



BELLWETHER

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

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anticipation

The season of Advent is all about anticipating the future. Anticipating once again the arrival of Christmas but also the promised return of Christ at the close of the age. This year, we will be dealing with the traditional themes associated with the season of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Although I am looking forward to the celebration of Advent, this season will not be without special challenges for me as your pastor. Unfortunately, I injured my Achilles tendon and will have limited mobility this Advent Season. I have got all kind of things swirling around in my mind – will I be back up on the altar by Christmas? Will I be able to make it up steps into people's homes to successfully complete our Advent/Christmas home communions? And...how am I going to get around, when at least at the moment I cannot even drive and I know already that everything that I will do is going to take just a little bit more time.

As I look for blessings in the midst of my current challenges, I wisely look in God's direction – knowing, without a doubt, that God provides a way forward. I know that God will make a way because I have seen what God has done for many of you when you have faced similar challenges.

Looking forward to this year's journey through the Season of Advent. Thank you in advance for your prayers as I pursue my physical recovery.

Pr. Joe

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Happenings Around Lamb of God

Cordero de Dios— Quinceañera, Bible Study, Care Ministry

Our Lamb of God Spanish Mission had a busy November month. On November 9, we proudly celebrated our member Karla Rubí Lopez's "Quinceañera" with a special service and blessing. Thank you all for the support given to Karla, her mother Rubí, and their entire family.

We are also rejoicing with the addition of three new students to our Children's Bible Study and Music Group. What a blessing!

Finally, on November 16, we had another special visit to the Haines City Health Care Center. It was an afternoon packed with a bilingual service, communion, music, and a special recognition for all the military. Jocelyn and Oscar Escobar handed out a handmade mini prayer box to each resident present.

Blessings and Shalom ,

Vicar Izzy



Karla's Quinceañera. It is the celebration of the 15th birthday. Pronounced "kincejnera" it is similar to a sweet sixteen or debutante ball.



Haines City Health Care Center visit



Spanish Mission Children's Bible Study



Veterans Day

Sunday, November 10 we had the opportunity to honor all men and women who have served our country. During the service we had veterans present give their name, rank, and post.

We would like to give a great huge THANK YOU to Susan for the lovely and meaningful, hand-made gifts that we presented to our veterans during all three services.

Pastor Joe also did the invocation during the Haines City Veterans Celebration on Monday, November 11. I am sure many of our members who were present recognized him.

May our Lord continue to bless and fill all our veterans and members with His peace!

Vicar Izzy



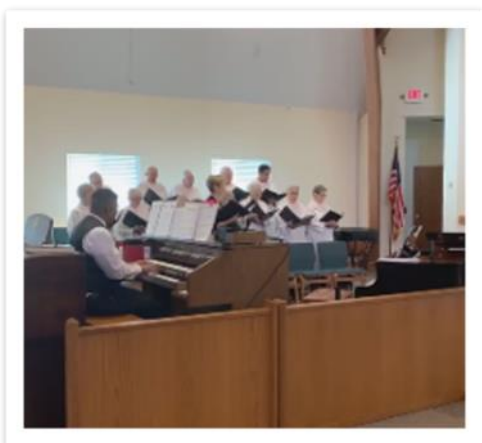
Pastor Joe, Susan, Vicar Izzy



Pastor Joe at Haines City Veterans Day celebration

Choral presentation by the Mulberry High School Concert Choir

On November 3, we had a special Choral presentation by the Mulberry Concert Choir during our 10:30 a.m. service. Both our Choir and the Mulberry Choir, led by our Choir Director Alex Sanchez, delighted us with special musical selections. If you were not present, you can check them out in our Facebook page.



Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale

We would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers, donors, and organizers, without you our





WELCA FALL LUNCHEON DONATION UPDATE



Thank you to everyone for your generous support to our community project that benefited Alta Vista Elementary School students.

Special thanks to the ladies for your donation of pennies, nickels, and dimes at our Fall Luncheon. The total amount raised was \$174. This money will help students cover unanticipated sales tax on their book purchases during their school's Book Fair in December.


thank
you!



Poinsettias



If you wish to purchase a poinsettia to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve, in memory/honor of a loved one, please complete the form found in the narthex and return **by Sunday, December 15.**



**\$7.00
each**



**OPEN
HOUSE**

DEC. 08 | 3:00 PM

WE WELCOME YOU TO COME TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT US AND TO MEET OUR
COUNCIL, STAFF, & MEMBERS.

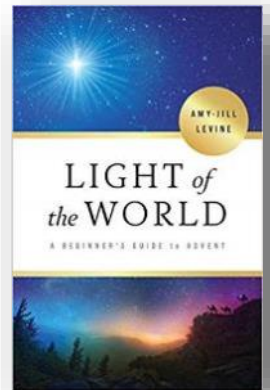
Quinlan's Corner — You're Never Too Old to Learn (or Teach)

Join our **Advent Bible Study**

December 1, 8, 15 & 22 | 9:15AM

This four-week course *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent* by Amy-Jill Levine will be taught jointly by Phyllis White and Kathy Dierker.

***Explore the biblical texts surrounding Jesus' birth
and illuminate your own experience of Advent!***



Due to the holidays, some Bible Study Group schedules are different this month.

Thursday Noon Bible Study— DEC, 12 & 19. Looking for a more in-depth study of the Scriptures? This is a group for you. Led by Pastor Joe it meets in the library every Thursday at noon during the School Year for a verse by verse study of a book of the Bible chosen by the class participants.

Men's Group—DEC. 17. We meet monthly on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Please join us for stimulating conversation and fellowship. Guests are always welcome.

Solivita Gift Group—DEC. 3. This group, led by Pastor Harold Heidegger, has been meeting for study, fellowship and mutual support for over ten year. The group meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. Newcomers are welcome. No meeting Dec. 17.

Senderos de Dios GIFT Group— Not meeting in December. Will resume in January.

North County GIFT Group—Not meeting in December. This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month and is currently discussing a study entitled *Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of A Controversial Rabbi*. This video study is led by Dr. Amy Levine - who is both Jewish and a New Testament Scholar at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Come join us.

NEXT GROUP —DEC. 11. The Next group is reading the book study entitled: "Driving, Miss Norma." This book tells the story of woman who decided to spend the final year of her life traveling after receiving a terminal cancer diagnosis. Her inspirational trip is the jumping point for our group discussion every other Wednesday at 10:30 am. Interested? There is always room for one more around the table.



Angel Tree **Gift Drive**

**GIFTS ARE ACCEPTED
THROUGH DECEMBER 15**

**A gift of toys or clothes can
make a difference to
children and their families.**

**Take a tag from the tree
and help bring joy to a child
this Christmas!**

**Gifts must be new, wrapped,
with the name tag provided.**

ALL THE LADIES HERE AT LAMB OF GOD,
MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN ON ATTENDING OUR

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 11:00 AM.

WHERE: CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL.

COST: \$15 PER PERSON

(CATERED BY OLIVE GARDEN)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS DEC. 8.

WE WILL HAVE OUR FUN "GIFT EXCHANGE" THIS YEAR.

PLEASE BRING A GIFT THAT DOES NOT EXCEED \$10.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR "THANK OFFERINGS" TO THIS LUNCHEON.

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL BETTY SMITH AT 863-678-1366 OR

LYNN MARTIN AT 863-875-7269

Quilters' Guild



This is the season of giving and the quilters would like to thank so many who have provided sheets, fabric, their time and talent. We recently received a donation of 16 bolts of batting from the family of a quilter who recently passed away. We meet on the first Wednesday (Dec 4) and third Thursday (Dec 19) from 9am till noon, in the back of Fellowship Hall. On December 19, we will have our annual Christmas Cookie exchange. Please bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share. We will stop early for fellowship and to enjoy our cookies. Won't you come and join us to learn more about the Quilters here at Lamb of God.

From the Health Team



Take a few minutes to give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others this holiday season.

- ❄ Wash hands often for 20 seconds.
- ❄ Bundle up for warmth.
- ❄ Get a flu shot if you haven't gotten one already. The best way to protect against influenza is to get a flu vaccine every flu season.
- ❄ Eat a light, healthy snack before you go to parties to help curb your hunger and decrease your visits to the buffet table.
- ❄ Watch your children. Develop and enforce rules about acceptable and safe behavior for using electronic media.
- ❄ Fasten seat belts. Always use them, no matter how short the trip.
- ❄ Don't drink and drive, and don't let others drink and drive.

Christmas Schedule

Join us for worship during this Christmas Season!

SPANISH CHRISTMAS SERVICE—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

12:30 p.m. Servicio en español

CHRISTMAS EVE - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

6:00 p.m. Worship Service

8:30 p.m. Holy Night Music

9:00 p.m. Worship Service

CHRISTMAS DAY - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Merry Christmas!

FINE ARTS SCHEDULE!

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

January

26 Al Ernst comedian

February

23 Oasis Quartet

March

08 Clarion Bass Quintet

All Events will take place at 3:00 p.m. at Lamb of God.

Refreshments will follow every presentation.

Volunteers!



We urgently need volunteers for the following ministries:
Training available for all positions.

- Audiovisual (Saturday and Sunday)
- Music (both choirs—it's the perfect time to join!)
- Worship: Ushers, deacons, and greeters

Congratulations to...

Best wishes to our members and friends on their special day

Birthdays in December

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/02 Robert Jones • 12/03 Pedro Concepcion, Jr. • 12/03 Rosemary Stoner • 12/06 Myron Bailey • 12/07 Mark Alford • 12/08 Richard Barker • 12/08 Jane Messmer • 12/09 Gladys Hunt • 12/12 Ann Conner • 12/12 John Tillson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/15 Rebecca Casillo • 12/15 Joyce Day • 12/16 John Frederick • 12/16 June Kemp • 12/21 Gabrielle Turzyn • 12/22 Robert Sell • 12/24 Paul Conner • 12/26 Carmen Quinlan • 12/30 Douglas Hales • 12/31 Gloria Ripper |
|--|---|

Anniversaries in December

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/03 Crystal & Rob Valle • 12/21 Gary & Deniele Pahl • 12/23 Thelma & Carl Hartseil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/26 Sonja & Wayne Munson • 12/28 Lenny & Marilyn Erb |
|--|---|

Thank you for your contributions

Tribute Fund

Sarah, Troy, Isaiah, and Jazmine Jones in memory of Linda Jones.

Tom and Jany Leiser in memory of Linda Jones.

Year-End Contributions

There is still time to make a tax-deductible donation!

We know you have many options when it come to your year-end giving.

This year when planning for your year-end contributions don't forget **Lamb of God**.

You can make donations via cash, check, stocks, or to meet your IRA's required minimum distribution. Whichever method your prefer, don't forget your church.



LAMB OF GOD ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT JANUARY 31, FEBRUARY 1-2, 2020

Ladies and friends of Lamb of God, come join us as we celebrate and explore bible study journeys in Australia, Europe, Asia, Antarctica, South America, Africa and North America.

Please contact Karen Grip at 863-421-9227 if you have any questions regarding retreat details.

Location: Florida Leadership Training Center- Firetower Road, Haines City, Florida 33844

Again this year: an option to join us on Saturday only for fun, fellowship, bible study and meals.

Registration Information and Instructions:

Please print or type your Registration Form. Complete one for each attendee.

Mail form and check (made payable to Lamb of God) to:

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

Attention: Retreat Committee

901 Scenic Highway, Haines City, Florida 33844

Suggested Items to Bring:

List of Medicines/List of Doctors; Alarm Clock – Bible – Flashlight – Umbrella/rainwear – Casual clothes

Please bring an Unwrapped Baby Gift which will be donated to Farmworkers Ministry

EMERGENCY NUMBER for your family to use while you are at the Retreat: **Center main number 863-439-7332**

RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CHECK

Cost \$175.00 for the weekend

Cost \$75 for Saturday only

Registration deadline is December 31, 2019

All fees are transferable but not refundable after December 31, 2019

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State & Zip code _____

Email Address _____ Church _____

I would like to room with _____ First floor room _____ (limited)

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ADVENT I 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Spanish Service	2 7:00 pm Solivita GIFT Group	3 9:00 am Quilters 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 12:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir	5 11:00 am WELCA Luncheon 6:00 pm Worship	6 4:00 pm Social Media Workshop 6:00 pm Worship	7 4:00 pm Social Media Workshop 6:00 pm Worship
8 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Spanish Service 3:00 pm Open House Luncheon registration deadline	9 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Spanish Service 3:00 pm Open House	10 10:30 am NEXT Group 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 12:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir	12 12:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir	13 11:00 am WELCA Luncheon 6:00 pm Worship	14 11:00 am WELCA Luncheon 6:00 pm Worship
15 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Spanish Service Angel Tree Gifts and Poinsettias deadline	16 Deadline to purchase Poinsettias	17 10:30 pm Food Pantry at A House Blest 7:00 pm Men's Group	18 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 9:00 am Quilters 10:30 pm Food Pantry at A House Blest 12:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir	20 9:00 am Quilters 10:30 pm Food Pantry at A House Blest 12:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir	21 6:00 pm Worship
22 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 12:30 pm Christmas Spanish Service	23 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 8:30 pm Holiday Music 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 8:30 pm Holiday Music 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 am Christmas Worship Service	26 Office Closed	27 6:00 pm Worship	28 6:00 pm Worship
29 10:00 am Worship 12:30 pm Spanish Service	30	31 Retreat registration deadline	JANUARY 1 <i>Happy New Year 2020</i>			

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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Staff:

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Izzy Bango-Sanchez, Vicar

Evelyn Brewer, Office Administrator

officemanager@lambofgodhainescity.com

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

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January Bellwether submissions deadline is December 15