



LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Lamb of God
Lutheran Church**
11716 County Line Road
Madison, AL 35756

www.lambogodchurch.org
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

Worship :
Sunday: 10:30 AM

Little Lambs Learning Center
256-693-0017 (Elsa Toepke)

Morning Out Ministry
256-859-6536 (Pearl Brooks)

The GOOD NEWS Letter

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

June 2013 Edition

THE CHURCH IS BUILT ON TRUST

*You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.
(Isaiah 26:3)*

The Church is built on trust. When disasters occur, we trust that God is good and is always looking out for our best interests. When our conscience accuses us, we trust that Jesus' holy life and innocent death have paid for our sins. When our last day on earth arrives, by the power of the Holy Spirit we trust that our eternal soul will be taken to heaven some day.

Our congregation was built by men and women who trusted in God. They trusted that God would bless their efforts to maintain the church property. They trusted that God would expand our connections to the Madison community through our Preschool. In spite of all the careful research and planning there were no guarantees that people would respond to outreach efforts. There was no way of predicting how many parents would send their children to Little Lambs Learning Center. They simply had to put their trust in God.

By God's grace, their trust was not misplaced. Our congregation has been blessed with growth. About two-thirds of our current members have joined since 2005. It is truly a testimony to the Holy Spirit's power to capture hearts and minds with the message of Christ crucified.

And God has blessed our congregation with humble, Spirit-filled leaders. Of the five men who currently serve on your current church council, only one has been a member for 6 years. The others have been members for 3 years or less. We all need to trust one another as we continue to build on the vision of those who have gone before us.

And we need to trust that God will keep providing for our needs. Your church leaders have set a ministry vision (budget) for the next twelve months. This vision will require a 2% increase in offerings in order to be fulfilled. Looking further down the road, our long range plan foresees upgrades to our church property and further integration of church and preschool ministries. No one knows what the future holds. We offer our plans and then see what the Lord will do. But we can put our minds at rest by building our church on trust in God.

Pastor John Roebke



Bylaw Changes



The Council recommends the Congregation votes FOR these changes for the following reasons:

1. The voters at the annual election meeting should know what position(s) the person(s) they are voting for are being elected to, not have the new Council decide after the fact. If there is any question as to the qualifications of the person, their suitability for a particular position, or the person's desire to hold a position, this information should be vetted at the time of their being offered a position and accepting such nomination(s). To do otherwise creates uncertainty in the voting process, as the voters will not know who will serve in what positions, which is contrary to the authority given to the voters in the Congregation by the Constitution (See Section 3 of Article V and Section 1 of Article VI).
2. The lack of specificity creates uncertainty for the Church Secretary in writing up the Congregation meeting minutes succinctly regarding who is being elected and for what.
3. The lack of specificity at the time of voting creates uncertainty for banks holding Church accounts, as they need to know who has authority to sign for withdrawals and make changes to such accounts. Clear votes of individuals to specific positions can be recorded and accepted in the Congregational meeting minutes to serve as a legal record of the change of authority.



Declaration of Ministry Integration

Declaration of Ministry Integration

Whereas Little Lambs Learning Center (LLLC) and the Morning Out Ministry (MOM) provide crucial outreach and Christian education opportunities for Lamb of God Lutheran Church...

We hereby declare these entities official ministries of the Church.

As a result of this declaration:

Their budgets and administration will become official parts of the Church Council's budget to be administered by the Council Treasurer. These funds will continue to remain separate accounts; however, the money will be accounted for in one unified Church budget.

The congregation recognizes that it has responsibility for maintaining the Church's facilities and condition so that Little Lambs and MOM can provide a safe, healthy, and functioning environment for these ministries.

Should the need arise to hire a called worker to administer one or both programs, and the congregation deems the resources are available; the congregation will do so prayerfully on behalf of the Church.

If the income from Little Lambs or MOM does not match regular expenses, either the expenses will be reduced or the tuition rates will need to be increased to balance income and expenses.

The Church will assist Little Lambs and MOM with promoting their services to the community and provide resources to do that promotion.

The congregation will also assist the staff and volunteers with their spiritual and training needs to better minister to the students within the resources available to the Church.

Notes from the Scriptorium by Bart D. Leahy, Council Secretary

As we approach the middle of the calendar year, we are also near the end of the congregation's fiscal year and so need to gather to discuss the coming year's ministry plan, budget, and other church business. We have a lot to cover in the agenda (while still keeping things to one hour), so the Council strongly urges everyone to attend the meeting, and provide your feedback or questions. If you have either and cannot attend the meeting, please email me (bart_leahy@hotmail.com) and Jon Ehrman (rjon2000@knology.net).

The items we are covering at the congregational meeting include:

- The proposed 2013-2014 Church Budget (more on that in a moment).
- A proposed change to the Church Bylaws regarding the election of Church Council Officers. The proposal will help clarify what posts individuals are being elected to when an election is being held.
- A proposed resolution by the Council declaring Little Lambs Learning Center (LLLC) and the Morning Out Ministry (MOM) official ministries of the church. This is a first step toward closer integration between the church and our outreach/educational programs.

2013-2014 Ministry Plan and Budget Overview

The Church Council is pleased to present the congregation with a balanced budget this year. We believe this is possible through a combination of containing our expenses and asking that our members look to their own hearts to increase their giving. The offerings needed to meet the ministry and operational needs of Lamb of God are less than 2% more than the gifts you provided last year. Other major changes compared to last year are explained below.

Revenues

- LLLC Tuition and fees are now included in the budget under revenues. As part of the integration effort to bring LLLC's operations closer to those of the church, the Council has included both the revenues and expenses for the preschool in the overall church budget. This accounts for the larger overall numbers than we've had in previous years. Larry Povinelli, Church Council Treasurer, will assume responsibility for both sets of books in the coming fiscal year. Cindy Curtis, our fearless Little Lambs Treasurer, will receive training to become an auditor and assume that role to keep track of our books.
- The LLLC Board also challenged itself to generate \$700 in fundraising next year.
- The Weight Watchers group is disbanding and so will no longer be meeting at LOGLC. As a result, the donations they have provided for use of the Fellowship Hall have ended.

Expenses

- We have discontinued our Yellow Pages advertising at the advice of a marketing professional.
- Expenses for many of our outreach efforts, including events, advertising, mailings, and postage, have been cut to reduce budget imbalances.
- With Chris Driesbach volunteering his gifts on a regular basis for our services and our music system upgraded, we have cut the budget line for external musicians.
- To obtain additional new music for our services, we have added budget lines for obtaining fair use licenses.
- Pastor will receive a 2.5% raise in his basic compensation and, to help offset a rising deductible (\$7,000), we have doubled the church's contribution to his Health Savings Account (HSA).
- Because we have had lay readers substituting for Pastor on Sundays when he has been away, we have removed the line item for substitute pastors.
- We have increased our budget item to maintain the office equipment and eliminated the line for purchasing new equipment.
- To reduce some of the financial pressure on LLLC, the church is now taking on 75% of the cleaning, HVAC, and security system maintenance fees.
- We have cut the budget for new office furniture by 50%.
- We have cut the amount of money being spent on water--this will be primarily a result of reducing the amount of time we run the lawn sprinklers.
- The church's mortgage expenses have been reduced considerably due to last year's refinancing.
- As noted above, LLLC expenses are now calculated as part of the overall church budget. However, they have been itemized separately.
- As noted above, LOGLC is now shouldering 75% of the church cleaning services.
- Continuing education costs will increase slightly to re-certify our teachers and aides in their CPR training.
- LLLC has decided to return to a five-day school week after cutting back to three. This will increase payroll expenses.

Thank you all, again, for your support--financial, social, and spiritual--over the past year. The Lord's work (and thus the church's) cannot go forward without you. We look forward to your considered and helpful inputs as we finalize the ministry plan for the coming year.

Buildings and Grounds Report to Congregation (June 2, 2013)

Here's a summary of what has been happening with the Buildings & Grounds since the last congregational meeting (January-June 2013):

1. A safety audit was performed by Larry Harbaugh and Dan Peebles. The safety problems they discovered were mostly related to improper storage (stuff piled on stuff). Their concerns have been incorporated into some long-range B&G goals for cabinets and shelving. Another item of concern they raised was a tripping hazard in the sacristies (see item #13 below).
2. Joni's office door lock has been fixed (thanks to Bryan Tauchen), and the lock cylinders for both sets of double doors have been replaced and now work.
3. I obtained quotes for the Capital Improvements Plan and submitted those to the Long Range Planning Committee.
4. New concrete was added to the foundation for one of the preschool signposts out in front of the church; it had partially broken loose from the old foundation.
5. We had a church workday on March 16. Thanks to all who attended.
6. We started mowing. We currently have seven guys in two teams. More volunteers are always needed.
7. The carpets throughout the church were steam-cleaned. Thanks to Danny Aikens and Jeremy Dressler for their help.
8. The mailbox has been replaced.
9. Several HVAC issues have been corrected.
10. The projector has a new lamp.
11. The exit light in the fellowship hall has a new battery.
12. I tracked down twenty-three people who have a master key to our church, including a few non-members. Because of obvious safety concerns, the council has plans to look into this.
13. At the time of this writing, the flooring in the sacristies is scheduled to be replaced on Tuesday, May 28. Due to a current lack of funds, we are not re-flooring any other areas of the church, but the flooring in the sacristies was noted as a tripping hazard in the safety audit.
14. We had an inspector from the fire department unexpectedly drop by and notify us of two code violations in our church. One was an exit-light battery that needed replacing (see item #11). The other was having the fire panel tested and inspected. At the time of this writing, I have obtained a quote and am trying to schedule this to be done as soon as possible. We have until June 12 to comply, or we will be issued a citation. A big thanks to Jerry Bodeker for helping us get a good deal on the cost.



Jeff Alexy, Building & Grounds Chair

Pastor's Statistics

Total Members:	134 (+9)
Average Sunday Attendance:	85 (+6)
Average Bible Class Attendance:	29 (+2)

OUTREACH

Dear Fellow Lambs: My joy in our church is being involved in music and evangelism and I just realized that I can combine them in this article for you! Here's the words to a song I wrote about why it's wonderful to come to church:



*People are always askin' what is life and who am I?
Big questions like what is truth, what really happens when I die?
Well, we celebrate the questions - and the answers, too
And I've got a little question of my own to ask of you
And I really want to know -*

*So many other things we do - are just a waste of time
Worryin' about this, fearful of that, angry about my place in line
Always runnin' here and there and never getting through
You might be someone just wastin' your precious time, too
I've got a better idea for you*

*The forgiveness found in life is always temporary and attached to strings
The forgiveness Jesus won for us doesn't depend on anything
It's a true new beginning - it's real and works right away
You might be someone needin' some forgiveness for somethin' today
It's like you can start your life over right away -*

*My earthly family may be near or they might be far away
But I'm united with my spiritual brothers and sisters in every way
Based not on what I am, but what Jesus made of me
You might be someone in a crowded room as lonely as can be
It's like finally comin' home -*

(CHORUS)

*Why don't you come? Why don't you come?
We're celebratin' life and singin' about truth
Everything else is something worse to do
Compared to Christian freedom and perfect love, too -
I'm comin' - why don't you? I'm comin' - why don't you?*

If you'd like to hear me sing the song, send me a note and I'll email a sound file to you. My email is hichrisd@gmail.com. God bless you!

Chris Driesbach, Outreach Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School will be having some exciting changes in September.

Northwestern Publishing House has come out with a new revision of Christ Light Bible curriculum for Sunday School students. The Sunday School teachers are very excited about it. The new program will follow the church year by mixing Old and New Testaments, and putting the Christmas and Easter stories at Christmas and Easter. The old program had Old Testament one year and New Testament the next.

Your Sunday School teachers are all willing to serve again teaching your children about Jesus, and God's love for His children. We need you to make the commitment and bring your children to Sunday School. We have classes from age three to teens.

The Sunday School teachers are Nancy Kolodzne for 3 & 4 yr. olds, Sara Wheat for Kindergarten & 1st & 2nd graders, Pearl Brooks for 3rd - 5th grades, Nancy Roebke 6th grade through 8th grade and Gwen Smith teaches teens.

In June we will begin Summer Sunday School. The children will all be taught in one group and we teach a story and have a craft. It's always lots of fun and very informal. It's been a good way to get the little ones accustomed to Sunday School.

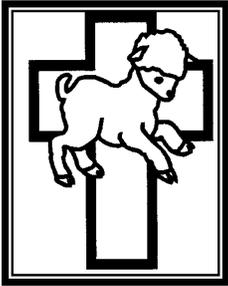
Come and join the fun with us.

In Christ,
Pearl Brooks,
Director



LITTLE LAMBS LEARNING CENTER (LLLC) Elsa Toepke, Director

Following is a brief recap of our activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. We made several major decisions this year.



- We made a decision in September/October that we would evaluate our financial outlook in December for the remainder of the year. We decided we would keep our staffing in tact and cut expenses in some other areas.
- We studied, discussed and determined our tuition fees for the next fiscal year.
- We also made a decision to go back to our previous offerings; re: option for a two day or three day program for three year olds and a three day or five day option for four year olds. The following is the offering to the public for 2013-2014 with a registration fee of \$75 and material fee of \$30:

CLASSES—September through May

2 day Classes for (3) three year olds Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM... * \$152 per month

3 day Classes for (3) three year olds Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM... * \$228 per month

3 day Classes for (4) four year olds Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM... * \$228 per month

5 day Classes for (4) four year olds Monday, Tuesday, Wed., Thursday, Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM... * \$380 per month

- We studied and decided to recommend that we (LLLC) not endorse or recommend going forward with the extended pre-school/child care option proposed by the Long Range Planning Committee.
- We will be making a change on the Pre-school Board in the Office of President. Gabi Presley will assume that position. Gary Anthony has reached the term limit as Chairperson .

We look forward to a new school year & hope to retain our current staff. We will evaluate our financial position on an ongoing basis.

Gary Anthony, School Board President

Morning-Out-Ministry

Our MOM program has come to an end for the summer. It's hard to believe that we will be beginning our 4th year in September. Where has the time gone? It's been a lot of work, but oh so much more fun.

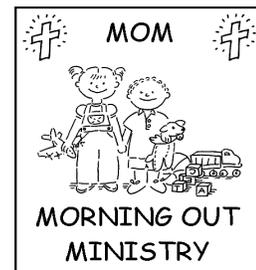
We have some hard working volunteers that help me every week in Nancy Kolodzne and Gabi Presley. They love their work as much as I do! We are also blessed to have willing volunteers in Kim Bodeker and KaMi Reis. If for any reason one of us can't make it, they are willing to fill in for the morning.

Our children have been very good when we have had a new face. It only takes a willing block builder or puzzler and the children are like bees to a honey pot, playing happily and having fun. The children don't realize that they have been learning as they play. We do as we have been watching them grow! Through all the learning and playing, we instill in these young minds the importance of Jesus in the very beginning of their education with the Bible stories.

Tuition—\$50/month Dec & May \$30/month Registration \$50

Ages 2 and 3 are accepted to M.O.M. for Tuesday mornings, 9 AM to Noon

Pearl Brooks, Director



SIMPLY FRIENDS

The Lamb of God Simply Friends group was established last year to help members and non-members who are in need. To date, with the assistance of numerous volunteers, we have assisted several members of the church who are dealing with health or personal problems. I would like to thank those individuals who have donated their time and assistance the past year with helping these members. Just remember, The Simply Friends Group is always available, so if a situation arises, don't be hesitant in asking for assistance, we are more than willing to help you. If you would like to join one of these teams or if you have any questions regarding the Simply Friends Group, just give us a call. Larry Harbaugh 256-464-5977, church phone 256-464-3900

Thanks and God Bless, *Larry Harbaugh*

THE TENNESSEE VALLEY TREKERS

The Trekers is a small group that focuses on travel and sightseeing with our Lamb of God family & friends. During the May 2012-May 2013 time period we had several exciting trips, with about 10 different people, participating, all of whom had a whopping good time! Here is what we had for 2012/2013 outings:

- Miss Mary Bobo's restaurant & tour of Jack Daniel's Distillery (Lynchburg, TN)
- Surin's restaurant and Firehouse Antiques & Collectibles (Huntsville, AL)
- Santa Fe Cattle Company restaurant & Orbix Hot Glass Blowing (Ft. Payne, AL)
- Savannah Tour and Covington LWMS Mission Rally (Georgia)

Plans are being made for 2013/2014 to include:

- Crossville, TN LWMS Mission Rally & Biltmore Estates Tour (April 2014 – this is definite, plan on it!)
- Coming soon this summer – Day trip with dinner at the historic High Point Restaurant in Monteagle, TN & tour Cowan TN Railroad Museum & historic district with sights and stops along the way.
- The Joe Wheeler historic home – Civil War General & local notable. Lunch or Dinner at Bob Gibson's BBQ or another local place in Decatur, AL area.
- Nashville, TN - Would you like to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring The Rockettes (Nov or Dec 2013) and possibly combine this trip with a Mystery Murder dinner/theatre in Nashville?

Contact Joni Gruber 503-9326, or e-mail your trip ideas and opinions to joni.thegardener@gmail.com Watch for postings in the bulletin and newsletters to come.

Blessings to all, *Joni Gruber*

Youth Group Report

The youth group is preparing for camp. This year we have 10 planning to attend Camp South, July 22-26th and 3 planning on The Amazing Race Teen Challenge, June 27th-29th. Pastor and Pam Hess will be Chaperoning.

There were three major fundraisers for the trip. The annual Valentine Dinner, a Brat Fry/Car Wash day, and the Rent-A-Kid program. All together, \$923 was raised between Jan and May to assist in the costs for Camp South and The Amazing Race Teen Challenge. A big thanks to all who assisted, volunteered, donated and requested help from Rent-A-Kids to help us meet our goal.

For anyone interesting in CAMPING, sorry, but we had to cancel our spring campout because of a conflict in too many schedules. We will definitely plan another one for late September. We will plan on keeping the same location, Joe Wheeler State Park, unless there is another location some of you would prefer, write to Pam-h19@yahoo.com. Thanks again for all of your continued support to the youth group.

Pam Hess, Youth Group Leader

FINANCIAL REPORT PREPARED BY LAWRENCE POVINELLI, TREASURER

Total Actual Income \$147,148.30
Total Actual Expenses \$147,355.22
Actual Net: (\$ -206.92)

Budgeted Offerings \$147,692
Actual Offerings \$141,565
Shortfall in offerings as of 5/31/2013.....\$6,127.00

President's Report to the Congregation of Lamb of God June 2nd, 2013

As we look back since our last Congregational Meeting in January, we see many things accomplished and in process. We look forward to the next seven months as we have much left to do. The Bible says in *Luke 10:2* "For the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few: pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest". This Bible passage perfectly describes our situation! We have accomplished much, but have much yet to do. Our Church needs more laborers to share the blessings our Lord has given them to carry out our ministry plan.

I am proud to report that our Church has a great, hardworking Council and staff, who work well together, are attentive to every day Congregation needs and are willing and able to plow new ground. We just need more help and support! When we look at the Congregation's response to our Every Member Canvass and look at our Long Range Plan, we see many opportunities, but unfortunately we are constrained by the need for more volunteers and financial means to carry them out. At the same time, we are grateful for all the volunteers and contributions we have received.

This past five months we have accomplished the following:

- Approved continuation of Little Lambs Preschool with 2, 3 & 5 day programs without extended childcare based on study by Dave Bray and approval of the Little Lambs Learning Board of Education.
- Updated our Long Range Plan to cover the next six years.
- Performed health, fire and safety audits.
- Cleaned Church carpets with intent of re-cleaning every six months.
- Provided a receptacle and means for recycling materials.
- Established a Care Committee for Called workers

Some of the more important and pressing items we are pursuing at this time are as follows:

- Seeking Congregational approval of our FY2014 Budget
- Making a Bylaw change to clarify election of Church officers
- Officially integrating Church and education ministries and combining Church treasurer and Little Lambs treasurer positions.
- Establishing an internal audit program in keeping with Church Bylaws
- Pursuing annual certification of our fire alarm system.
- Installing new flooring and cabinets in the Sacristy and storage rooms
- Re-finishing our Altar furniture.
- Developing a five year capital improvements plan.
- Establishing a Stewardship Committee
- Reaching out to our Community, looking for new members to help us carry out our ministry plan.

Thank you all for your love, help and support of efforts to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Jon Ehrman, Council President

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Web Page: <http://lambofgodchurch.org>
Check us out on FACEBOOK, and tell your friends you "like" us



Pastor John Roebke (Cell phone: 256-975-0056)

Council/President:	Jon Ehrman
Council/Treasurer:	Larry Povinelli
Council/Secretary:	Bart Leahy
Financial:	Richard Kolodzne
In-Reach:	Bart Leahy
Out-Reach:	Chris Driesbach
Head Usher:	Jeff VanOrman
Elders:	Gary Anthony, Del Brooks, Dan Peebles, Larry Harbaugh, Mike Presley, Sean Curtis
Long-Range Planning:	Jon Ehrman
Building & Ground Chair:	Jeff Alexy
Sunday School:	Pearl Brooks
Choir Director:	Karla Poehlman
Mary Martha Guild President:	Sue Povinelli
Youth Leader:	Pam Hess
Little Lambs Preschool Director:	Elsa Toepke
Morning Out Ministry Director:	Pearl Brooks
School Board President:	Gabi Presley
School Board V.P.:	Gary Anthony
School Board Secretary:	Gwen Smith
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