



pastor's PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

As we approach Resurrection Sunday, it is befuddling to me that those in the popular media still speculate on whether Jesus was a historical person. As the Jewish scholar, Rabbi Samuel Sandmel, writes, "The Christ-myth theories are not accepted or even discussed by scholars today."

Apologist Gary Habermas asserts that today there is a stunning degree of agreement between Christian and non-Christian historians alike that not only was there a historical Jesus, but that this Jesus died by Roman crucifixion (as a blasphemer under Jewish Law and a troublemaker under Roman Law), that he was buried, and that led his disciples to despair.

Indeed, Jesus would later rebuke his disciples for their slowness to understand and believe what the prophets and he himself had foretold concerning his cross and resurrection. By their own accounts, the disciples were not at all disposed to believing, much less creating, a Resurrection story. They believed Jesus was buried and that was that.

The burial of Jesus in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea is mentioned in all four gospels, which is an embarrassing account that the disciples would not have made up. After all, according to these same Gospels, the disciples fled and Peter even denied knowing Jesus. Yet here is a wealthy and powerful member of the ruling Jewish Council coming to Pilate to ask for permission to bury Jesus in his own tomb. Adding to the embarrassment, according to John 19:38-42, Joseph was assisted in the burial by another leader of the Pharisees, Nicodemus, who came "bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight" (John 19:39). This was to disguise the stench of decomposing flesh. Clearly they did not believe Jesus would be raised before his body would "see corruption" (c.f. Psalm 16:10).

But three days later, Jesus' tomb was empty. Again, Habermas points out that both Christian and non-Christian historians agree that the tomb was empty even though Jewish and Roman guards were posted. This assessment can be pieced together from 1st century statements by Roman rulers, rabbinical writings and the Jewish historian, Josephus.

According to Matthew 28:11-15, the Jewish leaders maintained that the body was stolen by the disciples, despite the double regimen of Sanhedrin police and Roman soldiers guarding the tomb. The Romans were so concerned about the disruption this caused that they began rounding up anyone and everyone who had known Jesus. Disappearing bodies did not bode well for the deterrent force of Roman crucifixion. Those who had the motive, means, and opportunity to produce the body of Jesus or at least some plausible counter explanation other than the Resurrection, failed to do so. For the gospel story to come to an easy and abrupt end, all that was needed was to produce the body.

Again, Habermas argues there is a large degree of agreement between historians that Jesus' disciples had experiences they believed to be literal experiences of the risen Jesus. Furthermore there is agreement that they were transformed from cowards to courageous men who were willing to die for the sake of Jesus (ten of twelve did). And without doubt, this message of the risen Christ became the central message of the early church, even in the 1st century when the claims could be verified. (Pastor's Pen Continued on Next Page)

In fact, Sunday immediately became the primary day for corporate worship in the first century, which means something happened on Sunday that completely changed their worship calendar.

It is because of evidence like this, and more, that in 1982, noted Jewish scholar Pinchas Lapide surprised many with his book, *The Resurrection of Jesus: A Jewish Perspective*. Although Lapide does not believe that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, after careful evaluation he concludes that Jesus was indeed raised by God from the dead after three days. He just believes that it was an anomaly in history.

I say all this to say that the Christian faith is the only faith that stands or falls on the basis of certain historical events, the chief of which are Jesus' cross and resurrection and those events are verifiable. But saving faith is not merely believing that there is strong evidence that Jesus is risen, it is comprehending his gospel accomplishment, having your heart inclined toward and riveted by that gospel and embracing him as the risen LORD. May that increasingly be the case in all of our affections as we "remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead" (2 Timothy 2:8).

He is Risen!
Pastor Brian

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 29

Good Friday

6:00 PM | Good Friday Service (Worship Center)

March 31

Easter Sunday

6:30 AM | Sunrise Service

7:15 AM | Family Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

9:30 AM | Sunday School

10:45 AM | Morning Worship

(No afternoon or evening services)



cliff's notes ON FAMILY MINISTRY

MEN'S BEAST FEAST FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH | 6:30 PM

Beast Feast is quickly approaching. Tickets (\$10) are on sale in the church lobby again this Sunday. We have a seating limit of 300 so get your ticket early.

Volunteer to serve! Sign-up in the lobby on Sunday or call the church office. Thirty-two (32) men table hosts are needed. Each table host will provide his own pot of chili. In addition, 35 desserts (10-12 servings each) are needed for the dinner.

Our speaker this year is Jack Armstrong. He was a Lakeview member in college and was in our intern program for ministry. He now serves as pastor of Carolina Baptist Church in Andalusia, AL.



LIFE CLASS

A new LIFE class will be offered beginning April 7th in rooms N103-104 at 4:30 PM with Noah Moon and Jann Swaim leading a study on how to read the Bible. *Journey Into God's Word, 2nd edition*, by J. Scott Duvall will be discussed and free to anyone who wants to attend. **Limited books will be available to pick up in the lobby on Sunday morning.**

SING-A-LONG

Our next "Sing-A-Long" will be Friday, March 29th, from 10:00-11:00 AM at Monarch Estates.

PRAYER & BUSINESS MEETING
THIS WEDNESDAY
6:00 PM

SPECIAL PRAYER MEETING

Saturday night, April 6th, we will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 6 PM for a special hour of intercession. Come join us as we pray for people all over the world who will be striving to please God on this particular holiday. We will be praying that YHWH will reveal Himself to them, through the power of the Holy Spirit in the person of Jesus Christ. All you need is a copy of God's Word and a willing heart to pray on behalf of men and women around the world who do not yet know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

We will be taking the Annie Armstrong Easter offering through May 12th.

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®

MAKE JESUS KNOWN

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North American Mission Board

100% of your gifts support North American missionaries

fellowship MEAL

SERVING MEALS 4:45 UNTIL 5:35PM; CLEARING TABLES AT 5:45PM.

MARCH 27

Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Corn,
Green Beans, Rolls, Salad, Apple Crisp

APRIL 3

Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes,
Bahama Blend Veggies, Rolls, Salad, Brownies

*Fellowship Meals are open to everyone and cost \$5 per person
with a \$20 cap per family. Cash or Check only. Menu subject to change.*

thank YOU

Dear Lakeview family, Thank you for the beautiful peace lily you sent when my mother passed away. It has been a difficult season, but I have been comforted knowing so many of you were praying for me. It's such a blessing to be a part of the Lakeview family.

With love, Stacy Schuessler

sympathy

From the pastor, staff, and church family to:

Kimberly Webb and family in the death of her mother.

OUR *newest*

ANNA LOUISE MELVIN

Born: March 23rd, 2024

Parents: Robert & Jessica Melvin

Grandparents: Mike & Lori Melvin and Paul & Maria Knuth

REMEMBER IN *prayer*

ARBOR LAKE

Nancy Brownfield
Emaleen Fagen
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

CAMELLIA PLACE

Linda Currie

CANTERBURY HEALTH CARE FACILITY

Dean Baker

EASE HOUSE

Anne Dodge
Harriett McNelly
Larry Ryan

MAGNOLIA PLACE

Nancy Thornton

VALLEY PARK MANOR

Kay Gaillard

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Mike Cannon

AT HOME

Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth
Barbara Blankenship
Dennis Clark
Ambers Hanson
Fred Holmes
Latriece Jones-Thomas
John Kennedy
Renaë O'Mary
Jane Parker
Matthew Richardson
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Ilze West
Joe Youngblood

MARCH 24 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 1,227

EVENING SERVICE _____ 750

MARCH 24 GIVING

BUDGET _____ \$67,664.75

RESTRICTED _____ \$27,122.50

LAKEVIEW LIFE | VOL. 64, NO. 59

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR
LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO
LOVE THE LORD GOD AND TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE BY
MAKING, NURTURING AND EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN AUBURN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



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