



# 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,

Last month we began a discussion of 1 Corinthians 6:9-12 and I left you hanging. It would probably be helpful to take another look at that article, but in case you don't want to do that, the quick sum up is that Paul lists a number of sinful behaviors and says those people will not inherit the kingdom of God. Some people take this to mean that repeated sinful behavior will exclude us from heaven. There are a few problems with this. First, the list includes me (and pretty much everyone else). Second, Paul himself seems to contradict this in verse 12 when he says “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful.” Third, and most important, exclusion based on behavior seems to go against the gospel itself.

In my research, I read a commentary that said, “Christians aren't free from the law, they are free to obey.” Who doesn't like a clever turn on words? Actually, I don't when it feels like dodging the question and once again, this doesn't strike me as what Paul is saying here at all. Our challenge is to understand what Paul means by the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God in light of what we know from the rest of the Bible. In Romans 7:19 Paul tells us, “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.” It seems Paul includes himself as a sinner even though he is confident in his salvation. I think the way to understand these verses lies in our understanding of the kingdom of God.

Notice Paul does not say “eternal life.” I think of the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven as interchangeable, but I don't think either means “Heaven” as we commonly use the word. John the Baptist says the kingdom of heaven is near. I don't think he means you people will be dead and standing before God any second now. I think he's saying God's plan of salvation, which has been hinted at since Genesis 3, is finally unfolding. Jesus is the Lamb of God and He's about to take away the sins of the world. If I am right, and if Paul uses kingdom of God in the same way, then he would be talking about God's plan continuing through the church. People come to trust in Jesus and are saved.

If a church is full of people who are continually, blatantly engaging in sinful activity, then they won't have a part in that plan. The kingdom is still happening all around us, but in order to participate, we must act like we believe what we say. Until Jesus returns, we continue to live in a broken, sinful world as broken sinful people. But even today God is preparing us for a perfect world where

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## Lamb of God Lutheran Church

3923 103rd AVE SE

Lake Stevens, WA 98258

[www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org](http://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](mailto:pastormike@lambofgod-lakestevens.org)

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

[worship@lambofgod-lakestevens.org](mailto:worship@lambofgod-lakestevens.org)

# Worship Services are In-Person and Online!

## Meetings This Month

**Council Meeting:**

TBD

**Elders Meeting:**

TBD

*\*Join us for in-person worship on Sundays at 10:15 am. Masks are required and social distancing practices are in place. We will continue to stream to Facebook LIVE and YouTube.*

[www.facebook.com/lambofgodlakestevens/](http://www.facebook.com/lambofgodlakestevens/)

[www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org](http://www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org)

*\*\*\*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  
September 22nd.**

## September Birthdays, Baptismal and Wedding Anniversaries

*Happy Birthday!*

Sasha Stogin	4	Emily Cameron	19
Karl Hereth	5	Randy Strege	20
Patti Foye	6	Kyra Wood	21
Colin Jones	10	Gloria Strege	23
Dana Rasmussen	10	Cheryl Jamieson	25
Corban Repp	14		
Debbie Jones	17		
Nita Marshall	18		
Justin Brave	19		

### Baptismal Anniversaries

Lori May	1
Nick Gable	2
Joy Beckmeyer	6
Julie Wolcott	7
Matt Bench	14
Sandy Bench	14
Brian Jamieson	17
Jack Hereth	17
Mandy Hereth	17
Mark Cameron	18
Susan Stahl	21
Karl Hereth	23
Emily Cameron	24
Ben Ihrle	25

### Happy Anniversary

Larry & Jan Aalbu 9/9	Mike & Sue Griffin 9/26
Matt & Sandy Bench 9/10	Ken and Patti Foye 9/28
Mike & Cindy Caldwell 9/19	Milt & Susie Grover 9/28
Brian & Cheryl Jamieson 9/22	Randy & Gloria Strege 9/28



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sex, money, and power are all used in life-giving and holistic ways. Part of His plan for salvation is that the church views and uses sex, money and power differently than the world. If what we believe is true, shouldn't it have an impact on our lives? But if we look just like everyone else, aren't people right to question what we tell them about Jesus?

Some of the behaviors Paul lists might eventually lead us to walk away from our faith, but I don't think that's automatic. More importantly, I don't think our behavior will ever make God walk away from us. "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

If we think that God's love is only waiting for us in heaven, then we are saying we're separated from it now. God wants to build a small version of heaven here through us. We are free to do things that work against what God is doing. But like Paul we should realize those things are not helpful. Those ways will lead to psychological, spiritual and social breakdown. That behavior has no part in what He's doing here and now through His church. If, however, we trust God and live like we do then we begin to collect our inheritance today.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

## Constitution and Bylaw Updates

Please look over the proposed updated Constitution and Bylaws. Since the Spring Voter's meeting was canceled, the proposed changes will be voted on during our fall Voter's meeting. Details about that meeting will be released mid-September.

The link to view the proposed changes was included in the weekly connection news. If you did not receive the link, please email Shara so she can send it to you.

## 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](mailto:sidace99@yahoo.com)

Jan (425) 418-6270 or [worship@lambogod-lakestevens.org](mailto:worship@lambogod-lakestevens.org)

Shara (425) 299-1518 or [secretary@lambogod-lakestevens.org](mailto:secretary@lambogod-lakestevens.org)

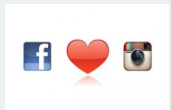
## Stay Connected

### 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](http://www.lambogod-lakestevens.org) and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

September

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

*Connect with us!*

*Like us on Facebook:*

[www.facebook.com/  
lambofgodlakestevens](https://www.facebook.com/lambofgodlakestevens)

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

## News From NEHLM—Haiti Updates (August 10 & 20, 2020)

*August 10, 2020*

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

Water was a topic of my latest conversation with Rev. Paul. Let us consider the following from the Lutheran Service Books Baptismal Rite: "Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin (LSB 269)." Baptism is the most noble use of water combined with the Word of God. Praise God for all the waters He provides for our temporal and eternal well being.

Our discussion was about the rain they have recently received. Rev. Paul said, "We have received a lot of good rain. The gardens are doing very well. This is good for us." The rain resulted as Hurricane Isaias passed by Ouanaminthe, Haiti. As we observe the path of that hurricane, we can see that not all are-

as received "good rain." We pray for those who have been negatively impacted by that storm.

Another issue of water was about an organization that is drilling a well for the school. Living Water International arrived at the ministry last week. They have drilled a well that is 130 feet deep. Rev. Paul reported, "We have water for the school. There was no charge. We did feed the workers while they were here." Ben, (NEHLM's previous liaison who will be attending graduate school in the states this fall) and Rev. Paul contacted Living Water International three years ago about the possibility of a well being drilled. We are delighted for this organization's generosity and follow through.

School starts next week to complete the lessons missed with closing last spring. There are many activities presently being pursued.  
God's peace,  
Rev. Sam Wiseman  
NEHLM Pastoral Adviser

*August 20, 2020*

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, for "He is the head of the body, the Church" (Colossians 1:18),

This Sunday the Gospel reading is from Matthew 16:13-20. In this verse we hear that Christ builds the Church, and the above Colossians passage assures us that He rules as the "head." In my recent conversation with Rev. Paul, he shared the variety of challenges that are before them. We are all trusting in God's direction as He is the head of this ministry.

They are dealing with pressure from the government with regulations, as well as the border being closed, which makes resources scarce. Projects include construction of more benches (so students maintain a certain distance from each other), other construction projects that they are trying to complete (water tanks for school latrines, cookhouse at Baja, to name a couple), finishing last year's schooling, and preparing for the new school year with an added 11th grade class. There are more, but this gives

you an idea of their variety of challenges. Let us continue to pray for them as they are part of the body of Christ.

I shared with Rev. Paul that I am considering a visit to the ministry in late January/early February 2021, Lord willing. I shared with him the economical airfare with flexible change policy, along with Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission's (NEHLM's) inability to have anyone visit in 2020. Early next year would be nice; however, right now travel is not available. As we finished talking about this opportunity, Rev. Paul commented, "Let us go for that, and see what God has in store for us." If you desire to join me on this trip, please respond to this email. I am not presently planning a mission team, but I am willing to have a couple people join me, if we can safely travel.

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

# SERVANTS IN GOD'S HOUSE—SEPTEMBER 2020

DATE	6th	13th	20th	27th
Worship Set-Up	Set Up Done	Rahn/Rasmussen	Novak/May	Gatterman/Beck
Worship Take-Down	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Soundboard	Jon Rasmussen	Jason Knapp	Joel Repp	Jon Rasmussen
Elder on Duty Communion Elders	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Scripture Reader	Elaine Repp	Jennifer Wood	Calvin Joplin	Dale Rahn
Children's Message	Matt Bench	Gary Beck	Jan Novak	Matt Bench
Power Point	Sara Knapp	Hayley McClellan	Mike Gatterman	Jim Repp

## 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](http://www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org)

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3923 103rd Avenue SE  
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE