



MERIDIAN CHURCH

June 2026 Meridian Life Letter

by Josh King

Meridian Church,

All praise, glory, and honor be to our Triune God for our salvation. Praise to the Father who planned our redemption. Glory to the Son who accomplished our redemption. Honor to the Spirit who applies our redemption. May God be praised in our church, glorified in our homes, and honored as we go out into the world. May this theology lead to doxology and may this doctrine lead to devotion so that His name is magnified in all our living.

Membership

It is with great joy that the elders bring the following recommendation for membership before the body.

The elders recommend that Jackson Lohrer be welcomed into full fellowship with this body by baptism.

You will find his testimony attached.

Financial

At our special business meeting on May 3rd you approved the purchase of the one acre property adjacent to the church for up to \$6,000.00. The sale will be on June 8th. Pray with us that we are able to procure this property as cheaply as possible.

Sean and I would like to extend our thanks once again to the church for graciously sending us to the Coram Deo Pastors Conference. It was profoundly encouraging. Next year Sean and I would like to return with our elder apprentices, Frank and Emake. Registration fees increase as the conference approaches so we are making the following recommendation now:

The elders recommend that we increase the "Elder Continuing Education" budget line by \$1500.00.

The regulative principle insists that Scripture regulates our worship. Scripture tells us how to worship. We are not free to worship creatively. The Word demands Word-centered worship. We gather to read the Word, hear the word (preached), sing the

Word, and see the Word (in the sacraments). Biblical worship is simple. If the electricity going out shuts down the worship gathering, you're doing it wrong. If your worship depends on a mood created by screens, smoke, and sounds, you're not worshipping. You're being emotionally manipulated into thinking that you're worshipping.

While we're thankful for all the conveniences that electricity allows, like air conditioning and amplification, we're more thankful that it is not critical to our worship gatherings. This is just one reason I've long wished we had a baby grand piano. But not knowing whom God might send our way as a shepherd in song, I've never acted on this desire. When Emake came to us, I thought we'd be able to hold off until next year and add it to our budget for 2027. But our current digital piano continues to give us fits. We've already had it repaired twice in the past but it has now developed even more problems.

So for beauty of sound, return on investment, and uninterrupted worship, we began looking for a used acoustic piano. Private sellers offered some good deals, but there is the concern of how well the piano has been maintained and the additional moving fees involved. Also, to ensure we would make a good purchase, we would want to pay a tuner to go with us to evaluate the piano. We then found a good used piano at a store in the city. Though the price was higher, it had been restored and included moving and a five year warranty. The downside is that it was over forty years old and not the most attractive.

The elders then decided to look for a new piano that was a good brand at a great price. Emake found several good deals. Oklahoma Music Company is currently having a sale, but it will end on Memorial Day. Emake contacted them and they agreed to honor the sale price after our members meeting. We are hoping to purchase a Kawai or Essex baby grand for \$13,500–\$14,500. This price includes moving, setup, tuning, and a ten year warranty.

Because of the recent large expenditures for the parsonage HVAC and in order to procure one of these pianos,

The elders recommend that we increase our "Building and Grounds" budget line by \$25,000.00.

Core Courses

The first semester of Intro to the Old Testament will end soon. On June 7th Ryan Penner will begin the series *The Whole Christ* which will study the Marrow Controversy and the themes of antinomianism, legalism, and assurance. This course will meet Sundays at 9:15 AM in classroom 6.

On June 7th Josh will begin his Summer School Series. This year the course will be "C.S. Lewis: His Life and Works." This course will meet Sundays at 6 PM in classroom 6. There will be no class on the evening of June 14th.

Ligonier Conference 2028

Ligonier hosts a national conference in Orlando in the spring (typically March or April). It is held at an excellent resort/conference center. Ligonier does everything with exceptional quality. It is a wonderful conference that typically includes speakers like Sinclair Ferguson, H.B. Charles Jr., and Michael Reeves. We would like to take a group to the conference in 2028. Enough of you have expressed an interest, so we would likely rent a van. We would take at least two days driving there to arrive rested and ready for the conference. Registration, rental, gas, and lodging are estimated to cost around \$1200.00 per person. This price is for a single room assignment. The cost would decrease notably for registrants sharing a room. Once room assignments are finalized and lodging fees are accessed, the exact price for each registrant will be determined. The total would need to be paid ahead of time by you to the church. Meals would be your own additional responsibility. A sign up form is in the south foyer. Please consider signing up as a pledge to pay the registration fee in spring of 2027 and the rest of the expenses early 2028.

On behalf of the elders,

Grace and peace,

Josh

Jackson Lohrer's Testimony

I have been blessed to have parents that have had me around the Word of God. I have been in church my whole life and have been attending Meridian for the past 7-8 years. Around the time we got to Meridian, I started to listen and remember more. I am so glad to have had the Gospel preached every single week. Because of God's loving grace, I am looking to join Meridian Church through baptism and have a church family to help me in my walk with Christ.

By God's grace and that alone I am cleansed. God in His own love chose to save me. (Matthew 11:27) I have no hand in anything. Nothing I do is worth anything. It is only from Jesus's blood that I am saved. (1 John 1:7) My salvation is only from the love of Christ. I am nothing, but God being rich in mercy breathed life into me. I was dead, with no hope. Only by the saving grace of my Lord Jesus Christ I am saved! (Ephesians 2:8-10) He gives me my faith, my strength, and my life. I am nothing without Christ. Thanks be to my Lord and Savior!

I am a sinner, unworthy of saving. I have fallen into the sins of this world. I have always tried to look good in the eyes of my peers. I have tried to be high up in worldly standards. I have committed sin my whole life. I am not worthy of God's love and grace. I have nothing, but rotten flesh and a dead body. I can't save myself. I am unable to. I have no life. I can't choose God. I can't live for Him, I am dead in my trespasses. Only by God I am able to have life! (Colossians 2:13) It is because of His justification in election that I am saved! (Romans 8:33) My sin is great and it destroys me, but God's love is greater and He heals me more!

Jesus's death is the atonement for my sin. He bore the wrath that I couldn't bear for me. He died in place so that I might be able to live in Him! God, being loving, sent His only Son to give me life in Him! (1 John 4:9) There is no greater sacrifice. There is no greater love. Jesus's blood paid my debt that could never be paid by me. Jesus on that cross, took my sin and defeated it. God turned His face away from His own Son so that I might be able to enter the Kingdom of God by Jesus's blood! (Hebrews 13:12) Only by God's grace and Jesus's death, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of God am I saved! Jesus has risen and is interceding for me. His death, burial, and resurrection is true because without it, I am nothing!

I don't know the exact day I was saved, but it was around 9-10 months ago that I started to live for Him. I was predestined by God. (Romans 8-28-30) He has given me life. He has made me new. He has cleansed me. He has changed my heart. I have fallen in love with the Word. I love the music that glorifies Him. I spend so much more time in prayer and I love it. By the strength and faith God has given me, I started to walk more faithfully. I have stopped caring what the world thinks of, because I see the true light. My flesh still wants to sin, but because of the conviction of the Holy Spirit I am able to fight that sin! Now I hate my sin and I have come to love the goodness God has given me! (Amos 5:15) I am not saying I am perfect. Because I am still a sinner. I will always be a sinner, but because of Christ I am able to live a life for Him! I am able to live my life knowing that in the end, I will live with God for eternity! Only by God's grace, Jesus's atonement, and the Spirit's guidance I can live for Christ!