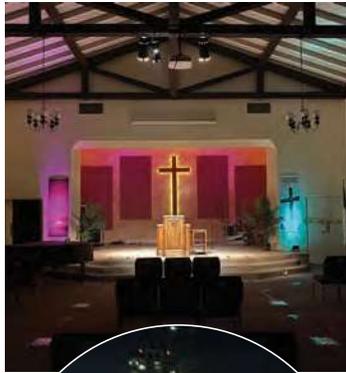




By Thomas Fitzgerald

Photos Courtesy West Los Angeles Christian Center



West Los Angeles Christian Center has been in the heart of Culver City since 1935, the year its first building was financed by a "penny drive." The church is a member of Grace International, an organization founded in 1933 that today is comprised of Spirit-filled churches and ministries around the world.



Senior Pastors Henry and Lena Lazo are only the fifth pastors to shepherd West Los Angeles Christian Center (WLACC) since its inception over 85 years ago. They were appointed to the positions in February 2018 after Lena's father, Pastor Charles Paul, Sr. died from lymphoma in 2017. Pastors Charles and Sylvia served faithfully as senior pastors for the previous 30 years.

"We are not looking to build a mega church; we are building a ministry that helps those in need, hurt, lonely, or rejected," says Pastor Henry.

WLACC ministers to many homeless persons in the community and works with local agencies such as St. Joseph's Center, Department of Mental Health, and police departments to help homeless persons get access to necessary resources.

Because some homeless persons are more comfortable at WLACC instead of a clinical setting, the church will often open its doors for case managers to meet with their clients. The church also serves as an advocate and a point-of-contact for homeless persons that have no one else to turn to. "We get to know, work with, and develop a relationship with our homeless neighbors," says Pastor Lena. "We see people who have no hope for a better future, and then we watch as God puts their life in order."

Though Pastors Henry and Lena help others the old-fashioned way, COVID-19 has forced them to move into the 21st century to continue preaching to their flock. Prior to the pandemic and the government's lockdown order, WLACC had no social-media presence. "We learned how to livestream on Facebook," says Pastor Lena. "But we knew that there is no substitute for the face-to-face, human-to-human contact that nourishes our soul."

When houses of worship were permitted to resume in-person services early in the summer with the caveat that gatherings are held outdoors, Pastors Henry and Lena saw the difference in-person worship meant to people.

"Facebook is not interpersonal; all the congregation gets is a message. Broadcasting worship service over Facebook is like being in a long-distance relationship – it may work, but over time it is

not the same as being in direct contact with each other," says Pastor Henry. "Our parishioners were so excited and happy to be back together and to worship together."

How Should I Dress For Church At WLACC?

Come just as you are, dressed in whatever you feel most comfortable in because WLACC is not about what you look like or the clothes that you wear.

What Are Sunday Messages Like?

Every Sunday, WLACC equips you with Biblical knowledge in an engaging way that is relevant to your life and calls you to action. Messages are practical, down-to-earth, Christ-centered, and grounded in Scripture. Videos for most messages are found on the church website under "Messages."

"We are committed to equipping you to grow and mature so you can help others to grow," says Pastor Henry.

"We look forward to serving the people of this church and this community," says Pastor Lena. "Our desire is to serve the Lord and His people in whatever way He calls us to do."

WLACC.org / 310.559.4656
10500 Venice Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90232

Coffee with the Pastors - Sundays at 10am
Sunday Service - Sundays at 11am - (In-Person & Online)
Sharing and Praying over the Phone - Wednesdays at 7pm.

Advertisement for WLACC featuring the text: "Come As You Are! Sunday Celebration 11 AM In-person and Online Facebook.com/WLACC4U", "PASTORS HENRY & LENA LAZO", "Wednesday Prayer & Praise 6 PM", "For More Information: WLACC.org", "10500 Venice Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232", "310-559-4656", and social media icons for Facebook and Instagram. It also includes the church logo and a photo of the church entrance.