



The GOOD NEWS Letter

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Volume 4, Issue 1

January 2011

By Pastor
John Roebke

THE STATE OF THE CHURCH IN 2011

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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Sunday Morning 9:00 AM

Wednesday 6:30 PM

Choir Practice:

Wednesday Eve 7:30 PM

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Sunday: 10:30 AM

Little Lambs Learning Center

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[God says to His Chosen One]: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)



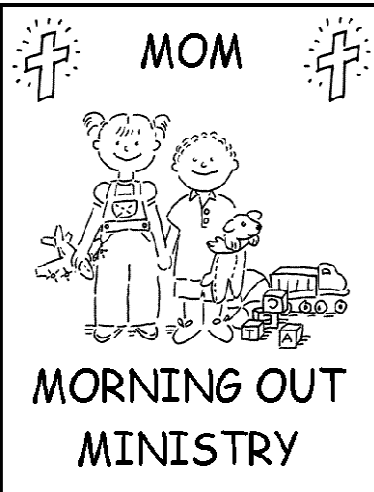
More kids crammed into schools that are already over capacity and over budget. Longer commute times because of construction delays and traffic congestion. Power outages at the most inconvenient times, because the grid wasn't built to support all these new housing developments. BRAC is finally here, and it has exposed our community leaders' lack of foresight and planning. Are you excited about standing in line at WalMart with another 20,000+ people? Are you willing to share your child's teacher with 39 other students?

People are coming here in record numbers, and not just because of BRAC. The 2010 Census showed a population increase of 7.5% for Alabama, and almost 20% for Madison County over the last ten years. Like so many of us, these people have come here to make their home. They're not going anywhere soon, nor are our city leaders going to put up a fence to keep out newcomers.

As I was preparing this month's outreach mailings to new residents, I was surprised that the list of addresses was twice as long as I had budgeted for. How is our congregation going to cope with the opportunities and challenges of BRAC? When new neighbors move in next door, do we have the time to introduce ourselves to them? When a visitor comes to our church on a Sunday, can we tear ourselves away from our favorite "gab group" and make the newcomer feel welcome? When the weather warms up enough to work outside in our yards again, will we be as excited about working our neighborhood streets for new prospects? When it's time to put together our next budget, where will it show that our priorities lie?

As we look back at 2010, we give thanks to our gracious God for getting our families, our country, and our church through a very challenging year. There are many good reasons for us to exercise caution as our country slowly climbs out of recession, but not to curb our enthusiasm for our Savior's gospel, or the opportunities to share it with others. What he accomplished through his death is too great to share only with those new neighbors who are looking for the closest WELS church. Balancing our church's budget is too small of a mission. Maintaining the status quo must not be our vision, for it certainly is not the Lord's.

2011 finds our church in a stable state, where each and every sinner may find peace and joy in Christ's forgiveness. What better foundation is there for our new neighbors to build their faith on? Our church sits at the crossroads of Madison and Limestone Counties – what better location is there for us to build bridges to our new neighbors? In the next few months, you will have many opportunities to welcome your new neighbors, both privately and through our church's outreach programs. We will all be challenged by the changes that are coming to our community and our congregation. As we adjust to the arrival of our new neighbors, let us make room for them in our hearts as well, so that they may see The Light.



M.O.M. (Morning Out Ministry)

Director: Pearl Brooks

Our MOM program is in full swing after missing a week because of the snow. This week we registered two more. Twin BOYS! It is apparent to us that there are lots of little boys out there. We are left wondering where are all the girls?

We welcomed Mary back to our program. We have been blessed with some wonderful help during her absence. We have to thank Gabi Presley, Becky McPherson, Kim Bodeker, and Laura Schu-bring for helping us out. Their willingness to help out made it so much easier for us to continue with our mission.

The boys play together very well. It is not very often that we have to intercede and stress that we share the toys. They are all very sweet and each has their own personalities. We have noticed that they are all talking more, and joining in with the activities. They are sometimes like little parrots, repeating everything we say.

It did not take us long to realize they like glue and glitter. Craft time is always lots of fun. The excitement on their faces as they make their treasures is priceless. These little children are learning about God's love for them. It is so easy for us to love them too!

Our Youth Group has a busy spring planned for them. Along with our youth activities we will also have several planning for confirmation and hopefully all planning for summer bible camp. This year the Teen Youth Rally will be held in Orlando. I am extremely thrilled to be able to drive them down there. It will be a great experience for me as well as the kids. And once again Pastor will drive the kids to Camp South. We may have 12 of our youth group attending either the Teen Youth Rally or Camp South.

Total cost for these 12 youths will be \$3540.00 not including any transportation. At this time we have \$793.00 in our account. We raised \$150.00 on our Flower Bulb Sale and \$375.00 from the fall Car Wash/Brat Fry, and \$268.00 carried over from the spring. We have a Valentines Dinner planned and another Car Wash/Brat Fry planned for the spring. We really appreciate all of your generous donations, without your help many of them would not be able to attend camp. Our goal is to raise another \$1300.00. This would cover 1/2 the cost to send each youth to camp and figure in about 1/2 the cost to transport them. We are also considering starting a Baby-Sitting Service at church one Saturday a month, and a Rent-a-Kid Day, for those of you who may need some help around the house, your dog walked or help with something else. These are some very ambitious kids, and I think they would do a great job for you all. We will have some sign up sheets out for this soon.

Becky Tauchen is once again graciously offering to help us with the Valentine's Dinner. She will be doing all of the cooking, and we all know what a wonderful meal this will be. We hope many of you are planning to attend. It is a very elegant evening, with great food, great service, free babysitting and great company, and all of the proceeds will help send our kids to camp. What a wonderful way for all of us to show our love for Jesus!

Many Blessing to all, Pam Hess

Our Spring Schedule

Feb.12	Confirmation, lunch and prepare for Valentine Dinner for that night
Feb.27	Roller skating
Mar. 5	Confirmation, lunch and Madison Village for Bingo
Mar. 26	Confirmation, hiking and picnic
April 2	Confirmation and kids choice; movie, petting zoo, paint ball, whatever!
April 30	Confirmation, lunch and prepare for car wash/brat fry
May 1	Car wash/Brat fry
May 20-22	Camping - Monte Sano



ANNOUNCEMENT

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

The cornerstone of the church says July 2002. 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 February 8th, 2 pm, will be our first meeting of the Lamb of God Anniversary Planning Committee. There are already some ideas, but your ideas are encouraged. Talk with Pastor Roebke and join us in making 2012 a celebration worthy of God's house of worship.



LLLC Corner Elsa Cousins, Director

Twice in the last month we've been greeted with smiling happy children literally bouncing up and down eager to be back in school! What fun for all of us.

The next couple of months in any school year are always the most productive academically and I expect that will be true for all of us this year as well. We've quickly settled back into our daily routines now that the excitement of the holidays (and snow days) is past with little interruption until Spring Break.

Enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year has begun. Spaces are made available to our congregational and currently enrolled families (including those in M.O.M.) first. We will make them available to the public beginning with our Open house on Sat. Feb.5, from 9:00-noon. Be sure to share this information with friends, neighbors and co-workers. Brochures to share are available in the church's tract boards. Question? Speak to Elsa Toepke or Deborah Bray or our Board Chair, Gary Anthony.

Lent 2011

The series (*People of the Passion*): Many people were part of Jesus' passion. What do you know about them? What if you could have been there? You can take a trip back in time with us during the special midweek Lenten services to gain valuable insights about the People of the Passion. Be sure to set the time aside.

PEOPLE
OF
THE PASSION

(Judas): What if you had been in Judas' sandals? What would you have done as Jesus' leadership seemed to falter? Be sure to be with us on Ash Wednesday to learn more about Judas, the Opportunist.

(Caiaphas): Do you wonder what it was like to be part of Christ's passion? What motivated a man like the high priest Caiaphas to prosecute Jesus? Join us on Wednesday evening to learn more about Caiaphas, the Schemer.

(Nicodemus): Of the people of the passion, do you know the man whom we could call the Silent Believer? Are you at all like him? Learn who he was and how he came to break his silence.

(Peter): Have you ever thought of how much Peter was like Judas? What was Peter thinking when he denied Jesus? How were Peter's bitter tears afterward different from Judas' deep remorse? How are you like Peter?

(Pontius Pilate): How is it that an obscure Roman governor lives in infamy? Here is the one man who could have stopped Jesus' execution. Why didn't he? He knew Jesus was innocent. Did he just "think" too much?

(One of the Mob): Think of the cheers of Palm Sunday: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Then think of the jeers five days later: "Crucify him!" What had changed? What would you have done if you had been "one of the mob"?

(The Apostles): Who were those men who ate the Passover meal with Jesus on the evening before he was arrested? Can you name them all? What lesson did Jesus teach them that night, and how well did they carry it out? What did Jesus do for them?

(The Centurion): The Jewish religious elite orchestrated Jesus' death. An unnamed Roman officer presided over his crucifixion. Which of them had a change of heart? The officer was a pagan. Do you think you would have seen what he did there on Calvary?

(The Women): Do you remember who were the first persons to see Jesus alive after his resurrection? Do you know what they did? What did others think who heard from them? How did they then react? How will you react to the message that brightens our hearts this day?

NURSING HOME

P ~ R ~ O ~ G ~ R ~ A ~ M

Lamb of God Youth Group at Madison Village *by Nancy Reobke*

On Saturday, January 15, 2010, after confirmation class and lunch at the church, we went over to Madison Village, a residential home for the elderly. In the past, we went to play Bingo with a group of residents. This time we went to create a poster for each participant.

We brought along our skills in talking to these newly adopted "grandparents" and in poster-making. We wanted them to have a special Valentines message about God's love. Several Bible passages were printed and presented to the creative crafters. For instance, "God is love," and "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life" were two.

We also brought along dried poinsettia leaves, as well as colored and sparkly paper. Some residents cut out the messages or designed their own so it looked like a snowflake-edged piece of paper or used pinking shears to shape them. Some found old lace from their rooms to include. We helped lay it out and then we laminated it to be strong and waterproof.

Each young person had an older person to work with and to talk to during the process. This activity was much more interactive than Bingo ever was. We could ask questions "What's your favorite color?", "Do you like that?" and "What do you want to do with this?"

We know they enjoyed it and hung their work on their doors or walls for all to see. We hope to be back for Spring and reinforce our Savior's resurrection. We were happy to reinforce God's love for all, in Christ.



December 2010
Treasurer's Report -
Offerings

Budgeted monthly Offerings	\$ 11,898.71
Actual Offerings for December 2010	<u>14,279.70</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 2,380.99



Mary Martha News,
Nancy Kolodzne, Secretary

The Mary Martha minutes were sent out to all the ladies as usual, but here is a recap of the special meals we'll be having in the Fellowship Room for the next couple of months.

March 9th Ash Wednesday—Supper Pot Luck 5:30 PM
March 16th Mid-Week Lent—Supper Pot Luck 5:30 PM
March 23rd Mid-Week Lent—Supper Pot Luck 5:30 PM
March 30th Mid-Week Lent—Supper Pot Luck 5:30 PM
April 6th Mid-Week Lent—Supper Pot Luck 5:30 PM
April 13th Mid-Week Lent—Supper Pot Luck 5:30 PM
April 24th Easter Sunday —9:00 AM Breakfast Buffet



Ladies' Breakfast

Café Lemon Bleu
6275 University Drive, Suite 24
(East side of the Target shopping area)

February 19th

9:00 AM

All Ladies are welcome to join in this fellowship!



Notes from the Scriptorium

Bart Leahy,
Council Secretary

Welcome to 2011! As we begin this newest Year of Our Lord (Anno Domini), let us not forget the blessings we enjoyed in 2010, nor His continued gifts in 2011. Two of those blessings are our church and synod. This month Pastor will be sharing with the congregation a video that he shared with your Council about the work the synod is doing in Queens, New York, and how we as a church can support missions like it. *Synod*, Pastor reminds us, is a Greek word meaning walking together. This video offers us insight into how our congregation walks together with others in the WELS to do the Lord's work.

The half-year point meant it was time for our semi-annual congregational meeting, which took place January 6. Here are some of the highlights...

Pastor reported that, after a variety of changes and transitions, we have gained 8 members in the last six months. He has also been shepherding our Web and Anniversary committees toward, respectively, improving our Internet presence and preparing to celebrate our 10th anniversary in our County Line Road building in 2012.

Tom, as Church Council President and acting lead for Buildings and Grounds, thanked everyone for their contributions to LOGLC. He especially singled out Phil and Krista Hahn, who will be moving soon so Phil can take a new job in Virginia. When that call comes through, they will be missed. As our acting Buildings & Grounds lead, Tom also has persevered in his efforts to get the contractor to finish the hail damage done to our church, and that work looks to be drawing to a close soon. He thanked Larry Harbaugh and Dan Peebles for their continued hard work in keeping our yard equipment and other hardware in shape.

Hard to believe, but January puts us halfway through the church's fiscal year. After a very challenging budget process, our Treasurer Bryan reports that we have been blessed by circumstances and your gifts of spirit, time, and treasure to be slightly ahead of where we hoped to be. We must remain vigilant against repairs, random accidents, or complacency; but for now your Council would like to say thank you for your efforts at keeping the work of Lamb of God Lutheran Church proceeding according to our planned budget. We will continue to update you as events warrant.

Jon Ehrman, our new Evangelism and Outreach Chair, presented to the congregation a summary of 2010's outreach activities, which included explanations for how they fit into our ministry plan, as well as a list of planned activities for 2011. In his new role, Jon plans to follow up with any local newcomers who visit LOGLC for services or activities as a way to get to know them and potentially bring them into our church family.

In addition to writing my monthly Scriptorium reports for your newsletter, I have been acting Inreach Chair, performing as Council liaison for Little Lambs Learning Center and the Morning Out Ministry (MOM). These two services have been blessings to our church and the Madison community. LLLC has faced a challenging year, with a tougher economy and more competition from additional preschools opening in the area. While our dedicated team of teachers and aides have cut back on their hours, we still need more students to keep Little Lambs open. If you know parents with children age 3-5, it's not too late to refer them to us. MOM remains busy, though it has become a "boys' club," with 7 boys registered until last Monday when the second set of boy twins registered. We have a new total of 9 boys.

Thank you for all your support in year 2010. Your Council works hard to keep Lamb of God on mission, but we cannot do it without all of you.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

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Web Page: <http://lambogodchurch.org>


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

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

OUTREACH FOR 2011 *by Jon Ehrman*

As we start a new year, we need to always keep in mind the unconditional love our heavenly Father has for us. In return, we should love, serve and glorify him. Jesus says in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" and what are his commandments? Jesus tells us in Mark 12:30 "...and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul; and with all your mind; and with all your strength." And in Mark 12:31 he says "...and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." He further tells us in Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you;..."

Based on the above direction, our Church has embarked on nine major activities this coming year to attract visitors that we may share and demonstrate our love. These activities are:

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| <p>(3/9) Ash Wednesday evening potluck dinner and service with special music provided by the Branches Band</p> <p>(Wed, Mar & Apr) Midweek Lent Services</p> <p>(4/16) Easter for Kids program</p> <p>(4/24) Easter Worship Services</p> <p>(5/31—6/2) Tennis Bible Clinic with law/gospel tie-in.</p> <p>(10/1) Madison Street Festival Church booth</p> | <p style="text-align: right;"> BRANCHES BAND</p> <p>(Wed's in Dec) Midweek Advent Services</p> <p>(12/10) Christmas for Kids program</p> <p>(12/18) Annual German Service</p> <p>(12/24-25) Christmas Worship Services</p> |
|---|--|

From the above activities Pastor Roebke and/or I will be contacting and visiting all who express an interest in our Church in order to make them feel welcome and encourage them to come and worship with us.

Given the above outreach efforts by the Church, what are your personal goals and plans for Outreach this year? Consider a new year's resolution to contact your neighbors, friends and close business associates; find out if any of them are unchurched. If so, invite them to our Church. Consider also working on your subdivision's welcoming committee and not only welcome newcomers to your subdivision, but also take the opportunity to tell them about Lamb of God Lutheran Church. When possible, give them literature on our Church, Little Lambs Learning Center and our Bible Studies.

May our gracious, loving heavenly father bless our efforts this year!

Ash Wednesday Potluck Supper and Concert by Branches Band

At our Ash Wednesday Service on March 9th, we have the privilege and honor of hosting the Branches Band from Milwaukee, WI. Come and enjoy their encouragement in the Word of God through word and song. The service will be held at 7:00 PM and will be preceded by a potluck supper at 5:30 PM. This will be a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to attend, so plan now to attend this event and bring a dish to pass.

The Branches Band consists of three members, all members of WELS Churches and graduates of Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, WI. They are presently on a tour of churches in the Eastern part of the US, from Wisconsin to Florida. A free will offering basket will be available to help defray their expenses and CD's will be available to purchase after the service.

For this event, we will need host families to provide two nights of lodging and breakfast each morning. The three consists of one married couple plus one male.



Valentine's Dinner *Saturday, February 12th* *5:30 PM*

*Your choice of
~ Entrée's ~*

Lemon-Thyme Chicken
Pork Tenderloin with Cranberry Relish
3 Cheese Baked Pasta

*Also included in your meal will be tossed
salad, brown-rice pilaf, oven roasted
vegetables, bread and an assortment of
desserts from the chef's table*

*A free-will basket will be set up to defray costs.
Sponsored by the Youth Group*