

Welcome!

FIRST TIME HERE?

We would love to meet you! Scan the QR code to introduce yourself or stop by the Welcome Desk to say hello! We have a gift bag for you, complete with homemade cookies and fruit snacks! We also have free coffee and tea in the café. Just turn left when you enter the main doors. It's around the corner to the left across from the baptistry pond.

CONNECT WITH US!

If you are looking for help taking next steps in your faith or involvement at LEFC, or if you have a prayer request to share, please don't hesitate to reach out! Scan the QR code or go to lefc.net/connectwithus.



What's Happening at LEFC



FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY

Next Sunday, **December 29**, is a Family Worship Sunday! Adult, youth, and children's classes will be closed as we worship together in the main auditorium! Our nurseries and 2's classes will be open. *Big Church Bags* will be available to children attending the service.



SAVE THE DATE

for our 2025 Marriage Retreat to Remember! We'll be meeting at the Hershey Lodge on **March 14-15** with guest speakers Curt and Rhonda Hamner from Between Two Trees marriage ministries. More information and registration coming in January!



NEWCOMERS' BREAKFAST

On Saturday, **January 25**, Pastor Tony and his wife Kristen will host a breakfast for adults and teens new to LEFC. You'll have the opportunity to meet the pastoral staff and learn about LEFC. Sign up online or call the office to reserve your spot!

lefc.net/newcomers



WELCOME TEAM Do you have the gift of hospitality and enjoy making people feel at home? Consider joining LEFC's Welcome Team! We have several positions available. To learn more, contact Emma Smith!

e.smith@lefc.net



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed this Tuesday through Thursday, **December 24-26**, for Christmas. Our LEFC Staff wishes you a very Merry Christmas!



STARTING POINT If you are new to LEFC, we invite you to attend our Starting Point classes! During these Sunday morning classes, you'll learn about our values and find opportunities to connect and serve. Classes will be held during second service on **January 12, 19, and 26**. Sign up online or at the connection counter!

lefc.net/startingpoint



CHILD DEDICATION Our next child dedication will be held on **January 19**. If you'd like to sign up, please register your child online by December 29!

lefc.net/childdedication



NOW HIRING! We are looking to hire a part-time member on our Kids' Ministry Team! This brand new role, *Children's Ministry Assistant*, will have variety of responsibilities including training new Shepherds, working with the Welcome Team, and overseeing ministry teams and events. Check our website for a complete job description and to apply. Applications must be submitted by January 8!

lefc.net/hiring

Christmas Eve at LEFC

Join us on Tuesday, **December 24**, at 3:00, 4:30, or 6:00PM for our annual Christmas Eve service!

All ages welcome! Kids' ministry and nurseries will not be open, but all ages are invited into the service, which includes a children's moment, Christmas hymns, a message, and candle lighting.

Invitation postcards are available in the lobby. Help yourself!

Free ticketing allows us to disperse attendance more evenly to each service and provide a welcoming atmosphere for all. Pick up your tickets at the connection counter or reserve your spot online at lefc.net/christmas.



WEEKLY GIVING

Last Week's Giving.....\$127,388

Weekly Budget.....\$75,000

YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING

Fiscal YTD Giving.....\$1,852,269

Fiscal YTD Budget.....\$1,767,500

SERMON NOTES

Joy Brings Us Together

TONY HUNT, SENIOR PASTOR

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Use these discussion questions in your Life Group gatherings or for further discussion with your family.

SERMON RECAP

Joy is an emotive response to good news. Our joy will be made complete when Jesus returns! Until then, joy can be part of our lives—in celebration and in hardship.

GETTING INTO THE TEXT

Read Luke 2:8-20. How does the joyful message proclaimed to the shepherds affect them? What joy-filled responses to you see from them?

GOING DEEPER

Joy can carry us through difficult circumstances, anxiety, and celebrations. How does the joy of the Lord show up in your life? Are you still able to find supernatural joy amidst sorry and anxiety?

PRAYER

Rejoice in prayer! Give thanks to the Lord for all He has done. Pray that joy would be a hallmark of your life.



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Census News

Caesar Augustus has issued a decree, census of entire Roman world. Population to return to hometowns.

The Bethlehem Post

The Weather

Unusually bright star seen over Bethlehem, more on page 6.

LUKE 2:8-20

DECEMBER 22, 2024

\$0.0

GOOD NEWS! GREAT JOY!

FOR ALL PEOPLE

ANGELS APPEAR TO LOCAL SHEPHERDS

BY LUKE THE PHYSICIAN

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the



Local artist's depiction

baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. *cont. on page 2*