



BELLWETHER

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

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor

Called to be the Church

The Men's Group has been doing a study on the Early Church and we have rightfully marveled at the parallels between the earliest days in the life of the Church and our present times. Church history reminds us that for the church to be successful it was and still is required to engage the world both through words and actions.

Studies suggest to us that mainline traditions are in a steep decline – many of the denominations losing over 30% over the past decade and unfortunately the Lutherans have not been immune. The fastest growing group in society are the “nones” – those who claim to have no religious affiliation. Many congregations are aging and it seems that we are all struggling to engage the communities that we are called to serve. We look around and almost everyone in the pews are our age or older. The long-term prospects for the Church seem dubious at best. And yet, we are called to not despair – because we believe that God has things well in hand and promises to be a light unto our pathway.

We are called to faithfulness – to be a community that gathers regularly around Word and Sacrament and who take seriously the challenge to witness God's love for all of God's creation. We are called to be The Church ---in the midst of these challenging times, may we dare to follow our Lord and to be open to what God has in store for us. When we choose to Go with God – blessings promise to abound.

—Pastor Joe

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Quinlan's Corner

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

Have those of you who've not attended our Sunday Adult Bible Study seminars ever wondered what goes on there? Well, a lot does and I'm here to tell you about it. My hope is that your interest will be piqued sufficiently to give it a try.

While our staff always hews to the Word, we try to vary and approach the subject matter in new and creative ways. We went on a fascinating field trip in the not-too-distant past to supplement class time. There's often a film. There usually are handouts to take home.

Classes are held in the Fellowship Hall. They begin shortly after the last (and only during the summer) Sunday service. They're scheduled for one hour but occasionally run over a bit simply because people don't want to stop. After folks get a chance to pour themselves a cup of coffee (a Lutheran tradition?) or whatever other beverage is available and then choose from an array of pastries and such, we comfortably ensconce ourselves at the round tables there.

Classes on any particular subject matter may run from two or three weeks to six or more. Often, students have the opportunity to buy, at half price, the book the leader is working from.

The format is relaxed. Typically, leaders present an overview of the topic and then facilitate discussion. These are seminars folks, not traditional classes! While we're never too old to learn, some of us might be too old to sit in a classroom and listen to a lecture. So, our leaders facilitate discussion. Sometimes that discussion prompts folks to share personal stories. So, to some extent, we get to know one another. And that's a very good thing, even if you might want to strangle that very rare speaker who doesn't know when to stop!

All kidding aside, the essence of these seminars is that we learn and grow together. We make new friendships and enhance old ones. Won't you give us a try?

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.



 *Women's Retreat*
Jan. 31–Feb. 2



Come one, come all! Ladies Retreat

Save the Date—January 31–February 2, 2020 at the FFA Training Center in Haines City.

The registration form will be available soon.

For information please contact Karen Grip at 863-421-9227 or via email at k.grip@hotmail.com.

Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, October 6
3:00 pm**

We will be holding our Annual Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday afternoon, October 6th at 3 p.m.

We will gather to pray over our pets in the Fellowship Hall. Please invite your neighbors and friends and their pets to this service that celebrates the special blessing that our pets are to us! If you can't bring your pet, bring a photo.



Welcome to Membership

We will receive New Members on
Sunday, November 3.

If you or someone you know is interested
in joining Lamb of God,
please have them call the office.

Bible Studies and GIFT Groups

Thursday Noon Bible Study—Looking for a more in-depth study of the Scriptures? Lamb of God Church has a group for you. Led by Pastor Joe we meet every Thursday at noon during the School Year for a verse by verse study of a book of the Bible that has been chosen by the class participants. We meet in the library and there is always room for one or two more.

Men's Group—All men of the Congregation and their friends are most cordially invited to attend. The Men's Group meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. They are currently studying *The History of Christianity: From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation*.

Solivita Gift Group—This group led by Pastor Harold Heidegger has been meeting for study, fellowship and mutual support for over ten years. They meet twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays at 7 pm. Newcomers are welcome.

North County GIFT Group—this GIFT group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month during the school year 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.

Senderos de Dios GIFT Group—This is our Spanish GIFT group. They meet once a month on the fourth Friday of the month in Lamb of God's Fellowship Hall.

From the Health Team

**BREAST
CANCER
AWARENESS
MONTH**



Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among American women, and is also one of the leading causes of cancer deaths.

The best way to detect breast cancer is with a mammogram. Women should have mammograms every two years from age 50-74 years old. If you are 40 to 49 years old, talk to your doctor about when to start and how often to get a mammogram. Also talk to your doctor if you have any symptoms or changes in your breast, or if breast cancer runs in your family.



All-Church Heritage Potluck

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27
2:00 PM**



**BRING A DISH TO SHARE THAT
REPRESENTS A FAMILY TRADITION OR
CULTURAL UPBRINGING.
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**

Volunteer Opportunities at Lamb of God

Film Crew Volunteer



Lamb of God's "Website Rejuvenation" Team seeks one or more volunteers to film interviews to be placed on the church's new and evolving website. This exciting enhanced version of the church's existing website will feature over 30 film clips of Lamb of God members explaining ministries with which they're involved. Camera people operate in concert with the film director. You don't need to know much about cameras and the job isn't difficult to learn. It's a critical part of assuring that this ambitious project is successful. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Evelyn Brewer, Larry Vaughn, Tim Leiwig or Bill Quinlan through the Church Office at 863-421-2811.



Audiovisual Volunteer

The service is brought to life with the use of the projector and sound system. We are looking for helpers for Sundays and Saturdays, especially in the Fall. The job is easy, and you don't need to commit to every week. Prayerfully consider it and see Larry in the Sound Room or call him at 863-206-1279.



Volunteer Opportunities In Our Community



A House Blest—We are always in need of volunteers to come help us pack and handout food to our customers. Lamb of God volunteers on the third Tuesday and Thursday of every month from 10:30 am—3:00 pm. Consider joining us this month on October 15 & 17!

Meals on Wheels—Meals on wheels is looking for drivers to help deliver meals to their customers. You can volunteer once a week, twice a week, once a month or just be a substitute. It is a very rewarding deed, ask Ann Conner why she does it! For more information call 863-299-1616.





Lamb of God
Women of the ELCA
LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
11:00AM

Mark your calendar for our Fall Luncheon which will be held in our Fellowship Hall. There is no cost for this luncheon.

Our community project will benefit "Alta Vista Elementary School Students."

Please save and bring your change (pennies, nickels, and dimes) to our luncheon.

The coins will be donated to help students cover unanticipated sales tax on books purchased during the school's book sale.

Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale

NOVEMBER 22 TO 24

We need your help to have another successful sale - donations and helpers are needed.

Sign up to help.

Begin setting aside those items you wish to re-gift or donate. We will start collecting Sunday, October 13.

Many favorites remain:

- "Treasures"
- Books
- Sports Equipment
- Toys and Games
- Jewelry
- Collectibles
- Camping Gear
- Accessories
- Small Kitchen Appliances
- Christmas Decorations
- Crafts
- Baked Goods

**All products must be
in good condition.**



NEXT GROUP meets on October 2, 16 and 30 at 10:30AM

The Next Group continues to meet for support, study and fellowship.

The group started as a Caregiver Support Group but with time transitioned into a Grief Group. A Couple of years ago, the group renamed itself as the **Next Group**.

The Next Group focuses on issues related the moving on following the loss of a loved one. To stimulate our discussion, we usually have a book study going. On October 2 and 16, we will be wrapping up the study of a book entitled:

12 Gifts We Can't Afford to Lose by Dr. Dean Posey. Beginning on October 30 we will start with a new book: *Driving Miss Norma* by Tim Bauerschmidt and Ramie Liddle.

This support group is open to everyone in the congregation and congregational friends.

Financial Report September 2019

INCOME

Actual	\$23,234.51
Planned	\$27,404.62
(Under)/Over	(\$4,170.11)

EXPENSES

Actual	\$11,949.75
Planned	\$11,544.29
(Under)/Over	\$405.46

NET ACTUAL (\$11,284.76)

MORTGAGE BALANCE: \$232,722.62

We have set up a brokerage account that can receive gifts to the church in the form of company stocks. If you own stocks that have appreciated over time, it could be financially advantageous for you to make your donations to the church in the form of stocks. It is a simple transaction for your stockbroker to transfer to the Lamb of God account. If this is of interest to you, please contact our Financial Secretary, Larry Vaughn.

If you are interested in scheduling a direct deposit to the Church please see the Financial Secretary.

Congratulations to...

Best wishes to our members and friends on their special day

Birthdays in October

- 10/03 Phyllis Stonehouse
- 10/05 Donald Johnson
- 10/06 Pedro Concepcion
- 10/06 Rob Valle
- 10/07 Merlin Gorder
- 10/11 Cathy Boruschewitz, Jr.
- 10/15 Mark Walton
- 10/17 Audria Stokes
- 10/18 Betty Mezen
- 10/19 Linda Dawson
- 10/19 Lois Harbourt
- 10/20 Regina Fenstermaker
- 10/25 Arlene Roddy
- 10/28 Nancy Till
- 10/29 David Hurst, Sr.
- 10/31 Sonja Munson

Anniversaries in October

- 10/01 Laverne & John Tillson
- 10/05 Shellie & Donald Falkenberg
- 10/06 David & Dianne Hurst, Sr.
- 10/14 Anthony & Jenny Sandreto
- 10/15 Richard & Carol Lounsbery
- 10/15 Brenda & Richard Kavelak
- 10/17 Nancy & John Till
- 10/21 Ann & John Frederick



If you enjoy music, love singing, or playing any instrument, consider joining our Music Ministry. You will be glad you did! Contact the choir director or the office for more information.

Choir rehearsals
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Bell Choir Rehearsals
Thursdays at 6:00 pm

Hurricane Season 2019 June 1–November 30

Visit: www.polk-county.net/emergency-management

EVACUATION INFORMATION

Citizens Information Line (CIL) 863-401-2234
Toll Free 866-661-0228

Radio:

WONN 1230AM and 107.1 FM
WPCV 97.5 FM
Travelers Information System (Western Polk) 1610 AM

En español:

WIPC (Lake Wales) 1280 AM
WQXM (Bartow) 1460 AM and 99.9 FM
WTWB (Auburndale) 1570 AM and 92.7 FM

Television: consult local cable TV listings.

PGTV Spectrum 644, Comcast 5, and Frontier 20

WEATHER

The Weather Channel – Consult local cable TV listings.

Local Radio/TV Station – Consult local cable TV listings.

National Weather Service (Ruskin) 813-645-2323

www.weather.gov

NOAA Weather Radio S.A.M.E. Code 012105

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Polk County Emergency Management	863-298-7000
Polk County Animal Services	863-577-1762
Federal Emergency Management (FEMA)	800-621-3362
American Red Cross	863-294-5941
Polk County Sheriff	863-298-6200
The Salvation Army (East)	863-291-5107
United Way Information Referral Service	863-648-1515

To get emergency notification via phone or email,
register at www.alertpolk.com.

 = Special Needs Program

 = Pet-Friendly Shelter

NE Polk County Shelters

Do not proceed to any shelter until
you have confirmed that it is
open and operating.

Not all shelters are automatically activated for each emergency. During an emergency please monitor local television and radio stations for open shelter information. Have a 72-hr survival kit ready to take with you.

Auburndale

- Auburndale High School
- Jere L. Stambaugh Middle School
- Walter Caldwell Elementary School

Davenport

- Citrus Ridge Academy
- Davenport School of the Arts
- Horizons Elementary School
- Loughman Oaks Elementary School
- Ridge Community High School 
- Ridgeview Global Studies Academy

Haines City

- Alta Vista Elementary School
- Haines City High School 
- Sandhill Elementary School
- Shelley S. Boone Middle School

Lake Wales

- Spook Hill Elementary School

Poinciana

- Lake Marion Creek Middle School
- Laurel Elementary School
- Palmetto Elementary School

Winter Haven

- Chain of Lakes Elementary
- Jewett School of the Arts
- Winter Haven High School

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00 pm Worship and Music Meeting 7:00 pm Solivita GIFT Group	2 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 9:00 am Quilters 10:30 am NEXT Group 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 12:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir	4	5
6 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Spanish Service 3:00 pm Blessing of the Animals	7	8	9 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 12:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir	11	12
13 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Spanish Service	14	15 12:00 pm Food Pantry at A House Blest 7:00 pm Men's Group 7:00 pm Solivita GIFT Group	16 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am NEXT Group 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 9:00 am Quilters 12:00 pm Bible Study 12:00 pm Food Pantry at A House Blest 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Council Meeting	18	19 11:00 am WELCA Luncheon
20 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Spanish Service	21	22 7:00 pm North County GIFT Group	23 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 12:00 pm NO Bible Study 6:00 pm Bell Choir	25 7:00 pm Senderos de Dios Grupo Biblico	26
27 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Spanish Service 2:00 pm Heritage Pot-luck Lunch	28	29	30 9:00 am Prayer Ministry 10:30 am NEXT Group 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 Halloween		



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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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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