

THE CONNECTION

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3:16

Greetings Lamb of God,

I hope you've been enjoying our summer epistle, 1 Corinthians, as much as I have. It's such a complex and wide-ranging letter, in order for me to avoid rabbit trails, yet still do justice to the letter, I have been talking about things in the newsletter. This month, I wanted to go back and address something from chapter six. In verses 9-10 Paul writes, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."

If you are like me, you've heard a few moralistic sermons based on these verses. The gist is "If you do these things you won't go to heaven, so shape up!" Some of those sermons will continue to verse 11, "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." In those sermons this verse is understood as meaning "You were those things, but now that you believe in Jesus, you have been forgiven. Nevertheless, if you go back to doing them you won't go to heaven, so shape up!"

Very seldom does one of those sermons continue to verse 12: "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. 'All things are lawful for me,' but I will not be dominated by anything."

Faithful interpretation of scripture needs to account for apparent contradictions like this one. Are idolaters and drunkards bound for hell or are all things lawful? Alistair Begg, whom I respect, says Paul must be exaggerating here. Obviously not *everything is lawful for Christians. Christians can't murder, can't steal, can't sin.*

Is he right? I feel okay saying a person can't go on murdering and stealing after they begin to follow Jesus. But I feel this way because I don't murder or steal and I can let myself forget that Jesus gave a much broader definition to murder than I do. Remember in Matthew 5:22 when Jesus told us that if we are angry with our brother and call him a fool, we are guilty of murdering him? Now it's not so easy to think Paul's verses don't address me. When you read these verses, it might be easy for you to think they don't apply to you either.



Inside this issue

Celebration & News	2
Worship Opportunities	3
ZLS Update.....	5
Hatit Update	4

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

3923 103rd AVE SE

Lake Stevens, WA 98258

www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

Office: 425-377-2173

Office Hours:

Tues 12:30-3:00 pm

Wed 8:30-3:00 pm

Fri 8:30-2:00 pm

Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship: 10:15 am

Pastor: Mike May (314) 775-6956

pastormike@lambofgod-lakestevens.org

Worship/Youth Leader: Jan Novak,
(360) 691-3372

worship@lambofgod-lakestevens.org

Meetings This Month

Council Meeting:

TBD

Elders Meeting:

TBD

Worship Services are Currently Online Only— In-person Worship coming Soon!!

Facebook LIVE

We will be streaming Sunday services during the coming weeks. Watch us Sunday mornings at 10:15 am on our Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/lambofgodlakestevens/

www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

We are in the process of getting ready to open back up for in person worship. We will continue to LIVE stream as well. As we open back up, we will begin scheduling Sunday Morning volunteers again. If you are not comfortable joining us in person, please let the church office know so we take you out of the rotation. Updates regarding opening up will be sent out in our Weekly Connection Newsletter emails, posted on our Facebook Page and on the homepage of our website.

****Moving? New Phone Number? Please contact the church office with address, phone number and email changes so we can update our records. Thank you!*

Pastoral Assistance

Pastor:

Mike May (314) 775-6956

Worship/Youth Leader:

Jan Novak (360) 691-3372

Elders:

Ernie Frederickson (360) 668-1234

Rick Ihrle (425) 481-3247

Larry Aalbu (360) 568-4757

Dale Rahn (425) 422-9789

Gary Beck (541) 740-5727

****Next month's newsletter deadline is
August 21st.**

August Birthdays, Baptismal and Wedding Anniversaries

*Happy
Birthday!*

Rachel Hilt	2	Heidi Llerenas	19
Katherine Geiger	2	Nick Gable	22
Evelyn Uchikawa	4	Olivia Hassebrock	23
Brian Jamieson	5	Jan Whitman	27
Joy Beckmeyer	11		
Madison Henschman	12		
Lori May	14		
Ben Pfister	14		
Ken Foye	19		
Heather Grover	19		

Baptismal Anniversaries

Cheryl Jamieson	2
Rachel Hilt	3
Holli Lawrence	3
Cody Farnsworth	10
Kiera Leaf	14
Audrey Pfister	14
Katherine Geiger	15
DuWayne Brave	19
Heather Grover	21
Jim Hassebrock	21
Heidi Llerenas	21
Delanie Frazee	23
Elsa Uchikawa	26

Happy Anniversary

Clay & Jennifer Wood	8/2	Logan & Abbey Frederickson	8/20
Jim & Stacey Hassebrock	8/5	Tyler & Jennifer Hayter	8/21
DuWayne & Carrie Brave	8/10	Steve & Chris Dalton	8/24
Mark & Joelle Cameron	8/12	Miguel & Heidi Llerenas	8/24
Brian & Kelly McDonald	8/17	Joel & Julia Repp	8/25



(continued from page 1)

What catches your eye in these verses? Homosexuality? Idolaters? There's probably some behavior in Paul's list that we feel like we have under control, so let's focus on that. It reminds me of the guy who only bought cigarettes with the warning label for pregnant women on them. The ones with the lung cancer warning were dangerous, but since he wasn't a pregnant woman, the ones he bought were safe. Unfortunately for us, Paul's warning label is on every pack. If we are guilty of any of these things, he's talking about us. And it gets more unsettling the closer we look.

Greedy probably meant something more like materialistic. Now I start to squirm. It's hard to look at my house, my car, and my clothes and say I'm not materialistic at all. By the way, "swindler" doesn't apply only to gifters and unscrupulous used car salesmen. It means ruthless business practice, not illegal or even immoral by our definition. What we would call "drives a hard bargain" Paul calls "fails to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven." Are you also squirming?

Everyone skips over "reviler" because it's a weird word and probably doesn't apply to us. Does it feel different to find out it means gossipers? Anyone have a problem with gossip? This one even finds its way into prayer groups. Don't we all talk about people in unhelpful, even hurtful ways? Paul's list is so wide-ranging that pretty much everyone wants to either ignore part of it or reject it. Who isn't really convicted by some part of this? Liberals tend to be very concerned about materialism and ruthless business practices, but sex is your business. Conservatives tend to do the exact opposite. They come down very hard on sexual morals and ignore materialism. The church should be the place that takes all these things seriously and we usually fail to do so. But can this really mean that if we don't do better we won't go to heaven? What if we can't shape up?

Remember in *The Empire Strikes Back* when Luke survives his encounter with Darth Vader, but Han Solo is still carted off to Jabba the Hutt? Everyone was thinking "You can't just leave the movie unresolved like this!" I hated that at the time but I'm going to do it with this article. To quote Bugs Bunny, "Ain't I a stinker?" We'll get this resolved next month. Until then,

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

Church Office Temporarily Closed

Pastor Mike, Jan and Shara are currently working remotely. Please contact them directly.

Pastor Mike (314) 775-6956 or sidace99@yahoo.com

Jan (425) 418-6270 or worship@lambogod-lakestevens.org

Shara (425) 299-1518 or secretary@lambogod-lakestevens.org

*****Shara will be out of the office August 1-11***

Stay Connected

Weekly Connection News Emails

If you would like to subscribe to our weekly Connection News emails, visit the homepage on our website at www.lambogod-lakestevens.org and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

August

Everett Outreach-Lord's Little
Cooker (Every Saturday morning
7:45-9:30 am)

News From NEHLM—Haiti Updates (July 8 & 21, 2020)

July 8, 2020

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Rev. Paul reported, "We are doing very well; however, the cost of living keeps going up." He continues to pursue good stewardship as he navigates through the challenges.

He shared that friends of the girls' home are providing a "Summer Camp" this week for the children of the orphanage that are 3-17 years old. These neighbors have been a valuable asset to the ministry. They have a residence there in Haiti and are citizens of the USA with jobs in the USA.

Rev. Paul was delighted that their regulations have adjusted so that they can open their worship services to the community again this Sunday. He explained, "We will need to get our worship area ready for more than just the children." He continued with explaining how different young adults would be preparing the benches, microphones, speakers, etc.

I had a note that they would be starting school early this year because school was

shut down in late March. Rev. Paul confirmed that school will be starting August 9th. This involves a lot of action of obtaining/sewing uniforms, getting the curriculum, and having the teachers ready.

We finished our conversation agreeing that we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and His saving grace as there are many and varied challenges in this fallen-in-sin world.

God's peace as we continue to have "Christ be our Leader, by night as by day..." (LSB 861).

Rev. Sam Wiseman
NEHLM Pastoral Adviser

*Photos from the event (opposite page).
Enirose and Rose Dana were the directors of
the summer camp for the children at the or-
phanage.*

July 21, 2020

Greetings,
Oh when the saints,
Go marching in,
Oh when the saints go marching in,
Oh I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in.

Rev. Paul and I sang this little tune over the phone. Praise God for His grace and steadfastness to continually draw us and nourish us with His means of grace faithfully gathering us into His "barn"/ Kingdom. These thoughts developed as we talked about the Gospel readings for the last two Sundays (July 12 Parable of the Sower and July 19 Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds, with the wheat being gathered into the "barn"). We both expressed our concern as we navigate limited numbers that are to gather and the creative ways to make available God's Word and Sacrament. He shared

that Haiti churches may worship, yet are to keep a certain distance. "We are making available more room outside." As long as they are in the shade of trees, this should be convenient, because the PA system is normally loud enough.

He reported that they have not had rain for 15 days and that it was 98 degrees yesterday. This does cause some challenges of both physical comfort, and more pressing, with their agriculture. He reported that they do have a good chance of rain in the next couple days. Praise God!

The ministry is opening school in August to complete the classes from last Spring. Online school would be very difficult to accomplish in Haiti, so this is a valid solution. They are planning to start the 2020-21 school year in October as normal.

God's peace,
Rev. Sam Wiseman
NEHLM Pastoral Advisor



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www.facebook.com/lambofgodlakestevens

Follow us on Instagram:
[@lambofgodlakestevens](https://www.instagram.com/lambofgodlakestevens)



Golf Camp Thank You

We had 3 campers attend Golf Camp. Thanks Gary Beck for a fun week!



Zion Lutheran School News

Scholarship Applications: Lamb of God Scholarship Applications for those attending Zion Lutheran School are now available. Please contact the church office if you'd like an application Thank you!

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, LIVE LIKE JESUS

Join Us for Worship at 10:15 am

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Family Education: 9:00 am

Worship Hour: 10:15 am

Holy Communion is celebrated during worship the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Office: (425) 377-2173

www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

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3923 103rd Avenue SE
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE