

The Love Letter

Volume 47

November 2017

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Worship Schedule

Sundays 8 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.

Looking Ahead

November 5: 2018 Budget Forum for members

November 12: Congregational Meeting

November 12: Olivia Griffin Benefit

November 17: Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Fest



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

Discipline. Why is it always such a struggle? But it is. My two-year-old is in the stage of throwing tantrums over everything, and I know these will only get worse if we don't stick to our rules and answers, but they sure are trying and embarrassing sometimes. Then there is my personal need to not procrastinate in all areas of my life, be it dieting, exercising or getting to projects before the deadlines arrive and are last minute. But excuses, some valid, and many aren't are so readily available! And I find myself thinking, "Wow! Where did all that time go? I often find myself living in a phase of regret and lack of sleep. I wonder, is this because I am worrying and spending time on things I'm not meant to worry about, or am I trying to take control of things that are obviously for God to care for rather than me to worry about. And once again, the answer comes, "Yes, it is both/and."

And yet, I shouldn't expect any of it to be easy, according to Luther:

*"For holy Christian people...must endure all kinds of trials and evil from the devil, the world, and the flesh in order to become like Christ...and to have no other Gods."*¹

Hence, I need to grow more discipline spiritually, as a way of helping me to have discipline in the things I need to take care of physically, too.

For the next few months, we are therefore going to go back to the basics. We will be refreshing our memories or knocking off the cobwebs and opening up the words of the Small Catechism for study, along with encouraging other spiritual disciplines throughout the year. We will say a piece of the Small Catechism in worship as a way for us to contemplate what we believe and how we are living.



We'll start by covering the Ten Commandments. Of course, the first commandment even made the Martin Luther quote above, "You shall have no other Gods." Looking at my life, there are plenty of places where I think God or anyone with a judging eye could come in and point out instances in my life where I have chosen other things to be like a God to me, be it relationships, food, or other things I have spent more money and time on than I needed to or should have. Luther makes putting God first in very simple terms by saying this means, "We are to fear, love, and trust God above anything else." May this journey be enlightening for us all!

And yet, the more we learn about what is expected of us, the easier it becomes to be thankful that God has chosen to save us by grace! As we approach Thanksgiving, and the time of Jesus coming into the world, may we find new strength in Christ to connect with God, the strength to honor God and the gifts we've been given, and perhaps lose our lives for the sake of gospel, and finding and claiming the abundant life God promises through Christ. Amen!

-Pastor Becky <><

¹ Luther, Martin. *On the Councils and the Church* (1539). LW 41:164-165; TAL 3:340-341. (Also found on pg. 119 of *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*.)

WORSHIP

Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Fest

Nov. 19, 7 p.m.

The Thanksgiving Worship Service will begin at 7 p.m., with pie to follow.

All who have a favorite pie are encouraged to bring it to the service. We also need volunteers to help set up and clean up. If you are interested, please tell Heather Hansen or Doug Aden.



All Saints Sunday

In the past on All Saints Sunday, the names of all deceased members of Lord of Love were printed on the front page of the Worship Bulletin. Since space is limited and there is no more room to include additional members, we are discontinuing this practice.

In its place, we will include all the names of people who have joined the church triumphant from



All Saints Day (Nov. 5, 2017) from the church or any name/date people would like to turn in, along with the names of those who have been baptized in the last year and put the dates of these events on one sheet as well. Then a candle will be lit for each of these during the prayers. A candle will also be lit for all others who we remember in our hearts (so we can all remember those who were near and dear to us in prayer).

NURTURE

Olivia Griffin Benefit Event

Nov. 12, 4-7 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Join us for a benefit to help the Griffin family with Olivia's medical expenses. You will enjoy a delicious dinner and opportunities to bid on silent auction items and get in on a 50/50 raffle.

See the flyer at the end of this issue or contact Susan Lueders or Lori Vandeventer for details.



MISSION

Mission Possible Update

The Mission Possible Team met mid-October to discuss options for recipients of our upcoming special Advent, Thanksgiving, and Christmas offerings. With so many people suffering from recent hurricanes, earthquakes, and fires at the time of this writing, it was easy to decide that those special offerings will go to the **ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response**—where needed most.

How Lutheran Disaster Response works

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the U.S. and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

We believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work, we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.



Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

Why Your Support Is Needed Now

This season has seen some of the worst hurricanes on record, and there may be more to come. We're standing by our neighbors who have been affected by [Hurricanes Irma and Maria](#) and [Hurricane Harvey](#), and we are ready to assist in additional locations as disaster strikes. Lutheran Disaster Response will be there to accompany those affected in every phase of recovery.

In addition, massive wildfires fueled by intense winds have destroyed more than 1,000 homes, endangered entire communities, and continues to claim lives in California. More than 100,000 people have been forced to evacuate; thousands of others remain without power and utilities.

Your gifts are used entirely for direct response. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those affected by storms, fires and turmoil.

MISSION

Community Garden Update

Thanks to all those who helped with the final work of the garden this past month—harvesting the remaining peppers and tomatoes and getting them to Project Hope; cleaning up the remains of the plants, tiling, watering the new trees, and so much more to take care of and beautify our property and to help to feed others.



YOUTH

YOUTH CALENDAR



Nov. 17-19, 2017: Grand Island - LYON (Lutheran Youth of NE) Sr. High Retreat

Jan. 13-14, 2018: Omaha - MSG (Middle School Gathering, Grades 6-8)

June 27-July 1, 2018: Houston - National Youth Gathering

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: Chris Rich and Susan Lueders

Outreach: Paula Foster and Jesse Brewer

Resources: Craig Pennell and Paul Christenson

Worship: Doug Aden and Heather Hansen



CHURCH COUNCIL

Nominees for Council

The Nominating Committee recommends that the following candidates be presented at the LOL Annual Meeting for election to the Congregational Council, as follows:

- a. President: Brian Lund
- b. Secretary: Kathy Christiansen
- c. Worship: Rex Quadhammer
- d. Outreach: Paula Foster
- e. Resources: Brandon Zalesky
- f. Nurture: Joan Witt



Nominating Committee:

Doug Roberts, Susan Lueders, Gwen Edwards, Carol Novak, Brandon Zalesky, Pr. Becky

STEWARDSHIP

"Don't Withhold Good" - from Brandon Zalesky

Don't withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it.
-Proverbs 3:27



Elijah and the Widow

This verse encourages us to develop a habit of giving what we should to those in need. The widow and her son had only a small portion of flour and oil – enough for one final meal. This didn't stop her from sharing it with Elijah. She shared having faith that God would repay her generosity by being generous with her. And he did by making sure she never ran out of flour and oil. . .

You may say, "I have nothing to give." But this simply isn't true. We all have something to give. Even if it is nothing more than a smile, words of encouragement, a compliment, prayers on their behalf, or your time, it is a gift.

Getting into the habit of giving is part of loving others as Jesus loves us. When you give, God will give to you. He will not leave you in need. *(continued on next)*

Interview with Shawn Lorenzen

I read this devotion and thought how perfect it was to introduce the interview I did with Shawn Lorenzen. Anyone who has ever attended 1 or 100 church services is sure to know who Shawn is. I have had the pleasure of knowing Shawn for seven years as a work colleague and have gotten to see her in the church for two years now. Seeing how passionate Shawn is in church made me want to ask her about her faith and what has led to that passion.



Q: How have you seen God's love in your life?

A: There are so many for me to choose from. I would say the biggest one is God blessing me with nieces and nephews that get to share my faith with.

Q: What is your favorite Bible Verse? Why?

A: No real verse, but I love all the Psalms. Each one is different and has a message that speaks to you.

Q: What gifts has God given to you?

A: The ability to make people feel special. This can be big or small but a lot of times it is noticing the little things with people. I try to acknowledge haircuts, new outfits,

or even if someone has been missing from church for a bit. I would also say my enthusiasm and helping bring energy to everything I do at church and in life. Finally, the ability to speak from the heart, even if sometimes it isn't something someone wants to hear.

Q: What is your favorite example of how Lord of Love helps/supports the community?

A: I would say seeing how Lord of Love is open to everyone in the community. We welcome people from all walks of life.

Q: How do you see stewardship from a holistic point of view of giving one's time, money, and possessions?

A: I think it is important to find the right balance of giving and taking. Money is good of course, but the church also needs time, enthusiasm, and ideas to help it prosper. Accountability is huge for me, people count on me to be there and I don't want to let anyone down.

Q: With it being November, I am compelled to ask, what are you most thankful for?

A: Having a God that loves me no matter what and won't give up on me. Then also the ability to start fresh every day.



MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast group meets **every Saturday morning at 0700** in the fellowship hall. All men are welcome to attend for Christian study, fellowship and breakfast. Come and join us!



WOMEN OF LOVE

Annual Planning Meeting

All women of Lord of Love are invited to attend the Women's Team annual planning meeting on **Saturday, Nov. 11 at 9 a.m.** in the church fellowship hall. The agenda will include refreshments, devotions, a short business meeting, and a brainstorming/planning session of activities for 2018. In addition, Jane Gehringer and Gwen Edwards will share their experiences from the Triennial Convention in Minneapolis.

New ideas for projects/activities are always appreciated, so please come and share. If you are unable to attend but would like to provide input, please email your thoughts to Rose Roberts at dougroberts@cox.net. Thanks.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

Nov. 6: Monday Bible Study, 6 p.m.
Nov. 8: Wednesday Bible Study, 6 p.m.
Nov. 7 and 21: Quilters, 9 a.m.
Nov. 3 and 17: Crane Coffee, 9 a.m.



Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet at **noon on Tuesday, Nov. 13** at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2725 N 60th Ave. Lunch is \$7. The program will be on the new Omaha National Cemetery located at 14050 Schram Road.

Please call in your reservations to Ruth Manning, 402.451.0221 by 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11.

*"You aspire to great things? Begin with little ones."
—St. Augustine*



IN OUR PRAYERS

Dick Bell
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)
Jerry Boylan (father of Saylor Boylan)
Candee Brandon (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)
Gail Conyers (wife of Kirk Conyers)
Ruth Cooley
Sean Duffy (husband of Kelly)
Olivia Griffin (daughter of Scott and Dana Griffin)
Earl Hansen (Brandon's Dad)
Pr. Joe Hernandez – Missionary in the Middle East (cousin of David & Chris Boarts)
David Hojnacke (neighbor of the Armitage family)
Jan Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)
Jim Jacobson (friend of Jon & Carol Novak)
Julie (friend of Pat Brewer)
Izzy Lightle (relative of Kim Gust)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)

Ruth Manning
Eileen Nagle (mother-in-law of Tara Novak)
Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Becky Reinhardt
Paul Rumbaugh
LeRoy Schuchard
Peggy Seck (cousin of Ann Kroll)
Pauline Shaffer
Brian & Nancy Shinrock
James Thompson (son-in-law of Lynda McGraw)
Brenda Thom
Nancy Thoman (stepmother of Ann Kroll)
Pam Todd
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.

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

LOVE NOTES

Thanks to all of the women who shared their hands to tidy, organize and clean the kitchen on Saturday, Oct. 14. The kitchen is looking good. To keep it looking that way, please clean up after preparing a meal so it is ready to go for the next person. Appreciate your help in this matter.



The Quilters would like to thank everyone for their donations of fabric and batting.

This year we are sending **60 quilts to Lutheran World Relief.**

Additionally, we gifted four quilts to various people we needed to thank and encourage.



SUNDAY SERVANTS

Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Greeter(s)				
8 a.m.	Josh & Carissa Combes	Allison Vandeventer & Anne Yarger	Harry Naasz & Brandon Zalesky	Jim & Jeri Morgan
10:30 a.m.	Kathy Christiansen	Paul & Ann Kroll	Dave & Susan Lueders	Doug & Karen Armitage
Liturgist				
8 a.m.	Heather Hansen	Deb Lund	Ron Thom	Jesse Brewer
10:30 a.m.	Ashley Vandeventer	Don Rowen	Susan Lueders	Karen Armitage
Communion Servers				
8 a.m.	Hansen family, Kelly Duffy	Brian Lund, Brian & Connie Walther, Doug Aden	Shawn Lorenzen, Brandon Zalesky, Doug & Cathy Aden	Pat Brewer, Jim & Jeri Morgan, Kenn Garder
10:30 a.m.	Lori Vandeventer, Kathy Christiansen, Dave & Susan Lueders	Claudia Rowen, Paul & Ann Kroll, Karen Mullen	Dave Lueders, Miguel & Rosie Avalos	Doug Armitage, Tom & Beth Olson, Charise Adams
Altar Care				
8 a.m.	Angie Meyer	Doug & Rose Roberts and Dale & Karen Finck	Pat & Jesse Brewer	Ed & Marjorie Keiser
10:30 a.m.	Diana Haye & Marcia Roads	Karen Armitage & Gwen Edwards	Ann & Paul Kroll	Rowen family
Ushers				
8 a.m.	Paul Murphy, David Hild, Bob Christensen, Mike Klos			
10:30 a.m.	Gary Ramsay, John Ramsay, Rex Quadhamer, Bill Quackenbush			
CD Recording				
10:30 a.m.	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy

MONTHLY CALENDAR

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm W/ELCA Gather Study 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 9:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	4 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Worship Planning Mtg.
5 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Budget Forum 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal	6 6:00pm W/ELCA @ Village Inn Oakview 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	7 Election Day 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg	8 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	11 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am W/ELCA Gen Mtg.
12 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Congr. Mtg. 1:00pm Dist 18 AA 4:00pm Dinner & Silent Auction for Griffin's 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal	13 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	14 7:00pm Resources Meeting	15 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 9:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	18 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Sanctuary & Narthex reserved for Novak
19 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Recital 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal 7:00pm Worship & Pie Fest	20 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	21 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	22 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	23 Fellowship Hall reserved for Thom	24 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	25 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Lueders 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
26 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal	27 8:00pm AA & Al Anon	28	29 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts		