

The Love Letter

Volume 47

April 2017

Lord of Love Office

Phone.....402.493.2946
Fax.....402.493.3087
Website...www.lord-of-love.org

Lord of Love Staff

Pastor

The Rev. Rebecca Sells
pastorbecky@lord-of-love.org

Director of Christian Education/Youth Ministry

Heather Christensen
heather@lord-of-love.org

Office Administrator, Prayer Chain, and Financial Secretary

Mary Lou Gustafson
marylou@lord-of-love.org

Community Therapists

Kim Mueller
402.354.6891, Ext. 13
Robin Moeller
402.354.6891, Ext. 21

Missionary to Tanzania

Bob Kasworm

Web Steward

Del Gust
webmaster@lord-of-love.org

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

April 12: "Aged to Perfection" Luncheon

April 13: Maundy Thursday Service

April 14: Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 16: Easter Sunday, with Breakfast Hosted by Youth

May 14: Confirmation

June 8-June 10: "Camp Out" Vacation Bible School



Table of Contents

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|----|
| Pastor's Page | 2 | Church Council | 7 |
| Worship | 3 | Stewardship | 8 |
| Nurture | 4 | Men's News | 8 |
| Outreach | 5 | Women of Love | 9 |
| Mission | 5 | In Our Prayers | 10 |
| Youth | 6 | Sunday Servants | 11 |
| | | Monthly Calendar | 12 |

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, quotes etc., are also welcome) must be received by the 20th of the month.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Lately, I've been thinking about how the tunes in my head and the thoughts from my heart are so intertwined. Growing up, I listened to some tapes by Psalty, a songbook that tells others about God's love. Mom would play Psalty for us in the car all the time. It was her way of keeping us singing instead of fighting. (Thanks to Renae Rich, I learned they still exist, and I might have to order some for the boys!) A lot of scripture passages and Christian messages I heard from Psalty were very formative to my faith life, my heart loves and sings those songs today.

In high school and college, there was of course quite a variety of voices and tunes fighting for my attention. However, my campus pastor with his guitar and camp tunes won my heart over, by always speaking powerful words of scripture into simple tunes I could remember and dwell on, whatever my mode. To be honest, in the years where life seemed to be a struggle, Alanis Morissette and especially her song, "Ironic," really spoke to me! And sadly, when I went to seminary and just about failed summer Greek, Rodney Atkin's song, "If You're Going Through Hell" kept telling me to "keep on going!" Thankfully, this too passed, as did I! Yes, some thoughts and songs of our lives and hearts are more reverent than others.

No matter what, there is always a song that rings true and speaks to my heart, and perhaps yours as well. Since coming to Lord of Love, your music has awakened the joy music brings to my heart, including some songs and tunes I've never heard or sang before, to the simple tunes turned into masterpieces, like Jon Novak's arrangement of "Jesus Loves You," which rang in my ears and heart both at my installation and at Dan Manning's funeral.

However, I think the songs that repeat and ring/sing in our ears truly matter (despite arguments I've had with some teens over the

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer."

Psalm 19:14



years who tried to tell me it is the beat, not the words, that they are drawn to.) I'm convinced those tunes matter to our hearts and what we'll let come out of our mouths too! So what song sings and rings most loudly in your heart these days? Do you too find that the words and the tune reflects the words and emotions that flow out of your mouth? During Lent, when our senses are often heightened by the change of tunes and extra silences, what message do you find rising from your heart?

A song/prayer worth pondering for these questions is Psalm 19, especially verse 14: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer." As I think about the tunes that fill our mouths, our heads, and our hearts, especially as we approach Holy Week, it makes me keenly aware of the power these tunes and words have over me emotionally and spiritually. The same will be true when the tune changes again to ring with good news of Easter and we sing the "A-word," (Al!*\$%*@) again, proclaiming, "Christ is risen!"

As we approach these holy occasions, how are you letting God's word and music ring/sing through your being? How do these tunes speak to your heart and influence your response to life around you?

If thoughts of God come easily, may the verse above urge you on, but if your answer is, it really doesn't, might I suggest you spend some more
(continued on next page)

PASTOR'S PAGE

(continued from previous page)
time reading the songs and prayers of others through the book of Psalms as a discipline, and encourage you to attend worship with all your senses. For when we really worship God, Christ's story speaks to us through sights, sounds, tastes, smells and touch.

Finally, may we pay attention to the songs we sing, for I am convinced it truly makes a difference in the words and actions people see and hear from us.

So as one midweek Lenten song prayed: "May they know we are Christians by our love." May the song that bubbles up out of our hearts witness to the strength and knowledge we find through Jesus Christ. Amen.

-Pastor Becky <><



WORSHIP

Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule

During Holy Week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter, there will be no Wednesday service or soup supper. Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion will take place on **April 13, 7 p.m.**

On **Good Friday, April 14, at 7 p.m.**, there will be a Tenebrae service, in which we meditate on the Passion Story with readings and music.

A prayer vigil will be held in the sanctuary from 8 p.m. on Good Friday until noon on Holy Saturday. You can sign up for a half hour slot on the sheet in the narthex.

He is Risen! Celebrate Easter with music and praise at the 8 and 10:30 services on **Easter Sunday, April 16.**

An Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday at the Novaks' house, 4805 Eastridge Drive.



Worship Notes

April 2—Fifth Sunday in Lent: Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. These stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection.

April 9—Palm Sunday: Today we begin with a palm processing, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Today we hear Matthew's account of the passion.

April 16—Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday: On this day, we celebrate the new creation in our waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. Filled with hope, we go forth to hear the news that Christ is risen!

April 23—Second Sunday of Easter: Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even among doubts, we experience the resurrection on our Sunday gathering around word and meal.

April 30—Third Sunday of Easter: Two disciples are walking to Emmaus overcome with sadness and loss. Yet the risen Christ walks with them and opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread.

Lord of Love 45th Anniversary – June 2017

Lord of Love has had a history of celebrating, and it will be good to celebrate our beginnings as a congregation by gathering and displaying photos (digital and hard copies), **festive worship on June 11**, having a **potluck on the evening of June 10**, and a special breakfast provided by Table Grace Café 11; and giving to a special offering.

Photos may be posted on the main bulletin board in the narthex under “Then and Now.” Digital photos may be shared with Nicole Quackenbush. If you have photos for Nicole or would like to have your photos scanned, please contact her: nicole.quacke@gmail.com



A special offering will go to Iglesia Luterana San Andres and Camp Carol Joy Holling’s Faithfully Forward Campaign for Sjogren Picnic Pavilion. Our goal is to raise \$4500 to share between these two special ministries.

About Iglesia Luterana San Andres

San Andres is the redeveloped congregation that serves the immigrant Latino population in south Omaha (formerly Cristo Rey). Lord of Love has had connections with this congregation for years. It is one of our Mission Field Nebraska worshipping communities, and one under the direction of Rev. Rebecca Sheridan. It is growing, and the current number worshipping each Sunday is 150. San Andres seeks

partnerships with other Nebraska Synod congregations and is in dire need of funds to help them do ministry.

About the Faithfully Forward Campaign for Sjogren Picnic Pavilion

Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (NLOM) will create a unique outdoor dining space adjacent to the Sjogren Center’s dining and meeting space for Ranch Camp. The space will also support the meeting and dining needs of retreat and conference guests and other large outdoor gatherings. In addition, the Sjogren Center’s septic system will be updated and improved. The project will cost about \$120,000. Any gifts made by June 1 will be matched by Immanuel Vision Foundation.

Lord of Love once had picnics and pork roasts near the lake at Camp Carol Joy Holling in the early days when few buildings and improvements were there. Over the years, the Youth group has spent time there. Rev. Paula Lawhead is Camp Pastor. It’s been a while since we have given mission offering monies to Camp Carol Joy Holling, but we did support the revitalization of Western Town in 2011.

A Thankful Response to 45 Years

We look at giving special offerings to these organizations as ways of acknowledging our history while “passing it on.” We encourage you to give generously from now through June, making a note on your checks or envelope, “45th Anniversary Offering.”



OUTREACH

Habitat for Humanity

It is Habitat season again. Our rehab house this year is located at 2577 Pinkney. Lord of Love host dates are **May 13** and **August 26, 2017**. All skill levels are needed. And there are always supervisors who are willing to teach new skills. We also need people who like to bake and cook to provide meals.

We are required to sign up on line this year, so please contact Jeri Morgan if you have a few hours to volunteer. For questions, call or text Jeri Morgan at 402.415.4976 or email jerrymorgan@ymail.com.



ENDOWMENT FUND



Nursing Scholarship Recipient

Meet Ramadhani Karia. The Endowment Fund made a \$1,000 grant to the scholarship program at Machame Hospital in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. The hospital awarded the grant to Ramadhani, who is beginning his first year of the Nursing Certificate course. There is no way he could afford to attend school without our assistance. When he completes his program, he will be able to care for thousands of Tanzanians over his career.

This is one of the many missions that the Endowment Fund supports.

MISSION

Special Offering

Thanks to all of you who have given so generously during Lent for the special offerings and soup suppers to help support the debt reduction funds for first-call pastors in the Nebraska Synod and for funds for the 2017 Youth Mission trip to New Orleans (see the next page for some other ways the youth are raising funds). The special Easter offering will also go to these ministries. Your giving truly helps us be Christ's church!



YOUTH

Youth Mission Trip Fundraising

There are many ways **you can help** the youth raise funds for their mission trip to New Orleans in July and to the National Youth Gathering in Houston in 2018.

- **Give** to the special Lenten and Easter offering collections
- **Bring** a free-will donation to Easter breakfast, prepared by the youth (9-10:30 a.m., Sunday, April 16)
- **Order** your Lord of Love T-shirt or sweatshirt. For each item ordered, \$10 will go towards the youth. Find order forms in the youth corner of the narthex.

The youth have already been hard at work earning and raising funds! On March 18, they did yard work at a flip house of Paul Barnett's. See photos provided by Heather.

Upcoming Youth Service Dates

Saturday, April 15, 9–10 a.m.

- Meet at Lord of Love to prep Easter Breakfast for the Congregation
- Parents, we'll need help with supervision

Sunday, April 16, 8:45–11 a.m.

- Serve Easter Breakfast to Congregation
- Serve breakfast, keep food items filled, cleaning and dishes duty
- Please bring 2 dozen of a bakery item

Saturday, May 5, 8:45 a.m.

- Meet at Lord of Love
- Will do yard work, pull up bricks, lay down rock, lay wood chips for the Reinhart family
- Parents, we'll need help with supervision



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 on March 21, 2017, and the following are some of the highlights of the meeting.

- Members were excited to have our Youth minister (and Director of Christian Education) Heather Christensen join us for this and future meetings.
- Member Directory will be updated prior to beginning the One Call Now notification system.
- Resources have set the morning of May 6, 2017 as the Spring Clean-Up date with an alternate of May 13 if needed.
- Offering for the 45th Anniversary suggested by the 45th Anniversary committee was approved.
- Memorial Fund and Gift Acceptance Policies reviewed and updated.
- The submitted suggestion for Memorial Fund purchase submitted by the Memorial Fund committee was discussed. Decision made to replace chairs in the Paul conference room. Also asked Memorial Fund Committee to have samples and pricing available for replacement of Sanctuary chairs.
- Next meeting will be on April 18, 2017, 7 p.m.

Giving Status

General Fund financial information for February 2017:

Actual Income - \$25,188.00

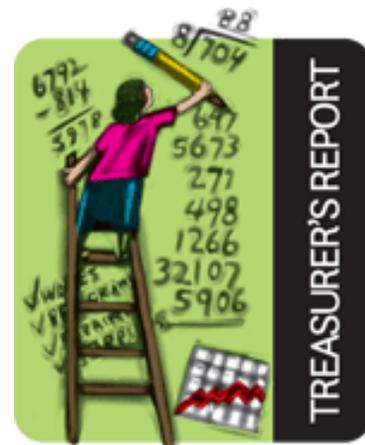
Actual Expense - \$28,776.62

Financial Information Year-To-Date as of the end of February 2017:

Actual Income - \$66,724.00

Actual Expense - \$55,489.74

As of the end of February, the available cash balance is \$13,602.74. Weekly offerings of \$7,223 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average for the end of February was \$5,620. This average does not include a one-time generous gift of \$15,000. Thank you for your continued support.



STEWARDSHIP

Not What, But Why

By Brandon Zalesky

Dear fair readers, this is my first experience writing anything . . . please be gentle! I should start off by thanking everyone from Lord of Love for embracing me and making me feel part of the family (even if I am associated with Shawn).

I was not sure what it meant to be a part of the Stewardship team, but after attending one of the meetings, it sparked many thoughts. The biggest thought that I left with was not *what* I give but *why* I give. The “why” is always a big part of our lives whether we know it or not. “Why do I want to get married?” “Why do I want kids?” “Why do I do the career that I do?” Many of these questions have been on my mind before. I have never taken the time to ask why I serve the Lord or why I give my time, energy and resources to serve others.

For me, the answer to “Why do I serve the Lord?” is easy. I believe that every person, experience and possession that has entered my life has been because of Him.



I am forever grateful for all of it, because it has shaped me into the person I am today. That is why I serve the Lord, to thank Him and show my appreciation for every single second in my life.

The second question—“Why do I give my time, energy and resources to serve others?”—I have had to think about for a long time. Ultimately, it comes down to me wanting to help create change in this world. I think that we can hope and pray all we want for change, but without us taking the first step to be the change we want to see, we will never see it. I hope that each of my actions creates a positive difference in someone’s life, which leads them to make a difference in someone else’s life, creating a domino effect.

Sometimes I am not able to give as much as I would like, but even a simple smile can go a long way towards helping someone.

Thank you all for the love and support you have shown me. I look forward to many years with each one of you!

MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Triennial Gathering

Three years ago, Lord of Love had the largest representation from a single congregation at the Lutheran Men in Mission event in Nashville. This year, our Lord of Love’s Men’s Ministry is purchasing 10 registrations to the Triennial gathering in Minneapolis, **July 21 – 23**. It’s a short 5½ hour drive, and we encourage men to join us for this weekend, where we will help strengthen and “Build

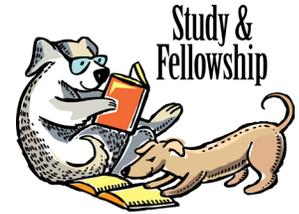
men for Christ” across this nation, in our communities and our families. If you have a friend or know someone that might be interested, feel free to extend this invitation.

Carpool with us or drive yourself, but please consider this tremendous opportunity! Contact any of the usual suspects or let Mary Lou know if you are interested.

MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Breakfast Group

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



WOMEN OF LOVE



Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2725 N. 60th Ave. on **April 11 at noon**. The program will be David Hendee on the history of Nebraska. The free-will offering has been designated to the Lutheran Service Corps.

Luncheon is \$6. We're also seeing new members; membership is \$3/year. Make reservations with Ruth Manning, 402.451.0221 by 5 p.m., Sunday, April 9.



Crane Coffee Fellowship

Ladies coffee fellowship will be at 9 a.m. at Crane Coffee, 77th and Cass, on Friday, **April 7 and 21**. We would love to have some new attendees join us!



"Gather" Bible Study

The Gather Bible studies for April will meet: **6 p.m. Monday, April 3** at the Oakview Mall Village Inn, and **6 p.m., Wednesday, April 5** in the Mary Room at Lord of Love. Based on Galatians 5:1-6:18, we will reflect on "For Freedom Christ has set us Free. The theme verse is *"If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."* Galatians 5:25. All women are invited.



*Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone,
but in every leaf in springtime.*

-Martin Luther

IN OUR PRAYERS

Leona Anderson & Scott Wells (friends of Novak's)

Dick Bell

Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)

Craig & Candee Brandon (friends of Dave & Lisa Rieff)

Charles Brewer (brother of Jesse Brewer)

Syd Brinkman

Gail Conyers (wife of Kirk Conyers)

Ruth Cooley

Olivia Griffin (daughter of Scott and Dana Griffin)

Earl Hansen (Brandon's Dad)

Sgt. Dean & Erin Hansen (Delina Wiater's son & his wife)

Jan Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)

Julie (friend of Pat Brewer)

Dave Kempkes (friend of Jon & Carol Novak)

Kristen Kuhn (friend of Todd & Lisa Meyer)

Izzy Lightle (relative of Kim Gust)

Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)

Ruth Manning

Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)

Dave Piehl & Dan Piehl (brothers of Deb Lund)

Brian & Nancy Shinrock

Peggy Seck (cousin of Ann Kroll)

Pauline Shaffer

Brenda Thom

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

Pam Todd

Nancy Thoman (stepmother of Ann Kroll)

Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian Shinrock)

Steve Wiitala, (friend of Karen Mullen)

Caregivers and those who suffer with depression

Those seeking employment

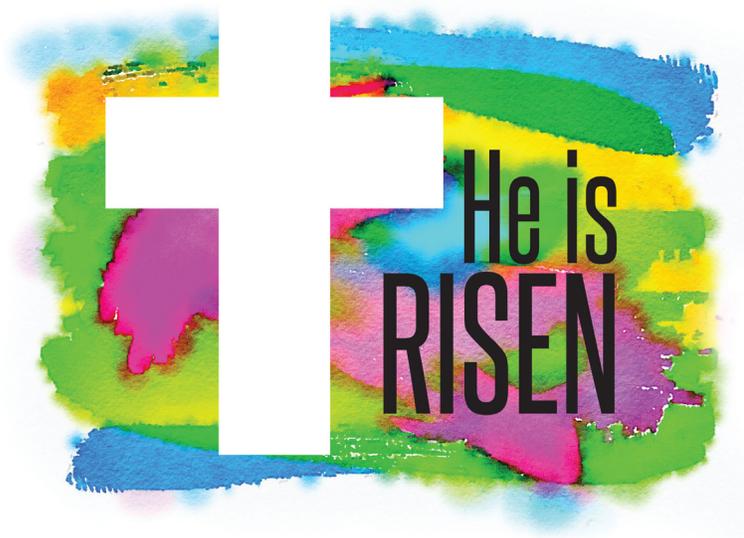
Those Who Mourn

The family and friends of Dale Foster, husband of Paula Foster

The family and friends of Dan Manning, husband of Ruth Manning

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.



Lord of Love's Worship Servants

| | April 2 | April 9 | April 16 | April 23 | April 30 |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Greeters | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Jesse & Pat Brewer | Paul & Sue Dieter | Harry Naasz & Brandon Zalesky | Ed & Marjorie Keiser | Brian & Deb Lund |
| 10:30 a.m. | Gary Ramsay & Art Behnkie | Christie & Mike Klos | Rieff family | Paul & Ann Kroll | Dave & Susan Lueders |
| Liturgist | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Jesse Brewer | Ron Thorn | Shawn Lorenzen | Paul Murphy | Brian Lund |
| 10:30 a.m. | Claudia Rowen | Paul Christenson | Dave Rieff | Rex Quadhamer | Susan Lueders |
| Communion Servers | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Pat Brewer, Paul & Peg Murphy, Brian Lund | Hansen family | Brandon Zalesky, Doug & Cathy Aden, Mike Klos | Peg Murphy, Matt & Lisa Willard, Connie Walther | Deb Lund, Joe & Jackie Combes, Bill Baker |
| 10:30 a.m. | Don Rowen, Gwen Edwards, Rex & Deb Quadhamer | Messerschmidt family & Charise Adams | Rieff family | Deb Quadhamer, Paul & Ann Kroll, Beth Olson | Dave Lueders, Avalos family |
| Altar Care | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Doug & Rose Roberts, Dale & Karen Finck | Brewer family | Ed & Marjorie Keiser | Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter | Connie Walther, Lisa Meyer |
| 10:30 a.m. | Karen Armitage & Gwen Edwards | Ann Kroll, Julie Thompson | Rowen family | Nicole Quackenbush, Karen Anderson | Rosie Avalos |
| Ushers | | | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Kenn Garder, Craig Pennell, Paul Christenson | | | | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Rett Messerschmidt, Rob Anderson, Paul Barnett, John Edwards | | | | |
| Nursery Care | | | | | |
| 10:30 a.m. | | | | | |
| CD Recording | | | | | |
| 10:30 a.m. | Pat Brewer | Paul Christenson | Dave Lueders | Paul Murphy | Jesse Brewer |
| Donut Help | | | | | |
| Pick up donuts | Volunteer needed | | | | |
| Clean up | Volunteer needed | | | | |
| | | | | | |

April 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Worship Planning 10:30am Knutsen Shower |
| 2 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Choir | 3 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 4 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg | 5 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Luther Kids 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:00pm Youth Group 7:45pm Choir | 6 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 7 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg. | 8 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry |
| 9 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Ping Mtg 5:00pm Bell Choir | 10 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 11 7:00pm Sunnyslope Neighborhood Assoc. 7:00pm Resources Meeting | 12 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 5:45pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Luther Kids 7:00pm Youth Group | 13 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service | 14 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Good Friday Service 7:30pm AA Mtg. 8:00pm Prayer Vigil | 15 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry |
| 16 6:30am Sunrise Service at Novak's 8:00am Easter Worship & Communion 9:00am Breakfast 10:30am Easter Worship & Communion | 17 Church Office Closed 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 18 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council | 19 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:45pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm Mission Possible 7:00pm Youth Group | 20 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 21 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Church Council 7:30pm AA Mtg. | 22 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:30am Novak recital 12:00pm Eagen Shower |
| 23 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 2:00pm Freeman Recital 5:00pm Bell Choir | 24 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 25 | 26 5:30pm Luther Kids 5:45pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Youth Group | 27 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 28 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg. | 29 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Cosby Recital |
| 30 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am S S 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Messerschmidt Recital 5:00pm Bell Choir | | | | | | |