

BELLWETHER

The one that takes the lead or sets the example.
March 2026



Our journey in Lent: Take a quiet moment each day

During March, our Lenten journey invites us to slow down, look inward, and walk through the spiritual desert that slowly begins to take over our life. It is a time for us to take a moment and sit in prayer at the feet of Jesus. To try and shut out the demands of our everyday life. Lent's 40 days mirror Jesus' time in the wilderness. It is not meant to be a season of gloom, but one of renewal. Just as a garden requires plowing and planting before the harvest, our hearts require a time of harvest as we focus on strengthening our faith and trusting in God before really being able to enjoy the gift of Easter. It is a time to ask difficult questions about what in life is really important to us and to realign our priorities. The goal isn't perfection; it's a closer walk with the one who has already won the victory for you.

As spring slowly approaches, we find ourselves deep in the season of Lent. While the world around us wants to quickly move forward, our Lenten journey invites us to do something countercultural: to slow down, look inward, and walk intentionally through the spiritual desert towards the light of Jesus Christ.

During this season of Lent, we continue to gather every Sunday morning to remember and give thanks to our loving God for continually showing us how awesome He is. In addition to our Sunday morning worship, we continue to work with My Sisters Closet ministries to provide clothing and food to members of our surrounding community who need food and clothing. Another opportunity for us as a community of Jesus Christ will be to gather on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 with a focus on the Psalms. We invite you to join us for our Lenten Bible Study and ask that you bring a brown bag lunch so that we can end our study with a meal together.

Pastor Greg

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN 901 Scenic Drive, Haines City, FL phone: (863) 421-2811

<https://lambogodhainescity.com/>

Office hours are 9-5 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

My Sister's Closet Boutique hours as posted.

Lamb of God Community Food Pantry hours as posted.

Service in English at 10am on Sunday, Service in Spanish at 11:45am on Sunday

Online service streamed at 10am via YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0ps8yFfbmFCVw-PCkWATow>

February at Lamb of God



Briefly after LOG Language class, Yisneiri helps Bianca in MSCB



MSCB brunch thanking all for what they do for the boutique and LOGCFP too!



Gathering of singers to help lead music on Sunday mornings.



Substitute Pastor Rafael Infante leads the blessing of the quilts.



Sew 'n Sews fold and box the 84 quilts going to LWR. Thank you for your diligent work.



Surprise! After 11 years of snowbird attendance, I joined LOG!

BELLWETHER MARCH 2026 (The newsletter of LOG Lutheran Church)

Come to the Waters Without Price: *An Invitation to Listen and Live*
March carries us deep into Lent. And Lent is a somber preparation for Christ's death on the cross. But remember why our Lord came to die. He did it for us. He came to take our own death away; to swallow it up and raise us from the dead as He was raised on Easter. Repenting, then, is not just counting our sins; it is remembering who Jesus is and why we love Him so much.



I love to turn to Isaiah 55, the Old Testament lesson from the Third Sunday in Lent:

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” (Isaiah 55:1, ESV)

Think of how astonishing this invitation is. Even *you*, with no money; come, buy, and eat. Our Lord knows you cannot walk into His store and purchase your life with what *you* have earned. His store is better than any earthly market. *You buy there for free.* Stop going to the world's stores to purchase your life. Only Jesus gives resurrection; and best of all, *it is free.*

“Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.” (Isaiah 55:2-3, ESV)

Jesus is telling us this Lent, the way you repent and change your life is to stop listening to the cheap goods and the false promises. Instead, listen only to Him; and you will receive the good stuff. Rich food. Eat with your ear. Listen and live. It may seem strange to others around you. But remember what our Lord says:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9, ESV)

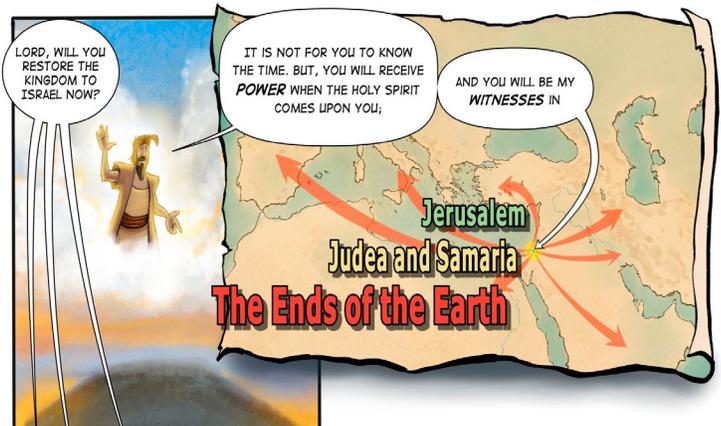
Do not be surprised when God does not follow your plan. Our God has higher thoughts than we could imagine. His ways are not like our ways. You think you must pay Him to receive something good, but His gifts are given freely. That is why Lent is about the strange and wonderful God we have. He is like the desert resurrection plant; lying dormant until the rain suddenly pours down and the beautiful flower unfurls. Look. Do you not see what our Lord is doing even now? No more spending money on what is not bread. Come to His waters. Buy without price.

This Lent, let us listen and live.

Beatrice B. D'Angelo, *Called to Serve Lamb of God*

BELLWETHER MARCH 2026 (The newsletter of LOG Lutheran Church)

Our Adult Sunday School Class is studying the **Acts of the Apostles**. We would like to invite you to join us. We are using an illustrated text that comes from Pastor Steve Thomason, a pastor, artist and seminary teacher from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. We will look at the struggles and triumphs of the early Christian Church. Their experiences in ministry in our world have lots of similarities to living in our world today. Please join us. Class meets on Sunday Mornings at 8:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Hey, we're Good Lutherans...There are coffee and snacks available, too.



Rose Pagan, our Thrivent representative, delivered items to the LOGCFP that will be used when Jackson builds his shelving unit for the pantry. We are deeply grateful to Rose for generously donating *her personal Action Card* to support Lamb of God.

Something I received from a member. Consider how this might also be you!

For the last several months I've been taking food from the church pantry for one of my neighbors. They're going through a very hard time and I just found out that they have to move because they can't afford the rent anymore. I always included our monthly prayer book with the food which they told me they read and enjoy. Yesterday I brought two bags from the LOGCFP, and I left it by the front door like I always do when they don't answer the door. Last night they brought the bags back and left it by my front door with a note. Sometimes the smallest act of kindness can make a big difference, so David please write something about how people bringing a box of stuffing or can of tuna or corn can know what a difference it makes for someone that has very little or nothing to eat. Thank you Lissette for helping me put the bags together. David I know you'll come up with a beautiful writing piece. *Not needed, you did this beautifully yourself. I'm pleased to include it for you.*

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How Alma came to volunteer!

When Alta Vista Elementary finished the school day, a few students stopped by LOG and Lissette would give them a snack from the LOGCFP. Several girls would come by and once in a while Juliette's little brother would come too. Well, Jordan decided one day he would pull the fire alarm at the church and was told he was banned from coming in. Imagine Alma's surprise when he came home and said he was banned from the church! When she showed up to question Lissette about it and learned the truth, she felt God's hand on her and started volunteering with our congregation in the boutique and with several other activities. With Alma's help, Lissette finishes up the bulletins and distributes them in a timely manner, as well as Alma helping Marisol and the MSCB volunteers. It's amazing to me how God works through a small after school snack, a little boy pulling an alarm, and bringing Mom and family into our circle. Thank you Lord! And Thank YOU, Alma!



901 Scenic Highway
Haines City, FL 33844-8597

Office: 863.421.2811
www.lambofgodhainescity.com

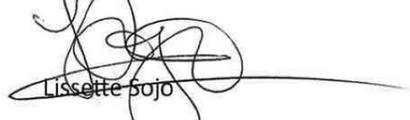
February 3rd, 2026

The Way Center,

This letter is to inform you that Alma Alfaro has been volunteering at Lamb of God Lutheran Church, specifically in the ministry of My Sister's Boutique since January 2025. Under the direction of the church office manager and other leadership, Alma assisted in the preparation of our ministry set up and opening. Alma demonstrated leadership and problem-solving skills with a humble disposition and grateful attitude. We truly appreciated her help; it couldn't have come at a better time as we really needed the extra volunteer help! We wish her all the best.

Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lissette Sojo
Office Manager



BELLWETHER MARCH 2026 (The newsletter of LOG Lutheran Church)

Recently the church council has reorganized, below are liaison responsibility

Committee of the church and council liaison responsibility		
<u>Worship and Music</u> Completes everything needed to ensure both services run smoothly	Pastor, LaMar, JJ	Plan worship service, Seasonal liturgical planning, Special worship & music, Select lessons & hymns, Supply pastor coordination, Choirs, Altar guild, Ushers, Greeters, Hospitality desk, Readers, Worship assistants, Sound room team
<u>Church Office</u> Supports the Pastor & Office functions for the Church	Pastor, LaMar, Lissette	Churchwide communications, Member directory, Participates on finance committee, Financial input to systems, Interfaces with all areas, Haines City chamber of commerce members, Website, Facebook page, Bellwether (w/David), Sunday bulletins, Weekly PowerPoints (w/David & Nancy), Council secretary interface to Jane Messmer
<u>Congregational/Christian Life</u> Interactions impacting daily lives of the Congregation	Letty Villalon	Prayer chain, Love meals, Memorial Garden (w/Bill Q.), Shut-in visitation, Prayer Coverings (w/Kathleen P.), Cards (Birthday, Anniversary, Other)
<u>Education</u> Ensures that Education is performed	Jose Correa, Pastor	Sunday school, Special seasonal education, Spanish classes (w/Oscar), ESL (w/Philippa), Vacation bible school, Library, Book club, Daily bread & other periodicals.
<u>Fellowship</u> Management of Special Events using the Kitchen or Fellowship Hall	LuAnne Smith, Letty	Special events, Kitchen, Decorations closet, Memorial celebrations
<u>Finance</u> Facilitates Bookkeeping, Planning, & controls all Financial areas	Lynne Martin & Paul Bockelman	Bookkeeping, Banking relationship, Interface with external auditor, Budgeting, Financial reporting, Money counters, Coordinate Insurance & Mortgage, Bill payment, Financial Systems (QuickBooks, ICON, etc.)
<u>Outreach</u> Opportunities to grow congregation & interact with the public	Lori Stark	LambFest (Spring Sale/Bazaar), Quilters, My Sister's Closet (w/Marisol), My Brother's Closet (w/Ruben), Food Pantry, Interface with Public, House Blest & Unity in the community(w/Kathy D.), Angel Tree, Visitor follow-up, Help publicize (ESL/Spanish classes)
<u>Property</u> Maintains the property owned by the church	Mark Bockelman	Custodians/cleaning, Church building maintenance, Mechanic systems, Technology systems, Grounds, Security, Compliance with local regulations
<u>Stewardship</u> Encourages congregational participation to support both financial & volunteer requirements	Jim Mason	Interfaces with all areas, Annual offering pledge coordination, Volunteer talent enlistments, Engagement of part time members (snowbirds), recognition Church envelope program (w/Pam)



Happy National Quilting Day 3/21/26!
See the story by clicking
[LWRNOD - Your Love Goes the Distance](#)

The LOG Sew 'N Sews would like to **Thank Everyone** who helped to make another successful year of quilting. The Sanctuary on 2/1/26 beautifully displayed the 84 quilts that were assembled from 2/25 - 2/26. Then those same quilts were packed up into 17 boxes on 2/4/26 and delivered to the Ingathering site at Shepherd of the Hills in Clermont. The Quilters started tallying the number of quilts made with 1,915 from 1990 - 2008. Our contribution this year brought the total up to 4,745! Come join us and help add to that number on Thursday 3/5 and 3/19 from 9 - 12. Note there are date changes due to Lenten Bible study on Wednesdays and the upcoming Lambfest in April. The date for April will be Thursday 4/2/2026.
We will not meet on Thursday 4/16/26.



The Sew 'N Sews are awesome!
After being blessed during the service on February 1, we were sending out 17 boxes then enjoying coffee and cookies. We sold 2 quilts this year. Pictured is Carl S. and his quilt. He had a difficult decision to make between the beige one he did buy and the blue one that also caught his eye.

Thanks to All! God's work Our hands!



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Each Wednesday morning at 10:30am, we gather in the Fellowship Hall to study the Psalms followed by a time of fellowship to enjoy your brown bag lunch (whatever you bring) with others at LOG.

Pastor Greg is preparing this study.



Speaking of Food!!!! Did you get your LOG Cookbook? The recipes were gathered by members of the congregation and donated. Very limited supply. All proceeds support the Fellowship Committee activities and supplies for the kitchen. See LuAnne or Pam Thomas.

LOG is transitioning & it's a good place to be <https://lambofgodhainescity.com/>

If you missed any of the services, please be sure to go to YouTube where you can watch the entire service, or just Pastor Greg's fantastic sermons.

<https://www.youtube.com/@lambofgodhainescity/streams>

Sunday morning stream the service when you're away or unable to come to church. <https://lambofgodhainescity.com/live-stream>

Please be sure to *comment, review, like, follow, or any of the social media things available.* <https://www.facebook.com/lambofgodhainescity>

Review by saying what you like!

Doing so helps other find LOG so **we need your help.** Whether you

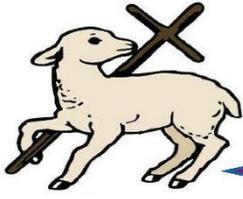
are on Facebook , Instagram ,

Twitter/X , Yelp! , Nextdoor ,

or YouTube , or any of those which I have no clue about.



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CHURCH LIBRARY

See the display in the Narthex. Stop in and look around. Bring in any books you'd like to donate. See Gladys Hunt for more info.



email info@givecf.org
web www.givecf.org
phone 863-683-3131

January 20, 2026

Reverend Cheryl L. Berner
Lamb of God Lutheran Church
901 Scenic Highway
Haines City, FL 33844

Dear Reverend Berner:

On behalf of [REDACTED] within GiveWell Community Foundation, we are pleased to enclose a check in the amount of \$775.55 payable to Lamb of God Lutheran Church. These funds are designated as an annual contribution.

When this grant was recommended to the GiveWell Community Foundation, the Advisor *affirmed* that no benefits have been offered or provided in exchange for the grant.

Any public recognition of this grant should indicate this as a contribution on behalf of [REDACTED] **within GiveWell Community Foundation** as the donor. Please do not issue a tax receipt to either the GiveWell Community Foundation or the recommending donor for this grant. The donor received a tax receipt at the time they contributed to the Community Foundation. Any written acknowledgement connected with this grant should be forwarded to the GiveWell Community Foundation.

By endorsing and depositing this check, Lamb of God Lutheran Church guarantees that there has been no change in the organization's IRS tax classification as described in the IRS Code Sections 501(c)(3).

Sincerely,

Callie Neslund
President/CEO

Enclosure
CN:jm

1501 S. Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803

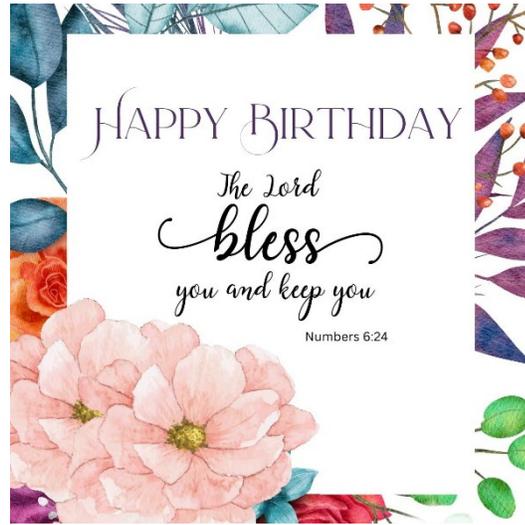
20 3rd Street SW, Suite 307
Winter Haven, FL 33880



Mission: To champion charitable giving to improve the quality of life in the areas we serve, both now and for future generations.

March Celebrations

Denise O'Harrow	03/02
Kathy Dierker	03/04
Marisol Velazquez	03/04
Desmond Ramlingum	03/08
Carlos Robles	03/10
Ray Messmer	03/20
Bea Rosado	03/22
Barb Donnelly	03/23
John Till	03/23
Coila Hales	03/25
Deborah Bockelman	03/30



Planning ahead! The final Sunday of this month is Palm Sunday (March 30). That's the date Lily orders must be received. Just \$11 and you can honor or remember someone or give thanks to God while helping beautify the Chancel on Easter Sunday (April 5). The QR code below links directly to VANCO and you can use your Credit or Debit card now! Be sure to share your dedication there too.

Plan also for Holy Week Services
Maundy Thursday (4/2) at 6pm
Good Friday (4/3) at 6pm
Easter Sunday (4/5) at 10am



QR Code Easter Lily



Plan for LambFest

Sale is April 17 and 18. Bring in your clean and gently used items before April 8 on Sunday before or after service, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings (9-noon). We can use anything you would find to bring to your home, so consider how we can use your donation as part of our Spring Sale (Rita Grafft and Carol Vaughn). We're also looking for home made items for the Bake Sale (Pam Callas is heading this up). Susan K is working with the Plant Sale. At this point we need you to sign up to help with any of the three areas preparing and during the sale. Together we can shop the LOG welcoming hands of Christ.



LambFest Spring Sale

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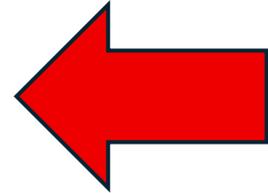


Lamb of God Lutheran Church

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We're excited to share with you the impact your clothing shed made over the last year...

- 11,106 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2025
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 2,046 people all over the world
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$444



Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers, and your communities do to support the clothing shed program!

Sincerely,
The Team at
St. Pauly Textile, Inc.

1067 Gateway Drive • Farmington, NY 14425 • 585-924-7941 • questions@stpauyltextile.com



A few years ago Kathy Dierker and Lisette brought this to council and congregation. You started there and continued donating. Then LOG took it and realized MSCB for higher quality items. Now, with your help and your donations for LambFest (April 17 and 18), please also bring in any used clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, linens, pillowcases, blankets, curtains, & stuffed animals, which will then be curated by MSCB for use in the boutique or into the shed.

Did you know? LOG attendee Dr. Amy Bernard created a Community Quick Help Guide? [Click here to view it.](#) Also available in Spanish so please spread the word. Thank you Amy

BELLWETHER MARCH 2026 (The newsletter of LOG Lutheran Church)

Lenten study on the books of the Psalms began Feb 25. Guess what!!! King David *didn't* write them all. But the Psalms are the railing for us to grab onto when approaching God... hmmm? Ask Pastor Greg about that one. But, do you remember the bells? The bells in churches used to call people to the building, then the Organ Prelude (a specialty of JS Bach) came next with a time of quiet contemplative thought (no speaking). In the Prelude, God through the Holy Spirit, ministers to us and prepares the Sanctuary and the People to worship together. Pastor suggests that during Lent, we all read a couple of Psalms daily. Then after that, read one each day. The Lenten study on Psalms continues on Wednesday mornings at 10:30. Bring a bag lunch and fellowship with others after the study.

Each of us is different and have experienced life differently, too. Please keep this in mind when there is a disagreement with someone because you don't know what that person comes from.

Language Classes Continue to Grow

The Lamb of God Languages Program continues offering Spanish and English classes each week. Everyone is welcome, and classes are free of charge. Our only requirement from volunteer teachers and students is patience and a willingness to learn. As reported in the November Bellwether, we received a grant of \$3,100 to purchase a smartboard for our classroom. Donors have given \$5, \$10, and up to \$500 toward our goal of \$2,500 to complete the purchase and installation of this valuable educational tool. Your support, both monetary and in prayer, are greatly appreciated. God's work, our hands! *Philippa White*



**Lamb of God
Languages Program**

The February average attendance was 121 each week with a total income of just over \$20,967. Online giving (VANCO) continues to grow however *please use your designated envelopes* for cash or checks to be placed in the offering plates. See Pam Thomas for your envelopes or contact the office for help with VANCO.

The LOG Bellwether is published monthly. Please send information to the editor by the 20th of the month for possible inclusion in the subsequent issue. The editor uses davidreedy146@outlook.com for communication. Thanks go to Lissette Solano and Teresa Liberta for their regular submission of information and pictures. Don't forget to "follow" & review LOG on Facebook and to "subscribe" to our YouTube channel.