October 2026 Newsletter - Interim ED, Joel Rude

Chosen Place

Chosen.

It is a powerful word. When used within a storyline or as the title of a story, it conveys profound meaning central to the core of that story. It is a state of being we long for deeply within our being. Unfortunately, once we 'have' it, it is easy to take for granted.

One of LBBC's long-standing core values is that of being *a chosen place*. Over the years, many have described LBBC as one of the "thin places" between heaven and earth, where God's presence is sensed more often than in the 'normal' places of life.

The women and men of our founding churches, who believed discipleship of a church's children and families could be done more effectively together, were led through prayer and Spirit-led circumstances to select property on Beauty Lake, and eventually to add to that property. Stories from the Bible reinforce the importance of *chosen places…chosen people…and chosen purposes.*

The staff of LBBC have been exploring what it means to steward a *chosen place*, set aside for people to encounter and respond to the Triune God, Creator of Everything Seen and Unseen. It's both a solemn and joy-filled responsibility. It involves both mission and maintenance.

The core of *LBBC's mission is to provide environments in which Jesus transforms lives*. Hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals across generations can recall an exact place on this property where they encountered Jesus in a way that placed them on a path toward ongoing transformation and a sense of called-choseness for a purpose-filled relationship with him. The great news is that Jesus, true to his promise to be with us always, does not limit our encounters with him to one location, as meaningful as that location is.

One of the environments we seek to provide is spiritual. One is relational. One is communal. One is physical. There are others. They all overlap. Exploring what it means to steward a *chosen place* includes the pursuit of a deeper understanding of how these layers overlap, interweave, and support each other.

It is a high calling. It is not merely 'taking care of a camp.' The enemy of Jesus and his Church seeks to undermine the mission and distort the value system that shaped it. Prayer is essential to properly stewarding this *chosen place*. Paid staff, unpaid staff (volunteers), and all who serve within and are served by the mission of LBBC are invited to choose to pray for the wisdom and resources needed to steward the people, property, and purposes of this *chosen place*.