

The Love Letter

Volume 47

February 2017

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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

Feb. 5—Installation of Pastor Becky Sells with Bishop Brian Maas and Welcome Potluck

Feb. 5—Annual Blood Drive

Feb. 12—Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

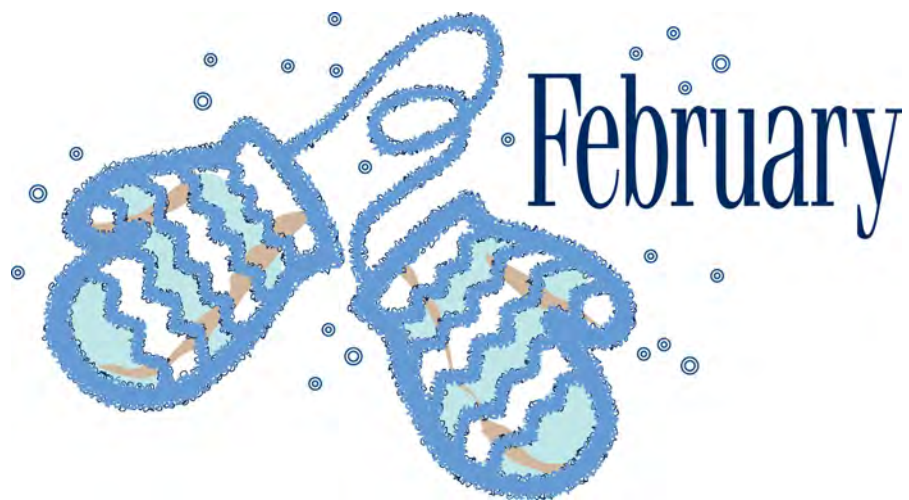


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Submit articles for The Love Letter in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at loveletter@lord-of-love.org.

Articles (recipes or favorite poems, etc., are also welcome) must be received by the 20th of the month.

PASTOR'S PAGE

WELCOME, PASTOR BECKY SELLS!

Pastor Becky's first Sunday presiding over worship was Jan. 29, 2017. Her installation as pastor of Lord of Love will be Feb. 5 with Bishop Brian Maas (both services). A welcome potluck will follow second service.

Look for a greeting from Pastor Becky in the March issue of the Love Letter.



*Lord of Love and Pastor Becky meet and greet, Dec. 18, 2016
Photo courtesy of Matt Garder*



MONTHLY CALENDAR

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Youth Group 7:15pm Choir	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	4 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
5 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Blood Drive 11:30am Potluck for Pr. Becky 5:00pm Bell Choir	6 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	7 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg.	8 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Youth Group 7:15pm Choir	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	11 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
12 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Congregational Meeting 5:00pm Bell Choir	13 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	14	15 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Youth Group 7:15pm Choir	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	18 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
19 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:00am District 18 AA Workshop 5:00pm Bell Choir	20 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	21 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	22 5:30pm Confirmation 5:30pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Youth Group 7:15pm Choir	23 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	25 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
26 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Choir	27 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	28				

WORSHIP

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Greeter(s)				
8 a.m.	Boy scout Troop 565	Paul & Peg Murphy	Brian & Deb Lund	Jim & Jeri Morgan
10:30 a.m.	Avalos family	Joan Witt & Shelby Lamoureux	Messerschmidt family	Tom & Beth Olson
Liturgist				
8 a.m.	Shawn Lorenzen	Paul Murphy	Deb Lund	Paul Christenson
10:30 a.m.	Karen Mullen	Rex Quadhamer	Karen Armitage	Tom Olson
Communion Servers				
8 a.m.	Edwards family	Peg Murphy, Matt & Lisa Willard, Sarah Eagen	Brian Lund, Dave & Judy Egr, Bill Baker	Jim & Jeri Morgan, Kenn & Shari Garder
10:30 a.m.	Avalos family	Deb Quadhamer, Joan Witt, Don & Claudia Rowen	Messerschmidt family	Beth Olson, Deb Quadhamer, Doug & Karen Armitage
Altar Care				
8 a.m.	Karen & Dale Finck	Brewer family	Ed & Marjorie Keiser	Cathy Aden & Sue Dieter
10:30 a.m.	Karen Armitage & Gwen Edwards	Ann Kroll & Julie Thompson	Rowen family	Nicole Quackenbush & Karen Anderson
Ushers				
8 a.m.	Josh Combes, Brian Walther, Brandon Zalesky, Dale Finck			
10:30 a.m.	Dave Lueders & Adam Lueders			
Nursery				
10:30 a.m.				
Recording				
	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy
Donut Pick Up and Clean Up				
Pick-up	Adens	Adens	Adens	Adens
Clean-up				



WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday

March 1 at 7 p.m. will be the traditional Ash Wednesday service, a quiet service of reflection and repentance with the imposition of ashes.



February Worship Notes

February 5—Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Light shines in the darkness, the psalmist sings, and Isaiah declares that when we share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. Jesus calls his followers to let the light of their works shine before others.

February 12—Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

We are called to choose life by loving and obeying god. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and neighbor. We are invited to embrace the commandments because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

February 19—Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Our attempts to achieve perfection fall short. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism and forgiven at the table of God's mercy.

February 26—Transfiguration of our Lord/Last Sunday after Epiphany

Today's festival is a bridge between Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and the Lent-Easter cycle, which begins in several days. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son.



NURTURE

Adult Fun Night at the Garders'



Please join us on **Saturday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m.** for an evening of food, beverages, games and fellowship. You are invited to bring your favorite appetizer or snacks to share. If you have a preferred beverage or game, you are welcome to bring that as well. We will post a sign-up sheet to get some idea of numbers, but feel free to join us even if you forget to sign up.

Kenn and Shari live at **4605 N 93rd St.:** just go east from church on Fort St. to 93rd, turn south (right) and continue about 6 blocks to the corner of 93rd and Meredith. Our home is the white house on the northeast corner. If you have any questions, please call us at 402.573.8689. See you on the 25th!

OUTREACH

Blood Drive



Just a few spots remain for the annual blood drive **Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017**. You may sign up online at redcrossblood.org using the sponsor code LordOfLove. You may also sign up on the bulletin board to be an alternate.

Contact Paul Christenson if you'd like assistance with signing up. His e-mail is paulordeb@outlook.com and his phone number is 402.515.2642. Thanks for your participation.

MISSION

Mission Possible Update

The Mission Possible Team is designating the special 2017 Lenten and Easter offerings to the Nebraska Synod for new pastor debt (both seminary scholarships and debt reduction). New pastors are coming out of seminary with more debt than ever, and following the Nebraska ELCA Lenten theme of "We are Church," we want to make special efforts to assist new pastors.



In addition, we'll give the Lord of Love Youth \$700 to help with their summer Mission trip to New Orleans. Thanks for your generosity in providing special funds to be God's hands.

Always Being Made New—The Campaign for the ELCA



The year 2017 marks The Campaign for the ELCA's annual theme year for the **Global Church priority**, including Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission, Global Ministries and International Women Leaders. We are Church, and not just in Nebraska!

ELCA missionaries have helped establish growing churches throughout the world. As a result, we are now part of a much larger story—a global community of more than 70 million Lutherans in 79 countries. In this dynamic church, we walk with our sisters and brothers in Christ to share God's love far and wide.

Young Adults in Global Mission

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors.

MISSION

Always Being Made New, continued



A year of service through the Young Adults in Global Mission program invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects

in communities of need. It invites volunteers into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God's work in the world, and their place within it all.

Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. Areas of service include health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues and children and youth. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

Candidates for Young Adults in Global Mission apply to the program at-large rather than to a specific country. Applicant preferences are taken into account, but the final decision about where volunteers serve is made by Global Mission staff and YAGM country coordinators in mid-April. Current YAGM country programs include: Argentina/Uruguay, Cambodia, Central Europe (Hungary), Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal, Southern Africa and the United Kingdom.

From Lord of Love, both Rebecca Lund Sheridan and Megan Buccholz have served as ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (in Slovakia and Palestine).

Endowment Fund Update

For two years, the Endowment Fund has sent monies to the Poor Persons Orthopedic Fund at the Mchem Hospital in Tanzania. When some of those funds are used, Bob sends us a picture of the person being helped and the circumstances regarding operation.

The young lad in this photo below is Hamad. He is about ten years old and had a broken and badly displaced humerus. Hamad's mother is a single parent and could only pay about half the bill. The cost of the x-rays, anesthesia, and surgery was about 150,000 Shilingi or \$70.00. The fund was used to pay the other half.



Hamad, orthopedic surgeon Dr. John Lyimo and nurse Kerbina

CHURCH COUNCIL

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



Meeting Minutes from the Secretary

The Lord of Love Church Council met for its annual retreat and orientation on Jan. 14, 2017. Following are some of the highlights of this meeting:

- After Pastor Glenn opened the retreat with a reading and prayer, members of the Vision and Coordination team went through the Church Council Orientation to include Ministry Team Responsibilities, the 2017 meeting schedule, contact information, general financial policies and the use of pink slips, Opening/Closing Worship Service checklist and the use and activation of the door alarm.
- Treasurer's Report was reviewed and at year's end, the budget had a \$2,633.41 positive balance. During the following discussion, a suggestion was made to develop a policy for the future use of the Thrivent Match Fund.
- Members were all given a copy of the Lord of Love Constitution along with the church policies to review before the February council meeting.
- Members shared their hopes and dreams for Lord of Love in 2017 and the meeting closed with each member having the opportunity to share any observations with the group.
- Next meeting will be Feb. 21, 2017, 7 p.m.

Giving Status

General Fund financial information, Dec. 2016:

Actual Income - \$39,730.00

Actual Expense - \$28,337.85

Financial Information YTD as of the end of December:

Actual Income - \$333,453.15

Actual Expense - \$314,599.89

As of the end of December, the available cash balance is no longer a deficit. Our balance is now 2,633.41. This includes Thrivent Match Donations of 8,920.00 and the \$5,000 match from the savings account. Weekly offerings of \$7,217 were needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average through the end of December was \$6,050. The monthly offering average was \$26,215.58 at the end of December down from \$26,287.09 at the end of November. The average numbers do not include Thrivent Match Donations.



It has been a very long time since we have had a positive balance to start the year. Thanks for your support as we enjoy new beginnings at Lord of Love.

MEN'S NEWS CORNER



All men are invited to join the men's group for breakfast, prayer and study every Saturday morning at 7 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Lord of Love.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Thankofferings

We gave our Thankofferings in October, sharing in a tradition that goes back at least to the 1800s, when Christian women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to support the mission of the church. When others said there was not enough money to carry out the church's work, the women believed otherwise and acted together. In these societies, each woman collected offerings at home.

When Women of the ELCA was formed 30 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, we gave our Thankoffering.

In recent years, Thankofferings have been on a downward trend, including at Lord of Love Lutheran Church. As a member of the Churchwide Executive Board, Gwen Edwards receives monthly fiscal monitoring memos. In early October, it was reported Thankofferings received at the end of August were more than received by the end of August 2015. That is wonderful news!

By the same token, Women of Love have also submitted an increase from their 2015 offering, an increase of 47.33% for a total of \$600.23. Thank you for your contributions!

Women of the ELCA Thankofferings support the total outreach of the organization.

Editor's Note: the above should have appeared in December 2016 and was inadvertently omitted. Apologies for the oversight.

Gather Bible Studies

Part 2 of "Christian Faith and Christian Freedom" will be held at **6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1** in the Mary Room at Lord of Love and **Monday, Feb. 6** at the Village Inn near Oakview Mall.



Kit Kleinahns, a professor at Wartburg College in Waverly says: "Biblical scholars describe Paul's letter to the Galatians as the Magna Carta of Christian freedom.

Martin Luther called it 'my Katie von Bora.' Like his marriage to Katie, Luther's relationship with Galatians was a rich and lasting one; over 20 years, he published six commentaries on the epistle. Luther's reformation was centered in the doctrine of justification by grace through faith for Christ's sake, which he saw as the heart of St. Paul's letter to the Christians in Galatia. It is also the heart of Paul's-and-Luther's message for today.

All women are invited to attend either session of "Children of God through faith" (Galatians 2:19-3:29).

WOMEN OF LOVE

Lutheran Women of Omaha

The next meeting of Lutheran Women of Omaha will be held on **Feb. 14 at noon**. Kountze Memorial Lutheran church women will host the event at 2659 Farnam Street. Lunch will be served for \$6 followed by the program: the Byrant-Fisher Family History by Deb Parks. The free-will offering has been designated for the ELCA Disaster Fund.

Please make your reservations with Ruth Manning at 402.451.0221 by 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 12.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Leona Anderson & Scott Wells (friends of Novaks)

Dick Bell

Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)

Syd Brinkman

Ruth Cooley

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

Brenda Thom

Nancy Thoman (stepmother of Ann Kroll)

James Thompson (son-in-law of Lynda McGraw)

Pam Todd

Nancy Shinrock

Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)

Steve Wiitala (friend of Karen Mullen)

Caregivers and those who suffer with depression.

Those seeking employment.

Those Who Mourn

The family and friends of Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller)

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.

Please also let the office know when a name can be removed from the list.