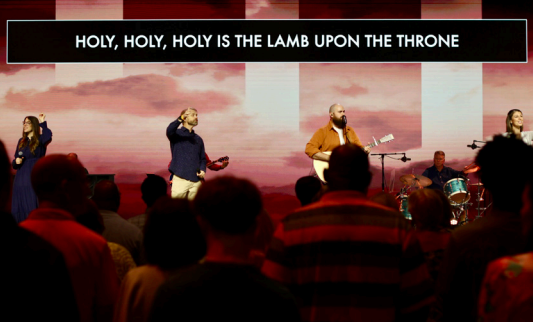

DOWNTOWN LAKELAND

SEPTEMBER 2-23

New Members Class

Join us for our upcoming New Members Class beginning Wednesday, September 2, with a special dinner hosted by Pastor Aaron D. Burgner at 6:00 PM. This four-week class will be hosted at the Downtown Lakeland campus. It is a great opportunity to learn more about Lakes Church, our mission, and what it means to be part of our church family. Attendance at all four weeks is required. Register today—we'd love for you to take this next step with us!

OCTOBER 16

The Great Pumpkin Pie 5K

Join us for the Great Pumpkin Pie 5K on Friday, October 16, at 6:00 PM at TigerTown! Whether you're ready to run the race or would like to serve as a volunteer, there's a place for you to be part of this fun evening for the whole family. Enjoy a night of racing, food, pumpkin pie, and family fun—all while raising money for missions. Register today to participate or sign up to volunteer!

FOR MORE INFORMATION on any of these events go to golakeschurch.com or scan the QR code.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

DR. AARON D. BURGNER | LEAD PASTOR

SUNDAY SERVICES 9:30AM | 11:00AM

1010 E MEMORIAL BLVD. | LAKELAND FL 33801 | 863.682.0163

OPPOSITION, SETBACKS, & PERSEVERANCE

EZRA 4

DR. AARON D. BURGNER, LEAD PASTOR

1. God's People will always face opposition because Satan is trying to stop the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.

2. God's Work sometimes feels delayed or absent. (vv.4-5; 24)

3. God will always fulfill His purposes. (5:1-2)

4. Jesus suffered perfectly so that we could be saved through Him.

Response: How can I face opposition and bring Glory to God?

a. Don't Be Surprised

- 1 Peter 4:12 "Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you, as if something unusual were happening to you."

b. Don't Get Mad

- 1 Peter 3:14 "But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated."

c. Repent of Known Sin

- 1 Peter 4:15 "Let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evil doer, or a meddler."
    - Don't be a hypocrite.

d. Love the Saints and Your Enemies

- 1 Peter 4:8-10 "Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God."
- 1 Peter 3:9 "Do not pay back evil for evil or insult for insult but, On the contrary, giving a blessing, since you were called for this, so that you may inherit a blessing."

e. Trust God and Move Forward

- 1 Peter 4:19 "So then, let those who suffer according to God's will and trust themselves to a faithful creator while doing what is good."

f. Remember your Christian Family Around the World

- 1 Peter 5:9 "Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world."
    - It's never as bad and you think it is.

g. Keep Looking to the East

- 1 Peter 5:10 "The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while."
    - Jesus is coming back, so when things are getting dark, just stay on the path and keep looking to the east.