



Lexington United Methodist Church  
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Visit [www.lexingtonumc.org](http://www.lexingtonumc.org) for more information.

Dear LUMC Family,

Homecoming starts this month. One of my favorite texts in Luke is Luke 4:14-30, which is the story of Jesus' homecoming. Be sure to take a minute to read the scripture once you're done reading this. But this is how I imagine some of the gaps in that story. It is Homecoming in Nazareth, and everyone is excited because the hometown hero, Jesus, is coming back. Stories of Jesus had spread throughout Nazareth, and everyone was proud of him. They remembered when he was a little boy and would talk in church. And they remember the first sermon he gave in the synagogue at 8. They were sad to see him go but knew he would do great things. Being a savvy one, the Rabbi knew his congregation would love to hear from Jesus, and they'd have excellent attendance if he was there, so he invited him to preach for homecoming. And Jesus accepted.

He showed up that morning, and the place was packed; everyone was excited to hear from Jesus, the hometown hero. He grabbed the prophet Isaiah's scroll and began preaching out of Isaiah 61 and 58. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And tells them that this scripture has been fulfilled in their hearing. And everyone clapped and shouted amen; what a great sermon! They were shocked; this was Joseph's son, right. He is all grown up. Everything was great.

### UNTIL

He got to the next part of his sermon, the illustration. Jesus, being a good preacher, anticipated they would ask him to do some miracles. So, Jesus tells two stories about people who were healed by God. In Elijah's time, Elijah was sent to heal one person, a widow in Zarephath. And in Elisha's time, many people had leprosy, but the only one that was cleansed was Naaman, the Syrian. After this, the scripture says, "All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this" (v. 28). They were so mad that they tried to throw him off a cliff (v. 29).

I'm glad I've never preached a sermon that made you all want to throw me off a cliff. But Jesus gave an illustration that set people off. And the reason why is this. The first part of Jesus' sermon was all about the good news of grace. God has grace available for you. The great grace promised in Isaiah has been fulfilled in you. Hearing it is showing up for you. Everyone LOVES that message. But Jesus says it's also showing up for the people you don't like. Jesus gives two examples of people who were outside of Israel and healed by God's grace. And just as those two were, many others, outsiders will become insiders. This was a message the people didn't want to hear.

It's a powerfully challenging message. How do we extend grace to others, the same grace God extended to ourselves? Jesus gives another parable in Matthew 18:21-35 about an unforgiving servant with a significant debt forgiven. He finds someone who owes him a much smaller debt and forces him to pay it back. He refuses to operate with the same grace given to him. Unlike that servant, how are we doing the hard work of extending grace and love to all we encounter.

Blessings,  
Pastor Chris

On Sunday, April 7th brother and sister; Conway and Bryleigh Reynolds were Baptized during the 9:30 a.m. contemporary service.



### Heritage Sunday

We didn't let the rain stop the worshipping and fellowship!

Heritage Sunday was moved to the sanctuary due to rain the day of. Worshipers enjoyed the musical delights of Stewart Hervey and gathered together afterwards in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck!



Our last M&M's for the school year was held on Wednesday, April 24th. We ended with a picnic style meal and then fun outside!!!



### Graduation Sunday

Please join us on Sunday, May 19th as we celebrate our graduates with cake and punch! All are welcome to join!

May 22—Baccalaureate @ Holy Family Catholic Church

May 24—Graduation @ LHS

### Memorials

Seifert Reunion

\*as of March 31, 2024

*"...I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestor did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers."*

2 Timothy 1:3

To make a memorial write "memorial" in the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.



Summer— We need Counselors!! Please let us know if you or someone you know would be interested.

Registration is open now to Campers who have completed 3rd grade through high school.

Registration is also open for BIG House kids who are in Middle School and High School.

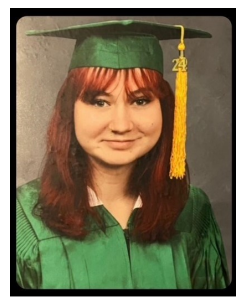
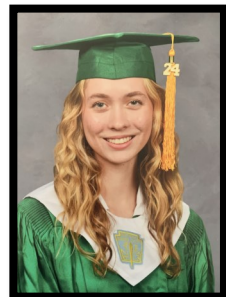
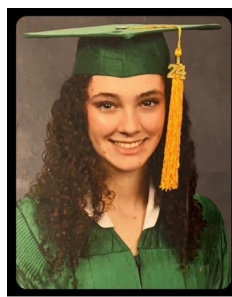
**BIG House—June 19th-23rd**  
**Lakeview—June 24-28th**

During these camps we will have: Fun activities, Distractions Removed, New Adventures, Fellowship and Worship, New Experiences and Amazing Memories. Come join us!!!

### Easter 2024



Congratulations to our 2024 graduates!  
Savanna McKinley, Louise Woodward and Allison Crow



Congratulations to Logan Marek graduating from TSTC!!

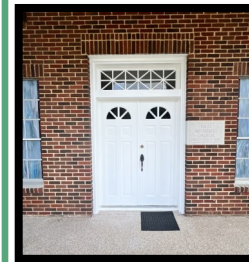


- 1—Cal Turner
- 6—Lee Lewis
- 6—Chad Robertson
- 8—Coen Stowers
- 8—Javier Casiano
- 8—Keely Schumpert
- 9—Corbin Brade
- 13—Bryan Ladd
- 14—Judy Dobson
- 17—Laura Harris
- 18—Laurie Brewer
- 21—Barbara Cooper
- 23—Cara Carter
- 25—Jan Lynn
- 28—Bryson Carter
- 29—Stephanie Kellenberger
- 29—Terrie Smith
- 30—Lee Marks
- 31—Norma Thomas
- 31—Kylee Retzlaff



VBS 2024 is just around the corner!! This year we will host "Hero Hotline: Called together to serve God!" on **July 8th—10th** in the evenings like previous years. If you are interested in helping please let the office know!

On Communion Sunday's (the first Sunday of the month), we take a special offering at the rail for the **St. Stephen's Fund**. This money is used to help those in need in our community. With this fund, we help people in emergency situations and those that may need some help with their utilities.



**Trustees** are still at it! Doors and windows have been painted around the church. Be on look out for the next improvement!



#### Tithes & Offerings

Total Monthly Offerings for **March** were **\$17,467**.

Thank you for continuing to send in your tithes and offerings!

Ways of sending in your monetary gifts:

1. **At Church:** during service, at the church office, or the drop box on the office door.
2. **Online:** [www.lexingtonumc.org](http://www.lexingtonumc.org) on the "donate" page.
3. **Mail or Bill Pay** (through your bank):  
Po Box 116 Lexington, TX 78947

**Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning**  
Sunday School 10:30-11:15 a.m.

**Men's Gathering;** meet in the 2nd classroom with leader, John Gibbs

**Journey Class for Adults;** meet in the 1st Classroom with leader, Cinda Lewis

**Children** - 3rd classroom; with leader Jennifer Stower  
**Youth** - FLC Youth Room; with leaders Jan Alexander and Holly Newton



#### May 7th

The Central Texas Food Bank is bringing free, healthy food to Lexington! Every month the food pantry is held at the **Lexington City Park starting at 11 a.m.** If you know of anyone who would benefit from this program please let them know. There will not be a Free Will Lunch for the month of May.



Our Youth would like to say a **BIG Thank YOU**

to all who donated or helped with the Garage Sale Fundraiser!  
Special Thanks to Jan Lynn and Judy Skolaut for their many hours put in behind the scenes.



#### Weekly Emails

If you'd like to be added to the weekly email please send your e-mail address to:  
[lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com)  
Or call the office at (979) 773-2728.