



pastor's
PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

This Sunday, Lord willing, we will complete our series on the Nicene Creed. As we prepare for that, I would like to offer you some important reasons why it is prudent that we be conversant with this faithful and orthodox statement of the faith. As Charles Spurgeon once pointed out, "It seems odd, that certain men who talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to themselves, should think so little of what he has revealed to others."

Spurgeon reminds us that the Holy Spirit is not an individual gift. He is a corporate gift to the body of Christ. That is, the Holy Spirit is a gift to the Church of all ages. The Holy Spirit has taught others in the past and the Holy Spirit uses these past believers to teach us. Church historian, Stephen Nichols, is insightful when he argues that it should strike us as bizarre that the church of the 21st century thinks so highly of what the Holy Spirit has taught the people of God today, yet thinks so little of what the Holy Spirit taught the church in the first century, the second, the third, the fourth, and so on.

As Deuteronomy 6:10-11 beautifully portrays for us, we drink at wells we did not dig, we eat from vineyards we did not plant, and we live in cities we did not build. So drinking from wells we did not dig, we receive great value from the Nicene Creed (along with the other historic creeds, the Athanasian Creed and the Apostles' Creed).

First, the Nicene Creed summarizes Christian truth. Unless you have memorized all 66 books of the canon and are able to instantly recall and systematize the verses together to form doctrine, then you depend on summaries of biblical truth that have a kind of "pregnant brevity" (J.I. Packer). For example, the phrase "Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for sins" is a concise summary of verses like Matthew 20:28, John 3:16, John 10:11, Romans 5:8-10, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, etc. In other words, we do not recite every single verse when we are speaking of Christ's saving work; rather, we use a summary statement.

A second value is that the Nicene Creed testifies to what the Church has always believed. Indeed, it connects us to the faith of our father. We have a blood-bought relationship with those who have gone before us in the faith. In referring to the theological consensus of Christian scholars worldwide, Lewis Ayres notes that the Nicene Creed is "the most important creed in the history of Christianity (Nicaea and its Legacy, pg. 1). Justin Holcomb asserts, "It settled the question of how Christians can worship one God and also claim that this God is three persons" (*Know the Creeds and Councils*, pg. 33). That is why the Nicene Creed has the honor of being the first creed to obtain universal acceptance in Christ's Church. In this regard, Timothy George is helpful in distinguishing "the faith," or the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3). This is the Word of God. Then there is "my faith." It is my personal response to "the faith." Finally, there is the "Church's faith." The Nicene Creed is an expression of that.

A third benefit of the Nicene Creed is that it creates a protective barrier for reading the Bible. That is, it helps keep the reader from projecting a God of his/her own making. We know from Israel's own history that left to our own devices, we tend to project a God of our own making. As God says to Israel, "You thought that I was one like yourself" (Psalm 50:21). So creeds are guardrails keeping us from veering off into idolatry.

(Pastor's Pen continued) Conversely, a fourth reason why the Nicene Creed is necessary is that it corrects error. The reality of truth presupposes the existence of error. There is no error that presents a greater danger to Christ's Church than theological error. Heresy, which is the denial of a doctrine central to the Christianity, has eternal consequences.

A fifth value of the Nicene Creed is that it aids us in being precise in how we express truth. By connecting us to our ancestors in the faith, there is a sense of sanctified confidence that when we speak the language of the Creed, vetted for 1700 years, we are on sure footing.

Sixth and finally, the Nicene Creed clarifies the doctrines "of first importance" (1 Corinthians 15:3). Of course, the Nicene Creed is a creedal floor, not a creedal ceiling. That is, every believer will believe more than what the creed says but not less. This creedal floor that we know as the Nicene Creed conveys what the Church historically sees as the foundational truths of the faith. Believers can disagree on issues and still "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3) as "one body" (Ephesians 4:4). But the Nicene Creed ably communicates our "one faith" (Ephesians 4:5).

That said, please pray for me as I plan to complete what will be a six part series on the Nicene Creed.

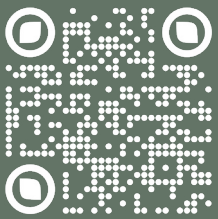
Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian



TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

following Paul's footsteps

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IMF Meals

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS FESTIVAL 2025

Join us as we celebrate what God is doing among the nations. Mark your calendars and come hear from missionaries and mission leaders from around the world.

IMF SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

09:30 AM | Missionaries in Sunday School Classes
10:45 AM | Morning Worship
06:00 PM | Evening Worship

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

06:15 AM | Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
11:30 AM | Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
12:00 PM | Missionary Speakers in the Fellowship Hall
04:45 PM | Dinner in the Fellowship Hall
06:00 PM | Missionary Speakers for All Ages (Children in the KidZone, Students & Adults in the Worship Center)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

11:30 AM | Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
12:00 PM | Missionary Speakers in the Fellowship Hall
04:45 PM | Dinner in the Fellowship Hall
06:00 PM | Missionary Speakers for All Ages (Children in the KidZone, Students & Adults in the Worship Center)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

09:00 AM | Ladies Brunch — Beloved and Sent: Stories from the Ends of the Earth
11:30 AM | Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
12:00 PM | Missionary Speakers in the Fellowship Hall
04:45 PM | Dinner in the Fellowship Hall
06:00 PM | Missionary Speakers for All Ages (Children in the KidZone, Students & Adults in the Worship Center)
06:30 PM | Youth "IHOP" in the Youth Center
08:00 PM | College Panel in the Fellowship Hall

LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

REQUIREMENTS FOR DEACONS-IN-SERVICE

Every fall, Lakeview members are encouraged to submit names for deacon service. Names may be submitted to any current deacon, any pastor or turned in at the office. Please see below for deacon requirements and the deadline to submit names.

1. Confess to be a born-again Christian with a personal knowledge of Jesus as Lord and Savior and living a life controlled by the Holy Spirit.
2. Read and accept the Scriptural basis for deacons as prescribed in 1 Timothy 3:8-12 and Acts 6:1-7.
3. Support by faith and action the Lakeview Baptist Church Covenant, the Baptist Faith and Message (2000), the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, the Danvers Statement, the Manhattan Declaration and the Nashville Statement.
4. Be age 25 or older, and if married, the husband of one wife (never divorced).
5. Give at least a tithe of your income to the budget of Lakeview Baptist Church.
6. Support by prayer and participation the entire church ministry, particularly Sunday School, Sunday Worship services, mid-week services, and other ministries of God's work insofar as able in good faith and conscience.
7. Seeking to fulfill the Scriptural mandate to be "above reproach," the deacon will abstain from the use of pornography, intoxicating beverages, tobacco and gambling.
8. Assume without reservation the responsibilities, obligations, and opportunities expected of a deacon-in-service. Deacons are servants who lead and leaders who serve. The deacons shall join the pastor in providing spiritual oversight of the church. Together with the pastor, they shall seek to know the will of God for the church and lead the congregation to do God's will. In this, the Statement of Purpose adopted by the church will be their guide. Deacons shall meet with the pastor and the pastoral staff on a regular basis to engage in Bible study, prayer, fellowship and to deal with matters pertaining to the responsibilities of the deacons.
9. For nomination as a deacon-in-service, nominees shall have been a member of Lakeview Baptist Church for at least one year prior to their service.

DEACON NOMINATION PROCEDURE

- A. Any church member may make recommendations to the Deacon Nomination Committee. Submit recommendations in writing prior to September 30th. The Deacon Nomination Committee will select the nominees from the church membership.
- B. The Deacon Nomination Committee shall be composed of the pastor, the Chairman of deacons, the vice-chairman of deacons, and a fourth member selected by the Chairman of deacons from the deacons-in-service.
- C. The Deacon Nomination Committee will uniformly examine the qualifications of individuals recommended for deacon-in-service against the above stated standards and will present a list of nominees for election.
- D. Generally, nominations will include two individuals for each vacant position, either for a regular rotation vacancy, or for an unexpired term. The Deacon Nomination Committee will make final determination on the number of nominees based on the number of qualified candidates available.

Please submit recommendations of men for consideration in writing to the church office, or to the Chairman of Deacons. Submit recommendations in a sealed envelope with "Deacon Recommendation" written on the outside of the envelope. Recommendations to the Deacon Nomination Committee will be confidential.

The logo for Vistas, featuring the word "Vistas" in a white, elegant script font.

An 8-week mission class offered to help you understand the redemptive work of God for the nations and your place in it!



Mondays | October 6th – December 1st | in the Fellowship Hall | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM



cliff's notes ON FAMILY MINISTRY

LIFE CLASSES
SUNDAYS @ 4:45 PM

BONDAGE BREAKER

Leader: Bob Brownfield

Room: N104

Book: *Bondage Breaker* by Neil Anderson

This class will explore truths relating to spiritual warfare and the ongoing struggle of bondage issues for the Christians. We will learn scriptural truths related to God's power to break the power of Satan over our lives.

A CHRISTIAN EXAMINATION OF PHYSICIAN -ASSISTED DEATH

Leader: Mike DeBoer

Room: N109

Book: *How Should We Then Die? A Christian Response to Physician -Assisted Suicide* by Dr. Ewan Goligher

This class will examine morally and biblically the practice of physician -assisted death. We will draw from general revelation and Scripture with the aims of equipping Christians to oppose physician-assisted death and of deepening our understanding that death is not the end, that Christ Jesus has destroyed death, and that Christ has brought life and immortality through the gospel.

WALKING WITH GOD IN THE SEASON OF MOTHERHOOD

Leader: Toma Knight

Room: N103

Book: *Walking with God in the Season of Motherhood* by Melissa Kruger

This study encourages moms to draw near to God and trust him through the season of motherhood. It is easy to become so consumed with the doing that we forget to reflect and think upon who we are becoming and what we hope to impart to our children. By reflecting upon who God is, we can grow into the mother God wants us to become.

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Leader: Cliff Knight

Room: N108

Book: *The Transforming Power of the Gospel* by Jerry Bridges

This MEN'S study will discuss the principles and truths that reveal the depths of God's riches in His grace. We understand that we are saved through faith by grace alone. But we also need to learn how we depend upon God's grace for living out the Christian life as well.



congregational CARE UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2025
THEOLOGY CLASS

Both men and women have an opportunity to start an incredible journey through a readable and understandable systematic theology in Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology, 2nd edition*. He has done the hard work of discovering Bible verses that relate to important Biblical subjects.

We began Part 5: The Doctrine of the Application of Redemption, last week. Although we are toward the middle of the book, this is a new and important section on the order of salvation. It is a great place to jump in, or jump back in, if you started this series but missed some classes.

This week, we will discuss Election and Reprobation.

So we can have a thorough discussion, each week you need to read and study the chapter before coming. I think you will be pleasantly surprised how taking this course will help you grow in your knowledge of the Bible and become closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please contact Tom McClendon at tmccleendon@lakeviewbaptist.org if you have any questions.

THURSDAYS AT OLE TIMES COUNTRY BUFFET

Hope to see men of every age THIS Thursday, September 11th, in the Eagle Room at Ole Times Country Buffet from Noon-1 PM. Josh Chance, from SIL Global will be our guest. SIL seeks to develop language solutions especially related to Scripture translation, literacy, education, development, linguistic research and language tools. Come and bring a friend. It is also a great way to get to know more men in our church. See you soon! Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 9th, 2025.

SENIOR SAINTS

Senior Saints will have their September fellowship on Thursday, September 18th, at 11:30 AM. This month is a ministry overview on missions. Lunch is catered, \$10 per person. If you have questions, contact Jann or Jenny Swaim, or Larry or Miranda Webb.

DISCOVER LAKEVIEW CLASS THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Are you interested in joining Lakeview or just finding out more about us? The Discover Lakeview Class is for you. Pastor Brian and Bro. Cliff will walk through what we believe as a church, membership, and our covenant. We need a reservation from you with the number attending for lunch and childcare. The class will follow the morning service in the Fellowship Hall. Please email Laura Gray at lgray@lakeviewbaptist.org to reserve your spot.

fellowship MEAL

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

SEPTEMBER 10

Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Corn, Broccoli,
Salad, Rolls, Peach Cobbler

SEPTEMBER 17

Baked Ziti, Bahama Blend Veggies,
Salad, Rolls, 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.*

OUR *newest*

LUKE ZAKARIYA TANYEL

Born: August 28th, 2025

Parents: Arthur and Julianne Tanyel

KENNEDY MARIE CARLISLE

Born: September 8th, 2025

Parents: Drew & Betsy Carlisle

sympathy

From the pastor, staff, and church family to:

Sandy Ramsey and family in the death of her mother

thank YOU

Thank you all so much for coming to celebrate Lottie's 100th birthday with us. She felt so loved and enjoyed the company of so many loved friends and church members. We love you all and are so thankful for you! – The family of Ms. Lottie Sides

REMEMBER IN *prayer*

ARBOR LAKE

Nancy Brownfield
Emaleen Fagen
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

AZALEA PLACE

Barbara Blankenship

BILL NICHOLS STATE

VETERANS HOME

Ira Hayes

CAMELLIA PLACE

Linda Currie

CANTERBURY HEALTH

CARE FACILITY

Dean Baker

EASE HOUSE

Anne Dodge

THE PHOENIX AT

OPELIKA

Jerry Clark
Judy Clark
Dick Lane

AT HOME

Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth
Alice Chambliss
Dennis Clark
Rena O'Mary
Jane Parker
Janice Powers
Matthew Richardson
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Ilze West
Joe Youngblood

SEPTEMBER 7 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 1,367

EVENING SERVICE _____ 579

SEPTEMBER 7 GIVING

BUDGET _____ \$110,184.91

RESTRICTED _____ \$18,585.76

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“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.”



Lakeview
BAPTIST CHURCH

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FAX | 334-826-6512



PRAYER REQUESTS | 334-887-8783