Volume 28 Issue 4 April 2022



BELLWETHER

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

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor's Notes...

We are in the midst of our Lenten journey to the foot of the cross. We have been blessed with wonderful reflections by some lay folks during our Wednesday Noon Lenten Services. In a few short weeks we will begin Holy Week as we celebrate Jesus' jubilant entry into Jerusalem, and then begin to look ahead to Christ's Passion on that very same Palm/Passion Sunday as the tone in worship becomes more solemn.

Maundy Thursday begins the Three Great Days, as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples and we once again hear Jesus' new commandment "to love one another." That night we will witness the stripping of the altar, which is meant to remind us of Jesus' being seemingly stripped of his worldly power.

Good Friday Night we will celebrate the ancient Service of Tenebrae which will have us meditate upon the long, silent agony of Jesus' death on the cross, and the extinguishing of candles symbolizing the ebbing of his life. And Good Friday night we will be blessed with the sharing of Reflections by the pastors among us on the Seven Last Words of Jesus.

It is always a very busy time in the church year. At the same time, it is the holiest of times as we continue our journey with Jesus to the cross and prepare to celebrate Christ's triumphant journey from death to life early Easter morning.

In the midst of the busyness of daily living, I pray you take time to reflect on the life-giving gift given for all on the cross. And may your Holy Week be a blessing and your Easter celebration joyfilled! I look forward to celebrating all of it with you!

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Council VP Corner—Linda Leiwig

This will be my last article for you as your VP. For those that don't know, Tim and I will be moving to Panama City Beach later this year. I'd like to say that it's been an honor to serve as your VP for the past 1.5 years. It's allowed me to get a great education on Church administration and yes, I dare say Stewardship!

Our Lamb of God family has meant so much to us over the past 8 years. Tim and I have been more than happy to give our time to the church in the various roles where we were needed. These things have allowed us to meet many of you. Each meeting enriched our lives more than you can imagine.

Thank you all for allowing us to serve. We will miss all of you.

God's Blessings,

Linda & Tim Leiwig

The Lamb of God Memorial Garden

The Lamb of God Memorial Garden Committee is currently looking for someone to serve on the committee. The committee members work very well as a team and there is an opening for a chairperson.

Most of the time consuming work that was needed to develop the garden and the documentation to help the committee manage the Memorial Garden has been completed. Moving forward, the committee will continue the oversight of the garden. Serving on this committee is a great way to serve the Lamb of God Church.

If you are interested, please talk to any of the current committee members, Kathy Dierker, or Pastor Berner.



A LAMB OF GOD LENDING LIBRARY ON THE HORIZON

Gladys Hunt has accepted the appointment as Lamb of God Librarian. She has a life-long love of libraries and brings a wealth of experience to this post. She worked in



Roanoke College's library as a student. She always has had an active library card wherever she has lived. Volunteering to work in libraries has been an ongoing, keen interest of hers and has included helping with library materials in churches in Tennessee and Pennsylvania. She served as volunteer librarian at Trinity Lutheran Church School in Kissimmee, and recently served for eight years as volunteer in the library at the neighboring Alta Vista Elementary School.

Gladys will organize a Lamb of God lending library. The books will be available for individual study, and also can serve as the basis for future education programs at Lamb of God. Included in the collection will be those teaching materials designed to promote literacy in English that were used for several years by volunteer teachers at Lamb of God who led a program of English classes for Spanish speakers.



"We are so blessed that Gladys has agreed to serve as our librarian. We encourage church members to donate appropriate books for our new church library," said Bill Quinlan, who is the Church Council member responsible for education programs and activities at Lamb of God.

Gladys will begin her work in earnest soon. "In the coming months we will evaluate and organize what I know will be a treasure trove of books. Some of them the church has purchased, others have been donated by church members. Some may have been borrowed from the church library and not yet returned. In addition, there may be books that church members would like to donate. Any returned or donated books should be marked for the new lending library and either given to me, Bill, or Evelyn Brewer in the church office; or left on the table in the library. We will sort out all the books, arrange and shelve them in a user-friendly fashion, and establish a system to track books borrowed from the collection," Gladys said.

"I look forward to establishing our lending library. I will let you know when it is up and running," she added.

Cápsulas del Corazón por Wanda Bango-Sanchez

Reflexión de Cuaresma: Impulsemos Nuestro Corazón al Cambio

Demos gracias al Señor porque nos ha permitido vivir una temporada más de Cuaresma. Hemos sido sobrevivientes de un tiempo crítico en la historia Mundial de la humanidad; una pandemia a lo cual no nos imaginábamos que podríamos vivir.

Consideremos esta temporada de Cuaresma una tan y más especial que muchas otras anteriores por que nuestro Dios Padre te ha dado la oportunidad y permitido sobrevivir de una Pandemia.

Pero aún así, vivimos tiempos de guerra de opresión de injusticias, de hambre, suicidios, homicidios, violencia entre la familia, etc., pero Dios nos trae una palabra de Misericordia y de Esperanza. En el libro del profeta Joel 2:12-13, vemos a un Dios enojado con el pueblo de Israel que lo ha abandonado pero también listo para traer juicio y justicia,"Ahora bien, afirma el Señor, vuélvanse a mí de todo corazón, con ayuno, llantos y lamentos". Rásguense el corazón y no las vestiduras. Vuélvanse al Señor su Dios porque Él es bondadoso y compasivo, lento para la ira y lleno de amor, cambia de parecer y no castiga".

Significa escudriñemos nuestros corazones y desatemos esos malos hábitos que nos alejan y separan de Dios. Dios hoy en día nos exhorta durante esta Cuaresma a practicar estos 4 hábitos; el ayuno, la oración, el arrepentimiento y dar de nuestro tiempo para ayudar al prójimo, realizando obras de caridad. Así veremos cambios en nuestra relación con Dios y los milagros que jamas hubieses imaginado los verás ocurrir día a día en tu vida.



Oremos: Amantísimo Padre Celestial te doy gracias, porque ha pesar de mi pecado, tu no dudas en derramar tu amor, misericordia y compassion sobre mi. Perdona mis pecados lo que he hecho sin tomarte a ti como mi prioridad y ayúdame a que mi voluntad y prioridad siempre sean primero sobre ti. Ayúdame a cambiar mi corazón, dame sabiduría y guíame a seguir tu voluntad. Por tu hijo Jesucristo nuestro Señor y Salvador, Amen.

Snippets from the Heart by Wanda Bango-Sanchez

Lenten Reflection: Let's Drive Our Heart to Change

Let us give thanks to the Lord because He has allowed us to live one more season of Lent. We have been survivors of a critical time in the history of mankind; a pandemic through which we never imagine could have occurred.

Let's consider this season of Lent more special than many previous ones because God the Father has given us the opportunity and allowed us to survive the pandemic.

But even so, we live in times of war, of oppression, of injustices, of hunger, suicides, homicides, violence amongst family, etc., but God brings us a word of mercy and hope. In the book of the prophet Joel 2:12-13, we see a God who is angry with the people of Israel who have forsaken Him, but also ready to bring judgment and righteousness. "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.'

It means scrutinizing our hearts and unleashing those bad habits that drive us away and separate us from God. God exhorts us during this Lent season to practice these 4 habits: fasting, prayer, repentance, and giving of our time to help others, performing works of charity. Thus we will see changes in our relationship with God and the miracles that you would never have imagined, you will see happen day by day in your life.

Our prayer:

Most dear Heavenly Father, I thank you because even though I have sinned, you do not hesitate to pour out your love, mercy, and compassion over me. Forgive my sins; what I have done without making you as my priority and help me remember that my will and priority are always yours. Help me to change my heart, give me wisdom, and guide me to follow your will. For your son Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.



Holy Week Schedule



PALM SUNDAY APRIL 10 10:00 am



MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 14 7:00 pm



GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 15 7:00 pm



EASTER
SUNDAY
APRIL 17
10:00 am

Quilter's Guild

It's that time of year when our winter friends begin to leave. We give thanks for their dedication to quilting here at Lamb of God. The Polk County Humane Society received 11 Doggie Beds on March 15. The volunteers were very excited to get them. Last year we delivered 78 Doggie Beds. We use all sizes of donated pillow cases then fill them with scrap fabric and batting. Since we delivered our 210 quilts to our Lutheran World Relief drop off point we have been spending our time going through boxes of donated fabric, reorganizing the Quilt Closet in addition to our normal putting together, sewing, and tying quilts. The quilters are looking for a slightly used iron, if you have one please talk to Laverne Tillson or Robin Rogers. We also have



fabric that needs to be cut into squares. There are bags of fabric with instructions available for you to pick up on the table in the back of the Fellowship Hall - this task can be done at home. We always say, "If you can tie a knot then you can quilt." We meet the first Wednesday (Apr. 6) and third Thursday (Apr. 21) from 9 to noon. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Laverne Tillson at 863-326-6081



Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

Your gifts designated for "<u>Eastern Europe</u> <u>Crisis Response</u>" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

By Phone: 800-638-3522

Mon. through Fri., 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. CST.

Online: https://www.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse

By mail: Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response. Write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on the memo line and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

What else can you do? Pray

Please pray for those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries that have been affected by the crisis in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.



EACH WEEK ADD AN ITEM TO THE
FOOD TABLE IN THE NARTHEX
ALL ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO
A HOUSE BLESSED

WEEK 1—March 6
CEREAL, OATMEAL, GRITS,
GRANOLA BARS

WEEK 2—March 13
CANNED MEAT
(chicken, fish, beef stew/chili, ham/SPAM)

WEEK 3—March 20
RICE, MASHED POTATOES, MAC & CHEESE (individual boxes)

WEEK 4—March 27
PASTA, SAUCE, COOKING OIL

WEEK 5—April 3
PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP, DRY MILK

WEEK—April 10
CANNED GOODS
(fruit, vegetables, soup, beans)

COUNCIL'S COVID PROTOCOL UPDATE

At their March meeting, Council discussed at length whether this is an appropriate time to totally ease up on COVID protocol. Please know that Council is listening to all concerns, and continuing to try to faithfully find a balance between what is appropriate for a worshiping community and how tired we all are of this ugly virus.

Council, took the following factors into consideration in its decision making:

- ✓ infection rate is low right now
- ✓ some can't be vaccinated
- ✓ attendance is highest in 2+ years which makes it harder to social distance
- ✓ larger attendance (& more visitors) expected Palm Sunday and Easter
- ✓ introducing a 2nd Easter service probably will not help much with social distancing this year (1 service will be lighter attendance, the 2nd heavier)
- ✓ singing is one of the most concentrated, farthest spreader of the virus
- ✓ some folks share they are staying home because of masks
- ✓ some folks share they have come back because of masks
- we have had large number of visitors lately; some have shared they have sought out LOG because of mask protocol
- ✓ as a community of faith, our decisions are grounded in love for our neighbor

After balancing the above, Council decided the following:

- we will continue to wear masks in worship through Easter Season
- when social distancing is difficult, pews will be filled beginning at the back
- offering envelopes and pencils have returned to the pews
- we will continue to ease up on masks in small vaccinated groups
- · while harder to maintain at fellowship gatherings, masks worn unless eating
- communion distribution shared by Pastor and Assistant Minister

It is Council's prayer that the positivity rate will continue to stay low. In the meantime, we are most grateful for your patience and faithfulness, as we try our best to serve our neighbors and the God who gives us life!

- Lamb of God Council



MEMORIAL GARDEN SPRING WORKDAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 BEGINNING AT 9:30AM

If you are available
to help spruce up the garden,
we will see you April 9!
Bring a rake, broom,
trimming shears, gloves or
whatever you might have to
help work on the garden.

Thank you in advance for your support and assistance.





APRIL DATES TO HELP OUT ARE: 1 & 29
WE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR MONETARY
AND FOOD DONATIONS.
114 S. 2ND STREET, HAINES CITY

Happenings at Lamb of God & Cordero de Dios

Pastor Don Johnson's Celebration of Life

















WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

If you are ready to join the Lamb of God family or are interested in learning more about becoming a Lamb of God member, please do not hesitate to connect with us. Talk to our Pastor, worship servers, council members, or call the office to schedule a call or in-person meeting with the Pastor to learn more. Office number–863-421-2811. Pastor Berner's number–863-438-1711.

March Offerings

Thank you for your continued support of our Church with your time, talent and treasures. Offering totals include English and Spanish Congregations combined.

Sunday Offerings Collected: \$20,723 Budgeted: \$23,612

If you don't attend Sunday services, here are the different ways to send your tithes to church: Lamb of God's website www.lambofgodhainescity.com—go to "ONLINE GIVING," Vanco App, or mail to Lamb of God, or drop off during office hours.





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BASKET BUNNIES CANDY CHICKS **CROSS CROWN CRUCIFIXION DECORATE DISCIPLES EASTER EGGS FAITH FLOWERS GRASS** HUNT LAMB LAST **LENT MIRACLE PASSOVER REJOICE** RESURRECTION SAVIOR **SPRING**



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Easter Lilies

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If you wish to help decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday by donating towards the Easter Lily Fund in memory/honor of a loved one, please complete the form found in the Lobby, call the office—863-421-2811, or go to our website: www.lambofgodhainescity.com—ONLINE GIVING before Palm Sunday (April 10).

The suggested donation is \$15 per lily.





Want to Be Part of Our Bake Sale?



SIGN UP TO DONATE TODAY!

AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE BRINGING.

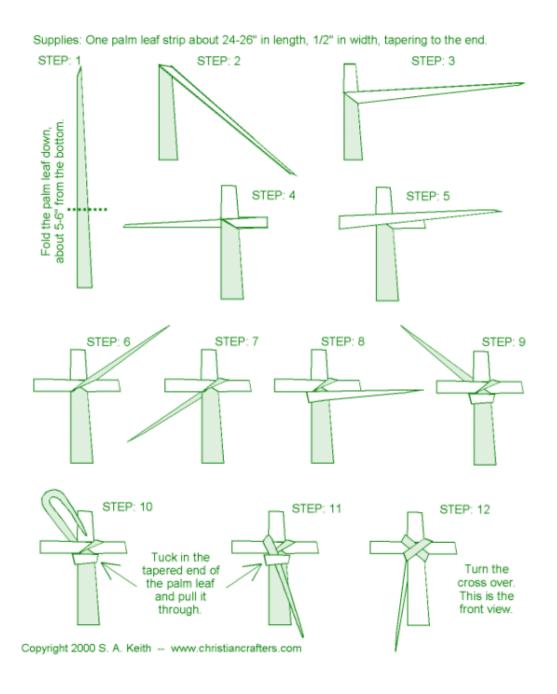
ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE "EASTER DECORATED," PRICED, AND LABELED (SUGAR FREE, GLUTEN FREE, CONTAINS NUTS)



STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTION TO MAKE A PALM CROSS FROM PALM STRIPS

- 1. Take a palm strip that is about 2 feet long and 1/2" wide (if it tapers at the top, this is good!). Hold the palm upright, so the tapered end points toward the ceiling.
- 2. Then bend the top end down and toward you so that the bend is about 5 or 6 inches from the bottom of the palm.
- 3. About a third of the way from the bend you just made, twist the section you've pulled down to the right, forming a right angle.
- 4. About an inch and a half away from the "stem" of the Cross, bend this arm of the palm back behind the palm so that it is now facing to your left. Make the bend at a good length to form the right arm of the Cross.
- 5. Folding that same section at a point that equals the length on the right side, bend it on the left side and bring the end forward over what is now the front of the Cross.

- 6. From the very center of the Cross, fold that arm up and to the upper right (in a "northeast" direction) so that it can wrap around where the upright post of the Cross and the right arm intersect.
- 7. Fold this down and to the left behind the Cross and then fold it toward the right so that it is parallel and under the transverse arms of the Cross.
- 8. Bring it up behind the Cross again, this time folding it up toward the "northwest" direction.
- 9. Tuck the tapered end into the transverse section you made in step 7 and pull through.
- 10. Turn the Cross over; this side will be the front. Trim the tapered end if necessary, remembering that the palm is a sacramental and any part you trim away should be kept and respected as a sacramental! Use that piece for burning during storms.



Congratulations to...

Best wishes to our members and friends on their special day

Birthdays in April ^Q 04/18 04/03 Jacqueline Koerber Jacalyn Tibbetts Q 04/04 ^Q 04/19 **Gary Chastain** David Hunt ^Q 04/06 ^Q 04/20 Johanna Hohm Thomas Tibbetts, III ^Q 04/06 ^Q 04/21 Mary Winship Rosemarie Dietrich ^Q 04/07 ^Q 04/22 Julie Gorder Darlene Barker ^Q 04/08 Q 04/24 Juan Morales **Timothy Leiwig** ^Q 04/09 ^Q 04/25 **Ruth Search** Stella Bounds Q 04/11 ^Q 04/26 Richard Clavette Barbara Smith Q 04/14 ^Q 04/30 Georgene Endy Ruth Horst ^Q 04/16 Karen Grip



Anniversaries in April

♡ 04/05 Steve & Lisa Synstelien

○ 04/18 Ron & Barbara Maynard

Thank you for your Contributions

Robin Rogers

in memory of Pr. Don Johnson

Phyllis White

in memory of Jeanne Meuser



APRIL

Sat	2 AM—1:00 PM 10:30 am Clases de Primera Communión	9 10:30 am Clases de Primera Communión	16 10:30 am Clases de Primera Communión	23 10:30 am Clases de Primera Communión	30
Fri	Spring Bazaar 8:00 AM—1:00 PM Volunteers at A House Blessed Primera Comm 114 S 2nd St, Haines City	8 7:00 pm Comité de technología	15 GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED Volunteers at A House Blessed 114 S 2nd St, Haines City 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	22	29 OFFICE CLOSED
Thu	2:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	7 9:00 am Council Meeting 2:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY 2:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Maundy Thurs. Service	21 9:00 am Quilter's Guild 2:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	2:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Joint Meeting
Wed		6 9:00 am Quilter's Guild 12:00 pm Lenten Service 5:00 pm Comité Timón	13 BELLWETHER SUBMISION DEADLINE	20	27 6:30 pm Crafter's Group
Tue		rv.	12	19	26
Mon		4	11 7:00 pm Comité de Música	18 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Junta de Comité	25 7:00 pm Comité de evangelización
Sun		3 Spring Bazaar 8A—1P NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Escuela Biblica 12:30 pm Servicio en español	10 PALM SUNDAY 8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Escuela Bíblica 11:30 am Children's Sunday School 12:30 pm Servicio en español	17 EASTER SUNDAY 8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Escuela Bíblica 11:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:30 pm Servicio en español	8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Escuela Biblica 11:15 am Children's Sunday School 12:30 pm Servicio en español



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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.

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.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

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Rev. Izzy Bango-Sanchez, Associate Pastor/Mission Developer

Evelyn Brewer, Office Administrator officemanager@lambofgodhainescity.com

Alex Sanchez, Music Director musicdirector@lambofgodhainescity.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Holy Communion 11:15 am Children's Sunday School

Servicio en Español

11:00 am Escuela Bíblica 12:30 pm Servicio con Comunión

ONLINE WORSHIP: www.lambofgodhainescity.com