



BELLWETHER

Bellwether — the lead sheep of the flock (archaic English)

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Year... New Opportunities

The Christmas season, which we so cherish, is followed immediately by the season of Epiphany, which begins on January 6. The word “Epiphany” literally means “Manifestation,” and we have grown to expect lessons which reveal more and more about Jesus and the fact that He is the promised Messiah. This year’s Epiphany celebration will be longer than normal, taking up eight consecutive Sundays. This means that in late February we will hear lessons that don’t usually come our way when Easter is earlier in the calendar year.

During the month of January, we will be challenging the congregation to think about the opportunities we have to return to God our worship and praise. Because we have been so blessed, we understand that we are each called to be a blessing to others. We will be inviting the congregation to think about stewardship this month –but not just about financial stewardship but also about how we are called to give of ourselves in service of others.

It takes about a dozen people to make a worship service go at

Lamb of God Church and we are in need of volunteers to serve. It takes Lectors, Assisting Ministers, Sound Room Volunteers, Altar Guild Members, Greeters and Ushers. Our choir members, hand bells and vocal, volunteer their time to enhance our worship offerings. We are out in the community taking seriously our call to serve – providing food to the needy at A House Blest and taking on projects that have a significant impact on others via our associations with the Heart of Florida Coalition of Christian Church, Unity in the Community, the Farmworker’s Ministry, and the Conference, Synod and National Church.

Together we are having a significant impact in our church family and the community at large – but the truth is that it takes all of us to make this happen. Because of your generosity our church family has been able to support several causes. We give thanks for our successes in the past and look forward to what God has in store for us in the coming new year.

God’s Blessings,

Pr. Joe Conner

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Blood Pressure Check
Sunday, January 6
following the service



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NEXT GROUP - First meeting of the New Year on January 9

The NEXT Group continues to meet every other Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. for support, fellowship and study. The NEXT-Group is a group of people who have experienced the loss of a loved one and now are wondering what God has in store for their future. We usually have book study going on to stimulate conversation. This month, we are beginning a new Book by The Rev. Dr. Dean Posey entitled: "12 Gifts We Can't Afford to Lose." All are welcome to be a part of this supportive group.

Thursday Noon Bible Study - resumes on Thursday, January 10

During the Epiphany Season, we will be wrapping up our study on the Book of Acts. We meet weekly and do our best to complete at least one chapter each week. We have learned a lot together about development of the early church and how the church firmed up ministry priorities. Looking for a new study in the new year? Please consider joining us at noon on Thursdays!

Men's Group - Tuesday, January 15 at 7 p.m.

The Men's Group meets monthly for study. Our next meeting will be Tuesday evening, January 15. We are currently doing a study that focuses on early Church History. We will also be finalizing plans for a Spaghetti Dinner in February. Please watch for details during the weekly announcements.

Ordination and Installation of Mr. David Thoresen as Pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church

Mr. David Thoresen will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, January 20 at *Atonement Lutheran Church* in Sebring. David has been a good friend of Lamb of God Church and has preached here a number of times through the years during Pastor Joe's absence. We have been invited to this exciting service which will be presided over by our Bishop. The service starts at 3 p.m. and we will be carpooling to the service. We will meet in Lamb of God's parking lot at 1:30 p.m. There is a signup sheet on the Church Bulletin Board to indicate your interest. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 27 at 9:15 a.m.

We will be meeting on Sunday, January 27 as a congregation for our Annual Meeting. We will receive reports from our standing committees and organizations, as well as, the final report of our financials for 2018. This meeting will provide us with an opportunity to count our blessings, to give thanks for those who have faithfully served us over the past few years, and to look forward to what God has in store for us in 2019 and beyond. Light refreshments will be served.

WELCA LUNCHEON

We had a wonderful time at our Annual WELCA Christmas Luncheon. We had great company and delicious food. Everyone enjoyed themselves. As part of our celebration and in the spirit of giving back we had different projects for all to help in. Thanks to all who attended and everyone's support of our ministry, we were able to help three different organizations: *The Farm Ministry* — we packed and provided pillowcases for 17 families; *Lutheran World Relief* — We tied a total of 10 quilts (still more to tie, if you wish to help check the schedule); and *Palm Krest Manor* — we packed, provided, and delivered Christmas gifts that included body wash, shampoo, conditioner, washcloths, a treat,



Five Minutes or Less for Health Weekly Tip: Make Health Your Resolution

Find ways to boost your health, fitness, and well-being, and be an inspiration to others!

- ◆ Make healthy food choices. Grab a healthy snack on the go. Eat more fruits and vegetables.
- ◆ Be active. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Park farther away and walk.
- ◆ Protect yourself from injury and disease. Put on a helmet, sunscreen, or insect repellent. Wash your hands for 20 seconds.
- ◆ Manage stress. Don't overschedule or overcommit. Take short breaks throughout the day.
- ◆ Make an appointment for a check-up, vaccination, or screening.
- ◆ Quit smoking. Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free counseling on how to quit smoking for good.



Quilters Guild

A special thank you to the ladies that attended the WELCA Christmas Luncheon who tied a total of 10 quilts. This only made a small dent in the number of quilts yet to be tied. Several remarks were made about how easy it was to tie the quilts. Since Quilt Sunday will be here before we know it, we are in need of additional individuals to help tie quilts. Come and find out how easy it is. We meet on the first Wednesday (Jan 2) and the third Thursday (Jan 17) between 9 am and 12 noon.

Watch the Sunday bulletin for the dates to place the quilts on the pews, box them up, and for drivers to deliver the quilts to Resurrection Lutheran Church in Winter Park where they will be picked up by Lutheran World Relief. Thank you for all your support.



You're Never Too Old to Learn (or Teach) What's Going on in Education Quinlan's Corner

Sunday School classes for children in grades one through six resumed January 6. Class each Sunday runs from 9:15 until 10:15 and is led by Tom & Jany Leiser, both of whom have experience in English and Spanish in Lutheran church and public school settings.

All children in this age group are welcome, including those who have not yet attended Tom's & Jany's classes; this includes children whose families are not Lamb of God members.

Classes include sharing experiences, studying the Bible, reading, doing arts & crafts, and praying. Tom & Jany often provides treats for the children.

Very few young children are members at Lamb of God. For this reason and others, Lamb of God members are encouraged to speak with friends and neighbors about sending their children to Tom's & Jany's classes.

Education for young children is Church Council President Kathy Dierker's top priority. She believes that, if children participate in educational activities at Lamb of God, "their parents will follow."

Kathy and I are working on how to bring children and their families to Lamb of God. We're open to suggestions and comments.

Thank you!

Lamb of God's members responded generously to the Giving Tree.

Thanks to your thoughtfulness and generosity 44 children received a gift of a toy, clothing, and pillowcase.



Thank you

*Thank you for the Christmas Gift!
Lamb of God's Staff deeply appreciates
and is grateful for the kindness and
generosity of all its members.*

Council Highlights—*Christmas Shoppe 2018 Thank You*

The 2018 Christmas Shoppe Committee, comprised of Karen Grip, Teresa Liberta, Kathy Dierker, Pam Lapinski, and Gladys Hunt, says a big “thank you” to everyone who supported us and helped make the 2018 Shoppe a big success! Our thank you goes to all the bakers, those who donated so many fine items for our “treasure tables,” the crafters, those who shopped, and to all the volunteers who worked so many hours to put the Shoppe together.

Some of you were there on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday setting up tables and chairs, arranging and covering the tables, sorting and pricing all the items, and decorating. And then on Friday morning bright and early volunteers came to help with all the final arranging and pricing and helping with so many other little important tasks before we opened for the Friday night preview. Volunteers continued to come on Saturday morning and stayed to help all during the morning and early afternoon. On Sunday morning we saw the same out-pouring of volunteers for the final sales and the big job of clean-up. By 3 pm on Sunday afternoon you would never have guessed that the Fellowship Hall had been the site of a terrific Christmas Shoppe.

We are happy to report that the six raffle prizes were awarded on Sunday and most of the winners were Lamb of God members. Our proceeds for the raffle were \$380. From the sale of coffee and refreshments on Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour was \$50, which was donated to the ELCA World hunger Project. Thrivent Financial donated \$250, which went toward publicity, signs, and cards. Our total proceeds for the Shoppe were \$2704. One half of the proceeds are pledged to go to the Quilters and one half to the project of Lamb of God to replace lights in the Fellowship Hall and in the offices and Sunday School wing.

A BIG SUCCESS—THANKS AGAIN TO ALL OF YOU WHO SO GENEROUSLY HELPED IN THIS CHURCH-WIDE PROJECT!

Congratulations to... *Best wishes to our members and friends on their special day*

Birthdays in December

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • 1/1 Richard Lounsbery | • 1/14 Carol Lounsbery |
| • 1/4 Philippa White | • 1/20 Charles Fritz |
| • 1/4 Bert Lachner | • 1/22 Robert Smith |
| • 1/7 Bella Sandretto | • 1/28 Sandi Barnhart |
| • 1/8 Betty Smith | • 1/29 Earl Anderson |
| • 1/10 Emma Murphy | • 1/31 Caitlin Sweeney |
| • 1/13 Anne Treesh | |

Anniversaries in December

- 1/9 Linda and Larry Wray
- 1/19 Dick and Barb Donnelly
- 1/21 Neil and Lynda Collins

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 9:00 am Quilters	3	4	4 6:00 pm Worship
6 Epiphany of Our Lord 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Spanish Service	7 7:00 pm Bell Choir rehearsal	8 10:00 am Taking down the Greens	9 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am NEXT 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal	10 12:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Council Mtg	11	12 6:00 pm Worship
13 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Spanish Service	14 7:00 pm Bell Choir rehearsal	15 12:00 pm Food Pantry at House Blest 7:00 pm Men's Group	16 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal	17 9:00 am Quilters 12:00 pm Bible Study 12:00 pm Food Pantry at House Blest 7:00 pm Solivita GIFT	18	19 6:00 pm Worship
20 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am WELCA 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Spanish Service	21 7:00 pm Bell Choir rehearsal	22 7:00 pm North County GIFT	23 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am NEXT 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal	24 12:00 pm Bible Study	25	26 6:00 pm Worship
27 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Annual Meeting 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Spanish Service	28 7:00 pm Bell Choir rehearsal	29	30 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm Choir rehearsal	31 12:00 pm Bible Study		



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Our Mission Statement

The mission of Lamb of God Lutheran Church is to lead and inspire God's people into a growing relationship with Jesus.

Our Vision Statement

Centered in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the vision of Lamb of God Lutheran Church is to transform and enhance the lives of members, neighbors and friends through relevant worship and study of God's Word, and through providing Christian service and fellowship opportunities.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May - October 9:00 am Holy Communion

10:15 am Sunday School

November - April 8:00 & 10:30 am

Holy Communion

9:15 am Sunday School &

Bible Study

Spanish Service 12:30 am Holy Communion

Advent thru Lent Saturday, 6pm