

LAMB OF GOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAINES CITY, FL

October 2025. Volume 31, #10



LOG Bellwether

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

Hello!

Pastor Greg is on a short break from the office, so I am writing this month. Having found Lamb of God 11 years ago when we first became snowbirds, Tom and I have grown to love the community of “our” church. We do what we can to support LOG when in town and while back up north. I thoroughly enjoy receiving information from you which I use to create the Bellwether each month. It’s one thing I can do here or there.

One of the directives in 1 Peter, Chapter 4 is

⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God has a small group of very dedicated members, often unseen, doing the work of the church. While their work is regularly seen on Sunday when most of you have come to worship our Lord, preparing before, and helping during and after the service, it seems to be taken for granted at times. If you are not otherwise involved, please consider giving an hour or two of your time.

It’s been said many cooks spoil the broth... but that’s not LOG. Together we do “God’s Work with Our Hands”, and together it is easier and more fulfilling. I also want to thank all who donated books, games, cd/dvd for the Book Fair here in Lima, OH as we raised over \$55k supporting college scholarships for girls in our county.

David Reedy, Editor

September at Lamb of God Lutheran!

If you weren't at church or could not hear it online during the service, our Council President, LaMar Grafft addressed the congregation on Sunday 9/7 as follows:

My wife and I feel blessed to be full time members here at Lamb of God Lutheran Church for the last four years. We were welcomed when we came and have been accepted into the family, probably not much different than that quirky son in law.

One thing that I particularly appreciate with our congregation is how we step up in time of need, whether it's for a \$25,000 air conditioner or 600 boxes of stuffing for Thanksgiving. I come before you today to tell you about two immediate needs. The first is a reduction in giving that the finance committee has seen, coupled with the usual summer increase in our electric bill. During July, we spent \$2,600 more than we received in offering. In August, we have been \$8,000 short. Because of our frugal nature, we had money put away for the lean months and have been able to cover our needs. I am concerned about the trend, however.

One thing that could help smooth things out is online giving. Kind of like an automatic coffee pot, with VANCO, you can set it and forget it, but still make changes when necessary. We'll be rolling out our pledge cards in the next month or so, please help us plan by filling one out. The second need is one in the foreseeable future. Ken told us last week about a candidate for our pastor position. If everything works out well and they decide that Lamb of God is the call God is sending them, a new pastor will increase our financial needs substantially. None of us wants to see Pastor Greg go, but as an interim, he didn't know he was signing up for multiple years. This candidate is fluent in both English and Spanish and has other skills that would benefit Lamb of God. All of that comes with the price of a full-time person, while we currently struggle to pay our light bill.

There are a couple of other Florida churches looking for a bilingual pastor. One of them has reserves of \$1,000,000... I wonder what a candidate would think about a prospective congregation that has less than a years' worth of expenses in reserve? They might view it as a challenge, or as too much of a challenge. We shall see.

I recognize that we can't change our giving immediately, but I think we each need to prayerfully consider what we can do to help out financially on a continual basis.

In Christ, LaMar and Rita.

Lamb of God 2025 Budget

		2024**	2025	Variance	Change	Explanation
	Revenue					
1	General offerings only - no designated	\$311,917	\$299,275	-\$12,642	-4%	
	Expenses					
2	ADMINISTRATION	\$36,360	\$29,712	-\$6,648	-18%	Non-recurring computer equipment purchases
3	Computers, copier, utilities, supplies, subscriptions					
4	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$912	\$200	-\$712	-78%	Eliminated duplicative subscriptions
5	Subscriptions, Books, independent learning					
6	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	\$2,668	\$2,500	-\$168	-6%	
7	Fellowship, Funerals, Picnics					
8	FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT	\$47,481	\$38,112	-\$9,369	-20%	<u>Pending roof deductible</u>
9	Custodians, lawn care, pest control, repairs, Fire/Security					
10	MORTGAGE (balance ~\$189,000)	\$32,094	\$33,984	\$1,890	6%	Increase in wind/hail insurance
11	Principal, Interest, liability and facility Insurance					
12	OUTREACH	\$15,303	\$15,664	\$361	2%	
13	Synod support, language classes, pastor discretionary					
14	PASTORS AND STAFF	\$149,915	\$174,057	\$24,142	16%	addition of Sound Room Manager
15	Salaries, benefits for pastors, administrator, musician, sound room manager, finance contractor					
16	WORSHIP	\$6,981	\$2,973	-\$4,008	-57%	Major upgrade in sound room equipment
17	Altar supplies and flowers, music license, sound room equipment					
18	NEW PASTOR	N/A	\$0			To be addressed when we call a pastor. Expect a salary increase of ~\$50,000 + ~\$10,000 moving expenses.
19	Salary, Pension, Healthcare, Housing, Social Security, Ed/Travel					
20	PASTORAL CANDIDATE EXPENSE	N/A	\$2,000	\$2,000		
21	In-person interview					
22	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$291,714	\$299,202	\$7,488	3%	
23	TOTAL GIVINGS	\$311,917	\$299,275	-\$12,642	-4%	
24	SAVINGS/SHORTFALL	\$20,203	\$73	-\$20,131		
	** 2024: 9-month actual + 3-month projection					

As a member of LOG, do you remember voting on this budget last Fall? You agreed the amount needed every week would be \$5,753.88. So the Jan-Aug total amount agreed to provide is \$195,631.92. However, this year giving totals have been Jan \$37,761, Feb \$21,215.19, March \$26,470.44, April \$22,868, May \$15,537, June \$21,067, July \$15,391, Aug \$18,660 = \$178,969.63

To date we are \$16,662.29 behind what we said we would give.



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.

Please also review the special service with Bishop Suarez as LOG/Cordero de dios celebrated 10 years and Pastor Izzy's retirement.

9/14 celebrated 10 years with Cordero de dios, yet saying fairwell to Pastor Izzy



Sunday 9/21 LOG

welcomed new members



Dawne and Mark Bockelman



Pam Callas



Mary Michalko



Vanessa Vance



Richard (Red) Donnelly
May 18, 1941 – September 23, 2025

Please keep Barbara Donnelly and family in prayer on the passing of Richard (Red) on 9/23. A memorial service is planned for December.

"If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God."

ROMANS 14:8

Another important item for your calendar. As a final portion of the 10am service on **October 26**, a time of memorial & internment for Ellen Quackenboss who passed away earlier this summer.



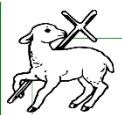
LOG Memorial Garden Committee



Please also remember the memorial garden at LOG. This beautiful setting is used by many families to house their loved ones remains. The committee is led by Ken Linberg, Bill Quinlan, and Carol Vaughn, who can answer your questions about the garden and memorial gifts to LOG.

We thank them for their dedicated service to our church family.

Memorial gifts can be made by clicking here



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 9:00-10:45am. English classes, for all levels, are from 11:00am-1:00pm.

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.

October 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 ; 11:45 am Spanish Service						
			10/1 9am Sew 'n Sews	10/2	10/3 9 am House Blest Food Distribution	10/4 LOGLP 9am English 11am Spanish
10/5	10/6	10/7	10/8	10/9	10/10	10/11 LOGLP 9am English 11am Spanish
10/12 Pastor Appreciation	10/13	10/14 10 am Finance Mtg	10/15	10/16 9am Sew 'n Sews	10/17 9 am House Blest Food Distribution	10/18 LOGLP 9am English 11am Spanish
10/19	10/20 6 pm Council Meeting & Bellwether Due	10/21	10/22	10/23	10/24	10/25 LOGLP 9am English 11am Spanish
10/26 Quackenboss Memorial	10/27	10/28 10 am Finance Mtg	10/29	10/30	10/31	11/1 4pm EAGLE Scout Project Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Heads up! I received a message from Bill Quinlan that the LOG Book Club is suspended indefinitely. But, from Gladys Hunt and I, remember the library is still open and available to you. Stop in, look it over, and check out a book.

Have yours?

Just \$10

8/28/25

Hello Lissette,

Hope you are doing well.
Also hope you can use this
for the women's boutique.
I still can't get over how
wonderful it is. You and
others have done an amazing
job. I only wish I was
there to help out!

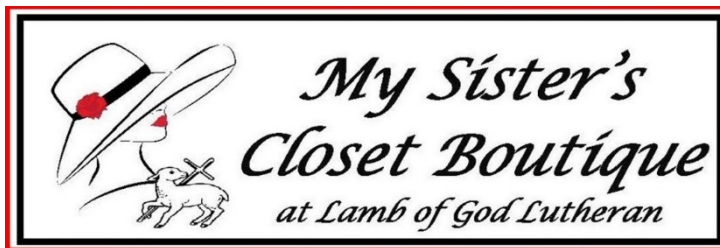
God Bless,

Michelle

AKA: Ellen Quackenbush's daughter



*It's OPEN and thriving
because of you.
Stop by and check out
the Quackenbush
jewelry donation and
the 2 for \$5 Summer
Clearance Specials.
Open between services.*



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

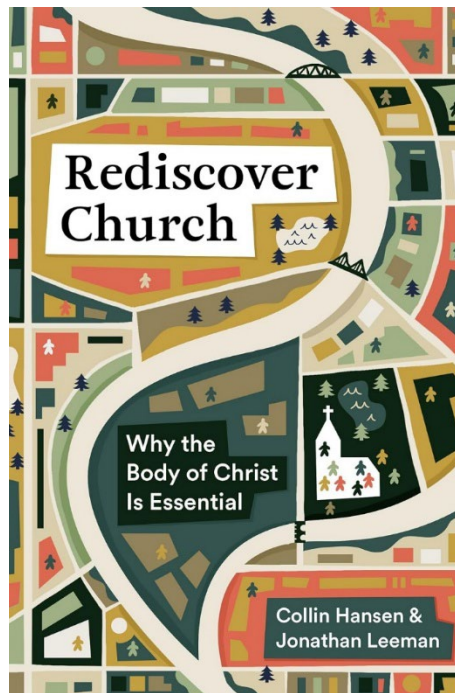
If you are a Thrivent member, you can direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lamb of God Lutheran Church. Thrivent doesn't provide us with exact amounts by individual; however, in total LOG received **\$1,085 from July 2024 to June 2025**. Also, Thrivent Members with either life insurance or annuities can 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 Oct 20. If it comes from the LOG Library, let me know that too! I'm reading "Between the Savior and the Sea" by Bob Rice. I will bring it to LOG in January. *David*

Adult Sunday School



Each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall starting at 8:45. Coffee and snacks too! We started reading & studying this book in September but you can still join us! Everyone is welcome.

Please Mark your Calendar

November 1, 2025, 4pm, LOG Fellowship Hall. Tickets now on sale!





Hey y'all, my name is Jackson Eastridge, I am a member of Lamb of God Lutheran. I am also a scout who is working on his eagle project. This project will be done at the church. I will be constructing a wooden pantry for the Fellowship Hall to hold the food for the LOG Community Food Panty. To do this I am fundraising.

My goal is to reach \$1,000, and you can help support me by coming on **November 1st at 4pm** to enjoy a salad, pasta with a choice of normal or meaty sauce, and a dessert for only \$10.

I will sell tickets during October after church. We will also be having a Wine basket raffle. Tickets will be sold for \$2 for 1 ticket, \$5 for 3, & \$10 for 8.



Jackson will be working to build permanent shelving for the Community Food Pantry in the LOG Fellowship Hall, as part of his Eagle Scout project. The shelves are pretty bare now, so if you are shopping and have options for buy one, get one free, please think of the LOGCFP for the extra. Remember how quickly we achieved over 500 boxes of stuffing last Thanksgiving? We need to do that now with shelf-stable food and cleaning items to stock the pantry.





October Quilting Dates & Invitation

October brings us the start of all things fall.....apple cider, pumpkin pie spiced everything, birds beginning their fall migration, football, cooler weather (we hope) and the start of our up north members coming back to join us here at LOG. Since there seems to be always something going on; I thought I would list some dates and what's being celebrated on that date.

10/1 ***Wednesday the SEW 'N SEWS will meet from 9 am - 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us and start your month out doing God's work - Our hands.***

International Coffee Day and date Henry Ford introduced the Model T.

10/2 is YOM KIPPUR the holiest day of the year in Judaism.

10/5 World Teacher's Day

10/8 National Stop Bullying Day

10/10 World Mental Health Day and Inclusion Day

10/12 Clergy Appreciation Day and Hispanic Day

10/13 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day as well as the United States Navy's Birthday

10/15 National Cheese Curd Day (one of my favorites)

10/16 ***The 3rd Thursday of the month and the SEW 'N SEWS will again meet from 9 am - 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall.*** Also it's World Food Day

10/20 DIWALI Hindu's Festival of Lights

10/25 National Make A Difference Day

10/26 On this date last year we celebrated LOG 35th Anniversary with a wonderful party.

10/28 National Chocolate Day (another favorite)

10/30 National Treat Your Pet Day

10/31 National Knock-Knock Joke Day and Halloween

I hope everyone has a Wonderful month of Celebrations ... as EVERY DAY IS A GIFT **Blessings, Diane Hockett**

PSST! Can you guess who eloped in the month of September when we were all planning for a wedding soon?

Well, just look at the brighter smiles in the sound room!

Congrats Julian and Kiersten



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

is an international health campaign that's held every October. The month aims to promote screening and reduce the risk of the disease, which affects 2.3 million women worldwide. Known best for its pink theme color, the month features a number of campaigns and programs designed to:

- support people diagnosed with breast cancer, including those with [metastatic breast cancer](#)
- educate people about [breast cancer risk factors](#)
- encourage women to go for [regular breast cancer screening](#) starting at age 40 or earlier, depending on personal breast cancer risk
- raise money for breast cancer research

In the month of October, there are also specific dates designed to raise awareness of specific groups within the breast cancer community.

LOG has the opportunity to support this campaign through a raffle of quilts during the month of October (pictures are on the next page). All proceeds from ticket sales will go to a local entity supporting breast cancer awareness. Tickets will be on sale before and after each service on the first three Sundays of October and before the service on October 26. There will be cake and coffee available after the service and Quackenboss memorial internment on October 26 where the winners will be announced. Raffle tickets will be 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10. Tickets can also be purchased online [by clicking here](#) (enter amount and in memo the number of tickets and item number). Donations are welcome.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Raffle tickets
available before
and after church in
October and
online. Donations
are welcome!

Item #1
Queen-sized quilt
and pillow sham.

Items #2 & 3
Sew 'n Sews created Queen-sized quilts

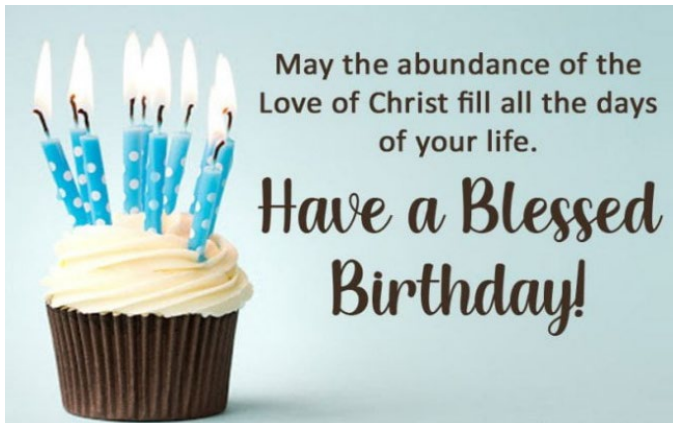


Item #2



Item #3

October, Celebrating with you!



Happy Birthday to YOU!

- 5 Ann Kauffman
- 5 Debra Schmidt
- 6 Pedro Concepcion
- 6 Rob Valle
- 15 Mark Walton
- 19 Carmen Mercado
- 21 Connie (Hoss) Horst
- 28 Nancy Till

Happy Anniversary, Y'all

- 1 John & Laverne Tillson
- 5 Donald & Shellie Falkenberg
- 15 Richard & Brenda Kavelak
- 15 Carol & Richard Lounsbery
- 17 Nancy & John Till
- 20 Diane & Rick Kresge
- 21 Ann & John Frederick
- 28 Linda & Lorraine Hansen-Stark



Watch out! *Thanks for Giving* coming soon. We hope you will participate.

By the numbers for September

Average Attendance	98	Weekly Offerings	\$14,471
		Vanco (Online) Offerings	\$ 2,701
		Total Offerings	\$17,172
		Needed this month	\$23,016
			Short \$5,844

Facebook interactions 502 (66% female, 65.6% age 65+)

LOG Website 157 active users with 399 views

Online/YouTube 110 subscribers Average views (live) 43 (14)

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? Contact the chair for more info!



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.

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

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 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>



*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.

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.

Regularly meets at noon on the 3rd Thursday.



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

Paused indefinitely

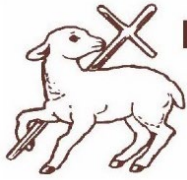
LOG Memorial Garden Committee



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

Contact Ken Linberg, Bill Quinlan, or Carol Vaughn

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:
October 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



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Sunday Schedule

8:45 am Adult Sunday School 10:00 am Service of Holy Communion
11:00 am Escuela Bíblica 11:45 am Servicio con Comunción

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

Staff

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Lisette 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