

The Love Letter

Volume 48

October 2018

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Worship Schedule

Sundays 9 a.m. (through
Labor Day)

Mission Statement: Celebrating and sharing God's love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others.

Looking Ahead

October 6: Fall Clean-Up Day

October 10: Aged to Perfection Luncheon

November 10: Women's Team Annual Meeting and Planning Event



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PASTOR'S PAGE

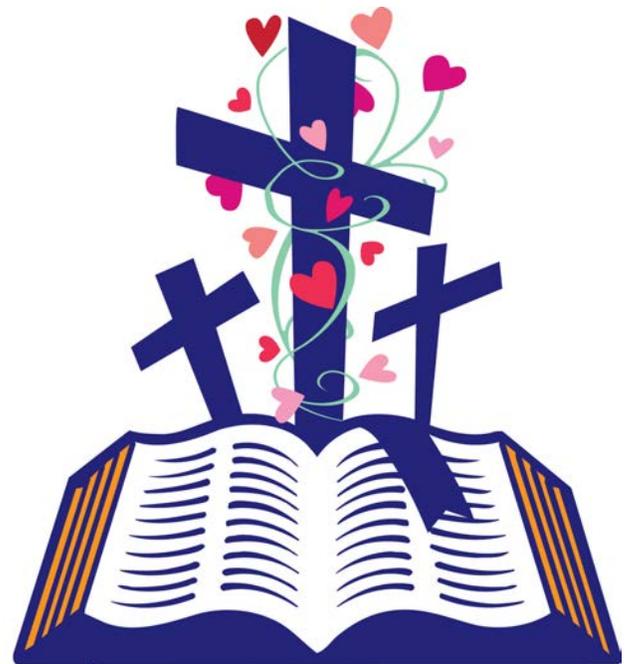
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:2) "God created human beings in God's own image..."(Gen. 1:27) "Then God looked over all God had made, and God saw that it was very good!" (Gen. 1:31)

.....

Lately, the power of one's story seems to be pretty prevalent in talking about who one is. And whether we like it or not, the stories we tell and hold onto do impact us mentally, physically, and emotionally. So even as we find our life stories taking new turns or heading on new adventures, our stories from the past often still affect the way in which we will choose to approach the future. And who we think we are based on the stories we continue to refer to has quite an influence on who we identify as. One's own understanding of who they are, and whose they are, can overcome many a hardship, but only if this is known and understood.

It is a bible year in confirmation this year. We have started to explore the Hebrew Bible starting with Genesis and all the stories of how we were created, the promises God has made with us, and how the people, although created in God's image, struggled with being the very good creation God originally intended them to be, as do we.

As we start to recall all these stories of those who have gone before us, we see moments of true faith and trust, and a God who has been faithful to God's people, even when humans have not done so completely willingly or without faltering from time to time. (And as another imperfect human being, this is rather encouraging to me, that even though I'm not perfect and never will be, God still can use me, and God can and will use you too!) However, the good news



of all those stories is that God still remains faithful and interested in maintaining a relationship with us, and finding ways for us to come back even after we have sinned or faltered.

These stories we read in the bible are more powerful than a list of rules or even a recalling of proven facts such as if the big fish really swallowed Jonah, or if Noah's ark truly had every single species on it, or even proving creation happened the exact way it was written. Instead, God's story with us in the flesh, as Jesus, brings us back to God's first intentions for us, to be created in God's image and be very good.

The stories of Jesus so often include parables and stories because these stories are now the stories of our brothers and sisters in Christ. These stories tell of God's use of imperfect people like Peter, who sank out of fear, and denied even knowing Jesus (*continued on next*)

PASTOR'S PAGE

(continued from previous) as he was about to be crucified, who would later be the one who would bring the good news to many, many generations to come, as are the stories and words of Jesus in the Gospels, like John 3:16-17, *“For God so loved that world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

The same is true when we share our stories of faith with generations under us, and also when younger generations inspire us with their unwavering child-like faith, when we need the good news told to us through their eyes once again. This is another gift of participating in FISH on Wednesdays. Everyone has a chance to tell parts of their story and share their faith and their doubt with one another and be lifted up in prayer. This is also the gift of the community of faith.

Also, as we approach the remembrance of the Reformation, we see yet another powerful story in which the good news of Jesus Christ was changing lives every day. It did cause some to lose their lives too early, but for all, it gave freedom in knowing that even as sin may have earthly consequences for everyone and death comes to all humans, the power of God to redeem us through Jesus Christ out of love is much more powerful than the powers of this world.

Dear friends, I say all this to continue to encourage you to keep reading God's stories, telling your own stories, and remembering how the power and blessing of God are a part of your story in the past, the present, and will be as even you face an end to this world and look forward to yet another beginning with Christ in heaven forever.

Held forever in God's grip of grace,
Pastor Becky <><

NURTURE

Wednesday Evening Meals

THANK YOU to Rose Roberts and Joan Witt for preparing and serving the Wednesday evening meals prior to FISH during September.

Please consider volunteering to prepare a meal for twenty-five to thirty people in October or November. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. For questions, contact Joan Witt at 402.699.9054 or jwellensiek@cox.net

Aged to Perfection Luncheon

Aged to Perfection will be at noon on **Wednesday, October 10.**

Book Club

Book club meets again on **Tuesday, October 23.** September's book for discussion will be "Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy" by Anne Lamott. Please contact Pastor Becky or Jane Gehringer if you need help getting the book.



COMMUNITY NEWS

October is Dental Hygiene Month

Why is a healthy mouth important?

by Dr. Jill Hild



It is important to take care of your teeth, gums, and mouth. Good oral hygiene certainly helps prevent gum disease, cavities, and bad breath.

But did you know that if you have gum disease, you may also increase your risk for serious health issues such as heart attack, stroke, poorly controlled diabetes, and even pre-term labor?

If you have diabetes, you have an increased risk of developing gum disease. Chronic gum disease can make the diabetes harder

to control. The infection may cause insulin resistance, which disrupts the body's control of its blood sugar levels.

Oral inflammation due to bacteria (gingivitis) may play a role in clogged arteries and blood clots. The bacteria in the mouth may also cause inflammation throughout the body.

As many as 18% of pre-term, low birth weight babies born in the U.S. may be linked to oral infections in the mother. Oral bacteria releases toxins that migrate through the placenta and can interfere with the growth and development of a baby.

When you use that toothbrush, know that you will not only have a healthier mouth, you will help yourself to a healthier body!

MISSION

Summer Breakfast Offerings

Thanks to all of you who so generously supported the summer breakfasts by your presence and monetary donations! A total of **\$1938.85 was raised**, with most of it going to the **ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response**. There is always a great need for support in the US and throughout the world when natural disasters strike. Thank you for helping us do God's Work; Our Hands!

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response
\$1371.85

Youth (Avalos Breakfast)
\$213.00

First Responders (Pancake Man)
\$354.00

Community Garden

Things are slowing down in Lord of Love's Community Garden, but summer squash, tomatoes and peppers continue to be harvested and given to area food banks. The harvest was better than ever, since the new fence proved to truly keep out critters that enjoy the corn as much as humans do. The cornstalks have been chopped and worked into the ground, preparing the soil for the next season.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication by those who worked in the garden, **hundreds of pounds** of nutritious, fresh vegetables went out to the hungry through area food pantries. We are blessed to serve others and again do God's Work; Our Hands.

MISSION

Learn About the ELCA's AMMPARO

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA’s strategy of **Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO)** was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement, and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Pastor Rebecca Sheridan, one of our Nebraska Synod Evangelists, will lead an adult forum about the AMMPARO program at 9:15 a.m. on **Sunday, November 4**, so please come to hear more about the program.



Disaster Relief: Hurricanes

Hurricane Florence has devastated our neighbors in North and South Carolina, leaving many without power, thousands of homes damaged or destroyed, and more than 35 reported deaths.

Your gifts designated for “Hurricane Response” will be used entirely for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes.

To learn how you can help, visit:
<https://community.elca.org/hurricane-relief>

2017 Hurricanes

Nearly one year ago, a quick succession of hurricanes altered the lives of millions of our neighbors. Today, we join in prayer for those who are still on the long road to recovery.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of this church, Lutheran Disaster Response has been able to support those who lost their homes or were otherwise affected by these hurricanes.

Read the report: [2017 Hurricanes – One Year Later](#). And visit the [Lutheran Disaster Response website](#) to learn more.

We’re not done yet. The vast devastation caused by these hurricanes is expected to take five to seven years or more to repair, and Lutheran Disaster Response will be there until the work is finished. With another hurricane season already affecting our neighbors, your continuing gifts help make sure we can continue to respond.

Thank you, again, for your generosity!



ENDOWMENT

Endowment Fund Supported Projects Update

From Bob Kasworm via Doug Aden:

September 1 was Graduation Day in Machame hospital! Together, American Lutheran and Lord of Love enabled **Rhamadhani Karia** to join the 45 nurses and 74 clinical officers who graduated.

I have attached his photo at graduation and also a photo of 18 of the 20 graduates sponsored through our NE Synod/CHI Health program.

We expect Rhamadhani to go on and touch thousands of patients and families during his career, and in this way you too will be touching thousands of lives in Africa.

We sincerely thank you for assisting Rhamadhani and for joining in our sponsorship program that assisted 20 students to graduate this year and 115 students since 2010. You've done a good, good thing.



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



Giving Status

General Fund financial information for August 2018:

Actual Income - \$25,660.85

Actual Expense - \$26,608.33

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

Actual Income - \$213,590.26

Actual Expense - \$210,070.92

As of the end of August, the available cash balance is \$1,583.73. Weekly offerings of \$6,927 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. The weekly offering average at the end of August was \$6,180. Thank you for your continued support.

RESOURCES

Stewardship Reflection, by Heather Hansen

As I was thinking of an article for stewardship, I began to think of the ways I have seen people help others. Most of the time it has been a stranger helping another stranger. I have often seen my neighbor bring out water or a soda to our recycling or garbage truck drivers and collectors on hot summer days. He is not asking for anything back but just does it out of the kindness of his heart.

At my work, we have had people put money on another persons account, anonymously, to help pay for medical costs for their pet because they have been touched by their story and want the pet to get the help they need. Again, they were giving without wanting anything in return. (*continued, next*)



RESOURCES

Stewardship Reflection, continued

(continued from previous) As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip that the worries of this world and making a living has on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives—our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question—How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others—

to asking the question—what have they done for me lately. We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we have more, because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love.

.....
“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
—Acts 20:35



CAMPUS MINISTRY

Campus and Young Adult Ministry

Omaha metro Lutheran campus ministry has 3 groups that do ministry with young adults in Omaha. **God & Grads** is for people in their 20's who are working or in grad school. This group loves to play trivia or table games every month. **NeMO (Nebraska Ministry Omaha)** is our normal group for people 18-24 who are out of high school and/or working on their undergraduate degree. This group meets **every Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m.** at St. Timothy Lutheran Church on 93rd and Dodge for sharing, snacks, building community, and Bible study.

Our newest group is **NeMONORTH (Nebraska Ministry Outreach North Omaha)**, a multicultural group for young

adults 18-30 who live or work or attend Fort Omaha MCC in north Omaha. This new group will be part of "Halloween on the BOOlevard", sponsored by the MinneLusa neighborhood association.

All three of these groups can be found on Facebook with more detailed information. You may also contact Pastor Jim Holthus, the metro campus pastor, at lootr@hotmail.com with questions or referrals, which he will follow up on.

To support Omaha area Lutheran campus ministries, check out the "minis-tree" in the narthex. The "leaves" are envelopes for submitting donations. Thank you!

MEN'S NEWS CORNER



Men's Breakfast Group

Men's Breakfast Group meets every Saturday morning at 0700 in the fellowship hall. All men are welcome.

WOMEN OF LOVE

Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet at noon on **Tuesday, Oct. 9** at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 1725 S. 60th St. The speaker is a representative from Radio Talking Books and our offering will go to that program. Luncheon is \$7. Please make your reservations with Ruth Manning, 402.451.0221 by 3 p.m. on October 7.



Gather Bible Studies



Monday Night Bible Study ladies, the date for October's meeting has been moved from October 1 to **October 8**. Deb C. will still be hosting the event. Please RSVP to Deb at paulordeb@outlook.com if you are planning to attend.

The Wednesday Night Bible Study group will meet at church at 6 p.m. on **October 3**.

The church now receives a copy of the *Gather* Magazine, which is placed on the round library table at church for your reading pleasure. If you would like to join either Bible study group, you are welcome to use the magazine. If you are interested in the Wednesday group, please talk to Ruth Manning (ruthypoo38@gmail.com) or, if you are interested in Monday, talk to Rose Roberts (dougroberts@cox.net).

Fall Clean-Up

The church will be having its Fall Clean-Up Day on **Saturday, October 6**, from 8:30 - 11 a.m. As part of that day, the kitchen is in need of some TLC on the front and inside the cupboards. Bring a pair of gloves for yourself and the cleaning supplies will be provided. For questions, please contact Rose Roberts.



WOMEN OF LOVE

Women's Team Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 10** for the Women's Team Annual Meeting and Planning Event starting at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Your input and feedback is important to help us plan events for the coming year. If you have any questions, please contact Rose Roberts at dougroberts@cox.net. See you there!



Quilters

The quilters will meet on October 2 and 16.

Thank You's

Thanks to Deb Lund for hosting the Half Day Gather Retreat at her house on August 11.

Thanks to Paul Christenson for hanging the shelves behind the door in the kitchen to help organize the area.

Thankoffering Sunday

October 21 is Thankoffering Sunday for the Women of the ELCA. The tradition dates to the 1800's, when women formed "Cent Societies" to collect offerings at home to support the ministry of the church. Women collect their offerings in different ways – some keep a collection box and add to it throughout the year to show gratitude. Others make a yearly offering to support the work of the churchwide group. Offerings support the life-changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

There will be a time during both services on October 21 to bring your offering forward and place it in the designated basket. During the same service, the quilts put together by the quilters will be blessed before they are shipped off to Lutheran World Services in Minneapolis.

Women ^{of the} **ELCA**



"The present moment is always full of infinite treasure. It contains far more than you can possibly grasp. Faith is the measure of its riches; what you find in the present moment is according to the measure of your faith. Love also is the measure; the more the heart loves, the more it rejoices in what God provides.

The will of God presents itself at each moment like an immense ocean that the desire of your heart cannot empty; yet you will drink from that ocean according to your faith and love."

—Jean-Pierre de Caussade

IN OUR PRAYERS AND LOVE NOTES

Dick Bell
Gloria Chalkley (friend of Ann Kroll)
Jason Combes
Pat Edwards (mother of John Edwards)
Krysta Figga (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)
Babette Garder (mother of Kenn Garder)
Ed Guthrie
Pr. Joe Hernandez – Missionary in the Middle East (cousin of David & Chris Boarts)
Jan Hughes (aunt of Paula Foster)
David Hojnacke (neighbor of the Armitage family)
Olivia Griffin (daughter of Scott and Dana Griffin)
Julie (friend of Pat Brewer)
Kristen Kuhn (friend of Todd & Lisa Meyer)
Juanita Kiesel (friend of Mary Lou)
Kristen Kuhn (friend of Todd & Lisa Meyer)
Ken Lineweaver (step-dad of Gwen Edwards)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)

Ruth Manning
Jon Meier (son of Carolyn Meier)
Eileen Nagle (mother-in-law of Tara Novak)
Bill Pickens
Brenda Thom
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)
Alan Walther (brother of Brian Walther)
Judy Quest (friend of Jane Gehringer)
Richard Ramsay (brother of Gary)
Paul Rumbaugh
Sarge Schuchard
Peggy Seck (cousin of Ann Kroll)
Pauline Shaffer
Brian & Nancy Shinrock
Steve Wiitala (friend of Karen Mullen)
Lara Anne Willard (daughter of Matt & Lisa)

Caregivers, those who suffer with addictions and depression, those seeking employment, and those seeking to adopt.

Those Who Are Deployed

Zach Gehrig, grandson of Sarge & Shirley Schuchard

To add a name to the "In Our Prayers" section, email marylou@lord-of-love.org, contact the office at 402.493.2946, 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

The family of Lee Pennell would like to thank Pastor Becky, Carol Novak, and Mary Lou Gustafson for making Lee's Celebration of Life special and memorable.

We also thank Deb Lund and the funeral lunch servers for serving a great meal where family and friends gathered to visit.



WORSHIP SERVANTS

	8 a.m. Service	10:30 a.m. Service
October 7		
Greeters	Mike and Christie Klos	Paul and Deb Christenson
Liturgist	Paul Murphy	Tom Olson
Communion Servers	Peg Murphy	Beth Olson
	Jim and Jeri Morgan	Paul Christenson
	Mike Klos	Karen Mullen
		Joan Witt
Altar Care	Doug & Rose Roberts, Karen & Dale Finck	Karen Armitage, Gwen Edwards
CD Recording		Pat Brewer
October 14		
Greeters	Brian and Deb Lund	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt
Liturgist	Brian Lund	Ashley Hamik
Communion Servers	Deb Lund	Lori Vandeventer
	Dave and Judy Egr	Rett and Judy Messerschmidt
	Paul Concannon	Rosie Avalos
Altar Care	Pat & Jesse Brewer	Ann & Paul Kroll
CD Recording		Paul Christenson
October 21		
Greeters	Sarge and Shirley Schuchard	Paul and Ann Kroll
Liturgist	Jesse Brewer	Rex Quadhamer
Communion Servers	Pat Brewer	Deb Quadhamer
	Jason and Bailee Shupp	Paul and Ann Kroll
	Shawn Lorenzen	Julie Thompson
Altar Care	Ed & Marjorie Keiser	Rowen family
CD Recording		Dave Lueders
October 28		
Greeters	Ed and Marjorie Keiser	Kathy Christiansen and Joan Witt
Liturgist	Chris Rich	Karen Armitage
Communion Servers	Matt and Lisa Willard	Doug Armitage
	Caleb and Lorelei Rich	John and Gwen Edwards
		Kathy Christiansen
Altar Care	Cathy Aden, Sue Dieter	Nicole Quackenbush, Karen Anderson
CD Recording		Paul Murphy
Ushers		
	8 a.m. Josh Combes, Brian Walther, Brandon Zalesky, Dale Finck	
	10:30 a.m. Dave Lueders, Adam Lueders, Miguel Avalos	



MONTHLY CALENDAR

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Mary Lou is on vacation all week 7 p.m. Vision & Coordination Mtg. 8 p.m. AA & Al Anon	2 9 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Vision & Coordination	3 4:45 p.m. Confirmation 5:30 p.m. FISH 6 p.m. Brass Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	4 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	5 9 a.m. Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Al Anon Mtg. 7:30 p.m. AA Mtg.	6 7 a.m. Men's Ministry 8:30 a.m. Fall Clean-up
7 8 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion 5 p.m. Bell Choir	8 Church Administrator's Retreat @ CJH 8 p.m. AA & Al Anon	9 Church Administrator's Retreat @ CJH 6:30pm Stewardship Mtg. 7 p.m. Sunnyslope Neighborhood Assoc.	10 12 p.m. Aged to Perfection Lunch 4:45 p.m. Confirmation 5:30 p.m. FISH 6 p.m. Brass Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	11 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	12 9 a.m. Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Al Anon Mtg. 7:30 p.m. AA Mtg.	13 7 a.m. Men's Ministry 4 p.m. Fellowship Hall reserved for Gehringer
14 8 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Budget Forum 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion 5 p.m. Bell Choir	15 8 p.m. AA & Al Anon	16 9 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Church Council Mtg.	17 4:45 p.m. Confirmation 5:30 p.m. FISH 6 p.m. Brass Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	18 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	19 9 a.m. Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Al Anon Mtg. 7:30 p.m. AA Mtg.	20 7 a.m. Men's Ministry
21 8 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion 5 p.m. Bell Choir	22 8 p.m. AA & Al Anon	23 1 p.m. Book Club 5 p.m. Food Bank Tour & Volunteering	24 4:45 p.m. Confirmation 5:30 p.m. FISH 6 p.m. Brass Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	25 7 p.m. Boy Scouts	26 9 a.m. Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am Al Anon Mtg. 7:30 p.m. AA Mtg.	27 7 a.m. Men's Ministry 9 a.m. Novak recital
28 Reformation 8 a.m. Worship & Communion 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion 5 p.m. Bell Choir	29 Theological Conference 8 p.m. AA & Al Anon	30 Theological Conference	31 Theological Conference 4:45 p.m. Confirmation 5:30 p.m. FISH 6 p.m. Brass Rehearsal 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal			