

SMALL GROUPS | A DROP FROM THE ALTAR | SENIOR ADULTS | EVENTS

the messenger

LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE / DECEMBER 2024

FROM
THE
PASTOR'S
DESK

BORN
TO
RUN

EXPERIENCING
CHRISTMAS THROUGH
THE LENS OF GOD'S
PROMISE

WORSHIP AT
CHRISTMAS

4 STEPS TO
ALIGNING WITH
GOD'S WILL

ADVENT
ADVENTURES
FOR KIDS



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

STARTS ANEW THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH



HAVE YOU BEEN VISITING LIVE OAK CHURCH?
CONSIDERING BECOMING A MEMBER?
WE HAVE A NEW MEMBERS CLASS JUST FOR YOU!

THIS CLASS BEGINS THE FIRST SUNDAY MORNING EACH MONTH AT 8:45 AND ENDS ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY.

IN THESE FOUR SESSIONS YOU WILL ENCOUNTER LIFE CHANGING TRUTHS AND LEARN MORE ABOUT LIVE OAK CHURCH. YOU WILL LOOK AT SALVATION IN 3-D, LEARN TO ENHANCE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, EXAMINE THE STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

THIS CLASS MEETS IN ROOM #102 AND RECYCLES EACH MONTH.

YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR OUR NEW MEMBERS CLASS AT THE INFORMATION DESK.

WE LOOK FORWARD WELCOMING YOU INTO OUR LIVE OAK CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH!



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DECEMBER 2024 | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

a time and a place for everyone

For more information about groups and events visit www.liveoak.church or call (225) 664-4801.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Worship Service

- 8:45 AM Children & Pre-Teen Sunday School
 Sherri Gardner: 1st-4th Grade - Room #214
 Jodi Rushing: 5th-6th - Room #213
- 8:45 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:
 Nathan Lott - Upstairs in FLC
- 8:45 AM Adult Small Groups:
 See Page 5 for Full List

- 9:30 AM Children's Ministry - 1st-4th Grade - FLC
- 9:30 AM Preteen - Chapel

9:30 AM Worship Service

- 10:00 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:
 Jonny Carroll - Upstairs in FLC

- 11:00 AM Children's Ministry - 1st-4th Grade - FLC
- 11:00 AM Preteen - 5th-6th Grade - Chapel

11:00 AM Worship Service

WEDNESDAY

- 8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC
- 9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online

- 6:00 - 7:15 PM Kingdom Kidz: 1st-4th Grade
- 6:00 - 7:30 PM Preteen: 5th-6th Grade
- 6:00 - 7:30 PM Student Ministry: 7th-12th Grade
- 6:30 - 7:20 PM Preschool (pre-k3 to kindergarten)
- 6:30 - 7:20 PM Worship & Study - Adults**

download the app



church
map



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

blue = small group | green = large group

Sunday 8:45 AM

Young Adult Class // *Book of Malachi* // Krist & Katie Norsworthy - Room #201

Young & Median Adult Class // *Book of Colossians* // David Orges - FLC Upstairs

Median Adult Class // *Book of Revelation* // Dickie Davis - Room #202

Senior Adult Class // *Looking Forward to Christmas* // Layne Hutchinson - Room #212

Pastor's Class // *Gospel of Luke* // Dr. Mark Crosby - Choir Room

New Member Class // Bro. Sam LoBello - Room #102

Sunday 9:30 AM

Co-ed Class // *Gospel of Luke* // Robert Poole - Room #211

Couple's Class // *Gospel of John* // Todd & Sealy Pettavino - Room #202

Sunday Evenings

4:00 PM // **Doctrinal Study** // Layne Hutchinson & Jon Williams - Room #202

6:00 PM // **Young Adult Group** // Nathan Lott & Krist Norsworthy - FLC

Monday

6:00 PM // **Men's Discipleship Group** // *Topical* // Robert Poole's Home

6:30 PM // **Deeper Life Men** // *Explore the Bible* // David Tate - Room #201

6:30 PM // **Deeper Life Women** // *Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight. (January 13th)* // Jan Tate - Chapel



Tuesday

6:30 PM // **Discovering Daniel** (1st & 3rd Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

6:30 PM // **Grief Support Group** (2nd & 4th Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Co-ed Home Group // *The Book of Acts* // Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home

Worship & Study // *The Birth of Jesus* // Pastor Mark - Sanctuary

Thursday

6:00 PM // **Men's Play & Pray Basketball** // Jim Otken - FLC

7:00 PM // **REFUGE Addiction Recovery** // Sam LoBello - Room #201

7:00 PM (1st & 3rd Thursdays) // **Lifeline: Parents of Addicted Youth & Adults** // Summer Babin - Counseling Hall

Friday

5:30 AM // **Men's Group** // *Book of Acts* // Jim Otken - Room #202

6:00 PM // **Co-ed** // *The Book of Acts* // Robert Poole - Room #202

Second Saturday of Each Month

7:30 AM // **Men's Prayer Breakfast & Study** // *This is the Day* // Sam LoBello - Room #202

COUNSELING CENTER

at Live Oak Church

Book a session by calling 225-664-4801,
on the Live Oak App, or on our website liveoak.church



Anna Wilkins
MA, MS, PLPC



Danielle Hatch
PLPC, CGP, NCC



Summer Renee Babin
Counseling Intern



Jason Cooper
Counseling Intern



Melissa Benton-Hebert
Counseling Intern



Alyssa Lott
Counseling Intern



Destiny Sadler
Counseling Intern

LIFELINE

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF ADDICTED YOUTH AND ADULTS

Parents of addicted youth and adults often feel isolated because of the stigma and shame surrounding substance abuse. However, addiction does not discriminate. Addiction affects families from all walks of life, all classes, and all communities. Lifeline is a support group where parents can gather to share resources, offer encouragement, and break the stigma. If you are a parent or loved one of a person experiencing addiction, let us be your lifeline of hope.

LIVE OAK CHURCH
1ST AND 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M.
Starting November 7th from 7-8 pm in the Counseling Center

Group Leader: Summer Babin



from the
**PASTOR'S
DESK**



What an amazing year! There have been so many historic moments, from politics and Middle East conflicts to record-breaking hurricanes, that it seems this year saw things we have never seen before (or at least not recently).

There are so many things happening in our world that are prophetic and life-changing, and yet in all of this, we focus every December on reminding the world that 2000 years ago, as predicted, Messiah was born in Bethlehem's manger.

This is what makes this time of year so special and unique as we get to remind the world that God's Word does come true, that Jesus is the Savior of the world, and that in Him, there is life abundant and eternal.

The sad reality is that so many (even now) aren't sure who Jesus is, why He came and the difference He can make in one's life.

*WE GET TO
REMIND
THE WORLD
THAT GOD'S
WORD DOES
COME TRUE*

This is why we will be preaching/teaching on "Jesus the Messiah of Christmas" this December as we declare the fulfillment, miracles, and life of Jesus.

We hope you will join us in December for the great music, special gatherings and worship services that point to Jesus and His birth. This really can be a wonderful time of the year as we celebrate His birth and gift of eternal life.

Have a Blessed and Joyful Christmas

Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor



REFUGEE

Thursdays at 7 PM

**STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.
WE MEET IN ROOM #201.
COME JOIN US!**

**“Taste and see the LORD is good; blessed is
the one who takes refuge in Him.”**

Psalm 34:8

Support. Instruction. Accountability.



LIVE OAK CHURCH

**QUILTING
MINISTRY**

WEDNESDAYS AT 8 AM IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER
COME JOIN US!

YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY BY WRITING QUILTERS IN THE “OTHER SECTION” OF YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPE. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOU SUPPORTING US AS WE REPLENISH OUR INVENTORY AFTER SENDING 220 QUILTS TO NORTH CAROLINA WITH OUR DISASTER RELIEF!

ADVENT ADVENTURES

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS

by Faith Storck



It's the most wonderful time of the year! But let's be honest: for parents, it can also feel like a wild rollercoaster ride. Between checking off the gift list, attending holiday parties, and tackling that never-ending checklist of Christmas activities—like decorating Christmas cookies, visiting Santa, building the perfect gingerbread house, and going to see Christmas lights—it's enough to make parents a little overwhelmed! But during all of the hustle and bustle, do we as parents take the time to teach our children about the birth of Jesus? Fear not! I bring you good tidings of fun ideas and simple steps below that you can do as a family to make the birth of Jesus come alive!

1. READ AND/OR ACT OUT THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Take time to read the Scriptures to your children. Amp up the fun and have the kids dress up and act the story out while you narrate it.

2. MAKE YOUR VERY OWN ADVENT CALENDAR

Fill the calendar with daily activities or scripture verses related to the birth of Jesus.

3. GO SEE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Take a drive or walk around the neighborhood or a special location to see Christmas lights. Make it a scavenger hunt by asking your kids to find decorations that represent anything from the nativity story (star, nativity, wise men, etc.). Amp that up by having a cocoa and jammy Christmas. Everyone put on your best Christmas PJs, go into Starbucks to order hot chocolate and then go see Christmas lights.

4. BAKE COOKIES

Bake cookies in the shape of stars, angels, or the manger. Discuss their meanings while you make and/or decorate the cookies. A few years ago, Hobby Lobby had nativity cookie cutters. We made them with Lauren a few years ago, and the finished product was just hilarious but we made memories, and most importantly, we were able to have conversations about the main characters surrounding the birth of Jesus.

5. CHRISTMAS MOVIE

Everyone loves a good Christmas movie. Why not incorporate one that teaches about the birth of Jesus. Please remember that not all movies that have the Christmas story are accurate, so please also use this as a teaching moment. My recommendation is the movie "The Star."

6. SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS!

Teach your children the good old Christmas carols. They will learn so much about the birth of Christ.

7. DIY ORNAMENTS

Make ornaments that represent various elements of the nativity.

8. ACTS OF KINDNESS OR GIFT OF GIVING

Encourage daily acts of kindness, reflecting the spirit of giving. Bring this back to teaching your children about why Jesus was born, and how he gave us the ultimate gift.

9. JESSE TREE

Start a Jesse Tree to trace the lineage of Jesus and important biblical figures. The

Jesse Tree is based on Isaiah 11:1, which mentions a "shoot" coming from the "stump of Jesse," which highlights Jesus' lineage from King David. This connection emphasizes the fulfillment of prophecies about the Messiah. Each ornament or symbol represents a person or even in the Bible, helping your children learn about God's promises and of His plan of salvation. This is a visual representation to show your children a visual reminder of God's faithfulness.

10. HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!

Make and decorate a birthday cake for Jesus and take the opportunity to celebrate what Christmas really is about.

As we navigate this wonderfully chaotic season, it's important to pause and reflect on what truly matters amidst the hustle and bustle. Yes, the gift list is long, the cookies might look a little silly, and you may be wondering how to fit in one more holiday activity. But fear not! These simple, fun ideas will help you and your kids embrace the true spirit of Christmas while making memories that will last a lifetime. So, grab those holiday pajamas, pour a cup of hot cocoa, and dive into the joyful adventures of teaching your children about the birth of Jesus. Together, let's celebrate this special time with love, laughter, and a sprinkle of holiday magic! And as you embark on these activities, we'd love to hear how your family incorporates them or any unique traditions you cherish. Share your stories and let's inspire each other this Advent season! 🌿



WORSHIP AT CHRISTMAS

by Trent Barnett

Christmas is a great season to reconnect with our families, celebrate various traditions, and enjoy all the holiday festivities. It can be an especially busy season though, rushing from event to event, trying to buy all the gifts, attending all the holiday programs, and on it goes. It's safe to say, Christmastime can be overwhelming, leaving some eager for the season to finally be over.

This Christmas, I want to encourage each of us to pause from the busyness of how the world celebrates this holiday. As believers, we are to celebrate the birth of our Savior with eager anticipation. Through the wisdom of God, He sent Jesus to take on the form of a baby, and to then go to the cross for our sins. It is only through the birth of Jesus that the hope of the cross becomes possible. It is only through the Incarnation of Jesus that God offers restoration, hope, and forgiveness to all who believe.

One of the familiar carols in this season is "O Come All Ye Faithful." This song is a beautiful one, with profound truth, yet a simple melody that is memorable and moves us to worship the birth of our Savior Jesus. One author writes that "the poet takes us by the hand and leads us with triumphant song to the cave of the Nativity in Bethlehem, shows us the Babe, and bids us adore."

In the final verse of this song, the lyrics read: "Jesus to Thee be all glory given. Word of the Father now in



O COME LET US ADORE HIM

flesh appearing." This is the hope of the Gospel we see established in Scripture. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God." Paul talks about this in Colossians 1:15-16, writing that "the Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him." Jesus is the Word of God, existing with God from the very beginning. Yet, Jesus "made himself nothing, by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!" (Phil. 2:7-8). The Son of God came to earth out of great love for us. He lived a perfect, sinless life no one could ever live, and offered Himself as the unblemished sacrifice to take away the sins of the world - once, for all time.

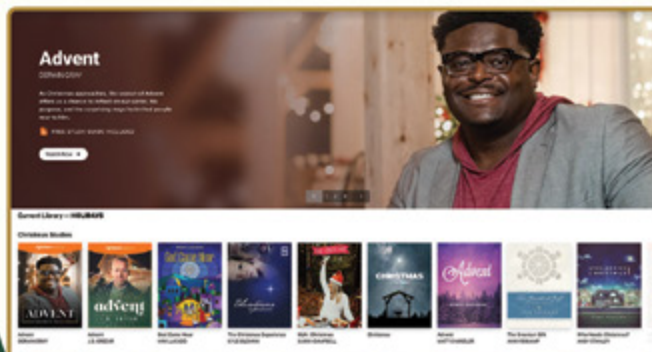
Our only response then is one of worship. This hymn invites us to sing with the angels, sing with our families, sing with fellow believers, and lead ourselves to full surrender in worship of Christ the Lord. In this season, we're invited to come adore the profound love of God displayed in Jesus - His birth, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension. As the choruses of the song continue, "He alone is worthy" of our worship, so "we'll give Him all the glory" and "praise His Name forever - Christ the Lord." 🌿



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MERRY AND BRIGHT

We've purchased unlimited access to thousands of Christian videos and are giving free access to everyone in our church.



COLOSSIANS

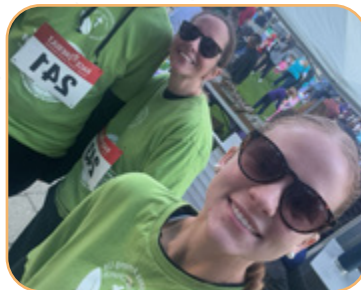
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... - Colossians 3:16

SUNDAYS AT 8:45AM | UPSTAIRS IN THE FLC
led by Pastor David

HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US



On Saturday, November 16, 2024 a team from Live Oak Church joined the Woman's New Life Clinic's Annual Born To Run event in Baton Rouge. WNLC is a life-affirming counseling and medical clinic that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies in the Greater Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas.





Advent, Anticipation, & Augmented Reality

Experiencing Christmas Through the Lens of God's Promise

by David Orges

Advent, derived from the Latin word *adventus*, means “coming” or “arrival.” But what are we waiting for? Advent is a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and the anticipation of His second coming. Prophets like Isaiah, Micah, and Jeremiah lived with a longing, looking forward to the arrival of the Messiah, and their vision of hope, peace, joy, and love allowed them to see the world differently, with the promise of God's redemption laid over their daily lives.

Today, we have VR headsets that show us an augmented reality and overlay the tangible world with enhanced virtual experiences. This Advent season, much like the prophets, we're called to view our world through a different lens—one that overlays God's promises onto our present circumstances as we live with great anticipation for his return.

HOPE: A VISION OF REDEMPTION

The prophet Isaiah spoke boldly of a coming King who would bring light to a world in darkness. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6-7). Isaiah's hope wasn't a fleeting optimism; it was a certainty grounded in God's faithfulness and a promise that a Savior would come to redeem.

Micah, too, looked forward with unwavering hope. In a time of great instability, he declared that out of Bethlehem, “one who will rule over Israel” would come, whose “origins are from of old, from ancient times” (Micah 5:2). Jeremiah also echoed this hope, foreseeing a day when God would “raise up for David a righteous Branch... and this is the name by which he will be called: The Lord is our Righteous Savior” (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

These prophets saw beyond their immediate troubles, and just as they looked forward to the Messiah's first coming, we, too, celebrate His first coming and look forward to His second coming, an assurance that brings hope even in our waiting.

PEACE: A KINGDOM UNLIKE ANY OTHER

When Isaiah spoke of the Prince of Peace, he envisioned a kingdom far removed from the conflicts and power struggles of his time. This peace went beyond the absence of war; it pointed to a state of wholeness and restoration. Isaiah describes a world in which predator and prey will live in harmony together (Isaiah 11:6-9). This was a vision of true peace, a kingdom where brokenness would be made whole.

At Christ's birth, the angelic announcement of “peace on earth” was the fulfillment of Isaiah's vision. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came to reconcile humanity with God and to offer peace that transcends understanding. Yet, like the prophets, we know that the fullness of this peace is something we still await. As we celebrate Advent, we

are reminded to rest in this peace and to become ambassadors of reconciliation in our own lives.

JOY: THE FULFILLMENT OF LONGING

The joy that Advent brings is deeply rooted in the fulfillment of promises. For Micah, joy was tied to the restoration of Israel. “In the last days,” he declared, “the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established... People will stream to it” (Micah 4:1-5). This joy arose from the knowledge that God's promises were true.

In the New Testament, the angels echoed Micah's joy, announcing “good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10). The birth of Jesus was the culmination of centuries of waiting, a joy that fills our hearts even as we await His return. Just as Micah's vision filled him with joy, Advent invites us to cultivate joy in the knowledge of Christ's first coming and the anticipation of His return.

LOVE: A PROMISE FULFILLED


The prophets not only foresaw a Messiah who would rule but one who would embody sacrificial love. Jeremiah's words capture this beautifully: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness” (Jeremiah 31:3). This love was more than a promise—it was the heart of God's plan for redemption. Isaiah's vision of the Suffering Servant reveals this sacrificial love in a profound way (Isaiah 53). He describes the Messiah as the one who would bear our pain and take on the weight of our sin out of His deep, unbreakable love for us. In Christ, this love became tangible, meeting us in our deepest need and drawing us to God.

During Advent, we remember that this love is not distant. It's the same love that Christ offers to each of us, calling us to live out His love and to see others through His eyes. This Advent, may we open our hearts to receive and reflect the love that God so freely gives.

LIVING IN EXPECTATION: AWAITING HIS RETURN

Advent is not only a season to celebrate Christ's birth but to live in eager anticipation of his return! We all know the longing of a child waiting for a beloved parent's return after a long absence—the excitement, the hope, the love that fills that moment. In a similar way, we await Christ's return with a longing that only grows as we come to know him more.

The prophets saw glimpses of God's promises fulfilled in the Messiah. Advent invites us to view our lives through a lens that sees beyond the present. We live in hope, peace, joy, and love because we know that Christ will return, not as a stranger, but as our beloved Savior.

This Advent, let's “wear” the lens of God's promises, looking forward with excitement. May we see his hope, peace, joy, and love not only as seasonal themes but as the foundation of our lives as we await the day when all things will be made new. 

the family answer man

with Dr. Mark Crosby & Pastor David Orges

10 STRATEGIES TO PREVENT A NARCISSIST FROM RUINING CHRISTMAS

Taken from Episode 121

Navigating family gatherings with a narcissist can be challenging, especially during the holidays. Here's a practical list to help you manage their behavior and preserve your peace:

1. ACCEPT THEM “AS IS”

- Don't try to change or persuade them.
- Mentally write “as is” on their forehead and prepare yourself and others for their personality.

2. DON'T TAKE ANYTHING PERSONALLY

- Narcissists project their feelings onto others.
- Whether their comments are critical or complimentary, avoid internalizing them.

3. LIMIT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Assign them tasks that are low-stakes (e.g., bringing napkins).
- Avoid relying on them for critical contributions like cooking the turkey.

4. AVOID CONFRONTATION

- Confronting a narcissist rarely works—they'll deny wrongdoing and gaslight you.
- Walk away or disengage instead of escalating conflict.

5. SHARE MINIMAL PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Narcissists can twist or exploit your achievements or struggles for their gain.
- Keep the conversation surface-level to avoid giving them material.

6. FOCUS ON THEIR ACTIONS, NOT WORDS

- Don't trust promises or statements; believe only their past behavior.
- Always have a backup plan for any responsibilities they take on.

7. HAVE A PLAN FOR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

- Decide in advance how you'll handle drama, such as excusing yourself or leaving early.
- Stick to your boundaries without engaging.

8. DON'T FEED THEIR EGO

- Avoid excessive praise or admiration for their accomplishments.
- Be respectful but don't inflate their sense of importance.

9. SET AND ENFORCE BOUNDARIES

- Limit interactions without announcing your boundaries.
- For example, disengage from arguments or refuse to debate sensitive topics.

10. LEARN TO SAY “NO”

- Say no firmly and without justification.
- “No” is a complete sentence, and you don't owe them an explanation.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Narcissists thrive on control, drama, and attention. Maintain your composure, set boundaries, and refuse to let them dominate your holiday.
 - Approach the gathering with confidence and preparedness, ensuring your peace and joy aren't disrupted.
- With these strategies, you can prevent a narcissist from ruining your holiday experience and focus on creating a meaningful and enjoyable time with your family.

listen at www.liveoak.church/media

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT

New Young Adults Pastor!



Live Oak Church is thrilled to announce Krist Norsworthy as our new Young Adults Pastor. Krist was hired just over two years ago as our Communications Coordinator and has been a faithful leader within our church. Among other things, he is already co-leading our Young Adults Sunday School and Sunday Night Small Groups.

In his new position, Krist will focus on cultivating spiritual growth and deepening relationships with Christ among our young adults, ages 18-25 and 25-35. He will continue to collaborate with Pastor Nathan to ensure a thriving ministry that connects, equips, and empowers this generation of believers.

ABOUT KRIST

Krist brings both experience and a heart for ministry to this role. With a background that includes serving as Associate Pastor, Communica-

tions Coordinator, and Worship Leader, he combines pastoral leadership with creative and strategic communication skills. His passion is for equipping others through discipleship and a creative approach to ministry.

This month, he will complete his Master of Arts in Christian Ministry at Liberty Theological Seminary and holds a Diploma in Practical Theology from Christ for the Nations Institute and a Bachelor's degree from Dallas Baptist University.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOUNG ADULTS AT LIVE OAK

With Krist's leadership, our Young Adults Ministry will expand opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and outreach. Through small groups, Sunday programming, and new exciting community events, following God's vision in this area will help shape a vibrant and welcoming ministry for all young adults. Please join us in celebrating and praying for Krist, his wife Katie, and their kids, as he steps into this exciting new chapter. We can't wait to see how God will continue to grow our Young Adult Ministry and impact our church and community! 🌱





SENIOR ADULTS

by Landra Reed



***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only be-
gotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not
perish but have everlasting life.”
John 3:16***

Christmas can be a time of healing and renewed strength. The message of Christmas is timeless and is about how Jesus came to give us love, hope, and joy. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

It is time for our yearly cookie bake! The date is December 13th, and the time is 9:00 a.m. The cost will be \$25 per person to help pay for the ingredients. Please feel free to bring containers; however, boxes will be provided. Lunch will also be provided.



Next year, we have many events to fill your calendar. We will be starting off on January 16th at Mason’s Grill at 11:00 a.m. The address is 13556 Jefferson Highway. This will be a time for us to fellowship and reminisce about our holiday events with one another.

The following events are for the remainder of the 2025:

February 14th – Casa Levia

March 4th – FLC – The Way movie. Lunch will be provided.

March 21st – Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to worship with Hymn Sing Foundation. A one-night trip.

April (date to be determined) St. Louis, Missouri

May 8th – Mother’s Day Tea at the Lake House 11:00

June 10th – Dad’s Day at Duke’s 11:00

June 23rd – Yeager’s at 9:00

July 4th – Independence Day luncheon at 11:00

August 18th – Rosedown Plantation/Southland Table

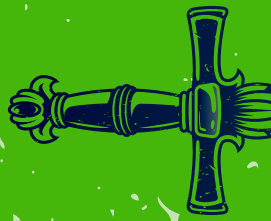
September 25th – Mike Anderson’s/Tanger Mall

October 20th – Fall Feast

November 9th through 15th – Tennessee Trip

December 9th – Cookie Bake





MEN'S MINISTRY

MEN HELPING MEN BE MEN



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 14th at 7:30
in the Conference Room

This Is The Day - a Tim Tebow Bible Study



TOP GOLF

Saturday, January 4th
Top Golf in Baton Rouge

10 AM-12:30 PM

Lunch at 11:00 AM

FREE EVENT!

What is God's Will?

Four Steps to Aligning with God's Purpose for Your Life

by Krist Norsworthy

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28 (ESV)

As the year comes to a close, many of us find ourselves reflecting on our past and wondering about the future. Questions about career paths, relationships, and purpose are at the forefront of our thoughts, leaving us searching for direction. Life can feel like a giant puzzle, with missing pieces we desperately try to find.

FIRST, HOW DID I END UP HERE?

As in, *how did I, Krist Norsworthy, come to be a part of Live Oak Church?* It all started 20 years ago when I was in my first semester at LSU. I was in a band, and we were looking for a guitarist. Somehow, a student at Southeastern heard about it and gave me a call (on my house phone; yes, I am that old). As we spoke, I discovered that SLU has a program for guitarists to study music. After some research, I left the art program at LSU and started my second semester of college as a classical guitarist at SLU.

Jump forward to around 2016. I'm at church in Denham Springs on a Sunday morning. During the "meet and greet" time, I met a guy around my age who I recognized but couldn't quite place. During worship, it hit me: Jordan and I had gone to school together at Southeastern, we were both music majors there. Our families quickly connected and became friends, which is how my wife Katie became friends with Summer Orges. Then boom, six years later, I began my job here at Live Oak.

What's the point of this story? This was a plan that *only* God could have written. Over a process of 20 years, changing majors, going to Bible School, getting a degree in art (yes, I switched back), moving to a different state and back... I ended up here. This is how God works, and I can trace the works of His hand throughout my life. It required both His mighty power and my humble cooperation. I had to trust Him, and He blessed my family by putting us here.

There are so many *pieces* in this world that you cannot put the right ones together on your own. You could never make a finished puzzle by yourself.

But here's the good news: God has a plan for you, and His purpose for your life is not hidden. You can begin walking in it today. Let's look at four steps to aligning with God's purpose for your life.

1. SURRENDER YOUR WILL TO GOD'S PLAN

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." – Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

One of the hardest things to do is surrender control. You may often feel pressure to plan every detail of your life. But trusting God means letting go of your own agendas and allowing Him to guide you.

Surrendering to God is a little like holding a handful of sand. The tighter you squeeze, the more it slips through your fingers. When you release your grip, the sand stays in your palm. By letting go of your plans, you open your hands to receive His perfect will.

Right before His crucifixion, Jesus demonstrated this in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Even though the road ahead was painful, He trusted God's purpose. Similarly, surrendering to God may feel risky, but it leads to a life far greater than we can imagine or make on our own.

Take a moment to reflect: What areas of your life are you holding onto too tightly? What would it look like to trust God with those areas?

2. SEEK GOD'S VOICE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." – John 10:27 (NIV)

God isn't just interested in the big decisions of your life. He wants to guide you in the small, everyday moments as well. Yet, in a world filled with distractions, it's easy to miss His voice.

God often speaks in a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:12), so we must intentionally create space to hear Him. Spend time in Scripture and prayer each day, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you. When you consistently seek God, you'll begin to recognize His leading, even in ordinary situations.

Allen Saunders said, "Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." We are often so focused on the few "big" events that we miss the many "little" yet important things in life. When Peter stepped out of the boat, he didn't know he could walk on water until he listened to the call of Jesus (Matthew 14:29). Sometimes God's direction

will challenge us to step outside of our comfort zones, but listening to His voice opens the door to experiencing His purpose every day.

3. LIVE WITH PURPOSE EVERY DAY

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." – Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Purpose isn't something far off, like a dream job or a major accomplishment. Purpose is about how you live today. Every moment, no matter how mundane, is an opportunity to glorify God.

"I'm helping put a man on the moon." This was the answer of a janitor at NASA when asked what he did for a living. He understood his seemingly small role was part of a larger mission. Similarly, the work you're doing now is part of God's bigger plan.

Start by being faithful in the small things. David was a shepherd before he became a king, and Moses spent years in the desert before leading a nation. The small acts of faithfulness you perform today prepare you for greater future opportunities.

4. TRUST GOD WITH YOUR FUTURE

"God's will is for you to be holy..." 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 (NIV)

None of us know the future, and few have heard a definitive call from God. So, start off by doing what you know you are supposed to do. That is, live a holy life and do good works (Ephesians 2:10). You are not here by accident. God has uniquely created you with a specific purpose in mind. Trust that His plans are good, even when they don't align with your own timeline or expectations. If you trust Him, follow Him in the little things, and He will bless you with the big ones.

As you prepare for the new year, focus on these three steps:

1. **Surrender your plans** to God.
2. **Seek His voice** daily.
3. **Live with purpose** in every moment.

Take a moment to reflect:

1. What areas of your life do you need to surrender to God?
2. How can you listen more intentionally for His voice?
3. How can you live with purpose in the ordinary moments?

This year, let's trust God with our futures, align our hearts with His purpose, and step boldly into all He has for us. 🍃

Kim Pamplin

Team Highlight



Meet Kim Pittman Pamplin, our Counseling Manager at Live Oak. A lifelong Watson resident, Kim has deep roots in the community, having grown up in the area and raising her family here. She has worked as a school bus driver for Live Oak schools for over 15 years and brings experience to our counseling program from managing a surgery center and working in home health.



Kim has been attending Live Oak since 2021. Now, she manages our growing Counseling Ministry while balancing her busy schedule with family life and her grandchildren. Kim and her husband, Luke, have been married for 44 years.

Q&A

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

A: Having never-ending energy.

Q: What's your go-to comfort food?

A: Chips, except Doritos.

Q: What's the most random talent you have?

A: I like to do room makeovers.

Q: If you could instantly become an expert at something, what would it be?

A: Zip lining.

Q: What's your favorite movie or TV show to binge-watch?

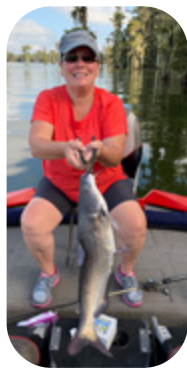
A: Sitcoms (mindless entertainment).

Q: Do you have any pets? Tell us about them!

A: Yes, two fur babies, Izzy, 15, and Scotty, 7 — both are rescues.

Q: What's the strangest thing you've ever eaten?

A: Escargot.



A DROP FROM THE ALTAR

by sam lobello

One of my seminary professors used to say to his class while teaching, “This is a drop from the altar.” He was communicating to his students that what he was about to say was important and may well appear on the next test. As a result, it would be wise for us to remember it.

As I have journeyed through life God has given me “Drops from the Altar” from time to time. I have tried to remember them and apply them to my life. I will share one with you each month. I hope you find them to be helpful in your journey, as well.

***“We decide in this life
where we will spend our afterlife.”***

Greg Laurie

REFLECT HIS LIGHT THIS CHRISTMAS!

We're collecting:

- Small, soft throws
- Chapstick
- Comfy, grippy socks
- Jumbo word searches

**Drop off your donations at the front office
now through Wednesday, December 18th.**

Then, join us as we sing hymns and deliver these gifts together:

- **Sunday, December 22nd**
- **Harvest Manor Nursing Home, 839 N Range Ave**
- **3:30 PM**

For more information, contact Liz at liz@liveoak.church or call the church office at (225) 664-4801.

**Thank you for reflecting His love
this Christmas! To God Be the Glory!**

meet our team



Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor



Rev. David Orges
Executive Pastor



Trish Graves
Business
Administrator



Rev. Trent Barnett
Worship Pastor



Rev. Sam LoBello
Director of Adult
Ministries



Rev. Stephen Hebert
Minister of
Pastoral Care



Rev. Nathan Lott
Young Adults &
Student Pastor



Faith Storck
Director of
Children's Ministry



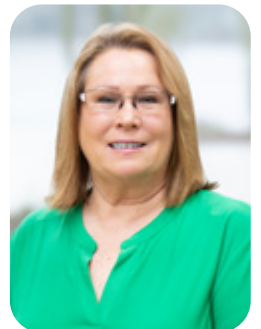
Madison Cody
Children's
Minister



Rev. Krist Norsworthy
Young Adults Pastor
& Communications



Linda Holdman
Administrative
Assistant



Kim Pamplin
Counseling Office
Manager



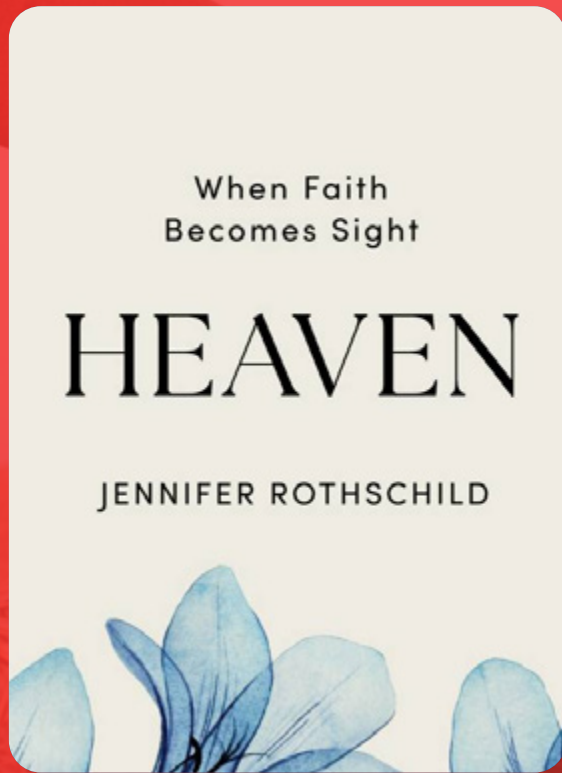
Jim Otken
Treasurer



Liz White
Office
Secretary

Coming together from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, our skilled team of pastors and ministry professionals are the backbone of Live Oak Church. Their ideas and leadership help shape the direction and mission of our organization as we continue to grow.

GOING DEEPER?



DEEPER LIFE FOR WOMEN

HEAVEN:
*When Faith
Becomes Sight*

**Mondays
at 6:30 PM**

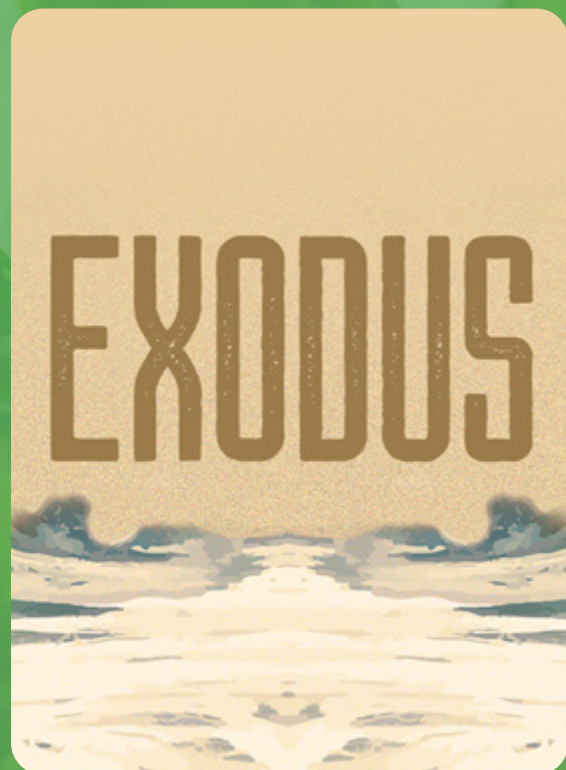
**In the Chapel.
Led by Jan Tate**

DEEPER LIFE FOR MEN

The Book of Exodus
*THE GREAT ESCAPE:
How God Delivers His
People From Bondage*

**Mondays at 6:30 PM
In Room #202.**

Led by David Tate





Christmas

eve services

3:30P, 5:00P, & 6:30P

**invite
your
friends!**

