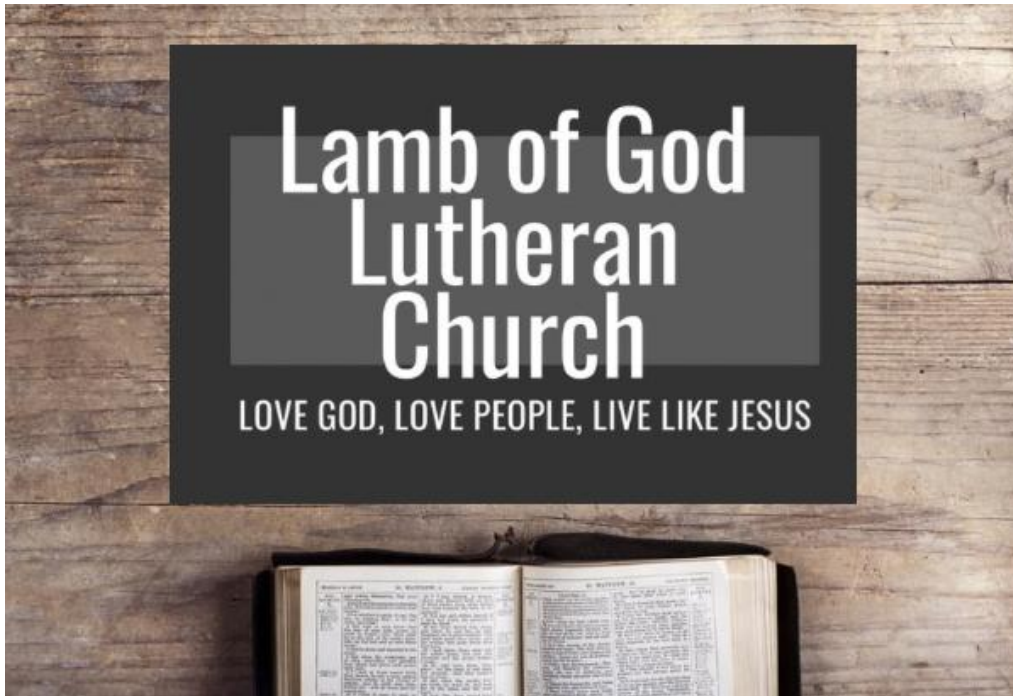


THE CONNECTION

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026 | ISSUE NO. 312



FROM PASTOR MIKE:

Greetings Lamb of God,

The other day as we were driving to the Lord's Little Cooker on Saturday morning, Lori played a devotional podcast for us. It was a guy I hadn't heard before, but that isn't saying much. He was an Australian named David Adamson. He quoted a Psalm, though I can't remember which one now. The verse is even in one of the songs we regularly sing in worship: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"

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You're probably thinking "Why wouldn't you just look that up, Mike?" I did. It's in Psalm 106, 107, 118, and 136. It's even in 1 Chronicles 16:34. Being repeated so frequently seems to indicate it must be important. And it seems to be a pretty simple idea, which is why I was a little surprised when he said he had misunderstood or misheard it for years. He was being a bit facetious, but he said he had always heard it as "Give thanks to the Lord when life is good." I immediately saw the truth in what he was saying.

We love to give thanks to God when life is good. Sing praise, sing praise...But there's no mention of how life is going at all in these verses. When life is Good God is good. When life is kicking you in the teeth, God is still good. Is it harder to see then? Of course it is. But it's no less true.

Sometimes we suffer the consequences of our own sinful actions, or the shrapnel of the destruction caused by those close to us, but other times there seems to be no cause at all, no justice to who is hurt and who walks away unscathed. We say we want justice, but I think what we really want is for God to justify His actions or inaction to us.

Our God is not indifferent to our suffering, even if He allows it to continue. He is the God who suffered on our behalf. Who would have imagined that? The cross is not a complete answer, but it's the answer we need. It tells us How God feels about us, how far He is willing to go because of His love for us. It tells us He is for us, not against us and that there was another time when all His followers saw was death and chaos, but He was working something eternal and life bringing through all that. We don't have to like the pain and suffering in this world, but we should trust the One who can transform it.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

August

8—Memorial Service for Kris Werfelmann @ 1:00 pm

23—Men's Logger Cup

September

7—Labor Day

13—Rally Sunday & Church BBQ



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

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:
August 9 (following worship)

Elders Meeting:
August 2 (following worship)

Building Committee Meeting
(following worship)
August

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—AUGUST 23rd

SUMMER LOGGERS CUP TRI-TARGET-A-THON



- ❑ **What** – A time for men (High School age and above) to get together, have some fun, fellowship, light lunch and munchies. Event and assorted yard games to play
- ❑ **Event** – Tri-Target-A-Thon (Archery, Hatchet throwing, BB Gun sharp shooter). Highest average finish of all three events will win the coveted Logger Cup
- ❑ **When** – August 23rd, after church to mid/late afternoon
- ❑ **Where** – Jan and MJ Novak's house – 13313 74th St. NE, Lake Stevens, 98258
- ❑ **Questions** – Matt Bench 425-501-2163 (call or text), Email: mgbench@msn.com
- ❑ **Please let us know if you plan on coming** (but not required)
- ❑ **Feel free to invite a friend(s)**

RALLY SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 13th

Mark Your Calendars!!! Join us on Sunday, September 13th for Rally Sunday. Family Education classes will resume at 9:00 am and we will have a church picnic/BBQ following worship. Hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR KRIS WERFELMANN

Memorial Service for Kris Werfelmann will be held on Saturday, August 8th at 1:00 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 friends of 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 07/29/2026

Good morning faithful servants for God,

We are blessed to have four supporting congregations for Zion Lutheran School Thank you all.

The School Board met last night, and I have a couple of things to report.

*The long-awaited bleachers for the gym will be installed Oct 18-25 while the school is closed when the Teachers have their conference in Seaside, Oregon.

*It's that time again for NLSA Accreditation. This is something that the school goes through once every five years. Teams are being formed and will work on gathering information to present on 8 Sections that the school is examined on.

1. Purpose 2. Relationships 3. Leadership 4. Professional Personnel 5. Teaching and Learning
6. Student Services 7. Facilities 8. Finance

The teams will be working together from August to December 2026 on the re-accreditation documents.

The NLSA accreditation team will analyze the completed NLSA report March 17-19, 2027.

*A new 7th grade teacher has been hired to replace a teacher that is not coming back in the fall.

Our new teacher will be Isabela Calle. Welcome, Isabella!

*Savannah Bakki (Preschool teacher) has been promoted to Early Childhood Director. She will continue to teach and have oversight of Preschool and Kindergarten. Congratulations, Savannah!

Thank you again for all you do for your churches and the school

Sandy Bench, ZLS Board VP

NEWS FROM NEHLM

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission

July 4, 2026

A Joyous Celebration of 250 years for the United States of America!

Rev. Paul had to return my call since when I left him a message, he was working at one of his "gardens" (he calls his agricultural plots of 2-10 acres gardens) and that spot did not have cell service. He was trying to have the plot of ground drain water that has been sitting on it for a couple months. There is some sort of issue with a creek that now causes a water problem. This garden has had good production of bananas, plantains, and sweet potatoes. They are continually striving to gather in food to feed those in the ministry.

Rev. Paul has recently met with Rev. Ted Krey who is the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's overseer of the Latin America Region which includes Haiti. Rev. Paul commented, "Rev. Krey was very nice to meet with us. He gave some good advice." I desire to talk with Rev. Krey to follow up on the conversations and should have the opportunity later this month as I go to our Synodical Convention as a delegate.

God's peace,

Rev. Samuel Wiseman
NEHLM Pastoral Adviser
nehlm.org

July 16, 2026

Greetings,

On this update I have attached two photos. The first is of the youngest preschoolers with, Lord willing, fifteen more years of Christian education at CELO (College Evangelique le Lutherien de Ouanaminthe—one of the schools that NEHLM walks with) ahead of them. I included these photos because they are pursuing getting curriculum and uniforms for school that begins in the fall. Thank you for donations that allow Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission (NEHLM) to support the education of youth. The preschoolers are wearing the basic colorations and clothing for students until the "Filo Class" (Final Class). There you can see a more elaborate uniform that has basically been earned. Not all students make it to the Filo Class. There are standardized tests that are challenging.

Pursuit of a bakery with the complementary breadfruit agricultural project continues. The NEHLM Board is excited about the possibilities of this venture to provide healthy food and many jobs.

I have had the practice since 2003 to plan a trip to the ministry every odd year, and 2027 is around the corner. NEHLM Chairman Ernie Fredrickson said he is willing to come along. If you would like to be involved or find out more about the trip, please respond to this email. FYI: We have had several travelers from the USA successfully visit the ministry in the last year.

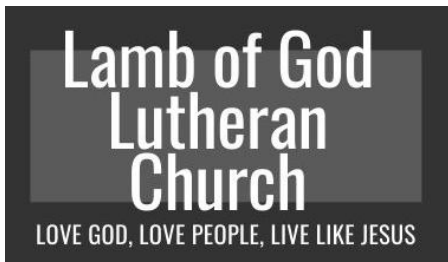


AUGUST SERVANTS CALENDAR

	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	Jen Wood	Delanie May	Gary Beck	Matt Bench	Jan Novak
Kid Zone	Stacie Leaf	Marjorie O'Rourke	Rilee Henderson	TBD	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

SEPTEMBER SERVANTS CALENDAR

	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 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	Debbie Laskey	Phil Bates	Gary Beck	Teri Larsen
Greeter	Frederickson Rahn	Murray Hines	Pfiester McClellan	Geiger Larsen
Scripture Reader	Angela Moore	Kjell Larsen	Larry Aalbu	Debbie Laskey
Children's Message	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Kid Zone	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Hayley McClellan	Heidi Llerenas	Christine Larsen	Heather Stahl
Power Point	Deb Alanis	Kjell Larsen	Carla Schoonover	Kjell Larsen



AUGUST 2026

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



2026 Chitina VBS Trip

Our team met at Peace and our journey began with a ride to the airport with Penny and Rachel's dad. After a brief delay on the runway we took off north to Alaska. It was a good flight, and Jerry from Alaska Missions for Christ (AMC) picked us up and took us to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Chugiak for the night. AMC is active in all of the LCMS churches in Alaska. These churches serve as hosts to mission teams whenever there is a need. OSLC provided a great place to stay. That evening we took a nice long walk and picked up Pop-Tarts and bear claws for breakfast. The next morning Jerry took Christine, Bryn, Rachel and Todd to go shopping for all our food needs for the week.

Amanda, Sohba and I stayed behind and visited. Todd's dear friend and Mt Drum elder, Al, arrived with the van and trailer we would use for the week, and we loaded up and headed to Copper River Center (a.k.a. Mount Drum Lutheran Church). The weather was cloudy but the drive was beautiful. It took us a bit over four hours with lots of stops. We had a relaxing night with baked potatoes for dinner.

After a good sleep, we headed to Chitina in the morning. When we arrived, there was a birthday party going on for a young girl named Trinity. We were introduced to many of the kids and adults we would be working with during the week. Our gourmet chef for the week would be Bryn and tonight it was pizza for dinner. (We all took turns at being his sous chef but Christine was his favorite...go figure!)

Our days in Chitina followed a similar pattern. We would wake up around 7 and put all of our bedding and extra clothing and bags in the trailer; the office opens each day at 8 o'clock. We did have full access to the kitchen and main hall all day for VBS and meals. We had lunch with the children and anyone who wanted to join us and VBS afterwards. The community center is alive and buzzing with activity during the week. But this week it was even busier because they were making preparations for the burial and potlatch celebration for a community member that weekend.

After a week of amazing fellowship, VBS, food and fun, it was time to leave. Friday came way too quickly. It was "everything must go" lunch, including hotdogs, chips and lots of salmon. We reviewed our VBS lessons, played with some water balloons and as much time as we could with the kids before saying our goodbyes. We left the village and stopped at a small farmers' market on our way back to Mt. Drum. We did have a slight incident with the trailer. We were less than a mile from the church when it hopped the hitch. No harm done to the trailer or the van, praise the Lord. When we got to the church, there was another mission team set up for their week of missions. They had come in the night before. It was crowded, but we met some really great people looking for what Jesus was up to in Copper Center.

On Saturday morning we packed up and put the extra VBS supplies back upstairs. We enjoyed a light breakfast of salmon candy and cherries. Al arrived and we were on our way to Anchorage. The weather was gorgeous with lots of views of mountains and glaciers on the way. In the city we dropped our suitcases at the hotel Sohba was staying at and went to have lunch at a local burger joint. We got a quick Uber back to the hotel and a shuttle to the airport. We arrived back in Seattle at 10:30. Penny and Rachel's dad were waiting to pick us up and Penny was eager to hear about the trip. My head hit the pillow at 1 AM. It was good to be home but so very grateful for our time in Chitina. God is good...all the time...Indeed.

Jesus is with you and me.

Jan Novak, 2026 Chitina VBS Team



Next time...

The next morning we all took a morning walk, and then got ready for the kids. They would arrive every day at noon for lunch and VBS afterwards. The lunch that day was spaghetti and garlic bread...yum! "Jesus Calling the Disciples" was our theme of the day. Working with these children was just amazing. The kids were full of energy, and the term "herding cats" did run through my thoughts a lot. The children are full of love. Bryn made frittata for dinner, which is not an omelet and certainly not quiche...so good.

On day two we saw a moose and her calf. It's a big deal to have moose in the village. A few men went out to see if they could find one but did not find one. The chicken nuggets and tater tots we had for lunch were a hit with the kids. "Jesus Calms the Storm" was our lesson. Bryn's gourmet dinner that night was baked chicken.

Day three started off with very cool weather and lots of activity. Fish were being processed, and a group was doing some research on the local salmon runs by dissecting and sampling some of the salmon. We had corn dogs for lunch and "Jesus Walking on Water" was our lesson. Later that afternoon we made the 45 minute drive back up to Mount Drum for showers, laundry and dinner. We had a little longer ride home because we had to go back for a phone (Todd's - it wasn't mine! :-), but the delay set us up to see another moose and her calf right along the highway. Moose sightings were huge since none of our previous LOG teams saw them. The drive into the village was a little late, but daylight in Alaska goes well beyond 11 PM so the views were still spectacular.

Weather for our entire trip was mild with occasional rain. The wind and cool weather kept the bugs and mosquitoes grounded!

RALLY SUNDAY

BBQ

September 13th



BBQ following worship. Water, coffee,
hamburgers, and hot dogs provided.
Bring a salad or dessert to share.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

3923 103rd AVE SE

Lake Stevens, WA 98258

www.lambofgod-lakestevens.org

GET IN TOUCH



secretary@lambofgod-lakestevens.org



+(425) 377-2173



@LAMBOFGODLAKESTEVENS



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