

# Weekly News & Notes

Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

June 21, 2015

## A Father's Reckless Love

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need....When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms

around him and kissed him." (Luke 15:11-21)

Could you imagine what this man's neighbors might have said? "Parents just don't raise their kids like they used to. First the boy runs off with the inheritance, and now dad's running out to welcome him? I tell ya, if that were my kid it would be a whole different story. He'd have to come crawling back on his knees. I'd tell him quite frankly, 'You blew it! The shame you have brought on this family, you don't even deserve to stand on my doorstep.' Maybe, just maybe, if he straightened his life out, stopped partying, and showed up for work every day, I'd think about letting him live in the old shack down by the gate. But to welcome him back like that? Never!"

The love of this father goes far beyond what we would expect. It is reckless, maybe even foolish. But that's how God loves us. He loved us even though we were dead in our transgressions and



sins. He sent his one and only Son to die for us while we were still sinners. Why? Because he was filled with compassion for us. His love goes far beyond anything we could expect or imagine.

This reminds us that we can always return to our heavenly Father. Whether we have been living in open rebellion like the lost son, or we have been rebelling with secret sins that lurk deep within our hearts, we can always say, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you," and be confident that God in his grace will run to us with his arms wide open.

*Prayer: Thank you Jesus, for proving your love for me at the cross. When I am down, when I doubt your care and concern, lift my eyes to your cross and comfort me with your care. Amen.*

Devotion from  
[www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com)

## Contact Information

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## This Week at Lamb of God (June 15-21)

### Serving Our Lord

- Cleaning: J. Wintrich Family
- Lawn Mowing: Ben Hallauer
- Bulletins: Fran Woodruff
- Altar Care: Dorothy Walker
- Greeter: Dorothy Walker
- Accompanist: Destinee Fiecko
- Ushers: Jeff Rader & Charlie Genteline
- Greeter: Dorothy Walker

### Events

- *Wednesday, June 24*  
6:15 pm—4th Friday Water Bottle Stuffing  
7:00 pm—Bible Study (Acts)
- *Thursday, June 25*  
7:00 pm—Bible Basics Class
- *Friday, June 26*  
6:00-9:00 pm—Westerville Fourth Friday  
6:15 pm—Softball Game
- *Saturday, June 27*  
9:45 am-noon—Canvassing
- *Sunday, June 28*  
9:15 am—Cross-Generational Bible Study  
10:30 am—Worship w/Holy Communion

## Mission Prayer: Ministry Student Mission Work

Lord Jesus, you have blessed your church with young men and women who are willing and eager to do gospel ministry. We ask that you bless the outreach and training efforts of our schools of ministry as groups of students travel to



various mission fields to assist in proclaiming your gospel. Grant them safe travels and may this mission experience further bless their training for ministry. Amen.

## Help Needed

We are hosting a fine arts camp and are looking for volunteers to help the week of July 27-31 in various ways. If you are interested and available any mornings that week to help with

snack, registration, art projects, photos, or childcare, please contact Elisabeth Wagner (614-702-7575 or [elisabethswagner@hotmail.com](mailto:elisabethswagner@hotmail.com)) or talk to Pastor.

## Vacation Bible School Updates

Registration is now open at [www.LambofGodColumbus.org/VBS](http://www.LambofGodColumbus.org/VBS) for our 2015 Vacation Bible School, coming July 13-16. We are also in need of volunteers to help in various

areas. Contact Lori Burrows for more details. Finally, we are looking for donations of supplies or money to cover our program. See the entryway for more information today!

## Sharing Lamb of God With Our Neighbors

In addition to our Fine Arts Camp and Vacation Bible School (see above), here are several opportunities to work together to share our faith and our ministry with our community:

### Canvassing

On Saturday, June 27, from 10:00 am to noon, we will walk more of the neighborhoods around church, handing out our brochure, information about our Vacation Bible School and Fine Arts Camp, and an invitation to take an online survey. We'll start with a short devotion, prayer, and orientation at 9:45 am. Join us!

### Westerville Fourth Friday

This Friday, June 26, we will have a booth at the Westerville Fourth Friday

block party. We have room for 1-2 more volunteers on Friday from 6:00-9:00 pm. See Pastor or Ben Hallauer for details.

We will be stuffing Lamb of God water bottles with information about our ministry this Wednesday, June 24, from 6:15-7:00 pm.

### Westerville 4th of July Parade

We still need more parade walkers and helpers. Lineup begins at noon, and the parade lasts until about 3:00 pm. See Dave Szczublewski for details.

We will be building our Lamb of God parade float on Friday, July 3, beginning at 5:30 pm. Join in the fun!

***A signup sheet for all of these activities is in the fellowship hall.***

## Important Dates

- Neighborhood Canvassing: June 27, July 11
- Westerville 4th Fridays: June 26, July 24, August 28
- Westerville Parade: July 4
- Vacation Bible School: July 13-16
- VBS Closing Service & Family Night: July 16 (7:30 pm)
- Fine Arts Camp: July 27-31
- Fine Arts Camp Performance and Artists' Showcase: July 31 (6:30 pm)

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

## Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- Shut-ins: Kitty, Dot, Julie, Betty, Monty, Mike
- Serving in the military (or reserves): Ross, Garrett, Dane
- Priscilla Ehrick, who fell and broke her wrist

*Request prayers of your pastor and/or your fellow Christians using a prayer request form by the mailboxes or online at [LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers](http://LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers)*