

CONNECTIONS

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH AUGUST 2025 VOL XV: ISSUE 8 LBCPC.org

Town Hall Members Meeting



Sunday, August 17
6:00pm in the Sanctuary

A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR

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For this month's article, I thought it would be a good time to share with you a recap of the two summer mission trips that we at Lakewood undertook. As most of you know, we were called to serve in Wyoming & Ecuador. It was unique that both of these trips represented the first time that we had sent a team to each location. I firmly believe in putting down roots when it comes to missions, always being connected to a local church, & sending recurrent teams to serve alongside the local missionaries & lay people over time. However, it's also good to expand the tent of missions with new friends & future partners. That's exactly what we did this year! In Wyoming, we served alongside a ministry called Foundations for Nations & the founders, Jason & Sarah Lucas, on the Wind River Reservation near Riverton, Wyoming. This reservation is home to two different Native American Tribes: the Eastern Shoshone & the Northern Arapaho. Like many reservations, poverty, crime, and addiction are apparent. To make matters worse, many children grow up in single-parent homes or in the homes of grandparents or other relatives. For many young people, it is a cycle of dependency that is hard to escape. According to their posted statistics, 75% of Native homes are affected by alcoholism, the suicide rate is 2.5 times higher than the national average, 95% of females and 70% of males have experienced some form of sexual abuse, 85% of the Natives are unemployed, and 50% of students drop out of school. This desperate need is what drew us to serve there this summer.

We spent most of our time in Wyoming working with children and students. The very first full day that we were there, we began by serving a local Native woman who was raising several generations of children/grandchildren.

We cleaned her house & property, painted, & performed small repairs on her home. Though we almost made the news for a wildfire (not our fault or doing), Lakewood worked hard & served well, showing by our acts of service the difference Christ makes in us. We then served the children of the reservation in a week of VBS-style ministry. Our diverse group, with senior citizens, teenagers, new believers, & longtime Christians, served well in every area. We had cooks & clean-up crews. We had actors & teachers. We had recreation leaders & craft people. We were made more effective by a group of local interns & local church members who helped make our job much easier. That week, we saw & served over 200 children. We had many Gospel conversations & planted many seeds for the teams that would follow us. We even had a few of the guys help out with an ongoing expansion building project. Many of our adults were struck by the desperate need there, yet recognized that we have similar issues here in our community. Many came home with a renewed call and interest in serving here at Lakewood, by helping those less fortunate & lost here, too. I want to recognize Josh Elliott for the job he did in helping to plan, organize, & execute our plan. He & the other team leaders led the team out, & I joined them a day later. He only tripped & fell once, losing a foot race to one of our teenagers (find the video on social media, but then redeemed himself by beating one of our young-ish men in another race. Just FYI, I'm not running unless someone is chasing me, & is way bigger than me! So, if you see me running, you might want to run too! Another shout out goes to Richard Aderhold, who drove across country (there & back) delivering our supplies. He also stole the show as he played the role of the aged King David in our David

& Goliath skit. Thanks, Richard, for your willingness to serve and go the extra mile (a lot of them), & thanks, Becky, for letting him go. Caleb & Eli Stephens also stole the show as far as our students went. Every time they were asked to do something, they quickly & joyfully did it, going above & beyond. They even did things without having to be told. Eli also played young David in our skit, & nailed it. God blessed us with cool weather & beautiful scenery, & we got a chance to spend our last afternoon/evening in Jackson Hole with Pastor Ray & Tanya McDaniel, at First Baptist Jackson. They were gracious in hosting us for a meal & downtime.

The following day, our Ecuador team left for Montanita, Ecuador, a small seaside village where people come to surf or whale watch. While a few foreigners may come to vacation there, the locals eke out a tough existence. Some farm, and many fish, but poverty is rampant. We joined Pate Ministries and the founders, Gary & Dena Pate, along with their interns and translators. The second day in country, we had the opportunity to serve at a morning medical clinic where two of our team nurses (Elizabeth Hedges & Jordan Baker) met the medical needs of the local community. While people waited to see the nurses, several of our team members had the opportunity to talk & pray with those waiting. God used our church member Norberto Rodriquez and his linguistic skills to bridge the language barrier and lead six people to Christ! He and Debbie Parks made an excellent team that day and the whole week as 'Rod' served as our skit translator and Debbie as our narrator. We served daily in the bible clubs around the local area, bouncing from location to location, telling over 500 children the story of Zacchaeus & Jesus. Again, we had a skit with actors, we made crafts, gave out snacks & candy, and showed the love of Christ. We had three students (Libby Parkman, Brice Watson & Harrison Hedges) who donned humid inflatable costumes, which the kids loved! We also helped to host a movie night where we ran out of chairs & food as hundreds of adults & children came out to watch the House of David Amazon series in Spanish & hear a Gospel presentation. Our team was praised by the missionaries for its

preparation, teamwork, & execution of our plan. We were made much more effective by a dedicated group of translators who serve & live in the community. God again blessed us with cooler than expected weather, & though humid, we maintained our stamina throughout the trip. Again, I want to thank Josh for filling the pulpit in my absence, not just the first planned Sunday, but the unexpected second Sunday after a delayed flight. He did a great job, and we are blessed to have him on staff here at LBC.

Thanks again to every person who gave & supported these trips & our short-term missionaries. Thanks to the bus drivers who shuttled us back & forth to the Atlanta airport. We cannot be effective without each of you! You all share in the eternal work done for the Kingdom. It's been a great summer of missions & I'm already looking forward to next year. I look forward to how & where God will allow Lakewood to represent Him. There may be some familiar mission partners, & maybe something new, only God knows. One of my prayers for Lakewood Baptist Church is that we corporately desire to reach the lost & dying with the life-saving message of the Gospel. That we, as a church body, will stand ready to serve & follow Him wherever He leads. I'd ask you to go ahead & pray, asking the Lord to prepare your heart for missions in the coming days. I'd love to see Lakewood serving here, there, & anywhere He leads. Remember, the Great Commission is a Great Commandment for the New Testament Church. A final encouragement from God's Word. Romans 10:14-15; *"How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.'"*

God bless,
drew
John 3:30

A Message from **Josh Elliott**

STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

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Hey Church!

I'd first like to say thank you to all who loved on Jeani and our new baby at the baby shower in July. It was a huge blessing for our family and we are so appreciative! Summer is almost over as we only have a few more weeks until school starts back. We had a blast gathering together on Mondays and Fridays for Middle School Monday and Table Talk. Those were great times of fellowship for our students. We finished up our Survival Mode

summer challenge last month as well. Our students competed hard and I think it was a big hit! The Lord moved in a mighty way in our students as well this summer. We had 5 students give their life to Christ this summer and 2 students that are followers of Christ respond in obedience by following through in baptism. Looking forward to what the Lord has in store for our student ministry and our church heading into the new school year!

In Christ,
Josh



A Message from the

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM



Merge 2025: The Climb

Our summer camp was packed with energy, laughter, deep conversations, and life-changing moments. With 41 campers and a theme of "The Climb," we focused on what it means to gear up with the Word of God, look up to Him in every situation, and team up with other believers for the journey of faith.

The highlight of the week? *Five campers gave their lives to Christ!* We're celebrating these salvations and continuing to pray for each camper as they take the next steps in their walk with Jesus.

In an exciting first, our church won Color Wars! This camp-wide challenge combines athletic competitions with teamwork and character—and we showed up strong in every way from synchronized jumping jacks to eating the delicacy of a marshmallow fluff and Cheetos sandwich.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without our amazing volunteers.

From late-night talks to early-morning prep, they gave it their all—and our kids noticed.

Thanks to the generous support of our church family, we packed in tons of additional fun: bazooka ball, Aqua Island obstacle courses, and even the giant water slide (aka Wet Willy) that pushed a few campers - and adults - to overcome their fears.

The relationships built during Merge, and seeds of faith planted will last far beyond the week. Our camp videos have even gone viral, sparking conversations about Jesus in places we never expected.

Thank you to our church members for praying, giving, and loving our kids so well. The climb is just beginning!

Keep the momentum going. Awana kicks off on September 3rd. This is a great way for our kids to stay rooted in God's Word and build friendships all year long.

SIGN UP USING THE QR CODE BELOW



EVERY WEDNESDAY 6:00-7:30

2 YEARS OLD THRU 5TH GRADE

FIRST AWANA- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

PLEASE REGISTER USING THIS QR CODE:



Hymn Sing

70-Voice Combined Choir
of 14 Churches,
6 Ministers of Music
& Full Orchestra

Sunday, August 24th
6:00pm

Lakewood Baptist Church

Orchestra begins playing at 5:30pm



Revealing Romans

New Sermon Series
beginning Sunday,
August 10



Lakewood Happenings

August 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	9:00am The Ridge 2
3	10:30am Amen Choir 4	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 5	10:30am VK/WMU 6	7	5:30pm Senior Game Night 8	3:30pm Meet at FAC Back to School Bash 9
Baptism 2:30pm Bonus Reh. 5:00pm Deacons Meet 10	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Sister to Sister F/H 11	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 12	13	14	15	16
4:00pm RRR Meeting 6:00pm Town Hall Meeting 17	10:30am Amen Choir 18	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 19	7:15pm Finance Team Meeting 20	21	22	8:30am Hymn S. Reh. Orchestra 10:30am Choir 23
6:00pm Hymn Sing 24	10:30am Amen Choir 25	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 26	27	6:30pm JEG/BW Onezima's 28	29	11:00am Feed the Homeless 30
9:15am Bible Fellowship 10:30am Comb. Service 31						

June Giving

Week	Tithe	RRR	Missions	Other Des.	Totals
06/01/25	\$26,789.13	\$455.00	\$3,840.96	\$786.00	\$31,871.09
06/08/25	\$25,423.09	\$765.00	\$3,845.08	\$1,590.00	\$31,623.17
06/15/25	\$10,714.97	\$345.00	\$6,179.40	\$623.00	\$17,862.37
06/22/25	\$15,011.37	\$70.00	\$2,116.50	\$2,021.25	\$19,219.12
06/29/25	\$20,012.45	\$235.00	\$1,480.51	\$145.00	\$21,872.96

Join us for
*Combined
Worship*
August 31

9:15 Bible Fellowship
10:30 Worship



*Welcome
New Members*

Travis & Dani Dufrene
Sam, Fernando,
Daniel &
Diego Laboy

Senior Game Night

Friday,
August 8th @ 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall
Chicken & Pasta
Salads
Fruit & Desserts

MINISTERIAL STAFF

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

