



BELLWETHER

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

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

It is with these words that we proclaim the truth that Jesus overcame death and grave. But the question that should quickly follow this proclamation is: **“What do we do now that Jesus is risen?”** It is a good question and thankfully in the life of the Church, we have six more Sundays to ponder this question together. We are blessed to have guest preachers on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Easter this year. Bishop Pedro Suarez, the bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, will be our worship leader and preacher on the Second Sunday of Easter (April 28) and Vicar Izzy Bango-Sanchez will be leading worship and bringing the message on the Third Sunday of Easter (May 5).

For the balance of the Easter Season, I will be preaching on the appointed First Lessons that come to us from the books of Acts. These lessons from The Acts of the Apostles provide us with great stories of how the early church responded to the whole question of what is next now that Jesus has in fact risen from the dead.

In addition, we will be observing Mother’s Day on May 12 and remembering the sacrifices of those who gave their lives in the service of their country on Memorial Day Weekend (May 26).

I know many are looking forward to returning to one service beginning on May 5. I hear all the time from folk who lament how disconnected they feel when we are divided up among our three English services during the winter months. After much deliberation, the Council decided to keep the Summer Schedule as it has been for many years - one service at 9:00 a.m. on

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**SAVE
THE
DATE**

WELCA Annual Retreat
01/31-02/02, 2020.

901 Scenic Hwy
Haines City, FL 33844
Tel: 863-421-2811

Fax: 863-421-0651

www.lambofgodhainescity.com

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Sunday morning. Just for everyone's information – we debated changing summer worship hours, just keeping the winter schedule year-round and even adding a Thursday night service to our summer schedule. After about an hour's discussion, the Church Council reached consensus that the best path forward was to keep our current schedule.

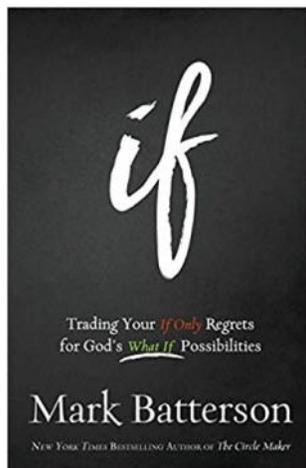
HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

-Pr. Joe

May Bible Study

Transform Your **If Only** Regrets
into **What If** Possibilities

Sundays 5/5—5/26@10:15am



If is a powerful little word. Some people are stuck in "if only," trudging through lives marked with regret. But God wants us to live lives marked with possibilities, with the "what if" attitude that looks forward to the future with confidence.

(From the inside flap)

A Thank You from the Pastor

This year's observance of Lent and Holy Week was such a blessing but could have never happened without the contributions of the whole congregation.

I am personally thankful for those who worked to pull off three special offerings in late March and April. Kathy Dierker and her team did a wonderful job hosting the Lake Conference Meeting on March 30, The Community Passover Seder on April 1 and playing host to the Community Good Friday Service at noon on April 19.

The congregation's incredible response to the LENT A HAND effort was truly inspiring and life enhancing for those who were on the receiving end of our gifts.

A special thank you for those who helped with the Midweek worship series entitled: "Why did Jesus Die?" We could have not completed this series without the efforts of Chuck Dawson, Larry Vaughn, Bill Quinlan, Terry Frazee, Kathryn Frazee and Sonja Munson. Also we want to acknowledge that Jan Walton freely gave of her time to play all of our midday Lenten Services.

And the music program's contributions were just outstanding. The soloists, the instrumentalists, our two choirs (voice and hand bells) and our two Directors (Alex and Liz) deserve special recognition.

And last, but not least, we thank Evelyn for holding it all together for us.

God's blessings,

-Pr. Joe

Sabbatical Update

Pastor Joe and the Church Council completed and submitted a grant request via the Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program to fund a (2) month Sabbatical for Pastor Joe in late spring/early summer of 2020. A successful grant award will provide funding not only for Pastor's Sabbatical program but will also provide funding for staff when he is away and some additional congregational renewal efforts. The Lilly Foundation awards approximately 125 grants each year and we should hear if we have been selected by late August.

Thursday Noon Bible Study resumed on April 25

We will be starting a new study on Thursday, April 25, which will look first at Biblical texts about the End times and then conclude the series with the Scriptural promises regarding heaven. You are most welcome to be a part of this new study which meets each week in the Church Library.

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

As many of you already are aware, the Church Council, on which I serve, has embarked on an ambitious initiative to stem the slow, long-standing decline in membership at Lamb of God. I should hasten to add that our decline is small when compared to many congregations. Nevertheless, we are taking it seriously.



My part in that initiative is to team up with Larry Vaughn and Phyllis White to revamp our website. Pastor Bill Avery, a snowbird member of our congregation and published expert on church renewals, had advised the Council that websites are a critically important recruiting tool and that ours could be improved. The essence of the project Larry, Phyllis and I are working on is to minimize text and maximize audio visual content in the revamped website.

As part of that project, we intend to film and post on the new website Pr. Joe's and Izzy's sermons. In order to help Larry, who is the cameraman on our team, we need volunteers to work in the sound room -- one of Larry's many duties. To volunteer, please contact me at (863) 412-7796 or at wquinlan2@gmail.com.

Your suggestions, offers, gripes, plaudits and other ideas are always welcome. Contact Bill Quinlan, Church Council Liaison for Education, in person, by phone at (863) 412-7796 or by email at wquinlan2@gmail.com.

Happenings Around Lamb of God

Palm Sunday—Cordero De Dios

Our procession took place out and around the Church property, with delivery of the Sermon under the large oak tree. We were also blessed to have live music and performance by “Grupo Cosecha.” Not to mention a bright sunny day.



Shepherd King Play

On the eve of Palm Sunday, Saturday, April 13, Lamb of God Lutheran Church and Misión Hispana Luterana Cordero De Dios went to the play “Shepherd King.”

It was a wonderful and unforgettable play. Once more the producers of the “Story Of Jesus” came through with a *spectacular* new production, not soon to be forgotten!

What a beautiful way to commence Holy Week. *Together in church, together in mission, together in the Lord.*

Vicar Izzy Bango-Sanchez



LENT A HAND CAMPAIGN

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Lamb of God, a miracle happened at A House Blest.

On March 19, we loaded a van and two SUVs with food which we delivered to A House Blest. The dry goods were placed in inventory with other stored goods.

The miracle:

On April 16, we loaded a van, a truck, and three SUVs with approximately 1500 pounds of dry goods. We delivered the goods to A House Blest. This delivery was different from March 19. The storerooms were empty - **absolutely NO dry goods in stock at A House Blest**. Without the goods from Lamb of God, there would have been no goods to distribute.

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Lamb of God, A House Blest would have goods to distribute. Those goods provided sustenance to the 170 family units we served on Tuesday (16th) and Thursday (18th), with goods left for future days.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lent A Hand Campaign. Your generosity is overwhelming and brought so much joy to families who need a helping hand.

May God continue to bless you for all you do.

Kathy Dierker
Board President



Bishop's VISIT

On Sunday, April 28 we welcomed Bishop Suarez and his wife Aura to Lamb of God for the first time. Bishop Suarez led all three worship services on Sunday.

At 9:15 am we had a meet and greet session during which our members had the opportunity to ask questions and where Bishop Suarez explained what the Synod is currently working on. We look forward to having him visit again in the future.



Quilters Guild



We recently found a place that could use the pillow cases that until now have been cut into squares for quilt tops, as well as the discarded pieces of batting and backing that are cut off the quilts when we put them together.

On a recent Tuesday, a group of quilters, as a community service project, met at Heart to Heart Quilt Shop located in the High Pointe Shopping & Business Center took the pillow cases and scraps and made 41 beds for animals located at the Humane Society of Polk County Shelter on Dundee Road. Lamb of God quilters contributed 25 pillow cases and a pillow case full of scraps to the cause.

As summer approaches we are looking for people to come and help us tie quilts, so if you are looking for a cool summer project come and join us. We offer on-the-job-training. We also have fabric that needs to be cut into squares [instructions provided], this can be done at home. We are always looking for sheets for backings so in your summer travels lookout for sheets of any size. Thrift stores, yard and estate sales are good places to look. If you have any questions please ask or call Laverne Tillson at 863-326-6018.

Landscape Renovation



As you might recall, a few weeks ago the landscape of the NW corner of our church was in bad shape. The loss of soil, dying plants and old plants were just not attractive.

About a year ago, Bert and Arlene Lachner approached Larry Vaughn to say they would love to see a Christmas tree on that corner, so it could be decorated for Christmas. They were told the whole corner would need to be renovated. Their response resulted in the beautification of the whole corner. Unfortunately, they didn't get their Christmas tree, as the classic Christmas tree does not grow in Florida, but cypress trees do. A Leyland Cypress was planted and can be shaped into a Christmas tree.

We are grateful to have Bert and Arlene as our members and for their generous donation. The re-landscaping of our church grounds is possible and it only takes people like Bert and Arlene to want to see it done. If you would like to see our landscape renovated, consider donating to the *Landscape Fund*. Our goal is to do it in sections as money becomes available.



The Bell choir thanks you, the congregation of LOG, for the support you have given us this year. It has been a privilege to ring music for you and help lead the worship service with the addition of bells. As most of you know, we can only use eleven ringers at a time. But we have had a turnover in those eleven this year. Our dear friend, Linda, is now playing in God's bell choir in heaven; Alice moved to Arizona to be with family, as she battles breast cancer; Bari, David, and Jan are here only during January through mid-April; Ruth came back from Sierra Leone just in time to help us out at Easter and in May. Jazen is working at Legoland and will be leaving for college next fall, so we wish him well. Nick is playing 6-7 bells at a time; Juan joined us in November and is playing many of the heavy bells. Joni has returned from her vacation to fill in where needed. If you were at services on Easter you noticed we were playing without a director in front as Liz played Elizabeth's bells. We thank her for her service for many years as she now pursues other things. Oh, yes, we do not want to take for granted the amount of time Larry, Harold, and Susan give as we prepare each week for the next time we play. Our last time this year will be May 12 (Good Shepherd Sunday). I am asking you to please consider playing in the bell choir. We need a few more ringers to play a full 3-octave set of bells. We rehearse one hour each week (Monday, 7-8 PM) and play on the second Sunday of each month plus Christmas and Easter, and Reformation. Please consider this invitation and act. I would hate to see the bells cleaned, put in cases and never opened again to be played.

Peace,

-Liz Heidegger

Bell Choir Director, 863-496-5193, Hlizhar@aol.com



Time Commitment: Approximate commitment is 20 hours per month. This includes: Paying accounts due once a week and attending board meetings once a month.

Skills required: Computer, QuickBooks/Quicken knowledge helpful, simple math, organized, and attention to detail.

National Stroke Awareness Month

May is World Stroke Month. Many health and heart organizations come together every May to raise awareness about the causes and effects of stroke.

One of their biggest campaigns is FAST, teaching the world to know the symptoms of stroke and how to respond quickly to help save a life.

Face – By asking the person to smile you can tell immediately if one side of the face droops.

Arm – Ask the person to raise both arms. Observe to see if one arm drifts lower than the other.

Speech – Slurred speech is a symptom of stroke. Ask the person to repeat a single sentence.

Time – Call 911-Fast. Time may be the difference between life and death or even partial and full recovery.

ACT FAST at the FIRST SIGN of STROKE

FACIAL WEAKNESS

ARM WEAKNESS

SPEECH DIFFICULTY

TIME LOSS IS BRAIN LOSS

National Stroke Awareness Month May

NATIONAL DAY



Rachel's Day
Sunday, May 5

Rachel's Day is observed by Women of the ELCA annually on the first Sunday in May. It is based on Jeremiah 31:15–17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children. It is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear. We will be handing out blue ribbons in remembrance of this day on Sunday, May 5.



Florida-Bahamas Synod Assembly

Thursday, June 6—Saturday, June 8

at Embassy Suite, Kissimmee

Visitors cost is \$55

A Synod Assembly is the annual gathering of the Florida-Bahamas Synod—pastors, deacons, voting members, visitors and guest. It is a chance to gather for worship, receive reports and updates on mission and ministry throughout the church, strengthen relationships and networks through fellowship and conversation, expand awareness and understanding, and participate in decision-making. On-line registration is closed. If you have not registered, you may register on-site. For more information go to <https://fbsynod.com/synod-assembly-2019/>

Thank you for your contributions

Joseph and Beverly Kraus in memory of Ralph Smith

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

Birthdays in May

- | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|--------|-------------------|
| • 5/3 | Marion Murphy | • 5/18 | Richard Donnelly |
| • 5/3 | Charles Wise | • 5/23 | Jeffrey Eklund |
| • 5/4 | Charles Dawson | • 5/24 | Margaret Clavette |
| • 5/4 | Barbara Maynard | • 5/24 | Frances Hein |
| • 5/11 | Phyllis White | • 5/25 | Shirley Furry |
| • 5/12 | Donald Falkenberg | • 5/27 | Marilyn Argue |
| • 5/12 | Shellie Falkenberg | • 5/27 | Kendall Casillo |
| • 5/13 | Terry Barnhart | • 5/30 | Kay Vanmorkhoven |

Anniversaries in May

- | | | | |
|--------|----------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| • 5/8 | Linda & Tim Leiwig | • 5/30 | Pam Thomas & Georgene Endy |
| • 5/24 | Judy & Ron Schroeder | • 5/31 | Lois & Raymond Harbourt |
| • 5/30 | Joan & Bob Sell | | |

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 12:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Solivita GIFT	3	4
5 RACHEL'S DAY 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Spanish Service 	6 7:00 pm Bell Choir rehearsal	7 6:00 pm Worship and Music Meeting	8 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am NEXT 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 12:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Council Mtg	10	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Spanish Service	13 7:00 pm Bell Choir rehearsal	14 12:00 pm Food Pantry at A House Blest	15 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 9:00 am Quilters 12:00 pm Bible Study 12:00 pm Food Pantry at A House Blest 7:00 pm Solivita GIFT	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am WELCA 12:30 pm Spanish Service	20 7:00 pm Bell Choir rehearsal	21	22 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am NEXT 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 12:00 pm Bible Study	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Spanish Service	27 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Bell Choir rehearsal	28 7:00 pm North County GIFT	29 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 12:00 pm Bible Study	31 Cordero de Dios Bible Study	



901 Scenic Hwy
Haines City, FL 33844

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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

901 Scenic Hwy., Haines City, FL 33844-8597
Tel: 863.421.2811, Fax: 863.421.0651
www.lambofgodhainescity.com

Staff:

Rev. Joe Conner, Pastor
pastor@lambofgodhainescity.com

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