



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."

April 2019

Volume 23, Number 4

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

Rev. Brian Bergum – Pastor (970-531-4312)

pastorb@lordofthevalley.org

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Church Council Members:

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Suzanne Gerhart 970-887-3956

Pat Edwards 970-406-8108

Greg Orzech 720-810-4966

Jane Fisher 970-302-9067

Alicia Scott 303-946-2180

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, April 8th at 6:30 pm.



Lent/ Holy Week / Easter Schedule

Wednesday Soup Suppers – April 3rd and 10th / 6 pm

Maundy Thursday – April 18th

Lord of the Valley / 6:30 pm

Good Friday – April 20th

Church of Eternal Hills / 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 21st

Sunrise Worship – 7:00 am

Easter Breakfast

Easter Celebration Worship – 10:00 am

Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

In between our two worship services on Easter Sunday, we will have an Easter Breakfast. Breakfast will be served from just after 8:00 am – 9:45 am to ensure there is enough time for everyone to be served and attend worship. A freewill offering will be received that will assist LOTV children and youth planning to go to Sky Ranch. There is a signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary if you are able to bring a dish to share. We ask that you bring your dish to the church by 8:00 am. Following the 10:00 am worship service we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for all the children. Meet in the fellowship room following the service and the children will be separated by age groups and the gathering of eggs will begin. We are looking for a few youth and adults to coordinate the Easter Egg Hunt. Please contact the church office if you are able to help with this event.



Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus is on April 21. We will adjust our Sunday morning schedule, as we have in past years, to allow for two services and an Easter Breakfast between. It is so appropriate that we gather to celebrate. Jesus' disciples had gathered with Jesus in Jerusalem for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. They were together in grief after Jesus's crucifixion. And they were together when the women of their group returned on Sunday morning with news of Jesus' resurrection, which the men thought to be an idle tale according to Luke's account.

The disciples were together when Jesus entered that upper room, though they had locked themselves in. They were discussing the events of the day with a couple of people who had just returned from Emmaus, having walked and talked with Jesus without realizing it was Jesus, until they broke bread together. Then Jesus showed up in that locked room bringing his strong word of Peace! "Peace be with you" was his first word to them, seeing that they were terrified.

Peace be with you says our Risen Lord, when we recognize our own fear, our own deep concerns and confusion. Peace be with you, says Jesus, to a world that is not peaceful, but torn apart in conflict, oppression, violence.

Jesus comes into our midst with the assurance of his peace; just what we need, what the world needs. So we can live peace in our lives and demonstrate it for the world. So the world might see and hear that peace is possible, is even real.

Peace to comfort those who have lost so much of their life and livelihood by disasters of nature and of human origin. Peace that can still the heart that knows too much fear and is threatened to be lost in grief. Peace that comes from Christ who is risen and who has raised us up to work for peace in our communities, in our households, in our nation and world. Peace that is stronger than our differences. Peace that teaches our children to hope!

Peace be with you as we observe the holy days of Holy Week and remember all that our Lord Jesus experienced for us and for the sake of the world. Peace be with you as we gather together to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

Peace be with You!

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 April

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.

April 7th – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43: 16-21
Philippians 3: 4b-14
John 12: 1-8

April 14th – Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Philippians 2: 5-11
Luke 22: 14-23:56

April 21st – Resurrection of Our Lord / Easter Day

Acts 10: 34-43
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26
Luke 24: 1-12

April 28th – Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5: 27-32
Revelations 1: 4-8
John 20: 19-31

Ministers of Worship in April

April 7

Greeters – John and Susan Price

Ushers – Jerry Stahl, Roger Odneal

Readers – John Price, Chris Tinkum

Communion Assistant – Carolyn S., Chris T., Susan O.

Acolyte – Jonah McKnight

April 21

G- EASTER SUNDAY

U – *(Please see the sign up sheet at the back*

R – *of the sanctuary)*

CA –

A –

April 14

G – Paul and Suzanne Gerhart

U – Steve Gall, Paul Gerhart

R – Pat Edwards, Marla Gall

CA – Suzanne Gerhart, Pat Edwards, Marla Gall

A – Joey Gagnon

April 28

G – Roger and Susan Odneal

U – Greg Orzech, Roger Odneal

R – Susan Odneal, Dan Scott

CA – Susan Odneal, Lori Orzech, Charlene Heins

A – Gunner Bjerken

*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.*

Compassion in a congregation is accompanied by a sense of community and hope. Compassion provides a congregation with encouragement (motivation), much more so than do challenges, appeals for assumption of responsibility, or requirements for commitment.

Strong, healthy congregations develop a balance of **excellent “sprinters”** and solid “marathon” possibilities. They grow forward in one-time, seasonal, short-term sessions (“sprinting”) AND they have developed the ability to grow forward in long term, multiple session, extended time horizon ways (“marathon”). They balance their response (“sprinter” or “marathoner”) to the needs of those they are seeking to serve.

Strong, healthy congregations **act swiftly**. They generally do things that they find “fun” because these are things they (we) will do quickly. Having fun is a way God teaches us about our strengths, longings, yearnings ... our mission. When we pray we are more likely to act swiftly. When we claim and expand upon our strengths, we are more likely to act swiftly.

Congregational members and friends are encouraged to think about these basic qualities (grace, strengths, compassion, excellent sprinters & act quickly) while remaining mindful that our overarching Mission is: **That We may Know Live and Share the Love of Christ**.

Next month we will examine the first 6 relational characteristics in greater depth.



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, April 7th.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

We would like to thank those who have generously hosted Sunday morning fellowship in the past few months. It is an important part of our ministry as it is a time to share in conversation and welcome guests. We have a few Sundays available in April and May for those interested in hosting Sunday morning fellowship. Please see the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary as well as a list of responsibilities.

LOTV at Sky Ranch

Pastor Brian will be accompanying some of our children and youth (and their friends) to Sky Ranch the week of July 7-12. There are several children and youth who have or are planning to register for this week away at Sky Ranch. There is a discount available if registered by mid-April. Visit the Camp's website at www.skyranchcolorado.org or talk with Pastor Brian for more information.

And Sky Ranch at LOTV

Remember also that Lord of the Valley will host our Sky Ranch Day Camp team here June 24-28. We are still looking for people to serve on a planning team to help create our best Day Camp ever. Please visit with Pastor Brian or Kris Kuhnel if you are interested in helping with this year's edition of Day Camp.

A New Photo Directory

It is time again to create an updated photo directory for Lord of the Valley. But this time we will produce a simple version in-house. We will schedule photos in May and June, generally following worship. We will not be selling photographs and it will not be a professionally produced directory. But it will serve the purpose of providing an update of our congregation's members and friends and their contact information.

Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

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 second Friday of April. Afterwards, there will be time for questions. Attendees / presenters may bring appetizers to share. ***Our next presentation will be on April 12th. Roger and Susan Odneal will share their experience in Belgium and Luxembourg.*** Please contact Jerry and Edna Anderson with any questions, 970-887-0644.

Confirmation Class will meet on April 14 & 28th.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study sessions continue in April on Tuesday, April 2nd and 16th 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. Currently this group is viewing a series on the history of Judaism.

Rockies Baseball

Join our Men's group (and spouses!) in cheering on the Rockies this season. The Men's Ministry has ordered tickets to several games and have some seats available for two games in April. Currently we have three seats available on April 10th and four seats available on the 24th. Both are on Wednesday afternoons (1:10pm start) and tickets are only \$11 each. If you would like to attend one or both of these games please talk with Pastor Brian. He can also let you know who is planning to attend so carpooling could be a possibility. Go Rockies!

Community Game Night

Community Game Night at LOTV on the 2nd Saturday of every month, from 6:30-8:30pm, **this month on April 13th**. 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 sign-up 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!

Second Sunday Special Offering / April 14th

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. Since last September we have shared 549 lbs. of food and personal hygiene items!

Planning Our Future Together

The LOTV Strategic Planning Group is using Dr. Kennon Callahan's approach to ecumenical Strategic Planning as presented in his book entitled: **Twelve Keys to an Effective Church** (Josesey-Bass 2010). This summary is based on Dr. Callahan's work and is intended to help inform the LOTV congregation (& our friends) regarding the foundations of the approach. It is the first of three summary reviews that will hopefully assist in better understanding the methodology being employed.

The Basic Qualities of an Effective Church

"Strong, healthy congregations share the basic qualities of grace, strengths, compassion, excellent "sprinters" and act swiftly."

They (we) live in the **grace** of God using the generous gifts God gives both during good times and during times of despair. They (we) recognize that God's grace is gentle, merciful, mutual between people and may be *found* or it may just *come*. Regardless of how it is recognized grace is always with us.

A congregation's **strengths** are blessings from God and are a manifestation of God's grace. They are to be embraced and built upon; when this is done weaknesses will also strengthen. Twelve strengths are most important (explaining the "**12 Keys**" title), six being Relational and six are Functional. Both relational and functional strengths (characteristics) are important, but the relational strengths are more so. When **present**, relational characteristics are sources of congregational *satisfaction*; when present, functional characteristics typically do not create satisfaction but their **absence** can cause *dissatisfaction*. (The implication is that Functional characteristics tend to build off of the Relational ones.)

Relational Characteristics

1. one mission outreach
2. shepherding visitations
3. stirring, helpful worship
4. significant relational groupings
5. strong leadership team
6. solid decision process

Functional Characteristics

7. one major program
8. open accessibility
9. high visibility
10. land, landscaping
11. adequate space & facilities
12. generous giving

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Mission Nicaragua 2019

As the chairman of the Nicaragua Medical Mission Leadership Team, I want to share important information regarding the Mission. We need fifteen team members to provide the medical services we would normally provide. To date we have only twelve members.

We need three more team members. Carmen and Raymond Covington have been leading the Mission for over ten years. Under their leadership the focus of the Mission changed from the construction of houses to a Medical Mission. They have put in many hours leading this effective ministry. Last year we did not send a team to Nicaragua because of the political unrest in that country. This year we have made changes to the logistics to improve the safety of the team.

Carmen and Raymond have notified the Nicaragua Medical Mission Leadership Team that this will be the last Mission trip that they will lead. If you have ever considered going on this trip, this is your last chance to go with them. Please consider going on this Mission trip and let Carmen know of your intent. If you are a purchaser of coffee and chocolate, buy now, as we do not plan to restock these items when the current inventory is gone.

Things could change if someone would step forward and take over this Mission. That person should make their intentions known before June 1, 2019. That is the last day to sign up for the 2019 Mission trip and any future leader should go on this trip.

Jerry Anderson

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.

Thank you everyone who helped make chicken and cheese enchiladas on Saturday, March 23rd! We had twelve volunteers including 3 from the community and 2 under the age of 10. It took us about 5 hours to make the enchiladas. Thank you to everyone who ordered enchiladas. Enjoy!!

Mission Nicaragua Fair Trade Coffee Sales - Available to be purchased on Sunday, April 7th and 28th in the Fellowship Room following worship. Thank you for your support.

Strategic Planning Group Update

The LOTV Strategic Planning Group (SPG) has completed most of the reports from our liaison volunteers who collected information about the 23 programs, missions and activities previously identified. Written summaries are being compiled and will be available in the church once all of the reports have been completed and digested by the group (April or May).

Liaison volunteers have also been collecting community trend information from various sources and the SPG is currently receiving and reviewing this information.

During our last meeting (on March 21), several community need areas were identified based on the information already collected. The need areas specified were: ***Transportation, Housing, Food, Medical Services*** and ***Services for the Elderly***. Written summaries of these reports will be provided too, probably in the May – June time frame.

We are using Dr. Kennon Callahan's **Twelve Keys to an Effective Church** to guide the SPG efforts. A series of 3 articles summarizing the approach will be published in the **Voices of the Valley** and weekly **eVoices**. Hopefully these 3 summaries will help facilitate understanding of the approach being used. The first article is included in the current edition of both publications.

Easter Lilies

We will once again be adorning our worship space on Easter Sunday with the sight and aroma of Easter Lilies. Easter Lilies can be given in honor or in memory of family, friends and important people and events in our lives. The cost for each Easter lily is \$15.00. Our proceeds from the purchase of these lilies will support our youth ministry activities including assisting with camp. Easter lilies may be taken home for you to enjoy or for you to give to another person as you share the message of Easter with them following the Easter service on April 21st. Please fill out the form below and return in to the church office by Sunday, April 14th.

Name(s): _____

Number of Plants: _____

In Honor / Memory (circle one) of:

