

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 7, 2025

## The Savior Beyond Expectations

"Sometimes Christmas gifts are real surprises. Maybe you've had that experience. When I was a kid, I wanted a basketball so badly I could scream. I dropped every hint imaginable. I even made prank phone calls to my mother in a disguised voice, telling her that her son really needed a basketball. I researched the cheapest prices and left them on the breakfast table—anything to get my point across.

Finally, a box appeared under the Christmas tree that looked exactly the size of a basketball. I was ecstatic. I could practically feel myself making shots with it. Christmas morning came, and I tore into that package—only to find a world globe. Have you ever tried to dribble a globe? You can't even inflate the thing. It was an unbelievable surprise, nothing like what I expected." (Chuck Swindoll)

Jesus was a surprise to the Jews. He didn't come wrapped in the gift paper they expected. At one point they even asked, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?" (Matthew 13:54-55). And again, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He now say, 'I have come down out of heaven'?" (John 6:42). Because He did not match their expectations, He was rejected in favor of a Messiah who has yet to come.

The world today still wants a god of its own design—a god who loves everybody on equal terms, puts all the "nice" people in heaven and only the extremely wicked in hell, prevents all suffering for good people, and blesses everyone who behaves well. When God acts differently than their expectations, He becomes a surprise—and is rejected.

Yet Scripture tells us about a man named Simeon: "And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him... then he took Him into his arms and blessed God, and said... 'For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.'" (Luke 2:25-35)

The natural eye saw only a carpenter's son, a baby born to poor parents. But a life guided by the Holy Spirit—in the midst of a busy temple—saw the promised Christ (Luke 2:25-35; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15). One group was surprised by the great things Jesus said and did; Simeon was excited about a baby who had yet to do anything.

It is impossible for the world to truly see Jesus, no matter how great His works (2 Corinthians 4:4). This is why believers should not wait for the world to understand or appreciate Christ. Instead, like Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:36-38), we rejoice because this season reminds us of the hope of His future coming.



## UPCOMING Events



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us on Christmas Eve, Tuesday December 24th at 6:00PM for our annual Christmas Eve Service in Main Sanctuary. Performances by LWFC Kidz and a special presentation by LWFC Drama Ministry titled "Christmas Cookies" a original play written and directed by Melita Washington. For more information, please contact the church admin offices.



### DECEMBER CONNECTION SUNDAYS

Fellowship every Sunday in December! Each Sunday participate in a theme and be picture ready at church. All month long we will be accepting decorated Christmas Reefs to display in the main foyer! Contact Keron Brown at [Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org) for more information.



### SLEIGH THE COURT—SINGLES MINISTRY

Kick off the holiday season with fellowship, fun, and a little friendly competition! Join Devoted Singles Ministry for Sleigh the Court, our holiday dodgeball event designed to bring singles together for laughter, connection, and unforgettable moments. Come for the game. Stay for the vibes. Leave with new connections



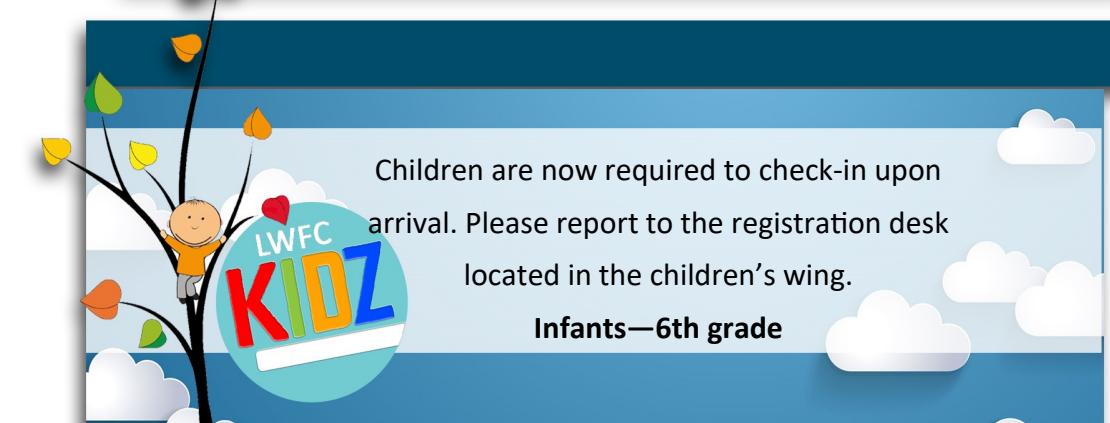
### FREE COLON CANCER SCREENING

Until December 31st, call and schedule your free colon screening test pick-up with participating neighborhood clinics. For more information please call or email (713)704-2968 or [cancerscreeningevent@memorialhermann.org](mailto:cancerscreeningevent@memorialhermann.org) Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.



### ABC WORD ACADEMY PRESCHOOL FALL SPECIAL

The Texas Rising Star 4-Star Accredited ABC Word Academy is having a Fall Pres-School Special starting now with a \$60 Registration Fee, discounts are available for siblings and LWFC members. For more information, call (281)-445-9673.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Song

Communion

Praise & Worship

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Word of God

**"Look Forward**  
Isaiah 9:1-9

Dr. Pierre Cannings, Ph.D.

Sermon notes available online at [lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://lwfellowshipchurch.org)  
Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song



## Look Forward

Isaiah 9:1-9

Dr. Pierre Cannings

A. One Day (v. 1, 8:22)

B. In That Day (vs. 6-7)

Scan To View Full Notes



### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Pastor Duane & BobbiLawrence & family, the family of Elsie Starks, Kathy Williamson & family, the family of Nequita Hicks and Veronica Brown, and Margaret Baptiste & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Jessie Austin, Evelyn Harvey, Shinell Clark, Ruth Cranford, Eugene Reese, Donna Ross, Sylvia Edwards, and Leo Banks.

