

Gateway NEWSLETTER

September 2025

REV YOUTH POTATO BAR FUNDRAISER

Have you ever gone to church and, after a great service, gotten in the car and proceeded to argue over where to go for lunch? REV Youth wants to help your marriage by offering lunch on October 12th. After church, walk over next door, pick up a potato, select your fixings, and then make the only decision of the afternoon: whether to eat at church or take it to go. This fund-raiser will help our students raise money for the LCGYF Youth Convention coming up in November.

CRUISIN' THE BLUFF 2025

It's hard to believe we are gearing up for our 8th annual Cruisin' the Bluff Car Show! We have some events we've incorporated every year, like the Hot Wheels Race. We will be hosting the third annual pinewood derby race, along with a few new events and ways for everyone to get involved in the judging. Be sure to bring a pocket full of change when you come this year to vote on your favorite ride. Each car will get a cup, and whichever car gets the most change will be the winner of a special People's Choice Trophy!

The car show requires a lot of preparation, but also a great deal of participation. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, there are a few ways to sign up. First, you can simply use your Connection Card on Sunday—write down that you would like to volunteer for the car show and place the card in the offering bag. You can also message the church through the website or the Gateway Church of God Facebook page. Lastly, just walk up to Steve after his announcement on Sunday, and he will get your name where it needs to go.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKING PARTY



Gateway's OCC Packing Party is truly an all-hands-on-deck event. Join us October 15 at 6 p.m. as we pack over 600 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Each box will one day end up in the hands of a child who has most likely never received a present before in their life. Before opening the boxes, the children will be told of the love of the giver and, most importantly, of the love of God. Because of the success of last year's Crusin' the Bluff Car Show, we have been able to purchase all the treasures to place in these boxes, and we are now calling out for help to fill each box! This night is not just for children and youth students, but also for their parents, for church members, and for any friends who would enjoy helping us meet our goal. Mark your calendars and be ready to fill those boxes!

GATEWAY THANKSGIVING MEAL

Just as every year has its moments of surprise, pain, blessing, and excitement, 2025 has done the same. There is no greater way to join together as a church family than to share a meal, share our stories of what the Lord has done this year, and take a moment to pray over all the shoeboxes we will be sending out. This night is one that so many people look forward to all year, and it's a great tradition to begin with your family. As we share our stories, we are filled with the assurance of the work the Lord is doing, and our faith increases to trust the Lord in greater ways for next year. We'll share more details soon on what to bring and how you can prepare for this special night with your church family.

2025 Calendar of Events

October

- 1.....Operation Christmas Child Leader Meeting
- 12.....Potato Bar - Youth Fundraiser
- 15.....Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
- 22.....AWANA Baseball Night
- 22.....Rev Youth Field of Faith
- 24.....Rev Youth Childcare Fund-Raiser

November

- 1.....Car Show
- 15.....Garage Sale
- 16.....Thanksgiving Meal
- 17-24.....Operation Christmas Child Collection Week
- 21-23.....LCGYF Youth Convention
- 23.....Christmas Decorating

December

- 6.....Community Santa Picture
- 14.....Christmas Caroling
- 17.....AWANA/Youth Christmas Party
- 24.....Christmas Eve Service



This November 21–23, the LCGYF Youth Convention will focus on “The Strength to Stand.” We can stand for truth because truth is a Person, not a statement. We can stand in faith because, no matter what we think we need, God's grace is

sufficient for us, and His power is made perfect in our weakness.

This year, Convention will be held at The Gathering in West Monroe. David Edwards will be our speaker, and the Justin Martindale Band will be leading worship. Justin has led worship at several of our youth camps recently and has become a great friend to many in our state. David Edwards is one of the most talented communicators—you'll laugh, but you won't lose sight of God's Word as he preaches it. We are so excited about our line-up this year, and we know it will be well worth your time to join us in 2025!

Convention will cost \$125 plus meals. This will cover our hotel cost, registration, convention T-shirt, and all activities we do during the weekend. We have a couple of fundraisers in October to help offset some of these costs. Be looking for a sign-up sheet in the Garage during DRIVE on Wednesday nights!