

CONNECTIONS

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH MARCH 2026 VOL XVI: ISSUE 3 LBCPC.org



March 29 Combined Worship Schedule

9:15am Bible Fellowship

10:30am Worship

12:00pm Spring Fling

Fundraiser lunch & egg hunt

A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR



This month, I thought I would share with you all the different ways that we can extend our Gospel reach through the area of giving. Lakewood has a long history of faithful saints who tithe and even give over and above as the Lord leads. Recently, several of our members have come to me wanting to designate a gift to the church, above their normal tithe, but not knowing where that gift should go. Now, I know when the preacher speaks on giving, most people get nervous. Most pastors won't even broach the subject because they fear people will just tune them out. However, we are to obey the full counsel of God. We need to be informed so that we can obey the truth of God's Word.

As always, we go to the Word of God as our guide in all areas of life. In the Old Testament, giving was a requirement under the Law. It was compulsory if one wanted to honor God, be part of His people, and be blessed by Him. A person could comply with tithing and yet only do it as an obligation and not from the heart. In the New Testament, giving becomes a matter of sacrificial obedience and a grace where God enables His people to joyfully participate in spreading the Gospel, while caring for His people. God calls all His people to give to the needs of others, and He gifts us to excel in the grace of giving. Let's look at several key New Testament texts that refine our practice of giving.

1 Cor. 16:1-2; **"Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made."** Here, we see the preparation and regularity of giving. If we plan to honor God's command, we must be prepared to regularly set aside what He lays on our hearts to give. Therefore, giving is a spiritual discipline!

2 Cor. 8:7; **"But just as you excel in everything, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also excel in this grace of giving."** Here, we see that we must not claim that we are excelling

in other spiritual disciplines and therefore, have no responsibility to give. Instead, we are all commanded to excel in the grace of giving. Everyone has something to give back out of the Lord's blessings in their lives, and we must ensure that we aren't assigning God's money to earthly things. Excellence in giving will only come when we realize that everything we have is His already and has been graciously shared with us by Him. Therefore, giving is a grace from God!

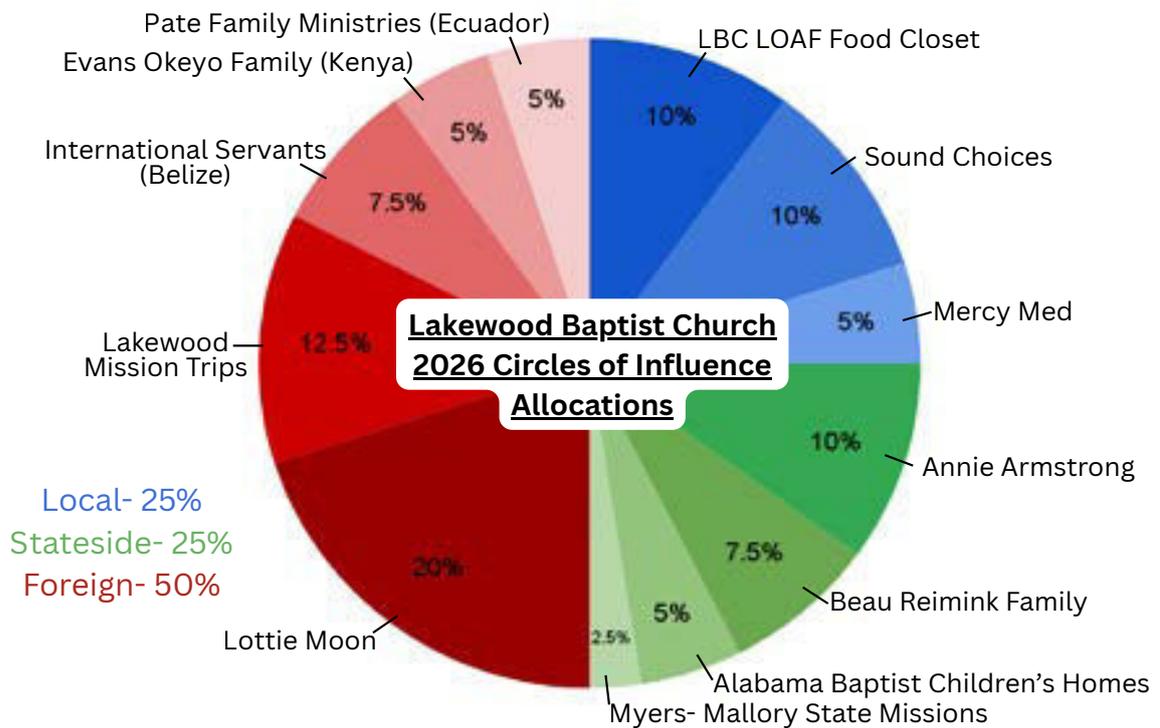
2 Cor. 9:6-7; **"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."** Are you a cheerful giver? Do you only give under compulsion or out of tradition? Our God is looking for generous believers who gladly give back God's blessings in their lives. Therefore, giving is evidence of a cheerful heart!

At our last member's meeting in January, I shared with the church body our revamped Circles of Influence designated giving program. In case you missed this meeting, let me share this with you here. Circles is a longstanding way for the members of Lakewood to give missionally. I shared a new pie chart, which showed how every dollar given through Circles is split to support local, stateside, and foreign missions monthly. Through Circles, you can support our food bank or a missionary around the world! What reach God has given us! Also, know our finance team now oversees this program and will yearly assess the recipients to ensure effectiveness, accountability, and partnership. We want to support those ministries and entities that we regularly work with and those proven trustworthy. Several of you have asked, "Can I give to a specific ministry within Circles that I especially want to support?" The answer is, of course, just put that in the notes section when you give online or through the app, or write it on the envelope, and we'll make sure it's given to that entity.

(cont.)

In closing, others have asked how they can support other designated ministries within Lakewood. You can give designated gifts directly to the Amen Choir, Student Ministry, Children's Ministry, Missions Designated (our LBC Mission trips), R.R.R. (our campus renewal capital campaign), LOAF (our food closet), or Church Member Benevolence (helping our church members in need). Again, simply note or write in your intention, and we'll honor it. Year after year, the members of Lakewood Baptist Church have been found faithful in the area of giving. Each year, we meet and often surpass our annual budget.

However, we know from church giving studies that less than 40% of church members give regularly or tithe, and far fewer give over and above in designated giving. While Baptist churches often lead the way in these studies, we know we can be much more effective for God's Kingdom when all God's people give sacrificially. I encourage each of you to excel in the grace of giving with a joyful heart, and remember, you can't outgive God!
 God bless,
 drew
 John 3:30



CHURCH-WIDE WORK DAYS

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 & SATURDAY, MARCH 28

HELP US GET OUR CAMPUS READY FOR EASTER!

Meet at 8:30am
 in the Fellowship Hall

A Message from **Josh Elliott**

STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR



Hey Church!

We are excited to share with you some new developments with our Young Adult Ministry here at Lakewood. If you or someone you know would like to be a part of our Young Adult Ministry, please have them check out the graphic below! Also, we will be having our Community Group kickoff on March 15th at 6:00pm EST at our home.

Our first official Community Group will meet on Sunday, April 12th, at 6:00pm EST. Location TBD. Reach out to me if you have any questions. This is an exciting time for our Young Adult Ministry and if you know someone who is 18-30 years old and not plugged in, we would love to have them join us on March 15th!

**In Christ,
Josh**



LAKESWOOD
YOUNG ADULTS

We're excited to reintroduce our Young Adult Ministry with additional teachers, expanded Bible study, and new opportunities for meaningful fellowship. Our heart is simple: to help young adults grow in their knowledge of God's Word, deepen their faith in Christ, and build lasting community.

If you're age 18-30, single or married, we'd love for you to join us as we study Scripture faithfully and walk together in obedience to the Lord.



Teri & Jonathan Clark
Bible Fellowship Teachers



Garrett & Tori Wilkinson
Community Group Leaders

A Message from the

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM



In Children's Church This Month:

This Month's Attribute of God: Jesus Loves.

Throughout our stories this month, the love of Jesus shines brightly. Jesus' unconditional love reaches beyond all boundaries. Although He knew the suffering that lay ahead, His love compelled Him to move forward for our sake. Even in the pain of betrayal, Jesus remained faithful—His love never wavered.

Through every act, Jesus demonstrated a love that is constant, sacrificial, and beyond measure.

Monthly Memory Verse: "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love." — John 15:9

We encourage families to practice this verse together and talk about what it means to abide in Jesus' love each day.

Awana Dates to Remember

March 18th – Shine for Jesus-- Wear bright colors, neon, or glow items as we celebrate shining God's light.

March 25th – No Awana-- There will be no Awana due to Spring Break.

Spring Fling – March 29th

Join us for our Spring Fling on March 29th! The day will include a fundraiser lunch, inflatables, an egg hunt, and a train ride. It will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and family fun. We hope to see you there!

Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, we will have a combined service. Be on the lookout for some adorable children waving palm leaves during the service as we celebrate together.

We are thankful for each family and look forward to all that God has in store this month!



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH @ LBC

Wednesday, March 4

10:30am - Virginia Kennedy Women on Mission

Sunday, March 8

Time Change - Spring Forward

Monday, March 9

6:30pm - Sister to Sister - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 15th

5:00pm - Women's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall

6:00pm - Amen Choir Concert @ Concord BC

Thursday, March 26

6:30pm - Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women
Home of Shannon Scruggs

Thursday & Friday - March 27 & 28

8:30am - Work Days - Meet in Fellowship Hall

Sunday - March 29

Immediately after service - Spring Fling

5:00pm - Missions Meeting @ FAC

Lakewood Happenings

March 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	10:15am Amen Choir Concert @ The Oaks 2	9:30am Amen Choir Concert @ Terra Bella 6:00pm Alleluia Choir 3	10:30am VK/WMU 4	4:00pm Yard Sale Members 5	9:30am Yard Sale 6	8:00am Yard Sale 7
8	6:30pm Sister to Sister F/H 9	10	11	12	5:30pm Senior Game Night 13	14
15	4:00pm RRR Meeting 6:00pm Amen Choir Concert @ Concord BC 16	10:00am Amen Choir Concert Covenant Woods 17	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 18	7:15pm Finance Team Meeting 19	11:00am Choir Festival 20	10:00am Feed the Homeless 21
22	10:30am Amen Choir 23	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 24	No AWANA 25	6:30pm JEG/BW Home of Shannon Scruggs 26	8:30am Work Day F/H 27	8:30am Work Day F/H 28
29	Palm Sunday Spring Fling 5:00pm Missions Meeting FAC 29	10:30am Amen Choir 30	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 31			

January Giving

Week	Tithe	RRR	Missions	Other Des.	Totals
1/04/26	\$14,388.74	\$235.00	\$1,008.97	\$520.00	\$16,152.71
1/11/26	\$24,250.03	\$130.00	\$1,245.90	\$895.00	\$26,520.93
1/18/26	\$11,753.99	\$260.00	\$1,422.50	\$3,923.00	\$17,359.49
1/25/26	\$15,719.07	\$420.00	\$6,604.70	\$1,318.11	\$24,061.88

AMEN CHOIR CONCERT

March 15th 6:00pm

Concord Baptist Church



Senior Game

Night

Friday, March 13th

5:30pm

Fellowship Hall

Bring your
favorite snack food

Welcome

New Member

Joycelyn Carrell

Feed the Homeless

Saturday, March 21st

(Date has changed)

10:00am - FAC

- MINISTERIAL STAFF
- **ANDREW SPIRES**
- LEAD PASTOR
- ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

- **Charles Keown**
- WORSHIP & SENIOR
- ADULT PASTOR
- CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

- **Josh Elliott**
- STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT
- PASTOR
- JOSHUA@LBCPC.ORG

- **AMANDA OWENS**
- INTERIM VOLUNTEER
- CHILDREN'S LEADER

OFFICE STAFF

Melissa Costello
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MELISSA@LBCPC.ORG

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CARE ASSISTANT
CAROL@LBCPC.ORG

Linda Keown
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HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

