



**JANUARY 2023**

**Volume 29 Issue 1**



## **BELLWETHER**

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

### **Pastor's Notes. . .**

Dear Lamb of God,

One of my favorite scripture passages comes from Psalm 121. Like all of us, there are times when I need to be reminded that no matter what is going on “my help comes from the Lord. . . who will keep my going out and my coming in from this time on and for evermore.” This is one of those times.

As most of you do not know, I had a little health scare a few weeks ago. Please know that I am fine. But in the midst of talking about those concerns with the bishop’s Office, the Holy Spirit began stirring up some conversations about what might be next for Lamb of God.

As Interim for this past year and a half, I have led you through the first phase of the Transition Process. But now I, and the Bishop’s Office, believe it is time to pass the baton to a new interim who will lead you through this next phase. The good news is that the new interim is someone you already know in retired Bishop Greg Villalon. And so, I will finish up on December 31st, and Bishop Villalon will begin his interim ministry with you on January 1st.

Please know that this is not something that has been in the works for a while. It is just something that bubbled up out of my health concerns the other week, and then the Spirit began moving some other pieces into place. I also need you to know that I am not being replaced, nor is this something the Synod Office is doing to Lamb of God. But rather this new direction comes out of prayerful listening to where the Spirit is leading in this time and place.

While I have many gifts for ministry, Bishop Villalon has gifts I do not have; gifts that will help move Lamb of God forward together. He certainly is someone many of you already know and trust, with lots of experience in the wider church, and a good understanding of how Lamb of God works. And he is in a very good position to help grow an even healthier partnership of “one congregation – both English and Spanish together.”

Please know that I love you all, and have so loved sharing God’s ministry with you. I have already begun to miss you. That said, I know from experience that the Spirit has a habit of surprising us and moving us forward in unexpected ways. I believe this is one of those times.

And so, my prayer for you, and me, is expressed best today in Luther’s prayer --

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen.

Together in Christ, Pastor Berner



## Cápsulas al Corazón

Escrito y producido por: Wanda I. Bango-Sánchez/ Comité de Educación Cristiana

Un año más ya ha pasado. Ya se acaban las fiestas, las reuniones familiares, las compras y el derroche de dinero impulsado por el comercio, los medios de comunicación y redes sociales. Hemos compartido con amigos y tomado tiempo para reflexionar sobre nosotros mismos y surge la preguntarte esperada, ¿qué me esperaba este nuevo año?

Empieza nuestra mente a inquietarse por nuevas resoluciones. Resoluciones físicas como; bajar de peso, dieta, ejercicio, nuevo trabajo, etc. te pregunto, ¿has incluido resoluciones espirituales? ¿Qué significa esto? Se trata de comprometerte más con tu Dios y con tu Iglesia. Si esto es cierto, ¡te tengo muy buenas noticias!

1. Dios te ama aún con tus imperfecciones, el te ama tal y como eres ahora.
2. El mensaje de la Gracia De Dios se trata de que Dios nos sostiene aún en medio de nuestras tribulaciones. Cristo cargo con nuestras culpas voluntariamente, muriendo en la cruz por ti y por mí.
3. Cuando deseamos llamarlo y orarle a Él para que transforme nuestras vidas, él nos va capacitando a través de su Espíritu Santo en nosotros, Dios en nosotros.
4. El Espíritu Santo nos va transformando para exaltarnos al carácter de Dios ¿Cómo? Sembrando en ti los frutos de su Espíritu.
5. Los Frutos del Espíritu Santo son 9 y lo leemos en Gálatas 5:22-23, estos son; el amor, el gozo, la paz, la paciencia, benignidad, bondad, la fe, mansedumbre y templanza.

En la medida que tú lo busques y desees aumentar tu relación con Dios, entonces Él comenzara a exaltarte y a transformar tu vida y tu entorno. Entonces experimentarás

cambios en tu vida a través de esos frutos que el Espíritu Santo derrama en ti. Ejemplos como siguen;

1. (Fruto del Amor) Se incrementa en tu espíritu el sincero deseo por el bienestar de tu prójimo por encima de tus intereses personales.
2. (Fruto del Gozo) Ante las adversidades, tienes la seguridad de que Dios siempre está en control.
3. (Fruto de La Paz) Gozas de paz, basado en su fidelidad.

4. (Fruto Paciencia) Sufrimos circunstancias adversas, pero sabemos esperar en tranquilidad, porque sabemos que Dios está obrando en medio de las circunstancias.
5. (Fruto-Benignidad) Nos vemos buscando el bien para otros y en especial para aquellos que no merecen tal benevolencia, la carga se la encomendamos a Dios.
6. (Fruto-Bondad) Somos buenos ciudadanos en nuestro día a día y en nuestro comportamiento.
7. (Fruto-Fe) Caminamos en Fe creyendo y sabiendo que Dios premia, bendice, ayuda y próspera a quienes lo buscan.
8. (Mansedumbre) Nos damos cuenta de que las cosas que nos llenaban de ira ya no son tan importantes. Autocontrol, control de nuestra ira hacia otros y sus efectos catastróficos, dejamos la venganza.
9. (Fruto-Templanza) Aprendemos a dominar nuestra voluntad, a no ceder ante las tentaciones y las presiones que nos pueden hacer daño a nuestras mentes y cuerpos.
10. Dios quiere exaltarte y bendecirte. Eres su hijo(a) amado, dio su sangre por ti y nos promete una vida eterna con Él.

Es tú decisión en este Nuevo Año el aumentar tu Fe y tu plano espiritual a través de una relación íntima con Dios. Comprométete a leer y aprender de su Palabra y ora sin cesar, conectado fielmente con nuestro ser Supremo, Jesucristo nuestro Señor.

OREMOS: Padre Santo, sopla tu Espíritu Santo en mí. Ayúdame con sabiduría para buscar, leer y aplicar tu Palabra en mi vida. Señor transforma mi vida y mi carácter, así como tú. Por el mismo Jesucristo, nuestro Señor. Amen



## Snippets from the Heart

Written and produced by: Wanda I. Bango-Sánchez/ Christian Education Committee

One more year has already passed. The parties, the family gatherings, the shopping and the waste of money driven by commerce, the media and social networks are over. We have shared with friends and taken time to reflect on ourselves and the expected question arises, what will this new year await me?

Our mind begins to worry about new resolutions. Physical resolutions like; lose weight, diet, exercise, new job, etc. I ask you, have you included spiritual resolutions? What does this mean? It is about committing yourself more to your God and to your Church. If this is true, I have very good news for you!

1. God loves you even with your imperfections, he loves you just the way you are now.
2. The message of God's Grace is that God sustains us even during our tribulations. Christ voluntarily bore our guilt, dying on the cross for you and me.
3. When we want to call him and pray to him to transform our lives, he trains us through his Holy Spirit in us, God in us.
4. The Holy Spirit is transforming us to exalt us to the character of God. How? Sowing in you the fruits of his Spirit.
5. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are 9 and we read it in Galatians 5:22-23, these are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

To the extent that you seek Him and want to increase your relationship with God, then He will begin to exalt you and transform your life and your environment. then you will experience changes in your life through those fruits that the Holy Spirit pours out in you.

Examples are as follows.

1. (Fruit of Love) The sincere desire for the well-being of your neighbor above your personal interests increases in your spirit.
2. (Fruit of Joy) In the face of adversity, you have the assurance that God is always in control.
3. (Fruit of Peace) You enjoy peace, based on your faithfulness.
4. (Fruit Patience) We suffer adverse circumstances, but we know how to wait in peace, because we know that God is working in the midst of circumstances.
5. (Fruit-Benevolence) We see ourselves seeking good for others and especially for those who do not deserve such benevolence, we entrust the burden to God.
6. (Fruit-Goodness) We are good citizens in our day to day and in our behavior.

7. (Fruit-Faith) We walk in Faith believing and knowing that God rewards, blesses, helps and prospers those who seek him.
8. (Meekness) We realize that the things that fill us with anger are no longer so important. Self-control, control of our anger towards others and its catastrophic effects, we stop revenge.
9. (Fruit-Temperance) We learn to master our will, not to give in to temptations and pressures that can harm our minds and bodies.
10. God wants to exalt and bless you. You are his beloved son; he gave his blood for you and promises us an eternal life with him.

It is your decision in this New Year to increase your Faith and your spiritual plane through an intimate relationship with God. Commit to read and learn from His Word and pray without ceasing, faithfully connected with our Supreme Being, Jesus Christ our Lord. LET US PRAY: Holy Father, blow your Holy Spirit on me. Help me with wisdom to seek, read and apply your Word in my life. Lord transform my life and my character, just like you. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

## ANGEL TREE:

Thank you so much for your tremendous generosity in giving to the Angel Tree Ministry. Generosity and the giving spirit lives in the hearts of you here at Lamb of God and you continue to make glad the heart of childhood this season of giving. This Christmas morning take a minute and think of the joy and happiness that these children are feeling because of your generosity, love and devotion to who God calls us to be.

Also, thank you for your enthusiastic participation in making this another successful Christmas Basket Raffle, Plant Sale and Crocheted Items Sale. We had a very good response and, as always, the money given will benefit a need of the church. A special thank you to Susan and Louise for donating the lovely plants and to Emma for donating her beautiful, crocheted items. Thank **YOU**, Lamb of God Congregation!

*(Basket Raffle & Plant Sale total \$528.00)*

*Carol Vaughn*



### Quilters Guild:

Quilt Sunday will take place on Sunday February 5, 2023. For many years parishioners have asked if our quilts were for sale and until now, they have not. We decided this year to offer them for sale at \$100 per quilt. The proceeds from the sale will be split between Lutheran World Relief to help offset the cost of shipping the quilts to their destination. The other half will go to Lamb of God to help with the repairs to the church due to damage from Hurricane Ian. The quilts will be displayed on Sunday January 29 and February 5 both in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We hope that you will take the opportunity to purchase one of our quilts. They make wonderful gifts. If you have any questions we meet on Wednesday, January 4 and Thursday, January 19 in the back of fellowship hall. Come and find out what quilting is all about here at Lamb of God. If you have any questions, please call the church office or Laverne Tillson, Quilt Coordinator, at 863-326-6018.

### Library News:

Again, A big thank you to our members who continue to donate books from their personal libraries. Each Sunday more books appear on the table in the library and are added to our shelves. There are many kinds of books on those shelves. Come in and browse, you may find just the book you are looking for. And don't forget to look at the wonderful pictures on the display table in the narthex. They show the progress of the building of Lamb of God Church. You may recognize some of the members that are in the pictures!

The Lamb of God staff  
would like to extend their sincere  
and heartfelt gratitude to YOU Lamb of God  
Congregation for the staff gifts!

Pastor Cheryl Berner  
Pastor Izzy Bango-Sanchez  
Trevor Kyro  
Lissette Sojo



Do you know when you are serving?

**Sunday, January 1, 2023, 10am**

Worship Assistant: Ken Lindberg  
Greeters: Gladys Hunt  
Ushers: Dennis & Lynne Martin  
Lector: Phyllis White  
Hospitality Desk: Robyn Eastridge

**Sunday, January 8, 2023, 10am**

Worship Assistant: Laverne Tillson  
Greeters: Pam Thomas & Georgene Endy  
Ushers: Barry & Sandy Heimbuch  
Lector: Bill Quinlan  
Hospitality Desk: Carol & Dick Lounsberry

**Sunday, January 15, 2023, 10am**

Worship: Bishop Suarez, Pr. Greg, Pr. Izzy  
Greeters: Carol & Jerry Blumeyer  
Ushers: Janette Farrugia, Dennis & Lynne Martin  
Lector: Karen Olsson  
Hospitality Desk: Robyn Eastridge

**Sunday, January 22, 2023, 10am**

Worship Assistant; Laverne Tillson  
Greeters: Richard Kresge  
Ushers: Ken Dugan & Ron Maynard  
Lector: Ken Lindberg  
Hospitality Desk: Ann Kauffman

**Sunday, January 29, 2023, 10am**

Worship Assistant: Coila Hales  
Greeters: Fred & Linda Fish  
Ushers: Gladys Hunt & Teresa Liberta  
Lector: Joyce Hines  
Hospitality Desk: Jacquie Koerber



## ***Christmas Poinsettias***

Thank you to the following families who provided poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas services:

- ✿ Rose Marie Lampo in loving memory of June Kemp.
- ✿ Paul L. Bockelman in loving memory of Ruth Bockelman
- ✿ John & Laverne Tillson in honor of our daughters Dawn & Kim; our grandchildren Ethan, Calvin, Dylan & Amber
- ✿ Karen & Brian Grip in loving memory of loved ones & in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings this year
- ✿ Ann Kauffman in loving memory of Oren Kauffman
- ✿ Robert, Ruth & Mariatu Search in loving memory of Paul & Barbara Search
- ✿ Frank & Janette Farrugia in loving memory of Edward & Lillian Horgas and Delores Balough
- ✿ Ken & Judy Lindberg in loving memory of family & friends from Christmas past.
- ✿ Kit Marsella in loving memory of Jim Marsella
- ✿ LuAnne Smith in loving memory of Lee Payton & Lynne Miller
- ✿ Whitney Way in loving memory of Benny Singleton
- ✿ Carmen & Bill Quinlan in loving memory of Nitza Diaz
- ✿ John & Andrea Frederick in loving memory of our parents and in honor of Pastor Berner
- ✿ Pastor Greg & Letty in thanksgiving for all our blessings
- ✿ Teresa Liberta in loving memory of Ramon & Elisa Rubio



- ❁ Krystyna Bailey in loving memory of my husband Myron H. Bailey
- ❁ Ann Conner in loving memory of my husband Denny and in honor of our children
- ❁ David & Gladys Hunt in loving memory of our parents Marvin & Grace Hunt & Henry & Lillian Ulrich and our brother-in-law David Edwards
- ❁ Richard & Barb Donnelly In loving memory of parents Walter & Ann Zebrowski and Al & Audrey Kluge
- ❁ Pastor Cheryl Berner in honor of family
- ❁ Pam Thomas & Georgene Endy in loving memory of John & Bea Endy and Earle & Estelle Dadson
- ❁ Trevor Kyro in honor of my son, Cooper, my parents, Pastor Berner & Pastor Izzy and their ministries and my new church family
- ❁ Barbara May in loving memory of Susan & Lawrence May
- ❁ Kenneth & Mary Dugan in loving memory of Ruth & Walter Patton and Marilyn & Raymond Dugan
- ❁ Pam & Ron Lapinski in loving memory of Pastor Herbert Hedstrom & Pastor Don Johnson
- ❁ Lissette Sojo in honor of my parents Robert & Myriam Solano

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LAMB OF GOD?

**Wednesday  
January 4<sup>th</sup>  
@ 9am  
Quilters  
Meeting**



**Monday January 9th @ 7pm Crafters' Group**



**Monday  
January 9th @  
9am  
VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**



**Tuesday,  
January  
10th @  
6pm**

**Friday  
January 13  
at 10 am**

**Book Group**



**January 15<sup>th</sup> 11AM  
Joint Bilingual  
Service with  
Bishop Pedro M.  
Suarez. Potluck to  
follow service.**



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 22 at 11am  
Continental breakfast will be served



CRITICAL NEED FOR  
NON-PERISHABLE  
ITEMS

A House Blest  
Food Pantry  
Friday January 6 & 20 at 1pm

Growing in Faith Group  
RIDGEWOOD  
Jackie Koerber's House  
(863) 424-4183



### Church Volunteers



THE ALTAR GUILD IS LOOKING FOR  
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Curious? Have questions? Want to join?  
Call the office 863 - 421-2811

Growing in Faith Group  
SOLIVITA  
Pastor John & Debbie  
Burk's House  
(443) 653-2462



**MEDIA MINISTRY**

JOIN THE TEAM  
CALL THE OFFICE OR TALK TO ONE OF OUR  
VOLUNTEERS TODAY

ST. PETER MEDICAL GROUP PRESENT

*Community*  
**Food**  
*Distribution*  
FOR FAMILIES

**St. Peter Medical Group will distribute food for FREE to  
all families in Haines City area.**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 26**

**9:00AM - 12:00PM**

*Food distributed first  
come first served while  
supplies last*

**FREE food for  
everyone by  
PABLO LUCIANO**

**CALL FOR MORE INFO: (407)728-4749**

**901 SCENIC HWY. HAINES CITY FL, 33844**

**TEL: 863.421.2811**

**WEB: WWW.LAMBOFGODHAINESCITY.COM**





Congratulations to... *Best wishes to our members and friends!*

**Birthdays in January:**

- 1/01 Richard Lounsbery
- 1/02 Jackson Eastridge
- 1/04 Bert Lachner
- 1/04 Philippa White
- 1/07 Bella Sandretto
- 1/07 Ryan Martinez
- 1/08 Betty Smith
- 1/08 Carmen De Leon
- 1/10 Emma Murphy
- 1/12 Omar Delgado
- 1/14 Carol Lounsbery
- 1/14 Rita Grafft
- 1/18 Omito Delgado -Ruiz
- 1/19 Robert Search
- 1/22 Bob Smith
- 1/25 La Mar Grafft
- 1/25 Judy Lindberg
- 1/28 Sandi Barnhart



**Anniversaries in December**

- 1/01 Marvin & Kathy Manninen
- 1/18 Merlin & Julie Gorder
- 1/19 Dick & Barb Donnelly
- 1/21 Neil & Lynda Collins



Editor: Lissette Sojo

**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.

**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.

Stay connected
Facebook: @lambogodhainescity
Instagram: @lambogodhainescity
Website: Lambogodhainescity.com

Lamb of God Lutheran Church
901 Scenic Hwy., Haines City, FL 33844-8597
Tel: 863.421.2811, www.lambogodhainescity.com
Staff:
Rev. Greg Villalon, Lead Pastor/Interim pastor@lambogodhainescity.com
Rev. Izzy Bango-Sanchez, Associate Pastor/Spanish Development
Lissette Sojo, Office Administrator officemanager@lambogodhainescity.com
Trevor Kyro, Music Director musicdirector@lambogodhainescity.com
SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE
8:45 am Adult Sunday School in English
10:00 am Holy Communion in English
Servicio en Español
11:00 am Escuela Bíblica
12:30 pm Servicio con Comunión
ONLINE WORSHIP: www.lambogodhainescity.com

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.

Update Your Contact Info
Email: officemanager@lambogodhainescity.com
Or call (863)421-2811

Online Giving
Go to our website or download the app to send your tithes, make donations to events, and in honor or memory of someone.
Questions? Call the office.
You need to create an account for recurring offerings

amazon smile
Want to help make a difference while you shop? Shop at smile.amazon.com or the Amazon app and they'll donate a portion of eligible purchases to Lamb of God.
Designate "Lamb of God Lutheran Church" (Haines City, FL) as your charity under Program & Features in your Amazon account.