

#### Lord of Love Office

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#### Worship Schedule

Sun.: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (through May 22) 9:15 a.m. Sunday School **Mission Statement:** Celebrating and sharing God's love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others.

#### A Look Ahead

May 8: Last Day for Diaper Derby

May 8: Mother's Day Brunch

May 15: Last Day of Sunday School

June 9, 10 and 11: Vacation Bible School—Registration now open!

June 12-17: Senior High Mission Event—Volunteers needed!



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Articles for The Love Letter can be submitted to the editor in the Love Letter mailbox at church or by email at loveletter@lord-of-love.org. Articles (including recipes or favorite poems, etc.) must be received by the 20th of the month.

# FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

#### **Greetings in the Spirit of Pentecost,**

Ubuntu is a word from the Bantu language in South Africa whose literal translation is, "I am because you are." Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa, and now Archbishop emeritus Desmond Tutu, used the word to speak of the interconnectedness of all humanity to one another, to God, to the whole universe. For me, the word denotes the meaning of Pentecost.

The story of the first Pentecost tells of the miraculous connection that Peter's sermon, which detailed the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, made with persons from all over the known world. It connects them in a way that crosses all the cultural and language barriers that normally would divide them.

Our understanding of the known world has greatly expanded since that first Pentecost. Yet the message remains: we are connected to all the world through God's love made known in the

person of Jesus. Our celebration of Pentecost reminds us that we, too, have been breathed upon by Jesus and filled with his Spirit. We, too, have been called into community – a community that cares for all creation, works for justice and peace in all the earth, and serves all those in need of God's mercy, healing, forgiveness and love.

Come celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 15th. Wear red (not hard for Husker fans). And enter into the joy of God's community.

Peace, Pastor Glenn



### WORSHIP

## **Summer Worship Schedule**

Starting Memorial Day weekend, **May 29,** Lord of Love will hold one worship service at 9 a.m., through Labor Day weekend. Starting **June 5**, breakfast will be served following the service.



#### This Month in the Church Calendar

Forty days after Easter (May 5 this year), we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven.

Jesus' ascension reminds Christians that although his body couldn't remain present everywhere, we can universally experience his spiritual presence. Jesus' final words to his disciples contain this key promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV). (from newsletternewsletter.com)



# **SUNDAY SERVANTS**

### Lord of Love's Worship Servants

	May 1	May8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Greeter(s)	•				9:00 a.m.
8:00 a.m	Mike & Christie Klos	Paul & Deb Christenson	Doug & Rose Roberts	Harry Naasz & Brandon Zalesky	Mike & Christie Klos
10:30 a.m.	Paul & Julie Concannon	Charise Adams & Kathy Christiansen	Gary Ramsay & Art Behnkie	Torn & Beth Olson	
Liturgist			_		_
8:00 a.m.	Ron Thom	Paul Christenson	Judy Egr Kenn Garder		Doug Aden
10:30 a.m.	Rex Quadhamer	Rett Messerschmidt	Karen Armitage	Karen Armitage Don Rowen	
Communio	n Servers	-	_		-
8:00 a.m	Jesse & Pat Brewer, Mike Klos, Peg Murphy	Doug Armitage & Bill Baker	Dave Egr, Doug Shari Garder, & Rose Roberts Matt Garder, Sarah Eagen		Cathy Aden, Quackenbush family
10:30 a.m.	Deb Quadhamer, Avalos family	Messerschmidt family	Doug Armitage, Edwards family	Claudia Rowen, Dave & Susan Lueders	
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	Rosie Avalos	Rowen family	Nicole Quackenbush & Karen Anderson	Ann Kroll & Pau Barnett
Ushers	•			•	
8:00 a.m.	Paul Dieter, Matt Wi	llard, Dennis Hinderr	ith, Jesse Brewer		
10:30 a.m.	Brian & Dab Lund, D	onna Nelson			
Nursery Ca	re				
10:30 a.m.			Lisa Rieff	Ashley Meier	Pat Brewer
CD Recordi	ng				
10:30 a.m.	Pat Brewer	Paul Christenson	Dave Lueders	Paul Murphy	Jesse Brewer



# MONTHLY CALENDAR

# May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Confirm ation Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Choir	2 Mary Lou vacation begins 8:00pm AA & A1a Non	3 Quilters 7:00pm V ision & Coordination Mtg.	begins	5 7:00pmBoyScouts	6 7:30pm AA Meeting	7 7:00am Meri's Breakfast Ministry
8 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Adult Forum 9:15am Sunday School 5:00pm Bell Choir	9 8:00pm AA & A1a N on	10	11 Pr. Glenn returns from vacation 600pm Sr. High Bible Study 600pm Luther Kids 600pm Brass 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	12 7:00pmBoyScouts	13 7:30pm A.A. Meeting	14 7:00am Meri's Breakfast Ministry 8:00am Worship Planning Mtg.
15 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am Adult Forum 1:00pm Fellow ship Hall reserved for Christensen 5:00pm Bell Choir	from vacation 8:00pm AA & A1a Non	17 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	18 600pm Brass 7:15pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	19 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 7:30pm A.A. Meeting	21 Hosting Habitat Build 7:00am Meri's Breakfast Ministry
<b>22</b> 8:00am & 10:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:15am Adult Forum 5:00pm Bell Choir	Non	24	25	26 7:00pmBoyScouts	27 7:30pm A.A. Meeting	28 7:00am Meri's Breakfast Miraistry
29 9:00am Summer Worship Schedule begins	30 Office closed for holiday 8:00pm AA & Ala Non	31				

### **NURTURE**

#### Young Adult Baseball Outing

Attention, 20- and 30-Somethings! You're invited to an Omaha Storm Chasers suite experience on Tuesday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. for only \$25 per person!



RSVP by May 16 with Matt Garder or Sarah Eagen, with payment up front. You can contact Matt at 402.676.1393 or mgarder1@gmail.com

#### **Lutheran Night at Werner Park**

2016 Lutheran Night tickets are now available for the **Monday**, **June 6** game between the Omaha Storm Chasers and the Nashville Sounds. It will be the 5th annual Lutheran Night at Werner Park. The special ticket rate is \$6 for reserved baseline box tickets (\$13 value) or \$10 for reserved infield box tickets (\$14 value) if **reserved by June 1**.

For tickets, contact Ryan Worthen at 402.738.5126 or ryanw@omahastormchasers.

#### **VBS** Registration

Registration forms are now available in the narthex. This year's theme is "super heroes of the Bible." VBS will be Thursday and



Friday, June 8 and 9, 6 to 8 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday June 11 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. with lunch served.

Join us for this fun-filled vacation bible school experience!

#### **Aged to Perfection Luncheon**

The monthly Aged to Perfection luncheon for retired folks, seniors or golden-agers will be held on **Thursday**, **May 19 at noon** in the fellowship hall.



# **OUTREACH**

## **Habitat for Humanity Build**

On **May 21**, Lord of Love will be the host church for Habitat for Humanity. We will provide the meal and also participate with the build. All skill levels are needed. We also need volunteers to help prepare the food. The work site address is 3901 North 17th street. You can sign-up on line at <a href="https://www.habitatomaha.org">www.habitatomaha.org</a> and enter the reservation code "elf" when prompted.

If you would be interested in helping prepare food or have questions, please contact Jeri Morgan at 402.415.4976 (cell) or jerrylmorgan@ymail.com.

MY PEOPLE WILL LIVE IN PEACEFUL DWELLING PLACES.

ISAIAH 32:18, NIV

### **OUTREACH**

#### **Bridges to Hope Bike-A-Thon**

Do you enjoy bicycle riding? Want to help raise money to help people released from prison transition successfully to their communities? The Bridges to Hope Bike-A-Thon is a fun way to help raise funds for this important ministry.

#### Saturday, June 11, 2016

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Ride begins at 9 a.m.

All rides begin and end at Bridges to Hope, 3107 S. 6th, Suite 107 in Lincoln and continue on the Bison, Pioneers Park & Salt Creek Levee Trails. The cost is \$20 per individual and \$30 for families. Riders are encouraged to get pledges/sponsorships from family and friends.



Register online at <u>GetMeRegistered.com/BridgestoHope</u> or go to <u>bridgestohopene.org</u> and download a registration form. For mail-in registration forms, call 402.420.5696

#### **MISSION**

#### Mission Possible Update and Thanks

Thanks to all who supported the special offerings during Lent and Easter, resulting in a total of \$3271.98. One third of this amount, roughly \$1090, will go to Food Bank for the Heartland; 2/3, or \$2180, will go to hunger ministries supported by the 2016 ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving.

# thank you

Summer breakfast monies will be given to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, in recognition of the many needs of people who suffer from spring and summer storms.

#### **Community Garden Update**

The gardeners planted many rows of potatoes early this spring and warm weather crops can be sewn soon. Monday and Thursday mornings will again be regular garden work times, but weeding can take place any time!

If you would like to help, but are not sure what to do, just talk to one of the regular gardeners: Doug Aden, Dawn Burton, Dale Finck, Deb Lund, Jeri Morgan, Gary Ramsay and Doug Roberts.





### **MISSION**



This young, vibrant church now has nearly 6,000 members in 40 worshiping communities spread across four provinces.

Of those 40 worshiping communities, only four have sturdy, weatherproof buildings. "The rest meet in thatched pole-and mud structures. There are instances when members would find themselves worshiping under a tree because their building collapsed in a windstorm," says the Rev. Alfred Chana, senior pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia.

In order to grow as a church, our companion needs stronger buildings. ELCA missionary Arden Strasser describes it: "The fact is, sometimes in Africa, a church just needs bricks and mortar to meet, especially during the rainy season. "It's not about the building; it's what goes on inside the building. And we've seen, when you have a brick-and-mortar church that can stand up the whole year round, you can get a lot happening in there."

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia has proposed an exciting new initiative in partnership with the ELCA through its Global Ministries program. With the support of ELCA members and congregations, together, we can raise \$500,000 to build up to 15 permanent church buildings in Zambia, starting with a leadership training center to support the pastors and evangelists who serve the growing church.

Pastor Chana foresees that congregations with modern buildings "will attract local community members, will not suspend worship in case of a rainy day or a windstorm, and can hold workshops and seminars." Pastor Strasser continues, "A church structure is the hatching place for ideas and motivation. It matters!" (from elca.org)



### YOUTH

#### **Youth Mission Event**

Rise Up Omaha will take place **Sunday**, **June 12 through Friday June 17**. We currently have 10 youth registered to participate in the service event here in our community.

We are still in need of additional chaperones for the week. Please consider spending a day, an overnight, a few days, or even a week

with our wonderful youth as they learn about our community and give of their time. We will be staying at Lord of Love and serving in our community. Join Heather Christensen in providing an amazing mission trip right here in our hometown. Please contact Heather ASAP at 402.206.9205.

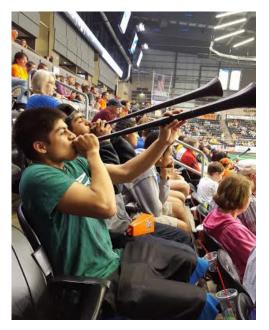


#### Guys' Only Lock-In Recap

"It's a guy thing" lock-in was a great success! Our Junior and Senior High gentlemen participated in a lock-in geared toward faith, fellowship, and adventure. We had a super great time!

**Right:** The guys relaxing at the lock-in - thanks to Nick Olson for chaperoning!





**Left:** Avalos brothers make some noise at the Omaha Beef football game

**Right:** Christopher Boarts rides the zipline at Mt. Crescent

(All submitted by Heather Christensen)



### CHURCH COUNCIL AND RESOURCES

#### 2016 Lord of Love Church Council

Vision and Coordination: Brian Walther, President; Dave Hild, Vice-President; Kathy Christiansen,

Secretary; Jackie Combes, Treasurer

Nurture: Laurie Heavey and Susan Lueders

Outreach: Paula Foster and Scott Reinhardt

Resources: Craig Pennell and Bill Quackenbush

Worship: Doug Aden and Heather Hansen



#### **April Council Meeting Minutes**

The Lord of Love Church Council met on April 19. Highlights include:

- Review of the Treasurer's Report which showed good attendance and an increase in giving in March. Budget deficit has decreased slightly.
- Resource Ministry reported good results with the Clean Up Day held on April 16. There is an ongoing issue with some of the condominiums' renters parking on the west drive into the church parking lot. Resources is looking into placing No Parking signs in this area.



- Outreach Ministry reports that the Communication Team is actively meeting and will soon have a
  new website in place. Much work has been done behind the scenes for this endeavor.
- Nurture reported that the Lord of Love Preschool will be opening for the school year on 9/6/16 with Carissa Combes as the director. It will be open 5 days per week with morning and afternoon class sessions.
- Council had extensive discussions about potential ideas to raise monies to reduce the deficit prior to our new pastor's arrival. If you have any ideas, please share them with a Council Member.
- Doug Aden reported that the call committee will be meeting next week with the Nebraska Synod representative to review the next steps in the call process.
- Next Church Council meeting: May 17 at 7 p.m.

#### **Giving Status**

**General Fund financial information, March 2016:** 

Actual Income - \$28,624.00 Actual Expense - \$28,766.97 **Year-To-Date as of end of March:** 

Actual Income - \$83,199.67 Actual Expense - \$82,783.12

As of the end of March, the available cash deficit has decreased slightly to (11,452.10). Weekly offerings of **\$7,217** are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average through the end of March was \$6,313. The monthly offering average was \$27,357 at the end of March.

You should have received a giving statement in your box at church. If you have questions, please contact Mary Lou. Please remember that we will have additional expenses this year associated with calling a new pastor. Thank you for your continued prayers and contributions as we move forward in 2016.



# CHURCH COUNCIL AND RESOURCES

#### No Need to Pledge? By Heather Hansen

The story is told of a wise pastor who went to get a hair cut. The barber, who also happened to be a parishioner, took the opportunity to tell the pastor all the reasons why the barber was not going to complete his stewardship pledge card.

"I don't think we should have to promise to give money to God. We should give what our heart tells us at the time. I like to be able to just put in the collection whatever I have that week."



The pastor listened carefully and after his haircut he handed the barber \$1 for the \$10 haircut, saying, "I like to give what my heart tells me – just whatever I have in my pocket at the time."

"Father," the barber protested, "I can't pay my rent, take care of my expenses and run my business successfully if everyone would do that."

"Neither can God," the pastor replied.

This story has a lot of truth to it. We need to take time and think about what our pledge means for the church, not just the Sunday that it is given, but what it could be over time. We are not only helping keep God's house up and running for the week, but hopefully for generations to come.

Think about the barber's protest: "I can't pay my rent, take care of my expenses and run my business successfully if everyone would do that". Can we really take care of God's house if we were all to do that as well? As a family takes care of their home and the necessities that come with it, we also need to think the same—like a church family taking care of our "home".

# MEN'S NEWS CORNER

#### **Moms Eat Free on Mother's Day**

Lord of Love's men will prepare and serve breakfast for Mother's Day. All are invited to join us for a breakfast smorgasbord between services on Sunday, May 8.

The freewill offering collected will be given to support our youth.



# **Men's Bible Study**

Join us for great food, conversation and Bible study. We serve breakfast every Saturday at 7 a.m. All men are welcome.



If you have an event that you'd like us to support, contact Mary Lou at the church office or any of the usual suspects. If you are not sure who that is, ask around; it includes almost every male member of Lord of Love.

#### MEN'S NEWS CORNER

#### **Men's Softball Team**

All are invited to come and cheer on the Men's softball team. We play on Mondays at Kelley Softball complex (124th and Fort) on Field 5 (last one along the entrance road) or Field 8 (the field closest to Fort Street).

During the summer, we will also go out for pizza after 6:30 p.m. games and anyone is welcome to join us. If you're interested in playing on the team or have questions, contact Don Rowen at 402.965.8977 or drowen@unomaha.edu.

















#### 2016 Schedule for Lord of Love Softball

May 2, 9:30 p.m. at Kelley 5

May 9, 6:30 p.m. at Kelley 8

May 16, 6:30 p.m. at Kelley 8

May 23, 8:30 p.m. at Kelley 5

June 6, 7:30 p.m. at Kelley 5

June 13, 7:30 p.m. at Kelley 5

June 20, 6:30 p.m. at Kelley 5—Pizza

June 27, 9:30 p.m. at Kelley 5

July 11, 6:30 p.m. at Kelley 5—Pizza

July 18, 8:30 p.m. at Kelley 5

July 25 Makeup of Rainout

August 1 Makeup of Rainout

## WOMEN OF LOVE

#### "Gather" Bible Study

Wednesday evening Bible study will meet at 6 p.m. on May 4 in the Mary Room. The study "Mary and Elizabeth: Sisters Across the Generations" is based on Luke 1:26-56. This is a one-session study,



so it's a good time to check it out.

Rev. Norma Cook Everist, professor of at Wartburg Theological Seminary, is the author.

Everist writes, "Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Here is sister conversation across the generations. Elizabeth is the first to witness to the identity of 'my Lord' and his incarnation into the world. Indeed it is the first Proclamation. Elizabeth exclaimed with a loud cry! No quiet whispering; no doubtful, "Do you think, maybe?' Mary hears surety and feels security in the words and in the arms of her relative Elizabeth, Elizabeth is more than a 'mere' relative; she is a sister in faith."

#### **Coffee Fellowship Time Change**

Beginning Friday, April 29, the Coffee Fellowship will begin meeting at 9 a.m., and will meet every other

Friday thereafter. Join us at Crane Coffee at 77th and Cass Streets.



#### **Bible Study Reunion**

Years ago, we had only one "Gather" Bible study. Originally, the group met in a fast food pizza restaurant called "The Snappy Tomato." It closed and a Chinese restaurant filled the space, the Hong Hing, or as Karen Armitage called it, "The Snappy Snow Pea."

After the one group became two groups, we have had periodic reunions. Well, it's time to have another reunion!

All are invited to meet at Hong Hing, at 90th and Fort in the Plaza North shopping center, at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 6.

May 2016 11

# WOMEN OF LOVE

#### Women's Spring Retreat: Recap and Reflection, by Charise Adams

"Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heard; for I have been called by Thy name, O Lord God of Hosts." (Jeremiah 15:16)

•••••

Lately. I've been doing a lot of, well, doing—both at church (call process!) and in other areas of my life. What I mean is not necessarily that I've been busy. What I mean is, if someone asks me to do something—serve on a committee, take notes, help with just about anything—I will almost always do it. When I say "yes," I don't consider how I feel — just what I can do.

But you have probably experienced the point at which you start to max out on saying "yes", on doing. It was time to choose to just be—to be with others, maybe even to be uncomfortable, to be present without the intention of completing a task. Not because I should, or because it would be helpful or productive, but simply because it would be good.

So I signed up for the women's spring retreat, which revolved around the theme of "joy". We met at Chalco Hills State Recreation area on **April 9**. Fifteen members and \*guests attended:

Yvonne Andrews\*
Deb Christenson
Kelly Duffy
Kathy Greinhaug\*
Amy Kragnes
Deb Lund
Joyce Madsen\*
Ruth Manning
Lynda McGraw
Donna Nelson
Rachel Novak
Rose Roberts
Audrey Roe\*
Joan Witt



**Kelly Duffy** did a fantastic job leading the day's activities and **Ruth Manning** prepared a tasty lunch. **Amy Kragnes** led us in musical worship. Every woman contributed something unique and wonderful.



The day centered around one special verse: "Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heard; for I have been called by Thy name, O Lord God of Hosts" (Jeremiah 15:16). Kelly led us in strategies from Waylon B. Moore's "Living God's Word" to meditate on this verse and others in our everyday Bible reading. We explored what this verse on joy means in the context of the book of Jeremiah, "the weeping prophet." No matter how bad things may seem or what the circumstances may be, we rejoice in the Word of God.

Each woman explored a verse of her own and shared in a small group. We looked at references to oil in scripture passages and Biblical times, comparing it to the use of the same substance today, and learned about the therapeutic properties of essential oils. We talked about how an actor might prepare to play Jesus in a film ("The Book of Matthew"). We ate and sang. We listened to one another share about the things that give each of us joy.

What a special we of which to be a part. It was a perfect time to slow down a bit and spend time in God's word, enriched by the company of others. Maybe my Saturday wasn't particularly productive – but it did bear fruit.

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Antoinette Anania (cousin of Deb Lund)

Deb Aries (sister of Brian Walther)

Dick Bell

Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)

Syd Brinkman

Patricia Connolly (friend of the Thoms)

Elizabeth (student of Carol Novak)

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

Jan Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)

Kristen Kuhn (friend of Todd & Lisa Meyer)

Izzy Lightle (relative of Kim Gust)

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

Charles Meyer (father of Pr. Brad)

Vi Neu (stepmother of Carol Novak)

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

Cynthia Palmer (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)

Dave Piehl & Dan Piehl (brothers of Deb Lund)

Pauline Shaffer

Nancy Shinrock

Georgene Sones (mother of Dayla Miller)

Pam Todd

Brenda Thom

Nancy Thoman (stepmother of Ann Kroll);

Kelley Walther (daughter of Brian & Connie

Walther)

Steve Wiitala (friend of Karen Mullen)

Ted Whitfield (former co-worker of Brian

Shinrock)

Caregivers and those who suffer with

depression

Those seeking employment

Those Who Are Deployed

Steve Slone

If you would like 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 help keep this list current by informing us when a name can be removed.

Thanks!

## Congratulations, Graduates!

#### **Kyle Christensen**

Omaha North, UNL studying agricultural engineering

#### Katie Messerschmidt,

Concordia, College of Saint Mary studying Elementary education

#### **Louis Ulferts**

Omaha Benson, Iowa Western Community College studying electrical engineering

#### Haley Yarger

Omaha Burke, working and taking classes at Metro Community College to study art design

