

History of flags at Lake Country Alliance Church

They first appeared on our sanctuary platform during the years when Daren Wride was our Lead Pastor. After the Flag Ministry was humbly presented to Daren and then prayerfully supported by him and the existing Lead Team were they used during the Worship Services.

Diane Gretzinger made all of the flags, except for one and her daughter, Tamara, painted the pictures on three of the flags - the dove, the rising sun and the eagle. Terry Scherer made the white flag.

Each of the flags we use is an original; they did not come to us from another church; they weren't used elsewhere before coming here.

The idea for each flag came from a variety of people but almost always came during or after a time of prayer for the people and ministry of Lake Country Alliance Church. The specific verses that go along with each flag were usually received from the Lord through time in prayer versus somebody looking for scripture verses that would support the flag.

On behalf of those who are called to worship the Lord with flags I want you to know that we are grateful for the privilege given to us. It is a blessing to have the support of Sandy and the elders and we do not take it lightly or for granted.



Testimony

I've called Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior since February 1981 and have always found solace and strength in prayer and meditation on His word. It wasn't until the fall of 2002, however, that I started to realize the necessity and benefit of outwardly exercising my faith.

Due to a strain in a significant relationship at the time, I found myself having to make a conscious choice between fear and faith.

Having my mind filled with scripture was a great place to start but now I needed to take action. Like the woman with the issue of blood (Lk 8:44), I literally reached out to Jesus and imagined myself grabbing the edge of His cloak, then picturing His healing power and strength moving its way up my arm and into my heart.

The exercise had a profound effect on my faith.

Over the next years, fear for this person would try to creep in, forcing me into a permanent position of intercession. Instead of the Lord removing the circumstances He asked me to enlarge my prayers, including others who were involved.

I compiled a list of names and began crying out to the Lord, asking for His rescue of each one. Through the process, Jesus began to change the way I felt about them; giving me His heart of love and compassion.

I had purchased a couple of flags and started holding them as I spoke out specific scripture verses that applied to those on my list. Like a roll call, I called out their names while, Micah, our golden retriever, sat curiously at my feet, lifting his ears as he heard familiar names spoken into the atmosphere around us.

Some mornings, the urgency to pray was exchanged for the freedom to worship so I would listen to cd's and use the flags to express my love for the Lord and my desperate need to see His hand in my life. Often, I would find myself on my knees in a posture of surrender and submission to His will.

For close to ten years, a team of people met in the sanctuary on Monday evenings to intercede for Lake Country Church. We'd spend time worshipping the Lord before we sat to pray and through the use of the flags during those worship times Jesus gave me courage to flag outside of my prayer closet.

There are times when I've come on a Sunday morning knowing which flags the Lord wants me to use; other days I see them as we start worshipping. There are times when I resist the Lord's prompting (not advised) and almost always, the flag I sensed I was to use is the one Kim or someone else picks up.

- Bonnie Derksen, November 2014



THE HOLY SPIRIT Flag (Blue with the Dove) symbolizes the Truth and the Holy Spirit. We welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit in everything

Mark 1:10 As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove.

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

THE LORD Flag (Deep Blue Flag)
Remember the Lord, His Character and Authority

Blue – the color of sapphire is used to represent “The LORD”

Ezekiel 1:26 Above this surface was something that looked like a throne made of blue lapis lazuli. And on this throne high above was a figure whose appearance resembled a man.

Ezekiel 10:1 In my vision I saw what appeared to be a throne of blue lapis lazuli above the crystal surface over the heads of the cherubim.



THE SUNRISE Flag
The picture of the early morning sun rising above the mountains symbolizes “Newness”, “New Day” and “New Beginnings”.

Romans 6:4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Lamentations 3:23 Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

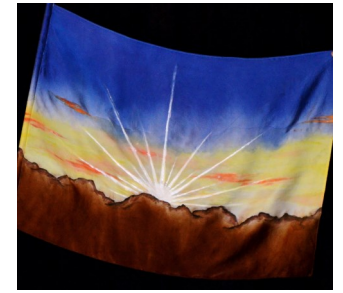
2 Cor. 4:6 For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Isaiah 60:1-3 “Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see. For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you. Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth, but the glory of the Lord rises and appears over you. All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see your radiance.

REDEMPTION Flag (Deep burgundy/red)
It is the blood of the Lamb through which His children receive righteousness and power. It signals the work of the Lord, redeeming those He loves and died for.

Revelations 12:11 And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony.





THE GLORY Flag (Gold/Amber)

It is His weighty presence and goodness as seen in the splendor and majesty of Christ. So let us declare “The Lord is good and His steadfast love endures forever”

Gold – symbolizes the Eternal Deity, the Godhead, glory, purification, majesty, righteousness, Divine Light, kingliness, trial by fire

Amber – the glory of God, fiery passion, flaming throne of God, the temple of God, wisdom

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 The trumpeters and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices and praised the Lord with these words: “He is good! His faithful love endures forever!” At that moment a thick cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of God.

Exodus 33:18-19 Moses responded, “Then show me your glorious presence.” The Lord replied, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose.”

Luke 2:9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them.

2 Cor. 3:18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

THE PURPLE FLAG (iridescent)

The color purple is associated with Royalty, Kingship, Inheritance, Priesthood and Authority.

Esther 8:15 Then Mordecai left the king’s presence, wearing ... and an outer cloak of fine linen and purple.

John 19:2 The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him.

Ezekiel 27:7 Your sails were made of Egypt’s finest linen, and they flew as a banner above you. You stood beneath blue and purple awnings ...



THE RED FLAG (iridescent)

The blood of Jesus, atonement, sacrifice of Christ’s blood, cleansing, justification, war, love, consuming fire, salvation.

Ephesians 1:7 He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Romans 3:25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past.

Joshua 2:18-21 When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down ... And she sent them on their way, leaving the scarlet rope hanging from the window.

I Corinthians 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” **Communion with Jesus.**



THE WORSHIP-IN-THE-MIDST-OF-

MOURNING Flag (Multi-colored, iridescent)

This flag is used to defy the circumstances that imprison the saints through grief, mourning and sadness. By an act of the will, while prayers are left unanswered and troubles remain unresolved, an attitude of praise is chosen to battle the works of the enemy. It is like a flag of faith. Used to worship the Mighty One before the victory is realized, while the outcome is not fully seen but in recognition that God is faithful and true to His promises.

Isaiah 61:3 To all who mourn in Israel, He will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.



THE LOVE Flag (Red/Pink/White Flag)

His Banner Over Us is Love

Song of Solomon 2:4 - He placed me at his banquet table, *for everyone to see that his banner over me declares his love.* (The Voice)

Red – Symbolizes His love and His blood shed for us
1 John 1:7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Pink – Symbolizes the Father’s heart of compassion for us
Ezekiel 11:19-20 And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, so they will obey my decrees and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God.

Jeremiah 24:7 I will give them hearts that recognize me as the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me wholeheartedly.

Lamentations 3:22-23 The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning.

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

White – Symbolizes His glory and work of purification in us
Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.

Revelation 1:14 His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire.



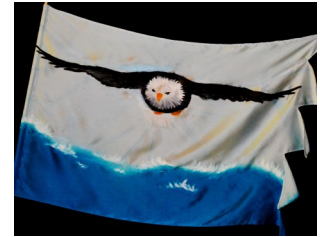
THE HEALING Flag (Eagle soaring over white-capped waves)

This flag symbolizes Jesus as our source of healing. We use it as a declaration that healing will come to our church and this community and to remind us to thank Him for the greatest miracle of healing: our salvation

He will be like the healing warmth of the sun to those who love and obey Him.

Malachi 4:2 But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. The water of Life is a symbol of eternal life. It pictures the fullness of life with God and eternal blessings that come when we believe in Him.

Revelations 22:1 Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.



THE PURITY and SURRENDER Flag (White)

We use this flag to remind us of the purity, innocence and salvation found in the righteousness of Christ alone. It is also a reminder for fresh surrender to a Holy God who is worthy of honor and praise. In our surrender we declare we are a people who overcome.

John 3:16 For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

James 4:7, 8 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God and God will come close to you.

Ephesians 6:13 For this reason, take up all the armor that God supplies. Then you will be able to take a stand during these evil days. Once you have overcome all obstacles, you will be able to stand your ground.

