

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

the messenger

LIVE OAK CHURCH MAGAZINE / DECEMBER 2023

**FROM
THE
PASTOR'S
DESK**

**PEACE ON EARTH
GOODWILL TO MEN**

**LIGHT
OF THE
WORLD**

BEEN VISITING LIVE OAK CHURCH?

**BEEN CONSIDERING BECOMING A MEMBER OF
OUR CHURCH FAMILY?**

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO BEGIN THE NEW YEAR!

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

“ This class begins the first Sunday morning of each month at 8:45 and ends on the fourth Sunday. In these four sessions, you will encounter life-changing truths and learn more about Live Oak Church. You will look at Salvation in 3-D, learn to Enhance Your Relationship With God, Examine the Stages of Spiritual Growth, and Discover Your Spiritual Gifts. This class meets in Room #102 and recycles each month. You can sign up for our New Members Class at the Information Desk. We look forward to welcoming you into our Live Oak Church Community of Faith!

”

*Peace on Earth,
Goodwill To Men pg. 18*

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Let our hearts be reminded that we celebrate and share the Good News of the birth of the Savior of the world, God Incarnate.

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DECEMBER 2023 | 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: K-3rd - Room #214
Jodi Rushing: 4th - 6th - Room #213
8:45 AM Student Ministry:
Nathan Lott: 7-12th Grade - Upstairs in FLC
8:45 AM Adult Small Groups:
See Page 5 for Full List
9:30 AM Children's Church
9:30 AM Axis 456 Preteen - Chapel
9:30 AM Worship Service
10:00 AM Students 7th-12th Grade:
Jonny Carroll - Upstairs in FLC
11:00 AM Kid's Min
11:00 AM Axis 456 Preteen - Chapel
11:00 AM Worship Service

MONDAY

6:30 PM Women's Deeper Life - Chapel
6:30 PM Men's Deeper Life - Room #201
6:30 PM Men's Home Bible Study - Robert Poole's House

TUESDAY

6:30 PM - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month - Chapel
Stephen Hebert - Bible Prophecy: The Essentials

WEDNESDAY

8:00 AM Quilters Ministry - FLC
9:30 AM Worship Wednesday - Online
6:00 - 7:15 PM Kingdom Kidz: Completed K - 3rd Grade
6:00 - 7:30 PM Axis 456: 4th, 5th and 6th Grade
6:00 - 7:30 PM Student Ministry: 7th - 12th Grade
6:30 - 7:20 PM Worship & Study - Adults
6:30 - 7:20 PM Bible Recap - Ladies - Room #202

THURSDAY

6:00 PM Men's Play and Pray Basketball - FLC
7:00 PM Refuge - Room #201

FRIDAY

5:30 AM Iron Man Study - Room #202
6:00 PM Adult Co-ed Bible Study - Room #202

- EVENTS -

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

8:45am in Room #102
4 Week class that restarts the first Sunday of every month.
Email Sam LoBello at sam@liveoak.church

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

6:30pm in the Chapel
Second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
For more information email Stephen Hebert at stephen@liveoak.church

MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Second Saturday of each month at 7:30AM in Room #202.

LIVE OAK LADIES

Prayer Bible Study
9:30am Mondays

Bible Recap

6:30pm Wednesdays in Room #202

KID'S MINISTRY

Christmas Party
December 3rd

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24
3:30, 5:00, 6:30pm



church
map





SUNDAYS

Starting at 8:45 AM

Young Adult Couples Class // *Meaning of Marriage* // Krist & Katie Norsworthy - Room #212

Young Adult Coed Class // *Gospel of John* // Brayden Lott - Upstairs FLC

Median Adult Coed & Couples Class // *The Book of Revelation* // Dickie Davis - Room #202

Senior Adult Class // *Explore the Bible* // Room #201

Pastor's Class // *Titus* // Dr. Mark Crosby - Choir Room

New Member Class // Bro. Sam LoBello - Room #102

Starting at 9:30 AM

Robert's Coed Class // *Book of Romans* // Room #211

Todd & Sealy Couple's Class // *Book of Daniel* // Room #202

Starting at 6:00 PM

Nathan Lott - Young Adult Group - FLC

Layne Hutchinson's Doctrinal Study (Coed) - Room #202

WEEKDAYS

Monday

9:30 AM - Ladies Bible Study // *When You Pray* // Mallory Williams-Chapel

6:00 PM - Deeper Life Men; *Explore the Bible* - David Tate - Room #201

6:00 PM - Deeper Life Women // *Acts: Awakening to God in Everyday Life* // Jan Tate - Chapel

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

Tuesday - 6:30 PM

Bible Prophecy: *The Essentials* - (1st & 3rd Tuesday) - Stephen Hebert - Chapel

Grief Support Group - (2nd & 4th Tuesday) - Stephen Hebert - Chapel

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Coed Home Group // *2nd Peter* // Jim & Janet Setoudeh's Home

Ladies Bible Recap - Jeanette Clark - Room #202

Thursday

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

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

Friday

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

6:00 PM // *Book of James* - Coed // Robert Poole - Room #202

Second Saturday of Each Month

7:30 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast & Study // *Daniel: Faithful in the Fire* // Sam LoBello - Room #202

SMALL GROUPS

I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH
FAITH
TO BE AN
Atheist

PRESENTED BY DR. FRANK TUREK



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

8:00, 9:30, 11:00am
AND
6:00pm



LIVE OAK CHURCH

For the past several weeks, retailers and radio stations have been announcing that Christmas is coming. Many are already making plans for Christmas day, sharing “what they want for Christmas” and what events they want to attend this Christmas season. In other words, many are announcing and anticipating this holiday.

What is interesting is that the birth of Jesus was announced months before His birth by the angels of God, but primarily by the angel Gabriel, as he announced to Zechariah (John the Baptist’s father) and Mary (the mother of Jesus) that Messiah will soon be born and it would be a miraculous, joyful, and prophetic event.

So the question many often ask is, who are these angels? These beings that are found from Genesis to Revelation, that have protected, defended, provided, and announced God’s message to humanity.



“WHO ARE THESE BEINGS THAT ARE FOUND FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION, THAT HAVE PROTECTED, DEFENDED, PROVIDED, AND ANNOUNCED GOD’S MESSAGE TO HUMANITY?”

It seems today there are many misconceptions, myths, and misinformation about angels, God’s messengers, the ones who originally announced the birth of Jesus (the first Christmas).

This is why so many Christmas songs, cards, and nativity sets include angels. Angels were an important part of the first

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Christmas and are an important part of our lives today.

So come celebrate with us during this Christmas season, as we teach on “The Messengers of Christmas” who they are, the role they play in our lives, and the message they brought on that first Christmas.

I pray all of you have a blessed Christmas and that you will join us each Sunday as we preach on the (Angels) “The Messengers of Christmas.”

Hope to see you Sunday!


Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor

PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TO MEN

by Trent Barnett

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote many now-famous poems, one of which is titled, “Christmas Day.” Several years later, it was set to music and is now known by most, and listed in many hymnals as, “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” It has become a staple song in the Christmas season, even featured in many movies, TV shows, and secular radio.

The content of two specific verses strike me as especially fitting this Christmas season, as we see pain, warfare, and chaos throughout our world. Verse 3 reads,

*“And in despair I bowed my head: ‘There is no peace on earth,’ I said,
For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men.”*

Too often, the chaos of the world leaves many feeling hopeless. It’s easy to feel as though the promise of “goodwill to men” has become broken along the way somehow. It’s easy to ask, “have you seen what’s going on?! It doesn’t really feel like there’s much good news, or peace for that matter.” If it doesn’t seem like good news, maybe that’s because it isn’t. The chaos, confusion and evil in our world comes from one place: our enemy seeks to “steal, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10). That’s his only play. Through sowing division and chaos in our world, the enemy seeks to mock the angelic pronouncement of the birth of our Savior: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to men” (Luke 2:13-14).

Paul reminds us, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows” (Gal. 6:7). The very next stanza of this poem reminds us of this truth:

*“Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: ‘God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to men.”*

God is not asleep, and He’s definitely not dead! He has not forgotten His people. His redemptive plan for His people prevails in all things. As believers, we have the faithful promise of God to remember His people, to redeem and restore creation. Our God is victorious and His work in our world wins in the end.



The celebration of our Savior, born in the manger at Christmas is forever linked to the work He came to accomplish - the salvation of our souls. Through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus’ death and resurrection, salvation and life was brought into a world overwhelmed with darkness.

When we see the truth of who God is, and what He’s done out of love for us, we get a clearer, bigger picture of our Savior. We see the love of a Father who could not have gone further in His love for us than He did by sending His Son Jesus. Our only response then is one of worship. The joy we sing of at Christmas is one that overflows from our hearts into our voices, our actions, and into the way we live. This Christmas season, the world needs to see the joy of God in our lives. This is our calling - to be a light in the darkness, and to bring the hope of Christ to the world. In doing so, we show a contrast to the chaos and confusion of the world as we live out joyful expectation.

Let our hearts be reminded that we celebrate and share the Good News of the birth of the Savior of the world, God Incarnate. This joy is infinitely more significant than all the presents, decorations, food, and traditions. When we focus on the true celebration of Christmas, an amazing thing happens: the world sees people who look differently, worshipping Christ as their first priority. This opens doors and draws hearts to a saving knowledge of Jesus. This is how we carry the profound message of “peace, goodwill to men” into our world. 🌿

the **family answer man** podcast

ASK YOUR QUESTION HERE!



DR MARK CROSBY



REV DAVID ORGES

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We've got a beach house in Orange Beach, AL
and all we need is you!

LIVE OOK *Ladies*

Beach Retreat

FEBRUARY 22-25, 2024

Join us for fun, food, shopping,
devotions, and more!

THERE ARE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPOTS AVAILABLE SO DON'T WAIT TO REGISTER!





LIGHT OF THE WORLD

by Trish Graves

Have you started your Christmas shopping yet? Have you bought the wrapping paper, planned the parties and put up the tree? There's decorating, shopping, wrapping, Christmas plays and parties taking up all the space in our calendars.

As we immerse ourselves in the beauty and wonder of the Christmas season, it is important to pause and reflect on the true meaning behind this joyous celebration. Among the festive decorations and the exchange of gifts, it's easy to forget that the birth of Jesus stands as a beacon of light, illuminating our hearts with hope, love, and salvation.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus declares, "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). These words remind us of the eternal significance of Jesus' birth.

The symbolism of light during Christmas carries a deep spiritual significance. Jesus serves as the guiding light in our lives, lighting our path and leading us towards the eternal promises of God. Thinking about Jesus as the Light of the World can inspire us to begin teaching and modeling practical application within our families. Here are some things to consider during this Christmas season:

1. FINDING HOPE

Jesus' birth offers hope in the hopelessness that may surround us. Regardless of the challenges we face, His arrival offers reassurance, reminding us that even in the darkest times, there is hope for a brighter future.

2. SHARING JOY

The light of Jesus' birth brings a joy that can't be found anywhere else. As we embrace the true spirit of Christmas, we can share the joy of His love and presence with our families, friends, and those in need.

3. WALKING IN FAITH

Just as the Wise Men followed the star with unwavering faith, we too can walk in faith, trusting that Jesus will guide our steps each day. There will be many opportunities to teach your children the importance of placing their faith in Jesus as they navigate the ups and downs that happen every day.

4. SHINING OUR LIGHT

By acknowledging Jesus as the Light of the World, we are called to reflect His light in our own lives. Encourage your family to shine their light brightly through acts of kindness, forgiveness, and love. Help your children find ways they can help others.

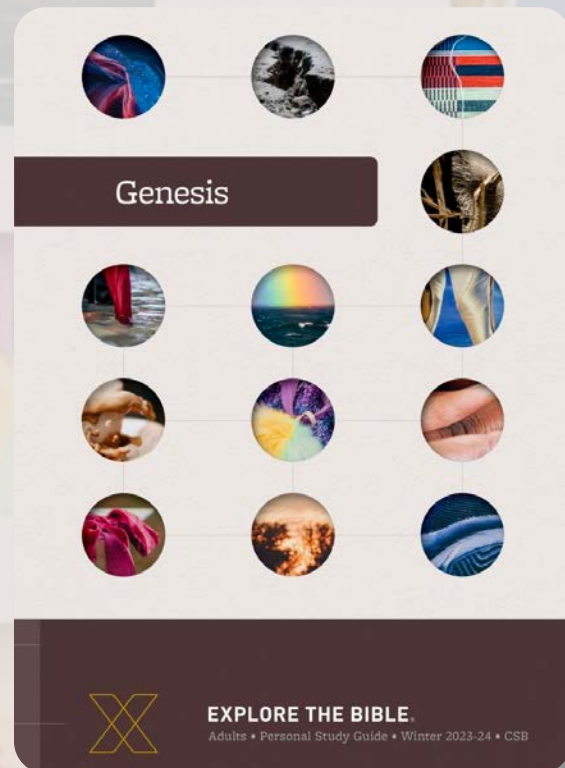
During this Christmas season, try to take time as a family to reflect on the significance of Jesus' birth. Engage in discussions with your children about how Jesus' light impacts your lives and how you can share His light with others. I hope this Christmas will be a reminder of the transformative power of Jesus, the Light of the World. 🌿

**COMING TO DEEPER
LIFE FOR MEN**

**Book of Genesis:
Humanity's Origin Story**

Launching Monday
December 4th, 6:30 PM
In Room #202.

Led by David Tate

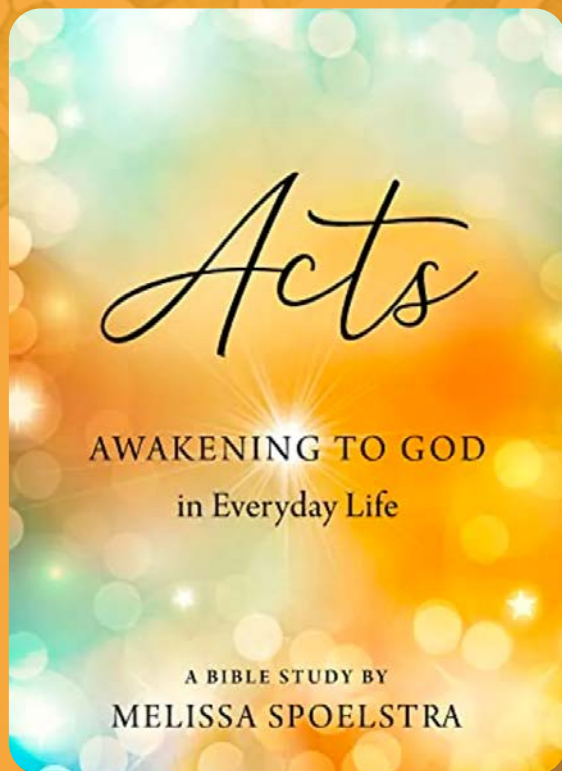


**COMING TO DEEPER
LIFE FOR WOMEN**

**Book of Acts:
Awakening to God
in Everyday Life.**

Launching Monday
December 4th, 6:30 PM
In the Chapel.

Led by Jan Tate





SENIOR ADULTS



by Landra Reed

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth with a message from Mary, who was promised in marriage to Joseph. The angel told Mary that she would have a son, whom she was to name Jesus. The angel said, “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.”

This time of the year is usually magical for most. With everything that is going on in this world; war, hunger, homelessness, hatred, the meaning and purpose of celebrating Christmas, the birth of our Lord Savior Jesus Christ, is exceptionally meaningful. It is a true reminder of His time here on earth. A reminder that God came in human form to sacrifice His life to save us. A reminder of how much He loves us. And a reminder that He is coming back!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas! I pray you each have a peaceful and blessed Christmas. When visiting with

friends and family this Christmas, look around and see who God is placing on your heart to be a witness to. We all have those friends and family members that we only see during the holidays and then they get kind of put on the back shelf of our minds. Use this Christmas season to perhaps reach out to the ones that are still lost. If not now, then when?

So Merry Christmas! May the Lord bless you, and keep you, may His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

On January 12th we will gather to watch “Heavens War” and have lunch. Please fill out the sign up sheet to attend. This is a free event, but need to know how many sandwiches to order. Thank you. The cutoff date to sign up is January 3rd. 🍌

HELPING THE MOST HELPLESS AMONG US



On Saturday, November 4, 2023 a team from Live Oak Church joined the Woman's New Life Clinic's Annual Born To Run event in Baton Rouge. WNLC is a life-affirming counseling and medical clinic that serves women facing unplanned pregnancies in the Greater Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas.





DONATION BIN

Monthly Materials Drive
December - Infant Blankets

COLLECTIONS IN
CHURCH FOYER

**HELPING THE MOST
HELPLESS AMONG US**



MEN'S MINISTRY

men helping men be men.

Men's Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, December 9th at 7:30
in the Conference Room



Top Golf
Saturday, January 6th
Top Golf in Baton Rouge.
This is a Free Event.
Come hit some golf balls with us!
Lunch is provided.



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.

“Faith is a journey not a destination.”

Dr. Mark Crosby





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REFUGE

At Live Oak, our Addiction Recovery Ministry is called REFUGE. For God's Word declares, "Taste and see the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him." REFUGE is a Christ centered support group helping people who struggle with addiction. REFUGE has a unique blend of instruction, support, encouragement and accountability.

The teaching and sharing that takes place within our group is helpful and enriching. What is taught is often life changing! If you wrestle with addiction issues we are here to assist you on your journey to life recovery!

Your questions about our REFUGE Ministry can be answered by calling our Church Office at 664-4801 or email Bro. Sam at sam@liveoak.church.

THURSDAYS AT 7 PM

**WE MEET IN ROOM #201.
COME JOIN US!**

JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF

at Live Oak Church

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
2nd & 4th Tuesday of the Month
6:30pm in the Chapel

For More Information Contact: Pastor Stephen
Stephen@liveoak.church

*We Are Launching a
Women's Share Group!*

Thursday, January 11, 7:00 PM
Conference Room

A great opportunity for ladies to share and connect.

Led by Ashley Gonzales
Come join us!

YOUNG ADULT SMALL GROUPS!

YOUNG ADULT COED CLASS



**Sundays at 8:45 AM in the
FLC (Upstairs)**

Led by Brayden Lott



YOUNG ADULT COUPLES CLASS

**Sundays at 8:45 AM
in Room 212**

Led by Krist & Katie Norsworthy

meet our team



Dr. Mark Crosby
Senior Pastor



Rev. David Orges
Executive Pastor



Rev. Nathan Lott
Young Adult &
Student Pastor



Rev. Trent Barnett
Worship Pastor



Rev. Stephen Hebert
Minister of
Pastoral Care



Irish Graves
Children's
Ministry Director



Faith Storck
Children's
Ministry Assistant



Linda Holdman
Administrative
Assistant



Rev. Sam LoBello
Director of Adult
Ministries



Rev. Chris Lacara
Maintenance
Director



Rev. Krist Norsworthy
Communications
Coordinator



Katie Norsworthy
Office Secretary



Jim Otken
Treasurer



Kim Pamplin
Counseling Office
Manager



Ila Clark
MDO Program
Administrator



Austyn Chopin
MDO Curriculum
Administrator

Coming together from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, our skilled team of pastors and ministry professionals are the backbone of Live Oak Church. Their ideas and leadership help shape the direction and mission of our organization as we continue to grow.

A man in a light-colored suit jacket is speaking in a classroom or lecture hall. He is gesturing with his hands. The background shows bookshelves and a podium.

Large Group Bible Study

**JOIN DR. MARK TO HEAR
HIS TEACHING ON
*REASONS TO BELIEVE***

**"ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD AND IS
USEFUL TO TEACH US WHAT IS TRUE AND MAKE US
REALIZE WHAT IS WRONG IN OUR LIVES. IT
CORRECTS US WHEN WE ARE WRONG AND
TEACHES US TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT. GOD USES IT
TO EQUIP HIS PEOPLE TO DO EVERY GOOD WORK."
- 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 NLT**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6:30-7:20**

COME JOIN US !



Christmas

eve services

sunday morning

8:00A HYMNS

9:30A CONTEMPORARY

11:00A CONTEMPORARY

sunday evening

3:30P

5:00P

6:30P