



Notes from Harry Sexton, Assoc. Pastor

Do you remember the happy buzz in the air when May rolls around? The trees are full of leaves, kids start counting down to summer break, and everyone seems to smile more. But May isn't just about warm sunshine and spring flowers. May is named for the Roman goddess, Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants (think spring). Also, from the Latin word *maiores*, "elders," who were celebrated during this month.

The month is chock full of holidays from Cinco de Mayo, to Mother's Day, to National Teachers' Day and finishing up with Memorial Day that honors fallen military service members and is the traditional kick-off to the summer months. But I want to go back to how we got the name for the month and the Latin word *maiores*, or "elders." This has nothing to do with the shepherds of the church and everything to do with those "well-matured" people amongst us.

The Bible presents growing old as a normal, natural part of life in this world. There is honor involved in the aging process because growing old is normally accompanied by increased wisdom and experience. "Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life" (Prov. 16:31). God wants us to remember that life is short and that the beauty of youth is soon gone.

But the question of growing old can't be separated from the question of the meaning of life and the concept of the legacy we leave. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon provides an astute look at aging and the issues related to it. He acknowledges the frustrating unfairness from a *human* perspective (Ecclesiastes 7:15-18; 8:14-9:3), yet he offers wisdom to help us deal with it from *God's* perspective, entailing the notions of "time and judgment." With our inevitable disillusionment over the human condition—our universal depravity, uncertainty, and mortality—it is wise to remember that "for all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also, their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:4-6, NKJV). Knowing that they are accountable for their God-given "portion," people should take joyful advantage of all their gifts, talents, wisdom, and opportunities in life sooner rather than later: before all opportunity to do so has ceased, before inevitable debilitation forecloses all opportunity.

The thrust of this reflection from Ecclesiastes on growing old is that meaning in life is fulfilled in our God-given purpose, and our purpose is only fulfilled when we take advantage of our God-given portion in Christ, God's promised Savior. While this portion may seem less fair for some than for others, life's meaning will be completed only at the final judgment when we receive our inheritance (Ecclesiastes 7:11) for the way we invest our portion, be it good or bad (Ecclesiastes 12:14; cp. 2 Corinthians 5:10). On that day, we will see God as eminently fair in His rewards, regardless of how unfair or unevenly distributed our portion may seem in this present life.

**In His service,
Pastor Harry**

Notes from the Youth Team

It's May. In Student Ministry, it's a month of celebration as our Seniors are graduating. It's also a time of saying, "Good-bye"; not forever, but as an acknowledgement that they are moving into adulthood and the change that brings with it. They'll be busy with college, trade school, jobs, maybe a business they're starting, and we won't see them as often.

They're walking into a very different world than I did when I graduated. My phone was attached to the wall, and all I could do was talk to people on it. If I wanted to know about a certain subject, I had to use the encyclopedia or find a book at the library. I took a college class during my Senior year of High School and had to actually go to the college to take the class.

It's not just technology that's changed. Our culture reflects a shift from Judeo-Christian beliefs to a belief that truth is relative and varies with each situation or person. As Christians, we know that God is the source of all truth, and that it does not change. But our students are navigating a world that largely embraces the belief that all roads hold truth and that, more than anything else, you should believe in yourself. What the culture sees as "enlightenment", we see as darkness hiding evil works and the real truth.

Fortunately, the Bible has a lot to say about darkness and the Light sent from God.

John 8:12: "I (Jesus) am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 3:19: "And this is the judgment; the light has come into the world, and the people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."

John 1:5: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Ephesians 5:8: "for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."

2 Corinthians 4:6: "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Philippians 2:15b: "Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people." (NLT)

Psalms 27:1: "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation—whom shall I fear or dread? The Lord is the Refuge and Stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?" (AMP)

So, as our young adults move out into the wide, wide world, please be praying that they shine into the darkness of a twisted generation without fear, trusting in God, their Refuge, to overcome the darkness with the light of Jesus Christ.

"And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:15b

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act." Psalm 37:5

Sunday, May 3rd – Taco Fellowship

Sunday, May 10th – Mother's Day (you know what to do)

Sunday, May 17th – Graduate Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 24th – Water & the Word

Notes from the Worship Leader

Hello Church,

I am excited to tell you that I obtained my Bible Teaching Certificate at Gateway Seminary and now continue towards a higher biblical education goal. Now let me tell you that all the tools and resources gained at seminary will never substitute to Word of God, more important I apply it to my own life. Reminds me of what Jesus said to the Pharisees and teachers in Matthew 15:8-9, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules". I want the Word of God to confront me and correct me; mold me to be the Godly man God wants me to be (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Not because Scripture tells me that, but because I want to serve God and be an example that I am an imperfect man who needs God just like anyone. He knows what's best for me as He knows what is best for you. As our brother and Elder Bono said in his previous message on love, that I love others as God loves us. To have mercy and grace as God has mercy and grace on us. I don't want to be like those pharisees that followed the law according to their perspective and not God. What I learn through Scripture only brings me closer to Him. Can you imagine, what can I teach to others if I am not leading by example? I would say that I too would be called a hypocrite by Jesus.

My point is this, I want to surrender myself to God and serve Him. What I learn through seminary, sermons, or teachings become a molding tool that the Potter (God) uses. I encourage you my brothers to meditate in God's Word (Joshua 1:8). Not for personal knowledge or to show others how much you know, but how much you need of God's Word and what it is doing to YOU! Let us be men of God and not like those pharisees that they honored God with their lips, but their hearts were far from Him.

Your Servant, Cesar Aleman

God Bless!



newlife
pregnancy center
A Ministry of Arizona Baptist Children's Services

Baby Bottle Campaign

Your change can change a life


1. GRAB A BOTTLE **April 26th**
2. FILL IT UP
3. RETURN BY **May 10th**

Contact: Church Office



MEN'S BREAKFAST

May 9th
8:00 am
Building B



IRON SHARPENS IRON
PROVERBS 27:17

Join us for Food & Fellowship
Sign Up on line or in Building B

KID'S CAMP 2026

First Come First Served

JUNE 7-12

Sign Up via QR Code

Cost: \$250 per camper
\$225 per Adult or JC
\$50 deposit due now

For 1st - 6th Graders
Registration Open NOW



BREAK OUT

Questions: Kris Williams 602-309-0742

TACO POP-UP SUNDAY MAY 3RD AFTER SERVICE

DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR KIDS/YOUTH CAMPS



YEAH, I'M INTO FITNESS...



FITNESS WHOLE TACO IN MY MOUTH

Senior Spotlight

NOTE: Ten of our High School Students will be graduating this year so we have decided to highlight one or two a month. This Month we are featuring Gemma Fearn & Cameron Flint

Gemma Fearn is currently a full time on campus student at Grand Canyon University. Gemma completed her high school requirements at the age of 14 and started her college journey at Estrella Mountain Community College in 2023. She knew at a young age she wanted to be a doctor. Gemma's passion for natural healing and herbal medicine easily led her to pursue a career as a naturopathic physician. She will graduate with her Bachelors in Science Degree in Biology with an emphasis in Pre-Medicine in 2027. After graduating, she plans on attending naturopathic med school to attain her ND degree. Gemma is currently looking into Bastyr University in Kenmore, Washington to attend medical school starting 2028.

Gemma has always had a love and passion for music. Along with playing her instruments at home and numerous piano and dance recitals, she has been a member of the LBC worship team and the youth band for three years. This year she took up the roll as co-leader for youth worship.

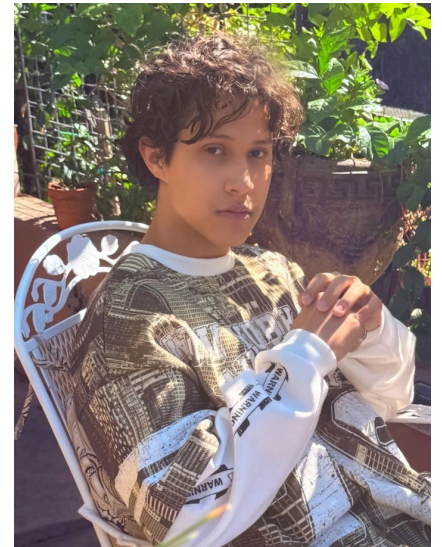
Gemma has been apart of LBC Youth since seventh grade. Throughout her time in youth, she has developed lifelong friendships and mentorships that have supported and guided her throughout the years. She welcomes prayer for God's guidance and light as she continues on this journey.



Cameron Flint will be graduating in May from Arizona Lutheran Academy. Cameron plans to go to South Mountain Community College and begin his study in computer hardware engineering. He has always been interested in computers and is excited to learn more. He wants to continue his education at ASU to obtain a degree in Computer Science.

Cameron's faith is the most important thing to him, and his plan is to bring that with him wherever he goes. He wants his faith to be the center of his life while he attends college.

Please pray that his faith grows stronger and that he will be able to share the gospel wherever he goes.



Senior Recognition Sunday



Congrats
Grads!!

May 17th
During Morning Service

RSVP with Ms. Diane
May 3rd

Dive into
the
Word

Youth Ministries Water & the Word

Sunday, May 24th
be at the Church
@ 5:00 pm

Bible time

@

Fellowship

Scott & Amy Winter

Crafting in Ruth's Footprints

2nd and 4th TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH
May 12th & 26th
9:30 AM
BLDG B Room 2






HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

Office Closed
Monday
May 25th

REGULAR SERVICES
SUNDAY MAY 24TH



LBC Missions
LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Monthly Meeting
After AM Service
Room 2

Join Us
May 10th



THE LORD'S SUPPER

Morning Service Sun. June 7th

Do This In Remembrance Of Me



Is there a God who cares?

Registration Open

EMERALD CROSSING
An Irish Adventure Through Psalm 23

Ages: 5 Years old - 12 Years old
Volunteer Children: Infant to 4 Years old
Volunteers: 13 + Years

VBS 2026
June 1st - 5th
8:30 am - Noon

LAVEEN BAPTIST CHURCH
5036 W. Dobbins Rd
Laveen, AZ 85339



LADIES FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK

MAY 8, 2026
6:00 PM

Bring your favorite dish to share

SUMMER SUN PAINT PARTY



VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN.

Top of the Morning Folks,

In a world filled with worry and confusion, kids need to know there *is* a God who cares for them. At *Emerald Crossing* VBS, they'll journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. They'll discover the life of the shepherd-king David and will learn how to cross from worry to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd.

Get your passport ready for Ireland and join the adventure!

**Volunteer and Participant Registration Deadline:
May 22, 2026 NOON to guarantee a T-Shirt.**

Registration is free for everyone, and again this year we are offering one free T-shirt for each child participating and each Volunteer. Please be sure to select the size of shirt needed when you complete the registration. If you have any questions please see Tina Freeberg or Shannon Pena.



MAY

4 th	Daniel Papp	15 th	Elia Ainsley Phan	26 th	Jennifer Ryon
5 th	Georgana Carlisle	16 th	Tiffany Duong	27 th	Cesar Aleman
6 th	Oliver Flowers	16	Pauline Onyi		Ruben Villa
7 th	Michele Anderson	18 th	Diego Chavez	30 th	Daniel Salinas
9 th	William Pulley, II	19 th	Kim Martin	31 st	Lisa Chavez
14 th	Peyton Mills	21 st	Jonas Prieto		



MAY

3 rd	Cesar & Alejandra Aleman	19 th	David & Kris Williams
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We Want To Hear From You:

E-mail prayer requests to:

lbc@laveenbaptistchurch.org

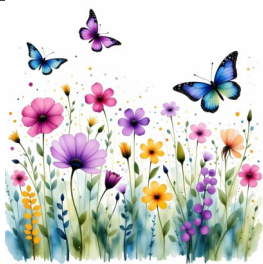
Call us at: 602-237-4885

See what's happening & Register for events:

www.laveenbaptistchurch.org

Reach the elders at:

elders@laveenbaptistchurch.org



MAY



Regular Events

SEPTEMBER - MAY

SUNDAY

Sunday School Classes (all ages)	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Worship Service	10:15 am

MONDAY

AM Ladies Bible Study –Revelation	8:30 am
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TUESDAY

Young Adults Bible Study (Off-site)	6:00 pm
Victorious Overcomers Support Group	6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Dinner	5:00pm
Adventure Club	6:00 pm
Youth Bible Study	6:00 pm
Prayer Hour	6:00 pm
Ladies PM Bible Study, room 3	7:00 pm
Men's Bible Study, room 2	7:00 pm

THURSDAY

GriefShare (February 5th - May 7th)	10:00 am
College Bible Study (off site)	6:30 pm
AA Meeting	6:30 pm

FRIDAY

AA Meeting	6:30 pm
Al-Anon Meeting	6:30 pm

Special Events

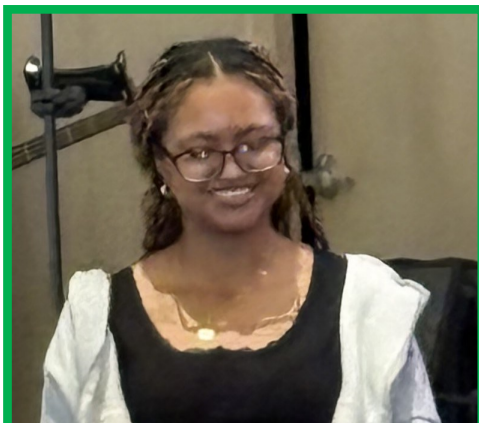
MAY

2 nd	Delivering Hope	11:00 am
3 rd	Taco Pop-Up	11:30 am
10 th	Mission Team Meeting	11:30 am
11 th	Elder Meeting	6:00 pm
12 th	Crafting in Ruth's Footprints	9:30 am
13 th	Last Wednesday Night Dinner	
16 th	Set up for Senior Recongintion	9:00 am
17 th	Senior Recognition Luncheon	11:30 am
	Deacon Meeting	11:30 am
20 th	Adventure Club Celebration	6:00 pm
24 th	Youth Water & the Word	5:00 pm
25 th	Office Closed for Memorial Day	
	Elder Meeting	6:00 pm
26 th	Crafting in Ruth's Footprints	9:30 am

JUNE

1 st – 5 th	VBS	8:30 am – 12:00 pm
7 th	Lords Supper	AM Service
7 th – 12 th	Kid's Camp	
8 th	Elder Meeting	6:00 pm
9 th	Crafting in Ruth's Footprints	9:30 am
14 th	Mission Team Meeting	11:30 am
	Youth Water & The Word	5:00 pm
21 st	Deacon Meeting	11:30 am

Welcome New Members



Jessica Tobias-Whisman
April 12, 2026

