



# LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29

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### Lamb of God Lutheran Church

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Monday through Friday

**Bible Study :**  
Sunday Morning 9:00 AM  
Wednesday 6:30 PM

**Choir Practice:**  
Wednesday Eve 7:30 PM

**Worship :**  
Sunday: 10:30 AM

**Little Lambs Learning Center**  
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# MERRY CHRISTMAS! The GOOD NEWS letter

The GOOD NEWS letter  
Volume 3, Issue 6

December 2010

By Pastor  
John Roebke

## WHAT'S ON YOUR WISH LIST?

*"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)*

This year you didn't have to get up at 3 a.m. for those Black Friday specials – you didn't even have to go to bed, because so many retailers were open for business late Thursday night. But if you decided that long lines and short tempers weren't for you, those stores will still be waiting for you and your shopping lists for the next 27 days.

It used to be so much easier, didn't it? A rocking horse, a doll, a couple of shirts and a puzzle is all it took to put a sparkle in those little eyes for Christmas. But times change, and so do wish lists. Sketch books and crayons give way to iPads, board games are replaced by gaming systems, bikes under the tree yield to cars in the driveway. And we haven't even touched our kids' wish lists yet!

As we grow older, our perspective on wants and needs change. Maybe all you want for Christmas this year is your health, or your job, or your spouse's love – items that money can't buy. As you grow older, your list of disappointments and unfulfilled wishes grows too, until maybe you stop asking for anything. You'll just be happy if you can keep what you already have (although you know that's impossible).

Two thousand years ago the world was not waiting to unwrap a Savior on the first Christmas, yet this still is the only gift that never disappoints, but always brings great joy. It is a gift suitable for all ages, it fits all sizes, and it requires no batteries or assembly. It is the gift of peace between sinful man and holy God, and of reunion with loved ones in heaven.

The Son of God is *the* gift to give this season to your neighbors, coworkers and friends. Invite them to attend one of our special worship services or fellowship events during the month of December or during the New Year. Use the opportunity the season provides to explain how Jesus fills up the empty places in your heart. Keep Jesus on your wish list, for you will always be on His.



# Christmas Day



## LLLC Corner

Elsa Cousins, Director

The angels & shepherds performed "The Savior is Here! Listen and Cheer!" for this year's program. The children looked so sweet in the costumes and sang like the angels they are. A Jesus birthday party followed. All of the children and Elsa Toepke, Deborah Bray, Beth Dressler, Becky McPherson, Doreen Cupero, and Robin Lockwood, extend their heartfelt prayers for a joyous family Christmas and a Happy New Year!

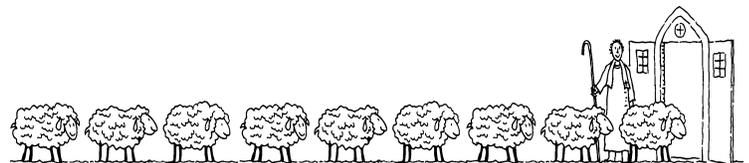
## M.O.M.

### Morning Our Ministry

This is the first Christmas season for M.O.M. and the first mini-program was held for parents to enjoy the children singing songs and ringing bells. One of our students will advance to the LLLC preschool in the New Year. Pearl Brooks, Nancy Kolodzne, Mary Schumpert, Gabi Presley, Kim Bodeker and Becky McPherson wish everyone a blessed Christmas and New Year!



## *Faith of the Flock* Introducing... *Bridget & Jeff* *Alexy*



Brigitte was born on November 8, 1983, in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. She moved to Alabama in August 2005 to attend graduate school for Technical and Professional Communication at Auburn University, where she and Jeff met. Her favorite season is winter – in the North – and she dearly misses the snow and all the shoveling, scraping, sledding, snowball fights, snow forts, and skiing that go along with it. Since her winter hobbies are not possible here, she plays roller derby. This season she will take a break from playing (because Jeff and Brigitte are expecting a baby in late June) but will continue to participate by coaching. One thing you may not know about Brigitte is that she has crocheted more than thirty-five blankets since learning to crochet in 2000.

Jeff was born on January 10, 1984, in Anniston, Alabama, and then moved to Jacksonville, Alabama, when he was 12. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Auburn University. He now works for Hodnett Hurst Engineers as a structural engineer designing schools, churches, and various other buildings. What you may not know about Jeff is that he performed most of the structural design for the new Madison High School. Jeff's main hobbies revolve around sports. He plays on multiple softball teams as well as in a bowling league. He also enjoys playing basketball, tennis, and anything else that's active, as well as doing jigsaw and crossword puzzles and playing board games.

What Brigitte likes best about Lamb of God is the combination of more traditional and newer elements in the worship services. She and Jeff both highly value the friendliness of the congregation and the many opportunities to serve.

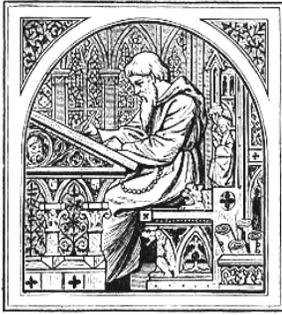
One of Brigitte's biggest spiritual struggles is patience. God is helping her with this issue right now by giving her many opportunities through her community involvement to practice patience with her neighbors and other volunteers. Also, she was unemployed for most of last year, and that experience forced her to practice patience!

One of Jeff's biggest spiritual struggles is trying to share the gospel with friends and co-workers. God is helping him with this issue right now by giving him opportunities to pray in front of them during meals, by discussing upcoming or past activities at church, and by trying to profess his faith when the topic arises.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **A BIG CELEBRATION IS BEING PLANNED. WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PART OF THE PLANNING?**

The cornerstone at the front of the church says July 2002, and that would make Lamb of God on County Line Road 10 years old in 2012. It is never too early to start the planning, so January will be our first meeting of the Lamb of God Anniversary Planning Committee. There are already many ideas, so talk with Pastor Roebke about your thoughts and ideas and join us in making 2012 a celebration worthy of God's house of worship



## *Notes from the Scriptorium*

Bart Leahy,  
Council Secretary

Hard to believe it's the holiday season again. That means excitement ahead, as we cram in a lot of social activities into a few all-too-brief weeks. It's a lot of fun, most of the time, but is excitement and entertainment all we want—even our church lives? At the November Council meeting, Pastor brought a paper from a recent pastors' conference to help us discuss the connection between the Lutheran liturgy and outreach. While we might worry about the excitement Baptist-influenced "mega-churches" generate, this is not a problem with our sometimes-serious liturgy or style of worship. The focus of our liturgy is on the Word. Rather than focusing on a big, dramatic "show," Lutherans present the Gospel and allow the Holy Spirit to work within the individual. That transformation is the *real* excitement!

First off, I'd like to welcome Jon Ehrman to the Council. He has agreed to serve as Lamb of God's Outreach Chairman. Please give him your encouragement as he learns the ropes of his position, and pray for him and his wife that the Lord gives them both strength and patience.

Twelve LOG members attended a presentation on Computer Security by Chris Crosby on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Topics covered included software security issues, social networking/texting issues, and parental oversight of children's internet use. Chris also gave a live demonstration on how to hack into a computer.

About 1,200 people voted at LOG on November 2. While they were waiting, they were able to view information about LOG's mission on our new hallway television. Thanks to the anonymous donor for this new outreach tool and to Tom P. for mounting the digital signboard in time for the election.

On 11/4 Pastor and Gary Anthony attended the City of Madison's first open meeting about future growth plans for city of Madison. After the presentation, the public was given the opportunity to give direct input on each of the key development areas, including specific proposals for development, characteristic of the neighborhood, things to change and things to preserve, vision and building styles.

For those of you who didn't hear Tom talk about our financial status after service November 14, offerings are just above our budget amount, for which we thank you. LOG's ministry is made possible by its members. Also, our expenditures are currently around 92 percent of budget. Both of these are welcome blessings, for which your Council is grateful.

December 4 was an indoor work and church decorating day. Thanks to everyone who came out to help put up our three trees and fix our lighting fixtures!

Gabi Presley has been sending out 250 mailings per month. She will most likely not be doing this in the near future. We could use some help handling these mailings. If you're interested in pitching in, speak with Pastor or one of the other Council members.

The Council's next meeting will be January 6 at 5:30 p.m. so that we can prepare for the congregational meeting January 9.

## **MARY MARTHA**

by Nancy Kolodzne, Secretary



The next meeting is in January and we hope to see all ladies attending - there will be planning for the New Year on the agenda. Merry Christmas !

## **Lamb of God Lutheran Church**

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Check us out on FACEBOOK, and tell your friends you "like" us  
Pastor John Roebke (Cell phone: 256-975-0056)

<b>Council/President:</b>	Tom Poehlman
<b>Council/Treasurer:</b>	Bryan Tauchen
<b>Council/Secretary:</b>	Bart Leahy
<b>Financial:</b>	Phil Hahn
<b>In-Reach:</b>	OPEN
<b>Out-Reach:</b>	Jon Ehrman
<b>Head Usher:</b>	Jeff VanOrman
<b>Elders:</b>	Gary Anthony, Del Brooks, Dave Bray, Dan Peebles, Roy Schumpert
<b>Long-Range Planning:</b>	Gary Anthony
<b>Website Task Force:</b>	Pastor John Roebke
<b>Maintenance:</b>	Tom Poehlman
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Pearl Brooks
<b>Choir Director:</b>	Karla Poehlman
<b>Mary Martha Guild President:</b>	Pearl Brooks
<b>Youth Leader:</b>	Pam Hess
<b>Little Lambs Preschool Director:</b>	Elsa Cousins
<b>Morning Out Ministry Director:</b>	Pearl Brooks
<b>School Board President:</b>	Gary Anthony
<b>School Board V.P.:</b>	Gabi Presley
<b>School Board Secretary:</b>	Krista Hahn
<b>School Board Treasurer:</b>	Cynthia Curtis
<b>Lawn Care Chairman:</b>	David Bray
<b>Bytes of Bread:</b>	Jan VanOrman
<b>Sunday Snack Scheduler:</b>	Jan VanOrman
<b>LOG Historian:</b>	Becky Tauchen
<b>Library:</b>	Becky Tauchen, Gwen Smith
<b>Food Pantry:</b>	Laurie Aikens
<b>Office Secretary:</b>	Joni Gruber

# History of Christmas

By Jon Ehrman

The Christmas Holiday celebration we enjoy each year began when God sent his angel Gabriel to a virgin named Mary, betrothed to a man named Joseph in a city of Galilee named Nazareth. The angel announced to Mary that she would bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (Ref: Luke 1:26-38). From this announcement and Jesus' birth that followed, we have been blessed with a rich Christmas tradition with its various symbols as follows:

## Nativity Scenes



As the angel promised months later when Quirinius was governor of Syria, Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth to the City of Bethlehem to give birth to her first born son, wrapped in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger because there was no room at the inn. (Ref: Luke 2:1-7)

In that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Ref: Luke 2:8-20)

"...wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." Subsequently, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:1-12)

From the above passages in the Bible, we often include nativity scenes as part of our Christmas decorations each year.

## Star

Also from the reading of Matthew 2:1-12 above, we make use of stars in our Christmas decorations.



## Giving of Gifts



Sometime around 300 A.D. lived a man famous for his generosity and love of children. His name was Saint Nicholas. He was bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor. He reportedly established a feast day on December 6<sup>th</sup>, and gave gifts to children on the eve of that day. As time passed he became known as the gift giver at Christmas time.

Down through the centuries, our tradition results in exchanging gifts with those we love based on the gifts given by the wise men to Jesus and subsequently by Saint Nicholas to children each year.

## Christmas Tree

In 718 A.D., an English missionary by the name of Winfrid was called to preach the word of God to German tribes. Legend is that as he traveled through northern Germany he met a group of Druids. The Druids were a pagan priestly cult among the ancient tribes in northern Europe. They engaged in human sacrifice and considered the oak tree as sacred. In one encounter, Winfrid reportedly stopped the sacrifice of one of their young princes to their god Thor and cut down "the bloody oak". A young fir tree immediately sprung up from where the oak has stood. Winfrid informed the Druids that the fir tree was to be their new holy tree and both a tree of peace and tree of Christ. From that time, the Germans were probably the first people to decorate fir trees for Christmas.



Trim  
the  
Tree

## In closing

As Christ's followers, we have been blessed with a beautiful, rich Christmas tradition; the freedom to enjoy it and the responsibility to share it with others around the world.

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*The Blessings of Christmas to all  
from the staff at Lamb of God*