THE LAKE OF THE WOODS CHURCH
"Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known"

CROSS CURRENTS

November 2026



Home Helps - 2 Days, 32 Volunteers and 14 Neighbors Served

The Home Helps Fall work weekend was held Friday and Saturday, October 30 & 31. Over the two-day period, 32 volunteers and youth served more than 14 neighbors. Projects included building a wheelchair ramp for a disabled veteran, fall yard work, power washing, painting, home repairs, and carpentry. This event occurs twice a year, in Spring and Fall, and also responds to urgent needs identified throughout the year.



This is a great opportunity for entire families to come together and serve the community. Learn more about Home Helps at the Church's website www.LOWChurch.org or by picking up a flier on the community bulletin board.

From our Senior Pastor: *It's a Wonderful Life*

An Advent Journey from Bedford Falls to Bethlehem
Discovering the Wonderful Savior Behind *It's a Wonderful Life*
"Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings!"


Rev. Adam Colson

For generations, *It's a Wonderful Life* has reminded us that ordinary lives can make an extraordinary difference. This Advent, I'd love to invite you to discover an even greater truth: the wonderful life God offers us through Jesus Christ. Beginning November 29, we'll journey together **Through Bedford Falls to Bethlehem**, exploring the story of George Bailey alongside the promises of Scripture. Like George, we've all experienced dreams that changed, disappointments we didn't expect, difficult choices, and moments when life felt anything but wonderful.

Yet Christmas points us to Someone greater than George Bailey. More than 700 years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah proclaimed: *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* **Isaiah 9:6**

Each week we'll connect scenes from this beloved Christmas classic with one of these powerful names of Jesus:

- **Nov. 29 | WONDERFUL: When God Has Other Plans**
When life doesn't go according to plan, God may be doing something even better.
- **Dec. 6 | COUNSELOR: Choosing the Right Voice**
In a world full of competing messages, discover the wisdom of following Christ.
- **Dec. 13 | MIGHTY GOD: Strength for the Impossible**
When our resources run out, God's power never does.
- **Dec. 20 | EVERLASTING FATHER: When Everything Falls Apart**
Even in life's darkest moments, God's love never lets us go.
- **Christmas Eve | EMMANUEL: God With Us**

The Christmas story reminds us of a life-changing truth: we are never alone because God has come to be with us.

Continued on page 3

THE LAKE OF THE WOODS CHURCH
Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known

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

Unsolicited content is welcome.
Send to: elder.comm@lowchurch.org
View online at www.lowchurch.org

Continued from page2 ***It's a Wonderful Life***

Who Will You Bring?

One reason I'm especially excited about this series is that almost everyone knows and loves *It's a Wonderful Life*. It creates a natural opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member who may not normally come to church.

Don't wait until Christmas Eve. Invite someone to begin the journey with you on November 29 and experience the story week by week as we travel from Bedford Falls to Bethlehem.

By the end of the movie, George Bailey discovers that his life mattered more than he ever imagined. But Christmas tells an even greater story: a God who loves us so much that He entered our world to show us just how much we matter to Him. This Christmas, join us as we journey from Bedford Falls to Bethlehem and discover the hope, peace, joy, and love found in Jesus Christ. Bring a friend, bring your family, bring someone who needs a little Christmas hope. After all, it really can be a wonderful life when we know the Wonderful Savior.

Pastor Adam Colson
Senior Pastor





Board of Elders, Stewardship in Action

The Lord has richly blessed The Lake of the Woods Church with facilities, property, and resources that support worship, discipleship, fellowship, outreach, and service. Faithful stewardship requires more than responding when something breaks. It involves caring for, maintaining, and improving the resources God has entrusted to us so they can continue serving both current and future generations.

The projects highlighted below reflect that ongoing commitment. Some are highly visible, while others take place behind the scenes. Whether addressing water intrusion, restoring the log cabins, improving safety systems, face-lifting the restrooms, or planning for future facility needs, our goal remains the same: to be wise stewards of what God has provided and to ensure these resources continue to support the ministry and mission of the church.

Water Leak Repair

Last month, we reported that water intrusion in the youth stairwell and café had progressed beyond seepage and now requires corrective action. Since then, the Board of Elders has authorized sole-source negotiations with Loudin Building Systems, the contractor that completed the accessibility improvements as part of our 50th Jubilee celebration.

Many have expressed interest in fully enclosing the courtyard. We explored several options, including constructing a roof or atrium over the existing courtyard. However, fire code requirements would not permit changes that obstruct the current means of egress, and preliminary cost estimates ranged from $1 million to $2.7 million, making this option impractical.

Our current focus remains on resolving the water intrusion issues. We expect to receive a proposal in early November and hope to begin work before Christmas. If weather or scheduling delays prevent construction from starting this year, we will postpone the project until spring.

Cabins

This year, we completed a major roof repair and replacement on the log cabins. In addition, Phase 1 of the cabin restoration project was successfully completed through Eagle Scout candidate Colt Pannell's leadership project. Colt and his team addressed several immediate structural and safety concerns while helping establish priorities for the cabins' long-term restoration. We are grateful for his leadership and for the Scouts and volunteers who contributed their time and effort.

The cabins are now entering the next phase of a multi-year restoration effort designed to preserve these historic log cabins and expand their usefulness for ministry. Our next priority is replacing the existing propane fireplace heating system and aging, inefficient air-conditioning units with energy-efficient mini-split systems. While the propane fireplaces have served the cabins well, upgrading to mini-splits will improve both safety and efficiency. To support these improvements, we are upgrading the electrical system to current code standards.

As an additional safety enhancement, we have installed Wi-Fi service at the cabins. Because cellular reception in that area can be unreliable, Wi-Fi calling will provide a more dependable means of communication, especially in an emergency. We also plan to install interior and exterior security cameras integrated into the church's existing safety monitoring system to help protect both people and property.

Between now and next summer, we plan to replace windows and doors to improve security and energy efficiency, repair and replace deteriorated logs, and address other structural needs identified during the assessment process. These improvements will significantly increase the cabins' usability for both our Scouting America programs and youth ministries, creating additional opportunities for discipleship, fellowship, outreach, and overnight activities.

A Word of Appreciation

We are especially grateful for the many volunteers who serve through Home Helps, Buildings and Grounds, Scouting America, and other ministries. Their willingness to contribute time, skills, and labor, together with the generosity of donors who provide materials and financial support, allows many of these projects to be completed at a fraction of the normal cost.

Please continue to pray for wisdom as we prioritize future projects, for favorable weather and contractor availability, and for the safety of all who are serving. Most importantly, pray that every facility entrusted to The Lake of the Woods Church will continue to advance the mission of making disciples, sharing the love of Christ, and serving our community for years to come.

John R Gingrich
Chairman, Board of Elders

Caregiver Support Group Starting October 8th LWOC

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

November

6 -7 - Christmas Bazaar

11 - Veterans' Day OFFICE CLOSED

13 - Living Water Community Clinic Gala LOW Clubhouse

20 - Movie Night "It is a Wonderful Life" LWOC

26 & 27- Thanksgiving Office Closed

December

4 - Blue Ridge Corale Winter Concert

6 - Christmas Festival

13 - Congregational Meeting - Day of Rememberance

18&19 - Christmas Cantata

24th - Christmas Eve Services: 5pm, 7pm. 9pm

25th - Christmas Office Closed

27th - One Service Only 9:45

28th - Office Closed

January

1 - Office Closed

15 - 17 Winter Missions Retreat

15 - Movie Night LWOC

24 - Scout's Pancake Breakfast

MISSION PARTNER OF THE MONTH
Living Water Community Clinic

COUNT ME IN — Joining the Work of Healing

On Friday, November 13, our church family will gather with friends, neighbors, and community partners for the sold-out Living Water Community Clinic Gala.

It is a joy to see such strong support for a mission that remains a lifeline for so many. To those attending this year's Gala, thank you. Your presence testifies to the compassion and generosity that define The Lake of the Woods Church.

Galatians 6:10 reminds us, *"As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those in the household of faith."* Opportunities to serve do not always arrive neatly packaged. Sometimes we must seek them, step toward them, and make ourselves available. When we do, our acts of kindness become expressions of obedience—and of faith and love.

The Clinic is one of the clearest expressions of this calling. Through medical care, dental services, counseling, and prayer, we offer hope and dignity to those with nowhere else to turn. Every volunteer, every donor, every prayer partner plays a part in that healing work.

As we celebrate the success of this year's Gala, I want to encourage the rest of our congregation to consider how you might be counted in. You may not be attending the event, but you can still join the mission it supports:

- Pray regularly for the Clinic's staff, volunteers, and patients.
- Serve once a month in greeting, intake, administrative suport, or medical and dental days.
- Give toward supplies, equipment, or medications.
- Share the Clinic's story with someone who needs to hear it.
- Ask the Lord, "What is my part?"

Every "yes" strengthens the mission. Every act of service becomes a blessing to someone in need. And every step we take together reflects the love of Christ moving through His people.

To those attending the Gala—thank you for standing with us. To those still discerning your role—may the Lord stir your heart. Together, as one church family, we can say:
Count me in for compassion. Count me in for healing. Count me in for the work of Christ.

Announcing The Day of Remembrance 2026



The Lake of the Woods Church invites you to join us for the annual Day of Remembrance, "For Everything There is a Season." This service is for those who have lost a loved one during the past 7 years. We would like to honor them on a special day, in a special way, with a candlelight service on Sunday, December 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

During the service, a video compilation of photographs will be shared, and photographs (or name if you prefer) will be displayed on the "Tree of Remembrance" located in the Gathering Place for the month of December. Please submit your information and photo by emailing the Lake of the Woods Church website at mike@lowchurch.org with a subject line of "Day of Remembrance" by November 27, 2026. All photos will appear on screen and in the bulletin. Please include on the form a 10–15-word special phrase to put next to the photo. (For example, "We miss you and your beautiful smile".)

Since this is a candlelight service, we will have an individual candle for each person we are honoring; therefore, we hope you can attend in person to light this special candle for your loved one. Please RSVP by calling the Church Office at 540-972-9060, or by email to mike@lowchurch.org

Please mark your calendar, send your photo, and RSVP if you plan to attend. You can register online. This year, as we design the leaflet, you will also be able to enter a phrase next to your loved one's photo.

Prayer for Living Water Community 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.



Help bring joy into a child's life and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by filling an Operation Christmas Child shoebox!

Boxes are available in the Gathering Place and must be returned to the church by Sunday, November 15th

Students Leading Unbelievers to God (SLUG) FEST

Students Leading Unbelievers to God (SLUG) FEST is an annual youth outreach event.

There were 19 students and 9 youth leaders in attendance. This year, the students started the morning by pitching in and helping with Home Helps. They served at three different sites, as well as at the church, assisting with yard cleanup and spreading mulch.



They spent the afternoon at Round Hill Farms, enjoying, among other things, the Corn Maze. Then it was off to Fun Land, where the go-carts and miniature golf were the main attractions. After Fun Land, they enjoyed dinner at Raising Cane's before returning to the church for an all-night lock-in.

Eugene Slagle shared a short message, followed by a time of worship. This was a highlight of the day, as the students lifted their voices in praise to God through song.

LOW Church has a vibrant and connected group of students who are growing in their relationship with God and with one another. What a blessing they are! We are also grateful for the volunteer leaders who make events like this possible.



A special thank-you to Diane Rivenberg and Eugene for providing breakfast on Sunday morning!
Let us give praise to God for our youth and leaders!

Women's Ministry Update

God is moving through the LOW Church Women's Ministry Program! October was an exciting month! The first "First Friday" event took place on October 2 with fun, food and fellowship! Several women shared easy fall decorating ideas, we enjoyed meeting new neighbors, were inspired by a devotional on hospitality, and good food was enjoyed by all!

October 17th was the day of our Fall Women's Ministry retreat and what a beautiful and inspiring time it was! We listened to three speakers from the Gospel Coalition on the theme of "Abiding in Christ", worshipped together in song, and enjoyed a delicious lunch. For many, the highlight of the day was the opportunity to meet in small groups to discuss and reflect upon the message from our speakers, share experiences and pray together. The Holy Spirit surely moved in our midst.



There are many exciting opportunities coming up in November!

Be sure to attend the Crafters Bazaar on Friday, November 6 or Saturday, November 7 in Friendship Hall at the church. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Christmas Craft Bazaar where homemade and unique gifts provide a head start for Christmas shopping! All proceeds benefit the LOW Church Youth Missions program.

After attending the Christmas Bazaar on Friday, please head over to the Outreach Center on Route 20 for the November First Friday! We will be celebrating the season with a "Dessert Friendsgiving", reflections on thankfulness, and a time of fellowship. There is no cost, but we do ask that ladies register at www. lowchurch.org/events.

December's First Friday will take place on December 4th at the Outreach Center. Make sure to sign up to attend this fun evening that will include making homemade Christmas ornaments.

We invite ladies to join us on the third Thursday of November, the 19th, for the Women's Gathering from 10:30 – 12:00 at the church. Each month features a different themed presentation, devotional, and pot-luck lunch. Stay-tuned for an announcement of upcoming presentations!

Our Tuesday morning and Wednesday night women's Bible studies are in full-swing. Led by Pat Erickson, the Tuesday morning Bible study is on the book of Judges. Dawn Leighty is leading the Wednesday night study on the book of I Peter. Come join us and grow in your Bible knowledge and understanding!

And finally, don't forget about our other Women's Ministry opportunities:
MomCo – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 10am – 12pm in the lower level of the church. Childcare provided.

Faithbooking – 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 9am in Friendship Hall.

Prodigal Prayer Group – 4th Thursday, 10am in the Charter Room.

Crafters' Workshop – every Tuesday at 9am in Rooms 210-211.

For more information, contact the Women's Ministry Steward Team by email at womensministry@lowchurch.org or call the church office at (540) 972-9060.

Thanksgiving Basket Ministry: Sharing God's Love, One Basket at a Time

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

Each year, our Lake of the Woods Church family comes together to share the love of Christ through our Thanksgiving Basket Ministry. Each basket provides the essentials for a warm holiday meal and, just as importantly, a message of hope. It's a cherished tradition that reminds us that when we give, we reflect the generous heart of God.

This year, we're excited to extend that love even further! Some of our baskets will bless families connected to two of our cherished mission partners, Living Water Community Clinic and Beauty for Ashes. We're also grateful for the Lions Club, which is generously providing a turkey for every basket.

How You Can Help

DONATE HOLIDAY FOOD ITEMS
Bring your donated items from the Thanksgiving Basket shopping list and place them in the receptacle in the Gathering Place. Collections will take place during Sunday services, November 1, 8 and 15.

PREFER TO GIVE FINANCIALLY?
Monetary donations are welcome! Simply write "Thanksgiving Basket" on the memo line your check.

DONATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15

Let's make this more than a meal. Together, let's share the blessings of Thanksgiving, demonstrate God's provision, and remind our neighbors that they are loved.

Thank you for helping Lake of the Woods Church put faith into action!



of

MUSICAL NOTES: Lift Every Voice: Why Our Church Choir Matters (and Why You Belong Here)

Have you ever wondered what makes a church choir so vital to our worship? It is easy to look up at the choir loft on Sunday morning and think of them as a performance group. But a church choir is far more than a collection of singers giving a concert—it is a foundational ministry of our church community.



A choir's primary purpose is to serve as a catalyst for the whole congregation. Singing together is one of the most powerful ways we connect as a body of faith. The choir acts as a musical engine, providing the vocal strength, confidence, and cueing that helps everyone in the pews sing out with joy. When the choir sings, their goal isn't to be heard instead of you, but to lift your voice along with theirs.

Saint Augustine famously wrote that "he who sings prays twice." Music has a unique way of bypassing our intellectual walls and speaking directly to the soul. Through the beauty of sacred harmonies, traditional hymns, and soaring choral literature, the choir helps unpack the scriptures in a deeply emotional way. They provide moments of reflection, mark sacred seasons, and help usher us into a prayerful space where we can encounter God.

Beyond Sunday morning, the choir is a vibrant, supportive small-group community. Rehearsals are spaces where we check in on one another, share laughs, pray for each other, and carry one another through life's triumphs and challenges. It is a place of deep connection, discipline, and spiritual growth.

If you have ever caught yourself humming along in the pew, tapping your foot, or feeling a stir in your heart during a hymn, this is your invitation to join us.

A common misconception is that you need to be a professional vocalist or know how to read complex sheet music to join a church choir. That couldn't be further from the truth! All that is required is a willing heart, a desire to serve, and a love for worship. We learn together, laugh together, and blend our voices so that individual imperfections disappear into a beautiful, collective offering.

Whether you are a seasoned singer or have only ever sung in the shower, there is a place reserved just for you. Come join us for rehearsal on Tuesday nights at 6:30 in the choir room, experience the community firsthand, and help us lift the song of our church. If you have any questions or want to let us know you're coming, please contact Kevin Paxton at kevin.paxton@lowchurch.org --Donna Chernowetz.

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with Gladness;
come before him with joyful songs."
Ps100: 1 -2



November Birthdays

John Bell
Carrie Bernd
Harry Biggs
Tom Browne
Carl Coffee
Jack Crozier
James Divelbiss
Linda Donahue
Charles DeLeon
Paul DeNicola
Tonya Dorton
Sonja Edwards
Ruth Fraser
Mitch Fournet
Daphne Gaines
Katherine Gazzetta
Vicki Gingrich
William Glidden
Melvin Hall
Roland Hamilton
Devin Jackson
Dolores Johansmeyer
Harry Lee
Andrea Leon
Terence Maple
Richard Millman
Rita Millman
Troy Moore
Dominic Naples
Anna Nellis
Donna Nettleton
Lois Northam
Barbara Norton
Kara Paxton
Andrew Rayne
Allison Richards
Steve Roberts
Joe Roth
Robbie Royce
Ralph Rupard
Ramin Sargis
Janet Skidmore
Darrow Strain
Ed Suche
Jennifer Taylor
Ruth Taylor
Geoffrey Tiblin
Krista Ulman
Ben Van Der Vliet
Paul Wesley
Elizabeth Wiley

November Anniversaries

Robert & Claire Chapman
Tom & Betty Collins
Paul & Debbie DeNicola
John & Marie Dullnig
Philip & Betty Herron
Noah & Terry Hoffman
Bill & Deborah Lyon
Greg & Deborah Martin
Jordan & Lisa Medas
Richard & Rita Millman
Tom & Anne Tower
Gerald & Gloria Whitmore





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

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

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