

SEPTEMBER 2026

LEWIS LAKE NEWS



Heritage Hall is coming together nicely and is ready for Adult
Sunday School Classes starting on September 13th 2026.

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Sacred Places

by Joe Reed

One night, roughly 3,500 years ago, under a starry sky, Jacob lay on the ground, put a rock under his head for a pillow, and fell asleep. As he slept, he dreamt, and what he saw in his dream was a ladder. The feet of the ladder rested on the ground, and the top of the ladder leaned against the floor of heaven. It must have been a rather wide ladder, for angels were going up and down on it. Then Jacob heard the voice of God affirming to him the same promises to him that He had to his father Isaac and Grandfather Abraham. When he awakened, Jacob said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven” (Genesis 28:16-17). In the morning, Jacob stood his rock-pillow on end, poured oil on it, and named the place Bethel, which means, “The house of God.”

From the beginning of time, people cared about the place where they communed with God. These sacred spaces are an intersection between the physical and the spiritual, the human and the divine. In some sense, they are, like Jacob’s ladder, a portal into God’s presence. In the Bible, sacred spaces show up primarily as temples and altars. When Solomon dedicated his temple, he reminded God that he promised to “listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place” (1 Kings 8:30). If you wanted to meet God, you went to the temple, or as Jesus called it, “My Father’s house.”

But God allowed the great stone temples of the OT to be permanently destroyed. There is no centralized temple anymore, no single sacred place to which Christians can go and expect to experience God’s presence. But that’s not to say that temples have completely vanished from the earth. Paul asks, “Do you not know that you are God’s temple...?” (1 Cor 3:16). God’s people have become God’s temple, and when they gather together, something special happens. Jesus promised, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them” (Matt 18:20).

Wherever God meets with his people is a sacred space. And God promised to meet with his people when they gather

together. That means, I believe, that those meeting places become sacred spaces. When I was in India, I experienced the presence of God with His people beneath the shade of a tamarind tree. God’s people sat on the ground while they worshiped Him and He showered His presence on them. These were brand new congregations. They didn’t have buildings or offices, only a tarp to lay on the ground. Other, older congregations had simple concrete buildings – their own sacred space – in which to worship.

I can’t recall the church historian who noted that whenever God’s people experience peace, they build things, but it seems to be true. It’s part of our spiritual DNA to want the place we meet with God to be a fitting and proper place. I understand that Christians first met at homes, and still meet at homes or in secret in many places. But give Christians some freedom and resources, and they will erect sacred spaces where they can meet with God together.

In the past year or two, several people have said that when they walked into Lewis Lake for the first time, they felt the presence of God. In one sense, God is just as present three feet outside the front doors as he is three feet inside. Yet there really is something to this notion of sacred space – God is able to meet with His people anywhere, but He has promised to meet with them when and where they gather. It’s God’s presence with God’s people that make a space a sacred space.

So, what do you do with a sacred space? I suppose one option is to do nothing – to leave it alone. But God’s people don’t like to do that, generally speaking. They like to build a house there – a place for the family to gather. Jacob said, “This is God’s house!” David wanted to build God a house. We know, and I’m sure David knew, that God can’t live in a house. But where God’s presence dwells, we see that as His house.

In other words, we like to develop sacred spaces. For His part, God doesn’t develop them. True, He gave specific plans to Moses and Solomon for the tabernacle and temple, but when

“if the house is a sacred house, where God visits His people, it really should be a special place. It should be beautiful. At least, as beautiful as God’s people can make it, given our many limitations.”

~ continued on page 5

Looking Ahead To Fall

by Josh Martin

It has been a busy summer. I am sure it has been for you as well.

We have been busily preparing for the fall season and the kickoff for our Fall programming. God continues to be at work here at Lewis Lake and we are blessed with what He has been doing.

We have new Sunday school curriculum for each of the children's classes. We have chosen to get the Answers in Genesis Sunday school curriculum and have a plan for the teachers for this year. We are incorporating both Old and New Testament units for each class with new stories and information. This change brings an appropriate learning level for each class and a consistent message as our kids grow and mature through our Sunday school program.

We are also excited for our upcoming Adult Sunday school classes as well. Finishing touches are being done up in the new rooms in Heritage Hall. We have 5 different classes that will be held in the newly renovated rooms, previously known as the Fellowship Hall. We have courses on Ethics, Assurance of Salvation, Financial stewardship, Redemption, Doctrines of Grace, Family Worship, Prayer, Sanctification, and Spiritual formation.

We have been adding some signage, as well, around the church to help our new regular attenders and visitors(not to mention the rest of us too) navigate the building more easily and efficiently.

We have seen a steady number, averaging 224 in attendance each Sunday, of attendees over the summer and are excited to see what is to come this Fall. We will be moving to 2 services coming up on September 13. The first service will be at 8am, the Sunday school hour will start at 9:30 and the second service will begin at 10:30am. Come for the 8am service and stay for the Sunday school hour or come for the Sunday

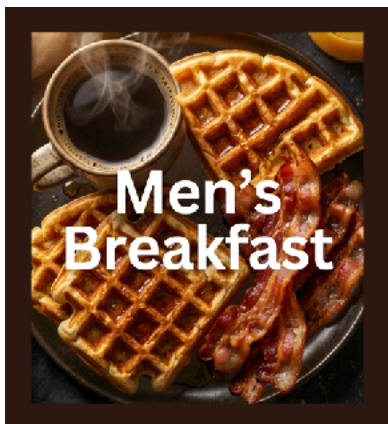
school hour and go to the 10:30 service instead. We are looking to have some crossover time where we can all see one another even though we may not see each other in the same service. We are excited to see how our transition goes, and we know even with the amount of thought and preparation, we will probably run into some things that are not ideal. We are making plans and looking toward the future. Proverbs 16:9 says, *"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."* We have been praying about our Fall plans and know that God sees what we are trying to do. We continue to ask for His guidance and help.

On a more personal note, I have been accepted by Southern Seminary as a student in their Master of Divinity program and have registered for classes that will begin in October. This is exciting as I graduated from college in 2001 and it has been 25 years since. This is a new chapter in our lives and thank you to you all for the opportunity. I look forward to what God has in store for us as I further my education.

May God bless you,
Pastor Josh Martin



Pastor Josh Martin serves as the Associate Paster here at Lewis Lake.



Saturday, September 26th at 7:00am

Here at Lewis Lake

Come, join your fellow men for breakfast and great conversation.

Please register so we can plan to have enough food for everyone.

Contact Pastor Josh 651-308-3724 if you have questions about the men's breakfast.

Gaining Strength

by Bob De Young

Brain surgery

I don't think there's hardly a person around here that does not know that I have had brain surgery recently. And instead of being something that I was forced to do because of some accident, I chose to do this surgery in hopes of experiencing some relief from Parkinson's disease. Because I now have wires in my brain which run down to my chest I was placed on a weight restriction limitations for about a month after the surgery. I could not lift over 10 pounds. The doctors wanted to make sure that I did not pull a wire loose or create a tear in the muscle tissue or any number of a of things that might happen that would cause problems. And because these things involve my brain, I was especially motivated to behave myself and do what the doctors wanted me to do

Loss of Strength.

And so, I have kind of spent the last month doing hardly anything. Certainly no heavy lifting. But once a person quits doing some things, it's kind of easy to eventually stop doing anything. But, time goes by and eventually I arrived at the point where I could begin to function normally and do the normal things that we do, which involves lifting things on occasion. What I discovered when I began to return back to normal is that I had lost a certain amount of strength. I could not work for extended periods of time without getting wore out. And I just didn't have the zeal to take on a lot of projects. But I knew that, if I did not get back to it, I would never be able to regain the loss of strength that I had experienced. I was in a battle between my muscles and my recliner!

Strength Regained

But as I pushed myself back into activities, I discovered that little by little my strength was returning back to me. For instance, I tried golfing nine holes and I was pretty wore out by the time I got the whole number eight. But then the next week, I was able to golf nine and then another nine. And I could feel some kind of normalcy returning back to me. It was almost as though doing things enabled me to do things. I guess that's the way God has made us. As we prod ourselves back into even small efforts at being active, we discover that we grow in our strength.

Good and Evil

The book of Hebrews actually draws a parallel to this truth in the spiritual realm. In Hebrews 5:14 it says:

But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Our world is filled with messages and statements and assumptions that people use to understand how they

should live, what they should do, and how life should function. But, we have arrived at a point in time where so much teaching is coming at us from so many directions and the proclamation of our ideas is so easy, that we feel overwhelmed by the amount of opinion and the number of ideas that keep coming at us from every direction. How can you tell what you should believe and what you should not believe? How can one discern the pattern of our lives and what that pattern should be like, and who that pattern should follow? The writer of Hebrews says that the way that you can tell good from evil is to have your powers of discernment trained by constant practice. That is, we must, on a frequent basis, take what we hear and hold it up to the light of scripture and seek the word of God to reveal to us whether this idea is good or bad. Whether it is right or wrong. If we stop doing that for a while and simply choose what seems to be good to us, or what seems to be right to somebody else, we will lose our ability to think for ourselves, and to base the decisions that we make, on the Word of God. We will lose our ability to discern whether something is good or if it's bad.

Training

Notice that the writer of Hebrews is speaking of having our powers of discernment trained. We train ourselves to discern the truth as we subject the ideas of this world constantly to the Word of God. Frequent use helps us grow strong in our abilities of discernment. If we watch a tv show we might, in the end, hold that up to God's Word and ask "What was good about that show and what was not good. And this is not always as simple as one might think. Some Christians over the course of the centuries came to the conclusion that marriage was bad, and that marriage should be avoided. They were using the word of God, but not accurately. So we must make sure that we are using the scriptures in the way God intended us to use them and come to the conclusions in them that God intended.

So let us continually exercise our powers of discernment through the word of God concerning that issues and details of this world. If we do this frequently, our powers of discernment will grow strong, enabling us to understand what is good and what is evil.

Pastor Bob



Bob De Young is enjoying being semi-retired and holds the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.

WOMEN'S *Ministry*

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Women's Ministry Meeting Monday,
September 14, 2026 at 6:15pm
All ladies at Lewis Lake are
encouraged to join us.



COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday, September 14, 2026
7:45 PM**



Youth Group Resumes on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 6:30pm. Students in 7th through 12th Grade are invited to attend and encouraged to bring a friend. A meal is provided. Sam DeVito is the Youth Leader you can connect with him if you have questions. You can call or text Sam at 763-333-4024

“The justice of God is always
and ever an expression of his
holy character. . . . What
God *does* is always
consistent with who God *is*.”

R. C. Sproul



Help save a life.
Schedule your
blood donation
appointment today.



Lewis Lake Blood Drive

**Thursday, September 3rd
11:00 AM - 5:00 PM**
**Call 1-800-RED-CROSS
to schedule your donation
appointment today!**

Christians set about to put up a building, God doesn't offer architectural input. The New Testament doesn't contain church blueprints. God leaves it to His people to adorn our sacred space as we see fit. How we adorn our sacred space generally says much about how we think about God.

I was latching the door of our chicken coop the other day, and noted that the door was rotting, the roof was leaking, and the paint peeling. But I thought to myself, "It's just a chicken coop. Who cares?" But if my daughter Violet's bedroom looked like that, you might well think I didn't love her very much, because I really can (and do!) provide something better for her. I suspect that in general, people who don't place a high value on meeting with God don't place a high value on sacred space. When I was in construction, we used to jokingly toss around the phrase now and again, "It's good enough for who it's for!" Rather unconsciously, sometimes Christians can think that way about their sacred space, God's house.

I think that's because we can easily forget that the point of a sacred space is to meet with God, not just with each other. If we're just meeting with each other, then sure, if it's good enough for me, it's good enough for you: it's good enough for who it's for. But if the house is a sacred house, where God visits His people, it really should be a special place. It should be beautiful. At least, as beautiful as God's people can make it, given our many limitations.

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I'm glad Lewis Lake is a beautiful place. The beautiful pond with the fountain, the well-manicured lawn, the beautiful cemetery, the graded driveway, the clean, comfortable, beautiful building. I know it's not eternal, and someday it'll disappear with everything else on this earth. I know it's not cheap, and it's not easy to maintain. But it's a sacred place where God meets with His people. I know because I've met

with God here, and so have many of you. It's our own Bethel – God's house. You adorn it like it matters, because it does. Thank you for making it obvious that you think meeting with God matters. May your eagerness to meet with God be contagious, so others will see and want to experience meeting with God too.



**Joe Reed serves as the
Senior Pastor here at Lewis
Lake.**



Subscribe to the Lewis Lake Pulse, a weekly email sent out on Monday mornings with the week's announcements, along with a few things Pastor Joe recommends for feeding your soul throughout the week. To subscribe to The Pulse, shoot an email to office@LewisLake.org with the subject line "Subscribe to Pulse" and we'll get you fixed up! Or you can scan the QR code to the right.





Would you like to help out in the kitchen?

If you would like to help with coffee, make fellowship treats, or even help with cleanup, talk to Mark Sholtz 612-226-4393 or Dianna Sholtz 763-439-8491 to get plugged in to help. Or sign up on the East Wall Board.



Tech Team Members

It takes a team effort to make Sundays happen. Are you interested in joining the tech team? Talk to Jesse - we would love to add you to the team. It is easier than you think. Training will be provided.



Join the Nursery Volunteer Team

The nursery is staffed during First Service for children ages infant to 3 years old.

Contact Amanda Munsterteiger 612-390-1911 if you would like to volunteer. Or sign up on the East Wall Board.

Get the App!



It's not always easy to keep up with everything that's happening at Lewis Lake. Your life is busy, and so is ours. To that end, we've created the Lewis Lake phone app. Watch sermons, check the church calendar, sign up for events and activities, it's the place to go to see what's happening and plug into the madness. So go wherever you get your apps, and look for Lewis Lake.

