

# *Connect*

December 2024



*Christmas at Lakewood*



# WELCOME

## NEW TO LAKEWOOD?

We want to meet you, answer your questions and help you get connected.

Visit our  
Info Desk

OR

Fill out the Connect card located in the pocket on the back of each pew or chair. Drop it in the offering basket or take it to the Info Desk.

OR

Go to  
[LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/INFO](https://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/INFO)



## GET INVOLVED

Discover your place at Lakewood

### ATTEND DISCOVER

This basic intro to Lakewood is designed to help you discover who we are and where we are going as a church.

#### NEXT DISCOVER CLASS

January 12  
in the Lodge at 12:15 PM  
[LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/DISCOVER](https://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/DISCOVER)

### FIND A GROUP

We believe you grow to be like Christ as you do life with other people. In addition, we are convinced sustained life-change happens best in the context of a small group. Visit our Info Desk to learn about Sunday morning groups. We also have groups that meet all week around Hall County. To find a group, go to [LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/GROUPLIFE](https://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/GROUPLIFE)

### JOIN A TEAM

God has gifted each of us differently and at Lakewood we have ways to serve that match your gifting! Visit [LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/SERVE](https://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/SERVE) to see some of the ways to serve using your personality, gifts and abilities.

### NEXT BAPTISM

December 24 (Christmas Eve Service)

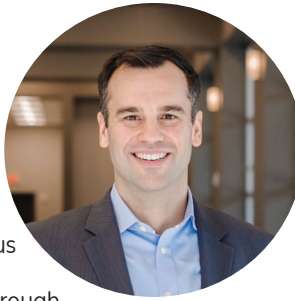
### NEXT LORD'S SUPPER

December 18  
(Family Lord's Supper)

**FOLLOW US! @LAKEWOODLIFE**

NOTE FROM

## Dr. Tyler Smiley



In November, we completed our in-depth study of Romans, a journey that began in January. Together we encountered the truth of the gospel—God’s grace and our sin, Jesus Christ and our salvation, and the life-transforming power of God’s Spirit through the message of the gospel. I am praying that the Lord will take all that we learned this year and grow us to be more like Christ in all we say and do, both individually and as a church.

This month, as we enter Advent, we look forward to Lakewood traditions like the Family Lord’s Supper and our Christmas Eve Services. We invite you to join us in these special gatherings as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Advent is a season to reflect, but also a time to connect with loved ones, and we encourage you to make the most of these moments with family and friends.

As 2024 draws to a close, let us celebrate the many ways we have seen God at work this year. We rejoice in celebrating 44 baptisms and in welcoming nearly 100 new members into our church family. Also, Lakewood participated in 9 disaster relief trips, began a Bible-based ESL class with 70 students from our community, welcomed three Residents who are preparing for full-time ministry, worshiped together each Sunday, deepened our understanding of God’s Word, and strengthened our community through discipleship, small groups, and classes for everyone from children through senior adults... just to highlight a few things. The work God has done in and through Lakewood this year has been remarkable, and we give Him all the glory!

I would also ask that you join in prayerfully considering how you and your family may continue to support our ministry with a year-end financial gift. Through the generosity and sacrifices of the people of this church, the Lord has done amazing things, and I am confident that He has more for us to do. It is an honor to serve as Senior Pastor at Lakewood. Thank you, church, for your heart to “serve the Lord with gladness” (Psalm 100:2).

The **VISION** of Lakewood is to be a regional church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ locally, nationally and globally.

**CROSSPOINT WORSHIP** is a traditional blend of praise and worship at 9:30 AM in the Chapel.

**REAL LIFE** is a vibrant, contemporary worship experience at 11:00 AM in the Worship Center.

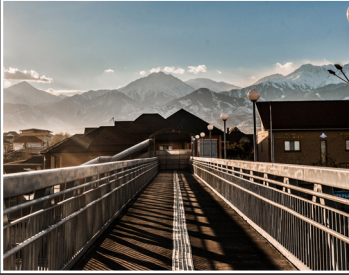


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# MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT



## MISSION PARTNER IN ASIA

\*Emily Grace works with our Lakewood team serving among the Uyghur in Central Asia. Emily grew up at Lakewood and has faithfully followed the Lord's calling on her life to take the gospel to unreached people.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- For Emily to be encouraged in the Lord as she serves overseas
- For the unity and joy of fellowship for our LBC team
- For open doors to share the gospel with Muslim women
- For the Lord to encourage and strengthen Emily's family here in the States.

\*Name changed for security purposes

For more information please contact [benji@lakewoodlife.org](mailto:benji@lakewoodlife.org).

### FOLLOW US!

[@lakewoodbaptistmissions](https://www.instagram.com/lakewoodbaptistmissions)

## GRIEF & THE HOLIDAYS • DEC. 4 • 6:15 PM

The holiday season can be especially challenging for those grieving a loved one. Join our class for support and practical ways to navigate the holidays while honoring meaningful memories. Sign up by scanning the QR code or go to [lakewoodlife.org/events](https://lakewoodlife.org/events).



## FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROLING • DEC. 6



Join us at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall to visit our homebound and nursing home residents. After caroling, we'll return for soup, cornbread, and Christmas cookies. Bring a plate



of treats to share! Register for this free event by scanning the QR code or visiting [Lakewoodlife.org/events](https://Lakewoodlife.org/events).

## 2024 PRAYER GUIDE FOR MISSIONS

Prayer guides for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering envelopes are available at Info Desks.



## 2025 BIBLE READING PLAN

SIGN UP FOR DAILY TEXTS

We believe that it's important to spend time daily in God's Word and we want to help you do that. In 2019, we read through much of the Old Testament (Eden to Exile). In 2025, we will return to the Old Testament for our daily reading plan.



Sign up for daily texts with a link to the reading by texting "Bible" to (470) 516-5244 or scan the QR code with your phone. These texts come Monday through Friday at 6:15 AM (if that's too early, turn off your notifications for these texts and they'll be there when you are ready to read.)

On our website, we have several reading plans including a 3-year read through the Bible plan and several other one-year plans. Scan the code to find these plans.



## LAKWOOD'S NEW GIRLS MINISTER: CARSON ROUSH

Join us in welcoming Carson Roush as our new Girls Minister in the Lakewood Student Ministry. Carson joined the Lakewood team this fall after graduating from Truett McConnell University. This summer, she served as an intern with the Student Ministry. She enjoys music and spending time outdoors on her family's farm. Carson shared, "Student Ministry has been so foundational for my walk with the Lord and my love for Him." She's excited to now pour back into the ministry that has impacted her so deeply.

## CHRISTMAS MUSICAL: THE LOANED MANGER DECEMBER 11 • 6:30 PM • IN THE CHAPEL

Join us for Lakewood Kids' Christmas Musical, The Loaned Manger. With a mix of cowboy charm, humor, and a manger on loan, this story captures the spirit of spreading the Good News with music, laughter, and a lot of "yeehaw!"

## GENERATE SUMMER CAMP FLASH SALE!

6-12th graders, don't miss out on camp at Johnson University in Knoxville, TN, July 15-19!

**Flash Sale (12/4-11):** Save \$100! Register with a \$75 deposit and pay only \$325.

**Early-Bird (12/12-1/29):** \$375

**Regular Registration (1/29-6/25):** \$425

Learn more at [Lakewoodlife.org/summercamp](http://Lakewoodlife.org/summercamp) or scan the QR code!



Get reminders and important updates from Lakewood sent straight to your phone. Text "LAKEWOOD" to 470-516-5297 or scan the code.



*Sign up for text alerts!*



## CLAY WERNER ATHENS, GEORGIA

A few years ago, Lakewood helped Clay Werner plant Good Shepherd Church in Athens, Georgia. Now, by God's grace, Good Shepherd has already planted another church in a neighboring city. Clay was commissioned by Good Shepherd to plant Oconee Fellowship, which is healthy and continuing to grow.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- For encouragement and faith for the Werner family as they follow the Lord in the work of church planting.
- For Oconee Fellowship to be bold proclaimers of the gospel in their community.
- For God to be glorified and lives to be transformed in Oconee through Oconee Fellowship.

For more information please contact [benji@lakewoodlife.org](mailto:benji@lakewoodlife.org).

**FOLLOW US!** @cor36network

# CHRISTMAS

## AT LAKEWOOD

This Christmas, we're excited to gather as a church family and celebrate the birth of Christ. Whether through worship, the Lord's Supper, or the glow of candles on Christmas Eve, each service is a chance to reflect on the hope and joy Jesus brings. We look forward to celebrating together with you and your family this season.

### CHRISTMAS MUSIC SUNDAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 • 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Both our 9:30 (traditional) and 11:00 (contemporary) services will feature Christmas music, including choral performances and congregational singing. We will also prepare our hearts for Christmas through scripture readings, prayers and the lighting of the advent candle.

### FAMILY LORD'S SUPPER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 • 6:00-7:30 PM • CHAPEL

Drop by the Chapel to participate in an intimate Lord's Supper with your friends and family. When you enter the Chapel, gather around a table and one of our Lakewood staff will lead you in the Lord's Supper. No childcare will be provided for this family-friendly services.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 PM in the Worship Center

10:00 PM in the Chapel

Join us as we anticipate and celebrate the coming of Jesus with song and scripture during one of our Christmas Eve candlelight services. The 5:00 PM service will also include baptism. No childcare will be provided for this family-friendly services.



# COMING UP AT LAKEWOOD LEARN MORE AT LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/EVENTS

- December 1 First Sunday of Advent | 9:30 & 11:00 AM
- December 3 Women on Mission | 10:30 AM
- December 4 First Wednesday Men's Bible Study | 6:15 AM
- December 4 Discover Steps 3 & 4 | 6:15 PM
- December 4 Grief & The Holidays | 6:15 PM
- December 5 Jesus and Hanukkah (Women's Discipleship) | 6:00 PM
- December 6 Family Christmas Caroling | 6:00 PM
- December 8 Christmas Music Sunday | 9:30 & 11:00 AM
- December 11 Lakewood Students Christmas Night of Worship | 6:15 PM
- December 11 Lakewood Kids Christmas Musical: The Loaned Manger | 6:30 PM
- December 14 Special Needs Ministry Christmas Party | 5:30 PM
- December 17 Senior Adult Luncheon | 12:00 PM
- December 18 Family Lord's Supper | 6:00 PM
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services | 5:00 PM & 10:00 PM
- December 25 No Wednesday Night Activities
- December 29 No Small Groups
- January 1 No Wednesday Night Activities
- January 7 Women on Mission | 10:30 AM
- January 7 ESL Classes Resume | 6:00 PM
- January 8 Wednesday Nights Resume | 6:15 PM
- January 12 Discover Step 1 | 12:15 PM
- January 15 Discover Step 2 | 6:15 PM
- January 18 Tiny Stitches | 10:00 AM
- January 18 Special Needs Respite | 5:00 PM
- January 22 Discover Step 3 | 6:15 PM
- January 28 Senior Adult Luncheon | 12:00 PM
- January 29 Discover Step 4 | 6:15 PM

USE YOUR  
SMART PHONE  
TO SCAN THE  
QR CODE FOR  
THE LATEST  
INFORMATION.



## WEEKLY

### SUNDAYS

- Kids & Students 9:30 & 11:00 AM
- Young Adult (Gather) Group 9:30 AM
- Adult Small Groups 8:30 & 9:30 & 11:00 AM
- Worship Services 9:30 & 11:00 AM
- Open Gym 2:00-7:00 PM
- Choir Practice 4:00 PM

**TUESDAYS** Celebrate Recovery • 5:30 PM Dinner • 6:30 PM Large Group  
English as a Second Language (ESL) • 6:00 PM

### WEDNESDAYS

- ALL ACTIVITIES MEET 6:15-7:45 PM**
- Babies, Preschool & Grade School
  - Middle & High School Students
  - DivorceCare & Grief Share
  - Adult Bible Studies



# LOOKING BACK



Every December, we gather with friends and family around tables in the Chapel for a Lakewood Pastor or Minister to lead in Family Lord's Supper.

**AVERAGE WEEKLY MINISTRY BUDGET NEED:** \$114,375

**AVERAGE WEEKLY RECEIVED 10/27-11/10:** \$112,641

**NEW MEMBER:** Stetson Gilmer

\*The 11:00 AM service may contain flashing lights that might cause difficulties for people with photosensitive epilepsy.

## WAYS TO GIVE:

GIVE ONLINE:  
[lakewoodlife.org/give](http://lakewoodlife.org/give)



OFFERING BASKET:  
cash or check

ENDOWMENT FUND:  
[lakewoodlife.org/  
endowment-ministry](http://lakewoodlife.org/endowment-ministry)

## CONTACT

SENIOR PASTOR

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

ASSOCIATE/SR. ADULT PASTOR

MISSIONS PASTOR

WORSHIP PASTOR

WORSHIP PASTOR

DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

NEXT GENERATION PASTOR

Scan the QR Code to see a complete list of our Lakewood staff

Dr. Tyler Smiley • [tmsmiley@lakewoodlife.org](mailto:tmsmiley@lakewoodlife.org)

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