

The Love Letter

Volume 49

NOVEMBER 2019

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

Co-Directors of Faith Formation

Lynette Lueders

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

8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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

Looking Ahead

November 2: Loads of Love

November 3: All Saints Sunday

November 13: Aged to Perfection Luncheon

November 17: Congregational Meeting

November 24: Thanksgiving Service, Pie Fest



Table of Contents

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|----|
| Pastor's Page | 2 | Council & Resources | 6 |
| Nurture | 3 | Men's News | 9 |
| Outreach | 4 | Women of Love | 9 |
| Youth | 4 | In Our Prayers | 10 |
| Community News | 4 | Sunday Servants | 11 |
| Mission | 5 | Monthly Calendar | 12 |

PASTOR'S PAGE

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
—Romans 15:13

God has been busy at work amongst you and through Lord of Love, and through this my heart is filled with joy! Lately, every time I turn around, there seems to be something else going on that shows you loving your neighbors and caring for one another with the great gifts God has entrusted to you.

- We made and completed 75 quilts for Lutheran World Relief efforts! (Weren't they beautiful and heartwarming?!)
- We sent Thankofferings to support and improve the lives of women and families through the good work done through Women's Synodical Organizations throughout the world, while continuing to strengthen one another through Gather Bible studies, prayer, conventions, and conferences.
- We had a great turn out of volunteers who helped clean-up and keep Lord of Love's property looking nice and well-cared for.
- We have people who volunteer to work at the Foodbank for the Heartland, and also help out at Holy Cross's food pantry too.
- We asked for 20 Family Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes for Holy Cross' pantry (\$20 each), and instead you came up with a way to sponsor 30 such boxes in less than a week!



- We held our first-ever Trunk-Or-Treat, and had over 200 kids come through from around the neighborhood!
- You are now preparing to launch the second Loads of Love event on November 2 to bless others in the community with laundry and hygiene supplies that they otherwise might not have had access to.
- The Men's ministry continues to gather for breakfast and share in devotions with one another to hear what has to say to them.(And this group is also full of willing volunteers, who take on all sorts of tasks on behalf of us all at Lord of Love on any given Saturday.)

And all of these things, are things I've seen you do in just this past month! May the Holy Spirit continue to fill you and lead you forth in joy and peace to do whatever good work and blessings God calls us to be a part of next.
(continued on next)

PASTOR'S PAGE

(continued from previous)

On **Sunday, November 3**, we will be lifting up both those who God has claimed through the waters of baptism at Lord of Love, along with those who have entered the church triumphant where they reside forever in God's light and glory. And this too gives me joy and peace in knowing that as God has marked and called us claiming us as children of God forever, we always know we are loved, taken care of, and never alone...neither in life or in death.

And this gives us hope that sees beyond our suffering, beyond bleak news we might hear, and spurs us on in knowing that the God who was with those who passed down God's love and faith to us, continues to blow through us with the same mighty Holy Spirit to provide God's love and hope to others. Yay God!

As November is a natural time to remember and give thanks, may we continue to listen to the calling of the Holy Spirit within us, to not only let our own hearts be filled with peace and joy, but so that the joy of the Lord would overflow from us to others and continue to make a difference in the lives of those whom God has called us to touch with blessings by being God-bearers of hope, love, joy, peace and healing as Christ's embodied presence in the world. Amen.

As we finish out the season after Pentecost, may God continue to proclaim the good news that God's not dead, but is surely alive and with us every step of the way. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Becky <><

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

WORSHIP AND NURTURE

Thanksgiving Service, Pie Fest

Please join us for a special Thanksgiving service on **Sunday, November 24 at 7 p.m.**, followed by pie and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a pie to share, if you like, but be sure to come to enjoy the pies and give thanks for all that God so generously provides for us.



Tai Chi is coming!

Tai Chi for Balance classes are coming soon to Lord of Love. Why try Tai Chi?

1. Learn to relax naturally.
2. Improve balance, flexibility and strength.
3. Increase focus and feeling of well-being.
4. Connect with friends, meet new people.

Watch for details and class schedule in the next few weeks.

NURTURE

Trunk or Treat Thank-You!

It was a tremendous “Trunk or Treat” event in the Lord of Love parking lot on October 20, thanks to the support and participation of MANY! There were 20 awesome decorated trunks with a variety of themes including top prize winners Under the Sea, Sharks and Star Wars as voted on by over 200 costumed kids and parents from Lord of Love and the surrounding community.

Thank you to those who prepared and posted notices on social media and in local businesses and apartment complexes. Thank you to those who decorated trunks and provided treats. Thank you to those who arranged and sponsored the clown with fabulous balloons and the pirate bounce house. Thank you to those who supervised

and assisted with the bounce house, coloring station, and other activities. Thank you to all who welcomed our many visitors from the community and



gave them “Lord of Love Let Your Light Shine” bracelets with a Lord of Love fact sheet and “Let Your Light Shine” bags. Thank you to all who brought delicious food for the potluck meal and to those who helped to set up and clean up before and after the meal. Thank you to those who prepared and helped with the pumpkin carving after the meal.

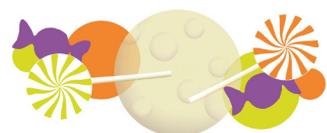
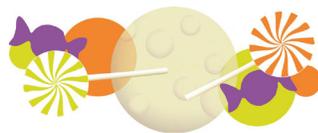
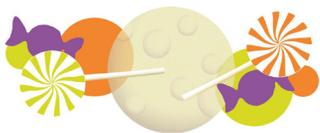
It was a wonderful day for Lord of Love and the community! THANK YOU!

YOUTH

Youth Dates to Remember

Sunday, Nov. 3, 6:30 p.m.: Youth Group
Sunday, Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m.: Youth Group
Wednesday, Nov. 20, 5:30 p.m.: FISH intergenerational meal and fellowship

Sunday, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.: Youth Group
Sunday, Dec. 15: Ugly Sweater Party
Dec. 27-28: High School Retreat at Carol Joy Holling



“You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do.
Together, we can do great things.”

—Mother Teresa

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Book Club

On **Tuesday, November 26 at 1 p.m.**, we will discuss *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor, an American Episcopal priest, professor, author and theologian.

Critics have said, "the best thing about Taylor's book is that she models the faith & courage...even the creativity & playfulness it takes to learn to walk in the dark without fear or dismay."

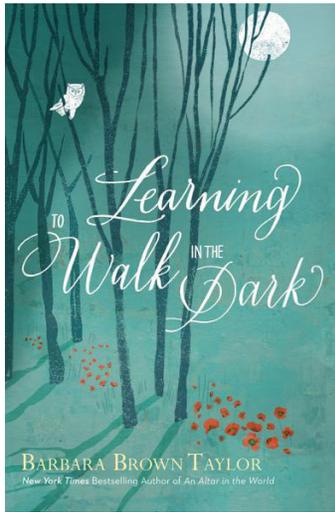


Image from play.google.com

NeMO Groups

COLLEGE STUDENTS in the Omaha area: Go on Facebook and ask to join our group, NeMO (Nebraska Ministry-Omaha) for updates on our events, calendars, and more. We meet every **Thursday evening at St. Timothy Lutheran Church on 93rd & Dodge from 7 - 8:30 p.m.** This fall we are also inviting Creighton students to join us in the Skutt Student Center two Sunday evenings each month and post that schedule on the NeMO FB group.

YOUNG ADULTS working in the Omaha area: Go on Facebook and ask to join the group "God & Grads". We love to hang out at Spielbound, play trivia at Farnam House, and go out for late night appetizers at Applebee's.

MISSION

"Mission Possible" Update

Thanks, again, to all who prepared and served breakfasts, and to all who gave so generously to partake of the breakfasts this past summer. **\$2223.33** in proceeds was given to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response to assist with the many natural disasters throughout our world in recent months last months—including those affected by flooding right here in the Midlands.

Remember that special offerings for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas will go **to the ELCA AMMPARO**

program. AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA to accompany children today and in the future 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.

Explore the resources on this link for more information: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO>

MISSION

From Seeds to "Hope"

By Doug Aden

In early spring, we till the soil and start planting seeds and potatoes. Then we race to make sure the weeds don't get ahead of the young plants. About the middle of June, we start to harvest the produce and continue to do so on a biweekly basis until the first part of October. Each time we harvest, the produce is put in the back of Gary's pickup. Then the food is taken to Project Hope, a food pantry located in Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran church located at 6201 North 60th Street.

Project Hope distributes this produce along with other food items on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Families register with to receive food and are given points to purchase food. The number of points given depend on family size. Most food is assigned a point value, like the prices posted at the grocery store.

Project Hope divides food by type including canned goods, dairy products, meat, cereals, cooking items such as flour and sugar, and fresh produce. Food is placed on shelves, put in refrigerators or freezers.

Food provided by Lord of Love is placed on the fresh produce shelves along with other produce provided by other gardeners or dated items received from grocery stores. Clients do not have to use points to obtain the fresh produce,

but they will be guided on how much they can take by the Project Hope Staff.

What happens to food brought from LOL? It is placed on the shelf along with other produce. Project Hope's staff will print simple recipes from the web for the food. Sweet corn is bagged with 12 ears to a bag. This year Lord of Love planted pie pumpkins. I asked if anybody took them. Ms. Keebler said that they went fast.

Almost all the produce is used. If there is any spoilage it is probably produce that is kept over the weekend if there is any.

As I toured the facility, I noticed a few bags of food that were prepared by Lord of Love on God's Work Our Hands Sunday.

Now that garden season is over, how can we help?

In the narthex, Lord of Love has a food barrel where members may bring food items for Project Hope. The food is then taken to Project Hope once or twice a month depending on volume. We talked a bit about this food, and I asked what was needed now. The answer was breakfast cereal, flour, and coffee. As I looked on the shelves, I did not see any of those items. If you do bring food for the pantry, you might bring some of these items.

Project Hope is very appreciative of the food Lord of Love provides and they are always eager to unload the pickup when it arrives.



CHURCH COUNCIL

From Council President Brian Lund

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

-Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

.....

Lord of Love has many reasons to give thanks. Pastor Becky tirelessly ministers to us through Word and Sacrament, hospital and home visits, developing faith formation activities, and working with the church council and committees to carry out the work of our congregation. Mary Lou is a faithful servant of Lord of Love. She wisely runs the church office and constantly works to ensure the smooth operation of many of our programs. Our worship staff ensures that our worship is both familiar and new through various liturgies and hymns. Our youth staff and volunteers teach and encourage our young people in the Christian faith. Other members working behind the scenes provide the hands and feet of God for a variety of programs like quilting, bible study, gardening, weeding, indoor and outdoor clean-up, preparing and serving meals, committee work, and more.

The council recently sent a letter to our members asking you to consider prayerfully your many blessings and to provide an extra financial gift towards elimination of our \$13,000 general fund deficit. These extra offerings will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$5,000

to help us meet this goal. By eliminating our current deficit, we enter the 2020 more financially sound to undertake our ongoing ministry. Thank you for responding to this special need on **All Saints Sunday, November 3**, or through the end of the year.

Lord of Love is blessed by the many gifts of our members. Thank you for generously giving your treasures, time, and talents to support the ministry of our congregation. We welcome feedback on the ministries we offer or new opportunities that would help our ministry to our local community. Please talk to a council member about your ideas and concerns.

.....

"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you."

-1 Corinthians 1:4-6 (NIV)

.....

Please continue to pray for the ELCA, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, our Nebraska Synod Bishop Brian Maas, Pastor Becky, our staff, our members, our ministry together, and for all of those who are in need.

Blessings in faith and service,
Brian Lund

CHURCH COUNCIL

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 17, after second service

Mark your calendar for the semi-annual congregational meeting, at which we will vote on the 2020 Financial Plan (Budget) for Ministry and 2020 Church Council nominations.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Giving Status

General Fund financial information for September 2019:

Actual Income - \$29,458.00

Actual Expense - \$25,337.40

Financial Information YTD as of the end of September:

Actual Income - \$242,533.02

Actual Expense - \$245,067.16

As of the end of September, the available cash balance is negative \$13,051.73. Weekly offerings of \$6,912 are needed to meet budgeted expenses. Weekly offering average at the end of September was \$6,128. Thank you for your continued support.

2019 Lord of Love Church Council

Vision and Coordination: Brian Lund, President; Paul Murphy, Vice-President; Kathy Christiansen, Secretary; Rett Messerschmidt, Treasurer

Nurture: Rosie Avalos and Joan Witt

Outreach: Paula Foster and Charise Adams

Resources: Brandon Zalesky and Paul Christenson

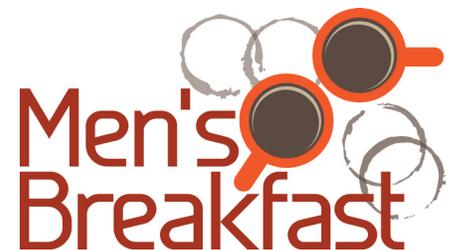
Worship: Rex Quadhamer and Shawn Lorenzen



MEN'S NEWS CORNER

Men's Breakfast Group

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



WOMEN OF LOVE

Women's General Meeting

All women are invited to attend the general meeting of LOL Women, **9 a.m., Saturday, November 9** in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and goodies will be ready by 8:45 a.m.

Agenda includes election of ministry team members and planning activities for 2020. We need your input to help refresh, revive and renew our women's ministry program. Please contact Rose Roberts (402-689-4802) if you have any questions.



NE Synodical Women's Organization

Congratulations to Gwen Edwards, who was elected treasurer of the NSWO at its convention at Camp Carol Joy Holling on October 11. Rose Roberts and Julie Thompson also attended the convention/retreat.

Lutheran Women of Omaha

Lutheran Women of Omaha will meet at Augustana Lutheran Church, 38th and Lafayette on **November 12, 2019 at noon**. Lunch will be served for \$7. A representative of "Healthy Start Baby Boutique" will be the guest speaker, and the free-will offering has been designated toward that program.

Please make your reservations with Ruth Manning, 402-451-0221 by 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 10.

11th Triennial Gathering/Convention

July 16-19, 2020, Sunny Phoenix, Arizona

The Gathering will offer speakers, workshops, worship, service opportunities, and much more! Registration is now open. **Early-bird registration through January 6, 2020, is \$325. After that, registration is \$375.** Day registration is \$200. We can't wait to see you! A link to the registration form and other information is available at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

"Just Love" is the logo of the 2020 Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA. The palette of deep purple and bright green in the logo is reflective of the scenery of the valley in the Phoenix area. Among the streets of this city, dusty earth tones are punctuated with bright purple flowers and vibrant green cacti. The turquoise color connects to the history of the native cultures in Arizona and the southwest region. The shade of red signifies not fire or caution, but rather love.



Save the Date

December 14, 9.a.m. Fellowship Hall

- Prepare goodie tins for those with special needs (please bring 2 dozen cookies.)
- Make fleece blankets for Project Linus

IN OUR PRAYERS

Tonya Achenbach (cousin of Todd Meyer)
Janet Baker
Jackie Barnett
Connie Bennett (cousin of Karen Armitage)
Kate Boarts (mother of David & grandmother of Chris Boarts)
Kathy Campina (cousin of Rose Roberts)
Gloria Chalkley (friend of Ann Kroll)
Jason Combes
Larry Czapla
Krysta Figga (friend of Dave & Lisa Rieff)
Mardi Fiske
Babette Garder (mother of Kenn Garder)
Olivia Griffin (daughter of Scott and Dana Griffin)
Ed & Janet Guthrie
Jamie Harryman (grandson of Todd and Lisa Meyer)
Pr. Joe Hernandez – Missionary in the Middle East (cousin of David & Chris Boarts)
Dennis Hindemith
David Hojnacke (neighbor of the Armitage family)
Juanita Kiesel (friend of Mary Lou)
Lucy Klos (sister-in-law of Mike & Christie Klos)
Lester (friend of Paul Barnett)
Ken Lineweaver (step-dad of Gwen Edwards)

Don Lueders (brother of Dave Lueders)
Lisa Lueders (sister-in-law of Dave Lueders)
Eileen Nagle (mother-in-law of Tara Novak)
Vern Nemitz (uncle of Paula Foster)
Bill Pickens
Otto & Leona Piehl (parents of Deb Lund)
Paul Rumbaugh
Peggy Seck (cousin of Ann Kroll)
Sarge Schuchard
Nancy Shinrock
Ron & Brenda Thom
Roslynn Thom (sister of Ron Thom)
Bill Todd (husband of Pam Todd)
Stephanie Ulrich (relative of Paula Foster)
Sydney Weinman (uncle of Pr. James Sells)
Pat Wineinger
Steve Wiitala (friend of Karen Mullen)

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

For those who mourn

The family and friends of Gordon Erickson, brother of Karen Mullen

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.



VETERAN'S DAY

This Veteran's Day, we offer up prayers of gratitude for all of the veterans and military families at Lord of Love who bless both our congregation and our country. Thank you for your service and sacrifices!



SUNDAY SERVANTS

| | 8 a.m. Service | 10:30 a.m. Service |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| November 3 | | |
| Greeters | Harry Naasz, Brandon Zalesky | Miguel and Rosie Avalos |
| Liturgist | Ron Thom | Susan Lueders |
| Communion Servers | Todd and Lisa Meyer | Dave Lueders |
| | Brian and Connie Walther | Kathy Christiansen |
| | | Miguel and Rosie Avalos |
| Altar Care | Doug & Rose Roberts, Karen & Dale Finck | Karen Armitage, Gwen Edwards |
| CD Recording | | Pat Brewer |
| November 10 | | |
| Greeters | Christie Klos | Mike and Christie Klos |
| Liturgist | Brandon Zalesky | Karen Armitage |
| Communion Servers | Doug and Cathy Aden | Doug Armitage |
| | Doug and Karen Armitage | Karen Mullen |
| | | John and Gwen Edwards |
| Altar Care | Pat & Jesse Brewer, Heather Christensen | Susan Senff, Ann & Paul Kroll |
| CD Recording | | Paul Christenson |
| November 17 | | |
| Greeters | Kenn and Shari Garder | Dave and Susan Lueders |
| Liturgist | Brian Lund | Ashley Hamik |
| Communion Servers | Deb Lund | Lori Vandeventer |
| | Shawn Lorenzen | Julie Thompson |
| | Jason and Bailee Shupp | Charise and Maykala Adams |
| Altar Care | Pat & Jesse Brewer | Claudia & Don Rowen, Connie Martin |
| CD Recording | | Dave Lueders |
| November 24 | | |
| Greeters | Dale and Karen Finck | Paul and Ann Kroll |
| Liturgist | Chris Rich | Claudia Rowen |
| Communion Servers | Caleb and Lorelei Rich | Don Rowen |
| | Joe and Jackie Combes | Paul Christenson |
| | | Paul and Ann Kroll |
| Altar Care | Sue Dieter, Cathy Aden | Karen Anderson, Susan Senff |
| CD Recording | | Paul Murphy |
| Ushers | | |
| | 8 a.m. Paul Murphy, David Hild, Bob Christensen, Mike Klos | |
| | 10:30 a.m. Gary Ramsay, John Ramsay, Rex Quadhamer | |

CALENDAR

November 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 9:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am Al Anon 7:30pm AA Mtg. | 2 7:00am Men's Ministry |
| 3 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School/FISH 10:30am Worship & Communion 5:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Youth Group | 4 6:00pm Gather Bible Study 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 5 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Vision & Coordination | 6 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Gather Bible Study 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal | 7 5:00pm Fellowship Hall reserved for Thom 6:30pm Nurture Mtg. 7:00pm Boy Scouts Leadership Mtg. | 8 9:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am Al Anon 7:30pm AA Mtg. | 9 7:00am Men's Ministry 9:00am W/ELCA General Mtg. 1:30pm Novak recital |
| 10 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm District 18 AA Mtg. 5:00pm Bell Choir | 11 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 12 | 13 12:00pm Aged to Perfection Lunch 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:00pm Confirmation 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal | 14 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 15 9:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am Al Anon 7:30pm AA Mtg. | 16 7:00am Men's Ministry |
| 17 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 11:30am Semi- Annual Mtg 5:00pm Bell Choir 6:30pm Youth Group | 18 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 19 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Church Council | 20 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Brass Rehearsal 6:15pm FISH 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal | 21 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 22 9:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am Al Anon 7:30pm AA Mtg. | 23 7:00am Men's Ministry 9:00am Matinee Musicale |
| 24 Stewardship Sunday 8:00am Worship & Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship & Communion 1:00pm Strings Recital 5:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Worship & Pie Fest | 25 8:00pm AA & Al Anon | 26 1:00pm Book Club | 27 | 28 Happy Thanksgiving! | 29 Church Office Closed 9:00am Crane Coffee Fellowship 9:30am Al Anon 7:30pm AA Mtg. | 30 7:00am Men's Ministry |