

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

Happy Thanksgiving Lamb of God,

The Psalms are full of thanks. “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” (Psalm 100:4) “Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (Psalm 106:1) The word “thanks” is used 22 times in psalms alone.

Likewise, “thanks” is found all over the Epistles. “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18) “But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57) In Paul’s letter and the general epistles it pops up a whopping 38 times.

The word “thanks” is, however conspicuously sparse in the Gospels. Jesus talks about the kingdom of God all the time. He talks about money and forgiveness until His counter-cultural message is clear. But every Thanksgiving the lectionary has the same gospel reading: the 10 lepers. It’s a great story, but it leaves us wondering if that’s the only time Jesus addressed the topic of gratitude. Didn’t He think it was important?

One thing we should keep in mind is that the Gospel accounts are not exhaustive records of Jesus’ ministry. They are highly edited narratives, shaped by the specific point or points the author is trying to make. Jesus might have taught many lessons on the subject that simply didn’t fit the theme of these four accounts.

The other thing to keep in mind is that there are different ways to teach a thing. Jesus might, for instance, sit down and say “Blessed are the thankful, for they will spend less time stressing over what they don’t have, and more time enjoying what they do.” Maybe He did. But He also might have taught gratitude primarily by example.

All four gospel accounts include Jesus’ miraculous feeding of the 5,000. All four also include Jesus giving thanks for the loaves and fishes. That’s understandable. It’s the kind of thing we should be thankful for. But of the three accounts that include the Last Supper, all three include Jesus giving thanks for the bread and the wine. On the precipice of His own torture and death, Jesus pauses to give thanks. He lived a life of profound gratitude. Jesus never seems to have lost sight of what the Father gave, nor did He lose appreciation

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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,
(425) 418-6270

worship@lambofgod-lakestevens.org

Meetings This Month

Council Meeting:

December 8 (following worship)

Elders Meeting:

December 1 (following worship)

Voter's Meeting:

December 1 (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

The church office is typically open Tuesdays 9-11:30 am & Wednesdays/Thursdays 9:00am-3:00 pm. Pastor Mike, Jan and Shara can be reached anytime by contacting them directly via phone, text, or email.

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

****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

Phil Bates (253) 381-2008

**Next month's newsletter deadline is
December 18th.

December Birthdays, Baptismal and Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Carl Mitchell | 13 |
| Jennette Stockton | 18 |
| Brian McDonald | 22 |
| Chris Dalton | 29 |
| Dylan Knapp | 31 |

Baptismal Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Carrie Brave | 1 |
| Jill Murray | 3 |
| Mike May | 5 |
| Connor McDonald | 14 |
| Kayla McDonald | 14 |
| Kelly McDonald | 14 |
| Christine Pfiester | 21 |
| Elaine Repp | 23 |

Happy Anniversary

Ralph & Jan Whitman 12/27



for it. When Paul says we should give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s will in Christ Jesus, he might just as well have said it was Christ’s example to all of us.

We should teach gratitude at all times in all places and if necessary, we should use words.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike

Youth/Family Events

December

- 6—Adult Pickleball 7-9 pm
- 8—Chitna Mission Trip Meeting
- 15—Youth Christmas Service
- 22-LLC Christmas Joy
- 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 25—Christmas Day

Voter’s Meeting—Sunday, December 1st

Join us for our fall Voter’s Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, November 24th. Meeting will include approval of the 2025 budget and election of officers. Copies of the budget will be available shortly.

Council Members Up for Election:

- President—Brock Wolitarsky
- Secretary—Kris Werfelmann

Continuing Council Members Include:

- Vice President—Geoff Larsen
- Treasurer—Ruben Alanis
- Financial Secretary—Susie Rahn
- Head Elder—Gary Beck
- School Board—Sandy Bench and Deb Alanis

June 2024 Voter’s Meeting Minutes

Please review the June Voter’s Meeting Minutes.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church
 Congregational Meeting
 June 2, 2024

Attendance: See attached.

Opening Prayer by Brock Wolitarsky

Minutes of the November 19, 2023 meeting was approved unanimously with a motion by Gary Beck and a second by Shara Knapp.

Treasurer’s Report: (See attached). Ruben reported that we were in the black for 2023 in the operation. The building fund increased by \$79,107. 2024 is so far in the positive.

Pastor’s report: Next October, 2025 there will be a Footsteps of Paul trip. Pastor gave a building update. At this time, they are looking at a steel building for the school which would be behind the Lamb of God building. They would be moving the portables where the 6th through 8th grades meet. This is all dependent upon the permits and is still in the planning phase.

Youth/Worship Report: (See attached). Jan reported that two individuals were confirmed. They are looking at having a basketball camp and possibly a baseball camp. He is teaching a class at Zion Lutheran School.

Elders Report: Gary Beck thanked those that contributed food for the Pentecost celebration. He also thanked Shara, Pastor and Jan. Phil Bates is the new elder. The trustees would love some volunteers.

Zion Lutheran School Board: Sandy Bench reported that enrollment is at 285 for fall. Eighth grade graduation is set for June 10th. They will be hiring some new teachers. So far, everything seems to be going well.

The meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,
Kris Werfelmann
Secretary

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.

Christmas Baskets—Helping Hand Fund

If you know someone who could use a little help this Christmas, you can gift them a gift card by signing up for one at the back table beginning next week. You will be given a card and gift card the following week to give/send to them. It's an easy way to help people. We would love to see EVERY PERSON at Lamb of God identify someone who could use a Helping Hand this season. You can contribute to this fund with cash or check. Checks can be made to Lamb of God, with "Helping Hand fund" in the memo line.

Lord's Little Cooker—Christmas Joy

Join us on December 21, 2024

Sponsored by "Thrivent Action Team"

We will provide each person coming for our weekly breakfast with a Christmas present:

something for the head (a warm hat),

something for the hands and feet (warm gloves, socks and hand warmers)

something for the heart (personal Christmas cards expressing the Reason for the Season...Jesus)

Items you can donate:

Hats, scarves, mufflers, gloves, socks, handwarmers

Christmas Cookies (In Ziplock bags 4-6 cookies/bag)

Warm jackets, clothing

Candy canes...white w/red stripe

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 17th to help this tradition continue. Donations can be given to Ruben Alanis (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 Christmas Service—Sunday, December 15th

Our youth will be leading worship on Sunday, December 15, 2024! There will be a special youth lead Children's Message and a Kid's Zone If your child would like to participate in this service in anyway please contact Jan Novak.

Youth and Family Christmas Party immediately following this service

Cookie Decorating

Ginger Bread Houses/Cookies

LLC Christmas Bags

Pizza

We look forward to having you join us!

Chitna Mission Trip—Info Meeting December 8th

There will be an informational meeting on December 8, following our worship service (11:45 am) Pastor Todd Roeske will join us to help us get this mission trip started. The dates for this trip are July 18-27, 2025. This service trip is open to our older youth and adults. If you are interested in going or have any questions, please contact Christine Pfister, Bryn Larsen, or Jan Novak

Christmas Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH--YOUTH CHRISTMAS SERVICE
@10:15 AM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH--CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE @ 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH--NO SERVICE

Pickleball Night

Join us for Adult Pickleball on **Friday, December 6th from 7:00-9:00 pm**. Come out for a fun night of socializing and exercise. We kindly ask that this event stays adults only. Thank you.

Other upcoming pickleball nights: January 10.

Adult
PICKLEBALL
Night

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

ZLS GYM
Wear non marking sole shoes or socks

More Information :
Contact Matt Bench or Gary Beck

News From NEHLM—Haiti Updates (November 13, 2024)

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)

November 13, 2024

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

On October 25th, the northeast (nord est) section of Ouanaminthe was impacted by heavy rain. Two photos are attached of the Ouanaminthe area showing some issues involved. Rev. Paul commented, "The gardens are struggling with the water sitting in them. We do not have a way to drain them. We will lose some of the plants in these garden areas." He also commented about canals and the Massacre River (which runs about a 1/4 mile from the orphanages) that overflowed and caused problems. As you can see in one photo, someone's vehicle was in a very unfortunate situation. Rev. Paul reported that the school ground and the girls' and boys' home did not have any damage, though there was some water sitting around in low areas.

There is some travel taking place in many of the northern areas of Haiti. Traveling is able to be done by Haitians and there are people from outside the country also traveling safely in many areas. This is a wonderful sign of stability. We pray for continued stability of the Haitian political system.

College classes have started for our houseguests from Rev. Paul's family. Sarai is excelling in her second year of college. Whitney is trying to navigate the challenges of the language ("all the instructions are in English"). We are encouraging them to strive at doing their best in the opportunity that is before them. They did presentations at Peace LCMS

in Selah, Washington, and at Bethlehem LCMS in Yakima, Washington, Sunday, November 3rd. Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission (NEHLM) strives to promote this ministry in order to help support the proclamation of God's Word, education of youth, and care for people.

Rev. Paul reported that "International Children's Day" on November 20th is something that the agency overseeing children's homes (EBERS) strongly encourages him to celebrate. There is regularly a special meal and lessons to support, protect, and encourage the youth will be presented. Wednesday is a regular school day. Rev. Paul commented, "We will have the celebration on Saturday, November 23rd, with the meal and stuff. On Wednesday, this day will be recognized in school, but it would be too much for the children to have the celebration on a school day."

(FYI: This children's recognition day is a United Nations day that has been recognized since 1959 when the United Nation General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Children. Other names for this day are World Children's Day and Universal Children's Day. I put International Children's Day in quotation marks because some areas have June 1st being a day by that name.)

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



SERVANTS IN GOD'S HOUSE—DECEMBER 2024

| | 1st | 8th | 15th | 22nd | 24th Christmas Eve | 29th |
|---|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Worship Set-Up | Novak/May | Beck | Rahn | Farnsworth | Novak/May | Beck |
| Worship Take-Down | Everyone | Everyone | Everyone | Everyone | Everyone | Everyone |
| Soundboard | Jason Knapp | Phil Bates | Ruben Alanis | Jason Knapp | Phil Bates | Ruben Alanis |
| Elder on Duty Communion Elders | Phil Bates | Teri Larsen | Dale Rahn | Gary Beck | TBD | Debbie Laskey |
| Greeter | Geiger Larsen | Alanis Schoonover | Frederickson Rahn | Murray Anderer | No Greeter | Pfiester McClellan |
| Scripture Reader | Dale Rahn | Grant Bryan | Evey Larsen | Will Bryan | TBD | Kjell Larsen |
| Children's Message | Delanie May | Jen Wood | Children's Christ- mas Program | Matt Bench | No Children's Message | Gary Beck |
| Altar Guild | Heidi Llerenas | Christine Pfiester | Heather Stahl | Joelle Cameron | Hayley McClellan | Hayley McClellan |
| Power Point | Deb Alanis | Kjell Larsen | Carla Schoonover | Hayley McClellan | Deb Alanis | Kjell Larsen |

ZLS News—November School Board Updates

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

The school has a lot going on: Christmas Shoppe is December 11th-13th, PTL's big fundraiser

: Christmas Concerts, preschool, 5th grade, and Band will be on December 17th

: 1st through 4th grades will be December 18th Snohomish High School PAC

There was some damage with falling trees in the storm last week. Power has been restored, and trees are getting removed

Three more security cameras are being installed December 10th.

Jim Scriven visited the school on November 13th.

Working on drainage issues and maintaining the property for the safety of the students. Moving forward with things that need to be done for the new chapel building.

Thank you for your time

Have a blessed Day!

Sandy Bench, Zion Lutheran School Board Vice President

SERVANTS IN GOD'S HOUSE—JANUARY 2025

| | 5th | 12th | 19th | 26th |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Worship Set-Up | Rahn | Farnsworth | Novak/May | Beck |
| Worship Take-Down | Everyone | Everyone | Everyone | Everyone |
| Soundboard | Ruben Alanis | Jason Knapp | Phil Bates | Ruben Alanis |
| Elder on Duty Communion Elders | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Greeter | Geiger Larsen | Alanis Schoonover | Frederickson Rahn | Murray Anderer |
| Scripture Reader | Sara Bryan | Larry Aalbu | Jennifer Wood | Debbie Laskey |
| Children's Message | Vicki Beck | Evey Larsen Amanda Pfiester | Jan Novak | Brock Wolitarsky |
| Altar Guild | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Power Point | Carla Schoonover | Hayley McClellan | Deb Alanis | Kjell Larsen |

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**

December 2024

Lamb of God Lutheran Church
3923 103rd Ave. S.E.
Lake Stevens, WA 98258
Phone: 425-377-2173

Website: www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 1 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship with communion Voter's Meeting /Elders Meeting (following worship) | 2 Office Closed | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am |
| 8 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship Chitna Trip Meeting/Council Meeting (following worship) | 9 Office Closed | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am |
| 15 Youth Christmas Service 10:15 am Worship | 16 Office Closed | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Christmas Joy at Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am |
| 22 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship | 23 Office Closed | 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm | 25 Merry Christmas | 26 | 27 | 28 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am |
| 29 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship | 30 Office Closed | 31 New Year's Eve | | | | |

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