

Weekly News & Notes

Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

December 21, 2014

Take a Closer Look Into the Manger

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.’” (Hebrews: 10:5-7)

This week we join the shepherds at the manger and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We’ll hear the angels say, “Peace on earth.” Through the reading of the Scriptures, we will take a look into the manger and see God’s Son born as a human being to save human beings. The joy and peace of that scene has captured the imagination of some of the world’s finest hymn writers. We are captivated by it, too. But what we may not see is that this was the introduction of a bloody mess. That is what the writer to the Hebrews is talking about in our reading today.



He takes us back in time to those Old Testament sacrifices that God demanded of the people. Try to picture this. The priest dressed in fine purple and gold linen would take a bull or a goat and slaughter it in the temple. He did this for the sins of the people. The animals died in place of people who deserved to suffer death for their sins. But the sacrifice of those animals did not really pay for sin. How could it? But it was a reminder of the seriousness of sin and God’s promise to send his Son who would be the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world.

In the book of Psalms quoted in our reading today, Jesus comes to his Father and says, “I will be

the real sacrifice for sin.” “I will do what those animals only predicted.” “I will lay down my life to forgive the sins of the world.” And that is exactly what he did on that bloody painful place, the cross. That is where the true beauty and the true peace of Christmas are found. Jesus was born to become a bloody mess for us. In great love, he willingly came to be the sacrifice for our sin to give us life with God. Praise and thanks to Jesus!

Prayer: We thank you, O Lord, for your great Christmas gift to us, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Fill our Christmas celebration with the joy and peace of your love and forgiveness. Amen.

Devotion from
www.WhatAboutJesus.com

Contact Information

- **Church Office—**
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- **Online—**
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This Week at Lamb of God (December 22-28)

Serving Our Lord

- Cleaning: Johanna Wintrich
- Bulletins: Bev Oldham
- Accompanist:
 - Wed—Elisabeth Wagner
 - Thurs—Elisabeth Wagner
 - Sun—Rhea Franks
- Ushers:
 - Wed—Dave Szczublewski and Steve Flunker
 - Thurs—Chuck Sigrist
 - Sun—Chuck Sigrist and Brian Burrows

Events

- *Wednesday, December 24*
7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
- *Thursday, December 25*
9:00 am—Christmas Day Festival Worship
- *Sunday, December 28*
9:15 am—Cross-Generational Bible Study
10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion

Mission Prayer: Nigeria



Savior of all nations, come. Come to souls in Nigeria. Use Pastor Doug Weiser to raise up more gospel ministers, that your Word may spread like wildfire and many more latch onto you as Lord. Give him strength and patience, wisdom and humility. To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Christmas Worship Opportunities

Join us at the manger, as we celebrate our Savior's birth:

- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
Wednesday, December 24 – 7:00 pm
- **Christmas Day Festival Service**
Thursday, December 25 – 9:00 am

Christmas is a great time to invite friends, neighbors, family members, and co-workers to come to church with you. We are even providing postcards that you can use to invite them. Take as many as you wish.



New Year's Eve Worship

We will not have worship at Lamb of God for New Year's Eve. You are invited to worship at any of our sister congregations (Shepherd of Peace,

Powell; St. Paul's, Columbus; Beautiful Savior, Grove City) at 7:00 pm on New Year's Eve.

2015 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2015 have been distributed. **Please do not use these envelopes before January 4**, so that offerings are properly reported.

With your envelopes, you will find a

letter and offering planning worksheet. The worksheet does not need to be returned. Contact Pastor Wagner or a church council member with any questions.

Ink/Toner Cartridges Needed

Our supply of used ink and toner cartridges has run out. Bring in your cartridges, so that we can recycle them

to earn \$2 each toward supplies at Office Max and Staples. Find the bin in the fellowship hall with a green cover.

Update Your Contact Information

If any of your contact information (mailing address, phone numbers, email address) has changed in the past year, please give the updated

information to Pastor Wagner by January 4, so that we can publish an updated membership directory. Thank you.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Wagner and his family will be on vacation December 25–January 1. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Kuehl at 614-373-0025.

Communion Setup

We are in need of volunteers to prepare the bread and wine for communion Sundays. Sign up in the fellowship hall, or contact Pastor Wagner with any questions.

If you have news, upcoming events, or prayer requests that you would like published in the weekly newsletter, contact Katie Chen (katiesl@hotmail.com).

Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- Our shut-ins (Kitty, Dot, Julie, Betty, Monty, Dick, Mike)
- Vicar Daniel Slaughter, whose mother continues to battle cancer
- Dick Ritter, whose health continues to decline

Request prayers of your pastor and/or your fellow Christians using a prayer request form by the mailboxes or online at LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers

Give Thanks to the Lord!

Attendance (12/14)	
Worship:	46
Sunday School (w/ teachers):	13
Sunday Bible Study:	15
Offerings:	
General Fund:	\$1210.93
Year-to-Date Average:	\$1927.68
Weekly Budgeted Ministry:	\$2217.52
Sunday School Offering:	\$21.75