Jesus said, “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light.” (Luke 11:33)

Matthew records Jesus saying almost the identical thing in the Sermon on the Mount, just after the Beatitudes. There he is clearly speaking about his disciples. “You are the light of the world,” he says; “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14, 16)

But in the passage in Luke he seems to be referring to himself. He has been comparing himself to the prophet Jonah and to King Solomon, saying in each instance that “something greater” than either one of them “is here” - namely “the Son of Man,” his favorite title for himself.

In the immediately preceding verse he says, “The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here.” (Luke 11:32)

The thing we are to see, that is greater than Jonah or Solomon, is the light that has been set upon the lampstand, the Son of Man, Jesus himself.

He goes on to say, “Your eye is the lamp of your body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness.” (11:34)

The light we see in Jesus will illuminate us, if we see it properly. If we fail to do so we will remain in darkness.

Interestingly, Jesus made almost the same point three chapters earlier, following the parable of the Sower. There he said the seed is the word of God, and depending on what kind of soil it falls upon it will either be trampled down, eaten by birds, withered for lack of moisture, choked by thorns...or it will flourish and produce a great harvest.

Either the Devil will snatch away the word of God, or it will fail to take deep root, or it will be choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, OR, when it falls upon good soil, it will bear much fruit.

Having explained the Parable, he went on to say, “No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light… pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.” (Luke 8:16-18)

This is a principle that is articulated in many places in Scripture: if we follow the light - the truth that God has given us - he will always give us more of it. But if we resist his truth at any point we will find ourselves wandering into growing darkness.

So, in one instance Jesus uses the imagery of a lamp on a lampstand to refer to his disciples, in another he uses it to refer to himself, and in yet a third he uses it to refer to the word of God. But in all three, the conclusion is the same: let your light shine; let your whole body be full of light, pay attention to how you listen, so that having received some of God’s truth, some of his light, you will receive still more.

The “eye” with which we will “see” the light of Christ is not our physical eye, but our spiritual and moral discernment, and critical to that is our obedience.

Are you spending time with the Lord in prayer and Bible study and meditation? Are you comparing scripture with scripture so the clearer passages are helping you understand the more difficult ones? Are you asking Jesus to make himself more and more fully known to you? Are you seeking to bring “every thought captive to obey Christ”? (2 Corinthians 10:5)

Are you saying “No” to whatever might be a hindrance?

St. John put it this way: “If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:6, 7)

In John’s gospel Jesus makes this intriguing promise, “My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own.” (John 7:16, 17)

So, pay attention to how you hear, pay attention to what you see, and follow it where it leads you.

Love to you in our Lord,

Dr. John W. Howe, Senior Pastor
Acceptable Worship
Dr. John W. Howe, Senior Pastor

“Let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28)

Dear LOWC Family,

For the past four months, the Board of Elders, the Pastors, and various groups of parishioners here at LOWC have been wrestling with the question of whether there might be a better way to structure our Sunday mornings to facilitate our worship of Almighty God. And at its April meeting, the Board voted unanimously to implement a new experimental schedule this summer. (If it is an improvement we will continue it, if not we will revert to the present schedule – or consider further adjustments.)

We recognize that change is always difficult, and we are asking the people of God to join us in giving this experiment our very best efforts and our prayerful support. The Elders have asked me to share with all of you the reasons for making this change.

The principal issues are these:

- Having two services at the same time (9:45) stretches our resources and separates our members unnecessarily.
- Neither the Senior Pastor nor the Music Director can attend all services.
- There is insufficient time between the Blended and Contemporary services to change the set-ups needed for each.
- Blended and Contemporary services are both relatively small services in a large worship space.
- We do want to maintain the three different worship styles that have developed here – Traditional, Blended and Contemporary – but we believe each of them can be better.
- We do not want to ask more of our choir, praise teams, or technical support personnel.
- We want to protect the ministry in the Germanna Apartments.
- We want to make as few changes and disruptions as possible.

We also recognize that a true “Blended” service might include much more than we are usually able to offer in our present structure: choir and praise team(s), piano, keyboard and percussion (without being overwhelming), hymns and praise music, hymnals and overheads, drama, dramatic readings, dance, and video. (Not all in every service!) We have enjoyed this kind of a service occasionally on special occasions such as Mission Sunday and the celebration of Independence Day.

We believe that a true “Blended” service can and should be the largest of our services, and to incorporate all the elements just mentioned the only suitable venue is the Worship Center.

So, the decision is this: for July and August, on an experimental basis, we will:

- Replace our present four services with three, at 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.
- Begin the “Traditional” service at 8:15 in the Sanctuary, and enrich it with praise music, sometimes at the Offertory, and after the sermon.
- Develop a true “Blended” service at 9:30 a.m. in the Worship Center, looking to incorporate choir and praise team(s), etc. as described above. (Some members who presently attend the 9:45 a.m. Traditional service may decide they prefer to attend the 8:15 a.m. service in the Sanctuary.)
- Keep the “Contemporary” service in its present time and place. The extra 15 minutes between “Blended” and “Contemporary” will facilitate the set-up for the latter service.

I believe the Lord is giving us an opportunity to grow wonderfully in our experience of knowing and worshiping him, and I ask you to join me in praying for his blessing on our Sunday mornings this summer.

My love to you in him,

John W. Howe

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**Summer Sunday Worship Schedule**

**July - August**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Traditional Service in the Sanctuary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Blended Service in the Worship Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Contemporary Service in the Worship Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hospitality is one of the marks of the early church. Jesus was always going to people’s homes, and his healings and teachings often took place around a dinner table or in a room in the home. The early church ate and met in each other’s homes. It has been noted that when the disciples were sent out with nothing at all (no money, no extra clothes, no provisions) it was not because Jesus wanted them to suffer poverty or to be left alone in the street; it was because they were to rely on the hospitality of others. Our Savior came into the world dependent on hospitality, from the moment he was born in a borrowed manger until he was buried in a donated tomb. What is more, Jesus longs to meet us face to face as we minister to the stranger, the guest at the door. Christ looks at us longingly, looking for us to answer the call and invite him into our lives; to show him hospitality as we show it to others. This month in CrossCurrents, we look at ways we can be hospitable to others and reflect on ways we have been hospitable. As you read this month, may your words be that of our Mennonite brothers and sisters, who say, “My house, my belongings, my life is no longer mine but is God’s, which means it is open to all including the stranger at our door.”

This month read about how archery provided an opportunity to show hospitality to those in our community and to connect them with the Word of God. Youth Director John Higginbotham shares about the archery ministry and gives an update on upcoming events, trainings, activities, and trips that will equip our teens to show hospitality to others.

What do Cuba, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Ukraine, Germany, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, Malaysia, and the United States have in common? They are all countries our missionary of the month; the Hoodikoff family, minister to in sharing Christianity hospitality with others. Look for the article on the Hoodikoff’s in this month’s edition of Cross Currents.

Many who are hurting, grieving, or suffering with a terminal illness desperately need to sense the hospitality of others. This month Minister Mike Lemay shares how care ministries in our church are reaching people during their most desperate moments.

Get Ready! Gear Up! Game On! Once again this year The Lake of the Woods Church will open its doors in hospitality to over 300 children for Vacation Bible School. Children’s Director, Sherri Gaskill, writes about VBS in this month’s Newsletter and shares about an exciting community-wide yard sale.

Don’t miss “We’ve a Story to Tell,” a new addition to our Cross Currents. Read stories of people in our community whose lives have been transformed through the ministries and mission of The Lake of the Woods Church. Each month will feature testimonies of changed lives.

We hope you enjoy this month’s edition of Cross Currents. My prayer is that you will be blessed as you read, be inspired to show hospitality to others, and give a warm welcome to guests that visit the Lake of The Woods Church. God bless you Church Family.

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The Hospitality of Christianity
Rev. Adam Colson, Senior Associate Pastor
Many of us are looking for the "perfect" balance in our lives. We are often overwhelmed by the pressures of this world and the lives we lead. However, we must keep life on this side of heaven in perspective. It is fallen and not in the state that God had originally designed through Eden. This being said, true joy and an inkling of heaven can come from a relationship that not only starts with Christ, but daily and fervently seeks to follow Him.

David, the servant after God's own heart, gives us a beautiful example of balancing lament and praise in Psalm 69. He begins with, "Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me." If anyone had cause for fear, panic and anxiety, it was King David. He was often chased and in fear for his life, even at one point by his own son. But, as David empties his heart to God in prayer and song, he is given time to focus on God, and his lament became praise. In vv. 30-31 he says, "I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs."

We are victims of and susceptible to sin as David proved in his sin with Bathsheeba. Yes, it is okay to sulk, to cry, to sob, to vent, and we should to the Lord. But focus on the Lord, and your hurt will lead you to the throne of God, to the one who gave His Son as a sacrificial lamb, We can approach the Lord and be reminded who is in charge and that God loves us in a way we can't completely understand this side of heaven. Balance comes from lament that leads to praise; that which is now and that which is to come.

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God; And that is what we are...we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure." 1 John 3:1-3

The resurrection is mentioned over 300 times in the New Testament, where it is the essential foundation on which the whole Christian faith is built. St. Paul said, "if Christ has not been raised you are still in your sins, your faith is futile and we are of all people most to be pitied." The resurrection holds the promise of life eternal and "life in abundance."

C.S. Lewis wrote, "Most of us find it very difficult to want "Heaven" at all - except in so far as "Heaven" means meeting again our friends who have died. One reason for this difficulty is that we have not been trained: our whole education tends to fix our minds on this world. Another reason is that when the real want for heaven is present in us, we don't even recognize it."

Don't think that because we are unable to fully comprehend the splendor of heaven we should stop imagining the beauty, the majesty, the safety, the harmony, the peace, the joy that we'll encounter in Heaven. On the contrary, keep imagining! The popularity of the movie "I Can Only Imagine" shows us a yearning and desire for Heaven. God designed us to worship and glorify Him. Why wouldn't we continually have our hearts set on where He reigns now and forevermore and delight in the thought of forever being in His presence?

Easter 2018 is in the rear view mirror; however, the resurrection should always be in plain sight of the believer with a view of heaven on the horizon.
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

Welcome Visitors and New Residents
We are looking for church members willing to share with newcomers information about our church. Training is provided and requires a couple hours per week. Information contact Mike Lemay at mike@lowchurch.org

Healing comes through sharing.
Interested in being with other men who are dealing with cancer? Learn about nutrition, and share with each other your journey through cancer. "Walk with Hope" is a Men’s Cancer Support ministry. Contact Mike Lemay at mike@lowchurch.org or the church office for details.

Shepherds Ministry
We need Shepherds like you. Join us in the mission to Make Christ Known. Shepherds are people who feel called to care-giving ministry. Shepherds are not necessarily elders or clergy, but are persons who want to be involved with care-giving ministry. They often have the spiritual gifts of mercy, compassion, and nurturing.
Contact Janet Bocook at jandcbocook@outlook.com or Mike Lemay mike@lowchurch.org 540-972-9060

Grief Share Update
We have received our materials to start the “Grief Share” training. A trainer will be coming in to give us instruction. There is still time for anyone who is interested in helping with this program. We also need people who are willing to do some one on one grief care. This 13-week program will be offered twice a year, with the first session beginning the end of August. For more information please contact Mike Lemay at mike@lowchurch.org or call the church office.

May is......

National Stroke Awareness Month
The aim of National Stroke Awareness Month is to make Americans aware that they may be able to ‘Save A Life’ of a person experiencing a stroke.

The National Stroke Awareness Month is run by the National Stroke Association who help individuals ‘Save A Life’ by educating them about:
- stroke risk factors
- stroke symptoms
- stroke preventative measures

National Stroke Awareness Month is also a timely reminder of stroke survivors and how organizations such as the National Stroke Association supports stroke survivors through their lifelong journey of recovery.

The National Stroke Awareness Month program places emphasis on making the public aware about Acting FAST.

According to the National Stroke Association, a person experiencing a stroke can be treated if people have acted FAST - 80% of strokes can also be prevented.

FAST being an acronym for things to check in a suspected stroke victim:
F - Face / Does the face droop on one side when the person smiles?
A - Arm / After raising both arms, does one of the arms drift downwards?
S - Speech /After repeating a simple phrase, does the persons speech sound slurred or strange? Have the person say “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks”
T - Time / If any or all of the above are observed call for 9-1-1 and ask for medical assistance.
Spring is here! It is the time that many of us like to put up the windows, do a little spring cleaning and get rid of some of the clutter. Here is a great opportunity for you do a little clean-out and sell some of your items. The Children’s Ministry will be hosting a community yard sale on Saturday, May 19th. Members of the community can purchase space to bring their items to sell. Cost for space is $25.00. Tables can be provided for an additional fee of $10.00.

This is a fundraiser for CentriKid Camp for our 3rd-5th graders. The monies raised will help offset the cost for our campers. Our campers will be having a concession stand for shoppers and sellers.

If you are interested in purchasing a space, contact Sherri at sherri@lowchurch.org or 540-972-9060 to reserve your space. This is a great time to clean out your attic or garage and support our CentriKid campers.

Don’t have anything to sell? Come out and shop the yard sale!

Get Ready! Gear Up! Game On!
This summer we will be sharing with the kids at VBS that God has written the ultimate playbook...the Bible...for each one of us. We are so excited for the fun ways that we can share how God wants us to be a part of his team, train hard, celebrate salvation through him and encourage one another. We invite everyone at LOWC to be a part of this week of evangelism to the children in our community.

We will be having our VBS Emphasis Day on Sunday, May 20th. We will be introducing the new VBS theme and sharing ways that you can be a part of this great week. Stop at our VBS table in the Gathering Place for more information and to volunteer to serve at VBS. More information will be provided in the service leaflet and on the church website.

VBS week is July 16 – 20.
Registration for children will begin in June.

Upcoming Events
May 2 – LOWC Kids Club
May 6 – Family Worship at 11:00 service
May 6 – Sunday School Volunteer meeting
May 9 – LOWC Kids Club
May 13 - Mother’s Day
May 16 – LOWC Kids Club
May 19 - Community Yard Sale
May 20 - VBS Emphasis Day
May 23 – LOWC Kids Club
May 30 – LOWC Kids Club
It is amazing how fast the school year is zooming by. We have so many fun activities planned, beginning with an end of year Celebration with “Touch of the Sea” on Thursday, May 10th. This is an interactive program where the children will get to touch, observe, learn about different sea animals, have fun in a bouncy house and eat lots of ice cream! Our graduating fours will have a field trip to tour Locust Grove Primary School during the first or second week in May. They will get to eat lunch in the cafeteria, tour the building, meet the Kindergarten teachers, and tour a school bus. We end the preschool school year with our Preschool Graduation on Friday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. There will be a reception for our grads and their families immediately following the Graduation Ceremony downstairs in the Discovery Zone.

**Upcoming Special Events:**

- Graduation Pictures – Monday, April 16th (Graduating Fours)
- In-House Field Trip...Touch of the Sea – Friday, May 10th
- Field Trip- Kindergarten Tour at LGPS – 1st or 2nd week in May (Graduating Fours)
- Preschool Graduation – Friday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center
- Memorial Day – Monday, May 28th – CCC Closed

**Psalm 20:4**

“May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.”
God’s Word is true. Every word. Yet, as adults, how do we receive it? If we are honest, often like the jaded, skeptical, “believe it when I see it” adults that we are. We must get humble like a child to receive God’s Word.

During our six-week archery training course, I was blessed to be a spectator. Leaving my youth director hat at home, I came to archery as Willow and Henry’s dad. I gained wonderful perspective as I watched the children. As Mr. Eugene taught the children how to shoot and Mr. Eddy taught the Bible lesson, they humbly and excitedly received the instruction.

During the fourth lesson, the young archers listened intently and followed along in their Bibles as Mr. Eddy read how Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection. I decided to jump in for a moment to be sure the children understood the story.

I asked, “What did the disciples think they had seen?” “A ghost!”, the first child responded.

“But was it a ghost?” I continued. “No!”, the second child responded. “It was really Jesus.”

“So, he was alive?” “Yes, Jesus was alive!”, another child forgot to raise his hand.

“But the disciples were struggling to believe it, right?” Right.

“So how did they know Jesus had a real body?”. Willow piped up, “They gave him some fish to eat, and it didn’t fall on the floor!”

We all laughed because it was funny and cute, yet what a beautiful, truthful, childlike answer.

In the 18th chapter of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples, “Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” He continues, “Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

**Upcoming Events:**

**May 2nd:** Youth Rally at the Cabins. On this night, we will have burgers and a bonfire at the cabins. The cabins will be open for games and fellowship: we will play volleyball, tether ball, and billiards. Teens will hear a powerful message on Jeremiah 20:9 as they continue to prepare their hearts for the summer mission field. Arrival and dismissal will be as usual.

**May 9th:** 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 8:00 p.m. as usual. Mission Trainings will take place on the third Wednesday of each month.

**May 15th:** Deposit of $25 due for participants in Good News Across Sports.

**June 3rd:** Recognition of Graduating Seniors. During the 11:00am contemporary service, our graduating seniors will be recognized for their achievement and be celebrated for reaching this milestone. Seniors will come dressed in their caps and gowns and will be presented Bibles.

**June 6th:** Annual Water Night This wet and wild game night is a teen favorite. Teens will enjoy a water balloon battle, tug of war, slip-n-slide relay races and many other crazy ways to beat the heat and win prizes. Come out and celebrate the end of the school year.
Youth with a Mission
The Hoodikoffs
By Luisa Kelly

Kelly and Vicki Hoodikoff have been missionaries for Youth with a Mission (YWAM) for over twenty-five years and are our Mission Partner for May. They will be celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary in the Ukraine in 2018 and have had a relationship with The Lake of the Woods Church since 2006.

Vicki and Kelly met in the Ukraine as missionaries for YWAM. They married and raised two children in the country of Ukraine. Their daughter Vicki, nineteen, is already a missionary for YWAM and has ministered in Ethiopia. Their son, Steven, seventeen, also travels with them, ministering for Christ.

The scripture verse Luke 9:58 “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head” certainly applies to the Hoodikoffs. They travel the world but own no home. They are a family that has totally trusted our Lord for their needs. Their family has served Christ as church planters and trainers of missionaries for all those years. Although their ministry is always changing, their main focus is to raise up men and women to bring the gospel to all the world.

In the past year, as in previous years, they have taught and equipped missionaries in Cuba, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Ukraine, Germany, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, Malaysia, and the USA. Their students have included businessmen, musicians, artists, pastors, missionaries, students, teachers and even golf professionals. They have prepared them to bring the gospel message and even led some into the mission field.

In mid-March they traveled to Cuba to teach a group of young business professionals to be “kingdom minded and learn to be salt and light to their nation.” The Hoodikoffs plan to return to Cuba in late April to help run a gospel centered Music and Arts Festival.

Last month the Hoodikoffs conducted an intensive training week in Maryland for a group which included golfers from eight countries. These people will bring the gospel message back to their home country and golf course. This could be an opportunity for golfers here at LOW. If you are interested in joining this unique outreach contact Ralph Ericksen or David Blackistone (540-972-3555).

The Hoodikoffs are bringing the gospel message through economics, government, arts, entertainment, education, media, family, and religion. Kelly wrote, “Personal salvation is the first step, but cultural transformation and the discipling of nations must follow.”

Please pray for the Hoodikoffs as they travel the world bringing the good news of Jesus Christ.

May Congregational Prayer

O God of our Salvation, you are not willing that anyone perish but that all should experience your redemption, love, and healing. Thank you for the Hoodikoff family who have obeyed your call to share the Gospel in many countries around the world. Anoint and bless their ministry, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Women’s Guild Winds Down Program Year
By Julie Phend, Member

Women’s Guild will hold its final meetings for the program year in May, and then disband until September, so be sure to join us for some fun May meetings.

Here’s what’s coming up this month:

May 3: Healthy Habits
Speaker Joan Geisler, a health consultant, will share tips on becoming the NEW person God wants you to be. Joan is founder of 80/20 Healthy Habits. She has been a personal trainer and speaker on nutrition and fitness for 20 years. There will also be special music provided by Dan Scofield, Gail Smith, and Marty Poch.

Saturday, May 5: Silent Auction to benefit Living Waters Community Clinic and MWU Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. Come to Lake of the Woods Church for a fun and inspirational morning and an opportunity to bid on a variety of personal treasures.

Items to be auctioned include fine china, quilts, decorative items and original paintings, as well as jewelry, shawls, purses and tote bags. There are book collections, heritage dolls and toys for children, as well as tools, sports equipment and car accessories for the men.

Bidding will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 11:00 a.m., followed by speakers from Living Waters Clinic and MWU Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. Continental breakfast will be available all morning. At 11:30 a.m., winning bids will be announced and items can be picked up and taken home.

Funds raised will enable Living Water Community Clinic to purchase an autoclave machine to sterilize medical equipment. With the increase in numbers of patients, it has become cost prohibitive to use disposable instruments. The Autoclave will allow health care professionals at the Clinic 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.

May 17: End of the year Potluck
Everyone should bring a dish to pass. There will be special music, and a devotional by Karen Howe. Year-end reports will be given, and members will have an opportunity to reflect on this year and help plan for next year. Lots of good food and fellowship!

See you at Guild!

Spiritual Care Support Ministry
Spiritual Care Support Ministries, Inc. provides support, education and a Biblical perspective to children, teens and adults who are ill, dying and bereaved. Rev. Liz Danielsen, founder and president of SCSM, has provided grief counseling in Culpeper and the surrounding area for many years. SCSM has purchased property in Warrenton, VA where a new facility is being built to provide more room to do the ministry’s work. SCSM is seeking volunteers to assist with carpentry, electrical, painting, insulation, and general clean up. For more information or to volunteer contact Gray or Debbie Coyner at 540-423-8232 or by email at gkcoyner@msn.com
IT’S ONLY 30 DAYS
They came through the doors of our free clinic looking desperate and emotionally lost. After 25 years of marriage, there seemed to be no hope for their crumbling relationship. Mistakes had been made, choices and actions had torn down any trust and eroded any chance of restitution, at least to the human eye. The results of stress from the failing marriage were taking a toll on the body and causing medical ailments with the couple. After meeting with the couple for about 40 minutes, I left the spiritual care room feeling overwhelmed, and not seeing any signs of hope for the relationship. THEN CAME JESUS! As I walked back into the room and looked at the couple, I was praying silently in my heart for the Holy Spirit’s direction. I sat with them again and told them that I understood that they felt hopeless, but asked them to agree to just one more attempt (be it ever so feeble). “Would the two of you agree, just for thirty days to go through the devotion ‘Love Dare’ together?” The couple hesitated for a moment and then (figuring why not, what have we got to lose) agreed to go through the study.

Five days later, I called the couple to check in with how the study was going. “This is brutal pastor! I am not sure we are going to make it through this.” I encouraged them to stick with it. I told them I knew it would be difficult, especially the first few chapters, but they only had twenty-five more days left. After all, they should be able to just go twenty-five more days. I checked in with them a couple more times but never expected the call I received after the thirty days.

“Pastor Colson, this is ________________. My husband and I were wondering if you had another devotion for us. We love that last one and don’t want to stop. We have rededicated our lives to Christ, have thrown away and destroyed all obstacles that have been getting in the way of our marriage, and have started attending church again. We have agreed to allow God to forgive us of our past, and to forgive one another as Christ for God’s sake has forgiven us.”

This couple has continued growing in their walk with God and in their relationship with one another. When Jesus shows up, even the darkest of relationships can be restored. To God be the GLORY!

“JESUS LOVES YOU MARY”
In our RISE Adult Special Needs Ministry that meets on Thursday evenings, we have many “friends” that come with different disabilities and special needs. One member of the group is “non-verbal” and communicates to us through a Tablet with a voicebank that speaks phrases and words for him. Last month, one of our volunteers, Mary Ryan, was sitting with this friend as together they colored wooden decorations that said “Jesus Loves You...John 3:16”. As they colored, Mary told our friend, “Jesus loves you...” As she spoke these words, the Holy Spirit, for a moment, loosened the tongue of our friend, as he clearly shared, “Jesus loves you, Mary”.

The Bible tells us “you have not because you ask not...” What are you struggling with this month; a failing marriage, a sickness or disability, a financial struggle? Have you brought it before the Lord? God glories in hearing his children bring their needs before him. “Come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest...” (Matthew 11:28)

Do you have a story about your walk with Jesus that you’d like to share? Please send your stories to Rev. Adam Colson, adam.colson@lowchurch.org
05/01  Maka Hanson
05/01  Zoila Ortega
05/01  Bonnie Hughes
05/01  Julie Jennings
05/03  Chip Goodrich Jr.
05/03  Patricia Ericksen
05/03  Charlotte Deer
05/04  Ruth Watson
05/04  Margie Stratford
05/04  Clive Louden
05/06  Martha C. Somerville
05/06  William Gordon
05/06  David O’Hara
05/06  Sandy Harding
05/07  Mike Ross
05/07  Lynn Shutts
05/09  Robert Hamilton
05/09  Vinnie Sukites
05/09  Larry Eiben
05/09  Janet Berge
05/09  Jack Phend
05/10  Jim Medley
05/11  Bob Lingo
05/12  Susan Santucci
05/12  Michelle Hawkins
05/12  Janis Rieley
05/13  Alexander Wagoner
05/13  Kristen Browne
05/13  Lillian Thompson
05/13  Skeeter Marcum
05/14  Jennifer J. Suche
05/14  Harvey Miller
05/15  Gloria Hutt
05/15  Valerie Smallwood
05/15  Carol Brown
05/16  Patricia Jensen
05/16  Charles Smoot
05/16  Christopher Browning
05/16  Bobbie Fetzer
05/16  Kristen Miller
05/17  Doris Barnes
05/17  Franceen Shepherd
05/18  Betty Herron
05/18  Rae Lamon
05/20  Judy Thomsen
05/21  Elaine Nelson
05/22  Brianna Bowman
05/23  Jan Oliver
05/23  Jerry Moser
05/23  Doug Wheeler
05/24  Amy Sjogren
05/24  Rick Nelson
05/25  Maria Meldrum
05/25  Albert Sanborn
05/25  Jean Martin
05/26  Mark Nowacki
05/26  John Martin
05/27  William Rauch
05/27  Mary Ann Giddings
05/28  Melva Wendehack
05/28  Renee McCalla
05/30  Bobbie Griggs
05/30  Barbara Brown
05/31  Jean Stutz
05/31  Tina Kennedy
05/31  Edwin Roessler
05/31  Robin Farrell

05/01  Richard & Bernice Maciorowski
05/02  Pete & Carol Brown
05/03  Scott & Easter Bowman
05/04  Art & Bobbie Griggs
05/05  Howie & Georgianne Cedarblade
05/06  Larry & Judy Eiben
05/06  Wayne & Judith Thompson
05/06  Skeeter & Betsy Marcum
05/07  Eldon & Sue Doubet
05/15  James & Mary Ryan
05/15  John & Tracy Higginbotham
05/20  Mitch & Gwendolyn Fournet
05/21  Henrick & Margaret Thode
05/21  John & Bonnie Martin
05/24  Aaron & Julie Lovell
05/24  Bill & Deanna Jones
05/26  Stephen & Ann Schuneman
05/28  Bob & Sue Silliman
05/28  Ron & Judy Swarthout
05/29  Jeffrey & Melody Widor
05/29  James & Kristie Peters
05/29  Thomas & Barbara Savage
05/30  John & Debbie Beisheim
05/31  Vic & Mary Cangelosi
The Making Joyful Noise Concert Series has concluded for the year.

Watch the CrossCurrents and the church website for scheduled performances when the series returns in September.

Quotes from our choir members:

“I love singing with others and praising God together, giving what I can. It is one of my greatest joys.” - Georgianne Cedarblade

“I enjoy singing in a choir. I like having the wholesome and uplifting songs echoing through my brain all week. Also, the people are good folks, and the choir director is pretty funny sometimes!” - Jane Gullickson

“I love to sing and it’s one of the ways I can serve the Lord and LOWC.” - Joan Schulle

“Music makes religion personal” - Ken Rouse

“I enjoy harmonizing and feel that this is my service to the church.” - Jack Gill

“I sing because I’m happy” - Jean Westholt
Discovering Discipleship
1:1:1
one service : one small group : one outreach

YOUNG ADULTS of LOWC

LOWCYA – SUMMER ’18 SCHEDULE

Wed., June 20th @ 7pm – Splitsville, Fredericksburg
Free bowling, pool, apps and soda

Wed., July 11th @ 6pm – Hike Germanna Trails
Meet at Germanna CC Visitor’s Center

Wed., July 18th @ 6pm – Cookout at LOW Clubhouse Point
Bring a side or dessert

Wed., July 25th @ 6pm – Progressive Dinner Game Night
Details on Facebook

Other events TBA – Stay tuned to Facebook or email Pastor Medas, jordan.medas@lowchurch.org

FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP
Every first Sunday of the month!
Everyone in the family (1st grade and up) is invited to stay in the Worship Center for the entire 11:00 service, together.

God’s Word
prayer

communion
music

Cinco de Mayo
Saturday, May 5th, 6-8pm
The Medas House
### Weekly Activities

#### Monday
- **8:30 a.m.** Aerobics
- **1:00 p.m.** Prayer Shawl Ministry — (3rd Mon)
- **5:00 p.m.** Bell Choir - Sanctuary
- **7:00 p.m.** AA Group

#### Tuesday
- **7:30 a.m.** Pastor’s Bible Study for Men
- **9:30 a.m.** LOWC Crafters Group
- **10:00 a.m.** Ladies Bible Study
- **3:30 p.m.** Good News Clubs (Resumes in the fall)
  - call Carol 972-8196 or Joyce 972-4023
- **6:30 p.m.** Shining Hands Ministry
- **7:00 p.m.** Praise Team Practice
- **7:00 p.m.** Choir Practice

#### Wednesday
- **8:30 a.m.** Aerobics
- **9:00 a.m.** MOPS
- **10:00 a.m.** Restoration Dance Preparation
- **10:00 a.m.** Alzheimer’s & Dementia Support (3rd)
- **6:00 p.m.** Communion Service
- **6:00 p.m.** Youth Group Dinner
- **6:30 p.m.** Middle and High School Youth Group

#### Wednesday - Continued
- **6:30 p.m.** MOMs Next—Library
- **7:00 p.m.** Children’s Mid Week Program
- **7:00 p.m.** Adult Elective Education Classes
- **7:00 p.m.** AA “Big Book” — Rt. 20 - Suite O

#### Thursday
- **9:00 a.m.** Shepherds Meeting (3rd Thurs)
- **9:30 a.m.** Prayer Group — Mary Ryan’s House
- **10:00 a.m.** Women’s Guild (1st & 3rd)
- **1:00 p.m.** Second Half of Life Bible Study (1st & 3rd)
- **5:00 p.m.** Living Water Community Clinic
  - Medical Office Appointments
- **6:00 p.m.** RISE Special Needs — RISE Ctr on Rt. 20

#### Friday
- **8:30 a.m.** Aerobics
- **10:00 a.m.** Malachi 3:16 Bible Study
- **7:00 p.m.** AA Group — Rt. 20- Suite O

#### Saturday
- **7:00 a.m.** Men’s Bible Study Group
- **10:00 a.m.** Restoration Dance Ministry

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**Home Helps Weekend**

**MAY 11TH & 12TH**

For questions, contact David Blackistone 540-972-3555
2018 Board of Elders

Chairman      Bud Moody (540-972-3152) 
bmoody@comcast.net
Admin & Budget Barbara Crawford (540-972-6930) 
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dan@lowchurch.org
Youth Shannon Smith (540-972-5758) 
thebridghams@comcast.net
Young Families Tim Hall (540-840-9362) 
wlw4him6bce@verizon.net

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

EUCHARIST
Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m.

Pastors in Worship
May 2018

MAY 6TH - COMMUNION / MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY
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

MAY 13TH - MOTHER’S DAY
8:30 Traditional Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Blended John Higginbotham
11:00 Contemporary John Higginbotham

MAY 20TH - PENTECOST SUNDAY
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

MAY 27TH - MEMORIAL DAY
8:30 Traditional Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Traditional Dr. John W. Howe
9:45 Blended Rev. Adam Colson
11:00 Contemporary Dr. John W. Howe

CrossCurrents is a publication of The Lake of the Woods Church
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