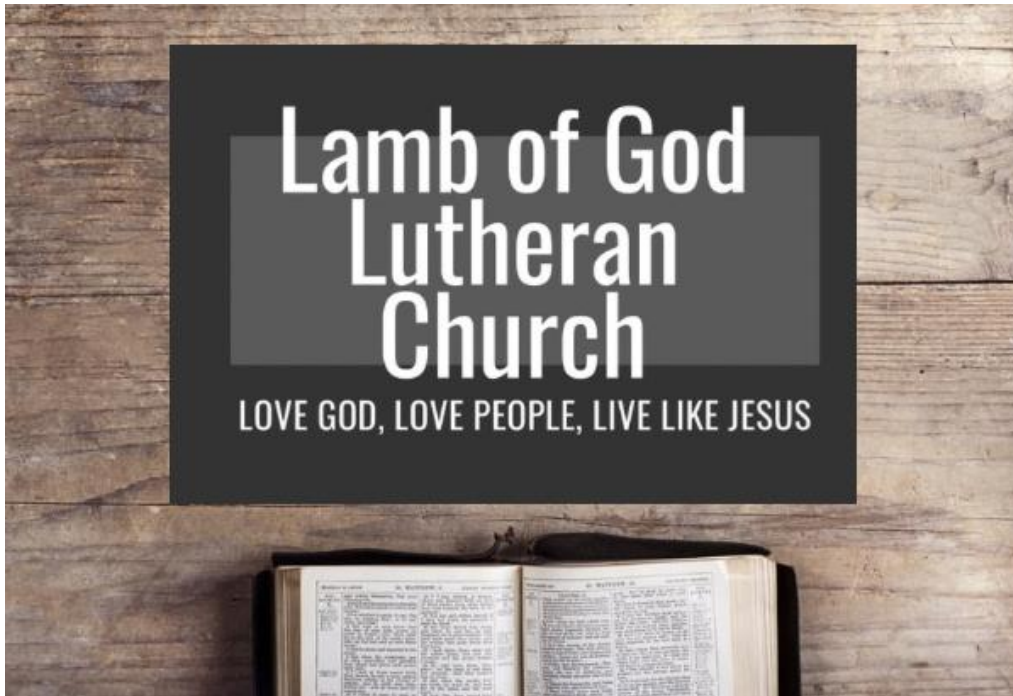


THE CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026 I ISSUE NO. 311



FROM PASTOR MIKE:

Greetings Lamb of God,

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod just finished its presidential election process. This year's election was uncommonly close with Matthew Harrison winning after a third round. During the election(s) I heard a number of people say something like "God's will" was going to be accomplished. Pastors unfortunately have a habit of using jargon, or making references they assume anyone with a proper theological education will

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understand. Unfortunately, this touches on a topic so debated I'm not sure there is any consensus within our synod.

If the speaker means that God's will is going to be accomplished regardless of who is elected, I agree. If they mean that the result of the election will be a direct result of God's will, then I have to disagree. No disrespect intended to Harrison, but elections are determined by sinful people. Either God lets them vote how they please, stuffs the ballot box or controls them like puppets. I think we are as free to make mistakes in the democratic process as we are in the rest of our lives. Intentional or otherwise, that's what sin is.

Why is this important? Because people are enormously impacted by how they perceive God's activity in their lives. From the non-biblical "God helps those who help themselves" to those who see a sign in everything, we can swing wildly from believing everything is up to us to being paralyzed by indecision.

Here's the Reader's Digest version of my understanding: Does God speak to us directly today? Yes, but infrequently. He's already spoken plenty through scripture. What we do, where we work, where we live, who we marry, all have a lot of freedom provided they don't contradict what we already know from the Bible. When obstacles appear it might be a sign from God, but lots of biblical characters had to overcome obstacles. Likewise, a smooth path toward something immoral is not a sign of God's approval. Don't read too much into an easy path.

Finally, be sure to make a distinction between God's direction and His presence. God is always with you. It's unfortunate that we don't feel that way sometimes, but feelings can be misleading. Jesus promised that He would be with us always (Matthew 28:20). If you can't find comfort in the feeling of His presence, find comfort in His promise.

Blessings,
Pastor Mike



July

4—Independence Day

17-25—Alaska Mission Trip

August

FROM THE OFFICE



Join us for in-person worship on
Sundays at 10:15 am. We will now
stream to YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/@lambofgodlakes>
tevens/streams

www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

Church Office Hours-Limited Summer 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

You can now find recordings of sermons on our YouTube channel @lambofgodlakestevens

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:
July 12 (following worship)

Elders Meeting:
July 5 (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!



CHITINA MISSION TRIP—July 17-25

Please keep the Alaska mission team in your prayers as they prepare and for safe travel there and back.

BASKETBALL CAMP THANK YOU!!

Basketball Camp was a huge success. We had 25 campers and 5 coaches.



BUILDING COMMITTEE

UPDATE SUMMER 2026

Progress toward building a Zion chapel is listed below:

- Update/Maintenance of the Grounds – work is continuing to maintenance and update the area east of the gym. Trees and shrubs have been removed, drainage added, mulching as well as access road preparation is moving ahead. Areas have been seeded and mulch has been spread to create a track. Thanks to the many, many volunteers who have devoted significant volunteer time to make this happen over the past months.
- Portable moves – prework continues for movement of two portable classrooms further east from their current positions. The portables are the 5 th and 6 th grade classrooms. Moving the portables will allow for investigative work to proceed in the area directly south of the gym (gravel area) where the proposed chapel may be built. The project needs additional information about drainage, water supply and septic before moving forward. Timing on moving the portables is dependent upon Snohomish County permitting, the school schedule and resources needed to execute the moves.
- Design and concept work for the chapel – the Lamb of God building committee has accepted a proposal from an architect to lead the first steps of creating a chapel design. The architect will also lead in preparing a pre-application land use permit. As information, Zion Lutheran School's 20 acres operate on a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with the County from the 1970's, zoned 'school.' The land use pre-application is the first step with the Snohomish County to determine whether a chapel can be built on the property under the existing CUP. The team and the architect will be creating a chapel design and it will be shared when completed.

NEWS FROM NEHLM

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission

June 5, 2026

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.

Rev. Paul is in the midst of an active month. Yesterday, June 4th when I called him, it was celebrating his wife's Cliney's birthday. June 6th will be their youngest daughter Abigail's birthday. June 6th is also their eldest daughter Margarite's graduation with a nutrition degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Rev. Paul and Cliney were preparing to go to Santiago for that graduation when I called. Another young lady from La Maison des Agneaux de Dieu Orphelinat (MADO), Benjenie, has completed another stage of her education as she continues to pursue a degree to be a medical doctor.

June 12-15 Rev. Paul, Cliney, Rev. Eloina Bernard (President of the Evangelical Haitian Lutheran Church ELCH) and his wife have been invited to attend the Lutheran Church Canada's (altar and pulpit fellowship with LCMS and ELCH) 13th Synodical Convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The Lutheran Church Canada has been "walking" with the ELCH (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti) in the formation of pastors. Rev. Paul teaches classes for the seminary.

I asked Rev. Paul if he was going to present something at the convention. He answered, "I am scheduled to speak. I am not sure what I am to speak about, but I will get ready." We pray for safe travels and healthy relationships in all the endeavors.

June 19, 2026

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ who uses water in His plan of salvation. Amen.

My greeting includes truths that we shared at our Vacation Bible School at Faith Lutheran Church La Grande, Oregon. We used Lutheran Heritage Foundation's "Rivers of Life" VBS curriculum that focused on God's use of water (most specifically the water joined to God's Word in Holy Baptism) for our salvation. The first day the mission focus was on Haiti, and our children in La Grande chanted, "Koute, Koute Bondaye releo" translated as "Listen, Listen God is Calling," which is hymn 833 in the Lutheran Service Book.

Rev. Daniel and his wife Clynie, went to the Lutheran Church-Canada's National Synod Convention June 12-16. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti has been walking with the Lutheran Church-Canada's seminary in which Rev. Paul is one of the professors (both of these church bodies are in Altar and Pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod). Rev. Paul commented, "We had many discussions with their leadership about our seminary; it was very good."

Rev. Paul continues to investigate, or is he being "courted" with, the possibility of growing a lot of bread fruit and allowing the development of a bakery on the land at the boys' home. This is an exciting discussion, but there are many "t"s to cross and "i"s to dot. We pray that the Lord's will be done.

Comments on the attached pictures: The first is Rev. and Cliney Paul with their daughter Marguarite (with glasses) who graduated with a Bachelor Degree in nutrition along with Benjenie who has completed another course of study for her to be a medical doctor.

The second picture is children of MADO (La Maison des Agneaux de Dieu Orphelinat-The House of the Lambs of God Orphanage) getting ready to be involved in activities for the International Children's Day on June 1st. They do have "MADO" labeled clothing that helps get them back after the children are joined in activities with many other childrens' homes.



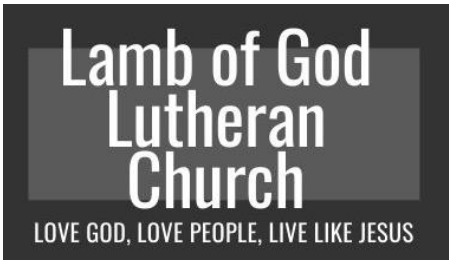
JULY 2026

JULY SERVANTS CALENDAR

	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
Worship Set-Up	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen
Worship Take-Down	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
Soundboard	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp
Elder on Duty	Teri Larsen	Larry Aalbu	Dale Rahn	Debbie Laskey
Greeter	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan	Geiger Larsen	Alanis Schoonover
Scripture Reader	Angela Moore	Kjell Larsen	Larry Aalbu	Debbie Laskey
Children's Message	Marjorie O'Rourke	Amanda Pfiester Evey Larsen	Brock Wolitarsky	Vicki Beck
Kid Zone	Marjorie O'Rourke	Amanda Pfiester Evey Larsen	Rilee Henderson	Vicki Beck
Altar Guild	Heidi Llerenas	Christine Larsen	Heather Stahl	Joelle Cameron
Power Point	Kjell Larsen	Carla Schoonover	Kjell Larsen	Deb Alanis

AUGUST SERVANTS CALENDAR

	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th
Worship Set-Up	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen	Braidyn Larsen
Worship Take-Down	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone	Everyone
Soundboard	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis	Jason Knapp	Phil Bates	Ruben Alanis
Elder on Duty	Phil Bates	Gary Beck	Teri Larsen	Larry Aalbu	Dale Rahn
Greeter	Frederickson Rahn	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan	Geiger Larsen	Alanis Schoonover
Scripture Reader	Jen Wood	Angela Moore	Kjell Larsen	Larry Aalbu	Debbie Laskey
Children's Message	Delanie May	Jen Wood	Gary Beck	Matt Bench	Amanda Pfiester Evey Larsen
Kid Zone	Stacie Leaf	Marjorie O'Rourke	Rilee Henderson	Matt Bench	Amanda Pfiester Evey Larsen
Altar Guild	Hayley McClellan	Heidi Llerenas	Christine Larsen	Heather Stahl	Joelle Cameron
Power Point	Kjell Larsen	Carla Schoonover	Kjell Larsen	Marjorie O'Rourke	Kjell Larsen



JULY 2026

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Lake Stevens, WA 98258
Phone: 425-377-2173
Website: www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

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



Lamb of God Lutheran Church

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GET IN TOUCH



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