

Holy Lamb Lutheran Church

2541 Forestbrook Road
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

December 2023

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16



Pastor Steve and his wife, Caren, wish the members of Holy Lamb and their families a blessed and joyous Christmas Holiday

THE GNADENSTUHL

It's Christmas time. No doubt you'll get a few Christmas cards with traditional depictions of the Child Jesus, Joseph and his Mother Mary—the history of our Savior according to Matthew and Luke, as illustrated by St. Francis. But John from the very beginning took a different approach. He bears witness to the meaning of Jesus' entrance into our world.

If we wanted to express in art John's interpretation of God's gift to the world, his only Son, we'd come up with a stock image medieval artists called the Gnadestuhl—"the Mercy Seat." If you Google it, you will

most certainly find many variations of the Gnadestuhl: Copyright laws prohibit me from printing a copy here. The Gnadestuhl features the Father holding in his extended hands for the world, a crucified Jesus. The Holy Spirit is in the picture too. It's clearly trinitarian. Rather than paint us a picture of the nativity, St. John interprets for us the life of Jesus, the Father's merciful gift.

John the Theologian, tells us what Jesus means to the world. He does this nowhere so concisely as in John 3:16. According to the Apostle, the birth of Jesus is the story of God's outlandish and extravagant love for his creation. "*God loved the world...*," John writes—all of it. God loves the world so much that he will give his Son as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. (This is called "objective justification.") Thus, our congregation is named Holy Lamb, Jesus is the Lamb of God whose perfect sacrifice, and whose blood make atonement for the world's sin.

But John knows that all are not saved by the blood of Jesus. He explains why writing that "*whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*" These words are the second half of John 3:16. They tell us that justification has a subjective, personal side (subjective justification). Those who would be saved must believe in the only Son of God.

It's no accident that at John 3:4 Jesus introduces the Holy Spirit to Nicodemus and to us. Without the Spirit saving faith is impossible. The Spirit helps us to comprehend the impossible; the Son of God is born in a stable, and the same Son is crucified for all the world on a cross. And one day he will grant to all believers eternal life.

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Call Committee Update

There has been one zoom interview and there is possibly another interview in the near future. We are also realizing that it may be necessary to make another request for more candidates from the congregation and the district.

We will continue to keep you informed and we ask that you please continue to pray for the process, for the pastors on our candidate list, for our congregation's strength and perseverance, and for those on the committee as we follow the Lord's direction toward our next pastor.

Blessings on your day!

*Linda Snyder,
Call Committee Secretary*



LWML

December 3 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. Thank you for your support.



Looking forward – We will once again be collecting baby items for Abigail's Closet at Women's Coastline Center January 14 and 21.

Karen Bombria, President, LWML of Holy Lamb

2024 Giving Envelopes

The giving envelopes for 2024 are located on the table in the Narthex. Please be sure to pick yours up as you exit the church.

Holy Lamb Financial Profile—Giving

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Month of Nov. (to date)	\$15,591	\$14,148
Year to Date Needs	\$162,562	\$169,776

Stewardship Committee Report

“If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.” Romans 12:7
The Stewardship Committee meets on the 4th Sunday of the month after the 10:30am service.

Our current committee members are:

Cheryl Bingham, Chair; Eileen St. Clair, Duane St. Clair, David Bingham, Ron Hajduk, Caroline Twentier, Bill Steele, and Reyne Harris.

Here are some of the items the Stewardship team is working on.

Praying in Color: A Gathering for anyone who wants to join and learn more about this ministry is scheduled for *Saturday, February 3rd @ 9:30am*. They will be serving a continental breakfast and coffee. We ask ALL to Come and Join! If you have any questions, please contact Eileen St. Clair

First Time Visits with Local Guests: To date, we've had 5 in-person visits with local visitors who've joined us for worship service. Our visits have all gone well and were well received. We have a few more visits to be made. If you are interested in joining us for this ministry, please contact Dave or Cheryl Bingham.

Visitor Thank You Card Outreach: To date, we've sent out 44 thank you cards to out of town visitors who've joined us for Worship Service. We want to plant seeds to those who've joined in hopes that they'll visit us again in the future.

“Opportunity to Serve and Fellowship” booklets will be handed out at the *All-Congregation Meeting on December 17th*. We are asking everyone to return them by Sunday, February 11th. A box will be placed in the Narthex for you to drop them off. We will be asking every member to let us know what areas of the church they would like to consider giving of their time and talents.

Pledge Funding Sunday: Pledge Cards will be handed out at the *All-Congregation Meeting on Sunday, December 17th*. The pledge cards are a confidential commitment between you and God. For those who wish to bring them to the alter, this will be done on Sunday, February 4th. Please bring them in a sealed envelope. They will not be opened as they are confidential. The sealed cards will be destroyed. Again, this is a commitment between you and God.

If you have any ideas or are interested in joining us, please let us know.

In His Service,

Cheryl Bingham, Chairperson



Evangelism - Expansion Ministries Committee

The Expansion Ministry Committee meets once a month on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We are working on or have completed the following projects. If you have any ideas for a ministry or questions, please contact one of the committee members, Darcy Taiani, Cheryl Bingham, Reyne Harris, Ron Hajduk, Phil Harris, and David Bingham.

Restaurant Dining Group

Thank you to all who attended the restaurant dining group on November 28th at River City Cafe. We will be going to *Hop N' Wich Restaurant*, 1209 3rd Ave., Conway on December 26th at 4:45 pm. If you are interested in joining, or have questions, please contact Dave or Cheryl Bingham.

Church Signs

We have just started discussions about updating the church sign that is on Dick Pond Rd as well as looking at other possibilities of placing signs out with the church information. Work on this project have already begun. If you have any ideas, please let a committee member know.

CCU Basketball Game Sign up

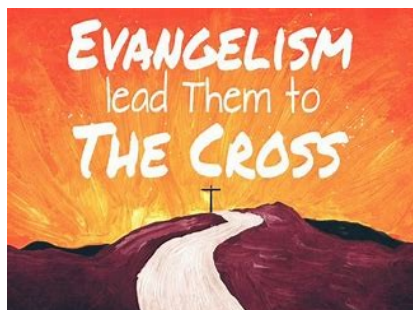
Members of Holy Lamb will be attending a CCU basketball game on either Saturday, January 13th at 3:30 PM against Old Dominion, OR Saturday, January 27th at 2:00 PM against Georgia State. The cost of the tickets is \$15.00 per person. The final day to purchase tickets is December 31st. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Dave Bingham at 719-452-1398 or email. A signup sheet will be in the Narthex Rack. (dbngm7@gmail.com)

Egermeier's Bible to Coastal School Ministries Students

Holy Lamb will be giving an Egermeier's Bible to each student (38) who attend the Coastal School Ministries classes at Holy Lamb on December 19th, the last day of classes. This was also done last year. If you would like to help offset the costs of this project, please contact the church office. A very big thank you to Phil & Reyne Harris for leading this effort.

First Time Visitor Follow Up Training:

We are offering 2 training classes in January for volunteers who would like to join the existing group to visit with first time guests who come to Holy Lamb for worship. The goal is to visit, 2 to 3 minutes, with a first time guests no later than 7 business days after they attended Holy Lamb. We deliver a refrigerator magnet with the church's information, a 'What we Believe' pamphlet, and cookies. We will hold two thirty minute training sessions in early January, one in the evening and one in the morning. The dates and times will be announced in the December bulletin. If you are interested, please contact Dave or Cheryl Bingham.





Christmas Luncheon 

The **Ladies Society** Christmas luncheon will be held on December 5th at 11:30 am at the *Socastee Station Restaurant*, 4504 Socastee Blvd., Myrtle Beach. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend.

The women of **LWML** are having a Christmas luncheon on December 9th at 11:30 am at *Rotelli's Restaurant*, 201 Graduate Rd., unit 109, Conway. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend.

Angel Christmas Tree

The LWML is once again sponsoring the Angel tree to help needy children in our area. It is now up in the narthex. All the angels have a child's name, age and size. Please choose an angel tag if you would like to help a local child in need have a gift for Christmas. This program is through *Backpack Buddies/Help4kids*. These children need clothing items that are warm. Please buy pajamas, an outfit (ex sweater/sweatshirt, pants, fleece jacket, undies, socks) or a glove/hat/scarf set. The gifts should be returned wrapped with the angel tag securely taped on the gift and placed under the tree.



All items need to be returned no later than December 16th.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Katai at ldkatai2@gmail.com. Thanks for making Christmas special for a needy area child!

Blessings to you!
Linda

GIFT-A-VET COLLECTION BOX



A collection box has been placed in the Narthex for the *Gift-a-Vet Foundation*. There is a card with a list of some items to purchase as well as how to donate monetarily. The donations will be accepted through mid-December. Please show your appreciation and support for the brave men and women who have served our great country.



Council News

Congregation Meeting



We will have a congregation meeting on December 17th immediately following the 10:30am service. There will be a meal following the meeting.

Below is the slate for the 2024 election for Council Boards which will be voted on at the meeting. Hope you will attend.

Financial Secretary	Hayley Lauritsen
Evangelism	Dave Bingham
Recording Secretary	Seth Rylander
Head Elder	VACANT

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

To honor the birth of our Lord & Savior, I would like to place a plant in the sanctuary for Christmas.
COST PER PLANT IS \$20.00

Please indicate the number of plants you wish to purchase. _____

_____ I will take my plant(s) after Christmas Service _____ Please give my plant(s) to a shut-in.

Given in memory of

Given for another reason (honor, praise, thanksgiving)

GIVEN BY: (your name)



Please place order form with payment in the "FLOWER" box located on the table in the narthex. Checks should be made out to "Holy Lamb Church" and write "POINSETTIA" on the memo line.

Last day to place orders is December 17th.

Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Colossians	9:15 AM
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	1 John	9:00 AM
Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study	Details below on this page	6:30 PM



Bible Study Opportunities



Women's Bible Study

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.

We are using the reading plans provided at www.shereadstruth.com. You can find the daily Scripture readings and devotion at their website or download their app. The website is free; 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!)*

Our Advent study titled **"He Alone is Worthy"** begins on December 4. Join us as we trace the biblical anticipation of the One who met every expectation and fulfilled every promise: Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. During this season, we prepare our hearts to celebrate His first coming while expressing our longing and eagerness for His return!

If you have any questions and/or would like to join us, please contact: Darcy Taiani - call or text: 724-840-0888 or email darcytaiani@gmail.com.

Advent Worship Schedule

Midweek services begin this Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm. Our series for this season is as follows:

12/6	Cain, the Son of Adam
12/13	Ishmael, the Son of Abraham
12/20	Absalom, the Son of David



About the theme

Midweek Advent services will proceed along the theme, *"Peace on Earth"*. We will look at three father-son relationships found in the Old Testament. These stories will explore the hopes and expectations that the fathers had for their sons and the disappointment that each father faced as their sons failed to meet expectations. Ultimately, each sermon will end by looking at the Gospel, the perfect Father/Son relationship, the one shared by our heavenly Father and his Son, Jesus. We begin our series by looking at perhaps the most disappointing son in the history of mankind –the son of Adam, Cain.

**In His Service
December 2023**

Altar Guild	Linda Davis	Darcy Taiani
Newsletter Proofer	Sylvia Stedina (Dec. 28)	
Bulletin Assembly	Camille August	

Dec. 3		
	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Elder	N/A	Bill Steele
Ushers	Dave Bingham	Rose Ruddick
Ushers	N/A	Hayley Lauritsen
Audio	Phil Harris	Darcy Taiani
Video	N/A	Fred Reimer

Dec. 24		
	10:00 AM	7:00 PM
Elder	George Hulshart	N/A
Ushers	Dave Bingham	Ed Stedina
Ushers	Warren Gall	N/A
Audio	Don Piel	Darcy Taiani
Video	Julia Diem	N/A

Dec. 6 Midweek Advent. Service Wednesday 7 PM	
Usher	Ed Stedina
Audio	Linda Davis

Dec. 25	
	10:00 AM
Elder	Larry Lauffer
Ushers	Rose Ruddick
Ushers	Bill Steele
Audio	Phil Harris
Video	Tom Marquardt

Dec. 10		
	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Elder	N/A	Neal Riley
Usher	Pat Allison	Warren Gall
Ushers	N/A	Paul Jankowski
Audio	Don Piel	Julia Diem
Video	N/A	Linda Snyder

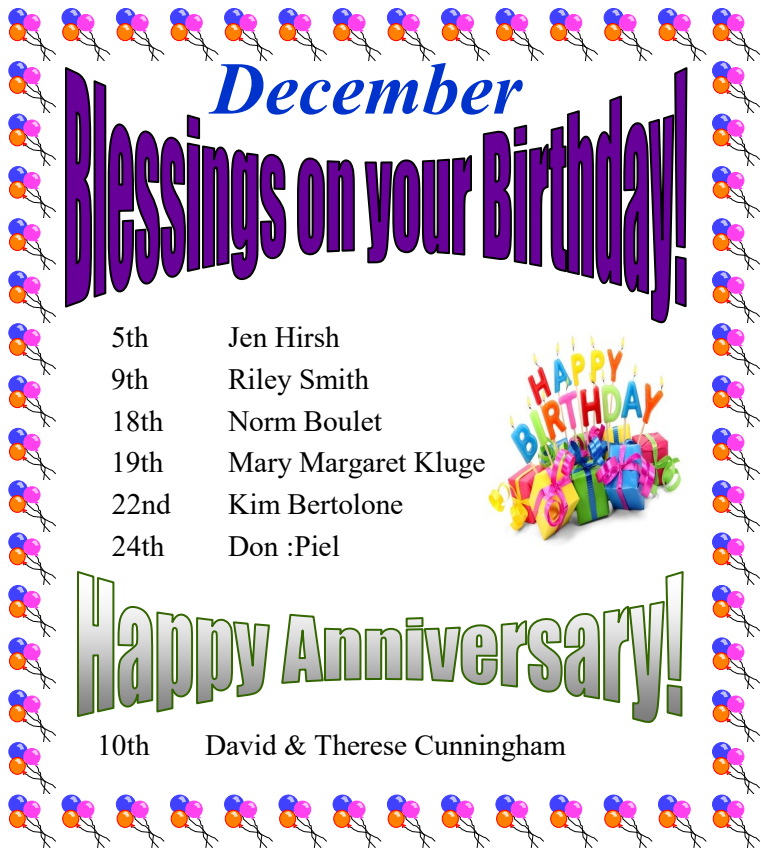
Dec. 31		
	10:00 AM	7:00 PM
Elder	Tom Marquardt	N/A
Ushers	Hayley Lauritsen	Ed Stedina
Ushers	Warren Gall	N/A
Don Piel	Don Piel	Linda Snyder
Video	Fred Reimer	N/A

Dec. 13 Midweek Advent. Service Wednesday 7 PM	
Usher	Chuck Russell
Audio	Linda Snyder

Dec. 17		
	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Elder	N/A	Larry Lauffer
Ushers	Dave Bingham	Rose Ruddick
Ushers	N/A	Bill Steele
Audio	Phil Harris	Darcy Taiani
Video	N/A	Tom Marquardt

Dec. 20 Midweek Advent. Service Wednesday 7 PM	
Usher	Hayley Lauritsen
Audio	Julia Diem





December Blessings on your Birthday!

- 5th Jen Hirsh
- 9th Riley Smith
- 18th Norm Boulet
- 19th Mary Margaret Kluge
- 22nd Kim Bertolone
- 24th Don :Piel



Happy Anniversary!

10th David & Therese Cunningham

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It provides various publications and Bible studies but its primary function is providing a weekly sermon for radio broadcast. The Lutheran Hour has been broadcast since 1933. You can listen to the Lutheran Hour on the radio every week. Stations & times are listed below.



WRNN	99.5	FM	Sun	5:00 AM
WRNN	99.5	FM	Sun	7:00 AM
WRNN	1450	AM	Sun	7:00 AM

Now, LHM has teamed up with WFAZ out of DC & they will broadcast **The Lutheran Hour on Sundays at 1:30 pm & 6:30 pm.** Even if you are not within their local listening area, just go to their website and listen online at <http://wfax.com/>.

Men's Fellowship

The Men's Fellowship group will meet on Tuesday, December 12, at 11:30 am at the Grumpy Monk. All men are welcome to join them.

Please note that these meetings take place every **second** Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am at the *Veteran's Café* except for the December meeting.

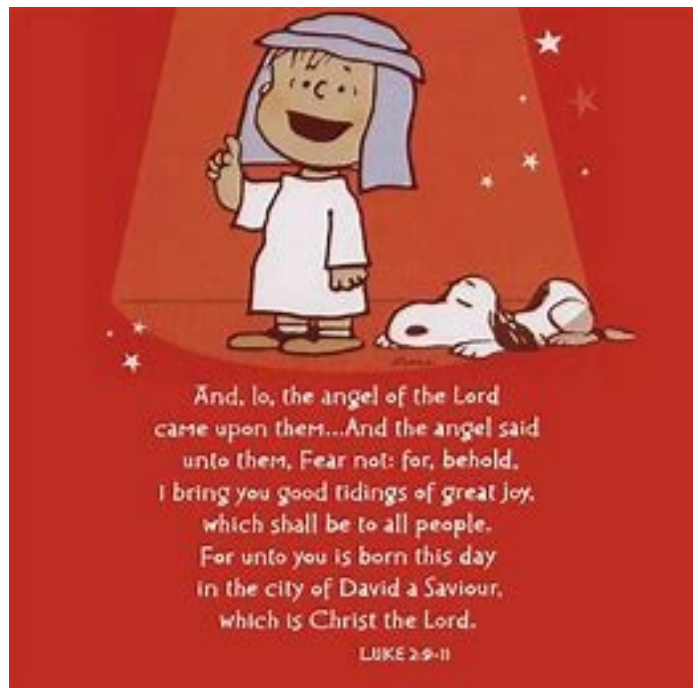


Family Game Night



The next family game night is Saturday December 2, from 4pm-7pm.

Please bring a finger food to share. Bring your favorite game or plan to learn a new one.



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 \$40.00. If special flowers are requested, there may be an additional charge.

Please do not put flower payments in weekly offering envelope.

Flower Chart 2024

The flower chart for 2024 is **posted** on the wall in the Narthex by the church entrance. **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 Marsha Dunn or Linda Snyder.

Flowers purchased to the Glory of God for December, 2023

December 3 ~ No altar flowers during Advent

December 10 ~ In Loving memory of Florence Smith given by the Murphy family.

December 17 ~ No altar flowers during Advent

December 24 ~ No altar flowers during Advent

December 31 ~ In memory of Samantha's birthday, daughter of Linda Snyder, given by Pete & Linda Snyder.

For Healing

Julia, great-granddaughter of Al Stout

Verlene, sister of Myrle

Ron, Ed's Cousin

Nick, friend of Lois

Glen, Lois' brother

Booker, great grandson of Paul & Jane Jankowski

Erin, daughter of Lois Murphy

Scott, son of J.R.

Jim, husband of Lois Murphy

Brian, Son of Adell Keeney

Joan, friend of Marsha Dunn

Hal, neighbor of Ron Hajduk

Lynn, Cousin of Ron Hajduk

Pat Allison

Carol Boulet

Merle Falke

Mary Lee

Steven Rehm

Bob & Myrle Rumsey

Norm Boulet

Theresa Falke

Karen McCarthy

Marty Reynolds

Al Stout

Cancer Issues

Linda G., Carol Stocum's goddaughter

Ken, Monica's brother

Sami, friend of Dave & Linda

Terri, Pat Allison's daughter

Monica Steele

Mary, friend of Paul & Jane

Rev. John Kassouf

Pastor Omar Krieger

Matt, Son of Tom & Pat

Michael, Lois' B-I-L

Mourning the Loss

Rich Hendricks, long time friend of Doug & Rose Ruddick.

The Call Process

Praying for our new-to-be Pastor and the Call Committee decision making process.

Holy Lamb Lutheran Church

2541 Forestbrook Road
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

Rev. Stephen Vogt, Vacancy Pastor

Church

843-236-1344

Worship Schedule

Sundays—8:00 am & 10:30 am
Advent Services 12/6, 12/10, 12/17—7:00 pm
Christmas Eve, 12/24—10:00 am & 7:00 pm
Christmas Day, 12/25—10:00 am
New Years Eve, 12/31—10:00 am & 7:00 pm

Bible Study

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:15 am
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	9:00 am
Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study	6:30 pm

