

SMALL GROUPS | A DROP FROM THE ALTAR | SENIOR ADULTS | EVENTS

the messenger

LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE / OCTOBER 2025

FROM
THE
PASTOR'S
DESK

THE
FINAL
RESURRECTION

REFORMATION
THEOLOGY
THE 5 SOLAS

WHO
ELSE?

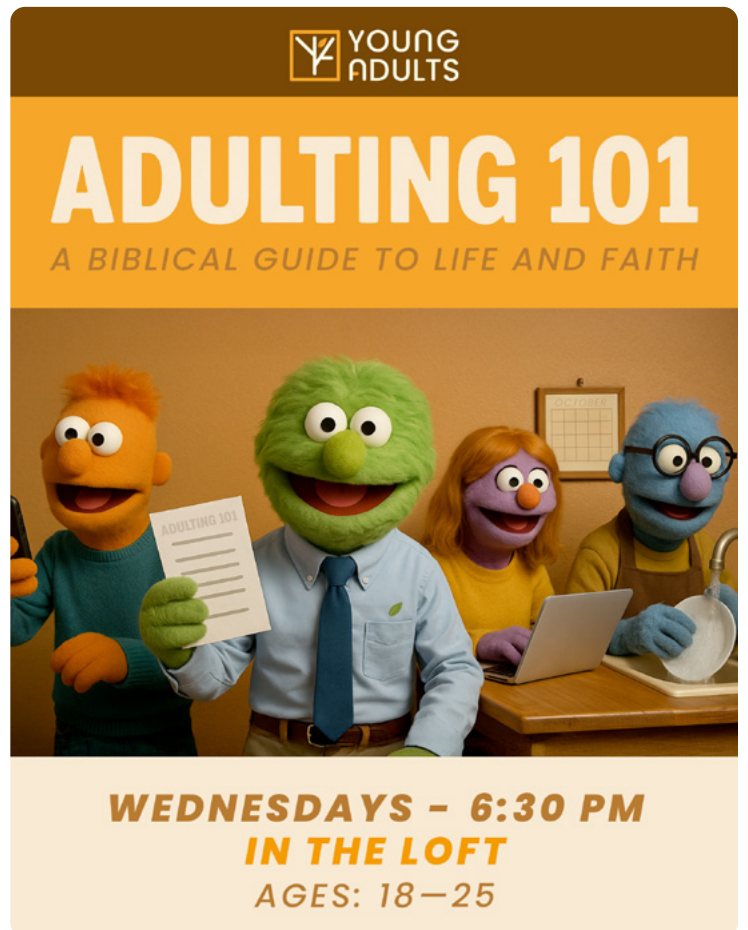
THE NEW
JERUSALEM

HOW TO TALK
TO YOUR KIDS
WHEN BAD
THINGS HAPPEN

+

TESTIMONY
WORKSHEET

SERVING
TOGETHER



in this issue...

07 **from the pastor's desk**

In October, we will be celebrating the Resurrection.

08 **the final resurrection**

God has promised a final, permanent, resurrection of His people and the unveiling of a New Jerusalem on a new Earth.

10 **who else**

The object of our worship is Jesus Christ, the reigning, ruling King of all.

11 **testimony worksheet**

We all have a story to tell as Christians. All believers have a personal testimony. What's yours?

16 **the five solas**

At the center the Protestant Reformation was five phrase that re-centered the church on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

19 **serving together**

With more people comes more chances to use the unique gifts God has given each of us.

12 **the new jerusalem**

The Bible gives us occasional glimpses into eternity, and none is more breathtaking than John's vision of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21–22.

**how/when to talk to
your kids when bad
things happen**
pg. 12

LIVE OAK
C H U R C H



04 MONTHLY EVENTS
05 SMALL GROUPS
22 MEET OUR TEAM

LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A time and a place for everyone

For more information about groups and events visit www.liveoak.church or call (225) 664-4801.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Worship Service

8:45 AM Children & Pre-Teen Sunday School
Sherri Gardner: 1st-4th Grade - Upstairs in FLC
Jodi Rushing: 5th-6th

8:45 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:
Dawn Lott - Upstairs in FLC

8:45 AM Adult Small Groups:
See Page 5 for Full List

9:30 AM Children's Ministry - 1st-4th Grade - FLC

9:30 AM Preteen - 5th-6th Grade - Chapel

9:30 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Children's Ministry - 1st-4th Grade - FLC

11:00 AM Preteen - 5th-6th Grade - Chapel

11:00 AM Worship Service

6:00 PM Young Adults Worship Service - Chapel

WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC

9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online

6:30 - 7:30 | Nursery | Infants-2 y/o

6:30 - 7:30 | Preschool | Pre-K3 to Kindergarten

6:30 - 7:30 | Kids | 1st-4th

6:30 - 7:30 | Preteen | 5th-6th

6:30 - 7:30 | Student Ministry | 7th-12th

6:30 - 7:30 | Worship & Study | Adults

6:30 - 7:30 | Study | Young Adults

Download the App



Church Map



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

small group | large group

Sunday 8:45 AM

Young Adults Class // **Galatians** // Krist & Katie Norsworthy - The Loft (Sanctuary Upstairs)

Adults Class // **Romans** // David Orges - Room #214

Median Adult Class // **Obadiah** // Dickie Davis - Room #202

Senior Adult Class // **Topical** // Layne Hutchinson - Room #212

Pastor's Class // **Gospel of Luke** // Dr. Mark Crosby - Choir Room

New Member Class // Bro. Sam LoBello - Room #201

Sunday 9:30 AM

Co-ed Class // **Topical** // Robert Poole - Room #211

Couples Class // **Romans** // Todd & Sealy Pettavino - Room #202

Sunday Evenings

4:00 PM // **Doctrinal Study** // Layne Hutchinson & Jon Williams - Room #202

6:00 PM // Young Adults // **Worship Service** // Krist Norsworthy - Chapel

Monday

6:00 PM // Men's Discipleship Group // **Topical** // Robert Poole's Home

6:30 PM // Deeper Life Men // **Lessons Learned: Numbers & Deuteronomy** // David Tate - Room #201

6:30 PM // Deeper Life Women // **Psalm 23: The Shepherd with Me** // Jan Tate - Chapel

Tuesday

6:30 PM // **Exploring Ezekiel** (1st & 3rd Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

6:30 PM // **Grief Support Group** (2nd & 4th Tuesday) // Stephen Hebert - Chapel

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Worship & Study // **Topical** // Dr. Mark // Sanctuary

Young Adults Class // **A Biblical Guide to Life and Faith (Adulting 101)** // Krist Norsworthy - The Loft

Thursday

6:00 PM // Men's Play & Pray Basketball // Jim Otken - FLC

7:00 PM // **REFUGE Addiction Recovery** // Sam LoBello - Room #201

Friday

5:30 AM // Men's Group // **Acts** // Jim Otken - Room #202

6:00 PM // Co-ed // **Acts** // Robert Poole - Room #202

Second Saturday of Each Month

7:30 AM // Mens Prayer Breakfast & Study // **Tame Your Thoughts** // Sam LoBello - Room #202



A Free Gift from Our Church

Free Access to +25,000 Bible Study Videos Anytime, Anywhere, from Any Device



rightnow MEDIA

LIVE OAK CHURCH

QUILTING MINISTRY

WEDNESDAYS AT 8 AM IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER



WE ARE CELEBRATING FIVE NEW VOLUNTEERS JOINING OUR QUILTING TEAM!

Crackin' Up WITH CREATIVITY

Get ready for a cozy, festive evening at Crackin' Up with Creativity as you paint your very own nutcracker.

11 ❄️ 16 ❄️ 25

5 PM IN THE FLC

\$10

DINNER PROVIDED

18+



LIVE OAK Ladies

LIVE OAK CHURCH

COUNSELING CENTER

on the Live Oak App,
our website liveoak.church
or booking a session by
calling 225-664-4801





from the PASTOR'S DESK



The final quarter of the year is here, and many of us are already thinking about the holidays and all the traditions that we experience during this time of the year. Many look forward to decorating the yard and home, while others look forward to the food and family gatherings, and others are just grateful for a few days off from the job.

Sometimes we seek to move the holidays up a few months, so we create “Christmas in July” as an example. Some are already watching the Christmas Hallmark Movies in August or “Christmas Vacation.” We sometimes just can’t wait for this special season.

The point of this is that in October, we will be celebrating the Resurrection as we bring the Shroud of Turin exhibit to Live Oak. Generally, we focus on the Resurrection of Jesus in the Spring (during Easter/Passover); however, in the month of October, we will focus on the Resurrection of Jesus and the life that he brings to all who believe in Him.

The Shroud is an amazing study and points to the resurrection of Messiah Jesus. Over 102 various sciences have researched the Shroud. There have been chemical analysis, photographic analysis, laser analysis, medical examiner reports, botanical analysis, and hundreds of peer-reviewed reports.

We will also have Dr. Jeremiah Johnston sharing the latest research and details about the Shroud. So all month long, the emphasis/series will be “Focusing on the Resurrection and its Impact on Your Life.”

We hope you will join us for this series, which will provide you with information that challenges and thrills you.

Hope to see you Sunday



Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor

*IN THE
MONTH OF
OCTOBER,
WE WILL FO-
CUS ON THE
RESURREC-
TION
OF JESUS*

The Final Resurrection

by Dr. David Orges, *Executive Pastor*

Sweet Home... New Jerusalem?

The human heart aches for permanence. We see it in the way people cling to memories, traditions, and places that feel like home. But we know that nothing of this world is truly permanent. Our bodies age, creation groans, nations rise and fall, and everything that feels secure eventually slips through our fingers.

Yet, God has promised something better. A final, permanent, resurrection of His people and the unveiling of a New Jerusalem on a new Earth. This hope isn't wishful thinking. It is the destiny of every believer in Christ. And it changes how we live here and now.

The Biblical Promise of Resurrection

The resurrection of God's people is not a recent invention. God's resurrection of His people finds its roots in the whole sweep of Scripture.

1. **Old Testament Hints:** Job declared, *"After my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God"* (Job 19:26). Daniel prophesied, *"Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt"* (Daniel 12:2). Even in shadows, God's people clung to resurrection hope.
2. **The Promise in Christ:** Jesus Christ made the hope of resurrection clear and certain. He said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die"* (John 11:25). His own resurrection was the guarantee—Paul calls Him the "firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20).
3. **The Great Transformation:** Paul explains that our perishable, mortal bodies will be clothed with imperishable, immortal life (1 Corinthians 15:51–53). This is not reincarnation. Not disembodied existence. It is a full bodily renewal patterned after the glorified body of Christ (Philippians 3:21).

The biblical witness is clear: the final resurrection is not a metaphor. It is the concrete, future reality for all who belong to Christ.

The Final Resurrection

What do we know about this final resurrection?

1. **It is universal.** All people will be raised in the final resurrection (John 5:28–29), but with *drastically* different outcomes. There will be life for those in Christ, but judgment for those who reject Him.
2. **It is bodily.** We will not exist as disembodied souls floating in eternity. Instead, our earthly bodies will be transformed and made glorious, like Christ's resurrection body (1 Corinthians 15:42–44).
3. **It is victorious.** Death will be swallowed up forever. Paul asks, "*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?*" (1 Corinthians 15:55). What we fear most (death) will be undone by God's power.

This resurrection is not simply about survival, it's about renewal. It is about God making us fully alive in a way we cannot even imagine now.

God Will Dwell with His People in the New Jerusalem

Resurrection, however, is not the end of the story. Scripture goes further: God will create a new heaven and a new earth, with the New Jerusalem at its center.

1. **A City from Heaven:** John writes, "*I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband*" (Revelation 21:2). Notice it comes down. Eternity, like salvation, is not about us escaping this world to reach God, but about God coming to dwell with His people in a renewed creation.
2. **God with Us Forever:** The voice from the throne declares, "*Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them*" (Revelation 21:3). The story that began with God walking with Adam and Eve in the garden finds its fulfillment in God dwelling with His people forever in the New Jerusalem.
3. **A World Made New:** John describes a place with no more death, mourning, crying, or pain (Revelation 21:4). The curse of Genesis 3 is completely undone. Even the glory of the nations will be brought into the city (Revelation 21:24–26), meaning our cultures, languages, and creativity—redeemed and purified—will find their place in God's eternal kingdom.

What This Means for Daily Life

So what difference does this make for us today? The resurrection and the New Jerusalem are not just future doctrines; they are daily hope and motivation for every believer.

1. **We can endure suffering with hope.** When Paul faced hardships, he called them "light and momentary

troubles" compared to the "eternal weight of glory" to come (2 Corinthians 4:17). Knowing that our pain is temporary gives us strength to press on.

2. **We can resist sin with courage.** If resurrection life is guaranteed, then sin's empty promises lose their power. Why then should we live for temporary pleasure when eternal joy is coming?
3. **We can serve others with love.** Paul reminds us that because of the resurrection, "*your labor in the Lord is not in vain*" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Every act of faithfulness, kindness, and sacrifice has eternal significance.
4. **We can grieve with hope.** When Christians die, we weep because we experience a loss, but we do not grieve as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14). The resurrection assures us that goodbyes are not forever.

Living as Citizens of the New Jerusalem Now

If our destiny is the New Jerusalem, then we should begin living as its citizens today.

1. **Pursue holiness.** The city is described as pure, without anything impure entering into it (Revelation 21:27). Our call is to grow *now* into the people we will be *forever*.
2. **Live in community.** The New Jerusalem is not a private retreat—it is a city filled with God's people. Christianity is not a solo journey but a family reality. We should invest in the local church as a foretaste of our eternal fellowship. Eternity is a family reunion.
3. **Fix our eyes on Christ.** At the center of the New Jerusalem is the Lamb. His glory lights the city (Revelation 21:23). Our eternal joy is not the city itself but the presence of Jesus. Don't wait, live with Him now as your greatest treasure.

Your Sure and Certain Hope

The final resurrection and the New Jerusalem are not distant speculations. They are the guaranteed future of everyone who trusts in Christ. One day, graves will open, tears will dry, and God Himself will walk with His people in a renewed creation.

This hope is not for escapism. It does provide empowerment. It gives us courage to endure trials, strength to resist temptation, and motivation to live faithfully today. As we wait for that day, let us echo the final prayer of the Bible: "*Come, Lord Jesus*" (Revelation 22:20).

Because the story doesn't end with despair, but with resurrection. Not with exile, but with a home. And not with death, but with eternal life in the presence of our God! 🌿

Check out the article "New Jerusalem" on page 20 for a more in-depth look at the New Jerusalem!

WHO ELSE

by Trent Barnett, *Worship Pastor*

Recently, we introduced the song “Who Else” by Gateway Worship into the life of our church. This song is being sung by thousands of believers in churches around the world. This summer, our students engaged in worship through this song at summer camps as well. It’s encouraging to know when we gather in worship, we’re joining believers across multiple generations throughout the global Church, lifting up Jesus above all things!

This song’s lyrics center our hearts on the risen and reigning Jesus. It leads us to respond with lives surrendered in worship of the only One who is worthy. In Revelation 4 and 5, the apostle John provides a beautiful picture of the angels and elders around the throne worshipping Jesus. He writes that, “Day and night without ceasing they sing: ‘Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come,’” (Rev. 4:8). John goes on to say, “they cast their crowns before the Lord singing, ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.’” (Rev. 4:10-11). This one who receives all praise is Jesus, the only one worthy of our worship.

The same Jesus who “sustains all things by His very Word” (Hebrews 1:3), is the same God who breathes life into our bones. When we gather together in worship, we are lifting our hearts and our voices to the one who both created and sustains us. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul writes, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify

God in your body.” The very breath in our lungs in each moment is from Him, so we pour out our praise back to Him.

The only fitting response to Jesus’ worth is to proclaim His greatness above our circumstances, to surrender our lives to His purposes, and to lift our voices and hearts in song. We were created to praise God. The verses of this new song echo this truth: “I am an instrument of exaltation, and I was born to lift Your Name above all names.” Our entire lives are to be lived in submission and surrender to the One who is worthy of all praise and glory. It’s the only fitting response to the glory of God!

The object of our worship is Jesus Christ, the reigning, ruling King of all. This new song echoes the truth found in Psalm 89:6-7 which declares, “For who in all of heaven can compare with the Lord? What mightiest angel is anything like the Lord? The highest angelic powers stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than all who surround His throne.” Nothing compares with the majesty of our God. As we worship Him, may we keep that posture in mind. Give every ounce of your being to declare and praise our Savior Jesus. No one else compares.

“Who else is worthy? There is no one, only You Jesus.” He alone is worthy of worship. 🌿

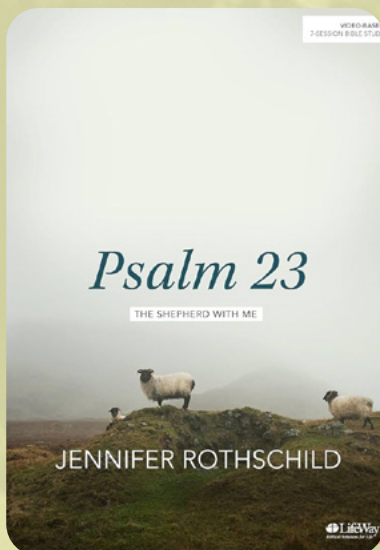


TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

We all have a story to tell as Christians. All believers have a personal testimony. What's yours?

1. My life before I came to Christ...
2. How I came to realize my need for Christ...
3. How I accepted Christ into my life...
4. My life since I have accepted Christ...

DEEPER LIFE



FOR MEN
Mondays at 6:30
in the 201

FOR WOMEN
Mondays at 6:30
in the Chapel



How/When to Talk to Your Kids When Bad Things Happen

by Faith Storck, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Parents, let's be real...these last few weeks have been heavy. Between Charlie Kirk being shot, a stabbing on a bus, and yet another round of school shootings, it feels like every time we open the news, it's one more tragedy stacked on top of the last one. And the big question always follows: How do I handle this with my kids?

Here's the good news, you don't have to tell your kids everything. Seriously. Sometimes ignorance really is bliss. Let them be little. Protect their peace. Childhood shouldn't be filled with fear.

Think of it like movie ratings. What's appropriate for a 3-year-old isn't the same as what a 10-year-old can process. The same goes for talking about hard stuff. The younger they are, the more you get to filter. The older they are, the more you'll end up talking through the hard realities of a broken world.

Now, if your kid has a phone or social media, those guidelines get messy real fast. They're going to see more than they should. Which makes it even more important for YOU to be the safe place where they can ask questions and process what they've heard.

By Age, Here's a Simple Breakdown

Preschool (Ages 3–5)

1. Don't bring it up unless they ask.
2. If they do, keep it super simple: "Sometimes people make bad choices. You are safe. Mommy/

Daddy/your teachers are here to take care of you."

3. That's it. No details. No news. Just safety, hugs, and prayer.

Early Elementary (Grades 1–3)

1. This is where they start overhearing things from friends or TV. Answer honestly, but keep it response brief.
2. Something like: "That sounds scary. It makes me sad too. But there are lots of grownups working to keep you safe."
3. Then anchor them in truth: "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You" (Psalm 56:3).
4. Pray for the people who are hurting. that gives them something to do.

Upper Elementary (Grades 4–6)

1. They're old enough to know more, but they still don't need the graphic play-by-play.
2. Start by asking: "What have you heard?" Then listen.
3. Normalize their feelings...fear, sadness, even anger.
4. Be honest: yes, the world is broken. But also be hopeful: Jesus has already overcome the world (John 16:33).
5. Encourage them to live out kindness and courage right where they are.



Scriptures That Carry Us in Tragedy

1. Psalm 91:4–5 – “He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge... You will not fear the terror of night.”
2. Isaiah 41:10 – “So do not fear, for I am with you... I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
3. John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”
4. Romans 8:38–39 – “Nothing... will be able to separate us from the love of God.”

These aren't just verses to read once and forget. Pray them out loud with your child at bedtime. Write them on sticky notes. Let your kids hear you lean on God's promises when the world feels shaky.

A Personal Word

When my daughter Lauren (now 20) watched a video of recent violence, she wasn't fearful. She knows this is, unfortunately, part of life in a broken world. We talked about how much this world needs Jesus, and she nodded—because she's old enough to get it. But as I looked at her, I remembered when she was little. Back then, when tragedies happened, I knew what she

could handle at each age and I shaped our conversations to her level. Sometimes it was just a hug and a prayer. Sometimes it was a short reminder that she was safe. And as she got older, it became more about how to live with courage and hope.

That's the encouragement I want to give you: protect their innocence when you can, tell the truth when you must, and always point them back to Jesus. He is the one who guards their hearts and minds with peace that makes no sense to the world.

Madison sent me a reel the other day and on it the person stated: “Have we tried unplugging the country and plugging it back in or putting it in a bag of rice?” I laughed, because honestly it feels like that's what we need sometimes. But here's the truth: we don't have to reboot the world. What we can do is reset our hearts by plugging back into the One who never fails.

Jesus doesn't promise us a world without trouble, but He does promise us His peace, His presence, and His victory. And that's the best news we can hand down to our kids. When everything else feels broken, we can remind them: “Take heart. Jesus has already overcome.” 🌿



SENIOR ADULTS

By Landra Reed



Galatians 6:8-9

"For the one who sows to his own flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. Let's not become discouraged from doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary."

What an amazing and blessed year we have had! We only have a few months left to fellowship as a large group. This is what we have to look forward to in the next coming months.

On October 14th we will have our annual Fall Feast. This is a free event and it will

be held in the FLC at 11:00. This year for lunch my brother in Christ Coby Hebert will be making his amazing jambalaya, and I will be making the white beans. Please bring a dessert of your choice as we celebrate the fall.

November 5—10 we are heading to Pigeon Forge Tennessee. We still have a few spots available. The cost is \$807 per person for a double room.

December 9th we will have our annual cookie baking for Christmas at 10:00 in the FLC. If you have a recipe that you would like to share and everyone make, please feel free to text me the recipe so that I can print it out for everyone and make sure that the ingredients will be available. 🌿



CHECK IT OUT!

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

STARTS ANEW THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

1. SALVATION IN 3-D?
2. HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?
3. THE STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH?
4. YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS?



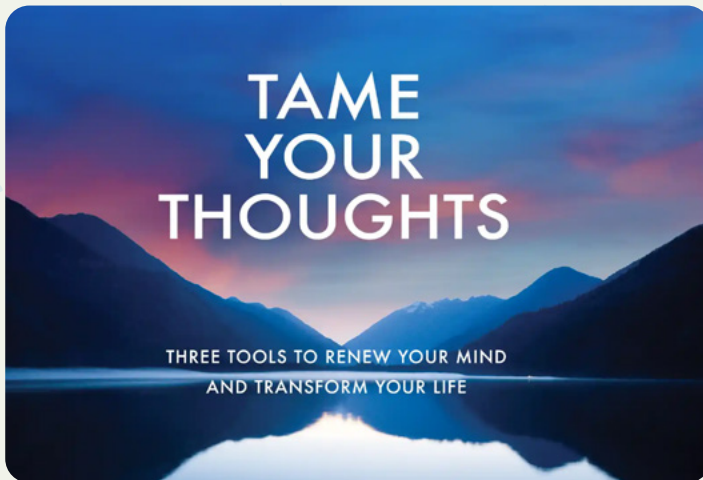
WE'LL CHECK IT ALL OUT IN OUR NEW MEMBER CLASS BEGINNING THE FIRST SUNDAY MORNING OF EACH MONTH AT 8:45 IN ROOM # 201. YOU'LL WANT TO BE PROMPT. WE GOT A LOT TO CHECK OUT!



Newsletter & Updates

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men Helping Men Be Men



PRAYER BREAKFAST

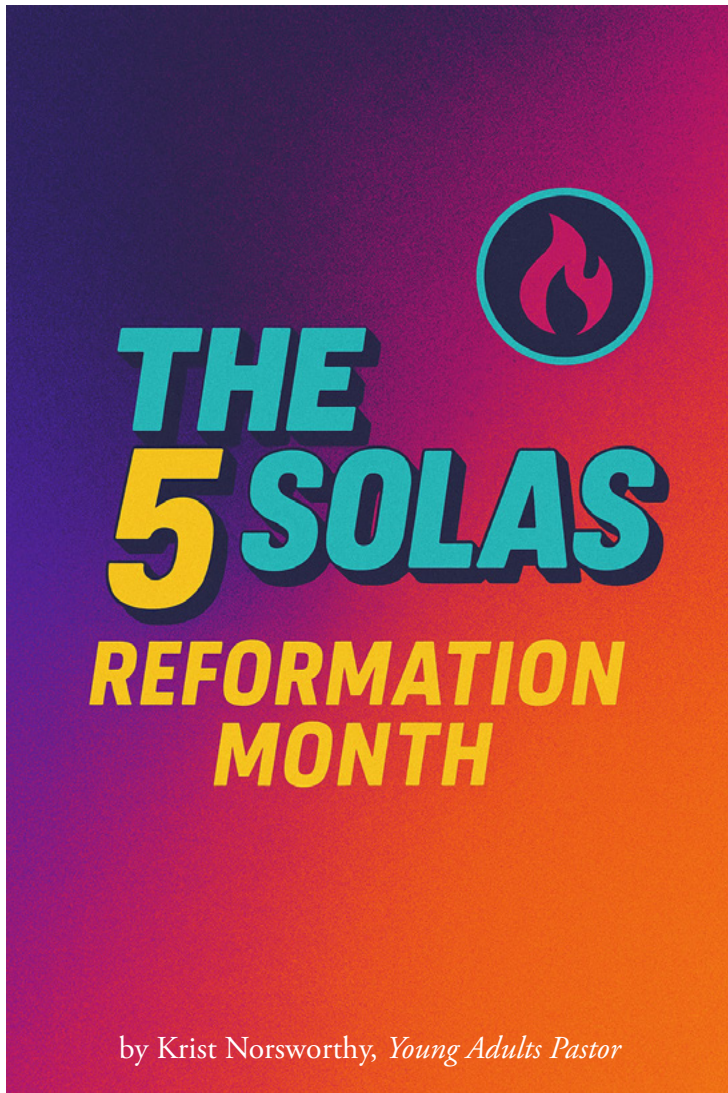
**Saturday, Oct. 11, 7:30
in the Conference Room**

Max Lucado's new study:
Tame Your Thoughts: Three Tools to
Renew Your Mind and Transform Your Life



MEN'S STEAK DINNER FELLOWSHIP

Fifty-five men came to our Men's Steak Dinner Fellowship. A great time of fellowship and celebration of the difference Jesus makes in our lives when we focus on and cooperate with Him. We are grateful to Jon Williams for sharing his testimony of the difference Christ has made and continues to make in his life.



On October 31, 1517, a young monk named Martin Luther walked up to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, hammer in hand. He posted a list of 95 arguments against the sale of indulgences (*certificates sold by church authorities that claimed to reduce the time a soul would spend in purgatory*) on the door, inviting public debate. He wasn't trying to spark a revolution. But that act lit a fire.

Word spread quickly, thanks to the newly invented printing press. Within weeks, Luther's words were being read across Germany. Within months, his words were shaking the foundations of the Roman Catholic Church. And within a few years, they had sparked the Protestant Reformation, a movement that would recenter the church on Scripture, grace, faith, Christ, and the glory of God alone.

Reformation Month

In October, we're returning to the roots of our faith, as what was rediscovered during the Reformation still answers the deepest questions of our lives today. On Sunday nights, the Young Adults will go through a series on the history and doctrines of the Protestant Reformation.

At the center of Reformation theology are five phrases... short, bold declarations that re-centered the church on the gospel of Jesus Christ. They're known as the Five Solas:

1. *Sola Scriptura* — Scripture Alone
2. *Sola Gratia* — Grace Alone
3. *Sola Fide* — Faith Alone
4. *Solus Christus* — Christ Alone
5. *Soli Deo Gloria* — To the Glory of God Alone

Each of these "Solas" is a lens that helps bring the biblical gospel into focus. And each one confronts the drift we see in our culture and our hearts today... the pull to add, edit, or replace what God has said and done.

I'm not just giving you a history lesson; I'm challenging you to stand firm. Each of these Solas is a truth you still need today. Here's what they mean and why they still matter.

Sola Scriptura — Scripture Alone

When the Reformers said *Sola Scriptura*, they weren't denying that tradition, experience, or wisdom have value. But they were making one thing clear: the Bible stands alone as the final authority.

In the 16th century, the church had clearly drifted from mere Christianity. Human authority, rituals, and religious systems had clouded the message of Christ. Scripture was seen as one voice among many: sometimes even a secondary one. The Reformers pushed back by recovering and reinforcing the truth that God's Word is not just important or inspired but sufficient.

Today, we face the same temptations. We're surrounded by influencers, algorithms, and opinions. While many of them are sincere, few of them are grounded in God's truth. As my dad used to say, "You can be sincere and be sincerely wrong." *Sola Scriptura* reminds you that we don't need to guess or craft our own "truth." God has spoken. His Word is trustworthy. It is timeless and true.

Sola Gratia — Grace Alone

Sola Gratia means we are saved purely because of God's unearned favor. Not because of *anything* we've done, and in spite of *everything* we've done. It's not a reward. It's a gift.

This truth is at war with one of the most common lies we believe: that we have to earn love, approval, or salvation. That if we're good enough, moral enough, or religious enough, we'll be accepted by God.

But the gospel says otherwise. We are not rescued by effort, performance, or moral progress. We are rescued because of His grace. That means we don't have to carry the crushing weight of trying to be enough. Grace frees us, not just from sin, but from the pressure to prove ourselves.

Sola Fide — Faith Alone

Faith is not a work. It's not our part of a trade. It's not a spiritual currency that buys salvation.

Sola Fide means we are justified (declared righteous) before God by faith alone. Not by faith plus effort. Not by faith plus works. Not by faith plus anything.

This Sola pushes you to ask the question, "What am I trusting in?" You can believe all the right facts about Jesus, but still trust in our own performance. You can say you believe the gospel but live like it's still up to you.

Faith alone calls you to rest, not in ourselves, but in Christ. It tells you to stop striving, stop comparing, stop pretending, and start trusting. It's not about how strong your faith feels. It's about how strong your God is. It's about who your faith is in.

Solus Christus — Christ Alone

There is one Savior. One mediator. One name that saves. *Solus Christus* means that Jesus is not a piece of our salvation; He is the whole of it.

In the time of the Reformation, salvation was often viewed as something dispensed through the church (via priests, saints, penance, or sacraments). Christ's finished work was obscured by layers and layers of human and temporal mediation.

But Scripture is clear: salvation is found in Christ alone. He

is enough. He doesn't need help. He doesn't share the stage. The cross wasn't a partial payment, it was full and final.

This is good news for us. It means you don't need to look anywhere else. Not to religion. Not to self-improvement. Not to spiritual leaders. Christ alone is sufficient, and He alone is Savior.

Soli Deo Gloria — To the Glory of God Alone

This final Sola zooms out and shows you the purpose behind it all.

Why did God speak? Why did He give grace? Why are we saved through faith? Why did Christ die and rise again? For *the glory of God alone*.

Soli Deo Gloria reminds you that all of life, including salvation, is ultimately about God, not us. We are not the center. We are not the point. And that is actually freeing.

Because if it's about God's glory, then we don't have to carry the pressure of being impressive. We're free to live with joy, humility, and purpose. You don't have to try to be the hero of your own story. You reflect the beauty of the One who is.

This Sola invites you to live all of life (your work, relationships, rest, struggles) as worship with one aim: that God would be glorified.

Goals, Not Slogans

The Five Solas aren't just slogans from a bygone era. They're declarations of a gospel that still rescues, still reforms, and still revives. In a world that pushes you toward self-centered spirituality, subjective truth, and performance-based identity, the Solas are a call to stand firm. To keep returning to the gospel that is still good news. To build your life on what lasts.

This Reformation Month, let's not just remember the Solas, let's live them. 🌱

A DROP FROM THE ALTAR by Sam LoBello

One of my seminary professors used to say to his class while teaching, "This is a drop from the altar." He was communicating to his students that what he was about to say was important and may well appear on the next test. As a result, it would be wise for us to remember it.

As I have journeyed through life God has given me "Drops from the Altar" from time to time. I have tried to remember them and apply them to my life. I will share one with you each month. I hope you find them to be helpful in your journey, as well.

***"The Old Testament is the New Testament
concealed. The New Testament is the Old
Testament revealed."***

Dr. Mark Crosby



Thursdays at 7 PM

**STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.
WE MEET IN ROOM #201.
COME JOIN US!**

***"Taste and see the LORD is good; blessed is
the one who takes refuge in Him."***

Psalm 34:8

Support. Instruction. Accountability.

SERVING TOGETHER AT LIVE OAK CHURCH

by Trish Graves, *Business Administrator*

God is moving in powerful ways at Live Oak Church! This year, we've seen steady growth in our congregation. I'm sure you've felt this growth in our sanctuary, hallways, and parking lot. With more people comes more opportunity—more spaces to care for, more people to serve, and more chances to use the unique gifts God has given each of us.

When many people think of volunteering, their first thought is often helping with kids or students. And yes—those are vital ministries where we always need loving, consistent leaders! But volunteering doesn't stop there. Every single person has something valuable to offer, and there are countless ways to serve that go beyond the classroom.

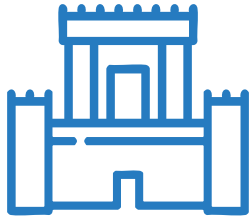
In addition to helping out with kids and students, here are just some of the opportunities where you can jump in and make a difference:

1. **Hospitality & Greeting:** Helping people feel welcome as they arrive on campus.
2. **Facilities & Cleaning:** Keeping our campus beautiful and ready for ministry.
3. **Events & Outreach:** Serving at church-wide events, community gatherings, and outreach projects.
4. **Funeral & Care Ministry:** Providing meals, setup/cleanup, and hospitality for grieving families.
5. **Creative Arts:** Photography, videography, graphic design, or stage décor.
6. **Worship & AV:** Running sound, cameras or lyrics.
7. **Prayer Team:** Standing in the gap for our people and community through prayer.
8. **Food & Benevolence Ministries:** Supporting Community Hands, meal trains, or helping distribute resources.
9. **Parking & Safety Team:** Creating a safe and welcoming first impression for guests.
10. **Decorating and Special Services:** Helping decorate for holidays and events.

Young or old, behind the scenes or up front, there's a place for everyone to serve. Whether you have a special skill set, a heart for hospitality, or simply a willingness to pitch in wherever needed, we would love to help you find your spot.

Getting started is easy! You can pick up a Connect Card in the lobby and let us know where you'd like to serve.

Together, we can continue to build a church family where every person has a role, every gift is used, and every act of service points people to Jesus. 🌱



Sneak Peek

THE NEW JERUSALEM

by Dr. David Orges, *Executive Pastor*

The Bible gives us occasional glimpses into eternity, and none is more breathtaking than John's vision of the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21–22. This is not just a description of a city but a revelation of what it means to live forever in the presence of God. Every detail is meant to communicate something about God's glory and the joy that His people will share. Let's take a closer look at this magnificent city and what it means for us today.

The Throne at the Center

At the very heart of the New Jerusalem is the throne of God and of the Lamb (Revelation 22:1). This detail is significant. Heaven is not defined by mansions or pearly gates or even dazzling beauty. It is defined by the presence and Lordship of God. The throne proclaims that God reigns, and His people live in the joy of His perfect authority.

For many, "authority" is a negative word. We associate it with corruption or misuse of power. But in heaven, God's throne means something very different: it means order instead of chaos, justice instead of injustice, and peace that can never be shaken. To live under His reign will be to live in perfect freedom, because His will is perfectly good.

Even now, this picture speaks to us. The throne at the center of the city reminds us that the throne should also be at the center of our lives. Our joy begins not with having more but with surrendering more to Christ. Heaven's center is Christ's rule, and so should ours be today.

The River of Life

Flowing from that throne is a river, clear as crystal—the river of the water of life (Revelation 22:1). In Scripture, rivers

often represent abundance, refreshment, and the presence of the Spirit. In Eden, a river watered the garden and brought fruitfulness (Genesis 2:10). In the Psalms, the river makes glad the city of God (Psalm 46:4). In John's Gospel, Jesus Himself promised living water to all who believe (John 7:38).

Here in the New Jerusalem, the river represents eternal life flowing directly from God. The headwaters are Christ Himself, the One who told the Samaritan woman, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst" (John 4:14). The river is clear because it is pure, unpolluted by sin or decay.

Think of what that means practically: in heaven there is no dryness, no drought, no thirst of body or soul. Every need is fully satisfied at the Source. Even now, we are invited to come and drink freely from the water of life (Revelation 22:17). Our eternal refreshment is already found in Him.

The Tree of Life

On each side of the river stands the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, one for every month (Revelation 22:2). In Eden, this tree was guarded after Adam and Eve's sin, lest they eat and live forever in their fallen state (Genesis 3:24). But here, what was lost is restored—not in scarcity but in abundance.

The tree produces fruit continually, symbolizing eternal satisfaction. No more seasons of hunger or disappointment. Its leaves bring healing to the nations, a picture of complete reconciliation. Every wound of history, every division among people, every sorrow is healed forever.

For us, this is daily motivation. We live in a fractured world where nations rage

and relationships break. But the tree of life promises that healing is not only possible but guaranteed in Christ. What God begins now in our lives, healing our hearts and reconciling relationships, He will bring to perfection in eternity.

Streets of Gold

John also describes the streets of the city as made of pure gold, so transparent they appear like glass (Revelation 21:21). This is one of the most famous images of heaven, but it is often misunderstood. Streets of gold are not a sign of earthly wealth transplanted into eternity. Rather, they symbolize divine purity.

Gold refined so perfectly that it becomes transparent is a picture of incorruptibility. Nothing in the New Jerusalem will be tainted, distorted, or unclean. Everything will reflect God's holiness. Even the most ordinary part of a city, the streets you walk on, will be radiant with perfection.

This challenges us today. If the very pavement of heaven is pure, how much more should our lives be purified by the Spirit? The Christian life now is a preparation for that reality, as God refines us to reflect His holiness.

Light of Heaven

John also reveals that in the New Jerusalem, "the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb" (Revelation 21:23). Imagine that—no sun, no moon, no shadows. The radiant presence of Jesus Christ Himself is the light of heaven.

This is a powerful reinforcement of what Jesus declared during His earthly ministry: "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in

darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). In eternity, this truth comes to full expression. Jesus is not just the Light of the world, He is the literal Light of heaven, the very illumination of eternal life.

For believers, this means there will be no more confusion, no more stumbling, no more dark nights of the soul. Every corner of existence will be bathed in His perfect light. Today, when the world feels dark, we cling to Him as our light. Tomorrow, in eternity, His light will be all we know, never fading, never dimming, never setting.

Foundations of Jewels

Perhaps the most underappreciated but most breathtaking details is the foundation of the city walls, which are made of twelve precious stones—jasper, sapphire,

chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, carnelian, peridot, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, and amethyst (Revelation 21:19–20). What makes this even so remarkable is that every one of these stones is anisotropic. That means when pure light shines through them, they refract and radiate with multicolored brilliance. By contrast, some of the world's most coveted stones like garnets and diamonds are isotropic, meaning they actually grow dim under pure light.

This is no accident. When John wrote Revelation in the first century, mineral optics had not even been imagined. Erasmus Bartholin's discovery of double refraction, which explains the anisotropic effect, would not occur until 1669, and later, scientists like Christiaan Huygens, Isaac Newton, and Augustin-Jean Fresnel hadn't fully settled the physics

of polarized light until the 19th centuries. In other words, God's choice of materials John reveals, concealed a property of these stones that the world wouldn't scientifically understand for nearly 1,800 years.

The symbolism is profound. The glory of heaven shines from Christ, who is Himself the pure light of eternity (Revelation 21:23). The very foundations of the New Jerusalem are built to radiate His brilliance. Heaven will not be a dull, ghostly existence but a place where everything shines in full color because of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Even more, we are told that God's children are living stones being built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5). In a sense, we too are being shaped to refract His light. Our lives, surrendered to Christ, are meant to shine now as a preview of that eternal glory. 🌿

BORN
TO RUN



Join Team
Live Oak Church!

Saturday, November 8

Downtown Baton Rouge

1/2 Mile or 5K

Support life-affirming
pregnancy counseling
and medical services.

meet our team

Reach Us at info@liveoak.church



Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor



Dr. David Orges
Executive Pastor



Trish Graves
Business
Administrator



Rev. Trent Barnett
Worship Pastor



Rev. Sam LoBello
Director of Adult
Ministries



Rev. Stephen Hebert
Minister of
Pastoral Care



Dr. Nathan Lott
Student Pastor



Faith Storck
Director of
Children's Ministry



Seth Doiga
Worship Minister



Madison Cody
Children's
Minister



Rev. Krist Norsworthy
Young Adults Pastor
& Communications



Linda Holdman
Administrative
Assistant



Kim Pamplin
Counseling Office
Manager



Jim Otken
Treasurer



Liz White
Office
Secretary



Mark Herbst
Facilities
Director



Join the Live Oak Kids Buddy Ministry!

Every child deserves to feel welcomed, seen, accepted, and included when they walk through our church doors. The Buddy Ministry makes that possible by pairing caring volunteers with kids who may need extra support to fully experience all that Live Oak Kids has to offer.

When you serve as a Buddy, you're making sure every child has the chance to learn about Jesus in a safe, fun, and encouraging way.

Who can be a Buddy?

Anyone with a heart to love kids and show patience. All you need is a willingness to help every child feel at home.

Why it matters:

Parents experience peace knowing their child is cared for.
You experience the blessing of serving where inclusion meets discipleship.

You don't have to be an expert—you just have to be willing to say yes to making a difference!

Contact faith@liveoak.church for more information!

WHO IS THE MAN OF THE SHROUD?

AN EXHIBIT ABOUT
THE SHROUD OF TURIN



Presented with teachings by Jeremiah J. Johnston, Ph.D.

Free Entry – All are invited!

The Shroud of Turin is a blood-stained linen cloth that bears the mysterious image of a crucified man believed by many to be Jesus. It is one of the most scientifically studied archaeological artifacts in the world, yet modern science cannot explain how the mysterious image on the Shroud was formed.

TOUR TIMES AND DATES

10/19: 1 pm – 7 pm
10/20: 8am – 12pm & 3pm – 7pm
10/21: 8am – 12pm & 3pm – 7pm
10/22: 8 am – 12 pm
10/23: 8am – 12pm & 3pm – 7pm
10/24: 8am – 12pm & 3pm – 7pm
10/25: 2 pm – 7 pm