

Holy Lamb Lutheran Church

2541 Forestbrook Road
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

January 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since last month's column was minimal, including only the Advent and Christmas schedule, and this newsletter (January 2021) is coming out before Christmas, I will use this space to speak of Christmas. There are some important business issues to be discussed in January, but I can address those in the *Pause with Pastor* in January.

So let's talk Christmas!

It is an understatement that has been repeated too often to say that this year is unlike any we have ever experienced. And the impact will be felt long after we have all been vaccinated, when our masks are gathering dust in the closet, and we are *Dining with Friends* once again. (If you don't already know, hopefully you will soon learn why that phrase was capitalized and italicized.). The affect will be seen in the tangible impact on finances and businesses. It will be seen in the reduced learning that has been the result of rearranged classrooms, online instructional challenges, and students trying to learn while under the extreme emotional duress of these circumstances.

Perhaps, most significantly, the impact will be seen in the residual impact a year of isolation has had on our psyche. God has created us to be in relationship – with him and with each other. It is the reason he established the family unit, an automatic, built-in support group. It is the reason he established the church – to continue to develop our relationship with him. During these times of isolation, our relationships have taken a huge hit. But because the impact cannot be measured in dollars and cents, or by test scores or graduation rates, it will be easy to dismiss this damage and fail to focus on rebuilding our relationships with the same intensity we will employ in business and education. This would be a disastrous mistake.

God's desire and design for relationships is in our physical and spiritual DNA. We can ignore it, avoid it, and even deny it; but we cannot change it. And no amount of forced isolation will change it, either. Instead, we should, with more energy than ever before, and as soon as it is safe and wise to do so, be very intentional about restoring and even developing new relationships with family members and friends. But even more essential is reaching out to those we don't know, and being receptive to such overtures toward us by others.

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Stewardship

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As I thought about Stewardship for the coming year, a song came to mind. On Thursday evenings at our women's Bible study, we are always referring to songs that relate to our studies. As we end this year, we are in need of officers for the council and need of people with technical knowledge for our broadcast and more of our members to join us in Bible study. More than once, I remember Pastor saying before we sang a song, listen to the words, they have a message. The song is: *Here I Am, Lord*.

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry, All who dwell in deepest sin, My hand will save, I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain: HERE I AM, LORD. IS IT I, LORD? I HAVE HEARD YOU CALLING IN THE NIGHT. I WILL GO, LORD, IF YOU LEAD ME. I WILL HOLD YOUR PEOPLE IN MY HEART.

There are two more verses but all have the same refrain, So I am bold to ask "What is God calling you to do in the New Year?"

Eileen St. Clair, Board of Stewardship

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Which brings us to Christmas – God's ultimate overture of relationship-rebuilding! God sent his son, Jesus, to restore our relationship with him. That hasn't changed in 2000 years. Neither wars, nor famine, nor hurricanes, nor earthquakes, ... nor coronavirus can change what God has done and continues to do. He came to us when we were sinners; he came to us when we didn't care, he comes to us when we are distant from him with a message of love and forgiveness – complete forgiveness that washes away all of our sin in the blood of his son on the cross.

God knows of our need for restored and strong relationships – he created us this way. And on Christmas, we celebrate his miraculous effort. While our celebrations this year are much different than in the past, the message remains the same: God loves you! He sent his son to earth to die for you. And he raised him from the dead to assure you of your eternal life with him.

This Christmas will include many difficult moments for every one of us. In those moments of loneliness and longing, I encourage you to recognize, focus on, and be receptive to the amazing overture of love that God has made toward you. Allow his love to overwhelm your disappointment. Allow his grace to invade your heart. Allow his son to be your savior.

In His service,

Pastor Panning



Bible Studies

Tuesday Morning

9:00 AM

In our **Tuesday morning** study, we have begun a look at Genesis. We will not examine every verse of every chapter. In order to see the larger picture of God's relationship with his creation, as it is revealed in Genesis, we will examine those interactions between God his chosen people that shed light on how God developed his relationship with man and his process of revealing his method for redeeming that relationship through the coming Messiah, His Son, Jesus.

Wednesday evening

Our Wednesday evening Bible study will be announced after the first of the year.

Thursday evening Women's Bible Study

6:30 PM

Details below on this page.

A Look Ahead

As a glance down the road, when our Tuesday morning study finishes Genesis, we will look at Revelation. When some members began requesting a study of Revelation, my first reaction was, "Really? We've done that 3 times, already." Then I considered that I have been here 15 years and it does not seem excessive if we average once every 5 years, since we have so many new members constantly joining us, as well as continuing members who are developing an interest in Bible study. And of course, especially with regards to Revelation, there is always something new to learn.

I don't have a start date for the Revelation study. It will depend on our progress in Genesis. So I'm still open to suggestions for Wednesdays in the new year.

Women's Bible Study

On January 4th, we begin a 4 week reading plan called **Faith in Practice**. We will explore a variety of Christian practices modeled by the people of God and taught by Jesus and His disciples in Scripture. Spiritual disciplines are opportunities for engaging with God in response to the new life we have in Him. They do not earn us salvation or make God love us more. These important practices are not an end unto themselves, but rather a means of knowing God and orienting our lives toward Him. Join us as we learn what it means for new and mature believers alike to intentionally seek God's presence!



We are using the reading plans provided at www.shereadstruth.com. You can find the daily Scripture readings and devotion at their website or sign up for their daily email or download their app. The website and emails are free; some of the plans on the app have a nominal charge. There is also a weekly podcast that discusses that week's readings. ***We would love to have you join us! And whether or not you meet with us, this can be another easy way to develop a daily Bible reading habit. (For those men who are feeling 'left out', there is also a 'He Reads Truth' reading plan at the website!)***

The women's Thursday night Bible study meets Thursday evenings at 6:30 on Zoom. All women are welcome to join us! Use Holy Lamb's standard meeting code.

Contact Kathy Panning if you need more information or help obtaining the daily devotions and Scripture readings.

BLESSING BAGS

Have you ever been stopped at a light and someone comes up to your car needing help but you can't reach your money quick enough, or are unsure how to respond? The following is an idea that you could keep in the pocket on the door or on the side of your seat to give to them. You could also make these bags and take them to a shelter or someplace that feeds people so they can hand out such as *The Shepherd's Table* in Conway. We all need to be thankful for everything God has supplied to us and be willing to share with those less fortunate.

Ingredients

Gallon Size Ziploc bags	Comb
Chapstick	Soap
Packages of tissues	Hotel size shampoos
Travel size toothbrush and toothpaste	Razor and shaving cream
Travel size mouthwash	Trail mix
Warm pair of socks	Granola Bars/Breakfast Bars
\$5.00 or \$10.00 OR gift card to Food Lion/McDonalds	Crackers
A nice note or card telling them God loves them	Pack of gum
Band aids	Bottle of water
Hand wipes	

The ideas are endless. Assemble items in the bags. Make as many bags as you might need.

LWML NEWS

Sunday, January 3rd is Mite Box Sunday. Please return your mite box or a Ziploc bag with your collection. Don't forget to pick up another box if you are leaving yours. Checks are also accepted made out to *Holy Lamb* and in the memo area put *LWML MITES*. We have collected \$2,822.35 since July 2016. We are grateful for all your support.

In conjunction with **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**, which will be **January 24, 2021**, we are collecting baby items for Abigail's Closet at Coastline Women's Center in Conway. "Today we don't confess that we are against abortion. We are, of course. But that's not quite it. Today we don't confess that we are pro-life. We are, of course. But that's not quite it, either. Today we confess that God gives life to all things. God makes, and we are made. He makes life, and we leave alive." *Rev. Christopher Esget, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org • www.lutheransforlife.org*
Donations can be brought in beginning January 17th. Please tear off below so you can take with you as a reminder when you go shopping. Thank you.

March-August our project will be shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes will be available in February. Watch for more information. All women are invited to attend our next meeting on Saturday, January 9th at 10am via ZOOM. If you need the code, please email me. Kathy Panning will be the Bible study leader.

Please donate one (or more) of the following items.

They may be brought in through January 24th and placed in the marked box, which will be on the table when we are outside or during the drive thru communion beginning January 10th,

BIBS	BABY WASH	BABY WIPES	ONESIES (BOY OR GIRL)
SLEEPERS	BABY LOTION		BABY SOCKS
PACIFIERS	INFANT TOYS	BABY SHAMPOO	
DIAPER RASH OINTMENT			

2021 Holy Lamb Lutheran Church Council members

The slate of officers and budget have been passed. Thanks to all who participated in the voting process.

President—Ron Hajduk

- Executive Officer of the congregation.
- Preside at all meetings of the congregation and Board of Directors.
- Be an ex officio member of all boards and committees and attend meetings as necessary.
- Recommend to the Board of Directors personnel for secretarial staffing.

Recording Secretary - Sarah Jackson

- Prepare the minutes of the meetings of the congregation and Board of Directors.
- Keep a record of the members present at all meetings and determine whether or not a quorum is present for the transaction of legal business.

Financial Secretary—Bill Steele

- Receive and count all congregational moneys and deposit them in the bank.
- Keep a confidential record of all contributions from members and provide them with periodic statements.
- Keep an accurate record of all transactions and prepare reports for each regular meeting of the Board of Directors and the congregation.
- Prepare the annual financial plan.

Treasurer - Doug Ruddick

- Keep and maintain accurate records of all congregational receipts and disbursements.
- Make timely payments of all authorized expenditures.
- Make a written monthly report of the financial condition of the congregation.

Chairman of the Board of Elders -Tom Marquardt

- Responsible for the lay spiritual leadership of the congregation.
- Assist the Pastor with the spiritual needs and welfare of the congregation.
- Elders assist the Pastor with the administration of the Sacraments.
- The Elders shall be concerned with the well being of the Pastor and his family.
- The Elders shall visit the members to assess their needs and encourage their continued faithfulness.
- The Elders will review the salary of the Pastor and bring their recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Christian Education—Vacant

- Responsible for all religious education programs of the congregation, for Vacation Bible School, for the Youth Programs and for recruiting teachers for the Sunday School and Bible Classes.
- Provide teachers with necessary assistance to ensure that objectives and expectations are met.

Property Management—John Bombria

- Care for and manage all Church properties.
- Negotiate contracts, provide maintenance and transact other business as it pertains to the property of the congregation.
- Act on all additions or modification to existing and proposed buildings with regard to insurance risk, safety and the best interest of the congregation.

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2021 Holy Lamb Lutheran Church Council members

Evangelism - Darcy Taiani

- Plan, promote and carry out an evangelism program in the congregation and in the community.
- Assist the Pastor in training the laity to bring the un-churched to instructional classes.
- Integrate new members into the life and work of the Church.

Stewardship—Eileen St. Clair

- Develop and promote programs to utilize the time, treasure and talents of the congregation in order that they may see all the dimensions of Christian Stewardship.
- Discover the talents of the membership and enlist them in the congregation's program.
- Assist in training members in the grace of giving time and treasure to the work of the Lord.

Human Care—Vacant

- Be the focal point for assisting needy, poor, aged and sick within the congregation and in all the community and coordinate congregational efforts to help them.
- Communicate to the congregation the human care agencies offered by the church and the community and solicit support for them.

Chairman of the School Board (Preschool) - Irv Ewing

- Establish agencies for all levels: preschool, elementary schools, high schools, youth and adult, and set up adequate objectives for each level.
- Select and train teachers.
- Provide adequate facilities, modern equipment and suitable instructional materials.

December Worship Opportunities

With Advent coming to an end, we still have upcoming Christmas services for you to consider. Hope you will join us,

12/23	Wednesday evening mid-week Advent worship (online)	7:00 pm
12/24	Christmas Eve worship (pre-recorded online)	5:00 pm
12/25	Christmas Day worship (online)	9:00 am

Praying in color-- What is This?

It is a ministry where we color cards at home while praying for the person it is going to. We add a bible verse and say, "as I colored this card I was praying for you," and sign our first name.

We have received several thank you cards from people grateful for the prayers and cards. God has arranged for some of the cards to arrive on a day when an uplifting message was most needed.

If anyone is interested in joining us in this ministry, please contact Eileen St. Clair and she will start you off with some cards to color and a list of people, and answer any questions you may have about this ministry. Thank you to those of you already praying in color, you have touched lives.

Praying in color reminder: If you have put a name on the list and there is a change in the person's condition, please contact Eileen St. Clair.

Holy Lamb Financial Profile

Current Information								
	Attendance			Weekly Offerings		General Fund Income		
	8:00	10:30	Total	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual
11/1				\$3,437	\$5,759	November	\$17,185	\$18,983
11/8				\$3,437	\$975	Year to Date	\$164,976	\$165,845
11/15				\$3,437	\$4,397			
11/22				\$3,437	\$4,265			
11/29				\$3,437	\$3,587			

Historical Comparisons - General Fund Income										
Weekly Averages					Year to Date					
		Attendance		Offerings				2020	2019	
Nov	2020			\$3,796	Total			\$165,845	\$159,598	
Nov	2018	85		\$3,609	Envelopes			\$149,641	\$149,261	
					Loose Plate			\$15,086	\$8,191	
					Reimbursement			\$1,018	\$1,446	
					Building Usage			\$100	\$700	

November 2020 Total Receipts	
Envelopes/Plate (GF)	\$18,379.00
Reimbursement (GF)	\$603.99
Flowers	\$110.00
LWML	\$56.70
Pastor's Benevolence	\$500.00
Seminary Christmas Gifts	\$650.00
Total	\$20,299.69

January

Blessings on your Birthday!

4th Rich Bertolone
11th Dave Cunningham
12th Pam Gall
14th Julia Diem
18th Mark Entis
27th Ron Hajduk
27th Sylvia Stedina
30th George Hulshart
31st Pete Snyder



Happy Anniversary!

15th Maurice & Margaret Bartelotte
30th Pete & Linda Snyder

For Healing

Ann, daughter of Carol Stocum
Julia, great-granddaughter of Al Stout
Vivie, relative of John & Karen Bombria

Jackie Anctil
John Orr
Monica Steele

Ron Hajduk
Steven Rehm
Brenda Tainter



Called Home to Heaven

Jack Molnar, we pray for God's comfort for Chris and the Molnar family.

Flowers purchased to the glory of God for January, 2021

January 3 ~ In honor of Florence Smith, given by the Murphy family.
January 10 ~ Open
January 17 ~ Open
January 24 ~ In loving memory of Sam, given by Pete & Linda Snyder.
January 31 ~ Open

Altar Guild

If you are purchasing flowers for our altar, just a reminder, please use the Flower Fund envelopes from the Flower Chart bulletin board & place in the collection plate or drop off at the church office. The cost is \$30.00. If special flowers are requested, there may be an additional charge.

Please do not put flower payments in weekly offering envelope.

Flower Chart 2021

The new flower chart for 2021 is posted on the wall in the Narthex by the church entrance. Be sure to sign up early to get the best variety of dates. At this time, the cost will remain at \$30 per week with the understanding that any special requests may incur additional costs. Please use the special "FLOWER" envelopes (located near the chart) for your payment and list the dates for which you are paying (especially if you are paying for multiple arrangements). **DO NOT** place flower payments in the **offering** envelopes.

NOTE: Highlighted dates are those within the seasons of Lent or Advent. During these times we refrain from placing flowers on the altar out of reverence to our Lord and Savior, however, you may still purchase flowers in memory or honor of a loved one or special event and have them in the **Narthex** as well as listed in the weekly notes.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Snyder or Marsha Dunn.

Holy Lamb Lutheran Church

2541 Forestbrook Road
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

Rev. David J. Panning, Pastor

Church
843-236-1344

Preschool
843-236-9645

Worship Schedule

Sundays—9:00 am

Sunday School & Bible Study

Tuesday Morning Bible Study	9:00 am
<i>The Book of Genesis</i>	
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	6:30 pm
<i>TBA</i>	
Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study	6:30 pm
<i>Faith in Practice</i>	