

#### Lord of Love Office

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#### Lord of Love Staff

Interim Pastor Glenn Schacht pastorglenn@lord-of-love.org

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Love Letter Editor Charise Adams loveletter@lord-of-love.org

Senior Organist Carol Novak

**Associate Organist** Amy Kragnes

**Chancel Choir Director and Bell Choir Director** Jon Novak

LOL Brass Director Brian Lund

**Worship Schedule** Sunday, 9 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. Mission Statement: Celebrating and sharing God's love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others.

### A Look Ahead

Jan. 1—New Year's Day Worship Service, 10 a.m.

Jan. 8—Secret Angel Reveal and 2017 Sign-up, 9:30 a.m.

- Jan. 11—Aged to Perfection Luncheon, noon
- Feb. 5—Welcome Potluck for Pastor Becky Sells
- Feb. 5—Annual Blood Drive



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Submit articles for The Love Letter in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at loveletter@lord-of-love.org. Articles (recipes or favorite poems, etc., are also welcome) must be received by the 20th of the month.

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

Dear Friends at Lord of Love,

Let me first wish you a joyous new year filled with the dreams and promises God has in mind for you as you begin living out your forty-fifth year of mission and ministry in partnership with Pastor Becky Sells.

Second, I want to thank you for all of your prayers and support during my time as your interim pastor. Transitions are rarely easy; however, when we trust and follow the Spirit's guidance and direction, the process can be more fruitful than we had imagined. Third, as I take my leave here and say farewell, I want you to know what a blessing and privilege it has been to serve you. This will be my last full-time interim/transitional assignment. What God has in mind for me next I don't know. My hope and prayer is that it will involve having more time for our grandchildren.

God's peace be with you today and always,

Pastor Glenn





Thank you and best wishes, Pastor Glenn!

Pastor Glenn's last Sunday as pastor at Lord of Love will be Jan. 15, 2017.

# MONTHLY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Worship & Communion	2 8:00pm AA & A1 Anon	3 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm V ision & Coordination Mtg.	4 7:15pm Choir	5 7:00pmBoyScouts	6 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	7 7:00am Merl's Breakfast Ministry
8 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor 5:00pm Bell Choir	9 8:00pm AA & A1 Anon	10 7:00pm Sunnyslope Neighborhood Assoc. 7:00pm Stew ardship Meeting	11 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Youth Group 7:15pm Choir	<b>12</b> 7:00pmBoyScouts	13 9:30am A1 Anon Mtg. 7:30pm A.A. Mtg.	14 Church Council Retreat 7:00am Merl's Breakfast Ministry
15 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Barnett Anniversary Open House 1:00pm District 18 AA Ping Mtg 5:00pm Bell Choir	16 Year End Reports Due 8:00pm AA & A1 Anon	17 9:00amQuilters 7:00pmChurch Council Mtg.	18 530pm Confirmation 530pm Luther Kids 600pm Brass 700pm Youth Group 7:15pm Choir	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	21 7:00am Merl's Breakfast Ministry 4:00pm Fusselman Recital
22 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Choir	23 8:00pm AA & A1 Anon	24	25 S30pm Confirmation S30pmLuther Kids 600pmBrass 700pmYouth Group 7:15pmChoir	26 6:45pm Swingtones 7:00pm B oy S couts	27 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	28 7:00am Merl's Breakfast Ministry
29 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 3:00pm Eagle Court of Honoer 5:00pm Bell Choir	30 8:00pm AA & A1 Anon	31				

# SUNDAY SERVANTS

	*January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Greeter(s)	*One Service 10:00 a.m.				
8:00 a.m.	Mike & Christie Klos	Kenn & Shari Garder	Doug & Cathy Aden	Joe & Jackie Combes	Sarge & Shirley Schuchard
10:30 a.m.		Dave & Susan Lueders	Charise Adams & Christie Klos	Rieff family	Mike & Christie Klos
Liturgist					
8:00 a.m.	Paul Christenson	Matt Garder	Doug Aden	Ron Thom	Dave Hild
10:30 a.m.		Susan Lueders	Claudia Rowen	Dave Rieff	Karen Armitage
Communior	n Servers				
8:00 a.m.	volunteers	Kenn & Shari Garder, Sarah Eagen & Bill Baker	Cathy Aden, Jim & Jeri Morgan, Mike Klos	Brian & Connie Walther, Joe & Jackie Combes	Hansen family
10:30 a.m.		Dave Lueders, Ann & Paul Kroll, Kathy Christiansen	Don Rowen, Charise Adams, Tom & Beth Olson	Rieff family	Doug Armitage, Edwards family
Altar Care					
8:00 a.m.	Cathy Aden & Sue Dieter	Connie Walther & Lisa Meyer	Mardi Fiske	Joan Witt & Sarah Eagen	Angie Meyer
10:30 a.m.	Nicole Quackenbush & Karen Anderson	Rosie Avalos	Paul & Ann Kroll Shelby Lamoureux	Deb Quadhamer & Judy Messerschmidt	Diana Haye & Marcia Roads
Ushers					
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Matt Wi	llard, Dennis Hindem	ith, Jesse Brewer		
10:30 a.m.	Brian & Deb Lund, D	onna Nelson, Doug	Armitage		
Nursery Ca	re				
10:30 a.m.					
CD Recordi	ng				
10:30 a.m.	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy	Jesse Brewer
Donut Help	•				•
Pick up donuts	Lisa Willard				

#### Lord of Love's Worship Servants

## WORSHIP

#### New Year's Day

New Year's Day is on a Sunday this year. We will have a single service at 10 a.m. with no Sunday school.



#### **January Worship Notes**



#### January 1, 2017—First Sunday after Christmas

The Gospel confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of a ruler. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil, but its light gives us hope. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us and carry us as in days of old.

#### January 8, 2017—Baptism of our Lord

Jesus is baptized in the waters of Jordan and revealed as the Son of God. In our baptism, we are washed by the Word and anointed by the Spirit and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all.

#### January 15, 2017—Second Sunday after Epiphany

In today's gospel, we further reflect on Jesus' baptism. In the liturgy, we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and receive the gifts of grace and peace.

#### January 22, 2017—Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus begins his ministry by calling fishermen to leave their nets and follow him. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We can then share the good news with others so they may be caught in the net of God's grace and mercy.

#### January 29, 2017—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Who are the blessed ones of God? In our baptism, we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

## OUTREACH

#### Save the Date: Blood Drive

The Lord of Love annual blood drive will be **Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017**. You may sign up online at: <u>redcrossblood.org</u> using the sponsor code: LordOfLove. You may also contact Paul Christenson for assistance with signing up. His e-mail is paulordeb@outlook.com and his phone number is 402.515.2642.

The sooner you sign up, the better chance you have of getting the spot you want on the schedule. Thanks for your participation.



#### Update: Aaron Edwards' Eagle Scout Project

"My Eagle project was a huge success. During my project, there were six donation sites available including reaching out to LFS' Board of Directors. Eighty percent of the donations were received at Lord of Love. On Dec. 10, myself and two other Scouts from my Troop started the morning by purchasing additional diapers and shoes for those who asked me to purchase on their behalf. Then we went to Mrs. Edwards's place of employment and picked up donations before heading to Lord of Love to sort and count. I also had the assistance of four adults throughout the day.

My goal was 1,500 diapers and 50 pairs of shoes. With your generosity and that of others in the community, we received 3,517 diapers and 68 pairs of shoes. The majority of diapers were size three and more boys shoes than girls.

Thank you to each of you for your support and donations to Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska Foster Care program. Thank you to the Church Council for your willingness to enable me to run my project through Lord of Love Lutheran Church."





# YOUTH

#### **Activites Resume**

Confirmation, youth group and Luther Kids will resume on **Wednesday**, Jan. 11.

#### 2017 Youth Mission Trip: New Orleans!

Registration packets are now available for our youth mission trip to New Orleans, July 15-23, 2017. Registration forms and \$100 deposit will be due **Feb. 1** to save a spot. Costs will be approximately \$700 per person. Fundraising will be essential, as our hope is to raise at least half for each participant.

Informational meeting for parents and youth will be **Wednesday**, **Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

If anyone is interested and would like to help rally support for this event and for the youth to organize events to support their participation, contact Heather Christensen at heather@lord-of-love.org

#### Youth Lock-In

**Next Lock-In for Youth is Jan. 28-Jan. 29: "Chopped Challenge II".** The first Chopped Challenge was such a success four years ago, we are bringing it back. Brush up on your technique and check out a few episodes on *The Food Network*.



Judges for this event will be required. Any volunteers adults? Parents? Contact Heather Christensen.

#### Middle School Gathering

Middle School Gathering for 6-8th grade is **Jan. 14-15** in Grand Island. Lori Vandeventer and Heather Christensen will be road tripping with the middle schoolers to this event!

## **MISSION**

#### **Mission Possible Update**

Thanks to everyone for the generosity and support of the special offerings for Nebraska Synod Prison Ministries. The total received will be reported in an upcoming Love Letter.

Pastor Bob Bryan was asked and is now working on plans to involve the men's prison inmates in a meal-packaging program similar to the two that took place at the women's prison in York. The program has been so successful in building up the esteem and purpose of the women inmates that prison officials want to provide that opportunity for the men. Our offering money has been used and will again be used to purchase necessary food items for packing into readily prepared dinners. Thousands of meals were packaged for \$.25 each. Not only are the hungry fed, but those packaging the meals have a great sense of giving back to the community.

The Mission Possible Team will meet early in 2017 to determine where special offerings shall be designated for Lent, Easter, and summer breakfasts. If you have specific ideas, please share them with anyone serving on the Mission Possible Team: Charise Adams, Paul Christenson, Paula Foster, Deb Lund, Jeri Morgan, Bill Morris and Scott Reinhardt.

## MISSION

#### Get Your Act Together in 2017, by Deb Lund

The start of a new year is a popular time for resolutions and plans for making changes in one's life. It is a good time to think about how we live our lives as God's people, as good stewards of all that we have and are.

As I scramble to get things done I really want to do before Christmas, the start of a new year is a good time to think about prioritizing how we spend our time. Many of us have more to do each day than time to get everything done. But maybe some of those tasks or activities are really not as important as one might think.

Am I finding time just to be with God? Do I take time for myself to exercise, relax, eat well, and spend time that allows me to do my best at work and at home and in all I do? Am I being a good family member and friend to others by spending enough time with them?



Have I learned to say no to things that I just don't have time to do?

Conversely, is there something for which God is calling me to use my gifts or stretch my abilities that will be meaningful for me and help others in some way? Maybe that kind of activity needs to be at the top of the list in 2017.

May you be blessed richly with the gift of each new day in 2017, using your time, talents, and abilities as God would have you do.

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

#### Endowment Grants, from Doug Aden

This year, the Endowment Committee received five grant requests. The balance of the fund at the end of September was \$107,012. Based on the constitution, the committee could give total grants in the range between \$3,210 to \$5,350. The total of the five-grant request was \$6,600.



After reviewing the request and the guidelines that were established, the following grants were awarded.

#### Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministries Grant Amount: \$1,000

The goal of this program is to connect college students with churches in the Omaha area. There are three solid ministry cell groups. *God & Grads* is a weekly ministry that engages twelve graduate students. The second, NeMO, engages 35 undergraduate students from various colleges in the area. The third, T-GAP, a weekly ministry aimed at students from the College of St. Mary. These three ministries are engaging more students than at any time in NLCM's 35-year history. *(continued on next page)* 

#### **Endowment Grants, continued**

# Scholarships at Machame Hospital Grant Amount: \$1,000

Scholarships for nursing or clinical officer students are needed. These funds will be used for scholarships.

# Computers for Machame Hospital Grant Amount: \$1,200



In conversation with Bob Kasworm, we learned that, while not a very heartwarming cause, replacement computers are highly needed in the finance department

at Machame Hospital. He estimated the cost at \$600 per computer.

#### Poor Person Orthopedic Surgery Fund at Machame Hospital Grant Amount: \$500

Last year the Committee awarded \$1,000 to this fund. At the end of the year we were told that the balance was about \$500. During 2016, we told stories about two surgeries that were supported by this fund.

#### Followers of Christ Prison Ministry Grant Amount: \$500

In a sermon at Lord of Love, Pastor Bob Bryan told us the story of women inmates at York working to package meals for distribution to the hungry (see Mission above for more). This grant will support that mission.



# CHURCH COUNCIL

#### **New Council Members**

Thank you to outgoing members David Hild, Susan Lueders, Bill Quackenbush, and Scott Reinhardt.

Congratulations to new members Don Rowen, Chris Rich, Jesse Brewer, and Paul Christenson.



#### 2017 Lord of Love Church Council

Vision and Coordination: Brian Walther, President; Don Rowen, Vice-President; Kathy Christiansen, Secretary; Jackie Combes, Treasurer Nurture: Laurie Heavey and Chris Rich Outreach: Paula Foster and Jesse Brewer Resources: Craig Pennell and Paul Christenson Worship: Doug Aden and Heather Hansen

# CHURCH COUNCIL

#### **Council Meeting Report from the Secretary**

The Lord of Love Church Council met on Dec. 20, 2016 and the following are some of the highlights of the meeting.

 Brian reported that members of V & C had spoken with Pastor Becky after the congregational meeting on Dec. 18 and she had accepted the call to serve as pastor at Lord of Love. The necessary paperwork was completed and will be in the Synod office by Dec. 22. Potential start dates and installation dates were discussed with Pastor Becky and will be reported to the congregation as they are finalized.



- Pastor Becky reported that she and her family are moving from Geneva to Omaha on Dec.
  28. Brian offered assistance from members of the congregation to unload and will notify members when he learns more and /if needed.
- The budget deficit remained essentially the same for the month of November 2016 (-\$8200 approximately). Jackie reported that there has been a tremendous result from the past two Sundays for the Thrivent Fund Dollar Match to reduce the deficit amount by year's end.
- The Call Committee indicated that they would like to sponsor Adult Forums on Jan. 15 and Jan. 22 about "What Happens When a New Pastor Arrives."
- Plans were initiated for a Farewell potluck on Jan. 15, 2017 for Pastor Glenn and a welcome potluck on Feb. 5, 2017 for Pastor Becky. More details to come.
- Next meeting will be Council Retreat on Jan. 14, 2017 at 8 a.m.

#### **Giving Status**

General Fund financial information for November 2016: Actual Income - \$25,151.00 Actual Expense - \$23,565.08

Financial Information Year-To-Date as of the end of November: Actual Income - \$293,723.15 Actual Expense - \$286,262.04



As of the end of November, the available cash deficit has decreased slightly. It is (8,266.52). Weekly offerings of \$7,217 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average through the end of November was \$6,024. The monthly offering average was \$26,287.09 at the end of November down from \$26,437.30 at the end of October.

As of this writing, the **Thrivent Match** donations are \$6,610.00. An additional \$5,000.00 will be moved to the general fund from the savings account. As long as the December offerings are average, we should be able to start 2017 with a positive available cash balance. Thank you for your wonderful support.

## MEN'S NEWS



#### **Men's Breakfast**

The men's group meets in the fellowship hall for food, fellowship and Bible study every Saturday morning at 7 a.m.

All men are invited to join us.

## WOMEN OF LOVE

#### Secret Angel Ministry

The 2016 Secret Angel breakfast will be held after the first service at 9:30 a.m. on **Sunday**, **Jan. 8** in the fellowship hall. This year's participants are invited to attend for the big reveal, as well as anyone



who is interested in participating in 2017. Find out how a little token of friendship may be all it takes to make someone's day.

Current participants, please bring a signed card for your Secret Angel. Registration forms will be available for 2017. If you can't attend, contact Nicole Quackenbush for more information at nicole.quacke@gmail. com or 402.960.2869.

#### **WELCA Winter Retreat**

Registration is now open for the Nebraska Women of the ELCA winter retreat.

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church Grand Island



**Theme verses:** Luke 10:38-41—Jesus at the home of Mary and Martha

Keynote speaker Dr. Heather Goertz is an occupational therapist with 20 years of experience in community and mental health, in addition to having 10 children. She will share information on foster care and adoption.

Registration (\$18) is **due by Jan. 17**. See the registration form inserted at the end of this newsletter for details.



The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

-C. Neil Strait

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Leona Anderson & Scott Wells (friends of the Novaks) Dick Bell Syd Brinkman Ruth Cooley Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage) Julie Craig & Candee Brandon (friends of Dave & Lisa Rieff) Olivia Griffin (daughter of Scott and Dana Griffin) Sgt. Dean & Erin Hansen (Delina Wiater's son & his wife) Jan Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster) Julie (friend of Pat Brewer) Kristen Kuhn (friend of Todd & Lisa Meyer) *Izzy Lightle (relative of Kim Gust)* Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders) Ruth & Dan Manning Todd Meyer

Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw) Dave Piehl & Dan Piehl (brothers of Deb Lund) Peggy Seck (cousin of Ann Kroll) Pauline Shaffer Nancy Shinrock Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller) Brenda Thom Nancy Thoman (stepmother of Ann Kroll) James Thompson (son-in-law of Lynda McGraw) Pam Todd Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock) Steve Wiitala (friend of Karen Mullen) Caregivers and those who suffer with

depression. Those seeking employment

To add a name to the In Our Prayers section, please contact the office at 402.493.2946, send an email to marylou@lord-of-love.org, or fill out a prayer request note available in the narthex and place it in the basket.





1 PETER 1:2, NRSV





#### LORD OF LOVE WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2017 TENTH TRIENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP FORM July 13 – 16, 2017 Value of Scholarship is \$500.00 At least six scholarships available\*

Applicants must meet these requirements to eligible to apply for the scholarship.

- Must be a female.
- Applicant must be an ACTIVE member of Lord of Love Lutheran Church.
- Applicant must be able to pay for the rest of the trip.
- Will be required to share a presentation with the Women of Lord of Love.
- Applicant must fill out the application form.

Information regarding the Tenth Triennial Gathering can be found on the Women of the ELCA website, www.welcatg.org.

Please complete all requested information before returning this scholarship application.

#### PLEASE PRINT:

Name				
Mailing Address				
Home Phone E-mail Address	( )	Work Pho	one ( )	
Age Range	□ 20 – 29 years	□ 30 – 39 years	□ 40 – 55 years	$\Box$ 56+ years
	34	r <b>n by February</b> Gwen Edwards 402 Castile Drive wue, NE 68123-1	5	
		OR		

Edwards Lord of Love Mailbox

For more information, call Gwen at 402.291.1087 or e-mail at gfedwards@gmail.com

\*If more than six applications are received, the decision will be based on financial need. If scholarships are still available, then a random drawing will determine the recipients.

WOMEN OF THE E.L.C.A. WINTER RETREAT
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2017
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1515 S. Harrison St., Grand Island, NE

## THEME VERSES – LUKE 10:38-41 Jesus at the home of Mary and Martha

left saying thing better care entered Sister answered way way village need chosen Now helpworried welcomed Tell tasks mangcertain work. Mary things Cord distracted named

ACTIVITIES:			
8:30	Registration & Coffee		
9:00	Opening Remarks		
	Keynote Speaker*		
	Bible Study with Bishop Maas		
	Skit and a LIVE BAND!		
3:00	Safe Travels		

\*Keynote Speaker Dr. Heather Goertz is an occupational therapist with 20 years of experience in community and mental health in addition to having 10 children. She will share information on foster care and adoption as well as Mary & Martha.

OFFERING TO: Safe-T, the Salvation Army Safe Program

<b>REGISTRATION by January 17, 2017</b>				
Name	Phone			
Address	E-mail			
Home Church	Conference			
Send \$18.00 fee made payable to NSWO to:				
Sandy Terry - 1461 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. Ct	Fremont, NE 68025-5317			
<u>sterry9415@yahoo.com</u>	402-957-4480			