

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

VOLUME 39, ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER 2010

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

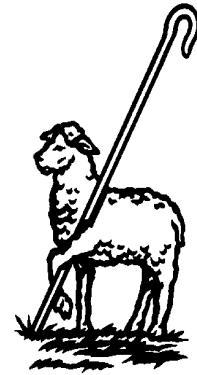
This month I would like to talk to you about the **“volunteer of the year”** at Lamb of God. This person is amazing. He/she (I don't want to give away who yet) seems to be involved everywhere. Whenever a new elder is needed, or a new Sunday School teacher... whenever we are looking for people to serve on the church council or to organize a special program at church... whenever we need someone to go out and serve on some special project in the community, or to give a ride to someone... whenever we need someone to do anything he/she is always ready. When the church or some important ministry is short on funds this is the person who always increases his/her giving. This is the person who cleans up the kitchen, washes the dish towels and puts away chairs after big events. This is the person who sets up Sunday School and Bible Class rooms for Sunday morning. He/she sounds pretty amazing don't you think?

Well who is this person? It's **“SOMEONE ELSE.”** Think about it. When the church or some ministry is needing extra funding but I don't think I can do it, I find myself thinking **“SOMEONE ELSE”** will give more. At times the kitchen is left a mess after an event here at church or a room is not put away after some group has used it. I am sure that the people who leave the rooms messy, do so assuming **“SOMEONE ELSE”** will clean up the kitchen, put things away and wash the dish towels. I know that there have been times when someone has been asked to be an elder or to serve on the church council only to answer “You

really need to ask **SOMEONE ELSE.”** Have you ever been asked to teach a Sunday School class or a Bible class and responded by saying, **“SOMEONE ELSE, or really ANYONE ELSE** would do a better job than me.” Even as a Pastor I have sometimes felt that way too. (By the way I think **“ANYONE ELSE”** is **SOMEONE ELSE'S** spouse.)

Okay, okay, all that is said sort of funny to make a point. However, I know that for me what I just wrote stings a little... because there are really times when I leave things for someone else that I could do... or I have a difficult thing to say to someone and wish someone else could say it for me. Another thing I know is that sometimes we say no because it really is true that God wants someone else and not us to take on a task. I also know that many of you reading this are that “someone else” that we in the church always seem to rely on to step forward. When you are that “someone else” it can be tiring at times. Please know that for all you “someone else's” all of you who volunteer again and again, who seem to be here every time the church doors open or something is going on you are really appreciated. I love you and on behalf of the church thank you for your servant's attitude.... For the fact that most of you do all that you do without much complaining. Thank you.

Yet I also know that having 20 or 30 % of the members carrying 70 or 80 % of the ministry on their shoulders is not where God wants us to be as a church.



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CONGREGATION NEWS

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

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God has designed His church St. Paul says **“grows and builds itself up in love, as EACH PART does it’s work.”** (Ephesians 4:16) He does not mean this to be a chore. Rather the opportunity to serve is a gift from God. St. Paul saw His calling to take the Gospel to the Gentiles as a gift of God’s grace. He couldn’t believe that God could be so loving and so forgiving that He would call someone like Paul... someone who was the chief of sinners... who tried to destroy the church – and give him an opportunity to serve

in God’s kingdom. Some of my most precious memories as a child were the times when my dad took me to work with him and gave me real work to do for him or when he had me help him build something for the house at home. What a gift that my dad, who was so good at doing those things on his own, would include me in that work even though my lack of skill would make the work harder. Those moments with my dad were some of the best of my childhood and I treasure them. When you and I are given the opportunity to pray or teach, to witness or serve, to give or volunteer in God’s work, our Father in

heaven is giving us a precious gift of His grace. Think about it. He could do all these things without our help. He doesn’t need us. He wants us because He loves us. He invites us even though we will mess up. When we do mess up He forgives and invites us to still be a part of His work. What a precious gift these opportunities are! Its okay to work with **“SOMEONE ELSE”** to serve our God by why would we ever just give these opportunities completely to **“SOMEONE ELSE?”**

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Braun

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR—OUTREACH

HOWDY!

Doesn’t that feel good, to hear that word? There’s just something about it that makes you feel at home and welcome. Even if you’re a Yankee transplant, and you can’t quite bring yourself to use it, you know that when someone says that word to you, you’ve been welcomed in. A little bit of friendliness goes a long way to building relationships and helping people feel at ease.

As Christians, we know that we’ve received the warmest welcome possible from God, and that he is there to hear

us and care for us no matter what. And as Christians, we try to share that same friendliness and care with all those around us. Because we are a part of The Church here on earth, we certainly hope that our (local) church is a friendly and welcoming place. LOG has made great strides in this regard in the last several years, and visitors and new members frequently remark to me how friendly and welcoming we are. Great Job! Keep up the good work!

As we move towards the fall and towards the start of the school year, many

families also begin to look for a church home. Friendliness is as important as ever. With that in mind, I’d like to share a series of articles with you over the coming months, originally published by Group, Inc., on how we can improve our awareness of friendliness, and increase our skills. Each portion of the series will have a simple challenge for you to undertake, to hone those skills. As God has first loved us, let us continue to love and welcome others.

In Him,
Pastor Cook

BECOME THE FRIENDLIEST CHURCH IN TOWN!

PART 1 OF A 6 PART SERIES

Friendliness: It's Free!

Cindy has moved to a different city. She walks into the coffee shop near her home and immediately hears, "Hello! How can I help you?" She joins a local gym and every time she walks in the door she's cheerfully greeted by name. Cindy visits the video rental place and the staff there call out, "Hi! What can I help you find today?" before she's even

three steps in the door. She walks into a church a few blocks away and...no one notices. Why?

Buying Friendliness?

People in many industries and professions learn how to be friendly. They take courses, read books, or work with coaches to help them become friendlier. They're actually paying money to learn how to be friendlier! It helps them do

their job better and get better results. A friendly sales person brings in higher sales. A friendly waiter gets better tips. Companies know that when their staff demonstrates friendly behavior, the customer satisfaction rates improve. Being friendly makes a difference.

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CONGREGATION NEWS

BECOME THE FRIENDLIEST CHURCH IN TOWN!

PART 1 OF A 6 PART SERIES

Continued from Page 2

The Friendliest Place in Town...or Is It?

So why don't we put as much importance on friendship in the church? After all, it should be the friendliest place in town! We have the best news (Acts 20:24, Ephesians 3:6), have experienced the greatest love of all (John 3:16, 1 John 4:9-12), and have been told to spread that to everyone in the world (Matthew 28:19-20)! In fact, in John 13:35 Jesus says everyone will know we're his followers by our love. Not by our bumper stickers, by our shiny new buildings, or by our clean nurseries. By our love.

Group's 2010 State of the Church Research

But Group's 2010 State of the Church research shows that only 17% of Americans say church is the friendliest place in town, and only 16% say church is their

favorite place to meet new friends. We should be a magnet drawing people in to a loving relationship with Jesus, but instead we're finding ways to push them away. As our team did the research for this study we were saddened by what we began calling "horror stories" of people who were just about pushed out the doors of a church by unfriendly behavior. Or people like Cindy who were simply ignored. No wonder we're getting such poor ratings in this survey. We are not as friendly as we think we are.

Home Blind

How does this happen? It's a simple phenomenon called being "home blind." This happens when we're so close to a situation that we can't see things as others do. (For a quick example of this, try to draw the face of a penny without looking at one. Then compare your drawing to a penny. Even though you've seen a penny thousands

of times you didn't get the details right did you? That's because you're home-blind.) You're already involved in your church, you already have friends, and everyone there is already friendly to you-so it seems friendly to you when it might seem very unfriendly to others.

Friend-onomics

And that's why you've signed up for this e-series. Whether you're a pastor, small group or Bible study leader, or directing another ministry at your church, you want to learn more about why friendship is important in your church. You want to know what you can do to make sure friendliness is being extended to people new to your church as well as those who attend week after week. Like the industry professionals who see an economic advantage to being friendly, you want to see the eternal advantages to being friendly. We call it Friend-onomics.

BECOME THE FRIENDLIEST CHURCH IN TOWN!

CHALLENGE

Each portion of this series will have a simple challenge for you to complete before you move on to the next part of the series. Every challenge will be easy for you to do, and won't cost you anything either.

Grab your Bible and look up these passages:

Acts 20:24

Ephesians 3:6

John 3:16

1 John 4:9-12

Matthew 28:19-20

John 13:35

Reflect on them. Pray about them.

Consider what God is telling you through His Word.



CONGREGATION NEWS

“WHAT’S THE MESSAGE?”

An original production from Lamb of God Lutheran Church

A concise and ‘user friendly’ survey of the Holy Bible available as a free weekly podcast:

“What’s the Message?”

Subscribe to receive each new lesson automatically, or download current and past programs free, by going to the Apple iTunes Store at :

<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=282031199>

or at www.log.org

(Past programs on CD may also be purchased at The Shepherd’s Corner Bookstore.)




September

- 6 Paul's guidance to the church at Philippi
- 13 Paul's guidance to Timothy and Titus
- 20 Paul's guidance to the churches of Galatia
- 27 We are the sons of God and heirs of His promise

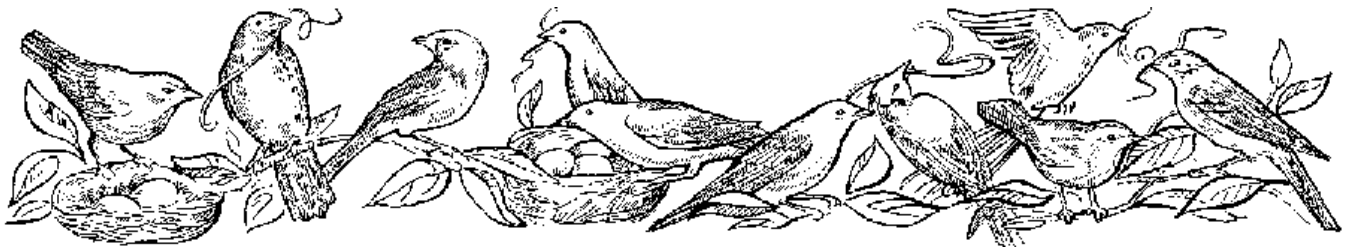
JULY 2010 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	<u>Jul 10</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul 10</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
4000 · CHURCH INCOME	81,296.95	104,214.00	81,296.95	104,214.00	1,260,568.00
4500 · ECM INCOME	55,524.00		55,524.00		503,880.00
Total Income	136,820.95	104,214.00	136,820.95	104,214.00	1,764,448.00
Expense					
	134,659.43	169,137.48	134,659.43	169,137.48	1,764,448.00
Total Expense	134,659.43	169,137.48	134,659.43	169,137.48	1,764,448.00
Net Ordinary Income	2,161.52	-64,923.48	2,161.52	-64,923.48	0.00
Net Income	2,161.52	-64,923.48	2,161.52	-64,923.48	0.00



Pledge Information

Total Amount Pledged	\$ 3,843,127.00
Amount Received 7/25—8/15	\$ 4,414.17
Total Received as of 8/15	\$2,943,382.17



WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL READING

SCRIPTURES READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN
CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

1401 Cross Timbers Road
Flower Mound, Texas 75028

Phone: (972) 539-5200
Fax: (972) 539-8194
Website: www.log.org



September 5

Jeremiah 23:16-29
Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3
Luke 12:49-59

September 12

Ezekiel 34:11-24
1 Timothy 1:5-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 19

Amos 8:4-7
1 Timothy 2:1-15
Luke 16:1-15

September 26

Amos 6:1-7
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

October Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, September 15th

Please send your articles to
Dawn at dwendorf@log.org



Bible
Readings *for the Month*

REACHING YOUR CHURCH STAFF

			Church Office	(972) 539-5200		
	Early Childhood Ministry (ECM) Preschool			(972) 539-0055		
			Fax	(972) 539-8194		
					Office Extension	After Hours Contact #
Senior Pastor	Dr. Wayne Braun	pastorbraun@log.org			103	(972) 539-6451
Associate Pastor—Coordinator of Outreach	Phil Cook	pastorcook@log.org			110	(972) 955-8801
Associate Pastor—Director of Youth and Family Ministries	Dwain “DJ” Thomsen	pastorthomsen@log.org			108	(972) 510-4268
Director of Care Ministry	Dick Lasch	dlasch@log.org			201	(972) 355-3861
Director of Children’s Ministry	Brandy Ramm	bramm@log.org			105	(817) 723-7343
Director of Early Childhood Ministry	Linda Braun	lbraun@log.org			119	(972) 539-6451
Director of Music Ministry	Chris Winston	cwinston@log.org			113	(214) 952-9324
Director of Choral Activities	Rebecca Winston	rwinston@log.org			113	
Director of Operations	Gail DeBenedictis	gdebenedictis@log.org			109	(972) 754-1936
Assistant to ECM Director	Marybeth Hurd	mhurd@log.org			118	
Church Administrative Assistant	Dawn Wendorf	dwendorf@log.org			101	
ECM Administrative Assistant	Kim MacDougall	kmacdougall@log.org			117	
Sound Technician	Tony Corson	tcorson@log.org			106	

