

April 2026



Easter Egg Hunt 2026

About 45 children and their families from the community attended the annual Lake of the Woods Church Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28th. As the children entered Friendship Hall, they received a "passport" booklet that served as their guide for the morning. Their passport guided them through seven stations to teach them about some of the events of Holy Week, Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection, and concluded with a lesson on salvation with John 3:16. Volunteers at each station shared a Bible verse and a related lesson with the kids, who then placed a sticker corresponding to the lesson in their passport before moving on to the next station.

After hearing about the events of Holy Week, children went outside for the egg hunt. It did not take long for the kids to find the colorful eggs, especially since cold temperatures and a chilly wind motivated their progress. After all the eggs were found, families were invited into Friendship Hall for a raffle to win two beautiful Easter baskets filled with treats and toys, along with a set of Resurrection Eggs.

This amazing event wouldn't have been possible without our many volunteers! Children's Sunday school and Wednesday night teachers led the stations. The courageous youth and youth leaders arrived early to hide the eggs and then helped with the stations and led the salvation station. The generous donations of candy and the prize Easter baskets provided by church members, along with the volunteers who stuffed the candy

From our Senior Pastor:

From Attending to Belonging: Stepping Deeper This Spring



Rev. Adam Colson

As we move into April and begin to see signs of spring all around us, there is a quiet but powerful invitation before us not just to attend church, but to truly belong.

Faith was never meant to be lived at a distance. It was never designed for the sidelines. Following Jesus is not simply about showing up it is about stepping in. Scripture paints a beautiful picture of what this looks like: *“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”* — 1 Corinthians 12:27

Notice that word: part. Not observer. Not occasional visitor. A part. And every part matters.

More Than a Seat—A Place

It is easy, especially in a busy season of life, to slip into a rhythm of attending without engaging. We come, we worship, we leave and while there is certainly value in that, God is calling us to something deeper. The early church didn't just gather, they shared life together: *“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”* — Acts 2:42 Devotion implies intention, priority, and participation.

What Does “Getting Involved” Look Like?

There isn't just one way to be involved and that's a good thing. God has wired each of us differently, and involvement will look unique for every person. For some, it may be joining a small group and building meaningful relationships around God's

Word.

For others, it may be serving behind the scenes or up front using gifts to bless others. For others still, it may be something as simple (and powerful) as showing up consistently, being present, and encouraging those around you.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote: *“The Christian needs another Christian... for by himself he cannot help himself.”* We need each other. And others need you.

Opportunities All Around Us

As we head toward summer, the opportunities to step in are abundant. Every Sunday presents a chance not just to attend, but to connect, to serve, and to grow.

Throughout the coming months, there will be:

- Small groups and discipleship opportunities
- Ministry teams serving in a variety of ways
- Special events and outreach moments
- Practical needs within our church family like preparing meals, caring for one another, and stepping in during times of loss
- Mission Opportunities at Living Water Community Clinics, Living Water Outreach Center, Navajo Nation Mission Trip, Kingdom Builders and so much more!

These are not just “tasks” they are moments of ministry. Moments where the love of Christ becomes visible and tangible.

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Send to: elder.comm@lowchurch.org
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From Consumer to Contributor

There is a subtle shift that changes everything: moving from asking “What can I receive?” to asking “Where can I serve?” Jesus Himself said: *“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...”* — Mark 10:45 And when we follow Him, we begin to reflect Him.

A Simple Invitation

As you read this, take a moment and ask: Where is God inviting me to step deeper? Not out of obligation or pressure, but out of love for Him, and for His people. You don't have to do everything, but everyone is called to do something. And when each person takes that step, something beautiful happens; the Church becomes what it was always meant to be: a living, breathing body, connected, caring, and on mission together. Let's not settle for attending. Let's step in, belong, and build something together for the glory of God.

Your Partner in Ministry,
Pastor Adam Colson
Senior Pastor

HOME HELPS

Friday, April 17 & Saturday, April 18

Requests for assistance welcomed. Sign up at lowchurch.org

LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CLINIC
6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
MAY 15, 2026

The Lake of the Woods Golf Course
Locust Grove, VA
Captain's Choice

All proceeds go directly to taking care of the medical, emotional, and dental needs of our patients. Check-In: 8 a.m., Start: 9 a.m.

Cost per player: \$125
Team of Four (4): \$100 ea.
Includes Green Fees, Cart, Dinner, and Goodie Bag

SPONSORSHIP:
Event Sponsorships - \$1000
\$500 Platinum, \$350 - Gold, \$150 - Silver

RAFFLE, GREAT PRIZES, & LOTS OF FUN!
Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin,
\$10k - Hole In One

Registration opens March 15
at livingwaterclinic.life

A mission of

Board of Elders, A Month of Remembering God's Love

This month invites us into a deep remembrance of the love of God. I continue to marvel that before creating mankind, God had already decided that the cross, the death, and the resurrection would be the path for Jesus to His ascension. All of this was set in motion because of His great love for us and His desire that we would be one with Him. What amazing love.

That love naturally leads us to ask: What did Christ ask of us in return? He told us to love one another as He has loved us, so that the world would recognize us as His followers. This kind of love produces a unique unity with Him and with each other, and it inspires a Spirit led desire to serve.

As we look ahead to the next few months filled with ministry opportunities, I find myself asking, *"Where am I able to serve so that His love is seen—not in me, but in Him?"* The answers are many. As we continue to seek directors for our Youth and Children's Ministries, one of our greatest focuses this summer is to show the love of Christ to the next generation. I invite you to pray about how God may be calling you to help fill the gap as a volunteer in His work among our youth and children

Go Ye Therefore Banquet

Our first major event arrives just days after this CrossCurrents is published—the Go Ye Therefore Banquet on Saturday, April 11. What a wonderful opportunity for our church family to share a meal and show our youth that we care simply by being present. It's a chance to see, hear, and support their upcoming ministry outreaches. You can sign up on the church website. I hope to see you there.

Kingdom Builders & Teen Camp

Our youth have two notable events to prepare them for summer ministry.

Kingdom Builders (May 26–29) will be held at the Living Water Outreach Center, where teens will strengthen their skills in sharing the love of Christ with children using Christian Evangelism Fellowship materials.

Immediately following is **Teen Camp (May 31–June 5)** at Camp Shenandoah Springs. Stay tuned for ways you can support these efforts.

Vacation Bible School

The largest volunteer opportunity of the summer is Vacation Bible School, June 15–19 in the mornings.

Preparation began back in January. Last year we welcomed about 150 children, and we expect at least that many again.

What does it take to show these children the love of Christ?

It takes more than **100 volunteers saying "yes."**

And don't panic—if you're thinking, "I'm not good with children," we have many roles: snacks, registration, safety, decorations, and more. Volunteer registration will open after Easter.

Good News Across Sports

Another opportunity to put love into action is Good News Across Sports, July 6–10, right here on our church campus.

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Board of Elders

This outreach uses sports and creative activities to share Christ with children in our community.

Good News Camp – Navajo Nation

Our final major summer event is Good News Camp – Navajo Nation. Last year was our first day camp for Navajo children, and we are eager to build on what we learned.

This camp requires a small army of volunteers—kitchen, transportation, crafts, sports, counselors, safety, building repairs—whatever your skill, the Lord can use it. Registration opens this month.

Other Opportunities This Spring

Let's not overlook the many other ways to serve and connect:

- Monthly Mechanics Ministry & support for Living Water Community Clinic
- Home Helps – April 17–18
- Lancaster Bus Trip – April 22
- Women's Ministry Tea – May 2
- Living Water Community Clinic Golf Tournament – May 15
- Men's Quarterly Breakfast – May 16

A Call to Prayer and Service

Before we step into any act of service, Jesus calls us first to pray. Paul reminds us to *"pray without ceasing"* (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and that posture of prayer opens our hearts to love as Christ loved us.

As we enter a season filled with opportunities to bless children, youth, families, and our community, I invite you to join me in a simple prayer:

"Lord, where would You have me serve so that Your love is seen?"

When He shows you the place — big or small — step into it with joy. Together, let's allow His love to be visible in our church and in our community this summer.

John R Gingrich
Chairman, Board of Elders

**Hurry, only a few seats left,
Time is Running Out!**



**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 Mission to the World

The church Mission Partner for the month of April is Mission to the World (MTW), an organization that provides hope and care to refugee families wherever they may be located. The Lake of the Woods Church supports MTW financially and spiritually with prayer and fellowship.

Missionaries serve under difficult conditions

As this article is being prepared, the reality of physical warfare is palpable. Billowing smoke rises over devastated Middle East neighborhoods portending the ominous consequences for missionaries who serve on the frontline struggles for the lives and souls of men, women and children caught up in the crossfire of ideological and religious conflict.

These faithful missionaries bring hope and the Good News of Jesus' sacrifice for all. Due to unsafe circumstances, we are unable to share details about our missionary team or where they are located. As the Body of Christ at The Lake of the Woods Church, the most important thing anyone can do is pray for the safety of our missionary friends and pray for the salvation of their church members.

MTW embodies the Great Commission outlined in Matthew 28:18

The primary focus of MTW is the planting of churches around the world with values that focus on God's word, God's love, God's grace, and God's mercy for all human beings. MTW's website clearly states that their mission is: "...the gospel to spread throughout the world, the Church to grow, Satan's kingdom destroyed, and Christ's reign extended to the ends of the earth. To learn more about MTW, please visit MTW.org/about/.



Making disciples among all nations

Prayer for Mission to the World

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the mission

You have given us to make disciples of all nations. Bless and equip our ministry partner Mission to the World as they serve in church planting, discipleship, and outreach. Grant them wisdom as they navigate the conflict in the Middle East and its impact on their work and possible return to the States. May all they do bring glory to Your name. Amen.

Easter Egg Hunt 2026

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into eggs, made this event possible. This Christ-honoring event that blessed many children in our community and their families is a shining example of reaching people beyond the walls of our church.



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION DAY

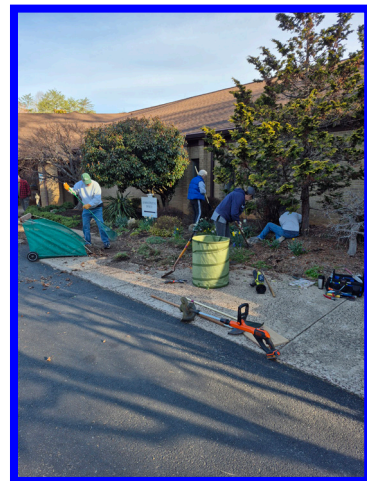
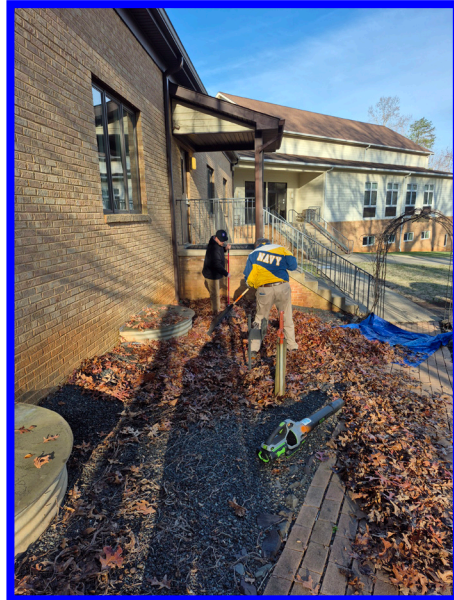
On March 14 we had a beautiful day for our church beautification project.

Many thanks to the twenty-five people who spent their morning on many clean-up projects inside and outside the church.

Also many thanks to the ladies who put out the food, and even operated a food cart since so many people were so busy working they didn't have time to come inside and eat.

Using rakes, weed blowers and tarps the workers removed all the leaves around the church and the playground.

They power washed all the playground equipment and the picnic tables and benches. Now that the playground is all clean, we will soon be putting down new playground mulch to make sure any children who use the playground won't get hurt if they fall.



Our gardeners weeded and cleaned up the front garden and the hedge area. Didn't they do a great job!!!

Our electrical people replaced two Memorial Walk light fixtures.

Several people also worked inside the church. They installed one new emergency light and replaced nine exit signs. Two hardy souls painted room 507 near the nursery, which is going to be needed for VBS this summer.

Once again, thanks to all those who turned out to help,

Lee Merrill
Elder, Building & Grounds



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

April	May	June
1 - Spy Wednesday 6:00pm	2 - Women's Ministry Tea	1-5 Teen Camp
2 - Maundy Thursday 7pm	10 - Mother's Day	13 - 8am Mechanics' Ministry LWOC
3 - Good Friday 7pm	15 - LWCC Golf Tournament	15 - 19 VBS
4 - Silent Saturday 8am	16 - Men's Qtrly Breakfast LWOC	22 - Jeneventh Observed OFFICE CLOSED
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	
17-18 Home Helps	31 - Teen Camp Begins	
29 - TRIAD Conference		



Faith Fellowship & Tea

LOWC Women's Ministry
May 2 / 2pm - 4pm
Registration - \$5/person
Signup today in the Gathering Place or at lowchurch.org/events!

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 Blue & Gold Dinner

The Cub Scouts Blue and Gold Banquet is a tradition that began in the 1930s as a way for families to celebrate the achievements of young scouts. The Blue in the name symbolizes loyalty and trust, while the white gold represents warmth and good character.

The Church's Pack held their event on March 15th at the cabins. Our Scouting program is always seeking new Scouts of all ages. Contact the church office if you're interested in supporting or joining the Scouting Program.



DEDICATE FLOWERS FOR A SERVICE

The constant prayer of members of the Flower Guild is as follows: *"Lord, may you grant that our hearts, our eyes, and our hands may receive your inspiration, enabling us to glorify your house with the beauty of the leaves and flowers you have created. May the sharing of this beauty bless those who arranged, observed, delivered, and received the efforts of the Flower Guild of the Lake of the Woods Church. Amen."*

Each Sunday, the Sanctuary and Worship Center display floral arrangements created by the Flower Guild and dedicated by church members for occasions like anniversaries, birthdays, memorials, and blessings.

To make a dedication, choose a special occasion, pick a date, sign up at the Gathering Place, and Vera Moody will contact you to discuss details. The cost is \$65 for Sanctuary and \$45 for Worship Center. After services, you can take the arrangement or have it delivered to a church member in need of cheer.

The Flower Guild has four teams of 3-4 members, rotating weekly, plus joint efforts on major holidays. Team leaders are Susan Barnes, Nancy Bowles, Judy Hall, and Brenda Rogers. Deliverers serve one month annually; Linda Rupard coordinates deliveries. Contact any Flower Guild member for questions.



Linda Rupard, delivery coordinator, delivering Sunday Flowers.

TRIAD CONFERENCE

HURRY, REGISTRATION FOR THE TRIAD THRIVE BEYOND 55 CONFERENCE IS REQUIRED BY APRIL 20th.

THRIVE BEYOND 55

Join us for a day of learning, connection, and inspiration! This conference is open to all ages with a focus on topics relevant to seniors 55 and older. The conference is open to the public, you do not have to be a LOW resident to attend.

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Time: 8:45 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Lake of the Woods Church, 1 Church Lane, Locust Grove, VA 22508

FREE ADMISSION - Registration is required.

Featured Speakers:

- Vicky Parker** - Traffic Safety Specialist - Get some tips for managing the risks of driving & age-related challenges.
- Kate Kleinert** - Victim of a romance scam - hear how she turned tragedy into triumph!
- Deputy Ron Kesner** - Execution of a scam
- Brett Johnson** - Former cybercriminal - placed on US Most Wanted List - then what? Join us to hear the rest of the story!

Complimentary light breakfast refreshments & a catered lunch

Resource tables with information about services & programs for seniors

Door prizes

Register Today! Email your full name to lhernandez@orangecountyva.gov or call Loretta @ 540-661-6156 and leave your full name and a phone number. Registration is open until April 20, 2026.



April Birthdays

Angela Pennington
Barbara Squires
Brennan Hall
Carol Bohrer
Charles Mincey
Christine Melcho
Cindy Quattlebaum
Connie Smith
Diane Sellers
Dundee McManis
Eileen Moore
Faith Quiroga
Gary Loeffler
Gia Heffernan
Gloria Taylor
Gwendolyn Fournet
Harry Brown
Harry Nicholson
Heather Austin
Helga Birdsong
James Milligan
Jason Simpson
Jean McLallen
Jennifer Hughes
Jerry Garegnani
John McCalla
John Nettleton
Julie Soukenik
Kathy Pellegreen
Linda Sipe
Matthew Bernd
Michael Phillips
Newton Wilson
Penny Weber
Peter Smith
Rebecca Sitnik
Richard Tatum
Roy Cottoms
Ruth Rayne

Samantha Graves
Sarah Rawls
Terese DeTroia
Tom Collins
Wesley Seaman
Wilma Hood

April Anniversaries

Adam & Johanna Colson
Alex & Becky Salustri
David & Vicki O'Hara
Eugene & Rebecca Slagle
Gene & Melissa Daly
Gordon & Roberta
Klooster
Harry & Margie Lee
Laird & Laura Knights
Marshall & Alexandra
Wile

Peter & Connie
Smith
Steve & Suzanne
Roberts
Thomas & Lucia
DeSocio
Warren & Sally
Reder



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

Heather Austin
Janet Bocook
Luanne Coffee
Millie Davis
Jim Divelbiss
Susan Dyer
Steve Gaines
Betty Herron
Andres Idrovo
David McCune
Lee Moore
Tom & Lois Northam
Selena Rave
Bob & Ellen Schwartz
Normajean Solebello
Greg Soukenik
Beth Sundberg
Pat Watterworth
Kay & Mike Zello

Silvana Babikow
Laurel Buongiavanni
Lindsay Cole
Danny DeLongis
Nancy Doseff
John Eckman
Phil Harris
John Hines
Olivia Knights
Herbert McKittrick
Ann Nadwodny
Barbara Rakes
John & Ann Sawyer
Shelly Seymour
Martha Somerville
Bobbie Stone
Darrell Turner
Newt Wilson