

# 2025-26 Lakewood Alliance Church ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

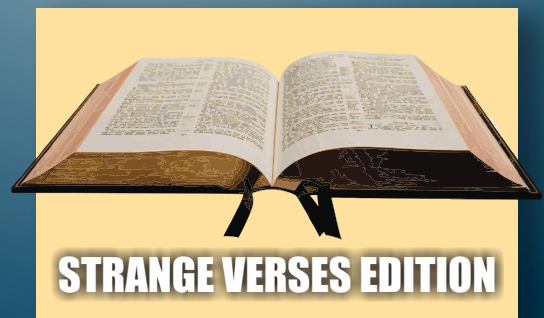
**An overview of ministries and ministry  
contacts to help you engage fully  
in the life of Lakewood**

Jesus spent three years shaping his disciples for ministry.

Two thousand years on, we are the heirs of that same world-changing venture.

The torch has been passed to our hands. Authentic disciples roll up their sleeves and participate in the Kingdom.

We love as Jesus loved. We serve as Jesus served. We invite God to form our hearts so we can do ministry in the same way that Jesus did.



# Every Member is a Minister

In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus related the story of a master going on a long journey and leaving his servants to look after his domain in his absence. To one servant he entrusted five bags of gold. To another, he entrusted two bags of gold. And to yet another, he entrusted a single bag. When the master returned, he discovered that the servant he entrusted with five bags had put the money to work and turned it into five more bags. The master richly rewarded him for his faithfulness.

When the master called in the servant he entrusted with two bags, the story was the same. The servant also doubled the master's money, increasing it by two more bags. He too was richly rewarded. But when the master called in the servant he entrusted with a single bag, he discovered no increase whatsoever. The man had simply held on to the gold, failing to do anything at all with the money. The master immediately took the single bag from him, gave it to the one who had ten bags, and threw the worthless servant out into the darkness.

We need to take the words of Jesus seriously. Picture yourself standing before the throne of God at the end of this age and God asking, "What did you do with the abilities and resources I entrusted to you?" Imagine the joy of being able to answer, "I put them to work, Lord. Look and see the increase in your Kingdom. I made a difference!"

Sadly, many people who claim to have a vibrant relationship with Jesus will be forced to respond, "I showed up. I occupied a seat in my church. I consumed what was being offered to me." Jesus never intended Christianity to be a spectator sport. He wants us out of the stands and onto the playing field. He longs for us to reflect his heart and be ministers to a lost and dying world. Above all, there's a single phrase Jesus wants to speak over you when this world comes to an end — "Well done good and faithful servant!"

## Don't wash your underwear!

In Jeremiah 13:1, God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah saying, "Go and buy a linen belt and put it around your waist, but do not let it touch water." The ancient Hebrew word that our modern versions of the Bible translate as "belt" is *Ezor*. It's the same word used through the Bible to describe the underwear worn by Jewish men. The word is also found in texts outside of scripture.

So why would God not want Jeremiah to wash his underwear? The imagery is actually a bit gross. Throughout the Bible, God often called prophets to physically act out a message he wanted to communicate to people. God was using Jeremiah's underwear to represent the nation of Israel. By not washing the garment, God was asking Jeremiah to perform a symbolic demonstration where the linen "ezor," initially clean and pristine, eventually became foul, smelly and ruined.

The spoiled garment served as a vivid illustration of the people's corruption and the coming destruction and ruin that would befall Judah and Jerusalem due to their persistent disobedience and refusal to listen to God's word.

Symbolic demonstrations were powerful, visual metaphors that served as a form of prophetic communication. They made God's declarations concrete and tangible, ensuring the prophet's message was both seen and remembered.

By engaging in such unusual and public behaviors, prophets could communicate complex divine truths and warnings in a way that would capture the attention and hearts of their audience.



# Table of Contents

## Prayer Ministries ..... 5

- Sunday Prayer Teams
- Mid-week Prayer
- Restoration Prayer
- Healing Prayer

## Place to Grow Ministries - Sunday Morning ..... 6

- Parent Room (0-12 Months)
- Toddler Room (1-3Years)
- Preschool (3-5 Years)
- Grades K to 3
- Grades 4 to 6

## Place to Grow Ministries - Midweek ..... 7

- Rooted Youth Ministry - Grades 7 to 12

## EQUIP Discipleship Ministries ..... 8-9

- Life Groups
- Young Adults - Ages 18-25)
- Alpha Ministry
- Women's Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Chat and Chase
- Thrive - 30s and 40s
- Discipleship Pathways

## Extension Ministries ..... 10

- International Worker Connections
- Set Free Recovery
- Compassion Ministries
- St. Vincent de Paul "Soup Bus"
- Prison Fellowship Angel Tree
- Quinson School Supplies
- Operation Christmas Child
- Ness Lake Bible Camp
- Lakewood Christmas Breakfast

## Worship Ministries ..... 11

- Technical Team - Sound Engineers
- Technical Team - Multimedia
- Singers and Musicians

## Hospitality Ministries ..... 12

- Coffee and Communion Prep Ministry
- Lakewood Greeters and Ushers
- Communion Servers

## Special Events Ministries ..... 13

- Set-up Team
- Decorating Team
- Food Services Team

## Facility Ministries ..... 15

- Building and Grounds Team

## A Streaker in the Bible?



Yup. He's right there in Mark 14:51-52.

On the night Jesus was arrested, one of the onlookers was a young man wearing some kind of linen garment or perhaps even a bedsheet.

Mark wrote, "A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind."

The comment is such an unusual digression from the main theme of the narrative that many scholars think that this young man may have been Mark himself.

What appears to the reader to be a strange tangent in the narrative may actually be the personal testimony of one of two Gospel authors who weren't among the twelve original disciples of Christ.



## Did the Archangel Michael really dispute with Satan over the body of Moses?

It's possible. In truth, we're not really sure. Jude, verse 9 reads, "But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"

Jude was quoting from the Jewish book, *Testament of Moses*, a text that is not considered divinely inspired in either the Jewish or the Christian faiths. Why then would Jude, under the inspiration of God, quote a book that was not held to be factual? The delicate nature of this phenomenon has challenged Biblical scholars for centuries.

The truth is, Jude also quoted from the *Book of Enoch*, as did both Peter and John. The *Book of Enoch* is another text that was not viewed as divinely inspired. Jesus likely quoted from a further uninspired text, the *Book of Jubilees*—"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword (Matthew 26:52). Paul quoted the poet Aratus: "for in him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)," as well as the philosopher Epimenides: "One of their own prophets said 'Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons (Titus 1:12)," and the playwright Menander: "do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character (1 Corinthians 15:33)."

None of the New Testament writers or speakers quoted non-Christian authors for the purpose of supporting their philosophies. Instead, they quoted them to connect their own message to well known phrases of the day. It would be similar to quoting Albus Dumbledore from the Harry Potter novels where he says, "Soon we must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy." It's a great quote. You don't have to believe in wizards and witches for it to have meaning. Truth lies in the words, not in the worldview of the one who uttered them.

When Jude quoted *The Testament of Moses*, he was challenging ungodly people to avoid being derisive toward celestial beings. Peter gave the same warning in 2 Peter 2:10-11. It's doubtful that Jude intended to put his stamp of approval on the accuracy of the popular Jewish tale of Michael and Satan arguing over the body of Moses.

What remains true is that we would be wise to exercise caution when it comes to building theology around quotes that come from uninspired sources, even though we find them in the Bible.



# Prayer Ministries

Prayer is the fuel that powers the engine of God's Kingdom. If you feel God calling you to either access or become part of Lakewood's prayer ministry, contact Dawn Isaac - [dawn@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:dawn@lakewoodalliance.com)

## Sunday Prayer Teams

After the message has been shared on Sunday, we move into a time of response where members and guests have the option to receive individual prayer in our Prayer Room. Teams of two will meet people where they're at and present their requests to the Father. This ministry takes a caring heart and sensitivity to the voice of the Holy Spirit. The commitment is once per month at the service of your choosing.

## Mid-Week Prayer

Each week we join together as a church community asking the Lord to meet our personal requests, those of others in our church family, needs in our city and so much more. No scheduled commitment is required. Drop in as you are available. Will you join us every Wednesday at 6:15 pm as we seek God's will?

## Restoration Prayer

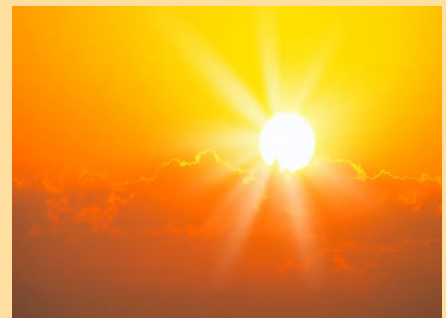
The Restoration Prayer process leads you through systematic confession and repentance, claiming your authority in Jesus Christ, breaking lies and replacing them with truth. The enemy's influence in your life is discerned by the prayer team and confronted on your behalf. When we submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit and to the body of Christ, it is a powerful encounter with the Living God. The Holy Spirit will then have greater influence in and through you. The fruit of that Spirit will grow more abundantly and you will learn to hear the voice of God more clearly. If you know that the enemy has influence in your life, we'd love to help. We are always in need of team members who are gifted in prayer and discernment.

## Healing Prayer

On the last Sunday of every month, immediately following the second service, our Elders will offer individual prayer for physical, emotional and spiritual wholeness for all who come. Jesus provides healing to his church through his atoning work on the cross and in his name, we will pray for that healing for you.

## The Day the Sun Stood Still

Joshua chapter 10 tells the story of a battle fought by Joshua against the Amorites. Mid-battle, Joshua asked God to pause the sun in the sky so the nation of Israel would have more time to defeat their enemies. In verses 13 and 14, we read, "The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!"



Of course, for the sun to stop in the sky, the earth needs to stop rotating. The problem with this idea is the utter chaos it would create on earth. But according to astrophysicists, if the earth were to pass through a cloud of dark matter roughly the mass of our planet, the gravitational gain would accelerate the earth in its solar orbit so that a year's transit would be completed in a single day. The normal rotation of the earth would cause the same side of our planet to face the sun for a 24 hour period. There would be no chaotic effects on earth, nor would the event leave a cosmological fingerprint for later detection. Weird but theoretically possible.

What is this mysterious substance we call dark matter? We don't know. We don't know where it comes from or where it goes. We don't know how to detect it. All we know is that it exerts a force on normal matter. We only know it exists because we see it at work. It's a bit like God. We can't touch him. We can't measure him. We can't put him in a test tube and examine him. But we know he exists because we see him at work.

## Are My Children Safe?



In today's world, members and guests at Lakewood Alliance need to know that their children are being properly cared for when they're not in the upstairs service.

In addition, parents of children and teens taking part in mid-week activities have the same question on their minds. "Are my children safe? Can I trust the adults who are leading them? Are there policies in place to ensure their safety?"

Every Place to Grow leader has been screened through our **Safety & Risk Management Policy** and has attended our mandatory **Children and Youth Volunteer Training** program. Each worker has also completed an **RCMP Police Information Check**.

We realize that we have a responsibility to protect your children. If you need more information on our programs and activities, please contact the Lakewood Church office.

[dawn@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:dawn@lakewoodalliance.com)

# Place to Grow - Sunday Morning

Although studies vary, the Barna Research Group, an organization that specializes in demographics, has shown that 94% of people who make a commitment to Jesus Christ do so before reaching the age of 18. That means that only 6% of Christians made their decision to follow God as adults. Our ministries to children and youth occur in a critical "window" prior to succumbing to the negative messages the secular world has to offer. All helpers in our Nursery and Pre-school ministries must be a minimum of 12 years old, and workers need to go through a screening process (see the sidebar at left.) We are always looking for people to be part of a regular rotation as nursery attendants, teachers and classroom assistants. Commitment is once per month during the 9:00 am service with additional opportunities to serve at the 11:00 am service.

To participate in any of the ministries on this page, contact Taylor Eby at [children@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:children@lakewoodalliance.com)

## Parent Room (0-12 Months)

Church is tough for parents of children in this age group. You want to be with your child. You don't want them to disrupt the service. But you also want to be part of the worship experience and hear the message. That's what the Parent Room is for. You can sit with your child, nurse them, cuddle them, whatever — all the while connecting with the service that we livestream into the Parent Room.

## Toddler Room (1-3 Years)

When the disciples tried to shoo away children who were crowding around Jesus, he gave a revealing response. He said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Are you ready to stand in for Jesus and take part in a ministry of caring for the toddlers of our church so their parents can attend the service? Few words. No curriculum. Just love and acceptance in abundance!

## Preschool (3-5 Years)

This is a critical age for children. It's so much more than merely babysitting. We want our preschoolers to come away each Sunday with a positive view of God's Kingdom. We're looking for teachers and helpers who can reflect the love of Christ to some of the youngest members of our church family.

## Grades K-3

This is the age at which children take their first steps in truly understanding the Bible. They become acquainted with the stories, teachings, and principles found within scripture. This foundational knowledge lays the groundwork for a strong Christian faith. They learn about love, compassion, forgiveness, and the importance of treating others with kindness. These values help shape their character and guide them throughout life.

## Grades 4-6

Both Mother Theresa and Billy Graham attributed their spiritual foundations to volunteer leaders who guided them during this stage in life. Secular schools no longer lead their students in prayer. They no longer engage their students in moral discussions. This is where it all comes into focus. This is where lives are changed.

*Place to Grow Ministries also needs a regular rotation of hallway supervisors to help children with everyday issues (such as bathroom patrol.)*



# Place to Grow - Midweek

Other than Peter, there's evidence in scripture that the disciples of Jesus were not much older than teens, yet together they changed the world. Even in Paul's ministry, Timothy was likely of a similar young age when he took over leadership of the church in Ephesus. The youth of Lakewood Alliance are not the church of tomorrow. They're the church of today!

To participate in the ministry on this page, contact Dave Driedger at [dave@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:dave@lakewoodalliance.com)

## Rooted Youth Ministry (Grades 7-12) - meeting Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 pm

Young people in today's world need the church, but the church also needs young people. Secular schools no longer engage in public prayer. They no longer challenge students with spiritual discussions. They teach information but not values. Social media has taken over that role, and the results are really quite shocking.

Never before have youth felt more stressed, more hopeless, more isolated and more disconnected. The solution? Committed leaders who have life experience and the Holy Spirit in their hearts!

## Get Your Robes Dry Cleaned - Your Turn on the Bench is Coming Soon

1 Corinthians 6:1-3 reads, "If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels?"

If you've ever been about to start a new job and you feel unqualified, just ponder the implications of this verse for a moment. According to the apostle Paul, someday we're going to judge both the world and angels. Now that's a strange verse. In fact, this one may top the list. What in the world is this all about?

Unfortunately, Paul didn't leave us a lot of details. This is likely a reference to some prior teaching he shared with the Corinthians. There may be a partial clue to understanding this verse in Revelation 2:26, where Christ declared to those who are victorious and do his will to the end, he "will give authority over the nations—"

As for judging the angels, it seems unlikely that there would be a need to judge righteous angels who live in obedience to God. It makes more sense that we would be called to judge those angelic beings who rose up in rebellion against the Lord. (Jude 1:6, 2 Peter 2:4, Rev. 12:7-9)

Whatever our turn behind the bench will look like, Paul's main point here was that the Corinthian Christians were living as though this was not their destiny. They were acting as if they were incompetent to bring even the smallest issues of conflict to resolution.

Disagreements are part of life. Jesus never asked for us to achieve agreement. But he did ask us to achieve unity.



# EQUIP Discipleship Ministries

The final words of Jesus Christ before he left this earth to join his Father in heaven were "Go and make disciples of all nations." In God's economy, becoming an authentic disciple of Christ is not an option.

## LifeGroups

A LifeGroup is a small gathering of generally less than 15 people who meet together on a regular basis to form community and grow together as disciples of Jesus. This is one of the most dynamic ministries at Lakewood. The door is always open for new groups and new leaders. Our LifeGroups come in all shapes and sizes. If you are interested in starting or participating in a LifeGroup, talk to any of the pastors and we'll get you connected. Contact Dawn Isaac - [dawn@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:dawn@lakewoodalliance.com)

## Young Adults (Ages 18-25) - meeting Sundays 7:00-9:00 pm

The challenges facing this demographic are more fluid and complex than any group of people since the days of the Second World War. This is a critical ministry! If you're interested in either being part of this group of helping out with planning and events, contact Jonathan and Jamie Peters - [jonathan.peters@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.peters@gmail.com)  
**Young Adults can join this group on the Church Centre app.**

## Alpha Ministry

Alpha is an 11 week series introducing the basics of the Christian faith through video presentations, discussion and a delicious weekly dinner. A vital ministry at Lakewood, Alpha is a great opportunity to invite your friends, neighbours and family members to consider Jesus Christ. A huge project requiring a large and committed team, Alpha will launch in January of 2026.

### I'm Utterly Speechless!

In 1 Corinthians 14:34 Paul wrote: "Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says."



But nowhere in Jewish law are women prohibited from speaking in the public assembly. In the occupied realms of the Roman Empire, however, it was against the law for women to engage in public discourse. The law Paul was referring to was Roman Law.

He wasn't stating his disdain for women who spoke in the church. He was protecting them from prosecution. Largely due to oppressive Roman misogyny, the Jews had developed a pattern where everyone received teaching in the synagogue but husbands and wives only discussed it in the privacy of the home. The wife was then given the responsibility of teaching the children. Paul accepted the reality of this situation and advised congregations to comply with the law of the land.

In those places where we are not being asked to act in direct violation of the gospel, sometimes we need to concede our entitlements in order for the message of Jesus Christ to best be heard.

## Men's Ministry

Meeting for a monthly breakfast at Lakewood for great food, community and involvement in regular service projects. Check the Church Centre App or contact Mel Eby at [greentilldeath2007@gmail.com](mailto:greentilldeath2007@gmail.com)

## Women's Ministry

The women of Lakewood coming together and living life with depth and honesty. We run a variety of events throughout the year including Bible studies and social events. Come laugh, learn, play and journey through life together. Contact Stacey Russell - [staceyrussell.03@gmail.com](mailto:staceyrussell.03@gmail.com)

## Chat and Chase

A time for Moms and little ones, meeting at our church facility every Wednesday morning at 10:30 am. Childcare is provided every second week at a cost of \$2 per week per family. Contact Melanie Marohn - [themarohns@yahoo.ca](mailto:themarohns@yahoo.ca) or Sarah Berkhoven - [sarah.berkhoven@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.berkhoven@gmail.com)

## Thrive - 30 to 50ish

For people 30 to 50ish who are looking for an adult social connection space within our church. The main goals are food, fun, and friendship. Stay tuned for coming events! Contact Stacey Russell at [staceyrussell.03@gmail.com](mailto:staceyrussell.03@gmail.com)





# EQUIP Discipleship Ministries

Throughout the year, Lakewood Alliance presents quality discipleship modules on topics and issues critical to Christian growth and maturity. Be sure to check the **Church Center App** for the dates of upcoming modules.

We're always on the lookout for mature facilitators who can deliver modules on these and other topics. If you would like more information on any of these ministries, contact Ian Bennett at [ian@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:ian@lakewoodalliance.com)

## Encourage Discipleship Pathway

- Thriving (30s and 40s)
- Chat and Chase (Moms and babies)
- Life Groups
- Young Adults
- Women's Ministry
- Men's Ministry

## Enfold Discipleship Pathway

- Newcomer Welcome
- Baptism
- Membership

## Engage Discipleship Pathway

- Alpha
- Pain-Free Evangelism

## Excel Discipleship Pathway

- Hospitality Ministries
- Worship Ministries

## Encounter Discipleship Pathway

- The Holy Spirit
- Holiness
- Company of the Prophets
- Tongue Tied
- Set Free Retreat
- Healing

## Empower Discipleship Pathway

- Month of Prayer and Fasting
- Prayer Training

## Enrich Discipleship Pathway

- Bible 101

## Entrust Discipleship Pathway

- Stewardship

Be sure to check the weekly handout and the Church Center App for information on times and dates of upcoming modules

## How Old is Old?

Genesis 5:27 tells us that Methuselah lived a total of 969 years and then died. Is this even possible? If human beings once had this kind of longevity, we've obviously lost it. But there are creatures on this earth that provide evidence for extremely long life spans.

Greenland Sharks can live to be over 400 years old. A single Quahog Clam specimen was verified to be 507 years old. And one of the biggest surprises is the simple deep sea sponge. Some have been determined to be over 11,000 years old. That's old!

But the ultimate record holder has that beat by a mile. The *Turritopsis Dohrnii* Jellyfish doesn't die. It reverts its life cycle from the adult stage back to the polyp stage and begins life all over again. Scientists have dubbed it the *Immortal Jellyfish*.

Using a process known as transdifferentiation, the *Immortal Jellyfish* can be killed, but it cannot die of old age. Even Methuselah would be in awe of that kind of longevity.



# Extension Ministries

Every Christian has been called to be an ambassador for God's Kingdom. God has handed the task of serving as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to those who follow his teachings. Extension Ministries is one of the most tangible ways of doing that. If you would like to participate in any of the ministries listed below, contact Trianda Cuthbert at [thirtyoneroses@hotmail.com](mailto:thirtyoneroses@hotmail.com)

## International Worker Connections

The Alliance in Canada supports a large number of International Workers, many in limited access countries around the world. Connect with our workers and promote their ministries.

## Set-Free Recovery

Our most recent ministry partnership, Set Free is a Christian residential recovery facility for men seeking freedom from addiction. Residents have become an integral part of our church family. Add your support to this vital ministry.

## Jesus Cursed Trees?

Matthew 21 verses 18 to 22 tells of Jesus walking from Bethany to Jerusalem early one morning. Because he was hungry, Jesus stopped at a fig tree on the roadside, but the tree was barren. It was devoid of fruit.



Jesus said to it, "May you never bear fruit again." Immediately the fig tree withered. The event seems completely out of character for Jesus. After fasting for forty days in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry, he was clearly no stranger to hunger.

What is going on here? A closer look at the day prior to this event sheds some light. Matthew 21:12-13 tells us that after Jesus entered Jerusalem he overturned the tables in the temple. Why? Because the people were not doing right by God and each other. They were not bearing the fruit of righteousness at a time when they should have been celebrating God's redemptive work! Like the fig tree, the time had come to bear fruit and there wasn't any.

In the act of cursing the fig tree, Jesus made a visible demonstration of his disappointment with people who bore the outward appearance of life, yet failed to bear any fruit.

## Compassion Ministries

This is the ministry of evaluating and responding to practical needs as they're made known to our church community.

## St. Vincent de Paul "Soup Bus"

Although the original mobile Soup Bus is a thing of the past, once a month, the "Soup Bus" Team makes soup and sandwiches and delivers them to the St. Vincent de Paul drop-in centre on 3rd Avenue in Prince George.

## Prison Fellowship Angel Tree

Under the oversight of Prison Fellowship Canada, this ministry provides Christmas gifts to the children of incarcerated inmates. The gifts are given in the name of the inmate.

## Quinson School Supplies

This ministry provides much needed school supplies to the children of Quinson Elementary School.

## Operation Christmas Child

The collection and drop-off of Christmas "shoeboxes" under the oversight of Samaritan's Purse ministries. This ministry has grown to include almost 170 countries.

## Ness Lake Bible Camp

Youth and adult volunteer opportunities at Prince George's multi-denominational camp.

## Lakewood Christmas Breakfast

Preparing, serving and delivering Christmas breakfasts to those in our community who lack family connections. A great way to experience the true spirit of Christmas.

# Worship Ministries

***Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place. Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. - 1 Chronicles 16:23-29***

Those are pretty clear instructions. At Lakewood, we've made Worship Ministries a priority. Worship is not about us, but every Christian likes to attend a service with skilful singers and musicians along with cutting-edge technology. But don't let our team's pursuit of excellence intimidate you. There could be a place for you to serve on the Worship Ministries Team.

## Technical Team - Sound Engineers

Each week, our Tech Team skilfully mixes sound to produce a great worship experience. If you've ever taken a peek behind the tech desk in the balcony, you'll know that it looks like the bridge of the Starship Enterprise. But our Techies know exactly what each of those buttons and dials does and they can show anyone with an aptitude how it all works. Maybe this is your ministry niche. Why not give it a try?

## Technical Team - Multimedia

We live in a visual age. Behind all those slick multimedia presentations are creative servants with a heart for bringing polish and professionalism to our services. This is not about digital graphic arts. This is about taking provided art slides and presenting them using some of the most cutting edge technology available today. Computer geeks - please apply!

## Singers and Musicians

We know that our singers and musicians at Lakewood can be a bit intimidating. They're so darn good! But maybe you are too. Or maybe you could become just as good. No matter what instrument you play or what your style of music is, we'd love to talk to you.



If you're interested in serving on our Worship Ministries Team, contact Dave Driedger at [dave@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:dave@lakewoodalliance.com)

## Why Was God Going to Kill Moses?



In Exodus 4:24 and 25 we read the following strange verse: At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him. But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it. Simple question: What in the world is going on here?

Apparently, Moses had broken his covenant with God. In Genesis 17:10-14, God commanded Abraham to circumcise every male in his household as a sign of his everlasting covenant. This act served as an admission into the Jewish faith and a physical mark of God's covenant with Abraham's future offspring.

Moses failed to circumcise his son and therefore was a covenant breaker. When God makes a way for us to enjoy a restored relationship with him, he takes that very seriously. For Moses to reject circumcision for his son would be like us rejecting baptism and the Lord's Supper as signs of our restored relationship with God.



# Hospitality Ministries

The Hospitality Ministries Team is Lakewood's "Ministry of First Impressions." They serve as the face of Christ to those God sends our way. Visiting a new church is always an intimidating experience. Our task is to help our guests feel the love of God by welcoming them into our facility through friendly and gracious service. The goal is to help outsiders become insiders in the most comfortable way possible.

## Dinner is Served



Ravens are among the most intelligent animals in the world, engaging in complex behaviors such as tool making, bartering and even holding funerals for deceased associates.

1 Kings 17:6 tells us that Elijah the Tishbite, was directed by God to hide from the wicked King Ahab in the Kerith Ravine east of the Jordan River. While he was there, "The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook."

This behavior is well within the intellectual capabilities of the raven, but far outside their natural inclinations. Ravens do not normally feed people. This is yet another very strange Bible verse.

Stranger yet is the fact that ravens were listed as unclean animals in the Old Testament. God could have used any creature to bring nourishment to Elijah, but he chose ravens. Then again, he also chose to send Elijah to Zaraphath in Lebanon where he stayed in the home of an "unclean" Gentile woman.

In God's economy, clean and unclean are arbitrary terms. Jesus touched lepers and dead people. Doing so did not make him unclean. Instead his touch made others clean.

## Coffee and Communion Prep Ministry

Almost everyone loves a great cup of coffee. And we try to provide the best cup possible. But did you ever wonder how that coffee gets there? Faithful servants of God come in early, start the coffee maker, set up the table and dishes and carry that pot upstairs. Then after all the smiles and fellowship is over, they take it all down, clean out the coffee maker and put the dishes in the dishwasher. They're the silent heroes of the Hospitality Ministry Team! Want to get your picture on God's fridge door? This is how it's done.

And the same is true for our Communion prep people. Imagine cutting all those little pieces of bread into perfect squares and filling over a hundred little cups without spilling. There's always room for another set of hands.

Contact Meghan Ginter at  
[office@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:office@lakewoodalliance.com)

## Lakewood Greeters and Ushers

We absolutely LOVE our greeters. They're the most positive people in the church. Divided into two roles, some of our greeters meet people at the door to extend a warm welcome. Others direct people into our Worship Center and distribute the weekly handouts. Other times they help members and guests find seats and they take turns receiving the morning offering.

We're becoming a much more diverse church these days and we'd love to see that diversity reflected in our Greeters. We want to show Prince George that Lakewood is a church for everyone!

If you would like to be a part of this vital ministry, contact Meghan Ginter at  
[office@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:office@lakewoodalliance.com)

## Communion Servers

It may seem easy, standing at the front and serving communion elements to the congregation, but nothing could be more important. If you would like to take part, contact Meghan Ginter at  
[office@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:office@lakewoodalliance.com)

# Special Events Ministries

## Set-up Team

No matter what happens at Lakewood Alliance, there's always a group of unseen ministers working away behind the scenes making it all happen. Ministers set up tables and chairs, you ask? That's right. You don't need to have a Bible College degree to do ministry. In fact, Jesus once said that servants are the greatest in God's kingdom. Wanna be great? Contact Meghan Ginter at [office@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:office@lakewoodalliance.com)

## Decorating Team

Yes, God even has interior decorators. When members and guests walk into our facility, the atmosphere we create with our surroundings speaks volumes. It says something about the way we care for people. We want them to feel valued and important. We want to connect with the artistry and beauty of God's world. If you have an artistic hand and understand something about the importance of atmosphere, this is the perfect ministry for you. From decorating for special events to crafting great seasonal decor for our Worship Center and foyer, we'd love to have you as part of this team.

Contact Janice Jones at [barry\\_jones96@hotmail.com](mailto:barry_jones96@hotmail.com)

## Food Services Team

Have you ever noticed how often eating food is featured in the Bible? Many times when Jesus wanted to minister to people, he ate with them. He attended wedding banquets, private banquets, he even hosted the most famous banquet of all time - the Lord's Supper. And when we join him in heaven? We're going to do so at a banquet. Sharing a meal together is one of the most authentic expressions of community we can engage in.

Purchasing food supplies, stocking the kitchen, preparing meals for our Discipleship Modules and events, serving, clean-up - this is the ultimate ministry of service for those special people gifted in the art of advancing God's kingdom by way of the dinner plate!

---

If you're interested in participating in this essential ministry, contact Meghan Ginter at [office@lakewoodalliance.com](mailto:office@lakewoodalliance.com)

## You want 100 WHAT!?

Yup. That's what it says. 100 Philistine foreskins. That was the bride-price King Saul was asking for his daughter's hand in marriage. Saul of Israel perceived David as a rival to his throne, so when David fell in love with his daughter and asked to marry her, Saul set the bride-price at 100 Philistine foreskins.

The concept of bride-price doesn't exist in our culture, but in the ancient world, a bride-price was a symbolic recognition of the importance of a daughter's place in the family. It was a statement of her value.

By asking for 100 Philistine foreskins, Saul was setting up David to fail. First, there was no way David could cheat by collecting foreskins from peaceable Israelite citizens. Israelites had all been circumcised. Second, Saul knew that no Philistine was going to willingly surrender such a delicate part of their anatomy without a fight.

Let's face it. It's a strange verse. Stranger yet is how David responded. 1 Samuel 18:27 reads: David took his men with him and went out and killed 200 Philistines and brought back their foreskins. They counted out the full number to the king so that David might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.

The Bible tells us that David was "a man after God's own heart." He had maximum faith. He never asked, "How little do I need to do and still say I got it done?" He always asked, "How much can I do?" David was a professed sinner. He murdered. He committed adultery. But because of his maximum faith, God loved him to pieces.



## Does God Care How We Cook Goats?

In Exodus 23:19, the Jewish people were commanded “Do not cook a young goat in its mother’s milk” — yet another strange verse. While several possible explanations have been put forward, it may all come down to context. This verse may be an ancient idiom.

Idioms only make sense in context. Take the phrase “flash in the pan.” It refers to a flintlock musket going off without discharging a musket ball. Without context, the idiom makes little sense.

The young goat verse appears three times in scripture, twice in the context of making an offering to God. It’s possible that the verse is an ancient idiom meaning to refrain from presenting an offering that mixes old produce (the mother’s milk) with the firstfruits (the young goat) that were God’s entitlement.



## THE ALLIANCE CANADA VISION PRAYER

O God, with all our hearts, we long for You.  
Come, transform us to be  
Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused people,  
multiplying disciples everywhere



## How to Get Great Photos of Bears

It’s all laid out in the book of 2 Kings, chapter 2. First, make sure your smart phone is fully charged. Next, book a flight to Ramallah in Israel and take a cab north through the West Bank on the Nablus Highway 466 to Baytin (the former site of Bethel.)

Now comes the hard part. Look around and see if you can spot a bald prophet. This is essential. One with a merely receding hairline won’t do. Complete baldness is preferred. Check with Pastor Ian or our head greeter Rob Carstairs for reference.

Next, read 2 Kings chapter 2, especially verses 23 and 24: “From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of the town and jeered at him. “Get out of here, baldy!” they said. “Get out of here, baldy!” He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys.”

Follow the script closely and just before your near fatal encounter, snap a couple of quick pictures. Voila! Then wait by your phone during your lengthy recovery for a call from Canadian Geographic Magazine. They like bear photos.

Seriously, though, what a strange passage. It would seem that we can draw a few simple conclusions from this text. One being that prophets may not all be kindly old gentlemen wandering the desert eating things most of us wouldn’t dare put in our mouths.

Another would be that prophets appear to have a degree of influence with God. At any rate, if you happen to run into one who seems to be lacking in the follicle department — and bear with me now — try your best to be polite.





# Facilities Ministries

Until recently, the concept of sacred space has been an often ignored aspect of modern spiritual life. It was once central to faith. Just look at the soaring cathedrals of the medieval world. When we step into these spaces, it is instinctual that we become more cautious about our behaviour, what we say or how loudly we say it. We recognize the spiritual significance of the space within the walls. But there are outdoor spaces that also serve to inspire. This is what people mean when they say, "I can connect with God better when I'm in nature." Both types of sacred spaces are valid. Neither should be ignored. Our Lakewood facility is a sacred space. We use it to sing, pray, teach and proclaim God's good news. Our Facilities Ministry Team has been charged with caring for that space.

## Building and Grounds Team

The Lakewood Alliance Church Building and Grounds Team has a mission to develop and maintain a safe, attractive and ultimately functional facility in which to glorify God and facilitate effective ministry. That's not a simple task. While many changes have occurred to upgrade and beautify our building, there's still a number of projects on the drawing board. If you have skills in architecture, engineering, property maintenance or trades such as plumbing, electrical or carpentry, then this team would love to talk to you. Contact Chris Isaac at [ichrisframes@gmail.com](mailto:ichrisframes@gmail.com)

## It Doesn't Get Much Stranger!

It's right there in the Bible. Genesis 5:24 reads, "Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away."

Now you might argue that this says nothing about Enoch dodging the final curtain call, but if we skip over to Hebrews 11:5 in the New Testament, it says, "By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death. . ." — so let's face it. That's a strange verse.

But Enoch wasn't the only one. In 2 Kings 2:11, we read that the prophets Elijah and Elisha "were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind."

What was it Dorothy said in Wizard of Oz? Oh yeah. "Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore." The quote "life is a fatal disease" has been attributed to everyone from Pocahontas to Ernest Hemmingway. Nobody really knows who originally said it. But one thing is for certain. In at least a couple of cases, they were wrong. Some people never make it to their own funeral.

The questions these verses raise are countless. How do you hitch a ride in a fiery chariot without getting singed? Are these two guys still in their original bodies? Did they somehow get transmogrified into angelic-like beings along the way?

We're going to have to wait until we catch up with them to ask. I'm sure they'll have quite a story to tell. But one thing is for certain. With the exorbitant cost of funerals in virtually every period of history, Enoch and Elijah saved themselves a bundle.



# What Is It About Water?

Joshua 3:14-17 describes Israel entering Canaan after the Lord miraculously parted the Jordan River. But it wasn't the only time God would perform this miracle. 2 Kings 2:13-14 reads: "Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. 'Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?' he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over."



God repeating a miracle is unusual enough, but stranger yet is the fact that most people in the Bible who performed a miracle, their debut act involved water. Noah gathered animals to survive a flood. Moses turned the water of the Nile into blood. Elijah banished dew and rain from the land. Even the first miracle of Jesus was to change water into wine. There are some exceptions — such as Daniel in the lion's den and the healing miracles performed by the disciples of Christ. But water remains the primary element in the majority of first miracles performed in the Bible.

## Stay connected! Download the



## CHURCH CENTER APP

You can connect with others, grow deeper with Jesus, get reminders of upcoming events and so much more!

### Getting Started:

1. Download the Church Center App on your phone from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android).
2. If you use the QR code, it will help you download the app and get connected to our church directly.
3. If you don't use the QR code, Open the Church Center App and search for Lakewood Alliance Church.
4. Click to Login
5. Enter your mobile number and create an account.
6. Enter the code that the app will text you.
7. Click to Log In
8. Then take some time to explore the app!

If you have any problems or need some help downloading the app on your phone, talk to Pastor Dawn. Once you've explored the app a bit, you'll see what a wonderful tool this is!

