

# The Love Letter

Volume 48

January 2018

## Lord of Love Office

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## Lord of Love Staff

### Pastor

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### Senior Organist

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### Associate Organist

*Amy Kragnes*

### Chancel Choir Director and Bell Choir Director

*Jon Novak*

### LOL Brass Director

*Brian Lund*

### 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

**January 10:** Weekly Wednesday night FISH resumes

**January 10:** Aged to Perfection luncheon

**January 21:** Ministry/Stewardship Fair

**February 18:** 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](mailto:loveletter@lord-of-love.org).*

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

*<sup>14</sup>Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup>as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.*

—*Philippians 2:14-18*

Happy New Year!

Here we are, with another whole year waiting to be written and lived. As we start this year, we do so remembering how Jesus coming as the light of the world has impacted our lives, and how this is still bringing new life and light to us in our ever-changing present and future.

During the month of January, we will do this by focusing on our baptismal promises and the callings God has given to each of us to help shine with Christ's light like the stars shine in the darkness of night, and like a glowing fire helps fight off the cold this time of year. So we'll be asking questions of how you see yourself being gifted by the Spirit and called to be a part of Christ's mission here in this place and in the world.

On **Jan. 7**, although one day after Epiphany, we'll be celebrating as if it were the day of Epiphany, when the announcement of Jesus' birth was heard and spread near and far by the Magi. Then on **Jan. 14**, we'll remember our baptism and celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Special guest Deacon Timothy Siburg, who works with stewardship at the Synod Office, will also be sharing a message and giving us questions to ponder on this day. On **Jan. 21**, we will have another special worship experience planned, for our Stewardship Sunday, where we will dream and think about how we will give of the gifts of ourselves, our time, and possessions to



the Lord, and the many opportunities we have to be involved in God's ministry as Lord of Love and as individuals to help the light of Christ brighten our world and the lives of others throughout the world. On the 21st, each committee of the council will display a board representing what they do and how others can help in Lord of Love's mission to shine with love for the light of Christ.

One of the things we'll be asking you to do is explore what your God-given spiritual gifts might be. The ELCA has an online survey that helps you to think about these. We'd like to invite you to take this for yourself at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools>. If you do this before Jan. 21, you'll be that much further along on being able to contemplate and pray about where your gifts and passions for ministry might be, as we'll be handing out Time and Talent Sheets on this day too.

May the light of Christ shine on you and through you to all who live in darkness,

Pastor Becky <><

# NURTURE

## Sunday School Christmas Program

The Children of Lord of Love once again told the story of our great blessing in the birth of Jesus. They did a marvelous job!

Thank you to the many volunteers and teachers that helped to make this year's program a success. We appreciate you.



## MISSION AND ENDOWMENT

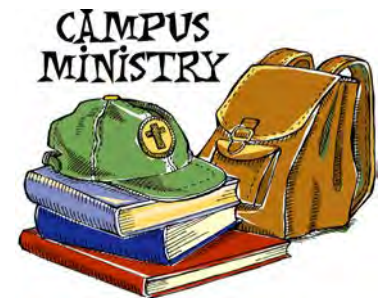
### Mission Possible Update



Thanks to all for your faithful giving to the special offerings during Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. The funds will go to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, where needed most. Such funds help us be God's hands in times of natural disaster, such as recent hurricanes and wildfires. We'll report on the total given in a future Love Letter article.

### Endowment Grants and Estate Planning

Recently, Pastor Jim Holthus told Lord of Love about the Lutheran Campus Ministry Program in Omaha. He described two programs, NeMO (Nebraska Ministry Omaha) and God & Grads. Both programs provide a physical faith community that in essence takes the place of a home church for students and young adults. This community provides a way for the students to share their faith, discuss current stresses in their life, develop friendships, and worship together. Several members of Lord of Love have participated in this program.



Pastor Holthus thanked Lord of Love for our support of this program. This year, Lord of Love has again contributed \$1,000 to the program through the Endowment Fund.

Several members of Lord of Love have included the Endowment Fund in their estate plans, and as a result, the Fund can make such grants. Have you thought about including the fund in your estate plan? If you have a question about the process, please contact Doug Aden or another member of the Endowment Committee.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### 2018 Lord of Love Church Council

**Vision and Coordination:** Brian Lund, President; Don Rowen, Vice-President; Kathy Christiansen, Secretary; Jackie Combes, Treasurer

**Nurture:** Chris Rich and Joan Witt

**Outreach:** Paula Foster and Jesse Brewer

**Resources:** Brandon Zalesky and Paul Christenson

**Worship:** Rex Quadhammer and Heather Hansen



# COUNCIL AND STEWARDSHIP

## Council Update from the Secretary

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The Lord of Love Church Council met on Dec. 19, 2017. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- 2017 fiscal year looks to be ending on a positive note.
- Plans are in place for a Ministry/Stewardship Fair for Jan. 21, 2018.
- Members for a Church Security Task Force will soon be in place.
- Lord of Love Constitution updates are finished and will be sent to the attorney at the Nebraska Synod and then to the Council and Congregation for approval.
- Appreciation expressed for outgoing Council Members.
- Next meeting will be the Council Retreat to be held Jan. 27, 2018.

## Giving Status

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General Fund financial information for November 2017:

Actual Income - \$23,217.00  
Actual Expense - \$22,753.00

Financial Information Year-To-Date as of the end of November:

Actual Income - \$291,227.00  
Actual Expense - \$284,187.00

As of the end of November, the available cash balance is \$4,284.31. Weekly offerings of \$7,223 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average for the end of November was \$5,951. Thank you for your continued support.



## Time, Talent and Treasure - by Deb Lund

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In some ways, budgeting time is more difficult than budgeting finances. Prioritizing how one uses one's time is not always easy, but is just as important.

In Acts 20:35, Jesus tells us *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* Many of us have experienced this personally—not only when giving money to others, but in giving time as well. Giving of time to help others and using a talent or skill one has (*continued on next*)

# STEWARDSHIP

## Time, Talent and Treasure, cont.

*(continued from previous)* makes the giver feel good, and hopefully, helps someone else, as well.

At this time of writing, Christmas will soon be upon us. In my own life, my biggest wishes for gifts are precious times with those I love. I relish doing simple things like playing board games, enjoying a meal together, relaxing together, or even working on a project together. Spending time with loved ones is better than any material gift I could receive.

One of my favorite Sunday School songs is “Into My Heart.” We closed with this song in Sunday School opening every Sunday in my home congregation. I used that song often when I led Sunday School opening at Lord of Love, as well. The second verse is not as well-known, but is a favorite, and is most appropriate during this season of Epiphany:



Into my heart, into my heart,  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Come in today, come in to stay;  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

Out of my heart, out of my heart,  
Shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Shine out today, shine out always;  
Shine out of my heart, Lord Jesus.

I encourage you to reflect on how you can use all of your gifts—finances, talents, abilities, and time—to be the light of Jesus to others in the world.

## 2018 Stewardship Plans

The Stewardship Team is changing things up this year:

1. Financial commitment cards for the new year will go out with a letter early in January 2018. Completed commitment cards will be received at the services on **Jan. 21**. We encourage each of you to prayerfully consider what you give to Lord of Love. The written commitments are between you and God, and serve as a reminder of what you plan to give financially throughout the year.
2. Financial gifts are always needed to help our congregation do ministry inside and outside of our walls. Time and talents are also needed for us to carry out God’s work. Consider how you can share your gifts—time, talent, and treasure—to assist in Lord of Love’s mission.
3. **Jan. 14, 2018:** Timothy Siburg, Director for Stewardship for the Nebraska ELCA, will preach at our services
4. **Jan. 21, 2018:** A Ministry Fair will take place in the Narthex and as a part of the worship services



## MEN'S NEWS CORNER

### Men's Breakfast

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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

### Secret Angel Reveal

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**Sunday, Jan. 7**

Are you someone's secret angel? Now is your opportunity to reveal your identity and also find out who has your name. In between services, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall and will "tell all." Please bring a signed card to be presented to your angel that day.

The purpose of "secret angels" is to pray for your angel, send notes of encouragement, and perhaps to give them a small token on special occasions. Sign-up forms will be available at the "reveal" event and for a couple of additional Sundays. We'd love to have you join us!



### Coffee Fellowship

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**Friday, Jan. 12 and 26, 9 a.m.**

January Crane Coffee Fellowship will meet at 77th and Cass. All women are invited.

### Lutheran Women of Omaha

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**Tuesday, Jan. 9, noon**

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet at Rejoice Lutheran Church at 138th and Center Streets. Luncheon is \$7 and annual membership is \$3. The program will be presentations by "Martin and Katie Luther." Free-will offering will go toward the Omaha Street School.

Please make your reservations with Ruth Manning, 402.451.0221 **by 3 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 7.**

### WELCA Winter Retreat

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**8:30 a.m.—3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20**

Nebraska Synodical Women of the ELCA will hold its annual winter retreat on from at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Connie Stover, assistant to the Nebraska Bishop, will be the guest speaker, leading us in "Made Anew in Christ". Bishop Maas also will be in attendance.

Registration is \$18 and a registration form is included in this issue. Please mail **by Jan. 16.**



## 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)  
*Kenn Garder*  
Olivia Griffin (daughter of Scott and Dana Griffin)  
*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)*  
Eileen Nagle (mother-in-law of Tara Novak)  
*Don St. Ours (brother-in-law of Lynda McGraw)*  
Paul Rumbaugh  
*Shirley Schuchard*  
Peggy Seck (cousin of Ann Kroll)  
*Pauline Shaffer*  
Brian & Nancy Shinrock  
*Brenda Thom*  
Nancy Thoman (stepmother of Ann Kroll)  
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](mailto: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

Scott and I would like to thank every church member for their unending love, support, and prayers. God has truly blessed us with a wonderful church, friendships and place to feel at home. Love,  
*Scott and Dana Griffin and family*



*Notes of* **THANKS**

To All the Groups (Men's Ministry, Pastor, Planning Committee, Quilters) and helpers who made the benefit such a success: "May God return to you the kindness you have shown to me."  
Thank you,  
*Olivia Griffin*

My heartfelt thanks to Pr. Becky and the congregation for making 2017 a great year. I am very grateful for the monetary Christmas gift given to me from the congregation and the many cards and gifts from individuals. Lord of Love is a very caring place and I feel privileged to call this my work home. Thank you and have a blessed 2018!  
*-Mary Lou*



# SUNDAY SERVANTS

	8 a.m. Service	10:30 a.m. Service
<b>January 7</b>		
<b>Greeters</b>	Kenn and Shari Garder	Rieff Family
<b>Liturgist</b>	Kenn Garder	Dave Rieff
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Shari Garder	Rieff Family
	Paul Concannon	Kathy Christiansen
	Brian and Connie Walther	
<b>Altar Care</b>	Karen & Dale Fink	Karen Armitage, Gwen Edwards
<b>CD Recording</b>		Pat Brewer
<b>January 14</b>		
<b>Greeters</b>	Joe and Jackie Combes	John and Gwen Edwards
<b>Liturgist</b>	Dave Hild	Rex Quadhamer
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Joe and Jackie Combes	Deb Quadhamer
	Nathaniel and Levi Gust	Dave Lueders
		John and Gwen Edwards
<b>Altar Care</b>	Pat & Jesse Brewer	Ann & Paul Kroll
<b>CD Recording</b>		Paul Christenson
<b>January 21</b>		
<b>Greeters</b>	Paul and Deb Christenson	Paul and Ann Kroll
<b>Liturgist</b>	Ron Thom	Rett Messerschmidt
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Paul Christenson	Judy Messerschmidt
	Kelly Duffy	Julie Thompson
	Lisa Willard	Paul and Ann Kroll
	Bill Baker	
<b>Altar Care</b>	Ed & Marjorie Keiser	Rowen family
<b>CD Recording</b>		Dave Lueders
<b>January 28</b>		
<b>Greeters</b>	Harry Naasz & Brandon Zalesky	Tom and Beth Olson
<b>Liturgist</b>	Shawn Lorenzen	Claudia Rowen
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Pat Brewer	Don Rowen
	Brandon Zalesky	Joan Witt
	Jason and Bailee Shupp	Tom and Beth Olson
<b>Altar Care</b>	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Nicole Quackenbush, Karen Anderson
<b>CD Recording</b>		Paul Murphy
<b>Ushers</b>		
	<b>8 a.m.</b> Paul Dieter, Matt Willard, Dennis Hindemith, Jesse Brewer	
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b> Brian Lund, Deb Lund, Doug Armitage	

# MONTHLY CALENDAR

## January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>2</b> 9:00am Quilters	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm W/ELCA Gather Study 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>6</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>7</b> 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg 7:00pm Resources Meeting 7:00pm Sunnyslope Neighborhood Assoc.	<b>10</b> 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>13</b> Middle School Gathering 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>14</b> Middle School Gathering 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Plng Mtg 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>16</b> 9:00am Quilters	<b>17</b> 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Church Council	<b>19</b> Annual Repots are due 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>20</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
<b>21</b> Stewardship Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal 7:00pm Church Council	<b>22</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>26</b> 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	<b>27</b> 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 8:30am Church Council Retreat
<b>28</b> Council members installed 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal			



Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA** 

## Winter Retreat

### “Seeking the Spirit Within”

“Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.” Psalm 34:3

Saturday, January 20, 2018

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

1515 South Harrison, Grand Island, NE

Registration 8:30 – Program 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Deacon Connie Stover, Director of Seeking the Spirit Within, will share the ministry of spiritual direction and bringing prayer into our lives. Also featuring lots of music, prayer, information, fun and fellowship.

#### REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration and \$18.00 fee to:

NSWO Treasurer Sandy Terry, 1461 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Ct., Fremont, NE 68025-5317