



Voices of the Valley

The Monthly Newsletter of Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

"That We May Know, Live, and Share the Love of Christ."

February 2019

Volume 23, Number 2

Appreciating God's World

Many members of our congregation have had the opportunity to travel to many parts of the United States and the world. We are continuing a program where members of the congregation share their travel experiences with other LOTV members and the community. The 30-40 minute presentation will be at 2:30 pm on the third Friday of the month. Afterwards, there will be time for questions. Attendees / presenters may bring appetizers to share. ***Our next presentation will be on February 15th. Bob and Kathy Means will share their experience in India.*** Please contact Jerry and Edna Anderson with any questions, 970-887-9773.



Saturday Evening Worship

Saturday Evening Worship continues for the months of February and March. Services begin at 5:30 pm. Please remember we offer this alternative setting during the high recreational season in Grand County. We utilize Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion as our main liturgy on these winter Saturdays. Join us for these less formal worship opportunities.

ALL ARE WELCOME

As a community of the people of God, the people of Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church are called to welcome all people, regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ *"there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female."* - Galatians 3:28

Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Email: lotvoffice@lordofthevalley.org website: lordofthevalley.org

Church Office Hours – Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

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The church council meets the second Monday of each month. All church council meetings throughout the year are open to anyone. If you have something that you would like to present in front of the church council, or an item of concern please contact one of the church council members listed above.

The next Church Council Meeting is on Monday, February 11th at 6:30 pm.



Greetings!

We are in the middle of snow season, and I marveled at the many people I saw out on the ice of Lake Granby this past weekend for the annual ice fishing tournament, but I am thinking about summer. More specifically I am thinking about camp. Day Camp will be here before you know it and now is the time for us to begin preparing. We need a small team to come together and plan some special events and activities for the children who will be part of this annual outreach ministry.

The week of June 24 has been scheduled with Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. As in the past we will host three staff members from Sky Ranch who will lead the worship, games, bible study and nature study. We are looking for volunteers to help with other aspects like a day trip, or day hike, crafts and art projects and promotion and invitation to the wider community. Please let us know in the office if you are interested in helping with planning or supervising these or other aspects of our Day Camp. Our potential is great for growing the impact of this special ministry to children and their households.

In addition to Day Camp there is also the opportunity for our children and youth (completed grades 3-12) to spend a week at Sky Ranch. For children who have completed grades 1-3 a half week option is available. Sky Ranch also has a family camp for the whole household! You can learn more about these programs and how to register by visiting www.skyranchcolorado.org. You are welcome to visit with me as well. I will be sharing an informational presentation following worship on Sunday, February 17 to share information and to address questions you may have about your child or grandchild spending time at Sky Ranch.

I know not everyone here at LOTV have children or grandchildren who are of the age to go to Sky Ranch or attend our Day Camp. You are invited to support our households that do have kids who are "camp age." Please pray for those in our congregation who might be blessed with time away at camp, at Sky Ranch or here at our LOTV Day Camp. Also pray for those who will participate in supporting our Day Camp this June.

Continue to greet our children and youth as they are present in our worship and congregational life. Get to know their names and faces (if you don't already) and encourage them when you see them. This is a powerful gift for them and for you!

Peace to you in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pastor Brian Bergum

Looking For a Way to Deepen Your Worship Experience?

For many people, looking at the Bible readings before Sunday helps put the message in context of their lives. As you read the lessons, ask yourself: Is there anything in the readings that relate to your life right now? Is there anything that surprises you in the readings? Disturbs you? Try doing this for a couple of weeks, see if following this on a weekly basis strengthens your personal faith life, and deepens your worship experience.

The Lessons for Worship in February

These are the Bible readings that we will hear during our worship services this month. They are provided that you might use them for personal devotion and meditation.

February 3rd – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1: 4-10
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13
Luke 4: 21-30

February 10th–Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6: 1-8 [9-13]
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
Luke 5: 1-11

February 17th – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17: 5-10
1 Corinthians 15: 12-20
Luke 6: 17-26

February 24th – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15
1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50
Luke 6: 27-38

Ministers of Worship in February

February 3

Greeters – Geoff and Yolanda Jurgensen family
Ushers – Jerry Stahl, Geoff Jurgensen
Readers – Ben Kuhnel, Edna Anderson
Communion Assistant – Kris K., Carolyn S., Jerry A.
Acolyte – Ally Jurgensen

February 17

G– John and Susan Price
U – Greg Orzech, Bob Means
R – Kathy Means, Lori Orzech
CA – John Price, Susan Price, Kathy Means
A – Josie Nance

February 10

G – Steve and Marla Gall
U – Steve Gall, Bob Means
R – Kathy Means, Chris Tinkum
CA – Chris Tinkum, Kathy Means, Marla Gall
A – Auggie Roehrs

February 24

G – Rich and Ann Klingner
U – Jerry Stahl, Steve Peters
R – Roger Odneal, Carolyn Stahl
CA – Susan Odneal, Ann Klingner, Charlene Heins
A – Ally Jurgensen

If you are unable to help be a worship minister on the particular day, please try and find a replacement to take your place or to switch days with you.
Thank you for sharing in the ministry of Lord of the Valley.

Mission Nicaragua Fair Trade Coffee Sales Available to be purchased on Sunday, February 10th and 24th in the Fellowship Room following worship. Thank you for your support.

Water Filters Clean water is one of our focuses making a difference between life and death for children of rural Nicaraguan families. . Our plan is to partner with ERS LA (Emergency Response Services for Latin America), a nonprofit organization. ERS LA manages the donations and volunteers: they coordinate the purchase of the filters from the manufacture "Potters For Peace", transportation to the Somoto area, they determine a community who could benefit from the water filters. Mission Nicaragua Team helps ERS LA and local firefighters to distribute the water filters. We have raised \$1420.00 towards our goal of \$5000.00.

Chicken and Cheese Enchilada Fundraiser The sign up to purchase and help assemble the orders will be at the back of the sanctuary. We will assemble to orders of March 23rd.



**Lord of the Valley's
Health and Wellness Ministry
National Wear Red Day**



Celebrated annually on the first Friday during the month of February in the U.S, National Wear Red Day is a holiday in which men and women wear the color red to raise awareness about the number one health problem that affects American women – heart disease. It's also a day in which women are encouraged to find out their five most important health numbers: Total Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol, Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure and BMI (Body Mass Index). By knowing these numbers women can find out their risks for developing heart disease and take measures to prevent it.

Heart Disease Facts:

- Heart disease kills one woman every 80 seconds
- Every year, 30% of the deaths among women in the U.S are caused by heart attacks and strokes.
- 64% of women who die suddenly from heart disease will have no prior symptoms
- High cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and smoking all contribute to heart disease
- Physical inactivity also is a contributing factor to heart disease

This holiday can be traced all the way back to 2002. This is when the day was established by the American Heart Association and National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Every year since its inception, this campaign has continued to reach a higher audience. This has resulted in greater awareness about heart disease and how it affects women. It has also prompted quite a bit of change in behavior. Since it started, a third of women in the U.S have lost weight and half of them are now more physically active. Keep up the great work....keep on moving and ear red out in public on February 1st!

Monthly Blood Pressure Checks Don't forget we offer free blood pressure checks following our worship service once a month. The next free blood pressure check will be on Sunday, Feburary 3rd.

January 10th church council meeting overview:

- Our Long Term (3 to 5 year) Planning team, led by John Price, is set and we had our first meeting on January 23rd. The plan is currently to have "The Plan" completed by our next annual meeting in the summer. We will be updating the congregation along the way and will let everyone know when those updates are and encourage your input.
- We are evaluating insurance coverage for our building and contents since it has been a while since we last updated it. With values in the valley increasing and building costs where they are now, we believe we will need to increase our insurance and are awaiting proposals for increased coverage
- A financial overview supplied by Susan Odneal, our Treasurer, is included in this newsletter. In short, giving was down fiscal year to date over the same period last year. While it is nothing to be concerned about as our books are in good shape, know that we are keeping an eye on it and as always our staff is keeping spending extremely low.
- Our annual audit is starting on February 4. We do not anticipate any issues and thank you to our audit team.
- We would like to thank everyone who participated in the gifts for the staff and musicians. They bless us every week and your appreciation for everything they do was evident in your support of these gifts.
- Saturday night services are started for the season and going well. Thanks to the Scott family for offering the community game nights on the second Saturday of the month.

Any comments or questions please contact me, Pastor, or anyone on the council. We are blessed to have an engaged and welcoming congregation in this incredible place.

God Bless,
Greg Orzech
Council President

Treasurer's Report

Your Church Council believes it is helpful for the entire congregation to know the financial stability of our organization. The following is an overview of the status of the finances for current fiscal year (July 2018-December 2018). It is always challenging to compare year/year, especially when we had a significant adjustment in our income and expenses with Pastor Brian's sabbatical. That being said, all of the anticipated expenses to our congregational budget were accounted for in advance of his departure (donations earmarked to his sabbatical were accounted for throughout 2017 and into 2018 when he left in May). There were no surprises and our fiscal health remains sound.

Giving (for the same period last year) is 9% down. The current period does include some months Pastor Brian was on sabbatical (July-early Aug). Comparing year/year during this timeframe, electronic giving is up 11% while weekly service giving is down 17%. The Facilities Fund remains the same for both periods. In the chart which follows, you'll notice 49700 Reimbursable line item-- that was created to account for a grant that Pastor Brian received to apply to his retirement/pension fund.

Expenses have been managed very tightly by the staff. One exception, planned for by the congregation, was 60200 Personnel where we experienced an increase due to the Sabbatical Pastor's salary (\$5,000) during the period. Additionally, Pastor Brian's retirement/pension grant was applied to that same line item during this period. Should we not have had the Sabbatical Pastor's salary, we would have ended the period with a positive net balance.

Our reserve finances remain consistent. While we do not anticipate any issues with our current fiscal situation, it's always helpful to have more in reserves. We welcome any increased giving that our families will provide in the coming year. You can expect to hear from us should we encounter any unexpected needs for the church. Our congregation has always responded when the call goes out. And, for that, we are all thankful for the giving spirit of this congregation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Prayerfully submitted, Susan Odneal, LOTV Treasurer

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Mission Nicaragua 2019

Interested in Traveling to Nicaragua?

A Mission Team is forming, sponsored by LOTV, to serve the people in Somoto, Nicaragua in June 2019.

- Trip dates: June 20 – June 30
- Trip cost: \$1600.00
- The team will provide medical clinics to rural communities, deliver water filters, deliver layettes and medical supplies to the hospital and maternity house in Somoto and deliver school supplies and Spanish children's books to schools in the communities.
- If you are interested in participating in Mission Nicaragua or supporting the mission please call Carmen Covington at 970-531-2857.

Former Mission Nicaragua team member to be a Missionary in China

Lorena Martinez was twice a member of our Mission Nicaragua Team, most recently in 2017. She is a college graduate who intends to go to medical school. But before she proceeds with her medical education she is going to China for two years! How did she come to this decision? Her experiences with LOTV's Mission Nicaragua Team began her journey. In her words, "Little did I know that this time in Nicaragua would change the trajectory of my life. It was the first exposure to the physical and spiritual needs of people all over the world.

From Nicaragua Lorena spent three months in South Africa working with students in a special needs school sharing the Bible with them, unfamiliar with the language and culture. "God asks us to simply show up, even if we feel unqualified. God continued to nudge me in the direction of missions."

Lorena traveled to India to work with people who had leprosy. Both a physical and social disease, often the people affected are cast out of their community and not treated in hospitals or by doctors. They are seen as unclean. Lorena described an experience in India that inspired her to apply for the position she will fill in her two year assignment in China. "I had connected well with a patient in the clinic. As we were leaving I prayed for her and told her in Hindi 'may Jesus bless you.' She appeared confused and I assumed my broken Hindi had confused her. Through a translator I learned she had never heard of Jesus. I had never met anyone who had not heard of Jesus!"

Lorena has asked for prayers as she shares her faith with people in the Himalayan Foothills who have not yet heard of Jesus. She and her fellow missionaries will be in a location where Christianity is illegal. She will travel in March to begin her two year assignment. She is the youngest team member. Lorena has asked for prayers and will be unavailable to regular contact due to the sensitivity of their location.

Thank you for your support, the fabulous cooks, the friendly and accommodating kitchen crew, the wait staff in serving the meal, and Rich Klingner as an outstanding organizer of the event with lots of assistance from his LOTV friends and Mission Team members. The Mission Team appreciates your financial support and ongoing prayers. The funds collected will be used to purchase medications, supplies and rental of optical equipment. Funds received with a notation for water filters will go to that project. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you! We received your very generous gift that you shared with Karen and I for Christmas. We are overwhelmed at your generosity. We are also so thankful that God continues to bless us with the privilege of serving Lord of the Valley. Thank you again!

Pastor Brian and Karen Bergum

Community Game Night

Community Game Night at LOTV on the 2nd Saturday of every month, from 6:30-8:30pm, **this month on February 9th**. We welcome everyone from the community and suggest that each family brings a snack to share and a game or two to play. We'll need a few people to help with the set-up and clean-up (information will be provided). Please see the signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to invite friends and family to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!

Women’s Bible Study

The Women’s Bible Study sessions continue in February on Tuesday, February 5th and 19th at 11:00 am. All women of LOTV are invited for a time of sharing, study and support while enjoying a light lunch. For more information please call Pat Edwards at 970-406-8108, Carolyn Stahl 887-9352 or Mary Mulholland 303-898-6743.

Men’s Ministry

On Wednesday mornings at 7:00 am we have a group of men who gather at Lord of the Valley for breakfast, conversation, prayer and study. This group welcomes men to join them whether for a week or two, a season or year round. They take turns providing breakfast for each other. Sometimes the conversations linger, but they understand if some need to leave earlier. They seek to offer an encouraging, supportive time together. Everyone is invited to participate.

Ski Together Days

Ski Together Thursdays at 10:00 am. Skiers from LOTV and their friends gather at the lower doors of Snoasis. We take a couple runs together and then often break into smaller groups based on skill level or terrain interest before rendezvousing for lunch at an agreed upon time and location. It is great fellowship and fun!

Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday, February 10th and 24th.

					Jul - Dec 18	
	Income					
		Total 49100 · Weekly Services			106,563.55	
		Total 49300 · Special Offerings			5,640.00	
		Total 49400 · Youth and Specials			20.00	
		Total 49600 · Facilities Fund			1,760.00	
		Total 49000 · Offerings & Other income			113,983.55	
		49700 · Reimbursable			3,990.00	Pastor Brian's pension grant
	Total Income				117,973.55	
	Expense					
		Total 60100 · Administration			3,604.47	
		Total 60200 · Personnel			96,543.82	Includes Sabbatical Pastor, pension applied to Pastor's fund
		Total 60300 · Evangelism and Special Events			813.53	
		Total 60400 · Ministry Expenses			7,498.94	ELCA, Vacation Bible School, Donations (Mountain Family)
		Total 60500 · Worship Expenses			1,079.73	
		Total 60600 · Facilities Expenses			9,468.29	Insurance, cleaning, repairs/maint., utilities
		60700 · Reimbursement			110.00	Reimbursement to church not attending Bishop's conference
	Total Expense				119,118.78	
	Net Ordinary Income				-1,145.23	

Long Term (Strategic) Planning Group

The first meeting of the Long Term (Strategic) Planning Group was held on Wednesday, January 23, 2019. Members of the team are: Bill Tetlow, Pastor Brian Bergum, Dan Scott, Edna Anderson, Gary Behlen, Greg Ozech, John Price, Pat Edwards and Roger Odneal.

During this inaugural meeting the overall conceptual approach we plan to use was outlined and specific desired outcomes presented. Twenty-one (21) missions, activities and programs at LOTV were also identified. A Strategic Planning Group team member will be contacting key personnel associated with each of these undertakings during the next month to learn more about them. Regular updates will be provided in the “Voices of the Valley” newsletter as the process unfolds. Likewise, there will be opportunities for you to share your thoughts as we all endeavor to implement our Mission: ***That we may Know, Live and Share the Love of Christ.***

Second Sunday Special Offering / February 10th

With the help of our children we invite members and friends to bring nonperishable food items to church on the Second Sunday each month to support the food pantry at Mountain Family Center. We will have our green wagon in the back of the sanctuary and our children will be invited to bring these items forward when the ushers present our financial offering during worship.