



# BELLWETHER

**Bellwether** — the lead sheep of the flock (archaic English)

## Pastor's Notes...

It's been a few wild weeks . . . so nothing fancy this month. I just want to quickly update folks on a couple of important things:

\*Call Process - Lamb of God's transition and financial documents went to the Synod Office on October 1, for review. We are now waiting for the Synod to give the green light to form the Call Committee.

\*Hurricane Ian – We sustained some roof and water damage, and an insurance claim has been filed. Multiple adjusters, architects, and moisture and mold inspectors have assessed the damage. We are currently waiting for further instructions/clarification as to what needs to be done to mitigate any further damage; and the extent of repairs that will ultimately need to be done. Our policy has a 2% wind deductible of \$53,700.

\*Finances – In addition to a high wind deductible, we continue to fall behind in giving as compared to actual expenses; and any reserves are nearly depleted. Please prayerfully consider how you might help Lamb of God meet our critical financial needs.

\* We are One – As I write this, we are preparing to affirm and celebrate “being one congregation with both English and Spanish expressions” with a bilingual service and potluck fellowship on Reformation Sunday. Thanks be to God!

Together in Christ – Pastor Berner

## Meet our new members!

### Lamar and Rita Grafft



LaMar and Rita Grafft live in Davenport, Florida. LaMar retired in April 2021 from East Carolina University where he was a Farm Safety Specialist for 8 years. He held a similar position at the University of Iowa for 20 years. Rita managed the kids and the finances, a job that never truly ends. They have been married for 51 years and have 16 children--3 born to them, and 13 adopted. They enjoy traveling, being with family and remodeling. They are lifelong Lutherans.

Hello to my new congregational family.

My name is LuAnne Cramer Smith and I'm so happy to finally be a small part of this great church. Some of you know I've been coming to this church on occasion since the beginning as my parents are Jim & Kit Marsella.

I moved to Florida from South Carolina with my two fur babies in February 2022 to help my mother get to doctors appointments & to take care of daily things that may need to be taken care of. I retired from Gregory Electric where I spent over 18 years doing a job I loved. I have children & grandchildren in SC.

Things I enjoy doing are: Taking care of animals & children. I feel they need all the help we can give them. Volunteering to help where I can is very important to me, I volunteered with the USO while living in SC. Donated and helped the American Red Cross for years. I try to be as active as possible with church activities, committees that might need an extra hand in getting things completed. I have 2 sayings that I use a lot, really, I have more than 2 but

"You only get one chance to make a first impression" &  
"If you need anything that I can help with, just call me"

I hope to get to know all of you better as we help and support building this congregation. As they say, "The Best is Yet to come!"

### LuAnne Cramer Smith





# Nuestro Mayor Anfitrión y su Generosidad

Se acercan las grandes festividades y reuniones con amigos y familiares. Entonces realizamos arreglos, decoraciones y una cena deliciosa para agradecer a todos. Sí, deseamos ser los mejores anfitriones, para que a nuestros invitados no les falte nada. Pensemos que tú lector eres uno de esos invitados en la fiesta. Todas tus necesidades están siendo satisfechas, buen ambiente, buena comida, linda toda la decoración a tu alrededor no tienes que preocuparte por nada y es justamente la intención de un buen anfitrión.

Nuestro Padre Celestial en su Creación buscó ser el mejor anfitrión para todos nosotros. La Creación es la expresión del Amor generoso de Dios y nosotros los seres humanos somos sus invitados en este mundo de oportunidad y abundancia. Pero sabemos y hasta Cristo mismo vivió en un mundo de guerra y de escasez pero Dios nos recuerda en su Palabra **Mateo 6:26** “Miren las aves del cielo, que no siembran, ni siegan, ni recogen en graneros; y vuestro Padre celestial los alimenta. ¿No valen ustedes mucho mas que ellas? Podríamos encontrar decenas de versículos bíblicos que nos enfatizan como Dios nos lo ha dado todo y no debemos de preocuparnos. El problema estriba en que, regresamos a la historia de Adán y Eva con el pecado original. Nosotros, los humanos nacemos con **el pecado original, o sea el deseo en nuestro interior de tomar las decisiones por nosotros mismos y no confiar en el anfitrión de nuestras vidas**. Esto crea un caos en nuestras vidas y nos lleva a un mundo de egoísmos, de mentira, de maldad, de competencia entre unos y otros, de orgullo, etc. Los humanos somos terribles para decidir el bien y el mal por nosotros mismos, sin Dios. En un mundo diseñado por el único Dios y creador de todo, **¡ EL PROBLEMA ESTRIBA EN NUESTRA MENTALIDAD DE NO CONFIAR EN DIOS Y QUE QUIZAS DIOS NO ME DARÁ LO QUE NECESITO Y DEBO RESOLVERLO POR MI MISMO(A)!**

Dios en rescate hacia la humanidad promete a Abraham una innumerable familia y una generosidad y prosperidad de abundancia al pueblo de Israel. Ellos solo tenían que confiar en su generosidad, mas los Israelitas se comportan egoístas y traicioneros entre ellos mismos, lo que causa la autodestrucción de Israel. Nuestro mayor Anfitrión, Dios, nos se rinde y nos da otro regalo, a sí mismo. Jesús en su misión sacrificial, dando su vida por nuestros pecados, enfatiza a sus seguidores a confiar como Él, en la abundancia de Dios y a **vivir una vida**

**edificada en la bondad, la confianza y en el Amor de Dios.** En **2Corintios 8:9** el apóstol Pablo enfatiza “Ya conocen la gracia de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, que aunque era rico, por causa de ustedes se hizo pobre, para que mediante su pobreza ustedes llegaran a ser ricos” y en **1Corintios 10:24**” Que nadie busque sus propios intereses, sino los del prójimo”.

Hermanos, es necesario que aprendamos a vencer la mentira e inseguridad que Dios no nos proveerá, o no nos oirá nuestras peticiones. Aclamemos al Espíritu Santo que siempre nos acompaña y nos ayudará a confiar en nuestro Anfitrión como también Jesús lo hizo. Jesús con su muerte demuestra la Mayor expresión máxima de sacrificio de Amor y Generosidad al darnos su propia vida para que vivamos confiados en su bondad. El transforma la muerte en vida, la pobreza en abundancia.

Recordemos que Dios nos promete el “Reino de Dios”, una vida eterna con el. Vivamos confiados, mientras estemos en este mundo, que Dios proveerá y aliviará nuestras cargas y mientras mas ayudemos a nuestro prójimo, desinteresadamente, mas oportunidades de abundancia recibiremos. Busquemos oportunidades de generosidad a nuestro alrededor especialmente, aquí en tu Iglesia; con tu tiempo, con tus talentos, con tu dinero y compartiendo con otros, en la **ABSOLUTA CONFIANZA QUE DIOS ESTA CON NOSOTROS.**



**OREMOS:** Dios Misericordioso, el único Anfitrión de mi vida. Ayúdame a vencer mis dudas y mi confianza en ti cuando veo la necesidad y la escasez a mi alrededor. Ayúdame con tu Espíritu Santo a descansar en tu abundancia y en tu generosidad, sabiendo que en todo tu proveerás. Abre oportunidades para que tu generosidad en mí, sea revelada. Por tu Hijo Jesucristo, nuestro Señor. Amén

Producido por: Wanda Bango-Sanchez\* 20/10/22



## Snippets from the Heart

Committee on Christian Education (Nov. 2022 Edition)

### Our Greatest Host and His Generosity

The big festivities and gatherings with friends and family are approaching. Then we make arrangements, decorations and a delicious dinner to please everyone. Yes, we want to be the best hosts, so that our guests want for nothing. Let's think that you, reader, are one of those guests at the party. All your needs are being met: good atmosphere, good food, nice decoration around you, you don't have to worry about anything and that is exactly the intention of a good host.

Our Heavenly Father in his Creation sought to be the best host for all of us. Creation is the expression of God's generous Love and we human beings are his guests in this world of opportunity and abundance. But we know and even Christ himself lived in a world of war and scarcity but God reminds us in his Word **Matthew 6:26** "Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they?" We could find dozens of biblical verses that emphasize how God has given us everything and we should not worry. The problem is that we go back to the story of Adam and Eve with the original sin. We humans are born with **original sin, that is, the desire within us to make decisions for ourselves and not trust the host of our lives**. This creates chaos in our lives and leads us to a world of selfishness, lies, evil, competition between each other, pride, etc. Humans are terrible at deciding right and wrong for ourselves, without God. In a world designed by the only God and creator of everything, **THE PROBLEM IS IN OUR MENTALITY OF NOT TRUSTING GOD AND THAT MAYBE GOD WILL NOT GIVE ME WHAT I NEED AND I HAVE TO SOLVE IT BY MYSELF!** God in ransom towards humanity promises Abraham an innumerable family and a generosity and prosperity of abundance to the people of Israel. They only had to trust in his generosity, but the Israelites behave selfishly and treacherously among themselves, which causes the self-destruction of Israel. Our greatest Host, God, surrenders to us and gives us another gift, himself.

Jesus in his sacrificial mission, giving his life for our sins, encourages his followers to trust like him, in the abundance of God and to live **a life built on goodness, trust and the Love of God**. In **2 Corinthians 8:9** the apostle Paul emphasizes "You already know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, he became poor for your sake, so that through your poverty you might become rich" and in **1 Corinthians 10:24** "Let no one seek their own interests, but those of the neighbor."

Brothers, it is necessary that we learn to overcome the lie and insecurity that God will not provide us, or he will not hear our requests. Let us hail the Holy Spirit who is always with us and will help us to trust our Host as Jesus did. Jesus with his death demonstrates the Greatest maximum expression of sacrifice of Love and Generosity by giving us his own life so that we live confident in his goodness. He transforms death into life, poverty into abundance. Let us remember that God promises us the "Kingdom of God", an eternal life with him. Let us live confident, while we are in this world, that God will provide and alleviate our burdens and the more we help our neighbor, selflessly, the more opportunities of abundance we will receive. Let us look for opportunities of generosity around us especially, here in your Church; with your time, with your talents, with your money and sharing with others, in the **ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE THAT GOD IS WITH US**.



**LET US PRAY:** Merciful God, the only Host of my life. Help me overcome my doubts and my trust in you when I see need and lack around me. Help me with your Holy Spirit to rest in your abundance and generosity, knowing that in everything you will provide. Open opportunities for your generosity in me to be revealed. Through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Produced by: Wanda Bango-Sanchez\* 10/20/22

Congratulations to

*Best wishes to our members and friends on their*

## *Birthdays in November*



- 🕒 11/01 Nancy Mojica
- 🕒 11/4 Mike Riederman
- 🕒 11/7 Diane Kresge
- 🕒 11/11 Wendell Roddy
- 🕒 11/12 Karla Lopez
- 🕒 11/13 Bob Simons
- 🕒 11/13 Carol Vaughn
- 🕒 11/17 Lenny Erb
- 🕒 11/18 Hilda Carames
- 🕒 11/19 Janette Farrugia
- 🕒 11/20 Amanda Frankenberg
- 🕒 11/23 Juan Garcia
- 🕒 11/26 Omy Delgado Ruiz
- 🕒 11/30 Bill Schmick

## *Anniversaries in November*



- ♥ 11/11 Amanda & Alan Frankenberg
- ♥ 11/19 /1950 Darlene & Richard Barker (72 Years!!!)
- ♥ 11/29 Jackie & Tom Tibbetts, III

# Quilter's Guild



The Quilters have been busy putting quilts together. Over the next several months we'd like to introduce you to our quilters. Our first quilter to highlight is Flora "Flo" Tarrence. Flo is a born organizer; she first came to us to help get our quilt closet organized and she will

tell you we needed help. Flo is also the one who built and installed the shelves and cabinets in the Quilt Closet a few years back, so was a natural to get it organized. We aren't totally organized but on the way thanks to Flo and in the process, she is learning to quilt. Flo now pitches in to help put the quilts together and has begun taking fabric home, cutting it into squares and putting the squares together (picture is of Flo with her first finished Lutheran World Relief Quilt). We are so grateful for Flo's enthusiasm and how she keeps us laughing. You can find Flo in the Sound Room most Sundays so stop by and say hello. Our winter quilting members are beginning to return; we are very thankful for their participation. If you would like to find out about quilting here at Lamb of God, please come and join us. We meet the first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month from 9 AM to 12 Noon, for November will meet on November 2nd and 17th respectively. We looked forward to this time together and to help others in need by putting together mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We invite you to join us for this worthwhile program. If you have any questions contact Laverne Tillson, Quilt Coordinator at 863-326-6018 or the church office.



## Operation "Bug Out"



Due to pests, silverfish to be specific, we are trying to transition the storage of items from cardboard boxes to plastic storage containers. Please consider donating any bins you no longer need for this project.

Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Yours in Christ,  
Pam Thomas



## LIBRARY NEWS

Once again, thank you to our members who have donated books to our library.

A very interesting book on our shelves is **The Book of God by Walter Wangerin, Jr.**

It is the story of the Bible told with exciting detail and passionate energy. Wangerin shows personalities like Joseph at his carpenter shop and Jesus laughing with a Samaritan woman. Check it out on the library table in the Narthex.

Gladys Hunt

## Donations In Loving Memory



Douglas Hales

Martha Heidegger

Lynne & Dennis Martin

Paul L. Bockelman

Myron Bailey

Lynne & Dennis Martin



Memorial Garden

Ruth Search

## House Blest Food Pantry

November 4th & 18th@1pm

[Critical Need for Non-Perishable Food Items](#)



## La Academia Ecuménica de Liderazgo

Se reunirá todos Sábados  
a las 10am en el salón  
de Koinonia de la iglesia.



## Crafter's and Crochet Group - Grupo de Crochet y Manualidades



Mondays—Lunes

November 7 & 21 @7pm

## Christmas Fellowship Elves' Meeting



November 9th  
at 11am



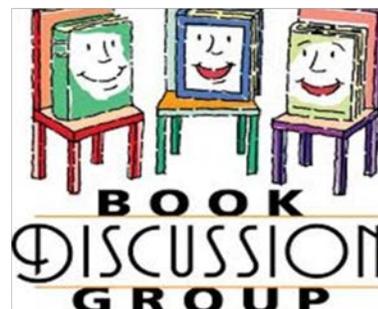
## BIBLE STUDY

November 3rd, 10th & 17th

at 12 Noon Pastor Berner will  
continue her weekly bible study  
on the upcoming gospel Thurs-  
day, bring 11/3 at 12 Noon a  
brown bag lunch!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Christmas  
Fellowship  
December 10th  
at 11 AM**



**November 11th at 10am**

## Decorating for Christmas - Decorando para las Navidades



**When: November 22nd at 9am**

**Cuando: 22 de Noviembre a las 9am**

**Who: Everyone is welcome**

**Quien: Todos son bienvenidos**

**(Muscles Needed— Músculos Necesitados)**



## Congregational Meeting—Reunión Congregacional



December 4th at 11:15am

Continental breakfast will be served. Voting on the budget and council members 4 de Diciembre a las 11:15am

Desayuno continental sera servido

## Sounds of the Season



*Sounds  
of the  
Season*

Play a musical instrument or have a special musical talent? If you would like to share your talent for the Sounds of the Season on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm please contact *Trevor* [trevor.kyro@gmail.com](mailto:trevor.kyro@gmail.com)

## Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services



### December 24th Christmas Eve

4 PM English

6PM Spanish

7:30PM Sounds of the Season

8pm Candlelight Service

### December 25th Christmas Day

10AM Lessons & Carols English



# VETERANS DAY

Bring in photo of you or loved ones who serve or have served. We will display them on Sunday 11/13 !

**BLESSED**  
ARE THE  
**VETERANS**

*The defenders of Freedom*

**THE WARRIORS**

*that are willing to serve*

★ **THEIR COUNTRY** ★

Those who would sacrifice life and limb

**TO PROTECT OUR RIGHTS  
& HONOR OUR FLAG**

*May GOD keep them safe*

# Lutheran Disaster Response

## A Pastoral Visit

*by Pr. Rob Rose, Assistant to the Bishop*

This past Thursday, October 20, Bishop Eaton, the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, came down to visit the Fort Myers area. Her goal was to listen, pray, and minister to our roster leaders, our pastors and ELCA Deacons, who are in the thick of the Ian recovery process.

Bishop Eaton, Bishop Suárez, Stephen Garcia (Florida-Bahamas Synod Lutheran Disaster Response [LDR]), Pr. Matthew Zemanick (LDR national), Pastor Khader EL-Yateem and Pastor Rob Rose drove down to meet with the pastors and the deacons in the epicenter of Ian's destruction. We gathered at Peace Lutheran Church in Fort Meyers. Pastor Andreas Stein hosted the event that opened with a lunch and a time for colleagues to gather in one place since the storm and check-in with one another.

After lunch, Bishop Eaton stood and invited those present to share what was happening in their congregations. Where were the needs? How could the national church come alongside the local congregations and help shoulder some of the burden? Our pastors and deacons are a dedicated and passionate group of servants. Bishop Eaton relayed a story of how in the Dakotas there a devastating storm was. When the Lutherans in that area were asked directly if they needed any help, they would always say, "Yea, I'm fine. There's a lot of work to do." Never wanting to take help away from another, folks up north "held-it-together." What happened was neighbors soon noticed the stress the disaster had on each other. They reached out, and even though they wouldn't ask for help for themselves, they could ask for help for their friends and family. Eventually help was provided to everyone who needed it. Bishop Eaton encouraged us to ask for help to deal with all the stress of the disaster and to also ask for help our neighbors in case they were not able to ask for it themselves.

We gathered in the sanctuary for a powerful worship service. Hope was preached. Sorrow was recognized. The power of the Lord's Supper was received. Healing oil brushed upon the brow of those in need. Music made our hearts sing and tears flow. And by the end, we all left knowing we were not alone to face the storm, to face the clean-up, to face the world without the support of our Savior or our fellow workers of the field.

Bishop Eaton's short visit ended with a visit to St. Peter Lutheran Church. St. Peter Church was all but destroyed by the wind and the waves. As the group walked through the wreckage, Pastor Sharon shared the pain of the community and also the hope of what tomorrow could bring.

As Bishop Eaton prepared to leave, she expressed her thanks for having the opportunity to be present and hear what was needed. To listen and pray with folks who have experienced so much stress and loss, and will continue to do so, allowed her to minister in a way she was initially called to do – as a pastor.

As servants of Christ and members of the priesthood, may we all serve each other in times of trial. May we allow grace to go before our judgement and love enough to share with any who hurt. We are the ambassadors of Christ who live out the abundant life by serving others first. God bless the ministry you do as you make a kingdom difference.

Weekly Sunday Schedule

Adult Sunday School 8:45-9:45 AM

In Worship Service 10 AM

Escuela Biblica 11 AM

Servicio en Español 12:30 PM

# November 2022



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2 <i>Quilters 9am</i> <i>Noches de Palabra y Oración 7pm</i>	3 <i>Bible Study 12 pm</i> <i>Finance Meeting 11am</i>	4 <i>House Blest 1pm</i>	5 <i>Academia Ecumenica de Liderazgo 10am</i>
6 <i>All Saints Sunday</i>	7 <i>Crafters/Crochet Group 7pm</i>	8	9 <i>Elves Mtg 11am</i> <i>Junta de Comite Timón 5pm</i> <i>Noches de Palabra y Oración 7pm</i>	10 <i>Bible Study 12 pm</i> <i>Finance Meeting 11am</i>	11	12 <i>Academia Ecumenica de Liderazgo 10am</i>
13 <i>Veterans' Day Service 10am</i>	14 <i>Comite de Musica 7pm</i>	15 <i>Bellwether Deadline</i> <i>Valley Medical Food Drive</i>	16 <i>Noches de Palabra y Oración 7pm</i>	17 <i>Quilters 9am</i> <i>Bible Study 12 pm</i> <i>Finance Meeting 11am</i>	18 <i>House Blest 1pm</i>	19 <i>Academia Ecumenica de Liderazgo 10am</i>
20 <i>Congregational Meeting 11:15am</i>	21 <i>Junta de Comite 7pm</i>	22 <i>Christmas Decoration 9am</i>	23 <i>Noches de Palabra y Oración 7pm</i>	24 	25	26 <i>Academia Ecumenica de Liderazgo 10am</i>
27 <i>1st Advent</i>	28 <i>Comite de Evangelización 7pm</i>	29	30 <i>Noches de Palabra y Oracion 7pm</i>			

# BECOME A MEMBER

& BE A PART OF OUR JOURNEY!



IF YOU ARE READY TO JOIN THE LAMB OF GOD FAMILY OR ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT BECOMING A LAMB OF GOD MEMBER, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONNECT WITH US. CALL THE OFFICE TO SCHEDULE A CALL OR IN-PERSON MEETING WITH THE PASTOR TO LEARN MORE. OFFICE —863-421-2811. PASTOR BERNER—863-438-1711.

## STAY FOR COFFEE HOUR!

Sundays 11:15 AM - 12:15 AM



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



**FEEDING  
THE HUNGRY  
@A HOUSE BLESSED**

NOVEMBER DATES TO HELP OUTWE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MONETARY AND FOOD DONATIONS.  
114 S. 2ND STREET, HAINES CITY

## ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO MINISTRY?

The Altar Guild is looking for members from both our communities to help.

Pr. Berner is looking for members to join the Visitation/Caring/Home Communion Team. If interested please speak with Pr. Berner.

The Audio Visual Team is looking for members to assist on Sunday mornings.

Prayerfully consider helping out. If you are interested in learning more about these ministries , please contact Pr. Berner

## FOOD DRIVE FOR THE COMMUNITY

November 15 from 11:30am-1:30pm



Lamb of God Lutheran Church  
901 Scenic Hwy, Haines City,  
FL 33844



901 Scenic Hwy  
Haines City, FL 33844

## Pastors' Office Hours

**Pastor Berner**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**

**8:30 AM - Noon**

**Pastor Izzy**

**Tuesdays 9AM - 12:30PM**

**Please Call Ahead**



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**December Bellwether submissions deadline  
is November 15**  
Editor: Lissette Sojo

### 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 and fellowship opportunities.

### 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.

### **Lamb of God Lutheran Church**

901 Scenic Hwy., Haines City, FL 33844-8597  
Tel: 863.421.2811, [www.lambofgodhainescity.com](http://www.lambofgodhainescity.com)

#### Staff:

Rev. Cheryl L. Berner, Lead Pastor/Interim  
[pastor@lambofgodhainescity.com](mailto:pastor@lambofgodhainescity.com)

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

Lissette Sojo, Office Administrator  
[officemanager@lambofgodhainescity.com](mailto:officemanager@lambofgodhainescity.com)

Trevor Kyro, Music Director  
[musicdirector@lambofgodhainescity.com](mailto:musicdirector@lambofgodhainescity.com)

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

8:45 am Adult Sunday School

10:00 am Holy Communion

11:15 am Children's Sunday School

### **Servicio en Español**

11:00 am Escuela Bíblica

12:30 pm Servicio con Comunción

**ONLINE WORSHIP: [www.lambofgodhainescity.com](http://www.lambofgodhainescity.com)**