

November 2025



Sr Pastor Colson details out the upcoming Advent Series schedule. *See Page 2*



See what the Church is doing to improve security. *See Page 4*

John Gingrich gives an update on the Church's search for a Youth Director. *See Page 5*



 LWCC Gala coming up. Read what the Gala means to clinic operations. *see page 6*

Interested in taking a spiritual road trip? The Church is organizing a trip in April with reservations opening in Nov. *See page 8*



Bud and Vera Moody stand in front of the newly named LWOC Boardroom

LWOC Boardroom named for Bud Moody

At the October Board of Elders meeting the Living Water Outreach Center's Boardroom was formerly named the Bud Moody Boardroom. Senior Pastor Adam Colson led the presentation:

"Tonight, we honor a servant leader and a dear friend—Mr. Bud Moody. As chairman of our Board, Bud led us through seasons that tested our faith and sharpened our resolve—pastoral transitions, difficult staff challenges, and even legal complexities. Through it all, Bud never flinched. He prayed first, listened deeply, chose his words carefully, chose my words carefully and kept us anchored to Christ and to one another. Under his steady hand, we also celebrated great joy—the opening of our Dental Clinic, and⁸ Community Outreach Center, a tangible witness that "faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6) changes lives.

Bud has never served alone. His wife has stood beside him with grace and courage—encouraging, praying, and sharing the load. Together they have

From our Senior Pastor

Advent Series: “A Christmas Carol – The Chains That Bind Us”



Rev. Adam Colson

This Advent season, The Lake of the Woods Church invites you on a powerful spiritual journey inspired by Charles Dickens’ beloved classic *A Christmas Carol*. Through this series, we’ll explore how the message of redemption woven through Dickens’ story mirrors the Gospel message; “Christ came to set the captives free”.

Each week we’ll look at the chains and chests we carry through life, chains of guilt, fear, and regret, and the heavy chests filled with materialism, pride, or pain. Just as Ebenezer Scrooge faced his past, present, and future, we too will be invited to encounter the transforming power of Christ, who alone can break every chain and make us new.

This Advent journey ties beautifully into our ongoing study through the Book of Exodus: God’s Epic Redemption Story serving as a reminder that the same God who set His people free from bondage in Egypt still offers freedom to all who call upon His name.

Christmas on the Big Screen

To help set the tone for this meaningful season, the Outreach Theater will host **two special showings of *A Christmas Carol***—the timeless black-and-white classic and a **family-friendly adaptation** perfect for all ages. Join us for these community events leading up to Christmas, complete with

concessions, popcorn, hot cocoa, and festive treats. Bring your friends and neighbors to experience the heartwarming story that continues to point hearts toward hope and redemption.

Christmas Festival – Sunday, December 7th

Mark your calendars for one of the highlights of the season! The church will once again host its **Annual Christmas Festival on Sunday, December 7th**, after the 11:00 service featuring something for the whole family:

- Ice **Skating Rink**
- **Christmas Train Ride**
- Fun **Activities, Games, and Rides**
- A **Walk Through Bethlehem** experience
- **Petting Zoo**
- **Lunch** and Christmas treats
- A joyful **Carol Sing with Lessons**
- A **dramatic reading of Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol***

This festival is a beautiful opportunity to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to experience the wonder of Christmas and the message of God’s love in a festive, family-friendly atmosphere.

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The Lake of the Woods Church
1 Church Lane
Locust Grove, VA 22508
Telephone 540-972-9060

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Christmas Eve Services – A Night of Light and Wonder

Join us for one of our four Christmas Eve candlelight services as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with Scripture, song, and communion.

- **5:00 PM** – Family Candlelight Service in the Worship Center
- **7:00 PM** – Traditional Service with Communion and Candlelight in the Sanctuary (overflow in Worship Center)
- **9:00 PM** – Traditional Service with Communion and Candlelight in the Sanctuary
- **11:00PM** – Midnight Service – Traditional Service with Communion and Candlelight in the Sanctuary

Together, we'll lift our voices in carols and celebrate the miracle of Immanuel—God with us.

Sunday, December 28th – One Combined Service

The Sunday after Christmas, we'll gather as one family of faith for a **single combined worship service in the Sanctuary**. Let us come together to give thanks for all God has done in 2025 and look ahead with hope to the New Year.

This Christmas season may each of us (like Scrooge on that Christmas morning) awaken to the transforming joy of Christ's love and the freedom that comes when He breaks every chain.

In Christ Love,



Bud Moody Boardroom

Continued from page 1

embodied the truth of Ecclesiastes 4:9, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil."

When I think of Bud, I hear the apostle Paul's words: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you... because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3–5). And I believe this promise rests on him as well: "God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people" (Hebrews 6:10).

Bud, you have been a chairman, a counselor, a peacemaker, and—for me—a cherished friend. Your friendship has been a gift: steady, honest, prayerful. You have taught me that courageous leadership and tenderhearted faith can live in the same soul.

Therefore, it is our joy tonight to name this space The Bud Moody Board Room—a place where wisdom is sought, integrity is practiced, and the mission of Jesus advances. May all who meet here remember your example and follow the One you follow."



Safety Enhancements Project: November Update

As we step into November, the Safety Enhancements Project is gaining serious momentum—bringing not only visible upgrades but also a deeper sense of peace and protection to our church family. Spearheaded by the Safety Enhancement Team, this multi-phase initiative is transforming our campus into a safer, smarter, and more connected place for worship, fellowship, and outreach.

Phase 1: Foundations of Safety

This phase lays the groundwork for centralized access control and camera management. Key upgrades include:

- After-hours access using a smartphone app.
- A new control room computer and dedicated emergency phone line.
- The ability to remotely lock all exterior entrance doors simultaneously in case of emergency.
- Enhanced individual access tracking and event-based door scheduling.
- Integration of 17 existing cameras into a unified system.
- Collaboration with Lake of the Woods Association Security for live external camera access and conditional internal access during emergencies.

Major Milestone: We have partnered with the Orange County Sheriff's Office to enable secure, on-demand camera access during 911 calls—bringing law enforcement closer and faster when it matters most.

Discovery Zone Safety Wall: Construction Begins!

One of the most exciting upgrades is the Discovery Zone Safety Wall, which began

Thursday, October 30th with completion by mid-November. This wall will:

- Safeguard our children with wave-activated access control.
- Feature electric strike hardware, a smart doorbell, and integrated camera systems.
- Be built by Turning Point Construction, LLC, with support from Professional Lock & Key Services and All System Integrator.

Goal: Complete Phase 1 by early December 2025.

Sub-phase 1A will follow, focusing on the Living Water Outreach Center, integrating door locks and cameras for enhanced security.

Phase 2: Expanding Coverage

Phase 2 takes our safety systems even further:

- Install up to 30 additional cameras.
- Expanded Wi-Fi coverage to the upper parking lot and lower parking lot including the playground.
- Upgrade the remaining exterior doors to have the ability to remotely lock simultaneously in case of emergency.

Sub-phase 2A brings similar upgrades to the cabins, plus Wi-Fi enhancements to support both safety and ministry flexibility.

Thank You for Building a Safer Church

Your prayers, encouragement, and support are making this transformation possible. Together, we are creating a safer, more connected church home—one faithful step at a time

Discovery Zone Security Wall



Discovery Zone Security Wall being Framed
View is from Elevator into the Discovery Zone

Day of Remembrance

Our Annual Day of Remembrance will be Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This will be a candlelight service for those who have lost a loved one during the past five years.



Youth Ministry Director Search Update

As many of you know, we've been actively searching for a Youth Ministry Director for the past 14 months—a process I initially expected to take just a few. What we've encountered instead is a nationwide shortage of pastors and ministry leaders.

Despite these obstacles, we've remained diligent. We've posted the position on Christian university job boards and invested in paid listings on three major platforms. Over 100 resumes have come in. From those, we contacted about 10 candidates, interviewed 5, and welcomed 4 to visit our church. While each brought unique gifts, none proved to be the right fit for our congregation and ministry vision.

In the meantime, we've expanded the Ministry Assistant role from part-time to full-time to ensure support for our youth ministry. We are still prayerful and committed to finding the person God is calling to lead and disciple our youth.

Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement as we seek God's guidance in this important search.

John R Gingrich
Chairman, Board of Elders

Mission Partner for November Living Water Community Clinic

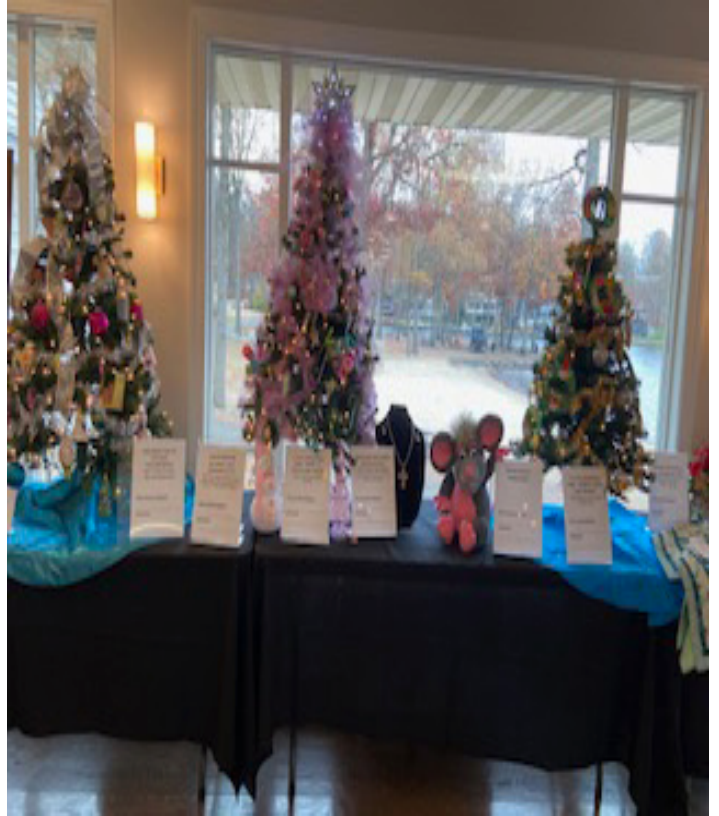
The Living Water Community Clinic will celebrate its tenth anniversary of serving our community on May 28, 2026. A substantial amount of planning and preparation was undertaken prior to opening the doors, and the first major fundraiser, the Trees of Life GALA, took place on November 20, 2015. The proceeds from this GALA helped to provide the resources needed to open the Clinic. Although the GALA was held several months before the actual opening of the Clinic, the vision was set, the plans were finalized, and anticipation was building for the opening of a free medical clinic.

The GALA has been held every year since, and over the years, the annual GALA Fundraiser has grown in terms of numbers, types of auction items, donations, and sponsorships. The Living Water Community Clinic, a mission of The Lake of the Woods Church, has proven to be a beacon of hope to the community patients we serve – more than 2,000 patients since opening our doors.

The first GALA netted over \$8,000. Much has changed over the years as the Clinic has grown in patients, programs, and resources. The 10th Annual Trees of Life GALA Fundraiser, held last year, raised over \$44,000, thanks to many generous donors. This contributed to the critical care of patients, including medications and diagnostic tests, as well as addressing the dental needs of patients who had not seen a dentist in years.

The Annual Trees of Life GALA serves not only as the Clinic's annual fundraiser but also provides the community and donors with updates on the Clinic's progress and how their contributions have positively impacted lives, offering physical, dental, mental, and spiritual care.

We look forward to this year's Annual Trees of Life GALA to be held on November 21, 2025 and sharing more. Our theme this year is "A Decade of Living Water."



Gala Silent Auction Items

Prayer for Living Water Clinic

Lord God, you commissioned us to heal the sick, and bind up the broken-hearted; we give you thanks for the Living Water Community Clinics, which bring medical, dental, emotional, and spiritual care to the uninsured in our community. Thank you for your faithful servants who provide this ministry each week. We pray that all who visit will experience your love, peace, and comfort through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Harvest Hope This Thanksgiving: Join the Mission

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion..." — 2 Corinthians 9:11

Each year, our church family comes together to share the love of Christ through Thanksgiving Baskets—overflowing with all the essentials for a warm holiday meal and a message of hope. It's a cherished tradition that reminds us: when we give, we reflect the heart of our generous God.

This year, we're excited to extend that love even further. Some of our baskets will bless families connected to the Living Water Community Clinic and Beauty for Ashes—two of our cherished mission partners. And thanks to a new partnership with the Lion's Club, every basket will include a turkey, generously provided.

Here's how you can help:

- **Donate:** Bring any of the holiday items listed and place them in the receptacle in the Gathering Place or if you prefer to donate cash put "Thanksgiving Basket" in the check memo line.
- **Deadline:** All donations are needed by **November 17** as we prepare 30 baskets for distribution.

Let's make this more than a meal. Let's make it a testimony of God's provision and our shared calling to serve.



**LIVING WATER
COMMUNITY CLINIC**
Helping to Build a Healthier Community
Clinical | Dental | Mental | Spiritual

Annual Trees of Life Gala Fundraiser
A Decade of Living Water

NOVEMBER 21, 2025, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



Lake of the Woods Clubhouse
Limited Seating - 120 Seats
Ticket sales begin OCTOBER 2
Tickets \$100

GALA INCLUDES PROGRAM,
RECEPTION, DINNER AND LIVE AUCTION

Visit livingwaterclinic.life for tickets.



Faith, Fellowship & Fresh Revelation — Join Us April 22, 2026!

We're hitting the road for a one-day spiritual adventure—and you're invited.

On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, our church family will journey together for a day filled with powerful encounters, joyful fellowship, and unforgettable moments. This isn't just a trip—it's a chance to grow deeper in faith and closer in community.

Trip Highlights:

The Tabernacle Experience

Step into the story of Exodus with a life-size replica of the biblical tabernacle. This immersive walk-through brings Scripture to life in a way that's visual, tangible, and deeply moving.

Lunch at Dienner's Country Restaurant

Enjoy a delicious buffet and rich conversation with fellow believers. There's something sacred about sharing a meal—and this one promises to nourish both body and soul.

Sight & Sound Theatres: Joshua

Experience the drama, courage, and faith of Joshua in a stunning live performance. With breathtaking visuals and a message of obedience and trust, this show will stir your heart and renew your spirit.

Travel Details

- Departure: 6:30 AM from Lake of the Woods Church
- Return: Approx. 10:30 PM
- Charter Bus Amenities: Wi-Fi, restroom, air conditioning
- Total Cost: \$200 (cash) or \$206 (credit)
- Payment Plan Available: \$50/month (cash or check) or \$52/month (credit card) from January through April 2026
- How to Sign Up
Registration
- **Online registration opens November 10, 2025, visit the church website: lowchurch.org**

- **In-person sign-ups begin on Sunday, November 16, 2025, in the Gathering Place.**

We're planning for 50 participants and have locked in tickets. If interest exceeds capacity, we'll explore a second trip—so don't wait!

Let's step into this adventure together—growing in faith, building relationships, and encountering God in fresh and powerful ways.

"Then the whole congregation of the Israelites assembled at Shiloh and set up the Tent of Meeting there. The land was subdued before them." – **Joshua 18:1 (NRSV)**



Message from our Treasurer

On October 31st, we emailed Year-to-Date contribution statements to anyone for whom we have a valid email address associated with their contributions. The email will come from treasurer@lowchurch.org. If you don't receive one but would like one, contact treasurer@lowchurch.org and ask to be put on the email report list. 2025 Annual Statements will be sent in late January 2026.

Calendar for church activities for the next 90 days...See lowchurch.org for latest information

November

6&7 Christmas Bazaar Set up
 8&9 Christmas Bazaar
 11 OFFICE CLOSED
 Veterans Day
 20 Thanksgiving Basket
 Distribution
 21 Living Water
 Community Clinic Gala
 24-26 Greening of the Church
 26 NO Weds Night Family
 Activities
 27&28 Church Office Closed
 Thanksgiving

December

5 Blue Ridge Chorale
 Concert 7pm
 7 Christmas Festival
 14 Congregational Meeting
 14 4 pm Day of
 Remembrance
 19&20 Cantata 7 pm
 25 & 26 Office Closed
 Christmas
 28 One Sunday Service
 9:45 am

January

1 OFFICE CLOSED
 New Year's Day
 6 Life Line Screening
 15 Women's Gathering

Women's Ministry Fall Brunch



Ninety-seven ladies joined us for the Women's Ministry Fall Brunch on October 4th. The theme, "Seasons of Our Lives," was inspired by **Jeremiah 29:11**: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

We were truly blessed by the heartfelt messages from our three speakers—Sarah Schilling, Beth Richards, and Gloria Whitmore—each sharing how God is working in their current season of life.

In addition to the inspiring testimonies, attendees learned about ten church activities available to them and had the opportunity to sign up. Three of these offerings—Christian Book Club, Prayer Walking Group, and Exercise & Wellness Class—were created in direct response to feedback from our Spring Luncheon.

Even though it is October, we have begun planning events for 2026. Ladies, you will want to **save the date** for our next Women's Ministry event—**February 21!** We'll be offering

two creative class options: painting and floral arranging, both led by talented members of our church family. There will be a small fee for each class to help cover supplies. Space will be limited, and registration will be required, so be sure to sign up early to reserve your spot. **Registration will begin in January.**



Featured Speaker Sarah Schilling



Christmas Bazaar

Nov. 8 / 9am-4pm
Nov. 9 / 9am-1pm



PACK A SHOEBOX!

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



samaritanspurse.org/occ

VIEW COLLECTION EXCLUSIVE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/EXCLUSIVE

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



Annual CONGREGATIONAL Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 14
12:15 p.m. - Worship Center

If you won't be attending in person, please remember to return your ballot to the office either in person or by mail to pass the 2026 budget for the church.



The Lake of the Woods Church

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Sunday, Dec. 7 | 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Free Hot Dog Lunch | Ice Skating | Petting Zoo
 Bouncy Houses | Inflatable Maze
 "Little Bethlehem" for kids

November Birthdays

John Bell	Richard Millman
Carrie Bernd	Rita Millman
Paul Bernd	Jordan Moore
Harry Biggs	Troy Moore
Tom Browne	Dominic Naples
Judy Brownlow	Anna Nellis
Laurel Buongiovanni	Donna Nettleton
Carl Coffee	Chris Nicholson
Jack Crozier	Lois Northam
Dorothy Cunningham	Barbara Norton
Malia Dates	Linda Oliver
Josephine Davis	Shirley Palmer
Kelly Deane	Kara Paxton
Charles DeLeon	Cindy Prol
Jacob Dement	Andrew Rayne
Paul DeNicola	Allison Richards
James Divelbiss	Janet Richards
Evelyn Dixon	Jason Richard
Linda Donahue	Steve Roberts
Tonya Dorton	Chris Rogers
Sonja Edwards	Joe Roth
Ryleigh Fletcher	Robbie Royce
Mitch Fournet	Ralph Rupard
Eric Fox	Ramin Sargis
JoAnn Fox	Tamara Sherman
Ruth Fraser	Jenni Shirk
Daphne Gaines	Janet Skidmore
Lynn Gardiner	Dale Smith
Elizabeth Garland	David Smith
Katherine Gazzetta	Darrow Strain
Susan Gill	Ed Suche
Coby Gilyard	Jennifer Taylor
Vicki Gingrich	Ruth Taylor
William Glidden	Douglas Thompson
Nicole Greenan	Geoffrey Tiblin
Vicki Greenan	Leeah Tidman
Melvin Hall	Krista Ulman
Roland Hamilton	Ben Van Der Vliet
Devin Jackson	Constance Volkstadt
Dezaray Jackson	Ann Walker
Dolores Johansmeyer	Elizabeth Wiley
Beverly Jones	Janine Wilson
Andrea Leon	
Terence Maple	
Christie McClave	
Walker Merryman	

November Anniversaries

Steve & Gail Atkinson
Jim & Laurel Buongiovanni
Robert & Claire Chapman
Tom & Betty Collins
Tony & Tracey DeMarco
Paul & Debbie DeNicola
Mark & Carla Everhart
Philip & Betty Herron
Noah & Terry Hoffman
Jordan & Lisa Medas
Richard & Rita Millman
Christopher & Emmy Robertson
Robert & Ellen Schwartz
Deryl & Shirley Scott
Mark & Kathy Strickler
Tom & Ann Tower
Gerald & Gloria Whitmore



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

Heather Austin	Silvana Babikow
Janet Bocook	Laurel Buongiovanni
Luanne Coffee	Lindsay Cole
Carl Cornwell	Millie Davis
Danny DeLongis	Jim Divelbiss
Nancy Doseff	Susan Dyer
John Eckman	Steve Gaines
Phil Harris	John Hines
Andres Idrovo	Olivia Knights
Carol Lee	David McCune
Herbert McKittrick	Lee & Nancy Moore
Ann Nadwodny	Tom & Lois Northam
Barbara Rakes	Selena Rave J
ohn & Ann Sawyer	Bob & EllenSchwartz Shelly
Seymour	Normajean Solebello
Martha Somerville	Bobbie Stone
Beth Sundberg	Darrell Turner
Pat Watterworth	Clay Williams

Grieving Family & Friends of Noak Rakes
(Celebration of Life ~ Date TBD)