

## 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,

My first year at Lamb of God we had a Thanksgiving service. At the time I was preaching exclusively from the lectionary (a schedule assigning bible verses to dates), so the text I used was Luke 17:11-19 aka the ten lepers. As some of you will recall, ten lepers ask Jesus to heal them and He directs them to show themselves to the priest. Along the way they are healed, but only one turns back to thank Jesus.

For various reasons, we stopped doing Thanksgiving services, but I have since noticed it’s always the same gospel reading. The lectionary has 3 different series, A, B and you guessed it, C that together cover much, though not all of the Bible. The gospels fit pretty well. Matthew is in series A, Mark is B, and Luke is C. John gets spread throughout with a big dose in series B since Mark is the shortest Gospel. But in all three series, Thanksgiving is always Luke 17—no variety. It wasn’t really a tradition for my family to go to church on Thanksgiving, but if it was for you, I bet you heard a few moralistic sermons on how you should be more thankful before you went home and slipped into a turkey coma in front of a boring Lions game.

This year I was thinking about those 10 lepers. That story made me think of the only leper I know by name: Naaman. Naaman was a commander of the Syrian army, a real big shot who got leprosy. His servant tells him that Elisha in Israel can heal him, so Naaman goes to see him with a very large gift. Elisha tells him to wash in the Jordan and after some drama, Naaman does so and is cured. He returns to Elisha and tries to give him the gifts, but Elisha refuses. Naaman then proclaims that he will only worship YHWH from that point on, which is great news. Elisha’s servant tries to fleece Naaman for money later, but that’s not what I want to point out now.

I re-read the story in 2 Kings 5 and you know what I noticed? The words “thank” or “gratitude” never appear in the story. One might argue that’s what Naaman’s gifts were, but I would regard them as payment rendered. Elisha’s refusal to accept Naaman’s payment caused frustration then just like it often does today. No one likes to be in anyone else’s debt. The 10 lepers in Luke had nothing to offer Jesus except gratitude, but Naaman still

*(continued on page 3)*



### Inside this issue

Celebration & News .....	2
Worship Opportunities .....	3
Youth Update.....	5
Haiti Update.....	4

### 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)

## Meetings This Month

### Council Meeting:

TBD

### Elders Meeting:

TBD

## Worship Services are In-Person and Online!

*\*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)

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

Shara (425) 299-1518 or [secretary@lambofgod-lakestevens.org](mailto:secretary@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  
December 15th.**

## December Birthdays, Baptismal and Wedding Anniversaries

*Happy Birthday!*

Mike Caldwell	7	Becky Ihrle	30
Ralph Whitman	12	Riley Frederickson	31
Carl Mitchell	13	Dylan Knapp	31
Jennette Stockton	18		
Tyler Grover	21		
Vickie King	21		
Brian McDonald	22		
Emilie Dawson	25		
Christina Cameron	28		
Chris Dalton	29		

### Baptismal Anniversaries

Carrie Brave	1
Jill Murray	3
Mike May	5
Connor McDonald	14
Kayla McDonald	14
Kelly McDonald	14
Danny Ziemann	16
Ben Pfister	17
Jill Williams	19
Christine Pfister	21
Elaine Repp	23
Ashley Wolcott	23
Brittany Wolcott	23
Stacey Hassebrock	25
Evelyn Uchikawa	27

### Happy Anniversary

*Nita & Dixon Marshall 12/1*

*Ralph & Jan Whitman 12/27*



*(continued from page 1)*

had enormous resources. We find ourselves in-between these extremes, but usually with Naaman's mindset. If possible, we prefer to pay for a thing or a service rather than owe someone.

Even friends will keep track of who has done what for the other. There's often a sense of satisfaction or even relief at the return of a favor, as if that clears the ledger and the initial debt never happened. Of course, there's nothing wrong with wanting to return the kindness which has been shown to us, but how have we convinced ourselves that such things can fit on a balance sheet? Why does it make us so uncomfortable knowing someone has done something for us that we can never really repay?

Our friends Chris and Barb once let us use their car to drive from St Louis to New Orleans when ours was in the shop. How many points is that worth? What happens if someone donates a kidney? Or a heart? If they die what hope to you have to repay them? Do you try to do something for their remaining family? The most impossible situation, of course, is God. Everything you have and everything you are is thanks to Him. He needs nothing from you and anything you can offer is really His in the first place. He can't be repaid, nor does He want to be. I think our need to repay is more about us than other people anyway. God does want us to live with a sense of gratitude though. I've been talking about all the benefits of living with gratitude in our current sermon series. Once again, we find that God wants something for us rather than from us.

Blessings,  
Pastor Mike

## Community Outreach

**Lord's Little Cooker: Men's and Women's clothing needed!—Especially blankets and winter coats! Please leave donated items by the back table on Sunday mornings**

Every Saturday Morning from 7:45-9:30 am our faith community joins together with our of friends North Shore Christian Church in Everett to provide breakfast, toiletries and clothing to those in need.

### Christmas Boxes

Donations can be made through Sunday, December 13th to help purchase items for Christmas food boxes. Donations can be put in a basket marked "Christmas Boxes" on the back table every Sunday beginning November 15th, or you can send your donation to the LoG office. We will also be taking names of families that could benefit from extra groceries at this time of year. Please send any names and addresses of people that you might know of via email to Shara at [secretary@lambogodlakestevens.org](mailto:secretary@lambogodlakestevens.org) by Tuesday, December 15th. Groceries will be purchased not only for a Christmas dinner, but will also include staples like peanut butter, pasta, soups, etc. to help people who are struggling. Thank you in advance for your donations to help some of our neighbors.

*As Christmas approaches, it has been a custom at Lamb of God to recognize the staff with Christmas gifts from the congregation. Please consider making a donation between now and December 20th to help this tradition continue. Donations can be given to Mike Gatterman (Treasurer), Susie Rahn (Financial Secretary) or put in the collection plate, clearly marking your envelope or check as Staff Christmas Gifts. Thank you for prayerfully considering this request.*

**Youth/Family Events****December**

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

24—Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service 7:00 pm

25—Christmas Day Service 10:15  
am

31—New Year's Eve (church  
office closed)

**January**

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

1—New Year's Day (church office  
closed)

**Ways to Gift Financially to Lamb of God**

**Offering envelopes** – use your preprinted offering envelopes or ones from the back of the chairs at worship services to donate.

**Electronic giving** – “Simply Giving”, if you are interested, please contact Mike Gatterman (Treasurer) for information to set up electronic giving. You can donate to the General Fund, Giving Life (funding next generation of worship facilities) and Haiti missions (NEHLM) using Simply Giving at this time. Funds can be automatically withdrawn weekly, monthly and everything in between. Not recommended for one-time gifts.

**One-time gifts** – one-time gifts can be made by check or some one-time gift givers have used wire transfers. But more frequently, one-time givers prefer an ACH deposit, Automated Clearing House, bank to bank transfers from the giver's bank account directly to the Lamb of God account. These donations tend to be larger amounts, perhaps once a year. Mike Gatterman will provide the giver the church bank routing and account information.

**Does your company provide stock to you?** You can donate stock to Lamb of God. If the stock was given to you at a lower value and has appreciated. Any capital gains will not be taxed due to your donation to the church. To find out more contact Mike Gatterman or Jill Murray.

**Are you 70 ½ or older and now taking minimum distributions** from your pre-tax retirement accounts? Check with your financial organization or advisor to determine if donating minimum distributions to Lamb of God could be a tax advantage.

**Estate or will planning** is another way to provide a legacy gift to Lamb of God.

**Other Ways to Gift**

**Do you have Thrivent accounts?** Thrivent allows a member to support one or two action teams per year. You can provide an action team (volunteer group) associated to an outreach ministry with a \$250 Visa gift card toward their initiative. Contact Jill Murray for more information and/or help to apply. Lamb of God has many initiatives that could benefit from action team funds.

If you have Thrivent accounts, you may be eligible for **Choice Dollars**. Thrivent will notify you that Choice Dollars are available, and you can gift them to Lamb of God.

**Do you purchase from Amazon?** Amazon will contribute ½ percent of your total purchase amount each time an order is placed to the charity of your choice. Upon accessing the Amazon ordering site, at the bottom right there are three bars. Click on the bars and scroll down to Amazon Smile, under Programs and Features. You can select the charity of your choice where Amazon Smile dollars should go. Please make sure that your phone says it is “on” for generating donations on that screen

**Digital Sign Update**

Stewart Signs, the vendor that is working with us on the proposed digital sign, has filed for a variance with Snohomish County for the sign. Lit signs by county code are to be at least 300 ft from any residence; our location would be 100 ft from residences. A variance has been applied for. You may see signs on Zion's property of a 'notice of proposed variance' soon, and on Dec 14th, the county will determine whether the variance can proceed. Just information in case you see signs and wonder what is happening.



# *Christmas Worship Schedule*



*Sunday, December 20th--Worship at 10:15 am*

*Thursday, December 24th--Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm*

*Friday, December 25th--Christmas Morning Worship at 10:15 am*

*Sunday, December 27th--Worship at 10:15 am*

## **Zion Lutheran School News**

### **Save the date for our 32nd Annual Auction!**

While we won't be hosting our in person event, we are very excited to start planning a virtual one! Last year our first online auction was a great success and we know with your help and support it will be again! Bidding will be open for two weeks beginning on April 17th through May 1st. More information regarding donations and class projects coming soon!

# News From NEHLM—Haiti Updates (November 20 , 2020)

November 20, 2020

Greetings!

"Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer..." (Lutheran Service Book #789) is the hymn our preschool is singing for chapel this month. God continues to provide "...life, breath, and everything" (Acts 17:25) for life in this world. God is also steadfast in distributing His Word and the gifts of Baptism and His Supper for eternal security as we navigate through life in this world. Indeed "praise and thanksgiving" are due!

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission (NEHLM) continues to be thankful for the ministry of Rev. Paul. We received some pictures (attached with this Update) from Jen Wride (another soul we are thankful for) of the students and Rev. Daniel Paul and his wife Cliney. It is always delightful to have visual images to keep us informed.

I asked Rev. Paul three questions:

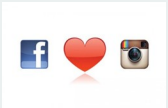
1. How is worship life? "Everyone comes to church who normally came. In August everything opened up, and we have full worship services."
2. How are businesses doing? "Businesses are operating; however, the 50% inflation makes business deals unstable. There was some international Covid support money that was not distributed that hurt the people."
3. How is your personal life? "We have the burdens of resources, economy, and government. Nevertheless, we are doing very well. God is good and always working for good. Please pray with us for God's direction for all things."

God's peace,

Rev. Sam Wiseman  
NEHLM Pastoral Adviser



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

# SERVANTS IN GOD'S HOUSE—DECEMBER 2020

DATE	6th	13th	20th	24th Christmas Eve	25th Christmas Day	27th
Worship Set-Up	Rahn	Novak/May	Gatterman/Beck	Set up Done	Set Up Done	Set Up Done
Worship Take-Down	Everyone	Everyone	Leave Up	Leave Up	Leave Up	Leave Up
Soundboard	Jason Knapp	Joel Repp	Jason Knapp	TBD	Joel Repp	Jason Knapp
Elder on Duty Communion Elders	Gary Beck	Larry Aalbu	Rick Ihrle	TBD	TBD	Ernie Frederickson
Scripture Reader	Debbie Laskey	Jennifer Wood	Calvin Joplin	TBD	TBD	Dale Rahn
Children's Message	Gary Beck	Matt Bench	Jan Novak			Vicki Beck
Power Point	Shara Knapp	Hayley McClellan	Calvin Joplin	Shara Knapp	Jim Repp	Mike Gatterman

## Sunday Servants Wanted!

We are in need of additional people to help with set-up and soundboard. If you are interested in learning more about either of those positions, please contact the church office,

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

# 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)

## Christmas Schedule:

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**Friday, December 25th Christmas Morning Service at 10:15 am**

Lamb of God Lutheran Church  
3923 103rd Avenue SE  
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE