

Blessed Advent!

What a whirlwind year it's been for me and my family – and for Lamb of God! Lots of changes in just twelve months have occurred with lots of excitement in between. Who knew that twelve months ago I'd be selling my snow blower and heading South? God orchestrates all our days how only He could, as we join Him in the wonderful, adventurous mission with Jesus!

Lamb of God has been on an adventure these past twelve months! My experience has been that if you don't take a moment to reflect on all that God has done, you miss opportunities to be truly grateful for His work in our lives. So, let's reflect on God's work at Lamb of God together, as we prepare for 2018.



LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

1401 CROSS TIMBERS ROAD | FLOWER MOUND TX 75028

JANUARY 2017

Pastor Rance Settle was installed as the new Senior Pastor on January 15th, surrounded by brothers from the Circuit, President Ken Hennings and his best friend preaching the message. A series of Elder Flock Meetings was held as a chance to 'meet and greet' Pastor Settle. It was a great time of fellowship and fun together! The new Saturday Contemporary Service began, with 213 people in attendance! The Live Nativity Party was held as everyone celebrated another year of many people in the community visiting our Live Nativity, with thanksgiving to God for all the people from LOG who made it possible. The Sacred Things Retreat for our 8th Grade Confirmands was held, where Pastors Waiser and Settle and Hannah Prindiville shared teaching the youth of God's Gifts of Word and Sacrament. Our Preschool Staff attended TX District Early Childhood Educators Conference in San Antonio, TX. A Chili Cookoff was held (and contrary to what he was told, Pastor Settle still thought the 'mild' chili was HOT). William Hutley was added to God's family through the saving waters of Holy Baptism.

FEBRUARY 2017

In honor of National Lutheran Schools Week, we took time in worship to honor our amazing Preschool Teachers and Directors for all the work they do to share Jesus with little ones in our community. Pastor Couchman was honored at a reception to thank him for his many months of service during the vacancy. Superbowl Parties were held for the Middle School (Janelle Wood Hosted) & High School (Knepper Family Hosted). Holly Williams and Archer Worrall joined God's family through the saving waters of Holy Baptism. Many LOG ladies came to the Settles' home to help Leslie unpack the kitchen and give many donated food items from the church family. Local Missions Weekend celebrated a record turnout of LOG youth and adults to engage our local community in service projects and fellowship - 86 People attended and served locally! Our LOG sponsored Boy Scouts chapter presented the colors before service and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Pearl Farris was welcomed in to the Glories of Heaven, with a memorial service for her held to the Glory of God. Dale Gaus, whose baritone voice served as LOG's resident narrator for many years, joined his voice with the angels, archangels and all the company of heaven.

MARCH 2017

As we entered the season of Lent, Conrad Stuenkel became part of our church family in Holy Baptism. During that time, we looked at the book of Amos and God's promise to be faithful in the person of Jesus Christ. The new Disaster Relief Trailer for the Holy Cow Smokers was dedicated to the Glory of God. The Youth held a Girl's and Guy's Night: Girls went rock climbing and guys went paint balling! Pastor Naveen Naschal, director of outreach to the Hindu people at UT Arlington gave a special presentation at the Wednesday morning Bible class on how we can join in the mission.

APRIL 2017

On Palm Sunday, we commissioned Pastor Couchman on his new Call and new adventure 'down south' to serve in a new congregation, thanking the Lord for his faithful service to us. The youth held a Student Leadership Retreat for those preparing to mentor our younger generations. Many Easter services were held as we joyously proclaimed, "Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!", and the youth fed us with a Pancake Breakfast. The 2nd Annual Men's Fishing and Golfing Retreat was held, and despite just barely missing a massive tornado in the area (by the mercy of God!) a great time was had by all. Hailey LaCroix was welcomed in to the salvation of Jesus through the waters of Baptism. Yolanda Bierman would go on to her eternal reward with her Savior.

MAY 2017

At the beginning of the month, the Youth held a Nailing of the Cross Ceremony for our 8th Graders during the Wednesday Common Ground. That same week, the 8th graders participated in the Sharing of the Faith night. That Sunday, we celebrated that sixteen 8th Grade Confirmands confirmed in the faith given them in their Baptism, as they entered in to life as Adult Christians. We continue to lift up in prayer Tatum Beck, John Downey, Christian Grogan, Zoey Kaul, Mari Kerby, Hayden Lacy, Ashley Martin, Kennedy Meier, Julia Miller, Katelyn Payne, Liam Radican, Kelsey Randall, Emily Stark, Greta Thane, Seth Windham and Adam Wood. In our LOG staff family, we celebrated the birth of Killian Prindiville to Hannah and Gary, who shortly after brought Killian to the saving waters of Baptism. Newborn twins Ellison and Ian Jefferson were soon after welcomed in the Lord's family through Baptism. Johnathan Jezek and Ryan Bashore joined them in the Lord's family through Baptism towards the end of the month. Our Preschool wrapped up another year of ministry, to a growing staff and attendance! At High School Senior Sunday, we prayed God's Blessings upon Chris Knepper who would be attending Concordia NY in plans to pursue full-time Pastoral ministry. The tornado that barely missed the men at the 2nd Annual Men's Fishing and Golfing Retreat would wreak havoc in the Canton area, leading to a cry for disaster relief. With the deployment of the Holy Cow Smokers and many faithful from LOG, in the first day alone, over 1,000 meals were made in under an hour. Everyone from displaced folks to linemen workers were fed in the coming days. Pauline Birdsall and Nancy Reveal would go to celebrate the eternal joys of being with their Savior, Jesus.

JUNE 2017

With the Summer season in full swing, Charlotte Birrer became our newest member to LOG through the saving waters of Baptism. Our High School Youth joined Jesus on His mission in Jackson Country, OH for a week. Our Fellowship Board began hosting Movie Nights showcasing that most-hallowed of actors: John Wayne.

JULY 2017

Robert Barnhart was brought to the Lord's family through Baptism, administered by Grandpa/Pastor Braun. Our Middle School Youth served Jesus in Bayou La Batre, AL. It was such a blessing to hear both the Junior High and High School Youth share what Jesus did among them on our Mission Trip Sunday.

AUGUST 2017

The month began with Confirmation parent meetings as the new Confirmation year was preparing to get underway. The new 2017-2018 Student Leadership Team was formed for our High School students. Wesley Gray and Graham Golz were welcomed in to the LOG family through Baptism. Irma Pofhal would join her voice with angels, archangels and the company of heaven this month. Hurricane Harvey entered our Gulf as a Category 4, decimating the Houston area and many other small towns, dumping an estimated 40 inches of rain. Since most of the area was labeled a disaster area, travel was banned by the authorities, but countless relief items were donated by the LOG family and shipped south. Our Holy Cow Smokers made preparations to deploy, while donations continued to pour in. We broke ground on a new Music addition and building is moving forward as hoped, with a lot of behind the scenes work of many good people.

SEPTEMBER 2017

In the beginning of the month, Confirmation began for 6-8th Grades and Bible studies for the High School. Our Holy Cow Smokers would deploy to the Houston area. Later, many more parishioners would head to Houston in groups or on their own to help muck out flooded homes and hang new drywall. Our Youth Group would later alter their mission trip plans for 2018 to go back to this area and continue the relief effort. To help with their efforts, the youth held a Reformation T-shirt Fundraiser: 148 T-shirts sold all proceeds went to the Mission Trip Fund!

More twins! Nash and Stella Hall joined our church family in the waters of Baptism. We celebrated with the Simmons family in welcoming their sons. Rally Day was a special day of celebration, as we kicked off the new Church year together with Preschool Teachers opening their classrooms to us, our Pro-life information to start a new Life Disciple chapter was shared, along with food and fellowship! A new MOPS ministry (Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers) was begun and the generosity of many people at the annual North Texas Giving Day raised \$5,000 for our Preschool Ministry!

OCTOBER 2017

Henry Hengeveld would join us in the waters of Baptism this month. Bethany Kroft would be baptized later that same month but on the same day, the nephew of the Krofts, Landyn Harper, asked to be baptized on the same day as his cousin. College 101 was hosted by Concordia Austin to introduce our High School youth to ministry opportunities. The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation was celebrated all month long! Pastor David Federwitz came to discuss his involvement with sharing the Gospel in Africa. Pastor Greg Finke taught on his book, *Joining Jesus on His Mission*, to equip us to live out the Gospel in our vocations. Speaker and author Eric Metaxas came to speak on his new book discussing Martin Luther's life. A large turnout of the community was in attendance! Each Sunday we took time to look at different aspects of the Reformation, ending on Reformation Sunday with Luther's Deutsche Missa and an afternoon Hymn Festival including a drama on Luther's life involving members of our own LOG church family.

NOVEMBER 2017

We began the month by remembering the saints who have gone before us in the faith and looking forward to the great reunion promised to all of God's people on the Last Day. Many families attended the Camping Weekend together and had a wonderful time, with more people joining every year! Our Youth sent 16 College Care Packages to Youth around the country, including affirmation cards sent to students. Jack Pawlinski and Charlotte Earle joined the LOG family in the waters of Baptism. Several members took a trip of a lifetime to see the Holy Land and walk where Jesus walked. We had a great turnout for our Thanksgiving Eve service as we thanked God for another year under His care through Jesus. At the end of the month, we began "The Greatest Canned Food Drive Ever" initiative, collecting a different canned item each week to restock the food shelves at Christian Community Action.

DECEMBER 2017

As our year comes to a close, we celebrate a grand total of 44 new members joining our LOG Church Family! Now, we join them in their life with Jesus and walking with them, praying for them and supporting them in our life together. Some of our current Church Ministry Council Leadership have their terms ending this month, with new leaders taking their place. Be sure to thank our LOG members who have chosen to serve the mission of Christ through the CMC!

Our Youth Ministry Families will attend The Christmas Gift performance, with over 100 tickets sold for Lamb of God to attend as a big family! That is a tremendous show of support for our youth by LOG members.

Live Nativity – WOW! What a great day. I probably did 10 or more laps around the LOG campus, just saying hello and greeting people. I couldn't get over how many of the guests we had with us that were first-timers. Word of mouth is growing in our community that LOG is 'where its at' for not only a family tradition, but to hear the Good News of Great Joy – Jesus Christ! Besides sharing the Gospel, the part I'm most proud of is that everything in the Live Nativity – from the lights, cookies and costumes, to the sets, actors and traffic directors – it was all done by *you*, the people of Lamb of God. To God Be the Glory – and thank you all for your help! I'm proud of your generosity and time given to share Jesus with others!

Our Contemporary Worship service continues to gather the faithful and reach those without a church home. The dedication of the many people who make this additional service possible twice a month is amazing and I'm so grateful to all of them. This year, our Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday, so we have an additional service to our regular Christmas services: 9am Contemporary Christmas Worship in the Fellowship Hall, 4pm Family Christmas Worship in the Sanctuary, 6pm, 8pm and 10pm Candlelight Christmas Worship. Don't forget our 9am Christmas Day worship on the 25th!

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

We continue with the Youth Director Call process, as we await to see who God gives to us through the Concordia system. God already knows who He has chosen, so join us in prayer until God's plan is revealed to us! And be sure to thank all our youth leaders and volunteers who have done a tremendous job in mentoring our youth. Our staff has made some additions, adjustments and transitions in ministry roles, as we continue to see how best to serve the people of LOG. I am humbled beyond words to serve with such loving, Christ-centered people. Be sure to thank the many incredibly talented people who give so much of themselves in our Preschool and LOG staff to share Jesus with our church family and community year-round!

What an incredible year of God's Mercy and Grace lived out among the followers of Jesus at Lamb of God! And we're only hitting the highlights, to say nothing of all the Bible classes, Small Group activities, and countless other things behind the scenes that have been a blessing to so many! There is SO much to thank God for, as we look back over this year of growth and blessings. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for 2018. May God in His Infinite Mercy, lead us and guide us in the coming year!

Soli Deo Gloria – Christ the Savior, Is Born!