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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Lakes Church moves *Forward in Faith*: Celebrates grand reopening of expanded worship center**

**Lakes Church Press Kit**

LAKELAND, FL, Aug. 4, 2024 - Lakes Church is thrilled to announce the grand reopening of its newly expanded and renovated worship center on August 4, 2024. The state-of-the-art facility represents a significant milestone in the church's ongoing mission to reach more people with the gospel message.

Key features of the renovation include:

* A 2,000-seat worship center
* Cutting-edge LED wall and control room for enhanced broadcasting capabilities
* Updated connect group rooms
* New special needs area (currently under construction)

"This expansion allows us to better serve our growing congregation and reach even more people with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ," said Pastor Aaron Burgner, senior pastor of Lakes Church. "We're excited to leverage technology to spread the gospel message far beyond our physical walls."

Founded in 1885 in downtown Lakeland, Lakes Church has a long history of taking bold steps of faith. In 1998, the congregation voted to purchase the former Lakeland Mall, transforming it into their current main campus. Under Pastor Burgner's visionary leadership, the church has now grown to encompass five campuses and launching a sixth campus on August 11, 2024. The church anticipates plans for further expansion in the future.

The grand reopening celebration on August 4 will showcase the new facilities and welcome the community to experience Lakes Church's vibrant worship and ministry programs.

For more information on the church, including videos, and photos, please visit: xxxxxx

Updates can also be found at Facebook.com/golakeschurch.

**Media Opportunities**

**Interviews with:**

* Dr. Aaron D. Burgner, senior pastor Lakes Church
* Pastor Marc Roath, associate pastor Lakes Church
* [**B-Roll and photos**](https://media.billygraham.org/bg-rrt-press-room/) (please use with credit to Lakes Church)

**About Lakes Church:**

Lakes Church started in Downtown Lakeland as First Baptist Church of Lakeland in 1885 with 12 charter members. In May of 1998 the church voted to purchase the old Lakeland Mall. By 2004, a new worship center was constructed in the old Sam’s Club building and in April 2006, First Baptist Church at the Mall held its first services in the new worship center. Senior Pastor, Dr. Aaron D. Burgner came in 2017, and his visionary leadership has now led to the expansion of five campuses and is called Lakes Church. In addition, the church also houses a school called Lakes Church Academy from PreK-2 through 8th grade.

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