



LAKESIDE CHURCH

Rocky Mount, NC

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2026

Eleven O'Clock A.M.

Although Lakeside Church is Baptist by tradition and heritage, in our worship and practice we seek to move beyond the label of a denomination to incorporate the richness of other Christian traditions. In our community service we support many ecumenical ministries that convey God's love and care beyond the lines of any denomination.

We receive members by affirmation of their faith or by transfer from other Christian churches. We honor the previous baptism of persons coming from other Christian denominations.

We welcome our guests and would like for you to know more about Lakeside Church and its ministry. We, the members of Lakeside, are persons on a journey of faith. Our church seeks to be a worshiping and serving community where the gospel of Jesus Christ is modeled and proclaimed.

If you are interested in knowing more about our church and its ministries, please fill out a guest card or speak to one of the ministers or members.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The worship of God begins with the music of the organ. Use this time for meditation and reflection and please refrain from conversation which would disturb others. Please turn off or silence all electronic devices.

GATHERING

ORGAN PRELUDE: All Are Welcome

arr. Lynn Trapp

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Grammer

CHORAL INTROIT: "Day by Day"

Harold Friedell

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly, Follow thee more nearly, Day by day.

St. Richard of Chichester

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN (see insert): "All Are Welcome"

TWO OAKS

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. McCain

Leader: Come, the banquet of hope and praise is ready.

People: We come on your invitation, seeking to be fed.

Leader: Feed on the love of God in Jesus Christ.

People: We come on your invitation, needing healing.

Leader: Be healed by God's gracious mercy.

People: We come on your invitation, longing for forgiveness.

Leader: In Jesus' Name, you are loved, healed, and forgiven.

People: Alleluia, Praise be to our God and King!

Nancy C. Townley, adapted

* GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

* INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Edwards

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

** Please stand as you are able.*

CONFESSION OF SIN & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Dr. Grammer

God of mercy, in our impatience for answers, we sometimes turn to idols of our own making and forget our covenant with you. Passionate for what is right, we wrong those with whom we differ. Pleased at the invitation to your banquet, we fail to arrive with humility and thanksgiving. Forgive us when our faith is weak and our zeal too strong. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. *(Pause for silent confession.)*

Hans Holznagel

MEDITATION & PROCLAMATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Isaiah 25:1-9

William Underwood

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ADORATION: from, "Rejoice in the Lord Alway"

Anon., 16th century

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 22:1-14

Dr. Edwards

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG RESPONSE:

(All are invited to join in singing.)

John S. Wilson

Write these words in our hearts, we beseech you, O God.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Dr. Grammer

* OFFERTORY HYMN 424: "I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table"

WELCOME TABLE

(Children in grades K-5 are invited to depart for Children's Church during the singing of this hymn.)

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mr. McCain

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

arr. David Cherwien

Today we give thanks for our local mission partner, Meals on Wheels, which enhances the quality of life of individuals at home by providing nutritious meals, personal contact, and related services. A meal box and logo are on the altar to remind us of the good work of Meals on Wheels volunteers in our community.

* DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

ANTHEM: "Christ Has Broken Down the Wall"

Mark Miller

Christ has broken down the wall. Let us join our hearts as one. Christ has broken down the wall. We're accepted as we are. Through God's love all is reconciled. We're accepted as we are. Cast aside your doubts and fears. Peace and love, freely offered here. We will tear down the walls! We will tear down every wall. God has called us one and all. Christ has broken down the wall.

SERMON:

"Come to the Feast"

Dr. Grammer

RESPONSE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Dr. Grammer

We believe that God is our Host as well as our Shepherd. God invites us to the banquet, the banquet of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And all parts of the world are invited – enemies and friends, the alienated and powerful, those close at hand and those far off.

We believe God offers abundance and lavishness at God's table, empowering us by the Spirit, to invite others to experience this joy and hope. We give our thanks and praise to God for that abundant Spirit, believing that God's goodness and unfailing love will follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the home of our God for all eternity.

Sonya Dyer, adapted.

CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Dr. Grammer

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 274: "I Love Your Church, O God"

ST. THOMAS

(Persons desiring membership in our church are invited to come forward during the singing of this hymn.)

* BENEDICTION & CHORAL AMEN

Dr. Grammer

* ORGAN POSTLUDE: Magnificat Fugue (P 257)

J. Pachelbel

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God
and in memory of William Edward Reese by Hope Reese.*

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Libby Grammer
Senior Minister

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

Zack Ross
Minister of Music

Jacob McCain
Minister to Children

The Lakeside Chancel Choir &
Gossett-Biggs Choral Scholars

Ramsey Ward
Acolyte

Lakeside Website: lakesidechurchrmt.org

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This is the season after Pentecost in the Christian year. Having celebrated the "birthday of the church" through the giving of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, we enter the Season after Pentecost for 24 weeks, to celebrate the existence of the church and recall her mission in the world. The liturgical color for the season is green, symbolic of the church's growth and mission. The triangle and trefoil on the paraments are symbols of the Trinity, reminding us that God is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Spirit. In the center is the cross, the key symbol of the Christian faith, summarizing the life and ministry, death and resurrection, incarnation and coming in glory of Jesus the Christ.

Our final Summer Sermon Series is "Surprise! Parables from Jesus." We encounter deep truths when we explore the teachings of Jesus in parables, and we also are often surprised by Jesus' interpretations. We will explore these surprising stories in a six-week series as we end our summer season together.

Restrooms, including a wheelchair-accessible family restroom, are located in the hallway behind the sanctuary. Please ask an usher if you need directions. **Childcare** is available in the preschool building. If you have a young child who becomes restless during worship, you are welcome to utilize our **Kids' Corner** in the back of the sanctuary by the audio booth. **Children's worship bags** are available in the narthex and have a variety of items that will help to make worship more meaningful for our children. Please return them to the narthex following worship. **Bibles and several large print hymnals** are available for your convenience and are located in the Prayer Room off the Narthex. Please ask an usher as you enter the sanctuary. **Wireless hearing aides** are available in the Prayer Room off the narthex. Please ask an usher to assist you with a set. You may return the hearing aid to the Prayer Room following worship. **We are grateful for our choral scholars**, Jackson Baldwin, Allison Benoit, Esther Keller, and Jacob McCain, who enrich our music ministry in many ways. Choral Scholars and guest singers are supported by the **Gossett-Biggs Music Fund**. Anyone interested in supporting the fund is invited to designate a contribution.

Lakeside Fellowship and Ministry

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember the following persons who need our prayers and support:

UNC-Nash, 2460 Curtis Ellis Drive (04)

Connie Griffin, Room 431

Cooper Vuncannon (Linda Graham's mother), Room 557

At Home:

Janice Bobbitt (Chuck Taylor's sister), 4204 Whitehurst Drive, Wilmington, NC 28409

Robyn Edwards Chapman (Jeannette Pittman's cousin), 1481 Richardson Road, Apartment C406, Apex, NC 27523

Lela Chesson, 53 Whispering Pines Drive (04)

Jennifer Cobb, 1506 West Haven Boulevard (03)

Andrea Cuthrell, 3517 Mansfield Drive (03)

Doug Edwards, 4699 Moreland Drive, Battleboro, NC 27809

Mike Evans, 1151 Falls Road, Apartment 218 (04)

Michele Costa Foster, 105 Gloucester Court (03)

Charlotte Gilliam, 3794 Loblolly Drive (04)

Leland Goslen (Linda & Cameron Graham's great-nephew), 1021 Oakgate Court, Apex NC 27502

Katie Hand, 4752 Honeysuckle Lane (04)

Linda Hoyle, 210 Gravely Drive (04)

Bill Jones (Dorrie Wright's brother)

Brian Lassiter, 104 Killian Court (04)

C. B. Morris, 1930 Northern Boulevard (04)

Howard Phykitt, 106 Whispering Pines Drive (04)

Grady Pittman, 313 Englewood Drive (04)

Jeannette Pittman, 313 Englewood Drive (04)

Billie Stallings, 404 Wildwood Avenue (03)

Kate Thomas (Jaye and James Biggs's granddaughter), 904 Shepard St., Morehead City, NC 28557

George Ward (Witten & Travis Ward's son), 332 Iron Horse Road (04)

Ziggy Zalzneck, 324 Piedmont Avenue (03)

Our Members at Home:

Keith Abbott, 3413 Brookview Drive (04)

Chuck Daniel (Brenda and Dennis Culpepper's nephew)

Margaret Harper, Cottage #5209-101, Magnolia Glen, 5301 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27612

Cody Richardson, 1518 Fountain Branch Road (03)

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

We will celebrate the annual blessing of the animals on Sunday, October 4, at 6:30 p.m., in front of the Youth Building. Bring your pets on a lease or in a carrier, or bring a plush animal friend, for this time of blessing and giving thanks for the creatures that bring us joy.

CONTINUE THE COMMUNION

Our Topnotchers invite you to "Continue the Communion" at Sal's Pizza for lunch and fellowship after worship on Sunday, October 4.

CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Join us in Robbins Hall on Sunday, October 11, following worship, for a covered-dish meal as our youth share photos and stories from last summer's Arizona Pilgrimage. We will provide chicken and beverages. Each family is asked to bring a side dish or a dessert. Please sign up by October 8.

THIS WEEK AT LAKESIDE

Sunday, September 27

11:00 a.m. Worship with Children's Church, *Sanctuary*

12:15 p.m. Endowment Recognition Luncheon, *Robbins Hall*

3:30 p.m. Discipleship Class, *Conference Room*

5:00 p.m. Children & Youth Activities, *Music & Youth Building*

Tuesday, September 29

7:00 p.m. Study Group, *Zoom*

Wednesday, September 30

10:00 a.m. Study Group, *Conference Room*

6:00 p.m. Lakeside Ringers Rehearsal, *Music Suite*

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Music Suite*

Thursday, October 1

10:00 a.m. Needles & Prayers, *Parlor*

Sunday, October 4: World Communion Sunday

9:45 a.m. Growing Together Groups, *Education Building*

10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion, *Sanctuary*

12:15 p.m. Continue the Communion, *Sal's Pizza*

12:15 p.m. Security Training, *Lecture Room*

2:00 p.m. Missions Committee, *Conference Room*

3:30 p.m. Discipleship Class, *Conference Room*

5:00 p.m. Children & Youth Activities, *Music & Youth Building*

6:30 p.m. Blessing of the Animals, *Youth Suite Lawn*

SEPTEMBER YOUTH & CHILDREN KINDNESS PROJECT: SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Each month throughout the school year, our Lakeside Kids will lead the church in a Kindness Project to help us be good neighbors to others in our community. Won't you be my neighbor?

Lakeside's Youth & Children are collecting school supplies for our migrant neighbors during the month of September. Please drop off donations at the church office or Youth Building by October 1.

TOPNOTCHER OUTING

Join us for a fun fall outing to Hardy's Alpaca Farm in Castalia on Friday, October 2. We'll depart the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m. The trip will include a soap making class at a cost of \$15, with lunch at Pauley's Pizza and Black Sheep Grill to follow. Please sign up in the Narthex.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 4, we will observe World Communion Sunday, remembering that we are part of a worldwide fellowship of believers as we take communion.