



BELLWETHER

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

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor

¹*I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?*
²*My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.*
³*The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.*

Psalms 121:1-3.

We wisely look to the Lord for guidance—as we make our way through both the best but also the most challenging of times. This pandemic has presented us with what has proven to be for many, the challenge of a lifetime. I know in the past 33 years of Pastoral Ministry—this year—has been by far the most difficult. Our routine has been disrupted and we are now confronted with a new normal. The church continues to be as active as possible despite the challenges we are all currently facing. Although we wonder when and if things will ever return to normal—we faithfully press onward with confidence, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

I am often asked: When we will return to in-person worship? To be honest, I am not sure. The Church Council has developed a thorough plan that takes significant steps in providing a safe worship environment for those who might choose to return to “in-person” worship sooner rather than later. When the Church Council is confident that we can do “in-person” worship safely, we will provide the congregation with two week’s notice in writing, of our restart date and the expectations on those who plan to participate. We will

In this issue

Cordero de Dios	3
From our Members	4
Quilters’ Guild	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Calendar	7

Tithes & Offerings

- Facebook
- Mail or
- Drop off during office hours

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continue to offer online worship for those who are not comfortable with the idea of in-person worship. Your safety and the safety of all worshipers is of primary concern. We hope that devotions during the week, by Pastor Harold's and I, have been helpful and that our weekend worship offerings are helping to meet at least a portion of your spiritual needs.

In the face of things that are beyond our control, I pray that you will find consolation in the fact that God continues to watch over you and ensure your safety. My prayers and the prayers of our congregational leadership are with you all!

God's Blessings,

Pr. Joe

Recipe of the Month

Easy Asparagus Casserole

Submitted by Jim Barnhart.

Ingredients:

2—15 oz. cans asparagus spears, cut into 1 inch pieces

1/2 t salt

1 t white pepper

2—2 oz. jars diced pimentos, drained

2 eggs, beaten

1 cup cracker meal

1 cup milk

2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese

1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted

Canned asparagus spears for decorating
(optional)

Pimento strips for decorating (optional)



Instructions:

Combine first 9 ingredients and spoon into a greased 9" x 11" baking dish. Bake uncovered, at 400° for 30 minutes. Garnish with asparagus spears and pimento strips, if desired.

Yields about 10 servings.

Cordero de Dios

1). Continuamos con "Tiempo de Reflexión." Nuestro tema de julio: ¿ Como saber lo que Dios quiere para mi?

2). Las lecturas semanales para cada servicio son pregrabadas desde los hogares de cada lector o lectora.

3). Cada servicio es pregrabado y enviado cada viernes vía "Facebook" y "YouTube"

4). Estudios Bíblicos cada Domingo vía "Zoom" a las 12:00pm. Conéctate y aprendamos mas de la Biblia juntos.

5). Juntas via Zoom cada miércoles con el Obispo Suarez y cada 4to miércoles con El Yateem, Asistente al Obispo.

Seguimos en oración por la situación de pandemia en el mundo y por cada miembro de nuestra Iglesia Lamb Of God Lutheran Church y Misión Hispana Luterana Cordero De Dios! Una gran familia bilingüe bajo un solo Dios todopoderoso dentro de una iglesia llena de amor filial para todos.

Su servidor,
Vicario Izzy Bango-Sanchez

1). We continue with "Reflection Time." Our theme for July is: How do we know what God wants for me?

2). Our weekly readings for each prerecorded service come from reader recorded from their homes.

3). Each service is prerecorded and made available every Friday via "Facebook" and "YouTube"

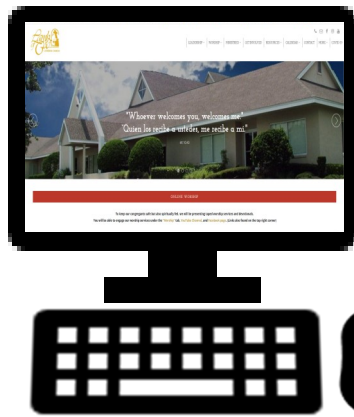
4). Bible Studies are offered every Sunday via "Zoom" at 12:00pm. Connect and let's learn from the Bible together.

5). Zoom meetings every Wednesday with Bishop Suarez and every 4th Wednesday with Assistant Bishop The Yateem.

We continue in prayer for the pandemic in the world and for every member of our Church Lamb Of God Lutheran Church and Misión Hispana Luterana Cordero de Dios! A great bilingual family under an almighty God within a church full of filial love for all.

His server,
Vicar Izzy Bango-Sanchez





FAITH ONLINE

As we spend our 5th month in self-quarantine, my husband and I know we have many more

months before conditions will be safe for us to mix with society, large groups or even family gatherings. If you, like us, are aged, have chronic medical conditions or have compromised immune systems and you become infected with the virus, those chronic conditions become "co-morbidity." Scary word meaning they "contribute to patient mortality." We are not willing to take "fatal risks" we would not survive. Hence, our home is still on lock down and my church is off limits to me.

'Church' as we have known all our lives may be changed for some time to come. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the ELCA, last I heard, recommends its churches not consider re-openings for congregational worship before September. Based on the scientific rate and manner of the virus spread, those recommendations are wise and prudent and may still be adjusted.

Since mid-February, the Lamb of God staff, Evelyn Brewer, Pastors Joe Connor and Izzy Bango-Sanchez, Music Director Alex Sanchez, David Reedy, and volunteer member Pastor Harold Heidegger have consistently and devotedly provided *online*

worship services, devotional studies, safe weekly Holy Communion (every Wednesday 10 AM -12 Noon) and available Pastoral Care where needed, while our doors are closed. The Church Council is meeting regularly to research guidelines, reopening strategies and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Institute of Health (NIH), World Health Organization (WHO), the ELCA and the best practices of successfully re-opened churches. However, no date to open is being discussed at this time; instead, strategies for safe reopening is the focus of the planning. I have been asked by the Council to share the final reopening strategies on the website in a special video when those plans are ready.

When the church re-opens, some people with "co-morbidity" may well choose to remain *Home-Bound* until pharma therapies and viable vaccinations are available. The responsibility of that decision lies solely with each and every one of us; but whatever your decision, we have been reassured that we may continue to go *online* at the website and view the new/current, view past services and devotionals from the Archives, and will continue to offer weekly Holy Communion. Lamb of God is committed to nurturing our faith, growth, and offering Pastoral Care.

Since being self-quarantined, I have been acutely aware how steadfast we must be, in

financially supporting our churches' operational costs, the mortgage payments and staff salaries. The ongoing expenses. It may be easy to forget when we are not coming weekly, but please make a point to mail, drop off, or use the online option through Facebook, for your tithe/donation weekly,

bi-weekly, or monthly, to meet our budgetary obligations. God's work, our hands.

Since prayers are virtual (and we know they work), I send my virtual hugs. May God bless us all with His Peace and Grace.

Phyllis Fludd White

Quilters' Guild

It is hard to believe that this time last year my weekly Tuesday quilt group met and put together 55 animal beds for the Humane Society of Polk County located on Dundee Road. In March of this year I was asked to work with Mariatu Search's Junior Girl Scout Troop, who meet at Chain of Lakes ES in Winter Haven, to make animal beds for the Humane Society as a community service project. Then, due to COVID-19, we were unable to meet and work on their community service project.

On July 3, Mariatu and my granddaughter Amber, who is a GS Cadette visiting from Virginia, met at my home to put together the animal beds. Mariatu and Amber spent the morning stuffing pillowcases with scrap fabric left from cutting squares and scrap batting from the Lamb of God Quilters. After stuffing the pillowcases, they sewed the ends shut to make a secure bed. They were able to produce 26 beds in 3 ½ hours. After lunch we delivered the beds to the Humane Society. The Humane Society was excited to receive the animal beds and praised the girls for their community service work on their Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact Laverne Tillson (863.326.6081) or the church office.



Congratulations to...

Best wishes to our members and friends on their special day

Birthdays in August ★

- 👤 08/02 Maritza Ramirez
- 👤 08/04 Kit Marsella
- 👤 08/04 Mariatu Search
- 👤 08/07 Alex Green
- 👤 08/07 Edward Spila
- 👤 08/08 Jim Barnhart
- 👤 08/11 Teresa Liberta
- 👤 08/12 Guillermo Franquiz
- 👤 08/14 Harold Heidegger
- 👤 08/16 Ken Lindberg
- 👤 08/16 Judy Wise
- 👤 08/17 Sherry Redinger
- 👤 08/18 Ellen Quackenboss
- 👤 08/19 Richard Kavelak
- 👤 08/19 Jacob Sandretto
- 👤 08/23 Liz Heidegger
- 👤 08/26 Lou Ross
- 👤 08/31 Brenda Kavelak
- 👤 08/31 Wanda Kimbrel

Anniversaries in August

- ♡ 08/02 Kathryn & Terry Frazee
- ♡ 08/02 Annette & John Jack
- ♡ 08/03 Jane & Ray Messmer
- ♡ 08/04 Jan & Mark Walton
- ♡ 08/06 Judy & Charlie Wise
- ♡ 08/12 Sherry & Ralph Redinger
- ♡ 08/13 Bert & Arlene Lachner
- ♡ 08/14 Jeffrey & Nila Elkund
- ♡ 08/14 Lorinda & Michael Utter
- ♡ 08/21 Liz & Harold Heidegger
- ♡ 08/22 Linda & Charles Dawson
- ♡ 08/29 Gary & Bonnie Chastain



Thank You For Your Contributions

Tribute Fund

Glenn and Linda Nellis in memory of Betty Mezen

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Online Worship Servicios en línea	3 11:00 am — 1:00 pm School Meals Distribution	4	5 Volunteers Training 10:00 am—12:00 pm Prayer and self-serve communion	6 11:00 am — 1:00 pm School Meals Distribution	7 Office Closed 11:00 am—3:00 pm Volunteers at House Blest 4:00 pm Food Pantry at House Blest	8
9 Online Worship Servicios en línea	10	11 6:00 pm Worship and Music Meeting	12 10:00 am—12:00 pm Prayer and self-serve communion	13 7:00 pm Council Meeting	14	15 BELLWETHER SUBMISSION DEADLINE
16 Online Worship Servicios en línea	17	18	19 10:00 am—12:00 pm Prayer and self-serve communion	20	21 11:00 am—3:00 pm Volunteers at House Blest 4:00 pm Food Pantry at House Blest	22
23 Online Worship Servicios en línea	24	25	26 10:00 am—12:00 pm Prayer and self-serve communion	27	28	29
30 Online Worship Servicios en línea	31					



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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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Evelyn Brewer, Office Administrator

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ONLINE WORSHIP: www.lambofgodhainescity.com/worship

May - October **10:00 am Holy Communion**

8:45 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**