

THE VOICE



A Monthly Newsletter by Rankin Lake Baptist Church

March 2024

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Contact information - Service Times

Staff, Officers & Church Leaders

Senior Pastor: Jim Loftis

Audio/ Video: Jason Loftis & Ashley Loftis

Church Clerk: Elaine Putnam

Embrace Grace: Emily Loftis

Deacon: Dave Mocanu

Minister of Music:

Pianist: DeLaine Loftis

Secretary: Lindsey Harris

Treasurer: Scott Miller

Youth Leader: Leslie Miller

Pray for our
Pastor
& Church
Leaders



The Easter Season is upon us. We want to invite you, along with your friends and family to celebrate with us all season, at every event or service this month.

While we were yet sinners Christ died for us. We do not deserve the love He chose to give us, but in Him we are made new and in Him we can have everlasting life. I urge you to be prayerful in the days leading up to the one of our two Easter Services. Ask the Lord to reveal to you who you can invite. Your unsaved loved ones, or maybe even someone who may need a spiritual renewal and refreshening. Ask the Lord to start softening their hearts. What a great time to give your heart to Jesus. Step out in faith and believe they will come with you. We are praying with you.



From the Pastor's heart

Even though the temperatures are still cool, Spring is coming! That means trees will start budding, flowers will start their blooming process—daffodils are already blooming, and something we tend to overlook will start happening. That yellowish-green by-product of the blooming process will start happening as well—pollen. Most of us could do without that, but the blooming process could not happen without the pollen by-product.

When we lived down east, the pollen really hit me hard. When I cut grass, I had to cut it by Wednesday or I couldn't breathe on Sunday to preach. Stopped up, runny nose and watery eyes were just a part of life for me. One year, a lady in the church created a gorgeous arrangement for our communion table in the sanctuary. It was made out of ragweed. I was unaware that ragweed blooms are gorgeous but detrimental to my breathing. The display she made was huge and right in front of the pulpit. I suppose every breath I took I was inhaling pollen from that ragweed. But the end of the service I could hardly breath.

As much as I don't want to admit it, pollen is a needed part of growing flowers, trees and virtually anything that blooms. I have learned through the years different plants have pollen particles that are smaller than others. I am no expert, but I have come to learn through experience that pollen, while necessary, is no fun.

Why the botany lesson? For growth to take place in plants, it is necessary for certain things to happen. The same thing applies for our lives too. Jesus used grape vines to help His disciples to understand what was necessary for growth. He talked about how they needed to be connected to the main vine, the vines needed to be pruned so that they would be fruitful and that unproductive vines just needed to be eliminated.

Growth in the plant world is exciting to watch. We will get to watch that phenomenon take place shortly. Growth in our lives and our church is many times more exciting. Think about it like this: we watch our children grow up and start doing things. We marvel as we watch them crawl, walk, run, jabber, say words, then sentences and just overall grow up. If they didn't do that, we would worry something was wrong. In fact, we want them to grow like that.

Equally, we want growth to take place in our lives and our church. It is amazing to watch God work in so many ways. We marvel to watch what He is doing. I am excited to watch God at work in our church as are you as well. He is not through! No matter how young or old we are, God is still at work. That is the way it is supposed to be. Sometimes the growth brings "growing pains" but all that is necessary to see the growth happen.

I can't wait to see all God is doing. He is at work. Trust Him to work in and through you, too.

Excited to be your Pastor and friend,



March Nursery Schedule

Sunday

- 3- Faye Hovis, Samantha Mocanu, Kinley Craig
- 10- Lynn Davis, Lynne Austin
- 17- Leslie & Anna Miller, Emily Bridges
- 24- Elaine Putnam, Mimi Austin, Maddie Laughlin
- 31- Faye Hovis, Samantha Mocanu, Kinley Craig

Wednesday

- 6- Teresa Williams
- 13- DeLaine Loftis
- 20- Elaine Putnam
- 27- Becky McQueen

Please contact Elaine Putnam if you would like to be added to the next nursery schedule.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 8- Bryson Loftis
- 23- Keith Larrimore
- 27- Lynne Austin

Prayer List

- James Brooks (cousin of Frances Cloninger)
- Mary Byrd
- Brenda Cloninger
- Craig & Kelly Fincher
- Ed Gholson (brother of Charlie Gholson)
- Charlie & Wanda Gholson
- Billy & Gail Jones (Jason & Emily's friends)
- Brad Hay (Uncle of Brooke Loftis)
- Sam Massie
- Jeanne Miller (Scott's sister)
- Kevin & Tracey Moore (friends of Craig Fincher)
- Jim & Marge Sebast (Jason & Emily's neighbors)
- Sandy Stines (friend of Brooke Loftis)

Please email Lindsey with any changes to the prayer



Upcoming events

March 22-24 we will be hosting the Youth Equip Rally.

Spread the word.



Rankin Lake



March



UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Vote

RLBC will be having a church vote,
Sunday, March 3rd.
Topic: potential merger of RLBC &
Salvation Church.
Please plan to attend.



Spring forward
March 10



FLC rental: 3/9

Office Closed: 3/29



From the Desk of the Secretary...

The women at the tomb of Jesus-

Can you imagine for a moment their perspective? The absolute whirlwind of emotions. Let's think together. 3 years prior to the Ultimate Sacrifice, they literally had to unlearn all they had been taught. They chose to put their faith in "this new Messiah." They were probably persecuted, made fun of, scared for their own lives, and also in love with this newness of joy and hope found in Him. For 3 years they witness miracles and love they had never seen before. They heard teachings and travelled with Him. They broke bread and washed His clothing. Core memories for sure.

They then had to come to grips with the reality He would be giving His life. Then Friday came. They watched Him be betrayed by His people, Barabbas freed. They saw the bloody aftermath of the stripes He bore for us. They saw him mocked with a robe and crown of thorns. They watched with eyes burning from tears, as they nailed His hands and feet. They were angry as soldiers gambled for His clothing. They watched on in disbelief as they pierced His side. They probably crumbled to the ground as they heard His cry "Tetelestai," it is finished. All of that alone is more than any person should have to bare watching.

Then they had to leave Him. Can you imagine the preparations they had to make, getting the spices and oils ready for His lifeless body. Can you imagine the food they had to cook for everyone following this horrible day. They also had to do all of this in a hurry because Sabbath was coming. Did they even sleep that night? They then had to wait... They left their homes at dark, travelled to His tomb. Fearfully. They were more heartbroken then we could ever imagine and we have all felt so much heartache sometimes it is even hard to move. But they moved. They travelled to honor Him again. When they got there, they wept. They were weeping so hard, they couldn't even see that He wasn't there.

Can you imagine how intense the pain that God has to literally send angels from heaven to speak to them. So here they are in despair and an angel starts speaking to them to tell them Jesus is NOT there. (Are you kidding me?) In modern times, we would think we were being punked with a cruel joke. So after their "what in the world" moment they have to try to process that Jesus has risen from the dead. They take off running to tell people. They aren't believed at first...then bam Jesus walks through the wall and is back. Wait, what? This is all too much, right? Like how much can one person take? I would think I was insane. But wait, then He leaves them again. Wow wow wow. These women are awesome to have been right there in the midst of it all and survived. No telling what type of mental health crisis they may have had during the process of their mourning, even years after the first Resurrection Sunday.

I am sure they had their moments of unbelief. Just sheer shock and awe of the whole situation. I wonder how many times they told their stories when gathering water at the well, visiting the market, mending clothes, tending to the children, or over dinner. I wonder if now that they are all in Heaven together if they say "remember when we went to Jesus' tomb and those angels almost scared us half to death?" Do they laugh? Cause Jesus has to be funny right? When we join them all one day ourselves, we will find out. But for now, I just wanted to honor these women for a moment and all they endured during their choice to love Jesus and be His follower. We were never promised an easy road following Him, but the reward when our time comes, will far out weigh the roller coaster of emotions we sometimes face today. The heartache we know here on earth, will all slip away when we hear "Well done." What a glorious day that will be.

Jesus, we thank You for Your sacrifice. We don't forget the choice You made to love us. Forgive us when we fall short. Thank you doesn't seem to cover it all. All that You gave. But thank you. We love you so very much and look forward to the day when we bow before You in honor and praise. All to You we owe.

Lindsey

Rankin Lake Baptist Church

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Pastor Jim - jimloftis1@gmail.com

Lindsey — Secretary — myrlbcsecretary@gmail.com

Weekly Church Activities

Sunday

9:30am Adult Men—meet in the sanctuary
Adult Ladies—meet in the Educational Building
Children's & Youth Sunday School in the Educational Building
11:00am Morning Worship Service

Wednesday

7:00pm Youth (meet in the youth room)
Adult Discipleship & Prayer Time

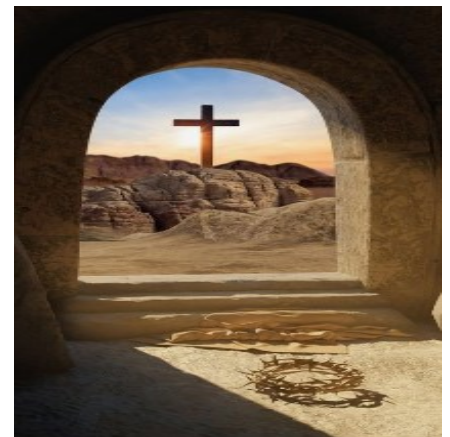
Can't join us in person?

Join us here....

 **Facebook** – Rankin Lake Baptist Church

 **YouTube** – Rankin Lake Baptist Church

 **Website** – www.myrlbc.org



Need prayer?

Please send us an email, call or message us on Facebook and we will pray with you.

Matthew 18:20



Hallelujah
HE IS
RISEN!

DEATH IS DEFEATED AND LOVE HAS WON!