

CROSS CURRENTS

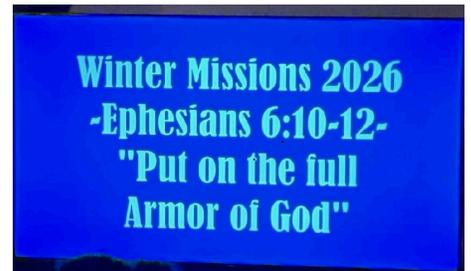
March 2026



WINTER MISSION YOUTH RETREAT

The theme of this year's annual LOWC Youth Group Winter Missions Retreat was "The Full Armor of God." From Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, February 13-15, about 32 youth and 15 leaders met at Camp Red Arrow in nearby Stevensburg to begin preparing their hearts and minds for LOWC summer missions' programs.

Pastor Jordan Medas taught messages each day and evening to instruct and encourage the teens about using the 6 pieces of God's given armor to battle the forces of the world and protect themselves as they go on mission this summer to share the loving Gospel of Salvation.



Several young adults who graduated from the youth group in recent years returned to teach teens how to share the Gospel with young children and to guide children in deciding to profess their faith in Jesus Christ. Another returning young adult, Enya Lucas, led the teens in Worship.

During the weekend, five teams of youth studied God's Word, ate, and played together to prepare for Kingdom Builders in late May, where they will commit

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Sr. Pastor Colson reviews the Holy Week Church Schedule. See page 2



The Board answers questions they have received from the congregation. See page 4



Brisben Center in Fredericksburg is our Mission Partner for the Month. See page 6



It was a busy month for our Scouts. Read all about their activities

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From our Senior Pastor: HOLY WEEK

Holy Week at Lake of the Woods Church March 29 – April 5



Rev. Adam Colson

There is no week more sacred, more sobering, or more triumphant in the life of the Church than Holy Week. It is the week that changed the world and on a personal note, the week that changed us. From palm branches to an empty tomb, Holy Week invites us not merely to remember but to enter the story of Jesus Christ with renewed faith, gratitude, and hope.

Palm Sunday (March 29) The Passover & The King Who Enters

We begin Holy Week on Palm Sunday as we reflect on The Passover in relation to Jesus' journey into Jerusalem. When Christ entered the city, He did so during the Passover festival, a time when God's people remembered deliverance from Egypt through the blood of the lamb. On that very week, Jesus entered as the true Passover Lamb. Palm Sunday reminds us that salvation was not accidental, it was appointed. Jesus walked toward the cross with purpose fulfilling what God had been preparing for generations. Come and worship at our three services or online as we begin this sacred journey together.

Spy Wednesday (In the Sanctuary)

Midweek, at 6:00 pm we gather for Spy Wednesday, remembering the day Judas agreed to betray Jesus. It is a solemn moment of reflection on

betrayal, repentance, and the cost of sin. Following the service, we will share Holy Communion, remembering that even in the shadow of betrayal, Jesus offered Himself in love. Spy Wednesday invites us to examine our own hearts and return to Christ in humility and grace.

Maundy Thursday (The Lord's Supper Reenacted)

On Thursday evening at 7:00 pm, we will hold a special Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary, including a reenactment of the institution of the Lord's Supper. "Maundy" comes from the Latin mandatum "command." This was the night Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." Around the table, we remember:

- Christ's body broken for us
- Christ's blood shed for us
- Christ's call to serve one another

This is not simply history, it is covenant love made present to us today.

Good Friday: The Last Words of Christ

On Good Friday at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary, we will take an artistic and reflective look at the final words Jesus spoke from the cross. Through Scripture, art, music, and worship, we will meditate on forgiveness, suffering, mercy, thirst, surrender, and victory. Good Friday teaches us that love is costly but redeeming. We call it "Good" because through the darkest hour came the greatest hope.

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Silent Saturday: A Time for Reflection

Holy Week does not rush from cross to celebration. On Silent Saturday the Sanctuary will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. for self-directed prayer and reflection.

This quiet space allows us to sit in the tension between grief and glory and to remember what it felt like when the disciples did not yet know Sunday was coming. Silence prepares our hearts for resurrection joy.

Easter Sunday He Is Risen!

Easter begins at sunrise. Join us at 7:00 a.m. at the Clubhouse Point for our Sunrise Service as we proclaim the good news at dawn: "He is not here; He is risen!" Then come celebrate with joyous worship at one of our three services:

- 8:30 a.m. – Blended Service
- 9:45 a.m. – Traditional Service
- 11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Service

Easter is the victory of life over death, hope over despair, and grace over sin. The resurrection is not merely a doctrine it is the foundation of our faith and the promise of our future.

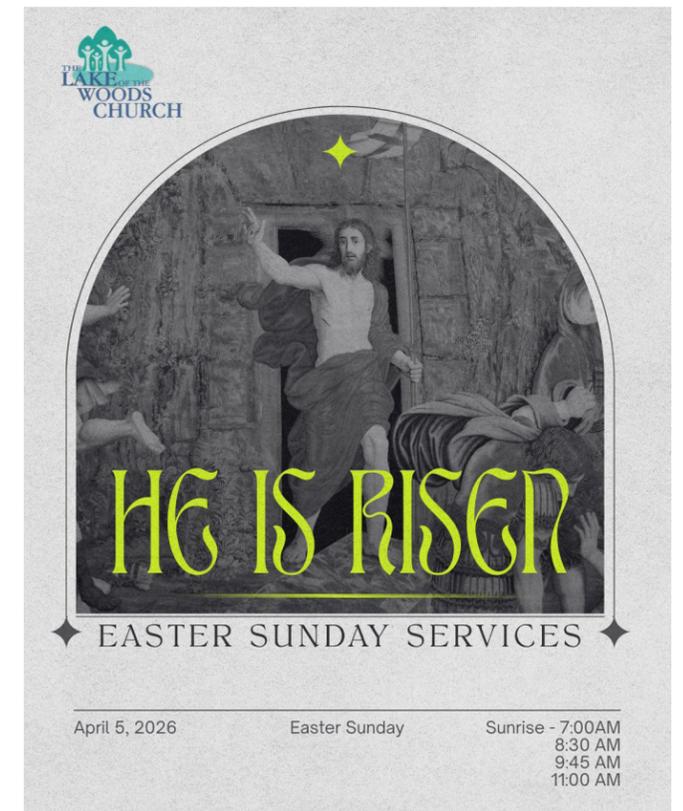
Why We Celebrate Holy Week

We walk through Holy Week because:

- We remember the cost of our redemption.
- We grow deeper in our understanding of Christ's love.
- We teach the next generation the story that saves.
- We invite others into the hope that changes everything.

Holy Week slows us down in a world that rushes past what matters most. It calls us to gratitude, repentance, and joy. Most importantly, it calls us to Jesus.

Rev. Adam Colson
Senior Pastor
The Lake of the Woods Church



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Unsolicited content is welcome.
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View online at www.lowchurch.org

Board of Elders, Answering Your Questions

This month, I wanted to answer several questions I've received. As we journey through this season together, I am constantly reminded that God is faithfully working in our church family. In every project, ministry, and search, we see His hand guiding, strengthening, and providing. My hope is that these updates encourage you and remind you that the Lord is with us in all we do.

What is the status of the cameras?

We are making progress, although much more slowly than we had hoped. The Control Room is now operational, and we are continuing to enhance its capabilities so that all cameras and door controls work together within a single unified system.

The Living Water Outreach Center—covering both interior and exterior cameras, as well as door controls—was completed on February 23rd and is now fully integrated into the church system.

We are currently installing an improved camera setup for the upper parking lot to provide continuous, uninterrupted coverage.

The next phase involves adding our door control system to the doors at the Gathering Place, the Friendship Hall exit, and the stairwell entrance leading to the Youth area.

After that, we will begin installing additional cameras in public spaces. As a reminder, apart from the doorbell cameras (which only record when activated), none of our cameras record voices.

As we continue this work, we hold to the same posture seen in Nehemiah 4:9: *“So we prayed to our God, and set a guard as a protection against them*

day and night.” We trust the Lord's care even as we take practical steps to safeguard our church family.

Is the trip to Lancaster still on?

Yes, absolutely. We're getting excited because the trip is now just around the corner—April 22nd.

We have secured the bus, purchased tickets for both the Tabernacle replica and the Sight & Sound production of Joshua, and confirmed our lunch reservations at Diener's Country Restaurant.

As the psalmist says, *“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’”* — Psalm 122:1 (NIV)

We currently have **10 seats left**. If you're still thinking about joining us, we would love to have you. Please register at lowchurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3262152.

What is the purpose of the training on March 7 (8 am & 1 pm) and April 18 (8 am & 1 pm)?

These sessions are part of the Commonwealth of Virginia DCJS Civilian Response and Casualty Care (CRCC) training, formerly known as Active Attack Training.

This four-hour, no-cost course is designed to improve community readiness through the statewide Critical Incident Preparedness and Response program.

CRCC trains ordinary citizens to act as “Immediate Responders” until first responders arrive, teaching the Avoid–

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Board of Elders

Deny–Defend model along with lifesaving medical skills from the Stop the Bleed® program.

All four time slots provide the same training, and the registration links simply inform DCJS about who from our church is attending.

As Proverbs 22:3 reminds us, *“The prudent see danger and take refuge,”* and this training helps us prepare wisely and care well for one another. If you have any questions, please email elder.chair@lowchurch.org.

What is the status of the Youth and Children Directors Search?

We continue to trust that the Lord has already called the individuals He has chosen for these roles, and we are learning to wait on His timing.

Over the past 20 months, we have reviewed more than 100 résumés and dozens of follow-up questionnaires. The Search Committee has conducted numerous interviews—both in person and via Zoom—, and for assorted reasons, the fit has not been right, or more accurately, the Holy Spirit has not yet identified the individuals He is calling to serve here.

This has certainly been a long search, yet we remain confident in the Lord's provision. As Micah 7:7 reminds us, *“But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.”* We believe that in His perfect timing, He will provide the right servants for these positions.

In the meantime, we are grateful for the faithful ministry happening right now. Beth Richards, our Youth leaders and our students had a strong year.

As we saw again during the Youth Winter Retreat, the momentum continues as Mike Phillips steps into the role of Elder for Youth. God is present and moving in His youth ministry.

Thank you for your prayers, patience, and partnership in the work God is doing here. at The Lake of the Woods Church.

In every area—security, discipleship, training, fellowship, and leadership—we see His steady hand guiding us. Let us continue to walk forward together with confidence, gratitude, and hope, trusting that the Lord who began a good work among us will carry it to completion.

John R Gingrich
Chairman, Board of Elders
lowchurch.org



**Lancaster
Bus Trip
April 22, 2026**

**Includes:
Sight & Sound: Joshua
Tabernacle Experience
Bus Ride
Lunch**

**visit lowchurch.org/events
for more info**

Mission Partner for March Brisben Center

The Brisben Center, located in Fredericksburg, provides temporary housing for families and single adults who find themselves homeless.

We often think of homelessness as that drunk person we see lying on the sidewalk. But a significant portion of the homeless population is families with children.

The Brisben Center tries to provide a safe temporary place for them to live while they get back on their feet. It is also a training center that helps their residents find and retain jobs, ultimately “graduate,” and provides their own housing.

Since their founding in 1988, they have helped over 20,000 of our neighbors rise from homelessness through the support of thousands of volunteers.

The Lake of the Woods church provides financial support as well as career coaching, food preparation, and executive coaching to the Brisben Center management team.

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, *“For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in.”* In verse 40 Jesus said: *“Assuredly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”* Jesus makes it very clear that when we serve the least of “these,” we are serving Him.

The Brisben Center does not receive any government funding. They rely entirely on donations from individuals, businesses, and houses of worship to meet their financial needs.

The Lake of the Woods Church “feeding ministry team” volunteers to cook and serve on “Cheeseburger Thursdays”, the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. If you feel led to join the team, please contact Tom deSocio or Bill Frazer by email at elder.co@lowchurch.org.



Prayer for Brisben Center

Our Father and our God, your Word reminds us of your special concern for the poor, the homeless, and those facing adversity. We pray for those living under bridges or in makeshift tent villages, and for those who have too little to eat. Bless our ministry to the destitute through our partner, the Brisben Center, and give them the gift of hope as they learn to put their trust in you. We ask this in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

Winter Mission Retreat

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to 4 days of focused training on tactics and strategies to win children’s hearts for Jesus Christ. Teens will then have the opportunity to solidify friendships and their commitment to Christ at Teen Camp in early June, after which their summer missions will begin.

The LOWC Youth Group will serve children locally during VBS 6/15-19 as crew leaders for 5-6 children, at Good News Across Sports 7/6-10 as day camp teachers and counselors, and at Camp Good News in the Navajo Nation, New Mexico, from 7/19-26 as teachers, coaches, worship leaders, and day camp counselors.

Under the leadership of Youth Elder Mike Phillips and about 10 committed youth leaders, the Youth Group plays a major role in making summer missions possible each year.

Please be in prayer for them and the leaders, and if you want to participate in any of the summer missions opportunities, please get in touch with elder.youth@lowchurch.org or susan.mahnel@lowchurch.org.





March	April	May
14 - Church Beautification Day	1 - Spy Wednesday 6:00pm	2 - Women's Ministry Tea
19 - Women's Gathering	2 - Maundy Thursday 7pm	10 - Mother's Day
28 - Easter Egg Hunt	3 - Good Friday 7pm	15 - LWCC Golf Tournament
29 - Palm Sunday	4 - Silent Saturday 8am	16 - Men's Qtrly Breakfast LWOC
	5 - Easter Sunrise Svc 7am	17 - Senior Sunday
	6 - Easter Observed OFFICE CLOSED	22 - Outreach Movie LWOC
	9 - OCPS Spring Break No Family Night	25 - Memorial Day Office Closed
	11 - Go Ye Therefore Banquet	26-29 Kingdom Builders LWOC
	24-25 Home Helps	31 - Teen Camp Begins
	29 - TRIAD Conference	



Cross Currents is published monthly. Comments, suggestions, interests in helping with content should be directed to:
 Elder of Communications
 email: elder.comm@lowc.org

SCOUTING NEWS

Thank you to the Lake of the Woods Church congregation for their wonderful support at this year's Cub Scout Pack 197 Pancake Breakfast!

We had ten Cubs actively cooking, serving, and promoting in the halls while being supervised by their parents and leaders.

A few of the older Cubs worked on their cooking skills to fulfill Adventure requirements. The Pack always looks forward to preparing a delicious breakfast for all who attend!

This past Saturday, Pack 197 hosted its annual Pinewood Derby Race in Friendship Hall.

Twenty-three Cubs, siblings, and friends raced their homemade cars, and six parents, leaders, and siblings competed in the rules-modified league!

For the first time since 1971, one of our cub's grandfather's cars, "The Blue Flame" (named after the former land-speed record car), made an appearance on the track—he raced it as a cub!

This year's competition was intense, with most cars finishing in under three seconds, which equals 160 miles per hour or faster!



PANCAKE COOKS



SOAP BOX PARTICIPANTS

CREATIVE LEARNING FOR LIFE

On Saturday, February 21st, LOW Church came alive with the joyful sounds (and smells) of creativity — brushes gliding across watercolor paper, laughter from the kitchen where chicken potpie was baking, and the gentle rustle of flowers being arranged!

Our theme, "Creative Learning for Life," reminded us that it is never too early or too late to try something new and awaken the God-given creativity inside each of us.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our talented instructors: Emmy Robertson (watercolor painting), Nancy Bowles (floral design), and Donna Blackistone and Vera Moody (cooking), who guided us in exploring new skills and broadening our creative horizons.

Along with discovering hidden talents and sharing fellowship, we were also uplifted by an inspiring devotional from our very own Donna Nettleton — a beautiful reflection on faith, growth, and the joy of lifelong learning.

We invite women of all ages to join us for our upcoming Women's Ministry event, **"Faith, Fellowship & Tea,"** on Saturday, May 2, from 2-4 pm.

This spring-themed tea offers a wonderful chance to celebrate the season of spring and strengthen our connections with God and fellow women. Registration will open in April, so stay tuned!



Vera Moody and Donna Blackistone taught our cooking class.



Donna Nettleton shared our devotional on Creative Learning for Life—God's Word



Nancy Bowles led our class on flower arranging.



Emmy Robertson instructed our class on watercolor painting.

March Birthdays

Joan Black
David Blackistone
Janet Bocook
Joan Brown
Harold Bryant
Debbie DeNicola
Eldon N. Doubet
Marie Dullnig
Barbara Edwards
William Frazer
Steve Futato
David Gazzetta
Liz Greene
Mary Hartzel
Susanne Helsel
Philip Herron
Mark Lyon
Greg Martin
Lyle McWhirt
Alison Merrell
Maurice Moody
James Ogletree
Patricia Padgett
Ricardo Peterson
Shirley Pfile
Warren Reder
Ann Rossi
Randy Royce
Tom Schafer
Ellen Schwartz
Kerry Sipe
Rebecca Slagle
Megan Stewart
Olive Tatum
Karlee Thomson
Kevin Thomson
Kristen Ulrey
Harold Wood

March Anniversaries

Harry & Ginny Biggs
James & Mary Fulton
Larry & Renee Graves
Lee & Alison Merrell
Greg & Julie Soukenik
Richard & Olive Tatum



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

Heather Austin	Silvana Babikow
Janet Bocook	Laurel Buongiavanni
Luanne Coffee	Lindsay Cole
Millie Davis	Danny DeLongis
Jim Divelbiss	Nancy Doseff
Susan Dyer	John Eckman
Steve Gaines	Phil Harris
Betty Herron	John Hines
Andres Idrovo	Olivia Knights
David McCune	Herbert McKittrick
Lee Moore	Ann Nadwodny
Tom & Lois Northam	Barbara Rakes
Selena Rave	John & Ann Sawyer
Bob & Ellen Schwartz	Shelly Seymour
Normajean Solebello	Martha Somerville
Greg Soukenik	Bobbie Stone
Beth Sundberg	Darrell Turner
Pat Watterworth	Newt Wilson
Kay & Mike Zello	

BEREAVEMENT ~ Grieving Family & Friends of:

Harry Brown ~ Service Friday, March 13, 11 a.m.
Carl Cornwell ~ Service Sat, March 21, 11 a.m.