

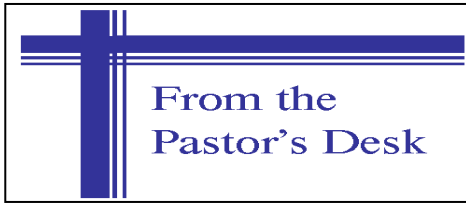


Discover A Place to Call Home

THE MESSENGER

January 2025

Volume 1, Issue 145



I woke up yesterday to a New Year and the news of another terrorist attack. I also opened my emails and had one from Thom Rainer with an article entitled: “Five Reasons Why 2025 Will Be a Pivotal Year for Many Churches.” The picture that accompanied the article is a tornado on the ground. I wonder what point he is trying to make.

Three of the points Rainer makes are, 1) 15,000 churches in the United States will close their doors permanently; 2) of the churches who survive, many of their financial situations will be such that many pastors will need to work outside the church to provide for their needs; and 3) churches who are searching for a pastor will potentially have trouble finding one.

What is happening in our world, country and churches is discouraging. But then Rainer in his article gives a glimmer of hope.

(We are seeing) a greater receptivity to the gospel by Gen Z. These are young adults and teenagers born between 1997 and 2012 who comprise this group... I cannot overstate how great this opportunity is.... Many... (outward focused) churches are reaching young adults and older teens for the first time in years. The words of Jesus in Matthew 9:35-37 are still powerfully relevant today: *“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” He said to his disciples,*

“The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So, pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields” (T. Rainer, Church Answers Blog, “Five Reasons Why 2025 Will Be a Pivotal Year for Many Churches” – posted December 30, 2024).

Rainer concludes with this statement:

“Though the challenges are significant, I remain an obnoxious optimist about the future of congregations in America.”

How do we turn our discouragement into loving, effective action for the cause of Christ? Let me give you seven basics.

1. Let our Savior, the **Lord** Jesus Christ become the motivating and stabilizing Person in every portion of your life. Our lives are continually changing, let Jesus be the foundation that holds everything in place.

2. Be grounded in the **gospel** of Jesus Christ. Know, trust and be able to share His story; how His story became your story; and how His story can become someone else’s story.

3. Learn to **love**. Develop a biblical and deeper understanding of God’s love and ask Him to help you love Him and everyone else, including your family, church, enemies, and yourself, as He does.

4. Develop spiritual **disciplines** that allow you to endure and persevere in hardship and trial. Biblical literacy, prayer, meditation, and fasting, regular worship, and meaningful time with other believers are all just some of the disciplines that allow us to be willing and able to endure and persevere in hardship.

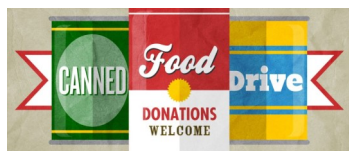
5. Seek to **manage** well everything God has gifted you with, ever how small. God is the creator and giver of all good things, and he has shared and entrusted you with a portion. Use it to His glory.

6. Embrace the personal **ethic** God has ascribed to us. Let it become not just what we believe and do, but who we are. Allow it to become infectious to the culture around us.

7. Engage enthusiastically in the **ministry** of the church. We have exciting ministry challenges over the next nine months. In addition to our regular schedule, the Wednesday evening student ministry is huge (for us). At a minimum, pray God protects, provides, and propagates that ministry. The South African mission begins in less than six months. It is bookended by youth and children camps. Local mission efforts through Grace Ministries, Meals on Wheels, and Faith Mission always need volunteers.

God has placed us here (JLBC) for such a time (2025) as this!

~Pastor Mark



Thank you all that supported Grace Ministries. I had set a goal of 550 pounds for 2024. Thanks to all of you we collected 803 pounds. I know our community appreciates all that have donated. The January needs for Grace Ministries are small jars of jelly, small tea bags, and Vienna sausages.

Thank you all that donated blankets and money to support this ministry for hospice patients. We meet on Tuesdays to make the blankets from 1pm - 3pm in fellowship hall. We had a goal of 100 and delivered 102 blankets. Thank you so much for your support we could not do this without your help. Thank you, Steve & Ida Jones



It was approved to purchase 6 new chairs for Pastor Mark's Office.

It was approved to purchase a new printer for the church office.

It was approved to purchase 8 new wireless microphones and holder for sanctuary.

It was approved to raise funds for the Camp Chaparral Housing Fund. Members will donate and JLBC will add to it to total \$1,000.



Prayer Walk
January 5 at 9:15am
Meet in JLBC Fellowship Hall



Wednesday Night Services
Meal for Everyone at 5:20pm
Adult class in Sanctuary at 6pm
Youth & Team Kids class at 6pm



Church Council Meeting
January 5 at 4pm

Deacon Meeting
January 12 at 5pm

Family Business Meeting
January 15 at 7pm



Volunteers needed in nursery during Sunday School and Worship Times
Sign up sheet in foyer



January 1 - Church Office Closed

January 21 - WAC Association Meeting @ Jan Lee

January 31 to February 1 - Winter Retreat for Youth Group

June 1 to 5 - Youth Camp

June 25 to July 7 - South Africa Mission Trip

July 16 to 19 - Kids Camp

July 27 to 31 - VBS

We have established a team called The Upper Room Team. To be part of the Upper Room Team, we are asking 120 individuals or families to donate \$100 per month. If 120 team members sign up and donate \$100 per month over the next eight months, this would accrue \$96,000. This would allow each person going to pay \$2,000 for the trip and the remaining amount would come from the Upper Room Team fund. This \$2,000 will cover everything on the trip except for souvenirs and a meal or two during travel times. The \$96,000 would also be more than needed for the 2025 trip. However, we don't want to stop in 2025 and the excess amount can be carried over to ensure we can continue the mission and hopefully expand further. If you would like to join the upper room team, you can make your donations by check to the Wichita Archer Clay Association. If you wish to have your donation made electronically, there are options for that through Jan Lee Baptist Church who will then forward your donation to the Wichita Archer Clay Association.



PASTOR & DEACONS

Please feel free to call any of us at any time.

Mark Simons	940-867-5066
Rick Griffin	940-249-8461
Bill Lindenborn	940-781-2504
Marvin Maherg	940-636-2207
Robert Ritter	940-631-7437
John Naas	501-607-0713

MARK SIMONS – PASTOR

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www.jlbcburk.com

Office hours: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Monday – Thursday

Located on Kramer Rd across from Burkburnett High School



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 7:30PM	3	4
5 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	6	7 LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	8 MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH	9	10	11
12 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	13	14 LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	15 MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	16 FAMILY BUSINESS MEETING @ 7PM ON JAN 15 	17	18
19 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	20	21 LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET	22 MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	23	24	25
26 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	27 ARTICLES DUE	28 LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	29 MEAL @ 520 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH	30	31 YOUTH GROUP WINTER RETREAT AT CAMP CHAPARRAL	FEBRUARY 1 YOUTH GROUP WINTER RETREAT AT CAMP

December 2024 Sunday School Attendance Record

December 1	44
December 8	50
December 15	48
December 22	39
December 29	42

Average Attendance: 45

Average based on 5 Sundays

December 2024 Financial Report

Tithes	\$21,252.12
Estimated monthly budget needs for 2024 - 2025	\$19,492.51
Designated	\$ 8,026.49



January 2025 Deacon of the Week

December 30-January 5	Bill Lindenborn
January 6-12	Marvin Maherg
January 13-19	John Naas
January 20-26	Robert Ritter
January 27-February 2	Rick Griffin

Prayer Notification

If you have an e-mail address and desire to be on the prayer notification, please call the church office with your email information.

Questions? Call Jennifer @ 569-1211

We're on the web!

www.jlbcburk.com

Jan Lee Baptist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:45 AM
MORNING SERVICE	11:00 AM
ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE	On Hold

MIDWEEK RENEWAL SERVICE

MEAL	5:20 PM
PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY	6:00 PM
YOUTH & TEAM KIDS ACTIVITIES	6:00 PM



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