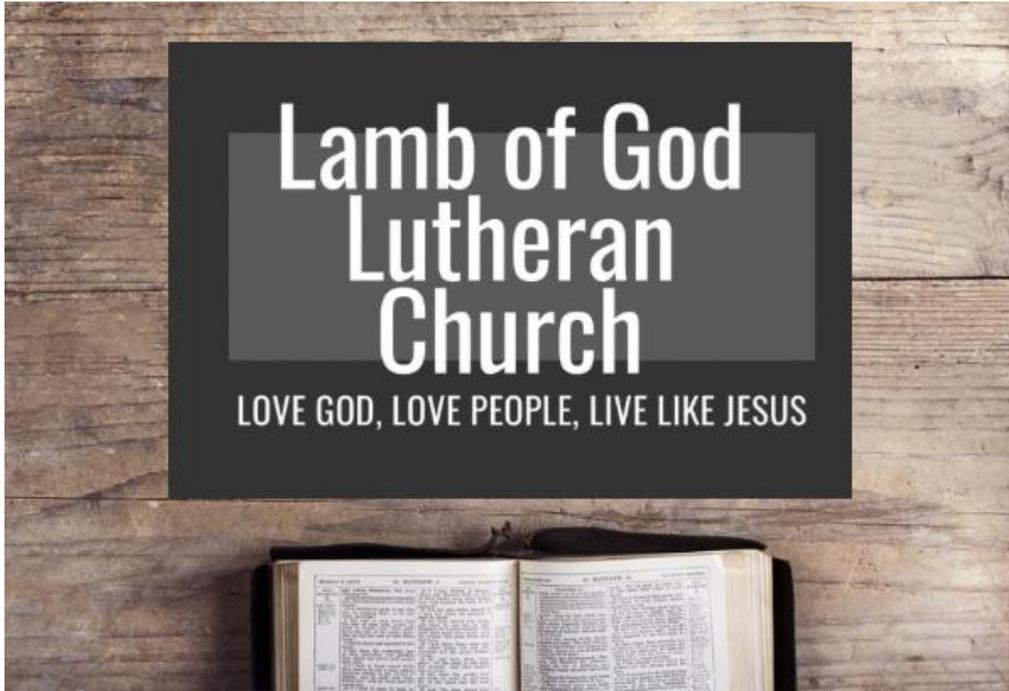


THE CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025 | ISSUE NO. 300



FROM PASTOR MIKE:

Greetings Lamb of God,

During his Tony Awards acceptance speech in 2016, Lin-Manuel Miranda read a sonnet which included the phrase, "love is love." This phrase was a response to the Pulse nightclub shooting earlier that year, and has since become something of a slogan for some members of the LGBTQ+ community.

As a cry for an end to violence against that community, it serves as

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good as any other phrase, especially for a plea that shouldn't need to be made. On the other hand, if everyone agreed that violence against people who disagreed with us was unacceptable it wouldn't keep happening. In that respect, we should all work together to prevent such things in the future.

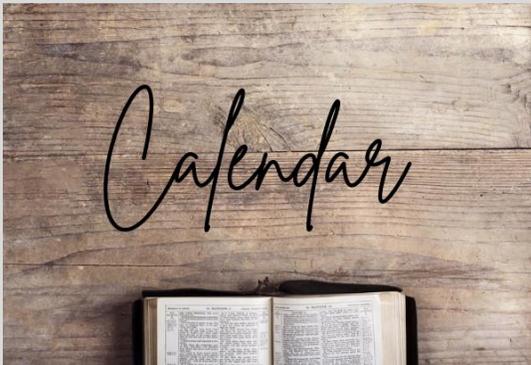
As a lyricist, Miranda was apparently also trying to express how gay and straight relationships are similar, how love can take many forms but remain essentially the same, and how a group that some might wish to label as depraved or even subhuman is anything but. In this sense also, the phrase has value. Looking at other human beings as "other" or "alien" never leads to compassion. Understanding that every one of us sins, fails to do what is right, or misses the mark in more ways than we can even count puts us all on the same level. (Romans 3:23, James 2:10) The biggest difference between us is a matter of how and how much. Again, focusing on what we have in common leads to connection and possibly influence.

In terms of a slogan, I'm afraid "love is love" misses the mark. In *The Four Loves*, C. S. Lewis points out the ambiguous nature of the word "love." The Greek language had four different words for what English mashes together in "love." Lewis outlines briefly as affection (feeling), friendship, eros (passion) and charity (selflessness).

When we break the word down like this, it's easy to see that friendship is not the same as passion, nor is emotion the same as selfless action. What makes matters even more complicated is that most modern use has abandoned the selfless definition and made affection and passion equivalent. Again, love for a child is not the same as passionate desire, but what works in poetry is not usually suitable for a philosophical position.

Am I digressing into a pointless word origin vortex? I hope not. The reason I mention this is because we have taken the wrong love boat (pun intended...sorry). In making love all about a feeling we all tend to focus on ourselves. "Love is good. I love this. I must be right." See how that could be applied to virtually anything? See also how self-centered it is? Feelings are real. Feelings are valid. But feelings aren't facts, and feelings describe the person experiencing them rather than the world around. Over and over God encourages us to look less to ourselves and more toward others. Selfless love is about action more than emotion. The truth is that we can't usually control how we feel, but we can usually control what we do. If we act in a way that benefits those around us (as if we feel love for them) then we love them in the best way. Remember, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Blessings, Pastor Mike

**August**

17—Logger Cup 12:30-3:00pm

September

1—Labor Day

7—Rally Sunday/Church Picnic

FROM THE OFFICE



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

Summer office hours will be limited especially during July.

Please contact Pastor Mike, Jan, or Shara directly if you need assistance.

- 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

CONNECT WITH US!

Pastoral Assistance

Pastor:
Mike May (314) 775-6956

Worship/Youth Leader:
Jan Novak (425) 418-6270

Elders:
Larry Aalbu (425) 422-1016
Dale Rahn (425) 422-9789
Gary Beck (541) 740-5727
Debbie Laskey (425) 319-1381
Teri Larsen (425) 356-9283

Meetings This Month

Council Meeting:
August 10th (following worship)

Elders Meeting:
August 3rd (following worship)

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.

Directory Changes:

Moving? New Phone Number? Please contact the church office with address, phone number and email changes so we can update our records. Email secretary@lambofgod-lakestevens.org. Thank you!



MEN'S LOGGER CUP

Attention all men, High School ages and above -

You have heard the rumors, and you have heard the stories. Now, if you dare, on **August 17th from 12:30 to 3:00** you can be a part of, and add to, the infamous Lamb of God men's Logger Cup saga. Due to the "perils" of this event (I've heard rumors of axes and BB guns being involved), the event is limited to men High School age and above. For more information, see the flyer (posted on p. 9)...and if you are too scared to come alone, please bring a friend. The more that attend, the more potential victims...I mean, the more the merrier. So please feel free to invite someone.

The LOG Logger Cup committee

SUMMER PICKLEBALL NIGHTS--CANCELLED

Due to unforeseen conflicts, the Pickleball dates (July 25th & August 22nd) have been cancelled. If there is continued pickleball interest, we will restart the Friday nights on September 26th. Please contact Gary Beck if you have any questions

BABY SHOWER FOR KYRA WOOD

Kyra will be having a baby girl, Gwendolyn Rose.

When: **Sunday, August 17 @12:30-3:00**

Where: Lori May's home

6811 110th Ave NE, Lake Stevens

RSVP: Jen, 425.422.9421

Registry: Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/3HBULEFQJGPTU?ref=br_search_v2_desktop_res_1)

Things to keep in mind: Kyra prefers the Honest brand of diapers. In lieu of a card, bring a book, signed by you, to help build Gwendolyn's library. Kyra has plenty of 0-3 month clothes.



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. **Location: Bethel Baptist Church 2625 Hoyt Avenue**

ZLS SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

Good morning,

The school board has a few things to report.

*Quotes on bleachers for the gym are still coming in.

*A committee has been formed to update the Vision Document that was put together 3 years ago.

*Work continues on the property to get it ready for the County to evaluate for the conditional use permit for future buildings, both Chapel and classrooms.

*Enrollment looks strong for the 25-26 school year. Most likely it will be over 300 by the time school starts in September

*There are two open positions on the School Board. Job description has been sent out for those positions.

*It was a very good school year, to which all the Board members are very thankful to God.

Have a blessed Day

Sandy Bench, ZLS Board Vice President

NEWS FROM NEHLM

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission

June 26, 2025

Greetings in the Name of the Lord. Amen.

It was a pleasure to visit some of you at our display at the Northwest LCMS District Convention last week in Spokane. It is a joy to have you all interested and connected to this ministry.

Sarai and Whitney (Rev. Paul's daughters who are attending Eastern Oregon University here in La Grande) are blessed to be able to work on campus through these summer months. They strived to be diligent students through the school year and are now being diligent workers for the custodial department and hosting groups. This is a privilege to have steady work. In Haiti their opportunities are limited and do not pay nearly as well (They are getting minimum wage, but that is comparatively very good). With present travel restrictions, the opportunity to return to Haiti is not available to them.

The 9th grade students throughout Haiti are taking standardized tests this week and next. I asked Rev. Paul if Haiti's Department of Education is still functioning even though there is not a government officially operating. He responded, "There are agencies that are continuing to operate such as the education department and IBERS (Haiti's agency working for children). I have been asked who is in charge of Haiti, and does a certain gang have most of the power. He said, "There are many gangs with many different leaders, and power is generally localized. There is no gang that has power throughout the country." We pray for their government system and ours as leaders have awesome responsibilities.



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

July 8, 2025

When I called Rev. Paul today, his wife Cliney answered his phone and talked with me for a bit about what their daughters living with us are doing. Then later in the call, Rev. Paul's youngest daughter Abigail talked with me some. I think they like to work on speaking English, and I provided them this opportunity.

The standardized exams for 9th graders are finishing this week, and exams begin on Monday for the "Filo Class" (13th grade, their final year of high school). It is encouraging to witness youth being educated even though the stability in the country is struggling.

They are desiring some rain! This is the rainy season, yet to keep the plants healthy, they have needed to do a little bit of irrigation by pumping water. Rev. Paul reported that they are harvesting some bananas, corn, and sugar cane.

The attached pictures are 1) a picture of one of the young orphan boys with a shirt that was definitely not from his parents. This shirt was likely from a large container of clothes that had been donated. The child likely was wearing the shirt because of its color or availability. I found the shirt's message to be ironic. It says, "Raising parents is tough."

2) People were gathering for a Sunday evening worship service. Sunday morning was a Divine Service with communion. The evening service had many songs, prayers, and a sermon.

3) The Filo Class that begins testing on Monday with Rev. Yves Thelmarque in the front with the plaid shirt, and Cliney in the front with the striped blouse.

AUGUST SERVANTS CALENDAR

	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st
Worship Set-Up	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen
Worship Take-Down	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
Soundboard	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp
Elder on Duty	Gary Beck	Teri Larsen	Larry Aalbu	Dale Rahn	Debbie Laskey
Greeter	Geiger Larsen	Alanis Schoonover	Frederickson Rahn	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan
Scripture Reader	Jen Wood	Dale Rahn	Evey Larsen	Mike Schoonover	Kjell Larsen
Children's Message	Matt Bench	Gary Beck	Vicki Beck	Evey Larsen Amanda Pfiester	Jan Novak
Altar Guild	Heidi Llerenas	Christine Pfiester	Heather Stahl	Joelle Cameron	Heidi Llerenas
Power Point	Deb Alanis	Kjell Larsen	Carla Schoonover	Kjell Larsen	Deb Alanis

SEPTEMBER SERVANTS CALENDAR

	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Worship Set-Up	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen
Worship Take-Down	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
Soundboard	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates
Elder on Duty	Phil Bates	Gary Beck	Teri Larsen	Larry Aalbu
Greeter	Geiger Larsen	Alanis Schoonover	Frederickson Rahn	Murray Hines
Scripture Reader	Larry Aalbu	Debbie Laskey	Jen Wood	Dale Rahn
Children's Message	Brock Wolitarsky	Delanie May	Jen Wood	Matt Bench
Altar Guild	Hayley McClellan	Christine Pfiester	Heather Stahl	Joelle Cameron
Power Point	Kjell Larsen	Carla Schoonover	Kjell Larsen	Deb Alanis

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, LIVE LIKE JESUS

AUGUST 2025

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

Website: www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
3 10:15 am Worship with communion Council Meeting (following worship)	4 Office Closed	5	6	7	8	9 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
10 10:15 am Worship Elders Meeting (following worship)	11 Office Closed	12	13	14	15	16 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
17 10:15 am Worship with communion Logger Cup @ 12:30 pm	18 Office Closed	19	20	21	22	23 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
24/31 10:15 am Worship	25 Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30



SUMMER LOGGER CUP



- What – A time for men to get together, have some fun playing , fellowship, and a simple BBQ (hot dogs, chips, and water). Something for everyone!!!
- When – August 17th from 12:30 to 3:00
- Where – Jan and MJ Novak’s house – 13313 174th St. NE, Lake Stevens
- Who – High School age and up. Feel free to invite a friend
- Questions – Matt Bench 425-501-2163 (call or text), Email: mgbench@msn.com
- RSVP- Not required, but helpful (text or email Matt with name and # attending)
- Parking – Plenty of parking



**CLOSEST TO
THE PIN**



- Distances will be adjusted to fit the age

Office summer updates:

Office hours will be very limited during the summer. Please contact Pastor Mike, Jan or Shara directly.



Lamb of God Lutheran Church

3923 103rd AVE SE

Lake Stevens, WA 98258

www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

GET IN TOUCH



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