



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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Lutheran Church**

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

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# The GOOD NEWS Letter



The GOOD NEWS letter  
Volume 5, Issue 12

10th Anniversary Year  
September 2012 Edition

## SCHOOLED BY JESUS

By Pastor  
John Roebke

*"And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)*

This Fall, our children each received a laptop computer from the Huntsville City School District for use in the classroom and at home. It has been a steep learning curve not only for them, but for the adults as well. To minimize abuse of these devices, the school district wisely took advantage of the services of one our community's IT security companies.

Within minutes of receiving their laptops however, students were accessing their Facebook accounts (which is now blocked). Before the school year began, teachers were given a crash course on using the new technology in the classroom. And yet, both students and teachers still rely heavily on paper, pencil, and the humble overhead projector. When 17,000 students return home each day and attempt to access their online textbooks, the overloaded bandwidth slows to a digital drip.

Thankfully, I haven't had to involve myself in maintaining this equipment – it's terrifying enough when my kids ask for help with their homework. The line-slope formula? Isn't that what skiers drink? There's a good reason we go to school while our grey matter still has elasticity. I have the greatest respect for middle-aged adults who earn their degree while simultaneously earning their stripes as parents and employees. I'd be happy if I could just learn how to hold a conversation with my wife and watch a football game at the same time.

Whether you can drink from a fire hose or a faucet, we are always learning something new about our world, and about ourselves. Like any new tricks, at first the old dog may find learning them difficult and painful. But in the spiritual realm, there's always a payoff to learning about God. The more clearly we see his grace towards us in Christ Jesus, the easier it is to submit to his will. You might not see the need to get a phone smarter than you, but we all need to upgrade the operating system with which we came into the world. We do that by humbling ourselves like little children and learning from Jesus, who died for us so that we could enter his kingdom.

Why is it that somewhere around the sixth grade so many children lose their joy of learning? Is it the homework, the teachers, the other kids? Is it possible that Middle schoolers really know it all? And why is it that somewhere after their Confirmation that so many Christians lose their joy of sitting at Jesus' feet? Is it possible that we have learned everything we need to know about God? Dear friends, every week you can learn something new in church, in Sunday school, in our midweek Bible studies and in our "It's All About Jesus" home visits. You're never too old to be schooled by Jesus.



"Let's type in some Old Testament verses and watch the spell-check go crazy."

## Summer & Fall Outreach Activities

By Jon Ehrman

With the close of summer we can look back at what we have accomplished and look forward to the events still ahead. In looking back we can say that our Church members have worked hard and made a concerted effort to spread the “Word” and make our presence known in the Madison, East Limestone, and Huntsville Communities.

Starting off with our Tennis Clinic on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup>; we conducted our second annual Tennis Clinic with support from WELS Kingdom Workers Mike and Stephenie Pingel along with many church member volunteers. It was a wonderful success with many positive complements received from the parents of the 26 participants.

The ten days following the Clinic, Church volunteers and the Pingels embarked on “neighborhood canvassing” by distributed a 1,000 door hangers to homes in new subdivisions not previously visited. This was followed by visiting and knocking on doors of another 400 homes on six of eight successive Wednesday evenings, ending August 29<sup>th</sup>. All totaled with the distribution of 600 Tennis Clinic flyers three weekends before the Tennis Clinic, and the subsequent neighborhood canvassing, our church distributed literature and/or knock on doors of approximately 2,000 homes this summer.



NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASS



Looking forward, we have the Madison Street Festival on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Our Church will have a booth at this festival with the theme, “Jesus provides living water” based on John 4:13-14. As part of our booth, we will talk to passersby and distribute literature along with a small bottle of ice cold water. Each bottle will be labeled with the forgoing Bible verses. For this event many volunteers are needed with a sign-up sheet located on the table in the Narthex.

On Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, we will have a Trunk & Treat event for children in our community from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. This event is in lieu of a Reformation Festival original planned. For this event we will need church members to volunteer to bring candy for distributing from their automobile trunk. A sign-up sheet will also be subsequently located on the table in the Narthex during the month of October.



The Pastor and I want to thank all of you for your help and dedication this summer to make our Outreach Program so successful! May God bless all of you!



## September & October Youth Schedule:

- Confirmation Classes: 9/22, 10/13, 10/20 Begins at 9 AM
- Rent-A-Kid: 9/23, 10/7, 10/13 Sign Up Sheet available  
or call Pam Hess 256-612-0580
- Activities: October 14th—CAR WASH & BRAT FRY

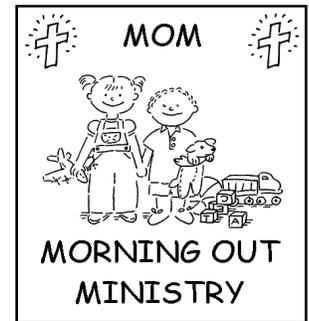
## M.O.M. – Starts it's Third Year!

We held three open houses during the summer, and we had children and parents inquiring at all of them. We were very blessed and had seven children register. We will still have room to grow during the school year. This year we have one girl and six boys!

Our first day was very exciting as always. We had some tears, but after a while we all danced to nursery rhymes and the tears went away. We got to know our little ones, and they had fun getting to know us.

There was a lot of excitement during craft time. We made faces from paper plates. We played ring-around-the-rosey and had lots of fun.

The children were all very tired when it was time to go home. There was lots of excitement as they told Mom about their day. Oh and we were tired too, but we managed to pack away all the toys before we left! It is going to be another exciting year at M.O.M.



*Pearl Brooks*  
*Director*

## Planning for Fall



## Buildings and Grounds Report

Things have been busy in the Buildings & Grounds department this summer. We've lost a few guys from the mowing teams, so we went from four teams of four guys down to three teams of three guys, but we're still getting it done! Thanks to all of the mowers!

The damaged wall corner in the narthex has been repaired. The towel rack in the preschool bathroom has been fixed, and the floor drain has been cleaned out. The shrub areas out front have been weeded, just in time for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. And the parking lot is sealed and striped.

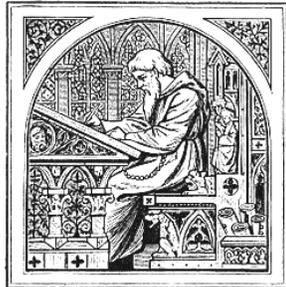
We got an energy audit performed for the church (for free!). The report stated that our A/C units are dated but that it would not be cost effective to replace them with more energy efficient units until our existing units fail. It also stated that our attic insulation looks great and most of our windows and doors look good, except for the six big windows in the sanctuary, which is where we lose most of our cool air in the summer and heat in winter.

The preschool board wanted to get some new mulch for the playground, so some congregation members and I got together for another weeding "party," and we pulled all of the weeds and grass in the playground in preparation for the mulch. Then the mulch was installed in the playground. It looks great! While we were there, we also pulled some weeds in the beds in front of the church again (they grew back, so, if you see a weed, feel free to pull it!)



Some items on the ever-growing to-do list are to add some gravel or dirt in the ruts near the main road, clean up the quiet room so there's more floor space, and replace some of the lights in the narthex and the sanctuary. These are just a few of the items that I'm working on. If you see anything that needs fixing or replacing, please let me know!

Jeff Alexy, Buildings & Grounds Chairman



## *Notes from the Scriptorium*

Bart Leahy,  
Council Secretary

School is a different challenge for the teacher than the student. The student will absorb the learning—or not. The teacher must make the crucial effort to reach out to the students and ensure that they don't just hear the content but incorporate it into their lives. Outreach for the church is similar in that we must share the message if we want others to hear. For the past few Council meetings, Pastor has been leading through us through a discussion on "Outreach every church calling itself Evangelical Lutheran will do." Christian outreach is indeed like teaching, in that it requires a humble, penitent attitude; an easy-to-follow service; a friendly, hospitable church home; an ongoing emphasis on (Bible) basics; a support system of other churches and groups supporting one another; and a desire to do something more than has been done before with outreach. As we enter our schooling season, Lamb of God continues to go on its busy way, taking on camping outings, car washes, parking lot resurfacing, bowling outings, and no doubt a healthy helping of football. But as we gather for outings social and civil, let us not forget why we come together, which is to do service to the Lord and get out His message.

Pastor Roebke and his family have all been busy, supporting church activities, services, and hosting a young lady from Albania, Hava Jahaj (pronounced "ya-HIGH"). Please keep them all in your prayers—I don't know how they do all they do otherwise.

Tom, our patient President, continues his persistent march through the mysteries of property insurance so we can get our church siding repaired from the hail storms in 2009!

Jon, our Outreach Chairman, has been taking on a number of activities, including an ongoing canvassing campaign with several members; visiting with new guests who come to our church; planning for the Madison Street Festival; and developing something called "Trunk or Treat" for October. Want to learn more? Talk to Jon, he'll be happy to share.

Lamb of God is keeping Jeff, our Buildings & Grounds Chairman, quite busy as well, from playground mulch to weeding and gardening. And he realizes there are other things still to be done, from addressing the temperature in the restrooms to taking on burned-out light bulbs and cleaning up the quiet room. We're really glad Jeff's here to help, but feel free to volunteer!

Larry Povinelli, our Treasurer, continues to monitor our church's financial situation carefully. Budgeted August offer-

ings were \$12,307.69 and actual offerings for August were \$11,096.84. This is a budget offering deficit of \$1,210.85. Obviously we value the gifts of the spirit from all of our members, but this is not sustainable in the long term. Even a little bit extra every week makes a difference over 52 weeks. Larry or Tom will give a "live update" for the congregation after service on a Sunday near you.

In the Education and Inreach, your Council Secretary continues to provide a Council voice and ear for the Little Lambs Learning Center and Morning Out Ministry (MOM). So far the young ones under our care are starting out the school year well. As always, we appreciate our returning teachers and aides, without whom Lamb of God would be unable to provide this service to the community.

Again, if you have time, talents, or treasures you wish put in the service of the Lord, please let someone on the Council know of your interest in helping. The work of the church belongs to all of us. And to those of you who continue to assist us week in and week out, a very appreciative thank you!

In His service,

Bart

### 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)

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Council/Treasurer:	Larry Povinelli
Council/Secretary:	Bart Leahy
Financial:	Richard Kolodzne
In-Reach:	Bart Leahy
Out-Reach:	Jon Ehrman
Head Usher:	Jeff VanOrman
Elders:	Gary Anthony, Del Brooks, Dan Peebles, Larry Harbaugh, Mike Presley
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Mary Martha Guild President:	Becky Tauchen
Youth Leader:	Pam Hess
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School Board Secretary:	Gwen Smith
School Board Treasurer:	Cynthia Curtis
Lawn Care Chairman:	David Bray
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Library:	Becky Tauchen, Gwen Smith
Food Pantry:	Laurie Aikens
Office Secretary:	Joni Gruber