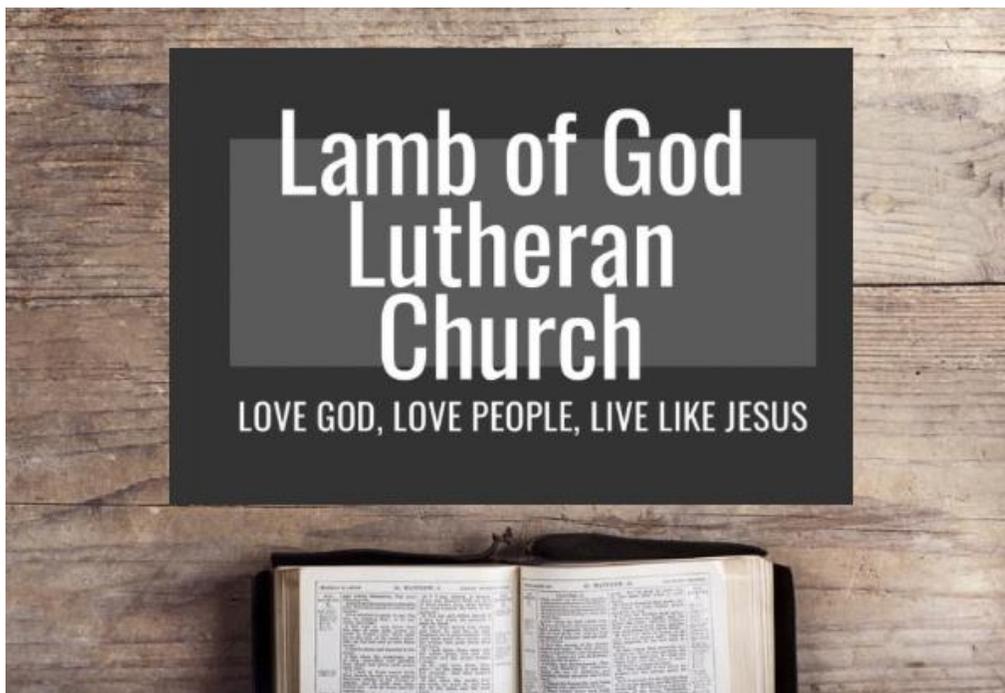


# THE CONNECTION

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025 | ISSUE NO. 303



## FROM PASTOR MIKE:

Greetings Lamb of God,

Everyone made it back from Greece alive and mostly well. There were some bumps along the road, but all the best trips have those, so no complaints here. I learned some things, and as is often the case, I learned in unexpected areas. I hope to share some insights over the next few newsletter articles.

As some of you might know, long before the reformation the church split in what is usually referred to as the Schism. The west became catholic while

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the east became orthodox. It was probably no accident that the names they chose inferred what the other side was not. The main subject of contention was icons, religious images used in worship. The east was in favor of them, while the west considered the practice to be idolatry.

No one was really looking for my approval, but when I hear an Orthodox Christian explain their practice, they say they aren't worshipping the object itself; they are using it as a window into the divine. In other words, they are worshipping the God behind these images. That's not for me, but I don't have a problem with it in theory. What I found in practice in Greece was a different story. The more I heard our guide talk about religion the more I began to wonder what she really believed. Finally, I asked her if she was comfortable talking a little theology. She said she would love to.

First, I asked her what she thought would happen when she died. She said she didn't know because she had no idea if she had done enough good things. Next, I asked her what Jesus on the cross was all about. She said he was setting an example for us. I asked if she meant we should all be crucified like He was, and she said no, Jesus was being a sacrifice. Before I could ask her exactly what Jesus was sacrificing, to whom and for what, she went on a tangent talking about what she would and would not be willing to give her life for. Religion: no Greece: yes.

I didn't argue with her about any of this, I was simply trying to get a clear picture of her faith. In many of those types of conversations, the other person will eventually ask what you think about the subject. Not so with her. As a tour guide, she was accustomed to long monologues (like some other professions). No problem. Every day One of the pastors or Mike Schoonover (thanks again Mike) would give a devotion. From that point on, my devotions were the most simple and clear proclamations of the gospel I could manage. Everyone else on the bus probably already knew everything I said, but we all need to hear it from time to time. I need to hear it sometimes too.

I have no idea if my words took root. I prayed they would. I prayed they would get into her head and disturb her. She gave no indication of a change of heart, but even if I knew I had no chance I would have done it anyway. That's what we're here for.

The whole thing was a little problematic. I could tell everyone on the tour had to sift through what was fact, what was tradition, and what was Greek Orthodox dogma. At some point, I suspect some of us must have wished we had a nice Protestant guide (maybe even Lutheran) who didn't tell us that in order to follow Jesus we must also accept Mary as our mother like John did at the cross.

Personally, I prefer to have a guide who needed to hear the gospel. Spending time with people who are on the same page we are is easy, comfortable, nice. But we are called to something more significant. Is there someone in your life that needs to hear the gospel? Are they a little difficult to be around? Do you wish God would send someone easier into your life? I would like to encourage you to consider this: God chose to include you and me in a mission He could do much better by Himself. If He's put someone in your path who does not know Him it's an honor to work for the right to tell them about Him. It's the most important thing you will do all day.

Blessings, Pastor Mike

**November**

7—Men's Logger Cup

9—Voter's Meeting (following worship)

11—Veteran's Day

27—Thanksgiving

**December**

14—Youth Christmas Service

24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 pm

25—Christmas Day

31—New Year's Eve

# 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/](http://www.facebook.com/lambofgodlakestevens/)  
[www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org](http://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](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)

## 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:  
November 9 (following worship)

Elders Meeting:  
November 2 (following worship)

Voter's Meeting: November 9  
(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](http://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](mailto:secretary@lambofgod-lakestevens.org). Thank you!



## FALL VOTER'S MEETING

The fall Voter's Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> following worship. We will be voting on the 2026 budget and election of officers.

## BABY SHOWER FOR HANNAH AND BABY LEO

### Baby Shower for Hannah Kraus

The rescheduled baby shower for Hannah will be **Sunday, November 9th at 12:30 pm**. Come celebrate baby Leo.

Where: Susie Rahn's home  
5201 175th AVE SE, Snohomish  
RSVP: Susie, (425) 350-2184

Registry: [Amazon](#) (under Hannah Kraus) They would also welcome gently used clothing/hand-me-downs or books.

## WOMEN'S EVENT—BETH MOORE LIVING PROOF LIVE

Ladies!

Beth Moore Living Proof Live Event is coming to Venture Church next **November 13-14, 2026!** Lamb of God has a group attending this faith-filled event. Additional tickets are still available at the discounted group rate, but the event sells out quickly, so see MJ Novak ASAP if you'd like to join our group or for more information.

## LOGGER CUP—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

Step right up, step right up, for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship. The Fall Logger Cup Crown will be on the line and will be passed from Cody, our Summer Logger Cup winner, to the Home Run Derby King. Can't swing a plastic bat at a slow pitched ball? No worries, mate, as there will be other games to play and you can cheer on your fellow Home Run Derby contestants...yes laughing will be allowed!!! See the flyer on p. 9 for further details.



## 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**

## NEHLM STUDENTS OCTOBER 2025



# NEWS FROM NEHLM

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission

October 8, 2025

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

Rev. Daniel Paul reported that, "I am doing well, by the grace of God. I did have a bit of a fever, but I am better now."

He reported that the contract of the Kenyan "peacekeeping troops" had ended at the beginning of October. These troops were to be about two thousand; however, there are reports that there were actually closer to only one thousand. In response to these troops leaving, five thousand United Nations troops have been committed to Haiti as of October 5th. I remember that when I was on mission trips in 2005 through 2017, United Nation troops were present in Haiti.

There is a historical record that outside military forces have not brought about lasting stability in Haiti. There is a need for changes in the operations of Haiti as it is controlled mainly by gangs, especially in Port au Prince. We pray that God will work in and through the people involved to allow greater stability in the country.

I asked about a report that I read about food insecurity being "intense" in Haiti. Rev. Paul responded, "Yes, this is a very big problem in Haiti. Our gardens are a huge blessing for us in being able to feed people." Praise God for the diligent work to have these gardens, and praise God for everything else that goes into having these crops available.

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October 23, 2025

Greetings as we remember the proclamation of the Gospel on Reformation Day at the end of this month,

Hurricane Melissa is presenting over Cuba and moving toward Haiti. Rev. Paul reports that they have already received a lot of rain. As Melissa passes over Haiti, the southern regions are predicted to get the highest winds and rainfall. Rev. Paul's ministry in northeast (nord est) Haiti is projected to have 40-60 mph winds with 4-8 inches of rainfall. We are thankful for facilities that are constructed with hurricanes in mind. This slow moving hurricane is projected to be impacting Haiti through the end of the month. We pray for their safety and work through this time.

Cliney, Rev. Daniel Paul's wife, has been dealing with toothaches. She will have three teeth pulled. We trust this will give her relief.

Rev. Paul has made contacts with an organization that has a shipping container of food arriving in Cap Haitian within a couple months via Orphan Grain Train. Orphan Grain Train is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) that distributes supplies and Christian study materials in the USA and around the world. Rev. Eliona Bernard in Cap Haitian and Rev. Daniel Paul will both be receiving supplies. This is a great blessing with the high cost of food.

Attached are photos of students lined up for the beginning of school this year. There are about 450 students at the Ouanaminthe school. This is double the students that they normally have. I inquired why the increase and Rev. Paul said, "Our school has been placed among the best in nord est Haiti." This is a blessing to serve these children and share God's Word with them. There are also some needed updates and completions of facilities to accommodate this increase. NEHLM is using gifts to help with this. Thank you!

God's peace,

Rev. Samuel Wiseman

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**NOVEMBER 2025**

# NOVEMBER SERVANTS CALENDAR

	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Worship Set-Up</b>	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen
<b>Worship Take-Down</b>	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
<b>Soundboard</b>	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates
<b>Elder on Duty</b>	Teri Larsen	Larry Aalbu	Dale Rahn	Debbie Laskey	Phil Bates
<b>Greeter</b>	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan	Geiger Larsen	Alanis Schoonover	Frederickson Rahn
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Debbie Laskey	Jen Wood	Dale Rahn	Evey Larsen	Mike Schoonover
<b>Children's Message</b>	Brock Wolitarsky	Delanie May	Jennifer Wood	Matt Bench	Gary Beck
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joelle Cameron	Hayley McClellan	Heidi Llerenas	Christine Pfiester	Heather Stahl
<b>Power Point</b>	Kjell Larsen	Marjorie O'Rourke	Kjell Larsen	Hayley McClellan	Kjell Larsen

# DECEMBER SERVANTS CALENDAR

	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Worship Set-Up</b>	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen
<b>Worship Take-Down</b>	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
<b>Soundboard</b>	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp
<b>Elder on Duty</b>	Gary Beck	Teri Larsen	Larry Aalbu	Gary Beck	Dale Rahn
<b>Greeter</b>	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan	Geiger Larsen	No Greeter	Alanis Schoonover
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Kjell Lrsen	Larry Aalbu	Debbie Laskey	TBD	Jen Wood
<b>Children's Message</b>	Vicki Beck	Youth Service	Jan Novak	No Children's Message	Brock Wolitarsky
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joelle Cameron	Hayley McClellan	Heidi Llerenas	Hayley McClellan	Christine Pfiester
<b>Power Point</b>	Deb Alanis	Kjell Larsen	Carla Schoonover	Kjell Larsen	Marjorie O'Rourke

# Lamb of God Lutheran Church

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, LIVE LIKE JESUS

## NOVEMBER 2025

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

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

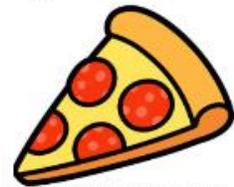
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
<b>2</b> 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship with communion Elders Meeting (following worship)	<b>3</b> Office Closed	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship Voter's Meeting (following worship)	<b>10</b> Office Closed	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship with communion	<b>17</b> Office Closed	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
<b>23/30</b> 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship	<b>24</b> Office Closed	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Thanksgiving Office Closed	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am



# FALL Loggers Cup



- ☐ **What** – A time for men (High School age and above) to get together, have some fun playing , fellowship, and to eat some pizza. Something for everyone!!!
- ☐ **Event** – Just for fun Corn Hole and Bocce Ball. Optional easy pitch, plastic ball and bat Home Run Derby. Winner to receive the Logger Cup
- ☐ **When** – Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
- ☐ **Where** – Zion school gym (where we meet for church)
- ☐ **Feel free to invite a friend(s)**
- ☐ **Questions** – Matt Bench 425-501-2163 (call or text), Email: [mgbench@msn.com](mailto:mgbench@msn.com)
- ☐ **Please RSVP** to Matt by October 15<sup>th</sup> with # attending (not required but helpful)



## YOUTH CHRISTMAS SERVICE

### Youth Christmas Service-December 14, 2025

Our youth, young and old will lead our worship service on December 14, 2025. They will help lead our entire worship service from beginning to end with the songs, scripture readings, Children’s Message, prayers, special music and the blessing. If you or your child would like to be involved in any way, please contact Jan Novak before Sunday, November 30. There will be no Kid’s Zone that Sunday, December because our entire service will be the Kid’s Zone :) .



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**Lamb of God Lutheran Church**

**3923 103<sup>rd</sup> AVE SE**

**Lake Stevens, WA 98258**

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

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**GET IN TOUCH**



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