

February 4, 2024

## THE LOMAX CHURCH OF CHRIST

 MESSENGERA place to belong. A place to be loved.
A place to serve God and others.


## POWER FOR TODAY

Jon Hackett
Pulpit Minister

## THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

I once read a sermon called "Time in the Trenches" by Jeff Strite. In that sermon he shared a story about a young man who'd just been called up to go to Iraq. The problem was the young soldier didn't want to go. He said that he hadn't joined the army to go to fight in a war. He'd joined because of the benefits: the pay, the insurance, the college tuition through the G.I. Bill, etc.

What's wrong with that kind of thinking? Well, first the primary function of the military is to prepare soldiers for war. You've got to know that if you sign up! l'm sure it's somewhere in the job description. Armies do NOT exist to pass out benefits (those are perks). Armies exist to deal with conflicts, to defend their people, to fight the enemy, and hopefully to contend against evil, but there are people who join up hoping for a free ride. That kind of mentality undermines the military of any nation.

That same kind of mentality can also undermine the church. Too often believers sign up for the benefits. They expect Jesus to "be there" for them, but they don't expect to "be there" for Him. That's the issue Jesus is addressing in Matthew 16. He is explaining to His disciples that they're part of His army. He has called them to war, and there's a decision to be made. Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." Matthew 16:24-25

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## Welcome to Lomax!

## A Special Welcome to our <br> Guests!

We are glad to have you visiting with us today! You are welcome here. We know you have a choice of where to worship, and you chose to be with us today - thank you.

At Lomax we want to be the church we read about in the Bible. Our goal is to glorify God with our worship and with our lives and to point people to Jesus Christ.

If you need anything during the service, ushers in the lobby can direct you to restrooms, or the nursery.

Please fill out a blue attendance card located on the back of the pew in front of you or scan the QR Code to the right. If you have any questions or if we can help you, please let us know while you are here or call our church office at (931) 796-5381.


If anyone can help deliver meals, be at the CSC at 10:30 am.


Our monthly Food for Families distribution is Thursday, February 15th
If you have not brought your grocery items in, please do so by Wed. morning if possible.
Continue to remember: Barbara Baker, Kasey Baker, Nell Bunch, Lovada Burklow, Faye Chandler, Spencer Clark,, Christy Dickey, Dustin Flowers, Peggy Flowers, Ophelia Green, LaFon Griner, Jeffrey Hinson, Wanda Holloway, Gene Kilpatrick, Claire Mayberry, Terry McDonald, Howard Miller, Collin O’Brien, Judy Turner Pickler, Debbie Pierce, Al Pogue, David Riley, Johnnie Faye Skelton, Dan Spears and Jeff Tatum

Shut-ins: Michael Gray and Jimmy Griner
In Lewis County Nursing \& Rehab Center: Michelle Huff, and Betty Stafford

Remember our military: Dustin Brugmann (grandson of Jim \& Sharon Grinder), Ian Clement (grandson of Hershel \& Sherrie Anderson), Kerry Conkle (grandson of Ralph \& Sue Conkle), Jacob Fite (nephew of Tommy \& Sandra Clayton), Brindan Jancuska (son of Dave \& Tammie Tranovich), Jon Lower (husband of Paige Roberson)

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

## LOMAX SECRET SISTERS

If you haven't turned your form in for the new year, PLEASE DO SO ASAP!

There will be a family meal night Wednesday, February 7th at $5: 00 \mathrm{pm}$ in the CSC. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship. See Brice for more details.


Let's welcome this new baby with a money tree. If you would like to contribute, please see Rose or Kara

Class for Wednesday February 7th will be cancelled. Resume back on February 14th


February 4-8-FHU Lectureships February 7-Family Meal Night February 10-5th grade and under Valentine Day Service Project
February 11-Friends/Family Day
February 17-Over 60's Banquet
February 23-25-CYC at Pigeon Forge

## BIBLE RESEARCH QUESTION:

Regarding whom did the people shout, "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man?
(answer next week)

KNOW YOUR BIBLE


This week is the Freed Hardeman Lectures. It is a re-charge your battery event for those who attend. I use to make excuses why I didn't have time to go, but every time I've been it has been so rewarding. This year's theme is "Triumph of the Lamb the Battle with Evil in Revelation." While the lectures are great, just as rewarding is the fellowship and worship together. If you get a chance to go hope you will attend or you can join the live stream. Note one of my favorite pictures is Malcom's last year to attend.


## News and Updates:

- If you want to host a youth devotional in 2024 , see Brice or Emily.
- For CYC, we need a \$100 non-refundable deposit for each person going and a $\$ 20$ dollar final payment. There will be a CYC meeting after morning services on February 11 th.
- All middle \& high school students need to see Brice for a Lomax Youth Handout. It includes a few forms that Brice would like filled out and returned, including liability and insurance information. See Brice with any questions.


## Events:

- February 7th: Family Meal Night. Chicken and pulled pork provided please bring buns, chips, drinks or desserts.
- February 10th: 5th grade and under Valentines Day service project at the CSC at 9:30am
- February 10th: 6th-12 grade devotional at the Riley's at 4:00pm
- February 23rd-25th: CYC in Pigeon Forge
- March 2nd: Bowling for all Ages at Thunder Alley


## Jesus Loves Me

Around 1860, Anna B. Warner penned the following words that were later extended and set to music by William B. Bradbury and continue to be sung around the world:

Jesus loves me-this I know, / For the Bible tells me so:
Little ones to him belong- / They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, / Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, / The Bible tells me so.

While often considered a children's Bible School song, these words are nevertheless profound. When Karl Barth (1886-1968), the famous Swiss theologian, visited the United States in 1962 and lectured at Princeton Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago, he was asked to summarize all the millions of words he had written. He is reported to have thought for a moment and then replied, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

God's love for sinful humanity is the Bible's theme. At the heart of the gospel is God's gift of Jesus Christ to all the world as the atoning sacrifice for $\sin$. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The tremendous truth expressed here in what has often been called the Golden Text of the Bible is reiterated throughout the pages of the New Testament. Consider the following:
"God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Hugh Fulford

## Whatever

Whatever your trial, God sees. Whatever your struggle, God knows. Whatever your cry, God hears.
Whatever your difficulty, God cares. Whatever your problem, God understands. Whatever your need, God provides.


