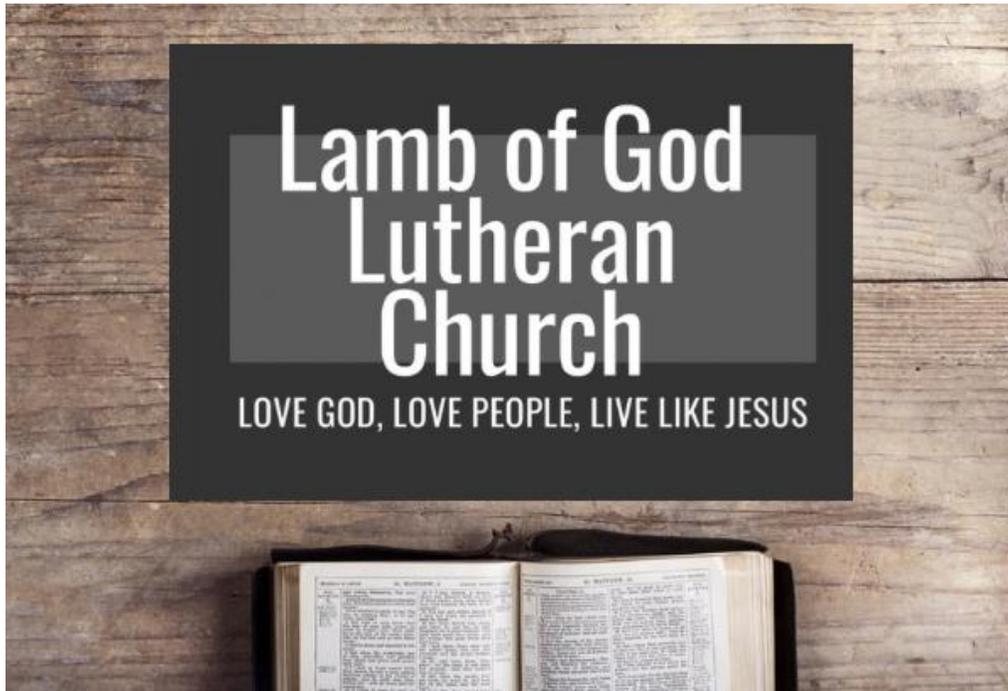


THE CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025 | ISSUE NO. 304



FROM PASTOR MIKE:

Greetings Lamb of God,

Last week I mentioned that I learned some unexpected things during our Footsteps of Paul tour in Greece and Turkey. One of those things was about the Greek Orthodox church. The Catholic and Orthodox church split long before the Reformation. There were lots of reasons, but the biggest seems to have been the use of icons.

The Orthodox side claimed they were not worshipping these images of Jesus or the saints, rather they thought of them as windows. Thus, they were

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worshipping God through the use of icons. The Catholic side considered the practice idolatry. Having watched it up close, I'm not sure the average person appreciates the distinction. That being said, I am an outsider and my personal aversion to ritual is bound to cloud my judgment. The thing I find most problematic about the Greek Orthodox church is that the Greek government runs it.

Since its creation, the United States has held that church and state should be separate. Its citizens take for granted this is the right way to do things, even though we largely misunderstand and misapply the concept. For those who don't remember, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The gist of what the authors were saying was that we would not have a Church of America like Henry VIII declared when he made himself head of the Church of England.

What's the big deal? Well, the Greek government apparently made it illegal to distribute Bibles in their country. That's right. It's illegal to distribute Bible in a country that considers itself Christian. More generally politics, by its very nature, is full of compromise. Christianity has many things which can be compromised and many things which must never be compromised. Political agendas make it too likely those things will be confused.

What we fail to grasp all too often, is the danger of failing to separate state from church. Can you think of any problems when religious leaders got political? When Pope Urban II declared "God wills it" and thousands set off on the first crusade, that didn't turn out too well. Closer to home, you can ask Beth Moore what she thinks of the Southern Baptist convention's support of Donald Trump.

Even back in ancient Israel God separated roles of priest and king. Saul got in trouble for doing what only someone from the tribe of Levi was allowed to do. It's not that we shouldn't care about political things, we should. But we should never risk letting politics become our identity. It diminishes our witness and destroys our mission.

I don't talk about politics very much and I'm very careful when I do it from the pulpit. How we treat each other is important to God, so it needs to be important to us. We need to be careful, however, that we don't jump on a political bandwagon like it's a theological position. Politics tend to demonize anyone who disagrees with them, especially in today's highly polarized world. God doesn't want us looking at others that way or talking about them that way. Jesus was remarkably loving toward people who were actually trying to kill Him. It seems like extending a little grace to someone with differing political views is the least we can do.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



December

14—Youth Christmas Service

24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7:00 pm

25—Christmas Day

31—New Year's Eve

January

1—New Year's Day

19—MLK Day

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

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
Phil Bates (253) 381-2008

Meetings This Month

Council Meeting:
December 14 (following worship)

Elders Meeting:
December 7 (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!



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. 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.

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 because our entire service will be the Kid's Zone :).

Following the youth service, we will be assembling Christmas bags for the Lord's Little Cooker to hand out on Saturday, December 20th.

LORD'S LITTLE COOKER-CHRISTMAS JOY

Join us on December 20, 2025. We will provide each person coming for our weekly breakfast with a Christmas goodie bag.

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

PORTALS OF PRAYER

The January-March Portals of Prayer is now available. Pick up a copy on the back table on Sunday mornings.



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 Updates 10/31/2025

The school board welcomed David Adams as a new member from Messiah. We still need one more member from Zion.

Security is still being discussed on many levels. Safety for students, teachers, parents and all who help make Zion Lutheran School a place where

God's love shines bright and His word is taught.

The new turf field is completed. Kids are happily enjoying their playground and not coming in muddy. 😊

Teachers learned lots of things at the workshops at the District Conference in Seaside, OR. Grant writing will play an important role as the school

is busting at the seams with the need for more classroom space.

The Facilities Maintenance Schedule has been updated for the school, which identifies all likely campus upgrades for the next ten years.

The Vision Document is in place for the school.

The Harvest Carnival was well attended and fun for all.

The PTL group has been doing several things for parents, kids and teachers. A big thank you!

The process for the conditional use permit is still ongoing...moving forward as things are accomplished off the list.

Thank you for your support of ZLS.

NEWS FROM NEHLM

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission

November 6, 2025

Greetings,

Hurricane Melissa has left the Caribbean, leaving many people in challenging situations. Haiti was on the outskirts of Melissa, yet the huge amount of rain has caused issues throughout the country. For La Maison des Agneaux de Dieu Orphelinat (MADO-The House of the Lambs of God Orphanage), Rev. Paul reports, "We received a lot of rain, flooding is everywhere--in Ouanaminthe and in the gardens. We had gardens that were getting harvested, but now they are underwater. We are losing some of the crops due to the flooding."

Amidst the ongoing challenges, the proclamation of God's Word, education of the youth, and daily provision of needs continue through MADO. Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission has the desire to help construct a worship facility that can accommodate the people that are being served. Presently, the worship facility is within the walls of the girls' home (which is awkward to invite the public into the girls' living space). This facility only seats about 100 people, and there are often people standing outside. Land is already purchased next to the school (an area where it would be more comfortable to invite the public). There is a wall around all this land. It would be advantageous for this to be a large facility that could host gatherings for the whole Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH-altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) since Ouanaminthe deals with less political turmoil than other areas of Haiti. Also, it is near the border of the Dominican Republic where there is a growing Lutheran presence. Attached is a video showing the crowded situation of secondary students gathered for "chapel" in the cafeteria. (Note: I found that I had to download the video in order to get it to play). A worship area next to the school would be used regularly by this gathering and other gatherings of students as well. We pray God's will to be done as a desire for a worship center is laid before Him.

November 20, 2025

Greetings,

Rev. Paul informed me that today, November 20th, is International Children's Day. This is a day set aside by the United Nations to emphasize care and support for children. "We will have a celebration for children this Sunday during the worship service. God's gift of children is something we give thanks for," reported Rev. Paul.

La Maison des Agneaux de Dieu Orphelinat (MADO-The House of the Lambs of God Orphanage) continues to be a site that compassionately works with children. There are children being forced back into Haiti from the Dominican Republic that are somehow recognized as Haitians. Four children were brought to MADO this week and they speak no Haitian Creole. The officials tried to force Rev. Paul to take more, but he was able to just add those four to their numbers. Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission (NEHLM) supports the guidelines that Rev. Paul can stand on that allow this ministry to not be "overtaxed" so that those who are being cared for will continue to receive care.

I asked Rev. Paul about the Haitian soccer team that qualified for the World Cup in 2026. He responded, "Yes, they have been working very hard and will be going to the World Cup next year. This is the first time that a Haiti team has qualified since 1974. This is some unity and excitement for our country."

Thank you for your ongoing concern and involvement with these dear Christians in Haiti.

DECEMBER SERVANTS CALENDAR

	7 th	14 th	21 st	24 th Christmas Eve	28 th
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	Gary Beck	Dale Rahn
Greeter	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan	Geiger Larsen	No Greeter	Alanis Schoonover
Scripture Reader	Kjell Lrsen	Larry Aalbu	Debbie Laskey	TBD	Jen Wood
Children's Message	Vicki Beck	Youth Service	Jan Novak	No Children's Message	Brock Wolitarsky
Altar Guild	Joelle Cameron	Hayley McClellan	Heidi Llerenas	Hayley McClellan	Christine Pfiester
Power Point	Deb Alanis	Kjell Larsen	Carla Schoonover	Kjell Larsen	Marjorie O'Rourke

JANUARY SERVANTS CALENDAR

	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 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 Baes
Elder on Duty	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Greeter	Frederickson Rahn	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan	Geiger Larsen
Scripture Reader	Dale Rahn	Evey Larsen	Mike Schoonover	Kjell Larsen
Children's Message	Delanie May	Jennifer Wood	Matt Bench	Gary Beck
Altar Guild	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Power Point	Kjell Larsen	Hayley McClellan	Kjell Larsen	Deb Alanis

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, LIVE LIKE JESUS

DECEMBER 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 Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
7 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship with communion Elders Meeting (following worship)	8 Office Closed	9	10	11	12	13 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
14 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Youth Christmas Worship Council Meeting (following worship)	15 Office Closed	16	17	18	19	20 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
21 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship with communion	22 Office Closed	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7:00 pm	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
28 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship	29 Office Closed	30	31			



Christmas Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH--YOUTH
CHRISTMAS SERVICE

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH--NO SERVICE

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 21st 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.



Lamb of God Lutheran Church
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GET IN TOUCH



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