debts, to avoid focus on "me", to seek forgiveness of our debts, to be humbled, to avoid revengeful thinking, to listen to what others are saying and to see our own faults. Help us be humbled servants to you and to each other.

Worship Committee: That the Lord will lead us in all planning for Maundy Thursday.

Deacons: James 4:8 Father, we pray that we would be open to hear Your voice. Lord, Your Word says that when we draw near to You, You will draw near to us. We draw near to You today to pray, to seek Your face, Your truth and Your word for our life.

Prayer for our country: Pray for Isabella Chow the California university student who has been vilified for taking a righteous stand for sexual purity. Pray for all of those who speak out for the truth that they will remain strong when they are attacked.

Prayer for our World: Persecution of Christians is on the rise around the world. Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Egypt and Sudan and in many other African countries that they will remain bold and strong in their faith. Pray also for those who persecute, that they will be set free from Satan's grip.



Please keep the Herget and Wander families in prayer. Bob Herget went home to be with the Lord on February 21st.

Praying for our family

Prudy Allein
Eugene Haas
Bud Krisher
Anna Rettew
Colleen Ludeking
Bob Ludeking
Glenn Tanner
Don Metzger
Donna Herget
Pat Shaner
Doug Everts
Rob Benzel
Sally Godfrey
Nancy Lyon
Joyce Olivieri

LPC's Military Personnel:

Laurel Foss
Thomas Eaton
Dan Pulley
Steve Schuman

Missions:

Emily Pulley
Sarah Michel



Lancaster Presbyterian Church

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

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

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

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

<p>"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NIV)</p>	<h2>Palm Sunday</h2> <p>April 14th</p> <p>Traditional Worship @ 8:30 Contemporary Worship @ 11am Sunday School Procession of Palms @ 11am</p>	<h2>Maundy Thursday</h2> <p>April 18th</p> <p>Service @ 7:30pm</p>
	<h2>Resurrection Sunday</h2> <p>April 21st</p> <p>Traditional Worship @ 8:30am Contemporary Worship @ 11am Free Breakfast @ 9:45am <small>No Sunday School or Adult Education</small></p>	