

August 2026



NAVAJO MISSION 2026

SWIM - SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN MINISTRIES

What a privilege it was to represent LOW Church and serve at Southwestern Indian Ministries (SWIM)! Our team of 28 volunteers had the opportunity to minister in a variety of ways throughout the week. While many served directly with the children, several of the men partnered with Bishop Dave to renovate the Trading Post, preparing the space for an exciting new ministry that will begin there soon.

Although not everything went according to plan, our team was able to adapt and pivot as needed. Throughout the week, we built meaningful relationships with the children, their families, and one another. God truly blessed every member of the team through this experience.

Fifteen children attended camp throughout the week. Our activities team introduced them to Gaga Ball, which quickly became a favorite. The craft station was also a tremendous success—not only with the children, but with several adults who joined in the fun as well.

From the Pastor's Heart : A Summer of Faithfulness

Dear Church Family,
As we welcome August and begin preparing for another school year, I have found myself reflecting on all that God has accomplished through Lake of the Woods Church this summer. My overwhelming response is simply this: "Thank you."



Rev. Adam Colson

Summer is often viewed as a season to slow down, but for our church family it has been a season of extraordinary ministry. From our youngest children to our oldest members, from those serving here in our community to those traveling across the country on mission, God has used His people in remarkable ways.

This summer, hundreds of lives were touched by ministries that shared the love of Christ in practical, life-changing ways. Our children experienced the truth of God's Word through Vacation Bible School, where volunteers invested countless hours preparing lessons, crafts, music, games, and refreshments so children could hear the Gospel in an exciting and memorable way.

Our students were challenged to grow deeper in their faith through Teen Camp, where lifelong friendships were formed, lives were encouraged, and young people were reminded that following Jesus is the greatest adventure they will ever know.

We had the privilege of equipping the next generation of leaders through our Kingdom Builders Training School, investing in young men and women who are learning what it means to

serve Christ with humility, excellence, and a heart for ministry.

Our children also experienced a week of fun and spiritual growth at Centri-Kid Camp, where they worshiped, learned God's Word, and returned home with renewed excitement to follow Jesus.

Through Good News Across Sports, we witnessed how athletics can become an incredible bridge for sharing the Gospel, teaching character, and building relationships that point children and families to Christ.

One of the greatest blessings of the summer was sending our mission team to serve at Good News Camp in the Navajo Nation. Our team shared the hope of Christ, ministered to children and families, encouraged fellow believers, and demonstrated the love of Jesus across cultures. Thank you to everyone who went, to those who prayed faithfully while they served, and to those whose generous giving made that mission possible.

Closer to home, our annual School Supply and Backpack Distribution was another beautiful reminder that the Church is called to love its community in tangible ways.

Because of your generosity, students throughout our area began the school year equipped with backpacks, school supplies, and the knowledge that their community, and more importantly, God cares deeply for them. Every backpack represented more than pencils and paper; it represented hope,

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encouragement, and the love of Christ.

None of these ministries happened because of one person. They happened because the Body of Christ worked together. Some of you taught, some of you cooked, some of you drove vans, some of you decorated classrooms, some of you played games, some of you led worship, some of you gave financially, and some of you quietly prayed every day for these ministries and for the people they would reach. Every act of service mattered.

The Apostle Paul reminds us, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Church family, your labor has not been in vain. Children heard about Jesus; students were discipled; young leaders were equipped; families were encouraged; communities were served; the Gospel was proclaimed; and lives were impacted for eternity.

As your pastor, I want to thank every volunteer who gave sacrificially, every prayer warrior who faithfully upheld these ministries before the Lord, and every generous giver whose financial support made these opportunities possible. You may never fully know this side of heaven the impact your faithfulness has had, but God does.

As we now enter a new season of ministry with students returning to school, Good News Clubs beginning, fall Bible studies launching, and our new sermon series, Written in Stone, underway, I pray we continue to serve with the same passion, joy, and unity that marked this summer.

Johanna and I count it one of the greatest privileges of our lives to serve you and this parish. Thank you for loving well, serving faithfully, giving generously, and praying continually. Together, let us keep our eyes fixed on Christ as we continue Knowing Christ and Making Him Known. May God bless you, and may He continue to use Lake of the Woods Church to shine His light throughout our community and around the world.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Adam Colson
Senior Pastor
The Lake of the Woods



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Board of Elders, A Spirit Filled Summer, A Spirit Led Fall

We have just come through a joy filled and spiritually fruitful summer. From the teens’ training at Kingdom Builders, to Teen Camp’s fellowship and Bible learning, to a Vacation Bible School overflowing with more than one hundred children and just as many volunteers, the Lord filled every week with His presence and the faithful presentation of His Word.

Good News Across Sports brought the Gospel and energetic activities to children morning and afternoon, and—just as with VBS—many responded in faith.

Twenty eight volunteers then carried that same Good News to Gallup, New Mexico, serving Navajo and other children through five days of ministry at Good News Camp – Living Water.

And as summer drew to a close, 250 backpacks—each one prayed over—were placed into the hands of families along with invitations to Good News Clubs.

Through every moment, the Holy Spirit moved in us with power, knitting our hearts together in service and opening doors for the Gospel. *“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty* (Zechariah 4:6).

Preparing Our Hearts for a New Season

As we turn the page from this remarkable summer, the same Spirit who guided us now leads us into a new season of ministry and opportunity this fall.

August becomes our month of preparation—seeking the Lord’s guidance, aligning our hearts with His purposes, and readying ourselves for what He desires to do among us.

Renewed Emphasis on Home Groups

At the forefront of this new season is an exciting and renewed emphasis on Home Groups. We

believe deeply that meaningful, Christ centered community happens best when God’s people gather in homes to share life, break bread, study the Word, pray together, and encourage one another. *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”* (Acts 2:42).

Pastor Dave Valentine is invigorating the training of hosts and leaders, setting the conditions for launching new groups, and helping us cultivate environments where genuine fellowship and spiritual growth can flourish. This fall, we are praying that many will find their place, their people, and their spiritual home within these groups as we follow the Spirit’s leading together.

A Robust and Spirit Led Youth Ministry

There is great excitement as we prepare for a robust and Spirit led youth program this fall. Our youth leaders are already gathering for renewed, participative planning—praying over every activity, every outreach, and every opportunity to disciple our teens. Their hearts are united in seeking God’s direction, asking Him to shape a season filled with meaningful fellowship, strong biblical teaching, and intentional outreach to friends and classmates.

“Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

They need your support, especially your faithful prayers, as they work through the details and build a program that points students to Christ. While the fall program kicks off in just a few weeks, the spiritual groundwork is being laid now with joy, anticipation, and a deep desire to see our youth grow in faith and boldness.

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A Joyful Focus on Children’s Ministry

Let us not forget the children’s ministry, where the Lord is also giving us a renewed and joyful focus. We are excited for the fall kickoff of our Good News Clubs and are already looking forward to welcoming children into a new year of learning, singing, Scripture memory, and Gospel moments that shape young hearts. Our teams are preparing with prayer and purpose, asking the Lord to open doors, strengthen volunteers, and draw many children to Himself.

As we build toward this new season, we trust the promise that *“from the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise”* (Psalm 8:2)—a reminder that God delights to work powerfully through the youngest among us.

How You Can Join the Work

God has called us to this place for this time, and your partnership matters. You can help by praying faithfully, by stepping forward to volunteer, and by embracing the shared mission the Lord has given our church family. Every ministry we launch, every

child we teach, every teen we encourage, and every home group we begin grows stronger when God’s people come together in unity of purpose.

Your prayers uphold our leaders, your hands lighten the load, and your presence reflects the love of Christ to those we serve. As we move into this new season, we do so believing that the Lord has uniquely positioned our church family to make an eternal impact—together, and by His Spirit. --John Gingrich, Chairman, Board of Elders



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

August	September	October
1 - Tables oif Eight	9 - Weds Night Family Activities Resume	12 - Columbus Day Office Closed
5 - First Day of School for Orange County	13 - Discovery Class Begins	14 - Baptism Class
8 - Mechanics’ Ministry LWOC	18 - Movie Night NOAH LWOC	16 - Movie Night JOSEPH LWOC
21 - Movie Night GREAT AWAKENING LWOC	26 - Youth Golf Tournament LOW Golf Club	17 - Women’s Ministry Fall Retreat
30 - Church Picnic	29 - Life Line Screening	18 - Baptism Sunday
		25 - Membership Sunday
		30&31 - Home Helps

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MISSION PARTNER OF THE MONTH

Our Asian friends are deeply appreciative of the support they receive from Lake of the Woods Church. A recent newsletter reminded me that the gospel changes people, societies, and countries. The Holy Spirit continues to change hearts, helping people groups become better Christians and helping unbelievers make a profession of faith. Despite persecution, many small fellowships remain true to Jesus. Their worship can be costly, but they choose worship over silence or denial. Asian friends and missionaries persevere in places where they are neither wanted nor encouraged. Yet they are brave enough to share the gospel every day, even as persecution and hatred abound in these nations.

Prayers from Western churches can make an impact in nations where other gods and religions are practiced. The members of Lake of the Woods Church are privileged to support these nations through our prayers and financial support. To that end, here are some points for prayer to join our friends who live in nations hardened to the gospel.

- Pray for the pastors to remain steadfast in their faith. Pray for wisdom, peace, and protection for their ministry, family, and church.
- Pray for outreach endeavors, including plays, dramas, movies, etc., that demonstrate Jesus to people who have never been exposed to the Gospel. Thank you, God, that one nation experienced 1.6% Christian growth in 2025 for the Gospel.
- Pray for the continued success of hospitals and urgent care facilities that actively share the gospel and heal the sick. Thank you, God, for sending doctors and nurses and for providing physical buildings and equipment to minister to the sick in Jesus’s name.
- Pray for God to bless the summer outreach program to distribute 8000 Bibles and 100,000 gospel tracts among the unchurched. Pray for protection and provision for the group handing out the good news.

Isaiah 61:3 *“To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; the planting of the Lord that He may be glorified.”*

Prayer for Asia Missionaries

Gracious Father, we pray on behalf of our missionary partners this month. We pray for protection as they minister in Asia where there is great persecution. Change the hearts and transform the lives of those they minister to. Guide your people to support their work, so they are able to continue to make Christ known to unreached people groups. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

GOOD NEWS ACCROSS SPORTS

This July, The Lake of the Woods Church hosted Good News Across Sports (GNAS), a weeklong sports camp designed to share the message of Jesus Christ through the excitement of athletics, crafts, teamwork, and community. Throughout the week, children gathered to learn sports skills, build friendships, and discover that God’s love extends far beyond the playing field.

Through Bible lessons, athletic activities, and the encouragement of dedicated teen and adult coaches and volunteers, campers were reminded that they are created by God, valued by Him, and invited into a relationship with Jesus Christ. The week was filled with energy, laughter, and meaningful moments as coaches and volunteers poured into the lives of each child.



One of the greatest joys of the week was celebrating that twelve children made decisions to follow Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God for the work He accomplished in their hearts and for the many teen volunteers who faithfully planted seeds of faith throughout the week.

Good News Across Sports is a reminder that sports can be a powerful tool for ministry, bringing people together, building relationships, and creating opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel. We pray

that the seeds planted during GNAS will continue to grow and bear fruit for years to come.



SWIM 2026

One of the greatest blessings was hearing the children eagerly quote Scripture and share what they already knew about the Bible stories before each lesson. It was encouraging to see God's Word already taking root in their hearts.

Throughout the week, lives were touched, families were impacted, and many grew deeper in their relationship with God. One father attended camp and participated every day. He is excited to partner with us as we continue reaching more children in the community next year.

We also learned about the food insecurity that some of the children experience. Because of God's provision, we were able to send bag lunches home with them, meeting a practical need while showing Christ's love.

Looking back, it is clear that God had a plan and a purpose in every circumstance throughout the week. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and are excited to see what He has in store for next year—not only for the volunteers who will have the privilege of serving, but also for the children, their families, and SWIM. - - Teresa Bowman, Director, Children Ministries



CREATING OUR FIVE FINGER PRAYERS



More Pictures on page 9

SWIM 2026



PLAY TIME - BUILDING TRUST AND RELATIONSHIPS



TEACHING THROUGH SONG AND DANCE

Stuff the Bus Supports Local Students

Through the generosity of Lake of the Woods Church and our caring community, more than **250 backpacks** filled with school supplies were distributed on July 30 to local primary, elementary, and middle school students during our annual Stuff the Bus outreach.

Each backpack represents more than school supplies—it is a reminder to every child that they are valued, encouraged, and supported as they start a new school year. Education opens doors and strengthens communities, and together we are investing in the next generation.

We are grateful to everyone whose donations, prayers, and volunteer efforts made this meaningful ministry possible.

Thank you,
Wayne Biggs
Elder – Route 20 Ministries



VOLUNTEERS HANDING OUT BACKPACK PACKS AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ELEMENTRY SCHOOL



BACKPACK PACKING VOLUNTEERS



MUSICAL NOTES: It Is Well with My Soul

Isa. 43:2, 66:12 Phil. 4:7, 4:11-12
John 14:27 Ps. 34:19

In 1871, Chicago lost an estimated one-third of the city to the Great Fire. Many heartbreaking stories came from the fire's impact on businesses, individuals and families.

Horatio G. Spafford, a lawyer and real estate investor, lost his fortune. At the same time, his only son died of scarlet fever. He was only 4. Horatio threw himself into helping the homeless, immersing himself in the work of rebuilding the city.

As a close friend of D.L. Moody (a famous American evangelist) and of Moody's musical director, Ira Sankey, Horatio decided to take his family to Europe, where they would attend Moody's evangelism meetings in England and then vacation.

Urgent business detained Horatio, but he sent his wife and 4 daughters ahead, intending to join them as soon as possible. On November 22, 1873, their ship collided with another and quickly sank. His daughters were among the lost, and his wife was among only 47 survivors.

He boarded a ship as soon as possible to join her in Wales. On the way, the captain told him he believed they were, at that moment, passing over the place where the ship went down. Naturally finding it hard to sleep, he told himself, "It is well, the will of God be done."

He wrote the lyrics shortly after. The melody was composed by Philip Bliss, and the hymn was published in 1875. Bliss and his wife were killed in a train wreck the following year.

Donna Chernowetz.





For The Youth

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

SEPT. 26TH
9:00 AM Shotgun Start
Lake of the Woods Golf Course

REGISTER NOW
www.lowchurch.org/events

Join us for a day of swings, sunshine, and sportsmanship as we support the Youth Ministry of Lake of the Woods Church!



REGISTRATION FEE

- \$125 per player
- \$100 Hole sponsorships
- Additional sponsorship opportunities available!

August Birthdays

Celine Baker	Eileen McFarland
Valerie Benito	William Meldrum
Mark Blattert	Vera Moody
Nancy Bowles	Ann Nadwodny
Anne Boyd	Michael Neely
Luanne Coffee	Jim Nellis
Jeff Davis	Vicki O'Hara
Carrie DeSalvo	Shalini Paul
Danny Dorton	Vijay Paul
John Edmiston	Neil Pedersen
Raymond Farmer	Brenda Rogers
Lorrie Flores	Antoinette
Jeffrey Flynn	Ruther
James Fulton	Rachel Schneider
Michael Green	Judy Schofield
Hope Hall	Robert Shope
Carol Johnson	John Simons
Christian Jones	Bobbie Stone
Laird Knights	Michael Suche
Susanne Kurz	Anne Tower
Audrey Lawrence	Kathryn Van Leer
Janet Loeffler	Vicki Wachendorf
Debra Lyon	Pat Watterworth
Susan Mahnel	

August Anniversaries

John & Patty Bell
 John & Nancy Bowles
 Eric & Jenny Chinault
 John & Minda Edmiston
 Jeffrey & Judy Flynn
 Warren & Leslie Gage
 William & Janet Glidden
 Michael & Linda Green
 Olin & Liz Greene
 Charles & Laura Handy
 Bruce & Sharon Killian
 Stone & Dawn Leighty
 Gary & Janet Loeffler
 William & Maria Meldrum
 Dan & Jeanne Porter
 Spike & Beth Richards
 Hugh & Debbie Risseuw
 John & Jan Simons
 Robert & Marsha Stumpf
 Emerson & Ruth Watson
 Harold & Lora Wood



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

Heather Austin	Silvana Babikow
Janet Bocook	Laurel Buongiavanni
Lindsay Cole	Millie Davis
Danny DeLongis	Jim Divelbiss
Nancy Doseff	Susan Dyer
John Eckman	Steve Gaines
Betty Herron	Andres Idrovo
Olivia Knights	Don Trent
Herbert McKittrick	Lee Moore
Ann Nadwodny	Tom & Lois Northam
Barbara Rakes	Selena Rave

John & Ann Sawyer	Bob & Ellen Schwartz
Wes Seaman	Shelly Seymour
Normajeane Solebello	Martha Somerville
Bobbie Stone	Greg Soukenik
Beth Sundberg	Darrell Turner
Pat Watterworth	Newt Wilson

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