

January 2012



THE GRAPEVINE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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CATCH THE SPIRIT OF LAMB OF GOD

Your Worship Design Team and Catch the Spirit Committee are working together to plan exciting and uplifting worship services for the month of January as we **Catch the Spirit, Embrace the Spirit, Share the Spirit** and **Celebrate the Spirit of Lamb of God**.

One of the goals of our **CATCH THE SPIRIT OF LAMB OF GOD** emphasis is to better connect members of Lamb of God with one another. We have found that people who attend one service usually don't know others who attend a different service. So, to help us connect a little better, the 9:00 a.m. Awesome Grace worship service will be combined with the 11:00 a.m. Classic Grace worship service in the month of January. The combined service will be held at 10:00 a.m.

We regularly combine the two services during the summer months but many in our church family are away during that time. By combining services in January, our hope is that many more members of our church family will be able to get to know one another. Except for January 1st, the 7:45 a.m. service will continue to be held during the month. We do, however, encourage those who attend that service on a regular basis to make plans to also attend at least one 10:00 a.m. service during the month of January.

On New Year's Day, January 1st, Lamb of God will only hold one worship service at 10:00 a.m. There will be no Sunday's Cool program that day. Beginning January 8th and continuing through the 29th, the schedule of worship services and activities will be as follows:

7:45 AM - Early Grace in the Arbor Sanctuary

9:00 AM - Book Discussion in the Vineyard (See more information about this below.)

10:00 AM - **Catch The Spirit Service**... in the Vineyard.

Sunday's Cool for Children will also be at 10:00 AM.

The first event of our CATCH THE SPIRIT EMPHASIS will be our **FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST ON JANUARY 8th**. It will run from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The charge is \$5.00 per person but there is no charge for children under 16!

BOOK DISCUSSION IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY ... The book is Marcus Borg's [SPEAKING CHRISTIAN: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power-AND HOW THEY CAN BE RESTORED](http://www.marcusborg.com/my-books). The discussion will be led by Glenn and Marianne Whitehouse from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in the Vineyard. Childcare will be provided. There is a charge of \$21 for the book. Books should be on sale in the office beginning the first week in January. To learn more about Marcus Borg and his books, go to <http://www.marcusborg.com/my-books>

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9:30 - 3:30
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Ron Tvedt

Progressive Dinner

The annual progressive dinner will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012. Sign up sheets will be out the end of January. If you've never been to a progressive dinner here's what we do . . . everyone is put into groups of 8-10 people . . . you start at one home for appetizers, go to another home for the main meal, then everyone ends up back at the church for dessert. If you would like to host an appetizer or main meal please indicate that on the sign up sheet. Childcare will be available that evening. Watch the Bunch of News for more information or call Barbara Tvedt at 267-7271.

Thank You

I speak for the entire staff of Lamb of God in expressing thanks for the Christmas gifts that we received from the church family. Thanks to all who participated and please know your gifts are appreciated ~ R.C. Fleeman

Volunteer Training

We will be holding a Safeguarding God's Children class for anyone who volunteers at the church or in any of our missions that may be around children. If you volunteer for any of our missions (ex: Feeding the 5000, Sunday's Cool, Guadalupe Center, etc.) you are strongly encouraged to attend this training session on Saturday, January 21st from 10am to 2pm at Lamb of God. The Episcopal Diocese mandates that all staff and volunteers who work near or with children take this course. The class is about 4 hours and a light lunch will be provided. Please contact Wendy in the church office at 267-3525 ext. 223 or at Wendy@lambogodchurch.net to register by January 17th.

Offering Envelopes

If you do not have an envelope number and would like to receive offering envelopes please contact Wendy Smith in the church office at 267-3525 ext. 223 or Wendy@lambogodchurch.net. Having an offering envelope number is helpful because we can provide you with a report of your giving throughout the year and also provide you with a giving statement for taxes at the end of the year.

LAMB OF GOD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bill Monsees: President - designconcepts@comcast.net
Judith Olson: Vice President - judithgran@arvig.net
Eileen Wood: Secretary - ewood70127@aol.com
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What if Lamb of God Wasn't Here?

by R.C. Fleeman

I attended a meeting of the Catch the Spirit steering committee some months ago where someone asked the question, "What if Lamb of God wasn't here, how would it affect the community?" I thought about the possible answers to that question and wanted to share my response with the Lamb of God Church Family.

We all know that Lamb of God provides opportunities for worship, adult education, ministry to children, youth programs and fellowship for those who are part of the church family. But other churches provide those same opportunities to their congregants so that really isn't news.

The ministry of Lamb of God however, reaches far beyond our church family and into our community, even beyond the borders of the United States. Members of the Lamb of God Church family are provided with opportunities to make a difference in the lives of people throughout the world. In answer the question "What if Lamb of God wasn't here?" my response is that **our community and other places in the world are enriched because Lamb of God is here.**

By now we know the impact of our recent Feeding the 5000 outreach ... 9600 meals prepared and delivered for Thanksgiving. And there is so much more ...

190 children are currently enrolled in our Preschool. In 2011, the Lamb of God church family provided \$1213 for Preschool and Summer Camp Scholarships.

Throughout the year, our facilities are used by the Boy Scouts (Cub Scouts) and Girl Scouts for regular meetings. It is also used by Interfaith Caregivers for public meetings and their annual fundraising ... we also provide space for other non-profit groups who do not have funds to rent facilities.

Through the efforts of our Thrift Store Board and Volunteers in 2011, \$34,300 was given to Interfaith Caregivers of South Lee County, \$6,000 was given to Guadalupe Soup Kitchen, \$7,635 was given to Good Shepherd Ministries and \$4,915 was given to various other organizations and ministries.

Beyond the funds provided by the Thrift Shop, members of our church family volunteer with those same organizations providing contributions of their own as well as time and effort.

This year, 8200 lbs. of food was provided by our church family to Interfaith Caregivers through our Bagzilla promotion.

Our Youth Group visited Key West again this past summer providing needed services in that community.

More than 30 households were given financial assistance through our Pastor's Discretionary Fund. Many of those families had school age children in the home.

Our church family provided more than \$700 in school supplies to school children in our area whose parents could not to purchase the needed items.

141 gifts were purchased this past Christmas season for underprivileged children through our Jesus Tree.

100 Water Filters for Nicaragua were purchased this year. Over the past three years, 278 water filters have been purchased for use in Nicaragua and for the third year in a row, members of Lamb of God will be traveling to Nicaragua to minister to children and families there.

There's even more ... the things I have mentioned here are just a few of the missions and ministries of Lamb of God and it's people. I give thanks to God that Lamb of God is here!

Youth Ministry Highlights

by Kathleen Busbee

What a wonderful time of the year to reflect on where we have been and to plan for where we are going. What are our goals? What are our missions? What are our plans of action to carry out these new endeavors? This is going to be a fantastic year at Lamb of God for youth of all ages. Come and be a part of this, and “Catch the Spirit” of a new year at LOG!!!!

As we reflect on the year of 2011, many exciting events have taken place. All of these events have brought us closer as a group and strengthened our bond and commitment to Lamb of God Church.

Looking back at 2011:

Sunday’s Cool

During our Children’s Church, or Sunday’s Cool class, we began an exciting new curriculum called “A Joyful Path: A Spiritual Curriculum for Young Hearts and Minds.” We have explored topics such as Who or What is God, Who was Jesus, Finding God in Nature, Connecting Through Service, Learning from Mistakes, Self-Control, Advent, and Experiencing God as Light, Joy and Love. The children have enjoyed these lessons and we will continue our Joyful Path in 2012.

In addition to wonderful Sunday’s Cool classes and lessons, we enjoyed participating in a Bike Parade, watching the sun set at a Barefoot Beach Outing, eating pizza at Cici’s Pizza, playing at Estero park, swimming at Bella Terra Pool, finding eggs at our Easter Egg Hunt, grilling out and swimming at The Lakes Pool, playing at Little Hickory Beach, celebrating Birthdays, making an Advent Wreath, and eating and caroling at our Christmas Party.

LOG-IN Middle School Youth Group

This group began in June with our first ever meeting for the group. We have come together every Wednesday night for dinner, games, fellowship, and devotions. In devotions we have explored topics such as bullying, Called to Service, Nooma videos, and Advent. We have also enjoyed a Lakes Pool Party, Oeey Goey, making desserts, volunteering for Feeding the 5000, our Christmas Party, and birthday celebrations.

3DL High School Youth Group

This very active and involved group has met every Wednesday night for dinner, games, fellowship, and devotions. In devotions we have covered Paul in Rome, Positive Friendships, Nooma videos, Preventing Teen Suicide, Called to Service, and Advent. We have also enjoyed attending our first Happenings Spiritual Retreat, bowling, miniature golf, fundraising, sponsoring a St Patty’s Day Dinner, holding a car wash, collecting funds at Noisy Can Sunday, eating at Cici’s Pizza, cooking out and swimming at The Lakes Pool Party, saying goodbye to our high school seniors at Graduation Sunday, participating in the Key West Mission Trip, having birthday celebrations, participating in Youth Sunday, creating a scary hall for Oeey Goey, serving at Harvest Fest, volunteering for Feeding 5000, making desserts and enjoying our Christmas Party.

2011 was a wonderful year and we can’t wait to see how great 2012 will be.

TRIVIA FUNDRAISER AT LAMB OF GOD
Teams of 8 Working Together
Sunday, January 29, 2012
Begins at 5:15 PM in the Vineyard

Dinner will be served and prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.

Be a captain and form a team of 8 or sign up individually
and we will put you on a team.

Tickets are \$35.00 (75% tax deductible) per player
and will go on sale on January 8th.

It will be a night of fun and challenge while you help LOG help others.

If you have questions contact Art and Susan Nicoletti at 239-948-3841
or send an email to aan47@embarqmail.com

HOW IT WORKS

The questions in each half are grouped into 3 sections, with 3 questions in each section. There will also be a half time and a final question. Be sure to contact Art and Susan as indicated about if you need further clarification.

In the first half, your team will bet 1, 3 or 5 points for each question.

In the second half, your team will bet 2, 4 or 6 points for each question.

Each point value may be used only once in each group.

The half time question will have four parts each worth 4 points

If you get the question correct you get the points,
but you don't lose points if you get the question wrong.

The final question has four parts and you must get all parts correct .You can bet 0-20 points but wrong answers will cause you to lose points.

Lamb of God Family & Friends Cruise

Fun • Faith • Fellowship

March 3-11, 2012

by George Alexakis

Pastor Walter and other familiar faces at Lamb of God will kick off the spring on a *Royal Caribbean International* cruise. The 8-day tour of four Caribbean countries happens aboard the *Navigator of the Seas*®, which has: 15 decks, 10 pools and whirlpools, 16 bars, clubs, and lounges.

Hassle-free itinerary

1. Park your vehicle at LOG
2. Take bus (with restrooms) to Ft. Lauderdale
3. Hop aboard the ship
4. Enjoy the following ports-of-call:
 - ☀ St. Maarten
 - ☀ St. Kitts
 - ☀ Puerto Rico
 - ☀ Labadee, Haiti (private beach owned by Royal Caribbean)
5. Take bus back to LOG

Skate, golf, relax, or do as you please. Your family and friends are welcome too!

Important

Rates are on a per/person basis. However, third and fourth passengers in each cabin pay less. The ship is almost full, so please contact Neil Koelemeyer immediately if interested: 239 244 8870 or ckoelemeyer@cruiseplanners.com

More Ship Information

Gear up for adventure, right onboard—with plenty of time left for relaxation, fine dining, and beautiful ocean views. The incredible *Navigator of the Seas*® is home to an array of innovations that give you whatever type of vacation you desire. Climb a rock wall that overlooks the sea, or challenge yourself on the basketball court, ice-skating rink, or mini-golf course. Achieve perfect Zen, poolside or at the relaxing Vitality Spa. Liven up your nights on the Royal Promenade, with parades, dancing, and duty-free shopping deals. And bring along some friends—with spacious public areas, enhanced staterooms, and a spectacular three-story dining room, this ship has room for your whole crew.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

There will be a variety of opportunities for Adult Christian Education and for Communion Instruction for young children who are already receiving the sacrament and for those who have not received the sacrament. Sign up sheets will be available in January in the lobby.

“The Role of Religion in our Material World” is a series of five separate workshops that will be provided on Saturdays, January 28th, February 11th, February 18th, March 24th, and March 31st. Each of these events will run from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Dr. Billy Gunnels from the science department of FGCU, a new member of our congregation, will be instructing along with Dr. Ed Olson, and Pastor Walter Fohs.

The five workshops will combine stimulating videos, discussion, information from contemporary science, and exploration of the meaning for our lives as Christians. The tentative titles of the workshops are: Biblical and Physical Creation, Experiencing Life in God’s Kingdom, Evolution of Compassion and Empathy, Developing Deeper Levels of Consciousness, and Finding Wisdom in Christianity and in the Universe.

My Ordination

by Judy Beaumont

ALL ARE WELCOME! ALL ARE WELCOME! On Saturday, January 21, 2012, I will be ordained a Roman Catholic priest at Lamb of God. "How can this be?" you ask. "I thought the Catholic Church did not allow women to be ordained." Although there is an early history of women in church leadership roles, the institutional Roman Catholic Church does not remember or admit to this. Nor does the Vatican believe that God could possibly will that women be ordained priests and so excommunicates women who do so and those who ordain them. Roman Catholic Women Priests reject this penalty and seek to follow God's call. This is also a matter of justice for all – for the poor, for women and for women in the church.

At 1:00 PM on the 21st, a new hour-long film "Pink Smoke Over the Vatican" will be shown in the Vineyard. This award-winning documentary about the struggle for justice for women in the Catholic Church and how it affects women worldwide tells the story of the women priest movement which began in 2002. "It is not every day that you meet people who give up everything for what they believe in," said filmmaker Jules Hart, who is not Catholic, about the women priests and supporters who inspired her to make this film.



The film features interviews with some of the women who have been ordained and with archeologist/theologian Dorothy Irvin who discusses the evidence of women's leadership in early Christianity which she has uncovered in tombstones, frescoes, catacombs and mosaics. Commentary by Maryknoll priest Father Roy Bourgeois on the women priest movement and the sacrifices he made for supporting it give a male priest's perspective on gender justice within the Church. A question/answer session will follow led by Janice Sevre-Duszynska at whose ordination Father Roy participated.

There will be a short break to give time to move to the Arbor for the ordination liturgy at 3:00 P.M. The music for the mass will be led by Kathleen Conolly Rosenberg from northern Virginia who will lead a short introduction to the hymns including her composition, the Mass of Christ-Sophia. The presiding bishop will be Bridget Mary Meehan of Sarasota. She will be joined at the altar by Pastor Walter Fohs and several women priests including Judy Lee.

We are most grateful to the Lamb of God congregation for your hospitality for this first ordination of a Catholic woman in Southwest Florida. It is so important to have my ordination locally so that many of the people from our Good Shepherd Church could attend as well as friends from Lamb of God and our Catholic supporters especially those from Call to Action. You are all invited to share in the meal afterwards which will be prepared by those who have so generously been cooking for Good Shepherd Ministries, also the Lamb of God Homeless Ministry.

We hope you will join in this solemn ordination service, share the music with your voices, join Bishop Bridget Mary in calling upon the Holy Spirit to bless me, and feast at the sacramental table and the dinner table which are open to all. More information about women priests, our Good Shepherd Ministry and pictures of my deacon ordination are on the web: www.associationofromancatholicwomenpriests.org

Meet Our Newest Members

by Marj Waskom



After several visits with friends here, **Chuck and Cece Mathews** knew they wanted to have a winter residence in Florida, so they purchased a villa at Country Creek.

Before retiring, Cece taught grade school and Chuck taught finance courses in a high school in Pulteney, NY (a small town near Keuka Lake.) They still spend the summers there, but when it looks like snow is coming, they return to Ft. Myers for warm weather!

Both enjoy playing golf and love all kinds of card games (one favorite is "Hand and Foot"!) Before heading south each year, Chuck goes hunting. If he gets a deer, he and his family make Italian sausage from the meat. They are planning on volunteering at the Thrift Shop after the holidays.

In 1977, **Kendra Jemmott** took a teaching position with the Department of Defense in Germany. While there she met an engineer, Bert, who also was working on the Air Force Base. Love blossomed and they decided to marry.

It was very difficult for non-Germans to get marriage licenses there, so they found a German Travel Agency that had a package which allowed couples to go to Denmark and marry. In April of 1981, they flew to Copenhagen and she and Bert were married in the City Hall. After they returned to Germany they were then allowed to have another ceremony in the chapel on the Base where they were working. Kendra's husband's mom came from America for that service.



They chose to come back to the states in 1991. After retiring, they decided to spend some time in Florida in the winter. As with so many of us, they are now full-time residents and have a home at the Cascades. Kendra loves to read and enjoys playing mah-jongg, but has also found time to volunteer at the Thrift Shop.

HAPPY, HAPPY!

In January we honor ...
Kimberly Brooks, who will celebrate her 16th birthday on January 4th
Mary Ann Zager, who will celebrate her 50th birthday on January 5th

And we wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!



If we missed your date or you do not want your name included, please call Marj Waskom at 239.489.1134.

Mission of Hope Trip

by Judy Charland

Prayer As We Depart For Nicaragua

With joy in our hearts we gather together as we prepare to depart on this Mission as a group of people willing to share our lives and our love with the people of Nicaragua. May the Spirit within us guide us in all that we do and in all that we are called to be.

We give thanks to those who are with us in prayer and in spirit. Those who have nurtured us by their love and support and who have shaped us into the people we have become. We are grateful for our church community whose generosity and support have been overwhelming.

We are mindful of all who have gone on the Mission before us who have brought healing to the sick, food to the hungry, educated the children, held the babies too hungry to cry, and helped construct the home shelters. They have been our models as they worked to bring the reign of God into the lives of others.

May we find strength to continue this work, to bring hope to the people of Nicaragua as we open ourselves to the transformation of a deeper faith. And may we always be open to opportunities to share this faith with one another and with our brothers and sisters here and in the third world. Amen.

Membership Services

by Jody Ladwig

At the Board of Trustees meeting on December 1, the status of the Membership Service and Tracking Focus group was moved from focus group to permanent ministry status. Folded into this Ministry will be the former Welcoming Team Ministry. As stated in the new Ministry Opportunities Booklet, which will be provide to the congregation in February, the Membership Services Ministry is dedicated to current and future members of LOG with services including, but not limited to, welcoming visitors, communicating with new members, developing and enhancing inter-parish communication, tracking and reporting membership systems and managing an inventory of gifts and talents.

At our recent meeting we accepted the “final” iteration of the Ministry Opportunities Booklet and Time and Talent Survey insert. We hope this document will assist us in telling the story of Lamb of God and help our members identify ministries which allow them to use their talents and skills. We thank everyone who gave their time and effort to this document.

There is a lot of activity underway on the Welcoming Desk and related functions. We plan to rename this area in the Vineyard as the “Information and Visitor Sign-in Center.” The new location of the desk appears to be well accepted. There is new signage proposed which will provide greater visibility and impact. Adding more content to the desk is underway. The goal here is to make that area more dynamic and person friendly. Look for these changes in early January. Please stop by and give us your reactions and ideas.

A Welcome Bookmark is being designed and will be considered at our January meeting.

FACEBOOK usage continues to grow, although very slowly. It was reported that one of our volunteers at the Feeding of the 5000 was from Naples and had read about us on FACEBOOK. We are looking for technically oriented persons to help us with this project. One cannot underestimate the power of the new social networking systems.

Lamb of God Church



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BOLDLY INCLUSIVE	INTENTIONALLY CHALLENGING	JOYFULLY CHRISTIAN
Embracing all people as they are, celebrating diversity and affirming the uniqueness of each person	Encouraging questions, exploring issues and finding new ways to live our faith as Christians in a changing world	Connecting people to a loving community of God's grace where all can be transformed and equipped for lives of service, praise and thanksgiving