



The GOOD NEWS Letter

The GOOD NEWS letter
Volume 4, Issue 4

May 2011

By Pastor
John Roebke

Stop Doubting and Believe!

Text: John 20:19-31

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

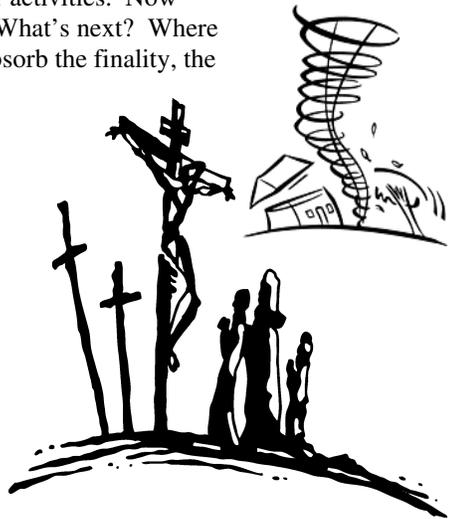
"Look, the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of
the world." John 1:29

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Pastor Roebke	1
Tennis, Youth, Planning, Classes	2
LLLC Page	3
Confirmands,,M/M, M.O.M.	4
Scriptorium, Directory	5
Outreach May-August	6

It's a disaster—complete, utter chaos. Life has been turned upside down. In only 24 hours, everything you've depended on has disappeared. All your assumptions have been shattered. You thought you had it under control. You were looking forward to other activities. Now there are endless questions: Why did this tragedy happen? What's next? Where is God in all this? You're still in shock. Your mind can't absorb the finality, the loss, the devastation, the death. You wouldn't believe it's true, if you hadn't seen it with your own eyes. But there's no way to change what's happened, no way to turn back the clock, hit the reset button, go back to the restore point.

Friday, the day of the disaster, was the worst day of your life. Your Teacher, your Master, your friend and your Lord was nailed to a tree and left to die under the hot sun. You couldn't do anything to stop this tragedy, you're helpless to ease his suffering. With shame you recall how you abandoned him in his hour of greatest need, just like he said you would, even though you vowed you would not. You've discovered the painful reality—you're not in control, you never were. Now He's gone, and you can't bring Him back.



So you've come here today to be with the rest of your brothers and sisters, to make sense out of this senseless tragedy. But fear still grips your heart. What if it happens again? What if it comes after you and your loved ones the next time? You're hunkered down in your safe place, doors locked, but who knows if it will do any good? Sadness and despair fill your heart. It seems so pointless now, but you've got to keep up appearances, you can't let anyone else see you're sinking in quicksand, that this disaster has shaken your faith in God, that you're this far away from losing it completely.

But then everything changes so quickly you don't have time to think about what's happening. He's here with us, alive again, smiling in our midst, saying "Shalom al-lechem," "Peace be with you." You thought you'd never hear those words again. You thought you'd never experience the feeling of being complete and whole again, or the certainty of knowing that the Master of wind and wave is in control of your eternal soul's destiny. In those darkest hours of your life, His peace was with you. That's because through His darkest hours your sins were painfully erased, one after another, as God's whirlwind of justice tore into His body and soul. Jesus is your safe place rain or shine, good times and bad, whether your light has been shining brightly during this disaster, or the dark selfishness within you has been exposed.

Your shelter from the storm says, "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you. If you forgive anyone their sins, they are forgiven. Understand, He's releasing you from the guilt of your treachery, he's lifting the burden of your lack of faith, and he's giving you the power to do the same for others, to lighten their loads in these last hours of our dying world. He's sending you and me to direct our neighbors' eyes away from the devastation they see in front of them towards the cross, and the empty tomb, and the life he's promised to give everyone who trusts in him. He's sending us to comfort the bereaved with the promise that all who die in Jesus will live again in a world without disasters. May we repeat those blessed words He's spoken in our midst today, "Peace be with you!"

And yet some will not benefit from this message of comfort. In fact, we are barely clinging to his promises in a time like this. The doubting Thomas inside all of us asks, "How could this be? How could a loving God allow this to happen? If I cannot see a purpose to all this pain and loss and suffering then nothing you say can convince me this for good. Continued on back cover page...

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

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loglc@hiwaay.net

Pastor John Roebke

Office 256-464-3900
Cell 256-975-0056

Office Hours: 9 AM - 1 PM
Monday through Friday

Bible Study :

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

Choir Practice:

Wednesday Eve 7:30 PM

Worship :

Sunday: 10:30 AM

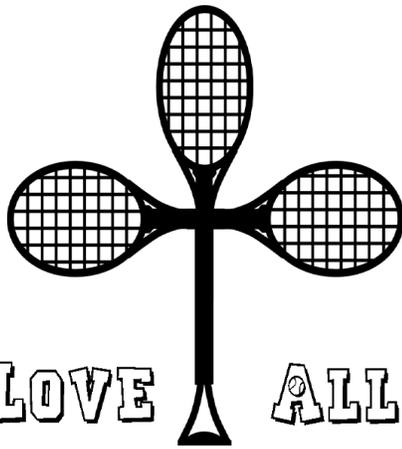
Little Lambs Learning Center

Office 256-464-3900
ectoepke@gmail.com

Morning Out Ministry

Office 256-464-3900
pearlmary35810@yahoo.com





TENNIS CLINIC

May 31, June 1, and June 2, 2011
6 PM to 8 PM daily

For all children between 8 to 14 yrs.
No previous tennis experience necessary
Basic skills taught on church campus
Equipment provided

\$30 Registration Fee ~ Register on-line at
www.lambofgodchurch.org/tennis



The youth group is organizing a **CAMPING TRIP** for May 20-22, at Monte Sano campground in Huntsville. The campground is filled with beautiful hiking and biking trails. There is a nearby playground, and lots of sight seeing. Reservations do not need to be made, so just come on out when you want. Any questions please contact Pam Hess 256-612-0580. You can also check out their website @ www.alapark.com/montesano

RENT-A-KID has been a resounding success and is still continuing. With Rent-A-Kid continuing, and the **BRAT FRY/CAR WASH** coming up in June. We hope to reach our goal to assist the children going to camp with your help and God's will. Thank you all!
Pam Hess

Long Range Planning Committee

Your Lamb of God Long Range Planning Committee has been hard at work. Some of us have attended the City of Madison presentations of their Long Range Plans and we are striving to utilize some of the information gleaned from their plans to mesh with ours. We are looking to dovetail a combined effort to serve the community and also be instrumental in spreading the Gospel message of our Savior Jesus Christ. We are looking at such things as Education (both adult, Sunday School and Pre-school) and future aims/goals; Ministry-how can we better aid Pastor in his ministry-extra help?, Vicar?, Staff Minister?, etc. Facility-how well does our current facility function? If we expect or plan to expand our educational outlook we will need to think of expansion of our facility as well. Outreach-we have a dedicated Outreach Chair that has hit the ground running and full speed ahead. It is hard to keep up with some of his ideas and projected projects at times. What a Blessing Jon (Outreach Chairman) and Marilyn Ehrman are to this congregation. For In-reach, we are trying to find ways to get more members involved in their own congregation. It takes more than a small handful of members to accomplish things.

We welcome any and all ideas and suggestions that you would like to see happen in your congregation in the next five to ten years. One thing that will aid us in this task is a survey Pastor mentioned a few weeks ago.. The survey is still on target-just the date has been pushed back due to the devastating storms, Mother's Day and Confirmation.

Feel free to contact me at any time with your ideas, wish lists or suggestions. garyanthony6@gmail.com *Gary Anthony*

~ NEW BIBLE CLASSES ~

Faith on Trial: Job

Sunday mornings at 9 AM - 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 6/12, 6/19, 6/26

Why does God allow his people to suffer? Many Christians ask this question. Perhaps you are one of them. In Holy Scripture God has given us a great book devoted entirely to this subject. It is the book of Job. This inspired book and its answer to the problem of suffering are the subject of our study guide.

April 27 - May 25 Forgiveness

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM - 4/27, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25

Forgiveness is our greatest need. As we need forgiveness from God, we also need forgiveness within our family relationships. Topics include, "Forgiveness – Where Can I Find It?," "Forgiveness Means Freedom," and "Forgive as the Lord Forgave You."

Latest Budget Figures

March 2011	Budgeted monthly Offerings	\$ 11,615.38
Treas's Report	Actual Offerings/Mar 2011	<u>17,237.15</u>
Offerings	Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 5,621.77



LLLC Corner

Elsa Cousins, Director

Bad Guys, Good Guys.

It's good for me to be reminded occasionally of what it is that makes LLLC unique and truly a ministry of this congregation and not just another pre-school. Our opening worship and Bible time provided just such a reminder recently.

While reviewing the Good Friday events as a prelude to the Easter story I asked, "Why was Jesus on the cross?" The instant answer was, "Because of the bad guys." To be sure of what was meant, I prodded further and asked who the bad guys were. Just as instantly the answer was, "We were!" The perfect opening to once again talk about sin and the need for a Savior; how Jesus' death and coming alive again means all of our badness is gone. So now we're no longer the "bad guys" because of Jesus we're now (I was going to say forgiven) and they all said, "The good guys!" "Yes, Jesus got rid of our badness and made us good and now we too will live forever with Him in heaven."

There it is, the Gospel plain and simple in the words of three and four year olds - once we were the "bad guys", but now we're the "good guys" (see 1 Peter 2:9-10) because Jesus came alive again. They get it! And that's the joy and purpose of this ministry along with the hope that they'll share it again and again and again.



... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Mk. 10:14-15

What a great note on which to end our 2010-2011 school year and look toward the start of our 10th year of ministry.

In His service, Elsa Toepke



City Coupon Book - A Fundraising Event for Little Lambs Learning Center

Little Lambs Learning Center wants to thank everyone who helped/participated in our Coupon Book Fundraiser. Thanks to your help and generosity this was a huge success. Enough funds were generated to ensure us getting through the end of this school year and we should be in good shape for the start of next year. We on the Pre-school Board are closely monitoring our advanced enrollment and will not have a clear picture of enrollment until sometime near the middle of August. Thanks again to all who helped make our Fund Raiser a huge success.

Gary Anthony

President, Little Lambs Learning Center Pre-school Board of Directors

EASTER FOR KIDS—2011

Another Easter for Kids is in the books and Christmas comes next! We were able to serve sixty children this year. What a blessing. From the moment the first child entered the church, it was go, go and go. Pastor is very good at entertaining them all until everyone arrived.

The children really love the accordion sing along. The devotions are always a big hit with them. After music, the children go to the various craft stations and make their treasures, or they go to the Easter egg hunt. They always smile for the camera. An individual picture is made along with the large group picture. These are sent to the children once they are developed.

A movie about Jesus is shown and for twenty-five minutes there is quiet. While the children are watching the movie, we are busy packing their treasures into their bags. After the movie the children sit down to their hot dog lunch. After the last child has left, we begin the clean up. I think everyone goes home exhausted but what a great feeling!

Pearl Brooks

Further info on Disaster Relief

Mr. Mark Vance chairman of the WELS Committee on Relief will be visiting here on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 13, 14, and 15. Joe Reis will be coordinating his visit to see the damage and talk with officials in Madison and Limestone counties on specific areas of need and how your local donations directed to Lamb of God (marked for Disaster Relief Fund) can help, along with the type of assistance that can be offered from WELS Relief. He will address the congregation on Sunday after the worship service.

FEMA application info on-line	www.fema.gov
Apply by Phone (FEMA)	800-621-3362
Speech/Hearing disabled	TTY 800-462-7585
To register as a Volunteer	www.mcvoad.com

If you know someone who is not receiving assistance, or could use major assistance because they seem to have fallen through the cracks of the normal funding procedures and guidelines, please bring that information to our attention. Contact Pastor Roebke on his cell phone 256-975-0056 or
e-mail loglc@hiwaay.net.

In the early stages of a relief effort, monetary gifts are the most helpful. Contributions can be made at www.wels.net/relief. You can also send a gift through the mail to WELS Christian Aid and Relief, 2929 N. Mayfair Road, Milwaukee, WI 53222. Or, if you prefer, write a check to L.O.G. and



Our MOM group continues to amaze us. They are really wonderful children. We truly missed their smiling faces when we were without power and could not meet. We will be trying to catch up on our projects for the next couple of weeks.

It has been interesting to watch them all "Grow." They came in saying very few words and they have all become little chatterboxes! They love to sing their "Jesus" songs, and they have learned their morning, snack, and going-home prayers.

We have been very blessed to be able to teach these little ones all about Jesus. Nancy, Mary and I have loved being with little ones again. The pleasure has been all ours!

Pearl Brooks

Sunday, May 15th Confirmation Sunday Lamb of God Lutheran Church Congratulations Confirmands!

Shayna Lee Hess

Liliana Anastasia Roebke

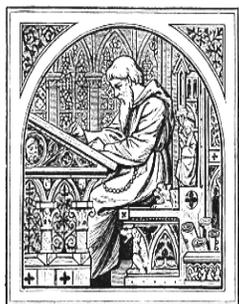
Persephone Lee Yarbrough.



Mary Martha News

Mary-Martha has decided to change their meeting time and place. We will meet every 3 months on the 2nd Saturday at a hosts home for brunch. It will include a Bible Study, business meeting and fellowship. To kick off the new schedule all ladies of the congregation are invited for breakfast at the home of Becky Tauchen on Saturday May 21 at 9:00. This meeting will be a time of fellowship to get to know everyone better. Please let Becky know if you will be attending, so she knows how many to plan for breakfast.
btauch@hiwaay.net.





Notes from the Scriptorium

Bart Leahy, Council Secretary

Springtime is a time for growth. When plants grow, they require essential nutrients. Churches are much the same way: to grow, they require a number of essential conditions and functions. Your Church Council and Long Range Planning Committee are both reviewing a booklet, *Organic Quality Management*, which describes those conditions and functions, determining how well those conditions for growth apply to our congregation, and what is needed to ensure future growth. Among these attributes are things like empowering leadership (leaders who emphasize freedom and accountability); gift-oriented assignment (giving members of the congregation tasks that suit their unique gifts); passionate spirituality (lives lived in the Lord at home and among others); and internalized values (people practicing what they preach). As we learn more, we and the Long Range Planning Committee will be applying those principles to our church's future growth and determining where we go from here.

We're trying to track all of the things that need doing within the church, from lawn maintenance, to light fixture repairs, to general cleaning, and budget planning. Tom has a big spreadsheet going now that will keep us focused on what lies ahead. If you've got an interest in helping, let us know! For instance, Dave Bray is looking for help with mowing the lawn. If we get enough people, volunteers would only have to mow once a month.

Speaking of committees, we also have a committee planning ways to commemorate and celebrate Lamb of God's 10th year in the County Line Road building, which will be in 2012. Be on the lookout for more news from this group in the months ahead!

Your Council started the budget process in April to present to the congregation in June. We'll share information about this process soon.

While some things are now in their growing season, Little Lambs Learning Center has been facing a bit more competition (and a tough economy) over the past few months, which is why the Council has authorized LLLC to work on fundraising to meet its expenses. Your prayers, assistance, and parental referrals to this program would all be appreciated, as Little Lambs is one of Lamb of God's signature services to the community. The fundraiser was successful and LLLC continues its mission of reaching the children of the neighborhood.

Outreach Chairman Jon Ehrman is busy putting together a tennis clinic for the Travel Canvass Witness event in late May/early June. With some help from Roy Schumpert, Jon has as-

sembled some tennis net stands that can be set up in the parking lot. He and Pastor also have been combing thrift stores to obtain the tennis rackets needed. We also obtained some rackets from a tennis enthusiast coworker of your Council Secretary. We should be ready to go by late May!

We would like to thank you for your generous offerings toward our church's mission. We are about \$7,000 ahead for the year, of which some of that will go toward insurance, utilities, and other bills. Our expenses for the year have been blessedly within our plan for the year, for which we may be truly grateful.

As we celebrated our Lord's Resurrection, we were reminded that we will be sharing that blessing with our community through our Easter for Kids program. This year we had 60+ children visit Lamb of God, so the volunteers were very important to its success. We would like to thank all who came to volunteer and help Pearl Brooks bring the Resurrection celebration to the children of our neighborhood. Thank you Pearl for knowing the importance of giving the children of neighborhood a chance to get to know our Lord and Savior.

Thanks again for your continued support of all Lamb of God projects and programs. Your Council relies on the gifts of the many talents from each of you to support and help the congregation grow.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

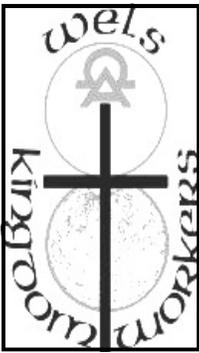
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Check us out on FACEBOOK, and tell your friends you "like" us
Pastor John Roebke (Cell phone: 256-975-0056)

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
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 PLANS - MAY THROUGH AUGUST

By Jon Ehrman

Summer MMA Workers to Serve Lamb of God Church

Starting May 26th the Lord is blessing us with the services of two Member Ministry Assistance (MMA) workers. These workers, also known as "Kingdom Workers" will assist our congregation with our Tennis Clinic as well as assist us in canvassing new subdivisions in the City of Madison, eastern Limestone Country, and western Madison County. These MMA workers are two young ladies, Sarah Rosenow from Manitowoc, WI and Rebecca Engelbrecht from Yorkville, IL. Both ladies are completing their freshman year at Martin Luther College, in New Ulm, Minnesota.

Sara and Rebecca plan to drive down together and have a car while they are here. They will be here ten weeks from May 26th through August 4, 2011. During this period our plan is to let them canvass for a couple of hours in the morning, i.e. from 8:00 until 10:00 AM; then work part-time, i.e. from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM and then canvass two more hours in the evening, i.e. from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. With this plan they will serve us by canvassing four hours a day for five days per week and work part-time at a local business in order to earn money for their next school year.



For food and lodging, our plan is to have them stay and eat (breakfast and dinner) with host families from our congregation. They have expressed a desire to stay together if possible while they are here so they can ride, work and serve together. Marilyn and I plan to host both of them from May 26th through June 9th. We are looking for other host families in our congregation to volunteer to share their homes with them for a week or two at a time. It should be a wonderful treat and blessing for the host families, like having two new daughters to love and care for. If you are interested in being a host family, please contact the Church Office, Pastor or myself.

Congregation volunteers are needed for May 21st and May 28th to canvass the neighborhood with the Tennis Clinic flyers. Please call Pastor or myself if are able to spend an hour or two to help us get the Tennis Clinic advertised.

Disaster...Continued from the front page.

The consequences of doubt are painful. Waiting in line for gasoline 2-3 hours, fist fights at the pumps. Running through the aisles of the grocery store and grabbing whatever's not nailed down. PANIC! People calling in to the radio station to spread rumors about the water supply, or to complain that there's no electricity. Why is a dusk to dawn curfew necessary? Looting, burglaries, shootings...

But here's the thing to remember: doubting Thomas' do it to themselves. Those who trust what they have not seen are blessed, but those that have to be in control of their own lives are only creating an illusion. Did you save your house from destruction by choosing the right neighborhood? Did you save your life by diving into a closet when the sirens went off? Your generator and your stash of supplies may spare you some discomfort in the short term, but only Jesus can spare your soul from eternal suffering.

When you find peace is slippery and hard to hang onto, when those questions keep coming and you can't silence them, then remember what He said: "Stop doubting, and believe!" That's just as true today, when your life is upside down, as it will be one week from now, when power's back on and the pumps are working, and our attention is drawn back to how much we're paying for that gas because of the unrest in the Middle East. "Stop doubting and believe" is what He says to us as we move past this disaster to the next one—and yes, there will be more trouble ahead. "Stop doubting and believe!" If we can't foresee what's coming, how can we take precautions to protect ourselves. But even though we don't know everything, we know enough. "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Amen



How to make donations for the Alabama Tornado Disaster Relief.

Bring a check to church written out to L.O.G. (Lamb of God) and mark it for "Local Disaster Relief Fund"

Or

Contributions can be made at www.wels.net/relief. You can also send a gift through the mail to WELS Christian Aid and Relief, 2929 N. Mayfair Road, Milwaukee, WI 53222.