

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 I mentioned that I was re-reading J. R. R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings series. The books are rich with Christian imagery, especially the final book The Return of the King. One of my favorite quotes comes from the Hobbit Sam Gamgee, "Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead myself. Is everything sad going to come untrue?"

This strange turn of phrase describes a belief that when our King returns, He won't simply rescue us from a broken world full of suffering and take us to a better place. The Bible seems clear (in my opinion) that God restores all of creation rather than abandoning it. That includes us. We will apparently get bodies that don't wear out, whatever that means.

But Tolkien's saying goes even further. It indicates that Christ's return might work backward as well as forward, making even the most painful events in our lives beautiful in some mysterious way. I have no evidence to support this. Well, almost none. There is the fact that God's ways are not like our ways (Isaiah 55:8) and that His solutions to our problems have proved to be beyond anything I could have invented. It seems like exactly the kind of thing He would do.

If you've ever watched a movie and thought it's gone too far to have a satisfying ending, I've thought that many times as well. Usually, I'm right. The hero pulls off a victory that's a little too convenient, escapes a trap too cleverly, or solves a mystery with evidence we never were shown. I usually feel cheated.

If you've ever thought there's been so much suffering in the world that there's no way God can make this right, then maybe you should consider this too. Tolkien, who was the only one of his friends to have survived the gory battles of The Great War (World War I), saw more than his fair share of suffering. Still, he was able to envision a world where everything would be set right. Even more than that, he could envision a world where all our pain and suffering, all our loss and grief, everything sad would come untrue.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike



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Lamb of God Lutheran Church

3923 103rd AVE SE

Lake Stevens, WA 98258

www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

Office: 425-377-2173

Office Hours:

Wednesday 8:30am-12:00 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:

November 5th (following worship)

Elders Meeting:

November 26th (following worship)

Voter's Meeting:

November 19th (following worship)

Worship Services are In-Person and Online!

**Join us for in-person worship on Sundays at 10:15 am. We will continue to stream to Facebook LIVE.*

www.facebook.com/lambofgodlakestevens/

www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

Church Office Hours

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@lambofgod-lakestevens.org

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

The church office is typically open Tuesdays 9:00-11:30 am & Wednesdays/Thursdays 9:00 am-3:00 pm

****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:

Larry Aalbu (360) 568-4757

Dale Rahn (425) 422-9789

Gary Beck (541) 740-5727

Debbie Laskey (425) 319-1381

Teri Larsen (425) 356-9283

**Next month's newsletter deadline is November 20th.

November Birthdays, Baptismal and Wedding Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

Carrie Brave	4
Mike Riley	4
Amanda Pfiester	11
Elaine Repp	13
Jill Williams	13
Connor McDonald	14
Christine Pfiester	19
Maddie Knapp	25
Shara Knapp	28

Baptismal Anniversaries

Sasha Stogin	8
Andrea Williams	13

Happy Anniversary

Scott & Stacie Leaf 11/16
Mike & Lori May 11/24



Voter's Meeting—Sunday, November 19th

Join us for our fall Voter's Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, November 19th. Meeting will include approval of the 2024 budget and election of officers. Copies of the budget will be available shortly.

Council Members Up for Election:

Vice President - Open Position (Thank you Jill Murray for your service on the board)

Treasurer - Ruben Alanis

Continuing Council Members Include:

President - Brock Wolitarsky

Secretary - Kris Werfelmann

Financial Secretary - Susie Rahn

Head Elder - Gary Beck

School Board - Sandy Bench and Deb Alanis

Youth/Family Events

November

3—Pickleball @7:00 pm

5—Confirmation Classes Begin

19—Voter's Meeting

20-24—Thanksgiving Break

December

24—Christmas Eve Candle-light Service

25—Christmas Day

Pickleball Night

Join us on **Friday, November 3rd from 7:00-9:00 pm** in the ZLS gym for a fun night of pickleball. All equipment will be provided. Please wear non marking sole shoes. Socks will work, too. Hope to see you there!

Youth Confirmation Classes

Beginning in November we will offer a faith/confirmation class for any youth interested in being confirmed in the Christian faith. Pastor Mike and Jan Novak will be teaching this class. The class will be an 8-9 week course. We will meet on Sunday mornings in the stage music room at 9:00 a.m. Our first 4 classes will be November 5th, 12th 19th, and Dec 3. We will take a break for Christmas activities/holiday and resume in January. A more detailed course outline, complete class schedule, and informational parent meeting are still being worked out.

Christmas Baskets—Helping Hand Fund

Christmas Baskets Become Helping Hands Fund

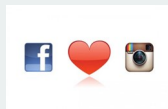
For many years, Lamb of God has created Christmas food baskets that were delivered to people who could use additional groceries at Christmas. But eating habits have changed. Many people are gluten free, vegetarian, diabetic or low salt making a 'one size fits all' grocery purchases difficult.

This year, and in the years ahead, the Christmas basket fund is becoming a fund to help those in need with gift cards - - not just at Christmas, but Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter. We are renaming it the Helping Hands Fund. The cost of everything continues to increase and many people who didn't need help in the past can use some help now. Each of us know someone or a family this year that could use some help. Beginning Sunday, October 29th, please identify someone you think could use help by signing up on the back table. The following Sunday, a card plus gift card will be given to you to give/send to that person(s). It's an easy way to help people and we would like to see EVERY PERSON at Lamb of God identify someone who could use a Helping Hand this season.

And, if you'd like to contribute to the fund, checks can be made to Lamb of God, with Helping Hand fund in the memo line.

News From NEHLM—Haiti Updates (October 5 & 18, 2023)

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)

October 5, 2023

Greetings,

The Haitian and Dominican Republic (DR) border remains closed. The president of the Dominican Republic closed all borders between the two countries on September 15, 2023. The issue has to do with the Haitians digging a canal off of the Massacre River (the river that is about 300 yards for La Maison Des Agneaux de Dieu Ophilinat (MADO-The House of the Lambs of God Orphanage) to use water for agriculture. Let me share with you some of the discussion I had with Rev. Paul concerning the canal. "There are eleven sites above Ouanaminthe and four sites below Ouanaminthe where the DR takes water out of the Massacre River. That is fifteen sites where the DR takes water. This canal is Haiti's first site. Having the borders closed is very costly to the DR's businesses; they trade a lot with Haiti. It is costing them 100 million pesos a day of lost business."

This closed border policy is also impacting Haitians with increased costs for food and sup-

plies, as well as lack of employment for many Haitians. Evidently, the DR can also use pumps to get water out of the river as another option to a canal. The running of pumps would be too costly for Haitian farmers, so a canal is their viable option. The control of natural resources has been a big concern among humans throughout the ages. We pray for the Lord's guidance as they continue with this issue.

Rev. Paul reported that they are able to do some harvesting of their crops (corn, plantain, banana, sugar cane, and other vegetables). They also have some chickens (which were not there when I visited in August) to help them regularly provide food. Rev. Paul commented, "We do still need to buy rice and beans which are more expensive."

Overall, Rev. Paul's tone was upbeat as the ministry continues and school is underway. Praise God.

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

October 18, 2023

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

With things happening in Haiti, the Middle East, and in our own "neck of the woods," we have constant reminders of our need for protection. What a comfort to have a refuge in Almighty God: "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deuteronomy 33:27). Enjoy this concept as you sing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." For many of us this will be a hymn for our worship service later this month.

Tuesday, October 17, was Rev. Daniel and Cliney Paul's 25th Wedding Anniversary. Rev. Paul commented, "We were served a big meal for everyone. I had nothing to do. Cliney had nothing to do. Cliney and I just needed to show up. It was very nice!" The children presently at the home and those who have moved on planned the event and purchased the food. What a blessing to see this response. Rev. Paul's comment that all his wife and he had to do was to show up reminded me of the Gospel text that I expounded on last Sunday (Matthew

22:4), "Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'" Praise God as He works through making the two into one, both in marriage and in the Church (Ephesians 5:31-32).

Rev. Paul reports the cost of living has increased 55% since the border closure in September. That is added onto the at least 50% increase since President Moise's assassination in July 2021. Rev. Paul, everyone in his ministry, and the NEHLM board are grateful for your generosity. We are striving for good stewardship. With this being said, I will end by quoting Rev. Paul, "Banana, plantain, cassava, okra, corn, spinach, a large amount of peanuts (2045 lbs.), pumpkin, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, and coconuts are being harvested. Thanks to all who have contributed to our gardens."

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

SERVANTS IN GOD'S HOUSE—NOVEMBER 2023

DATE	5th	12th	19th	26th
Worship Set-Up	Beck	Rahn	Novak/May	Beck
Worship Take-Down	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
Soundboard	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates
Elder on Duty Communion Elders	Gary Beck	Debbie Laskey	Larry Aalbu	Gary Beck
Greeter	Frederickson	Murray Larsen	Aalbu Hines	Rahn
Scripture Reader	Dale Rahn	Larry Aalbu	Calvin Joplin	Jennifer Wood
Children's Message	Matt Bench	Jan Novak	Delanie May	Brock Wolitarsky
Altar Guild	Heather Stahl	Heidi Llerenas	Joelle Cameron	Hayley McClellan
Power Point	Jim Repp	Calvin Joplin	Kjell Larsen	Hayley McClellan

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 and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

SERVANTS IN GOD'S HOUSE—DECEMBER 2023

DATE	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Worship Set-Up	Rahn	Novak/May	Beck	Rahn	Novak/May
Worship Take-Down	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
Soundboard	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp
Elder on Duty Communion Elders	Teri Larsen	Dale Rahn	Gary Beck	Debbie Laskey	Larry Aalbu
Greeter	Pfiester McClellan	Geiger Larsen	Frederickson	Murray Larsen	Aalbu Hines
Scripture Reader	Elaine Repp	Dale Rahn	Larry Aalbu	Calvin Joplin	Jennifer Wood
Children's Message	Jan Novak	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Christine Pfiester	Heather Stahl	Heidi Llerenas	Hayley McClellan	Christine Pfiester
Power Point	Jim Repp	Calvin Joplin	Kjell Larsen	Hayley McClellan	Jim Repp

Community Outreach

Lord's Little Cooker: Men's and Women's clothing needed! 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. **New Location: Bethel Baptist Church 2625 Hoyt Avenue**

November 2023

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 Website: www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

			1	2	3 Pickleball 7:00-9:00 pm	4 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
5 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship With communion	6 Office Closed	7	8	9	10	11 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
12 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship	13 Office Closed	14	15	16	17	18 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
19 9:0 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship Voter's Meeting (following worship)	20 Office Closed	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
26 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship	27 Office Closed	28	29	30		

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.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE