



## 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."*

May 2019

Volume 23, Number 5

### Vacation Bible School Day Camp

We will host Day Camp at Lord of the Valley June 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. ***Shine*** is the theme for Day Camp this summer. *God's light shines on us and all of creation!* We have three staff members coming from Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp to lead our Day Camp for children who have completed kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade (9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Thursday; 9:00 am – noon on Friday). Registration materials are available at the back of the sanctuary. The registration fee for Day is \$10.00 per child.

### Volunteer Opportunities for Day Camp

We need volunteers to help us provide a great week of outdoor fun and learning centered in our Lord Jesus Christ. ***Volunteer opportunities include:*** serving on a planning team, hosting the Sky Ranch staff for dinner, welcoming the campers at the beginning and end of the day, providing snack items in the morning and afternoon, providing childcare before and after camp. Please see the sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or call the church office 887-9252. Let's get this week on your calendar whether you have kids or grandkids to participate or just want to be around the energy of our day campers for a day or several days.

### 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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Pat Edwards 970-406-8108

Greg Orzech 720-810-4966

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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, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm.**





We are in that transitional season of spring. One day it is very much like spring, and the next we are back into winter. Or perhaps both on the same day, as is the forecast as I write this. One moment I am thinking about pulling out the planters for our deck and planting flowers and the next moment I am lighting a fire in the wood stove to ward off the chill. I keep the snow shovels handy with hopes they will go unused. This time of transition reflects life and faith.

Often we are impacted by the unexpected and must deal with the consequences. It may be a change in health. It might be the preparations required because one of the kids will be graduating and leaving for college. We might find ourselves scrambling to arrange child care for the summer since school will be ending in a month or so. Or that vehicle that has been steadily adding up the miles is now making suggestions that a change is coming.

Through the changes and transitions in our lives we do have one constant. God in Christ reminds us that God is with us always. In life and in death, when we are up and when we drop down, God is with us. God chooses not to walk away when life throws us a curve. God does not leave us in the deep hardship or grief that comes. Rather, as promised, God remains, steadfast. Now we may sense God's presence and recognize God's promise fulfilled; but sometimes what we face can be so overwhelming that we lose our focus. Sometimes the need in front of us demands so much of us that we simply do what we can to move through the chaos. Yet not alone.

Sometimes, God brings a concrete reminder of God's promised presence. Often through a neighbor or a friend who walks through our challenge with us. Or a weekly service of worship where we are reminded of promises and taste grace. Or we find ourselves in a conversation and the subject shifts to encouragement, maybe without our even having mentioned our predicament. Some find a reminder in the beauty of creation which surrounds us. Others seek out a time to read scripture and the stories of people of faith from long ago remind us that others too have wondered and wandered and experienced having been led by God without being aware.

Sometimes, in transitions in our life and faith, we do well to seek out people or a person to share in our time of uncertainty. Yes, we can seek help. It is not a weakness to ask, to seek. Jesus has even invited such from us. And has given us permission to do so even as he taught us to pray, "Our Father." Not my Father, but Our Father. We are not in this life and faith alone, not meant to be either. Let us seek out the community of God's people and walk together through challenging transitions, and celebrate together God's promises fulfilled. God is with us, Jesus is risen from the dead, and God will not leave or forsake us. We are sisters and brothers in Christ. Let us hold on to one another and when needed, hold up one another.

Blessing to you in this springtime.

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 May

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.

### May 5<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9: 1-6 [7-20]  
Revelation 5: 11-14  
John 21: 1-19

### May 12<sup>th</sup>—Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9: 36-43  
Revelation 7: 9-17  
John 10: 22-30

### May 19<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11: 1-18  
Revelation 21: 1-6  
John 13: 31-35

### May 26<sup>th</sup> – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16: 9-15  
Revelation 21: 10, 22-22:5  
John 14: 23-29

## Ministers of Worship in May

### May 5

**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

### May 19

**G-** Jonn and Susan Price  
**U** – Greg Orzech, Raymond Covington  
**R** – Carmen Covington, Lori Orzech  
**CA** – John Price, Kris Kuhnel, Carmen Covington  
**A** – Josie Nance

### May 12

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

### May 26

**G** – Jerry and Carolyn Stahl  
**U** – Jerry Stahl, Steve Peters  
**R** – Roger Odneal, Dan Scott  
**CA** – Charlene Heins, Susan Odneal, Carolyn Stahl  
**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.*

- 3) ***Stirring, Helpful Worship*** – The congregations shares in worship that is warm and welcoming. It begins upon arrival and continues until departure. Often there is a sense of gathering and enthusiasm among those who are present; it feels like people want to be here ... they long to share with one another. The music is inspiring and dynamic and links with the overall service in a supportive manner, and this provides a sense of balance. The service has moments that touch the heart, stir the mind, lift the soul; hopefully people leave the liturgy with concrete help that will support them in the coming week to live in the grace of God.
- 4) ***Significant Relational Groupings*** – The groupings within the congregation are open, inclusive, warm and welcoming. New groupings are encouraged. The groupings within the congregation allow people to discover a depth of sharing and caring that proves meaningful. There is a healthy balance between one-time, seasonal, short-term, long-term and weekly, monthly, year-round groupings.
- 5) ***Strong Leadership Team*** – The congregation focuses on achievements (objectives) not activities. Those who lead in the congregation exhibit behaviors that communicate: (1) *love* for those they hope to lead; (2) actively *listening* to what those they want to lead have to say (including what they may not say); (3) *learn* from their listening and; (4) and because of these traits the leaders are seen as having integrity, they have earned the trust and mutual respect of those they hope to lead. The congregational leaders take the trust they have earned and help people fulfill their own, personal, most pressing current life searches for: grace, compassion, sense of community (belonging), individuality, life meaning and hope.
- 6) ***Solid Decision Process*** – Decisions are thoughtful, wise and are consistent with the key objectives of the congregation. A strong sense of openness with the congregation allows honest and thoughtful informal conversations where basic agreement develops and is eventually recognized through a formal process. A spirit of integrity, mutual respect and trust in one another forms as the solid decision process operates, and this further strengthens the congregation.

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



## 12 Keys orientation

Come and learn about the 12 Keys to an effective congregation which our Long Range planning team is using in our planning process. We will have an update presented following worship on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Photo Directory

It is time to upgrade our photo directory and we will do this ourselves rather than host a commercial photographer. We will photograph our members and friends over a series of Sundays following worship beginning the end of May and continuing through June. Watch for a sign up to pick a date for your photo session. We will also update our contact information during this time. Thank you for participating!

## 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 and have been willing to share their travel experiences with other LOTV members and the community. ***Our final presentation will be on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Royal and Charlene Heins will share their experience hiking the Wainwright coast to coast trail in England.*** The 30-40 minute presentation will be at 2:30 pm. Afterwards, there will be time for questions. Attendees / presenters may bring appetizers to share. We look forward to resuming this series again in September. Please contact Jerry and Edna Anderson with any questions, 970-887-0644.

## Blue Jeans and Buckets

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have a Blue Jeans and Buckets Sunday! This will be our annual Spring Cleanup day at Lord of the Valley. The cleaning begins right after worship. We encourage everyone to wear their blue jeans, and bring their buckets, gloves, sponges and rags, and other items needed to deep clean the church. There will be indoor and outdoor tasks. We will have a lunch served. Watch for a list of tasks to be accomplished.

## Broome Hut

LOTV has reserved the Broome Hut for two night in late July.

The Hut can accommodate up to 16 people per night. Currently the evening of July 28 is full but there is space for 8 people on Monday, July 29. The cost is \$35 per person for Sunday night and \$17.50 per person on Monday night. If you wish, you can make a day trip either on Sunday afternoon or on Monday. The participant list/sign-up sheet is at the back of the sanctuary. We will do some meal coordination this year which will lighten the load and have us work together.



## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study sessions continue in May on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm. 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.

## Community Game Night

Community Game Night at LOTV is on the 2nd Saturday of every month, from 6:30-8:30pm, **this month on May 11<sup>th</sup>**. 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!

## Second Sunday Special Offering / May 12<sup>th</sup>

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 over 600 lbs. of food and personal hygiene items!

## Easter Help Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Easter celebration a joyous day! From those who set up for Easter Breakfast, worship greeters, ushers, readers, acolytes, communion assistants, breakfast providers, servers and cleanup crew, those who lead the Easter Egg Hunt, and all who donated Easter Lilies! A special thank you to our musicians, Andy Osborne and Chad Kuhnel, Kris Kuhnel at the sound board for both services and Ellen Parri for our chancel decorating.

## Planning Our Future Together / Part 2

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 is the second of three summaries that are based on Dr. Callahan's work and intended to help inform everyone regarding the foundations of the approach.

### Basic Premises of Our Planning Approach:

- We live in the grace of God.
- Going to church is not viewed as a prevailing component of life as it was 2 to 3 generations back.
- The role of compassion and sense of community have become far more important to individual motivation because of this changed outlook about church attendance, than do "challenges" to one's conscience or appeals for "commitment".
- Likewise, service to the larger community becomes more crucial than do direct efforts to increase attendance or membership.
- Effective churches honestly examine their strengths relative to the key relational and functional characteristics. They then develop a plan to build upon their strengths in a manner consistent with their overall mission and *one major mission outreach*.

### Six Key Relational Characteristics:

- 1) ***One Major Mission Outreach*** – The effective church embraces it's strength and this is reflected in the primary mission the church supports within the community. The mission directly helps people and groupings in the community, and when the mission is done well, the church will become legendary because of the undertaking. Successful missions typically address human hurts and hopes, often focus on life stages, frequently reflect common interest within the congregation, and address concerns within the community. This "primary mission focus" helps the congregation most effectively apply the strength God's grace has provided, for the benefit of their community.
- 2) ***Shepherding Visitation*** – Spiritual support, care and guidance (shepherding) is not just the role for the Pastor but extends to all in the congregation. It may occur almost anywhere, at nearly any time but is often observed in hospitals, with homebound people, within independent & assisted living facilities, and in nursing homes. It may take the form of a personal discussion, phone call, a note, e-mail, a text-message and can occur in a small or large group gatherings. It is gentle, kind, encouraging and unselfish; it is helpful and hopeful, extended with compassion and wisdom, integrity and honesty. It restores one's soul.

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## Mission Nicaragua 2019

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, Lord of the Valley will lead a 26 member Medical Team to Somoto, Nicaragua. While there we will: support the Lutheran Church in Caculi, deliver water filters, deliver layettes and medical supplies to the hospital in Somoto and the maternity house in Somoto; deliver school supplies and Spanish children's books to the schools in the communities; build relationships and provide for medical needs of families in rural communities (dental optical, and general medical clinics as well as children's ministry); work closely with local doctors and nurses. Thank you for your donations of supplies and financial gifts. Without you this ministry would not be possible. We appreciate your prayers for safe travel, a successful medical clinic, and sharing God's love with all people of all ages.

## Mission Nicaragua Team Members 2019

Carmen Covington, *retired nurse*, Raymond Covington, *retired carpenter*, Ron Haase, *retired mechanical engineer*, Bryan Haase, *auto mechanic*, Jennah Haase, *business consultant*, Rich (Red) Kittler, *carpenter*, Jackson Chessman, *college student*, Sharon Waggoner, *certified medical assistant*, Kim Ivy, *certified medical assistant*, Julie Anderson, *retired teacher*, Pam Wohlschlegel, *retired electrical engineer*, Neil Rosenberg, *retired carpenter*, Dr. Rina Abigail Lopez Namovure, *dentist*, Dr. Yaciela Milena Betanco Sanchez, *dentist*, Dr. Ledo. Luddy Jose Navarro Bello, *optometrist*, Dr. Delsy Gradiz Mendoza, *medical*, Jackson Rafael Reyes Hernandez, *translator*, Pastor Jose Ramon Zavala, Elmer Efren Rivas Medoza, *translator/children's ministry*, Christina Isabel Vilchez Carrasro, *nurse*, Karla Sevilla Espinoza, *translator*, Alexander Sevilla Espinoza, *translator*, Alba del Carmen Sanchez Bogran, *nurse*, Laura Sofia Davila Lagos, *optical/translator*, Silver Sing King, *Praying Pelicans Mission Ministry Coordinator*, Pastor Immer Antonio Montoya

## Mission Nicaragua Fair Trade Coffee Sales

Available to be purchased on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Room following worship. Thank you for your support.

*We have 8 dozen enchiladas available for purchase from our Chicken Enchilada Fundraiser. \$30.00 per dozen. Please see the church office if you would like to purchase enchiladas.*



## 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, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Strategic Planning Group Update

A useful strategic plan must include meaningful involvement opportunities for the broader LOTV congregation and our constituents. Ultimately the strategic plan will identify the one key strength that LOTV currently possesses, that we want to ***build upon*** over the next 3-5 years. The plan will also identify the one key strength we want to ***bring along*** over the same time period. An adequate understanding of Dr. Kennon Callahan's **Twelve Keys to an Effective Church** is critical for this to take place. A presentation regarding the **12 Keys** fundamentals is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2019 shortly after the church service to facilitate this awareness. All who are interested are encouraged to attend.

The information already collected by the SPG regarding the existing 23 LOTV missions, programs and activities will be relevant as we work to specify the key strength we want to ***build upon*** and the key strength we want to ***bring along***. The LOTV Strategic Planning Group (SPG) report summarizing findings about our 23 programs, missions and activities is now available for review at the back of the sanctuary.

The "community trend" information collected by the SPG is being summarized and salient trends specified. This document, along with supporting details collected, will also be made available at the back of the church in the next few weeks. This information will be very helpful as we endeavor to identify the key strength we decide to ***build upon*** and the one we elect to ***bring along***.

## Dinner for 6

We will organize another round of Dinner for Six during the summer months. A sign-up sheet is available at the back of the sanctuary or you may call or email the office to indicate you desire to participate. We want to coordinate these groups so that our summer members and friends can also participate. The dinner groups will meet from late June to the end of the summer. We bundle people into groups of 6 or so and these groups meet three times, rotating hosts. It is a great way to become more acquainted with members and friends in our LOTV family.

## 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 May and June for those interested in hosting Sunday morning fellowship. Please see the signup sheet at the back of the sanctuary as well as a list of responsibilities.