LUTZ Love Letter May, 2019

lutzcommunitychurch.org



Her worst fears had come true. Her son had become involved in a strange mystical religion. She had such high hopes for him. Since his infancy, she prayed God would touch his life. Her husband wasn't a Christian and sometimes, in a temper, would taunt her praying, but she kept on.

Her son grew up in a small town. The family owed their home, but they weren't wealthy. Determined their son would have a good education, they scrimped and saved to send him to school. Somehow his brother and sister didn't receive the same attention or prayers.

He did extremely well in school. People began to notice his brilliant mind. A prominent citizen of the town set up a scholarship for her son's graduate studies. She was so proud. Her joy diminished with worries about his spiritual health. He attended church some, but he refused baptism. And there were little incidents—stealing, things like that. She worried and she prayed.

He excelled in graduate school and finished with high expectations. But his religion...his letters contained long explanations of finding true reality and speculation how reality divided into darkness and light. Jesus was not truly God incarnate, he said, but an example of pure light entrapped and suffering in matter. He had always been good with words, but these words wounded her.

She decided to visit him. She thought her heart could stand no more pain, but she was wrong. He was living with a girl and they weren't married. They had a son. She was a grandmother, but she couldn't be proud of it.

In desperation, she explained the situation to her minister. He told her that the son of so many tears could never come to destruction. Somehow the message seemed from God. The years passed. Her son was unhappy with his job; he was often ill. He left the girl but kept the son. Finally, he became disillusioned with his mystical religion and began to question her about God. He started to go to church again. There he found Christian friends and questioned them. He began to read the Bible.

Her prayers increased. Her husband died, but he had become a Christian in his final illness. She, too, grew weaker, older. She feared she would die before the prayers for her son were answered.

Her grandson was a teenager now and she went to visit. A changed son met her—a son hungry to know about God, asking questions, requesting prayer. A son who would one day rush to tell her he had given his life to God by trusting Jesus as his personal savior. At Easter, her son and grandson were baptized.

Their times together now were so precious, talking about the Lord and praying together. Her prayers overflowed with thanks but still she desired much more for her son. She knew her son as a Christian less than a year. In the August after his Easter baptism she breathed her last and went home to the Savior, to whom she had spent so much of her life talking.

She never saw with earthly eyes the great man of God her son became. She never heard his great sermons or read writings that determined much of Christian theology. She never knew her son's insights would jog Martin Luther into seeing that one is justified by faith alone. She would never hear her son's words that caused so many hearts to consider Jesus as Savior: "Thou hast made us for thyself, oh Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."

Every part of this story is true—the mother who prayed was Monica, the mother of St. Augustine.

Blessings,

Pastor Jody



Hello Lutz Community Church,

Quick Review and Summer Camp Prayer Requests:

We have had an amazing school year thus far in student ministry and we are looking forward to the remainder of the school year! We've had some weekend retreats for our high school and middle school students, as well as our weekly times of hanging out. Our leaders are visiting schools, going to students' games, practices, extracurricular events, and investing in their lives.

This summer we are hosting 3 different summer camps. Two are for high schoolers and one is for our middle school crew. I would love for our church community to lift up prayers for our upcoming summer camps that reflect our desire to see students grow closer to Christ and look at the many facets of what living life in faith entails.

Future Oriented Prayer Requests:

I would love to invite our church community to lift up these prayer requests for our student ministry.

- 1. Since we live in an area that has many schools within a relatively small geographic space, it is difficult for leaders to actively engage them all. Please pray that God will continue to lead us to reach as many as possible for His kingdom. Pray that God will direct us towards the schools that he wants us to reach out to for the next school year, and that He will clearly open up doors for that.
- 2. I would love our church to lift up opportunities where we can draw people into the life and mission of our church and for innovative ideas to emerge that help this church live into its mission.

That's all for now, Adam

Middle School Camp: Southwind Ocklawaha, FL, June 1-5



High School Camps
Pioneer Plunge: Weaverville, NC, June 23-29

Windy Gap: Weaverville, NC, July 7-13



PIONEER PLUNGE,

YL younglife. **CAMP**



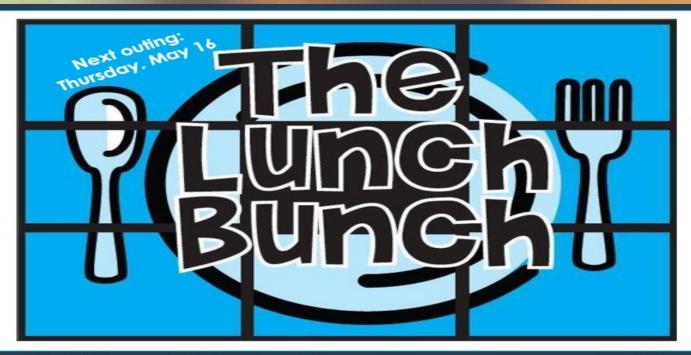
WINDY GAP.

1 younglife CAMP

Women's Night Out

Adjourning for the summer. See you in

September!



Franky D's

Third Thursday of the month

11:30am

PHOTOSHOOT FOR AN UPDATED

CHURCH DIRECTORY

COMING SOON!

Faith in Action Update

We had 65 bags that were all given out on Easter Sunday!

A Big thanks to EVERYONE for their participation! The participants for lunch that day were so appreciative and said to send their thanks as well!





Our local homeless need **YOU!**Do you want to join a Faith in Action Street Ministry team? Do you know someone who does?

Faith in Action

Contact a Weekly team leader to join their week's team:

Week One – first week of the month

Shirley and Marc Knapp 813-713-2395

marc.j.knapp@gmail.com shirleywknapp@gmail.com

Week Two – second week of the month Sherry & Jim Hays 813-909-7314

shays@gte.net

Linda Shanks 813-394-1363

llwshanks@gmail.com

Week Three – third week of the month Jeanette Moon 813-765-8989 jeanette.61@hotmail.com

Weeks Four & Five - Fourth & Fifth Week of the month Alayne & Chuck Berkins 813-240-0239 or 813-220-9609 arberkins@gmail.com or ccberkins@gmail.com



Harvesting from the Mustard Seed Garden for this growing season will be completed this month. We still are harvesting onions, collard greens, mustard greens, kale, carrots and bell peppers. All of these will be available to the congregation to support the Garden on the second Sunday, June 8th for a free will donation.

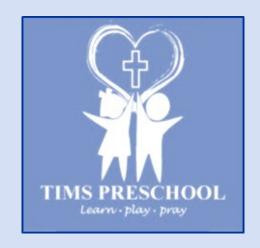
We are completing our fifth year of providing fresh vegetables from the Garden to 2 local food banks and two local soup kitchens as well as having the produce available to the congregation for a free will donation. Each year we have donated between 200 and 300 lbs of produce. The Garden also received the Hillsborough County award for "Outstanding Community Garden" in 2017.

The raised beds will need to be replaced before fall planting. An Eagle Scout and the Boy Scouts from Troop 212 will provide the help on one of the work needed for this project. Other work days will be planned before fall to complete the project. All helping hands will be welcome.

Peace,

Ardell





A Note from the Preschool

Church Family,

May is our last month of preschool for the school year. God has blessed us with another great year at Tims. The children have grown in so many ways, but we are especially thankful for the growth they have made through Christ Jesus. Each day we can see the good that God puts in their hearts for them to spread through this world.

We greatly appreciate the Lutz Community Church family for all the love and support that is given to the preschool. You are making an impact in the community and we are glad to be a mission of LLC.

This year the Preschool has 60 VPK students going on to shine in local elementary schools. While we are bringing this year to a close, our preparations for next year are well under way. Our enrollment is almost full, just openings in M-F 3s, with waiting lists in each age level. God has blessed us with many children to love and teach.

We look forward to updating you on more Preschool news in the fall!

Many Blessings, Danielle Volinsky Preschool Director



Save the Date! July 14-21, 2019

This is a very special opportunity for an enlightening and life-changing experience in a developing country. Every day you will be with ordinary people who are joyful in their faith and daily life. Although they have material poverty, they have spiritual wealth. If we have an opportunity to worship with them you will experience unbelievable joyful noise that will warm your heart and soul.

Do you not speak Spanish? No worries, there are translators available and even the most rudimentary knowledge of Spanish helps. Do you think you're too old or your child is too young? We have had ages from 11 to 90 join us on our mission. All ages and abilities are welcome! The opportunities are endless. The Hondurans are most appreciative that you cared enough to come to their village. Don't miss out!

There are many ways you can participate in the Mission Trip:

- 1) Join the Mission Team
- 2) Sponsor someone who will join the Mission Team
- 3) Make a donation to provide funds which will be used to provide assistance for those who cannot afford the full cost of the Mission Trip or cover costs of unexpected or unknown needs that arise or we become aware of while on the Mission Trip



Shirley Knapp 5/4

Riley Grimsley 5/6

Sandra Rector 5/6

Gina Lammers 5/6

Karli James 5/7

Dennis Ledford 5/10

Betty Suydam 5/10

Tony Linville 5/11

Harper Randles 5/19

Cheryl Kobres 5/22

Carl Lamers 5/23

Wanda Bishop 5/25

Dave Thompson 5/25

Greg McCarty 5/26

Bern Jurgiel 5/27

Beth Moore 5/29

Marc & Debbie Turmel 5/6
John & Kathy Goolsby 5/8
Lonnie & Cheryl Kobres 5/25



Check out what's going on around the church with our live time calendar!

http://lutzcommunitychurch.org/calendar

