

The Love Letter

Volume 48

March 2018

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
Brock Thornburg
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

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

March 4: Bowling for Jesus

March 14: Aged to Perfection luncheon

March 29: Maundy Thursday worship

March 30: Good Friday worship

April 1: Easter worship and breakfast

June 27-July 1: Triennial Youth Gathering



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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.

¹⁵ **W**hen they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."
—John 21:15-17

While this text is an "after-the-resurrection" text, I believe it is an appropriate one for us to look at during the season of Lent. As we know, before Jesus hung on the cross, Simon (Peter) claimed he would never leave Jesus even if everyone else did. However, Simon not only deserted Jesus, but he even denied knowing Jesus three times before the cock crowed that next morning.

BUT Peter still dearly loved Jesus and wanted to follow him, so when Jesus asks him three times after the resurrection, "Do you love me?" Peter was hurt, and even more so when Jesus asked him three times if he loved him. Yet, each time Peter hurtfully declared that he loved Jesus, Jesus would then tell him, "Feed my sheep." "Tend my sheep." "Feed my sheep."

During the season of Lent, I feel like we are to take stock of this question for ourselves, especially bearing the choices we have made in the past and the things we have chosen to devote our time, energy and money to, as Jesus asks, "Do you love me?" How do you think you would respond? I don't know, but I think having to say, "Yes, I love you"



the first time is actually easier than saying for the second and third time, "Yes, I love you." Repeated questions make us feel like we are being questioned on our motives and if we can be trusted by the answer we are saying and the way we are living. Now that's where superficial statements, and needing to be real and honest with our thoughts, come into question.

Yet, every time Simon repeats himself saying "Yes, I love you!" Jesus seems to set a mission before him. To feed and care for his people. And quite honestly, I think God asks the same of us, "Do you love me," and if so, "Will you feed and care for my sheep?" And that after each time love is professed Jesus responds, naming a little different nuance in the Greek. The first time Jesus tells Simon to "feed his little lambs" (probably like you would a baby by nurturing them with love and feeding them milk). The next time he says "tend my little sheep," asking Simon Peter to care (and watch over) Christ's little sheep (which could simply mean those who belong to Him, but that might also include lost sheep). And the third time, Simon is asked to "feed my little sheep"—which has the same nuance as far as the sheep part, but the work to be done of "feeding" (*continued on next*)

PASTOR'S PAGE

(continued from previous) could be actually feeding others with food, or even feeding them with the good news of Jesus Christ. However, don't these things all boil down to what Jesus named as the two greatest commandments? 1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and 2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

During Lent, we ponder God's love to us through the suffering of his Son and the humiliation and pain that were endured so that our sin would no longer be able to separate us from God. I think the question, "Do you love me?" comes with some shame

and a chance to refocus our ways to the ways that God has called us to, such as loving God with all that we are, and loving and caring for our neighbor by making sure all are fed, cared for and would know that our loving actions come out of response to the love and commands God has already given us. This, my friends, is the calling I believe God gives to us always, but especially during Lent.

Peace and grace to you all as we continue to walk with Christ to the cross and beyond,

Pastor Becky <><



WORSHIP

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday: March 25, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Times with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday: March 29 , 7 p.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday: March 30, 7 p.m. Worship Service

Prayer Vigil: From 8 p.m. on Good Friday to 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 31, scheduled in 30-minute increments. All are welcome to sign up on the sheet in the Narthex for a slot.

Easter

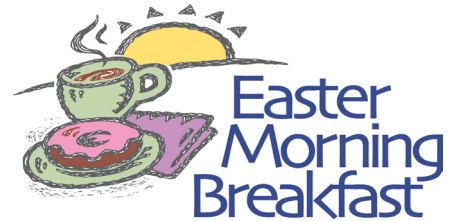
April 1, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Times with Holy Communion



YOUTH

Easter Breakfast

Easter breakfast will be prepared by the Youth and served between services on **Sunday, April 1**. Free-will offering will go towards the youth fund for the National Gathering in Houston this summer.



Pancake Feed Thank You

The Youth would like to thank all who supported and participated in the pancake feed on Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday. The event was a huge success and Lord of Love was once again very generous. We were able to raise enough money to pay for 95% of the cost of our van transportation for the Gathering in Houston. Thank you!!



OMAHA METRO CAMPUS MINISTRY

"Evensong:" A Celebration of Campus Ministry in Omaha



You are invited to the third annual "Evensong: A Celebration of Ministry with College Students in the Omaha Metro." This event will feature a reception with silent auction, and worship using Holden Evening Prayer with special music from students, bell choirs, and anthems from a combined choir from area congregations. Please mark your calendars now, and plan on joining us for this special celebration. See details below and contact Pastor Jim Holthus at 218.760.2028 or at lootr@hotmail.com for more information.

- **When:** Sunday, April 15, 3–5 p.m.
- **Where:** Augustana Lutheran Church, 3647 Lafayette Ave, Omaha
- **Who:** Omaha area ELCA congregations and friends of Omaha Metro Campus Ministry
- **Why:** To inform and celebrate Omaha College Ministry to Metro Congregations and raise funds to support this important ministry.
- **How can your congregation support this ministry and event:** Help us get the word out, have members of your choir participate in the combined choir (the choir will practice from 3 to 3:45 p.m. on the day of the event.), donate a gift basket for the Silent Auction, and come celebrate!

OUTREACH

Thank You to Blood Donors

Thank you to all the people who participated in the Lord of Love blood drive. The Red Cross collected 18 pints of blood, which will produce 54 blood products that can be given to people in need.

Due to the increase in flu this season, there has been an even greater need for healthy blood donors. Thanks for meeting the need!

THANKS
for
donating

ENDOWMENT FUND

Machame Hospital Repair Funding

One of the grants made by the Endowment Fund last year was to provide funds so the walls in the Orthopedic Ward at the Machame Hospital in Tanza could be repaired, sanded and painted. The fund made a grant of \$500 to do a service area in the Hospital. As Bob Kasworm said in his request for funds, a worn chipped wall in a hospital can't be properly cleaned, which is not okay. Cleanliness of the facilities and a decent appearance can greatly improve the patient's experience and confidence. The photo shows some of the repair work being completed.



MISSION

"Mission Possible" Update

Thanks to all of you who have given so generously thus far to special Lenten offerings to help the hungry! **\$715** will go to purchase a family farm through the [ELCA Good Gifts program](#). The remainder of the special Lenten and Easter offerings will be given to the (*continued, next*)



ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS

MISSION

Mission Possible Update

(continued from previous) Food Bank for the Heartland to help the hungry in our area. Food Bank for the Heartland Development Director Brian Barks will speak at both services on **March 4**. A day of packaging food and preparing backpacks is set for **Saturday, March 24**, 9-11:30 a.m., at Food Bank for the Heartland, 10525 J St. (Carpool from Lord of Love at 8:30 a.m., or be at the Food Bank by 9 a.m. that day.)

Please sign up using the [Sign up Genius link](#), on the narthex bulletin board, or talk to Deb Lund.



ELCA World Hunger



One billion human beings are hungry today. One billion people do not have enough to eat. The number alone is staggering. But what makes it scandalous is the fact that God's abundant creation—the fertile earth and seas—can produce adequate nutrition. Scarcity is not the problem. The problems (and the solutions!) lie in access, stewardship and public will. We know what to do. This is both an indictment and a cry of hope.

Indeed, this is a time of hope for hungry people. There are signs of hope in international sustainable development, in popular culture and in our own church. In this country, there is significant momentum to reform foreign assistance—to do the things that we know work, but that have received inadequate attention, such as investing in small-holder

agriculture and local farmers, and focusing on maternal and child nutrition.

In popular culture, there is a growing interest in food production systems, sustainable agriculture, environmental impacts of food production, and the ethics of eating. People are asking how their daily choices in each of these areas connect to hunger, poverty and health at home and abroad.

In our own church, the signs of hope are very strong. Lutheran commitment to the work of ELCA World Hunger remains high. Rejecting simplistic approaches, Lutherans supporting this work recognize the need for comprehensive, multi-pronged efforts to address hunger internationally and domestically. Through short-term emergency relief and longer-term sustainable development that addresses the root causes of hunger, we help communities lift themselves out of poverty into self-sufficiency.

But churches and other nonprofit organizations cannot accomplish this work alone—the decisions of governments and corporations have enormous impact on the lives of the hungry. (continued, next)

MISSION

ELCA World Hunger, cont.

Just as Luther spoke out on behalf of the poor, so must the caring and prophetic voice of the faithful be heard today crying out for fair and equitable policies for poor and hungry people. To be effective, the ELCA's commitment to ending hunger takes the form of interconnected strategies in relief, development, education and advocacy.

Learn more: www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger/



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Lord of Love Community Garden

As I write this, the temperature outdoors is seven degrees and I don't even want to know about the wind chill. Snow is in the forecast and the ground is as hard as a rock. But by the time you receive the next month's Love Letter, potatoes could be planted, as we plan to do so on March 30, Good Friday.

Every year, between six to ten of us meet on most Mondays and Thursdays for a couple of hours in the morning to plant, weed, harvest, and do other types of chores in the Lord

of Love garden. The work is not hard, the fellowship is great, and there is usually a cup of coffee and treat to celebrate the work that was done. **All of the produce is taken to local food pantries.**

Let us know if you would like to join us. Attend when it works for you. If you would like to be notified when we start or the schedule during the summer, you may ask Gary Ramsay, Deb Lund, Jeri Morgan or myself (Doug Aden).



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 Quadhamer and Heather Hansen



CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Meeting Report

The Lord of Love Church Council met on February 20, 2018 and the following are some of the highlights:

- Council members encouraged to use and share the Spiritual Gifts Inventory and Time and Talent information with their teams.
- Treasurer's report was favorable with a slight increase in available cash.
- Major Improvement Projects are gearing up to begin once the winter weather has cleared a bit.
- Constitution updates approved at the Congregational Meeting will be sent to the NE Synod office and a copy will be available for members on the Lord of Love website.
- Several council members will be attending "Following the Lead/Preparing the Way" workshops in Grand Island on March 10, 2018.
- Next Church Council meeting will be March 20, 2018 at 7 p.m.



Giving Status

General Fund financial information for January 2018:

Actual Income - \$28,807.00

Actual Expense - \$27,322.40

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

Actual Income - \$28,807.00

Actual Expense - \$27,322.40

As of the end of January, the available cash balance is \$4,808.14. Weekly offerings of \$6,927 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average for the end of January was \$7,202. Thank you for your continued support.

RESOURCES

Stewardship Reflection, by Kathy Christiansen

Thanks again from the Stewardship Ministry Team to all of you who completed a Spiritual Gifts Assessment and a Time and Talent Sheet during the services on Jan. 21, 2018. As has been mentioned, this information will help to fill some of the volunteer and service needs at Lord of Love.

If you didn't get the opportunity to fill out either of these, please see Deb Lund, Brandon Zalesky or Kathy Christiansen (continued, next).



RESOURCES

Stewardship Reflection, by Kathy Christiansen

One of the most frequently marked items in the Section "Helping those in Need" was "Donating Items to the Food Pantry." In fact, more than 53 of you indicated that you would like to donate food! That is good news for the 233,350 Nebraskans that struggle with hunger. That number includes almost 86,000 children, or to put it another way, **one in six** Nebraskan children struggle with hunger.

Each month, we will try to highlight some of the urgent needs of our local food banks. Some of the most needed food items remain: peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned tuna and chicken, cereal, pancake mix, canned fruit & vegetables, pork & beans, pasta and sauce, and boxed meals. Money donated to a specific food bank is always appreciated also.

Please consider donating this month. For the month of March 2018, here are just some of the current needs from Project Hope:

- Cereal
- Pancake mix
- Canned soup (consider low sodium)
- Canned meat
- Dried fruit, such as raisins or cranberries, etc.
- Spaghetti noodles and sauce
- Small bottles of dish soap and laundry soap



MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Men's Breakfast Group

Men's Breakfast Group meets every Saturday morning at 0700. All men are welcome to attend for Christian study, fellowship and breakfast. Come and join us!



"Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close. Then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourself."

—John Ruskin

WOMEN OF LOVE

Annual Inter-Generational "Bowling for Jesus" Event

Sunday, March 4

Noon - 2 p.m.

Maplewood Lanes, 3030 N. 101st St., Omaha

\$15 per bowler

It's time once again for "Bowling for Jesus." We'll be gathering for two games of bowling and lots of fun. This year's proceeds will be donated to the Youth Fund to help defray the cost for our youth to attend the National Youth Gathering this summer.

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex and please pay Beth Olson in advance.



Monday Night "Gather" Bible Study

Since the Village Inn at Oakview closed, the Monday night Gather Bible study group needed to find a new location. Deb Christenson has generously offered to provide a meal before Bible study at her house (5011 N. 113th St.), on **March 5, April 2 and May 7**—as long as we agree to donate what we would have paid for our meal to the offering for Women of the ELCA. Our first meal in February was amazing, so you're missing out if you don't join us.

Please let Deb know if you're coming so she can prepare.



Knowing God without knowing our wretchedness leads to pride. Knowing our wretchedness without knowing God leads to despair. Knowing Christ gives the balance.

—Blaise Pascal

IN OUR PRAYERS

Ben Baitcher (relative of Amy Kragnes who is on active duty in Bahrain)

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)

Larry Czapla

Sean Duffy (husband of Kelly)

Babette Garder (mother of 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)

Kristen Kuhn (friend of Todd & Lisa Meyer)

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)

Leona Piehl (mother of Deb Lund)

Judy Quest (friend of Jane Gehringer)

Paul Rumbaugh

Peggy Seck (cousin of Ann Kroll)

Pauline Shaffer

Brian & Nancy Shinrock

Brenda Thom

Nancy Thoman (stepmother of Ann Kroll)

Alan Walther (brother of Brian Walther)

Steve Wiitala (friend of Karen Mullen)

Caregivers, 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.



SUNDAY SERVANTS

	8:00 a.m. Service	10:30 a.m. Service
March 4		
Greeters	Allison Vandeventer & Anne Yarger	Lynda McGraw & Joan Witt
Liturgist	Judy Egr	Tom Olson
Communion Servers	Dave Egr	Beth Olson
	Joe and Jackie Combes	Deb Quadhamer
	Pat Brewer	Doug Armitage
		John Edwards
Altar Care	Karen & Dale Fink	Karen Armitage, Gwen Edwards
CD Recording		Pat Brewer
March 11		
Greeters	Josh and Carissa Combes	Ruth Manning & Shelby Lamoureux
Liturgist	Deb Lund	Lori Vandeventer
Communion Servers	Brian Lund	Ashley Hamik
	Joan Witt	Charise and Maykala Adams
	Kelly Duffy	Kathy Christiansen
	Bill Baker	
Altar Care	Pat & Jesse Brewer	Ann & Paul Kroll
CD Recording		Paul Christenson
March 18		
Greeters	Paul and Sue Dieter	Miguel and Rosie Avalos
Liturgist	Shawn Lorenzen	Karen Mullen
Communion Servers	Brandon Zalesky	Paul and Ann Kroll
	Matt and Lisa Willard	Miguel and Rosie Avalos
	Peg Murphy	
Altar Care	Ed & Marjorie Keiser	Rowen family
CD Recording		Dave Lueders
March 25		
Greeters	Sarge and Shirley Schuchard	Dave and Susan Lueders
Liturgist	Heather Hansen	Don Rowen
Communion Servers	Jason and Bailee Shupp	Claudia Rowen
	Heather Christensen	Dave and Susan Lueders
	Paul Concannon	Julie Thompson
Altar Care	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Nicole Quackenbush, Karen Anderson
CD Recording		Paul Murphy
Ushers		
	8:00 Paul Murphy, David Hild, Bob Christensen, Mike Klos	
	10:30 Gary Ramsay, John Ramsay, Rex Quadhamer, Bill Quackenbush	

MONTHLY CALENDAR

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	3 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
4 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 12:00pm Bowling for Jesus 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal	5 6:00pm W/ELCA "Gather" Bible Study at Deb Christenson's 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	6 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination Mtg	7 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm W/ELCA Gather Study 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Youth Group	8 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	10 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry 9:00am Novak Recital
11 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Plng Mtg 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal	12 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	13 7:00pm Resources Meeting	14 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Youth Group	15 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	17 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
18 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal 7:00pm Church Council	19 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	20 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council Mtg.	21 5:30pm Supper 6:00pm Brass 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Youth Group	22 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:30pm AA Mtg.	24 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry
25 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Rehearsal	26 8:00pm AA & AI Anon	27	28 6:00pm Brass 6:00pm W/ELCA General Mtg.	29 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	30 9:30am AI Anon Mtg. 7:00pm Good Friday Worship 7:30pm AA Mtg.	31 Prayer Vigil 7:00am Men's Breakfast Ministry