



SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

April 14, 2026

Luke 24.31 (NRSV)

“Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.”

I love it when something finally clicks.

A few weeks ago, I finished a book that offered a framework for understanding how people engage in the life of the church. On paper, it made sense. But when I tried to actually place people into those categories, it got fuzzy pretty quickly. It wasn't until I stepped back, gathered the information, and started putting the pieces together that it began to come into focus. What felt unclear at first started to make sense when I could finally see it as a whole.

In Luke's Gospel, two followers of Jesus are walking along the road on that same day. We don't know much about them, but we do know they are trying to make sense of everything that has just happened. They are talking it through, sorting it out as they go. Somewhere along that road, Jesus comes alongside them.

They don't recognize him, at least not at first. Jesus listens, asks questions, and opens the scriptures to them. Still, they don't see. It isn't until they sit down at the table, and he takes the bread, blesses it, and breaks it, that their eyes are opened. In that moment, it clicks. They recognize him, and then he is gone from their sight.

There are as many ways people come to Christ as there are people. Our stories overlap, but they are never exactly the same. Still, there is often a moment, sometimes quiet, sometimes unexpected, when something comes into focus. When what once felt unclear begins to make sense.

The hope Christ offers is not just something we arrive at once and hold onto forever. It meets us again and again, often in the middle of our questions, our discouragement, and our searching. And sometimes, like those travelers on the road, we don't recognize it right away. But as we walk, as we listen, as we gather around the table, our eyes are opened, sometimes just enough, just in time.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Brian

Sunday, April 19, 2026

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sermon Title: | “I Need Hope” | Greeter(s): | Sandy Hein & Joe McCune |
| Minister: | Rev. Brian Christen | Communion Prep: | Mary Ann Trainer |
| First Scripture: | 1 Peter 1.17-23 | Children's Church: | Ann McCurry & Mandi Trainer |
| Second Scripture: | Luke 24.13-35 | Sunday's Attendance in-person: | 47 |
| Lay Reader: | Lisa Keen | Sunday's Attendance online: | 7 |

[If you missed the Sunday Worship...](#)

You can view the service from our website under the Worship tab. Website address: www.lpcomch.com

Remembering in Our Prayers

Our Church family

Judi Bridges Carol Clark
Betty Thompson Virginia Hovey
Anna Hooper

Our prayers for others

Scott Hobbs: nephew of Mary Ann & Keith Trainer

Chester: friend of David Marnell

Lydia Reed: sister-in-law of Mary Pang

Julie & Mark: friends of Ann McCurry

Alice Roy: cousin of Joe Grammier

Mary Tord: friend of Janice Graham, a returning guest

Wally Ethridge: friend of David Darby

Patty and Alan Ward ask for prayers for their future great-granddaughter to be born in August. Her father is their grandson, Dimitri.

Rejena: aunt of David Marnell

Alan Harris: brother of Patti Meiners

Paul Carlton: brother-in-law of Pattie Meiners

Audrey Nelson: mother of Ann McCurry

Beth Sprouse: sister of Chris Albers

Sabrina Jacks: daughter of Judy Marnell

Carleigh Lindsey: friend of Joe McCune

Our Praise

Mary Carmichael offers praise for the birth of her brother Perry Herrmann's great-grandbaby.

Our world

Prayers for our nation and peace in our world: Judi Bridges & Mary Ann Trainer

Our sorrow

Mary Carmichael & family in the loss of her sister-in-law, Margaret Herrmann, wife of her brother, Perry.

Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, April 15

9:00 am Women's Community-wide Bible Study
6:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, April 16

6:00 pm Elders
7:00 pm Board Meeting
8:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Friday, April 17

8:30 am Ladies Stretch Class

Sunday, April 19

9:45 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship
Children's Church
12:00 pm VBS Planning Meeting

Monday, April 20

8:30 am Ladies Stretch Class
6:00 pm Scout Troop 930
7:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack 930

Vacation Bible School



June 15 - 17

6 pm to 8 pm

Preschool (potty-trained)
to
5th grade (completed)

Registration open now!
www.lpcomch.com



Flowers this Sunday from:

Bill & Diane Galena

In memory of Diane's mother.

Vacation Bible School
Planning Meeting
Sunday, April 19 at 12 pm

Prayer Requests can be submitted through our website at: <https://www.lpcomch.com/prayer-request.html> It is located under the Contact Us tab or under the Worship tab. Please let the church know how you are doing and any updates to the prayer requests otherwise after 4 weeks they will roll off.



GREATER HOUSTON AREA ASSEMBLY

April 25, 2026
9 am - 4 pm

First Christian Church, Pasadena
4848 Preston Ave
Pasadena, TX 77505

REGISTRATION OPEN at ccsw.org
No registration fee / Lunch provided
Activities for Children & Youth



Our purpose:
LOVE. SERVE. TRANSFORM

Attention High School Seniors!

Are you graduating this year? We want to celebrate YOU!

If you are a member of our congregation and graduating from high school this spring, please let the Church Office or our Christian Education and Youth Chair - Judy Marnell, know by Sunday, April 19th.

We will be recognizing our high school graduates during worship on Sunday, May 3, 2026, followed by a special reception in your honor.

Please share your name, school, and any post-graduation plans you'd like included. Help us make this a meaningful celebration of your accomplishments!

OUR BOARD AT WORK - MARCH 2026

The church board met recently for its regular monthly meeting, continuing its work to support the ongoing ministry and operations of the congregation. Vice Chair Willem Dykstra called the meeting to order, and following a devotional reflection on Psalm 84, the board moved through a full agenda.

Minutes from recent meetings were approved, and financial reports were reviewed. Discussion included fund management practices, with additional research underway to clarify procedures for redirecting designated funds when needed.

Committee reports reflected a range of activity across the life of the church. Building & Grounds is preparing to form a committee to evaluate parking lot repairs and consider a potential agreement with the City of La Porte. Christian Education & Youth is planning for Vacation Bible School, scheduled for June 15-17, and reported positive engagement through recent Scout activities.

Outreach will host a community blood drive on June 1. Ongoing congregational care efforts included the sending of 92 cards. In leadership updates, David Darby has accepted nomination to serve as an elder.

Additional reports noted memorial giving to date, early planning for the annual stewardship campaign, and preparations for upcoming Holy Week services.

In unfinished business, the board continues work related to parking lot planning and ongoing facility considerations. New business included initial discussion of a proposed interactive mural in Spiz Hall, along with broader conversation about building use and maintenance. This item was tabled pending further information.

The meeting concluded with prayer.

MARCH 2026 FINANCIALS

| | <u>MARCH</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Income | \$ 20,547 | \$ 44,392 |
| Expenses | <u>18,522</u> | <u>63,968</u> |
| Gain/(Loss) | <u>\$ 2,025</u> | <u>(\$19,576)</u> |

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is currently looking for additional teachers and helpers. If you are able to lend a hand, even occasionally, your time would be greatly appreciated.

Please call the Church office (281-471-0303) or Glynda Oliver (281-678-5854) to sign up.

LA PORTE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Office Hours 9am to 1pm, Monday through Thursday
E-mail: office@lpcomch.com
Telephone: 281-471-0303 Fax: 281-471-9616
Minister: Rev. Brian D. Christen
Web Site: www.lpcomch.com

SPiRiT

April 14, 2026



La Porte Community Church
A Congregation of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
202 S. 1st Street
La Porte, TX 77571

Sharing the love of Jesus since 1925!

**WE ARE HAPPY TO SEND OUR CHURCH
NEWSLETTER TO:**

Sunday:

9:45 am Adult Sunday School

10:45am In Person Worship
and streaming on Facebook Live
Children's Church

**You are always welcome at
La Porte Community Church!**



We send out our newsletter via email and postal mail, in addition to posting it on our website, www.lpcomch.com. If you would like to change your newsletter receiving preferences, please let us know via email office@lpcomch.com or by phone: 281-471-0303. Also, please bear with us (and notify us) if you receive or don't receive the newsletter in the form of your preference.