



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."

June 2019

Volume 23, Number 6

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

Kris Kuhnelt - Newsletter Editor / Office Administrator

Church Council Members:

John Price 970-409-9200

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Chris Tinkum 725-3440

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Jane Fisher 970-302-9067

Tom Mark 303-949-7214

Raymond Covington 970-846-9187

Suzanne Gerhart 970-887-3956

Greg Orzech 720-810-4966

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, June 10th at 6:45 pm.



Blue Jeans and Buckets

On June 2nd 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. Please bring something to share for lunch. A list of tasks to be accomplished can be found in the back of the sanctuary.

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 in June. Please sign up to pick a date for your photo session. We will also update our contact information during this time. Thank you for participating!





What inspires you? It is a questions that may be worth some time and reflection. And likely you will come up with more than a simple, singular response. I know the views in this place we call home can be inspiring. But so do stories that tell of people overcoming adversity. Likewise when I see photographs that reveal wonders of God’s creation. Music can often be a source of inspiration. My children inspire me with their abilities and their care for others. Karen continues to inspire me in numerous ways.

Another question close to this first is: to what are you inspired? Where the first question asks to reflect on what touches us. This second question asks something of ourselves oriented outward; what difference are we making for someone or something other than ourselves. We may be inspired to serve our neighbor. We may be inspired to make a positive difference in the lives of young people; or the elderly; or people struggling to make ends meet with their limited resources. Perhaps we are inspired to seek positive change in public policy and become politically active. Or maybe we are inspired to clean up a stream and improve the habitat for the trout that may live there.

Inspiration is the work of the Holy Spirit. Inspiration is like breath, we take in a breath and exhale it too. It is rhythmic. Breathe in, breathe out, repeat. Of course spirit and inspire are related words. The Spirit of God shows us ourselves, what we need, who we are, what inspires us. The Spirit also show us our gifts: who we are, what we able to do, what interests us, where we find joy, how we are a gift to people around us, how we are generous.

Likely what you discover inspires you is related to that to which you are inspired. I don’t believe the Holy Spirit inspires us to be hoarders of God’s gifts. Rather the Spirit shows us our giftedness that we would recognize what it is God has given us to share, and to whom.

June 9th is Pentecost, the annual festival in which we recall the dramatic presence of the Holy Spirit fifty days after the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. This Spirit was promised to be a helper, an advocate. This Spirit of God inspires faith in each of us, reminding us that our faith is a gift from God, not something we go out and acquire on our own. Yet as with other gifts we value, tending that gift, using that gift, nurturing that gift are all part of the blessing of the gift.

What inspires you and to what are you inspired? It is a Pentecost question. May you experience joy in seeking and sharing the answers.

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,

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 June

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.

June 2nd – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16: 16-34
Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17: 20-26

June 9th–Day of Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21
Romans 8: 14-17
John 14: 8-17 [25-27]

June 16th – The Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31
Romans 5: 1-5
John16: 12-15

June 23rd – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65: 1-9
Galatians 3: 23-29
Luke 8: 26-39

June 30th – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21
Galatians 5: 1, 13-25
Luke 9: 51-62

Ministers of Worship in June

June 2

Greeters – Kathy Stromberg
Ushers –John Price, Bill Tetlow
Readers –Edna Anderson, Bill Tetlow
Communion Assistant –Jerry A., Kathy S., Kris K.
Acolyte –Auggie Roehrs

June 16

G- Raymond and Carmen Covington
U – Steve Peters, Raymond Covington
R – Dan Scott, Carmen Covington
CA –Chris Tinkum, Kris Kuhnel, Carmen Covington
A – Gunner Bjerken

June 30

G- Geoff and Yolanda Jurgensen Family
U – Geoff Jurgensen, Bill Tetlow
R – Pat Edwards, Bill Tetlow
CA –Pat Edwards, Yolanda Jurgensen, Charlene Heins
A – Ally Jurgensen

June 9

G –Greg and Lori Orzech
U –Greg Orzech, Bob Means
R – Rich Klingner, Kathy Means
CA – Ann Klingner, Charlene Heins, Kathy Means
A – Joey Gagnon

June 23

G – Jerry and Edna Anderson
U – Steve Gall, Paul Gerhart
R –Marla Gall, Jerry Anderson
CA – Suzanne Gerhart, Marla Gall, Jerry Anderson
A –Auggie Roehrs

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.

5. **Adequate Space & Facilities** – There is adequate space and facilities for present and future mission, shepherding, worship service, groupings and programs. There is a feeling of balance between land, landscaping, parking and the space & facilities. Facilities are well maintained on a regular basis. The overall space and facilities creates a “warm” first impression of “welcome”, because it is attractive and helps one feel at home.
6. **Generous Giving** – The people in the congregation are generous people. Provision is made to all for all six sources of giving (spontaneous gifts, Sunday offerings, planned giving, major project giving, annual bestowals and enduring gifts). The congregation lives the principles of giving. The congregation’s mission(s) and program(s) objectives are clear and provide obvious evidence of helping people.

We will commission our Mission Nicaragua Team on Sunday, June 16th during worship.

Letters from Home for our Mission Team

We are looking for a few people to write a letter of Blessings and Encouragement to one of our Mission Team Members to be given to them while they are in Nicaragua. The letter are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. If interested please take one and write your name next to the team member you selected. Return the letters to the church office by Sunday June 16th. Thank you!

Mission Nicaragua Water Filter Fundraiser

A little more on the water filters fund raiser, the goal of \$5,000 was exceeded! With the combined efforts of LOTV, LOTV’s friends & family, Salem Lutheran in Stromberg, Nebraska, and Faith Lutheran in Hastings, Nebraska the total amount was \$6,591.75! Several of LOTV’s Parish Partners took the need of clean water in rural Nicaragua to their home churches, which helped exceed the goal by encouraging their church members to participate in the fund raiser. Thank you for all the generous gifts.

The mission team will assist with the delivery of water filters on 6/22/2019, this is very exciting news to share with you, because our previous partner was not able to deliver the filters as in years past. By God’s grace and providence we will assist with the delivery to a rural community through the assistance and coordination of Jorge Luis Rodriguez. More to come once the team returns to the USA!

Vacation Bible School Day Camp

We will host Day Camp at Lord of the Valley June 24th – 28th. **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 5th 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 Camp 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 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.



Broome Hut

LOTV has reserved the Broome Hut for two nights 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 4 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.

Saturday Evening Worship

Beginning on Saturday, June 1st we will resume our Saturday Evening Worship for the summer months. These informal Communion Settings begin at 5:30 pm.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study sessions continue in June on Tuesday, June 4th and 18th 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.

Second Sunday Special Offering / June 9th

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 650 lbs. of food and personal hygiene items!

Pregnancy Resource Connection Baby Bottle Drive

Pick up a baby bottle at the back of the sanctuary, fill it with change / bills / check and return the bottle on Father's Day, June 16th. All proceeds go to support the ministry of Pregnancy Resource Connection: Free Pregnancy Tests, Free STD testing, Personal Advising, Child Birth Classes, Parenting Classes, Life Skills/Financial Training, Adoption Resources, Free Ultrasound, Earn-While-You-Learn Classes, Men's "Practical Fatherhood" and "Positive Partnerships" Classes, Free Diapers and Baby Wipes, Free Formula and Baby Food.

Planning Our Future Together / Part 3

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 third of three summaries that are based on Dr. Callahan's work and intended to help inform everyone regarding the foundations of the approach. Last month we considered the six relational characteristics and this month we will overview the six functional characteristics.

Six Key Functional Characteristics:

1. ***One Major Program*** – The congregation has one major program that is among the best in the community and services many persons and families. Preferably there is a connection between the program and the major mission outreach. The emphasis is on a human hurt or hope, life stage, common interest, community concern or a combination of these. The leaders of the program are both person centered and program focused.
2. ***Open Accessibility*** – The location of the church is excellent, links with the typical traffic direction and is within the average "trip times" for the community. The location is easily accessible both for entry and leaving. Likewise, the building has open, spacious entrances and exits. The general "feel" of the building is one of welcoming. The congregation conveys a feeling of "people" accessibility because of its compassion with the members, constituents, and those served in mission and in the community.
3. ***High Visibility*** – The church location is very visible and displays helpful signs that communicate seasonal points of interest. Excellent communications visibility exists within the congregation and community (often reinforced by the first four relational characteristics). "People visibility" is enhanced within the community because of the congregation's excellent support of a worthwhile community project.
4. ***Land, Landscaping & Parking*** – The church owns sufficient, usable land for both its present life and future missions. The landscaping helps create a first impression of an *open, spacious, warm, welcoming, inviting group* with a *gracious spirit*. The parking is adequate for normal Sunday and weekday use; and adequately accommodates the top ten major Sundays of the year.

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Mission Nicaragua 2019

On June 19th, 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.

We are in the process of setting up a blog on which you will be able to follow the day by day travels of our Mission Nicaragua Team while in Nicaragua. Access is through our website: www.lordofthevalley.org. It will be available shortly before they leave on June 19th. Stay tuned for more information!

Mission Nicaragua Team Members 2019

Carmen Covington, Raymond Covington, Ron Haase, Bryan Haase, Jennah Haase, , Rich (Red) Kittler, Jackson Chessman, Sharon Waggoner, Kim Ivy, Julie Anderson, Pam Wohlschlegel, Neil Rosenberg, Jane Fisher, Dr. Rina Abigail Lopez Namovure, Dr. Yaciela Milena Betanco Sanchez, Dr. Ledo. Luddy Jose Navarro Bello, Dr. Delsy Gradiz Mendoza, Jackson Rafael Reyes Hernandez, Pastor Jose Ramon Zavala, Elmer Efren Rivas Medoza, Christina Isabel Vilchez Carrasro, Karla Sevilla Espinoza, Alexander Sevilla Espinoza, Alba del Carmen Sanchez Bogran, Laura Sofia Davila Lagos, Javiera Cruz, Freddy Ramierez, Byron Jim Colindres, Dr. Otoniel Neftali Reyes Larios, Bayardo, Pastor Immer Antonio Montoya

Thank you for your overwhelming support of Mission Nicaragua in the way of prayer, donations, and sewing. With your help mothers will have new items for their babies, homes in rural Nicaragua will have clean water to drink, health care will be provided to people who don't have access to optical, dental, and medical care, and children's education will be provided. Thank you, Thank you!!

Mission Nicaragua Fair Trade Coffee Sales

Available to be purchased on Sunday, June 9th and 23rd in the Fellowship Room following worship. Thank you for your support.

Strategic Planning Group Update

Discussions during the May meeting focused on how the various LOTV Missions and Programs interface with the **12 Keys**, community trend information, and methodologies for involving the congregation in the overall planning process. On May 19, an overview was provided regarding Kennon Callahan's **Twelve Keys to an Effective Church**.

During the May 19 presentation it was decided to develop similar presentations for the congregation regarding the Missions and Programs considered by the Strategic Planning Group, and covering the community trend information collected. Summaries of both studies are available at the back of the sanctuary. These presentations will be scheduled during the June – July time period.

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 June and July 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.



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, June 16th.