“Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24)

Jesus spoke these familiar words toward the end of his earthly ministry. Taken out of context they seem to be directed toward us as followers of Jesus, and indeed, he goes on to say, “Whoever loves his/her life will lose it, and whoever hates his/her life in this world will keep it.… Whoever serves me must follow me.…”

This, of course, is one of Jesus favorite themes and cautions. At the beginning of his ministry he said, “If anyone wants to become my follower, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24, 25)

But if you read Jesus’ statement about the grain dying in context you will notice its initial reference was not to the followers of Jesus, but to Jesus himself. What he said was:

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.”

In other words, “I am about to be glorified, and my glory will be in my dying and thus producing much fruit.”

How is Jesus’ death his glory? It seems the very opposite: an unimaginably horrible mutilation of his spirit, soul and body; excruciating pain and degradation, and – from a Jewish point of view – accepting the accursedness of Deuteronomy 21:23 (“anyone hung on a tree is under God’s curse.”)

How can Jesus say, “I am about to be glorified, and it will be in dying”?

The answer is at least two-fold. First, there is a glory in Jesus’ willingness to go to a cross on our behalf and at his Father’s bidding. Please note he didn’t want to die, even though he said from the very beginning that was the reason he had come among us.

Three times in the Garden just before his betrayal he prayed, “Father, if it be possible, take this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will but yours.”

Clearly it was not only the horror and dread of physical suffering that caused him to make that request, but even more deeply it was contemplating the separation from his Father. He who had known unbroken fellowship and perfect communion with his Father from before the foundation of the world was about to enter God-forsakenness for us. He who had never known a moment of separation from his Father during his earthly life was about to experience spiritual desolation and abandonment.

We cannot fully imagine it. Indeed, it is a self-contradiction. The Son of God, perfectly one with his Father, was about to enter God-forsakenness for us. And so he prayed, “Father, if it is possible to affect this salvation, this redemption, without my being separated from you, I ask that it might be so. Nevertheless…”

And in the “Nevertheless” is glory. At one point Jesus said “No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.” (John 10:18)

He expressed his preference. No, that’s not a strong enough word. He expressed the agonized longing, plea, and desire of his heart – as the Book of Hebrews puts it, with “prayers and supplications and loud cries and tears” (5:7) – and then he chose the Father’s will above his own.

There is glory.

Continued on Page 2
And, yes, he does, consistently invite us to follow him in such a dying to self. But if we are to follow, it can only be because he has already led the way.

He chose the Father’s will above his own out of love for the Father, and out of love for you and me. An old Gospel chorus asks, “And was there then no other way for God to take? I cannot say. I only bless him day by day who died to be my Savior.”

There are any number of “theories” or explanations of how the atonement “works.” Each captures a piece of it, perhaps, but none of them explains it adequately. But, the thing that really matters is not how the atonement works, but that it works!

Christ “took our sins upon himself, and died in our place that we might be forgiven.” He “became the true Passover Lamb and shed his blood that we might live.” He offered himself “as a ransom for our sins.” Yes, yes, scripture says all this and more. But all these explanations fall short because they are based on understanding Jesus’ death as that of an innocent third party. God forgives us because Jesus took the punishment that we deserved.

That leaves out a most important question. God forgave people all through the Old Testament before Jesus was even born, let alone before he died. If God could forgive people prior to Jesus’ death, why was it necessary for Jesus to die?

The infinitely more profound question is: what did it mean for Jesus to die as the God-come-among-us rather than simply as an innocent human being. He claimed to be Emmanuel, God-who-became-one-of-us. He said, “If you have seen me you have seen the Father.” “I and the Father are one.” “Before Abraham was I AM.” (Taking the unspeakably holy Name of God upon his lips, and speaking it of himself.)

What does it mean for Jesus to die, not just as a human being, but as God incarnate? Only when we ask it this way will we begin to plumb the depth of the mystery of Good Friday.

Let’s consider how forgiveness “works” in our everyday relationships.

If I do some thoughtless and hurtful thing to you, you really have two choices: you can seek retaliation, recompense, punishment - or you can forgive me.

But, if you choose to forgive me, that doesn’t restore what has been hurt or damaged or broken or maligned. If you choose to forgive me, it means that instead of “paying me back” for what I have done, in a very real sense you “pay for it” yourself.

If I damage something precious, and you forgive me that means that instead of making me repair or replace it, you do so yourself. Worse, if I damage your spirit, and you choose to forgive me, instead of “paying me back” for that hurtful thing, you accept and bear the pain yourself, and go on treating me as if it had never happened.

If the words “forgiveness” and “love” mean anything recognizable when we apply them to God, the same dynamic must be at work on his part. We have said to God, (in effect) “Get out of my life. I would rather make my own decisions.” We have rejected his love, his authority, his commandments, his covenant. We have literally attempted to “cross him out” of our lives.

If he is to forgive all that, it means that instead of making us pay for what we have done he “pays for it” himself. He allows us to despise, reject and ignore him, and loves us as if we had never done so.

And so, when he becomes one of us, and we treat him as we have always treated him, he responds to that treatment as he has always responded. That’s glory.

And secondly, there is glory in the fruit born by Jesus’ death. In submitting himself to the will of the Father, and bearing the cost of forgiveness himself, Jesus restored to all who will receive it the fellowship with God that sin inevitably destroys.

It may be best expressed in the parable of the Good Shepherd. Jesus says he is the Good Shepherd because he gives his life for the sheep. The wolf comes to kill and steal and destroy, he says, but I interpose my body between the wolf and the sheep. Think of it this way. If the sheep have wandered off into the darkness, and the Shepherd is to rescue them, he must go to where they are. If they have gotten caught in the brambles, the thorns that hold them will pierce and cut him. But, if he is successful in rescuing them, he “brings them back, rejoicing.” “Rejoice with me,” he exults, “I have found my sheep.” And that, too, is glory!

Meditate upon these things as we look forward to the victory of Easter.

Love to you in him,

[Signature]
“Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he has the light of the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.” Revelation 14:6

Ladies and gentleman this is your captain speaking… we have had a little glitch and as a result we have lost power in the cabin… please know that the engines are operating fine. We are in the process of getting the situation in the cabin rectified and restoring power to you as quickly as possible.” Those words came over the loudspeaker on my flight home from Navajo Nation, after the lights and air went out in the cabin. As promised, the power was restored relatively quickly, only to go out a second time. When the power came on again, fortunately it stayed on for the rest of the flight. As the flight was an evening flight, you can imagine how dark and disturbing it was to not have power in the cabin. As I sat in the dark, reflecting on the trip I was returning from, my thoughts landed on Revelation 14:6 “Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he has the light of the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.” I pondered the darkness of abuse and addiction that the Navajo people have walked in for years. And yet, the light that burns bright in the Navajo Nation is a light midair in the darkness... the Navajo people have found peace in Christ. They have found pride in their gifts and talents. They have found fervor in a desire to help their nation. The Lake of the Woods Church has an opportunity to be a part of that light of the eternal gospel midair in the darkness. We can help bring the light of the Gospel to every nation, tribe and language and people: locally through our Community Missions efforts; globally through our mission partners, and supported missions; and actively through our Navajo Mission.

This month there are mission articles and opportunities throughout the CrossCurrents. Elder Dave Blackistone has an article talking more about our Navajo trip. Our mission partner of the month is RISE adult special needs ministry. Read an article written by the RISE members themselves. Elder Bill Fetzer has an article on the Living Water Community Clinic Auxiliary. Debbie McInnis (Clinic Executive Director) has an article on how God is working at our free clinic. Our Youth Director John Higginbotham has an article on how God worked in the lives of our teens at our annual Youth Missions Conference. As you read CrossCurrents this month, look for the light of the Gospel that covers page after page. Pray over these ministries and missions. Ask God to show you how you can be a part of that light. Let’s join with the amazing work God is doing as together we strive to Make Christ Known.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Annual Church Missions Conference will be held April 23-29. Special speakers, activities, and events will be featured throughout the week. Sunday our missionary partner from India will give a challenging sermon at all 3 services. Plan now to attend missions week…it will turn on the light in you.

We thank you, Heavenly Father, for the RISE ministry to those with Special Needs, and especially for those who attend our services week by week. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them and help them grow in grace to know, love, and trust you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
“Whoever fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.” - Proverbs 14:26-27

As parents we are charged with teaching our kids the life skills to “make it” in this rapidly changing, media infused, overly desensitized world. We concern ourselves with making sure our children have the tangible skills to be successful in college or careers (math, science, languages, extra-curricular activities); but we often overlook our charge to develop our children spiritually.

Anxiety and depression levels among teenagers and young adults have been steadily on the rise for more than 80 years. Anxiety disorders are the most common illness in the U.S. affecting 40 million adults, or more than 18% of our population. Maybe we are too concerned with head knowledge and not balancing it with the heart knowledge of a life “in Christ.”

King David wrote, “I love you Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” (Psalm 18: 1-2)

Along with math, science, languages, we need to teach our children how to deal with the challenges of this world and where to put their true hope…in Christ alone. Our identity does not come from a teacher, a friend, social media, a test score, but from God. And what is the best way to teach that? To model it.

Let’s show them how it’s done.

We know that the pressures of life do not end after school age. So how do we deal with stress? Do we talk bad about our co-workers in front of our children? Do we hide our feelings, only to have them manifest themselves in anger towards our children? Do we suppress our feelings, only to have them manifest themselves as deep sorrow and withdrawal from family and good healthy fellowship? Or do we pray to our God in front of our children? Do we teach our children to get on their knees and ask God for help? Do we show our children the concordance in the back of their Bible and how to look up a topic to see what the Bible says about strength in the Lord or dealing with fear? Our children need to see us living out our faith and relationship to God, through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit each day. They spend hours under the influence of devices…do they see us spending hours in communion with God? And by communion, I don’t just mean the worship service of the body and the bread but also “the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level” (dictionary.com)

Timothy Keller writes, “When others, including our children, see us trusting God and not melting down before the problems of life - and when they see us actually delighting in God rather than being merely dutiful - that may be a refuge for them. It may attract them to a relationship with him.” (God’s Wisdom for Navigating Life, p. 44)

I cannot recommend enough the D6 classes on Sunday morning for parents at 9:45 in the Founders Room. Parents, Youth and Children all study the same passage of Scripture, on age appropriate levels, in the hopes that it sparks dialog throughout the week. A pillar of the D6 curriculum says, “We want the younger believer to begin to trust God more and more instead of relying solely on our advice or counsel. Good parents work themselves out of a job as their child becomes an independent adult.”

Let’s let our children see that we truly believe God is our rock and our fortress so that we may be a refuge in this world to our children and point our safety and security to God’s provision.

Enthusiastically His,

Rev. Jordan Medas, Associate Pastor
Visitation & Senior Care Ministry
Mike Lemay, Minister

Worship, Grow, Serve, Share, Opportunities are here.
“Love one another as I have loved you” John 13:34

Opportunities to Serve
The Visitation Ministry is looking for someone or a married couple to join outreach visitation ministry, to visit those who have visited our church for the first time. Contact Mike Lemay 972-9060

Support Groups and Bible Studies
Walk with Hope Men’s Cancer Support group is now forming. Contact Mike Lemay for more information.

2nd Half Bible Study – Bible study / Discussion group for 60 years and older meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays every Month at 1:00 in the Charter room. Current Study is Romans. Come and join our lively discussion group.

Walk with Hope – Cancer support group for women meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Contact Suzanne Lentine or Mike Lemay for more information. Suzanne Lentine@lowchurch.org or mike@lowchurch.org phone 972-9060

Focus on the Kidneys During National Kidney Month

March is National Kidney Month and the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is urging all Americans to give their kidneys a second thought and a well-deserved checkup.

Kidneys filter 200 liters of blood a day, help regulate blood pressure and direct red blood cell production. But they are also prone to disease; 1 in 3 Americans is at risk for kidney disease due to diabetes, high blood pressure or a family history of kidney failure. There are more than 30 million Americans who already have kidney disease, and most don’t know it because there are often no symptoms until the disease has progressed.

During National Kidney Month in March, and in honor of World Kidney Day on March 14, the NKF offers the following health activities to promote awareness of kidneys, risk factors and kidney disease:

Free Screenings: On World Kidney Day and throughout the Month of March, NKF is offering free screenings to those most at risk for kidney disease – anyone with diabetes, high blood pressure or a family history of kidney failure. Locations and information can be found on the calendar on the NKF website www.kidney.org

‘Are You at Risk’ Kidney Quiz: Early detection can make a difference in preventing kidney disease so it’s important to know if you’re at risk.

Take the online kidney quiz! https://www.kidney.org/kidneydisease/selfAssessmentQuiz

About The Kidneys: The kidneys are two, fist-sized organs in your lower back. They maintain overall health through the following functions:

• Filtering waste out of 200 liters of blood each day.
• Regulating of the body's salt, potassium and acid content.
• Removing of drugs from the body.
• Balancing the body's fluids.
• Releasing hormones that regulate blood pressure.
• Producing an active form of vitamin D that promotes strong, healthy bones.
• Controlling the production of red blood cells.

Quick Facts on Kidney Disease:
• Kidney disease is the 9th leading cause of death in the country.
• More than 30 million Americans have kidney disease, and most don’t know it.
• There are over 95,000 people waiting for kidney transplants.
• More than 590,000 people have kidney failure in the US today.
I love studying about Moses because over the past years, I have found many similarities in my personal life to Moses. But in studying and teaching the lessons of the 10 Commandments for Lent, I have begun to think of Moses, not just as a leader of the Israelites but as a co-laborer in Children’s Ministry. The more I read, I believe we both share one more thing in common… the role as Children’s Ministry Director. So here is my thought process which led me to this conclusion. Read the following behaviors and experiences of the Israelites.

- Went on a field trip
- Crossed the Red Sea…in an orderly fashion
- Were put in time out…in the wilderness for 40 years
- Grew impatient when Moses took too long at Mount Sinai
- Wanted things their own way (golden calf)
- Liked to blame others for their actions Aaron - rebellious and mischievous
- Whined and complained
- Short memory (quickly forgot how bad it was in Egypt)
- Easily distracted by what was over there
- Complained that there was nothing good to eat

Given the childish behaviors and experiences of the people of Israel, I can only conclude that, while not children in age, the Israelites were children in mind and spirit. This then led me to the conclusion that Moses was… absolutely… a Children’s Ministry Director.

But if we want to take it to a spiritual level to confirm his ministry calling and role as children’s director, then this is best part of the director role that God called him to. Moses was called to lead His people (children) not just into the Promised Land (salvation), but to lead his people to God himself. It is through the trials that the people of Israel had a relationship with God in a land where they had to be solely dependent on Jehovah Jireh (God my provider) and His leading in their journey. Isn’t this what we do in Children’s Ministry and in our homes? We lead our children through the ups and downs of their wilderness (childhood) to bring them to the promised land (salvation) and into a relationship with Yahweh, the God of the Israelites. What a great role Moses had… what a great role we all share in leading children.

(On a side note… One of my favorite humorous lines from the bible is in the Moses story. Read Exodus 32:24… Aaron was the biggest kid of all!)

LOWC Kids Club has continued to amaze us with the attendance each week. We currently have 45 children enrolled with an overage of 30 each week. We will continue with our Lent study through the end of March and resume our New Testament Bible Skills in April. During LENT our children have the opportunity to participate with their family and church in worship (6:45 – 7:00 p.m.) Children are then dismissed to their class at 7:00 p.m. for their lesson on the Ten Commandments.

CentriKid registration closed in February. However, If you have a 3rd-5th grader interested in attending camp this summer, please contact Sherri at 972-9060 to see if additional space is available. Dates are June 25 – 29.

Save the date… May 19th. CM will be hosting a yard sale to raise funds for CentriKid. More details to follow in the next Cross currents.
We are right in the middle of winter and are already looking forward to spring.

We had our Valentine's Day parties for our preschoolers on Tuesday, February 13th and Wednesday, February 14th.

Registration for the 2018-19 School Year began on February 1st for our returning 3's, 4's and school age before and after school care. Open registration for new full-time enrollees begins on March 1st. Partial week and Drop-In Registration begins on March 1st, if space is available.

We will be open for Spring Break for our Daycare Families, April 2nd – 6th. Our Preschoolers have been learning about Dental Health, Groundhogs and Shadows, Valentine’s, Presidents and celebrating the 100th day of school.

The Preschool children will have their Spring Pictures and Class Portraits taken on March 5th at 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary. Our Graduating Fours will have their Graduation Pictures taken on April 16th. The Preschool and School Age Program will be learning all about Easter and celebrating with a party and an Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th.

Our summer program begins on Monday, June 11, 2018; we will be open from 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

For more information on our program please contact Belinda at 972-2349 or visit us on our website at www.lowchurch.org, click on “Ministries” and then click on “Child Care Center.”
“If you are not worried about learning the names of the kids at your bus stop,” Kerry O'Neill glanced at an attentive audience of teens, “if you are not willing to pray for the classmate in front of you, behind you, to your left and to your right, please don’t go to Navajo Nation to share the Gospel!”

Throughout the Winter Missions Retreat our teens were challenged that preparation for the summer mission field is a matter of the heart; loving others and sharing the Gospel is a way of life not a cultivated behavior just to be “dusted off” and utilized on a mission trip.

Forty-two teens, ten youth leaders, and six missionaries spent an entire weekend looking deeply into the book of Acts and drawing inspiration from the apostles and the first-century missionaries who gave their all for the sake of the Gospel. The cell phones were put away, but who missed them? The schedule was non-stop! The teens were in their small groups doing morning devotions by 7:15AM. Saturday and Sunday were filled with praise & worship, messages, training, and team-building exercises from sun-up to lights out. Teens who are new to the mission field received Wordless Book training from CEF representatives, Cari Neff and Rosemary Willaford. These “newbies” can now present the Gospel clearly and effectively. Teens who plan to serve locally through Good News Across Sports, did sports training with Spike Richards, Orange Elementary PE instructor. These teens learned tips and best practices to coach elementary-age students in multiple sports. Seasoned teen missionaries spent their time with Mike Phillips, World Servants missionary to the Native American people groups. This group studied the history and culture of the Navajo people; a backdrop to help the teens understand the importance of earning the trust of the Navajo through love and service.

Over the course of the weekend, hearts were stirred and many teens made prayerful commitments to serve locally and abroad. Thank you church family for your prayers and your overwhelming support for our teens and the work God has called them to do.

March 5, 12, 19: Monday Night Archery Course and Bible Study continues. Our youth leader and NFAA/USAA level 3 certified archery coach, Eugene Slagle, is leading archery classes from 6:30-8:30pm in the Friendship Hall. This 6-week course will cover the history of archery and basic to intermediate level shooting. Archery equipment will be provided and participants will shoot both a 15-20# recurve and a compound bow. Participants may also bring their own equipment. The cost of the six-week course is $60 and all proceeds benefit youth missions.

March 14: Missions Training will take place during Wednesday Night Youth group. This training is a requirement for teens who plan to do mission work this summer. Teen missionaries will have dinner at 6:00pm and will finish by 8:00pm as usual. Mission Trainings will take place on the second Wednesday of each month.

March 21: March Madness Game Night. Whether you are a basketball fan or not, this game night will have something for everyone! Teens will receive additional tickets by wearing items of their favorite sports team, by bringing friends, and by bringing non-perishable food items to support the local food pantry. One half of the court will be dedicated to those who have entered the basketball tournament. The other half of the court will be dedicated to those who are playing “basketball” games. Food, fun, fellowship, and prizes galore!

March 28: Letter Writing Begins Our teen missionaries are training and preparing to hit the mission field this summer. Would you like to support a specific teen missionary with your prayers and finances? A quick email to john@lowchurch.org to express interest, and I will establish contact between you and your teen missionary. You will receive updates from the field and be recognized at the “Go Ye Therefore” Banquet this Fall for your support.

Save the Date: April 28, 2018 Youth Missions Benefit 5K/1 Miler on the LOWA Golf Course
**Mission Trip Coming!**

“Mission trip – that’s for people with construction skills or evangelists.” If that’s your idea read on!

The Missions Committee is planning a trip to Navaho nation in New Mexico for June 24 - 30 this summer. This will be an exciting opportunity to see, to serve and to share.

- Serve Navajo people, mired in poverty and problems.
- Share God’s love and hope.
- See beautiful southwest America.

The team will need people with building skills and a willingness to share their faith but it will also need kitchen help, Bible study leaders and other talents to serve and share with the Navajo people.

We will minister in Smith Lake, about a two hour drive northwest of Albuquerque, NM. Smith Lake is a quiet, rural community of several hundred homes, situated at an elevation of 7,260 feet.

The schedule for the week:

- **Sunday, June 24:** fly to Albuquerque, drive to Smith Lake.
- **Monday and Tuesday:** work days. Evening: dinner and worship for community.
- **Wednesday:** afternoon free. Optional trip to Canyon de Chelly or other local sights.
- **Thursday and Friday:** work days. Evening: dinner and worship for community.
- **Saturday:** return home.

The cost for participants will be $550, which includes air fare, meals and lodging. Housing will be in a former school building with bunk beds. Registration forms may be picked up at the Community Missions and Outreach station beginning March 11. Registration forms and down payment of $100 are due April 30th.

If you would like more information please contact Pastor Adam Colson (972-9060) or David Blackistone (972-3555).

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**This Community, This Church Really Does Need You**
by Bill Fetzer

I was traveling south on Route 20 on Tuesday morning, St. Valentine's Day, around 9:30 in the morning – just past the Locust Grove commercial center where our Living Water Community Clinic is located. Suddenly, 11 Orange County and VA State Police vehicles came rushing in the opposite direction, lights flashing and sirens screaming. I counted them out loud as my two youngest grandsons would do if they were with me. As I pulled to the side of the road each time a new group of emergency responders passed by, I thought, “This is not good.” It was only later that I learned that, indeed, someone had lost their life and another person had been charged with murder. Families will be torn apart, and it was reported that at least one member of our Lake of the Woods community was involved. At the time of this writing, the full circumstances are not known, but what is fully apparent is that there is more sadness in our neighborhood right now. What then can we do to make a difference in our own community? We can talk about it, and declare: “It’s such a shame,” and look away, or we can take action.

Last month in the Community Missions and Outreach section of Cross Currents on page 9, I wrote about wonderful things happening at the Living Water Community Clinic and asked if anyone would step forward to assist the clinic staff and spiritual counselors and other community missions in the area. Our missions are already making a difference, but we can do more. We are still in need of a few church members to form the Auxiliary Support Team that I discussed last month. Perhaps you care deeply about the work of our clinic and other activities, but don’t have the professional qualifications or the desire to deal face-to-face with the challenges that our neighbors are experiencing.

Do you know that there are many other ways you can help the LWCC staff and our other frontline servers? If you can pray, if you can talk on the phone, if you can encourage others, friends or neighbors who can support that work, then we need you. You can contribute that special, behind-the-scenes assistance really needed to make this clinic and our other local ministries thrive in areas where there are great needs. We want Lake of the Woods Church to be that light to the world that Pastor Colson talked about in his column this month – that salvation light that Dr. Howe and Pastor Jordan teach in their morning Men’s Bible Studies. Jesus is calling us to serve. Please call Pastor Colson at the church office (540-972-9060) or Bill Fetzer (703-856-3685) if you would like to serve in any capacity. You will be richly blessed – I promise, but more importantly, that’s what God promises to each of us.
Women’s Guild Upcoming Programs
By Julie Phend, Member

Come join us for Women’s Guild! Women’s Guild meets regularly on the first and third Thursday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Each meeting consists of a short devotion, prayer, and a featured speaker, plus a light meal and time to socialize. We also participate in monthly service projects for those in need. All women are welcome, so grab a friend and join us for worship, fellowship, and fun.

Here’s What’s Coming Up:
March 1: Nancy Winston with Shared Hope International will speak. Her topic is “Stop the Injustice! Protecting our Kids from Sex Traffickers.”

March 15: Mary Coleman from City of Promise will speak on “The Cup of Suffering.” City of Promise is a non-profit serving low-income families in Charlottesville. Mary’s experiences with grief, depression, and the day-to-day trials of raising a family have produced lessons of love, resilience, and God’s faithfulness. Mary will share how we all grow stronger in trial and can find hope in every situation.

April 5: Pramila Veeramachaneni will speak about her spiritual journey from Hindu to Christian faith.

April 19: Emmy Robertson and Nancy Bowles will present a program on Art and Faith.

Upcoming Service Projects:
March: Bring used daily devotionals to the meetings. We’ll exchange with each other and donate the extras to Beauty for Ashes, MOPS and others.

April: We will visit Spring Arbor Assisted Living Center to have tea with the residents.

Silent Auction Benefiting Our Living Waters Community Clinic & MWU Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

Sponsored by the Women’s Guild on Saturday, May 5, 9:30 - 11:30am at Lake of the Woods Church.

Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Living Water Community Clinic with the purchase of an autoclave machine to sterilize medical equipment. With the increase in scope and numbers of patients, using disposable instruments is becoming cost prohibitive. The Autoclave will allow the Clinic and providers to continue to provide safe quality care to patients.

Also, benefiting will be the Mary Washington University Intervarsity Christian Fellowship for their work in supporting college students’ spiritual lives.

Members of Women’s Guild, small groups, Sunday school classes, and other church groups and their friends are encouraged to donate like-new and gently-used items to be sold at the silent auction event. We will be accepting and registering items in March and April at Guild Meetings (1st & 3rd Thursday AM) and on Sundays in the Gathering Place. The greater the donations and the bidding, the greater the proceeds will be for purchasing the sterilizer and supporting the MWU Intervarsity Fellowship. Plan now to donate and to attend on May 5.

The following are examples of items which will be welcomed.

For the Home: Lamps, small furniture, throw pillows, quilts, afghans, Longaberger baskets, small kitchen appliances. Wall hangings such as pictures, plaques, tapestries, mirrors, clocks. China, crystal, brass, ceramic pieces such as: Candle sticks, serving pieces, teapots, trays, dinnerware, and vases. Larger furniture items may be donated. Pick-up can be arranged.

For the Lady: All styles of jewelry, shawls, or carry-alls such as tote bags, purses, etc. No personal sized items, please.

For the Art Lovers: Original paintings of all media, needle arts, wood work and carving, decorative painting, figurines, art jewelry, stained glass.

For the Children: Book collections, heritage toys, doll houses, like-new modern toys, high chairs, rocking chairs, etc.

For the Men: Tools for workshop, cars, garden, sports equipment, car accessories

For the Holidays: Decorations, collections (such as trains, angels, bears), wreaths, centerpieces.

Please find it in your heart (and your closets, basements, attics, and corners) to donate items for the auction. This is a “win-win” activity. We part with items that we no longer need and they help purchase equipment to serve patients at Living Water Community Clinic, then our auctioned items are enjoyed by other homes for years.
RISE MINISTRY
By Pastor Adam Colson

Luke 14:13-14 “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Our Mission Partner of the month is RISE Adult Special Needs Ministry. What is RISE Ministry? Thursday evenings, adults with special needs gather at the RISE Community Center behind Living Water Community Clinic on Rt. 20 to have dinner together, make crafts, do fun activities, and have a worship service. God has blessed this ministry and we have seen it grow in leaps and bounds. This month, we want to let the a few of the RISE friends share themselves, what this ministry means to them.

“Adam Colson, I thank the church and the Lord for this program. It is so much fun, and I really enjoy it.” – Diane

“Coming to Rise makes me happy” – Jon

“Rise means God and Jesus that means it makes me happy and seeing people makes me have friends and I like arts and crafts and it puts my friends as my family. I love it.” – Richard

“I like the message and teaching and how it applies to my life.” – Sean

“I like all we do there. Especially when we laugh a lot.” – Raymond

“I like being with all the people” – Albert
“And Jesus went forth and saw a great multitude and was move with compassion toward the, and he healed their sick.” Matthew 14:14

The Living Water Community Clinic has been providing free medical, counseling, and spiritual care to eligible uninsured patients since its official opening event on May 29, 2016. The Clinic has seen over 125 new patients – many returning for follow-up visits and new appointments accounting for more than 450 total visits.

Clinic providers and volunteers have seen patients come in literally off the sidewalk, needing physical care and counseling, and have watched them go from a very unhealthy person without a job to a functioning person with a job and new lease on life. Patients have left the Clinic in tears of gratitude because they have been helped, and have the medicine they need to get better. At least one couple came through the Clinic for medical and emotional care, and received spiritual care that helped save their broken marriage.

The Clinic has grown in patient population, scope of services, and volunteers. Currently there are six providers, seven nurses, and more than 35 other volunteers who have given more than 6,000 hours to help provide the best medical, counseling, and spiritual care. We are now moving toward opening the Clinic an additional evening or morning.

The Clinic is operated solely on grants and the generous donations of individuals, businesses, organizations, and other area Churches. Our 3rd annual Fundraising event, Trees of Life held in November, 2017 was a huge success, bringing in more than $16,000 to help treat our patients.

Our volunteers are the best! If you would like to volunteer, please go to our website, www.livingwaterclinic.life, or give the Clinic a call at 540-854-5922. You will be blessed.

Everyone can be a part of helping eligible patients in our community receive medical, emotional, and spiritual care. You can:

- Pray for the Clinic and patients
- Be an Ambassador of the Clinic and spread the word Like Us On Facebook
- Volunteer
- Be a part of Fundraising and Event planning activities
- Check the Clinic website for volunteer applications and more information

Our patients say it best:

“To the great team of workers and volunteers at Living Water Community Clinic, our hearts go out to you with much thanks for your amazing care and concern in helping us to get the medical attention needed for our son. Thank you for your attentiveness in ensuring that he got the best care, direction and diagnosis resulting in successful lung surgery and removal of a tumor. We were much relieved and strengthened through the compassionate support and professional care that he, and we as a family, received. He is now recovering from his surgery and very thankful for this ministry. We give thanks to God for all of you and the great work you are doing!”
**Lenten Wednesday Services**

**Wednesdays February 21st - March 21st**

**Soup Suppers & Lenten Study Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>First seating soup supper</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Communion Services (Sanctuary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Last seating soup supper</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Family time of worship in song</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Children &amp; Youth dismissed to their programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Understanding the Ten Commandments**</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>All Programs Dismissed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Holy Week Services**

**March 25th - Palm Sunday**
All regularly scheduled services: 8:30, 9:45, & 11:00 a.m.

**March 29th - Maundy Thursday**
7:00 p.m. Holy Week Cantata
“Hallelujah! What A Savior!” with Communion

**March 30th - Good Friday**
7:00 p.m. Holy Week Cantata “Hallelujah! What A Savior!”

**March 31st**
Reflection & Prayer 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

April 1st - Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service on the Clubhouse Point - 7:00 am
All regularly scheduled services at the church.

**The Lake of the Woods Chancel Choir presents**

**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**

The Crucified and Risen Christ

**An Easter Cantata**
Maundy Thursday March 29th 7:00 p.m.
(with Communion)
and
Good Friday March 30th 7:00 p.m.

**Renew Your Spirit with Us This Easter**
With Dr. Howe’s encouragement and the support of the Elders, I have been privileged to begin a program of studies at the Institute for Worship Studies in Jacksonville, Florida. I hope to complete a two-year program of two weeks each year (and lots of homework before and afterward!) leading to a Master’s degree in worship studies. I am planning to share some of the very intriguing things I am learning with the LOWC community through a series of brief articles in CrossCurrents. Here is my first one (and I would love to receive your feedback):

**More Than Just a Meal**

“Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.” (Exodus 24:9-11)

Throughout history, a meal has been used to ratify a treaty or covenant. When you attend a wedding, there is often a meal to celebrate the occasion. After two nations agree to peace, they share a meal. Scripture is full of instances where a meal has been used in the same fashion, like the above passage from Exodus. In this instance, Moses is being given the laws of God. Israel has been saved from Egypt through the works of the Lord, and now God is providing Moses with instructions of how the Israelites are to properly worship Yahweh. This time is concluded with a meal between God, Moses, and the priests, in response to the agreement that has been made.

The same can be said of the Lord’s Supper (also known as Holy Communion or the Eucharist); it is a response by man to the covenant made between us and Christ. Robert Webber, in his book Planning Blended Worship, says that “Worship at the Table is the church’s response to the Word, the time of offering praise and thanksgiving to the Triune God. This extraordinary celebration represents a second ascent into the heavens, a deeper and more full experience of the numinous. For in the Eucharist we join heavenly worship, and with the angels, the archangels, the cherubim and the seraphim we sing and cry aloud eternal song of God’s praises.” (p.127) The Lord’s Supper is often viewed as a time of lament, a time of reflection for the life of sin in which we have been born. However, Holy Communion should also be viewed as a celebration of the salvation we have been afforded through the sacrifice of Christ. Although we are unworthy of such a gift, it is still offered to us through the love of Christ.

Next time you participate in the Eucharist, I encourage you to view your participation as celebration and praise. We must rejoice in the grace given to us, and not be ashamed of our deliverance from sin through the work of Christ. Through the Table we renew our covenant with Christ, and with Him we share the most holy of meals.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Prayer Shawl Ministry — (3rd Mon)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bell Choir - Sanctuary</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AA Group</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Pastor's Bible Study for Men</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>LOWC Crafters Group</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Ladies Bible Study</td>
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<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Good News Clubs</td>
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<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Senior Singles</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shining Hands Ministry</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Praise Team Practice</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Choir Practice</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
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<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>MOPS</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Restoration Dance Preparation</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s &amp; Dementia Support (3rd)</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Communion Service</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Youth Group Dinner</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Middle and High School Youth Group</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>MOMs Next—Library</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Children’s Mid Week Program</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Elective Education Classes</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AA “Big Book” — Rt. 20 - Suite O</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Malachi 3:16 Bible Study</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AA Group — Rt. 20- Suite O</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Men’s Bible Study Group</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Restoration Dance Ministry</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Birthdays of the Month**

03/01 Michele Gill
03/02 Jeff Liebold
03/03 Bud Moody
03/04 Gary Bounds
03/04 Shannon Ford
03/05 Anne Hartzel
03/05 Hal Wood
03/05 Nora Simpson
03/06 Susan Cottoms
03/06 Cynthia Scott
03/06 Nan Bogozi
03/06 Sisi Loeffler
03/07 Sally Rouse
03/08 Tom Schafer
03/08 Liz Bond
03/10 Betty J. Evans
03/10 Ralph Watterworth
03/11 Henrick Thode
03/11 Sean Gill
03/11 David Richards
03/12 Tony DeMarco
03/12 Warren Reder
03/12 Patricia Padgett
03/13 Phil Herron
03/13 Kaitlan E. Cottoms
03/13 Randy Royce
03/14 Hank Altman
03/15 Luisa Kelly
03/15 Tom Hansen
03/15 Sorcha Agerholm
03/16 Alberta F. Jackson
03/16 Pat Shradar
03/16 Trew Harding
03/17 Joan Brown
03/18 Olive Kelly-Tatum
03/18 Barbara Savage
03/19 Janet Bocook
03/19 Ann Rossi
03/20 Millie Nowers
03/20 Joseph Wilson
03/21 Rebecca Slagle
03/21 Bill Lianer
03/21 Cal Patrick
03/23 Peggy Grella
03/24 Sue Silliman
03/24 Alison Merrell
03/25 Barbara Hernan
03/25 Bud Goodsell
03/26 Joyce Haring
03/27 Gary P. Schwartz
03/27 Rhonda Richard
03/28 Eldon Doubet
03/29 Joan Bealby
03/29 David Blackstone
03/29 Sue Simmons
03/30 Jeanette Embrey
03/30 Jerry Sipe
03/30 Shirley Pfile
03/30 Terry Thompson
03/30 Marilyn Yeomans
03/31 Lorraine Owen
03/31 Norma Ervin
03/31 Wayne Mayfield

**Happy Anniversary**

03/01 Gideon and Loraine AbasonTe
03/02 Larry & Renee Graves
03/03 William & Jan Davis
03/03 Jim & Molly Fulton
03/03 Robert & Vanessa Ryan
03/04 Bob & Marie Johnson
03/04 Gary and Sandra Loeffler
03/07 Charles & Janet Bocook
03/08 Lee and Alison Merrell
03/11 Robert & Janice Mackes
03/14 John & Suzanne Lentine
03/16 Richard & Olive Kelly-Tatum
03/17 Dave and Nan Bogozi
03/19 Bill & Millie Nowers
03/24 Edward & Ann Rossi
03/30 Bill & Norma Lianer
2018 Board of Elders

Chairman: Bud Moody (972-3152)  
budmoody@comcast.net

Admin & Budget: Babara Crawford (972-6930)  
msseaman@comcast.net

Adult Education: Sparky Watson (972-4522)  
eowatson@comcast.net

Buildings & Grounds: Bob Lingo (972-0896)  
rlingouva@comcast.net

Congregational Care & Fellowship: Lee Merrell (412-6800)  
lamerrell@comcast.net

Missions: Dave Blackistone (972-3555)  
dblackistone1@verizon.net

Community Outreach: Bill Fetzer (703-856-3685)  
william.fetzer@gmail.com

Worship: Dan Schofield (972-7513)  
dan@lowchurch.org

Youth: Shannon Smith (972-5758)  
thebridghams@comcast.net

Young Families & Children: Tim Hall (840-9362)  
wlv4hnmbce@verizon.net

BoarD of elDerS  
monthly meetIng  
thIrD monDay of every month:

next meetIng:  
monDay marCh 19th  
7:00 P M  
Charter room

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 Traditional Sanctuary  
9:45 Traditional Sanctuary  
9:45 Blended  
Worship Center  
11:00 Contemporary  
Worship Center

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE
Adult  8:30, 9:45, and 11:00  
Youth Higher Grounds  9:30  
Children and Nursery  9:45 & 11:00

EUCARIST
Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.

Pastors in Worship  
March 2018

MARCH 4TH COMMUNION SUNDAY - LENT WEEK 3
8:30 Traditional  
Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional  
REV Jordan Medas
9:45 Blended  
Dr. John W. Howe
11:00 Contemporary  
Dr. John W. Howe

MARCH 11TH - LENT WEEK 4
8:30 Traditional  
Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional  
REV Adam Colson
9:45 Blended  
Dr. John W. Howe
11:00 Contemporary  
Dr. John W. Howe

MARCH 18TH - LENT WEEK 5
8:30 Traditional  
Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional  
Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Blended  
John Higginbotham
11:00 Contemporary  
John Higginbotham

MARCH 25TH - PALM SUNDAY
8:30 Traditional  
Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional  
Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Blended  
REV Adam Colson
11:00 Contemporary  
REV Adam Colson

CrossCurrents is a publication of  
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1 Church Lane  
Locust Grove, VA 22508  
(540) 972-9060

Visit us online: www.lowchurch.org