



Lexington Presbyterian Church

Faith • Fellowship • Service • Since 1789

October 2026

Worship Information

September 27, 2026

Sermon: *Thawed by Joy*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament Reading: John: 3:1-9

New Testament Reading: Luke 15:25-32

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: Liz Shupe

11:00 a.m. Worship Assistant: Richard Monk

Worship Bulletin PDF and ***Worship Hymns PDF***

October 4, 2026

Sermon: *Luke (ch. 15): I Am Your Father*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament Reading: Luke 15:11-32

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: Community Prayers

11:00 a.m. Worship Assistant: Joshua Knuth

Flowers: [Still Available](#)

October 11, 2026

Sermon: *Prodigal God*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament: Luke 15:11-17

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)

11:00 a.m. Worship Assistant: Cyrus Green

Flowers: [Still Available](#)

October 18, 2026

Sermon: *Church of the Loving Father*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament Reading: Luke 15:11-32

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)

11:00 a.m. Worship Assistant: [Still Needed](#)

Flowers: [Still Available](#)

October 25, 2026

Sermon: *Out of the Boat Generosity*

Preacher: Rev. Drew Ditzel

New Testament Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

8:45 a.m. Worship Assistant: **Still Needed**

11:00 a.m. Worship Assistant: **Still Needed**

Flowers: **Still Needed**

Life of the Church



Sunday Morning Breakfast Discussion

Westfel has been the scene of lively VMI 'rat' discussions of the sermon scriptures over a fabulous breakfast for the last couple of weeks.

Left to right: Rat Joshua Knuth, Cadet Parker Belle Fogle, and Rats Derek Thompson, Mason Sheldon, Spencer May-Stoffell, Nathan Masiya, Calvin Lancaster, Ian Egbert, and Logan Ward.

New church office hours

Church office hours are now 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Heads Up, Youth: Lots and Lots of Marshmallows and Chocolate

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to S'mores-a-palooza, a salute to the newly-cooled weather that allows for marshmallow roasting in relative comfort. The event unfolds on **October 4 from 5:30-7:30** at 152 and 159 Shepherd Drive in Lexington (the Smitkas/Kvechs and Bryans homes). We'll take the opportunity to play some yard games and learn about youth events for the year. Come experience the classic chocolate variety, plus mint, banana, Nutella, peanut butter, and lots of variations. There will be dinner in the form of pizza and salad, as if anyone actually cares about that when there's this many marshmallows to consume.



Parents— there will be an 'infomercial' in the first 15 minutes and the last 15 minutes about youth plans for the year.

News from the APNC

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been prayerfully and diligently reviewing Personal Discernment Profiles and is now beginning the interview process. Please continue to keep the committee, the candidates, and the discernment process in your prayers.

Got a free desk?

The Property Committee is seeking a nice desk for the office of the future Associate Pastor. Before they begin shopping, they're reaching out to inquire if anyone is downsizing and would consider making a donation. If you think you might have what they're looking for, please call or text Ron Orendorf at (609) 213-8979, or email him at orencorp@verizon.net.

Sandra's Photography Project for Seminary Class

You're probably used to seeing Sandra running around taking pictures of everyone who will hold still (and some who won't) for use in this fine publication. However, you may notice her snapping photos in a few places she doesn't usually photograph, as this month she is required to document elements of our congregational life for a class project in one of her senior courses in Seminary.

No need to pose or primp for the camera in your committee meeting. You look just fine. No names will be attached to any of the photos. However, if you see her headed your way with a camera and you don't want to be photographed, please let her know at once. If you have questions, or would like to see the results of her project when it is finished, reach out to her at shayslette@lexpres.org. Thank you.



Kids' Club Church Birthday Calendar Initiative

Kids' Club attendees in Kindergarten and grades 1-4 recently voted on a service project for the church for Fall 2026. To share the work of our talented artists in this demographic, the group voted to create a birthday calendar for the congregation. It will be a 12-month picture calendar that lists the name of any who attend LexPres on their birthdays, to facilitate community celebration of our church family and enable us (and others) to send you a birthday card.

Listen for a Life of the Church message about the Birthday Calendar project delivered by our Kids Club students, and consider participating by giving us your name and birthdate for inclusion on the calendar. (Tentative start date for collecting names and birthdays is during the church service on **October 11**, and we will provide instructions for those of you who worship online!)

Calendars and a selection of birthday cards for your own use, featuring the work of our Kids Club artists, will be available for the congregation by December.

Music at Noon Concerts in October

William McCorkle will offer two noon time organ recitals in October as the Music at Noon series resumes.

Thursday, October 15

Thursday, October 29

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for program descriptions in upcoming weekly newsletters.

RARA Item of the Month

Thanks to everyone for the many, many cans of tuna, meat and stews that you donated for the Neighborhood Grocery in September.

For October, we will be collecting soups of all kinds and in any type of container: cans, boxes, envelopes, instant-cups. Just put your donations in the bins in the front of the Sanctuary and the Outreach Committee will deliver them to RARA to provide our neighbors with warm meals as the weather cools.

Looking ahead to November, we will not be collecting food but we will be collecting coats. So start looking through your closets for gently used coats for children, teens, or adults. We welcome new coats as well, of course. Watch this space in late October for details on how and when to deliver your items.



STEPS Program Participation: Male Mentor Wanted

Lex Pres member, Maurine Houser, has joined Grace Episcopal church's STEPS Team as the liaison for LexPres. STEPS (Supporting Transitions By Engaging in Parolee Sponsorships) is a 12-month residential reentry program that helps people transition from incarceration to independence. The program provides accepted participants with housing, employment, mentors, and connections to community resources as they rebuild their lives. Grace Church covers the full cost for the first two months, with participants gradually taking on more responsibility as they progress.

The program has had a strong record of success, with many participants completing STEPS and moving on to self-sufficient, productive lives. As cornerstones of the program, mentors assist returning citizens in navigating the numerous challenging reentry transitions they face, in some cases after decades of incarceration, connecting them also with a range of key community services.

We're also looking ahead to welcoming a new returning citizen in March 2027. He recently wrote to the STEPS team (see below) to share how grateful and excited he is to have been accepted into the program. We look forward to welcoming him and supporting him on his journey toward a new beginning.

We are seeking male mentors. If you are interested, please contact Anna Crockett, STEPS Chair, at aennchen3@gmail.com, or Maurine Houser, LexPres liaison to

Click here for more information [STEPS Program Information](#)

Letter from Gary Wall, newly accepted STEPS Returning Citizen
September 9, 2026

I've been given an amazing opportunity to introduce myself to Grace Episcopal Church and the community of Lexington with a letter. My name is Gary Wall, and I've been incarcerated in the VADOC for 32 plus years for a robbery I committed when I was 19 years old. I am a hardworking, self-educated, accomplished litigator in search of love, peace, and a chance to positively contribute to a community. As you can imagine, being incarcerated for that long has come with a lot of ups & downs, but I will soon be given the chance to transition back into society with the help from the members of the STEPS program when I am released on March 9, 2027.

This program has accepted me, the human being, and given me a gift that can't be purchased and a feeling I forgot existed. This acceptance has given me a sense of belonging that I will protect at all costs, because I refuse to squander this second chance. With a pledged commitment of giving back to this community with my hard work and my continuing to strive to being better than I once was, the possibilities are endless.

Overall, faith guides me and the values I have placed in myself, with this new community taking me in, only fortifies my will to succeed. So, I thank you gracious members of STEPS and look forward to becoming a part of society as a productive, contributing member.

Rafiki Report

October 2026

For us in the USA, it is the season of "back to school," and the same is true in the ten Rafiki Villages. Rosemary Jensen, founder of the Rafiki Foundation, said, "A nation is changed permanently by changing its individuals, and God has to do that by his Spirit. Therefore, it makes sense to help a nation troubled by poverty by giving its children the opportunity to grow up as productive, educated, Christian individuals." She believed that lives are transformed through the truth of scripture, and this will change the future of that country. This is the aim of Rafiki. From the beginning of Rafiki Villages, the mission has been to help the least of these know God and raise their standard of living. For Rafiki, "the least of these" include orphans in their care and children in the surrounding communities who otherwise would have little opportunity for a quality Christian education. Rafiki Villages provide for their physical and educational needs, and most importantly, teach them God's Word. Jesus said, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

When we sponsor a child, we help provide an excellent classical Christian education, daily Bible study, two meals a day, and the support a child needs to grow in faith and wisdom. Years ago, LexPres "adopted" Metsenamat "Metsy" Tades at the age of 5. Metsy entered the Ethiopian Orphanage Village on May 1, 2010. She was abandoned by her parents and her grandmother asked the Rafiki Foundation to intervene. Metsy quickly adapted and began to thrive in her new

environment. Through the years, LexPres members have graciously continued to support Metsy. She has devoted her life to Christ and with much perseverance and dedication, she is attending Hawassa University pursuing a degree in public administration. She continues to show determination and a positive attitude toward her studies and serving God.

She looks forward to maintaining communication with our members; she loves to receive mail. Please send letters to PO Box 2871, Nazareth, Ethiopia, East Africa. You may send cards or any other item that fits in a standard size envelope. Please do not send packages, checks or cash to the Village address. Monetary donations to help support Metsy's educational and spiritual life can be made by check, payable to Lexington Presbyterian Church with "Metsy" written on the memo line. Our generosity is making a lasting impact on Metsy's life, and hopefully, we will continue to support her as she pursues her further education. Funds given to her account will go toward her scholarship.

Thank you for cultivating godly contributors in Africa. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a child, for as little as \$25 a month, you can help provide a child with a Christ-centered education, daily Bible study, two meals a day, along with the support to grow in faith. If interested, please contact Tammy Shomo (540-460-3569). Our local Rafiki chapter continues to meet at Grace Presbyterian Church typically the first Friday of the month at 9a.m.; if interested in joining in this hour of prayer, please contact Tammy Shomo.

Additionally, we will host a Rafiki sale of items handmade by the widows of the Rafiki Villages on **November 7** at Grace Presbyterian Church in the Commons opening 9 a.m. God's Word is at work "But tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord" (Psalm 78:4).

Calendar of Events

Recurring Events

Lectio - Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Staff Meeting - Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in Room 113

Children/Youth Ministry staging - Every Wednesday at 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

September

29 Administrative Committee, 11:30 a.m., Room 113

October

4 Youth grades 6-12 gathering, Smores-a-palooza, 5:30-7:30 p.m.,
152 and 159 Shepherd Drive in Lexington

6 Session, 7:00 p.m., Brady Chapel

7 Women's Bible study, 11:00 a.m., Kendal (Webster living room)

8 Men's Bible Study, 8:00 a.m., Brady Chapel

-Peace Wagers, 10:30 a.m., Room 111

12 Hospitality and Care Committee, 1:30 p.m., Room 111

13 Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m., Laura de Maria's house

14 Leah/Ruth Circle, 1:00 p.m., Brady Chapel

-Outreach Committee, 4:00 p.m., Room 113

-Women's Bible study, 11:00 a.m., Kendal (Webster living room)

15 Music at Noon: William McCorkle, organ, 12:00 noon, Sanctuary
-Adult Discipleship Committee, 6:00 p.m., Room 111
16-18 Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Retreat, Massanetta Springs
20 Campus Ministry, 5:00 p.m., Brady Chapel
-Property Committee, 5:30 p.m., Room 113
21 Women's Bible study, 11:00 a.m., Kendal (Webster living room)
22 Men's Bible Study, 8:00 a.m., Brady Chapel
25 High School Youth class out to lunch, after the 11:00 a.m. service
28 Women's Bible study, 11:00 a.m., Kendal (Webster living room) **Tenative**
29 Music at Noon: William McCorkle, organ, 12:00 noon, Sanctuary



Go to our website at www.lexpres.org and select "Giving" at the top of the page, or click the blue "ONLINE GIVING" button at the bottom of the same page, or click the button below:

Rafiki Online Giving

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Online Giving

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Calendar



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