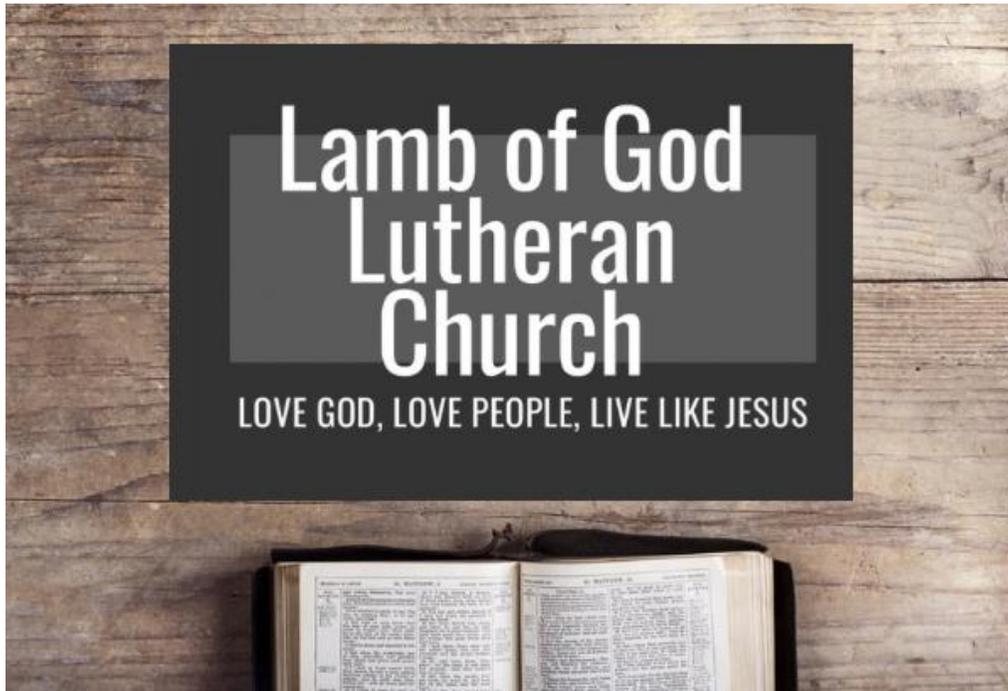


# THE CONNECTION

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026 | ISSUE NO. 305



## FROM PASTOR MIKE:

Greetings Lamb of God,

For the past couple of months, I've been talking about some unexpected things I learned during our Footsteps of Paul tour in Greece and Turkey. The third thing that struck me has something to do with history. Relax, I'm not going to do a deep dive. It just struck me as I listened to how important Greek history is to western civilization.

Way over here in American schools we learned about Greek mythology, Greek literature, Greek architecture, philosophy, science and mathematics. As far as I know, no one in any other part of the

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world cares about the ancient cultures in America. There were nomadic cultures, agrarian cultures, mysterious cliff dwellers who left ancient paintings and carvings, but none of them register on the world scene. What is the difference?

Having my own suspicions, I asked my friend Pastor Todd the same question. He came up with the same answer. Native American cultures lacked a written language. Without written language, a culture's history is embellished by each generation until it is virtually unrecognizable. What might have started as fact becomes myth within a few hundred years. It's difficult to build on that kind of foundation.

This is one of the reasons the Bible is so important. By being familiar with scripture, we can avoid straying too far from God's truth. Every generation still needs to apply that truth to their own time, culture, and situation but it's essential that we all start by asking what the words meant when they were written. When I've had conversations with Mormons, they are not usually familiar with what the Bible says and means. Likewise, many of the divisive issues among Christian denominations seem to be due to assumptions made outside of scripture which are used to interpret certain passages.

Despite what you might have heard, no one's interpretation is 100% perfect. That's okay. God has given us enough. It's genuinely astounding that several Roman emperors (the most powerful men in the world at the time) worked hard to kill off Christian leaders and destroy their texts, yet the Bible is alive and well today. The Bible app on your phone recently had its 1,000,000,000th download. Wow.

Thanks to the Bible, we can stay grounded in God's truth rather than our own. As you celebrate Christmas this year, consider how lucky we are to have two accounts of Jesus' birth. Without them, I'm sure we would have changed His birthplace to a palace and inserted a story or two like Hercules strangling snakes in his crib. Instead, we are reminded that God came all the way down to where we live. He didn't just take the celebrity tour; He got His hands dirty. Bloody. Pierced. His love for you led Him to be laid down in a trough and to keep the record of his birth intact so that we would remember how much He cares.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Mike



**January**

- 1—New Year's Day
- 17—Men's Logger Event @1:00 pm
- 19—MLK Day

**February**

- 16—Presidents' Day
- 18—Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7:00 pm

# 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

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  
Phil Bates (253) 381-2008

## Meetings This Month

Council Meeting:  
January 11 (following worship)

Elders Meeting:  
January 4 (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!



## MEN'S WINTER LOGGER CUP EVENT

**What** – Tail Gate party for men (HS age and up) start at 1:00, Watch the 1:30 NFL playoff game, playing games, and enjoying great fellowship. Feel free to invite friends

During the game –Kick off return electric football competition (it will go fast) Winner to receive Loggers Cup

Pick the Winner, score, and time of last TD of the NFL game - Prize to the winner

**When** – Saturday January 17th, 1:00 – end of the 1:30 game (around 4:30)

**Where** – Zion school gym (where we meet for church)

**Questions** – Matt Bench 425-501-2163 (call or text), Email: mgbench@msn.com

Please RSVP to Matt by January 13th with # attending (not required but helpful)

Set up for church after the game for those who can stay and help (not required)

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

As winter weather can be unpredictable, please keep an eye on our Facebook page for any changes to Sunday services to due weather/storms/power outages. We will post updates as needed.

## WEEKLY CONNECTION EMAILS

If you stop receiving our Weekly Connection News emails and you did not unsubscribe, please contact the church office. We have had a couple of glitches with mailchimp removing subscribers from our list.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

February 18<sup>th</sup>: Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7:00 pm



## 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 12/17/2025

Good morning church families,

The school board met last night and I have some things to share.

The decision to discontinue the Armed Security Guard came with lots of prayer and discussion. The school is in the process of putting new security into the front gate, which will be locked/closed during school hours (with the exception of drop off and pick up). Lord willing, it will all be finalized during Christmas break so the new year can begin fresh. A five-year Security Plan is being formulated now to keep up with the world we live in.

PTL finished up the Christmas Shoppe last week. We thank all who participated to make it a success for the kids to go Christmas shopping for their family.

Christmas break begins the afternoon of Dec 19th.

A couple of minor leaks in two different areas, bathroom and windows, were fixed.

Merry Christmas to you all

Sandy Bench,  
Vice President, ZLS Board

# NEWS FROM NEHLM

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission

December 3, 2025

Happy Birthday to Rev. Daniel Paul,

When I talked to Rev. Paul today he said he was with the college students in Santiago. He assured me that they were celebrating his birthday. Tonight Elanie (a previous youth of the ministry who is living in Santiago and is married and has a child) will be having Rev. Paul over for dinner as they will celebrate his birthday. Rev. Paul turned 58 years old today, so I asked him if he was feeling like an old man. "Oh, yes, my eyes especially, but also my whole body. I am old," he responded with a giggle.

I shared with him our tradition of Soup Supper and Advent Services on Wednesday evenings during the Advent Season. This year our theme is "Every Heart Prepare." Rev. Paul said, "Yes, it would be wonderful if every heart would prepare for our Savior Jesus Christ."

NEHLM has shared some of your undesignated donations for the ministry to present a gift to each youth along with gifts to others in the ministry.

We continue to pray for Haiti's government, or basically the lack of government, that continues to add hardships. Some of these hardships spill out to the Dominican Republic as the Haitian students are trying to gather additional paperwork so they can stay in the country. They have the student visa; however, they need other documents for living in the Dominican Republic.

Merry Christmas as you and yours prepare your hearts for Christ the Lord!

December 17, 2025

Greetings in the Name of the Long Expected Savior, Jesus Christ! Amen.

Sunday, December 14, the men studying ministry through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti gathered with friends and family in Cap Haitian to recognize accomplishments of these men in their studies. Rev. Daniel Paul and three other Haitians attended Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana 1998-2001 in order to be professors in Haiti. The Lutheran Church in Haiti has and continues to encourage men to study for the ministry.

In the picture you will see Rev. Yves Thelamarque (Headmaster for the school and pastor at the Baja church plant) on the far left. Rev. Pepe Madeus (assistant pastor for the church) is third from the right. The rest are men taking classes with Rev. Paul and other professors. Several of them are men who grew up at La Maison des Agneaux de Dieu Orphelinat (MADO, The House of the Lambs of God Orphanage). Yves and Pepe are serving as pastors in a situation similar to a vicar. These two had completed their coursework, this was their graduation; hence, the second photo of Yves in cap and gown. Praise God for those pursuing the Call to ministry.

Today I will be taking Whitney and Sarai (Rev. Paul and Cliney's daughters who are living with my wife and me as they attend Eastern Oregon Universtiy) to the airport for them to visit an aunt and uncle in Florida. These relatives are hosting their little sister Abigail who is attending school in Florida. We are very thankful for on-campus jobs for them to pay for this expense themselves.

As some in the south and northwest USA have dealt with flooding over the last month, Rev. Paul shared that some of the gardens had so much rain that even two weeks later there is water sitting in the fields. He said, "The water is killing everything." Praise God for other garden spots and opportunities to obtain food.

Merry Christmas!



## JANUARY SERVANTS CALENDAR

	4 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Worship Set-Up</b>	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen
<b>Worship Take-Down</b>	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
<b>Soundboard</b>	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp	Phil Baes
<b>Elder on Duty</b>	Phil Bates	Gary Beck	Teri Larsen	Larry Aalbu
<b>Greeter</b>	Frederickson Rahn	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan	Geiger Larsen
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Dale Rahn	Evey Larsen	Mike Schoonover	Kjell Larsen
<b>Children's Message</b>	Delanie May	Jennifer Wood	Matt Bench	Gary Beck
<b>Kid Zone</b>	Vicki Beck	Marjorie O'Rourke	Matt Bench	Stacie Leaf
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Hayley McClellan	Heidi Llerenas	Christine Larsen	Heather Stahl
<b>Power Point</b>	Kjell Larsen	Hayley McClellan	Kjell Larsen	Deb Alanis

## FEBRUARY SERVANTS CALENDAR

	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Worship Set-Up</b>	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen
<b>Worship Take-Down</b>	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
<b>Soundboard</b>	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis
<b>Elder on Duty</b>	Dale Rahn	Debbie Laskey	Phil Bates	Gary Beck
<b>Greeter</b>	Alanis Schoonover	Frederickson Rahn	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Larry Aalbu	Debbie Laskey	Jennifer Wood	Dale Rahn
<b>Children's Message</b>	Vicki Beck	Amanda Pfiester Evey Larsen	Jan Novak	Brock Wolitarsky
<b>Kid Zone</b>	Vicki Beck	Rilee Henderson	Amanda Pfiester Evey Larsen	Marjorie O'Rourke
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joelle Cameron	Hayley McClellan	Heidi Llerenas	Christine Larsen
<b>Power Point</b>	Kjell Larsen	Carla Schoonover	Kjell Larsen	Marjorie O'Rourke

# Lamb of God Lutheran Church

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, LIVE LIKE JESUS

## JANUARY 2026

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> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
<b>4</b> 10:15 am Worship with communion Elders Meeting (following worship)	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
<b>11</b> 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship Council Meeting (following worship)	<b>12</b> Office Closed	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am Men's Logger Cup @ 1:00 pm
<b>18</b> 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship with communion	<b>19</b> MLK Day Office Closed	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am
<b>25</b> 9:00 am Family Ed 10:15 am Worship	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Lord's Little Cooker 7:45 am



Thank you for the congregation's generous gift and for your continued prayers and support. We are truly blessed to serve our Lord Jesus along side each and everyone of you.

Pastor Mike, Jan and Shara

***Year End Statements will be mailed out by the end of the month.***

**A Christmas Blessing from Rev. Daniel Paul:**

God's blessings to you and your family. I hope these words find you in good shape in Jesus' Name. Amen. Thanks ever so much for all you and NEHLM have been doing to keep MADDO alive spiritually and financially. We couldn't do anything without you, your willingness to help, your prayers and your financial supports. We are praying that our heavenly Father bless you and keep you all in true faith through the end of time. Happy New Year 2026.





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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)**

**GET IN TOUCH**



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