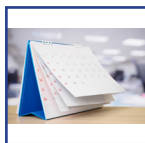


December 2025



Sr. Pastor Colson looks to the year ahead and the wonderful opportunities that God has for our Church. see page 2.



John Gingrich, Chairman, BOE, reflects on God's Faithfulness demonstrated throughout the year. see page 4



Our Mission Partner of the Month is Beauty for Ashes Home. Learn about the history and our Church's support role. See page 6



This Year's Hallow Him Trunk or Treat was a great success. See the creativity of our members that prepared their vehicles for the children. See page 8



Volunteers make all the difference! See our volunteers in action during the Christmas Bazaar. see page 10



Christmas Bazaar Raises \$17,000 for our Youth

The annual Church Christmas Bazaar has once again proven that the spirit of giving and community is alive and well. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, this year's event raised over \$17,000 to support church youth programs. These vital funds will enable us to continue providing meaningful mission training and activities throughout next year.

Volunteers: The Heart of Our Success

The Christmas Bazaar would simply not be possible without our incredible volunteers. Over 100 members of our congregation—representing more than one third of our active membership—dedicate their time, energy, and creativity to make the event a success. Their involvement demonstrates the power of collective effort and the joy that comes from serving together.

Year-Round Commitment

Volunteer activities go far beyond the day of the bazaar. Each week throughout the year, teams gather to craft beautiful items that are sold at the event. Many

From our Senior Pastor

Beloved Church Family,



Rev. Adam Colson

As we turn the final page of the 2025 calendar, our hearts naturally begin to look ahead. December has always been a season of expectation. Advent teaches us to wait, watch, and prepare, and as a church, we sense the Holy Spirit inviting us to do the same as we enter a new year of ministry.

A Year for Deepening Discipleship:

The word disciple comes from the Latin *discipulus*, meaning “learner” or “student.” To be a disciple is not simply to believe in Jesus but to learn from Him, to follow Him, to be shaped by Him. Jesus said, “Come, follow Me” (Matthew 4:19), a call that is active and ongoing. In the year ahead, we want to recommit ourselves as a church to intentional discipleship. Bible studies, Sunday School classes, mentoring, chaplaincy training, youth and children’s ministries, and small groups—these are not merely programs; they are pathways for spiritual formation.

Dallas Willard said, “Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if He were you.” That is our heart for every believer in our fellowship: to become more like Christ in the ordinary rhythms of life.

A Year for Sharing the Gospel with the Unreached:

Good news is meant to be shared. Jesus’ Great Commission still echoes: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). As we look to 2026, the mission field remains both global and local:

- The Navajo Nation outreach
- Our Free Medical & Dental Clinics
- Bible Clubs in our public schools
- Chaplaincy ministries
- Adult special needs ministry
- Home Helps and Mechanics ministries
- Foster care and homeless outreach

Every meal delivered, every prayer offered, every act of kindness is a seed of the gospel.

C. T. Studd once wrote, “Only one life, ’twill soon be past; only what’s done for Christ will last.” This coming year, may the Lord use us to reach those who have yet to hear the hope of Christ.

A Year for Establishing People in the Local Church:

The early church understood that faith flourished in community. The Greek word for church, *ekklesia*, means “the called-out ones”—a people gathered by God for worship, fellowship, and mission. Our mission is not only to reach people but to root people. Paul wrote, “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him...” (Colossians 2:6–7). In the new year, we will continue to strengthen:



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View online at www.lowchurch.org

- New Member Connections
- Family ministries
- Pastoral care and chaplaincy
- Outreach follow-up
- Discipleship pathways for every age

We want every person who walks through our doors to find a place to belong, to grow, and to serve.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminded us, “The church is only the church when it exists for others.” This is the heart of our mission—to be a community where Christ is formed in us and shared through us.

A Year Anchored in Christ:

As we celebrate Advent, Christmas, and the hope of the Incarnation, we remember the words of Isaiah: “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.” — Isaiah 9:2. That same light still shines, and we are called to carry it into the new year.

May 2026 be the year where:

- Believers grow in deep discipleship
- The unreached hear the gospel
- Our community finds a home in the local church
- And all of us become, in greater measure, the hands and feet of Jesus.

Thank you for being a faithful and generous church. Thank you for serving, giving, praying, and loving well. The Lord has done great things, and He still desires to do “exceedingly abundantly above all we can EVER ask or think.” Amen!

With hope and gratitude,



Pastor Adam Colson
Senior Pastor
The Lake of the Woods Church



Board of Elders

Reflecting on God's Faithfulness in 2025

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 107:1

As we close out the Thanksgiving season and enter the Advent season, we pause to give thanks for all that God has done in and through our church family. There is so much to be thankful for as the Lord unites us in oneness with Him and with each other. Was everything perfect from our standpoint? No—far from it. But when we think this way, do we overlook the sovereignty of God? For He works all things for good for those who are called according to His purpose.

So, let us turn our attention to the good He has provided. From vibrant worship gatherings to life-changing discipleship moments; from meaningful youth activities such as Kingdom Builders to impactful children's ministries such as Vacation Bible School and Good News Clubs; from purposeful community outreach such as RISE, Stuff the Bus, Thanksgiving Baskets, Home Helps, and the Mechanic Ministry—just to name a few—to engaging mission trips to Maine and Good News Camp in Navajo Nation; from solid biblical preaching to active Home Groups and women's and men's ministries focused on His Word. We could fill pages listing His blessings and how He is using us as His hands and feet. For sure, this year has been marked by His grace and provision.

Above all, we deeply appreciate the countless volunteers who have responded to the call to serve, along with our staff members who go above and beyond in their commitment to the mission. Your prayers, service, and generosity have made a difference each time the church are open or when you are on mission outside the walls. Together, we have seen lives transformed, new ministries launched, and deeper connections formed. Truly,

God has been faithful!

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." — Lamentations 3:22–23

Looking Ahead: Vision for 2026

As we seek Him in all things, let us commit to improving our walk of faith and focus on His righteousness as we strive to better understand His Word, increase our outreach, and love as He loves—so that others may know we are His followers. Doing so will make 2026 a year of growth, outreach, and discipleship. Building on our goals for 2025, let us increase our focus on implementing more fully T.E.A.M.S.:

Teaching God's Word:

From individual quiet time to Home Groups and Bible studies—each opportunity should faithfully divide God's Word.

Evangelism in Our Local Community:

Reaching more families and individuals in the lake area, along Route 3, and along Route 20 with the hope of Christ.

Arts:

Creatively using our God-given gifts to glorify Him in how we worship individually and collectively.

Missions:

Equipping ourselves and fellow believers to grow in faith and live out the mission.

Surrounding:

Strengthening each other to grow in oneness with the Father and with the Son—and with one another.

Let us think big as we focus on our walk of faith, trusting God for even greater impact in the

year ahead as we commit our way to Him.

“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” — Proverbs 16:3

Moving forward together,

John R. Gingrich
Chairman, Board of Elders



Sr. Pastor Colson dedicates the new Prayer Chapel which is located immediately to the right as you enter through the Admin Door.

LWCC Gala

The Living Water Community Clinic’s annual fundraising Gala at the Lake of the Woods Club House was an exhilarating event! It was a special night to celebrate and thank the dedicated staff, providers, and volunteers whose efforts enable the clinic to deliver vital medical, dental, and counseling services to the uninsured and underinsured in our community.

The evening was packed with exciting auction items, including stunning art and crafts crafted by local Lake of the Woods artisans, beautifully decorated themed Christmas trees, and exclusive trips to nearby attractions, all available for bidding.

As a key mission of our Church, the Gala drew a lively crowd of Church members, and we were thrilled that the event was completely sold out. Thanks to generous donations and spirited bidding, we raised over \$40,000 to **support and expand clinic operations.**



Sr. Pastor Colson spoke on the history and spiritual foundation of the Living Water Clinic.

Mission Partner for December Beauty for Ashes Home

Restoring Hope: Beauty for Ashes Home

Beauty for Ashes is a women's and children's home in Fredericksburg. It provides a 9–18-month residential program where both mother and child stay together as the mother is restored from their life-controlling situation.

It was founded by Mike and Cindy Zello, Founders of Adult and Teen Challenge of Virginia, to minister to women who avoided traditional available support because it meant being separated from their children.

The home provides a Christian faith-based curriculum that includes life skills training, continuing education for the mothers, grade school education for the children, and healthcare and childcare. The goal is to equip the family to transition to independent living successfully.

It recognizes that each resident is unique, and the program is tailored to meet their individual needs. It is not a one-size-fits-all program and meets each individual where they are. They believe this is one of their keys to success. Over the past ten years the home has been open, they have helped over 70 families including 14 pregnant women. Many of these families have transitioned into the local area.

The property for the home was acquired in 2013, dedicated in 2015, and opened in 2016. LOW Church has been a supporter of the home since its inception. Currently, eight church members are family sponsors, and a group of men regularly mow the 20 acres of grass on the property. They are always looking for additional volunteers and you

can go to the church website, lowchurch.org, if you are interested.

You can learn more about Beauty for Ashes by going to their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BeautyForAshesWomensAndChildrensHome>

Prayer for Beauty for Ashes

Blessed Lord, your compassion touched all who came to you. We pray for those in the Fredericksburg and Richmond areas who have lost their health and freedom through addiction. In particular, we ask you to bless the ministries of Teen Challenge and Mike and Cindy Zello as they reach out to the hurting, in Jesus' name. Amen



Operation Christmas Child

Our 2025 Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection was a tremendous success! During the four-week collection period, we received back a total of 285 boxes filled with love, prayers, and many fun gifts for children.

On Monday, November 17, Pastors Colson and Medas, along with many of our church staff, prayed over these boxes, asking the Lord to sovereignly protect and deliver each one to the child He has in mind. They also prayed that the gospel would be received and continue to go forth.

Debbie DeNicola and Linda Green then delivered all the boxes to our local collection drop-off site, where they were joyfully received and prayed over again. Next, they will be taken to the distribution center, where gospel booklets will be added, and the boxes will be shipped to locations around the world.

Thank you to our pastors for supporting this meaningful ministry, and to each of you who lovingly packed a shoebox! We trust that the Lord will use these to impact many lives with the Good News of Jesus Christ!



Thanksgiving Meal Distribution

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

Thanks to your generosity the Church was able to distribute 30 Turkey's with all the trimmings to needy families in the community.



Living Water Outreach Center Basket Assembly Team



Hallow Him - 2025 !

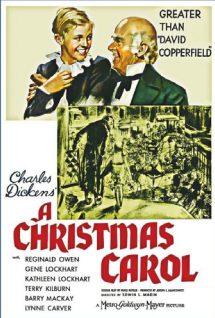


Hallow Him Trunk or Treat 2025 was a great success, thanks to the donations of candy and over 14 “Trunks” decorated for the occasion. Approximately 200 kids visited the church, going from trunk to trunk where they received candy, children’s Bible tracks, and information about the church and youth programs for their parents.



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

December		January		February	
5	Blue Ridge Chorale Concert 7pm	1	OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Day	1-8 Mission Week	
7	Christmas Festival	6	Life Line Screening	14-15 Winter Mission Retreat	
12	Movie Night LWOC 5:30pm	15	Women's Gathering	16	Presidents' Day Office Closed
14	Congregational Meeting	19	Martin Luther King Day Office Closed	21	Women's Ministry Event
14	4 pm Day of Remembrance			24	5pm Sewing Class
19&20	Cantata 7 pm				
25 & 26	Office Closed Christmas				
28	One Sunday Service 9:45 am				




Movie Night

December 12th / 5:30 PM
Living Water Outreach Center

Popcorn & refreshments
provided

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.



Christmas Eve @ LOWE

We can't wait to celebrate with you the birth of Jesus Christ!

5 p.m. - Worship Center
7 p.m. / 9 p.m. / 11 p.m. - Sanctuary



Cross Currents is published monthly. Comments, suggestions, interests in helping with content should be directed to:

Elder of Communications
email: elder.comm@lowc.org



Christmas Bazaar 2025



Volunteers Make the Difference
Thank You!



The Annual Congregational Meeting agenda and ballots have been mailed, and all church members should have received them by now.

If you are unable to attend the Congregational Meeting on December 14 at 12:15pm, we ask that you complete the ballot and return it to the church before the meeting.

A ballot box is available in the Narthex for you to deposit your completed ballots.

If you have any questions, please contact the Church office or any Church Elder.

**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.

Continued from page 1

volunteers generously offer space in their homes to store finished crafts and donated merchandise, demonstrating true hospitality and commitment.

Transforming Our Church for the Community

For bazaar day, volunteers come together to transform our church facility into a bustling retail store, complete with festive décor and inviting displays. In just two days transportation crews retrieve stored merchandise from homes throughout the Lake, setup crew works swiftly and skillfully, creating an appealing environment for guests.

During the event, volunteers assist with sales, greet and help shoppers, and provide a warm welcome to everyone who attends. After the bazaar concludes, another group steps in to tear everything down and restore our church to its usual state.

Connecting with the Community

The Christmas Bazaar is more than a fundraiser—it's an opportunity to open our doors to the wider community. Each year, hundreds of visitors experience our church's welcoming spirit and see firsthand the love and teamwork that make our congregation special. The event helps to strengthen our ties with neighbors, introduce new families to our programs, and showcase the many ways our church serves others.

A Heartfelt Thank You

We extend our deepest gratitude to every volunteer who made this year's Christmas Bazaar possible. Your generosity, creativity, and dedication not only help fund youth programs, but also build a stronger, more connected church family. Thank you for making a difference and sharing the true meaning of Christmas with our community!

December Birthdays

Jamie Allen	Heather Naples
Judith Ayers	Susan Noons
Marianne Brancato	Vibeke Ober
Anna Bledsoe	
Wendy Boheim	Adam Pellegreen
Arianna Colson	Jeanne Porter
Lindsay Cole	Linda Rupard
Joshua Cooper	Emmy Robertson
Laura Covill	Briana Ryan
Maurizio Carannante	Jennifer Robinson
Betty Collins	Sally Reder
Gene Daly	Rachel Riley
Tracey DeMarco	Jennifer Rodas
Steve Dement	Thomas Schafer
Gary Duley	Gladys Southern
Christina Driskill	Joan Schafer
Denise Diaz	Brogan Smith
Alexis Falcetti	Alex Salustri
Sally Goodrich	Holly Schwartz
David Goodrich	Mia Smith
Sharon Griczin	Martin Sweet
Warren Hamblet	Oswald Smith
James Hopkins	Cindy Sussinger
John Hardy	Julia Sutter
Robert Haring	Christine Scheick
Meadow Harrell	Robert Schwartz
Jackie Hill	Baaba Safoh
Laura Handy	Kathy Strickler
Jill Johnson	Dwight Squires
Anna Jockin	Edward Taylor
Jennifer Lovell	Darrell Turner
Kelly Labus	R. Thompson
Stone Leighty	Jaxon Vaught
Cary McMahon	Linda Vranken
Joe McFadden	Susan White
Christopher Mitchell	Tracey Williams
Taylor Martin	Marsha Wood
Janice Mackes	Jeff Woosley
Janice Mincey	Kassadie Wright
Vanessa Morris	Erlinda Wight
Mark Manelli	Emerson Watson
Daniel McGee	Victoria Zywiak
Rosemary Mills	Thomas Zeitler
Cheryl Morey	

December Anniversaries

George & Diane Blackwell
Eddie & Vicki Greenan
Robert & Joyce Haring
Roland & Janite Hamilton
Warren & Antionette Hamblet
Frank & Stacy Kalder
Gregory & Christine Leitz
Terence & Mary Maple
Byron & Angela Pennington
Joe & Jody Puckett
Ted & Kimberly Proper
Robbie & Randy Royce
Scott & Shannon Smith
Shawn & Jessica Stewart
Douglas & Denise Thompson
Ray & Toni White
Richard & Monique Wright



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

Hank Altman	Heather Austin
Silvana Babikow	Janet Bocook
Laurel Buongiavanni	Luanne Coffee
Lindsay Cole	Carl Cornwell
Millie Davis	Danny DeLongis
Jim Divelbiss	Nancy Doseff
Susan Dyer	John Eckman
Warren Gage	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
John & Ann Sawyer	Bob & Ellen Schwartz
Shelly Seymour	Normajean Solebello
Martha Somerville	Bobbie Stone
Beth Sundberg	Darrell Turner
Pat Watterworth	Clay Williams