

October 2025



Sr. Pastor Colson pre-views upcoming events and sermon series.

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Elder Chairman, John Gingrich, discusses Church Budget opportunities.

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Debbie Christie describes the RISE ministry and how you can become a part of it.



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Highlight the Church's Community Missions this month.  
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Church security and safety has been in the news recently. Learn the approach the Board of Elders are taking.  
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## Support the Christmas Bazaar

After months of creating awesome crafts and implementing new ideas, the crafters and their many supporters are just a few weeks away from showcasing their efforts.

On **November 8th and 9th**, LOW Church will be transformed into a wonderland of crafts, artwork, home decor, baked goods, a café, and various specialty "shops." Let's not forget to mention the ever-popular Bargain Barn where you can always find great deals! Craft leader, Jeannie Dietz, puts it this way . . . "This ain't your Grandma's craft bazaar!"

New this year, in the Charter Room, will be The Art Gallery featuring framed and unframed art and prints. This shop was created as a result of a generous donation of art from the collection of John and Karen Howe and also from Celine Baker. Hopefully, other members of LOW Church will be willing to contribute as well. A free Coffee Bar will also be available in that room so enjoy a cuppa while you browse.

For all of October, the crafters will have a table set up in The Gathering Place with handouts and signup sheets. There is also a bin where you can drop off donations. One of the handouts available at this table lists the various shops and gives suggestions of what each "shop" hopes for in the way of donations. Have Questions? The Bazaar Table will be manned

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# From our Senior Pastor

Dear Church Family,



Rev. Adam Colson

As we move into November, I am excited to invite you on a powerful journey through the book of Exodus in our upcoming sermon series, “Exodus: God’s Epic Redemption Story.” Exodus is not only the account of God’s deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt, but it is also our story—a story of God’s redeeming power, His faithfulness to His promises, and His presence with His people through every trial.

This series will unfold in “Acts,” as if watching a great drama of redemption:

## ACT 1:

- The Silence Before the Storm (Exodus 1)
- A Prince is Born (Exodus 2)
- Call of Duty: The Burning Bush (Exodus 3)
- Mission: Impossible? (Exodus 4)

## ACT 2:

- Resistance: The Uprising Begins (Exodus 5)
- “Let Me Make You an Offer You Can’t Refuse” (Exodus 6)
- Plague Wars: Rise of the Righteous (Exodus 7–10)

Each week, we’ll step into the story of God’s great deliverance, discovering how these ancient truths still speak into the challenges of our lives today.

But this series will be more than Sunday sermons; it will be an experience! Together, we will:

- **Host special film** showings at the Outreach Center that connect us to the themes of Exodus.
- **Travel to Lancaster, Pennsylvania** to visit the life-size tabernacle and attend a production at the Sight & Sound Theater, bringing the story of God’s redemption to life in unforgettable ways.

This is the perfect time to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to join you. Many people in our community are longing for hope, freedom, and purpose—and the story of Exodus reveals the God who sets captives free. Your invitation might just be the start of someone’s own redemption story.

Let us step into this epic journey together. Mark your calendars, pray for God to move powerfully, and come ready to encounter Him in fresh and mighty ways.

*“The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” – Exodus 14:14*

In His service,

Pastor Colson



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# Christams Bazaar

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between services every Sunday during October. Or call Wilma at 540.972.7908 during the week. They only accept new or “good as new” items. Remember . . . this is a bazaar, not a yard sale!

The proceeds from the Craft Bazaar go to support LOWC Youth Missions throughout the year. This year, the work of the crafters helped to support Kingdom Builders training for the youth, where teens complete a training program to learn how to spread the Gospel to Elementary age children through story-telling, songs, and games. The youth then used their training to act as leaders and teachers throughout the summer at VBS, Good News Across Sports, Camp Good News in Maine, and at Good News Camp in Navajo New Mexico. As a result of the work of the crafters and the support of Lake of the Woods Church, our youth were equipped to advance the Kingdom of God by reaching over 200 children not only in Virginia, but in Maine and New Mexico as well.

The crafters work diligently throughout the year, but the scores of supporters giving of their time, skills, and donations to help them make a big difference. Because of this steadfast support, they have continued spearheading this fundraiser for nearly twenty years. So they wanted to say..... Thanks! God Bless! And see you at the Bazaar!



# A Budget Snapshot from the Elders

As the air turns crisp and the leaves begin to fall, we're reminded that a new season is upon us. And as I sit down to write this, I find myself reflecting on the past few weeks—continually amazed by your generosity. Your time, your talent, and your financial support make ministry happen every single day. Thank you.

We'd like to give you a glimpse into our church's budget—not to overwhelm you with numbers, but to help you understand why we're asking for support through the Safety Fund (see the article Building a Safer, More Welcoming Church—Together), and why a capital reserve is so important.

We manage our finances through two main accounts:

**General Fund** – Funded by your general giving, this covers the day-to-day costs of running the church and most ministries.

**Designated Fund** – These are funds you've assigned to specific ministries. We honor those designations, which means that money can't be used for things like utilities or repairs.

Here's the reality: over 80% of our general fund goes toward essential expenses—utilities, staff compensation, IT systems, administrative costs, and the required 10% of general fund to missions and outreach. The remaining goes to those ministries without a designated fund. That leaves very little margin for the unexpected.

And unexpected things do happen. This year, we experienced two major roof leaks—first in the sanctuary, then in the worship center. The total cost to replace them was over \$50,000. Thankfully, because of your past generosity, we had a capital reserve—think of it as a savings account for rainy days (pun intended). Without it, we would've had to make an urgent appeal.

Looking ahead, we have 14 air conditioning units. Twelve have been replaced in recent years. We're praying the final two hold steady—but if they don't, we'll need to act quickly. Without a reserve, that means another ask.

To fully operate the church and support ministries that don't have designated funding, we need about \$100,000 per month. Right now, we're below that level. And when we're below, we can't contribute to the capital reserve.

Ideally, our capital reserve would be 10% of our general giving. That would allow us to respond to emergencies without interrupting ministry or launching special campaigns. It's not just good stewardship—it's wise preparation.

Thank you for walking with us, praying with us, and giving with such faithfulness. Together, we're building a church that reflects the heart of Christ—not only in spirit, but in stewardship, safety, and hospitality.





## Day of Remembrance

Our Annual Day of Remembrance will be held on December 14, 2025, at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

This is a time to honor and reflect on our loved ones who have gone to their eternal rest.

This will be a candlelight service, and you are invited to be a part of this special day. Please provide a photo of your loved one (4x6) and a brief 15-word message for the bulletin insert. Also, include how many will be attending the service?

We look forward to honoring your loved one on this special day.

All entries must be in by **November 30, 2025**

If you have any questions, please contact me at 540-972-9060 or [mike@lowchurch.org](mailto:mike@lowchurch.org)



## What is RISE????

Did you know that the Lake of the Woods Church sponsors a ministry for adults with special needs, providing fellowship and worship through song, prayer, and Bible study?

**It is RISE – Religious Instruction in Special Education.**

RISE meets every Thursday evening at the Church from 6 to 8 pm during the school year.

During that time, our Friends (adults with special needs) enjoy a dinner, followed by a game, craft, song, Bible lesson, and prayer. It is a fun-filled time for not just the Friends but also for the volunteers.

We also participate in activities such as gardening in our RISE garden and outside the Church, attending trips to see the Fredericksburg Nationals, bowling, plays, and other events of interest. In addition, our Friends serve as acolytes and sing special songs for the Church's congregation on occasion.

If you have an adult with special needs or wish to volunteer, please get in touch with Harry Lee (703-955-0387) or Margie Lee (703-409-3887) for further information. We would love to hear from you.

Debbie Christie



# Ministry Partner Spotlight:

## Serving Our Neighbors Through Home Helps & Mechanics Ministry

This month, we celebrate not one—but two powerful expressions of love in action. Our Ministry Partner of the Month shines on Home Helps and the Mechanics Ministry, two outreach efforts that meet real needs in our community with practical help and spiritual care.

### Home Helps Workdays: October 17–18

This fall marks a special milestone—for nearly two decades, this ministry has been a steady heartbeat of compassion, offering tangible care to neighbors in need. What began as a simple idea has grown into a legacy of service, thanks in large part to the faithful leadership of David Blackistone. His steady hand, servant heart, and tireless coordination have helped shape Home Helps into a ministry that reflects the love of Christ in every rake, repair, and relationship.

Twice a year, we roll up our sleeves and step into the lives of neighbors who need a helping hand with basic home maintenance. Whether due to financial hardship or physical limitations, many homeowners simply can't keep up with yardwork or repairs. That's where we come in.

On Friday and Saturday, October 17–18, volunteers of all ages will gather at the church, form teams, and head out to serve. Most projects involve fall cleanup and exterior yardwork—no construction experience needed. Skilled volunteers are assigned to any complex tasks, so everyone can contribute confidently.

Each team is equipped with tools, assigned a morning and/or afternoon project, and treated to lunch back at the church. It's a beautiful way to connect with fellow church members

and bless homeowners with small gifts and big encouragement.

Know someone who might need help? Submit a project request form at [www.lowchurch.org](http://www.lowchurch.org). Ready to serve? Sign up today—your hands could be the answer to someone's prayer.

### Mechanics Ministry: Repairing Cars, Restoring Hope

Launched in March 2023, the Mechanics Ministry is a dream realized—born from Eugene Slagle's vision to serve families burdened by rising costs and car troubles.

Each month from March through October, the team offers free light maintenance and minor repairs: oil changes, brake pad replacements, belt swaps, diagnostics, and more. But it's not just about fixing cars—it's about restoring dignity and sharing Christ's love.

The final service day of the season is Friday, October 11. If you or someone you know could benefit, don't wait—schedule a visit and let our team bless you with skilled hands and open hearts.

One unforgettable moment came on Easter Saturday, when volunteers repaired the vehicle of a homeless woman while others offered breakfast and prayer. She returned the next day—with two friends—to worship at our Resurrection Service. That's the power of compassion. That's the heart of outreach.

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## Join the Movement

Whether you're wielding a rake or a wrench, these ministries are tangible ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus. They remind us that service isn't just a task—it's a testimony.

Let's show our community that love lives here. Sign up, spread the word, and step into the story God is writing through Home Helps and the Mechanics Ministry.

### Prayer for Home Helps & Mechanics Ministries

Gracious God, you sent your Son among us as a servant, showing us the way of love through humble care. Bless the Home Helps and Mechanics Ministries, that as hands repair homes and maintain vehicles, hearts may be lifted, burdens eased, and neighbors strengthened. By your Spirit, let these works of service bear witness to Christ's compassion and draw many to the hope of your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Come Discover What God Is Doing at The Lake of the Woods Church

Are you new to The Lake of the Woods Church? Have you been attending for a while but want to learn more about what makes this community special? Or perhaps you're considering becoming a member and want to know what that means. If so, we invite you to join our upcoming Discovery Class, a welcoming and informative opportunity to take the next step in your faith journey.

The **Discovery Class** is a four-week class, meeting on Wednesday evenings beginning **October 8 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Charter Room, designed to give you an introduction to some of the things we believe are unique, wonderful, and exciting about The Lake of the Woods Church.

During this class, you'll hear about our history, our mission, and the values that shape everything we do. You'll also learn more about the mission, ministries, and opportunities available for you and your family, and how you can become connected in meaningful ways.

Encounter pastors, staff, and fellow participants who are exploring membership, with time for questions and reflection. Whether just curious or ready to join, this class is the best start. **Register online at [lowchurch.org/events](https://lowchurch.org/events).**

Come discover what God is doing at The Lake of the Woods Church—and how you can be part of it. We look forward to walking this journey of faith with you!





# Building a Safer, More Welcoming Church—Together

## An Update on Security Enhancements

We're excited to share a fresh update on our ongoing efforts to make our church a more welcoming, accessible, and safe place for everyone who walks through our doors.

Our current entry system has been difficult to manage, often causing access issues and lacking the user-friendly functionality we need. That's why, on September 29, 2025, we met with a contractor who specializes in integrated video surveillance and entry control systems designed specifically for churches. This marks the beginning of a multi-month journey to strengthen our security posture and increase situational awareness across our campus.

As we wrap up our initial upgrades focused on accessibility and hospitality, we're now increasing our attention toward safety. Within the next 30 days, we'll be transitioning to a new entry control system—saying goodbye to keypad codes and welcoming a smartphone-based access system. If you currently use a key code, we'll be reaching out to help you install the app and provide your activation code. Think of it like hotel room access or tap-to-pay technology: simple, secure, and smart.

We're also constructing a safety wall between the elevator and the Discovery Zone, with a remotely lockable door. The stairwell door to the youth area will receive the same upgrade. These two doors will be tied into the new entry control system, enhancing security for our children and youth spaces.

Our near-term goal is to equip all exterior doors

with automatic locking and unlocking capabilities, supported by upgraded control room equipment—allowing us to secure the building instantly with the push of a button.

In the event of a safety emergency, the Orange County Sheriff's Office will be electronically notified and granted live access to our camera feeds. This will help authorities respond quickly and effectively, with real-time insight into the situation.

We're aiming to have all this equipment installed and fully operational before Christmas. It's an ambitious timeline—but with God's help and your support, it's absolutely achievable.

We're also increasing the number of safety personnel, enhancing training, and expanding on-site coverage to ensure a consistent and visible safety presence.

Early next year, we plan to rapidly add 30 or more cameras to further improve our video surveillance.

Once the main church building upgrades are complete, we'll extend these improvements to the Living Water Outreach Center and the cabins—adding exterior lighting, cameras, and entry control systems.

We've had several people ask how they can support this initiative. If you'd like to help us achieve these ambitious goals, you can:

Volunteer for the safety team—women are serving as well as men. Even one hour a month makes a difference.

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Give directly to the “Safety Fund”. We’ve **recently** established a new Safety fund, so donations can be dedicated solely to that purpose. Every gift—large or small—helps us move forward with confidence and care.

Thank you for your prayers, your patience, and your partnership as we steward this space with wisdom and love. Together, we’re building a church that reflects the heart of Christ—not only in spirit, but in hospitality – and safety.

John R Gingrich  
Chairman, Board of Elders



**Friday, Oct. 17 &  
Saturday, Oct. 18**

Requests for assistance welcomed.

Sign up at [lowchurch.org](http://lowchurch.org)

Calendar for church activities for the next 90 days...See [lowchurch.org](http://lowchurch.org) for latest information

October	November	December
4 Women’s Ministry Luncheon	6 & 7 Christmas Bazaar Set up	5 Blue Ridge Chorale Concert 7pm
4 Lake of Woods Fall Festival	8&9 Christmas Bazaar	7 Christmas Festival
11 Mechanics’ Ministry 9am LWOC	20 Thanksgiving Basket Distribution	14 Congregational Meeting
13 OFFICE CLOSED	21 Living Water Community Clinic Gala	14 4 pm Day of Remembrance
17&18 Home Helps Work Days	24-26 Greening of the Church	19&20 Cantata 7 pm
17&18 SLUG Fest	26 NO Weds Night Family Activities	25 & 26 Office Closed Christmas
19 Scout’s Pancake Breakfast	27&28 Church Office Closed Thanksgiving	28 One Sunday Service 9:45 am
31 Trunk or Treat		

## Women's Ministry Event: "Connect & Refresh"

Forty-three women from our church gathered on Saturday, August 23, to enjoy coffee, tea, and muffins at an event titled "Connect & Refresh!" The Women's Ministry committee worked together to plan and orchestrate this time as an opportunity for ladies in our church to meet, greet, and fellowship together over tasty refreshments. Linda Green shared three scriptures that remind us of why it's so important to gather together as ladies:

Hebrews 10:24-25 – *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

Hebrews 3:13 – *"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."*

Romans 1:12 – *"that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."*

Next, the ladies met each other at their tables, answered some get-to-know-you questions, and shared stories and testimonies of God's goodness. We all enjoyed this special time to gather to "connect and be refreshed."

Our next event will be on Saturday, October 4, where we'll enjoy a delicious brunch together and be inspired by how God can use us in the "Seasons of our Lives."







## PACK A SHOEBOX!

Any questions, call:  
Linda Green 703-850-2157 or  
Debbie DeNicola 540-406-2112



samaritanspurse.org/occ

NEW! COLLECTION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/CCOLLECTIONS

**Help bring joy into a child's life and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by filling an Operation Christmas Child shoebox!**

**Boxes will be available in the Gathering Place beginning Sunday, October 26th, and must be returned to the church by Sunday, November 16th**



**Pancake Breakfast**  
**Sunday, Oct. 19**  
**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
**Join us after each**  
**Scout Sunday service!**



## October Birthdays

Aaron Aegan	Kathy Merritt
Allison Perdue	Kay Zello
Angela Neely	Kelly Dyer
Barbara Crawford	Ken Johnson
Beth Boshears	Kenneth Pounsberry
Beth Raust	Krista Breuninger
Blake Cameron	Lana Crist
Bob Keene	Laurie Knights
Bob McManis	Leslie Gage
Bonnie Chadwick	Linda Merrell
Catherine Fields	Lori Harbick
Charlotte Baker	Louie Saar
Chelsea Suche	Lynn Duley
Chris Minchin	Marly O'Hara
Dale Gunn	Mary Fulton
Danielle Turcola	Maverick Ritenaur
Dave Dietz	Melinda Wertz
David Kirkbride	Melissa Daymude
Debbie Risseuw	Melissa Wallace
Deborah Lee	Michael Brancato
Delores Adams	Michelle Lyons
Devon Weichel	Michelle Zello
Diane Rivenburg	Milbrey Bartholow
Elizabeth Fulghum	Nancy Moore
Ellen Ambroziak	Olin Greene
Eric Chinault	Patty Bell
Erin Slagle	Rachael Roberts
Eugene Slagle	Rebecca Malampy
Gail Smith	Rebecca Wheeler
Gerald Whitmore	Richard Wright
Gloria Heath	Robert Stone
Gregory Kutz	Roberta Klooster
Haley Lamb	Robin Riffe
Hannah Knights	Rodney Gustafson
Hugh Risseuw	Rodney Lackey
James Fargo	Sally Shope
JeKalyn Rowe	Selena Rave
Jessica Stewart	
John Eckman	
John Gingrich	
Joshua Sullivan	
Judith Hall	
Kathy Harkness	
Kathy Lewis	

## October Anniversaries

Alfredo & Daphne Klein  
 Andrew & Ruth Rayne  
 Chris & Ashley Rogers  
 Gary & Holly Schwartz  
 James & Belinda Divelbiss  
 Joe & Sandy Roth  
 John & Vicki Gingrich  
 Kevin & Kara Paxton  
 Marc & Helga Birdsong  
 Mark & Ana Lyon  
 Martin & Tina Sweet  
 Noah & Barbara Rakes  
 Peter & Gloria Taylor  
 Robert & Sally Shope  
 Thomas & Cheryl Phillips



Please pray for members of our church family who are ill, recovering, or grieving:

Heather Austin	Silvana Babikow
Patty Bell	Janet Bocook
Laurel Buongiavanni	Luanne Coffee
Lindsay Cole	Carl Cornwell
Millie Davis	Danny DeLongis
Jim Divelbiss	Nancy Doseff
Susan Dyer	John Eckman
Sandi Foutz	Steve Gaines
John Hines	Andres Idrovo
Olivia Knights	Carol Lee
Greg Leitz	David McCune
Herbert McKittrick	Lee & Nancy Moore
Ann Nadwodny	Tom & Lois Northam
Noah & Barbara Rakes	Selena Rave
John & Ann Sawyer	Bob & Ellen Schwartz
Shelly Seymour	Normajeane Solebello
Martha Somerville	Bobbie Stone
Beth Sundberg	Darrell Turner
Pat Watterworth	Clay Williams

*Bereavement ~ Family & Friends of  
 Henrick Thode - Service Sat, Oct 11th, 11a.m.*