



BELLWETHER

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

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Interim Pastor Notes...

As with all congregations there's a lot going on at Lamb of God. And a lot of it goes on behind the scenes. With that in mind, there are a few things I want to lift up to you about where we are in the Call Process.

The Council and Interim continue to work hard on the tedious task of checking some Administrative things off their "Transition Checklist" so that Lamb of God can take the next step and form a Call Committee. At the direction of the Bishop's Office, the piece that has taken up the most time in the past couple of months is getting the Mission and Lamb of God membership lists separated and updated to prepare for a call vote for a new pastor. We are making progress, and hope to have this completed very soon. Next Council will take a look at demographic information for the Haines City area, review LOG Disaster Preparation, Stewardship and Strategic Plans; and continue to prepare for a Financial Audit.

It's a lot, I know. And the work is slow and tedious at times. But the Council is committed to doing the hard work of preparing for the next Pastor. And get ready. . . because very soon it will be YOUR turn to help with this important work as we look at the history of Lamb of God together, and prayerfully consider WHO God is calling Lamb of God to be into the future.

As we live in these "in-between" times between pastors, I give thanks for all of you as we tackle this prayerful work together in Jesus' name.

Blessings — *Pastor Berner*

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Tithes & Offerings

- Our website
- Mail or
- Drop off during office hours

901 Scenic Hwy
Haines City, FL 33844
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www.lambofgodhainescity.com



COVID UPDATE

Due to the extreme rise in COVID cases across Florida, the FL-Bahama Synod Council decided this month to change the Synod Assembly from face-to-face back to virtual again this year.

And as numbers are higher than they have ever been in Polk County, because the Delta Variant behaves so differently, and because some of us can't be vaccinated, including our children, Council voted at their August Meeting to follow Synod and CDC Guidelines and STAY THE COURSE with Protocols already in place. We will also TIGHTEN UP in a few areas we previously relaxed a bit.

Here's where we are right now:

- Continuing to take contact information from visitors at the door

- Continuing to Social Distance

- Continuing to Wear Masks in Worship

- Asking small groups (even if vaccinated) to wear masks again in building

- Maintaining order for worship, but you may notice a few subtle changes

- Asking folks to sing softly

- Encouraging folks to use hand sanitizer before and after communion, etc.

- Discontinuing indoor fellowship events for now

I know you are tired. . . we are all tired. But Council is trying not to have to close our doors again, and feel these things are necessary in order to keep everyone safe as promised when this all began.

No doubt things will change again as the numbers change and the science adjusts to ever-changing variables. However, this is where we are right now. We thank you for your faithful service in Christ as you take care of yourselves, your neighbors, and do your part to help ease the burden of our medical workers who are exhausted and struggling during these difficult days.

Together in Christ...

August Offerings

Thank you for your continued support of our Church with your time, talent and treasure.

Offering totals include English and Spanish Congregations combined.

Sunday Offerings Collected: \$16,192

Budgeted: \$31,775

From The Church Council

Dear Fellow Congregant:

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

Our Lamb of God congregation, which has been God's blessing to so many of us for so long, stands at a critically important crossroad. Because of the pandemic and the aging of our congregation, income is down dramatically. For example, bare-bones expenses have exceeded income for the past three months by about \$15,000. We have been surviving by dipping into our cash reserves, which are rapidly becoming depleted.

Despite this admittedly dire situation, I firmly believe it is God's will for us that we will survive and, yes, even prosper. Many new families have moved and will continue to move into our service area, and we are actively planning to recruit new members from that potentially fertile field. But to respond effectively to that critically important challenge takes careful planning and lots of follow-up work. Your Church Council is hard at work at that.

But such an effort takes time and money. In the meanwhile, all of us are dependent upon one another to step up and carry us through the current crisis. The Council is deeply grateful for the generous gifts it has recently received from a few among us. But much more is needed. Each member of the Church Council is examining her or his own financial situation to ascertain how she or he can help address our common need. We prayerfully ask that you do the same, whether it is through an increase in weekly giving, a lump sum gift, or both.

We are optimistic that we can step up and meet this challenge. We are called and inspired by our Lord to do just that.

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:8



NEW ONLINE GIVING



NUEVO DONACIONES EN LÍNEA

We have exciting news! Lamb of God now offers electronic giving (egiving). Online Giving is an easy way to support our church. Whether you attend our weekly service, forgot your envelope, worship at home, or are away, you can continue your support regardless of where you are.

Online Giving allows you to:

- Contribute from anywhere, anytime right from your computer, smartphone or tablet.
- It is secure and confidential and adheres to online banking standards.
- You can make a one time donation or set up a recurring donation. Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
- You can use your credit card or debit card.

Visit our website

www.lambofgodhainescity.com and click the "ONLINE GIVING" link to make a one time donation. You can also Sign up and schedule a recurring donation. Or download the free **Vanco** mobile app, sign up and donate.

Get started today! Your support throughout the year helps sustain our church.

If you need assistance, call the office.

¡Tenemos noticias emocionantes! Cordero de Dios ahora ofrece donaciones electrónicas (egiving). Las donaciones en línea son una manera fácil de apoyar a nuestra iglesia. Ya sea que asista a nuestro servicio semanal, haya olvidado su sobre, atienda desde casa o esté fuera del estado, usted puede continuar su apoyo independientemente de dónde se encuentre.

Las donaciones en línea le permiten:

- Contribuir desde cualquier lugar y en cualquier momento directamente desde su computadora, teléfono o tableta.
- Es seguro y confidencial y se adhiere a los estándares de banca en línea.
- Puede hacer una donación única o una donación recurrente. Comience, detenga y cambie sus contribuciones en cualquier momento.
- Puede usar su tarjeta de crédito o débito.

Visite nuestro sitio web www.lambofgodhainescity.com y haga clic en el enlace "ONLINE GIVING" para hacer su donativo único. También puede registrarse y programar una donación recurrente. O descargue la aplicación móvil de **Vanco**, regístrese y done.

¡Comience hoy mismo! Su apoyo durante todo el año ayuda a sostener nuestra iglesia.

Si necesita ayuda, llame a la oficina.

HOW TO USE ONLINE GIVING

Support Lamb of God, make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation

1 Select Your Funds and Amount

Select your fund and click the **Donate** button. Next, choose a donation amount and frequency, then proceed to payment

2 Enter Payment Method

Enter your credit card, debit card, or bank account information. Sign up for an account to save your information for future donations.

3 Complete your Donation

Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.

Creating an account allows you to review your giving history, manage recurring donations, and update payment information.

COMO HACER DONACIONES EN LINEA

Apoye a Cordero de Dios, haga una donación única or recurrente.

1 Eliga el Fondo y Cantidad a Donar

Eliga el fondo y haga clic en **Donar**.
Luego, eliga la cantidad de su donación y la frecuencia, luego proceda al pago.

2 Ingrese su forma de Pago

Ingrese la información de su tarjeta de crédito, débito, o cuenta bancaria.
Regístrese para guardar su información para sus futuras donaciones.

3 Complete su Donación

Revise y haga clic en **Submit** para completar su donación.

Crear una cuenta le permite revisar su historial de donaciones, manejar sus donaciones recurrentes y actualizar su forma de pago.

Quilter's Guild

I took a couple of weeks off in July to take my granddaughter to a national bowling tournament in Indianapolis, Indiana, and upon my return I discovered 16 clear plastic bags full of sheets, blankets, mattress pads, kitchen towels and pot holders, talk about Christmas in July! We've sorted through all the bags and what we could not use we have donated to the Veterans' group that distributes food in the church parking lot.

In August we delivered 14 pet beds to the Polk County Humane Society. A thank you goes out to the quilters at Grace Lutheran in Lakeland who provided us with their quilt scraps to facilitate this project.



The first Wednesday in September, we will be celebrating a special birthday. One of our quilters, Aileen Bennett, will be turning 90 years old. Aileen cuts squares, puts quilt tops together and ties quilts. When you see Aileen please wish her a Happy Birthday. She is not the only 90 plus we have among our quilters, we also have Phyllis Stonehouse and Marion Murphy. Please come and join our quilters who meet twice a month, the first Wednesday (September 1) and the third Thursday (September 16) from 9:00 – 12:00 (noon). We offer on-the-job training. We say, *if you can tie a knot then you can quilt*. If you have any questions please contact the church office or Laverne Tillson at 863-326-6018.

Music and Worship

We are so blessed to have such a gifted Music Director in Alex Sanchez. He not only shares his gift of music with us on Sundays, but spends lots of time behind the scenes planning and preparing to make sure our in-person and online worship experiences are a blessing. As Alex begins an additional endeavor with his nursing school studies, we give thanks for his many gifts and hold him in prayer as he faithfully juggles his many responsibilities. We give thanks for you, Alex. . . Blessings as you begin this new journey!



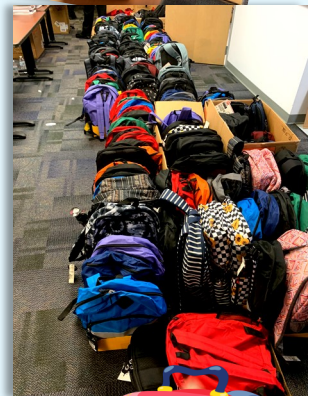
At our last Music and Worship Committee Meeting it was brought up the need for a leader and members to join the "Prayer Chain," and to update the list we already have. This ministry is not exclusive to women, men can also be part of the prayer chain and make phone calls. So please, if you feel called to join this wonderful ministry, call Joyce Hines at 863-424-0458 or John Tillson at 863-326-6018.

Giving Back to Our Community

At Lamb of God we are doers of God's word, and know the importance of serving others through volunteering. We believe in making a difference no matter how small. This is how you helped us make a difference this month:



- Bagged and distributed food at A House Blest, August 6 and 20. Your food and monetary donations are always welcome.
- Filled roughly 800 backpacks with supplies for the *Unity in the Community's Back to School Bash* on Friday, August 6; and distributed them on Saturday, August 7.
- Distributed prebagged food on August 17 in partnership with All Veterans, Inc. We also helped 8 families with your donations of household items.
- Dropped off roughly 10 large bags for the *Hornets Closet*, which provides high school students with clothes, school supplies and hygiene products. If you wish to donate, the Haines City High School accepts donations year round at the High School and the Haines City Chamber office.
- Donated 14 pet beds to The Humane Society of Polk County.



We are grateful to our volunteers!

If you would like to join in our efforts to give back, contact the office.

Cápsulas del Corazón—Instrúyeme Señor en tu camino.



“Instrúyeme, Señor, en tu camino para conducirme con fidelidad. Dame integridad de corazón para temer tu nombre.” Salmo 86:11 (NVI)

Cuatro palabras de esta lectura que definen el propósito de esta cápsula del corazón son: instrucción = educación, fidelidad, integridad de corazón, temor del Señor.

El Salmista con esta oración le pide a su Padre Celestial a conocerlo más para así mantenerse fiel y limpio de corazón.

Existen muchos versículos bíblicos que resaltan la importancia de la educación Cristiana. Esta debe ser la punta de lanza de la Iglesia, para el crecimiento y la armonía de la comunidad y el Cuerpo de Cristo que somos todos nosotros. Al conocer el corazón de Dios a través del estudio de su palabra, esta nos comunica directamente con Dios, nos llena de esperanza, nos indica el camino a seguir y nos ayuda hasta a nosotros mismos a conocernos y a conocer nuestras fortalezas y debilidades. Solo a través del estudio de la Palabra podremos mantenernos FIRMES Y CONSTANTES EN LA FE, en armonía con nuestros hermanos en la Fe Cristiana y a mantenernos esperanzados por su Gracia, su Perdón y su Misericordia, que día a día Cristo nos promete para asegurarnos una Vida Eterna con Él o sea nuestra Salvación.

Próximamente daremos inicio a nuestra escuela bíblica. Te invito a participar activamente en el estudio de la biblia a través de estudios bíblicos para adultos y niños y en adición separa de tu tiempo privado diariamente para leer y meditar en la Palabra De Dios. La única y mejor manera de mantenernos unidos y firmes en la Fe en Cristo Jesús es a través de su Palabra y en la unión de su estudio juntos como hermanos y hermanos en la Fe.

Oración.. “Señor ayúdame a mantener mi pensamiento en ti a través del estudio de tu palabra y esta sea mi guía en la toma de mis decisiones, Amén.”

~Wanda Bango-Sanchez, Ministerio de Educación Cristiana

Snippets from the Heart—Teach me your way, Lord.

"Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." Psalm 86:11 (NVI)

Four words from this reading that define the purpose of this heart capsule are:
Teach = education, faithfulness, undivided heart = integrity, fear of the Lord.

The Psalmist with this prayer asks his Heavenly Father to know him more to remain faithful and clean of heart.

There are many Bible verses that highlight the importance of Christian education. This must be the spearhead of the Church, for the growth and harmony of the community and the Body of Christ that is all of us. By knowing God's heart through the study of His word, it communicates us directly with God, fills us with hope, shows us the way forward, and helps us know ourselves better and to recognize our strengths and weaknesses. Only through the study of the Word, can we remain FIRM AND CONSTANT IN THE FAITH, in harmony with our brothers in the Christian Faith and to remain hopeful for His Grace, His Forgiveness and His Mercy, which Christ promises us to ensure an Eternal Life with Him, our Salvation.

We will soon start our Sunday School. I invite you to actively participate in Sunday study through Bible studies for adults and children. In addition, I invite you to make time, daily, to read and meditate on God's Word. The only and best way to remain united and steadfast in Faith in Christ Jesus is through studying His Word together as brothers and sisters in the Faith.

Prayer, "Lord help me to keep my thoughts in you through the study of your word and that this be my guide in making my decisions, Amen."

~Wanda Bango-Sanchez,
Ministry of Christian Education



Recipe of the Month

Creamy Blackberry Smoothie

Ingredients

- 1 cup fresh spinach
- 1 cup coconut milk (or milk of choice)
- 1 cup blackberries
- 1/2 banana



Instructions

1. Add the spinach and coconut milk to the blender until smooth.
2. Add remaining ingredients and blend again until smooth.

NOTES

Use frozen blackberries or banana to chill the smoothie down.

TOP 5 SMOOTHIE BLENDING TIPS

1. For a 2 serving smoothie, use the **2-2-3 method** for blending. That means 2 cups of leafy greens, 2 cups of liquid, and 3 cups of fruit. You can mix + match your leafy greens within those 2 cups as well as use a variety of fruits to come up with 3 cups.
2. Blend up your leafy greens and liquid-base first. Then add your remaining fruits and blend again.



3. Ditch the ice and freeze some fruits.
4. Use raw natural sweeteners (sweet fruits)
5. Smoothie Prep.

Recipe from
Simple Green Smoothies

Become part of our Church Family

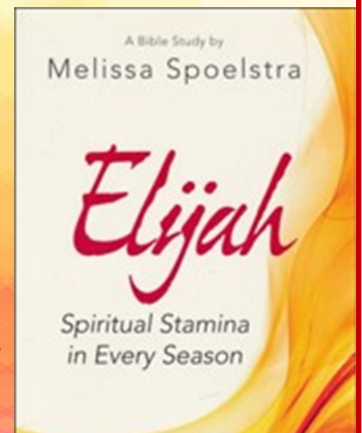


We will be receiving new members during
the month of October.

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

New Sunday School Study

We started a new Sunday School offering on August 29 on the Prophet Elijah and how his struggles and resilience serve as examples to help us thrive in every season. This new study session is led by Kathy Dierker. Come join her for the next five Sundays at 8:45 am.



Food for Thought



People must learn to hate,
and if they can learn to hate,
they can be taught to love,
for love comes more naturally
to the human heart
than its opposite.

Nelson Mandela



The ELCA's *Lutheran Disaster Response* is collaborating with local ELCA Synods, Lutheran social service organizations, and partner organizations in the affected communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. Your gifts will support earthquake survivors and Hurricane Ida victims. Gifts to "Haiti Crisis" and to "U.S. Hurricanes" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by either the earthquake in Haiti or hurricane in the U.S.

Ways to donate:

Online

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

By Mail

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Make checks payable to:
Lutheran Disaster Response.

Write "Haiti Crisis" or "US Hurricanes" on your check's memo line.

By Phone : Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card.

**FEEDING
THE HUNGRY
@A HOUSE BLEST**



OUR DATES TO HELP OUT ARE:

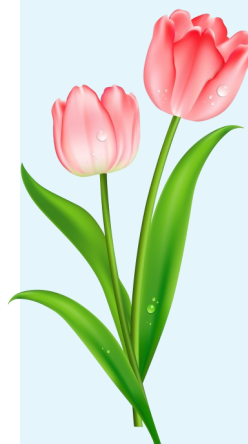
September 3 & 17

WE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MONETARY AND FOOD DONATIONS.



**ALL VETERANS
CENTER, INC.
FOOD PANTRY**

September 21 | 12:00 noon



Thank You

I want to thank everyone for the loving thoughts and prayers, and the beautiful cards to express your support through this tough times.

I truly appreciate your words of comfort.

Sincerely, **Kit Marsella**



On August 3rd Evelyn celebrated three years sharing her many gifts with Lamb of God as Office Manager. She works tirelessly and so graciously to do all the many things that need to be done to keep our ministry moving forward. We give thanks for you, Evelyn! You are such a gift and blessing!

Congratulations to...

Best wishes to our members and friends on their special day



Birthdays in September

🕒 Oscar Escobar	09/01
🕒 Ruth Bauer	09/02
🕒 Arlene Lachner	09/03
🕒 Juan Morales	09/03
🕒 Joyce Hines	09/06
🕒 Pr. Cheryl Berner	09/08
🕒 Aileen Bennett	09/09
🕒 Emily Sandretto	09/09
🕒 Louis Klockziem	09/11
🕒 Phyllis Pasbrig	09/12
🕒 Lorinda Utter	09/15
🕒 Diane Hockett	09/16
🕒 Neil Collins	09/17
🕒 Emanuel Santiago	09/18
🕒 Laverne Tillson	09/19
🕒 Nila Eklund	09/20
🕒 Pr. Isoris Bango-Sanchez	09/21
🕒 Adelina Brubaker	09/21
🕒 Davina Schneider	09/21
🕒 Gerald Pasbrig	09/22
🕒 Alex Sanchez	09/23
🕒 Ana Rosado	09/24
🕒 Pamela Morales	09/25

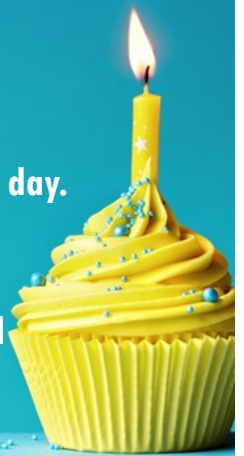
Anniversaries in September

09/04	Mike & Jan Riedeman
09/14	David & Rebecca Casillo
09/18	Emma & Richard Murphy
09/24	Ken & Judy Lindberg



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR PASTORS

Join us in wishing
**Pr. Cheryl Berner and
Pr. Izzy Bango-Sanchez**
much happiness on their special day.
We thank the Lord for both
of you, may He bless you
abundantly on your day and
in the years to come.



Thank You For Your Contributions Tribute Fund

Lynne and Dennis Martin
in memory of Judy Wise and Earl Andersen

John and Laverne Tillson
in memory of Judy Wise and Earl Andersen

Music Fund

John and Laverne Tillson
in memory of Joyce Day

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 am Quilter's Guild	2	3 Volunteers at House Blest 114 S 2nd St, Haines City, FL 33844	4
5 8:45 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Servicio en español 11:15a am Worship & Music Committee	6 Office Closed	7	8	9 11:30 am Council Meeting	10	11
12 8:45 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Servicio en español	13	14	15 BELLWETHER SUBMISSION DEADLINE	16 9:00 am Quilter's Guild 1:30 pm Memorial Garden Committee Mtg.	17 Volunteers at House Blest 114 S 2nd St, Haines City, FL 33844	18
19 8:45 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Servicio en español	20	21 12:00 pm All Veteran's Food Pantry	22	23	24	25
26 8:45 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Servicio en español	27	28	29	30		



901 Scenic Hwy
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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.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

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Rev. Izzy Bango-Sanchez, Associate Pastor
Evelyn Brewer, Office Administrator
officemanager@lambofgodhainescity.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ONLINE WORSHIP: www.lambofgodhainescity.com/worship

8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Holy Communion

Advent thru Lent

8:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Holy Communion
and Saturday, 6 pm

Spanish Service

12:30 pm Holy Communion