



BELLWETHER

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

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor Notes...

I found myself sitting alone quietly in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. It was dark, but the Christmas trees and all the candles were lit. It was such a beautiful space. And it was an especially holy place for me that night.

It was a night when I found myself so very thankful to be where I am at this year – a place surrounded by a loving family, good health, and a beautiful community. But I am especially thankful to be with the good folks at Lamb of God this year. As is common among worship leaders, it is often difficult to feel as though I have truly worshipped in the midst of all the details of leading worship. But I am feeling so thankful this year because I am feeling blessed by God's presence in this place. It is truly a gift for which I am most grateful!

I grew up in a music family, and have always found that God speaks to me the loudest through music. And so my special thanks to Alex for sharing his many gifts of music in so many ways with me and Lamb of God. . . and to Liz for bringing the bell choir back to life this Christmas, and to all who rang. . . It was such a gift to experience God through such wonderful music on the organ, bells and strings this year.

And a big thank you to all who assist in worship, for those who work behind the scenes to make our worship experience as fulfilling as possible, and for all who worship here and at home. And a special thanks to Evelyn for keeping me straight every day, and all her patient, hard work that goes into preparing fulfilling both in-person and online worship.

And finally my thanks for all the lovely Christmas cards, gifts, congregational staff gift, for all your prayers and

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conversations. . . your kind words. . . and for the gift of being here with you this year to celebrate this most precious gift of this Christ Child. I am so blessed by all you, and give thanks for all of you! And I look forward to seeing what God has in mind for our ministry together here in this place as we begin this new year!

Blessings, *Pastor Berner*

Lamb of God's Education Programs—by Bill Quinlan

As we all know too well, we at Lamb of God are living in a *Brave New World*. Just when a light in the Co-Vid tunnel appears, we are met with new strains of this awful virus. But as Christian soldiers we move on, trusting in the Lord but taking all the safety precautions we can. We are comforted by the fact that we are following CDC guidelines.

The Church Council has established an Education Steering Committee under my direction. Robyn Eastridge, Coila Hales, Pr. Harold Heidegger, Kelly Morales, John Tillson, and Phyllis White are on the Committee. Pr. Berner has committed herself to joining in with us whenever she can. I trust that a member of Lamb of God's Cordero de Dios "Expression" will be appointed soon to round out the Committee roster.

Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School reopened some time ago and we have had some lively discussions. Pr. Cheryl Berner is currently leading those discussions. All are welcome. We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 8:45 to 9:45 every Sunday morning.

The Committee is working to start up additional programs that have been interrupted by the Co-Vid, and perhaps even start up two or three new ones. More on that later in this article.

Children's Bible Study

Lamb of God is committed to restarting Sunday Children's Bible Study Classes as soon as possible. Robyn Eastridge and Kelly Morales are working on that. Five English-speaking students have been identified. Separate classes for Spanish-speaking students are underway, and joint activities between the two groups are under consideration by the Lamb of God Church Council and the Cordero de Dios Steering Committee, which are conducting regular joint meetings on every phase of possible collaboration between the Church's English- and Spanish-speaking Expressions. Please contact Church Council President Kathy Dierker at (407) 341-0870 or at president@lambofgodhainescity.com, Pr. Berner at (863) 438-1711 or at pastor@lambofgodhainescity.com, or me at (863) 412-7796 or at wquinlan2@gmail.com for further information.

Men's Bible Study

John Tillson is working on restarting Men's Bible Study classes monthly at the Church. Please contact John at (863) 332-4299 or jroberttillson@msn.com to sign up, or to seek further information.

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Groups

The Committee is considering restarting monthly Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) groups in members' homes. Pr. Heidegger and Pr. Conner were leading the two groups that were active when the Co-Vid hit us. Please contact Pr. Heidegger at (863) 496-5193 or me to sign up, or to seek further information.

Spanish/English Classes

I hope to co-lead weekly Spanish/English classes at the Church and would do so jointly with an individual whose first language is Spanish. Classes would focus on words, phrases, clauses, and simple sentences that would help facilitate very basic conversation and mutual understanding between the Spanish- and English-speaking members of our one Church. Pronunciation can be a significant barrier between Spanish and English speakers so the other teacher and I would focus initially on the differences between how certain letters are pronounced in the two languages. I am committed to this endeavor and plan to carry it out if there is even a modicum of interest. Please contact me to sign up, or to seek further information. If you speak little or no English and have had a friend translate this paragraph for you, I (Yo hablo muy poco español) will arrange for a third party to translate for us.

Additional Bible Study Classes

Bible study classes at the Church, either co-educational or for women only (as noted above, classes for men only already are on the drawing board), are possible if there is sufficient interest. Please contact Coila Hales at coilasantiques@verizon.net or at (863) 255-0191, or me if you are interested or just want more information.

Confirmation and first Communion

Confirmation and first Communion classes will be conducted as the need arises.

As you can see, the Education Committee is embarking on an ambitious set of activities. There might well be others we haven't thought of. The Committee is interested in your views. Please feel free to contact any Committee member. My hope is that you will share our love for learning.

Quilter's Guild

Quilt Sunday will take place on Sunday, January 30th this year. The quilts will be placed on pews not occupied by parishioners on Friday, January 28 at 9 am. We can use some extra pair of hands. Then again on Monday, January 31 we will need additional volunteers to help box the quilts to take to our new drop off center, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Clermont. Lutheran World Relief will pick up the quilts at the new location for delivery to our Distribution Center located in New Windsor, MD.



Thanks to everyone for all their support. If you have any questions we will meet on Wednesday, January 5 and Thursday, January 20. Come and find out what quilting is all about here at Lamb of God. If you have any questions please call Laverne Tillson at 863-326-6018 or the church office.

Recipe of the Month— Stuffed Mushrooms



Recipe from delish.com

INGREDIENTS

Cooking spray
 1 1/2 lb. baby mushrooms
 2 Tbs. butter
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 1/4 cup breadcrumbs
 Kosher salt
 Ground pepper
 1/4 cup parmesan, plus more for topping
 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
 2 Tbs. chopped parsley
 1 Tbs. chopped thyme

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Grease a baking sheet with cooking spray. Remove stems from mushrooms and roughly chop stems. Place mushroom caps on baking sheet.
2. In a medium skillet over medium heat, melt butter. Add chopped mushrooms stems and cook until most of the moisture is out. Add garlic and cook 1 minute, add breadcrumbs and let toast slightly. Season with salt and pepper. Remove from heat and let cool slightly.
3. In a large bowl mix together mushroom stem mixture, Parmesan, cream cheese, parsley, and thyme. Season with salt and pepper. Fill mushroom caps with filling and sprinkle with more Parmesan.
4. Bake until mushrooms are soft and the tops are golden, about 20 minutes.
5. Garnish with parsley to serve.

Happenings at Lamb of God & Cordero de Dios

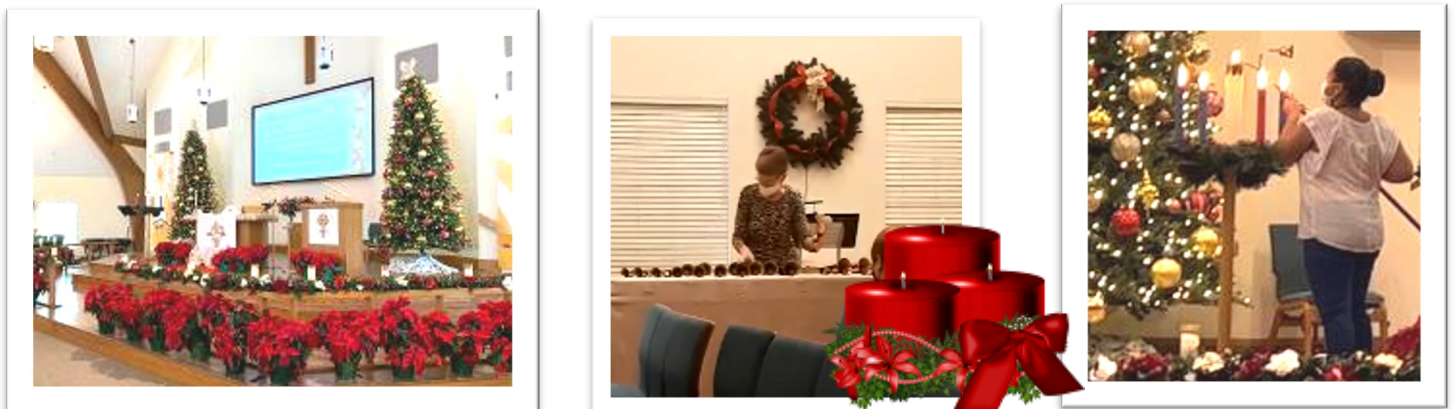
DECORATING THE CHURCH

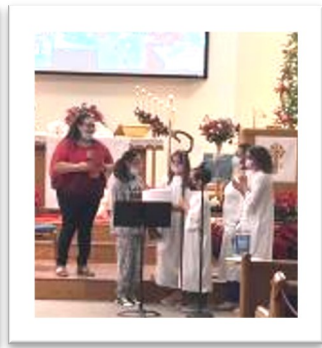
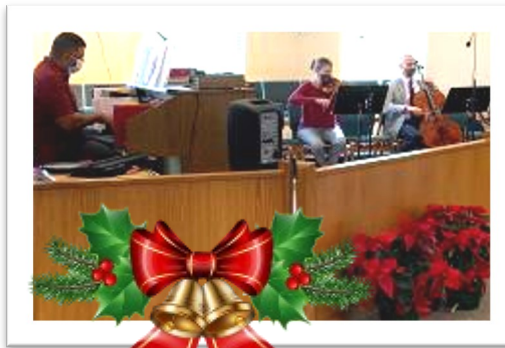


ADVENT CELEBRATIONS



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS





Annual Congregational Meeting–Jan 30

We will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 30th immediately following our worship service. We will share a debrief of 2021's ministry and share some coming events for 2022. Please mark your calendar and do your best to be a part of this important meeting.



2021 ENVELOPES

Please stop by the table in the narthex and pick up your envelopes. If you do not have an assigned envelope box and would like one, please call the office.



Tithes & Offerings

Ways to send or bring your tithes to church: Our website – go to "ONLINE GIVING," Vanco App, mail to Lamb of God or drop off during office hours

December 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: \$ 19,603

Budgeted: \$25,420



***Thank you to the following families who provided poinsettias to
beautify our sanctuary for the holiday services.***

- The Rev. Cheryl Berner in honor of her children and grandchildren
- The Rev. Cheryl Berner in memory of Doris and Tom Wetmore
- Ann E. Conner in memory of loved ones
- Kathy Dierker in memory of her parents Bill and Esther
- Kathy Dierker in memory of her sister Elaine
- Barb Donnelly in memory of her parents Ann and Walter Zebrowski
- Barb Donnelly in memory of loved ones
- Pam Thomas and Georgene Endy in memory of John and Bea Endy
- Pam Thomas and Georgene Endy in memory of Earle and Estelle Dodson
- Karen Granello in memory of Francis Mezen
- Karen Granello in memory of Betty Mezen
- Karen Grip in memory of loved ones
- David and Gladys Hunt in memory of our parents, Marvin and Grace Hunt; and Henry and Lillian Ulrich; and our brother-in-law, David Edwards
- Ann Kauffman in memory of Oren H. Kauffman
- Tom and Jany Leiser in honor of the London, Clayton, and Apex Leisers
- Teresa Liberta in memory of Ramon J. and Elisa Rubio
- Paul and Nancy Mahovlich in memory of Debbie Mahovlich, Dick Nemeth, and Ken Cummins
- Kelly Morales in memory of Ivan Weatherbee, Jr.
- Emma Murphy in memory of Bertha and Edward Peters Staats, Sr.
- Emma Murphy in memory of Grace and Edward James Murphy
- Emma Murphy in memory of Richard Murphy
- John and Nancy Till
- John and Laverne Tillson in thanksgiving for their Lamb of God family
- Christine Wagner in loving memory of her husband Ed



Congratulations to...

Best wishes to our members and friends on their special day



Birthdays in January

👤 01/01	Richard Lounsbery	👤 01/10	Emma Murphy
👤 01/02	Jackson Eastridge	👤 01/12	Omar Delgado
👤 01/04	Bert Lachner	👤 01/14	Carol Lounsbery
👤 01/04	Philippa White	👤 01/18	Omito Delgado
👤 01/07	Bella Sandretto	👤 01/25	Judith Lindberg
👤 01/08	Carmen De Leon	👤 01/28	Sandi Barnhart
👤 01/08	Betty Smith		



Anniversaries in January

- ♡ 01/19 Bar and Dick Donnelly
- ♡ 01/21 Neil and Lynda Collins



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Worship Committee Meeting 12:30 pm Servicio en español	3	4 9:00 am Council Meeting	5 9:00 am Quilter's Guild	6 6	7 Volunteers at House Blest 114 S 2nd St, Haines City	8
9 8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Servicio en español	10 7:00 pm Comité de música	11	12 6:00 pm Joint Council and Steering Committee mtg	13	14 7:00 pm Comité de tecnología	15 10:30 am Clases de Confirmación
16 8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Servicio en español	17 7:00 pm Junta de Comité BELLWETHER SUBMISSION DEADLINE	18 12:00 pm All Veteran's Food Pantry	19	20 9:00 am Quilter's Guild	21 Volunteers at House Blest 114 S 2nd St, Haines City	22 10:30 am Clases de Confirmación
23 8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Servicio en español	24 7:00 pm Comité de evangelización	25	26	27	28 9:00 am Quilt Set up	29 10:30 am Clases de Confirmación
30 ANNUAL MTG QUILT SUNDAY 8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Servicio en español						

Giving Back to Our Community



During the month of December we:

- Bagged and distributed your food donations at A House Blest, December 3 and 17. Your food and monetary donations are always welcomed.
- In partnership with Unity in the Community helped serve hot chocolate and distribute bicycles at the A Miracle Christmas event.
- Provided Christmas gifts to 36 children through the Angel Tree.



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.

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**February Bellwether submissions deadline
is January 15**

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 am Holy Communion

Spanish Service

12:30 pm Holy Communion

ONLINE WORSHIP:

www.lambofgodhainescity.com/worship