

**LAMB OF GOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAINES CITY, FL**



LOG Bellwether

The bellwether is one that takes the lead or sets an example.

September 2025. Volume 31, #9

As I sit in my office and write my article for our September newsletter, I am filled with mixed emotions as we approach Labor Day and enter the Fall season. The weather will begin to change, and even

though it will get darker earlier, the light of Christ will continue to light our way into the future. We, Lamb of God Lutheran Church are a community in Christ that will continue to follow Him into the future. In Matthew 28 we read:

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

As we continue to walk with Jesus into the future that God has prepared for us there are a number of things that will be happening. They are:

1. Our beloved Pastor Izzy continues to struggle with his health and has resigned as our Associate Pastor and lead pastor at our Spanish services. We will continue to pray for Pastor Izzy, Wanda and Chachi as he moves into retirement.
2. On September 14th we will have a special service celebrating Pastor Izzy's ministry. Bishop Suarez will join us for this celebration.
3. Our Call Committee has had an initial interview with a possible pastoral candidate and has invited this person to a second interview. This looks good.
4. This month we will begin our stewardship focus. New offering envelopes have been ordered and in November we will complete our 2026 budget to be approved by the congregation. I hope that you will prayerfully consider your contributions for 2026.

We are church! A community in Christ walking together into a bright future.

Pastor Greg



Council Memo

The next meeting is on **September 16 at 6pm**

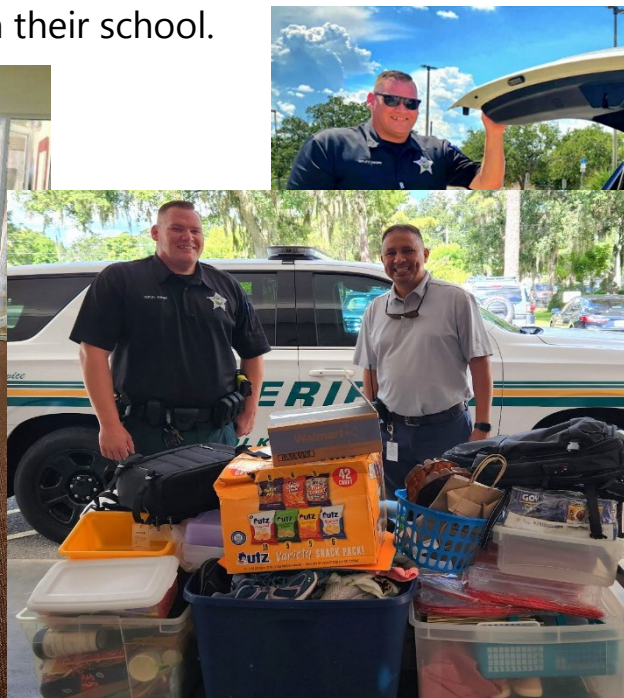
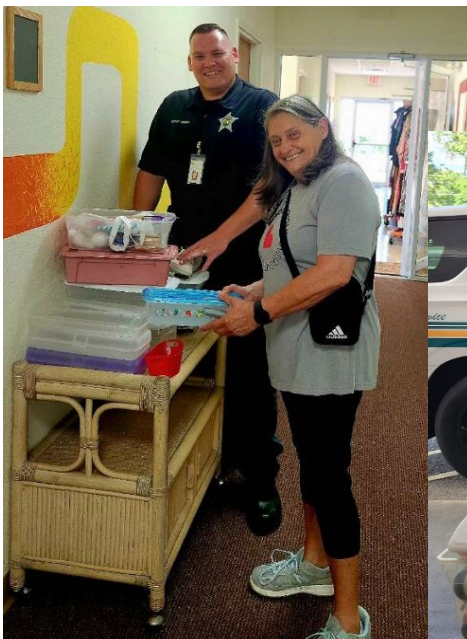


Members of
your church
council

August at Lamb of God Lutheran!

As reported by Deputy Owens:

On August 13th, D/S Owens received a call from Ms. Lissette Solano from Lamb of God Lutheran Church (Haines City). Ms. Solano stated she wanted to donate school supplies and boys and girls clothing and shoes to a school in need in the Wahneta area. D/S Owens responded to the church and picked up a vehicle full of donations. On August 14th, D/S Owens delivered the donations to the staff at Wahneta Elementary. Mrs. Christina Sudduth (Wahneta Elementary Registrar) is always ready to take any donations, organize them and get them to the right people! The staff, including Assistant Principal Carlos Rodriguez and Principal Dagmariel Perez-Maldonado, are very supportive of our efforts to assist the families in need through their school.



For those of us who were unable to hear this online or unable to be present, here is the digest of the announcement on 8/24 at the 10am service. *This is shared with permission.*

"Good morning—my name is Ken Lindberg and I'm a member of the Call Committee (CC) which was established a couple of years ago. Part of my role on the Call Committee is to communicate with the congregation and updates from the CC. As I'm sure you are aware, we have not had any updates—until now.

First of all, please know that this information EXTREMELY confidential, and I and the CC are not able to share specifics or answer any questions about any candidates. We have interviewed a few candidates over the last couple of years—none of which did we want to pursue any further.

We did conduct a Zoom call with a new candidate this past week and we were very pleased with the outcome of that time together—so much so, that we have told the Synod that we want to continue our interest in this candidate. Next steps in this process include an in-person interview with a visit to our area—not Lamb of God yet—and a meeting with Church Council. These next steps will hopefully take place before the end of September. At that time we may be able to share more information.

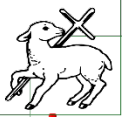
Please pray for the CC process, Church Council, our Synod, and the candidate. Thank you for your time and attention and God Bless."

Tuesday July 29th, 2025

Pastor Greg Villalón, Gloria Fraser (Thrivent Action Team Sponsor), Marisol Velazquez and Lissette Solano were able to visit Club Success in Davenport where one of our members resides. We were there to say thank you and bless the caregivers and patients with care kits. The care kits were composed of full-size hygiene products mostly donated by Mr. Warren Law representative of Lake Region Village. The beautiful lap blankets were made by LOG member Kathleen Peters & some by Mrs. Marlene Law from Lake Region Village. The personnel were very much touched by the act of kindness and recognition for their work. These kits were built on July 12th, 2025, during the Breakfast with Jesus held by MSCB. Both members and non-members were part of this beautiful ripple effect!



*LOG Volunteer hours, Thrivent Action Card financial support.
Here's an option which only costs you a little time, no money.*



Lamb of God Languages Program

Our English and Spanish classes are back in session.

For those who want to learn basic conversational Spanish, we offer class from 9:00-10:45 am. The English classes, for all levels, are from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Classes are free of charge. We are always seeking volunteers to help with both our English and Spanish language classes. While teaching experience is helpful, it is not required. Lesson plans are provided. Advance sign-up is not necessary for students or volunteers, but please come a few minutes early for your first class.

All are welcome! Please contact Philippa White for more information.

September 2025 – LOG Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Each Sunday: 8:45 am Adult Sunday School ; 10am English Service ; 11:15am Coffee Hour ; 12:30pm Spanish Service						
	9/1 Holiday <i>Office is closed</i>	9/2 10am Finance Mtg	9/3 9am Sew 'n Sews	9/4	9/5 9 am House Blest Food Distribution	9/6 LOGLP 9am English 11am Spanish
9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10	9/11	9/12	9/13 LOGLP 9am English 11am Spanish
9/14 – 10am Bilingual Service and Celebration	9/15 6 pm Council Meeting	9/16 10 am Finance Mtg	9/17	9/18 9am Sew 'n Sews Noon – Book Club	9/19 9 am House Blest Food Distribution	9/20 LOGLP 9am English 11am Spanish Bellwether Due
9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24 – 6pm <i>Haines Ridge (Fellowship)</i>	9/25	9/26	9/27 LOGLP 9am English 11am Spanish
9/28	9/29	9/30 – 10 am Finance Mtg	8/27	8/28		

Is one for you? **YES, SEPT 14 Celebration and meal, sign up today.**

Can you help on Sunday morning? We need YOU.

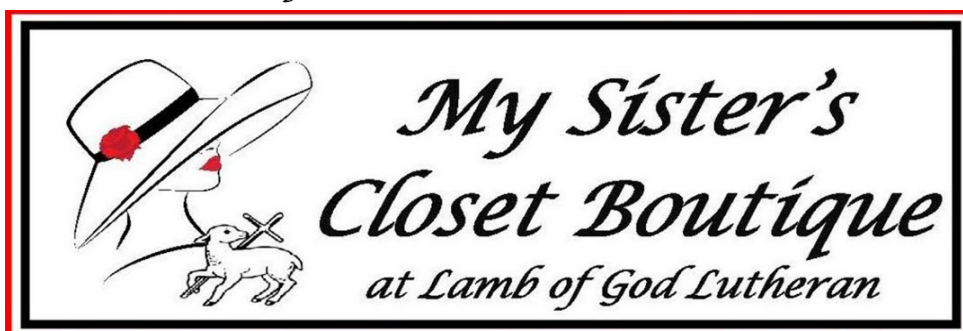
Usher, Reader, Altar Guild, Greeter, Welcome Desk, Choir/Cantor, Please HELP

Dear Lamb of God Family,
On September 14th, 2025, we will be celebrating
Pastor Izzy's Ministry at Lamb of God Lutheran Church.

- Please remember to sign the memory book being presented to Pr. Izzy which will be available in the narthex
 - If you are not able to attend, please send your best wishes emails for Pastor Izzy and his family to officemanager@lambofgodhainescity.com
 - There will be a special collection of monetary gifts for Pastor Izzy's retirement, envelopes will be available
 - There will be a banquet immediately following the 10am Bilingual service.
 - Chicken & Pork will be provided please bring your favorite side dish or dessert.
- Blessings, Pastor Gregory Villalón, Bishop Emeritus



*It's OPEN! My Sister's Closet Boutique celebrated on 6/29.
Stop by and check out the 2 for \$5 Summer Clearance Specials.
Open between services.*



How can you help LOG meet its financial needs and cost you nothing?

If you are a Thrivent member, you can direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lamb of God Lutheran Church. Thrivent doesn't provide us with exact amounts by individual; however, in total LOG received **\$1,085 from July 2024 to June 2025**. Also, Thrivent Members with either life insurance or annuities can assist LOG by requesting Two Action Teams annually, which provide seed money for a service project, ministry team or fundraising campaign. Even if you are not a Thrivent member, there may also be a way that you can help by purchasing an Action Card for a minimal amount. Please contact the church office to be paired with an initiative and we will walk you through the process.

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. - Proverbs 22:9



What are you reading? Reach out and let me know for the next issue of the Bellwether by Sep 20. If it comes from the LOG Library, let me know that too! I'm reading "Twelve Ordinary Men" by Pastor John MacArthur founder of Grace to You radio/tv. *David*

Celebrating Mary Johnson



Mary, together with her husband Pastor Don Johnson, were longtime members of LOG. When Pastor Johnson passed away we had a celebration of life, which was attended by several pastors from our community. They were loved by all. Mary has been living in Kissimmee for several years, but still occasionally visits LOG. They contributed in many different ways; one of them was providing the communion wine for so many years. They won several gold & silver medals for their wine. Their small production of wine, Sunrise Winery, was very well known in the wine community. She celebrated her 93 birthday. She's moving to Rhode Island this week, where she can be closer to her daughter. She said she wants to enjoy her family, which includes several grandchildren and great grandchildren. We wanted to wish her lots of blessings.

Mary and Pastor were a team. They organized prayer groups at church produce their wine, organized block parties including golf cart races, donated time at The Way Center, an organization that give women support to recover and embark in a new journey when they get out of an abused relationship.



Sierra Leone babies in blankets from LOG donated through Mariatu's Hope



Hi Letty, blankets made by LOG friends were given to these precious triplets who were born yesterday. ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ If you are interested in knitting or crocheting blankets or hats for babies in Sierra Leone and local hospitals please talk to Letty. Submitted by Letty Villalon for Ruth Search of Mariatu's Hope.

<http://www.mariatushope.org/contact-usbe-involved.html>



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF

ENEWS

Donate

Dear Diane & Sew 'n Sews,

You, our **amazing quilters and kit makers**, make beautiful things happen when you answer God's call to love your neighbors. Here are some recent updates highlighting your impact around the world.

Texas floods: How you are helping right now

On July 4, catastrophic flooding swept through central Texas. Thanks to your faithful ministry and emergency giving, hundreds of families had emergency supplies in their hands within 12 hours. As recovery continues, your quilts and kits are among the items offering comfort and support to families in need.

The Sew 'n Sews – August Quilting Dates & Invitation

The number 40 appears frequently in the Bible. Often being associated with themes of trial and judgement and symbolizing a period of preparation. In Genesis the rain lasted 40 days for Noah, while in Exodus the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Continuing in Exodus, Moses spent 40 days receiving the Law. You may be wondering... Diane, where are you going with this? After our quilting session a couple of weeks ago, we took a few moments to count the number of completed quilts that we have tied together this year since February. The count came to 40. That powerful symbol in the Bible represents challenges faced by individuals and nations, as well as the divine purpose behind the trials encountered, highlight the importance of faith in the journey of life. You are invited to join us on our journey on the first Wednesday 9/3/2025 and the third Thursday 9/18/2025 from 9 - 12 noon in the Fellowship hall as we prepare quilts for LWR.

God's Work - Our Hands

Blessings, *Diane Hockett*



If you have missed a service or just want to review one of Pastor Greg's fantastic messages, remember our services are streamed and stored so you can (re) view them all at <https://www.youtube.com/@lambogodhainescity>.

Please subscribe to our "channel" as it helps our Synod to see our impact.

Community Spotlight on the Way Center.

WAY CENTER HAPPENINGS UPDATES



"Leading Lives to the Right Way."

A faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

August 2025



Director's Update

By LeAnn Pierce

Exciting News from The WAY Center!

Wow—time really does fly when you're having fun! It's hard to believe fall is just around the corner. Here at The WAY Center, we're buzzing with excitement about a brand-new venture we can't wait to share. For years, generous supporters have offered to donate furniture, but due to limited space, we simply couldn't accept much. That's all about to change! We're thrilled to announce the opening of **The WAY 2 Shoppe: Furniture & More**, coming mid-August to 706 Ingraham Ave. East in Haines City (formerly Whisler's Paint Store). This new shop will feature quality furniture and home décor, along with a great selection of clothing and household items. **Stay tuned for updates—make sure we have your email so you don't miss a thing!** Most importantly, please pray with us for God's continued blessings as we work toward funding a second home for single mothers with boys over age 10. Together, we're expanding our reach and making a difference—one family at a time.

On another exciting note, thanks to the generosity of a few dedicated supporters, we're thrilled to announce that we'll be adding a new member to our team! This addition will help us expand our outreach and continue to elevate the quality of care we provide to Haines City and the surrounding community. We look forward to introducing this new team member very soon—stay tuned!



WAY 2 Shoppe
2 Locations
Quality Items
Great Prices



Clients Served

Client A: The WAY Center paid for her new apartment deposit so she and her 3 children could have their own home after suffering from domestic abuse.

Client G: By securing Early Learning Coalition vouchers, The WAY Center has removed financial obstacles, allowing her to attend Ridge Tech's ESOL classes. This is a crucial step towards her GED, with the Center also covering enrollment testing costs.

Client T: After moving from out-of-state, losing her job, almost experiencing homelessness, and dealing with anxiety, she found refuge at The WAY Home. This supportive environment is helping her heal. Now, with renewed hope, her goal is to join the military

We will be going electronic. Don't miss the latest news. Send your email address to d.guertin@TheWAYCenter.org.

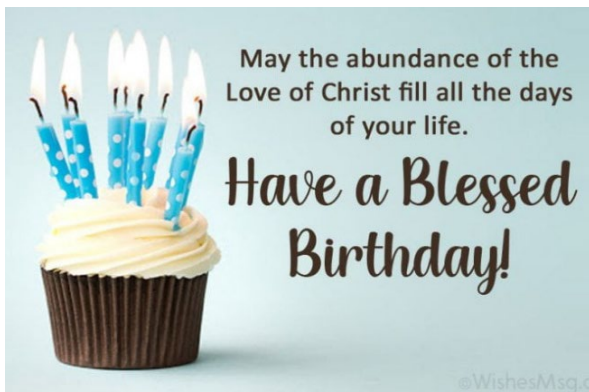
Members of LOG regularly support the Way Center through donations of clothing and other items, recently from the LambFest



September, Celebrating with you!

Happy Anniversary, Y'all

09/24 Judy & Ken Lindberg



Happy Birthday to YOU!

1 Oscar	Escobar	17 Luis	Vallenilla
2 Ruth	Bauer	18 Emmanuel	Santiago Salgado
3 Judy	O'Brien	19 Laverne	Tillson
5 Lois	Alderfer	21 Isoris	Bango-Sanchez
6 Joyce	Hines	21 Addie	Cole
8 Cheryl	Berner	21 Davina	Schneider
9 Aileen	Bennett	24 Ana	Rosado
12 Phyllis	Pasbrig	26 Sharleen	Wisler
16 Marcos	Campos	29 Joyce	Albrecht
16 Diane	Hockett	29 Jim	Mason
16 Lynne	Martin	29 Avery	Woolmer
17 Lissette	Solano		

By the numbers for August

Average Attendance	87	Weekly Offerings	\$14,035
		Vanco (Online) Offerings	\$ <u>2,255</u>
		Total Offerings (4 Sun)	\$16,290
		Needed each month	\$23,612
			Short \$7,322

Facebook interactions 8,323

LOG Website 196 active users with 434 views

Online/YouTube views Average(live) 62(7)

This is your church, you can support it financially as well as volunteering a few hours each month, on a Sunday or during the week. Please see the calendar of events and sign up to help during the services. We NEED you! *Thanks*

LOG Folks' Outreach & Volunteer Efforts

Questions? Call the office for more info!



*My Sister's
Closet Boutique*
at Lamb of God Lutheran

Shut-in ministry

Take communion/visit with those unable to come to LOG to worship with us. Please see LaMar Grafft or Pastor Greg to help out.



We regularly meet from 9-noon each month on the 1st Wed. & the 3rd Thurs. *We always need knot tiers.* Any questions? Call Diane Hockett at 863-521-0821.

Kathleen Peters has agreed to lead our **Prayer Covering Ministry**. She needs volunteers to create these beautiful gifts made with love and prayers. Not just shawls anymore.

Our food pantry (LOGCFP) receives donations of food and household items from you, our congregation, Lake Region Village, and several other places. The items support community folks asking for assistance, as well as All Veterans Services, and Youth and Family Alternatives. See it in the Fellowship Hall.

LOG Community Food Pantry

Regularly meets at noon on the 3rd Thursday.



Bring your sack lunch and join us in the Library to discuss a book you have enjoyed reading. Contact Bill Quinlan for information.

A House Blest is just one of the offerings through Unity in the Community of Northeast Polk County. LOG volunteers regularly help with food distribution, "they" also helped with the 5th Annual Miracle Christmas on Saturday Dec. 21. If you have an hour or two to help, please talk with Kathy Dierker or LaMar Grafft. More info at <https://www.uicpolk.org/>

Unity in the Community

LOG Memorial Garden Committee



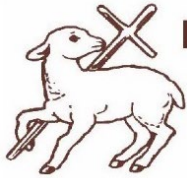
Spring clean-up is finished, but now ongoing so please consider helping with the Memorial Garden.

Contact Ken Linberg, Bill Quinlan, or Carol Vaughn

LOG needs you to step up and volunteer to be a Greeter, Usher, or host the Hospitality Desk. The Altar Guild is also in need of help. Thank you!!!

A House Blest is just one ministry where volunteers from LOG are involved. We help distribute food for a few hours. Come help distribute food or even just share a smiling, loving face to those in need. Ask LaMar or Kathy. **Do you need additional food? Come the 1st, 3rd, or 5th Friday each month, and bring proof of residence in Polk County and receive food.** More info can be found at <http://www.nhcpolk.org/a-house-blest>

A House Blest Food Mission



Lamb of God (Cordero de Dios) Lutheran Church

English Service 10am
Servicio Español 12:30pm

(863) 421-2811

901 Scenic Hwy. | Haines City, FL 33844-8597

lambofgodhainescity.com

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

SUNDAYS 11:15 AM - 12:15 AM



Catch up with with your friends while sharing a cup of coffee,
make new friends, or just because.

An online giving option is available
www.lambofgodhainescity.com
click **ONLINE GIVING**, download the
VANCO app, or scan the QR code



Our Mission Statement

The mission of Lamb of God Lutheran Church is to lead and inspire God's people into a growing relationship with Jesus.

Deadline for submissions:
September 20, 2025, for October edition
Editor: David Reedy, PhD
Davidreedy146@outlook.com

Our Vision Statement

Centered in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the vision of Lamb of God Lutheran Church is to transform and enhance the lives of members, neighbors, and friends, through relevant worship and study of God's word, and through providing Christian service & fellowship opportunities.

Stay connected



@lambofgodhainescity



@lambofgodhainescity



Lambofgodhainescity.com

Sunday Schedule

8:45 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 am Service of Holy Communion

11:00 am Escuela Bíblica

12:30 pm Servicio con Comunión

Online Worship is live at 10:00 a.m. <https://lambofgodhainescity.com/live-stream>

Staff

Rev. Dr. Greg Villalón, Lead Pastor/Interim: pastor@lambofgodhainescity.com

Rev. Izzy Bango-Sanchez, Associate Pastor/Spanish Development

Lissette Solano, Office Manager: officemanager@lambofgodhainescity.com

(863) 320-0917 (if no answer at LOG)

Julian Green, AV/Technology, Interim Music Director: prof.julian.green@gmail.com